

**NOTL wineries win big at provincial competition**  
Story on Page 2

# The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 23

Niagara-on-the-Lake's first independent newspaper

June 13, 2019



Jessica Lattanzio, Candice Penny, NOTL Nursery School staff members with members of the preschool class. BRITTANY CARTER

## \$1.5M nursery school approved

### More than 80 children already on waiting list for future child care facility

Richard Harley  
Editor

Niagara-on-the-Lake is getting a new \$1.5 million nursery school — and the wait list already has more than 80 names on it.

Council approved construction of the new child care facility after a closed session Monday evening.

The 4,308-square-foot

facility will be added to the east side of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, adjacent to the public library. The main entrance will be on Anderson Lane.

The facility will include an infant playroom with a kitchenette and a separate sleeping area, a toddler playroom, a preschool playroom with adjacent washrooms and changing rooms, and a

school-aged room, as well as office and storage spaces.

The Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre now operates out of the Robertson Room at the community centre and can't accommodate infants or toddlers. The new space will have room for 10 infants, 15 toddlers, 24 preschoolers, and 20 school-aged children.

The costs for the construc-

tion will be shared by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Region and the Ministry of Education, through the Community-Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program grant.

The region provided \$200,00 and the province kicked in a grant of \$515,000 toward the building's cost. The town's \$165,869 contribution will

come from development charges, not tax revenues. The nursery school must also contribute \$100,000.

In addition, the town is issuing a 20-year debenture for \$551,961. The school's monthly rental payments will be equal to the town's costs for carrying the debenture.

The nursery school will be

*Continued on Page 2*



### First Garden of the Week winner unveiled

Page 11



### Pipe down the sun returns to Chautauqua

Page 20



### Scrambling for Scrabble: Competitive Scrabble player wants NOTL club

Page 16



Members of the 10th Battery 56 Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery. BRITTANY CARTER

## Polish Sunday celebrations

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Polish organizations filtered into NOTL from across Canada and the United States on Sunday to pay homage to the Polish Blue Army.

The volunteer soldiers, also referred to as Haller's Blue Army, are honoured on the second Sunday of June

each year.

The pilgrimage, which began over a century ago in 1917, took dignitaries, organization representatives and residents to the small cemetery where 24 volunteer soldiers are buried, behind St. Vincent de Paul Church in Old Town.

*Continued on Page 3*

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# Traffic lights on in Virgil

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Finally, the new traffic lights in Virgil are up and running.

The signals at the corner of Niagara Stone and Field roads started operating on Tuesday, June 11, after a protracted installation.

Martin Mazza, a former councillor and owner of Italian Pizza and Subs across near the intersection, had a front row seat and said he has been watching the construction unfold in front of his restaurant for about three months.

He expressed frustration over how much time it took to set up the lights and how much "waste" he saw with the project, he said.

It felt like Groundhog Day seeing what appeared to be the same work being done repeatedly, said Mazza, adding it took the Region of Niagara 96 days to complete the project.

"They would rip out the concrete, the curbs, pour them – couple of weeks later, they rip them up

again because it wasn't right," he said. "Four times they ripped those curbs out. Four times."

Mazza also questioned why the region didn't install the lights before the retail development on Niagara Stone Road was built, which includes a full-size LCBO store and a Tim Hortons location.

Carolyn Ryall, the region's director of transportation services, said a series of steps needed to be followed during the construction period.

"There is a sequencing of events that transpire during any construction," she said in a phone interview. "The region made every attempt to make the area safe and accessible for all users."

"There was co-ordination with utilities as well as a partnership with the developer that had us working together on a sequence of how the work rolled out," said Ryall.

Because the developer didn't warrant an intersection, the region didn't start the construction before the plaza was built, she said.



Traffic lights in Virgil by the new LCBO. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

After analyzing the need and consulting with residents and the community, the project was given the green light.

Lord Mayor Betty DiSero said the new signals will allow seniors, who need to go into the plaza, to cross the intersection safely.

"We'll have to see what it does with respect to congestion of the cars but there's going to be some construction in 2022 that will, hopefully, allow easier movement of the traffic," she said.

Mazza agreed the lights are needed, especially for seniors who live nearby at Pleasant Manor retirement home and had to use the safety island to cross the street. Once the island was removed, it became harder

for people to do it.

"I was scared for them. They were scared. They wouldn't walk as much. They were afraid because they couldn't cross this road safely," he told The Lake Report.

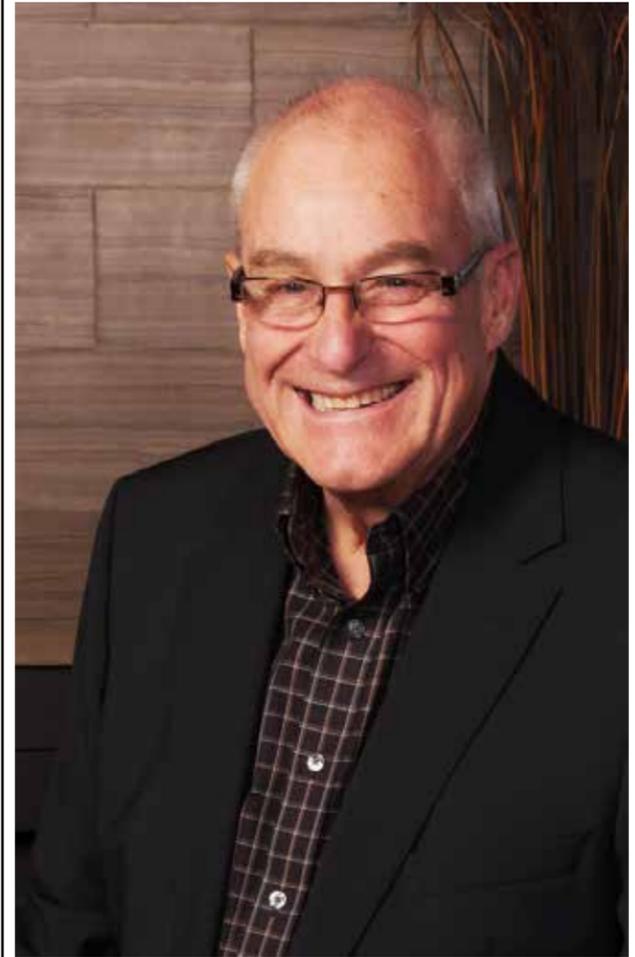
Niagara Region spent \$250,000 on the installation. That covered grade work below and above the ground including proper signing, road markings, curbs, sidewalks and asphalt repair in the area around the road.

Depending on the task and the sequence of work, between two and five crew members worked on-site, said Ryall.

"This intersection is being put into place based on a lot of the feedback we've received from the community on the need for it," she told The Lake Report.

NOTL regional councillor Gary Zalepa Jr. said, "Sometimes there are things that are not foreseen during construction projects. I think that's the case here. I wish people would ask for the facts first before they get too excited about what's going on."

# NOTL vintners win big at provincial wine awards



Herbert Konzelmann was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to fine wine.

Richard Harley  
Editor

Niagara-on-the-Lake wineries scored a decisive victory for homegrown wine, sweeping up 41 medals at this year's Ontario Wine Awards.

Fifteen NOTL wineries — all members of the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake association — took home 11 gold, 14 silver and 14 bronze medals across 23 award categories.

The winning bottles were revealed last Thursday during an awards ceremony at Niagara College.

Trius Winery and Peller Estates both took home Vines Magazine Best Wine of the Year awards, with Trius' 2016 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc winning best red wine, and Peller Estates' 2016 Andrew Peller signature series riesling winning best white.

Konzelmann Estate Winery took home the most medals with a total of six, including two gold for its 2016 Meritage Reserve and 2017 Lakefront Series Pinot Blanc.

The winery's founder and

winemaker Herbert Konzelmann was also awarded the first Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his exceptional service and outstanding contribution to the Ontario wine industry.

Andrew Niven, chair of the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake association, said, "It's wonderful to see the achievements of our Niagara-on-the-Lake winemakers. Together as an industry we celebrate the hard work, vision and passion that our winemakers exude on a daily basis."

"Complemented by our fine wines, unique terroir and unforgettable experiences, the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake have truly evolved into a world class destination," he said in a news release.

The Ontario Wine Awards competition was founded in 1995 by wine critic Tony Aspler. This year marked the contest's 25th anniversary, with a record participation of 78 wineries and 542 Ontario VQA wines.

A complete list of this year's award winners can be found at: [ontariowineawards.ca](http://ontariowineawards.ca).

# Town won't hire staff to enforce new pool bylaw

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

NOTL's new swimming pool and hot tub bylaw divided town councillors on Monday night as they rejected a plan to hire three contract staff to enforce the statute.

The updated nine-page bylaw, which was passed at the council meeting in May, includes several new and more detailed regulations and safety measures for enclosures.

Pools should now be enclosed with a fence not less than 1.52 metres (5 feet) and no more than 2 metres (6 feet) high. The wall of a building can be considered part of the swimming pool if it's at least 1.52 metres (5 feet) in height and provided that the windows are locked.

If there are doors providing direct access to a swim-



ming pool, from a garage or a house, they have to be equipped with a self-latching device no less than 1.52 metres from the ground and have to be locked when not in use. Every gate and entrance has to be to be kept closed and locked at all times when the pool isn't supervised.

The new bylaw also requires a permit for hot tubs, which have to be locked when not used and have a secured cover. Hot tubs that don't have a locking cover will need to comply with the swimming pool enclosure regulations.

The previous bylaw, from 1977, was just three pages and had the same minimum height requirement of five feet. Gates had to be same height as the fence and had to be locked when not in use.

The new bylaw requires swimming pool and hot tubs owners to fully comply within six months.

There are about 900 to 1,000 swimming pools in NOTL, according to a town staff report. Although the exact number of hot tubs in town is not known, staff reported there could be as many hot tubs as there are pools.

At the council meeting on Monday, Coun. Allan Bisback made a motion to hire three contract officers to make sure residents comply with the bylaw.

Councillors were split on the issue, with Clare Cam-

eron noting the regulations do not cover other bodies of water, like ponds.

"Because (this bylaw) doesn't cover other bodies of water, it's not going to be a guarantee," said Cameron. "We can't legislate the 100 per cent of safety. We can only do our best."

But Coun. Erwin Wiens said the town's bylaw officers are already overburdened. "We have to get the tools to our staff to enforce (the bylaw) but we don't have the tools," he said.

Rather than hiring more enforcement officers, Coun. Wendy Cheropita said the town should trust that residents will comply with the new regulations. Adding three more staff felt like a "major reaction," she said.

Bisback's motion for additional staffing and resources was defeated in a 5-4 vote.



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The military gun salute was performed by the 10th Battery 56 Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery. SUBMITTED

# Soldiers stand for Poland

*Continued from Front Page*

The plot is considered sovereign Polish soil, which Canada ceded to Poland so the fallen soldiers could remain buried in their motherland.

Zofia Soja, president of the Canadian Polish Congress, Niagara district, said the celebration has remained essentially unchanged in the more than 100 years since its inception.

This year, Soja said more than 500 people were in attendance. The military gun salute was performed by the 10th Battery 56 Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery.

After participants gathered around the small cemetery to pay respects and lay wreaths, the group marched to the centotaph at the centre of Queen Street.

Those in attendance included people from Polish schools, scouts, veterans, legion members and town council members. In all, more than 30 Polish organizations were represented.

Soja has been planning the pilgrimage for the last six years. The event takes several months of planning and co-ordinating to ensure those travelling for the occasion can make it to the march, she said.



Members of the Ladies Association, Kolo Pan przy SPK #20 Nadzieja, march during Polish Sunday. BRITTANY CARTER

# Mayor wants NOTL official plan expedited

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The town has to be ready with a new official plan in case the province approves regional amalgamation, Lord Mayor Betty Disero says.

"I need you to hear frustration in my voice," Disero told NOTL councillors on Monday.

"I fear that we will go to the table ... without an official plan."

With the updated official

plan and if the province decides to move forward with the amalgamation, the town will know its priorities – such as heritage, wineries and farming communities – and will ensure that the town's non-unionized staff employees receive "fair and equitable" treatment, said Disero.

The current official plan was adopted in 1994 and has undergone several updates over the years with the first review of the official plan starting in 2002.

The Ontario government is in the midst of a review of the province's eight regional municipalities, including Niagara. That review could result in amalgamations across Ontario. There are also 82 lower-tier municipalities within those eight regions.

With a government announcement expected before the fall, the town needs to endorse the new plan and send it to the Region of Niagara, even without the region's or the province's

comments, said Disero.

Director of community and development services Craig Larmour said he would check if the planning consultants who are developing the new plan are available for a special session.

A motion was then passed for town staff to plan a special meeting with the consultants to work on finalizing the plan. Once it is done and endorsed by the council, it will be sent to the region.



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An illusion can be seen along the Toronto skyline from Ryerson Park in Chautauqua. RICHARD HARLEY

## Editorial: Just the facts, please

Kevin MacLean  
Managing Editor

We all make mistakes, keep secrets. Sometimes we overreact, are tentative and cautious, worried about doing the right thing. That can be understandable.

But in this modern era of accountability and transparency, it is essential for our public institutions to embrace openness and accept that information is power. And sometimes information that the gatekeepers of those institutions might feel awkward or hesitant about disseminating really needs to be shared with the public.

Especially when it is information that the public will be keenly interested in.

We saw this last month when the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake publicly released a controversial 210-page report on E. coli contaminating Lake Ontario. While we can debate whether information on the progress of that two-year investigation should have been kept under

wraps for so long, the fact remains once a plan for fixing it was set, the town released the report. Kudos for that.

Not so much in the Randwood case, the Town of NOTL vs. Solmar et al.

The municipality, a public institution, laid public charges under the Ontario Heritage Act, by filing public documents in a public courthouse in Welland on a matter of huge public interest to people in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In March.

But three months later, the town has yet to officially, or publicly, release that information, even when asked for it.

As The Lake Report noted in a story a week ago, this is somewhat unusual because there is no compelling moral or legal reason for not publicizing the fact charges were laid – or at least releasing factual information (not opinions or evidence, just the facts) related to the case, especially when asked about it. That's how our public legal system works.

With all due respect, the town's legal opinion that publicizing the fact charges were laid might be seen as unfair to the accused is simply convenient, obstructionist hogwash. That's not how our public legal system works.

After hearing that charges might have been laid, we investigated so that we could inform you, the public, our readers about the facts. No one is presupposing guilty, but when your municipality takes a prominent area developer to court, no matter what the eventual outcome is, the public deserves to know about it.

Kudos to SORE, the citizen group that has been deeply involved in the Randwood case and is pushing for the town to be more open with information about this court case.

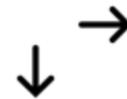
Because, frankly, it is not the town's information that is being kept under wraps. It is YOUR information.

*editor@niagaranow.com*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Opposing opinions



### Rentals do not have to be owner-occupied

Dear editor:

Re: "Town urged to crack down on short-term rentals," The Lake Report, June 6:

As the owner of Niagara Holiday Rentals, I'm concerned about the continued suggestion that short-term rentals in Old Town only be owner-occupied and that there are problems with absent owners and noise complaints.

We manage 25 short-term rentals, all in Old Town, and I encourage any neighbour of our properties to contact me should there ever be a noise problem or complaint at any of the houses that we manage.

I constantly keep an eye on our houses and our guests and should our houses ever be empty for more than a week I am sure to stop in and ensure the house and the property are maintained.

Niagara Holiday Rentals has been in operation for 10 years and my wife and I recently purchased it and I have yet to hear of any problems with our properties.

I will try and make a more concerted effort to meet and talk with the neighbours of the properties that we manage, but you can't miss our van, so if you see me, don't hesitate to come talk to me about any concerns or just to say hi and

introduce yourself.

My phone number is on the door of all the houses that we manage, so feel free to call me with any issues.

We live in town and are proud to be able to share all that the town has to offer with our guests.

We are also owners and operators of a bed and breakfast and we know that the guests we have at our B & B are different than the guests that we have at our cottages. We also own and have managed our own vacation rental for three years before joining Niagara Holiday Rentals.

There are many families and guests who come here for up to a week, sometimes longer. An owner-occupied property or bed and breakfast is too expensive for these longer stays.

Renting an entire home for the family allows them to cook a few meals and not spend a lot of money eating out every day. A few of our homes also allow pets, which aren't allowed at a bed and breakfast.

As owner of a dog ourselves, we know that our dog is part of the family and we want to take her with us when we travel for vacation.

*Jason Clements*  
NOTL

### In support of on-site rental owners

Dear editor:

Re: "Town urged to crack down on short-term rentals," The Lake Report, June 6:

In support of the argument for the owner to be on site for short-term rentals in NOTL, I would add that an on-site owner would take pride of ownership and ensure the lawn and gardens are well-tended.

They also would make sure that household garbage is properly stored and put out for collection, and not be utilized as a buffet for night predators. Containers would not become wind-blown decorations on neighbours' yards.

A short-term rental is, at its heart, a commercial property and, as such, has no legitimate right to a location in a residential area unless it is a primary residence.

The town must get its arms around this growing problem.

*William Cochrane Sr.*  
NOTL

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# A bridge too far: Canal traffic advisories often **too little, too late**

George Herman  
Special to The Lake Report

Moving back to NOTL after a long absence, I was delighted to find that the problematic drive to St. Catharines over the Welland Canal had entered the 21st century. The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation had instituted a bridge forecasting system. Phone app and radio broadcast! Bravo, Seaway Corp., I thought.

Until I started using the "system." With marginally useful information present, itself made meaningless by the inaccuracy of the forecasts themselves, it was an afterthought, with scant resources devoted to it: nothing more than a sop to address the Seaway Corp.'s community impact mandate.

So I wrote an email, outlining my needs as a typical motorist. We drive over the bridge when down, have to wait or detour when up. "Next ship at" advisories don't tell us much. How about "bridge up" and "bridge down" forecasts? Simplicity itself.

And the FM broadcast's vague window, in no case longer than 10 minutes, basically tells us to hurry, the bridge is going up soon. We need a longer forecast window, as with app, so motorists can listen while driving (and unable to use the app) and plan their route. That, after all, is the prime benefit of radio. And, of course, update for accuracy. Please.



George Herman wants the Seaway authority to do a better job of advising motorists when bridges are available. KEVIN MACLEAN

Email ignored. I emailed my MP, whose contacting of Transport Canada eventually produced a Seaway Corp. contact. She listened politely and assured me the corporation would take my concerns seriously.

That was two years ago. There have never been any improvements. The only change is the FM. Its range appears to have shrunk and it is frequently off the air. The spokesperson has ignored follow-up emails. MP Rob Nicholson's office has been a real letdown, behaving exactly the same way.

I'm neither a crank nor a crusader. I've adopted the path of least resistance. I've voted with my feet and discovered Niagara Falls. Anything I can do in St. Kitts I can do in the Falls, with the sole exception of visiting Costco. For me it's a satisfactory solution, but I will share some perspective on the basic problem.

The Seaway Corp.'s high-handed treatment of motorists is not unique. In my working life, I saw the GTAA (Greater Toronto Airports Authority) take over from Transport Canada and run roughshod over the travelling public and Pearson employees alike.

It works like this: a corporation (or "authority") comes to manage, via management contract or lease, major infrastructure. Because of the nature of the latter, the corporation in effect downloads a government monopoly. The commercial users of the infrastructure (airlines, shipping) become customers of the corporation.

The community, of course, remains affected, since there are no "competing" major infrastructure alternatives. But not being customers, its members have no leverage with the corporation, aside from possible, and meaningless,

member board representation. Meanwhile the government — with which they did have leverage formerly as constituents — is now insulated by the presence of the corporation.

Works for everybody except the thousands of collateral victims.

With the GTAA the stakes were higher and there were no other choices. I am now retired and it just boils down to personal choices, which I fortunately have. Hello Niagara Falls, goodbye St. Catharines.

I am not writing this either to disparage St. Catharines or promote Niagara Falls, so I won't compare or catalogue. I do, however, believe that the Seaway Corp.'s cynical approach to its community responsibilities does not come without consequences. I have illustrated one example. No doubt there are others. Bravo, Seaway Corp.



## We welcome your letters

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

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

Please include your full name, street address and a daytime

telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

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## MORE LETTERS

### Let's return to civil debate, not name-calling

Dear editor:

Last week's issue of The Lake Report contained an op-ed that I'd like to take issue with. David Israelson's piece about the NDSB ("Niagara school board's disgraceful cone of silence"), may have had a valid point, but I think any validity to his statement was lost when he resorted to so much name calling that it was apparent that was all he was interested in.

I compared this to a much more to the point, and I think, balanced view of events, in another paper, where I felt I got some valid information, and a way to see a fix for the code of conduct.

It seemed as if his whole intent was to make the chair of the board look terrible. There is no conversation there. There is no attempting to discuss board's code of conduct and I'd say no interest in hearing another view.

If, in fact the code of conduct needs revision, that's a conversation to be had with the parties concerned. I know if I was the chair of that board I would not even respond to him.

This is what's happening now all over social media, and with obviously no results, no change, no improvement.

Any organization I've ever been involved in has had some form of "rules of order," always intended to control debates from often very divergent points, with the aim of finding compromise. And I've seen that work so successfully, over and over.

I have refused to use the kind of invective on social media that's in that op-ed and refuse to follow conversations in that line. There is just no point.

I would love to see a move toward considered debate of issues that stays away from misleading and fruitless invective.

I would love to see publishers, such as yourself, decline the kind of letter that takes that kind of approach. It's a known concept, that as soon as you speak that way, your listener, reader, viewer, stops dead and just reacts without knowing the rest of what your point is.

Political debates everywhere have become completely dysfunctional and I'd like to suggest that vitriol is one of the major reasons. People seemingly love to hate more than fix issues that need attention.

We desperately need a return to civility.

Rick Cullis  
NOTL

### Disparaging comments cheapen debate

Dear editor:

It is not my intent to comment on the issues raised by David Israelson in his article about the District School Board of Niagara ("Niagara school board's disgraceful cone of silence," The Lake Report, June 6) but to object to his lack of respect for the two individuals referred to in his text.

North American citizens have had their fill of disparaging comments such as "Silent Sue" or "Slow Jonathan."

It reflects badly on Mr. Israelson that he can't just stick to the issues instead of stooping to character assassination.

Respectfully,

Lorraine Horton  
NOTL

### Corporate branding a bad idea for NOTL attractions

Dear Editor:

I just read a letter from reader Glenn Young (NOTL could reap millions by working with corporate brands) in The Lake Report, June 6, suggesting that our town explore and exploit more corporate branding opportunities in Niagara-on-the-Lake, "to make the town great!"

With no offence intended to Mr. Young, that is one of the worst ideas I have heard floated in years. The inherent dangers of planting such a seed are legion for a town that makes its living off its historical architecture and artistic offerings.

I would suspect that though such an idea might start off in good taste, and be limited in scope to certain events, the seduction of the almighty dollar would soon override these limits and it wouldn't be long before there would be signs all over NOTL carrying advertising messages such as: The Air Canada St. Mark's Worship Centre. Or, St. Andrew's by Gillette. How about The Ted Rogers Shaw Festival. And, the Peach Festival brought to you by Monsanto.

We could also pepper the Community Centre, the Old Town Hall, the Queen's Royal Park Gazebo, the Voices of Freedom Park, and Fort George (look at all the space on those walls!!) with banners advertising everything from dog food to cordless drills to hygiene products.

Finally, next year's town budget could include money for hats for all residents that read: Make NOTL Great Again. They should be orange in colour, of course, as a polite nod to someone who appears to value money above all else in life.

J. Richard Wright  
NOTL

## TIDBITS

### Niagara-on-the-Green clean up moved to this Saturday

Niagara on the Green's neighbourhood cleanup has been rescheduled for this Saturday.

The initial May 25 cleanup was rained out.

The annual event will start at the

neighbourhood park at 10 a.m. Community residents, Niagara College students and several Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors will meet at the park and then disperse to clean the neighbourhood, said organizer Steve Hardaker.

The Town of NOTL has provided garbage bags and gloves, and will pick up the garbage after the cleanup is over.

### Town extends interim cannabis bylaw for one year

The town's interim cannabis bylaw has been extended for one more year.

The decision was made at council on Monday. The current bylaw, passed on Aug. 27, 2018, prohibits any cannabis-related operations and expansions within the town.

The town was supposed to review its land use planning policies and come up with a new bylaw by Aug. 6, 2019. With council's approval, the bylaw is now extended until August 2020.

Town staff will have to prepare a draft bylaw before a public consultation takes place in September, said Craig Larmour, director of community and development services.

Coun. Clare Cameron asked why the consultation couldn't take place earlier in summer. Coun. Stuart McCormack, who introduced the motion, said the town wants to have industry leaders and residents available for input, and that some people might not be in town during the summer.

## New nursery school approved for \$1.5M

Continued from Front Page

raising additional money through a capital fund-raising campaign, the town said in a media release.

The building is expected to be ready by December 2020. Once the school moves to the new space, the current room will be used by the community centre for room rentals.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said council is pleased to be partnering with the nursery school.

"This is a great opportunity for families in Niagara-on-the-Lake to have access to child care at a younger age than is currently available. We also hope this will be an incentive for new families to move to Town."

Disero said she believes more young families are moving in and the new facility will also help NOTL's young families who already have "invested their savings into being a part of this community."

"The best part of this it will not come from our tax levy," she said.

Darlene Edgar, director of children's services for the Region of Niagara, said, "Niagara Region is grateful to partner with Niagara Nursery School to invest in the growth of child care spaces for residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

"This addition will improve access to high-quality, licensed child care and is an essential step towards supporting all of Niagara's families."

"Niagara Region is committed to expanding child care for all residents, and we are thrilled to be a part of this partnership," said Edgar in an email response to The Lake Report.

The nursery school has been trying to find a solution for the waiting list problem for quite some time, said the school's executive director Candice Penny.

"Based on our communications with local families over the years and the size of our wait list, this expansion is greatly needed and will be very beneficial to our community," Penny said in response to The Lake Report's inquiry.

"Our growing wait list may reflect the number of families in NOTL needing care. We are happy to be able to support more families in NOTL with our expansion."

There are nine staff working at the school, which has a capacity of 39 children. Once the new facility is open, a total of 69 children will be accommodated and 15 staff in total will be needed to run the programs.

- with files from Dariya Baiguzhiyeva



Tanya Tavender, Jessica Lattanzio, Candice Penny and Wendy Kulp, NOTL Nursery School staff with members of the preschool class.  
BRITTANY CARTER



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Lincoln Lions before the match on Sunday. BRITTANY CARTER

## Cricket match: Clippers vs. Lions



Carol Miller, treasurer of Caribbean Workers Outreach Project, Kimberly Hines, visiting minister from Jamaica, Donna Brown, chair of CWOP. BRITTANY CARTER



Prophet Elisa Steele ready for the cricket match on Sunday. BRITTANY CARTER

### 84-83 Clippers

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

On Sunday the Niagara Clippers beat the Lincoln Lions 84-83 with five wickets left to play, for the annual Caribbean Workers Project Cricket match.

The match took place on the soccer field at the Veterans Memorial Park.



Niagara Clippers before the cricket match on Sunday. BRITTANY CARTER

## On the tee: Eagen top dog at WOOFs

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Mike Eagen shot a 2-over 38 to earn low gross honours on June 4 during WOOFs league play at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club. Jack Hanna had low net with 30 and Ted Wiens got closest to the pin on #4. Jim Sifton won the hidden hole (#7) and Ron Planche is \$55 richer thanks to the 50/50 draw.

**Thursday Men's League:** Jim McMacken was the big winner on June 6 Men's Night, shooting best low-gross score of 1-under 35 and grabbing closest to the pin on two holes (#1 and #9), a \$40 gross skin and he was "A" flight winner with 24 points. Other winners: Paul Jacot, gross skin and closest to pin on #7. Closest to pin: Al Bannister (#4). Long

drive: Keith Dexter (#4), Stephen Warboys (#8). "B" flight winner: Tim Taylor with 23 points. Lou Puglisi won \$185 in the 50/50 draw.

**Friday Couples league:** Tie-breaking retrogression was needed to determine the winner of the June 7 Couples league game as three groups all shot 34. Winners were Ron Newman and Bonnie Lamou-

rie and Dow and Judy Wright. Second: Jim and Anne Sifton and John and Michelle Scott. Third: Joe and Cathy Taylor and David and Sue Gagne. Honorable mention: Neil and Rasa Wilkinson and John Veeneman and Barb Russell. Quiz winners for last Canadian to win the Canadian Open: Margot Richardson and Ross Smith.

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# The Bells of St. Marks

## One of Ontario's 48 sets of bells lives right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

It was the middle of the 1820s. The War of 1812 still cast a long shadow. Niagara townfolk craved a steeple bell to announce important community happenings and sound the alarm in times of calamity.

Ninety residents answered the subscription call for the town's first bell. By 1828, the single bell was mounted in the belfry of St. Mark's Anglican Church, swing-mounted and rung by a stout cord, dropped three floors into the church entryway below.

Current St. Mark's Rector, William Roberts reflects on the value of that 200-year-old investment in the town: "Imagine how vital our bells have been over the decades. When they ring, we know instantly how to respond. A perfect communication tool.

"The sound of the chimes is almost other-worldly —

even calming amidst all the noise pollution in our world these days."

The Bells of St. Mark's have grown in number and stature to become one of the three largest chimes in Ontario. And certainly, the largest in any small parish church.

In the world of chiming, there are generally two major categories of bell sets based of the number of bells.

Sounds simple. If your set is less than 23 bells, it is a chime. Twenty-three or more bells (two octaves), it is a carillon.

The St. Mark's bells are a little more complicated. They are a hybrid of the two types. It is a large chime — 19 bells — with the tuning and console of a larger carillon. It can play, with some adjustments, almost any music on its one and a half octaves.

The St. Mark's chime "is more sophisticated than a straight chime," says Dr. Andrea McCrady, the

dominion carillonneur in Ottawa.

McCrady visited Niagara-on-the-Lake this spring and played a brief after-service chime recital at St. Mark's. She performs over 200 recitals a year on the 53-bell carillon at the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

"St. Mark's started out as a chime," she recalls. "But became a hybrid, when a small carillon keyboard was installed at the same time as the chime was being doubled in size.

"They are a lovely set of bells. They really are. They are very well-tuned. You can have confidence in their music."

She adds that the St. Mark's bell tower has a fine sturdy sound box. "And there's also great value in having a very fine churchyard to wander and listen to the chimes."

McCrady was enamored with the chimes from an early age, starting on piano when she was six. She retained an interest in chiming through medical school, even travelling on a special scholarship to Europe, to explore some of the finest carillons in the world.

After retiring from a 30-year career as a family doctor, she returned to the bells in earnest, achieving the coveted dominion carillonneur position 10 years ago. She has played over 200 carillons around North America.

For many who aspire to the play the bells, McCrady is a chiming and carillon hero.

Through master classes and teaching, she has inspired hundreds to take up the bells.

So it was that Bernadette Secco, a Niagara Falls resident and a longtime St. Mark's chimera, attended a McCrady masterclass in Ottawa. She returned to inspire the next generation of St. Mark's chimers.

"I've been practising the



The bells at St. Mark's Church. SUPPLIED

piano for over 50 years," says Secco. "When we were kids, my grandparents would walk us along the Niagara River on Sundays, dressed in our frilly dresses. I could hear the 55-bell carillon at the Rainbow Bridge. I was just fascinated by it."

Secco speaks with passion about the bells: "There is something very primal in all of us. For me, it's the bells. I vibrate with them. It's like the best massage I ever had."

Her favourite time for chiming is after the last service on Christmas Eve at St. Mark's.

"As people are leaving, I scurry up (into the tower

and play Silent Night," she says, her eyes sparkling as she speaks. "It's a quiet, simple version because the sound of the bells crackles through the cold air. It's what Christmas is all about."

Secco has passed this passion on to the two chimers who share the St. Mark's bell tower for special events.

Christine Bishop, a music teacher from Bournemouth, England, came to Canada and Niagara-on-the-Lake, with her husband, six years ago.

They Googled "nice places to live in Ontario" and NOTL was top of the list.

When Secco called for new chimers in the St.

Mark's Sunday bulletin, Bishop leapt at the chance to take lessons from such an accomplished musician. That was four years ago.

Now, in addition to her part-time chiming at St. Mark's, Bishop volunteers as a music teacher at Royal Oak School and has a gaggle of 20 local piano students.

"I really love chiming the bells," she says. "It is a real joy. Every time I chime, I think of all the people that can hear the music. But I also think of all the chimers that have played these bells before over the last two cen-

*Continued on Page 9*



Dr. Andrea McCrady, Canada's dominion carillonneur, performs over 200 recitals each year, on the 53-bell Peace Tower Carillon in Ottawa. She recently visited Niagara-on-the-Lake and played the bells of St. Mark's.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Left: The current chimers of St. Mark's, Christine Bishop and Paul Wiebe, squeeze into the tiny keyboard room, two floors above ground and one floor below the belfry. Right: Bernadette Secco observes the St. Mark's bells as they automatically chime the quarter hour. Secco is credited with reviving interest in the bells by encouraging new players. TIM TAYLOR

Continued from Page 8

turies. It's a privilege."

Bishop shares the largely wedding and funeral chiming duties with Paul Wiebe, a chimer for 10 years at St. Mark's and church organist in St. Catharines.

Once again, it was Secco who sparked Wiebe's interest in the bells. At the time, Wiebe was part of the St. Mark's choir and read

Secco's overture to would-be chimers in the Sunday bulletin.

"I love St. Mark's," he says. "I love Niagara-on-the-Lake. And I love the bells."

Wiebe also loves to play music that is joyful and moving all the time. He chuckles: "I'm laughing because at one wedding I played the old popular classic, Penny Lane. I got com-

plaints because the bride wasn't named Penny!"

It's clear the people who really know the Bells of St. Mark's want more people to know them. They believe the bells are greatly undervalued.

Donald Combe, a long-time St. Mark's parishioner and member of the church's venerable Archive Committee, is one of those believers. He wants his church

and the town to take more notice of the Bells of St. Mark's.

"They are an incredible resource that is not used nearly enough," he contends.

Rector Roberts agrees: "Imagine having a regular chime concert on balmy summer evenings. Picnics and lawn chairs and music that carries you back to a bygone era."

## Further into history

The Bells of St. Mark's have a long and colourful history, part of a centuries-long international tradition.

It wasn't until 1877 that the original, 1828 bell was replaced by six new bells, financed by two local widowers, in memory of their wives. The 1828 bell was given to St. Saviour's church in Queenston.

In 1917, the St. Mark's Ladies Guild added three more bells as a memorial to parish sons killed in action in France. The Bells of St. Mark's then provided a full octave range of nine bells.

In 2006, all nine bells were removed for tuning and reconditioning to carillon standards. At the same time, the aging belfry was repaired, reinforced and readied for the return of the original nine bells and nine more, bringing the total to 18.

At the same time, the instrument was equipped with an electronic-pneumatic system allowing music to be programmed and the Westminster Quarters played.

In 2012, a single bell was added: The Brock, so named to commemorate the War of 1812 hero and the bicentennial celebrations.

Bell chimes and carillons are also measured by their weight. The total weight of all 19 St. Mark's bells is 5,852 pounds — almost three tons. The largest of the St. Mark's bells is 1,240 pounds; the smallest is 92 pounds.

Bells, unlike other instruments, do not go out of tune. They are cast of an alloy of roughly three parts copper to one-part tin. They are cast slightly larger than their final form to allow for a lathe-like shaving of the inside to more precisely tune the sound of each bell.

There are some 2,600 sets of tower bells in the world, including 48 in Ontario. The largest Canadian carillon is at the Rainbow Bridge (55 bells and 43 tons) in Niagara Falls. Fully refurbished in the 1990s, this carillon has not been played since the tragedy of 9/11. It is still considered a security risk.

## The climb

A casual exploration of St. Mark's Anglican Church will offer few clues as to how to find the chime keyboard, let alone, the actual bells in the belfry.

I needed a guide for both of my recent climbs: Sidle along a very narrow passage (less than a foot wide) behind the organ pipes, without touching anything, stepping over large and small conduits.

Then up a makeshift ladder, reminiscent of a nautical gangway.

Not there yet.

From this small, enclosed space, up another long ladder, through a small opening in the ceiling, into another smaller room. It is windowless and contains an awkward-looking contraption that looks like a marriage between a small organ and a weaving loom, with 20 stainless steel wires threading their way from the top of the keyboard mounting, through the ceiling above, to their connected bells.

Each wire is attached through the console to a lever that looks a bit like a small wheelbarrow handle, stuck into the instrument, ready for the chimer to push down and activate a bell for each handle.

All the bells are on the next level up, partially protected from the elements. But not too protected — you want to hear the bells...

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## Local Snaps



Dean Warner visiting from Kelowna B.C to celebrate Father's Day with his family playing Washer Toss at Veterans Memorial Park. PHOTOS BY EUNICE TANG



Mawal Rauf, Abeer Rauf, Dahani Moaz and Sana Rauf waiting patiently to eat their lunch at Niagara Parkway.

# First of 342 trees planted at Pillar and Post gardens

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Raising a glass to the “start of something beautiful,” Vintage Hotels executive Paul MacIntyre toasted the planting of the first of 342 new trees for the planned greenspace across from the Pillar and Post hotel.

The six-acre John Street site was once home to the manufacturing plant for now-defunct C&C Yachts.

MacIntyre, vice-president of Vintage Inns, said the trees, averaging 15 to 22 feet high, will add to the tree canopy of the community.

The Gardens at The Pillar and Post, which will be open to the public, has been in the works for seven years. The botanical garden is inspired by Monet and will feature a pond, 21,000 square feet of foliage, perennials and shrubs, and the 49 existing and 342 new trees.

After the garden is completed, Vintage Inns will begin building a new conference centre, which will offer event space for weddings and ceremonies.

In a previous interview, MacIntyre said the company won't lease the space out for loud concerts or other events. It will be for social events only and a strict noise restriction policy will be in place in the interest of “being a good neighbour” to nearby residents.

MacIntyre said he was eager to get the project underway. He was joined by the lord mayor and members of council, as well as Vintage Hotels CEO Bob Jackson and staff members.

The project should take a few months to complete, he said, with the final opening expected this fall.

MacIntyre said flatbed trucks transporting the new trees will continue to roll into town over the next several weeks.



It takes a lot of planning and heavy machinery to bring the Garden's Project at Pillar & Post to fruition. BRITTANY CARTER



Coun. Alan Bisback and Lord Mayor Betty Disero shovel the first soil during the tree planting Friday. BRITTANY CARTER

## Mayor's step team walks the walk for wellness

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is going the distance, and more, to encourage health and wellness through the NOTL June Step Challenge – the town crushed its initial group goal in the first 12 days of the challenge.

The goal to reach 14,856,000 kilometres, the distance to cross Canada, didn't stand a chance. By Wednesday, June 12, participants from across NOTL had covered 15,604,124 kilometres, 105 per cent of June's target.

The challenge will continue throughout the month. The lord mayor's team,



Shaunna Arenburg, Holly Dowd, Victoria Steele and Betty Disero take a few hours out of their morning to walk around Queenston for the June Step Challenge. BRITTANY CARTER

Women Walking for Wellness, is comprised of Betty Disero, chief administrator Holly Dowd and town staffers Victoria Steele and Shaunna Arenburg.

The group met at the Queenston Library on Friday and walked 4.61 kilometres in just over an hour. In total, the team collectively walked 242.4 kilometres by Wednesday morning.

They will meet in each community across NOTL throughout the month.

On June 14, they will be at the Royal Niagara Golf Club in Niagara on the Green, on June 21 at Fire Station #2 in St. Davids, on June 25 at the community centre in Old Town, and on June 28 at the town hall in Virgil.

Residents are encouraged to join the walks, which will depart at 9 a.m. on each day.

## Annual Strawberry Social returns for senior residents

Richard Harley  
Editor

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Senior Citizens Strawberry Social isn't just about shortcake and ice cream. It's about community.

It's always been that way, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

The annual event is a chance for town officials to connect with senior residents, celebrate local fruit, and have an afternoon of fun. A strawberry treat doesn't hurt either.

“People wait for the Strawberry Social every year,” she told The Lake Report.

“It's a tradition that the town is very proud of hosting and we do it because of the good graces of our community commercial operators.”

The social is Monday, June 17, and doors open at



The Strawberry Social is June 22. SUPPLIED PHOTO

11 a.m., with lunch at 11:45.

Besides a light meal, some delicious strawberries and ice cream, the social includes musical entertainment by pianist Frank Krahn and a performance by the St. Michael Catholic Elementary School Choir. The event is open to all senior citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Disero thanked Seaway Farms for donating the strawberries.

“It is because of community members like Seaway Farms that the town can provide an opportunity for nearly 300 seniors to enjoy a time of fellowship,” she said in a news release.

Seaway Farms has been providing strawberries for the event for several years now.

Eileen Pillitteri, a co-owner and an operator of Seaway Farms, said they provided about 15 cases of strawberries this year.

“We are very glad to support the Niagara-on-the-Lake community and the Strawberry Social,” Pillitteri told The Lake Report.

Disero also thanked town staff members, Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro and the public library for assisting with the event.

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## Lush Centre Street property named **first winner** of the garden season



Joe Carlino is co-owner of the winning garden on Centre Street in NOTL. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

A garden teeming with lilacs, hydrangeas as well as yellow and red barberies is the first winner of NOTL's annual Garden of the Week contest.

When homeowners Steve Cohen and Joe Carlino moved in to their house at 210 Centre St. last year, there was nothing but dirt from Simcoe Street right up to the house, said Carlino.

"It really looked like a job site," Carlino told The Lake Report. And because it's a new house, not a heritage property, "our responsibility was really to get this to look like it's always been here."

Three judges stopped by the garden and asked to have a look, said Carlino, adding he had no idea their garden was nominated for the contest.

The judges complimented the garden's "flowing design, very simple yet elegant."

"The colour palette of lime and burgundy is stunning set against the home. The homeowners have done a magnificent job," the judges said, according to a media release from the Town of NOTL.

Feeling "humbled and happy," Carlino said once everything has been planted and the mulch has been put down, it's just "weeding every now and again," so taking care of the garden doesn't take too much time.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake sponsors on the Garden of the Week contest in collaboration with the NOTL Horticultural Society and Communities in Bloom. Residents can nominate as many gardens as they want. The nomination deadline for Monday each and nominations can be submitted through the town's JoinTheConversation page or by email to [cib@notl.com](mailto:cib@notl.com).

### How to nominate a garden

Nominations are still being accepted for the Garden of the Week contest, which runs until Aug. 31. The event is put on by the NOTL Horticultural Society in co-operation with Communities in Bloom.

The nomination deadline for each week is Monday evening and all nominees will carry on to following weeks for consideration.

Residents can nominate as many gardens as they like, as long as the gardens meet the criteria.

The contest is open to all residents of NOTL with front gardens visible from the road. Each garden will be judged on streetscape and curb appeal, personal expression and creativity, colour and texture, and maintenance and neatness.

Winners will be announced on the town's website and will receive a bottle of wine donated by Caroline Estate Winery and a gift certificate from Regal Florist and Garden Centre.

Submissions can be made through the town's Join The Conversation page or by email to [cib@notl.com](mailto:cib@notl.com).

### A glimpse into garden tours



Brenda McArthur, property owner of 210 John Street East, one of the stops during the Shaw Guild Garden Tour Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER



Jennifer Gardiner, volunteer of the Shaw Guild for 20 years. BRITTANY CARTER

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## Calling all cooks!

### Local recipe book planned for 2019

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

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

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

**Please send your recipes, pictures and stories to: [recipes@niagaranow.com](mailto:recipes@niagaranow.com)**

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



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:</b>			
Legion Fish Fry every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.			
Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.			
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Father's Day</b> <b>Homegrown Wine Festival</b> - Wineries of Niagara <b>Walking Tours of Old Town</b> - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park <b>Ghost Tours of Fort George</b> - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George	<b>Fun Duplicate Bridge</b> - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre <b>Monday Night Teen Hang Out</b> - 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Strawberry Social</b> - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Community Drumming Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre	<b>NOTL Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament</b> - 11 a.m. - Royal Niagara Golf Club <b>NOTL Rotary Club</b> - Noon - NOTL Community Centre <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre</b> - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Carvey Wooden Sign Workshop (Adult)</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>NOTL SupperMarket</b> - 9 p.m. - The Village <b>NOTL Toastmasters</b> - 9 p.m. - Niagara College Campus <b>Simpson's Seniors' Luncheon</b> - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Simpson's Seniors' Club
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Fort George in the Great War: A WWI Commemoration</b> <b>Niagara College: Culinary Regions of Italy Sicily and Southern Italy</b> - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College <b>Walking Tours of Old Town</b> - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park <b>Eroica: A Tribute to Laura Secord at Queenston Heights Park</b> - 2 p.m. - Queenston Heights <b>Friends of St. Davids: Porchetta in the Park</b> - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club	<b>Fun Duplicate Bridge</b> - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre <b>Famous &amp; Infamous: Col Sam McLaughlin</b> - 2 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum <b>Monday Night Teen Hang Out</b> - 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Community Drumming Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre	<b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre</b> - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Spiritual Principles for the Artist</b> - 7:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	<b>German Conversation</b> - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>NOTL SupperMarket</b> - 9 p.m. - The Village <b>NOTL Toastmasters</b> - 9 p.m. - Niagara College Campus

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to [www.niagara.com](http://www.niagara.com)

# Port LOCAL CALENDAR

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June 13 - June 29

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>13</b> <b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Minecraft Club</b> - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>The White Effect Dinner</b> - 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Queenston Heights <b>Clare's Bike Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson- 7 p.m. - <b>Stratus Vineyards</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Neighbourhood Walks: Irish Town/Rye Park</b> - 6 p.m. - Rye Park <b>Annual Seafood Picnic</b> - 7 p.m. - Reif Estate Winery <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Mama Mia</b> - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant <b>Fireworks at Reif Estate Winery</b> - 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Reif Estate Winery	<b>15</b> <b>Homegrown Wine Festival</b> - Wineries of Niagara <b>Farmers' Market</b> - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village <b>United Empire Loyalist Flag Raising</b> - 9 a.m. - Queen Street, Cenotaph <b>Niagara College: Mastering the BBQ</b> - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College
<b>19</b> ... 4:30 p.m. to ... 7 p.m. to ... e, NOTL <b>Day</b> - 8:30 ... son's Pharmacy	<b>20</b> <b>Practical Genealogy: Beginner Class</b> - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Practical Genealogy: Intermediate and DNA Workshop</b> - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Art &amp; Fashion Lecture Series: Canadian Crowns, An Exhibition of Vintage &amp; Contemporary Millinery by Canadian Designers</b> - 7:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum	<b>21</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Mahjong Game: Drop in</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Neighbourhood Walks: Queen Street Estates</b> - 6 p.m. - Post Office, Queen Street <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: My Best Friend's Wedding</b> - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant	<b>22</b> <b>Laura Secord Walk in support of War Child Canada</b> - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Laura Secord House <b>Farmers' Market</b> - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village <b>Strawberry Festival</b> - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church <b>St. Davids Vet Clinic: Community BBQ</b> - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. Davids Vet Clinic
<b>26</b> ... ion Group ... m. - NOTL ... t - 4:30 p.m. to ... 7 p.m. to ... e, NOTL	<b>27</b> <b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Minecraft Club</b> - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Clare's Bike Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson	<b>28</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Mahjong Game: Drop in</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Neighbourhood Walks: Irish Town / Rye Park</b> - 6 p.m. - Rye Park <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Mean Girls</b> - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant	<b>29</b> <b>Farmers' Market</b> - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village <b>Artistry by the Lake</b> - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Queen's Royal Park

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Morgan Lambert and Simona Berardocco accept awards on behalf of their sisters Kaitlyn Lambert and Elena Berardocco. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

# Town volunteers honoured

Volunteers make Niagara-on-the-Lake special, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero at the council meeting Monday night.

A number of NOTL devoted volunteers were recognized at the council meeting on Monday. Council chambers were packed with the Lord Mayor's Volunteer Award winners as well as their friends and families.

For the past 23 years, the awards were given in collaboration with the Niagara Advance newspaper. This year is the first time the award has been named "Lord Mayor's Volunteer Award."

There are seven award categories. The awards were presented by town councillors who announced the winners and listed their achievements.

Below is the list of all the winners:

**Sports and recreation:**

*Karen Wright.*

Wright started a tennis program called "Tennis 4 Kids," for children aged 6 and up. The program runs at the NOTL Community Centre and Wright provides the equipment. She has coached more than 100 tennis players in NOTL and her commitment is "unwavering," said Coun. Gary Burroughs.

**Volunteers under 21:**

*Kaitlyn Lambert and Elena Berardocco.*

These two 13-year-old girls organized a climate change strike in front of NOTL's town hall on March 15. The worldwide movement, named Fridays for Future, was started by 15-year-old Swedish girl Greta Thunberg. Lambert and Berardocco, who were inspired by Thunberg, decided to organize their own strike in NOTL as the closest protests were taking place in Hamilton and Buffalo. The girls are leading their peers and are taking time to educate the public about climate change, said Coun. Norm Arsenault. Both girls were unable to attend the ceremony, but their younger sisters, Morgan Lambert and Simona Berardocco, were on hand to accept the awards on their sisters' behalf.

**Working with youth/education:**

*Linda Murray and Gord Harris.*

The two were honoured for volunteering with Red Roof Retreat and for their contributions to the youth and education sector.

Harris has been volunteering with Red Roof Retreat for 15 years. First known as the "grass-cutting guy," Harris has been taking care of the 11-acre property and is "a very worthy recipient who represented quiet giving and the value of volunteer time to make the place a little brighter," said Disero.

As for Murray, she has been helping to feed and care for the animals at the farm through "wind, sleet and snow" and "generously comes in for extra shifts when needed," Disero told the crowd.

**Working with the senior community:**

*Helga Rahn, Joyce Loewen and Sylvia Eady.*

Rahn volunteers with the Niagara United Mennonite Church, Pleasant Manor Retirement Village, Christian Thrift Benefit Shop, Niagara Warehouse of Hope and the Virgil Women's Institute. She has been helping out at the thrift shop once a week since 1975.

With her nursing skills and palliative care training, Loewen has volunteered for more than 20 years in palliative care and is always willing to help those in need, said Coun. John Wiens.

Eady is a longtime employee of the NOTL Public Library, who "quietly and clandestinely" volunteered her time to get to know the seniors and drive them to various appointments.

**Culture (arts, music, heritage):**

*Lise Andreana and Cheryl Morris.*

Andreana has been recognized for her role as a chair of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre board of directors. She volunteered 1,617 hours over the past year alone and, since her election to the board in 2016, she has been working to engage, enrich and celebrate NOTL's diverse and growing population through the visual arts.

Morris was honoured for her contributions to the Shaw Guild. She has been overseeing the scheduling process for the guild's volunteers, developed training materials, conducted a pilot program and trained over 200 members. Morris is also a member of the town's heritage trail committee, a marketing lead for the 2019 Canadian Snowbirds event and is on the board of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

**Community/civic engagement:**

*Sheila Tierney, and Michel and Marie Lapointe.*

Tierney has been working with the Canadian Cancer Society for more than 50 years. She has organized door-to-door canvassing in April and daffodil pin sales in March. The money raised was used for Wheels of Hope program which supports people dealing with cancer.

Michael and Marie Lapointe received a joint award. Marie Lapointe is a longtime volunteer at Parliament Oak School and Crossroads Public School. She also helps migrant workers with Spanish translations, campaigns for the Canadian Cancer Society and has supported the Terry Fox run for several years.

Michael Lapointe has helped with the Terry Fox Run and has campaigned for local charities such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation. He also used to volunteer for search and rescue operations and repairs bikes for migrant workers.

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Linda Murray.



Gord Harris.



Sheila Tierney.



Michel and Marie Lapointe.



Sandra O'Connor.



Lise Andreana.



Finn Madsen.



Karen Wright.



Joyce Loewen.



Sylvia Eady.



Cheryl Morris.

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## A thriving business with a small town story

Simply White Interiors has been putting its authentic touch on Niagara homes for nearly 10 years

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A large white sign is mounted above a display of curated window treatments in Unit 3, at 347 Airport Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake. It reads, "SIMPLY WHITE. Furnishings. Accessories. Colour." Brenda and Kirk Petrunick, owners of Simply White Interiors, have kept this sign for nearly a decade. They like to remember where it used to hang at their first location in downtown St. Catharines.

The sign is a nod to their humble beginnings in a cozy retail space, while they've moved on to flourish in their Niagara-on-the-Lake studio. With a full interior design team, Simply White serves commercial and residential clients in Niagara and the GTA.

"Remembering where we started is how we stay true to our mission as a company

and a team," says Brenda. "For us, that looks like supporting other small businesses and building meaningful relationships with our clients. We're like the little engine that could."

And it seems Simply White is gaining steam with each new chapter of its business journey. At their studio in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Simply White team offers complete interior design services. They work with their customers on conceptual design development, space planning, and finish and material selection, which includes custom drapery, bedding, blinds and upholstery.

Sometimes the scope of their projects is large, assisting with drawings for a new build or renovation. Other times, they provide expert advice on furniture arrangement or colour choice while they update a customer's home or cottage.

"Our big focus is the interior, your living space," says Kirk. "But we also do a tremendous amount of renovation and refurbishing."

When visiting the Simply White studio, customers will find many local artisans setting the tranquil interior scene. This holds true to Brenda and Kirk's passion for supporting other local businesses and bringing attention to high-quality Canadian craftsmanship.

Simply White also carries popular lines such as Dash & Albert Carpets, Pine Cone Hill Bedding and Hunter Douglas Blinds. Throughout the design journey, customers have access to Simply White's extensive fabric library with top manufacturers such as Robert Allen, Fabricut, Duralee and Kravet.

The creative team of five seamstresses produces every project by hand in their

onsite workshop. After 25 years sewing together, these seamstresses have completed a wide range of exciting projects and take great pride in their work.

As customers are faced with countless choices along their interior design journey, they can turn to in-house designers, Elizabeth Loomis or Taylor Rumble, to get the guidance they need.

Brenda describes their designers as a source of calm and confidence for customers throughout the decision-making process, especially because of their talent for listening to what their customers need and turning it into reality.

It's this creative relationship between the designer and client that the team values so deeply in their work.

"We've always considered it an honour to be invited into someone's home to share our designs with



Kirk and Brenda Petrunick of Simply White Interiors. SUPPLIED PHOTO

them," says Brenda. "We don't take it lightly that someone has entrusted even the smallest piece of their home to us. It always feels like a privilege and we treat it that way."

Customers are welcomed by appointment to sit down with the team at Simply White Interiors and create their own personal interior decorating plan. With the whole team working onsite, it's possible visitors will be greeted by the team sitting down to eat their "family lunch" at the big live-edge harvest table. They're a team that cultivates an authentic small-town feel-

ing in the way they work together, create together and do business together.

"I have wonderful memories growing up in the small-business world of Niagara-on-the-Lake," says Brenda. "It's the way small-town business should be and we strive to give that feeling to our team members and customers at Simply White Interiors."

Readers with interior design needs can visit the Simply White website at: [www.swi.design](http://www.swi.design) or contact the team directly at 905-708-4784. The studio is located at 347 Airport Rd., Unit 3, Niagara-on-the-Lake.



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# Niagara College course teaches **DIY kombucha** making

Jill Troyer  
The Lake Report

Mary Towndrow's kitchen table in Old Town is covered in neat rows of homemade kombucha. Green and black tea kombucha with ginger, peppermint kombucha, rosehip kombucha, cherry kombucha, and beet kombucha with rosemary.

She's been making it for five years, and now she and her fellow fermenting fan Lauren Zimbalatti are preparing to teach a Brew Your Own Booch course at Niagara College to help get others started in DIY kombucha.

Kombucha is a fermented beverage typically made with sweetened tea. The other essential ingredient is the scoby, which stands for "symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast."

The scoby, which looks like a gelatinous pancake, aids in fermentation, and the resulting drink is slightly effervescent, a little sweet, and also a touch sour with a hint of vinegar flavour.

It is growing in popularity both for its flavour and health benefits, since it has both probiotics and antioxidants. For some, it's a tasty low-calorie, low-sugar



Mary Towndrow has been brewing up homemade kombucha for five years. Doing it yourself costs a fraction of the retail price. JILL TROYER

alternative to pop.

Towndrow first tasted kombucha five years ago, while travelling in the United States on business. She loved the flavour, but not the price.

A bottle of commercially produced kombucha at the grocery store can cost up to \$10. Towndrow says making it herself "costs just pennies a serving, that's what got me interested."

So she bought her first scoby and started brewing, and she says "my cost for a two gallon batch, which makes 15 bottles, is a few tea bags and some sugar, and it only takes 15 minutes

to make the brew."

She and her family have their favourite flavours and she keeps it on hand in the fridge as their go-to drink.

Towndrow and Zimbalatti met in a class at Niagara College that Zimbalatti was teaching about beer making. When Zimbalatti mentioned she had made kombucha beer, Towndrow says "my antenna just went up ... we just became friends and we've been experimenting ever since."

Zimbalatti, who completed the brewmaster and brewery operations program at Niagara College three years ago, says

the kombucha course she and Towndrow will teach is "geared to introduce people to brewing their own kombucha."

Participants will get to "sample a tasting flight of different flavours and learn all the other uses of kombucha, like making syrups and jellies," she says.

Towndrow adds she uses scoby "to make jerky, candy, as a base for smoothies, and the liquid to make sourdough starter ... you're only limited by your taste buds and what you have on hand."

For anyone "interested in fermentation, kombucha is a good place to start, because it's inexpensive and simple," she says.

The class will provide participants with everything they need to make their own brew and they'll leave with their own first batch started, to finish fermenting at home. According to Zimbalatti, "it's kind of set and forget. It's very forgiving."

The course, which costs \$80, is set for June 26 at Niagara College. More information is available at: [www.niagaracollege.ca/parttimestudies/courses/HTSM/1085/](http://www.niagaracollege.ca/parttimestudies/courses/HTSM/1085/)



Pat Buchanan browses clothes during Queenston's garage sales on Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER

## Deals galore at neighbourhood **garage sales**

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Neighbourhoods across town set up to sell a plethora of items on Saturday morning during community-wide garage sales.

Creekside Senior Estate in St. Davids held its annual garage sale and barbecue to raise money for improvements to its trailer park.

Last year, the community raised \$3,000, but Judy Sibley, chair of the Creekside social club, said she hoped it might bring in a little more this year.

"All the infrastructure has been replaced. All the sewers and waterlines are being replaced. Originally,

this was just a trailer park but now with the bigger homes coming in we need more (sewage capacity)," Sibley said. The annual garage sale was one way to fund those expenses.

At the same time, across town in Queenston, the bi-annual, community-wide garage sale was in full force. Residents who wanted to participate just set up their items for sale.

Shoppers poured in from all over town, as well as Niagara Falls and St. Catharines, to peruse items and take advantage of the warm weekend weather.

The sale in Queenston takes place every other year and residents keep all the money raised.

# NOTL resident spells out hopes for a competitive **Scrabble club** in town

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

The words are out of the bag – NOTL resident Joel Talento stacked his tiles against Scrabble players from around the world last weekend at the North American Scrabble Players Association tournament.

Now, Talento wants to bring his love for the strategic word game home by starting a Scrabble club in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He said he has been in touch with the community centre and library to try to get a club off the ground. Nothing is official yet, but he said he's hopeful it will spell out more competitive Scrabble locally.



Joel Talento plays for Canada during a Scrabble Tournament on the weekend. BRITTANY CARTER

Talento has been playing drop-in games casually with some friends at Sweets and Swirls Café, but he figures NOTL residents would be up for an organized Scrabble club.

In the next few weeks he will take the test to become

a certified club director with the association, he said, which will allow him to oversee sanctioned clubs.

The 5th Niagara Falls International Open held 21 rounds in total from Friday to Sunday at the Scotiabank Convention Centre. While

the convention centre was buzzing with Niagara Falls Comic Con hype, which took place at the same time on the main floor, Scrabble players occupied a conference room upstairs, quietly spelling out their best moves against some of the brightest international wordsmiths.

Talento placed 21st out of 25 players. While he said he would have liked to finish higher, he still had a great time and will definitely try again next year.

"It's the camaraderie. I've seen people here that I've played with from all over the world."

Picking up the book Word Freak by Stephen Fatsis in 2001 pushed Talento into

the world of competitive Scrabble, he said.

"It's a story about him being a reporter playing competitive Scrabble and he ended up being a really good player. After that I went to a Scrabble club," Talento said.

Starting as what those in the Scrabbleverse call a living room player, Talento began studying the two and three letter words of the North American dictionary to improve his game.

The tournament this year was more of a challenge, he said, because it was international. While he has spent a lot of time studying the North American version of the game, he had to put in extra preparation time for the

international tournament.

He's a lover of words and anagrams, and, given the chance, is quick to present you with the various words that can be made from your name. After moving to NOTL from Vancouver several years ago, he said he took a hiatus from competitive playing.

He said his wife, Kendra Cooper, encouraged him to pick up the game again now that their children, Ellie, 7 and Max, 4, are a little older.

"I love numbers, I love words, and I love strategy."

Talento created an Instagram account and said anyone interested in playing can message him at ScrabbleNOTL.



**WHITE WINE EVENT: Saturday, June 22**  
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## Unicycle ride for a good cause

Zachary Wells rides his unicycle through town as part of a 500 km ride during the month of June to raise money for SickKids Foundation. This is the third year Wells has ridden to raise money for the cause. So far he's raised more than \$5,000 for the foundation. RICHARD HARLEY



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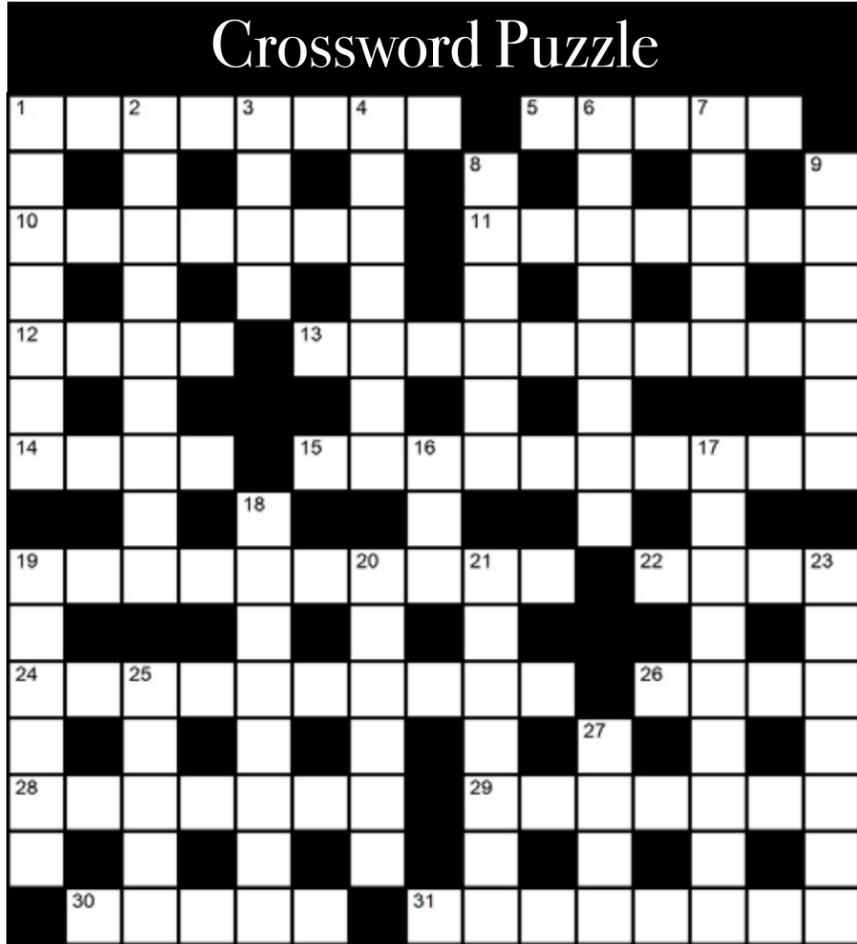
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  - Anthropoid (3-4)
  - Performs (4)
  - Limited (10)
  - Island in central Hawaii (4)
  - Area of South London (10)
  - Senior mail official (10)
  - Passport endorsement (4)
  - Large city (10)
  - Fruit, a.k.a. the Chinese gooseberry (2)
  - Hearing distance (7)
  - Employ excessively (7)
  - Stench (5)
  - Signal to arise (8)
- Down**
- Praise vociferously (7)
  - Pruning shears (9)
  - Not one (4)
  - Radical (7)
  - Biddable (8)
  - Survive (5)
  - Chicken of very small size (6)
  - Lethal (6)
  - Furrow (3)
  - Religious (9)
  - Flatten out (8)
  - Treat with excessive indulgence (6)
  - Grunts (6)
  - Incident (7)
  - City in central Texas (7)
  - Fortune-telling cards (5)
  - Lake or pond (4)

*Have some fun*



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

Last issue's answers



Sudoku



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\$759,900 | MLS 30736995

Lucy Continelli\*\*

11 ELDEN STREET, VIRGIL  
\$824,900 | MLS 30728443

Dan Stefels\*\*\* & Katie Redekopp\*\*\*

4 CRIMSON DRIVE, NOTL  
\$669,900 | MLS 30738225

Dan Stefels\*\*\* & Katie Redekopp\*\*\*

179 COLE CRESCENT, NOTL  
\$674,900 | MLS 30740843

Dan Stefels\*\*\* & Katie Redekopp\*\*\*

27 NIAGARA ON THE GREEN, NOTL  
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# St. Davids community group holds golf and dinner social

Greg Walker  
Special to The Lake Report

After weeks of thunderstorms and heavy rain, June 6 dawned overcast and misty. As the morning progressed, however, the mist burned off and the clouds dissipated to create perfect conditions for the Friends of St. Davids' first "Nine & Dine" golf and dinner event. By tee-off time in the afternoon, the sky was clear, and the sun shone on 22 intrepid novice and experienced golfers at the St. Davids Golf Club.

After an afternoon of play and fun on the golf course, the players were joined by family and friends for dinner at Ravine Winery. If the golf course was

beautiful, nestled as it is just below the Niagara escarpment, the venue for dinner was spectacular. The 41 guests enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner in Ravine's big tent with an amazing view of the vineyard.

Paul Harber, Ravine's proprietor, had presented four gift certificates to Friends of St. Davids. These were raffled and the proceeds of \$150 will be donated to the St. Davids LEOs to help them meet their goal of raising enough to pay for a second dog guide for a person with disabilities.

Friends of St. Davids is planning a "Porchetta in the Park" on June 23 and a further donation will be made to the LEOs after that event.



The great one is pictured above with Niagara College brewmaster professor Jon Downing. SUPPLIED PHOTO

## Great One comes to town

Wayne Gretzky attended a private party last Sunday for the launch of a new 8000-square foot beer garden at Wayne Gretzky Estate Winery. With a Bocce ball court, a ping pong table, a pool table as well as a large outdoor firepit and an outdoor cabanas on site, the beer garden will be offering a light grill menu with sausages and pretzels as well as draft beer, wine and cider.

Niagara College's brewmaster professor Jon Downing was also on hand to celebrate the opening of a beer garden. "The event was fantastic, the weather was perfect," Downing told The Lake Report. "It was a great honour to be invited."

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# Shaw review: Audience loves romantic Brigadoon

Mike Keenan  
Special to The Lake Report

In his 1933 novel "Lost Horizon," British author James Hilton's describes "Shangri-La" as a mystical, earthly paradise. Lerner and Loewe followed with their 1947 quaint Scottish town "Brigadoon," a magical venue that appears for only 24 hours every 100 years.

Corwin Ferguson's clever projections indicate that Brigadoon is the high dosage antidote for the war-weary, whether it's the 1746 Battle of Culloden or more contemporary Second World War.

As with several plays last season, artistic director Tim Carroll adroitly commemorates the 75th anniversary of Canadians landing on Normandy's Juno Beach during the D-Day invasion.

We find two friends – George Krissa as Tommy Albright, soon-to-be-married back home in New York City, and his cynical sidekick, Mike Nadajewski as Jeff Douglas – escaping from wearisome war memories via a brief hunting trip in the Scottish Highlands.

Soon-to-be husband and best man.

The two Americans arrive in Brigadoon quite lost and seeking directions, only to be caught up in a festive wedding celebration between Matt Nethersole as Charlie Dalrymple and Madelyn Kriese as Jane MacLaren, who both dance and sing with romantic reckless abandon.

Kudos to choreographer Linda Garneau who keeps all of the footwork nimble with the larger troupes filling the set as well as the smaller groupings, like the sword dance that features a high-stepping Travis Seetoo.

The Brigadoon musical selections are expertly played by a proficient 16-piece orchestra directed by Shaw's talented Paul Sportelli, but they contain only one song that one might remember, "Almost Like Being In Love." This song title reflects the core problem for Krissa: return home to marry a woman he realizes that he does not love – or remain forever in Brigadoon but with his newfound sweetheart, Fiona MacLaren (Alexis Gordon).



Kristi Frank as Meg Brockie with the cast of Brigadoon. SUPPLIED PHOTO/DAVID COOPER

The appealing, attractive set by Pam Johnson and colourful Scottish tartan costumes designed by Sue LePage complement each other handsomely on the large Festival Theatre stage. Smoke emitted from stacks, windows with flowerboxes, a Highland fog settling in and a wondrous, impos-

ing Celtic cross, the focus of both celebration and sorrow, the latter the result of a bitter Harry Beaton (Seetoo) aiming to destroy Brigadoon because of his lost love.

The Shaw cast is quite large and talented, and director Glynis Leyshon keeps the action moving, includ-

ing humorous bawdy bits at which Kristi Frank as Meg Brockie excels.

Nadajewski is the perfect foil for Krissa. While Krissa is ready to fall madly in love with the entire concept of Brigadoon, including Gordon, Nadajewski wants only to sleep and escape, not even keen to engage with

the lewd Frank. His pessimism and sarcastic remarks are contrasted with Krissa's optimism and renewed ability to love. We all know for whom to cheer.

The Festival Theatre was full, and the audience loved this romantic, escapist, happy-ending musical romp through the Scottish Highlands. And thanks to Corwin Ferguson, we even encounter a magnificent stag along the way in a brooding, primeval forest. The production runs two hours and 20 minutes, including one intermission.

The original production opened on Broadway in 1947 and ran for 581 performances. A 1954 film version starred Gene Kelly and Cyd Charisse, and a 1966 television version starred Canadian Robert Goulet and Peter Falk, aka Columbo.

*Brigadoon, directed by Glynis Leyshon plays until Oct. 13 at the Festival Theatre, 10 Queen's Parade, Niagara-on-the-Lake. ShawFest.com or 905-468-2172.*

*You can access the program at: [www.shawfest.com/playbill/brigadoon/](http://www.shawfest.com/playbill/brigadoon/)*

## Piping down the sun in Chautauqua

Ross Robinson  
Special to The Lake Report

The skirl of the pipes as the sun sets over Lake Ontario on Saturday, June 22, will again be a highlight as Chautauqua bids farewell to spring and welcomes summer.

NOTL resident David Janaszek will catch the spirit and don his full Scottish regalia to march along the bluff in Ryerson Park and will pipe solo as the sun disappears over the horizon at 8:56 p.m.

One of the many special and unique treats in the Chautauqua neighbourhood is to join a large gallimaufry of tartan- and plaid-clad fun lovers for a night of rolling r's in our neighbour-

hood park on the lake.

Last year, a memorial celebration was held to honour a neighbour who was truly the heartbeat of our 'hood. Ramsay Morrison was a longtime resident, who always had time for a chat, or a discussion about important matters. He had a friendly wave, a warm smile and a good feeling for everyone passing by.

One lovely Saturday afternoon, I noticed that of about 20 cars that had driven past his driveway, over half stopped for a few minutes with Ramsay. He replied, "I enjoy chatting with everyone. And, someday I might be in a ditch."

A retired master carpenter, he always enjoyed creative fix-it jobs for

neighbours and created many beautiful grandfather clocks. He and his wife Sharon were involved in our precious Chautauqua, and in several clubs in Niagara.

Our Piping Down The Sun event was so well-attended and loving last June, with Scottish dancing, the Evergreen Singers and the City of Thorold Pipe Band parading down Vincent Avenue to play in Ryerson Park at about 7:30 p.m.

The St. Andrew's Society of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be out in force and president Alan Dickson will present a wee history of the society and talk about the future. Join them wearing kilts, tartan skirts and other Scottish clothing.



David Janaszek pipes down the sun at Ryerson Park in 2018. RICHARD HARLEY

And returning this year will be the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society of St. Catharines. They will entertain with their lively, colourful and traditional dancing talents.

We may have a mini Highland Games. The very macho caber toss, but using pool noodles? How about

a hammer throw? Perhaps Kartwheels in Kilts?

Last year, a potential parking problem was cleverly avoided when many people spoke with friends who live in the Chautauqua neighbourhood. Many driveways easily accommodated two, three or four cars for the early-evening event.

Who should attend? In a word, everyone. Whether you can trace your family history back to United Empire Loyalists, or whether you have recently moved to NOTL from Trawna, or if you recently arrived in Canada from another country, be with us.

Last year, many people were enjoying a picnic in Ryerson Park when the action began. A really Canadian moment occurred when about 30 people from Syria, via Toronto, joined us and had a truly emotional and spontaneous experience.

So, on Saturday, June 22, at 7:15 in the evening, make your way to Ryerson Park in Chautauqua. Bring a sandwich or snack – and some bug spray. And a donation of two bucks per person to cover costs.

Get r-r-r-ready to be a Scot for an evening, as we enjoy piping down the sun in Ryerson Park.

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# Local Snaps

PHOTOS BY BRITTANY CARTER, RICHARD HARLEY



Andrew Ceglie, 5, Nicholas Salvador, 7 and Daniel Salvador 4 enjoy the Virgil Splashpad Sunday afternoon.



Nicholas Salvador at the Virgil splash pad.



Daniel Salvador plays at the splash pad.



Above and below: Ivy Deko, 3, spends an afternoon with cousin Kennedy Bastine in Virgil.



# Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



## Michigan Central Railway

This post card shows the Michigan Central Railway train on King Street, with the Niagara Apothecary seen on the left. The train came to town up to the mid-1950s and some of us kids were shown the engine by the fireman. If you could spare a penny it was fun to put it on the tracks and have the train flatten it to the size of a quarter.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



## Everything old is new again

Brian Marshall  
Featured

“Vernacular” is one of those terms that regularly creeps into my conversations with folks when describing their heritage home and it’s not uncommon that the word requires some definition.

Applied to historic architecture, vernacular refers to a building designed by someone with no training in the discipline, generally guided by local community conventions and the functionality of the house, using local materials with little emphasis placed on aesthetic or decorative elements.

Indeed, here in Niagara, many of these relatively



A new vernacular farmhouse. BRIAN MARSHALL

simple homes displayed some general Georgian or Regency characteristics consistent with the community norms, but the primary consideration was functional livability.

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, vernacular cottages were among the most common homes found in Niagara-on-the-Lake. While many were torn down during the intervening years, a surprising number still survive due, I suspect, to that superb livability.

While this type of house continued to be built throughout the 19th century, it became much less frequent as ready availability of plan books, competitive pricing of shipped-in materials and ready access to skilled labour increased.

Interestingly, in the 20th century an increasing client demand for an understated “quiet” house with a highly functional interior caused a small number of architects to begin drawing on the earlier vernacular tradition for their designs.

Then in the 1980s many North American communities instituted Traditional Neighbourhood Development Plans, which essentially required new homes to be built in a style that recalled the area’s architectural heritage, and the demand for new (or “American”) vernacular designs increased dramatically.

However, with the exception of the purely functional and somewhat ubiquitous farmhouse, vernacular houses were products of their community. A New Orleans shotgun house would be just as out-of-place in NOTL as one of our vernacular Georgian cottages would be there. This forced the development of regional specific designs.

Unfortunately, lacking a Traditional Neighbourhood Development Plan, our town has seen only the occasional new vernacular built. Apparently we prefer the current version of the developers’ matchbox house?



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# The Mennonites' long road to Virgil

Denise Ascenzo  
Exclusive/The Lake Report

The Mennonites are considered a fairly recent addition to the community of Virgil, having arrived in 1934, mainly from the Ukraine.

There is another Mennonite settlement close by, in Vineland, but that community had Swiss or southern German origins. They came via Pennsylvania in 1663 shortly after the American Revolution.

The history of the migration of the Ukraine Mennonites is complicated. They first lived in Holland, which was a province under the control of King Philip of Spain (1527-1598).

They were not Catholic and the reign of terror by the Spanish king drove them from their lands. They fled to Poland and Germany where Protestants were not persecuted. The Mennonites lived in peace for over two hundred years.

By the 1780s, the Mennonites found they were once again being persecuted for their beliefs. Being pacifists and refusing to participate in any activity that supported an aggressive power, they found themselves slowly being pushed off their lands.

This sudden loss of land was resolved when Catherine the Great (1729-1796) of Russia wanted to settle large areas of land taken from the Turks and Tatars. The skilled Mennonite farmers offered a land deal that was beneficial for all. They moved once again, this time to the region of Russia called Ukraine. They became known as "Russlaenders."

The Russlaenders were industrious, successful and prosperous farmers and business owners, which eventually put them in a difficult position when the Communist regime was firmly in power in 1920.

The government decided to take away ownership of their lands and businesses, eliminate their private communities and to con-



Left: Niagara United Mennonite Church. Right: Bethany Mennonite Church. BRITTANY CARTER

script all young men into the Russian armies.

Among the Mennonite community there was a great divide. Some leaders wanted to conform to the Communist regime while others decided to leave. By 1923, a large number of the Russlaenders left Ukraine and set out for a new life. The Canadian government accepted them as farmers, settling them in the Prairie provinces.

But the economics of the time and many years of drought on the Prairies, the Russlaender Mennonite community migrated to Ontario. Many found welcome in the three established Mennonite communities of Kitchener-Waterloo, Vineland and Markham. However, they craved their own land and their own Russlaender culture.

Enter Peter Wall with his business acumen and his desire to help others succeed.

Jakob Peter Wall (1870-1922 and father of Peter Wall) was a successful Mennonite businessman with an ethical sense of how all people should be treated. He amassed a fortune in Ukraine that included 10,000 acres of land, flour and paper mills, and a glass factory.

His ethical treatment of his workers helped him during the early days of the Russian Revolution. Under pressure from the local community

Jakob Wall was successfully released the first time he was imprisoned by local Communist officials, but eventually the goodwill of the people could not save him. Jakob Peter Wall, at the age of 52, died of starvation in a Russian prison.

Jakob's oldest son, Peter, was now responsible for his entire family. They had lost everything, were under constant threat of arrest and had to be on the move repeatedly for their own safety and for those who were harbouring them.

In 1924, the Wall family found themselves on their way to Canada with many other Russlaenders. They ended up in St. Anne's, Man., where for three years they attempted to sustain the family on a farm. The conditions were appalling, with years of drought causing crop failure after crop failure that eventually beat the family down.

Wall's mother, youngest brother and one of his children died during this time. Not to be thwarted, the family packed up their belongings and returned to Ontario. They settled in Hamilton, where the three of the brothers found work as labourers on farms in Vineland.

Toward the end of the 1920s, the economy was declining at an alarming rate and farm property values plummeted. Wall saw this as an opportunity and found a 38-acre fruit farm

in Vineland, with three houses on it, for sale. He managed to make a deal to purchase the property with \$1 as a down payment. The farm grew peaches, cherries and grapes, all crops with a good cash value.

Other Russlaenders, who had also returned from the Prairies, approached Wall asking for his help in purchasing farms. Wall found a few other farms in Vineland that were under financial stress and was able to assist his fellow Russlaenders in their purchases of land.

In 1933, Wall turned his business sense toward the village of Virgil where he managed to secure 110 acres on Niven Road that had been a wheat farm. He divided the acreage into smaller parcels of 10- to 15-acre lots and sold these to the Russlaender Mennonites.

They planted orchards of peaches that would give a good profit in five years. In the meantime, between the trees, crops of strawberries and tomatoes were planted to be sold as cash crops. Word of the success of the Russlaender Mennonites in Virgil spread and soon many who had stayed out west in the Prairies migrated to Virgil. The community was growing.

Unlike the Mennonite communities of Ukraine, Wall reached out to gentiles (outsiders) as well. He understood that a healthy community is one that ac-

cepts and works together for the benefit of all.

Wall realized that seasonal crops could not sustain a community. In 1939, he devised a business plan whereby people in the community bought shares in a canning factory – the Niagara Canning Company. The first crop to be canned was peaches but later during the Second World War, tomatoes were added to the production line. Within three years of operation, in 1942, the cannery was making a profit. Then, in October of 1948, the cannery suddenly closed.

Several theories were circulated as to why the cannery collapsed. Rumours abounded: Were contracts with the British government to supply food after the war suddenly cancelled to protect the British economy? Was there an overproduction of canned tomatoes and juice, through mismanagement, that could not be sold? Or did competitors join forces and drop the price of their canned tomatoes so low as to bankrupt the Niagara Canning Company? All of these were just speculation; the true reason was never revealed.

The sad fact is that many people lost money, including Peter Wall. Talk scurried about the community claiming how Wall mismanaged their money, pointing out that he still had a big house

and a fancy car. What they didn't know was that Wall had mortgaged everything he owned to salvage the cannery, but still it failed.

In the end, the very people whom Wall helped to resettle in Virgil turned on him. He and his family were no longer welcome. Wall stopped going to the church he so proudly supported; he cut all social ties with the community and moved to St. Catharines. In his new community in St. Catharines, Wall established a successful property development business for his family.

The Mennonites did overcome the great and tragic loss of the Niagara Canning Company and they did continue to prosper in farming as well as new business ventures in Virgil.

*I would like to thank Bob Augustine, posthumously, for his book on the Mennonites of Virgil. A thank you to David Hemmings for completing the book after Bob Augustine's death. Thanks as well to Ron Dale, whose knowledge of the community is a source of wonderment.*

The book, Mennonites of Virgil "Gott hat uns gegeben, um diese Ruhe," is available at the Niagara Historical Society and Museum..

*More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: [www.niagaranow.com](http://www.niagaranow.com)*

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# COMMUNITY



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



Town councillors, members of the heritage trail committee and members of the NOTL Horticultural Society pose at the entrance of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail on the corner of John and King streets. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

## Donations and hard work helping restore heritage trail

Dariya Baigizhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The goal of restoring a historic trail in Niagara-on-the-Lake is coming to fruition thanks to a generous donation from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society.

The society has donated \$3,600 to the town's heritage trail committee, which is responsible for rehabilitating and raising awareness about the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.

"We like to give back to the community in any way we can," said Suzanne Rate, the society's treasurer.

Several town councillors and staff joined some members of the town's heritage trail committee at the trail's entrance on John Street on Monday afternoon

to thank the society for its donation.

The heritage trail committee, in collaboration with the town, has used the money to plant about 60 trees and shrubs at the trail's three northern entrances: John Street, Paffard Street and Charlotte Street. The municipality was responsible for the design and planting in all three gardens.

The town used native plant materials, which were more suitable for the trail, said Dave Voogt, a cemetery co-ordinator for the town. Some trees were also donated from the cemetery. With four crew members, it took a couple of days to do the planting, Voogt told The Lake Report.

The idea of preserving the trail started in 2017 with

the Canada 150 committee. After the committee realized that the improvements needed for the trail would take years, the legacy subcommittee was formed, which later became the heritage trail committee.

"To see something that we've been working on for so long coming to fruition is the first little step towards many improvements we have," said Dick Coyne, one of the committee's members.

The 10-kilometre trail follows the historic Erie and Ontario Railroad along Concession 1. One of the first railroads in the province, it was in use until the 1950s. The trail also connects NOTL with St. Davids, going all the way up to York Road.

"This is an excellent start.

We hope at some future date to be able to have the trail actually delineated, have a hard surface and make it more user-friendly," said Rick Meloen, chair of the heritage trail committee.

When the committee finalizes the restoration plans and figures out how much the trail's reconstruction will cost, it will start a major fundraising, said Meloen.

A number of residents who use the trail for hiking, biking or walking with their dogs said they supported the trail's rehabilitation. Julie Clark, who lives along the trail on Paffard Street, said she has been using the trail for 30 years and it was important to restore it partly because of its historic significance.



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol  
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:  
Riverbend Inn and Vineyard



Mary Nicol receives a Golden Plunger award for of Riverbend Inn and Vineyard. PLUNGER PATROL

From the pillars at the entrance of this Georgian mansion to the double staircased front lobby, past the grand piano to the patio overlooking the vineyards, you will experience luxury and quality at Riverbend. We enjoyed our dinner, but still coveted the plates that passed our table. Then we ventured to the bathrooms, where grandeur meets modern convenience. This restored 1860s Georgian mansion has stately washrooms in classic rich, warm tones with fine antique furnishings. Riverbend's intimate charm and luxurious settings extend to its facilities. The bathrooms boast wood-panelled floor-length stall doors which provide privacy and buffer the noise of traditional bathroom stalls. We are fans of fauna and both restrooms hosted healthy plants. Riverbend has exquisite four-diamond cuisine and now it also has a 4 in Gold Plunger award-winning bathroom experiences.

4/5 Gold Plungers



### RIDDLE ME THIS:

I jump when I walk,  
I sit when I stand.  
What am I?

Last Week's Riddle: I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?

Answer: A map  
Answered first by: Katie Reimer  
Also answered correctly by: David Steele, Margie Enns, Cheryl House, Britiney Turasz, Buddy Andres, Susan Pohorly  
Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) for a chance to win a prize.

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## Featured local story

# The fixer: Jim Smith can repair just about anything

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

At 75, Jim Smith has had lots of time to fix many of the town's historic icons.

When the town clock stopped working properly, Smith fixed it.

When the Court House bell kept interrupting the Shaw plays, Smith fixed it.

When the St. Mark's bells needed repair, Smith fixed them.

He officially retired from his position as maintenance mechanic at the town hospital in 1994, at the age of 50. But that just gave him more time to fix things.

"Best job I could have ever had in my life," says Smith. "I fixed things. I know electrical, I know plumbing, I know carpentry. So fixing things is my cup of tea."

Smith came by his handiness naturally and by kneeling at his father's side, as the elder Smith, a local carpenter, plied his trade. "Officially, dad was a carpenter. Unofficially, he worked for everyone who needed something fixed."

He acknowledges that school was never his thing. "I was 17 in Grade 8, so they moved me up to the high school," he says. "That didn't last long."

But it was long enough for Smith to meet Heidi, his wife of 53 years. "We have three wonderful kids, scattered around the region, four grandchildren and our first great-grandchild is expected later this summer."

Smith's Niagara roots are just about as deep as you

can find today. He can trace his local connection back to the 1850s, to his great-great-grandfather, who is buried in the cemetery at St. Mark's. "I just buried my mother there. She lived to be 101."

After he left high school, Smith bounced around in a couple of short-term positions, but they didn't use his natural skills. "They weren't career things."

Then he heard about the hospital job. It became his career.

When he retired, he immediately took up a part-time job, as caretaker of the Niagara Apothecary, at the corner of Queen and King streets.

Built in 1820, as a pharmacy, the Apothecary is now owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust and operated as a museum by the Ontario College of Pharmacists.

But that job certainly doesn't keep him busy.

In the mid-nineties, Smith noticed that the Memorial Clock Tower on Queen Street didn't keep time. He petitioned the town to make him the official voluntary clock keeper. They agreed.

"The clock was cuckoo. I had no idea what the mechanism would look like," he says. "I changed the system to a completely modern system. It keeps perfect time."

After more than 20 years as clock keeper, Smith recently advertised and found a successor. "It was just too hard to climb up there."

It's the same sort of tale for the historic bell in the Court House belfry. Installed in 1835, the bell



Left: Jim Smith, today, in his cozy backyard workshop, readying himself for his next project. TIM TAYLOR Right: Jim Smith and his elder brother, Terry, at Lion's Beach in the late 1940s. SUPPLIED



chime wreaked havoc on the Shaw Festival plays during performances in the Court House theatre. Leave it to Smith to cobble together a system that would pause the bells when the actors were on stage.

And long before the major refurbishment and addition of nine bells to the St. Mark's Church chimes, Smith pattered away keeping the smaller system alive. He'd grown up admiring the church bells as much for the intricate playing mechanism as the beautiful sound.

"I used anything I could to make them work," he remembers. "I didn't read music, so I took the music home and worked out how to play it."

"And when they installed the automatic system in 2006, we programmed the computer to play automatically. It's really wonderful."

Smith has vivid recollections of his early life in town during the 1940s and '50s. "We spent all our summer days at the beach. Most us called it Lion's Beach, because the Lion's Club ran the refreshment stand. But it really was the Queen's Royal Beach — just down from today's gazebo."

Smith couldn't swim so he couldn't get out to the

big swimming raft off the beach. "But when the Cayuga (the last of the passenger steamers to sail between Toronto and Niagara) went up or down stream there were huge waves. We used to love to dive into those."

Every May, on the first trip of the year, the captain of the Cayuga would take the kids on a joy ride up to Queenston and back. "We got a free trip up to Queenston. We had the run of the ship."

Many years later, with lots of time on his hands, Smith took six winter months to build a five-foot exact replica of the Cayuga, from memory and what pictures he could find.

In keeping with his community-mindedness, Smith donated the model to the Niagara Historical Society and Museum, where it remains on display today.

In 2005, Smith received an Award for Historical Contribution, as part of a "Saluting Niagara on the Lake Volunteers" initiative.

The award not only acknowledged Smith's volunteer efforts to maintain many of the town's treasures, it recognized the hundreds of photo columns he had contributed to the local newspaper. In all, Smith submitted almost 150

stories and pictures about the people, places, buildings and history of the town.

Smith still contributes his weekly Exploring Photos feature to The Lake Report (see page 17).

He took to photography at a very early age. "My dad got a big bellows camera to shoot the Scout Jamboree of 1955. I watched him develop his own pictures."

"When I was 13 my mother gave me a little brownie camera. I still have it. I love taking pictures."

He estimates he now has over 500,000 prints, originals and duplicates, both his own and thousands given to him by others. He has all the hard copies, but the pictures are also filed digitally, taking up almost 2 terabytes of computer storage.

He admits to wandering through the well-organized computer files, almost daily. "I just love looking at them. The memories when we were kids. Flying kites at Fort Mississauga."

"My mother used to say I had a terrible memory. But I can remember all my pictures."

One mental picture stands out. In the 1950s, the second green at Niagara's historic lakeside golf course, was inside the ramparts of Fort

Mississauga— a blind shot from the fairway.

So, Smith and his band of friends, waited patiently in a small hidden tunnel inside the fort for a golf ball to come over the embankment and land on the green. They quickly rushed out before the golfer appeared, dropped the ball into the cup and retreated to cover. One very happy golfer, with an eagle!

But if Smith is content about the town's past, he seems somehow disappointed with where it is now.

"I'm afraid we are a non-town," he muses. "Queen Street used to be part of the community not just a façade. It was a people's town. You knew everyone, all the families."

"As a kid, you didn't do anything wrong because you knew someone would tell your mother."

Can the town be fixed? "That's a tough one. The town has already flipped. There's little of that era left."

But Smith quickly throws off his chagrin, returning happily to his vibrant memories.

With any luck, Jim Smith, armed with both the past and his innate skills, will find a way to fix his town, too.

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