



Filming at Chateau des Charmes | Page 9

Artist frustrated by anti-masker

Fellow tenant hosted maskless classes with children in March



NOTL artist Filomena Pisano says she's been berated and called a "communist" and a "sheep" for confronting a fellow tenant in her building who held maskless classes with children during lockdown orders. RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake artist Filomena Pisano says she doesn't want to have to choose between her studio and her health after a fellow tenant in the old Virgil Public School hosted maskless, indoor classes for children during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Pisano, who rents space in the building on Four Mile

Creek Road, said fellow tenant Beata O'Connell has violated pandemic protocols and has berated Pisano for expressing discomfort and concerns for her health.

When she confronted O'Connell about the problem and warned it was illegal to be holding classes, Pisano claims she was called a "communist" and a "sheep" for her concerns about public safety. O'Connell denies saying that.

A church and the Bikes for Farmworkers volunteer group also share the same building, and Pisano says it's not right that one person is potentially putting the others at risk.

Besides the students, Pisano said she saw maskless parents in the hallways waiting to pick up their children.

O'Connell, who has anti-mask rhetoric posted on her door, is a vocal anti-masker.

In an interview Tuesday, O'Connell, who operates ArtVeritas Visual Arts Studio, admitted she hosted children in her studio in March 2021 during the lockdown.

"As a caregiver for those children, I had (a) right to have up to 10 altogether. So, I had eight. And I had this program for one, just one week, March break,

Continued on Page 2



Reports of coyotes chasing people and being aggressive are on the rise in NOTL. FILE/PIROSKA BACSO

Coyotes growing brazen in NOTL

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Incidents involving brazen coyotes have been occurring frequently in Niagara-on-the-Lake and on Monday night a 14-year-old boy was attacked in Virgil.

Billy Pillitteri-Smith suffered some scratches and a minor wound, requiring him to undergo a series of rabies shots.

Billy's been "a total trooper," his mother Eileen Pillitteri-Smith told The Lake Report.

"I heard Billy screaming, because the coyote was running behind him. I think he tried to get on his bike and it grabbed his leg," said Cohen Alexander, 13.

Cohen was with Billy and several other friends at

Centennial Sports Park in Virgil playing soccer when the coyote appeared.

"All of us started running except for my friend Lucas (Williams), because it was going for everybody who was running," Cohen said in an interview.

The coyote chased a pair of girls out of the park and down a side street before returning to chase Billy and grab his leg.

"The coyote got into a sort of lunge position and Billy turned away because he was afraid that it was going to go for his face. But he turned and it got the upper side of his leg," Pillitteri-Smith said.

Cohen said he didn't stop running out of fear that there might be a pack of

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Keeping it Green

Niagara trees facing major gypsy moth infestations



Kyra Simone
The Lake Report

This year's surging gypsy moth population is threatening Niagara's meagre tree cover.

This invasive species prefers to eat oak, but will strip leaves from a variety of species, including birch, maple, beech and even some coniferous trees.

A Very Hungry Caterpillar: Native to Europe, the gypsy moth was introduced to North America in the mid-1800s. Researchers had hoped to turn fine strands produced by these caterpillars into silk.

The caterpillars, which can each eat one square metre of leaves, spread after they were released in

Massachusetts. They were first detected in Ontario in 1969 and infestations now exist as far north as Sault Ste. Marie.

Gypsy moth eggs hatch in spring and the caterpillars climb trees to eat new leaf growth. They may use their silk strands to drift to new food sources, including understory plants – shrubs and smaller plants below the tree canopy.

This week, I was dismayed to see hundreds of tiny caterpillars munching

buds on my transplanted beech tree.

A Quick Shapeshift: Once they mature, gypsy moth caterpillars are four to six centimetres long, with tufts of hair and pairs of blue and red spots on their back. They might be mistaken for native tent caterpillars, which are also hairy, but have blue stripes and elongated white spots.

Mature caterpillars feed mostly at night, which can make them difficult to

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Gypsy moth caterpillars are four to six centimetres long with blue and red spots on their back. KYRA SIMONE



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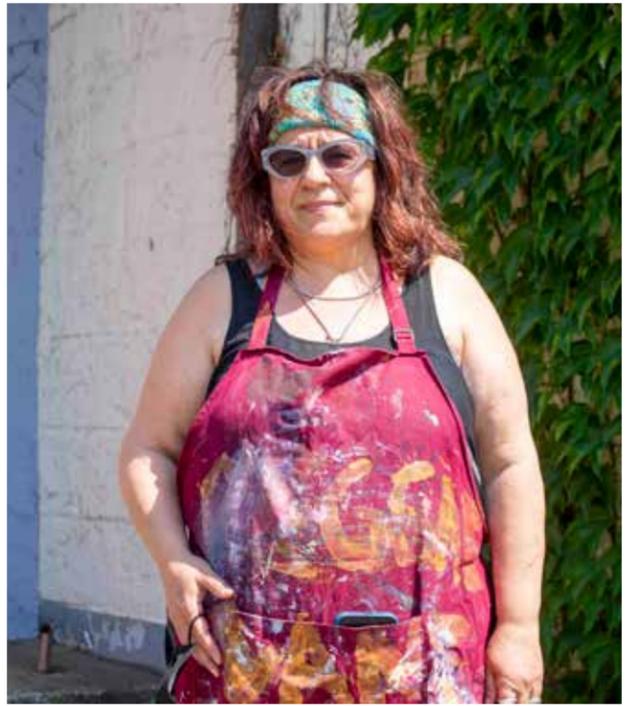
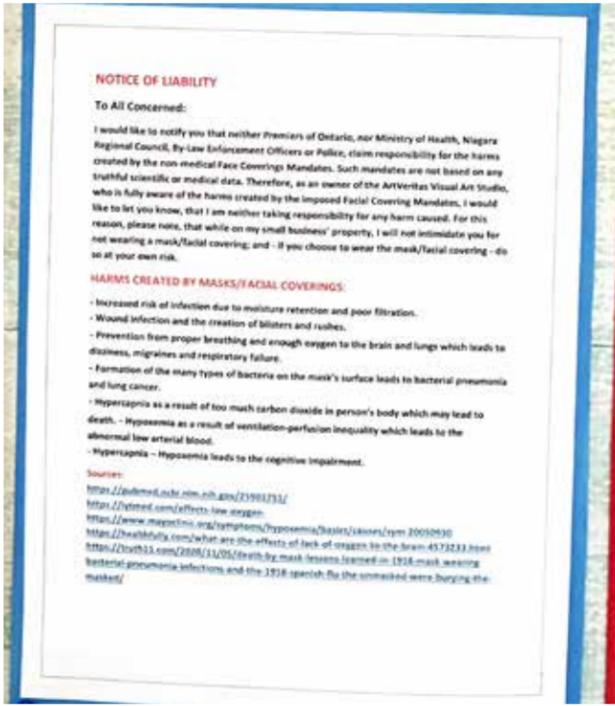
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Left: Beata O'Connell. Middle: False anti-mask rhetoric is posted to the door of O'Connell's art studio located inside the former Virgil Public School building on Four Mile Creek Road. Right: Filomena Pisano. SUPPLIED PHOTOS & RICHARD HARLEY PHOTO

Bylaw **never laid** charges for violating COVID laws

Continued from Front Page

after one year not having anything happening in that studio," she said.

She refused to say whether she was registered as a day care or primary caregiver to the children and accused Pisano of being the source of the problem for burning sage in the building and smoking cannabis.

Pisano said she doesn't consume cannabis in the building and noted fire and bylaw officials have said she can burn sage indoors.

O'Connell said bylaw officers were in recently to speak with her about the classes, but said no bylaw officers stopped by until June.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she never received Pisano's original March 28 email complaining about the COVID protocol violations, but followed up with her April 6 as soon as she was aware of the situation.

At that time bylaw officers followed up with Pisano, but were told she did not wish to pursue the complaint, Disero said.

Investigators responded to a new complaint on June 3 and visited the building the next day, Disero told The Lake Report. O'Connell said bylaw officers spoke to her but laid no charges.

Pisano wrote a social media post last week to draw attention to the issue and complain that it was still a problem.

In her original March message to the mayor, Pisano said, "I have to share the bathroom with this woman and several other tenants. I have a weak immune system and am concerned for my safety."

Pisano's emails allege O'Connell, a Fort Erie resident, attended anti-mask demonstrations in Toronto. All of this added to Pisano's fear that someone might be bringing the virus into the shared workspace, she said.

"She attends the anti-mask demonstrations in Toronto maskless, then

In an interview, O'Connell made it clear she does not believe in masks, will not get vaccinated and suggested COVID-19 deaths are the result of the seasonal flu — despite average annual flu death numbers not being anywhere near the number of deaths from COVID-19.

In 2018, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported 80,000 people had died from the flu in the United States. From Feb. 15, 2020, to Feb. 15, 2021, COVID-19 killed more than 500,000 Americans.

Also, despite evidence

* Based on "research and knowledge," it is her right to protect her family from what she believes to be the harms of masks.

* She is legally allowed to have up to 10 students in her class during lockdown, though provincial orders said gatherings of that size with members outside your household — even your own relatives — were against the law.

During the March break classes, O'Connell said she had a Montessori teacher on hand to teach math and language. "So, it's not just visual arts."

However, even regular schools were closed at the time. The subject matter being taught did not make it legal for her to operate, much less indoors or maskless in a shared facility, according to the provincial lockdown orders.

O'Connell said other than the March classes, her business was "completely on hold" during lockdown.

She criticized a reporter for asking questions, saying, "I would be more concerned if I was you for what's going on with the local businesses during the lockdown, with the children in the families in the Niagara region, to see how lockdown had a profound negative effect."

At the mention of the millions of people who have died from COVID-19

worldwide, she scoffed sarcastically.

She reiterated she believes she has a right to have 10 children indoors without a mask.

"I had to pay for my studio for an entire year, and I have to pay to this very day and I'm still wondering, should I keep it or should I not and this is my story. The story is that lockdown really had very negative effects on my business."

She claimed that all of the children, the parents and herself were exempt from mask laws, but would not explain why she believed that.

She also suggested that if The Lake Report publishes a story after asking her about mask exemptions, it would be an illegal violation of "privacy between doctor and people."

Claiming the government hasn't given any evidence to justify a lockdown, she added, "Actually, this narrative, it's only political and from the government."

However, data has been provided daily in updates from public health units across the country, both in case numbers, death numbers and sequencing of samples to determine variant numbers.

She strongly implied she believes COVID-19 deaths are actually just the flu. When asked specifically if she thought COVID-19 was the flu, she said, "I

believe in virus, but I'm not believing in the pandemic because the scientific and medical data does not show me that."

Masks are "a hazard," she said. "You cannot keep on yourself longer than 15 minutes, because it cuts you off oxygen and you have to breathe properly."

Pisano said she believes the bylaw department dropped the ball, despite her complaints.

"I look up and there's five or six kids, no masks, parents coming in and out. The room is full, there's like this party of people, and I'm like in shock."

She said she didn't really want to report O'Connell, but she didn't feel it was right for her to put the rest of the tenants at risk.

"I know she's struggling. And I was silent, I just said, you know, just mind your own business, pretend you're not seeing this, just walk away, walk away. And with good conscience, I couldn't do it any more, because it's not just affecting me."

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake administrators refused any comment on the matter, citing privacy concerns.

However, nothing legally prevents officials from saying whether they are investigating a complaint, the nature of the complaint or providing some details about the situation.

"I know she's struggling. And I was silent, I just said, you know, just mind your own business, pretend you're not seeing this, just walk away, walk away. And with good conscience, I couldn't do it any more, because it's not just affecting me."

FILOMENA PISANO
PISANO ARTISTA

returns to NOTL to the building I'm also in. It's all over her Facebook page," Pisano wrote.

An upset Pisano told The Lake Report she just wants to be able to work in a safe environment, untainted by people who don't understand the gravity of COVID-19 — a virus that has killed almost 26,000 Canadians, more than 400 Niagara residents and 3.7 million people worldwide.

to the contrary, O'Connell maintains:

* Masks are more harmful than COVID-19, claiming someone can only wear a mask for 15 minutes before it starts to deprive them of oxygen.

* Arts workers are exempt from mask laws.

* Anyone, including doctors, who says masks work to prevent the spread of viruses is "not telling the truth."



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Goettlers celebrate independent press with **donation** to The Lake Report

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Lauren and Vaughn Goettler know how important independent, trustworthy journalism is for a community.

This week, the couple showed their appreciation by making a \$2,000 donation to The Lake Report — Niagara-on-the-Lake's first independent newspaper — and they're encouraging others to do so as well.

"An independent press has long been heralded as the sign of a strong and viable community," the Goettlers said in a statement to the paper with the donation.

"This speaks to the heart of having The Lake Report remaining strong and healthy, to be the independent voice of truth, reason, fairness and information for all of NOTL," they said.

"In a time when advertising revenues are down, The Lake Report has supported small businesses that have struggled through COVID by providing free advertorial space," the Goettlers noted.

"These businesses are the cornerstone of our community. It is also important to note that not all residents utilize the internet as their source of news, especially local news, and some people



Vaughn and Lauren Goettler are encouraging NOTL residents to make an annual donation to The Lake Report, to help keep real local journalism thriving. RICHARD HARLEY

just simply enjoy thumbing through a newspaper as a form of relaxation."

The couple said it's important to them to see community news delivered to all residents of NOTL.

"These are some of the reasons why Lauren and I have chosen to support The Lake Report and we are hoping that by doing so, it will inspire others to do the same. Fifty dollars per year, which is less than \$1 per week, or less than a cup of coffee per week, will make certain that NOTL continues to have this important source of community news available."

Editor's note: The Lake Report sincerely thanks Lauren and Vaughn Goettler for their generous donation. It's true that in 2021, it takes the support of the community to make sure local news continues to thrive and bring relevant, timely and important information to our town. It's with support from the dozens of small businesses that advertise every week, and residents who make donations, that we are able to offer our paper free to every resident and business in NOTL. Since we launched The Lake Report in 2018, we've encour-

aged people to contribute a small amount to support our publication. If every household in NOTL paid just \$1 per week to receive the news, our paper would be able to hire more reporters and continue to make the best, highest-quality journalism available to NOTL readers. We continue to ask our dedicated readers to consider this voluntary "subscription" of \$50 per year. Anyone who is interested in supporting The Lake Report can drop off donations to our office, or send an e-transfer to advertising@niagaranow.com.

Reconstruction of Butler's Barracks begins

Staff
The Lake Report

Parks Canada has begun reconstruction of Butler's Barracks National Historic Site.

"This is about stabilizing the structure and giving our past a future," Parks Canada said in a news release.

The work is part of an ongoing federal infrastructure investment project that began in 2015 at the site.

While there will be new construction done, as much of the building that is in appropriate condition will be saved.

Plans include a new floor and foundation in the kitchen, rebuilding the porch and replacement of the roof among other things.



Butler's Barracks is being stabilized and renovated, Parks Canada says. SOURCED

Traditional building materials and techniques will be used in the construction to ensure the building retains its historic nature, Parks

Canada said.

During construction, the Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters, which houses the barracks, will

be off limits to the public. Trails and pathways will still be open, with some possible closures in specific areas.

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Canada

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 15
Region active cases: 418
Region deaths: 410
Region total cases: 15,981
Region resolved cases: 15,153

*June 9 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Beauty begins the moment you decide to be yourself." - Patty Garriock

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Editorial: We are all culpable

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

There was a small but solemn gathering in Simcoe Park on Sunday at 2:15 p.m.

Thanks to the initiative of Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Cosimo Chiovitti, people came out to honour the 215 Indigenous children whose remains were found near a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C.

It was a good step forward for some in our community to quietly express sorrow and revulsion at the acts perpetrated by those from the Roman Catholic church who ran the government-funded school.

But, like Megan Vanderlee and her children who last week created a memorial with dozens of children's shoes outside the entrance to NOTL's only Catholic elementary school, St. Michael in Virgil, it is but a start.

We sincerely hope that as the news cycle inevitably drones on and newer crises capture the national

consciousness, none of us forgets the travesty that our society, in our lifetimes, visited upon the Indigenous children forced to attend residential schools.

This is not ancient history. Like many other abhorrent practices our Indigenous population still endures today (start with unsafe drinking water and Third World conditions on many reserves), it was allowed to happen on our watch.

As a society, we are all culpable.

We have no excuse for moving on or not insisting our political and religious leaders take responsibility, fully investigate and bring reconciliation to the families and loved ones. If criminal charges are merited, and surely some are, let's hope the evidence is gathered and that some of the perpetrators are still alive and able to be prosecuted.

Political leaders – Liberal or Conservative – whose parties held power while residential schools flourished and attempted to

extinguish Indigenous culture, must take non-partisan responsibility. Do not politicize this collective Canadian failing.

And Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's unkept promises to finally fix the problems on reserves and in Indigenous communities must be followed through upon. Now.

It remains shameful that the Catholic church continues to stonewall, evade and refuse to provide full documentation of what went on behind the walls of the schools it ran.

The Pope and many others have been unable to do the very Christian thing of simply, contritely apologizing. The process has been so corporate and unfeeling, so bereft of compassion that if and when an apology does finally come it likely will seem contrived and coerced.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission provided a road map for how government and society can fix a severely broken system. Read it or at least go

through the list of 94 largely ignored Calls to Action.

Thanks to the Town of NOTL's inclusivity committee, we were reminded a few weeks ago of how far our own small town still needs to go in dealing with entrenched, bigoted attitudes. Then on Sunday evening, hours after the 2:15 ceremony in Simcoe Park, in London, Ont., we saw those attitudes played out as a white terrorist killed four members of a Muslim family out for an evening walk.

These racial, white supremacist issues are rooted in the same philosophies that brought us residential schools and continue to devalue Indigenous peoples in Canada. And these problems should remind us daily that we all need to look in the mirror and recognize change starts with us.

Each and every one of us.

Please don't miss Ross Robinson's column on page 12 reflecting on a wonderfully Canadian moment here in NOTL that same Sunday. editor@niagaranow.com

How will federal Liberals repay huge deficit?



Dear editor:

It was with interest that I read the opinion article by federal Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser ("In defence of Liberals' record on supporting seniors," The Lake Report, May 27) in which she outlined the various monies that have been directed to seniors by the federal government.

Like Ms. Kaiser, I, too, understand that "life is expensive" for seniors living on fixed incomes and any increase in the

amounts associated with the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) are very welcome.

Aside from the political fluttering, the update provided on the various increases was appreciated, however, the underlying question that now begs for an answer centres on how does the federal Liberal government propose to mitigate the cost of the huge deficit it has racked up without resorting to measures that will work to remove any of the monetary gains given to seniors?

A real concern moving forward is that all the money for seniors that Ms.

Kaiser mentioned has the potential to be swallowed up by the same federal Liberal government that handed it out ("one hand giveth and one hand taketh").

When all is said and done, those who "have built this country we are so lucky to have" may end up not enjoying any increase and may in fact be worse off.

In view of the reticence shown so far by the federal Liberals on plans to reduce the national deficit I am not certain that they want any attention directed toward this matter.

As we all know, it is easier to spend than to repay and repaying is really no fun. One federal budget in two

years does not a debt servicing/recovery plan make.

Perhaps I should not be so concerned as to the level of the deficit that continues to grow under the current Liberal government as maybe, just maybe, "the budget will balance itself."

With regards to the closing paragraph of the article – when did Andrea Kaiser become the MP for the federal riding of Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake? I will admit that since my retirement I have been sleeping in a bit more than previously, however I had no idea I had slept through a federal election.

William Morrison Sr.
 NOTL

Kaiser is not our member of Parliament

Dear editor:

Andrea Kaiser is not the MP for Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie, as she stated in her May 27 opinion column: "As MP for Niagara

on the Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie etc. etc."

I don't want to burst her bubble but Tony Baldinelli, of the Conservative Party of Canada, is the elected federal MP for this region.

The biographical information at the end of her piece in The Lake Report stated her correct position as candidate but I believe her opinion piece turned into an elec-

tion campaign speech. I didn't know we were in election mode; I'm still waiting for my second vaccination.

Wendy Lowe
 NOTL



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OPINION

Proposed 'gateway' is ugly, corporate-looking

Dear editor:

I beg the pardon of the individuals who are the advocates proposing the reconfiguration of the gateway signage at the convergence of Mississauga and Queen streets as I express my objection to their plans.

I have never really understood what the rationale has been for the feature that presently exists at this location, which is an attempt to enhance a billboard of advertisements for community events.

The feature is comprised of a tilted earthen mound adorned with shrubbery and annual floral plantings and displays information that often does not keep pace with events as they come and go.

The present proposal eliminates the earthen mound and replaces it with a 40-foot masonry wall displaying a large script spelling out the name of this town. It includes a 25-foot-high obelisk representing the first lighthouse on the Great Lakes.



An illustration of a potential new gateway sign at Queen and Mississauga streets. SUPPLIED

A bumpout into Queen Street for the purpose of extending floral plantings, combined with enhanced landscaping on the opposite corners, is intended to beautify the streetscape.

I am profoundly disappointed as I consider the funding expended to hire a landscape architect who has produced such a dismal design.

This is the type of feature that a corporation

would mount to mark the entrance to the parking lot in front of an industrial complex located beside a multi-lane commercial strip to attempt a visual reprieve in the otherwise disfiguring blight of megalopolitan sprawl.

This design looks as if it were a recycled plan lifted out of the file folders of any one of any landscape firm's corporate client accounts.

I wonder if the design is so uninspired because, at least subconsciously, the design realizes the scenery behind the proposed feature is so superior and so resplendent and this site can only be improved by removing all impediments and exposing the verdant and pastoral beauty of the vista looking across the NOTL golf course.

Peter Babcock
NOTL

Underground group aims to unseat town council

Dear editor:

An underground movement in Niagara-on-the-Lake is preplanning its strategy to unseat the incumbent town council. This group plans to examine the makeup of council, their voting records and potential conflicts of interest.

Are they B&B operators associated with the hospitality or wine industry, etc. This will gauge their true loyalties and perhaps give the electorate a window into their reason for serving on council.

Readers of my letters to the editor contacted me directly a while ago to solicit my participation in the group (not in running for office). The sales pitch specifically states it is not too early to start planning to dislodge the entrenched old boys' network from town council.

The group claims, as in the past, that the council continues to be in the hip pockets of the wine industry, the hospitality industry and tourism group (B&B crowd, etc.).

The theme of the group

appears to focus on the volume of unresolved, media-reported year-over-year complaints from the taxpaying public, and council's penchant for turning a deaf ear. That is, unless you represent the well-oiled and organized B&B lobby group, (eg. cutting B&B licence fees, The Lake Report, May 20), which in the past has threatened council with legal action if operators fail to get their way.

Council's solution to decades-old constituent concerns is to kick the can down the road. Accordingly, the council agenda is far from being in concert with the residents as councillors march to their own self-interest drum.

For example, the decades-old parking congestion in Old Town/heritage district, which gets worse every year. We have yet to hear a public statement addressing a proposed solution. Is the game plan to flood the residential neighbourhoods with more parking meters?

There is, however, light at the end of the tunnel.

Given how NOTL housing prices continue to be seen as a buyers' market by out-of-town purchasers (as opposed to a sellers' market in Toronto and surrounding cities), the demographics of the town population are changing. New blood and broader ideas are flowing into town.

This, according to the "unseat the current council" group, is their best chance to outvote The Locals, as long-term residents like to call themselves.

I moved to NOTL 15-plus years ago at which point I played golf with a member of the NOTL Golf Club and during our round he commented, "To call yourself a local you must live here at least 40 years."

Take note, you Toronto expats, when you hear that the Toronto crowd is trying to change "our town." Clearly it's a given the old clique will not easily concede its vested interests and turf to this new demographic.

Council has been selectively voted in for decades by locals who detest

change. When this "yet to go public" underground group surfaces with its plan and focused agenda, voters will have the chance to seat a taxpayer-sympathetic council.

Also on the local political scene, Andrea Kaiser is running as a Liberal in the next federal election. Can anyone guess what local industry she will be representing – certainly not the community taxpayers?

During my tenure in Kitchener, Ont., the neighbourhood presidents, under the ward system, organized and successfully unseated the council plus the sitting mayor, the infamous Murray Rosenberg.

Perhaps the ever-increasing "silo neighbourhoods" (Garrison Village, Chautauqua, the SORE group, etc.) forced to exist and be vocal by the inaction of council will work in concert with this group to achieve the same results as in Kitchener.

Ah, small-town politics, don't you just love it.

Samuel Young
NOTL

Seeking applicants

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As one of the world's leading theatre companies and Niagara's 20 largest employers, The Shaw is dedicated to an ongoing process of increasing diversity and inclusion in our audiences, our programs, and in all of our hiring for staff, artists, and in the recruiting of board members. The Shaw is committed to a future when our theatres joyously draw on and include all peoples, fully reflective of the world around us. As such, the Shaw Festival is an equal opportunity employer committed to a barrier-free recruitment and selection process. We encourage and invite applications from applicants who identify as Indigenous, Black or as persons of colour (IBPOC), the LGBTQ2+ communities and those identifying as gender female. In accordance with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and in keeping with our wish to ensure a fully inclusive environment, please advise Human Resources if you require an accommodation throughout the recruitment process. We will be happy to assist.

We acknowledge and honour the land upon which we gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. In particular we recognize and thank the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

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Niagara Parks explores **Indigenous role** in Battle of Queenston Heights

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A series of three talks hosted by the Niagara Parks Commission will take place every Thursday for the rest of June, highlighting the history of Indigenous people in the Niagara region.

The first talk will focus on the Queenston Heights memorial.

“The Battle of Queenston Heights was critical in the war of 1812, in terms of Canada’s defence,” Tim Johnson, former associate director at the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of the American Indian, told The Lake Report.

“You have to remember the contribution that Indigenous Peoples made during this very formative period of Canada’s history. The war of 1812 – Indigenous people were very much involved in that.”

Johnson helped lead the design of the Landscape of Nations Commemorative Memorial at Queenston Heights.

With years of experience in education, Johnson knew the memorial needed



A monument at Queenston Heights celebrates Indigenous in the battle. FILE PHOTO

to be as informative as it was commemorative.

“That’s something we really understood from day one,” Johnson said.

“One of the things that (the memorial) does and exceeds at, is that it becomes a place where school groups can visit and it helps that history come alive.”

For Johnson, ensuring that this integral history of Indigenous and Canadian relations gets renewed was one of the main goals.

“Most of that has been missing from the history books,” he said.

The spatial aspect of learning is important for

Johnson to reinforce what comes from the written word. Johnson referred to this as “land-based learning.”

“Words on paper are really supported when you go somewhere and you actually see these representations. It really anchors it,” he said.

Johnson was particularly proud of the relationship between Brock’s Monument and the Queenston Heights memorial in visualizing the relationship between First Nations and the Crown.

“In terms of their spatial relationship, it creates a dialogue that really expands

people’s understanding of the full 360-degree perspective of this history,” Johnson Said.

“I worked on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., for 10 years, and rarely have I seen two memorials come together that creates this kind of relationship, that also aids the educational imperative.”

While Johnson was responsible for leading the project, the designs themselves came from two well-respected Indigenous artists.

Landscape architect Tom Ridout designed the overall architectural aspects of the monument.

“Tom’s work provided us with a full landscape treatment that made this more than just a single image memorial. And that was incredible,” Johnson said.

Artist Raymond Skye from the Six Nations Grande River community was selected to do the designs for the Indigenous warriors on display at the monument on bronze plaques.

Skye, who has been an artist for over 30 years after decades of working regular jobs, was shocked to have his designs chosen.

“I was glad I was sitting down (when they called me) because I would have fallen over,” Skye joked.

“That was a very pleasant, very exciting surprise. I said, ‘Oh my heavens.’”

Skye, though he does not consider himself an educator, draws great satisfaction from using his art to inform and educate viewers.

“The educational aspect (of the memorial) was very rewarding,” he told The Lake Report.

“Because I was not just able to present my artwork from my perspective as an Indigenous artist, I was able

to provide the significance of all the imagery, of what history it represents.”

The designs are not just meant to be looked at, “They’re there for a specific reason and that’s to educate people about something in history that had a significant impact,” Skye said.

Skye’s warrior designs were made to reflect the breadth of Indigenous warriors who were involved in the war.

“I was thinking, ‘If you were on the battlefield how do you determine who you’re looking at or who you’re shooting at because we all sort of looked the same here?’” he said.

“They had these ways of cutting their hair or putting their hair in scalp locks. They would wear feathers or calico shirts.”

Skye said those commonalities led his designs.

“The emphasis is on warrior. Here is what he looks like. He could be Delaware, he could be Oneida or another. But he is a warrior.”

The first talk goes live Thursday at 7 p.m. Go to Niagaraparks.com/indigenous for information and tickets.

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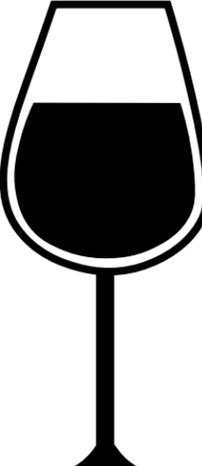
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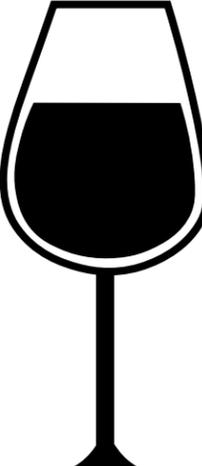
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Coyote attacks teen at Virgil park, small dog taken, many people say they've been followed

Continued from Front Page

coyotes, but it seems there was just one.

"I had to yell at one of my friends because it was really close to him and then it chased us for a while and just stopped," Cohen said.

Family friend and nurse Colleen O'Gorman came over the night of the attack to clean and bandage Billy's leg. His father took him to the hospital the next day as a precaution.

His injury is not confirmed to be a bite, but such wounds from wild animals present serious dangers for infection, hence the rabies shots.

The doctors "don't know (the nature of the injury). It could have been a claw puncture or it could have been a tooth puncture," Pillitteri-Smith said.

Billy and "all of his buddies are sort of enjoying the attention now," she laughed.

Then on Tuesday evening, Cohen and friends were playing on Sorenson Court in Virgil when a coyote appeared out of the foliage and chased them.

"They were on bikes, so they got home real quick. I drove down the street, and there's this Mennonite family that lives nearby," Cohen's father Robert Alexander told The Lake Report.

"The coyote chased the kids around, I heard the kids scream. They ran inside and then it just sat on the driveway. I was standing there and then it just sauntered off. It wasn't scared of us at all."

Alexander stressed the strange behaviour the coyote exhibited.

"I've lived here 14 or 15 years and I've run into coyotes multiple times. They usually just turn around and go away," he said.

Jo Zambito, deputy fire chief of Niagara Falls, lives on Sorenson and saw the coyote on Tuesday night just after it chased the kids.

As a father, he finds the brazen attitude of the coyote to be a concern.

"But regardless of that there's a lot of dog walkers and a lot of seniors in the



A coyote spotted in NOTL. FILE/JANICE WHITE

area," Zambito said. "It's too close to home. We've got to get rid of it, that's for sure."

Over the past two weeks, players at the NOTL Golf Club have reported multiple up-close sightings of large coyotes who don't seem intimidated by humans. There also was at least one report of a coyote hunting deer on the course.

Another concerning incident involving a lone coyote took place a few weeks ago near Henry Street in Virgil.

Janille Kroeker was out for a run with her daughter Allie when they saw a man confronting an animal on the street.

"As we got closer, we realized that it was actually a really healthy-looking coyote," Kroeker said.

After the two walked past, the coyote ignored the man and started following Kroeker and her daughter from the other side of the road.

"It was so interesting to see a coyote" this close, Kroeker said.

But the coyote would not leave them alone.

"I started walking backwards because I wasn't about to turn my back on a coyote," Kroeker said.

The coyote appeared to lose interest in the pair and sauntered off into the woods.

"We heard footsteps behind us. It was the coyote and it was now chasing us," she said.

Kroeker said the coyote was in a full gallop toward them.

"I lost all sense of what I should have done, which is to stop and act big and yell, and I just said 'run' to Allie."

Kroeker and her daughter ran to a nearby residence

for safety, but Kroeker tripped on the lawn.

"And when I popped back up the coyote was maybe five or six feet away from me. That's when I started screaming like a crazy person," she said.

The coyote looked at her for a moment and then walked away as if nothing had happened.

But more surprising news came later that night as Kroeker called a neighbour to tell them about the experience.

"She said that 10 minutes (after my experience), the coyote had chased a young teenager, too," Kroeker said.

She said NOTL canine control officer Ken Reid told her the coyote did not seem to be acting aggressively, but that it had been getting fed by someone in the neighbourhood and had grown comfortable near residents, associating them with a free meal.

In another incident, Welland resident Barbara Lanyon brought her dog Elsa to her daughter's house in NOTL on Friday, June 4. She was going away for the weekend and leaving the dog with her daughter.

That very evening a coyote attacked and killed Elsa on East and West Line.

"She was more of a therapy dog for me," Lanyon said in a Facebook message. "We had been through a lot of hard times together."

Elsa was on the porch at the time of the attack and Lanyon is concerned the coyote was confident enough to go right up to the house.

Lanyon said her daughter's dog was attacked and killed by a coyote over a year ago on the same property.

Here is some advice from a video by coyotecoexistence.com on what to do should you come across one of these wild canines.

And remember, all wild animals deserve respect.

Coyote visiting my yard frequently: Coyotes trek through areas to mark their territories so other coyotes won't move in and visit hunting areas. You can do your part to prevent coyotes from coming into your yard by not leaving food out. It can also help to rotate large objects in your yard, as coyotes are "uneasy about novelty." Be fierce in shooing coyotes if you don't want them there. Keep your pets indoors if coyote sightings are frequent, especially at night or when not monitored.

Fearful for my small children: Your fears are not unwarranted. Coyotes tend to be less afraid of critters smaller than themselves, so err on the side of caution. Young children should always be supervised, for many reasons, not just coyotes. However, keep in mind that people, busy streets and regular dog bites far outweigh the risk of coyotes. Teach children not to approach or taunt coyotes and to seek an adult if they see one. In an emergency situation, a loud scream should scare any coyote away.

Put it into perspective: You are extremely unlikely to be attacked by a coyote. Putting that into perspective is helpful. For example, about 5,000 people get killed crossing the street in a given year. There are about 17 coyote bites per year reported in all of North America — often related to a human interfering with a coyote approaching a pet. Meanwhile, about 1,000 people are sent to emergency rooms from dog bites daily. Only two human deaths have ever been recorded as a result of a coyote attack. This includes the death of an infant whose father had been feeding a coyote. To state the obvious: Don't feed coyotes.

Find a full list of tips at www.niagaranow.com/news.phtml/5697

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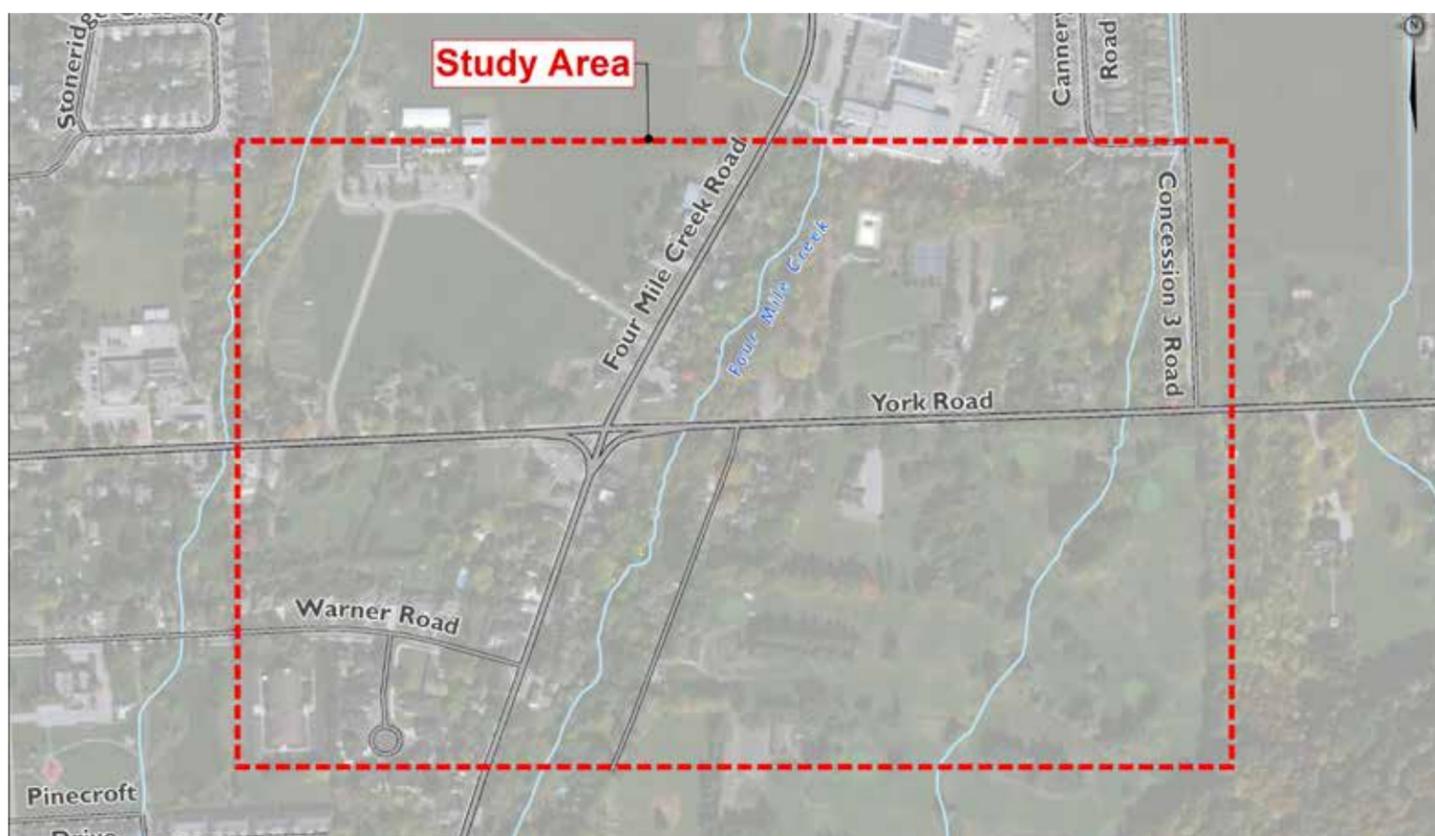
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Virtual Public Information Centre #2 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment York Road and Four Mile Creek Road Intersection Improvements, St. Davids, Ontario

Niagara Region is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to address and improve conditions for all modes of transportation at the intersection of Regional Road 81 (York Road) and Regional Road 100 (Four Mile Creek Road), St. Davids. Public Information Centre #1 was held on March 25, to introduce the study. A summary report documenting the comments received from Public Information Centre #1 and the study team's responses are provided on the project webpage: niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-100



The second Public Information Centre will be held in an online format on **June 23, 2021 from 6 - 8 p.m.** As part of this event, the study team will deliver an online presentation at 6 p.m. followed by a Q&A. The purpose of this Public Information Centre is to share information about the study, the evaluation of alternative solutions, and the preferred solution.

Information about the online Public Information Centre #2 will be available on the project webpage by **June 23, 2021**, and comments are welcome through one of the project managers, until **July 7, 2021**.

If you would like to receive future notices via email, or have any questions or comments, please contact one of the project managers identified below:

Maged Elmadhoon, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Manager, Transportation Planning
Regional Municipality of Niagara
905-980-6000, ext. 3583
maged.elmadhoon@niagararegion.ca

Phil Weber, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Senior Project Manager
CIMA+
905-695-1005, ext. 6732
phil.weber@cima.ca

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)**. The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

This notice was first issued on June 9, 2021

Strawberry Festival **cancelled** again, others in limbo

Brittney Cutler
Special to The Lake Report



Strawberry crepes are usually a popular festival item. FILE

With summer approaching quickly, Niagara-on-the-Lake's annual fruit festivals are facing tough decisions on whether to hold out for a chance to open or to cancel for another year.

The first festival of the season, the Strawberry Festival put on by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, will not be happening this year. And July's Cherry Festival is on hold as organizers hope to stage a modified event later in the year.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce says it's too early to know whether August's Peach Festival will go ahead.

Julie Hunter, co-ordinator of the Strawberry Festival, said it's just not an op-

tion this year, despite the increase in vaccinations.

"According to the government regulations, we need to be in compliance with what their rulings are and since we have not heard anything about festivals being allowed, we are not going to go ahead with it, but in hopes of maybe next year we'll regenerate the festival again in some shape or form," Hunter said.

Hunter is upset about the festival being shut down for another year after being cancelled last year. How-

ever, she said she is hopeful to start planning next February for the festival to be held in June 2022.

Normally, the Strawberry Festival kicks off the summer and offers a wide variety of foods, including strawberry jams, crepes, shortcakes, tarts and pies as well as refreshments such as strawberry smoothies and yogurt. There also is a barbecue, plant sale, book sale, and, of course, lots of fresh strawberries.

An estimated 3,000 people attend each year and

it is popular with locals and visitors.

"We seem to draw tourism coming in, on Hwy. 55, they see our signs with the event going on that day. We also have buses planning their trips well in advance for seniors and bringing them in from as far as Oshawa, Kingston and Peterborough," Hunter said.

The money raised helps with maintenance of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. It's a historical building and it takes a lot to keep it in good shape, Hunter noted.

The co-ordinators of the strawberry festival usually start planning around February, but COVID interrupted their schedule.

The Grace United Church book sale, organized by John Sayers as part of the

Festival Market, is another town favourite. However, because of COVID restrictions, it's hard to tell if the fair will be held this year.

The book sale features thousands of books including fiction, history, biography, arts and many more at low prices. There are also jams, marmalades and different produce at the sale.

"It's our intent to have a book sale on Labour Day weekend as part of the Festival Market at Grace United," said Sayers.

"COVID may dictate that we can't do it, in which case we will have an awful lot of books to read."

Marnie Taylor, Sayers' partner on organizing the book sale, said she keeps the books in her garage, but because there was no

sale last year, her garage is getting quite full.

"We have two years worth of donations, most of them are in my garage. We have thousands of books," she said.

"The garage was getting so full for the winter, I had trouble parking my car so I had to park my car in the driveway and make more room for sorting."

Taylor said she hopes COVID restrictions will be lifted and the sale can go on – and her garage can get cleaned out.

"It's like any other festival. The Cherry Festival, the Peach Festival, the Strawberry Festival and our festival is part of the fabric of the town and it's too bad we can't do those things, but everybody understands that, I think," she said.

TV series shooting at Chateau des Charmes

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Paul Bosc doesn't try to disguise his delight as he surveys the hive of activity all around him.

A film crew is busy transforming Chateau des Charmes into a family mansion in the Napa countryside for the new TV series "Kings of Napa."

The series, shooting at the Niagara-on-the-Lake winery all this week, follows the power struggle among three siblings in an African-American family of great wealth and status.

The King siblings are jostling to gain control of the successful family vineyard, after the patriarch's sudden departure from the company. It's a Warner Brothers production and will air on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) in early 2022.

"In a case like this, the bigger the production the better the compensation," explains Bosc, president and CEO of Chateau des Charmes. "Because of the pandemic, and two summer seasons now affected, I needed the money."

For Bosc, the timing couldn't have been better. "A revenue source at a time like this when you need the



Paul Bosc, president of Chateau des Charmes. A Warner Bros. TV series for the Oprah Winfrey Network is shooting at Chateau des Charmes all this week. DON REYNOLDS

money, it's a win-win, it's great for us and our employees," he said.

For the winery, which was founded by Paul Bosc Sr. 43 years ago, being chosen as the location for this series says, "We're still cool! It's a sense of rediscovery, a big stamp of approval for us."

And the benefits extend beyond the grounds of the winery. Bosc points out this is a feel-good moment for the community and shines a spotlight on Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The process to select a property for the production started back in the winter.

Martin Lindqvist, the winery's director of hospitality recalls, "Bryn Garrison, the location manager, knocked on our door, and I

took him on a tour. He was taking pictures, trying to imagine how it would look in the summer."

Chateau des Charmes wasn't the only winery Garrison looked at; he scouted many different locations before a decision was made.

"It was a lengthy process, with a lot of back and forth," said Lindqvist.

"The Chateau has a certain grandeur to it. It almost says royalty," Bosc said, as one reason it was chosen. Plus, it's surrounded by vineyards and offers practical advantages such as space for all the vehicles and equipment needed for a major production.

Warner Brothers declined a request for any interviews about the production until closer to the broadcast date.

Bosc has hopes for benefits well beyond this one week of shooting at the winery.

"This series to me feels like a reboot of series in the '80s and '90s, like 'Dallas' and 'Falconcrest,' where the iconic buildings became characters themselves. Southfork in 'Dallas,' people seek it out. It's still there today and it has weddings and events every day," he says.

"Our Chateau could become that kind of character and draw people here, too."

"Longer term, we hope for success for the series and a few seasons." For now, the shooting will wrap on Friday, June 11, with a return visit planned for sometime in August.



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Indigenous kids were taught to feel ‘inferior’ from young age

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Indigenous children were taught from a young age that they were inferior and they should adopt “the white man’s way,” says a Niagara-on-the-Lake woman who grew up in the Northwest Territories.

Veronica Puskas attended a residential school from 1971 to 1975, but it was government-run, with no religious affiliation and she says she didn’t endure the kind of horrific abuse that other children suffered at scores of similar institutions across Canada.

Though while attending Akaitcho Hall for Grades 9 to 12, Puskas said she was wholly cut off from her Inuit culture, the aggressive assimilation experienced by earlier Inuit was worse than what she experienced.

However, the brunt of the government’s attempts at assimilation started much earlier in her life, at the Rankin Inlet Federal Day School, she said.

“We were taught that our culture was not good enough. I grew up thinking that, and I’m going to have to say it, that the white man’s way was better.”

On Sunday, June 6, a moment of silence was held at Simcoe Park in NOTL in memory of 215 dead Indigenous children whose bodies were found in a mass grave in Kamloops, B.C.

Puskas was on hand to honour the memory of those children and talk about her own experience as a residential school survivor.

“My parents were given the option of where I should



Veronica Puskas stands for a moment of silence in Simcoe Park on Sunday. RICHARD HARLEY

go. And that ended up being the best thing for me because (Akaitcho Hall) was well-run,” Puskas told The Lake Report.

The school was operated by a husband and wife, she said. “We think well of them, still.”

That sentiment was echoed by former Nunavut MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell, who attended Akaitcho Hall from 1972 to 1974.

“It’s not like what you’re hearing about all the residential school issues today,” Karetak-Lindell told the Nunatsiq News in 2001.

While Puskas felt Akaitcho Hall was better than many of the other residential schools in Canada, the government’s goal of cultural genocide by cutting Indigenous youth off from their history was still prevalent.

“We were still transitioning from our culture. We were never taught any of our culture,” Puskas said.

Being taught to look

down on her Indigenous culture has left her with trauma she is still resolving, 60 years on.

“I did lose that emotional connection, especially with my mom. I saw it between her and her youngest. Because I didn’t get to, when I was that age, learn how to make parkas or boots,” Puskas said as she began to cry.

Puskas mother was “unilingual. Some of her friends were able to go to school and she was told not to,” she said.

Puskas on the other hand was educated nearly her whole childhood in federal day school and at the residential school.

“I think there was a little bit of resentment there,” Puskas said, sobbing.

“I’m still working on it. I’m getting there.”

She said she had a realization one day when speaking with an Indigenous friend who needed to see an ear specialist in Toronto for

abuse she suffered while in residential school.

“She said to me, ‘You know, these white men, they are good at everything.’ And I said, ‘No, no. We were very good at everything. We were able to survive for thousands of years without them.’” Puskas said.

“If you tried to live in our climate, in our culture, you wouldn’t survive,” she noted.

She pointed to the ill-fated expedition of Sir John Franklin and a group of British explorers in the 1840s. The whole expedition of 129 men perished where the Inuit have long thrived.

“There are some stories where Inuit met them and tried to give them food. They were offered help, but they didn’t want it.”

She was raised Catholic but saw in the church something that drove her away from the powerful institution and toward the Anglican church.

“We always knew we wanted to retire here, so we bought a house back in 2003,” she said.

Puskas worked most of her life in finance and accounting for the government of the Northwest Territories. She now does work with the Niagara Worship Centre’s Celebrate Recovery program.

The program helps people dealing with any number of issues, from addiction to depression.

“I’ll be five years sober now this coming August. And I, in turn, help others,” Puskas said.

She spoke about meeting Indigenous girls who had been to other residential schools and of the trauma they suffered.

“There were two sisters. They were taken away from their homes, four or five years old, and taught to hate their parents,” Puskas said.

“And they didn’t have that emotional connection with their parents any more. Especially with their dad. They were traumatized. So much so that one became agoraphobic (fearing crowds), and the other never married. Never.”

Although residential schools are now closed in Canada, the damage they inflicted on Indigenous people and culture remains.

“It’s intergenerational trauma. Let’s just say what dad went through, he directed that anger at his kids. And that’s just really sad,” Puskas said.

“This one guy I know is close to 50. His parents were very harsh. He’s still struggling,” she said.

“There’s a lot of anger.”

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Mike Shatkosky
Owner



2:15 gathering honours Indigenous children

About 20 people attended a short moment of silence at Simcoe Park on Sunday, to honour the 215 Indigenous children whose remains were found at a residential school in Kamloops, B.C. RICHARD HARLEY

Brock's Monument offers virtual talks for season

Staff
The Lake Report

Thanks to a grant from the Young Canada Work's program, Friends of Fort George has been able to hire two heritage interpreters to host virtual talks regarding the War of 1812, the Battle of Queenston Heights and a history of Brock's Monument.

The talks last 30 minutes and are adaptable for all age groups.

The cost is \$2 per per-

son for a minimum of 10 people per session. Presentations can be booked online or by emailing admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca or calling 905-468-6621.

The Friends of Fort George also will hold a draw to give free programming to three classrooms.

Interested teachers can enter their class by emailing their name, school, class grade and age of students to admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca. The deadline to enter is June 16.



Scott Finlay, portraying Sir Isaac Brock, is pictured near Brock's Monument. FILE PHOTO/SUPPLIED

Fort George fundraising to support six summer jobs

Staff
The Lake Report

The Friends of Fort George is hiring six summer employees this year thanks to a partial federal grant, but needs to raise an additional \$17,000 to help pay for the positions.

Before the pandemic the non-profit hired anywhere from 15 to 20 summer workers but could only afford four last year. With community help the organization hopes to cover the costs of six new positions this year.

Donations made through

the Canada Helps Great Canadian Giving Challenge will enter the organization in a draw to win an additional \$20,000. Every dollar donated is a chance for the organization to win.

"A colleague informed me offhand that 'This will be the best job I'll

ever have.' He could not have been more correct," former Fort George employee Craig Burney said in a Friends of Fort George news release.

Donations can be made at <http://www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca/donate/index.html>

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Answer: A secret

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margaret Garaughty, Bill Hamilton, Wade Durling, Pam Dowling, Maria Janeiro, Robert Wilms, Sadie Willms, Janice Taylor, Sheila Meloche, Chris Van de Laar, Tee Bucci

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

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Proud winners of NOTL's Choice Awards 2020



NOTL men's golf champ leads field with **2-under 34**

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Reigning NOTL Golf Club men's champion James Grigjanis-Meusel dominated the men's league leaderboard for the second week in a row on June 3, carding a 2-under 34 and scooping almost \$100 in gross skins.

Grigjanis-Meusel tied Glenn Young and Bill Baitinger for second with 20 points under the modified Stableford scoring system. Lefty John Sobil led the field with 21 points.

The men's champ had birdies on holes 2, 3 and 6 to grab \$32 skins for each. Ted Carmichael added a skin with a birdie on the eighth.

Net skins, worth \$66 each went to Stu Young (#1), Baitinger (#3) and Jim Ricci (#6).

Closest to the pin winners

were senior men's champ Jim McMacken (#4) and Randy McCartney (#9).

Women's League:

Two foursomes tied for first place in the 9 Hole Women's League opening scramble.

The team of Judy Cardiff, Margot Hickson, Ruth Dowsett and Carole Matheson shot a 4-over 40 as did Cheryl Yamamoto, Lyn Sanders, Helen McCallum and Bonnie Lamourie.

It was close all the way as two other groups were right behind the winners. They consisted of Deborah Williams, Suzanne Watson and Rita Trudeau, along with Maureen Dickson, Chris Walker, Jo Castledine and Wilca Lay.

In week 2 play on June 1, low net winners were Suzanne Watson and Barb Werner, with Penny Bannister one shot behind.



Men's champ James Grigjanis-Meusel has been in fine form the first two weeks of this season. FILE/KEVIN MACLEAN

Ross' Ramblings: A **perfect ending** to a summery Sunday afternoon

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

'Twas a warm Sunday afternoon and I spent two hours at one of my happy places, where three trails meet along the Niagara Parkway recreational trail, near the wee parking lot at the east end of John Street.

I was right by the river, so my cellphone was cutting out. I put it in my pocket. Ah, relax ...

Late in the afternoon, about 5 p.m., and the shadows from the trees were getting longer. Cyclists were hustling along the trail, finishing their healthy days in the fresh air.

Every picnic table and barbecue was occupied. Families were loving each other and the peaceful vibes gently encouraged me to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in Niagara.

Like the Niagara River: so much water continuing its flow from the upper lakes to Lake Ontario, then along the St. Lawrence River, almost a thousand kilometres to the Atlantic Ocean.

The visitors, mostly folks from Canada's vibrant South Asian communities, several intergenerational



Ben Hoang and his family fly kites in Queen's Royal Park on Sunday. RICHARD HARLEY

families. Grandparents sitting peacefully in lawn chairs, effulgent clothing, being taken care of by children and grandchildren.

Younger kids playing tag or badminton, volleyball or soccer. Two dads manning the barbecues, open flames, cooking tasty foods with their traditional recipes. The smoky smells treated me to a sensory

olfactory trip to India. And they were all so obviously comfortable in their home country, Canada.

This is their culture, taking time for family gatherings. We should learn from them. Love. Slow down. Be gracious and kind. Everyone at peace.

All Canadians are better people because of this melange. Viva our country

of immigration. It's been this way for centuries, and it continues.

Every few minutes, the silence was broken by the macho roar of muscle cars along the Parkway past Paradise Grove. Then, the throaty roar of open-pipe motorcycles, at one point more than 30 easy riders in a leathery convoy. Fairly deafening. None of the pic-

nic people seemed to notice the noise.

Later at Simcoe Park, I was drawn to a dad loading two colourful and small bicycles onto the back of his SUV. I chatted with the dad, Ajay Kukreja from Mississauga.

Along with family and friends, they visit NOTL often. They always feel good vibes and "the bike trails

and parks are the best." He was very personable, so I felt comfortable asking him if he had any suggestions to make Niagara-on-the-Lake even more visitor friendly.

He pondered, smiled, and said, "In another week or two, it will be so crowded with tourists." We looked at each other, laughed, and I said, "Ajay, that is a memorable and honest thought. A tourist saying there will be too many tourists."

Ajay and his uncle had noticed the spelling of Mississauga Road coming into town. So had former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion when she came here in January 2018 to watch her friend Betty Disero be sworn in as NOTL's first female lord mayor.

The Kukreja family love Ryerson Park, so we agreed to meet there later for sunset. I drove back to my Parkway trail happy place to look for my forgotten Montreal Expos cap.

Straggling cyclists and walkers were heading home. The park, picnic tables and empty parking lot were all neat and tidy. The Niagara Parks Commission trash bins were full. Soon to be emptied.

Perfect peace.

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Jolanta Jannt Kudlays and her husband Howard look forward to reopening their B&B. BERNARD LANSBERGEN

Now that more and more people are getting vaccinated and there is finally a clear pathway out of this pandemic, we will periodically check in with different Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to see how COVID-19 has affected their lives – and what their hopes and dreams are for when things return to normal.

After the Pandemic

Reopening their bed and breakfast

Bernard Lansbergen
The Lake Report

Jolanta Janny Kudlays says the one thing she has missed most during the pandemic is the yearly sun vacation she takes during the winter months with her husband Howard.

“We are not snowbirds, because I like winter,” says Kudlays, “but we always take a couple of weeks somewhere, (the) Caribbean, Florida, California, or Arizona,” noting they have

friends everywhere.

Kudlays and her husband own a bed and breakfast, Historic Lyons House, in Old Town, but when the pandemic first hit they were forced to temporarily close down.

“At the beginning it was (a) shock, because the pandemic was happening and they closed the border,” says Kudlays, “What are we going to do, we cannot operate (a) bed and breakfast,’ but then we said, ‘This is not bad. We

have a break,’ and we have enjoyed that break.”

Kudlays and her husband started the bed and breakfast 19 years ago.

“We just felt that it was time to retire and try a bed and breakfast. We both like hospitality, we both love to cook and entertain and so we tried. That was a five-year plan and after five years we extended the plan for five more years, and after 10 years we said, ‘Let’s just forget the plan.’ ”

It’s this same mentality

Kudlays says has gotten her through the pandemic.

“Why make plans (any more)? You make plans and tomorrow they’re up in the air, so just go with the flow.”

Still, Kudlays dreams of the days she and Howard can welcome guests, and most of all their American friends, once again.

“I’d like to see them, I’d like to go to the Shaw with them to talk about the performances and sit in the garden and drink some rosé. That would be nice.”

Kendall’s Corner



Vibrant orchards under storm clouds. GAIL KENDALL



The sun sets over the clock tower GAIL KENDALL

Going Green: Tips to reduce trash and increase recycling

Robin Jinchereau
Special to The Lake Report

The Region of Niagara estimated in 2020 residents recycled about 56 per cent of our garbage waste. This was the motivation to move to every other week garbage collection for residents.

Catherine Habermehl, Niagara’s director of waste management, says green bin usage increased in 2021 and the net result is 34 per cent more waste went into green bins and garbage bag waste fell 16 per cent.

With a little effort we could improve this further.

Here are some tips for you to consider.

Reduce your consumption of single-use plastics. Instead of always buying a one-litre bottle of window cleaner with an aerosol



Robin Jinchereau says these are some of the plastics that can be recycled in Niagara. Put them in your grey bin. GLORIA JINCHEREAU/SUPPLIED

pump, consider instead buying a four-litre bottle and refilling your smaller container.

Once the large bottle is empty it can go into your blue bin. This will save you money and help your environment. Of course, it goes without saying that all cans, bottles, glass jars

and plastic items should go in your blue bin.

Did you know you could also put in clamshells such as sushi trays, vegetable and salad trays, detergent bottles, aluminum trays, aluminum foil, cookie tins and empty paint cans with the lid off?

If you need more infor-

mation, go to niagararegion.ca to see if the item can go into your blue bin.

The grey bin is used for all paper and cardboard items. There is, however, one other type of item that you may not be aware can go in the grey bin: soft plastic bags and over wraps, the thick plastic that the pop cans are wrapped in when purchased.

In a clear bag, put things such as plastic wrap, bread bags, plastic bags, dry cleaning bags, outer wrap such as the ones used for paper towels, toilet paper and pop cans, and produce bags. If you’re unsure whether a type of plastic bag can be put in the grey bin, go to niagararegion.ca and have a look.

All of your kitchen

scraps can go in the green bin, including bones, fats and skins – even bacon grease. You can also put in plant waste material, such as leaves or small weeds.

I keep all of my fat, bones and skin in a bag in the freezer and only place them in the green bin the night before collection.

Your dog’s waste can also go in the green bin, but the region says it must be wrapped in newspaper or placed in a certified compostable plastic bag.

If you have unwanted medicines, such as birth control pills, high blood pressure pills or even analgesics, recycle them with your local pharmacist.

Under no circumstances should you flush them down the toilet or put them in your garbage. This is

far too dangerous for the environment.

If you have compact discs, digital video discs, batteries, phones, electronic cables, holiday lights and other small electronics, drop them off for safe recycling at the regional depot at 5030 Montrose Rd. in Niagara Falls. Before you drop off, call 905-980-6000 to make sure the depot is open.

I hope this will help you reduce your waste, increase your recycling and help the planet.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Robin Jinchereau has degrees in human biology and business administration. He is retired from a long career in the pharmaceuticals industry and has been fascinated for the last 45 years about how to reduce waste.



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After tough year, wineries get ready to reopen, again

Bernard Lansbergen
The Lake Report

Now that the province has allowed patios to reopen on Friday, wineries are finally able to set up their outdoor tasting spaces, a welcome reprieve after a difficult year of restrictions and uncertainty.

“Luckily for us, alcohol was determined an essential service. If it wasn’t for that we would have been in extremely big trouble,” says Jamie Slingerland, director of viticulture at Pillitteri Estates Winery in Virgil.

Most of the wineries in Niagara-on-the-Lake depend on tourism for a major portion of their sales revenue. When the pandemic broke out and everything went into lockdown, a lot of wineries had to reconsider key aspects of their business.

Greg Wertsch, owner of Between the Lines Winery on Four Mile Creek Road, says he managed to hold on to his retail staff by switching them over to the production department.

“They were helping out doing winemaking (and) harvesting vineyards,” said Wertsch.



Jane Langdon (right), owner of Strewn Winery, sets up the patio together with hospitality team member Mary Ann Grice. BERNARD LANSBERGEN

“It was quite an eyeopener for a lot of the retail staff to see what goes on behind the scenes and how tough vineyard work can actually be.”

He said he hopes the experience will have given his retail staff newfound knowledge they will be able to apply when interacting with guests.

Some wineries took the

opportunity to completely rethink their business model.

Says Slingerland: “The internet has become a major sales venue for wines so we invested very heavily into social media. We put these specials on and we started going from five to 10 cases a week up to 100 and 200 cases a week.”

Jane Langdon, owner of

Strewn Winery, credits a visit to the Napa Valley in California, right before COVID-19 hit, as a pivotal moment that helped her reimagine what Strewn might look like during a pandemic.

“We began focusing on (the) outdoors, (which was) a totally new perspective for us. We kind of reimagined the Napa Valley (and)

Sonoma Valley experience as it would be appropriate in Niagara.”

Strewn put in a patio right at the start of the first lockdown. “We turned it into a 45-minute seated (specialized) tasting,” said Langdon. “My goodness, it was so popular.”

Pillitteri Estates Winery pivoted by opening an outdoor wood-fired pizza restaurant called Barrel-Head.

The plan for the pizzeria had been long gestating but became a reality because of the pandemic.

“Through our social media advertising what we really found was that 80 per cent (of the people) were coming down from Toronto,” says Slingerland. “They were coming down for the day and they were looking to have food.”

Wertsch said he thinks it’s this influx of people from the GTA that helped keep his business going.

“One of the biggest positives, I think, is that we’ve actually managed to convince a lot of people out of the GTA to come down and they were blown away by what was available.”

At Strewn Winery,

the average age of visitors dropped by 30 years, which Langdon credits to younger people feeling safer going out and having fun, noting it was “a wonderful opportunity to connect with your customer of the future.”

So in a way the pandemic has brought change and renewal to some wineries in the region.

“There’s two expressions that we say,” said Langdon. “Last year was a time of unprecedented change’ and ‘We all learned to pivot.’ I don’t think that ability to make decisions faster and changes quicker is going to go away. We learned because we had to learn.”

As for the reopening of the patios, Slingerland is excited to welcome people at the winery and pizzeria once again.

“We’re going full-steam ahead. We got our manpower in place, we are ready to go.”

Wertsch is hopeful it’s going to be a good season. “If the fall and early winter aren’t too terrible, I think we’re going to be busy all the way to January, for sure.”



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Concession 6 bridge is **deadly crossing** spot for painted turtles

Kyra Simone
The Lake Report

When Dan Plomish pulled over to help a female turtle across Concession 6, he found nine more adult turtles dead on the pavement, crushed by vehicles.

The unfortunate victims of road collisions were mostly female painted turtles, which were likely trying to access nesting sites.

These turtles may be active and preparing to lay their eggs until mid-July. They often display site fidelity, which means they return year-after-year to almost the exact same spot to give birth.

Plomish stopped at the old railway bridge on Concession 6 near Niagara Falls. When he posted about the turtles on the NOTL 4 All Facebook group, it sparked an overwhelming response.

The post of the shocking find received almost 100 comments and was shared 60 times. Many town



Left: Dead turtles on the Concession 6 Road bridge. Middle: A baby turtle beside a toonie. Right: Max Plomish with a baby turtle. DAN PLOMISH PHOTOS



residents chimed in with disbelief and sorrow at the grim sight.

Facebook poster Michelle Paul said she also spotted several turtles at the same location and pulled over to help them safely across.

"I picked up the one turtle and brought it to the ditch. I was walking up the shoulder of the bridge to get the second one, which was near the centre median."

To her dismay, "I watched a man in a white work van

look at the turtle, look at me and keep on driving. He saw the turtle and made no attempt to go around. There was no oncoming traffic," she said.

"He also seemed to be going faster than 60 (km/h). It made me very angry," she said.

Both Paul and Plomish noticed several of the crushed turtles were on the shoulder of the road. It looked as if "someone went out of their way to do that," she said.

Female painted turtles take up to 15 years to reach maturity before they can lay eggs. Large mortality events like this can set populations back substantially when many members of a generation are lost all at once.

In fact, so many painted turtles are killed by road vehicles that they are now considered a "species of special concern" in Canada. Sometimes, the turtles bask in warm areas or attempt to nest in the gravel on road shoulders.

After reading Plomish's post, members of the town's environmental advisory committee brought the matter to the attention of town staff and chief administrator Marnie Cluckie.

In the coming weeks, The Lake Report's "Keeping It Green" column will provide updates on mitigation measures to be implemented at the site, as well as practical tips for turtle rescues.

Plomish hopes the information he shared will make

a difference. "I'm so happy this Facebook post brought it to so many people's attention and hopefully some good comes out of all this."

He urges everyone to keep a close eye out and brake for wildlife on roads. "It takes no time to slow down and take five minutes out of your day to do the right thing."

Environmental columnist Kyra Simone writes the Keeping it Green column for The Lake Report.



Gypsy moth population booming

Continued from Front Page

detect, but helps protect them from heat and hungry birds.

Gypsy moth caterpillars change into pupae in mid-July. They undergo metamorphosis in hairy, reddish-brown cocoons and emerge as adult moths in one or two weeks.

Female moths, which can't fly, are white and larger than males. They lay tawny brown egg masses on tree bark in late summer.

A Formidable Army: A group of caterpillars is called an "army" and gypsy moth caterpillars certainly fit the bill.

Large outbreaks occur every seven to 10 years, but Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry predicts that this year, the caterpillars could remove 75 per cent of leaves from infested trees.

Diseases and predators keep gypsy moth numbers in check. However, the fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga* that naturally reduces moth populations thrives in cool conditions.



Last year's cocoons (left). Young gypsy moth caterpillars (centre) and an egg mass (right) from spring 2021. KYRA SIMONE

Similarly, gypsy moth eggs are killed off by extended winter cold periods. Climate warming is likely making these natural mitigation measures less effective against the invasive species.

While leaf damage by caterpillars does not always kill trees outright, it makes them more likely to succumb to other pests or heat stress.

In such a bumper year for gypsy moths, taking individual action reduces damage and limits future infestations.

Wrapping burlap around tree trunks traps caterpillars that shelter during the day. At night, they can be

dealt with by soaking the burlap with soapy water.

Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk) bacterium can also be used before caterpillars pupate. This spray treatment is available locally from Home Hardware, Minor Brothers and other hardware stores, and should be applied in the evening since it breaks down in sunlight.

Because Btk is toxic to butterflies and moths, it should only be applied to leaves affected by gypsy moth caterpillars. Avoid spraying nearby flowering plants, but the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority notes that many species, including

monarchs, are unaffected because these caterpillars hatch later in the year.

In June and July, keep an eye out for cocoons and destroy them. This fall and winter, we can also turn hikes into scavenger hunts by scraping gypsy moth eggs off trees.

Minor Brothers also carries pheromone traps for adult moths that can be deployed later this summer.

Kyra Simone is a NOTL-born nature lover with a master's degree in biology. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up garbage, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.



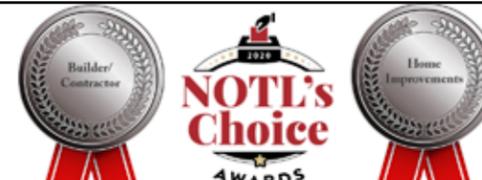
Barb Warren found this turtle in her backyard and snapped a pic for the paper. SUPPLIED



Tara Rosling and her daughter Eliana raised \$1,500 for victims of residential schools on Sunday. SUPPLIED



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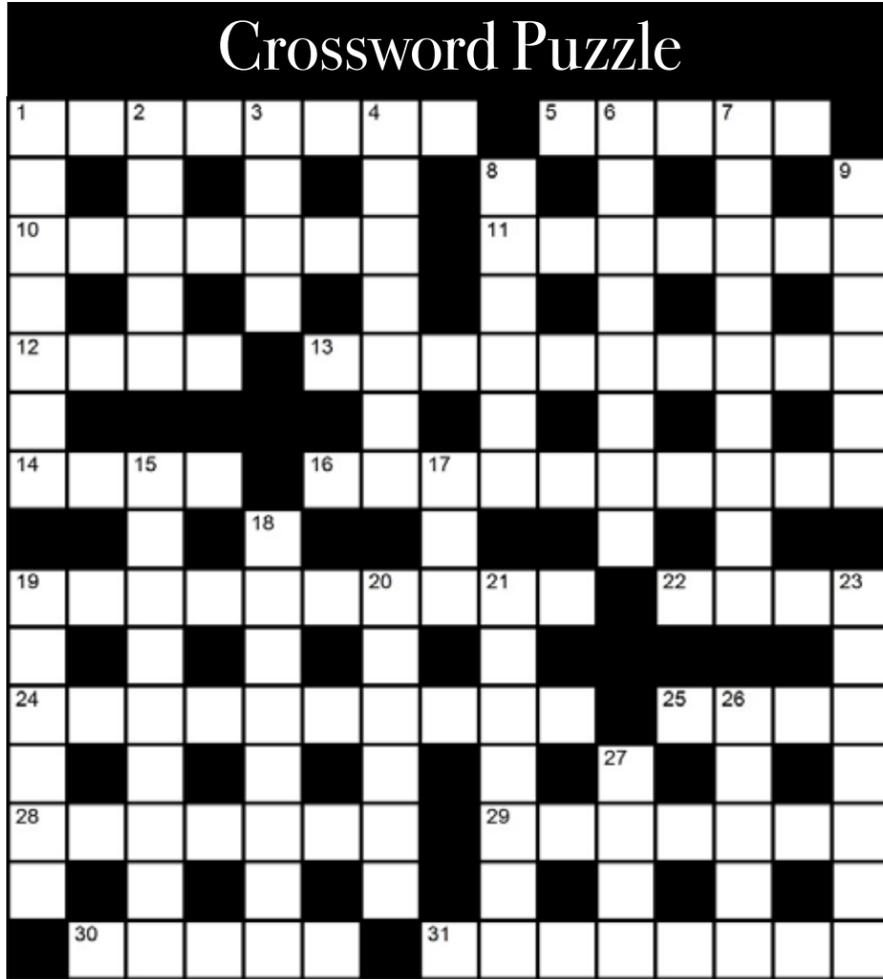
Have some fun

Across

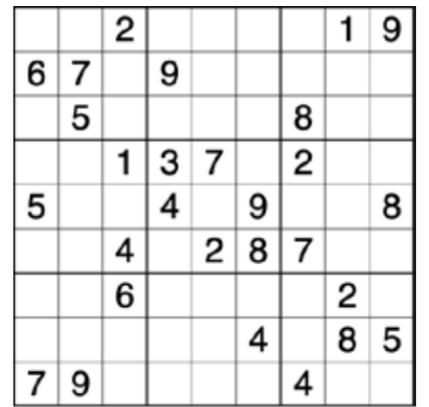
- 1. Beautiful (8)
- 5. Moves through water (5)
- 10. Unconventional (7)
- 11. Pilot (7)
- 12. Pollen gatherers (4)
- 13. When the living is easy (10)
- 14. Otherwise (4)
- 16. Artificial sparkler (10)
- 19. Corridor (10)
- 22. Yorkshireman (4)
- 24. Preceding wedlock (10)
- 25. Precious stones (4)
- 28. Shining (7)
- 29. Hollowed inward (7)
- 30. Bovine mammary gland (5)
- 31. Austrian Alpine resident (8)

Down

- 1. Farewell (7)
- 2. Plunder (5)
- 3. Paradise (4)
- 4. Lie (7)
- 6. Restaurant worker (8)
- 7. Marriage (9)
- 8. Opera by Bizet (6)
- 9. Current of air (6)
- 15. Pendent (9)
- 17. Large island in the Channel (1,1,1)
- 18. Computer information store (8)
- 19. Thin and translucent (6)
- 20. Expels (6)
- 21. Disorder (7)
- 23. Oriental (7)
- 26. Fill with high spirits (5)
- 27. Untie (4)



Last issue's answers



 EXTRA SPICY

Willow's Canada Day **cupcakes** are back

Staff
The Lake Report

Canada day Cupcakes return to Niagara-on-the-Lake for another July 1 celebration.

The Friends of Fort George are selling their Canada Day packages again this year.

The packages include six Canada Day cupcakes, flags, pins, glow sticks, Parks Canada swag, balloons and more, Friends of Fort George said in a news release.

Cupcakes will be provided by Willow Cakes and Pastries with Parks Canada providing the swag.

The packages are \$35 and can be ordered at <https://friendsoffort-george.square.site> or by calling 905-468-6621.

The group says it sold 200 packages last year and encourages people to order soon as supplies will be limited. The deadline to order is June 25.

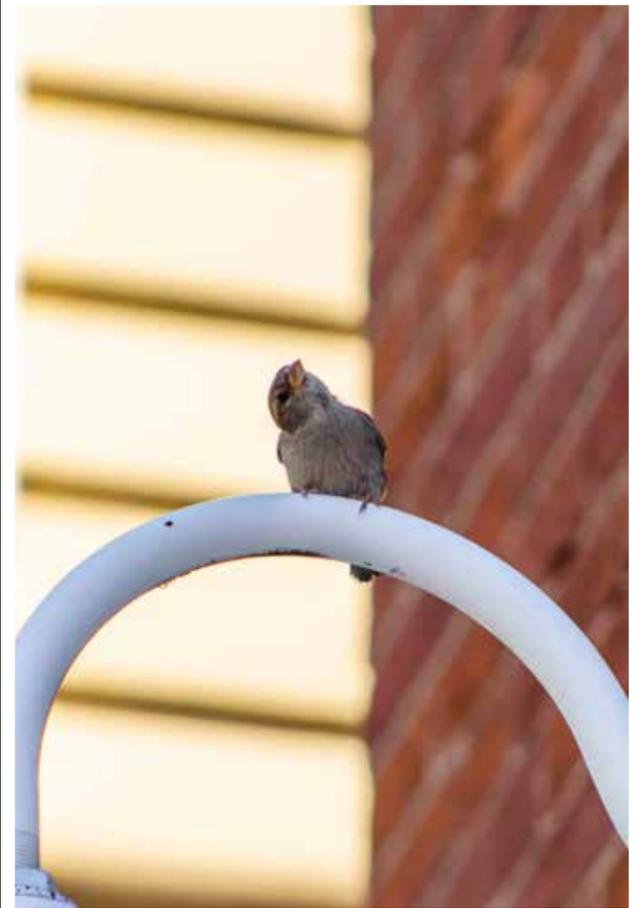
Packages can be picked up from the fort on June 30 or for a \$5 donation can be delivered within Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The group is also encouraging people to use the hashtag #CanadaDayNOTL to share how they are celebrating 154 years since Confederation.



FILE PHOTO

Bird is the word



This little bird was spotted watching patrons enter the LCBO on Sunday, giving them a quirky head tilt.

Smooth Sailing



Sunday's warm weather brought out boaters, bikers and barebecuers. RICHARD HARLEY



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'The Scream' depicts Indigenous tragedy

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

In the late 19th century, the Canadian government began a policy of aggressive assimilation of Indigenous peoples.

Prime Minister John A. Macdonald said, "Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thought of white men."

In the name of "education," more than 150,000 First Nation, Inuit and Métis children were forcibly taken from their homes, families and communities and placed in Indian residential schools to learn Christian values.

As young as five, they were subjected to disdain, brutal

beatings, rape, near starvation diets, lack of medical care, compassion or kindness. Forbidden to speak their native languages or see their families, they lived in fear, their spirits crushed.

I grew up in Saskatchewan where 15 per cent of the population is Indigenous. I was born and raised in Regina, originally Pile of Bones, named for the heaps of bison deliberately massacred in order to deny Indigenous people their major food source and a central focus of their way of life.

Summer holidays visiting the Qu'Appelle Valley with its reserve, chain of lakes and cottages, meant traveling through "the Fort" and a small hamlet called Lebreton where 14 stations of the cross erected up a hill led to a small chapel shrine with a splendid view of Mission Lake and the valley.



Kent Monkman, "The Scream," 2017, acrylic on canvas, Denver Art Museum. SUPPLIED

To me it was magical. To the children below the hill in the Lebreton Industrial Residential School, operated by the Roman Catholic Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Grey Nuns, it was horrific.

At the time, I knew nothing of this federally funded school, which was in existence from 1884 until 1973, when it was signed over to the First Nations by the then-minister of Indian affairs, Jean Chrétien.

By 1998 it was officially closed. Static diorama displays of Indigenous culture at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History and glimpses into teepees during hot August days of the annual exhibition didn't accord with the harsh reality in the back lanes off Railway Street in Regina.

This was the fallout of cultural genocide, a dichotomy familiar to Kent Monkman, the most important artist of our time in Canada and

fast gaining international recognition.

Monkman was born in 1965 in St. Marys, Ont., to an Anglo Canadian mother and a Cree father. He is a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation in Manitoba and is now based in Toronto and Prince Edward County.

His provocative paintings, films, videos, photography, performance and installations address Canadian history through subversive themes of colonization, sexu-

ality, loss and resilience.

"The Scream" is huge, 7 x 11 feet, in which young children are violently abducted from the hands of their screaming and resisting mothers by seven RCMP officers, two priests and two nuns.

One officer holds a rifle, another points to three fleeing pre-teens. A father lies motionless on the ground. These events were real, part of the so-called '60s Scoop.

In his work, Monkman reclaims and reinserts Indigenous voices into the collective memory of our country. At the core is his belief in the power of art to communicate narratives and histories.

Next week, I will look at two major paintings commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum in New York and now hanging in its Great Hall which challenge and reverse the colonial gaze.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for 10 years. She also was head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Watch for her upcoming lecture series at the Pump-house Arts Centre and at RiverBrink Art Museum.

Dr. Brown: Space is in us, between us and **all around us**

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

Try prodding yourself with your fingers – feels solid enough doesn't it – maybe a little too much here and there, but solid. You'll swear to it.

What if I told you that you weren't so solid – that most of you is empty space. Solidity may be the case for anything larger than molecules but not so much at the subatomic level. There's a lot of space between the nucleus and those orbiting electrons.

Physicists who enjoy baseball are fond of using a sport analogy to describe this space. Imagine the nucleus of an atom to be the size of a baseball located at home plate. If so, the nearest orbiting electrons would be outside the Blue Jays' stadium and that would be the innermost orbiting electrons, the others further out depending on their orbits.

Of course, it's not entirely empty space because the



WILLIAM BROWN PHOTO

forcefields from the nucleus and electrons extend into the intervening space between the nucleus and the orbiting electrons – but otherwise empty space. Scaled up to molecules, cells, tissues and organs, we're still mostly space.

What about the space around me? As I type this piece, I see the computer screen in front of me, my coffee jug to one side, clutter all over my desk and in my peripheral vision, my hands and the lights on both sides, but little else.

What I don't see is the intervening air which fills over 95 per cent of the room by volume. Only when sunbeams catch the light

in a certain way can I see the reflections off dancing bits and pieces of dust, days or perhaps months old, depending on how often and thoroughly I clean. That air is made up mostly of nitrogen (79 per cent), oxygen (20 per cent) and a menagerie of other bit-player gases.

Outdoors, I'm aware of the air around me by the movement of small branches if the wind is light or larger branches, or even tree trunks should a thunderstorm or cold front pass by.

Clouds are the other giveaway to the presence of air because they form when and wherever the temperature in the air reaches the saturation point (dew point) at which the water in the air condenses into water droplets, frost or ice.

On hot humid days, it isn't long before rising air on a sunny day creates bubbly clouds – what I call popcorn clouds – which by early afternoon often generate dark ominous towering cumulonimbus clouds.

Or perhaps on other days, flat clouds form in more stable air or fog when the air becomes saturated with water over the cool surface of a river or lake or inland in the early morning or evening in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

What about outer space? Is it empty? Far from it. Space is loaded with enormous clouds of hydrogen and lesser amounts of helium. Under the compressive gravitational effects of dark matter, those hydrogen clouds were shaped into increasingly dense swirls to eventually become stars and whole galaxies.

Once the force of compression raised the temperature of budding stars high enough to ignite nuclear fusion, those newborn stars literally lit up. Thereafter, in a series of nuclear fusions, called nucleosynthesis, increasingly heavier elements, up to iron, were forged.

But beyond iron, much higher temperatures are needed to create heavier

elements – temperatures reached only by exploding stars (supernovas). And in the case of the heaviest elements in the periodic table, yet higher temperatures are needed – the kind created by the collision of two neutron stars in what is called a kilonova.

In the wake of supernova and kilonova events, newly created elements scatter throughout the neighbourhood to be picked up by newly forming stars. In this way all the elements in the periodic table were and continue to be created, including carbon, oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen and sulphur – the ones essential to the creation of carbon-based life together with hydrogen that was created in the wake of the Big Bang.

Now for the interesting part. Interstellar space also includes a lot of carbon-based compounds such as CO, CH, HCOOH, H5CN, CN, C3S1, NH2CN and even six-carbon rings.

Admittedly those interstellar carbon compounds are simple and widely scattered, but even so, form a plausible basis for life's beginnings here and possibly many places in the trillion-galaxy universe we inhabit, even if the majority are well out of reach.

Much of the focus of solving the origins of life on Earth has focused on Earth with a side-glance to Mars and Mercury, and even the outer reaches of our own solar system, but the relatively abundant carbon-based chemicals in interstellar and intergalactic space suggest a more universal origin for life throughout the universe.

Looking beyond this pandemic, it's good to be reminded about creation in its largest dimension and realize that darkness isn't emptiness.

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.

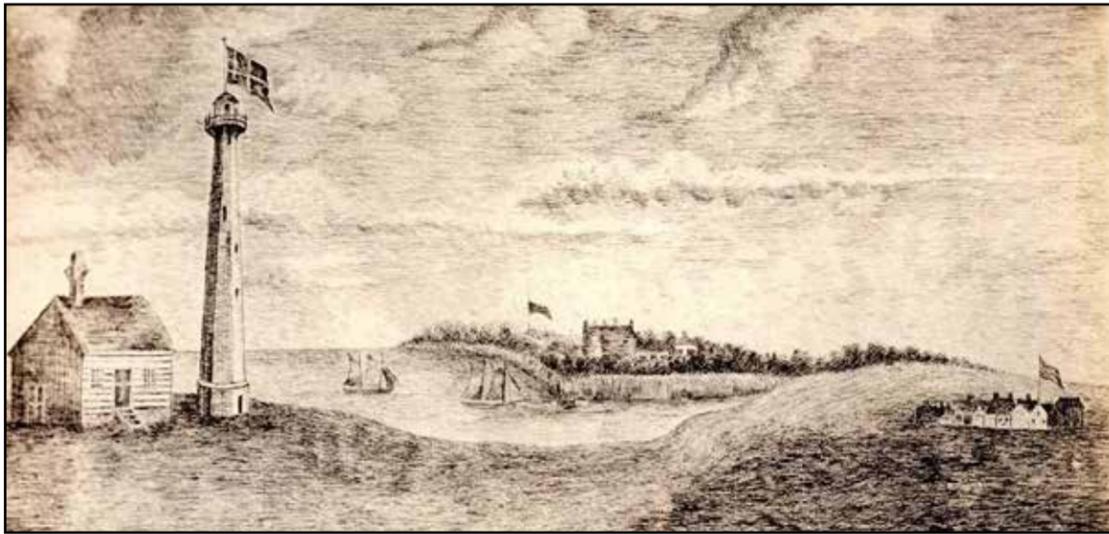


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First light on the lake

The first lighthouse on the Great Lakes was erected on Mississauga Point, in 1804, more than 200 years ago. The Assembly of Upper Canada, in its 1802-03 session, authorized the construction of three lighthouses on Lake Ontario. These were to be placed on Mississauga Point, at Gibraltar Point in Toronto harbour and on Isle Forest near Kingston. Lamps and oil were ordered from England. By the fall of 1803 at least one lamp arrived and was ordered to Niagara. Captain Nicholls was the engineer in charge of constructing the lighthouse. The instructions he received included the cautionary line that “it is not intended to go to any expense with respect to ornament for this building. You will principally consult utility and at the same time make it substantial.” Nicholls estimated it would cost £178 and he only exceeded this by £18. The lighthouse stood until the early months of 1814 when it was demolished to make room for the construction of Fort Mississauga. Some of the materials used in the construction of the fort came from the lighthouse.



Hostas can thrive in the shade. KEVIN MACLEAN

Gardening: Mix annuals, perennials to add colour

This is the third in a 10-week gardening column series, organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom committee.



Janet Ennamorato
Special to The Lake Report

The marriage of annuals and perennials makes for a gorgeous show all through the season. The effort involved in selection, placement and care is well worth it.

The quality of your soil is critical. Amending with fresh triple mix each year ensures a great start to the long-awaited warmer seasons and working in a slow-release fertilizer is a huge bonus to all the plants.

The perennial “base” you choose frames the space for annual fillers. It is best to consider hardy, reliable perennials to lower overall maintenance.

Below are some great annual/perennial combinations you’re going to love trying:

1. Sedum comes in many varieties: a spectacular low sedum “takes immense Atlantis” works really well with “Pink Diamond” petunia. Of course, sedum “Frosted Fire” and “Night Embers,” the showy upright varieties, perform beautifully from spring to fall with a chartreuse annual like *Nicotiana glauca* “Lime Green.”

2. Russian sage (especially the shorter varieties that stand firmly upright) and lavender “Sweet Romance” (with the deeper shades of purple) both thrive on neglect. Great annual companions would be “Rio”

portulaca for hot spots.

3. Rudbeckia are juglone tolerant and the “Irish Eyes” cultivar is a beautiful colour choice. What fun to combine this with salvia “Salsa Purple.”

4. Echinacea look gorgeous in the garden and work well in containers. Try “Yellow My Darling” with nemesia “Sunsatia Blood Orange” to provide dramatic accent.

5. Veronica is a long spike flowering perennial that brings movement into the garden. It is said that Veronica is host to lady bugs. “White wands” is a romantic, wispy white that honey bees love. Make magic with these ecologically supportive plants by combing them with *Nigella Love* in a Mist.

Here are a few shade-loving perennials for the framework:

1. Hostas, with an almost endless variety of sizes and texture of leaves, cause no fuss, as long as you proactively sprinkle the garden with bug and slug treatment. A spectacular hosta to check out is “Empires Wu” growing three to four inches tall and five to six inches wide. The annual companion to enhance Wedgewood hosta is begonia “John Smith.”

2. Heuchera “Lime Ricky” and coleus “Colour Blaze Golden Dreams” are solid choices.

3. Brunnera has a great leaf structure and in combination with *Hakonechloa macra aureola*. Again begonia provides an eye-popping colour and textural contrast.

With many more wonderful perennial combinations to consider, there’s no stopping us now.

Janet Ennamorato is a garden designer and member of the NOTL Horticultural Society. www.creativegarden-designs.ca/the-designer



Signalling Contemporary

Brian Marshall
Columnist



Contemporary with multiple roof expression. BRIAN MARSHALL

It’s post-war North America and the housing boom is in full swing.

Subdivisions of Victory Houses (minimal traditional) geared to the returning rank-and-file veterans are popping up like mushrooms.

For those who are more affluent, the Ranch bungalow is the mainstream choice, while here and there, a few brave monied souls continue to commission modernist International homes.

Still, there remains a fairly significant segment of the marketplace that wishes for Ranch functionality with a touch of modernist flair. And to satisfy this segment, the Contemporary style is developed.

porary style is developed.

Grounded in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Usonian houses and his treatises on an affordable house design that was closely linked to the landscape, Contemporary designs combined the indoor/outdoor transitions that the Ranch was duly famous for with striking lines that integrated the building into the surrounding landscape.

Perhaps one of the most instantly recognizable features of a Contemporary house were the roofs, which always worked to draw the viewer’s eye into the landscape.

The first mass-market offering to truly popularize the style were built

by developer and Wright aficionado Joseph Eichler in California. His houses featured what became referred to as an “Eichler roof”: a gable roof with long, low-pitched slopes that often extended on one side to cover a carport.

With interior vaulted ceilings, the front gable would commonly be glazed with pyramidal glass that rose from ground to eaves.

While this Contemporary presentation became almost synonymous with a style that is now generally referred to as Mid-Century modern, it was by no means the only presentation in this architectural expression. Flat, skillion and side-gable

roofs were common design features on Contemporary houses.

Keep in mind these houses were very often a single-storey or split-level form to minimize the challenge of integration with the surrounding terrain. A flat roof (a bit of a misnomer since the roof is only visually flat and actually slopes slightly from centre point to eaves) on a long, low building will tend to accentuate the horizontal lines of the house and “push it down” into the landscape.

A skillion is a mono-pitched surface with a single flat slope that doesn’t meet another sloped surface in a ridge. Think of a shed roof as a good example.

By combining two (or more) opposing skillions set at different heights, or two skillions that meet in a valley (butterfly roof), the designer can create a high degree of visual interest. Consider our photo showing a home with shed, butterfly and flat roofs working cohesively within its setting.



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May everyone feel the joy of this celebration of love and inclusivity! Cheers to our LGBTQIA+ Community! Love is Love is Love is Love.

As we transition into outdoor dining, we would like to thank everyone for supporting us during lockdown in your own way. Whether it was through takeout, social media or just giving us a friendly hello when you walk by. We appreciate you all and cannot thank you enough. We will still be able to provide for all of your take out needs. However, we will no longer be offering our takeout or delivery specials. Our chefs & staff have been hard at work putting together amazing dine in meals and experiences for you. We will now have new and exciting features for you to try and will be bringing back olde local favourites for the Grand Opening of our Newly Renovated English Beer Garden Friday June 11th.

Please accept this bonus ballot as a token of our gratitude for all of your support. Dine with us any time over our Grand Opening weekend and hand your filled out ballot to your server for your chance to win some really cool grand prizes! Cheers NOTL, we are beyond excited to see all of your lovely faces for dine in once again!

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