

The Lake Report

The Lake Report receives lots of reader letters!

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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



Vol. 2, Issue 28

Niagara-on-the-Lake's most respected newspaper

July 18, 2019

Protest permit system 'not enforceable'

Demonstration application a voluntary system in other cities, says police constable

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A bylaw to implement permits for protests doesn't truly exist in other municipalities, and is not enforceable, according to Niagara Regional Police Const. Michael Malachowsky, who addressed Niagara-on-the-Lake town council Monday night.

Malachowsky and NRP Insp. James McCaffery both attended the meeting to address the issue of ongoing horse carriage protests in Old Town.

The dispute between the protesters from At War

For Animals Niagara, and a residents' support group, Locals for Carriages, has been going on for more than a year now, with carriage supporters having enacted a petition to get council to implement a permit system for protesting in town.

Malachowsky shared some research he's done in regard to permits and bylaws in other municipalities.

The city of Mississauga doesn't issue permits for rallies or vigils, he said. The labour relations officer at Toronto Police Service told him there are no permits or bylaws



Niagara Regional Police Const. Mike Malachowsky, Insp. James McCaffery and police board chair Kenneth Gansel addressed horse protests when they visited town council Monday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

that limit or control protesting.

The Lake Report got in touch with David Hopkinson, a media relations officer with Toronto Police Service, who said there is a requirement from the city to have a permit to protest but "that is when you will be gathered in a public place or if you will

be occupying the streets."

"Many times there are protests that do not have permits but officers don't usually disrupt them, they try to give everyone the opportunity to protest," Hopkinson said in an email. "Officers will monitor protests, with permits or not,

for public safety issues and to keep the peace."

According to the city of Mississauga website, it doesn't issue permits for demonstrations, rallies and vigils but if there is no permit, some of the activities, involving use of the stage, generators, candles or distri-

bution of food and beverage, are then prohibited.

After contacting the city of Ottawa, he received confirmation that there are no bylaws specific to demonstrations. There is a demonstration march application

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Councillor denies conflict of interest

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

NOTL Coun. Erwin Wiens says he was not in a conflict of interest when he voted to support the Queenston Mile Vineyard's application to operate as an estate winery.

Wiens, who purchased Harvest Barn and the adjacent Rancourt Winery in 2018 with partner Fabian Reis, said he received advice from his lawyer "long before" the council meeting stating that he didn't have any conflicts of interest in

regard to the application.

In an online posting Tuesday, former NOTL councillor Paolo Miele questioned whether Wiens was in a potential conflict of interest by participating in the discussions and vote on Queenston Mile.

Wiens denied Miele's claim and refused to discuss whether he still has a financial interest in either Harvest Barn or Rancourt.

"I got specific advice in regards if I was in a conflict if I voted on that and I'm not in conflict," Wiens told The Lake Report.



Coun. Erwin Wiens. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

"I don't want to discuss any personal businesses that I may or may not own because it involves other people's businesses," Wiens said in a phone interview. "I'm not in conflict after I received my advice."

He said he always gets legal advice when he thinks he may be in conflict, which he said, "only happened twice."

The other time he consulted his lawyer was in regard to an affordable housing project in Virgil. The proposal, which was presented to town council in May, came from developer Rainer Hummel, who is Wiens' first cousin.

"I'm not going to get into my personal finances or any of that," Wiens said in a phone interview. "As a

politician, I'm not obligated to tell you any of that."

At a meeting on Monday, July 15, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors had a motion before them regarding Queenston Mile Vineyard's application to operate as an estate winery. The motion was to gather more information and have staff come back with a report at the next council meeting.

Wiens voted against deferring the motion and said he was in support of the Queenston Mile Vineyard's application.

Peter Woolstencroft, a University of Waterloo political science professor emeritus, said in order for there to be a conflict of interest, there must be "a financial loss or gain" for a

council member.

Another governance expert, Brock University professor emeritus of political science David Siegel, said the test under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act is whether a councillor or a family member has a pecuniary interest in a matter before council.

"It would seem to me that deciding to confer or withhold some benefit on a competitor or potential competitor would qualify as a pecuniary interest. Of course, the definition of a competitor might be arguable," he wrote in response to questions from The Lake Report.

"The wine industry could be seen as fragmented by things like price point, varietal

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A Niagara Regional Police officer, backed by then-Lord Mayor Pat Darte, tells counter-protesters to leave during a demonstration in 2018, while horse carriage protesters in the background make use of free parking provided by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and a closed street. RICHARD HARLEY/FILE PHOTO

Police job is to provide ‘neutral assistance’ to both parties

Continued from Front Page

online which is rather a “courtesy document” so that the city and police can use it for safety and planning.

The Lake Report also confirmed with the City of Ottawa that the permit process is not mandatory but to “inform city stakeholders and police services.” But demonstrations are still subject to regular city bylaws and city laws governed by Ottawa police, said Michelle McElligott, a special events co-ordinator with the City of Ottawa.

The application system is “not enforceable,” Malachowsky said. When protesters don’t apply online, police have to rely heavily on social media to monitor and plan accordingly, he added.

McCaffery said all “incidents” should be reported and each individual situation will be treated on its own merit. If anyone witnesses an infraction, feels unsafe or sees online hate speech or has their private property used for protest, they should call the police, he said.

Three carriage supporters, including Jennifer Jones-Butski, Eric Van Noort and Karen Jones as well as

two protesters, Jason King and Run Smith, were present at the meeting.

Jones-Butski, a founder of the carriage support group, said she wasn’t thrilled with the presentation. She claims there have been instances when horse carriage drivers wanted to file a report, but were turned down by police.

Brock Donald, one of the carriage drivers, recalled an instance when his report wasn’t accepted. He said he was once Christmas shopping and the protesters were following him around and taking photos of him.

Donald said the protesters posted photos of him on Facebook saying he looks like a “wifebeater.” When Donald went to the police station, “they said they couldn’t file anything on that because (protesters) said I ‘look like’ a wifebeater and not ‘I am,’” he said.

Another carriage driver, Angie Bishop, said after protesters were taking photos and yelling at the carriage drivers during Father’s Day last year, she went to file a report but she was turned down and told she needed a video proof despite having the video online, said Bishop.

Coun. Clare Cameron asked McCaffery if there was anything preventing drivers from filing a report.

McCaffery said “Most definitely not,” and that he encourages carriage drivers to contact police if they have an issue or feel threatened.

“By all means (it) should be reported,” he said.

McCaffery said the situation is “dynamic” and that police duty is to provide neutral assistance. There are currently two officers who have been assigned to attend protests and maintain peace.

After the protesters projected a video on the cenotaph on June 29, which caused outrage from local residents on social media, the incident was reviewed by police and it was determined the element of “intent” for a mischief charge was not met, said McCaffery.

A protocol between the two parties involved was set out in August 2018, McCaffery said. Part of that protocol states both groups have to be six feet from each other and shouldn’t block traffic. Both sides also agreed not to engage with each other, and protesters agreed to stay 10 feet away from the horses.

McCaffery said the protocol is not enforceable but is a “good-faith” agreement. He would not release the full details of the protocol and said he believes the details should not be public, as the protocol was not made to be public. The protests are being organized by members of the public, happening on a public street, and have now gone before a public meeting of council.

Jones-Butski disputes the good faith, and claims parts of the protocol have been broken by the protesters, who she said are “constantly obstructing” the public from approaching horses and the carriages.

“Insp. McCaffery stood there last night and stated that nothing has been obstructed,” Butski said. In his closing remarks, McCaffery said instances of obstructing pedestrians or inciting violence have not been met to date.

“I don’t agree with lying to the public. For him to stand there and say that none of this has happened when we’ve been sending pictures and videos, I just don’t understand it.”

Police continue to receive complaints about the protests, McCaffery said, and he said he hopes to bring

everyone back to the table to revisit the agreement.

Niagara Regional Police Service board chair Kenneth Gansel also attended the meeting. He talked about the potential of an intersection camera program. There is a real-time operation centre at the police headquarters which allows regional police to link to municipal video cameras, he said, noting Niagara Falls and Port Colborne, as well as a number of private enterprises, have already joined the program. He said the centre is fully staffed but cameras are often used as an “after-a-fact tool” for police investigation.

“As much as this material is recorded, somebody is not specifically sitting there watching a specific camera,” Gansel told council noting it is a crime prevention program, not something based off of George Orwell’s 1984, “with somebody sitting there (watching).”

Earlier in July, Lord Mayor Betty Disero told The Lake Report she would like to have security cameras installed on the corner of Queen and King streets to help police monitor the busy intersection.

A permit application is

required in NOTL if a demonstration or a rally involves a street, a road or a park closure, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero, but McCaffery said that’s different from a protest permit. A permit system has to be voluntary, not mandatory, he said.

Filming and taking photos is also not illegal, McCaffery told council.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita asked if there is a point where a public protest turns into a public nuisance. McCaffery said if there is violence or something stopping the traffic, then the police would look at the situation differently.

“At this point, that’s all that’s happening. It’s a demonstration,” McCaffery said.

Police would come back to council with an update at some point in the future, he said.

Although the protest group is pleased with council’s engagement, they’re “dismayed that the overwhelming concern by the mayor and councillors is focused on suppressing our charter rights rather than taking real action toward ending the speciesist behaviours taking place in our community,” King told The Lake Report.



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Town defers Queenston Mile decision after hearing **loud public opposition**

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
 The Lake Report

After hearing vocal opposition to Queenston Mile Vineyard's plan to operate as an estate winery, NOTL council narrowly decided to defer a decision on the application.

Last week, Coun. Stuart McCormack made a motion to send staff recommendations back to staff. His proposal suggested removing a commercial kitchen space from the report and to include a more comprehensive buffering zone between the winery and the neighbouring residents.

McCormack also asked to move the entrance to Concession 6 from Queenston Road, have staff review and report back on its feasibility.

In a close vote Monday, town council approved McCormack's motion. Town staff is expected to meet with the applicant to discuss the suggestions and will report back at the next council meeting in September.

Meanwhile, the applicant can appeal the decision to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

What defines a restaurant has been a hot topic among Niagara-on-the-Lake's residents and business owners for a long time.

At the committee of the



A kitchen built and ready at Queenston Mile Vineyard.
 RICHARD HARLEY/FILE PHOTO

whole meeting last week, the Queenston Mile application to operate as an estate winery faced strong opposition.

Alison Zalepa, general manager of Queenston Mile, told council Monday the company is not asking for a restaurant but for a commercial kitchen. She said the wine industry in Niagara-on-the-Lake is drowning.

"And the wineries you think are profitable are probably not," she said.

Town staff recommended approving the winery's zoning bylaw amendment application and allow it to operate as an estate winery. Queenston Mile currently operates as a farm estate winery at 963 Queenston Rd.

The difference between an estate and a farm winery is that an estate winery can produce and sell wines made from locally grown fruit. Meanwhile, a farm

winery has to grow, produce and sell wines made only from fruit that is grown on-site, according to the town's official plan.

Marion Hassebroek, who lives across from the winery, expressed disappointment over the staff recommendation and said she can hear winery patrons as they leave the building.

She also raised traffic and safety concerns as drivers often miss the winery's entrance, hit the brakes and then turn around in neighbouring driveways. She said no traffic study was done by the town and she witnessed buses having to navigate through the narrow driveway.

Maria Mavridis, who owns Corks and Orzo restaurants on Queen Street, said downtown business owners have seen a "substantial decrease" in sales and have to pay "astronomical" property taxes, ranging from \$38,000 to \$80,000.

She added she doesn't have any issues with NOTL wineries and supports them, but she is asking for fairness because if Queenston Mile is granted an estate winery licence, it will have an advantage by having free parking, controlled wage costs and agricultural taxes.

Steven O'Melia, who spoke on behalf of the applicant, denied the claims, saying lawyer Thomas Richardson, who represented 15 opposing parties, didn't provide planning rationales for the town to reject the plan.

He added the application meets the municipal, regional and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority requirements. He said hand-crushing, fermenting and bottling take place on-site and high property taxes are also not proper planning rationales.

The kitchen equipment is not hooked up, O'Melia noted. It was "optimistically purchased" in advance and has been stored – some of it still wrapped – and there's also no legal requirement to return it, he said.

At a special committee of the whole meeting last Wednesday, Rick Wilson, town's director of planning, confirmed the applicant didn't request to be a restaurant nor to hold outdoor special events.

Councillor denies **conflict of interest**

Continued from Front Page

niches, etc., so that not every winery is a direct competitor of every other winery."

"Councillors will also sometimes suggest that they can vote on motions related to an application, such as a motion to defer or ask for a report, as long as they declare a conflict on the final motion," Siegel said. "The legislation makes it clear that someone who has a conflict must not participate in any aspect of the debate."

Miele said by making a Facebook post he was

hoping to educate people who "aren't listening or paying attention to politics."

"It's not all about personal gain. It's about the perception," he said in a phone interview. "The motion was defeated but you got to declare the conflict because the perception is there. It's not just about money."

Wiens said if anyone has concerns regarding the conflict of interest, they could contact the councillor in question or the integrity commissioner.

"That's what a gentleman does. A gentleman doesn't

go on Facebook and make wild accusations that he doesn't know what the situation is," he said. "This seems more grandstanding. If he really was concerned about the situation, then he would have tried to get a resolution."

The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and council's Code of Conduct spell out a member's responsibility to declare a conflict of interest, said town clerk Peter Todd.

"The act and council's Code of Conduct outlines that it is not the responsibility of the clerk or any town staff to determine whether a member

has a conflict, but rather it is the responsibility of the member to determine if they have a conflict of interest," Todd said in an email response to The Lake Report.

"The town's integrity commissioner is also responsible for serving as an adviser to individual members of council in relation to the applicable Code of Conduct and any procedures, rules and policies of the municipality governing their ethical behaviour, including the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act," Todd said.



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 – Aristotle.



Editorial: Russian roulette and overnight parking

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Overnight parking in Niagara-on-the-Lake has turned into a form of Russian roulette of late.

Will the parking gendarmes be out in the middle of the night to slap a ticket on your windshield? Or will you be lucky and escape

unscathed?

Any law should be applied as evenly and fairly as possible. For years now, like many municipalities, NOTL has had a 2 to 6 a.m. parking ban on the books. But, as even a past staff report says, it has been “rendered obsolete” because it was never enforced. Until a few weeks ago, it seems.

So why is this happening? What has changed? Quotas? Eager new officers?

How is it fair to NOTL residents for the town to actively disregard the overnight parking bylaw for years and then change the game by suddenly starting to tag cars?

If it seems whimsical, arbitrary and unfair, that’s

because it is. Coun. Erwin Weins notes in our story on the parking bylaw that the town has more important things to consider than revisiting the old statute.

He might be right. But let’s start by turning back the clock and calling off the overnight parking enforcement brigade.

editor@niagaranow.com

Pondering: Did Marineland play any part in my love for animals?

Richard Harley
 Editor

I received a letter this week in response to my last editorial, which suggested picketing Marineland as something worthwhile. NOTL’s friendly neighbourhood horse protesters could do.

The letter, from former Toronto councillor Gloria Luby, got me thinking when it mentioned she is an animal lover who has visited the park several times.

I started to wonder if maybe, perhaps, I had some incorrect perceptions of Marineland — or at the

very least of the obscure positive effect it might have had on seven-year-old me.

I, like the writer of the letter, am an animal lover — only now I couldn’t picture myself paying money to go to an aquatic park, or really anywhere that keeps wild animals for viewing and entertainment. Something about it would feel wrong. Maybe I’ve watched too many episodes of BBC’s Planet Earth. Regardless, as I sipped away on carnival soda and chomped candy corn, I wouldn’t be able to help think about how those caged animals were helping

the owners suck even more out of my wallet, and how more money means more caged animals.

Yet I attended the park when I was a child, and I admit to having fond memories of my time there, which made me ask myself: Where did my own passion for animals come from? And is it possible that, perhaps, those childhood trips to Marineland played a part in it all?

Would I be the same if I hadn’t had experiences up-close with animals at a young age? Would I even watch shows like Planet Earth if I hadn’t gone to places like African Lion

Safari, or the Animal Kingdom in Disney World?

Seven-year-old me wasn’t walking through these types of places thinking of them as prisons for animals. At Marineland, I was looking at the deer, putting a quarter in the food machines and tossing pellets on the ground to get them to come closer so I could see it even closer. I was fascinated.

Perhaps I was young and ignorant. Or perhaps was I learning to love and appreciate animals even more. Perhaps having pets and watching Disney would have accomplished the same thing.

I guess the point is, it made me wonder.

For now, I still won’t be going to Marineland.

editor@niagaranow.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bravo on special summer issue

Dear editor:
 To Richard and The Lake Report team, I LOVE your new magazine!!

You are creating something wonderful for the community — that is fabulous. And I love that you hired an illustrator to produce the centrespread map of NOTL.

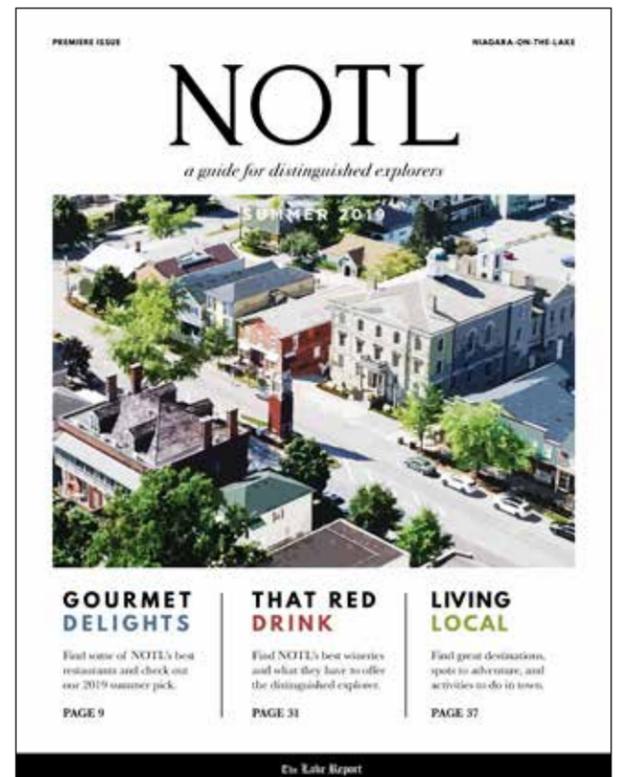
Shelley Huson
 NOTL

Great editorial — and photography

Dear editor:
 Great editorial this last edition, “News has to be reported, even if it’s bad.”

I also continue to be impressed with the photography in The Lake Report — it’s first rate.

Betty Clark
 NOTL



The front page of The Lake Report’s summer visitor’s guide magazine. Locals have been raving about it too.

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LETTERS

Why are tour buses allow to rumble through Queenston?

Dear editor:

The jet boat tour buses and other large buses are out in full force, once again, travelling through Queenston every 15 to 20 minutes. Although I do not reside in the village, I have witnessed the large, diesel-spewing buses going back and forth.

It is an odd site as the buses look like out-of-scale, wobbling behemoths navigating a path directly through a patch of residences on both sides of a street that is barely two lanes wide.

I am surprised and somewhat dumbfounded that these buses are permitted to drive through a historically significant piece of real estate that is so noteworthy in this country's history.

Large tour buses park (for a fee) outside the Old Town in designated lots where tourists have to walk to the shops and restaurants on Queens Parade and elsewhere; other than the sheer volume of the tour buses, it appears to be a fairly civil process.

The touring experience also appears civil for those

visitors who try the Whirlpool Aero Car, the zipline in Niagara Falls and the Horn Blower cruise. All of the above, minus the jet boat tour business, operate in a commercial area where there appears to be adequate parking and facilities to accommodate tourists.

Queenston does not have such luxuries in regards to infrastructure or space, nor does it benefit, at all, from any tourist dollars generated directly from those who have come to enjoy the jet boat experience.

The gravel road down to the river in Queenston is dangerous. I have seen many buses navigate the turn. I have also observed residents scrambling when walking their dogs, trying to get out of the way of a bus that is coming straight for them (it really does feel like that).

There is little to no room remaining on either side of the gravel road when the buses are descending; no safe area exists for pedestrians on this stretch when the buses occupy this gravel path before reaching the river. Also, I am not



A jetboat is launched into the Niagara River at the Queenston docks. RICHARD HARLEY/FILE PHOTO

sure who or what party is responsible for maintaining this gravel road but they are evidently not concerned about the condition of it.

Although I have not been privy to any private conversations or meetings about this issue between the jet boat company and the residents, I am quite surprised that the town has permitted the jet boat operators to continue to carry on business in this manner. I am surprised the town even allows any tour buses to go through this part of Queenston.

Corporate responsibility is a big deal these days, as it should be.

How is the jet boat tours business being held responsible for noise, pollution

issues and probable degradation of the streets that they travel on so frequently in this tiny village? Do any of the people who own the jet boat tours company live in Queenston or do they live elsewhere, where there are no tour buses travelling in front of their driveways and patios every 15 to 20 minutes, every day?

I don't think anyone wants to see a local business suffer, but the residents don't deserve to suffer either.

In regards to "wins" and economic benefits, it appears to be jet boat/tour buses "home run," local Queenston residents "you're out"!

*Carolyn Bernacci
NOTL*

Marineland needs support, not condemnation

Dear editor:

I read your editorial of July 11 ("News has to be reported, even if it's bad,") with great interest as I am an ardent supporter of our carriage horses. You mention some places that the activists could turn their attention to.

The first one is Marineland where you cite dated and what has been proven to be inaccurate information about their troubles. We have visited Marineland several times as we love animals.

By way of background I should mention that I was a Toronto city councillor and sat on the Toronto Zoo board, where I was vice-chair for many years, and understand how difficult it is to keep the facility run-

ning in the face of activists like PETA. There is no satisfying people who want total abolition of any zoo, aquarium or themed amusement park, no matter how well-run it is.

I have enclosed several pages from Marineland's promotional material. One page clearly outlines what happened when several employees made inaccurate charges and then activists on the internet tried to take advantage of the situation. The second deals with the changes Marineland has made in its mission statement, to better align itself with public concerns.

Marineland is doing its best to provide education about animals to the public. We have witnessed many families who en-

joy the day out with their children.

It is also providing jobs for a large number of residents and young people from the area. We were very impressed by the professionalism of the staff and the affection they have for the marine mammals. Clearly the facility is meeting many challenges since founder John Holer died last year and his wife has taken over. Marineland does not deserve to be anyone's target. It, too, needs support from the public, not condemnation.

May I suggest that NOTL's horse carriage protesters are picking on a soft target and if they are really interested in horses then they should be protesting at the Fort Erie Racetrack?

Many horses have been injured or died in the so-called sport.

But I bet they won't go there because they would meet up with opposition from the owners who would get the police to really act. It would be interesting to see.

I am curious to understand what lies at the base of their intent. Is it only our carriage horses? Why not picket the police who have canine units or service dog training places?

Thank you for your newspaper, which I find very informative.

*Gloria Lindsay Luby
NOTL*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sexual orientation and religion: Let's **stop the judgment**

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to letters submitted to The Lake Report, starting with John Boydell's letter, "Mennonite church discriminates against gays and lesbians," June 27.

Dear John Boydell: I am sorry for the pain and disrespect that you have endured because of your sexual orientation. It should never have happened. Period. No excuses.

To Elly Teichgraf: You are younger than me, but I remember the courageous, upbeat, smart woman that you are. You were very gracious in your letter to The Lake Report. But your life in any church could not have been easy; I suspect you have chosen to forget a lot, and forgive even more.

There are, indeed, Christian churches that are accepting of the LGBTQ community. They are "inclusive." But I know of only a very few that will permit active participation, who will baptize, marry, ordain and bury people who are openly gay.

There are many of us who desire to change the status quo in our churches, but our efforts have been largely unsuccessful.

I grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and my family attended Niagara United Mennonite Church. Although I am now at Bethany Mennonite Church, for many years I worshipped in Catholic churches in Germany, Texas, New York, as well as Niagara-on-the-Lake. My spirituality is very important to me and has been nurtured and encouraged by the caring people I have met in the churches I have attended.

I am also a lawyer practising in New York. My colleagues are married and single, men and women, gay and straight. We work together professionally, take care of business, get mar-

ried or not, raise children or not, have mortgages, and plan for retirement.

In my personal life, I treasure the company of my gay and lesbian friends. We celebrate the good times together, take care of each other during the bad and, sadly, sometimes we have to grieve together.

Why must my religious life be so different? Why so judgmental and exclusive? Especially in a country as enlightened as Canada, where a very smart and sophisticated prime minister said decades ago that government has no place in the bedrooms of the citizenry.

But we church-going folk do tend to go down that tortured road of moral superiority and, well, we know that gay people are promiscuous, don't we? We've all seen those Gay Pride parades, those outrageous, scantily clad men and women dancing through Toronto's streets.

I have always suspected that Jesus would agree with Pierre Trudeau. Our Lord was not enamored of people who make superior moral judgments – that whole business of looking for the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and paying no attention to the plank in your own.

So, let us now pause and review our own straight lives. Let us remember lunches at the Sundowner in Niagara Falls or drinks at Private Eyes in our very own Niagara-on-the-Lake. Let us consider the naked women we ogled in Playboy magazines. Those pre-marital affairs... only once, twice ...

Remember the quick marriage and the "premature" baby? Virginity as we approached our Mennonite and Catholic marriage altars? Hmm. Maybe not so much. Consider the movies and jokes about 40-year-old virgins. Hahaha. Skyrocket-

ing Viagra prescriptions and delusions of faithfulness to our spouses, in body and in mind.

Oh, but that's different... we may be searching for fun in all the wrong places, but we're messing around with the OPPOSITE sex. It's not the same.

Oh, but it is the same.

Dear Straight Friends: That's called a distinction without a difference.

We live in a time of extreme promiscuity and sexual degradation. Think Hugh Hefner, Bill Cosby, Jeffrey Epstein, Bill Clinton, Donald Trump ... the list is endless and comprises a lot more straight than gay people.

We rightly condemn that behaviour in our politicians and movie stars. But change starts at the grassroots level, with each one of us individually. We need to honour our sexuality with modesty, joy and commitment, whether we are gay or straight.

Our Lord's primary commandment is pretty straight forward: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind ... and love your (gay) neighbour as yourself.

That is all.

So many have suffered under our superior religiosity in the past. How will we treat our young men and women in the future, when they ask to fully participate in the life of our churches? Will we always turn them away only because of their sexual orientation? Force them to hide who they are and live a lie? Can we afford to reject the blessings that they have to offer us? Are we serving our Lord well?

I think we can do better. Because the love of humanity demands nothing less than that we respect and preserve the dignity of all God's people.

Wallace Waltraut Wiens
NOTL

Embrace our freedom to hold **differing opinions**

Dear editor:

I am dismayed by John Boydell's letter, published June 27, concerning the Mennonite church. I was further dismayed to learn of the abusive communications received by The Lake Report in response to it, and wish to apologize for them. The Christian response to personal wrong is firmness, gentleness and patience.

As for the content of Mr. Boydell's letter, I must disagree with it. Mr. Boydell declares the consciences of Mennonites hateful and implies churches should be subject to legal control. That road is the shadow of death for freedom of thought and expression in Canada. It was not so long ago that homosexuals suffered from state persecution in our land. In our zeal for apparent equality, let us not now put the same hot iron of repression to those who, because of their consciences, cannot endorse that same practice.

Let us be reasonable: each of us has a conscience with respect to sexuality. All of us believe that some sexual practices – even consensual ones – are wrong.

If some among us hold more of those

practices to be wrong than others, because they have additional information on which to base their assessment, who are the rest to judge them? After all, their goal is that people do less wrong – which should be next to the highest priority of us all. As for those whose goal seems to be to condemn, forgive them and blandish them for it gently, as you would wish to be treated.

One of the great privileges of this country is our freedom to debate each other courteously, then go home and live our separate lives in peace. Don't malign the Mennonite, the Catholic or the Baptist in the exercise of that freedom: do not malign me for my difference from you.

What we have now is precious: don't sacrifice it on the altar of majority opinion, to enforce your beliefs or social conformity. That is not the way of a secular, fair and reasoned society. Rather, let us embrace, if not our differences, our cherished freedom to differ.

Sincerely and in love,
Caleb Burney
NOTL

Horse protesters **should go to** Calgary Stampede

Dear editor:

I am tired of reading week after week about the At War for Animals Niagara protestors.

The Sentineal Carriages company is an asset to our town, providing pleasant memories to tourists and residents.

My first carriage ride was during the early days of our Candlelight Stroll when the Sentineals took the committee members on a ride around the stroll route after dark – a magical time!

During our Linden House B&B years, many guests also enjoyed the carriage tours. My best memory is the young man who had booked a weekend and the carriage to pick them up at our B&B.

He proposed during the carriage ride, which was very exciting. They returned for their honeymoon and several following years, always taking the carriage ride.

I think the protesters should change their name to AWFAC (Calgary) and go there every July to protest real cruelty – three horses dead last week in the Stampede's chuckwagon races, and a further 50 dead horses since 1986, not to mention 10 calves that died due to broken legs in roping events.

Elaine Landray
NOTL



**We welcome
your letters**

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often.

Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation.

Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated.

Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

Send your letters to editor@niagaraworld.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

The Lake Report



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Speeding and unsafe intersections around Niagara-on-the-Lake

Dear editor:

I am writing in regard to the letter, "Cycling tourists are an accident waiting to happen," July 11.

While I could not agree more about the hazardous cycling which goes on in our "not-so-little town," I have come to realize that we have other important safety issues as well and these are not directly due to the visitor influx.

Speeding is a big problem around town and needs to be addressed. More specifically there are some particular locations where there are bound to be some potentially lethal accidents.

I am speaking of the entrance/exit to the community centre. What will it take before we have a traffic light there?

This would not only help slow down the speed

between Garrison Village and Queen Street but would make crossing Mississagua less hazardous. There is no pedestrian crossing until Mary Street and too many pedestrians, cyclists and cars dash across unsafely.

The turn from Queen to Mississagua is another accident waiting to happen. An all-way stop might remedy the problem.

I am sure there are other spots that your vigilant readers could name.

The increase in numbers that occurs each summer only makes these issues more compelling to address.

Sheila Doyle
NOTL



Impatient drivers are more a danger than cycling tourists

Dear editor:

I do agree with the writer of the past week who foresees an accident on Niagara-on-the-Lake roads because of so many bicyclists and the competing automobile traffic, "Cycling tourists are an accident waiting to happen."

However, the writer sees the situation quite incorrectly.

The bicyclists I see every day make an effort to remain in single file and use bike lanes where possible – unfortunately such lanes are few, and even where they exist they are very narrow, close to the vehicular traffic and skirting a deep ditch.

The real problem is that drivers feel they have a god-given right to pass cyclists by using the opposite lane, regardless of any oncoming traffic.

Now the Ontario Highway Traffic Act is quite clear on this point: it is an offence to be in the wrong lane if there is any oncoming traffic.

I see idiot drivers, however, failing to slow behind the cyclists to wait for a passing opportunity: instead they pass illegally and force oncoming cars, which are in their own lane, into the ditch.

It is those abjectly bereft drivers who are the real danger, and who will one day soon kill cyclists or people in an oncoming car.

The few extra seconds it takes to wait for a clear passing lane are too much for such people and they risk becoming killers.

Kaspar Pold
NOTL



More corporate funding doesn't mean more tourists

Dear editor:

I am writing regarding Don Stewart's letter, "Is bigger always better?", July 11.

I fear your correspondent may have missed the main thrust of the original letter to you. If I read correctly, its author was not advocating more tourism, he was advocating a search for more funds to support tourism.

There are a number of projects under consideration by the town, both inside and outside the council chamber, and many are on hold because of budgetary constraints.

I believe there is no harm in exploring alternative avenues of funding, without assuming the town will be consequently swamped by visitors. Looking at alternatives is both common sense and good husbandry. I understand what the original letter writer Glenn Young suggests. He seeks to tap into funds already earmarked by corporations but not allocated to any specific community.

I would ask Mr. Stewart to consider again whether the view he holds really is in the best interest of the town.

Undoubtedly, not all jobs can be guaranteed to be held by a resident. Yet by working in the town, that employee is assisting their

employer in fulfilling financial, fiscal, and community obligations.

Maybe that employee will do their shopping in town, go to the theatre, perhaps a restaurant ... it cannot be assumed if they are not a resident, there is no contribution to their place of work other than their labour.

I lived for a time in a town in England where you weren't considered a "local" until you had three generations in the churchyard. Such parochial attitudes were harmful to the community and failed to engender community spirit. It merely reinforced the "us and them" philosophy.

It was only after newcomers (i.e. those less than 100 years old!) came forward with ideas and the energy to rejuvenate an inward-looking, tired and apprehensive community that the historic 800-year-old town began to find its purpose and raison d'être once more.

Mr. Stewart is right when he asks, "Is bigger always better?" I would reply, "No, but is richer better than poorer?"

Neil Follett
NOTL



Let's share the road: Cyclists are humans, too

Dear editor:

I want to comment about last week's letter on very dangerous cyclists, "Cycling tourists are an accident waiting to happen."

The driver clearly doesn't get the concept of Share The Road. Both drivers and cyclists are entitled to use the road. And if there isn't a cycling lane on a road, it's the cyclists' fault?

Also, the wearing of helmets isn't mandatory. It's not a legal requirement — only for kids under a certain age.

As for riding two abreast, don't get me started. It's

not illegal to ride two abreast and we have a new law here for a minimum passing distance. It's hard to enforce, but it should ensure that when a driver hits a cyclist, they were driving too close.

The reason for that law is to allow cyclists to weave to avoid objects, holes, etc. on the road and not be hit by drivers.

I'm not saying all cyclists are angels, but it takes attitude shift on both sides to create change.

Frank Hayes
NOTL

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2019 Rising Spirits Creative Writing Contest

The NOTL Writers' Circle is happy to announce the 2019/20 Rising Spirits Creative Writing contest is now open. The competition invites Ontario residents to submit their short stories (fiction and non-fiction) and poetry.

Winners will have their work published in our annual anthology and be presented with awards and prizes at the Awards Celebration which will be held on Sunday, February 23rd at The Old Winery in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We are excited to announce that our judge for this year's contest is Brian Henry, celebrated book editor, writer, creative writing instructor, and publisher of Canada's most popular blog for writers - Quick Brown Fox. Mr. Henry will also provide feedback for the pieces submitted by the winners.

Cash prizes for 4 Writing Categories (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, and Youth)

1st Place - \$250
2nd Place - \$100
3rd Place - \$50

Over the past seven years, The Rising Spirits Awards Celebration has grown into an extraordinary community event with storytelling, music, wine, and special guest speakers.

Contest details and entry forms are available at: www.notlwriterscircle.com
Deadline for submissions is October 31st, 2019.

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College expanding after buying new \$18M facility

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara College welcomed a new addition to its land holdings with its \$18.1-million purchase of the Niagara Corporate Business Centre.

The 33-acre property on Glendale Avenue East, adjacent to the NOTL campus, was bought from Trivieri Investments Limited, a St. Catharines-based company.

The land has a three-storey building with 18 businesses and agencies inside, including Niagara Emergency Medical Services, as well as some of the college's administrative offices.

There are no immediate short-term changes planned to the building's operation, said Andrew Korchok, a



The Niagara Corporate Business Centre. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

communications consultant at Niagara College.

The college is also planning to work with Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on the long-term plans for the land. "We don't know what

exactly we're going to use it for yet but it offers that potential to expand our Niagara-on-the-Lake campus and open different possibilities in the future," Korchok told The Lake Report. He noted the college's

student population is growing and the college has to meet that demand, but there are "no immediate plans to expand our residences." The college is expected to take over ownership on Aug. 23.

NOTL is more than Queen Street, says new chamber president

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake has to retain its authenticity and not turn into an amusement park tourist attraction, says the new president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce.

"We are walking a very fine line between authenticity and becoming a theme park," Eduardo Lafforgue told council Monday night during a special presentation.

Lafforgue was appointed as the chamber's new president in May when Janice Thomson left the position to become CEO of Niagara Falls Tourism after running the chamber for 18 years.

NOTL's brand is all about being a genuine "place where everyone dreams to be once in their lives in North America," Lafforgue told councillors.

"People come here for something that they might not have anymore," he said. "We have to be very careful if our wineries, vineyards become just landscape instead of becoming a product at the end."

NOTL is also a mature destination, he said. There are extraordinary assets here, such as the airport, history, culture, Shaw Festival and Queen Street, which have to be managed in order to maximize their value.

Three values – economic, socio-cultural and environmental – need to work together, he said, as those values are a part of the DNA of the destination.

Some of the strategic objectives, which are a part



Eduardo Lafforgue.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

of Lafforgue's action plan, include reducing seasonality, balancing day trips and overnight trips, increasing visitor spending as well as building economic, social and environmental sustainability. He also said he hopes to show some growth in the next six months.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked how the chamber would make sure there is a balance between residents and tourists.

"If there is no balance, we will lose that authenticity when it becomes a theme park," Lafforgue responded. "We need to be very careful."

NOTL is far more than Queen Street, Lafforgue said. In order to preserve it and take some pressure off Old Town, tourism will have to be spread across all five communities in town. If all villages don't work together, someone from the outside will "tell us what to do," Lafforgue said.

Coun. Stuart McCormack agreed that the town doesn't want to become a Disney World-style of attraction.

"We want to be a live community here where people can enjoy themselves," McCormack noted. "We don't want to be a hotel room for the world."

Niagara College signs Dimensions charter on equity

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara College made a commitment to greater equity, diversity and inclusion by endorsing the Dimensions pilot project on Wednesday.

The project, which was inspired by the UK's Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network), aims to address systemic barriers experienced by members of underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.

"To date, over 80 institutions have endorsed the Dimensions charter, including today Niagara College, signalling their commitment to ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity, treatment and recognition in our colleges, universities, CEGEPs and polytechnics," said Filomena Tassi, the federal minister of seniors, who was on hand for the announcement.

Tassi thanked Niagara



Filomena Tassi, minister of seniors, at Niagara College Wednesday morning to announce the grant of nearly \$2 million. BRITTANY CARTER

College president Dan Patterson, MP Chris Bittle and Student Administrative Council president Tom Price for demonstrating the college's commitment to an inclusive campus by endorsing the charter.

Though her job is to act as minister of seniors, Tassi said she has a passion for students, having worked in

a school environment for many years.

She said it was "absolutely fantastic" to be at Niagara College to announce the nearly \$2 million in funding that will be going to the College and Community Innovation program.

The grant of \$1.75 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research

Council of Canada was announced in June, renewing the Technology Access Centre funding for the Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre.

The college's Agriculture and Environmental Technologies Innovation Centre is set to receive \$149,918 for equipment for cannabis production research.

Town wants speed limit reduced

The speed limit on Niagara Stone Road, near the entrance to Garrison Village, could be reduced to 50 km/h from 70 km/h.

Niagara-on-the-Lake council approved a motion to ask the Region of Niagara to review the possibility of reducing the speed limit after residents expressed concerns about the speed and volume of traffic at the intersection during events in the area.



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Town spending **\$105,000** to stop Garrison Village E. coli leaks

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report



Repairs will continue at the Garrison Village storm sewers. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will continue to investigate and do minor repairs to the storm sewer system at Garrison Village, town councillors decided Monday.

The estimated cost for the project is \$105,300.

In 2015, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority found high E. coli levels in water samples from the village's storm outfalls. The contamination was possibly caused by animal feces and cross-connections from the sanitary sewer, said Carla Coveart of GM BluePlan Engineering during a presentation to councillors on July 8.

The latest project stems from a two-year probe into

sources of E. coli leaking into Lake Ontario. The town is already spending about \$500,000 on the investigation and sewer repairs, primarily in the area of King and Queen streets in Old Town.

The investigation's main goal is to identify the source of E.coli in the system, said Coveart. The investigation showed cracks and fractures in outfalls,

root intrusion at some sewer connections as well as raccoon feces in the storm system.

Coveart's recommendation was to conduct an investigation involving closed-circuit cameras, dye testing, smoke testing as well as water sampling and a system flush. She also recommended protecting the outlets so that animals, such as raccoons, can't enter

the system.

Coveart said there are no health concerns for Garrison Village residents, as the work will only be dealing with underground issues.

Brett Ruck, the town's manager of environmental services, said there are 26 outlets on One Mile Creek that also need investigation but it will require more resources. The investigation on One Mile Creek is planned to start after the Garrison and King Street sewer projects are over.

Coun. Gary Burroughs congratulated the town and the consultants, saying it was "such a positive story" as they managed to identify and fix an issue that's been "going on and on for years."

Hometown artists are among 60 featured at Pumphouse Art Show

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report



Cheryl Chiarelli mines for the crystals she uses in jewelry creation. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Contrasting textures meet at the Pumphouse's two-day art show in August, where NOTL artists will showcase handcrafted crystal jewelry adjacent to soft-sculptured bears, surrounded by many other artistic mediums on display.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Aug. 3 and 4, Cheryl Chiarelli will bring her passion for creating crystal jewelry to the show and sale, while Susan McKay will showcase her more than 35 bears, which have been skilfully created with Angora goat mohair and other fibres.

Chiarelli and McKay are two of the five NOTL residents who will showcase their art during the Pumpphous art show. Julia Kane, Ann Marie Foster and Marie Landoni will also have their works on display.

Creating wearable art and handling crystals has always brought Chiarelli a sense of calm, she said, adding that she was happy to be able to

turn that hobby into a side business, which she calls Coconut Quartz.

"Ever since I was a little girl I've been playing around with jewelry and tearing apart old stuff and making it new again. And I loved crystals back then," she said.

This is her second year participating in the Pumpphous's art show. It has provided a space to bring her love for creating beautiful things to NOTL residents,

she said, as one of more than 60 artists who will be showcasing and selling their work at the beginning of August.

McKay said before she began creating the bears, she collected them for many years. Eventually, she took a workshop that taught her how to make the soft-sculptured bears, and she said it was a slippery slope from there.

"My husband thought, "Well, this is great, she'll

spend more money on the workshop and less collecting the bears." With the cost of the mohair and all of the equipment, I would have been better off collecting," McKay said.

She kept up the hobby, though, using it as a form of stress relief, she said.

"Initially it was a great stress relief ... to divert completely from the academic to the creative. It was almost like a yoga meditative class, but it would last a lot longer because it would take me a lot longer to create the bears."

The art show will also feature food by Waterfront Bistro and Bar and Bar N Bar B Que by PigOut Catering. Wine, beer and non-alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase, and Trains Coffee will be onsite with gourmet coffee.

The Walker Industries Art competition will conclude on Sunday, with an award ceremony at 3 p.m. in which all three winners of the competition will be awarded their prizes.

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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 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@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!



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<p>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:</p> <p>Legion Fish Fry every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1</p>			
21	22	23	24
<p>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Music Niagara's Sundays in the Park: The Retro Ramblers - Noon to 3:00 p.m. - Simcoe Park</p> <p>Music Niagara's Paris Connection: Janina Fialkowska, piano - 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p>	<p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Famous & Infamous: Francesco Franco with Julian Rance - 2 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p> <p>Music Niagara: Young Virtuosos 1 - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p> <p>Music Niagara's Last Night of the Proms - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p>	<p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>The Basics: Setting using Social Media - 9 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>56th Annual Lions Carnival - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Davids Lions Field</p> <p>Music Niagara: Elm Singers - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - United Mennonite Church</p>
28	29	30	31
<p>Music Niagara's Sundays in the Park: Young Virtuosos 3 - Noon to 2 p.m. - Simcoe Park</p> <p>Family Friendly Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Music Niagara's Exosphere: Tom Allen Show - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara United Mennonite Church</p> <p>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Monday Crafternoons: Bird Seed Hanger - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Therapy Tails with Jasper - 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Music Niagara's Paris Connection: Sofya Gulyak, piano with Victoria Kogan, piano - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Church</p>	<p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Rotary Rocks Picnic - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Music Niagara's All Beethoven: Andrew Wan, violin & Charles Richard-Hamelin, piano - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p>	<p>NOTL SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>Open House: St. David's - 8:30 p.m. - St. David's Church, 1462 York Rd.</p> <p>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</p>

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

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	18 Power Off & Play: On the Road! (NOTL Public Library) - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Memorial Park Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson Art & Fashion Lecture Series: Collecting Fashion, What and Why the Fashion History Museum - 7:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George Library Book Sale - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	19 Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Music Niagara's Easy Fridays: The "jeru" Quartet, Music of the Legendary Chet Baker - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Pondview Estates Winery Proud Mary: The CCR Experience - 7:30 p.m. - Corks Winebar & Eatery Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Jurassic Park - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant Library Book Sale - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	20 Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park Grape Growers of Ontario's Kick the Dirt - 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - 1315 Line 2 Road Music Niagara's Paris Connection: Odin String Quartet - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church Proud Mary: The CCR Experience - 7:30 p.m. - Corks Winebar & Eatery Library Book Sale - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
	24 Up Email and - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Library et - 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Library Family - 10 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church er Iseler - 7 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society urch	25 56th Annual Lions Family Carnival - 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Field Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson Music Niagara: Syrene Saxophone Quartet - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Grace United Church Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George	26 Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Music Niagara: Young Virtuosos 2 - 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church 56th Annual Lions Family Carnival - 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Field Music Niagara and TD Niagara Jazz Festival: Joe Trio - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Pondview Estates Winery Simpson's Customer Appreciation Day & Red Roof Retreat BBQ - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Simpson's Pharmacy, 1882 Niagara Stone Rd.
	31 et - 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Library vids Pool - 6:30 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall, George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George	1 Special Council Meeting - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson Jane Austen Tea Party: Mansfield Park - 7 p.m. - Navy Hall, Fort George	2 Music Niagara: Presentation on Czech Music with Pavel Sporcl - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Friday Flix: The Incredibles 2 - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Music Niagara's Easy Fridays: Heather Bambrick Quintet - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Pondview Estates Winery
		3 Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village Art at the Pumphouse - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Music Niagara's Wine & Music with an Italian theme: Caroline Leonardelli, harp & Julie Nesrallah, soprano - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Mount Carmel Music Niagara's Gypsy Fire: Pavel Sporcl, violin - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church	

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Yoga becomes a museum affair in NOTL

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Museums are places of quiet observation and peaceful introspection – NOTL museums are taking that sought-after stillness one step further by offering gentle hatha yoga classes throughout the summer.

RiverBrink Art Museum and the Niagara Historical Society and Museum have both jumped on the fast-growing trend of holding yoga classes in their spaces – both taught by registered yoga teacher Sonya de Lazzer.

De Lazzer has been on board at RiverBrink for more than 10 years, first as a volunteer and then a summer student, now she is on staff full-time as the programming curator assistant.

After becoming a certified yoga teacher, she said she wanted to combine her love of yoga and her passion for teaching to bring something fresh to the museum – offering yoga classes in the newly updated Coach House Studio at RiverBrink seemed to be a “natural fit.”

“It’s a beautiful, fresh clean studio. It just made sense,” she said.

Michela Comparey, conference and communications co-ordinator for the Ontario Museum Asso-

ciation, said in an email response that, over the last several years, at least 20 Ontario museums have offered yoga programming on-site, some recurring and some as a one-time event. She said that number could be even higher because she didn’t have a comprehensive list of programming offered at each museum.

“Yoga is one of many popular programs to provide local communities the opportunity to connect and engage with museum collections in new ways,” Marie Lalonde, executive director of the province’s museum association, said in the statement.

“Unique programs such as art battles, sleepovers, food and drink tastings, and yoga give visitors a new way to experience a site or collection and develop a renewed appreciation for the museums in their community,” in the response.

De Lazzer said she has noticed an increased interest in combining the arts with physical and mental wellness.

“There seems to be a movement now and I’ve seemed to notice it, not only from being in academia but in the museum world as well – this trend for wellness and the arts,” she said.

“It was just a natural kind



Sonya de Lazzer sits on her mat before a gentle hatha yoga class in the museum courtyard on Monday morning. BRITTANY CARTER

of thing for the museum to offer.”

Once the first few classes kicked off at RiverBrink, Amy Klassen, society administrator of the Niagara Historical Society and Museum caught word and said she wanted to offer something similar in the courtyard outside the building on Castlereagh Street.

“We had talked before about doing something here in the courtyard, a drop-in yoga, and I thought we could have her do it here,” she said.

Klassen said she connected with de Lazzer through RiverBrink and the idea

to hold yoga classes in the courtyard aligned with the museum’s goals.

“We’re always looking for more ways to use our outdoor space ... We thought the courtyard would be a perfect space to do yoga,” Klassen added.

De Lazzer said before becoming a certified yoga teacher, she took classes at local studios. It was when she started to make time for her own home practice that her love for yoga and its benefits began to shine through, she said.

She decided to take the 200-hour yoga teacher training course at Shine On

Yoga in Niagara Falls when she realized she had some extra time in her schedule. She took the course because she wanted to deepen her own practice, but she said she didn’t plan on teaching afterward.

“Shine On Yoga’s 10-month teacher training program allowed for that flexibility, so I can do a weekend every month. So, I decided to take the plunge, I said, ‘I’m just going to go for it,’ and I’m glad I did,” she said.

Navigating through the later years of her PhD in visual culture, de Lazzer said she found yoga especially helpful

for finding personal balance and grounding in her life.

“It’s sort of a whole different ballgame when you’re juggling life, you’re juggling school. I was also working full-time,” she said.

She needed to prioritize her mental health while also navigating so many different facets of her life through work, school and a social life, she said, adding that yoga helped her achieve some of that balance.

After realizing the benefits yoga brought to her own experience, de Lazzer said teaching seemed like the next logical step.

“You seem to find a love for it. And in terms of teaching, there was a nice connection there. Because I teach art history, but you can still integrate yoga in many ways,” she said.

All classes are 90 minutes. At RiverBrink Art Museum, classes begin at 8 a.m., and are offered on July 19, 26 and Aug. 2, 9, and 16.

The Niagara Historical Society and Museum will hold classes at 9:30 a.m. on July 22 and 29, and Aug. 19 and 26.

Participants are asked to bring their own mats, water and props if needed.

Classes are \$15 and space is limited.

Overnight parking ban could be revisited by council



Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Some NOTL councillors are open to reviewing the town’s ban on overnight parking while others are taking a “wait-and-see” approach.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she won’t “prejudge” if council would ever decide to allow overnight parking, though she said talks are in the works about a possible change.

“Whatever (councillors) do, they have to move cautiously, slowly and make sure there’s lots of community input,” Disero told The Lake Report.

The current parking bylaw prohibits parking from 2 to 6

a.m. on all roads and streets within the municipality. Over the years, it has rarely been enforced but in the past few weeks, some residents have complained of unexpectedly getting tickets for parking on the street outside their homes.

One NOTL resident, Carrie DeBon, said her daughter received a \$40 ticket for parking in front of their home on Andres Street in Virgil. Another resident, Gary Dick, said he also received a ticket for overnight parking in front of his house.

The Lake Report contacted council members to gauge their positions on the parking bylaw.

Two councillors, Allan Bis-

back and Wendy Cheropita, said they would support a review of the bylaw.

Coun. Erwin Wiens said he is content with the parking bylaw and there are more important issues to deal with, such as looking at the town’s strategic plan or a possible regional amalgamation. Coun. Stuart McCormack declined to comment.

Bisback also said the town needs more data to make “an educated decision” and Coun. Norm Arsenault shared the same sentiment, saying the town needs more information and would have to look at previous reports before making any decisions.

The town needs to have a bit more discussion and more

clarity about the matter, said Coun. John Wiens.

Noting council hasn’t discussed the ban in any form, said Coun. Gary Burroughs, said the town is working on “the enforcement side of the issue.”

Like many other issues, Coun. Clare Cameron said she could be open to reviewing the ban if there is a reason “from an operational standpoint or if we’re hearing a lot of concerns or input from residents.”

Meanwhile, council has asked town staff to prepare a report on the addition of on-call enforcement officers who will respond to calls from 8 a.m. to midnight., seven days a week.

In 2016, Garrison Village residents expressed concerns with an overnight parking prohibition in their neighbourhood. In January 2017, the previous council approved a staff recommendation to conduct a parking survey in the neighbourhood. Staff then came back with the survey results in April 2017 recommending amending the parking bylaw and removing the overnight parking prohibition.

Out of 200 survey respondents, 143 said they needed overnight on-street parking in case they have guests. The majority of the residents – 69 per cent – also supported a parking permit system.

“It should be noted that the

2 a.m. to 6 a.m. parking prohibition has been rendered obsolete, as in keeping with the town’s noise bylaw, routine maintenance is no longer conducted at night,” the staff report said.

“In addition, the 2009 update of the town’s parking and traffic bylaw included separate provisions to address nuisance long-term parking and street clearance for snow plowing operations.”

Staff was then directed to undertake a wider consultation by holding information sessions in all five communities across NOTL. The council deferred the decision and it was never brought forward again, said Disero.



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Angel's Rest dog hospice gets \$5,000 boost

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Angel's Rest Dog Rescue and Sanctuary raised about \$5,000 for the dog hospice at its second annual fundraiser Saturday.

Around 200 people attended the event, which featured a garage sale, a bake table and barbecue.

"The nice thing about this community, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is that people are so giving and understanding and supportive," said Jane Lavacca, whose mother, Christine Van Moorsel, owns the sanctuary.

Angel's Rest, at 1079 Queenston Rd., provides a home for small sick or dying dogs whose owners have died or can no longer take care of them.

Van Moorsel, who has operated the sanctuary since 2008, said the fundraiser helps keep the hospice going as the organization is supported through dona-

tions and funded by Van Moorsel herself.

Donations of senior dog food and puppy pads are always welcome. Van Moorsel said the preferred hours to drop them off are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

With 14 dogs to take care of, she said holding a yard sale is a lot of work, too.

It can cost anywhere from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year to feed one dog, Lavacca said, and each dog eats almost one can of dog food a day. The vet bills and medication can also cost a lot as some dogs have been abused or have major medical problems – from tumours to pulled teeth.

Last year, the organization raised \$2,600. This year's proceeds bring a lot of relief, said Lavacca.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero stopped by in the morning to learn more about the sanctuary and show her support.

"I'm happy to contribute and try to give some more



Christine Van Moorsel, who owns and operates the dog hospice, holds a canine called Gracie, who has a tumour.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

awareness in the community," Disero told The Lake Report. "Because, look what this wonderful family is doing. And we all need to help."

York Road resident Michelle Lament said Van Moorsel is doing "something a lot of people wouldn't want to get involved with."

Queenston Road residents Anne and Lou Mierzwa shared the same sentiment, saying Van Moorsel's work is "so important."

Two members of a dog rescue group from St. Cath-

arines, Wayne Parkhouse and Heather Hurst, brought puppy pads, some food and treats for the dogs.

"She has a tremendous setup here. Big heart to open her home up to so many dogs, older dogs, that can't be placed anywhere," Hurst said.

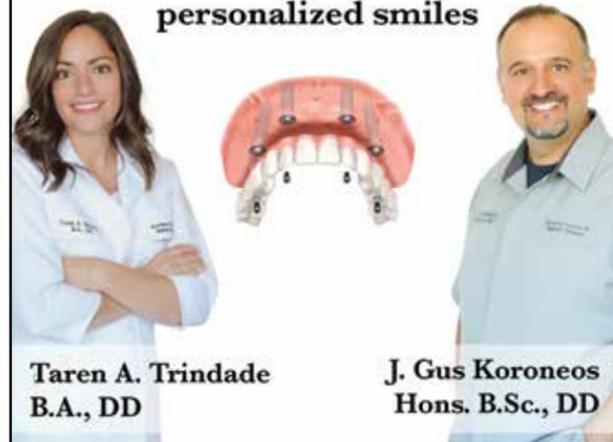
Van Moorsel said her experience operating her own day-care in Niagara Falls taught her the patience needed to take care of the dogs.

But when it gets hard, the dogs give her strength. "They're just like family."

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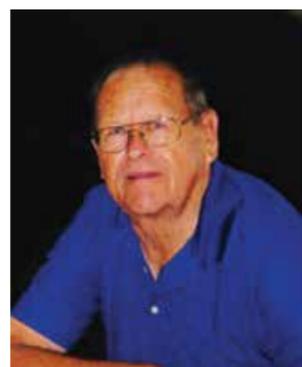
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IN MEMORY OF

Kenneth Joseph Petrunick



PETRUNICK, Kenneth Joseph – Passed away peacefully at Chartwell Nursing Home in Niagara-on-the-Lake Friday, July 5, 2019, at the age of 87. Beloved husband of Gloria Mae (nee Buckley) for 61 years. Loving father of Kenneth (Colleen) and Blake (Sandra). Caring grandpa of Kara, Kendra (Ryan) Watton, Kenny, Scott and Mathew (Amber). Dear great-grandpa of Addilynn, Nathan, Autumn and Kinsley. Brother of Virginia (the late Don) Slingerland and

Gerald (the late Jackie) Petrunick and brother-in-law of Ben Cardas. Predeceased by his sister Doris Cardas and his parents Joseph and Virginia. Ken spent nearly 50 years as a carpenter exclusively in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A special thank you to the staff of Chartwell for their excellent care and compassion. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Ken's life was held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion on July 10. A private family graveside service will take place at a later date at St. Mark's Church Cemetery in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Arrangements were entrusted to MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent St. Niagara-on-the-Lake. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

The Lake Report welcomes your obituaries and memorials. We would like to help you share your cherished memories of loved ones, pets, friends and family. Send an email to editor@niagaranow.com.

NOTL resident seeks federal Liberal nomination

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Andrea Kaiser is hoping to run as the Liberal candidate for the riding of Niagara Falls in the federal election this fall.

The Niagara Falls riding also includes Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I thought I would take an opportunity, (it) seems like an exciting time," Kaiser told The Lake Report.

Having two children older children, she said she thought "this was good timing for, personally, in my life to get back into politics."

She said she got approval from the Liberal Party in Ottawa on Monday to run and she joins one other person who is seeking the nomination. Members of the Niagara Falls Liberal Riding Association will vote on the official candidate, she said, and the nomination date hasn't been set yet.



Andrea Kaiser. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Kaiser, who has experience in operating a family restaurant and motel in Niagara, has also been involved in the agriculture, wine and tourism industry.

She is now the director of marketing and tourism at Reif Estate Winery. Kaiser, the daughter of Karl Kaiser, a winemaker co-founder of Inniskillin

Wines, also was a town councillor for 11 years.

Kaiser said she is interested in becoming "a really strong voice" for the riding and making sure the needs of the community are met. Climate change issues and investing in family, youth and education are also important to her, she said.



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Have some fun

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

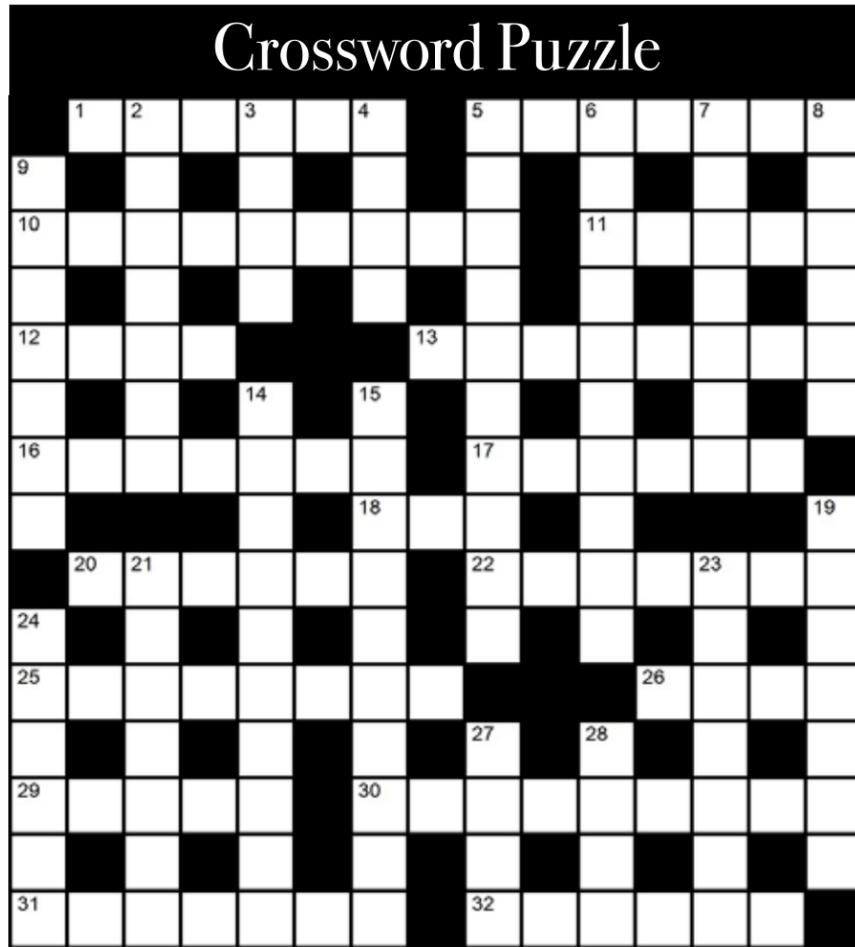
Across

- 1. Hang loosely (6)
- 5. Church songbook (7)
- 10. Under an assumed name (9)
- 11. Strictly accurate (5)
- 12. Ogle (4)
- 13. Not merely local (8)
- 16. Efflux (7)
- 17. Stevedore (6)
- 18. Period of history (3)
- 20. Bother (6)
- 22. Not this one and not that one (7)
- 25. Supporter of a monarch (8)
- 26. Fijian capital (4)
- 29. Between (5)
- 30. Take turns (9)
- 31. Phantom (7)
- 32. Pedlar (6)

Down

- 2. Aged (7)
- 3. Jokes (4)
- 4. Send forth (4)
- 5. Fuel (10)
- 6. Constituent of vinegar (6,4)
- 7. Learner (7)
- 8. Child's toy (6)
- 9. Crest (7)
- 14. Torch (10)
- 15. Lottery (10)
- 19. Unrealistic person (7)
- 21. From now on (3,4)
- 23. Transport charge (7)
- 24. Keyboard instruments (6)
- 27. Where many land speed records have been attempted (4)
- 28. Fill out (4)

Crossword Puzzle



Last issue's answers

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

Sudoku

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



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6 SORENSEN COURT , NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,495,000
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97 BROCK STREET , NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,075,000
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58 JOHNSON STREET , NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$2,250,000
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121 REGENT STREET , NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,999,000
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21 BAY BERRY LANE , NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,275,000
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33 PARK COURT , NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,295,000
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4 RAMPART STREET , NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,450,000
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502 LAKESHORE ROAD , NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,100,000
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Shaw review: Ladykillers is absurd...ly appealing

Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report

It's silly, full of sophomoric slapstick, boorish jokes, puerile postures and inane situations, but the Shaw Festival's production of "The Ladykillers" is pure fun. Artistic director Tim Carroll directs this North American premiere, and it is acted so well that the silliness prevails in a happy way, which might be just what one needs in the world today.

Based on a best-loved British film that featured Alec Guinness, the play poses the question: is it really so hard to kill one little old lady? Set in post-World War II London, five eccentric crooks pose as an amateur string quintet in order to rent a room from the aforementioned little old lady, Mrs. Wilberforce (Chick Reid), bizarre in her own way.

She has a reputation with the local constabulary

– particularly Constable Macdonald (Kristopher Bowman) for reporting fanciful incidents. This trait made her attractive to the robbers. Gang leader, professor Marcus (Damien Atkins) knows that the local police humour her and take little that she says seriously.

Mrs. Wilberforce houses her dead husband's ashes in a bowl that, of course, gets spilled and almost-dead General Gordon, an Ecuadorian Amazon parrot, gravely sick and apparently quite repellant to look at. The movie makes better use of General Gordon when Peter Sellers gets thrashed by the squawky bird's beak.

The gang is comprised of gallant Major Courtney, known simply as "the Major," malicious Louis, a Romanian thug with a devastating fear of old women (it gets explained), a strong but dumb ex-boxer dubbed One-Round



Chick Reid as Mrs. Wilberforce and Damien Atkins as Professor Marcus in The Ladykillers. PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER.

(Martin Happer) and the fastidious Harry (Andrew Lawrie) who, while pursuing his cleaning fetish, leaves fingerprints everywhere.

One-Round calls Mrs.

Wilberforce "Mrs. Lopsided" because everything in her post-war house is set on an angle, especially the house itself designed superbly by Judith Bowden. In fact,

the house, which sits on a revolving stage, is one of the best components of the show. Happer's death scene is the funniest: a knife thrown by Louis is lodged in his skull as he blandly sits for one last piece on the cello.

Each crook is assigned to kill Mrs. Wilberforce, but they all perish in their own inexplicable ways, their bodies dropped over the train tracks as locomotives noisily pass by the shaking, lights-flashing house. The professor's extra-long scarf constitutes a running gag as Wilberforce continually steps on one end causing the chief crook to temporarily strangle. Atkins picks up from last year's exquisite portrayal of Sherlock Holmes and thrives throughout the evening on the fatuous farce, a classic scene involving his explanation for the entire gang hiding in an undersized closet, suddenly exposed

to the constable and Mrs. Wilberforce.

Chick Reid, constantly tea-making, the excessively inquisitive "geriatric cuckoo clock," works on stage for most of the play. Ric Reid's portrayal of the anxious and gaseous, cross-dressing (that's how he escaped from Nazi Germany) Major is hilarious as is the rest of the cast. Kevin Lamotte's lighting and Paul Sportelli's music wonderfully augment Judith Bowden's amazing set.

A remarkable historical fact is that "The Ladykillers" was conceived in bed in a dream in England by American screenwriter William Rose who then dictated it to his wife and then fell back asleep, forgetting the dream.

The Ladykillers directed by Tim Carroll plays to Oct. 12 at the Shaw Festival Theatre, shawfest.com, 905-468-2172 or 1-800-511-7429.



VICTORY

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Counterclockwise from top: Jarrod Cunliffe gives a salute, Sophie Durham wears a full fifer garb, Re-enactors prepared classic 1812-era recipes, Emily Wardle walks the ground of the Fort in period clothes. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

Battle of Fort George re-enactment brings life to history

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Muskets were firing last weekend as residents and visitors had a chance to relive the historic Battle of Fort George.

Organized by Parks Canada, the two-day event commemorated the 206th anniversary of the battle. It involved 400 re-enactors and around 1,200 people visited Fort George during the weekend.

Re-enactors recreated the battle and showed what life was like at the camp. Even the tents, which re-enactors brought with them and stayed in overnight, were set up according to the organization and military rules of that time, said Peter Martin, a special events co-ordinator for Parks Canada.

Fort visitors were able to watch the battle unfold in front of them, starting from the initial landing of the Americans and finishing with the British army retreating and Americans capturing the fort.

Visitors also had a peek inside the camp life and listened to music provided by the 41st Fife and Drum Corps.

The Battle of Fort George, which was one of the important battles during the War of 1812, occurred on May 25-27, 1813. The Americans attacked the fort and won the battle, forcing the British troops to retreat to Stoney Creek, where they stopped the Americans from advancing.

“The War of 1812 and the Battle of Fort George was a part of what defined us as Canada,” Martin told The Lake Report. “Had the war gone differently, this might

not even be Canada.”

Martin applauded the re-enactors as they can spend a lot of money on costumes or muskets and they’re very “particular” that they get everything historically right.

“I love the fact they’re so into it. They’re so passionate about what they do and want to represent these men and women who, in some cases, lost their lives,” he said.

One of the re-enactors, James Rolston, said he has been doing it for 12 years and the best part of such events is meeting people all over the world. Fellow re-enactor, Joe Deschamps, said participating in the re-enactment taught him more about the history and the battle than he ever learned at school.

“It is such a forgotten war,” he said, “especially for Canada. It made us a country.”

Another longtime re-enactor, Mike Campbell, said he enjoys the camaraderie among the re-enactors and said the fort is also a “beautiful site” to visit.

“It’s well-organized, very well put together. And the volunteers here do a phenomenal job supporting us,” he said.

Adelaida Kintana was in Canada for the first time on the weekend. Kintana, who came from Basque Country in Spain, said she found the demonstrations and the life of soldiers at the camp really interesting.

“I’m very lucky because I have an opportunity to learn more about this war,” she said.

Niagara Falls resident Carl Delazzari said he’s visited the fort since he was a kid. He said he liked that it was interactive and presented “good information” about the war.

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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



The 'swimming saucer'

The "swimming saucer" was built at Niagara Falls in 1955 by William Fehr. The picture shows it moored in the slip at the Niagara Marina. After motoring to the beach at the foot of King Street, kids would pay 10 cents to have a ride on it. The boat would then go out in the lake where they would hold onto ropes that were fastened from the round sides. Now the saucer would spin faster and faster with the kids holding onto the ropes. At some speed they would let go of the rope and fly off into the water.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



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What are you knocking on? Part 3

Brian Marshall
Featured

In the early 20th century, European architects were busy laying the foundation for modern home design.

Art Moderne, with its smooth surfaces, curved corners and streamlined horizontal emphasis, took its styling cues from the industrial designs of ships and automobiles. Meanwhile the international style exploited the newest materials and technologies in a drive to create an elegantly unornamented home designed to serve the lifestyle of its inhabitants.

Although I am not aware of either Art Moderne or early period International homes



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

in our immediate neighbourhood, one of the design elements commonly used in both styles became a go-to in the decades that followed: the manufactured door.

A product of new technology, its interior was made of inferior wood (or the "new" plywood) which was then sheathed by thick (about 1/4-inch) wood veneer. This produced a solid door with a uniform surface which could be used to seamlessly

echo the stucco cladding (common on International designs) or pierced with a window (e.g. a "porthole" on the Art Moderne).

Within a few years, architects of the international style were also working with steel-sheathed doors, which they might pierce with a series of vertically arranged windows. Later designs might have a windowless wood door, built up to create a sequence of ver-

tical or horizontal shadow lines that integrated with the overall facade.

On a broader basis, developers and builders loved the "factory" door. It was standardized, stable, could have a wide variety of window shapes/sizes inset, be "decorated" to resemble almost any historic door style, and typically was cheaper than the carpenter/joinery-made solid wood door. In fact, most modern doors, in a plethora of styles, are made in this manner.

The question then becomes: "If I prefer a particular door style, why not choose it for installation into the main entry opening?"

Simply put, the front door is usually an integral part of the overall design. Installing an inappropriate door style can, and generally does, have a negative impact on the facade. So, as a rule-of-thumb, I recommend matching the architectural style of your home with the correct door style. It will just look better.

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Mansions of Queen Street III

Denise Ascenzo
Exclusive/The Lake Report

This is the final installment of a three-part series looking at some of the magnificent houses of NOTL's historic Queen Street.

228 Queen St., Ketchum-Thomas-Phillips House or "Peace Acres"

The main structure of the residence was built in 1877-79 by George and Mary Ketchum. However, the Ketchums had financial difficulties and in the 1878 tax rolls the house is listed as unfinished and worth \$2,000. By 1879, the Ketchums sold the unfinished house for \$2,700. It was said that they got just enough money to pay off their creditors.

The next owner was Henry Strathy, who owned the property for five years but never lived in the place. He rented it out periodically.

From 1885 to 1901 the home went through six owners until Edwin Thomas bought the property for \$4,000 for his wife Flora Thomas. An architect from Buffalo was brought in and the home went through extensive renovations.

Stylistically, the building is an amalgamation of a number of revival styles including neo-Classical Revival and neo-Greek Revival with generous, light-filled reception rooms, spacious bedrooms, screened porches and a multiplicity of fireplaces.

Over the years various owners have renovated and added to the house, but have always maintained and enhanced the look and character of the original house. It is a typical example of a summer home for a wealthy American business operator.

The Palladian window is a bit of a mystery. It is unknown just when the window became a feature of the home. There are no photos and no conclusive



Clockwise from top: 228 Queen St., now owned by developer Rainer Hummel, Lakewinds at 328 Queen St. and 284 Queen St. KEVIN MACLEAN

architectural drawings available to indicate the date of the installation.

Thomas in 1920 sold the house and land to his daughter Elizabeth and her new husband, Maj. George Ryerson, who named the home Peace Acres. This was a second marriage for both of them. In 1924, Elizabeth died and a year later the major died.

The estate was sold in 1925 to the de Graff family for the grand sum of \$30,000. By 1955, the property was sold once more, this time to the Phillips family.

By the first decade of the 21st century, the Phillips property has been owned by several companies, all which have tried to develop this parcel into a hotel and spa. Most of the

original property behind the house was severed off and large modern homes were built.

The development of the property had been put on hold by current owner Rainer Hummel, but he now has a proposal before the town for a 72-room hotel, restaurant and spa to be built.

284 Queen St.

Built in 1899, this was the summer home of American lumber giant Watt S. Lansing, who purchased a four-acre block which had previously been set aside for the clergy.

This house is arguably one of the loveliest homes in this part of town, with landscaped gardens, outstanding views of Lake Ontario and the NOTL golf course.

Lansing was a recognized member of town society. He was active with the lawn bowling club and golf club, and attended St. Mark's Anglican Church. Both he and his daughter are buried in the graveyard there.

Later the house was purchased by the Charles Weston family.

328 Queen St. – Lakewinds

This house on its original lot dates back to 1881 and was a small two-and-one-half storey building owned by Mrs. Russell until 1895.

In 1895, Gustav Fleischmann bought the house and made it the family summer home. Fleischmann was a distiller from Buffalo but the name is better known today for margarine.

In 1903-04, work was begun to expand the building. Extensive additions, including balconies, were added to the front and sides of the home. In fact, it was noted that the small house totally disappeared within the new design of the Fleischmann home. Staff cottages and a stable were built and the gardens were professionally created.

With prohibition, Fleischmann saw his business decline and the home was sold to Conrad Wettlaufer, a physician from Buffalo.

The Wettlaufer family purchased the place in 1912, enlarging the home even more. The house was now so large that the family was noted for hosting grand dinners during the summer months for their

Republican friends from Buffalo.

It is now the Lakewinds Country Manor B&B, purchased by Stephen & Jane Locke, who renovated the home once again in 1994. They sold it in 2017.

Many of the homes along this part of Queen Street are quite recent additions to the town. Most were built to be summer homes only. In fact, one home I researched didn't have any heating system at all until the late 20th century. These beautiful homes and fabulous landscaped gardens have added a touch of magic to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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



COMMUNITY



We invite you to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Send your submissions to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to be featured.



Smoothies and fitness for all



Lord Mayor Betty Disero officiates at the grand re-opening of Niagara Fit and grand opening of Fitside Smoothie Bar on July 10. Pictured are: Steve DeBoer, Paul Langendoen, Jaclyn Willms, Betty Disero and Dani Lepp. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Returning home for the Open Championship

Paul Dickson
Special to The Lake Report

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland – I have finally arrived at The Open.

To those of you unfamiliar with the geography of Ireland, the oldest and biggest golf tournament in the world is about to begin in Portrush, Northern Ireland, returning for only the second time since 1951. The course is situated on the picturesque north coast of Northern Ireland.

It has been a bit of a pilgrimage for me as I was born 10 miles from here and never in my wildest dreams did I think that Royal Portrush would once again play host. My mother was from the town (she and my aunt were caddies), my father was a member and I was a junior member. Ever since the announcement back in 2015 that the event

was coming back, I made a conscious decision that nothing was going to stop me from being here.

The Port, as it is known to the locals, is home to one of the greatest golf courses in the world, a classic tourist town where I spent my formative years. Whether on one of its two beautiful beaches, or at the amusement arcades, with candy floss, ice cream, at the dance halls or the famous Kelly's night club, this is where we all came to have some "craic" (fun). I began my retail adventure in town selling shoes with my mother and later I met Maureen and our adventures began. However, I have never really left The Port and now the world is coming to town: Tiger, Rory and all the top players are hoping to lift the Claret Jug.

Even if you have no interest in golf I think you should record this amaz-



Paul and Maureen Dickson arrived Wednesday Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland to take in the Open Championship. SUPPLIED PHOTO

ing event and check out my home town for the next few days. The Glens of Antrim, Titanic Exhibition, Ballycastle, The Giant's Causeway and Bushmills Distillery are only around the corner and even Game of Thrones enthusiasts are flocking here to visit the film locations. Niagara-on-the-Lake will also be well-represented here as at last count we have about 12 locals making the trip,

so keep your eye open for the Simpson family, Kurt Hamm and more.

I am very proud of where I'm from and happy that we have a chance to show it off to the world. My tip for the tournament is Brooks Koepka (his caddy is from The Por') and my sentimental pick is Graeme McDowell (born in The Port).

NOTL residents Paul and Maureen Dickson own Irish Design in Old Town.



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

The Pillar & Post



Amy Beupit accepts a Golden Plunger award for the Pillar & Post Inn and Spa. PLUNGER PATROL

A 13,000-square-foot indoor-outdoor spa? Check. Tuscan-style fine dining restaurant? Check. Wine bar and lounge for after-hours relaxation, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, contemporary comfort in guest rooms and suites, beautiful floral arrangements and art work, walking distance to Old Town and attractions, valet parking? Check check check. Last question: Well-appointed Gold Plunger award-winning bathrooms? Check. We looked at several washrooms in the Pillar & Post, and all of them were winners in their own right. You will certainly want to check them out for yourself. This five-star country inn landed 4/5 plungers for its beautiful facilities.

4/5 Gold Plungers



RIDDLE ME THIS:

I can be hairy and itchy all over. I hang on a stick. I can be the scariest thing you have ever seen. I stand in the middle of nowhere. What am I?

Last Week's Riddle: Double my number, I'm less than a score, half of my number is less than four. Add one to my double when bakers are near, days of the week are still greater, I fear. What am I?

Answer: Six

Answered first by: Margie Enns
Also answered correctly by: James Langendoen, Susan Pohorly, Jason Clements, Cheryl House, Linda McD, James Bisson, David Frisby, Katie Reimer, Lynda Collet, Rod Falk
Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.

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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

The Great NOTL Summer Walkabout



The 13-member a cappella group Countermeasure performs at St. Mark's Anglican Church to kick off the season of Music Niagara. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Music Niagara kicks off

Welcome to the latest episode of the Great NOTL Summer Walkabout, a summer-long series of stories that will take you to all corners of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Our reporters will trek around the community to meet residents and visitors, attend events, visit area landmarks and tell stories about what they find. Enjoy the Walkabout.

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Music transcends language and barriers, and it brought people together from different parts of the world Sunday for the opening night of the annual Music Niagara festival.

The 21st music season kicked off at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake with the opening reception followed by a nearly two-hour performance by Countermeasure.

The four-week Music Niagara festival brings a variety of

musicians to NOTL from all over the world to perform a wide range of genres.

The 13-member a cappella group Countermeasure, based in Toronto, was founded in 2009 by J-M Erlendson, his now-wife Elana Steingart, Aaron Jensen and his wife Tara Park. The group performs a variety of genres with most of their repertoire being original music. Jensen composes and arranges all music in the group.

Some of the arranged tunes performed Sunday included "Long Road to Freedom," which pays tribute to Nelson Mandela, "One More Time" by Britney Spears and "Fox in the Field," which is based on Antoine de St-Exupéry's story "The Little Prince."

The community response from Niagara-on-the-Lake was "fantastic," said Erlendson, and the public was "really receptive, really engaged."

"Great venue, great audience. We had a lot of fun on stage and we hope everyone did too in the audience," he said in a phone interview.

Between the performances, the group was interacting with the audience by sharing some background stories and telling jokes. One act involved three random audience members – including a reporter from The Lake Report – brought on stage where they were asked to sing, dance and beatbox.

Engaging with the audience and providing entertainment is different with each show, said Erlendson.

"More and more these days, we're finding as a group our best shows and the things we love the most is when we have an opportunity to meet the audience," Erlendson told The Lake Report. "We really evolved ourselves, from a group that plays music, to a group that creates an interactive show."

With the group performing in Japan next month, Erlendson said it is important for the ensemble to represent Canada and Canadian art on international stages.

The festival's founder and artistic director, Atis Batikas, said he wants to provide a range of genres to the public.

"I do not want to present bad music," he told The Lake Report, noting the community as well as volunteers and the organization's board of directors has been very supportive in allowing the festival to flourish.

Two American visitors, Barbara Zuch and Beth Timmerman, were in town for the weekend and said they decided to spend Sunday afternoon at the festival.

"When you sing straight a cappella, it can be very boring. This, at least, they throw some precaution, they imitate some of the instruments. You're getting a full effect but it's using human voice," said Timmerman.

Steingart's parents, Madoka and Allan Steingart, were on hand.

"I think in some ways it's uniquely Canadian," said Allan Steingart. "Because it's a mixture of every kind of person but together they create a beautiful sound."

Before the ensemble performed "Love Letter from Canada," by Masaaki Hirao, Madoka addressed the audience to briefly explain the history behind the song and to translate the lyrics.

Judy Wright and Larry Bruce from Toronto won their tickets to the performance through a radio station. Bruce was the third caller who correctly guessed a song and he had a chance to choose which Music Niagara show and venue to go to.

"We picked the first show because it was the opening show ... and just because of a cappella," he said. Wright said she liked the group's diversity with Bruce adding there was "an international

flavour."

Other guests, from NOTL and St. Catharines, complimented the group's close harmony and how effortlessly they make it look.

NOTL resident Didi Wilson said she's always loved a cappella and she was left "speechless" after the show.

"It was shockingly good. And I know what close harmony is like to sing, too, and they're so, so intricate and so close and so well-rehearsed."

The festival's other venues in town include Pondview Estate Winery, The Hare Wine Co., Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, Niagara United Mennonite Church, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124, Oast House Brewers, Grace United Church, Simcoe Park and NOTL library.

The next scheduled event features The "Jeru" Quartet at Pondview Estate Winery on Friday, July 19, starting at 7 p.m.

News that



Hits home

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