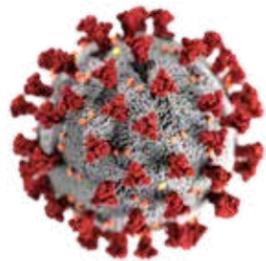




Carnival heats up | Page 3



Seventh wave could be worse than the last, Hirji says

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara is in the midst of a seventh wave of COVID-19 and this one has the potential to be worse than the previous one, says Niagara's acting chief medical officer of health.

As of Wednesday, there are 15 active outbreaks in the region, 10 of them in long-term care and retirement homes.

Continued on Page 2



Transportation draft plan suggests some big changes to Queen Street

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's proposed transportation master plan provides a sweeping overview of pedestrian and vehicular needs in town.

It also includes a recommendation to turn Queen Street within the Queen-Picton heritage conservation district into a "flex" street.

The town is seeking

Continued on Page 8

Brock develops virus-free vines

Niagara grape growers will be able to benefit from availability of certified clean vines



Senior staff scientist Sudarsana Poojari with the new repository of virus-free plants at Brock University. DON REYNOLDS

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Tucked away in a small greenhouse inside the Cairns BioSciences building at Brock University, 57 varieties of grapevines are flourishing in their climate-controlled environment.

They represent a key devel-

opment in the battle against viruses that cause extensive damage in Niagara's vineyards.

The grapevines are guaranteed virus-free and they are the first step toward creating a local supply of clean material for nurseries and growers.

"This will make the industry sustainable and provide the quality we need to compete,"

says Matthias Oppenlaender, chair of the Grape Growers of Ontario

Viruses pose a significant threat to growers in Niagara. "It costs \$30-35 thousand per acre to plant a vineyard and it takes three to five years before the vines produce a full crop. You could lose it all because of viruses. Growers can't afford

it any more," Oppenlaender explained.

"It's critical the industry has access to virus-free material, for the quality of the grapes."

Until now, the only source of certified virus-free grapes in Canada was in Saanich, B.C., on Vancouver Island.

Continued on Page 10

Neighbour feud: Mayor's husband at centre of civil suit against town

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Lord Mayor Betty Disero's husband, Dan Williams, is at the centre of a civil suit two neighbours have filed against the town.

Colin Telfer and Jennifer Elliott own a property on Dorchester Street and starting in 2016 they ran a

bed and breakfast until the town refused to grant them a licence in July of 2020.

Telfer and Elliott were told a complaint was filed with the town alleging someone was living in the couple's recently constructed garage. As a result, until an inspection took place, they could not renew their B&B licence.

The two went through

what they say was a frustrating process of trying to find out who made the complaint.

They say the town initially refused to tell them who the complainant was, but eventually they discovered it was Williams, whose property borders Telfer's and Elliott's.



Continued on Page 4 Jennifer Elliott and Colin Telfer. EVAN SAUNDERS

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Left: Halifax bombers similar to the one Lawrence Lamoure flew in. Right: Lawrence Lamoure was the first NOTL native to die during the Second World War. VETERANS AFFAIRS VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Lawrence Lamoure's first overseas mission also was his last

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph. In recognition of the cenotaph's century of service through two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on it. This is one in a series of stories to document and remember the sacrifices these combatants made. Future instalments will commemorate those named on the Queen Street cenotaph and on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

Only 21 years after the First World War ended, Nazi aggression in Europe encouraged Canada to join the rest of the British Commonwealth in opposing Germany.

Canada declared war on Germany on Sept. 10, 1939. Over the next six years 1.1 million Canadians served in the war. More than 42,000 were killed and 55,000 wounded, with disproportionately high casualties in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Some 232,000 men and 17,000 women served in the RCAF during the war, mostly in Canada in support of

the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Aircrew serving overseas numbered 27,104 men. More than half of these volunteers were killed in action.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Lawrence Ronald Lamoure was born in Toronto on Nov. 30, 1923, but the family moved to NOTL not long afterward.

Lamoure, like other local boys, was thrilled when the biplanes of the RCAF swooped down out of the skies to participate in summer militia training camps on the Commons. He was mesmerized by the stories of First World War flying aces.

When the Second World War broke out, Lamoure wanted to be an airman but was only 15 at the time, a student at the high school on Castlereagh Street.

He left high school in 1941 and studied sheet metal construction at the Niagara Falls Collegiate Technical School.

Later that year he landed a job with the National Steel Company in Milton, working on airplanes as a riveter. Shortly after turning 18, he applied to join the RCAF.

While awaiting a response from the recruiting office he took a correspondence course for preliminary training as a pilot or observer. It took a few months, but he was finally accepted.

On March 14, 1942, he travelled to Hamilton to formally join the RCAF.

Lamoure was sent to the Manning Depot in Toronto where he was trained in all the minutiae of service life. There he also was assessed and assigned to another depot for further training.

His hopes of becoming a fighter pilot were dashed. He was assigned to train as a machine gunner in a bomber crew. Over the next several months he received further training in firing, cleaning and maintaining aircraft machine guns.

He also went through drills to better understand his role as an air gunner and his duties aboard a bomber in action.

When he finally was ready for air combat, Lamoure boarded a troop ship in Halifax and arrived in the U.K. on Feb. 4, 1943, with the rank of technical sergeant, air gunner. More training followed as he waited in a reinforcement depot for assignment.

Finally, he was sent to the 419 "Moose" Squadron, flying from the air force base of Middleton St. George in Durham County.

This squadron flew Handley Page "Halifax" bombers with seven-man crews. During the war, 419 Squadron made 4,325 operational sorties, primarily night raids on Germany.

Lamoure arrived at the base on May 16, 1943, but was not immediately assigned to a specific bomber crew. He was given time to orient himself to the squadron and was then granted leave from May 20 to 26.

On his return to base, he was posted as a gunner on Halifax number JB 793. Finally, the day arrived when his crew was briefed for a mission, a bombing raid on the German city of Wuppertal.

On May 29, as dusk fell, Lamoure climbed aboard the bomber with his six crewmates. His plane made a successful bombing run on their target but while returning home was pounced on by a swift German night fighter.

The plane was badly damaged and began its long plunge to earth. Three of the crew were able to jump with their parachutes. They safely landed but were captured, spending the rest of the war in PoW camps.

Lamoure, along with the pilot, flight engineer and tail gunner went down with the plane.

Sadly, his first mission in combat was his last.

Lawrence Lamoure was the first Niagara-on-the-Lake resident to be killed in action in the Second World War. He is buried in the Hotton War Cemetery in Belgium.

Upper Canada Lodge is one of 10 nursing homes in outbreak across Niagara

Continued from Front Page

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Upper Canada Lodge, which escaped COVID outbreaks earlier in the pandemic, is now among the nursing homes affected.

The region also reported 753 active cases, 62 of them in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji says the vaccine doesn't seem to provide the same protection against the BA.5 variant, the driving force behind this wave, as it did for previous strains.

The new variant spreads more easily and seems to cause more severe illness.

"It's able to evade the protection of the vaccine and actually, even the protection that people get from past infection from the virus," he said.

Hirji said people may not be practising the same type of precautions as in previous waves. This could be because people have taken signals from government that the pandemic is almost over, he said.

He doesn't think we're hearing a consistent message from our provincial and federal leaders, which worries him.

"That gives me concern that this wave is not going to be as well-controlled as maybe, perhaps, the previous ones," he said.

"Which is going to raise the potential that more people can get sick," he added.

Outbreaks in long-term care homes are still a concern across the region, especially with staff and residents spending more time out in the community.

The good news is health officials aren't seeing big, wide-scale outbreaks as they did in previous waves, Hirji said.

That's because many residents have their fourth vaccine dose, some even having a fifth shot.

It's still challenging for long-term care homes and retirement homes. Since the province revoked the Long-Term Care Home COVID-19 Immunization Policy in March, it's difficult for



Upper Canada Lodge.

the homes to enforce a vaccination policy.

"It's hard for them to maintain that without having the province's backing for that," he said.

This wave also seems to be affecting seniors living outside of long-term care and retirement homes.

Hirji couldn't confirm the number of deaths among seniors 80 and up but said it's probably true that deaths are higher in that age group among people living outside of long-term care homes.

There's a much greater risk they're going to get infected since they're out within the community, he said.

"That's a direct function that we're not doing as much to slow the spread of the virus out in the community," he said.

Moving forward, Hirji said we should go back to wearing our masks indoors as it is a simple way to limit the spread of infection.

He also said everybody who does not yet have three doses of the vaccine, should focus on getting it. With the Omicron variants, two is not enough, he said.

"About 30 per cent of adults don't have that third dose," he said.

He thinks there needs to be some incentives for people to get the third dose, like a tax cut.

Waves are going to keep happening as long as the virus keeps mutating. Looking at long-term solutions, like upgrading the ventilation systems in all public spaces, would help minimize the increase spread.

"We really need to find a more sustainable way of doing this pandemic."

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St. Davids Carnival off to a sweltering start

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The 59th St. Davids Lions Carnival got off to a sweltering start on Wednesday.

Peameal bacon was frying, the sun was shining, rides were whirling, music was playing and temperatures soared well over 30C as the carnival officially kicked off at 4 p.m.

Glenn Miller, president of the Lions Club — not a legendary big band leader — said the event is all about raising money so the club can continue to give back to Niagara-on-the-Lake and communities in need all over the country.

“This is our major fundraiser. As Lions, we provide for the community,” Miller said in an interview just before he had to start a shift on onion ring frying duty.

The carnival is the biggest fundraising event the Lions hold every year. The money raised will go toward a myriad of projects but those won't be determined until later.

“Next September, when our term starts up again, we'll decide on a major project (to channel the funds toward),” Miller said.

The carnival has several rides provided by Townsend's Amusements, a full food stand with hot dogs, onion rings, french fries and the famous Lion Burger, a blow-up corn maze and even a live music venue replete with beer for the adults.

“This is the spirit of St. Davids,” said Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who was volunteering at the food and drink ticket stand.



Rowan Godfrey, 2, was one of the first kids to get on a ride at the St. Davids Lions Carnival on Wednesday. Her mother, St. Davids native Jamie Godfrey, hadn't been to NOTL since the pandemic began despite living in Niagara Falls. EVAN SAUNDERS

“The Lions Club is so important, not just to the St. Davids community but every community, for the volunteer and charitable work they do.”

Parents and kids were ready to go at the 4 p.m. carnival kickoff.

Wendy Balsor from Niagara Falls just happened upon the carnival.

“We were driving by and we saw there was a carnival so we just thought we'd bring (my four-year old grandson Ryder Green-away),” she said.

Ryder was barely two years old when the pandemic began. The carnival marked his first time experiencing a fair, she said.

“It's fantastic. Such a good time to be back. It's so great to do this,” Balsor said.

She was thankful she was able to spend time with

her grandchild despite the multiple lockdowns over the past two years.

“Luckily we live close by. I was his sitter.”

Jamie Godfrey was also down from Niagara Falls. She was watching her two-year-old daughter Rowan on one of the rides.

“It's exciting to be back. We came here the week before we got married and then everything shut down. This is our first time back,” said Godfrey, who used to live in St. Davids.

“But this is the only carnival I've ever been to here. So, it's exciting.”

The carnival opening was not without its frustrations for some.

Miranda West is spending some time in NOTL with her parents. West is from Texas and brought her two children, nine-year-old Ben and six-year-old Lily.

“It's way too expensive and it's not starting on time,” West said.

The ticket booth for rides didn't open until about 4:45 p.m. People were lined up in the hot weather waiting to buy tickets.

Tickets for the rides are entirely controlled by Townsend's Amusements, Miller said.

The cost is \$50 for 11 rides and \$90 for 22.

But Miller said he was able to get Townsend to reduce the price for the Saturday bracelet, which gives the wearer unlimited rides. That price is now \$30. The bracelet is only good for Saturday, between noon and 5 p.m.

The carnival is on Wednesday through Friday, 4 to 10 p.m. and wraps up Saturday, July 23, when it is open from noon until 11 p.m.

Driver charged with impaired in NOTL crash that killed woman

Staff
The Lake Report

A 38-year-old St. Catharines man has been released on bail after being charged with impaired driving in connection with a single-vehicle crash in Niagara-on-the-Lake that left one woman dead.

Brandon Joseph Rioux was freed after a bail hearing on Saturday, July 16.

Niagara Regional Police refused to release the name



Ashley Vaillancourt died in a one-car crash in NOTL on July 9. The driver is facing impaired charges. FACEBOOK

of the dead woman but court documents identified her as Ashley Vaillancourt, the mother of a 10-year-old girl.

A GoFundMe campaign has been launched to help the family.

Rioux was charged Friday after the crash on York Road between Concession 1 and Concession 2 at around 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 9.

Police charged Rioux with impaired driving causing death and having a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit.

The vehicle was rolled over when officers ar-

rived, police said, adding that Vaillancourt was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver was extricated from the vehicle by the NOTL firefighters and taken to a Niagara hospital.

Police are appealing to the public for help and ask anyone who might have footage of the incident to call 905-688-4111, option 3, badge 1009569, or contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara at 1-800-222-8477.

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Residents say they've spent \$41K in legal fees fighting town

Continued from Front Page

Williams said he signed the complaint when he filed it. The town does not usually reveal complainants' names.

In a written statement, Elliott said she and Telfer are "the victims of harassment lies and the blatant abuse of our rights as citizens and property owners, by a person in authority."

To them, the claim that they might be living in their garage seemed too outrageous to be true.

"We said, 'That's ridiculous.' We wouldn't be living in our garage. We're two old farts, why would we move from our nice, air-conditioned home into our garage?" Elliott said in an interview.

Regardless, town bylaw officers attempted to conduct an inspection of the garage in order to verify or throw out the complaint.

Telfer and Elliott refused the inspection as a matter of principle and pride, Elliott said in an email to the town, referring to the search as humiliating.

Since an inspection of the property had already been completed in June and was evidently good, Telfer and Elliott tried to learn from the town who filed the complaint, fearing they were the victims of a malicious neighbour.

"It is the town's standard practice not to disclose the identity of individuals who make complaints to the town. This practice is in place to protect a complainant's privacy and to avoid retaliation amongst citizens," former chief planner Craig Larmour said in a sworn affidavit in 2021.

Elliott and Telfer were concerned with the secrecy around Williams' identity



Jennifer Elliott and Colin Telfer own and operate eSkoot Niagara. EVAN SAUNDERS

and the town's refusal to identify the complainant amplified their concerns.

"Frankly, this scared the hell out of us, when someone with a lot more power than I ever had put a target on us. For those seven months, we didn't know what was going on. We were worried they were going to target our main business," said Telfer, a former police officer.

"That's what really scared us. I'm not ashamed to admit it, I was scared every god-damn night."

The affidavit states the only reason the town released Williams' name is because he consented to it.

Telfer and Elliott said they got William's identity due to police involvement, as they intended to file a mischief complaint against the complainant.

Another point of contention for the couple is that the town's lawyer, Terrence Hill, told them there was no investigation after months of back and forth emailing.

"I thought they got their

files mixed up because I've got 30 emails talking about this investigation," Telfer said.

But Telfer said the town persisted in changing its narrative and suggesting there never had been a complaint but simply an extended inspection of the rental property.

Emails obtained by The Lake Report show a slightly more complex exchange.

Hill's email to Elliott's lawyer, dated March 11, 2021, says the issue around their rental did not rise from the complaint but rather from posts by Elliott on Facebook which said part of the garage would be used as an open-concept living space.

Screenshots attached to the town's affidavit confirm Elliott wrote about the living space.

The statements on Facebook were the subject of the complaint filed by Williams.

Williams confirmed he filed a complaint about the setback of the new garage. He says he was not aware

the issue was ongoing until Elliott made a Facebook post about it last week.

"I did see it and kind of laughed about it," Williams said in an interview on July 19.

"I thought it was done, all said and done. I had no idea about it, that it was still continuing."

Regarding the complaint, Williams said, "They've got a brand new dwelling five feet from my side-yard fence. I said it's completely ruined our view. Basically that's why I lodged the complaint."

"It should have been a 20-foot setback if they were going to turn it into a dwelling."

He said he has barely dealt with the issue or heard of it since.

"Believe it or not, I didn't hear anything about it until some lawyer called me and I answered some questions. That's all I ever heard about it."

Williams verified that he based his complaint on Elliott's Facebook post.

"What he sent in is a picture of Jennifer's Facebook page, of a conversation she's having with her cousin saying something about living space," said Telfer.

Which brings the narrative back around to the garage. They have turned a portion of the garage into what Telfer called a "shed." Essentially a hang out spot for Elliott.

"This complaint is just the most embarrassing thing I have ever seen," said Telfer.

He and Elliott said one of the reasons they refused to allow an inspection of their garage is that Williams' complaint was based on a false assumption.

Telfer said the garage was built with the proper permits and nothing was ever done that infringed any law or bylaw.

Therefore, having their business licence denied and receiving inconsistent responses from the town has left Telfer and Elliott feeling they were mistreated and are owed compensation.

They are suing the town for \$100,000, with \$50,000 relating to the loss of income and closure of their B&B, and another \$50,000 for punitive and exemplary damages relating to the case.

They also want the town to launch a third-party investigation through an organization such as the provincial ombudsman to determine whether there was any wrongdoing by the municipality.

The suit has not been heard by a court and none of the allegations has been proven. In an online post this week about the case, Elliott said they have spent \$41,000 in legal fees so far.

Central to the couple's concerns is whether Disero

knew of the situation and could be manipulating the situation due to her position of power in the town, motivated by her relationship with her husband.

Disero denies any such allegations.

"I will give you my own straightforward answers — I have acted with integrity. I have not sought to influence town employees for my personal advantage," she told The Lake Report on July 19, reading from a prepared statement.

"I have not acted in a way that would give rise to a conflict of interest, bad faith or undue influence. I have certainly not acted in a way that is illegal or improper," she said.

"I take the oath of office very seriously and act in a professional manner in service to my community. I have never used my office of lord mayor for my personal advantage."

"For me to comment on the substance of their allegations would be to do what I am accused of and what I completely deny doing. I am duty-bound not to take advantage of information I have only because of my office of lord mayor to my personal advantage."

Chief administrator Marnie Cluckie confirmed the suit has been filed.

"Town staff respond with integrity and with the best interests of the community in mind. Comments pertaining to dishonesty are without merit," Cluckie said.

She said the town would not offer further comment as it is an active legal matter.

Town staff did not reply to inquiries as to whether the matter had been discussed with councillors in a closed session.

Yoga in the Courtyard is back at NOTL Museum

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Grab your yoga mat and head over to the NOTL Museum to begin your day with some gentle hatha yoga.

Starting on July 27 at 9 a.m. guests can join yoga

instructor Sonya Marie de Lazzar for the first of six free Yoga in the Courtyard sessions. It will be held at the NOTL Museum courtyard tent at 43 Castlereagh St.

"We just find a really gentle stretch. We take time to breathe and just sort of enter the day," said de Lazzar.

De Lazzar also teaches yoga at RiverBrink Art Museum in the summer.

This is the museum's third year running Yoga in the Courtyard, though 2020 saw very small numbers due to the pandemic.

Each session lasts one hour. Everyone is welcome and the sessions are free

(donations are welcome).

Spots are limited, so anyone interested must register by emailing Amy Klassen at aklassen@nhsm.ca. Participants must bring their own yoga mat, water bottles and yoga props.

The 9 a.m. sessions will run on July 27, Aug. 3, 10, 24, 31 and Sept. 7.



The NOTL Museum courtyard. SOMER SLOBODIAN

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‘A safe place to come and write,’ NOTL Writers’ Circle recruiting new members

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Market at the Village welcomed the NOTL Writers’ Circle for the first time on Saturday.

The Writers’ Circle launched in March 2013 when Hermine Steinberg posted an ad seeking to bring writers in the area together. Though Steinberg has since moved, the group is still bringing together writers from around NOTL.

However, when the pandemic hit, the group’s numbers dropped and in-person get-togethers turned into Zoom meetings, which many people found difficult.

With the return of in-person events, Writers’ Circle members hope to recruit more local writers.

“That’s why we’re here,”



NOTL Writers Circle members from left, Richard West, Sharon Frayne, Keats Currie, Kathryn Recourt, Terry Belleville and Patricia Nicholls-Papernick. SOMER SLOBODIAN

said Terry Belleville, a NOTL resident and member of the Writers’ Circle for many years.

“It’s to reinforce the fact that the Writers’ Circle is a part of the community,” he added.

Belleville said it’s a safe place for people to come and write and tell stories.

All the members live locally and meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the NOTL Public Library. At the meetings they support and encourage each other on their writing journey.

Three or four people submit their work to be read by the other members. Sharon

Frayne, the Writers’ Circle co-chair, said group members offer criticism, tips and feedback.

The organization’s workshops will be resuming and Frayne noted they’ll usually bring in professional writers to host the sessions. For example, Annamarie Kelly, a Niagara Falls writer, hosted a workshop on conquering writer’s block.

The Writers’ Circle welcomes authors of all genres and skill sets. Many members have published books, either self-published or with a publishing company.

“It’s a really big deal to be able to take a manuscript off of the computer and then see it turn up bound that’s a book on a shelf,” said Belleville. “That’s a big deal.”

Those interested in the Writers’ Circle can find out more at notlwriterscircle.com.

New chamber board chair optimistic about future

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Big changes are happening at Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL.

On Monday, the chamber announced longtime board member Andrew Niven will replace Paul MacIntyre as its new board chair. MacIntyre was chair for the last four years.

Niven will serve alongside vice chair Betty Colaneri of Colaneri Estate Winery and treasurer Tim Jennings of the Shaw Festival. MacIntyre remains on the board as past chair.

Niven brings knowledge and experience to the position, having served on the board of directors at the chamber for about six years. After taking a year off, he’s back and excited for his new role.

“I feel very experienced in the role,” said Niven, adding that he feels he can bring a lot to this new position.

“I think we’re going in the right direction,” he said. “There seems to be a lot of optimism in the town, with the residents, and with the



Andrew Niven, new NOTL chamber chair. SUPPLIED

businesses and the tourism community.”

He’s a resident of St. Davids and is also director of marketing and hospitality at Konzelmann Estate Winery.

He’s also involved with many organizations in the town, like the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Town of NOTL’s customer and experience technology committee.

He’s an active member of NOTL, with previous committee chair roles for the Icewine Festival, Candlelight Stroll and Artistry by the Lake, to name a few.

In this new position, he wants to connect with the board members to see what

they’re looking for, what their vision is, and what they want to enhance.

“I think the first step will be to look at a strategic marketing plan based on that member and board member feedback,” said Niven.

He said former chamber president Eduardo Laforgue did well at setting the groundwork before his departure in February and that Minerva Ward, the current president of the chamber and Tourism NOTL, is doing a great job.

Not only is connecting to the board members important to him, but so is connecting with the community, and strengthening

relationships with council and town staff.

The past few years have been hard, but Niven said the board brought people together. He cited the success of the patio expansion project on Queen Street as one example.

“That’s all stemmed from the relationship between the chamber and the town,” he said, adding that continuing those relationships is vital.

The chamber’s board is full of experienced people from different sectors and would like to shine a spotlight on them as well.

“We try to draw strengths from various different sectors,” he said. “There’s artists, culture, culinary, and there’s general business.”

He also wants to engage the community more, noting creating the new tourism master is one way to help strengthen relations with residents since the chamber will be looking for input.

He also wants to showcase what the board is doing in the community with charities and local organizations.

“It’s a very relationship-heavy industry and I think we need to strengthen it,” he said.

SPIRIT IN NIAGARA DISTILLERY

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Publisher: Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Megan Vanderlee
Contributors: Evan Saunders, Jill Troyer, Somer Slobodian, Tim Taylor, Joanne Young, Denise Ascenzo, Brittany Carter, Linda Fritz, Elizabeth Masson, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, Molly Bowron, Maddy Gordon, NOTL Museum, Kyra Simone, Gail Kendall, Patty Garriock, Bill Auchterlonie, Steve Hardaker, Ross Robinson, Dave Van de Laar, Janice White and many more members of the NOTL community

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 62
Region active cases: 753
Region deaths: 568
Region total cases: 42,560

**July 20 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"My advice is, do not try to inhabit another's soul. You have your own." - Jim Harrison

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HEAT WAVE! Time to cool off



Three year-old Eloise plays on the splashpad at the Virgil Centennial Sports Park during Tuesday's heat wave. MOLLY BOWRON

Editorial

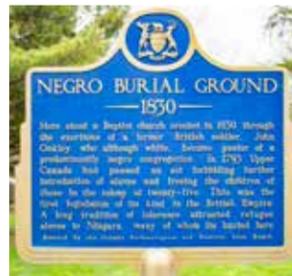
Seeking answers at historic burial ground

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

For years, decades actually, no doubt many of us have passed the old cemetery on Mississauga Street in Old Town, perhaps noticed the large historical plaque celebrating the property, or wondered about the few gravestones still visible.

Historically known as the Negro Burial Ground, but now commemorated as the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground, this site is one of vital importance, evidence of the role played by Niagara-on-the-Lake some 200 years ago as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

But more than that, it is a reminder that in the 1800s what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake welcomed and became home to a sizeable Black population, many of whom we presume made this cemetery their final resting place.



On one hand it should be a point of pride for Niagara that our wee town had an important role in the Underground Railroad, the emancipation movement and in opposing slavery.

On the other hand, it's unfortunate that it took the efforts of man "from away," a visitor to these parts for decades, to begin to ask the important questions that needed to be asked. For starters, who is buried there?

Full credit and kudos to Jim Russell for leading the charge to find out more about the Niagara Baptist

Church Burial Ground, to spend his own money to get the project off the ground and to convince NOTL town council to help make it all happen.

"Our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them," Russell told council last March, quoting Victorian writer and journalist Mary Ann Evans.

We are hopeful that the project he has launched will ensure that those who are buried there are, indeed, not forgotten.

Up till now, they might not have been wholly forgotten, but they certainly were not top of mind. Russell's plea to recognize and research the individuals buried there was such an obviously valid one, it's a wonder the community hadn't embarked on that journey already.

As Russell aptly noted, "It has always bothered me

that the field is simply an open grass area. I would hope that more respect would be given to the dead and at least an effort would be made to identify those beneath the ground."

He's made that effort and continues to pursue the project in earnest.

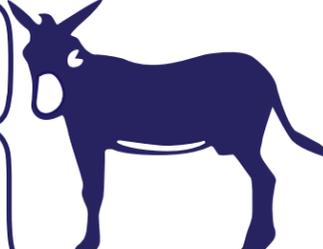
While we understand that actually identifying some of the individuals will be a tough task, at least we can be sure that big-picture wise, Russell's searching will have shone a light on and drawn attention to this important part of our collective history.

We wish him well and hope the town and the community continues to support the endeavour. It's a chance for us to see history unfold and ensure the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground is a respected and revered testament to the past.

editor@niagaranow.com

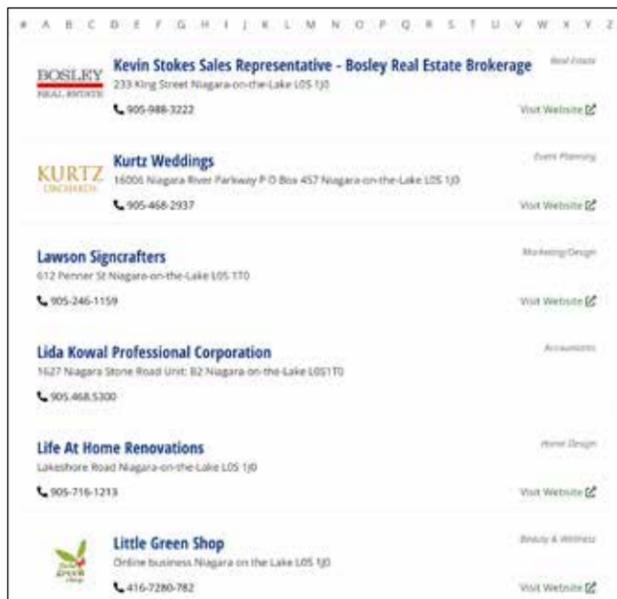
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Town's excuse for not 'shopping NOTL' is disgraceful



Lawson Signcrafters is listed on the town's own ShopNOTL listing to "keep NOTL businesses connected." SOURCED

Dear editor:
Referencing last week's article ("Town was unaware Lawson Signcrafters could fill ShopNOTL order"), the statement from the town that they were "unaware" the local sign maker was capable of providing the signs for the ShopNOTL campaign is disgraceful on so many levels.

Yes, the contract was below the threshold for mandatory tendering, but c'mon people.

This is a tiny town and let's face it — everyone in business knows everyone.

If anyone was seriously thinking about actually shopping NOTL they should

have known there was a local option.

Given the objectives to support local business, especially small business, "unaware" is an unacceptable position from the town.

And saying "we will consider them for future work" kinda rings hollow.

If the town really means to support local business, then please start acting like it.

There is an election coming up — maybe the candidates will accept the challenge to show they mean what they say about supporting local and send their sign business to Lawson.

*Dow Wright
St. Davids*

Town, DSBN need to re-establish a NOTL high school

Dear editor:

Every four years all residents in Canada have to fill out a census form under penalty of law for non-compliance.

The main stated purpose for the census is to enable government bodies to make the best decisions in their jurisdictions. Shouldn't there be penalties for the governments that ignore the census?

The District School Board of Niagara has used over \$100 million in taxpayer money since its inception in the mid 1990s to save inner-city secondary schools by closing surrounding high schools like Niagara District and Westpark, and busing those students into the city.

The arrival of COVID has

blown up this scheme by dramatically showing that busing is a super spreader policy that has to stop now.

School boards like the DSBN should not establish programs that force students to get on buses and leave their communities. The longer on the bus the more exposed to the virus.

The short-term solution for Niagara-on-the-Lake is to find a way to let our 840 teenagers attend secondary school in our town.

Our town council or the DSBN need to work with Vineridge Academy (formerly Niagara District High School) to make this happen. Failure is not an option.

If this does not happen by Sept. 1 of this year I would

think that both town council and the board should face some serious legal consequences.

Taxpayers and parents should be reminded that the DSBN closed Niagara District against the recommendations of a review committee set up to examine the future of NDSS.

We need also remember that our town council purchased the school in 2015 only to sell it in 2016 to Royal Elite International Academy. Perhaps in the future some ex-councillors could explain this truly irrational decision.

The long-term solution is in the hands of our elected representative Wayne Gates and the NDP.

This whole problem

would never have happened if our town kept control of its own finances and decision-making.

I was employed, in my first two years as a teacher, by our own NOTL school board. In 1967 we had seven elementary schools and one fully composite high school in the best town in Ontario.

In 1968 the province forced our town into a relationship with a larger school board — the Lincoln board, which later became the DSBN.

We now only have two public elementary schools and no high school. The problem, in my opinion, is obvious.

*Don MacDougall
NOTL*

Yes, bylaw and parking enforcement need a rethink

Dear editor:

I totally support your July 7 editorial, "NOTL needs to go back to the drawing board with bylaws and enforcement," as I am waging my own battle with Niagara-on-the-Lake, having experienced identical issues with bylaw enforcement and temporary parking on my residential street.

We, the residents and taxpayers, definitely need to rise up, as it seems to be constant theme in NOTL.

I am also disgusted at town staff's treatment of

highly specialized craft and tradesman Dean McLellan, ("Frustrated stone mason angry with town's handling of gateway project," The Lake Report, July 7).

It shows a complete lack of understanding and ignorance of the construction industry.

We should not be engaging Aldershot Landscaping without a public tender, (notwithstanding that the company is not even from Niagara Region), especially if there are any taxpayer funds required over and above the \$250,000 donation.

Chief administrator Marnie Cluckie is misguided and wrong in her statement that "the situation was exceptional due to the specialized nature of the dry stone work."

There are always multiple contractors (one or more) willing to take on such work.

One just has to dig around the industry and ask the right people, or simply prepare and publish a tender on the online bidding sites, of which there are many now.

We have to be creative

in helping such specialized and smaller trade contractors perform work within their local areas — and, of course, this is the way toward a more sustainable future.

Lawson Signcrafters, the local signage contractor who missed out on the ShopNOTL campaign, seems to be another example of poor purchasing policy and inadequate thought and consideration by NOTL town staff.

*Philip Hoad
St. Davids*

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Document suggests Queen Street redesign

Continued from Front Page

community feedback on the plan all this month. The document can be found and feedback submitted on the town's Join the Conversation page.

Once the public comment period closes on Aug. 1 the plan will go to town council for final approval, likely on Aug. 22.

The Lake Report has put together a breakdown of some of the significant recommendations in the plan as they pertain to specific areas of town. At more than 170 pages, the plan contains far more details that can be covered here.

The plan as it stands would cost about \$35 million for the town and \$28 million for the region to implement, with work being completed over the next 10 or more years.

OLD TOWN

Written by engineering firm Stantec Inc., the report recommends changing Queen Street into a flex street to accommodate multiple modes of transportation.

That ties into one of the overarching themes of the report, which is to reduce "reliance upon any single mode (of transportation) and promote walking, cycling, transit, and other forms of transportation that are alternatives to personal vehicles," the plan says.

"It is recommended that Queen Street be converted into a flex street, with a single grade or surface shared by people using all modes of travel at slow speeds."

That would reduce pedestrian/vehicle incidents and near-misses and improve traffic flow throughout Old Town, it says.

The flex street idea would demand significant changes to the streetscape of Queen Street.

"In flex streets, curbs are removed and the sidewalk is blended with the roadway. Speeds are slow enough to allow for pedestrians to intermingle with bicycles, motor vehicles and transit."

"It is also envisioned that the aesthetic of the flex street will be in alignment with that of the heritage district."

One reason to turn Queen Street into an adaptable, multi-mode transport street is to discourage cars from using the area.

In tandem with directional signs to help visitors know where amenities, parking



Dundas Street in London, Ont., is a flex street. SOURCED

lots and historic sites are located, the flex street could cause traffic to "be naturally diverted away from Queen St. and towards parking lots and other street parking."

The report notes that more cars could then use the "under-capacity side streets" that surround the Queen-Picton area, and it encourages more use of periphery parking lots around Old Town.

It also recommends reducing speeds on Queen Street to 30 km/h. If that is not possible, a reduced speed should be considered during peak tourist seasons and during events, it reads.

All of these suggestions work toward making Queen Street a safer area for pedestrians and cyclists to use, according to the report, which notes the municipality has approved the region's Vision Zero plan to reduce traffic fatalities.

Further addressing the safety of pedestrians on Queen Street, the master plan recommends the installation of crosswalks, all-way stops and even an extension of the clocktower island in the historic district.

Extending the clocktower island could also deter business vehicles from parking in the centre of Queen Street, the document says.

The report says the town needs a strategy for moving goods into downtown so businesses can get deliveries without trucks parking in the middle of Queen Street.

The plan also addresses the horse-drawn carriage operations at Queen and King streets.

Several caleche operations have been shut down in recent years, in cities like Montreal and Philadelphia, it notes.

The plan recommends the town "inspect the caleche operations to ensure the horses are treated appropriately" and says "any com-

plaints that may arise related to animal welfare should be taken seriously."

The report recommends the caleche stand be moved to the Market Street parking lot to improve traffic flow along King Street. However, town council recently approved year-long licences for the carriage operators to occupy the land on King Street beside the Prince of Wales.

ST. DAVIDS

The master plan looks at two aspects of transportation in St. Davids – pedestrian needs and the intersection of York and Four Mile Creek roads.

The report recommends more sidewalks there and notes the town already has asked the region to build more.

The controversial York and Four Mile Creek roundabout is also addressed.

"This intersection can be considered to be the geographical centre of St. Davids," the report reads.

"It is recommended that the town in conjunction with the region monitor traffic volumes along York Road and Four Mile Creek Road and ensure that the roundabout, when implemented, brings the desired benefits."

Tanbark Road and Line 8 Road "might in theory be used as a bypass of the York Road / Four Mile Creek Road intersection, but should this be needed, significant upgrades would be needed," the draft plan says.

GLENDALE

Glendale is one of the focal points of growth in NOTL.

As such, the master plan recommends more sidewalks to connect residential areas with the outlet mall and Niagara College.

Many of the roads in the Glendale area are provincially or regionally owned and the report says the

municipality needs to keep open channels of communication with the region in order to handle growth.

New overpasses on the Queen Elizabeth Way, the diverging diamond interchange and the twinning of the Garden City Skyway should be focal points for the municipality as it determines how to handle Glendale's growth, it says.

VIRGIL

The plan makes recommendations for a minor sidewalk extension in Virgil along Henry Street.

The plan notes the engineering firm had not received concerns regarding traffic around Crossroads Public School but still recommended the extension of the community safety zone to Line 2 Road on the north and Pierpoint Drive or Concession 6 Road to the south.

Extending the community safety zone to Concession

6 would connect it with St. Michael Catholic Elementary School.

It also recommends the creation of a community safety zone around the Pleasant Manor long-term care facility.

NIAGARA STONE ROAD

"The greatest transportation constraints" in town are on Niagara Stone Road, the report says.

It recommends upgrading Niagara Stone to a four-lane collector road between Airport Road and Concession 6.

While the report recommended alternatives such as a Virgil bypass to deal with congestion, it states the upgrades to Niagara Stone should be considered foremost and implemented before further action is taken, as those changes could greatly reduce congestion.

Roads that should be monitored for a Virgil bypass include Line 3

Road, East and West Line, Concession 2 Road, Niagara Street and Charlotte Street.

QUEENSTON

Few recommendations were made for Queenston, with the most substantial revolving around tour buses.

According to the master plan, Queenston, in particular River Frontage Road, has more traffic in the summer than the rest of the year.

Traffic is particularly heavy as tourists and tour buses are drawn to Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours.

However, "no actions are recommended to improve the road network in consideration of tour bus operations," the report says.

"Although tour buses may be a source of irritation for Queenston residents, no concerns were noted with respect to traffic flow or safety, so road network updates would likely prove ineffective at addressing the issue."



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- Rhonda and John

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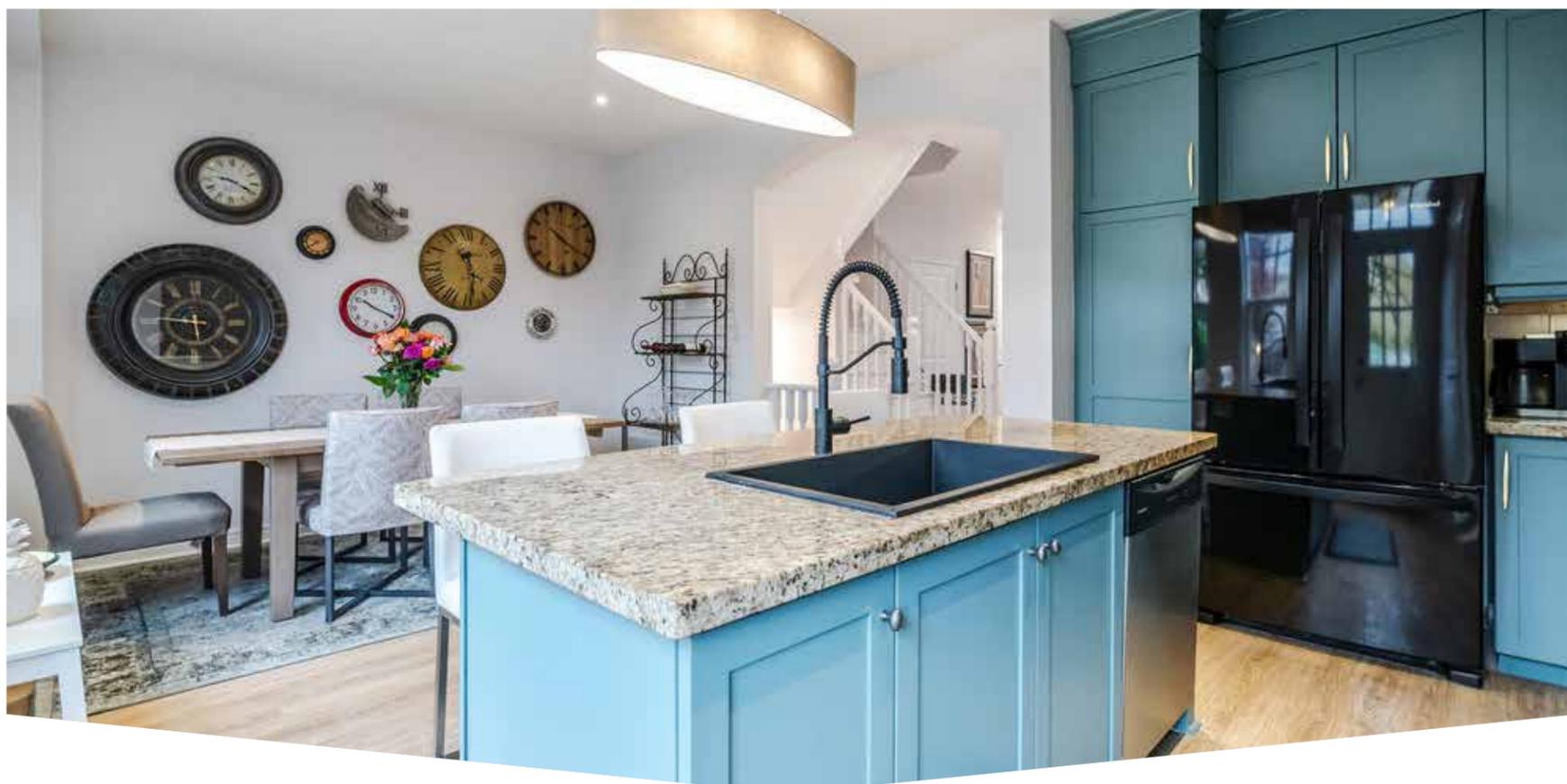


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NANCY BAILEY

Nurseries can obtain certified **virus-free** vines from Brock University

Continued from Front Page

“This repository at Brock gives us a second leg to stand on,” said Oppenlaender.

“Brock is an ideal facility. They can test existing vines, and propagate clean material for new vines,” he said.

Sudarsana Poojari, senior staff scientist at Brock University’s Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute acknowledges it’s a long process, but he has big plans.

“We plan to expand. We’ll prune and maintain these plants, then expand into larger greenhouses and eventually develop a vineyard with larger numbers for propagation,” he said.

“The goal is to become self-sufficient, so we won’t have to purchase from other countries, like France and the United States. Niagara imports approximately half a million vines each year and the countries we import from may not care about the specific viruses that we are concerned with.”

“The two viruses that are most damaging in Niagara are red blotch disease and leaf roll disease. They affect



The repository of virus-free vines at Brock. DON REYNOLDS

fruit quality, especially sugar levels,” Poojari said. No one knows exactly how widespread those viruses are, but experts agree it’s a critical issue.

“There is a consensus in the industry about the importance of clean vines and the pay off in the long run,” said Ethan Churchill, project manager for the Canadian Grapevine Certification Network.

The industry group’s mission is to make sure growers and wineries have access to clean, quality grapevine material.

“It’s extremely anecdotal evidence, but many vineyards are affected by red blotch and leaf roll. They’re quite prevalent, but the information can be confidential,” Churchill said.

“Disease can spread and it becomes a bit like a bonfire.

If you don’t control it, it can destroy a vineyard,” he said.

The viruses also seem to make vines more likely to suffer damage from extreme cold.

Vineyards were seriously damaged by last winter’s extreme cold and the yield this season is expected to drop by at least 50 per cent as a result.

“It’s not scientific but it appears that virus-free vines are more winter hardy,” said Oppenlaender.

“Where we have viruses, we see more winter damage,” said Wade Stark, vineyard operations manager for Andrew Peller Ltd.

He plans to pull out 17 acres of Merlot and Pinot Noir vines that were badly affected by winter injury at Clark Farm on Concession 6, and “many growers are facing the same replant scenario that we are at this time,” he said.

Stark believes a virus was responsible for much of the damage.

“In the Merlot block, we had previously tested, and there was a fairly high virus plant count, with an estimated more than 60 per cent virus-infected.”

He will only replant with vines that have been certified virus-free by the Canadian Grapevine Certification Network.

“It’s an added layer of insurance against planting with infected material. Nothing is perfect, nor guaranteed, but we are all in this together as an industry and anything we can do to ensure top-quality grapes and wines will help us all achieve success in our shared goals of economic sustainability,” he said.

Grape and tender fruit industry expert and consultant Ryan Brewster recommends all growers plant certified vines.

“I highly advise clients to start with certified clean material. It costs a bit more but it’s definitely worthwhile,” he said.

“I think viruses are far more prevalent than anyone thinks. It requires testing to know if a virus is present and testing is expensive,” he added.

“To transition a vineyard is a long process and virus transition will have to wait until winterkill is dealt with,” he said.

Oppenlaender hopes

growers will make virus-free vines a priority as they deal with winterkill.

“This is a crisis, but it’s also an opportunity for growers to say, ‘If I have to replant, let’s do it with virus-free material, even if I have to wait a year or two.’ It takes two years to get new vines usually anyway, and once the vines are planted they will produce for at least 25 years, and as much as 40,” he said.

Nurseries can contact the grapevine certification network to get virus-free material from Brock, “then they can take that generation one and plant it, and then propagate a mother block from that,” he explained.

Back in that small greenhouse, with the beginnings of an expanding repository of clean vines, Poojari admits there is much work still to do, but maintains his optimism.

“We lag 20 years behind the U.S. industry. They started in the 1980s, and they have five or six centres across the U.S. with standards, protocols and clean plant programs,” he said.

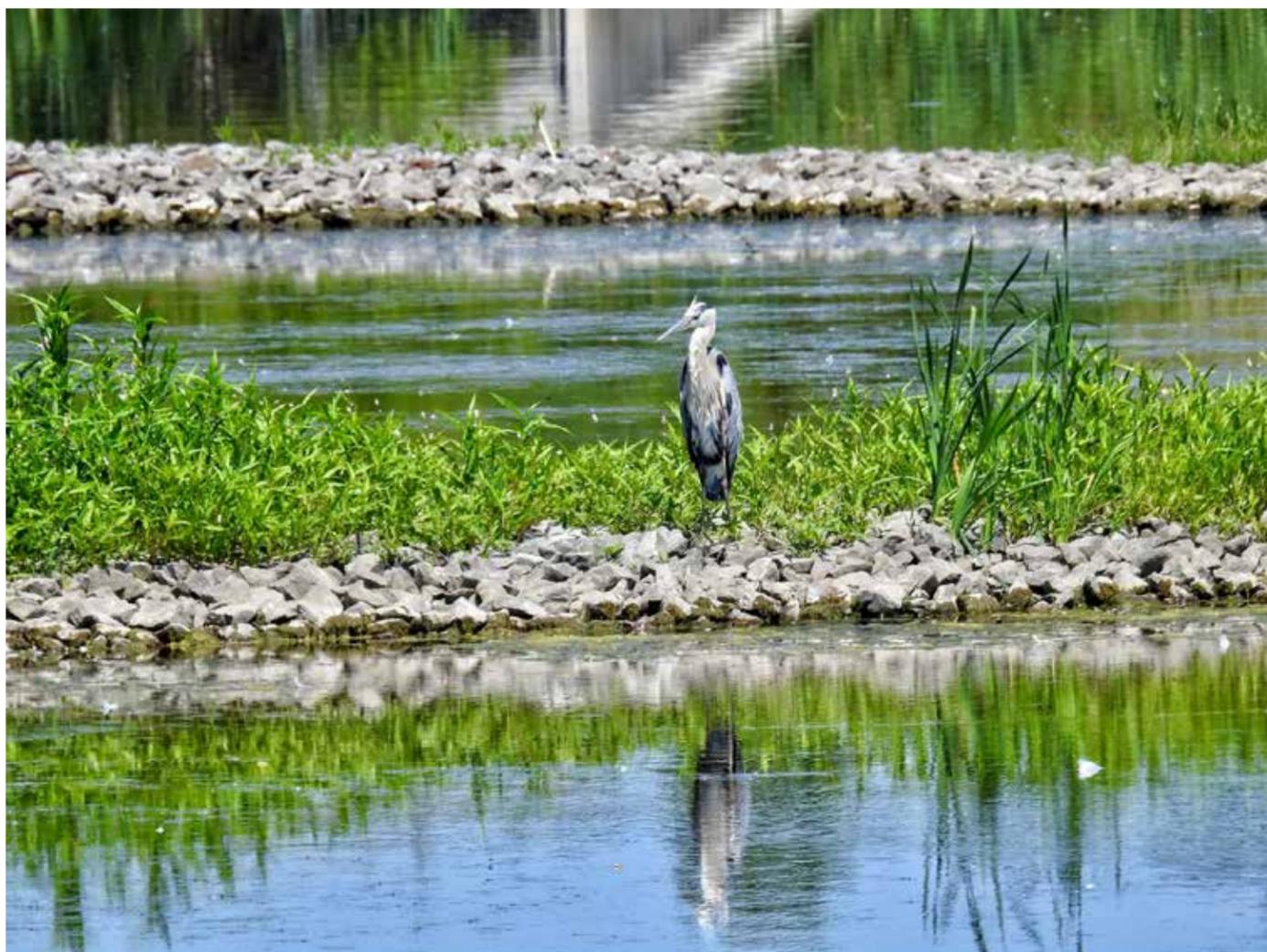
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Great blue heron keeps watch

Lake Report photographer Steve Hardaker captured this picture of a great blue heron at the Niagara Outlet Collection pond on Saturday. Visit www.niagaranow.com to see more photos from our series, "A Year in the Life of NOTL: In Photographs."



Pop-up library provides free outdoor activities for kids

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A library isn't just a place where you can borrow a book.

And the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library is proving the sentiment as its pop-up libraries become increasingly popular spots for families and children to have fun together.

"We are bringing a mobile library as well as activities and games, story time and all that stuff to a bunch of different locations," said library employee Kasia Dupuis.

"It's a great way to outreach for the summer and get people to come and see us again, now that we can safely see each other again in person," Dupuis said at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil. The pop-up library was being well used on the breezy morning of July 15.

A group of kids was participating in story time with two library staff. But the real fun began after the storybook was closed and the bubble dispenser was brought out.

Four kids frantically ran up and down the sports park field chasing bubbles as they were caught by the wind. One boy, three-year-old Jack Montgomery, was holding a competition with himself to see how many bubbles he could eat out of the air.

Asked how many he caught, he held up his hand, indicating five.

For longtime NOTL resident Sharon Van Noort, the library is a gift that has been giving to her family for generations.

"I used to take my kids here and now I take my grandkids here. It's great to have a library like this in the community," Van Noort said.

"We use it a lot. And when my grandsons come, books are a big part of their visit. So, I'm always taking books out at the Niagara-on-the-Lake library."

The pop-up library was a great way for her and her granddaughter to enjoy the library's activities outside.

"This pop-up thing is so fun. When you're a grandmother and all the nice things we have in this town,



Ella Shatley, 5, learns how to plant and take care of a bean sprout at the NOTL Public Library pop-up. EVAN SAUNDERS

it's great. The library, our pools, this park."

Her granddaughter, Mayla Van Noort, 6, was visiting from Haldimand.

When she ran over to see Grandma she was fresh from catching bubbles with her mouth.

"They don't taste good," Mayla said as she shyly snuggled into Van Noort's shoulder.

Larry Shatley's five-year-

old daughter Ella was busy engaging with one of the novel activities at the pop-up – learning how to plant a bean sprout with Dupuis.

There are two options for the kids to plant: a bean sprout or a radish.

Unsurprisingly, most of the kids have been going with the bean sprout. A reporter from The Lake Report opted to go with the radish.

"I'm very pleased (with the library's outreach events)," Shatley said as his daughter packed soil into a small container.

"We feel very lucky. We love the community feel of Niagara-on-the-Lake," the Virgil resident said.

The pop-up library functions like the regular library, albeit with a smaller collection of books. Visitors can bring their kids down

for fun activities or try out the novel experience of signing out a book out under the blue sky.

The pop-up library will be at Sparky's Park in St. Davids on the morning of July 22, between 10 a.m. and noon.

On Aug. 5 it will be at Niagara-on-the-Green in Glendale and the final stop will be Chautauqua Park on Aug. 12.

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Ortona: Remembering the battle and Canadian lives lost

*Last in a series
Part 1 documented
the story of how Canadian soldiers fought to free the small seaside town of Ortona, Italy, from the Nazis during the Second World War. Today, the story of that battle and how the Canadian effort is remembered. Every year.*

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

On Dec. 20, 1943, Canadian forces engaged in one of their bloodiest and most costly battles of the Second World War.

While trying to break the Gustav Line – the German defensive position stretching across Italy from the Adriatic to Tyrrhenian seas – Canadian soldiers came across unexpectedly heavy resistance in the Adriatic port town of Ortona, according to the Canadian Encyclopedia.

More than 500 Canadians were killed and there were 2,300 total casualties. Although the battle was a victory for the Canadians, the German army lost fewer troops.

The battle was fought in close quarters, with much hand-to-hand fighting in the cramped streets of Ortona.

The Germans had levelled buildings in order to create impasses on some streets, funnelling Canadian soldiers and tanks up booby-trapped avenues where land mines and strategically placed machine guns wreaked havoc, according to veterans.gc.

Since the open streets were death traps, Canadian soldiers used a tactic called “mouseholing” to advance – blowing holes in the walls



Members of the Seaforth Highlanders sit down for their Christmas dinner. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

of houses to gain ground. For eight violent days, Canadians struggled to liberate the town.

“It was a battle for every single building on every street, for every block in every corner of the town,” according to the article “Christmas in Ortona” on veterans.gc.

“The enemy used every trick and every weapon. Heavy artillery was placed in the ruins of buildings to provide cover for the German infantrymen. Basements were packed with explosives, which could be remotely detonated by German engineers.”

“The Germans blew up a building packed with Canadians and the only surviving Loyal Edmonton Regiment soldier was pulled from the building three days later.”

Angela Arnone said her work with veterans has not only enriched her life but even saved it.

“I could have given up on my life because I’ve had cancer three times. The first time it was the veterans who sent me a get well card that said, ‘We need you so don’t give in.’”

“That kind of determination has kept me going for all these years. So, I’m still here but I’m a bit of a wreck,” the 65-year-old said.

“But I’m still here and I’m still annoying everybody with my demands that the Canadian memory cannot be set aside.”

REMEMBRANCE AND A CHRISTMAS DINNER

Angela Arnone’s work to recognize the Battle of

Ortona began in 1998.

In co-operation with Canadian veterans who fought in Ortona, she orchestrated a Christmas dinner in honour of one held on the battlefield during the siege in 1943.

One of the surviving organists from the battle, Seaforth Highlander piper Edmund Essen, was on hand and performed many of the same songs he did 55 years earlier, Arnone said.

There were Canadian and German veterans of the battle at the dinner, as well as Italians who had lived through the destruction of their town.

Since that initial celebration, Arnone has ensured that every year on Nov. 11 there is a solemn gathering in the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery.

That has proved challeng-

ing because of the pandemic. In 2020, the celebration was cancelled due to COVID-19.

But Arnone did not let the day pass without recognition. “I went to Rome and I picked up a Canadian wreath and I took it to the cemetery to make sure that there was no interruption in our ceremony that had gone on for 25 years,” she said.

“So, there has been no hiatus. Every 11th of November there has always been a Canadian wreath and poppies on that cenotaph and there was that year as well.”

And it is the descendants of the people of Ortona, liberated by Canadian life, who take the time to commemorate what Canadians did.

“There were no Canadians there. It was only the people of Ortona.”



Musicians play at Willowmere Haven. SUPPLIED

Niagara Symphony’s ‘Pops in Crops’ a hit in NOTL

Staff
The Lake Report

“Pops in the Crops” attracted more than 100 people and raised over \$10,000 for the Niagara Symphony Orchestra on Friday evening.

Guests, hosted by Lauren and Vaughan Goettler, wine and dined outdoors at Willowmere Haven in rural Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The evening was sponsored by the Goettler Family Foundation, Peninsula Flooring, Daniel & Partners LLP and Il Gelato di Carlotta.

Music was performed by a wind trio comprised of players from the symphony and the percussion duo Oregon Percussion.

Guests enjoyed food by Pig Out Catering, gelato from Il Carlotta di Gelato, and wine from Between the Lines Winery, whose fields border on Willowmere Haven.

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Palatine Hills takes home **three national awards**

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's not every day your hard work earns one award, let alone three.

When Palatine Hills Estate Winery entered the 2022 WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada, the thought of winning three awards was far from their minds.

"We weren't expecting anything," said John Neufeld Jr., who runs Palatine Hills with his brother, Charles.

"So it's nice to kind of have some recognition," he added.

They were excited to win not just silver and bronze, but also gold at the WineAlign competition.

John Jr. called it a "team effort."

About eight years ago, he had the idea to plant Semillon and Viognier grapes. He said it takes about five years to get a full crop, one to two years in a barrel, then some time in the bottle.

Finally, after years of hard work, they were able to harvest Semillon and Viognier in 2020. This harvest was their first vintage as winemakers.

At the awards, the 2020 White Meritage won gold, scoring 92 points – an excellent result especially considering it's the first time they have ever made it.

A blend of 50 per cent Semillon and 50 per cent Sauvignon Blanc, it's unique. They age it for 12 months in a combination of new and neutral French oak barrels.

The brothers worked hard. From planting the grapes, to harvesting them, to finally being able to sell it, but it



John Neufeld Jr. (left) with his dog Rae and his brother Charles Neufeld with his dog Penny. SOMER SLOBODIAN

paid off.

"Pretty exciting to see a plan come to fruition, (to) see something that you've kind of been working towards, (that) you get some recognition for," said John.

The 2021 Wild and Free Riesling won silver, and the Wild and Free Viognier took bronze. The Viognier also was the first of its kind for Palatine Hills and only 25 cases were produced.

John, 38, has been working in the family business since 2008.

Though he learned from his dad from a young age, he also studied winery and viticulture at Niagara College. In 2009, he spent some time at Hardys Tintara winery, near Adelaide in South Australia.

His younger brother has been officially working at the winery for about five years. Now 30, Charles went to McMaster for engineering and worked in North Toronto for a while before deciding he wanted to join the family business.

About two years ago the brothers took over the wine-making duties.

They're proud to not only be a family-owned business, but also family-run. Their grandfather bought the property four decades ago and helped shape it into what it is today.

Their parents, John Sr. and Barbara, still own the business, but the brothers have taken over running it.

Though the atmosphere at the vineyard is casual, there's nothing casual about their wine. During their cornhole tournaments on Friday nights, John said the first thing a lot of members do when they arrive is take their shoes off and get comfortable.

The brothers are not afraid to try something new. Recently, they made a Chardonnay with beer hops added. With this, they're hoping to bridge the gap between the beer and wine drinker and, in turn, converting the people who aren't wine drinkers.

The brothers want their winery to be a place where people can come and hang out while having fun and enjoying some quality wine.

"We're just looking forward to building something here that we can have people from the community really attached to," said John.

The winery is also dog-friendly. Both brothers having young dogs of their own and they bring to work with them.

A photo of every dog that visits goes up on the wall at the entrance, said Charles. He called it the "Pups of Palatine."

The brothers have spent the last year expanding their patio for guests. While many businesses have been had temporary patios throughout the pandemic, they opted to make a permanent one.

They've planted trees that will eventually produce lots of shade, and they have a fire pit for guests to sit around.

Besides the Friday cornhole tournaments, they have live music on Sundays.

The brothers have been focusing on the ins and outs of daily business, and though it hasn't been smooth sailing the past couple of years with the pandemic, they've managed to come out thriving.

"We have been very blessed to have a great winemaking community in NOTL," said John, adding that area wineries have been helpful while they navigated running the family business.

"We try to be the same way to. If someone else needs something, or needs our help, we're more than willing to do what we can," he added.



When is a door no longer a door?

Last issue: I'm shorter than the rest, but when you're happy, you raise me like I'm the best. What am I?

Answer: Your thumb

Also accepted: Shot glass

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Bert Dandy, Jane Morris, Pam Dowling, Linden Weinseis, Robert Bator, Elaine Landray, Doug Bruce, Daniel Smith

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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Baked in: St. Davids Lionesses have been making carnival pies for 59 years

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

For as long as the St. Davids Lions Club has been holding its annual carnival, the women of St. Davids-Queenston United Church have been baking delicious homemade pies that are sold by the slice at the carnival.

After a two-year pause due to COVID restrictions, the church is eager to get its popular pie booth underway for the 59th year.

Pies are prepared each morning during the carnival to ensure only fresh-baked goods are sold in the afternoon and evening.

Fundraisers like the pie booth help the church keep the lights on and this is one of the biggest fundraising efforts at the church each year.

The money raised also allows the church to offset the costs of necessary capital improvements, like the recently replaced roof and the planned paving of the rear parking lot.

The success of the St. Davids-Queenston United Church pie booth can be attributed to two key organizers and an army of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers.

Florence Turner oversees the kitchen and the pie baking while Bill Utting runs the pie booth and organizes the volunteers.

As a teenager in 1955, Turner began attending what was then St. Davids United Church.

After several years of marriage, she moved away from the area with her husband only to return in 2001.



Florence Turner and Marilyn Beatty prepare the blueberry pie filling for the St. Davids-Queenston United Church booth. STEVE HARDAKER

Turner has been baking pies ever since.

In 2016, she began overseeing the baking when an older member stepped down.

In an interview, Turner explained how the church became involved with the pie booth in the first place and why the church is invited back each year.

“When the Lions first formed in 1963 as St. Davids and District Lions Club with their new charter, they didn’t have a place to meet. With several charter members also belonging to our church, the board invited the Lions to hold their

meetings in the church until a clubhouse could be built,” she said.

“When they started planning for a carnival and what food groups they would have, as a thanks for the time they held their meetings here, they asked if the ladies at that time would be interested in running a pie booth.”

“So, for as long as the carnival has been running in Lions Park, we have been invited to have our pie booth. My mother baked for the pie booth back then.”

Turner recalled that during the last carnival before COVID, the women baked

312 pies – and all were sold.

She lamented that the cost of supplies has almost doubled, so for the first time in many years, the cost per slice will have to increase this year.

Utting, who is also chair of the church’s property committee, has been organizing the volunteers and managing the pie booth for several years.

In an interview over the phone, he said it was easy this year recruiting volunteers.

“On the Sunday when the announcement was made to the congregation that volunteers were needed, all spots for servers and runners were immediately filled.”

“At the booth, there are four servers and two runners who bring pies from the church to the booth on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with two shifts of four servers and two runners on Saturday,” Utting said.

The 58 previous years of having a pie booth at the Lions Carnival have been rewarding, not only for congregation members who volunteer their time, but for all the carnival goers who purchase the pie slices.

The church also appreciates that the Lions continue to invite St. Davids-Queenston United Church to operate a pie booth at the carnival.

Says Turner: “It has been a good money-maker for the church. It is a lot of hard work, but it is well worth it.”

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for over 11 years and is active in several community organizations.



NOTL is looking for local vendors for the festival.

NOTL and B.C. team up for Summer Games’ 13 for 13 festival

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games will bring a taste from each province and territory across Canada to Niagara this summer.

And the 13 for 13 Cultural Festival is looking for Niagara-on-the-Lake restaurants, performers, caterers and eateries to help bring this one-of-a-kind event to life.

This new event focuses on bringing together Niagara’s 13 municipalities to collaborate with one of Canada’s 13 provinces and territories. The collaboration will showcase Canada’s diverse heritage, entertainment, art

and culinary sectors.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is partnered with British Columbia, bringing a taste of the western province to the town.

The festival is at Simcoe Park on Aug. 10 and includes a live performance by Vancouver-based band “Said The Whale.” There will also be a farmers market, bite-sized menus created by local restaurants, and much more.

The town is encouraging area business operators interested in participating to fill out an application form at <https://www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events>.

Fort George celebrates 210th anniversary of Jane Austen’s ‘Sense and Sensibility’

Staff
The Lake Report

The Friends of Fort George is hosting a social evening to celebrate the 210th anniversary of Jane Austen’s first published novel, “Sense and Sensibility.”

“A Barton Cottage Social” will be held on Thursday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. at Navy Hall, 305 Ricardo St.

The evening will include trivia, music, book discussion, period games, tea and treats.

Anyone who arrives dressed in a regency-era costume will receive a 10 per cent discount at the Fort George gift shop. Attendees can also try using a quill pen, along with other activities from the regency period.

Proceeds from the evening will support summer employment at Fort George



and Brock’s Monument. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at the Friends online gift shop, friendsoffortgeorge.square.site.

For more information, call the Friends of Fort George at 905-468-6621 or email admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca.

NOTL Legion fish fry raises money for Ukraine

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 will be donating \$2 from every meal sold at its July 21 fish fry to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

The organization is dedicated to arranging humanitarian assistance for

Ukraine by either giving direct aid to the country or helping Ukrainians who have been displaced and come to Canada.

The branch previously raised \$250 for the foundation at a barbecue in June.

“There are a lot of people in dire situations,” said Legion member Alex Luhowy, “so this is one way we can

help them through it.”

The fish fry happens on Thursday nights at the branch, 410 King St., from 4 to 7 p.m. The event typically attracts 150 to 200 people.

Down the road, Branch 124 will be continuing to show its solidarity with Ukraine through projects like this, said Luhowy.



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HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE

Niagara's **summer insects** are a festival of light and sound



Keeping it Green 

Kyra Simone
Special to The Lake Report

Pockets of ravine and greenery around Niagara-on-the-Lake make perfect habitats for insects that set the tone for nostalgic, late-summer evenings.

This time of year, there are a few that are becoming rarer to spot – and others whose new sound and light displays are a treat for the senses.

GLITTERBUGS: Move over, Canada Day fireworks – the natural light display by resident fireflies has been spectacular for the last few weeks. We're getting to the tail end of this opportunity, so be sure to peek outside after dark if you're near

damp areas like meadows or forested ravines.

Not actually flies, these insects are truly beetles. There are about two dozen species in eastern Canada, ranging from yellow to amber to green light. They're important for keeping nuisance insects in check. For example, they eat the larvae of mosquitoes and black flies.

Before becoming adult beetles, some fireflies are also bioluminescent as larvae: I remember being perplexed to find glowing worms in the garden a few summers ago.

The glow comes from the firefly's abdomen, where a chemical called luciferin reacts with air. Unlike light-bulbs, this is completely efficient light production: no energy is lost as heat.

To attract females, male fireflies flash a specific light pattern while flying, and female beetles respond with a different light pattern when they choose a mate. The reactive chemicals also give fireflies an unpleasant taste, which deters predators.

In developed areas, artificial light makes it difficult

for fireflies to find mates. Turning out lights at night can help these pretty bugs communicate.

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM: The sound of cicadas also has begun: it's such a characteristic soundscape to our late Niagara summers. Only male cicadas produce this sound, which is loudest as the days get warmer, to establish territory and attract females.

Cicadas are the world's loudest insects: their calls can reach 100 decibels, almost as loud as emergency sirens. They're quite large (two to three inches long), but they're completely harmless.

Before becoming adults, cicadas can live underground for two to four years, where they feed on roots. After moulting several times, they finally emerge to shed their exoskeleton and unfold their wings.

Cicadas only live for a few weeks in this adult stage, but their bodies and exoskeletons will become fertilizer for forest soil. They also help the ecosystem by pruning trees and aerating soil.



A cicada emerges from its exoskeleton. Within a few hours, its body darkens to deep forest green. KYRA SIMONE

THE COMPLETE CONCERT: It's almost time for the full symphony of summer sound – chirping crickets are now adding

their voices in the evenings. Again, only males make these sounds, by rubbing a special structure on the top of their wings.

It's possible to estimate the temperature outside by the frequency of chirping: there's a mathematical relationship, where warmer temperatures result in faster chirps. In fact, a group of crickets is called an "orchestra."

Like the other insects mentioned here, crickets make up the foundation of an ecosystem. They're a food source for birds, small mammals and frogs, and they break down plant material to replenish nutrients in the soil.

So, as you enjoy humid evenings on patios and porches, or watch the sunset from a bench by the lake, don't let a mosquito or two bug you.

There are so many more insects waiting to perform their special song and dance. Let the show begin.

Kyra Simone is a PhD student in environmental science, with master's degrees in biology and science communication. When not researching climate change, she advocates for a sustainable future, picks up litter, and makes recycled jewelry.

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 COMMENT

Music Niagara understands sound, technically singing



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist
The Lake Report

As an event organizer, I learned long ago to “always overspend on sound.”

How many times have we been to concerts or speeches or weddings or sports events where the organizer has cheated out on the audible component?

Frustrating for the audience. Unfair to the speakers or performers. Often a waste of time for many in the audience.

I recently attended Music Niagara's concert “Strauss's Enoch Arden,” dedicated to the memory of Christopher Newton. Happily, their technical director Kirk Starkey and his colleagues had the audible components totally

mastered. An unusual circumstance, even at the most fou fou of events.

Bravo, bravo and encore. Even with my long time hearing challenges and attention span shortcomings, I was able to enjoy and savour every note, every syllable, every nuance. From the eloquent welcome and introduction by the vice-chair of Music Niagara, Patrick Little, dashing in white Bermuda shorts, knee socks and blazer, to the speech by Guy Guy Bannerman sharing personal vignettes of Christopher Newton, the late afternoon two hours at St. Mark's Church was both riveting and relaxing.

First class by absolutely every measure.

Then, onward to Johannes Strauss's “Sonata No. 3 in D minor” for violin and piano. This masterpiece was presented by the passionate and emotional violinist Artis Bankas and the elegant pianist, both tender and forceful, Victoria Kogan. Their focus and intensity never wavered and from my second pew seat I could see the tension in their necks, their intense eyes, their love



Nattily attired Patrick Little, vice-chair of Music Niagara, welcomes guests to St. Mark's Church before a concert to honour the memory of Christopher Newton. ROSS ROBINSON

of performing for us. Ms. Kogan's right foot rarely stopped working the pedal. Shaw Festival's artistic director Tim Carroll then narrated the melodrama, with perfect diction and well-honed vocal projection. His British accent added a sense of “je n'est sais quoi,” but Patrick and Guy Guy (my former Chautauqua neighbour and Ryerson Park pal) had done our characteristic Canadian mode of pronunciation proud earlier in the program.

I was able to hear every syllable, without straining or angling my head and ears in an attempt to optimize the enjoyment of the concert. Let's have a toast to great audio.

There is just so much to do in our Niagara-on-the-Lake. NOTLers have such varied interests and the pity is that so few could be with us in St. Mark's Church for this precious concert. Please don't be shy to step out of your sandbox, to wade into the world of

culture and the arts. Sit peacefully and admire the stained glass windows, the wooden pews and enjoy the magical quality of the building's acoustics.

Relax, reflect, refresh, re-energize.

Heck, I didn't really understand the word melodrama until I asked for its definition over an Oast House Barnraiser and pulled pork sandwich later. Ah, a cold beer, views of the vineyards and good conversation. Lots to like, eh?

When my friends started to discuss Johannes Brahms and this D minor sonata, distinctive from Brahms's other violin sonatas, by virtue of its more extroverted and virtuosic nature (these words lifted from the hand-out provided upon arrival) it was time for me to shift my gaze to the television screen to watch Cameron Smith's birdie-filled back nine to win the 150th Open Championship at the Old Course in St. Andrews.

Which is to say that so people have their unique interests and passions and tastes. Heck, our good lord makes chocolate and vanilla and Ben and Jerry see fit to produce another thirty two flavours.

Perhaps it would behoove us to step out of our comfort zone on occasion. Music Niagara and several other cultural groups set the table for a feast of enjoyment here in our wee part of the world. Pull up a chair.

Be daring. Open your eyes and ears. The days and years are ticking by.

Please forgive any faux pas in this Ramble. I was way out of my usual space.

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REVEL REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

'Allegories' by Lynne Gaetz on at Pumphouse

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake artist Lynne Gaetz is showcasing her paintings and mixed media works in a solo exhibition at Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre in August.

The artworks in the show aptly titled, "Allegories," tell a story with mystical and surreal undertones. Antlers, tall hats and collaged words and images express hidden, often symbolic meanings for the artist.

"My goal is for the viewer to have an emotional response to my work. Sometimes people get up close to read the words and look at the collaged images, and then they stand back and see the work as a whole," Gaetz says.

"I invite viewers to ask questions: Why is the woman standing with her arms crossed? What is going through that person's mind? Why is the tall hat burning? How do the collaged words relate to the image?"

The artist's works are mainly figurative, but her decision to integrate mixed



"Imaginary Wars of a Solemn Man." LYNNE GAETZ

media began by accident.

"About six years ago, while painting a falling buffalo, I spontaneously decided to adhere torn images and gold leaf to the horns," she said.

Ever since she has added mystical and surreal ele-

ments to her work, adding horns, antlers and tree branches to the heads of figures.

"I also may include collage in their bodies. There are also words and bits of text integrated into the paintings."

Each piece has an overall mood or emotion, she said.

"The horns or antlers may represent strength, fertility, sexuality, creativity and a connection with nature and our animal instincts. But I invite viewers to come to their own conclusions."

According to Gaetz, many different elements have contributed to her work.

She studied art at universities in Calgary, Quebec City and Montreal, and has taken courses with prominent figurative artists. Her travels to different countries including Mexico, India, Kenya, Turkey, Morocco and Chile influenced her colour palette.

An award-winning artist, she has exhibited in galleries in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario, and her work can be found in several private collections.

Her mixed media piece, "Entangled Lives," was selected to beautify one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's hydro boxes in 2021.

The solo exhibit runs from Aug. 2 to 28 in the art centre's Joyner Gallery. The public can meet the artist at a reception on Sunday, Aug. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS AMENDING ZONING BY-LAW TO REMOVE HOLDING (H) SYMBOL (under Section 36 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended).

Regarding: File No: ZBA-12-2021, 1579 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Zoning By-law amendment application proposes to remove the Holding (H) symbol that applies to the subject lands (see location map) through Zoning By-law 4316-09, as amended. The current Village Commercial Holding (VC-H) Zone on the subject lands permits existing uses. The owner wishes to add a new restaurant use on the property and has completed a Site Plan Agreement for parking, driveways and front yard landscaping. The proposed restaurant use is permitted in the underlying Village Commercial (VC) Zone. Upon removal of the Holding (H) symbol, the subject lands may be used for the full range of permitted uses in the Village Commercial (VC) Zone.



The Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake may pass the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment to remove the Holding (H) symbol from the subject lands no earlier than the July 25, 2022 Council meeting. However, Council may consider the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment at a later meeting.

Under Section 36(3) of the Planning Act, only the applicant has appeal rights with respect to the removal of a Holding (H) symbol. There are no third-party rights to appeal the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

As permitted under Provincial legislation and the Town's Procedural By-law, Council and Committee meetings are being conducted with electronic participation since in-person meetings are cancelled at this time.

If you wish to participate and make an oral presentation or ask questions at the Electronic Council meeting, you must register in advance with Victoria Steele, Acting Town Clerk (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266). On the date of the meeting, you will receive an email with instructions to connect to the meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone. If you wish to view the Council meeting for information purposes, registration is not required.

The meeting will be available for viewing at the following link: <https://www.notl.com/council-government/mayor-council/meetings-agendas-minutes>

For more information:

Please contact Victoria Nikoltcheva, Planner II, at 905-468-3266 ext. 253 or via email at victoria.nikoltcheva@notl.com if you require additional information. A copy of the application and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town's web-site, <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notices> or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, ON).

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, July 21, 2022

Victoria Steele - Acting Town Clerk

Lacrosse champs: Unbeaten Thunderhawks capture division title

Andy Boldt
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara Thunderhawks U22 team beat the Hamilton Bengals in two straight games to win their best of three series and capture the Zone 9 "A" division championship on July 14 in Hamilton.

With the series win, the team remains undefeated this season, riding a 15-game win streak.

Although the team started the pivotal game versus Hamilton slowly and made some uncharacteristic mistakes, goalie Jack Maraca was able to hold off the Bengals till the team in front of him clued into their mistakes and upped their play.

The did just that, dominating their opponents in the third period as the Thunderhawks left the floor tallying seven goals for a 7-1 win.

Jordan Wiens started the scoring with a laser beam of a shot over the shoulder of the Bengals' goalie,

who throughout the game provided the greatest challenge to the Thunderhawks to date.

Rookie defender Sam VanderZalm, in his first and only season with the Thunderhawks, added a goal, to a thunderous cheer from his teammates.

Jack Parker and Wiens, with his second, followed suit before Hunter Ostromecki put the game out of reach with a natural hat trick, three goals in a row.

The win didn't have the feel of a major championship due to the lack of fanfare, no representation from the league and especially the lack of a championship banner being present, a customary tradition in games such as these.

Spirits, however, wouldn't be overshadowed by these omissions.

The Thunderhawks cheered each other at their goal and complimented their opponents in the traditional series-ending post-game handshakes.



The Niagara Thunderhawks play against the Hamilton Bengals. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

After a short celebration in the dressing room, their focus was the team's next major goal, winning the Conradi-Engemann Memorial Tournament July 22 to 24 at home in Virgil.

The Conradi tournament has been the largest U22 tournament in the province for a few decades and has

often been referred to as the real provincial championship for the U22s.

The tournament attracts 16 teams from all over Ontario, when most other tournaments only have four teams.

This year the top six teams in the province are participating.

It also is held on a weekend, allowing most players to attend the tournament, unlike the provincial championships which are held mid-week, often making it difficult for players to get time off, in some cases, from their full-time jobs.

The U22 Thunderhawks take on Owen Sound on

July 22 at 7 p.m., then play Kawartha Lakes July 23 at 9 a.m. and Sudbury at 2 p.m.

If they win a 10 p.m. semifinal game, Niagara will compete in the "A" championship, Sunday, July 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Niagara Thunderhawks.







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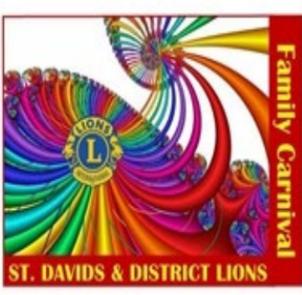
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Wednesday July 20th
4-5:30 pm - Brayden Doucette
6-7:30 pm - The Bondivistas
8-11 pm - Turntable Rock

Thursday July 21st
4-5:30 pm - TBD
6-7:30 pm - Love Construction
8-11pm - Clockwork

Friday July 22nd
4-5:30 pm - Randy Busbridge
6-7:30 pm - Kyle Lamb
8-11 pm - Vinyl Flux

Saturday July 23rd
4-5:30 pm - Matt Taylor
6-7:30 pm - Jacob D'Souza
8-11 pm - Cottage Brew

Young Artist Showcase
Local High School Talent
Saturday 2-4 pm

Watson lights up men's league with sparkling 34

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Former NOTL Golf Club associate pro Ricky Watson was in fine form last week and shot a 2-under 34 to win low gross in Thursday men's league competition.

He also won a gross skin on #2. Bernard Marlow scooped a net skin, also on #2. Jeff Jacques was tops in Stableford scoring with 22 points.

Other winners were: longest putt: Peter Danakas (#2) and Tom Elltoft (#5); longest drive: A.J. Harlund (#3); Closest to the pin: Peter Falconer (#4) and Doug Dineley (#9). Closest to the 150-yard marker: Terry Catney (#8).

The men's WOOFs league competed in steamy, humid conditions Tuesday, with Jim McMacken and Falconer leading the way with 3-over scores of 39. Harry Huizer had low net.

Falconer was again closest to the pin on #4 and Jim Meszaros' birdie on #9



Jim McMacken shot 39 and shared low gross honours with Peter Falconer in WOOFs league play Tuesday at the NOTL Golf Club. RON PLANCHE

won the hidden hole prize. Kamal Uyar won the 50/50 draw.

Louise Robitaille's 82 was the low round of the day in 18-hole women's league play Tuesday morning. Others were: Yolanda Henry and Martha Cruikshank (89), and Valerie Chubey and Ginny Green (92).

May Chang won low net with 71, followed by

Chubey and Green (73), and Christine Earl and Lorraine Busbridge (74).

Other winners: Fewest putts: Chubey and Henry (30), Cathy Murray (31), Susan Gagne and Robitaille (32). Longest drive: Henry (#5). Longest putt: Shelley Sansom (#2).

This week, the nine-hole women's league played for the Joy Nelles Trophy, a

low-net competition established in 1997 for members with handicaps over 40.

This year's winner was Candace Maclean who shot a 54.

Other winners on the day were Diana Dimmer with the longest putt on #5 and Suzanne Watson, who was closest to the 150 marker on #8. Lucky draw winner was Penny Bannister.

NOTL Pickleball Club members win six medals at national championships

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

Players also strike gold at North York Cup

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club brought home six medals across several categories at the National Pickleball Championships in Kingston.

About 950 players from across the country participated in Canada's largest pickleball tournament in late June and the NOTL club had more than 20 competitors in the five-day tourney.

The NOTL Pickleball members who won medals include:

Jerry Eitze, with a men's singles gold medal for ages 65 and above, a silver in the mixed doubles skill ages 65 and above, and a silver in mixed doubles ages 65-69.

Kris Guerrieri, a bronze medallist in the men's

doubles, ages 19-49.

Ron Pychel and Vera Zhang took bronze in the mixed doubles skill, ages 50 and above.

Elaine Somerville, won a bronze in the women's doubles ages 60-69.

Following the championship, the club also won three more gold medals at the North York Cup on July 16.

Kris Guerrieri and his partner Mario Grenier took gold in the men's doubles, all ages.

Scott Lapointe and Dwayne Yeager won gold in the men's doubles for all ages.

The club professional, Adam Eatoch and his partner Mark Cleminson, captured gold in the men's doubles, open skill.

Read the full story and more about NOTL pickleball wins online at www.niagaranow.com



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Have some fun



Across

- 1. Low sculptures rising from a plane surface (7)
- 5. Pull through (7)
- 9. Peeping Tom (6)
- 10. Enduring (4-4)
- 11. Never use ill-gotten earnings (8)
- 12. Spokelike (6)
- 13. Home of Cox's Bazar beach (10)
- 15. Arrest (4)
- 16. Eye problem (4)
- 18. Some of them are Grimm (5,5)
- 21. Shaft key (6)
- 22. Chosen as a career (4,4)
- 24. Learnt of a mess in Derbyshire (8)
- 25. Tooth covering (6)
- 26. "Salome" composer (7)
- 27. Guided (7)

Down

- 2. Wear away (5)
- 3. Polar wrecker (7)
- 4. Established form of words (7)
- 6. York, from London (2,5)
- 7. Picked democratically (5,2)
- 8. Adaptable (9)
- 10. Eavesdropping (9,2)
- 14. Thoughtless state (9)
- 17. African state on the Red Sea (7)
- 18. Elaborate Hispanic parties (7)
- 19. Yak seen running wild in North America (7)
- 20. Energize (7)
- 23. Tear up sheet for this lot (5)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

Last issue's answers

1	B	E	I	M	I	N	M
2	T	A	S	M	A	N	I
3	A	N	O	E	X	I	T
4	R	I	D	G	S	U	D
5	B	R	U	N	E	I	N
6	U	T	B	R	O	W	N
7	E	E	G	I	R	O	I
8	O	N	A	N	D	O	F
9	F	U	S	N	A	V	Y
10	C	Y	C	E			
11	G	E	N	E	R	A	L
12	I	N	T	E	R	E	S
13	L	C	N	H			
14	H	E	L	M	E	T	
15	G	O	T	W	O	R	S
16	P	E	I	G	A	D	E
17	T	H	E	D	E	V	I
18	L	B	R	E	M	E	N
19	A	I	I	A	L	S	S
20	I	N	L	A	W	S	
21	S	H	E	R	I	D	A
22	N	S	S	A	W		

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



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*Rob Golfi, Sales Representative. **Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2021. *** Source: Google Trends and Google Reviews † Based on closed transactions January 1 - April 30, 2022. Source: RE/MAX LLC. **Based on Unit sales and \$ Volume of closed transactions in TRREB Jan 1 - Dec. 31, 2021. RE/MAX Escarpment Golf Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.

Untangling the mystery of why some patients get **long COVID**



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Estimates suggest that as many as 20 to 30 per cent of patients with COVID develop long lasting symptoms, what's been called "long COVID."

Initially many were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms, only to develop much more troublesome and persistent symptoms weeks later.

Those later symptoms often include shortness of breath, fatigue, weakness, irregular heartbeat, trouble concentrating and focusing (brain fog), headaches and persistent loss of taste and smell.

Long COVID defies precise definition because of the diversity and complexity of its symptoms. The range

and variety of the symptoms associated with long COVID are similar to other disorders such as myalgic encephalomyelitis (chronic fatigue syndrome), chronic Barr-Epstein virus infection and the persistent symptoms that follow acute Lyme disease.

When I first reviewed this subject in June 2021, the cause of long COVID was a mystery – and it remains so. Despite the mystery there has been progress.

For example, Oxford University and the Imperial College in London collaboratively posted online comparative MRI and functional MRI (fMRI) studies of volunteers who a few years earlier were studied as part of the U.K. Biobank program, some of whom later developed COVID. Others who did not, acted as controls.

The authors posited that the SARS-CoV-2 virus might gain access to the brain through the olfactory and gustatory systems. Both are intimately connected to structures in the temporal lobe and elsewhere in the brain and play major roles

in memory, mood and emotion, as well as smell and taste.

Their findings were striking. Abnormalities were found in many of the latter regions of the brain, mostly on the left side, and were more widespread in the small subgroup of patients, usually older, who were hospitalized.

But for me, the most important observation was finding abnormalities in the brains of COVID patients, most of whom were not hospitalized (only 15 of a total of 379 subjects). This study strongly suggests the virus reaches the brain through the olfactory system, as suspected.

Unfortunately, the study made no mention of which subjects developed symptoms and if so, what symptoms? But given the localization of the findings, it wouldn't be much of a stretch to suggest that some symptoms such as troubles with focusing and remembering, as well as impaired smell and taste, could well

have been related to the MRI findings.

The hypothesis that lesions in the brain might be far more common than we thought and possibly related to long COVID symptoms is worth further study.

But it needs a bevy of psychological and other tests to complement the imaging studies. And that would only be the beginning.

Consensus is emerging on what might underlie all the symptoms in the long COVID syndrome. Some scientists suggest tiny blood clots in the lungs might contribute to the shortness of breath, and even fatigue, by impairing oxygen transfer in the lungs.

There is some evidence for this, based on SPECT-CT (single photon emission computed tomography) studies of children several months following mild COVID infections. They developed shortness of breath and "crushing" fatigue.

Based on that working

hypothesis, some children with SPECT-CT positive scans were treated with an anticoagulant and improved enough to return to school.

Other scientists suggest that persisting high interferon levels mean the immune system in long COVID patients may remain overactive.

There is also evidence that the virus remains in the body for many months and, possibly, years. Indeed, all three factors may be operative.

Persistent functional COVID viruses or parts of the virus, long after the clinical phase of the disease, could well explain a continuing hyperactive immune system and possibly, the continuing formation of micro-sized blood clots in the lungs, brain, muscles, bowel and kidneys – and hence some or all of the symptoms reported by patients long after the initial infection.

There are other wrinkles to the long COVID puzzle. Some patients develop COVID two or more times based on evidence from repeated testing and their clinical histories. More wor-

risome is recent evidence the virus continues to evolve in the bodies of patients with long COVID.

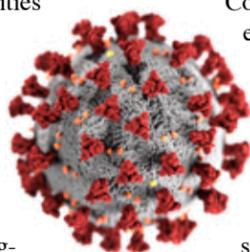
In most patients with acute SARS-CoV-2, the virus is cleared by the immune system within a few weeks and thus the virus has little chance to mutate.

But for chronic infections, such as some cases of long COVID, the virus might last several months or longer, giving the virus plenty of opportunity to evolve and new, possibly worrisome mutations to appear.

Perhaps persisting low-grade infection explains some patients with repeated infections in much the same way herpes simplex (cold sores) can do.

What's obvious is that this virus is still evolving. That's reason enough to keep vaccines up-to-date and repeated vaccination as indicated by worldwide surveillance.

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



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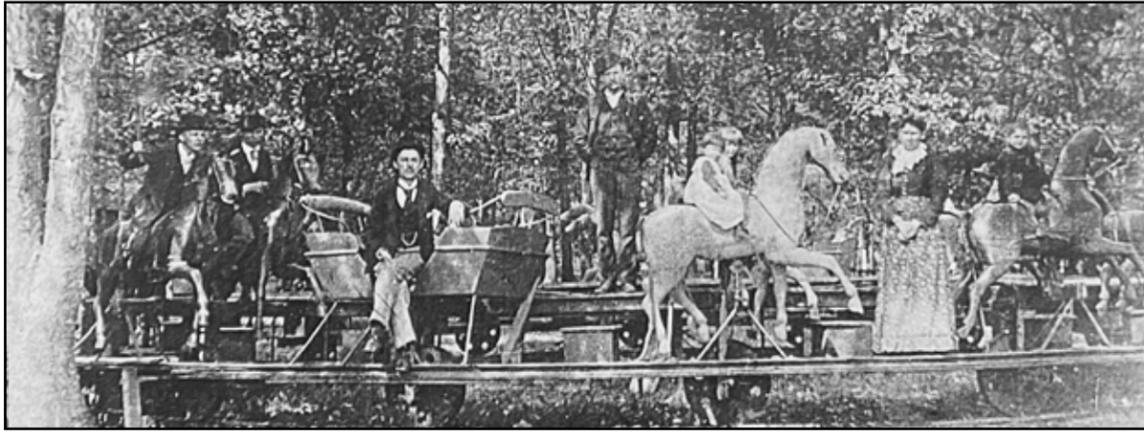
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EXPLORING PHOTOS
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Paradise Grove carousel

As a follow up to last week's photograph, Paradise Grove is a small forest area on the Fort George Commons that was enjoyed by tourists and locals alike for leisurely pursuits. Small boats or ferries could be rented from the dock area, rowed upstream to an awaiting staircase, which led visitors to a beautiful canopy of trees where picnic parties could be enjoyed. A Merry-Go-Round, featured here with the Lewis Family, was temporarily in use before being relocated to the Toronto Exhibition Grounds. Local photographer William Quinn would frequent the grounds to take tintypes for tourist souvenirs.

The history of garage dominance



Brian Marshall
Columnist

In his 1928 seminal book "Propaganda," Edward Bernays, the "father of public relations," wrote:

"The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country. We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, and our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of ... It is they who pull the wires that control the public mind."

In the decades since, Bernays' techniques and methods (refined many times over) have been used to shape the socio-political-economic predilections of people the world over. A quick google search on

Bernays himself will yield multiple examples of publicity campaigns which he authored that demonstrate just how powerful his methodology was and is.

Consider his "Dixie Cup" campaign in which he took a loss-leader product from obscurity to market dominance by convincing a generation of North American parents (duly endorsed by medical/scientific experts and government agency) that "only" disposable paper cups were sanitary and safe.

This newly created trend in public opinion perfectly dovetailed with the new fast-food industry –and the rest is history.

Interesting, you may say, but how is this relevant to architecture?

Well, the automotive industry was an early first adopter of public relations techniques. Using this methodology, these companies were able not only to change the early description of gas-powered vehicles from a general nickname of "stink-pots," but actually establish ownership of an automobile as a status symbol.

And, by the mid-20th century, this status association was so firmly a part of the North American psyche that real estate tract developers saw it as an opportunity to augment their sales by making the garage a dominate



Dealing with a Garage, circa 1925. SUPPLIED

feature of every home's facade.

Why would it be the dominant feature? Well, quite simply, if one creates a proportionally giant bay (typically nine feet wide or larger) with a black topped driveway pointing directly at it, there is no chance it can do anything but dominate the facade.

And then, of course, the developers' drive to build more units per square acre took this to the extreme by pushing the garage proud of the facade. It is, after all, a status statement ... No?

As a result, we have vast suburban deserts with street after street on which largely identical houses are made even more vanilla by the nearly unbroken ranks of garage doors fronting onto the road.

Now, if we go back to the early advent of the automobile, it was far more common to find a detached garage behind the house in the historical tradition

of coach houses. In fact, it was often the case that these garages were actually converted coach houses.

At that time, no architect worth their salt would have contemplated introducing a garage door onto the facade of their designs. And, when the client insisted on an attached garage facing the street, they went to great lengths to disguise the door and integrate the opening in a compatible fashion.

Consider the image shown here, reproduced from "The Book of Artistic Homes" published in 1926. Not only did the architect set the garage back from the facade, he designed it to present as a garden room on the side of the house.

As my regular readers are aware, I believe the institution of architectural design guidelines across NOTL is vital. However, in the meantime, can the town not commit to consistently enforcing the existing garage bylaw?

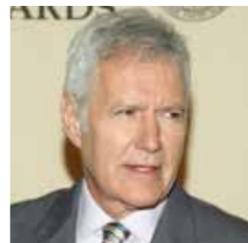
Looking to the Stars

Acting on your feelings can inspire trust and growth

Thursday, July 21: A testy day on this last full day of Cancer for 2022. It is a time when striking a balance slowly brings rewards and quick self-confident moves get respect. Neil Armstrong made history when on July 21, 1969, he became the first human to step on the moon, "a small step for a man."



Friday, July 22: The month of Leo begins at 4:06 this afternoon. Leo is the fifth sign of the zodiac and its symbol is the lion. Leo, whose motto "I love," is ruled by the sun. Along with Aries and Sagittarius, it is a fire sign and, like Taurus, Scorpio and Aquarius, Leo is a "fixed sign." Former CBC game show host Alex Trebek was born July 22, 1940, in Sudbury, Ont. Later and for many years, he was the host of "Jeopardy!"



Saturday, July 23: Mercury in Leo is in perfect harmony with Jupiter in Aries. Big ideas appear. Travel plans are explored. Thoughts of further education begin to take shape. It's all good. On July 23, 2000, a 24-year-old Tiger Woods became the youngest professional golfer to win all four major titles.

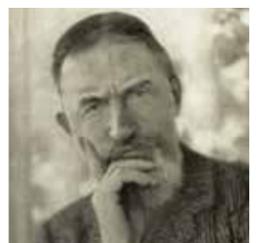


Sunday, July 24: Even with the moon in Gemini it should be lively, but this is one of the

most laid-back days in a long while. Enjoy your spiritual growth. It was July 24, 1534, that Jacques Cartier landed in Canada, claiming it for France.

Monday, July 25: Venus in cancer is 90 degrees from Jupiter in Aries, giving birth to the discovery of your heart's desire. It could be a new or renewed relationship. Or vacation. Or hobby. On this day in 1973, Canada said farewell to its 12th prime minister, Louis St. Laurent. In his nine years as PM, he campaigned for NATO and in other ways brought Canada into the world of leadership states.

Tuesday, July 26: A day of impulsive reactions courtesy of Mercury in Leo square to Mars in Taurus. Today's menu may include mechanical breakdowns, and arguments. My advice, is to hold your breath and wait for an idea that you have faith in. Not one prompted by anger or embarrassment. Happy birthday number 166 to George Bernard Shaw. Born in Dublin, Ireland, he is the only writer ever to win both a Nobel Prize (in literature) and an Oscar.



Wednesday, July 27: Mercury continues to trigger activities again today. This time it's harmony with Chiron, encouraging the adoption of a better diet and regimen for improved spiritual health. Consider yoga or a walking routine. Even adopting a regular bedtime and rising time would be good. It was July 27, 1921, that Frederick Banting and Charles Best isolated insulin in their laboratory at the University of Toronto. And so, for millions around the world, diabetes was no longer the kiss of death.

Check out my podcast where you will find more astrology, ad libs, music and offers. It's at www.lutts.ca

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Many of us are watering our trees and plants **all wrong**



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist



When putting in new plants, water the hole first to make sure the roots are wet. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTO

Did you know that, on a hot day, a mature shade tree can take up as much as 100 gallons of water per day? Wow, and I thought that I was drinking a lot of water these last few weeks.

Most of us attempt to water our plants as we are rushing out the door in the morning on the way to work or whatever activity.

If the plant is lucky, it may receive a quick 20- to 30-second spritz, a friendly pat on its leaf and be left to fend for itself for the rest of the long, hot day. If we didn't have time in the morning, often we are trying to revive the wilting plants in the evening.

Roots are the part of the plant that we see the least of, but they play a vital role. Each root is covered in billions of tiny hairs that are designed to aid water uptake.

The water travels up through the roots then to the rest of the plant, carrying the necessary minerals with it.

So that the leaves don't swell up, the water evaporates from them through the stomata, tiny openings (pores) in the leaves. Making sure that the plant has enough water is critical to its well-being.

USE SOAKER HOSES

We typically see people

watering plants by spraying water from the hose up into the air and giving the leaves a refreshing shower. As lovely as that looks, it really isn't doing the plant any good.

Although it is true that the plant can absorb some moisture through the stomata found on the underside of the leaf, the majority of the water needs to be absorbed by the roots of the plant.

The water sprayed on the leaves will quickly evaporate and will not have a chance to be absorbed. Even spraying cold water on hot leaves in the heat of the day can cause scorching on the leaves.

Think of it this way: if you were out in the hot sun, working and perspiring, it may feel great for someone to spray you with water, but that will never rehydrate you. You must be drinking water to get hydrated.

Same with your plants. So, always water at the base of your plants.

A soaker hose, on the other hand, has many small perforations along it. When the hose is turned on, the water will slowly drip from the holes right into the soil.

Make sure you leave the hose running slowly for a longer period, allowing the water to penetrate deeper into the soil. (Because of different soil types, it is difficult to know how long to water for, but if you are using a soaker hose, you should be letting it run in one area for a minimum of one to two hours.)

When you water quickly every day, the moisture is most likely only going into the ground an inch or two. This may be enough to keep your annuals going, but not enough to keep shrubs and trees alive.

A good way to see how much you need to water is to dig into the soil after you have watered and see how far you must go down before hitting dry soil.

Watering slowly, less frequently, but for a longer periods of time will encourage a stronger, deeper root system.

COLLECT RAINWATER

Rainbarrels have long been one of the best ways to capture rainwater off your roof, either through the downspouts or with the use of a rain chain.

When you think about it, so much of the rain that

we receive ends up going straight down the storm drains and then the water utility sells it back to us, resulting in high water bills each summer.

Why not capture some of this water and use it for the garden? Make sure that your rainbarrel is sitting on a solid base such as cinder blocks.

Raising the barrel up on blocks lets gravity increase the pressure. You may want to connect a second barrel to the first as an overflow option. Make sure your barrel has a spigot that you can attach a hose or soaker hose to.

WATER EARLY IN THE MORNING

It is best to water early morning when conditions are slightly cooler so that less water will evaporate. By keeping the leaves dry at night, you will lower the chance of different diseases such as powdery mildew and black spot.

Applying sufficient water in the morning will mean less stress on your plants during the heat of the day.

INSTALLING NEW PLANTS

When putting in new plants in the summer, it is best to pour water into the planting hole and let it drain through before placing the rootball into the hole.

This way the roots will have moisture right at their tips. Once planted, you can also build a ridge of soil around the edge of the rootball, creating a moat.

This way, when you water, the ridge of soil will stop the water from running off and filtrate into the soil right at the rootball itself.

Remember, a well-watered plant is a happy plant.

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

Obituary

Gail Dietsch



DIETSCH, Gail Patricia (Bowman) -Went to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 14, 2022 surrounded by love. Our world lost one of the best. Family was the very center of her life.

Gail was born in Hamilton, Ontario, the eldest of three children. Her father was in the army and they moved around

some, but in her teens, they moved to Niagara on the Lake where Gail met the love of her life, Mike. Most of Gail's younger years were spent making memories with their six children.

For 27 years Gail drove school bus. She loved seeing and talking with all of the children. For many years, Gail also sold Avon. It was her way of spending time with her friends...or perhaps escaping a wee bit from the chaotic schedule at home and the busy schedule of being a politician's wife and chauffeuring kids.

Gail had a passion for gardening. She loved spending time outside in the beautiful gardens she created. She also enjoyed cross stitch, painting and decorating. There was no decorating project that she would not tackle, including taking down walls. Tell her she wouldn't be able to do it and you threw down the challenge.

After Mike passed away, Gail was lost for many years until she met Bill Sauer. Mom was extremely blessed to have found love again.

She will be deeply missed by her children Pat (Ken), Linda (David), Michael (Maureen), Paul (Natasha), Jody (Alick), and Matthew (Kristen), as well as her grandchildren Bram, Melissa, Sean, Andrew, Bayley, Tiffany, Ashley, Erik, Michael, Liam, Kaleb, Justin, Tyler, Austin, Nolan, Leah, Nadra, Alwayne, Malcolm, Taya, Shaishauna, Tatiana, Isaiah, Gabby, Lyssa, Dylan and Colton. She had 22 great grandchildren with one on the way. She will be dearly missed by her sister Louise Danieluk.

We lost a special one with Gail, she saw the good in all and especially the underdog.

Gail was resting at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, where her family received friends on Monday, July 18 from 2-4 & 6-8 pm. Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Vincent de Paul Church, 73 Picton Street, NOTL on Tuesday morning, July 19th at 10:30 am. Cremation followed. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to Out of the Cold or the Canadian Cancer Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



High **E. coli** levels close Queen's Royal Beach for second time in week

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

For the second time in a week, residents are being warned to avoid swimming at Queen's Royal Beach near the mouth of the Ni-

agara River due to unsafe E. coli levels in the water.

As of Tuesday, July 19, the Region of Niagara Region listed the beach as unsafe for swimming. It's not known if heavy rains on Monday played any role in the elevated bacteria

levels.

On July 14, the beach also was posted as unsafe to swim, but the region declared it safe a few days later.

Queen's Royal, not far from Simcoe Park downtown, is home to NOTL's

famous gazebo and is a popular destination for visitors.

Depending on annual assessments and public usage, the region tests several beaches around Niagara between one and six times weekly.

According to the Swim Guide, Queen's Royal Beach is sampled weekly from May 17 to Sept. 15.

It is unknown when the beach will be safe for swimming again.

A sign at the beach warns people to stay out of the

water.

The small beach at Ryerson Park, about two kilometres west of Queen's Royal, is not tested regularly but the shoreline there has been covered in green "seaweed" for most of the past three weeks.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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

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