



## 'They're invisible': Group aims to launch youth campus for NOTL high schoolers

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Caroline Polgrabia has been working for eight years to bring some form of secondary school education back to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

And, finally, things are looking up.

Polgrabia and a group of dedicated parents are hoping to launch the Niagara-

*Continued on Page 5*



## Irish Harp scavenger hunt an extra large pint of community spirit

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The Irish Harp is no longer just one of the best spots in town to get a pint of Guinness and share your deep and divinely justified love of the Dubliners.

The Harp hosted a scavenger hunt on Sunday, June 12, to promote Niagara-on-the-Lake businesses and owner Jovi Joki hopes it morphs into an annual, or even biannual, tradition of NOTL

*Continued on Page 19*

## Judge bans pickleball for two years on Virgil courts

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Pickleball play has been banned from the town's six outdoor courts in Virgil.

A court in Welland ruled on Wednesday that the Town of Niagara-on-

the-Lake and the NOTL Pickleball Club violated the town's noise bylaw by allowing pickleball games on six courts in Centennial Sports Park.

Lambert's Walk resident Oana Scafesi complained about noise from the courts and took the town and the

club to court when there was no resolution to her concerns.

"The town and the club permitted noise which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the town," Justice of the Peace Mary Shelley said in her provin-

cial offences court ruling convicting both parties.

Shelley ordered the pickleball club and the town to each pay a fine of \$1,000.

Noting that Scafesi was more concerned with relief from the sound of pickleball

*Continued on Page 3*



## NOTL Clippers win annual cricket match



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Clippers get their game faces on at the bench before the game begins. EVAN SAUNDERS

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Elisha Prophet Steele may have one of the best sporting records in Niagara-on-the-Lake – or anywhere.

He just led the NOTL Clippers to their 25th victory in the annual cricket match Sunday between Niagara's temporary farm-workers.

Steele has only lost two matches in his 27 years on and leading the team.

"I feel great. Remember what you asked me before?" Steele, captain of the Clippers and part-time NOTL resident for nearly 30 years, said in an interview Monday.

"I told you I'm not playing to lose," he said with a laugh.

"Based on what you wrote too, so many people read it, so I had to do it."

Despite a ferocious 90 minutes of lashing rain, which delayed the game,

*Continued on Page 12*

## SORE rolls out experts to combat Randwood proposal

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Should context, character and history be considered when creating a new subdivision?

Experts on behalf of Save Our Randwood Estate (SORE) argued an

enthusiastic yes during a virtual open house on June 9 regarding a proposed subdivision development on the Randwood Estate, now owned by Solmar Development Corp.

A revised site plan was submitted in March 2022 by Solmar.

That plan reduces the

number of dwellings overall to 172 from 191, and addresses grading concerns by removing an underwater storm management system and replacing it with a storm pond. It also includes more green space.

The breakdown of housing types has been changed as well. Formerly, Solmar

proposed to build 125 single-detached dwellings and 66 semi-detached homes. Now the company proposes 39 single-detached, 26 semis and 107 townhouses.

Paul Lowes, who is a planner with SGL Planning and Design Inc. and was representing Solmar at the meeting, said, among other

points, that the proposal had been redesigned to meet the Region of Niagara's request to feature a broader mix of housing types.

Green space has been increased and includes a heritage park, the Whistle Stop Trail Head Parkette,

*Continued on Page 11*



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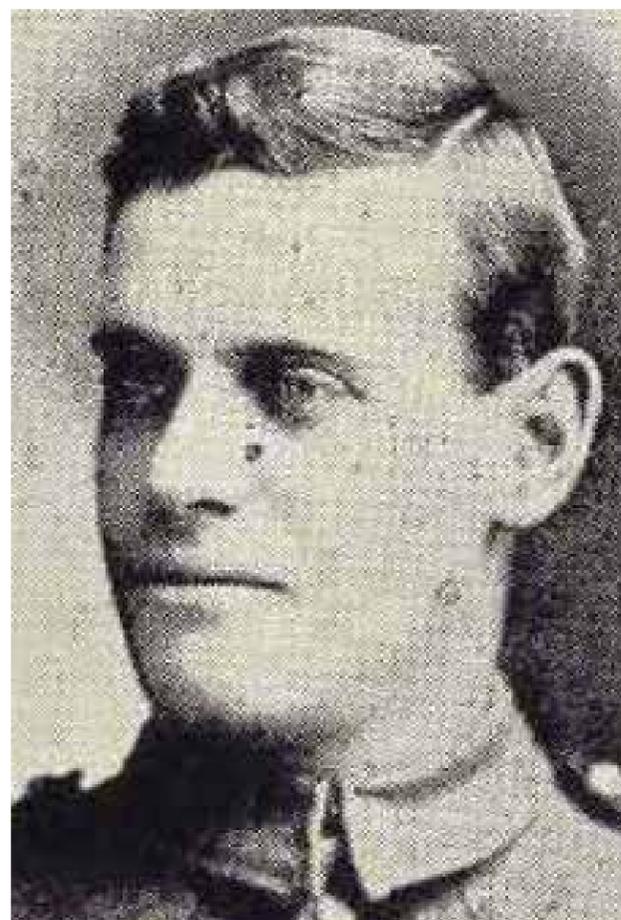
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From left: Three of the men on NOTL's clock tower cenotaph — Gordon Blake Ryan, Private Robert Follet Best and Walter Langdon Nisbet. NOTL MUSEUM IMAGES

# THE MONUMENTS MEN

## Three soldiers who were victims of **unexpected** killers

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

Ron Dale  
Special to The Lake Report

When men enlisted for overseas service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War, they knew that they were heading into danger.

Most men expected to survive, thinking that there was not a bullet “with

their name on it” and that artillery shells would target other men. Front-line duty would dash that optimism.

Most soldiers continuously feared their time would be up in the next “over the top” attack or while crouched in a muddy trench while German shells exploded all around.

More than half a million Canadian men and women volunteered to serve in the First World War. Three Niagara men were eager to serve but would not live long enough to experience the terrors of service at the front or see the war through to final victory.

**Gordon Blake Ryan** was a bank clerk in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where his parents ran a grocery store. The First World War had been raging for a year when he, along with other young bank employees, decided to enlist.

Ryan was able to walk over to a Canadian army recruitment centre at Niagara Camp. He signed

his attestation papers on Sept. 20, 1915, and became a bugler in the 92nd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Soon after enlisting, Ryan was sent to Toronto to undergo training at the large camp set up on the Toronto Exhibition grounds. It is of interest to note that the “Ex,” cancelled during the COVID pandemic, continued to be held yearly during the First World War.

During the fair, the soldiers moved out of their billets to sleep under canvas while their barracks reverted to their original function as stalls for livestock. Ryan, however, did not get the opportunity to enjoy this iconic late-summer event.

He was admitted to the military hospital with a bad case of measles and influenza on Jan. 21, 1916. Far from improving, his condition became worse.

He soon developed pneumonia and died on the morn-

ing of Jan. 31. He now rests in St. Mark's Cemetery.

According to writer Catherine Creed, who was at the funeral, “His body was brought home and a public funeral held that his townspeople might pay their last respects to one who had always commanded the respect of all. His young friends came from Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines, many of them in khaki. The home guard from Butler's Barracks provided the firing party and sent as many men as possible.”

**Private Robert Follet Best's** funeral, late in the war, was not so elaborate.

Best was born in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Febr. 4, 1901. His father died in 1912 but he and his mother and sisters continued to live in town.

Robert Best attended the Niagara-on-the-Lake High School, now part of the NOTL Museum, but by 1918 he and his mother were living in Toronto where Robert completed his education.

He attempted to enlist in both the army and the navy. He was turned down in one case due to his young age and in the other because of his poor eyesight.

He tried again on Jan. 19, 1918, two weeks before his 17th birthday but he told the recruiting officer at the Toronto Exhibition military camp that he was born in 1899. He was accepted, even though he appeared much too young.

Best was posted to the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Central Ontario Regiment, a unit that served as a garrison or home service unit. He received some very basic training before his brief military career ended.

He reported ill on Feb. 10 but was initially charged with malingering. The following day he collapsed in his barracks and was admitted to the CNE Base Hospital. A week later he was dead, struck down by spinal meningitis, two weeks after his 17th birthday.

Best was buried in the family plot at St. Mark's in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

**Walter Langdon Nisbet** was born in the Town of Niagara in January 1880 and served in the Boer War from 1900 to 1902 and in the South African Constabulary, before returning to Niagara in 1906.

When the First World War broke out Nisbet went on active home service with the 44th Regiment, guarding the Welland Canal and the hydro generating stations in Niagara Falls.

While on duty he became ill, dying of tuberculosis on May 23, 1915. He was buried at the Niagara-on-the-Lake United Church.

These men, commemorated on the NOTL clock tower cenotaph, expected their lives would be in danger from active service against Canada's enemies. Death, however, came stalking in another form.

*Read previous parts of the series at [niagaranow.com](http://niagaranow.com)*

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# Town and club fined \$1,000 each, members say they are 'in shock'

Continued from Front Page

rather than financial penalties, Shelley also ordered the courts not be used for two years.

"The defendant shall not commit the same offence or any related or similar offence in this case by permitting pickleball play ... outside on the courts of Centennial Sports Park in Virgil," said Shelley.

"The period of probation will be for two years."

That means the courts are effectively shut down for any resident to use, whether they are a member of the club or a private individual.

Lawyer Ian Langden, who represented the pickleball club in the case, unsuccessfully asked Shelley to levy a lower fine for the club, stating the club only has \$2,000 in its bank account.

"To lose 50 per cent of its revenue in a fine will devastate the club financially and it will find itself in a position that it will struggle to pay the fine and to overcome that financial penalty," Langden said.

In an email to the Lake Report, John Hindle, president of the NOTL Pickleball Club, said club members were "in shock" at the outcome.

"We will now be looking into what subsequent actions need to be taken. Regretfully, any other comment would likely not be printable," he said in an email to The Lake Report.

Hindle said more than losing the case, he is upset that the hundreds of people who



Pickleball is banned from the courts at Centennial Sports Park for two years. FILE

use the courts will suffer because the ruling favoured Scafesi.

"On a strictly personal note, and not speaking on behalf of the club, my level of frustration and sadness is severely deep, that so many people's lives, their physical and emotional well-being, their search for a healthy active lifestyle, will be so negatively impacted by this decision," Hindle said.

After a request from Langden, the judge gave the club a year to pay the fine. Terrence Hill, who was representing the town, said the town's fine would be paid within 30 days.

Throughout her ruling, Shelley made it clear that she is enforcing the town's own bylaw and that its wording was very much an important part of the verdict.

"The bylaw itself is subjective. It reads, 'No

person shall make, cause or permit sound or vibration at any time, which is likely to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment or comfort of inhabitants of the town,'" Shelley said.

"It was open to the town to enact a noise bylaw that was objective and quantifiable, not perfect, but within reason. It's for all of these reasons that I find (the club and town guilty of breaking the noise bylaw)."

Shelley referred to the installation of a windscreen and the town reducing the hours of play on the courts as "meagre" sound-mitigating actions.

At one point, Hill said there is a motion going before town council next week to update the noise bylaw to permit the sound of recreational activities at parks even if they breach the noise bylaw.

"Municipalities changing bylaws is nothing that con-

cerns the court until, and if, it comes before the court," Shelley said.

Shelley said she would consider changing the length of time of the probation if the case came back before her.

"But there's going to have to be extensive submissions on that point," she said.

Hill cautioned that reaching this verdict could mean the broadness of the bylaw, which prohibits any noise that disturbs a resident, could snowball into absurd cases.

For that reason, Shelley said she specifically referred in her decision to the courts at the sports park only.

In her ruling, Shelley declared the town and the club were partners in the case, although she also said "it's clear from all the evidence that the two parties didn't equally contribute financially."

# Friday tulip sale will support town's tree fund

Molly Bowron  
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's annual spring tulip sale returns Friday, June 17.

Hundreds of tulip bulbs that bloomed in town parks and on Queen Street earlier this spring will be available for \$5 a dozen at the NOTL Community Centre from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. -

or when they're all sold.

The annual sale began several years ago with the Horticultural Society and now it raises money for the town's tree fund, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in an interview.

Gardeners look forward to the sale and they line up to scoop the bulbs for planting in their home gardens.

"Each year the town chooses certain colours that

they want to use and certain designs and stuff for the parks and Queen Street," Disero said.

So, instead of discarding hundreds of tulips and "rather than just put them all into compost, we started back around 2016 or 2017, a tree fund, for people to donate money to."

The sale is cash-only and people should bring their own bags.



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# NOTL still grapples with **loss** of high school

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The pain of losing Niagara District High School was a focal point of a discussion about support for rural education during a committee of the whole meeting on June 13.

“I think it’s safe to say that without a high school many people who have children who might want to come to our town might not,” said Jim Collard, Niagara-on-the-Lake’s representative on the Community School Alliance and a former teacher and municipal councillor.

Collard was at the town meeting to seek council’s support for the Community School Associations request for increased funding for rural and northern schools from the province of Ontario.

But the conversation revolved around the parallels northern communities have with NOTL, especially the lack of a high school for local youth and the problems of busing.

“We don’t have a high school. It remains a dream,” Collard said.

He encouraged councillors to pursue more interaction with regional school boards and to take a heavier hand in affairs and meetings related to education in order to push for a high school to return to NOTL.

“Did you know that Ontario legislation requires municipal councils and boards of education to meet yearly to discuss matters of mutual concern? That’s a regulation within the province of Ontario. Sadly, those meetings rarely take place,” said Collard.

“If you work constructively with the boards, maybe you can make something happen.”

Collard recalled some of the bitterness over the closing of Niagara District in 2010.

“Many municipalities do not pay attention to the activities of their boards of education until it’s too late. I know that we were in that boat. The numbers worked against us. The



Don MacDougall taught at Niagara District Secondary School for more than 30 years. He says the loss of the high school in NOTL is terrible for its youth and thinks they are victims of a system that does not prioritize them. EVAN SAUNDERS

rules of the day worked against us,” he said.

“We were three months away from having our high school designated as an international baccalaureate school. We raised over \$100,000 within the community to send teachers to Bryce University in Houston to be trained in the IB program.”

“Three months away and sadly the plug was pulled on our school.”

Coun. Clare Cameron lamented the lack of visibility NOTL’s teens receive.

“There are so many deep emotions and I think there’s still a lot of anger, there’s a lot of sadness, there’s a lot of, ‘Why us?’ Or, ‘Why not us?’ And ‘What about our kids?’” Cameron said.

“Why, in one of the really outstanding communities across Niagara, for lots of reasons — for quality of life — why is our younger population treated as if they’re invisible?” she said.

Cameron said the town needs to work on rebuilding

its relationship with regional school boards in order to better position the town for its educational needs in the future, a position that Collard also touted.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita asked Collard what the municipality can do to help get a high school in NOTL again.

“Develop the plan to move forward. That’s the first step. You have to be able to have something concrete that you can deal with so you can go to the trustees and you can have staff go to the directors and see what they’re willing to talk about,” he said.

Coun. Erwin Wiens emphasized the importance that NOTL create a comprehensive plan regarding any future school.

“If we want a school, we’re going to have to have a business model that somebody can adopt and champion. Without a business model, they won’t do it,” Wiens said.

“As a next step we have to identify institutional

land then build a model and go to them with our plan because if we don’t have a plan in place they won’t listen to us.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero sought to comfort councillors by assuring them work is happening in the community to address the lack of a high school in NOTL.

“There’s a group out there that’s working,” Disero said in an interview on Tuesday.

“And Kirsten (McCauley), our planner, has been working with the school boards in Glendale. Nobody is going to forget about it.”

“There are a couple members of the public who have been talking with the school boards on creating even a part-time place for high school students to be able to land in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” Disero told councillors.

Disero is referring to NOTL resident Caroline Polgrabia’s efforts to launch the Niagara-on-the-Lake Youth Campus.

“That’s been going on and I truly believe it has been successful,” the mayor said.

“It’s slow as molasses in the way it’s moving but that’s generally what happens in every sort of government administration. People have great intentions but sometimes it takes a little longer than anticipated.”

McCauley said town staff have been actively investigating the possibility of schools in Glendale as they build the secondary plan for the fast-growing area.

She said the town is working with the school boards to determine whether an elementary or high school will be needed in Glendale.

Wiens noted while NOTL has no high school, there are three elementary schools under the region’s two boards: St. Michael’s Catholic Public School, Crossroads Elementary School and St. Davids Public School.

On top of that there are at least two private elementary

schools: Royal Oak School and Vineridge Academy (located on the former Niagara District site).

“So, there are a lot of students (in NOTL),” Wiens said.

According to the 2021 census, there are 2,100 kids ages 14 and under, plus another 835 between 15 and 19.

After Grade 8 graduation, all of the younger kids will need to start either taking buses or getting rides from their parents to attend high school in Niagara Falls or St. Catharines.

Don MacDougall, former teacher, head of the history department and sports coach for more than 30 years at Niagara District, lamented the state of education for NOTL kids, particularly the use of busing.

“Busing is not a good thing and they’ve done studies proving it. It’s an academic problem. Kids don’t perform as well. They are up an hour before everyone else in order to catch a bus,” MacDougall said in an interview.

He criticized school boards for shutting schools in small municipalities in order to maintain enrolment levels in larger municipalities such as St. Catharines.

Despite the fact NOTL is a growing community and has been for decades, the decision was still made to shut Niagara District.

“Why? Because the St. Catharines trustees, they don’t want to close their schools. They don’t give a s--- what happens to the other areas,” he said.

NOTL does not have a dedicated trustee representing the town on the public or Catholic boards. NOTL’s trustees are joint between St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

MacDougall said reclaiming education for kids in NOTL starts with the town.

“The problem in this town is priorities. At one time, kids were a priority. They’re not today,” he said.

“You’ve got 840 kids today and they’re victims. They are all victims.”

“I sit in my home on Line 7 as buses go by, one after another. This is the worst, I swear to God.”

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# 'They're invisible': Group aims to launch youth campus for NOTL high schoolers

Continued from Front Page

on-the-Lake Youth Campus this fall.

"I really do believe that school and community are closely knit," Polgrabia said in an interview Tuesday.

"And when you have a space for children to network and create communities, that's where the magic really happens and they can start creating a community."

The lack of community space for NOTL's teens means they can easily be forgotten.

"Right now, they're invisible. There's no space for them. We want to create space so they have a centre point and then we go from there," Polgrabia said.

The most recent census shows nearly 3,000 kids in NOTL age 19 and under, and two-thirds of them are under 15.

"It's not an insignificant number. There's a lot of youth and it's growing."

Polgrabia, a lifelong resident of NOTL, graduated from Parliament Oak Public School and Niagara District Secondary School. The closing of both hit her personally.

"My son was just heading into junior kindergarten. It was the last year of Parliament Oak," she recalled, saying the community joined the fight to save the school too late.

"I said, 'No matter what happens, Jayden will still go to Parliament Oak. I will still walk him into my kindergarten class and we will still get to have that experience together.'"

"So, we did and during that year I vowed that I would work with the government and that by the time Jayden was heading into Grade 9 there would be a high school option for him."

Polgrabia wasn't quite able to achieve those lofty ambitions and a brick and mortar high school is still a far off idea for NOTL.

In discussions with officials she was told that would most likely not happen within 15 years.

Polgrabia, who works in



Caroline Polgrabia has put eight years of effort into bringing a high school back to NOTL, hoping that she would be able to have her kids attend a local school instead of busing to St. Catharines or Niagara Falls. That dream is not a reality, yet. EVAN SAUNDERS

provincial government, said she knows better than most how slow-moving governments can be, so she set out to start the work early.

And her eight years of toil have not been in vain. She has nearly succeeded in bringing a new high school-oriented community centre back to town.

"I've been looking for locations just to create dedicated space for children. I found a partner and we haven't inked a deal yet so I can't say where it is but it is very central to town."

"In September, all things going in the right direction, we'll be able to launch what we're calling the Niagara-on-the-Lake Youth Campus."

The campus would be a secondary school-focused community centre and study area for NOTL students to gather in their hometown.

Things are still in the works but Polgrabia said she and a group of hard-working parents are trying to provide social services at the building along with an army of volunteers and mentors drawn from the community.

Starting a secondary school-focused space in NOTL is the first step in

what she hopes will be the long-term process of bringing a full bricks-and-mortar high school back to town.

"That is the ultimate goal," Polgrabia said.

She reiterated though that, after discussions with the directors of education for both regional boards, the likelihood of a full building in NOTL within 15 years is low.

"But you never know, right? And they said, 'But let's keep talking,' " Polgrabia said.

"So, is the end goal a bricks-and-mortar high school? I think yes. If the community group wants that conversation and keep pushing that message."

"But I'm still dedicated to creating space where (high school kids) can be a community, a community of that age group and feel like they have a place to call their own."

She said there are many talented and intelligent NOTL residents who have already offered their time to be mentors and volunteers with the project.

But there is much to figure out before the youth campus hopefully launches in the fall.

Things like: "What the governance is going to look like and how we are going to work together in a partnership," she said.

"So, I can't say for sure it is happening but I'm 99 per cent sure we have it."

Once launched, Polgrabia said the next steps would be exploring some form of hybrid learning for high school-aged NOTL students. That could be in the form of remote learning where kids can attend class from the youth campus or immersive learning in which hands-on examples of subjects are given.

Polgrabia highlighted the ease of implementing immersive learning in a town such as NOTL, whose smaller population leads to closer ties among residents, industries and bureaucrats.

She said she has been discussing the project with Lord Mayor Betty Disero and the Lord Mayor's Youth Council, and hopes to have a more definitive statement on the future of the campus later this summer.

It is important that NOTL's teenagers have a space they can congregate at beyond the outlet mall or St. Catharines' Pen Centre, she said.

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## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 56**  
**Region active cases: 440**  
**Region deaths: 565**  
**Region total cases: 41,409**

*\*June 15 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**

"My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent."  
 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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Mountainview LemonAid day was a huge success across the region and in NOTL. On Charlotte Street, the stand organized by Abby Davidson had immense support from her community and neighbours. **Read more about LemonAid Day at niagaranow.com.**

EVAN SAUNDERS

## LemonAid Day



## Editorial

### Community needs to support pickleball club

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

In the court of public opinion, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club is definitely a winner.

In the court in Welland, however, it lost.

People love the game for its exercise, camaraderie and fun.

And most everyone to whom our reporters have spoken supported the club in its legal dispute with a resident who complained about excessive noise caused by pickleball players.

But barring a costly, likely drawn-out appeal, unfortunately, none of that matters.

The provincial offences court has ruled that the Town of NOTL and the pickleball club violated the town's own noise bylaw and must cease and desist.

The court said the outdoor courts at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil cannot be used for pickleball due to the excessive noise it generates. And the town

and the club must pay fines of \$1,000 each.

We learned a long time ago that it's a mugg's game to try to predict the outcome of any court case (the law is complex and judges are learned), but this judgment was still a surprise.

The evidence of the noise levels was compelling (yes, pickleball's repeated "plonk, plonk" can be loud and annoying) but most of us felt, even though the sport moved in after the residents were already there, this was all occurring in a park designed for outdoor sports.

That mattered not to Justice of the Peace Mary Shelley, who declared the town and the club violated the noise bylaw.

To her credit, before she took the parties to court, the complainant, Oana Scafesi, had sought remedies from the town to reduce the noise and her discomfort. But that never happened.

Hence a court case that we expect will get the attention of municipalities

and pickleball clubs near and far for what is acceptable noise and what must be done to mitigate or avoid complaints.

Now, social media keyboard warriors and those who sit in the court of public opinion can rail and complain about the perceived absurdity or unfairness of this court ruling. However, the fact remains that a member of the judiciary ruled on points of law, not emotion. While we don't have to like or support the decision, we do need to respect it.

So, what next? An appeal would take many months to wend its way through the process and there is no guarantee the appeal would even be heard, let alone be successful.

Perhaps this is a moment for the Town of NOTL to examine the layout of the sports park and determine whether there is a more suitable spot for outdoor pickleball courts to be installed.

Or choose another location in town where that "plonk, plonk" noise can be mitigated and pickleballers can play to their hearts' content.

What definitely should not happen is our community cannot let the cash-strapped, non-profit pickleball club bear the brunt of the financial burden imposed by the court. The club has a year to pay the \$1,000 fine – equal to about half its current bank balance, court was told. The penalty could devastate the club financially.

So, we hope that the good, generous folks of NOTL will band together to fundraise – whether by a modern GoFundMe campaign or otherwise – and ensure the future of the club, help it pay the fine and support it in working with the town to set up a new location to play a game that has so many obvious benefits.

Don't let this be the end of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club.

editor@niagaranow.com



### Commentary on 'Toronto people' term was spot on

Dear editor:  
 Thank you to Beth MacDonald for speaking out about the attitude of some native NOTLers ("NOTLers need to stop with derogatory 'Toronto people' criticism," Letter, June 9).

We newcomers have been accused of everything from putting up housing and rental prices to drive-by shootings.

We came here because we love it.

I have been here seven

years and, like many people, volunteer my time and talents with a few organizations.

My tax dollars go toward the town and my money is spent locally supporting local businesses.

Thankfully there are

many locals who welcome us and don't have that "Toronto people" attitude.

By the way, I'm not a "Toronto people" – I moved here from Mississauga.

Janet Guy  
 St. Davids



# Pope's planned apology for abuse is a travesty

Dear editor:  
The Pope's anticipated apology for decades of clergy abuse likely will be along the lines of: "I have tortured, raped and murdered thousands of children in my care as a holy person of 'god.' I apologize."  
And you tell me "all is well," your "apology" is sufficient to absolve you of guilt in the murders of little children?



Pope Francis.

sumably as some sort of supplicants), the "honour" of his presence in Canada and an expected "apology."  
For some form of justice to be done, the Pope should be arrested on arrival in Canada and put on trial for murder, just as any other blood-thirsty tyrant would be – and, in a few cases, has been, even in our times.  
We have an International Court of Justice and the Pope should be on trial there, too.

Regrettably, anything the Pope or the Catholic church says is similar to USA-style "thoughts and prayers" in the face of preventable disasters such as school shootings.  
"Thoughts and prayers" replace any real action to change matters.  
The torture, rape and murder of Indigenous children by Catholic priests and nuns in the catastrophic residential schools was preventable, yet it was allowed to happen.  
It was in fact "mandated" by the levels of government of Canada.  
The infamy, guilt and barbarity of the whole "scheme" to "kill the Indian" in Indigenous children was madness.  
Yet Canada did it and the church carried out its orders perfectly.  
Priests and nuns "killed the Indian" and in some

cases seem to have interpreted the mandate quite literally.  
It is a travesty that the "pope", head of the "catholic church" (which I no longer respect with capitalization), is coming to Canada to "apologize."  
We Canadians should be ashamed to enable such a travesty.  
Instead, our country, all of Canada should be suing the church and all who aid an abet the evils that this church is constantly engaged in, including pedophilia, child molestation and rape, by priests here in the Niagara Regions and all over Canada.  
Unless, of course, believers think such behaviour by the church in Canada is OK, mandated by their "god."

**Kaspar Pold  
NOTL**

# Americans, guns and the never-ending carnage

Dear editor:  
I've written numerous letters to your newspaper, but none as important as this one.  
As we all know, there have been more deaths in the United States in the hands of an adolescent with an AR-15-style assault rifle. Is there any reason for anyone 18 (or older) to have one of these weapons of mass destruction?



In the U.S. capital, near the Washington Monument, there are 45,000 memorials with white and orange flowers commemorating the lives of those killed by gun violence in the U.S. in just one year.  
How many were killed with an AR-15? We don't have those numbers, but we have the numbers of those killed during a 12-month period.  
Has life become so unimportant that we just go on and on without the necessary changes that would prevent so many lost lives?  
The Republican Party is supported by the National Rifle Association. Is this a

reason Republican members regularly vote against gun laws that would help to prevent the deaths of so many?  
Some of those changes could have prevented children and teachers at Uvalde, Texas, from being gunned down by an 18-year-old with little thought for the lives he was taking on that disastrous day.  
An AR-15, with its rapid-fire capability, is not a rifle any hunter needs to bring down their game.  
Using a rifle with that much power leaves little meat on any game the hunter plans on feeding their families. Does it make any sense for anyone to own or use a weapon used by the military during a time of war?  
In 1907, Winchester produced and sold the first multi-shot weapon to citizens, yet at that time the military were being given

single-shot rifles.  
In the U.S., 91 per cent of the citizens are reported to be wanting drastic changes made to the gun laws, yet the politicians are deaf to what the voters are telling them.  
What does it have to take for those voted into power to hear and respond to the changes that must take place?  
Do greed and the desire to be elected into power supersede the protection of the lives of those who will vote for these politicians?  
Republican voters will continue to vote for the party even after elected members vote against changes in gun laws – changes party supporters wanted their elected members to make.  
Will they vote for those members again in two years? What do you think?

**Tom Thornton  
NOTL**

# NOTL Cats Rescue desperately needs foster homes

Dear editor:  
NOTL Cats Rescue, our only local cat rescue group, needs the community's help.  
We are in desperate need of foster homes for many

kittens and cats.  
What is involved with being a foster? A loving, caring person or family with a spare room.  
NOTL Cats Rescue will supply everything needed

to foster – food, litter and litter boxes, scratch posts, toys, etc.  
If you can help please contact us by email at notlcatrescue@hotmail.com or message us on the

NOTL Cats Facebook page.  
We will be happy to answer any questions regarding cat care as a foster.  
**Erika Buchkowsky  
Volunteer  
NOTL Cats Rescue**

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- Dalai Lama

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van noort flower studio

# Dollar for dollar, how do we solve a puzzle like the **exchange rate?**



## Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson  
Columnist  
The Lake Report

This economic flimflam has confused me since my university days in the U.S. way back in the 1960s.

"The exchange rate" was then 1.07, with our Canadian dollar stronger than its U.S. counterpart.

Fast-forward to 1994, and "the exchange rate" was 1.64, with the U.S. dollar higher. Now, the rate is about 1.22, with the U.S. green-back stronger. Confused?

Go figger.

Living in a touristy town like Niagara-on-the-Lake, just across "the river" from

the U.S. we constantly see little signs on Queen Street shop windows that advise the daily exchange rate.

We don't go across the border, we go "over the river." Well, we used to go over the ditch before COVID-19 and it was as easy as changing our socks. For beer and pizza, for cheaper gas, whatever, it was so easy and quick.

Since the ongoing global deadly pandemic (now endemic) started more than 26 months ago, in March 2020, I have only been across the river once, for a Sabres game with pals. I miss them and I'm very thirsty for several Yuenglings.

American visitors to Canada have always been flummoxed by the difference between the Canadian and the U.S. dollars.

Their dollar is an international benchmark and I believe that as long as our dollar is called a dollar, folks from south of the border will never get it. Until we change the name of our



One U.S. dollar equalled \$1.29 Canadian Wednesday evening. ROSS ROBINSON

currency, the confusion will continue.

Let's consider a new name. The Northy? The Canucky? The Moosey? The Beaver? Until we take that dramatic step, continued confusion. The franc, the lire, the ruble, the shekel are all different. To almost all Americans, a dollar is just that. A dollar.

Let me ramble back

to 1995 when a great pal of mine was over from Lackawanna for a round of golf at St. Davids Golf Course.

He had been to Europe several times. He was a senior marketing executive with Tops Friendly Markets, based in Buffalo. Cross-border shopping was a constant concern to his company, especially for the marketing department.

He asked for a ticket for nine holes and Ginny asked him for \$11. He handed her an American 20 dollar bill.

At that day's exchange rate of 1.64, the good lady behind the counter did a quick calculation and subtracted \$11 from \$32.80. Then she handed him his green fee pass, AND \$21.80 in Canadian banknotes and coins.

Confused, my pal looked to me for help. I replied, "Trust her, it's a great deal."

As we waited to tee off, he said, "I don't get it. She asked me for \$11. I gave her a 20. She gave me more back, \$21.80. And, a green fee pass."

I just said, "It's a heck of a value, eh? And a great little course. Trust her. You're up. Play well and let's have a few laughs."

Most of us don't understand how the exchange rate is set. Too deep, eh? Go with it.

Let's meet at the Exchange Brewery on Queen Street, right next to the rarely open Apothecary. Right on the best corner in town. Its front door handle is subject to many frustrated pulls every day and people end up peering through the windows.

We'll quaff a trendy beer or two and try to figger out the U.S.-Canadian exchange rate.

But I ramble ...



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11 am - 3 pm  
Rotary Club of NOTL BBQ Lunch  
11 am - 3 pm  
Live music and kids entertainment!



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4 pm  
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6:30 pm - Evening Program begins:  
• Kiddie Militia and drill  
• The 41st Regiment Fife & Drum Corps



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3 pm  
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Piping Down the Sun is June 22 at Ryerson Park. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

## Chautauqua celebrates summer by Piping Down the Sun

Molly Bowron  
The Lake Report

The Chautauqua Residents Association is celebrating the first day of summer by Piping Down the Sun on Wednesday, June 22, at Ryerson Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Along with the stellar sunset and friendly atmo-

sphere for which the lakeside park is known, Allan Spencer from the City of Thorold Pipe Band will be performing on the bagpipes, while the sun makes its descent, marking the beginning of summer.

Residents association president Brian Crow said he "loves to see the sunsets" at the park and suggested "all you will need is a lawn

chair" if you come to mark the occasion.

Parking in the Chautauqua neighbourhood is limited, especially near Ryerson Park, so he urged people to walk to the area for the occasion.

COVID pre-empted the solstice celebration the last two years but Crow is excited to have it returning.



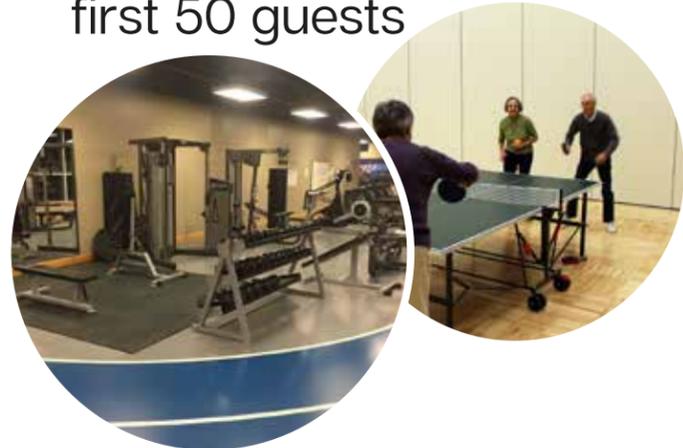
# COMMUNITY CENTRE OPEN HOUSE

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Community Centre is hosting a free Open House.

Come explore the activities that take place at our facilities, test out the fitness centre, and talk to our Community Partners!

**JUNE 30, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

- ✓ Vendor Booths
- ✓ Bouncy Castle
- ✓ Door Prizes
- ✓ Free Use of the Fitness Centre
- ✓ Community Goodie Bags for first 50 guests



### Public Library

Visit the Library for Special Children's Programming.

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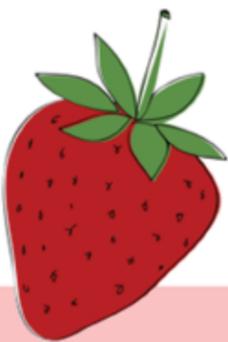
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## Strawberry Social

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is returning to an in-person gathering for the Strawberry Social event, with a pick-up option available. Admission is free for all attendees.

**WHO?** Niagara-on-the-Lake residents aged 65+ years

**WHEN?** Monday, June 27, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE?** Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane

**Registration is required for in-person and pick-up options.** Please register at [www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events](http://www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events)



SUNSHINE AND FLOWERS

# Hundreds flock – and walk – to Shaw Garden Tour

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

If you stopped one of the droves of people walking about Old Town on Saturday and asked them what they were doing, chances are they would have said they were part of the Shaw Guild Garden Tour.

More than 860 people attended the Garden Tour this weekend, which for the first time featured only gardens in Old Town so people could walk among the locations.

All the money raised will go toward the Shaw Festival's production of "A Christmas Carol" this winter, said Jo Ann Ely on behalf of the Shaw Guild.

"We are planning on walking between all the garden's today," Michelle Myers said as she perused some flowers in an immaculate garden on Bay Berry Lane.

Myers was on the tour with some friends. She said an Aperol spritz at an Old Town restaurant might be needed between gardens.

But the garden tour wasn't all about appreciating the lovely foliage for Myers – she was there to gather some ideas as well.

"I'm redoing some gardening at home as well as at our business in St. Catharines. So, I'm looking for inspiration," she said.

"I'm gonna take pictures of the things that I think maybe could fit somewhere and it's just a beautiful day, a gorgeous day to be walking about Niagara-on-the-Lake," she said.

Myers is an American by birth but married a Cana-



Top: A koi pond was one of the main features at the garden at 25 Bay Berry Lane. Bottom left: Master gardener Yvonne Causer was one of more than 100 volunteers who made the garden tour possible. Bottom right: A micro clover lawn at 25 Bay Berry Lane. EVAN SAUNDERS

dian and now lives in St. Catharines.

New to the garden tour this year was the inclusion of artists at each property.

Winnie Tam was one of them and was painting the very garden she was standing in. Tam focused on a Japanese maple tree and its surrounding foliage for her piece.

"Tender Arts Niagara is my sister's company. I am a part-time hobbyist and they said, 'We need a volunteer for the Shaw Festival.' I

said, 'Why not?'" said Tam.

Tender Arts Niagara is a new art initiative out of St. Catharines.

"We're just starting out. It's a group of us trying to start up more of a community mind for our artists. We're holding some workshops in the fall," she said.

"But in all honesty it's just that we wanted to give back to the community. All of us have our full-time jobs but it's kind of nice to do something fun."

Tam is a home gardener

herself and said it was a real pleasure for her to be able to combine her artistic and horticultural passions during the event.

She works as an occupational therapist and said there is an important link between therapy, gardening and art.

"Actually a few patients of mine are just starting to do some watercolours and I think it's a good idea. It takes them out of the rehab mode," she said.

Getting to share an artis-

tic and natural space with strangers throughout the day was special, she said.

"This is kind of inspiring to see all the gardens and talk about colours. I think it's a good experience."

Adele Campbell was painting a close-up of a butterfly's wings in another garden.

"I am a bug fan, obviously, and I love gardens so this just happens to coincide with my passion for gardening and for painting," Campbell said.

"I love painting bugs and butterflies and insects in general. The colours are so vibrant," she said.

After painting the initial form of the butterfly's wings with a brush, Campbell then used a pallet knife to give the wings texture to invoke the many layers and qualities of the bug, she said.

More than 100 volunteers contributed their time to make the garden tour a success and many of them do it for one simple reason: they love gardens.

"I just love flowers and I love to just get lost in gardening. That's what I do," said volunteer and master gardener Yvonne Causer.

"I belong to the Garden Club of Niagara and they were seeking more volunteers. So I came along to support the Shaw and see all the lovely gardens as well. This one is particularly lovely," said Norma De Meel, another volunteer.

Also unique to the garden tour this year was the focused inclusion of gardens created and maintained entirely by the homeowner instead of a professional service. The Garden at 23 Bay Berry Lane was one of them.

De Meel liked that the owners had a variety of plants in their garden.

"What is so beautiful about this garden is that they blended more common plants with more unusual plants," De Meel said.

She was particularly enamoured with a lions head Japanese maple in the front garden, a fairly unique tree to see, which was planted beside a ninebark, a more common plant, she said.

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# Local context is key, planning expert says

Continued from Front Page

the Whistle Stop Trail and a community garden.

The garden will be a “big gathering space and community space for community events for the local neighbourhood and will be a walkway out to Charlotte Street,” said Lowes.

It will also double as an emergency vehicle access point, since there is only one proposed road into the subdivision. This came up multiple times during the meeting.

Landscape architect and University of Guelph Prof. Brendan Stewart started off his comments “by acknowledging that I’m not opposed to development happening on the sites in principle,” referring to the two properties targeted for development by Solmar, 200 John St. and 588 Charlotte St.

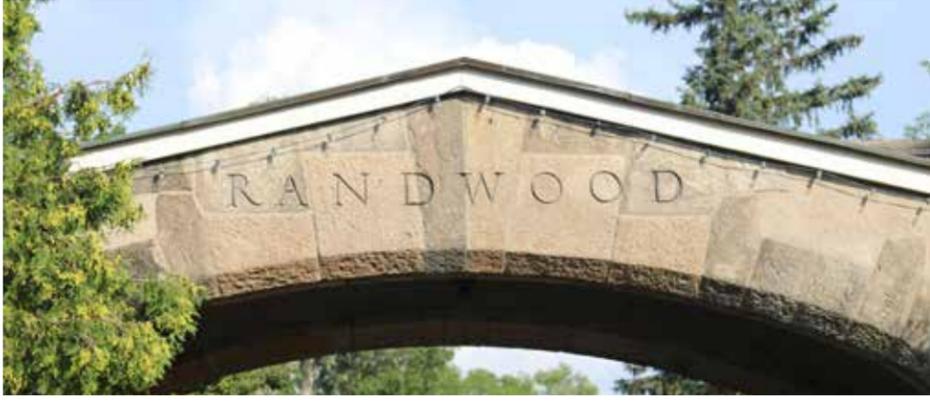
“I think it’s quite possible to develop a balanced and sensitive approach where the significant heritage and other resources on the property can be conserved while accommodating new development.”

But Stewart felt the plans shown so far have not adequately addressed the character of the neighbourhood nor the heritage deeply embedded across the Randwood Estate.

Stewart said this is evidenced by the fact the latest proposal does not include an updated or amended heritage impact study.

The study would lay out significant historical features, explain why they are significant and how the development will address and conserve them as it progresses, Stewart said.

This process allows creativity on the part of the



Residents aren’t happy with plans for a subdivision on the Rand Estate properties. FILE

developer to incorporate character and heritage into designs and should not be forgotten, he said.

He pointed particularly to the use of a road from John Street through the Rand Estate to reach the new subdivision. This road would pass directly through historic Dunington-Grubb designed gardens.

“I worry that that would have a pretty significant impact and it hasn’t been looked at carefully.”

Dana Anderson of MHBC Planning had five key issues with the proposal.

She first responded to Lowes’ statement the housing mix was based on the region’s comments, which she also related to intensification on the site.

While overall targets set by the region for the entirety of NOTL’s housing mix and intensification are important, local context and character must be equally considered, she said.

“Local context is really the key, a key planning principle for determining how and where growth and various housing types should be accommodated,” Anderson said.

“That does not appear to be the priority consideration for the plan.”

She also took issue with

the proposed green spaces in the development, which are located on the edges of the subdivision to act as a buffer between neighbouring residences and the new buildings.

“That dispersion around the perimeter really doesn’t represent walkability or connectivity as suggested but really acts as spots for resting at the edges of the subdivision.”

The fact that there is only one access road for the development is unorthodox, as most municipalities require developments of more than 100 houses to have two access roads, she said.

The emergency access road that cuts through a trail and the proposed community garden creates safety concerns, Anderson said.

She also disagreed with the justification for the density of the project, which was that it is comparable to other infill developments in town.

“Stating that the proposed development is similar to density and other infill developments in other locations in the area and the built-up area, in our opinion, doesn’t equate to achieving the character of the existing Old Town,” she said.

“It does, however, need to be respectful of the charac-

ter of the area’s context to limit the impact.”

Jack Richard, a professional forester with Natural Resource Solutions Inc., spoke on behalf of SORE, expressing concerns with the development’s impact on the environment.

Of particular concern was the proposed complete removal of a wetland, half of which is on the Greenbelt and is considered a key hydrologic feature under governing policy, Richard said.

“The proponent accurately identifies that the (Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority) policy document states that wetland removal may be permitted where it is demonstrated that no reasonable alternative exists,” he said.

“We don’t really feel as though no reasonable alternative exists to the wetland removal, particularly considering the previous development concept actually proposed to maintain a large part of that feature.”

Numerous residents spoke, addressing concerns about how the bordering trees would be handled, noise from the sewage pump, and simply declaring they think the entire proposal is an example of poor planning.



**What common English verb becomes its own past tense by rearranging its letters?**

**Last issue: Lily is a lily pad in a small pond. Lily doubles her size each day. On the 20th day, she covers the whole pond. On what day was Lily half the size of the pond?**

**Answer: Day 19**

**Answered first by: Jane Morris**

**Also answered correctly (in order) by: Terry Nord, Howard Jones, Mary Drost, Brandy Delaney, Leanne Leach, Bob Stevens, Wade Durling, Kim McQuhae, Olivia Heck, Shani Waller, Pam Dowling, Susan Pohorly, Gary Davis, David Steele, Graham Gibbs, Sylvia Wiens, Margie Enns, Britiney Turasz, Gordon Yanow, Jesse Rice, Sheila Meloche, Donna Clute, Brian McAndrew, Dan Smith, Bert Dandy, Warren Bain, Dennis Blake, Doug Bruce, Steven Hawkins**

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

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# Cricket coach **stacks up wins** for NOTL

*Continued from Front Page*

the Clippers' spirits never dwindled and they beat the Vineland Lions 106-81.

Steele was sufficiently happy with his team's performance and gives credit to the Lions for making it a great game.

"They put up a good challenge but they need the trophies more than I do," Steele said with his characteristic laugh.

"They were fighting very hard and I like the challenge."

Some of the players on the Clippers were on the team for the first time this year. When The Lake Report spoke with Steele about the game last week, he said he needed to be sure he picked the right guys.

"Well, they have certainly done the job," he said afterward.

Steele thanked The Lake Report for the advanced coverage of the event, which he said helped bring out a bigger crowd than in previous years.

And people in attendance reiterated that reading about the "Men of Steele" drew



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Clippers beat the Vineland Lions for their 25th victory at the annual cricket match between seasonal workers in the Niagara region. EVAN SAUNDERS

them to the match.

"We found out about this through the paper," said Colette Williams as she hid from the rain under an elm tree at Memorial Park

"It was a great interview (with Steele)," her husband Clark said.

"We're hockey fans but the Rangers lost," he said.

"But, really, we love to learn about the game,"

Colette said, noting she has played cricket in the

past but had a tendency of throwing her bat across the field when she swung.

"Supporting these guys (is why I'm here). They are an amazing group of guys and, of course, a huge part of the community," said Sue Dale, who is a volunteer at the Farmworker Hub in Virgil.

"And you know? What a great opportunity it is to learn about another culture. It's a privilege and great insight

into how a whole other part of the world lives," she said.

The match is organized by the Caribbean Workers Outreach Program in partnership with GateWay Community Church.

Sponsors included Baskin-Robbins and Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen Inc., which brought food for everyone and even purchased uniforms. Simon Bollie performed music for the crowd.

# Museum lecture examines NOTL's waterfront, with **'worry and wonder'**

Staff  
The Lake Report

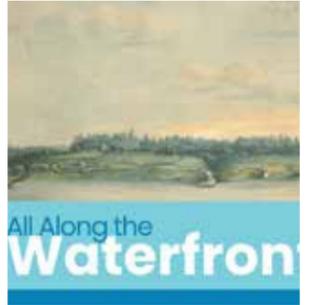
Niagara-on-the-Lake has had a long and powerful relationship with its waterfront and on Thursday, June 16, environmentalist Owen Bjorgan hosts an in-person lecture examining that relationship.

"From one of the largest lakes in the world to the enormous volumes of the Niagara River, there is both worry and wonder – and that needs to be put in the spotlight for NOTL's locals, decision makers, and visitors alike," he said.

The 7:30 p.m. presentation is called "Worry and Wonder" and is at the NOTL Museum, 43 Castlereagh St.

Bjorgan promises a "fresh look" at Niagara's world-class freshwater resource, a complement to the exhibition running at the museum, "All Along the Waterfront."

Born and raised in Niagara, Bjorgan believes the best learning and life expe-



The Museum's "All Along the Waterfront" exhibit is on now. SUPPLIED

periences happen in the field, experiencing Niagara's massive biodiversity, wildlife, beauty and its natural water resources.

"There are many realistic and exciting opportunities to protect these special places," he said. "And I will have you looking at your water wonderland backyard with a totally new perspective."

Tickets are free for museum members, \$10 for non-members. Registration is required.

For more information, go to [www.notlmuseum.ca](http://www.notlmuseum.ca).

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# Reclaimed from ashes after devastating fire

## NOTL woodworker revives business following blaze and his father's disappearance

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

A lot of people in Mike Werner's shoes might have thrown in the towel. But he's not one to give up.

The 25-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake resident lost just about everything in February 2021, when a fire destroyed his woodworking business, all of his products and the majority of his tools — about a \$400,000 loss.

Shortly afterward, his father Darren Werner, who owned the property, went missing and has not been found.

On top of everything, Mike Werner was left to care for his grandmother, who has dementia.

But through it all, Werner has persevered and fought to bring back his business, aptly named Reclaimed from Roots.

Surrounded by leftover charred vehicles on the hollow remains of the property where his thriving business once stood, he now works in a roofless, burned-out greenhouse and is on his way to finishing up all the orders that went up in flames.

"I've always been pretty good at adapting to my situation," he says, as he removes tarps from some of the long hardwood tables he's working on.

"So it's pretty much just doing that — and as long as I can produce quality, I'll still produce. I really love what I do so it wasn't like a question of getting back. It was just kind of like, how and when?"

Werner specializes in taking felled trees and turning them into beautiful live-edge countertops and pieces of art. Now he's reclaiming his own business from literal ashes.

"That's definitely what it is," he says.

And true to the nature of the phoenix, things are returning to normal for Werner.

Since restarting his work, he's been using one of the only pieces of equipment that survived the



Top: Mike Werner's saw is set up in an outdoor greenhouse with nothing but tarps for cover. Bottom left: Werner with his dog Nala in 2021, shortly after a fire destroyed his and several other businesses on the property. Bottom right: Werner and Nala are building things back from the ashes of his former business. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

fire — a powerful industrial saw — and a generator to keep it running.

"It took a long time for that to even run decently and it could pretty much only cut smaller pieces so I just tried to sell off what I could from milling smaller lumber," he says.

"I just pretty much lived off of that for a year and a little help from CERB. That was pretty much it."

He began working again in the winter and toiled through frozen days, rain and snowfall to catch up on orders. At first he had a tarp atop the greenhouse, but it ripped off in a windstorm around Christmas. Since then he has braved the elements.

"I've been doing everything outside through all of that wonderful weather we've had," he says.

He officially started taking new orders in March.

"I didn't say I was officially back in business until I covered the orders that I had from the fire and all the product that was pre-sold in the showroom — because everything in there was already sold."

He only has a few orders to catch up on, he says, out of about \$80,000 worth of items he had to remake.

"Now, it's like at least more business as usual. Just working in a lot smaller space," he says.

He hopes also to rebuild his social media presence

now, to let people know he's back on track.

"I hadn't posted anything since the fire," he says.

"I just need to reach more people to let them know that I am back in business because they're still probably very unsure with the fire and everything."

That and the fact there isn't a building up yet, he says. But undeterred, he has his burned-out greenhouse and 20 by 15 garage."

He uses trees from around Niagara and specializes in large slab dining tables made from one piece of wood.

That was a challenge when he was trying to complete orders to specific

dimensions, but he says he managed by ordering the wood from some local suppliers.

"I had to go and match those trees and species and dimensions as best as I could to be able to cover exactly what they ordered and had purchased."

He said people were understanding and he had a "very low dropout rate" among his clients.

"I think I might have only lost like three customers."

Now, he said he's taking orders again and hopes to build back better than ever.

Meanwhile, he reminds people police are still looking for his father. The homicide squad has taken over the investigation.

"The search is still on. They're still looking for him," he says.

He asks anyone who might have any information about his father's whereabouts to contact Niagara Regional Police or Crime Stoppers.

Werner hopes "someone thinks of something that someone didn't before."

"I just like to keep it out there that he is still missing and they're still looking for leads," he said

"They're looking for what happened."

Werner's shop is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1238 Townline Rd. and he says the best way to reach him is through his website [reclaimedfromroots.com](http://reclaimedfromroots.com).



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# Thunderhawks soar to 9-1 win in Fort Erie

Andy Boldt  
Special to The Lake Report

The Fort Erie Hawks notched the first goal of the game at home last week versus the U22 Niagara Thunderhawks but that was it as the NOTL squad roared back with nine unanswered goals.

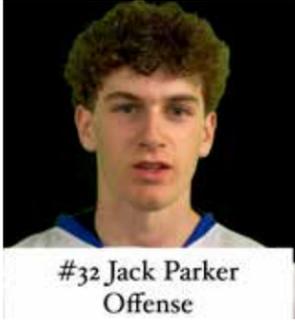
The 9-1 win leaves the Niagara-on-the-Lake team undefeated in Ontario Lacrosse League and tournament play so far this season.

On the road in Fort Erie, the Thunderhawks started a little slow after a strenuous tournament in Brampton two days earlier where they emerged champions.

The Hawks opened the scoring midway through the first period and it wasn't answered by the Thunderhawks until the last minute of the period.

With the score tied, the Thunderhawks continued putting pressure on the Hawks offensively, generating many scoring opportunities. It seemed the Thunderhawks had lost their mojo, which was in huge supply two days earlier.

Fortunately, that change thanks to the face-off team



#32 Jack Parker  
Offense



#88 Jordan Wiens  
Offense



#34 Liam Dietsch  
Offense



#91 Liam Gatt  
Defence

of Noah Ostromecki, Jack Marotta, Colby Ostromecki and Aaron Wilson which had a 95 per cent win ratio, allowing the ball to remain in the offensive end.

That high possession rate allowed the offence to turn their woes around, scoring eight more goals en route to a dominant win.

Defence has been the foundation of the Thunderhawks' success to this point in the season.

It starts with the offence

putting pressure on their opponents when they have gained possession, providing enough time for the transitioning players to get to the bench to allow the defensive players on the floor before their opponents have the opportunity to enter the defensive zone.

At this point the defensive specialists take over, increasing their pressure with aggressive stick checks, thundering cross-checks and punishing double teams

that leave their opponents battered and relieved of the ball.

Defensive protégé's such as Marotta, Wilson, Liam Gatt, Noah Ostromecki and Liam Dietsch, all rookies, provide an invaluable strength.

That keeps the Thunderhawks energized and prepared for any opponent as well as being the building blocks for future U22 teams.

Mentors Christian Blaylock, Brett Wilson, Joe Fragnito, Trent Hunter, Colby Ostromecki, Sam VanderZalm and Matt VandeLaar round out the defensive core.

Fans can see the Thunderhawks' defence in action when they play the Hamilton Bengals June 28 at the Meridian Credit Union arena in Virgil at 8 p.m.

The team is working toward its season goal of winning a provincial championship in Oshawa from Aug. 2-4.

All Thunderhawks alumni are invited to the July 9 double-header versus the Milton Mavericks with games at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Thunderhawks.

# Darling's 87 is tops in 18-hole women's play

Staff  
The Lake Report

A week after heavy rains washed out most competitive league play at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, action resumed on the links.

Michele Darling's 87 won low gross in the 18-hole women's league on Tuesday, June 14, followed by Yolanda Henry (89) and Martha Cruikshank (93).

Low net winner was Cheryl Yamamoto (74), while Henry, May Chang and Peggy Larder netted 75 and Ria Rosenberg was 76.

Four women tied for fewest putts, with 27: Cruikshank, Darling, Henry and Larder. Cathy Murray birdied #4.

In men's league play on Thursday, June 9, James Grigjanis-Meusel shot an even-par 36 to win low gross. Ken Hunter was tops in Stableford scoring, with 21 points.

Longest drive winners were Ben Berti (#3) and Mark Derbyshire (#6, seniors over 60). Hunter was

closest to the pin on #4 and Steven Warboys was closest on #9. Bill Jenkins sank the longest putt on #5

Net skins winners were John Reynolds (#3) and Jim McMacken (#6). Gross skins went to Reynolds (#3) and Glen Murray (#4).

The previous week, June 2, there was a three-way tie for low gross as Rick Janes, Ricky Watson and Derbyshire all shot one-over par 37.

Three players also shared top spot in Stableford points scoring. Gerry Shelly, Bob Lowe and Janes each accumulated 21 points.

Longest drive winners were Bill Smith (#3) and Reynolds (senior 60+ on #6).

Don Cruikshank made the longest putt on #5, while closest to the pin winners were Kurt Hamm (#4) and Robert Yamamoto (#9).

No one scooped any net skins but gross skins went to Rai Large (#2), Brock Sansom (#5) and Watson (#9).

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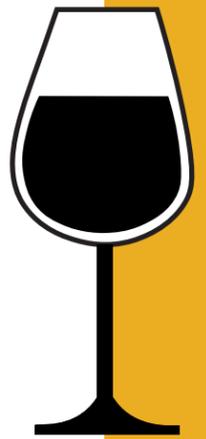
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# Pumphouse in July rocks with exhibitions and **Canada Day** activities for all ages

Staff  
The Lake Report

Things are hopping at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, with exhibitions and events throughout July.

The community art hub of the community will be bustling with activities inside the galleries, on the outdoor grounds and even virtually.

The month kicks off with the opening of a solo exhibit by Robert Crosby titled "Old & New."

The collection features hyper-realistic, acrylic paintings of what he sees around him.

Reflecting on the fast-paced world, he says "we forget about things that at one time were important to us. It is not just about surviving in this high-tech world. Look around, slow down and enjoy your surroundings."

The artist hopes viewers of his work derive a feeling of "calm and recollection from pleasant memories from their past."

"By simply looking around, even the old things we ignore have craftsman-



Art at the Pumphouse is returning July 9. SUPPLIED

ship and beauty," he said.

Visitors can meet the artist at a reception on Sunday, July 3, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The show runs through July 26 in the Joyner Gallery.

On July 1, residents and guests can join in the Canada Day Scavenger Hunt hosted by the NOTL Arts Collective.

The entry form with the rules and instructions to play can be downloaded from the collective's website, notlartscollective.ca or picked up from any of its six member galleries, including the Pumphouse.

All entry forms with correct answers will be entered into a draw on July 2 for a chance to win prizes.

A draw also will be held at the Pumphouse on Canada Day, for a chance to win an original artwork by Niagara-on-the-Lake artist and member, Sharon Frayne.

Now on its second year, the raffle, hosted by Peter Domarchuk, aims to promote visual arts in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Entry forms are now available in the Walker Gallery.

The Pumphouse will be open July 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on July 2 and 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July events continue with the opening of the online version of Art at the Pumphouse on July 9.

The virtual version of this popular juried art show and

sale will be available for viewing through Aug. 9 at the niagarapumphouse.ca/events website.

The event includes the works of more 50 artists and artisans, and features paintings, photography, sculpture, jewellery and more.

The much-awaited, in-person Art at the Pumphouse returns this year and will be held on July 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More details will be available soon.

The Pumphouse also will join in the Year of the Garden celebrations as one of the stops on the NOTL Horticultural Society's Garden Tours on July 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The grounds will be the venue for a plein-air event where four guests get a glimpse of art being created outdoors.

After enjoying the outdoors, guests can view the July exhibitions, including the garden-themed art by Pumphouse members in the Walker Gallery and works by the plein-air artists.

For more information, go to niagarapumphouse.ca.




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# Have some fun



- Across**
- 9. Georgia's capital (7)
  - 10. An ancient one had a bird problem (7)
  - 11. Banish (5)
  - 12. Comparable (9)
  - 13. Road journey refreshment break (3,4)
  - 16. Wield (5)
  - 17. Fish eggs (3)
  - 18. Oddball (6)
  - 19. Entirely (6)
  - 22. Pre-DVD technology (1,1,1)
  - 24. Dorian Gray's vice (5)
  - 26. Door knockers (7)
  - 27. Seen behind the scenes (9)
  - 29. Believer in karma (5)
  - 31. Found between sea and shining sea (7)
  - 32. Make clear (7)
- Down**
- 1. Try (7)
  - 2. Bluff King Hal's regnal no. (4)
  - 3. First-class (4-4)
  - 4. View unfavourably (10)
  - 5. Youth charity (1,1,1,1)
  - 6. Monotonous routine (6)
  - 7. Next? (6,4)
  - 8. Adjusts beforehand (7)
  - 14. If it's too hot, get out of it (3,7)
  - 15. New actress about spreading the word (10)
  - 20. Last remaining chance of relief (4,4)
  - 21. Tofu base (7)
  - 23. Publishing (7)
  - 25. Home of the Prado (6)
  - 28. Oil-rich monarchy on the Arabian Peninsula (4)
  - 30. Old boatman (4)

## Crossword Puzzle

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

### Last issue's answers

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

				9		
	4		9	3	5	
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	5					

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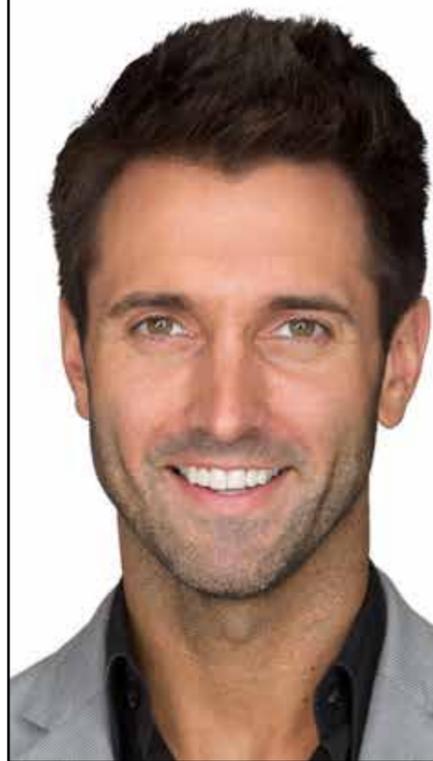
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# Situational awareness and the complexities of our aging brains



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Situational awareness, an ability to know precisely where you are, the terrain you're crossing, possible landing spots in an emergency and awareness of ever-changing weather, is critical for pilots, whether they fly single-engine training machines or high-flying commercial jets.

And so it is with daily life.

To navigate the landscapes of our lives – our neighbourhood, recall where we put our keys, or from a social perspective, keep track of who's who when we meet them and make sense of the feelings and intentions of others – these are skills we take for granted.

Estimates suggest there are roughly 70 to 100

billion nerve cells in the human brain and trillions of connections linking them.

Unlike traditional computers, the brain uses overlapping networks of connections, which range from the very local to widely dispersed networks. Through these, information is widely shared via hubs akin to minor and major airport hubs, which link functionally specialized regions of the brain together.

Memories related to a friend may be stored in several dispersed locations in the neocortex, each location storing some features related to him or her.

For example, there are cells in the temporal lobe, which fire only when I see my friend or perhaps in some specific context, she comes to mind. Other locations might store memories of what he might have said or done or features of his voice.

Thus, memories of friends draw on information that is stored in different regions of the brain.

Discrete lesions may affect recognition of your friend's face, while sparing



IMAGE BY GERD ALTMANN FROM PIXABAY.

memories associated with his voice or demeanour.

But, without both medial temporal lobes and their related structures to establish those memories in the first place, store them in their relevant cortical files and call on them as necessary, I might be unable to form or recall memories of my friend.

Other nerve cells called "grid" and "place" cells in the medial temporal lobe provide information about our movements and location. They were discovered in recent years and the work garnered a Nobel Prize for John O'Keefe of the United

Kingdom and the Norwegian husband-and-wife team of May-Britt Moser and Edvard I. Moser.

Imagine therefore, how confusing and challenging it might be, if the familiar was no longer familiar and we were unable to find common items such as keys or wallet, recognize familiar streets, or perhaps familiar people when we bump into them.

That's what happens early in Alzheimer's disease and some other dementias, when they affect the temporal and nearby parietal lobe where information about people and places is pulled together to make sense of whoever

might happen to be standing in front of us or familiar scenes that surround us.

Making sense of people's behaviour, intentions and actions is perhaps the biggest challenge. And sorting out how to react to what becomes a very unfamiliar social landscape is even more of a challenge.

What looks like irrational behavior to some observers, may make perfect sense to patients whose worldview is distorted because they're no longer capable of seeing the world as we do.

That's why the behaviour of patients in the latter stages of dementia can

be so perplexing to caregivers – dementia patients inhabit an entirely different world, with far fewer resources to make sense of that world, a situation often made worse by drugs and minor infections.

In the absence of the situational awareness we so take for granted, those with dementia often find the world they inhabit bewildering and even a bit scary.

This sometimes leads to misunderstanding the intentions of those who look after them and other residents.

That's where I've been impressed with the staff at Niagara Long Term Care. It takes patience, cheerfulness, skill, consistency and empathy to help residents whose awareness and attention vary from moment to moment and struggle to understand what's going on.

So, hats off to the staff for the great job they do day after day.

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



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**EXPLORING PHOTOS**  
WITH NOTL MUSEUM

## The Negro Burial Ground 1831-1878

This week's image is not one from our collection. Unfortunately, there are no images of the former Baptist Church nor the cemetery during its existence. The church was established through community support by Rev. John Oakley in 1831. The congregation was mostly white at the time, however, an increase in the Black community of NOTL saw a change in the congregation to predominantly Black parishioners. By 1849 the church had its own Black minister, Rev. Francis Lacey. In the early 1850s another Baptist church was built in Virgil and many of the white congregation moved there. Unfortunately, at the same time the Black congregation started to decrease, as did the Black population in town, and the church eventually closed in 1878. The "Negro Burial Ground" was recognized for its significance by the Ontario Heritage Trust in 1857. Recently, the trust unveiled a new plaque that refers to the site as the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground. Unfortunately, this does not change the cemetery name. Those interested in reading the background paper on the new plaque and the church should visit the heritage trust's website.



This cemetery is one of many Black history sites in Niagara-on-the-Lake that are recognized through the Voices of Freedom Park digital tour that was created by the NOTL Museum in partnership with the Town of NOTL and historian Natasha Henry. To learn about more Black history locations in town visit the Voices of Freedom Tour website.

## Looking to the Stars

### June 21 marks summer solstice, our longest day of the year

**Thursday, June 16:** As the moon moves from "serious Capricorn" to "look to the future Aquarius," we see powerful activity with the sun connecting positively with Saturn and then being challenged by Neptune. It's a day where emotions change and the truth, while perhaps a little bitter, at least does not deceive and confuse. It was June 16, 2015, that Donald Trump rode the escalator down to the main floor of Trump Tower, officially announcing his bid for the GOP presidential candidacy.

**Friday, June 17:** A friendly Friday where help comes from Jupiter and Mars, both in Aries. Planning a vacation? Good news from your doctor? Get accepted to a good school or fitness club? Good for you! Canada's only world heavy-weight boxing champion, Tommy Burns, was born June 17, 1881, in Hanover, Ont.

**Saturday, June 18:** As Saturn in Aquarius squares Venus in Taurus, we may find ourselves stepping back from one or more relationship. Loyalties may be questioned. "(Everything I Do) I Do It For You," written and performed by Bryan Adams, was released on June 18, 1991, and was Billboard's "Song of the Year" for 1991.

**Sunday, June 19:** With the moon in Pisces, there is an undoubted spirit moving through this day. In relationships it will be helpful. The more self-centered it is, the more trouble it causes. It was on this day in 1865 that a proclamation in Texas set all former slaves free. It has since become known as "Juneteenth."

**Monday, June 20:** This is the day of the third-quarter moon in Pisces with the sun at 29 degrees of Gemini and the moon at 29 degrees of Pisces. This is significant because when we divide the 360 degrees of the zodiac into 12 signs, we see each sign has 30 degrees. If we start each sign at zero, then 29 is the last degree. They are known as "anaretic" degrees." The next degree is in the next sign. Happy birthday to Nicole Kidman, born June 20, 1967, in Honolulu. She is most famous

for playing Virginia Woolf in "The Hours," a role for which she won an Academy Award.



**Tuesday, June 21:** At 8:34 this evening, the sun enters Cancer and we have the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere and the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere. No matter where you live, the 21st of June is one of the most important days of the year. The sun is either at the highest point in the sky, or at the lowest. This marks a culmination – a point of "no return." We either have the longest day or the longest night of the year. Things are about to shift. Our priorities may change. On this magical day, tune in and reflect on whether you're at a crossroad in your life. The universe will guide you on the next course of action. Happy birthday to Prince William, second (or third) in line to the British Throne, as he turns 40 today.



**Wednesday, June 22:** Another change today as Venus moves from her home sign of Taurus into quick-thinking Cancer. Venus shows us what we value. If in Taurus, Venus valued stability and comfort. When it's in Gemini, Venus values curiosity and intellectual pursuits. The great Meryl Streep celebrates birthday number 73 today.

**Check out Bill Auchterlonie's podcast, Looking up to the Stars with ad libs and music at [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca).**

*Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.*



**ARCHITEXT**

### Another ghost in NOTL

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

Since its settlement, Niagara-on-the-Lake (aka Newark, Niagara) has witnessed the loss of many fine pieces of architecture.

We all know of the burning of the town during the War of 1812 and in past columns I have mentioned other, more recent, losses such as the 1817 Court-house.

However, there is one particular ghost that has received little public acknowledgement despite the fact its destruction left the town's heritage significantly poorer. This is even more surprising given that I believe it speaks to the challenges our community faces today.

Our story begins in 1846 when Judge G.C. Campbell purchased four acres fronting on King Street across



Plumb House - Owen Staples sketch, circa 1910.

from the Turf Club. There he built a home in the late Regency style wherein he resided until his death a number of years later. In 1865, Judge Campbell's widow placed the property for sale and it was acquired by Josiah Plumb, a wealthy American businessman who had recently immigrated to Canada.

Now, while Judge Campbell had been quite active locally in the community, Josiah Plumb seems to have thrown himself into his new homeland with a passion. By 1874, he had become the Member of Parliament for Niagara. He was appointed to the Senate in 1883 and became the Speaker in 1887.

On his four-acre property, he embarked on an ambitious plan to expand and remodel the existing house in the Second Empire style, a plan which included adding a full third storey sheltered under a de rigueur mansard roof.

By the time construction

was complete, the house boasted eight bedrooms, several "modern" bathrooms and entertainment spaces that included a billiard room measuring 20 by 30 feet and a 608-square-foot ballroom.

That the building of this mansion and estate property was intimately tied to Mr. Plumb's business and political endeavours is undeniable since history records that among his guests were included Lord Dufferin, the Marquise of Lorne and his wife; the daughter of Queen Victoria; Princess Louise, the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII) and the Duke of York who would later take the crown as King George V.

And, while we can imagine that the social calendar of the Plumbs might have been somewhat exclusive, Josiah ensured at least one connection with the town folks by offering his tennis court for use by the Niagara Lawn Tennis Club on a regular basis.

After Plumb's death in 1888, the ownership of the property passed to Edmund Sayer and then to Arthur White, both of whom maintained the estate in its original glory. But for White came the nemesis of the 1930s Depression.

For unpaid taxes, the town foreclosed on Arthur White and assumed ownership of the estate.

By the early 1940s, unable to find a buyer for a four-acre estate property, town council elected to gut the house (selling off the home's features and materials to local buyers) and sell it for only the value of the land.

In 1943, the town cut a deal with the board of education to build a school on the property. Five years later, the Plumb mansion had been razed and work had begun to construct a new primary school featuring the buff brick popular in the mid-20th century.

From there, the build out of the Parliament Oak school, as we see it today, was a foregone conclusion.

While we cannot condemn the 1940s town council for a fiscally responsible decision, today's community must mourn the loss of an irreplaceable piece of our heritage. Something to keep in mind as other historic properties now sit in limbo under threat.



## All Along the Waterfront

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# Flowering trees and shrubs to add a splash of colour to your June garden



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

Once that initial burst of flowers is finished, though, there still are many plants that will become the next ones to show-off in the June garden.

Here are a few flowering trees and shrubs that you may want to consider for your garden:

**Tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera):** There always seems to be some confusion when it comes to the tulip tree. Understandably, some think that this name refers to the magnolia tree, but it is a totally different genus of tree.

The tulip tree is a large, fast-growing shade tree that can reach up to 35 metres tall. It is considered native to the south shore of Lake

Huron, the north shore of Lake Erie and the Niagara Peninsula.

Its scented, tulip-like yellow flowers with an orange centre attract bees and tiger swallowtail butterflies, whose larvae feed on the leaves. The seeds of the trees are a great source of food to birds and other wildlife.

**Pink flowering chestnut (Aesculus x carnea ‘Briotii’):** The pink flowering chestnut is a medium-sized tree reaching about 7.5 to 10 metres high, much smaller than its larger cousin, the horse chestnut.

It produces large, upright, pink flower panicles about 10 centimetres long. The flowers attract both bees and hummingbirds. It thrives in average, well-drained soil and in full sun or part shade.

**Dove Tree (Davidia involucrate):** Also known as the Handkerchief Tree, the dove tree is not commonly available, but worth the search if you like to have unusual plants in your garden.

It is best known for its inflorescence, which includes large white bracts that surround a purple-red flower cluster. The bracts resemble a pinched handkerchief or

the wings of a dove, hence its name.

**Chinese flowering dogwood (Cornus kousa):** The Chinese dogwood is a later blooming species than the Florida dogwood (Cornus florida). The straight species has four, white, pointed flower bracts that emerge mid-June.

There are some pink flowering varieties such as “Satomi.” After a longer blooming period, this shrubby tree produces large, red strawberry-like fruit that will attract the birds.

**Slender deutzia (Deutzia gracilis):** This is a great choice for the smaller garden. A compact shrub, it grows to about 0.6 metres tall and one metre wide. Little pruning is required.

In June, the plants are covered with clusters of small, frilly white flowers. Several varieties are available at garden centres, including one called “Chardonnay pearls,” which has soft yellow leaves.

**Beauty bush (Kolkwitzia amabilis):** Beauty Bush is another plant that is often confused with another flowering shrub – weigela. It produces masses of small, light pink, tubular flowers in June.

Its flowers are slightly smaller than the weigela’s flowers. This large growing shrub often reaches at least three metres high and wide. It has cascading branches that create a beautiful, graceful shape. A newer variety of interest is one called “Dreamcatcher” Beauty Bush, sporting lemon yellow foliage with the same light pink flowers.

**Weigela (Weigela florida):** This is one of the families of plants that has seen many new varieties come on scene. All Weigelas have trumpet-like flowers ranging from white to different shades of pink to red, depending on the variety.

There have also been many dwarf varieties (only growing to two feet high and wide) come on to the market such as My Monet, Spilled Wine and Midnight Wine. Another that has recently come out is the Sonic Bloom series, which are heavier, repeat bloomers. These showy tubular flowers attract hummingbirds.

**Black lace elder (Sambucus nigra ‘Black Lace’):** For a fast-growing shrub with colourful, fine-textured foliage, black lace elder is a great choice for



Top: Aesculus x birotii carnea. Bottom: Sonic bloom pink weigela. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

the back of a mixed border.

In June, it also produces large, flat clusters of light pink flowers that contrast nicely with dark, burgundy-black leaves. This shrub can grow to be around three metres tall but responds well to a hard pruning in early spring to control its

size. Does best in full sun.

So, if your garden is lacking flowers this month, the addition of any of these plants will help keep it blooming into summer.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at [joanneyoung.ca](http://joanneyoung.ca).

# Irish Harp scavenger hunt sends people to NOTL businesses

Search was an opportunity for businesses to network and promote each other

*Continued from Front Page*

businesses helping NOTL businesses.

“People loved it and they want to do it again. Some even requested a list of all the businesses that were involved because they were so impressed with their products,” Joki said in an interview on Monday.

“I didn’t speak to one table that wasn’t having a great time,” said Leo O’Toole, assistant general manager.

Joki began recruiting businesses for the gathering at a job fair hosted by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce last month.

Thirty businesses from across NOTL participated, giving away some of their merchandise as prizes and having scavenger hunters perform challenges or solve clues that related to their business.

“Doing jumping jacks and reciting ‘Exercise? No! Accessorize!’ Little fun things like that. One had them going to Inniskillin Wines to find out when they were formed,” said O’Toole.

Another challenge had hunters go to the Butterfly Emporium on Queen Street and report back what the heart sign says.

And The Lake Report could tell you what that is

but in the spirit of the game why not go and check it out yourself?

Beyond giving local businesses free advertising and exposure — something Joki strongly believes in — she also said it was a great way for NOTL enterprises to network with each other.

She hopes the hunt can be held again in the fall, but there is no guarantee at this point. She is, however, looking forward to organizing it again next year with more NOTL businesses involved.

“You’re getting free advertisement from people who maybe have never even heard of your business before. We’re doing all the

work. All you have to do is put your name forward,” O’Toole said.

Some made it a family affair.

“One table sitting here was actually a family. Mom, dad, son and daughter — eight and nine years of age. So, it was a family event,” he said.

Among the many donations from local businesses there were \$100 gift cards to Irish Design, Ara on the Lake and Glamour Jewellery, certificates for Sentinel Carriages, BeauChapeau Hat Shop, gift baskets from Nola’s Gluten-free, Keto and Vegan Eatery, Cheese Secrets and many others.



Leo O’Toole and Jovi Joki hope the Irish Harps scavenger hunt, designed to feature and promote NOTL businesses, becomes a new tradition for the town. EVAN SAUNDERS



Pauline Reimer Gibson  
Audiologist

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