



Recalling royal visits | Page 12

## Election '22



Close race or an easy win? Poll predictions differ widely

Page 3



Canada Day returns with food, fun, a big party – and the Cake Parade

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Cake Parade, live entertainment, fireworks, history brought to life and lots of food – the Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada have big plans for celebrating Canada Day in Niagara-on-the-Lake this year.

July 1 will include entertainment all day, food at Simcoe Park and the Fort George national historic site, musket firing, the Fife and Drum Corps and fireworks. And the Cake Parade.

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See page 6 and visit niagaranow.com to see more of our photos.



# THE MONUMENTS MEN

of NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Page 2



William Currie.

On Saturday, June 4, the Legion and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the iconic clock tower cenotaph with a ceremony and a parade. Special guests include Ontario Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell. 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 the first 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. **Read about William Currie, the first NOTL soldier to die in the Great War, on Page 2.**

## Shout it: Council allows recreational noise in all town parks

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

In the wake of a legal complaint about noise from an outdoor pickleball court, town council has changed Niagara-on-the-Lake's noise bylaw to permit recreational noise in public parks from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

"Initially when our noise bylaw came out nobody would

have thought that people would complain about noise from parks," Coun. Erwin Wiens said during a council meeting on Monday, May 30.

"And so what this is meant is to give our parks the ability to exceed the noise levels. Because as we all know that, at a park, whether it's baseball, soccer, whatever – people cheering, carrying on – it's going to go against our bylaw," he said.

"We just finished the Stampede, which of course was against the bylaw all weekend long."

Wiens put the motion forward as an amendment to schedule A of the noise bylaw, which establishes permitted sounds.

The councillor worked with town staff to ensure there was still a failsafe in the bylaw so

Continued on Page 2



The town has revised its noise bylaw to allow for recreational sound on all town facilities. FILE PHOTO

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# THE MONUMENTS MEN

## William Currie was first NOTL soldier to die in the Great War

Ron Dale  
Special to The Lake Report

When the First World War broke out on Aug. 4, 1914, Sir Sam Hughes, Canada's minister of militia and defence, called for volunteers.

Within a few days, more than 35,000 Canadians answered the call, arriving at a hastily constructed military camp at Valcartier, Que., where the men received uniforms and rudimentary training.

Some men felt it was their patriotic duty to enlist. Others perceived it as an opportunity for adventure and glory.

Still others joined due to peer pressure, when the other eligible men in their neighbourhood or place of work signed up.

Among the first from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to enlist was William Perry Currie, son of Bartlett Currie and Martha Harner.

He also was the first soldier from Niagara-on-the-Lake to die.

William Currie was a fisherman, noted for being outgoing, considerate and kind. Immediately on the declaration of war, he talked things over with five of his friends, including his cousin Charles Hainer, all graduates of the Niagara-on-



An artist's impression of the battle of St. Julien at Ypres during the First World War. CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

the-Lake Public School on Platoff Street.

The men went together to the Canadian Field Artillery recruiting centre in St. Catharines and were shipped off to Valcartier for medical inspections and to sign attestation forms, committing themselves for overseas service.

Roy Maess, Currie and Hainer were found fit for service while their three

friends were sent home, considered medically unfit at that time. They eventually were able to enlist a few years later when standards were eased. Of all these young adventurers, only Currie would make the supreme sacrifice.

He was posted to the 2nd Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery and with his comrades shipped to England on Oct. 3, 1914, for further

training.

After several months of stringent training on the 18-pounder field gun, the main weapon of the Canadian Field Artillery, Currie was sent to France on April 7, 1915. He immediately saw action in the Ypres salient in Belgium.

On April 22, he and his comrades were subjected to the first poison gas attack of the First World War at St.

Julien in the Second Battle of Ypres. The men wrapped rags around their faces, as no gas masks were available at the time, and continued to hold the line, with their field guns firing until the barrels were overheated.

Three days later, Currie's division was about to be pulled out of the line to be sent to the rear areas for rest and refitting. As they were preparing their gun for trans-

port, the Germans shelled the Canadian positions.

A heavy shell landed near William, blowing him into the air. He was seriously wounded but survived. He was rushed off to the regimental aid post and immediately sent to a field hospital where his serious wounds could be tended.

He had lost his left arm just above the elbow, had a shattered left leg and suffered several shrapnel wounds. The hospital prepared him for evacuation from France and he was shipped to England on April 30 and taken eventually to the Northern General Hospital in Manchester.

One of the nursing sisters who tended him wrote to his mother:

"He was one of the nicest Canadian boys and one of the nicest patients I have nursed. Never once grumbled and always so thankful for what was done for him. Poor boy."

Gunner William Perry Currie died in his sleep on the morning of May 4, 1915, at the age of 19 and was buried in the Aldershot Military Cemetery in Hampshire.

He was the first man from NOTL to die in the Great War. But he would not be the last.

## Councillors support ability for people to **take part** in park activities

*Continued from Front Page*

that noise is not given free rein in parks.

The amendment specifies that noise in the park has to be approved by the director of operations and that the director has the ability to limit any specific noise or recreational activity between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Wiens said the amendment is designed so that it does not target any specific activities.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor felt the amendment could use more work to outline its details.

"I know that you're saying that it's in the hands of the director of parks or operations but we've given that director no guidance," O'Connor said.

She also said the change is premature as the town is awaiting a court ruling regarding the sound of pickleball disturbing a resident who lives next to the Centennial Sports Park.

That ruling is expected on June 15.

"I believe we have an obligation to take all steps possible when it's our property to reduce the discomfort to sur-

rounding neighbours," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said

She supported the amendment but was concerned it would send a message that the town does not care about residents' issues with noise in parks.

Coun. Clare Cameron said the bylaw change was hypocritical of the town.

"We're wanting some days to be more restrictive on noise in town, which many of you have said that you want to be when it's on private property and yet we want carte blanche to do whatever we like," Cameron said.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita, who previously didn't support the amendment, changed her view, noting it means the town "will mitigate noise wherever possible or have mitigating factors."

"Some (complaints) are very legitimate. But this is a park and I think we have to support the ability for people to be free to take part in activities in our community," she said, especially after a two-year pandemic.

Cameron, O'Connor and Coun. Gary Burroughs voted against the amendment.



Andy Calnek in action on the pickleball courts in Virgil. FILE PHOTO/BRITTANY CARTER



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# WSIB urged to **step up** on behalf of injured migrant workers

Staff  
The Lake Report

June 1 was Injured Workers Day and Niagara-on-the-Lake's Jane Andres is calling on Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board to take urgent action on behalf of migrant workers who get hurt on the job.

In particular, Andres wants the WSIB to end the "destructive" practice of "deeming" and to ensure proper compensation for injured migrant workers and their families.

Advocates for injured workers have long been critical of the WSIB's deeming practice, which means the agency "deems" an injured worker theoretically could be receiving wages from a job that they do not have and have no real hope of getting.

The case of Jeleel Stewart is one example, notes Andres, who with Jodie Godwin, has been trying to help Stewart for years.

He was in his second year working at Mori Nurseries in Niagara-on-the-Lake when his left hand was crushed by a forklift in a workplace accident in May 2008.

Stewart was sent back to Jamaica, where he received physiotherapy and was



Migrant worker Jeleel Stewart was badly injured in 2008 while working at Mori Nurseries. The WSIB soon cut all his benefits. SUPPLIED/JANE ANDRES

partially compensated by WSIB for two years.

In 2010, WSIB ended his compensation and physiotherapy on the basis that Stewart could conceivably find work at a gas station in Niagara because he still had one functioning hand – and despite the fact he lived in Jamaica.

While employers received billions of dollars in rebate funds from WSIB this year, injured workers like Stewart and their families continue to suffer, unable to afford

even the basic necessities, Andres said.

Except for a brief period, the Stewart family has had no income for food, rent or school for their children. Unable to work or provide for his family of seven because of the injury, Jeleel Stewart has struggled with severe depression, she said.

Due to constant pain and stress, his health has deteriorated significantly in recent years. He has developed diabetes and cannot afford adequate nutrition.

He has developed serious cardiac problems and been hospitalized three times in the last two months, which has added to the severe stress he has faced daily for the past 14 years.

"All migrant workers are valued members of our community. They deserve the same rights as Canadians, which is impossible under these temporary programs," said Andres, founder of Niagara Workers Welcome, which works to connect local migrant farm workers with a caring community through distributing welcome bags and holding events.

"We are asking WSIB to end the harmful practice of deeming and to provide proper compensation to Jeleel Stewart and his family immediately. This is about creating healthy, safe communities where all neighbours are welcome and valued, without exception." Andres and others who support Stewart are sending letters to WSIB president Jeffrey Lang, as well as local representatives, to call for these changes.

To donate to the Stewart family and learn more about how to support migrant workers injured in Niagara, visit [neverlosehope.ca](http://neverlosehope.ca)

# One poll predicts **close race** between Gates and Gale

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

It's election day in Ontario and at least one poll predicts a tight race in the Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie.

According to analysis by 338Canada, a polling website created by Politico columnist and physics professor Philippe J. Fournier, the riding is a toss up between the Progressive Conservatives and the New Democratic Party.

Incumbent MPP Wayne Gates won the riding by about a 15-point margin four years ago.



Bob Gale.

iPolitics polling paints a slightly different picture, projecting that New Democrat Gates will take the riding with a comfort-

able 40.8 per cent of the vote, beating Progressive Conservative candidate Bob Gale by 12 points.

Gates has held the riding for the past eight years.

About 11.25 per cent of the riding's registered voters cast a ballot in the advance poll, a spokesperson for Elections Ontario told The Lake Report.

There were 115,085 registered voters as of April 29, the most recent data available, the agency said.

This equates to about 12,947 advance ballots cast, though Elections Ontario advised more voters may have signed up in recent weeks.

In the 2018 election, a

total of 60,032 votes were cast in the riding, meaning more than one-fifth of that number has already been cast before election day this year.

Regardless of which poll an individual chooses to look at, there is one constant theme: Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives are projected to win a second majority as the New Democrats and Liberal Party of Ontario fail to make a significant dent in voter opinion.

Polls open at 9 a.m. on election day, Thursday, June 2. Voters need to check their voter information card for their eligible voting location.

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# Have your say: Town prepares survey on Rainbow crosswalk locations

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The Pride flag is waving outside Niagara-on-the-Lake's town hall in honour of Pride month – but the much-discussed rainbow crosswalk and benches will have to await the results of a survey about possible locations before they're installed.

The two-week online survey launched on June 1 and is available on the town's Join the Conversation website, [jointheconversationnotl.org/](http://jointheconversationnotl.org/).

The survey question about crosswalk locations asks people to choose from among the intersections of King and Front streets, Niagara Stone Road and Anderson Lane, Wellington and Picton streets, or a fourth option for an alternate location.

A staff report on the crosswalk says \$15,000 has been set aside for its installation. The idea for the rainbow crosswalk was first suggested a year ago.

But according to the town report, a rainbow bench will be coming to

Queen Street, thanks to funding the town received from the federal government's My Main Street program.

The report says the bench and paint have already been acquired. Staff did not respond by deadline to inquiries from The Lake Report about exactly where and when the bench will be installed.

Funding for four other benches is available through the town's operations department, the report says.

The survey lists possible locations for these other four benches as Mary and King streets, Centennial Park, the Queenston firehall, Sparky's Park in St. Davids and Niagara-on-the-Green Park.

The question for these benches simply asks residents if they favour these locations and if they have another location to recommend.

Coun. Gary Burroughs, who said he requested the survey be done, expressed some discontent that the poll only asks people whether they like the locations and not whether they are in support of installing

rainbow crosswalks and benches at all.

"It seems to say, 'Here's what we're doing, how do you want to tweak it?' Rather than a survey that has to deal with the issue," Burroughs said during a Monday, May 30 council meeting.

Chief administrator Marnie Cluckie said the survey did not include such a question because the installation of the crosswalk and benches had been requested by town council.

"I'm happy with whatever decision is made but I do think we should spend some time getting a good, unbiased survey on whatever the topic is," Burroughs responded.

Coun. Erwin Wiens raised the concern that the multi-coloured installation would undermine the fact the town requests businesses only use certain colours on their stores in the heritage district.

However, none of the crosswalk locations are within the heritage district, Coun. John Wiens responded.

But there is a further aspect to the rainbow work that Coun. Sandra O'Connor



The proposed locations for the rainbow crosswalk. SOURCED

broached. She wondered about the status of a plan to create a rainbow garden in town.

Parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte said the focus now

is on the benches and crosswalk – and a rainbow garden would have to wait until next year, especially as the town has already started its planting work for the season.

The town's survey launched on June 1 and will conclude June 15. It is available on the town's Join the Conversation website, [www.jointheconversationnotl.org](http://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/).

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# Crossroads kids help fight cancer



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Harper and Willow (K3).



Cooper, Carson, Nolan and Nikola (Grade 6).

During the month of May, Crossroads Coyotes worked together to raise more than \$15,000 for the Rankin Cancer Run! Supported and encouraged by everyone in the community, the students and staff participated in a month of fundraising activities which culminated in an afternoon run/walk-a-thon that was both meaningful and celebratory. In addition to the run, the Coyotes participated in games, danced, sang karaoke, had their faces painted, and wrote inspirational messages of hope across the back tarmac, while honouring the lives of those impacted by cancer. It was quite a month! #workhardbehindhavefun PHOTOS BY PRINCIPAL KATE FISH

## New distillery planned for Queenston Road

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

A new small batch distillery is in the works for St. Davids.

The distillery, at 1014 Queenston Rd., near Concession 5, is being developed by property owner John Sobot and is not permitted to have a restaurant or any hospitality areas on site, according to a Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake staff report.

“The requested site-specific provisions pertain to floor area, parking and outdoor storage, and prohibit indoor and outdoor hospitality area(s) and a restaurant,” the report says.

The facility will have a production area, retail zone and tasting space.

The staff report also notes the planned building is quite small.

An available site plan shows the main building to be 335 square metres (about 3,600 square feet). Staff noted the entire

development, including parking and sidewalks, will account for roughly 5 per cent of the property’s land.

On Monday, May 30, town council approved rezoning the site to agricultural from non-farm rural.

Under the non-farm rural designation, “the main permitted uses are rural residential uses and existing institutional, recreational, and commercial uses,” the report says.

The change to agricultural allows any type of agricultural, agricultural-related or non-farm diversified uses.

The distillery would fall under on-farm diversified use, according to the province’s Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Ontario’s Prime Agricultural Areas.

The project is considered on-farm diversified as it will be using tender fruit and other products from farms in order to produce its spirits, according to the report.

“The proposed distillery

benefits from being near vineyards and orchards, as fruit seconds purchased from surrounding fruit farmers are to be used as the main input to produce spirits,” the document says.

There are currently 60 pear and apple trees on the property.

“The owner has expressed their intent to expand the existing orchard operation to approximately 100 tender fruit trees.”

Under the proposed 2019 official plan, the distillery would not be allowed on the property, an issue that Coun. Sandra O’Connor raised during Monday’s council meeting.

But the use is allowed according to provincial and regional policy, as well as under the current official plan for the town, planning director Kirsten McCauley said.

“We will need to do a review of the proposed 2019 official plan to bring it into conformity with those provincial plans,” McCauley said.

O’Connor needed clarification on that point.

“So if I understood correctly, then we’re going to have to change our 2019 official plan?” O’Connor asked.

The answer was yes.

While the proposed official plan does not allow distilleries on a specialty crop area, the distillery does meet other criteria the plan lays out.

The proposed plan requires developments on such lands to be “small scale, directly related to, and required to be near farm operations, and (also) that a minimum of 75 per cent of the product processed or sold is from farm operations in the town.”

“The proposed distillery meets the objectives of the agricultural system and all the applicable criteria for agriculture-related uses,” the report says.

The Lake Report reached out to Sobot for comment on the development but had not received a reply by deadline.

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

### COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 79**

**Region active cases: 650**

**Region deaths: 563**

**Region total cases: 41,128**

*\*June 1 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**

"May my heart always be open to little birds who are the secret of living."

- e. e. cummings

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## Lakeside golf at twilight



Lake Report publisher Richard Harley captured this photo of two golfers at the NOTL Golf Club at twilight on Monday, while a lake ship passes by in the background.



### Editorials

## Wayne Gates has earned another term

Kevin MacLean  
Managing Editor

Now, it's time to decide.

Looking at the big picture politically, for many this provincial election is a referendum on how Doug "Get It Done" Ford has navigated our province through two years of an unprecedented pandemic.

With society finally coming out the other side of a long, difficult period, it is easy to forget the indecision, poor decisions and just plain politically motivated decisions that Ford made amid the COVID calamity.

But, if the opinion polls are to be believed, "folks" are cutting Ford plenty of

slack and his party seems headed for another majority.

So, what do you do? Do you climb on the bandwagon, vote strategically or just cast a ballot for the local candidate you deem is best able to represent you?

Which brings us to where your vote can actually make a difference – our local riding, known as Niagara Falls.

Liberal Ashley Waters might be a wonderful person and a fine candidate, but for whatever reason, Liberals in this riding don't seem to resonate with voters.

Perhaps it's a hangover from the McGuinty-Wynne years where Liberal arrogance left that party in tatters.

Progressive Conservative

Bob Gale is a well-known, successful entrepreneur whose name is plastered on gas stations all over Niagara. He's a Niagara Falls regional councillor known for being outspoken and controversial, but in this campaign, he's been a cipher.

Like many PCs, he ducked attending debates held "for the people" to see and hear their candidates in action. He's avoided media scrutiny and happily spouted the predictable "Get It Done" party messaging, but not really told us how he will make a difference for this riding.

New Democrat incumbent Wayne Gates is a consum-

mate retail politician, a guy who seems to be everywhere. Community events, family celebrations, charitable causes, you name it, no gathering seems too small for him to show up at.

Besides this constituency work, one of his big wins this past year was getting the governing PCs to cover the costs of continuous glucose monitoring systems for people with type 1 diabetes.

But our overriding concern in determining who to recommend to voters in this riding was simple: Is Gates deserving and has he earned the chance to serve another term in office?

We think he has.  
editor@niagaranow.com

## Sad that one person can affect so many

Richard Harley  
Editor-In-Chief

In reporting on and writing about Niagara-on-the-Lake, we make frequent trips to the town's many sports parks and recreational facilities.

It was a sad sight last week at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil, as kids with racquets were forced to play in the parking lot, instead of on the perfectly good pickleball outdoor courts that are sitting unused.

To anyone who's been following our coverage, it won't come as a shock to know the

town closed the courts after one resident took legal action against the town over noise from the court.

The neighbour claimed it is "torture" to hear the sound of people out having fun, playing pickleball. It's a wild world.

But it's a true shame our town was so quick to close the courts over what seems a frivolous accusation.

What about the other 17,999 of us? What about those kids playing in the parking lot?

For kids to have to play in the middle of a parking lot because the town is too

worried about the litigious nature of one resident is an embarrassment – one for which council members, town administrators and lawyers can rightly be criticized. In their defence, we assume it was a decision recommended by legal counsel.

We're hoping the ludicrousness of that decision has already been recognized and that's why the town has changed its noise bylaw to permit "noise" in its recreational facilities.

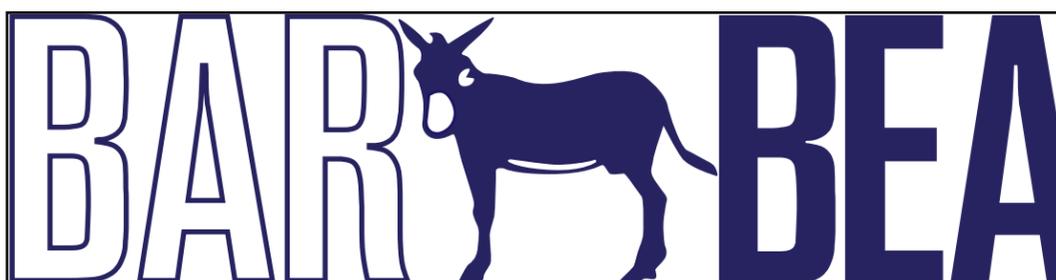
We wonder how the original flawed bylaw came to pass and we wonder further

why the town's immediate response was to penalize the community of pickleball players.

We are hopeful the court in Welland will side with the pickleball folks when it rules in two weeks. Meanwhile, the town needs to reopen those courts again – and please avoid such knee-jerk decisions in future.

Not only is it a heartbreaking sight to see perfectly good, taxpayer-funded equipment sitting unused, it's also an issue of safety for the children who are now forced to play in the parking lot.

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# Parking ban near Grist is unnecessary

The following is a letter written to regional Coun. Gary Zalepa. A copy was submitted to *The Lake Report* for publication.

I am a St. Davids resident and want to bring to your attention the parking issue on Four Mile Creek Road.

Recently and without notice the Region of Niagara installed “no parking” signs on both sides of Creek Road adjacent to the Grist Restaurant.

I, and many St. Davids residents who frequent

and support this establishment, are alarmed by this decision.

The carte blanche action by the region is a heavy-handed move that is affecting the success of the Grist.

This restaurant is a vital part of our St. Davids community as we have few options to gather with fellow residents.

We appreciate all the hard work and initiative Rob and Danielle Begin have undertaken to bring this establishment to fruition

through such difficult times.

My understanding is the region erected the “no parking” signs for safety reasons. They are concerned about pedestrians crossing the road.

The speed limit is 50 km/h and farther north on Four Mile Creek Road, where the road is narrower, parking IS allowed. Even farther north, past York Road, where the speed limit is 80 km/h, parking IS allowed.

There are sections ad-

acent to the Grist where there are no houses or driveways. These areas would not affect sight lines for drivers exiting residences or side roads.

The Grist has a parking lot, so street parking is only utilized occasionally. We, as a community, are asking you to review this action by the region and work with us to help support such an integral part of St. Davids.

Leslie Mann  
St. Davids



Yellow Door Theatre Project is proud to present **NOBODY'S CHILDREN**, a brand new musical written by Lezlie Wade & Scott Christian at the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, December 7-10, 2022

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JUNE 5, 2022



SINGERS, ACTORS & DANCERS

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# OPPOSING OPINIONS

## Appalled by Mary Street townhouse design

Dear editor:

We were appalled with the design of the townhouse project proposed for 355 Mary St., (“Townhouse project proposed for Mary Street,” The Lake Report, May 19).

Why in the world should our charming village get designs which are based on homes in

Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard?

We have our own historical and distinct beautiful Niagara style.

Please, let’s stick to our design and not start diluting it even more than it has been already.

Paulette and  
Keith Kennedy  
NOTL

## Mary Street project plan is a nice surprise

This new Mary Street project is really a nice surprise, (“Townhouse project proposed for Mary Street,” The Lake Report, May 19).

It actually stands out among the offensive and poorly thought-out designs we are usually offered.

It is almost too nice for

the area it is proposed for.

It has a nice look, good proportions and tasteful colour scheme – and might actually set an example for some other developments that could now follow this example.

Hopefully they will be this well thought-out.

Christopher Allen  
NOTL

## Companies don’t seem to care about customers

Dear editor:

Are you happy when you receive a message like this when calling for necessary home services: “All agents are currently busy assisting other customers. Please continue to hold and your call will be answered in the order it was received.”

If you’re like me, you will continue doing other chores while waiting for a live agent to handle your inquiry. The problem is by the time a live person answers your call either you may have forgotten why you were waiting or what you were calling about.

And chances are you will be speaking to someone in a call centre in another country and there may be a language barrier.

Then there’s the elevator music you were subjected to while you were on hold. If you are one of the “lucky” ones the next sound you hear is dial tone.

The call has been disconnected, so no more repetitive parts of a tune that you will never get out of your head until you try calling again for this problem or another.

Then, after days of hearing these terrible tunes, you get to speak to Bob or Mary in some far-off land and explain that your toilet has leaked 20 gallons of water into the drainage system and now you are forced to take out another loan on your home to pay the water bill.

They seem to be very sorry for your heating prob-

lem, until you once again tell them it is a plumbing problem and they say they only look after furnaces.

He apologizes that he cannot help and transfers you to the correct department. Now the wait continues for another 30 minutes.

Angelica now comes on the line without an ounce of energy or interest in your service needs. When you explain what your call is about she puts you on hold and returns sometime later – and asks you how she may help you.

In total frustration and the realization that the entire afternoon has gone by, it’s time for dinner so you put the phone on the cradle to recharge for another day of frustrating phone calls.

It isn’t just one company

that puts you through this horror show of ineptitude and non-caring disservice. The majority of service companies have adopted this model.

Some, like the heating and plumbing company with the name “care” in its name, should be renamed because they really don’t care about their customers. If they did they would hire more people to handle customer needs and they would ensure there is no language barrier.

Let’s bring work back to Canada and stop the corporate greed that has caused a multitude of problems for customers who pay hard-earned dollars for a total lack of service.

Tom Thornton  
NOTL

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## Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)



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van noort flower studio



# For the love of the game: So many reasons to play golf

Rick Janes  
Special to The Lake Report

By the Victoria Day weekend, even the most casual golfer will have dusted off the clubs and played at least nine holes.

During that round, perhaps after a perfectly struck shot, you smiled and remembered why you love the game. It's that perfectly struck shot that keeps us all coming back.

But when you consider how infrequently that happens, even among the best players, there must be more to love about the game.

Why do people play golf? That's a question that can be applied to any pursuit. For someone trying to improve and take their game to a higher level, it's a matter of setting goals, developing a strategy and investing the time.

Heck, golf is a hard game, but that's what some people love about it. They love the mental stimulation and the

endless study. But that's not for everyone. Golf is so much more than hitting a small ball into a distant hole in the fewest number of strokes.

Golf has the best views. If you fish, hike or ski, you might have an argument on this point but compared to the other mainstream sports, golf has no equal in terms of its setting.

There are hundreds of courses that hug the shoreline and jut into the ocean, courses that wind through forests and parkland valleys, and hundreds more with mountain backdrops. If you ever have the chance to stand on the 18th tee at Pebble Beach, a few feet from the Pacific Ocean with the spray from crashing waves falling on your shoulders, you will never again wax poetic about the Green Monster at Fenway Park.

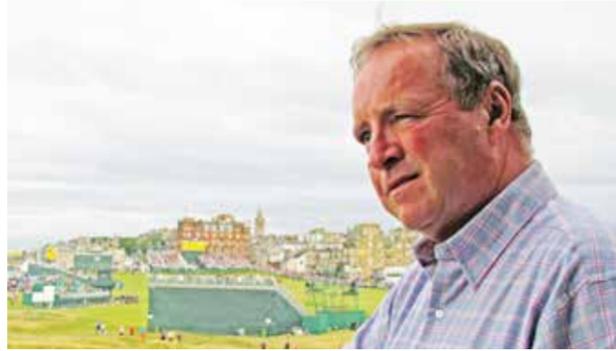
While it's nice to play new and famous courses, you don't have to play Pebble Beach to appreciate

the beauty of California's Monterey Peninsula or play the Old Course in Scotland to bask in the history of St. Andrews.

You don't even have to play the sport to be a fan. Some people follow the game as spectators without ever having picked up a club.

Golf has the coolest gear. Equipment produced today has helped make the game more enjoyable for the average player. And while a club from 40 years ago is no match for today's highly engineered clubs, for some, playing with hickory and classic clubs is a very satisfying way to play the game.

There are golfers who still appreciate the beauty of a classic persimmon driver, the sound of metal spikes on asphalt from a bygone era and the elegant style of Ben Hogan that has stood the test of time. While tennis may be the most fashionable sport today, golf has been fashionable for generations.



Rick Janes on the balcony of his room at the Old Course Hotel, overlooking the Road Hole, #17, at St. Andrews during the 2010 Open Championship. LENORE JANES

No sport celebrates its past more than golf. The game has been played since the 1400s, as near as anyone can tell, and if someone made it, signed it, used it or won it, someone collects it.

A visit to the Old Golf Shop, a short walk from the Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina, is to experience more than two centuries of rare and important artwork, clubs, balls and books from golf's deep past.

Golf's charitable programs are the best of any sport. An industry study

done in 2019 revealed there were more than 51,000 charity tournaments in Canada annually generating more than \$330 million for important causes. Charity is a fundamental part of the game. The fact that men, women and children can play golf equitably on the same course is also one of its greatest benefits.

Getting paired with some random folks on the first tee is golf's version of the blind date. You can meet the most fascinating people with this little leap of faith.

And conversation on the course is easy. Small talk is part of the game. There is always the condition of the course, the speed of the greens, the direction of the wind or the distance to the pin. And then there's golf's humbling nature that brings everyone together.

Of all the things to love about the game, the people we meet and the friends that we make through golf are the most important. That's the true meaning of the game.

Combining the love of a sport with the chance to spend time with people you care about is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon.

*Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Rick Janes is a life member and past chief executive of the PGA of Canada and retired commissioner of the Canadian Tour. He is a member of the Golf Journalists Association of Canada.*

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**Niagara-on-the-Lake**

**Step Challenge**

NIAGARA - ON - THE - LAKE

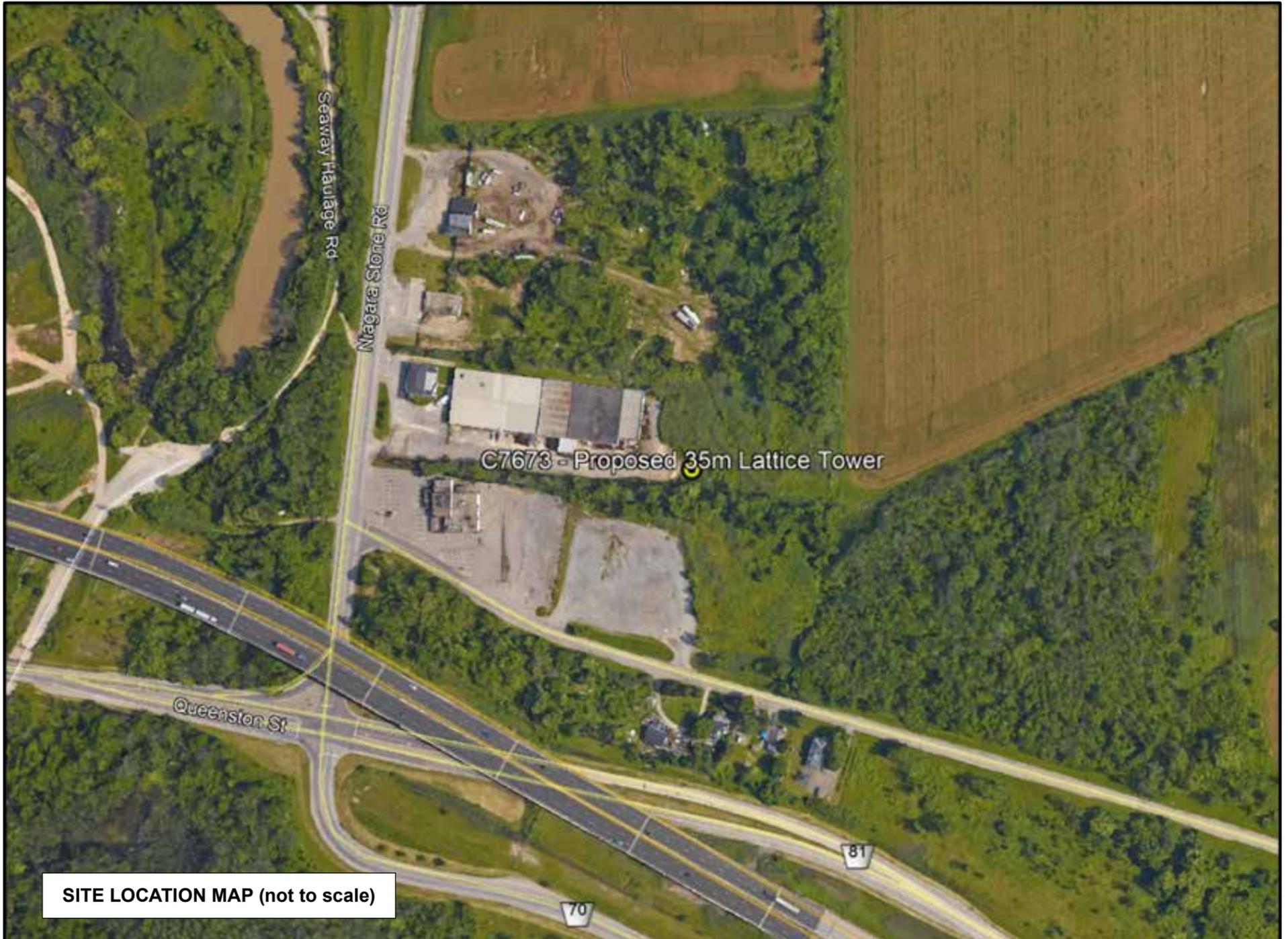
**The Niagara-on-the-Lake Step Challenge is back!**

Designed to engage the community and promote healthy lifestyles, the challenge is open to anyone who lives or works in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Register as an individual competitor or team of four and get ready to get stepping. Registration closes Sunday, June 5, at midnight.

The Step Challenge runs from June 6 to 30.

**Visit [notl.com](http://notl.com) for details and to register.**



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Proposed 35.0m Communications Tower Site C7673 / Town File No. TEL-01-2022 Located at 7 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

**Rogers Communications** has proposed a 35.0m tall lite duty steel lattice style communication tower and related radio equipment, occupying a compound area of 8m x 10m metres. The communications tower is proposed on a commercial property in the Town on private property municipally known as 7 Niagara Stone Road, lying on the north side of Queenston Road. The geographic coordinates for the proposed site are as follows: Latitude: 43.167339° & Longitude: -79.185242°.

The proposed structure will enhance wireless services and capacity for the areas between St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

**THIS NOTICE** serves as an invitation to any interested members of the public to submit comments/ questions to the individuals listed below.

There will also be a Virtual Public Open House on: **June 23, 2022 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

To participate in the meeting please contact Sarah Duncan, [sduncan@forbesbrosLtd.ca](mailto:sduncan@forbesbrosLtd.ca) with your name, email and phone number to register. You must register by **June 22, 2022** to attend.

Please take note, attendance of the virtual information session is not mandatory, nor is it the only opportunity to provide input. For those who are unable to attend or prefer not to participate in a virtual session, please reach out directly to the contacts below via regular mail, phone, or email on or before July 3 2022, which is the closing date for public consultation regarding this proposal.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Town's Department of Community and Development Services reviews telecommunication towers proposed within the Town using Niagara-on-the-Lake's Telecommunication Facilities Protocol. The Town's role is to provide comments on telecommunications towers to proponents and Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED). The approval of this site and its design is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Government of Canada through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). For more information on the federal process pertaining to these installations please contact the local ISED office at: [ic.spectrumswodo-spectrebdsoo.ic@canada.ca](mailto:ic.spectrumswodo-spectrebdsoo.ic@canada.ca) OR

### FB CONNECT:

Sarah Duncan, Government Relations  
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Oakville, Ontario, L6J 2X6  
Tel: (587) 894-0773  
Fax: (888) 622-4939  
Email: [sduncan@forbesbrosLtd.ca](mailto:sduncan@forbesbrosLtd.ca)

### THE TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Scott Turnbull, Development Coordinator  
1593 Four Mile Creek Road, PO Box 100  
Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0  
Tel: (905) 468-3266 x 322  
Fax: (905) 468-0301  
Email: [Scott.Turnbull@notl.com](mailto:Scott.Turnbull@notl.com)

# NOTL farmers market is back with spring goodies

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's popular "Market at The Village" farmers market is back for the season and vendors were out Saturday selling some fresh goodies.

Bill McMillan of Bee Inspired Farms was selling his popular microgreens, fresh lettuce and young vegetable plants. The first market of the year was pretty busy, he said.

"It's been awesome. Lots of people have been out, the weather is finally coming out to be nice and everything. It's been terrific," he said.

So far people were mainly picking up microgreens and lettuce – his specialty.

"We're known for our microgreens. We've been here five years for microgreens and then our lettuce mix as well," he said.

He said it's good to be back to a post-COVID environment for the market.



Left: Bill McMillan of Bee Inspired Farms. Right: Iolanda Catanzariti, 93, sells fresh herbs from her East West Line farm. RICHARD HARLEY

"It's so nice to actually smile at people and know that people are smiling back at us."

Sharon Brinsmead-Taylor, founder and organizer of the market, was glad to be back.

Rain slowed traffic a bit in the morning, but things were looking sunny by early afternoon.

She expects the turn-

out to grow as the season progresses.

"We started off about the same size as we did last year, maybe a couple of vendors more and over the next few weeks we've got lots more vendors coming and a few more farmers joining the lineup," she said.

She echoed the feeling of relief to not have COVID restrictions.

"People can wander, they don't have to do the one-way traffic thing. We can have food on-site again. So we'll have picnic tables set up every week and people can enjoy. It's nice just to be able to sit and have a coffee and visit."

She said she's got "really good talent" lined up for the live entertainment, and as usual the market will

also be collecting donations of non-perishable food items for Newark Neighbours weekly.

Also returning this year is the cookbook library – people can leave a book and take a book to share recipes.

She reminds people that the market is open until 1 p.m. and all vendors stay until then.

"I always make sure that my vendors stay open until one because we do get people rushing in a quarter to one and there's nothing worse than 'Oh, half the vendors are packed up.' That's one thing that I'm really strict about."

She also notes there's an ATM on-site if they need cash.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program

Various locations throughout the Niagara region

Commencing Spring 2022 - weekdays

Motorists and the general public are hereby advised that Niagara Region's Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program has commenced. For updates on this project please visit [niagararegion.ca/roads](http://niagararegion.ca/roads). This project is required to increase the lifespan of the road sections by improving the structural integrity.

The proposed work includes:

- Replacing selected cross culverts
- Milling off the top course of asphalt or doing a cold in place strategy of the road section
- Repairing cracks in the base course asphalt and replacing concrete curbs that are in poor condition
- Paving new top course asphalt, line marking and adding granular to shoulders

Please expect traffic delays and that daily road closures and detours as identified will be required for paving operations during construction.

The contractors' anticipated hours of operation from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**, weather permitting.

Businesses and residents will have access during the closure but may be directed to take an alternate route to get to their destination.

Emergency services will also have access if required.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Niagara Region Dispatch at **905-984-3690** or **Melissa Tomascik, C.E.T., Project Manager Transportation Engineering**, at **905-980-6000 ext. 3189**.

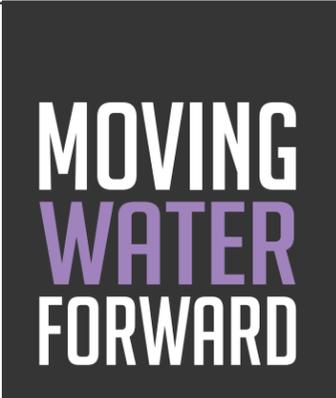
Your co-operation and patience during this period of inconvenience is appreciated.

**Bruce Zvaniga**  
**Commissioner of Public Works (Interim)**  
**Niagara Region**

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**Niagara Region**  
[niagararegion.ca](http://niagararegion.ca)

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**t** @niagararegion



# NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 1 BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Niagara Region completed a Biosolids Management Master Plan in 2010 to ensure a long-term, environmentally sustainable, reliable and cost effective biosolids management program for Niagara Region and its citizens. This update to the plan will identify and develop a strategy for meeting Niagara’s biosolids treatment needs to the year 2051, in a manner that is transparent, sustainable, reliable, environmentally friendly, cost effective and flexible.

## THE BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN WILL BE DEVELOPED TO:

- Meet the unique needs of Niagara Region and its customers, including treatment requirements, land uses and users, and environmental features
- Meet future needs associated with population growth, new regulations, climate resiliency, and energy efficiency
- Provide greater flexibility and reliability for biosolids management, both in the short term (i.e., 5 years) and long term (to the year 2051)
- Improve biosolids marketability; and
- Address community expectations regarding level of service, odour, air/noise, water quality, protection of the environment and aesthetics



## THE PROCESS

The Study follows the master planning process as established by the Municipal Engineer’s Association Class Environmental Assessment process for Master Plans, which is an approved Ontario Environmental Assessment process. The Biosolids Management Master Plan Update will satisfy Phases 1 and 2 of the Class Environmental Assessment process. Public and stakeholder input will be sought throughout the process, and a Biosolids Management Master Plan Update Report will be prepared and filed for public review.



## GET INVOLVED

Public feedback is an important part of the process. Information about the project will be available on Niagara Region’s website as part of Public Information Centre No. 1. You can learn about the project, strategies being considered and how you can have your voice heard.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 1 DETAILS

Information about the Biosolids Management Master Plan will be made available on the project website beginning **Wednesday, June 8, 2022**. This will be followed with a two-week period to submit

Public Information Centre No. 1 related comments to the Project Team.

You can access the project website using the link below or by scanning the QR code with your smart phone.

[niagararegion.ca/projects/biosolids-master-plan](https://niagararegion.ca/projects/biosolids-master-plan)



If you have questions, comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact:

**Albert Succi, Senior Project Manager**  
Water & Wastewater Engineering  
Niagara Region  
3501 Schmon Pkwy., PO Box 1042  
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7  
905-980-6000 ext. 3308  
Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215  
Fax: 905-685-5205  
[niagarabiosolidsm@niagararegion.ca](mailto:niagarabiosolidsm@niagararegion.ca)

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

If you require any accommodations in order to participate, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the **Niagara Region’s Accessibility Advisory Coordinator** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or [accessibility@niagararegion.ca](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca).



# As Queen marks her 70th anniversary, royal visits are remembered

Linda Fritz  
Special to The Lake Report

As the Queen marks her 70th anniversary and celebrates her Platinum Jubilee, many people are recalling royal visits to Canada – and Niagara – over the decades.

It's interesting how much a person who is not Canadian, nor has never lived here, is revered by Canadians. Whether it's a need for continuity or a hunger for leaders who are more than just bureaucrats or legislators, or the need for a symbol to look up to, royal visits draw big crowds.

Canadians love royalty. In fact, ours is the only country in the world that continues to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday with a national holiday.

Canada's royal connections go back to the 17th century when King James I's grandson, Prince Rupert, became the governor of "The Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay" in 1670.

The land mass encompassed all of the Hudson's Bay watershed and was known as Rupert's Land. Although Rupert travelled widely, he didn't make it to North America to see the area he was nominally responsible for.

A later royal who was known to have done so was Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn.

The Duke of Kent, a son of King George III, was Queen Victoria's father. As the fourth son, he wasn't expected to gain the throne. In fact, he lived in Quebec for about 10 years.

In 1792, he toured the colony as colonel of the 7th Regiment of Foot, and



Left: The Queen at the Pillar and Post, pictured with NOTL Lord Mayor Jake Froese. Right: Queen Mother walks with with NOTL Lord Mayor Wilbert Dick. NOTL MUSEUM



under the auspices of Lord Dorchester, the governor. On Aug. 21 of that year, he stopped in what was then called Newark.

While he was in Quebec, the Duke lived with his mistress, Julie St. Laurent, Comtesse de Mongenet. They had two sons during their 27-year relationship. When it became clear that his older brothers had no surviving children, the Duke quickly left Julie, and Canada, to do his duty to the throne. According to Julie's biographer McKenzie Porter, Victoria refused to allow Julie's name ever to be mentioned.

Records show that five of Queen Victoria's children spent time in Canada.

Her eldest son and heir, Edward, Prince of Wales visited in 1860 when he was 19. His travels included Niagara-on-the-Lake. After dedicating the new Brock's Monument on Queenston Heights, he made his way

to the village of Queenston where he gave 85-year-old Laura Secord £100 in honour of her service during the War of 1812.

Others who visited were Prince Alfred and Prince Leopold. Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise, lived in Canada from 1878 to 1883. Her husband, the Marquess of Lorne was governor-general at the time.

Another of Victoria's sons, Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, was governor-general from 1911 to 1916. Their daughter, Princess Patricia became the patron of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

In 1901, Prince George, Duke of York and Cornwall, accompanied by his wife Mary, (later King George V and Queen Mary) crossed Canada as a part of their six month tour of the empire. Their visit was subdued because the country was in mourning for Queen Victo-

ria. The royal couple's visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake and Queenston was short, but noted by the citizens.

There is a letter at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum addressed to local historian Janet Carnochan from R.G. Burns. The letter, dated 1927, remembers the royal visit. The Duke and Duchess visited a peach farm owned by James Osmond.

Burns says, "As the story was reported at the time, Osmond, in reply to the remark made by the Prince, that providence had been very good to him, said, 'Yes, but I have done most of the work myself.'"

The Duke and Duchess arrived by steamer at the Queenston dock, then boarded the train for Niagara Falls. Later, they made their way back to Niagara-on-the-Lake. A picture shows them boarding yet another train for their next stop.

The first reigning monarch to visit was King George VI in 1939. Accompanied by his wife Queen Elizabeth, they, too, embarked on a cross-country tour. On June 7 of that year, the couple visited Niagara Falls. They made a brief stop in Queenston on their way to the Falls. At some point during the visit, a new highway, the Queen Elizabeth Way was opened.

The 1950s saw the beginning of many royal visits. Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip came in 1951 and Princess Margaret in 1958.

In 1959, after her parents' cross-country tour 20 years earlier, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip did the same. On all of these occasions people flocked to see them.

Royal trains were inevitably late as people waited at small-town stations to wave and be waved at in return. The Queen and U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower officially opened the St. Lawrence Seaway during this visit.

In 1973, the Shaw Festival Theatre building officially opened in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Queen did the honours on June 28. A performance of "You Never Can Tell" by George Bernard Shaw was mounted for the occasion. Whether the Duke of Edinburgh fell asleep during the performance is not officially recorded.

The royal couple stayed at the Pillar and Post during the visit. The records note that they travelled with a staff of 11, including dressers, a valet, ladies in waiting, travelling yeomen, a footman and a page.

The Pillar and Post spent over \$8,000 on a set of

Wedgwood china in the Argyll pattern. The hotel bought enough dishes to feed 144 people at the formal dinner.

Another visitor was Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. She came on July 5, 1981. Many people have commented on catching a glimpse of her during her stay.

As the 20th century moved to its close, the next generation of royals have continued to visit Canada. Most visits are fairly strategic, with only a few stops and transportation is mostly by air now. The exception to this was the tour made by the Prince and Princess of Wales shortly after their marriage.

For many of these visits, commemorative pieces were produced at a price that was affordable. The 1901 visit of George and Mary is remembered with a plate, as is the opening of the seaway in 1959. The Queen Mother's 1981 visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake produced a commemorative mug. All of these can be found in local antique and second-hand shops.

Why do we continue to be excited by royal visits? They are expensive and interrupt regular life. The Queen's visit in 1973 led to the need for parking to up to 10,000 cars. Fifteen acres of land had to be found to accommodate buses.

The royals are, of course, the original celebrities. People cared about what they wore, who they married and how they lived their lives.

Will we see more visits? Prince Charles is a patron of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston. Perhaps we will see him in the future.

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# Newark Singers commemorate Queen's Platinum Jubilee with St. Mark's concert

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

The Queen's Jubilee Concert at St. Mark's Anglican Church on June 4 is a thank you for the monarch's 70 years of service, says the musical mastermind of the performance, Michael Tansley.

A self-celebrated monarchist, Tansley comes by his enthusiasm honestly. He's been singing, composing, conducting or arranging for almost 70 of his 78 years.

Tansley hails from the "lovely old market town" of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, U.K., 60 kilometres north of London.

His father was the London manager of a major national shoe company. His mother, a housewife.

From a young age he sang in the choir of his local parish church and by the age of 10, he had earned a scholarship to the Hereford Cathedral for school and music.

He never looked back. "By the time I left the cathedral, I knew music would be a part of my life."



Michael Tansley, founder and music director of the Newark Singers, leads a rehearsal of the 26-voice choir, ahead of the June 4 concert at St. Mark's Church. SUPPLIED

He attended three different music colleges, each nurturing different aspects of his music.

Along the way, he discovered teaching as a way to give back.

In 1972, he immigrated to Canada, becoming the music director at Ridley College in St. Catharines. He later took on similar roles in other Ontario secondary schools.

In 2010, he came to St. Mark's Anglican Church, in Niagara-on-the-Lake — his "retirement job." He remained at St. Mark's for nine years.

On that basis, leading the

Newark Singers is his retirement, retirement job.

Tansley's eyes light up when the conversation turns to the repertoire for the Jubilee concert.

"With all (the monarchy's) failings, let's focus on the fact that this is unique," says Tansley, founder and music director of the Newark Singers, the concert presenter.

"That a monarch has been on the throne for 70 years is certainly worthy of our commemoration."

"We're starting with a piece that was specially commissioned for the celebration. I bet we are the only ones doing it in North

America. It is very approachable."

Next are four Coronation Anthems by Handel. "The works have been performed in Westminster Abbey going back to the early 18th century."

A concert orchestra comprised of both Niagara and Toronto musicians will support the choir.

Along the way, the concert will be punctuated by poetry "of royal substance" read by Donna Belleville and Jamie Mainprize, both well-known former actors.

The concert will end with a special musical salute arranged by Tansley.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. concert are \$20. They can only be purchased in-person in the St. Mark's church office or at the door.

Masks are required. Proceeds from the concert will support St. Mark's. For more information, call 905-468-3123.

Queen Elizabeth celebrates 70 years as monarch on June 4 and the Newark Singers will present a choral commemoration for the occasion. (Sourced)



Which of the following words don't belong in the group and why? CORSET, COSTER, SECTOR, ESCORT, COURTS

Last issue: I am four times as old as my daughter. In 20 years' time, I shall be twice as old as her. How old are we now?

Answer: 10 and 40.

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Howard Jones, Becky Creager, Bert Dandy, Gail Benjafield, Mike Berlis, Leanne Leach, Jane Morris, Margot Hickson, Beverley Easthope, Wade Durling, Graham Gibbs, Sheila Meloche, Gary Davis, Maria Janeiro, Johanne Pelletier, Kaylen McAnderson, Janet Dodd, Pam Dowling, Kay Waller, Britiney Turasz, Steve Siansky, Dennis Blake, Sylvia Wiens, Brandy Delaney

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)

Love games? Join us for music trivia "Name That Tune with Lee" every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Irish Harp Pub. Details at www.theirishharppub.com

# Honours pile up for Yellow Door's 'Red Letter Day'

Maddy Gordon  
Special to The Lake Report

"Red Letter Day," a musical film produced by Niagara-on-the-Lake theatre group Yellow Door Theatre Project, won an award for Best Musical at the recent New York International Film Festival.

The project, which was sponsored by the Lauren

and Vaughn Goettler Family Foundation, was directed and written by Lezlie Wade alongside her collaborator Scott Christian.

"They are really really excited about it," Wade said of the cast's reaction to their win. "They just love doing it. I think they would do another one in a heartbeat. We would do another one in a heartbeat for them!"

Wade was inspired to write and direct "Red Letter Day," a story about a group of girls and their high school graduation, after realizing the pandemic had robbed many teenagers of that experience.

In addition to the big win at the New York International Film Festival, "Red Letter Day" has continued to reach new heights.

The production has been accepted into the Golden Bee International Children's Festival based in India and will be showcased to audiences there.

"It's a real testimony to the young people in this film because they are really extraordinary in it and the whole thing was such a positive experience for them," said Wade.

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# Players in high spirits as NOTL soccer kicks off new season

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

It was a day of high spirits for soccer kids and parents, as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Club kicked off its new season — the first “back-to-normal” season since 2019.

Kids were running around the pitch in the morning, as the Timbits teams did drills.

“It’s controlled chaos,” said club president Carrie Plaskett, as she helped parents find their fields.

The club has close to 100 Timbits (5 and under) players registered this year. In total, more than 350 kids from all over town signed up for the season in various age groups.

“They’re Niagara-on-the-Lake, Virgil, St. Davids — these are all local kids that came out,” Plaskett said.

“It’s a lot of kids. Last year the structure was a little different, we just wanted to get the kids out



Timbits play a soccer version of red light, green light Saturday morning. RICHARD HARLEY

playing, and then this year, the registration has been fantastic.”

The soccer season was cancelled altogether in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. And while teams did hit the pitch last year, there were limitations on play.

Now, everything is back to normal.

The first day was more of

a meet-and-greet after two years, Plaskett said.

“Everyone gets to come out, they meet their teams, they meet their coaches. And then there’s soccer games that they get to play. The older kids will have more of like a competitive — fun competitive — game. And then the little ones are playing some fun games.”

The vibe she’s been getting from parents is that they are “very excited to be back on the field and to have their kids in organized sports.”

“That’s a lot of the feedback that I’ve been having. And they’re out here and they’re running around and they’re with their friends. And they’ve got a whole summer in front of them,

which is great.”

Plaskett took over as president of the soccer club in November 2021, so this is her first season.

“Ted (VanderKaay) was our past-president, and he is still on the board and a big mentor and helping me,” she said.

She also had high praise for all the volunteer coaches.

“We have a great group of volunteers. We have all volunteer coaches,” she said.

Plaskett has twin boys, 11-year-old Henry and Malcolm Buffington, and says soccer was the first thing she signed them up for when they moved to NOTL.

“Our introduction to the community was through soccer. That’s why I got involved because it was just a great way to meet the kids and to meet the families,” she said.

It’s nice to see so many kids out this year, she said. “We have a big community of young families.”

Alex Froese was there watching his three-year-old son Lucas, Timbit number 14, on his first day of soccer.

“We’ve been practising in the backyard for a while now,” Froese said.

“We had a great morning. He was excited. So getting him ready in the morning was easy. He jumps in the vehicle and here we are.”

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# Defence, timely offence gives U22 lacrosse team 6-4 win in Hamilton

Andy Boldt  
Special to The Lake Report

As expected, the U22 Thunderhawks met a gritty and aggressive Hamilton Bengals on the road last week.

Fortunately for the Thunderhawks, veteran Trent Hunter, an assistant captain, opened the scoring and put pressure on the Bengals midway through the first period.

Thirty seconds later and fighting off a couple of Bengals defenders, Hunter Ostromecki wouldn’t be denied, scoring the team’s second goal during a power play.

The Bengals didn’t sit back and scored three minutes, then added a power play goal to tie the game at two with three minutes to go in the first period.

The Thunderhawks, short-handed, wouldn’t waiver as Jack Parker scored on the next possession, closing out the first period 3-2.

Parker’s skill caught the eyes of the St. Catharines Athletics, the Jr. B affiliate for the Thunderhawks. Parker has continued to play up for the Jr. Bs, tallying 13 points in 10 games.

However, as a younger player, he hasn’t been able to find a permanent position with the Jr. Bs, to the benefit of the Thunderhawks where

his skills will grow and he’ll become a leader for the Athletics next season.

The Thunderhawks pressure the Bengals in the second period, causing them to take another penalty. A power play goal by Parker put the Thunderhawks up by two.

He wasn’t to be denied his natural hat trick, launching a rocket just 40 seconds later to send the Thunderhawks up 5-2.

The Bengals’ grit forced the Thunderhawks’ hand as they scored again halfway through the second period on a power play, closing the deficit to two. Their continued pressure earned the Bengals another tally with just 18 seconds left in the period to close the gap to 5-4.

After being denied by the Bengals’ goalie a number of times and facing a number of challenges (including getting his helmet ripped off in the first period and a number of not-so-accidental head shots, holds and slashes), Jordan Wiens buried an opportunity in the third to finish the contest 6-4 for the Thunderhawks.

All scorers were assisted by teammates Ethan Williams (1), Aedan O’Gorman (2), Kris Wilson (1) and Hunter Ostromecki (3).

Although the Thunderhawks’ scorers put them on the board, the team’s

defence played a gritty and aggressive game. Pressure from players like Christian Blaylock, Liam Gatt, Matt VandeLaar, Jack Marotta, Liam Dietsch, and Colby and Noah Ostromecki helped deny the Bengals many chances on starting goalie Tanyan Davis and substituting goaltender Jack Muraca.

Outstanding defenders Trent Hunter and Joe Fragnito kept the Bengals’ 6-foot-5 inch powerful offensive player to only a single goal, while Brett Wilson had multiple thunderous hits to stop Bengals in their tracks.

Aaron Wilson earned huge praise from the Thunderhawks bench by knocking down, outrunning, collecting a loose ball and beating the opposing goaltender, only to be denied by the goalie’s best friend, the goal post.

The Thunderhawks host the U22 team from Simcoe on June 2 at 8 p.m. at Meridian arena in Virgil and encourage NOTL lacrosse alumni to attend July 9’s Alumni Day for a double-header versus the Milton Mavericks. The first game starts at 10 a.m., followed by a barbecue and the second game at 3 p.m.

Come watch and catch up with past teammates, meet new friends and share some history.

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Thunderhawks.

# Fore! Frisbee golf is coming to NOTL Community Centre

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is about to become a new favourite destination for people who love nothing more than smooth-flying Frisbees and the competition of golf.

Town council has approved the installation of a disc golf course at the community centre, partially funded by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“It’s a sport that’s accessible for all ages, from kids to seniors. It is easy maintenance, it’s fun, it’s desired by young families as well as old families and it’s something we don’t have,” Rotarian Paul Lalonde told councillors.

Disc golf is essentially the offspring of Frisbee and golf. Nets are installed across a large area akin to holes on a golf course and players throw Frisbees along the course until they score on one particular net.

The course at the community centre will consist of nine “holes,” Lalonde said, adding the game is generally limited to four people per hole, as in golf.

Lalonde said the town initially approached the Rotary Club before the pandemic began asking for help installing a disc golf course somewhere in town.

He said the course should cost about \$15,000 to install and that Rotary would pay for all the equipment and the installation.

Frisbees will be available to borrow for free at the community centre for people to use, Lalonde said.

Concerns expressed about the course interfering with possible future plans at the site, such as a garden, were dispelled by town staff.

Lalonde said he had discussions with parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte and supervisor of recreation Dan Maksenuk – and both said the course would not hinder future

plans for a garden or other proposals for the space.

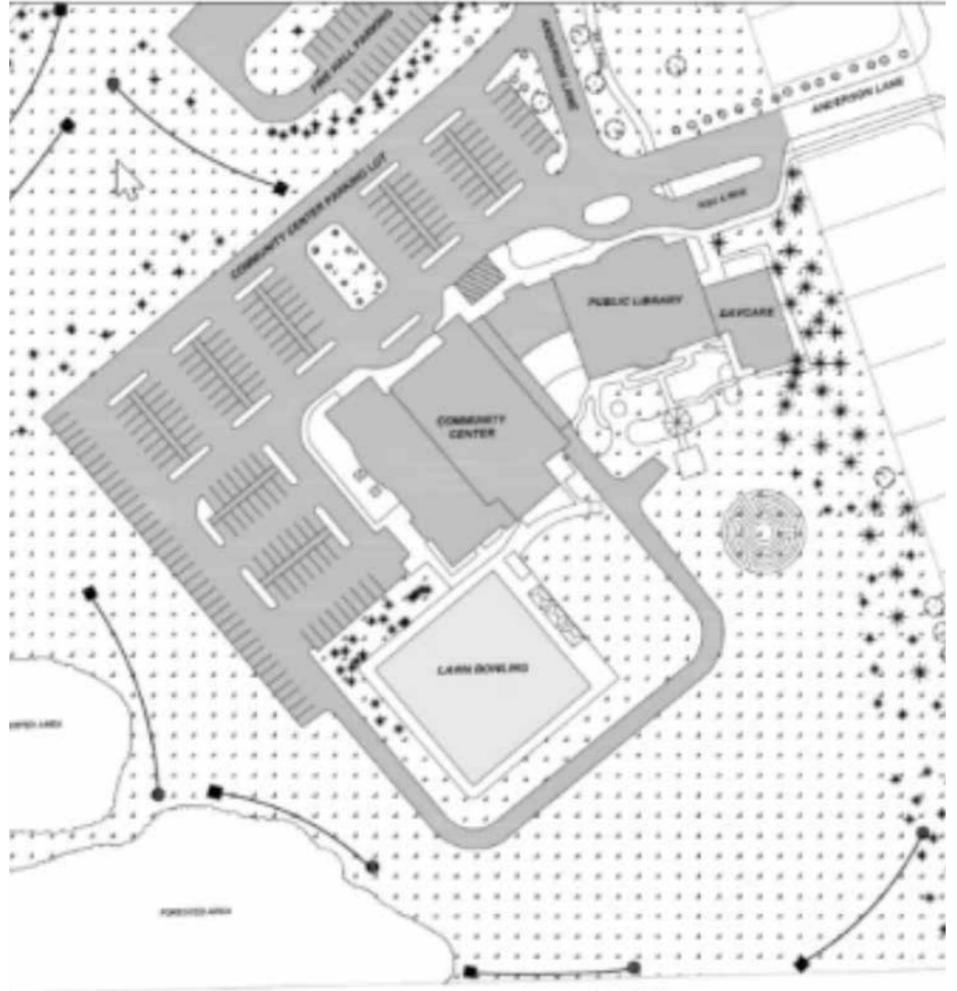
Turcotte later confirmed this to councillors.

Disc golf “doesn’t take up all that much space because it’s actually open space in a lot of ways and we don’t feel like it will be a hindrance to the garden,” Lalonde said.

But Coun. Sandra O’Connor said she would have preferred a comprehensive plan for the future of the community centre instead of approving projects piecemeal. She was the only councillor to vote against the project.

Lalonde said the Centennial Sports Park in Virgil was considered but it was determined the park was already too packed with amenities to accommodate the Frisbee-based game.

One of the reasons Rotary is supportive of disc golf is it is a low-cost sport that everyone can get involved with, he said. All you need is a Frisbee and those will be free.



A potential layout for the disc golf course planned for the community centre. SOURCED

# Couples League returns to golf club for ‘9 and dine’ social

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club’s Couples League teed off Friday for its first official “9 and dine” event since the pandemic hit.

The popular evening league prides itself on being a fun and social group – and more than 60 couples signed up this year to play nine holes and then have dinner together at the club.

**Women’s results:** Crazy hot and humid temperatures did not deter the club’s women’s leagues from hitting the links Tuesday.

The nine-hole league crowned its Captain’s Cup winner based on play last week. Sherry Gysler and Charlotte Kainola were tied with a net 37 but after the magical formula of scoring retrogression was applied, the title went to Gysler.

Low gross winners were: Diana Dimmer (44), Cathy Saytar (46,) and Kim Hrycko and Penny Green (51). Low net winners were: Saytar (33), Kainola

(38), Barb Werner, Dimmer and Hrycko (39).

Winners of “most in the sand” were Maureen Taylor (5), Lynne Heaman (4), and Dimmer and Wilca Lay (3). Longest putt winners: Saytar (#3) and Werner (#8).

The women’s 18-hole league added a twist to their competition this week: The pro shop randomly chose scores on nine of the 18 holes and doubled the total to determine a victor.

The winners were Yolanda Henry (84), Ginny Green (96) and Valerie Chubey (98). Net score winners were: Sharron Marlow (35), Henry (36) and Shelly Sansom (38).

Valerie Chubey had the fewest putts (31), followed by Henry (32) and Marlow (33).

**Men’s results:** Don Allen, Mark Derbyshire and Drew Porter led the way with 2-over 38 for low gross in Tuesday’s WOOFs league play.

Porter also won closest to the pin on #4, with a shot that ended about one inch



Couples League players at the NOTL Golf Club prepare to head out for an evening of “9 and dine.” RICHARD HARLEY

from being a hole-in-one.

Randy Busbridge was low net (36) and Peter Falconer won the hidden hole (#9).

Martin Vagners took home \$52 in the 50/50 draw.

Former associate pro

Ricky Watson scooped low gross honours in last Thursday’s men’s league, shooting an even-par 36. Glenn Young led the Stableford scoring, accumulating 22 points.

Other winners were: Josh

D’Agostino (longest drive #3) and Bill Farnell (longest drive 60+ on #6), closest to the pin: Jim Garrett (#4), Mike Eagen (#9), and Mark Derbyshire (longest putt made #5).

Net skins winners were John Reynolds (#2), Paul Shelestowsky (#3), Peter Falconer (#6). Gross skins went to Reynolds (#2) and Jim McMacken (#8).

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# Pondering pubs, polls, potholes, politicians and flagpoles



## Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson  
Columnist  
The Lake Report

Especially during election campaigns, I get more than fed up with hearing continual polling results.

Whatever happened to asking questions on the streets or in the Valu-mart (oops, again) or going for a sip of beer in a pub? Gossip, listen to the gossip and make decisions based on the best available information gleaned.

Since George Horace Gallup, the inventor of Gallup polling, pioneered survey sampling techniques back in the mid-1900s, our worlds have changed. His statistical method of survey sampling for measuring public opinion became the gold

standard of polling, according to 71 per cent of people surveyed. This result is accurate to within 4.6 percentage points, 92 per cent of the time. Give or take.

In Canada, we have Nanos Research. Founded by Nik Nanos. It provides daily polling numbers that we tend to believe are accurate 87.4 per cent of the time. On a personal note, because Mr. Nanos is always so perfectly attired and groomed, and is so handsome, I tend to consider him a bit of a know-it-all.

Electoral campaign info, gun control attitudes in Canada and what we think of Premier Doug Ford's handling of the ongoing deadly global endemic. Wanna know how many Canadians in each age group regularly use social media? Nik Nanos knows!

Thank goodness our provincial election is this week. We will get a break from hearing poll results. Then, another election will be called at some level of government and we will head pollward again.

Rambling now to utility poles. A letter to the editor



A nasty death trap on Concession 2 Road is marked to be fixed. ROSS ROBINSON

from David Scott last week commented strongly about our dangerous Concession Roads (north-south) and Lines (east-west) in Niagara. Our rural roads are accidents waiting to happen. Often horrible and tragic.

The next day, I was driving to Garage Pizza from Old Town, along Concession 6. The letter writer was right on. And, the road

is newly paved, so drivers drive faster. A NOTL conundrum, eh?

Narrow roads, rough and potholed, patched with asphalt, no real shoulders, and fairly deep and dangerous ditches. Utility poles located about 15 inches from the roads we speed along. Folks, it is not a matter of "if" another fatality is going to happen, it is "when."

Let me join Mr. Scott in asking our town council to do something, in this election year. Lower the speed limits to 70 or 60 or 50 kmh, and spot enforce the laws. Help save us from ourselves.

Now, to my favourite Poles. My friends, with roots in an incredibly resilient nation awkwardly located between Russia

and Germany. Since high school, and after reading James Michener's classic novel, appropriately named "Poland," I have loved Poles. For the past decade or so, I only have drunk Polish beer in their honour. And Oast House Barnraiser.

Let me ramble awkwardly to the Munich Olympic Village in 1972. I was working and living, and yes, playing in the village food service facilities for three months. What an experience in so many ways.

One afternoon a strong and handsome athlete walked into our area of the cafeteria, wearing his red and white Polska track suit. He was awkwardly carrying a 15-foot vinyl bag, about five inches in diameter.

Intuitively and in a friendly manner, I asked, "Are you a pole vaulter?"

Extending his right hand, he replied, "I am Polish, but my name is not Valter. I am Janusz."

Ba Da Boom.

Now, in the future I may ramble about a flagpole in Queen's Royal Park.

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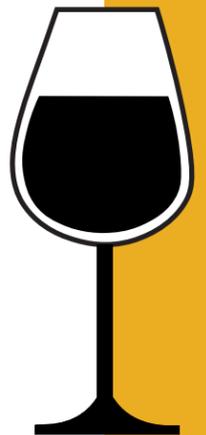
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# Shaw Guild Garden Tour returns in new walkable format

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Bust out your summer shoes and pillbox hats, the Shaw Guild Garden Tour returns on June 11 in a new walkable format.

“This year we thought we would try to have it just in Old Town,” garden tour convener Jane Catcher said in an interview Tuesday.

Normally, the garden tour is set up across the entire municipality, but Catcher said she specifically wanted to have a tour this year that was accessible entirely by foot, which is not possible if gardens were hosted in St. Davids, Queenston and Virgil.

“I wanted to try to have it so that some of the gardens were close enough together that I could have guests walk from one garden to another,” she said.

Another reason for making the tour focused in the Old Town this year is to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Shaw Festival.

“The Shaw Guild was formed back in 1974 and it was formulated to really



This garden at 270 Niagara Blvd. is featured. SUPPLIED

support and promote the festival,” Catcher said.

The first garden tour was held in 2005 and this year marks the 16th iteration of the event, as it was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Last year the tour was held in the fall to navigate concerns around the pandemic but Catcher is happy to have it return to the spring for 2022, she said.

“We always sort of consider the Shaw Guild Garden Tour to be the kickoff

to the season,” she said.

She said one important aspect of the guild considers when choosing which weekend to host the event is knowing what other festivals and events are scheduled in town.

“We have a great relationship with the Strawberry Festival, for example, and we never have (the garden tour) the same weekend as the Strawberry Festival,” she said.

Another change this year is the types of gardens on

display.

“We have a very nice blend of gardens this year. Not just, you know, professionally manicured hardscape gardens,” said Catcher.

“We have gardens that were planted and created by our homeowners and they then grew into what I’m going to call a real labour of love.”

That labour of love was a central aspect to Catcher’s garden tour philosophy this year.

“One garden in particular on Regent Street is a true labour of love for the homeowner. He even so much has tried his hand at making his own mulch,” she said.

“There’s just a real story for him to share with patrons and our guests as they come and learn about flowers and gardening.”

Catcher was enthusiastic as she talked about how personally attached many homeowners are to their gardens and landscapes.

“One little story this year is in one of these huge windstorms that we’ve had, a 100-year-old tree came down. And (the homeowner) said, ‘I feel like we’ve had

a loss in the family.’ She was very, very taken aback by the loss of this tree,” Catcher said.

It’s not just a labour of love for the garden hosts. Catcher gives credit to the team of eight people who work with her to organize the tour. She said they start planning the day after the previous tour ends.

“Many a leader has said this but I couldn’t do it without them. I truly could not,” she said.

On top of that, it takes a staggering 110 volunteers on the day of the tour to ensure it all goes smoothly.

“Everything from a cashier to a greeter to people within the gardens that then help with wayfinding,” she said.

Catcher said so many volunteers are needed that two of her team members, Kim Mustill and Susan MacDonald, solely focus on finding volunteers leading up to the tour.

“One other person that needs a pat on the back is Cheryl Morris,” Catcher said.

“Cheryl has done many things for the Shaw and the Shaw Guild. One of the

things that she does for the garden tour, for instance, is she puts together what we refer to as the brochure.”

The brochure has evolved into what Catcher calls the Garden Magazine, which is given out to everyone who purchases a ticket to the tour.

Also new this year is that each garden is going to be accompanied by some sort of special event, ranging from musicians performing to painters creating art while guests enjoy the gardens.

“And all of our musicians and artists have given us, gratis, their time,” she said.

The Shaw Guild Garden Tour is on June 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are available in advance through the guild and Eventbrite for \$30.

Participating gardens this year are at 270 Niagara Blvd., 217 Butler St., 282 Nassau St., 188 Prideaux St., 27 Delater St., 277 Regent St., and at 23 and 25 Bayberry Lane.

Tickets will also be available for purchase on the day of the tour at any of the eight hosting gardens for \$30, cash only.



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## Canada Day returns to Simcoe Park

*Continued from Front Page*

The day starts with a pancake breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m. in Simcoe Park, prepared and served by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake followed by the Rotarians' annual Canada Day barbecue.

There will be live music and children's activities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At 3 p.m. the annual Cake Parade will be led through town by the 41st Regiment Fife and Drum Corps.

It will head down Queen Street into Simcoe Park, where everyone can get a free piece of the commemorative cake.

Willow Cakes and Pastries has again donated the Canada Day cake again for 2022 and, as usual, the design will remain secret until the big day.

Fort George will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on July 1 and admission is free all day. Among the activities, visitors can tour the buildings, meet with costumed interpreters and watch a musket demonstration.

Cold drinks and treats will be available from 2 to 4



The Canada Day cake in 2019, by Willow Cakes & Pastries. FILE/DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

p.m. inside the fort and food trucks will be on-site starting at 4 p.m.

Evening entertainment starts at 6:30 p.m. with the kiddie militia and drill, followed by a presentation by the Fort George Infantry, and Fife and Drum Corps.

All money raised by the sale of food by the Friends of Fort George will help to support summer student employment programs at Fort George and Brock's Monument.

On-stage will be "The Howling Horns," an eight-piece horn band featuring

music from blues to dance to classic rock.

At 10 p.m., a massive fireworks display will again close the evening.

The events of the day and evening are all free thanks to support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Parks Canada, local businesses and individual supporters.

For more information on the Canada Day festivities, see the Friends of Fort George Canada Day event page at [friendsoffortgeorge.ca/canada-day/index.html](http://friendsoffortgeorge.ca/canada-day/index.html).



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# NOTL artist opens solo exhibit at Pumphouse

Staff  
The Lake Report

When artist Marilyn Cochrane creates landscapes, she doesn't stop at just putting paint to canvas.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake artist celebrates the natural world in a more encompassing way by introducing elements and fragments pulled from the Earth itself.

"The natural world presents great and beautiful complexities, and I am attempting to honour this by going further than traditional painting," the St. Davids resident says.

Those complexities are showcased in her solo exhibit Landscape Reflections at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre's Joyner Gallery now through June 26.

Visitors can meet the artist during a reception at the gallery on Sunday, June 5, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The exhibit includes 13 paintings of various sizes, six tabletop sculptures and three wall-mounted mixed media pieces that Cochrane calls Wall Jewels.

"I aim to welcome the viewer into a world of beauty, peace and meditation,



Above: Artist Marilyn Cochrane lives in St. Davids. Right: One of her paintings, titled "Northern Majesty." SUPPLIED



expressed by the dreamlike landscape paintings and the ancient, glittering crystals and minerals," she says.

Cochrane's Wall Jewels combine painting, mixed media sculpture, minerals and crystals that become abstracted, sparkling jewelry-like ornaments for the wall.

Her paintings display a similar richness, as she uses

layer after layer of colour glazes to show off and reflect, literally and emotionally, the natural landscape in all its splendour.

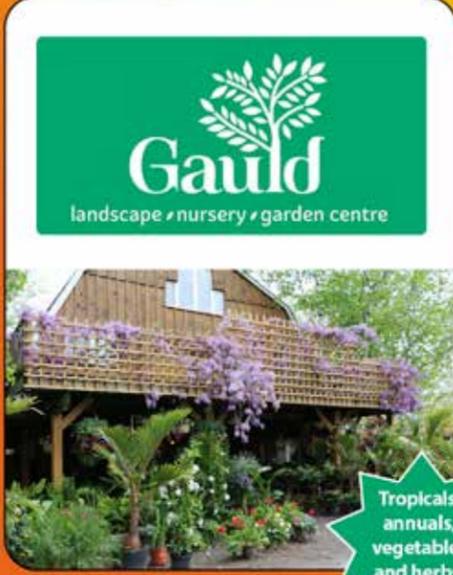
She goes a step further still by incorporating a layer of holographic foil that sparkles behind the paint.

"The added depth and light-reflecting qualities

allude to a hidden realm beyond the seen," she says.

Cochrane also incorporates miniature paintings, crystals and stones in the tabletop sculptures she calls Echo Cairns.

"Together these new pieces celebrate the land and reflect its great complexities and mysteries," she says.



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# Looking **back and forward** in space, geology and genetics



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

To look far out in the universe is to look far back in time.

Despite the blistering speed of light (rounded out to 300,000 kilometres per second), the vast distances in space mean that the time taken for electromagnetic signals to reach Earth from the sun is a little over eight minutes, more than three million years in the case of light from Andromeda our nearest neighbouring galaxy, and for light originating from the earliest stars, a little more than 13 billion years to reach Earth and the recently launched Webb telescope.

Grasping the significance of that perspective was made

easier for me several years ago by Michael Shermer, who, working with his own telescope at home and looking at Andromeda, realized that the time taken for the light from Andromeda to reach his retina began its voyage 3.2 million years ago, or roughly the time that the iconic Lucy, left her footprints in east Africa.

The corollary to that mind-bending realization is the added realization that electromagnetic signals, whether originating from galaxies, giant black holes, collisions of black holes or neutron stars, are very old news by the time they reach Earth.

And going forward, we will never know what happened thereafter or what is going on now in those far distant corners of the universe. The events took place too far away for us to see them in “now” time.

And to add more stellar perspective it would take 200,000 years or roughly the time between the earliest origins of modern humans in Africa and the present, to travel across the Milky Way at light speed.



The stars and galaxies we see in the night sky are glimpses into the universe, millions of years ago. SOURCED

Or put another way, it would take 10,000 generations of humans to reach the far side of our galaxy travelling at light speed. Given that travel at anything approximating light speed is impossible because of Einstein’s general relativity, the reasonable conclusion is that we will never know what’s happening now on the other side of the Milky Way.

The saving grace is that what we’ve learned about events in the distant past is enough to construct plausible pictures of what happened in the past and going forward, suggest what may happen in the future.

Geology works much the same way. To look at successively older layers of

rock is to look back in time from the present to as early as four billion years ago, soon after Earth formed. Indeed, by comparing similar rock formations around the world from the deep seas, cliff faces and mountains, the geological history of the Earth can be traced precisely.

Successive sedimentary layers also trace the origins of the earliest single cells, later more complex cells, still later, cell colonies, and later yet, complex multicellular organisms as well as multiple extinction events, the worst of which devastated well over 70 per cent of life in the seas and lands 250 million years ago.

Geology after all is a history text, writ large, which

tells us about the formation of the Earth, early bombardments, the formation and movement of land masses and the creation and weathering of mountains – and reveals the major factors that govern climate change, including the carbon cycle over many millions of years.

One good read on the subject is Andrew Knoll’s well-written 2021 book, “A Brief History of Earth,” which incidentally my 13-year-old grandson in Alaska is thoroughly enjoying now. And if he enjoys the material, you might too.

Then there’s the matter of genetics. Until recently, sequencing the genome was a challenging and expensive affair and in medicine used chiefly to identify genes that play roles in diseases and secondarily, how abnormal (mutant) genes are passed from one generation to another.

All of which became much more exciting recently because of the advent of relatively cheap and precise methods for editing the genome thanks to the work of Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuel Charpentier who

shared the 2020 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

However, genetics has had another important impact: it reveals the migrations and matings of our human ancestors hundreds of thousands of years ago and with a broader brush, our deep, translate as ancient, genetic relationships to countless other species in which many solutions to body shape, brain development and metabolic challenges were solved long before modern or even archaic humans appeared.

So, like astronomy and geology, genetics provides historical perspective and reveals relationships of which only a few decades ago, we were unaware. That’s useful history to add to the history most of us learned, which usually began with written records and empires.

Well, it turns out that “written” applies to information in rocks and genes as well as text.

*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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## Memorial clock tower 100th anniversary

This photograph shows the memorial clock tower in the 1920s with a perspective looking toward King Street. Note the rail crossing sign on the left for the railway that went along King Street. The memorial clock tower is one of the most prominent structures on Queen Street – and likely the most photographed. It was unveiled in June 1922, after much controversy about both its form and its location, as a memorial to 10 soldiers who gave their lives in the First World War. The architect, Charles Wilmot of Toronto, based his design on the St. Mark's Campanile in Venice. The total cost of the 42-foot tower, including architectural fees, an imported clock and a fire alarm, was \$8,165. A 1947 rededication ceremony commemorated soldiers killed in the Second World War and their names were added to the original 10. At the bottom is a recognition of the Korean War, 1950-1953.



### Insights into saving a community

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

A few days ago I watched a 2014 video entitled "Strange & Familiar," which revolved around one woman's crusade to save and revitalize the community of Fogo Island in Newfoundland.

Initially my interest had been piqued by the world-class architecture that was a part of this undertaking, however while watching I realized the underlying thrust of the program actually spoke to small communities all across this country.

About 15 minutes into the show, Zita Cobb, founder and principal financier of the Shorefast Charity, responsible for the Fogo Island initiative, says:

"The other threat that

Fogo Island is facing ... as are people everywhere ... is this flattening of culture and flattening of people and flattening of joy really, that comes from this rampant age of consumerism and corporatism such that one community looks much like another."

"How would you know you're in China? How would you know you're in Newfoundland?"

"If we're not careful, every community will look the same. We'll all be shopping in big box stores on Sunday afternoon. All the little paths we followed up the hill will be paved over and gone. We live in a time when rural cultures are slipping away."

There are many reasons a community might die, but the single commonality all these communities share is a hollowing out of the resident demographic. In other words, the community can no longer retain younger generations and they move away, leaving only the aging and elderly.

In this province there are remote communities that parallel Fogo Island's past challenges, but in most cases the towns are simply victims of decades of government mismanagement, lack of planning and chronic short-sightedness.

Consider our transporta-

tion network, although "network" can only be said to apply to roads and highways.

With a single-minded focus on road-based, wheeled transportation, more economical modes of movement of freight and people were largely abandoned in favour of the car and truck. There are out-of-service rail lines in virtually every region of the province that served the secondary industries that once existed in towns all across Ontario.

As for transit, up until the 1950s even here in NOTL one could jump on the electric streetcar for a quick trip to Niagara Falls or St. Catharines. Once common in Ontario communities, this type of transit was decommissioned in favour of the car and, occasionally, a bus transit system.

This car-centricity in Canada has played a pivotal role in concentrating population centres, underwriting a development model that created urban sprawl, hollowed-out downtown retail business with drive-to satellite retail centres, all the while adversely affecting the tax base of municipal governments, which carry the majority of infrastructure costs.

To complicate matters further, the apparent inability of the three levels of

government to establish a co-operative and co-ordinated planning process or an effective revenue model has completely crippled the ability of municipal governments to create viable local solutions.

This week we go to the ballot box to ostensibly indicate our vision for the province's direction over the next four years.

Perhaps like you, I have read the platforms of each party.

In my case, I have come away dismayed that, stripped of gimmickry, each of the three traditional parties have housing and transportation plans that completely adhere to the failed car-centric model.

Only the outlier Greens have presented a way forward that makes some sense in these areas. And, while I know the Greens are not going to form government, perhaps it's time to send a message through our votes to the new government to "get their house in order."

Again from Zita Cobb: "We exist in relationship to the whole: the whole planet, the whole of humanity, the whole of existence. It is our job to find ways to belong to the whole while upholding the specificity of people and place."

## Looking to the Stars

## Mercury brings a feeling of 'deja vu all over again'

**Thursday, June 2:** An insight to help heal a wound from the past and an insight and some help towards reaching a cherished goal. These are potentials for today. They may or may not be connected. The Rolling Stones' longtime drummer, Charlie Watts, was born June 2, 1941. His death, on Aug. 24, 2021, led many to discover his wide and deep musical interests and genius.



**Friday, June 3:** At four o'clock this morning, retrograde Mercury, after nearly a full month of appearing to move backward, finally turns direct. The next eight to 10 days may feel like a period of déjà vu as Mercury retraces ground already covered twice. It is also an opportunity to make changes for better decisions. Happy birthday number 36 to Spain's brilliant tennis star, Rafael Nadal, winner of 21 Grand Slam tournaments.



**Saturday, June 4:** Saturn turns retrograde today after moving forward for the past eight months. The large ringed planet goes direct again on Oct. 24, 2022. So, for the next five months we are given opportunities to reconsider our security, our vocation and our health. It may seem old hat. But it is serious. It was June 4, 1940, that the "miracle" retreat at Dunkirk saved over 300,000 lives because Hitler called off a potential massacre and Churchill enlisted many small privately owned watercraft to aid in the evacuation.

**Sunday, June 5:** Fuzzy thinking may jeopardize security so it might be best to look things

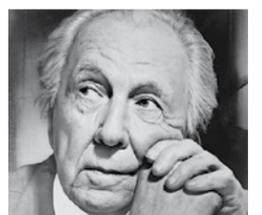
over from a few different perspectives. Also, waiting for greater clarity is a good idea. Happy birthday to Canada's 16th prime minister. Today, Joe Clark turns 83.

**Monday, June 6:** Being too easily impressed is not good when making big decisions. Like today. Be patient and attend to practical necessities instead. Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, died on June 9, 1891, at age 76.



**Tuesday, June 7:** Today is the first quarter moon in Virgo, a day to review accomplishments with an eye to getting a better plan to finish them. Usually, a delay will leave us angry and frustrated. Today's delays may prove to give advantages and better results. It's also a good day to exercise patience. It was June 7, 1967, that American writer, Dorothy Parker died. Her witty quotes are often cited, as in: "The best way to keep children at home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant and let the air out of the tires."

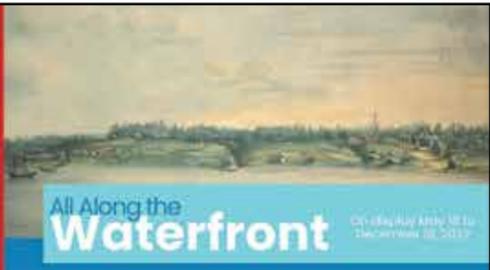
**Wednesday, June 8:** With the moon moving from Virgo into Libra, there are many ideas in the air. The important thing is not to go overboard with enthusiasm and put off everyone (including you). Happy birthday to Frank Lloyd Wright, famous architect of Fallingwater and the Guggenheim, New York. Also credited by some for the barn at Inniskillin Wines, Wright was born June 8, 1867.



**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.*

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**All Along the Waterfront**  
On Friday, June 10, 2022



Lime glow juniper can add some zest to your garden. JOANNE YOUNG

## A little **twist of lime** adds a pleasing dash of colour



Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

“Summertime and the living is easy” indeed. At this time of year, we start to move out onto our patios to enjoy the great outdoors.

Our minds turn to hosting barbecues for friends and family, with great tasting food. Maybe you are grilling some salmon with lemon juice or enjoying a tasty salad topped off with some lime.

Even our drinks are enhanced with lime. Using lime will add a brightness to a dish, bringing out the colours and flavours.

I was reminded this week, as I was putting together a number of annual pots, that adding lime or lemon-coloured plants to our containers and our floral beds can also enhance our gardens.

They can brighten and lighten a dark, shady area. Adding plants with lemony yellow foliage will also bring out the other colours in the garden.

The pink, purple, orange, or red coloured flowers will appear to be more vibrant. This is especially true in the summer garden. It is so refreshing to walk into

a garden that has lime-coloured accents.

Here are some of my favourite yellow/lime-coloured plants that can tolerate a part-shade location:

\* Golden Sunburst Yew (Taxus x media ‘Sunburst’) – This vase-shaped evergreen has new growth that emerges as a soft yellow colour. It can tolerate from full sun to shade. It can grow to be seven feet high by 10 feet wide, but takes pruning very well.

\* All Gold Hakonechloa Grass/Golden Variegated Hakonechloa – One of the few grasses that grows well in a part-shade location.

This low mounding grass, growing about 18 x 24 inches high and wide, will brighten up any shady spot.

\* Gold Leaf Hostas – There are many varieties of hostas with pure yellow leaves or gold and green variegated leaves. Choose one that fits the size needed for your space.

\* Lime Coralbells (Heuchera) – Although some coralbells can tolerate sun, I find that the lime-leaf varieties do best in a filtered light. One notable variety is “Lime Marmalade.”

Some sun-loving yellow/lime-coloured plants:

\* Mops Threadleaf False Cypress (Chamaecyparis pisifera filifera ‘Mops’) -

\* Lime Glow Juniper (Juniperus horizontalis ‘Lime Glow’) – A low-spreading evergreen with golden yellow foliage.

\* Golden Spirit Smoke Bush (Cotinus coggygria ‘Golden Spirit’) – A larger growing shrub reaching about 10 feet high and eight feet wide. Great in a

mixed-shrub border.

\* Chardonnay Pearls Deutzia (Deutzia gracilis ‘Chardonnay Pearl’) – This newer variety of deutzia sports yellow leaves with clusters of small white flowers late May to early June. Grows three feet by three feet.

\* Sunshine Blue Bluebeard (Caryopteris incana ‘Sunshine Blue’) – A stunning late-summer bloomer. The bright yellow leaves paired with the purple/blue clusters of flowers put on a real show. Grows three to four feet high and wide.

\* Sunsation Barberry (Berberis thunbergia ‘’) – This lemony yellow deciduous shrub will bring any garden to life. It grows slowly to three to four feet high and wide.

\* Angelina Sedum (Sedum rupestris ‘Angelina’) – A low-growing ground-cover type Sedum ideal for hot, dry locations.

\* Variegated Iris (Iris pallida ‘Aureo Variegata’) – This perennial provides you with the traditional purple flowers, but also gives you with showy yellow and blue/green striped leaves for the remainder of the season.

These are just a few of plants that provide you with yellow-lime foliage. Next time you are adding a new plant to your garden, think about adding a twist of lime.

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

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Niagara Region Proposed Development Charges (D.C.) By-law and Underlying Background Study

Niagara Region will hold a virtual statutory public meeting pursuant to Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended, to present and obtain public input on Niagara Region’s proposed Development Charges By-law and underlying background study.

A statutory public meeting is being held under the provisions of Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, as follows:

**Date: Thursday, June 30, 2022**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: This meeting will be held virtually**

A copy of the background study and proposed by-law is available at: [niagararegion.ca/business/property/background-study.aspx](http://niagararegion.ca/business/property/background-study.aspx)

The background study and proposed By-law is exclusive of Transit Development Charges which will be provided at a later date. A public meeting will be held at a later date with respect to Transit Development Charges.

Due to the efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, the council chamber at Regional headquarters will not be open to the public to attend meetings until further notice. To view live-stream meeting proceedings, without the ability to provide oral submissions, please visit [niagararegion.ca/government/council](http://niagararegion.ca/government/council)

#### Have your say

Public input on the proposed development charges by-law is welcomed and encouraged. During this time written comments are the preferred method of receiving public input. Written comments may be sent by mail or email. You can also provide oral input by joining the electronic meeting.

**Written submission:** To provide written input, please mail your comments to the Office of the Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7 or [clerk@niagararegion.ca](mailto:clerk@niagararegion.ca) by **4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.**

**Oral submission:** To provide input orally at the virtual public meeting, please submit your delegation request to the Regional Clerk by completing the online form at [niagararegion.ca/government/council/speak-at-committee.aspx](http://niagararegion.ca/government/council/speak-at-committee.aspx) or to [clerk@niagararegion.ca](mailto:clerk@niagararegion.ca) before **4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.** For more information, visit [niagararegion.ca/government/council/speakingatcouncil](http://niagararegion.ca/government/council/speakingatcouncil).

If you require any accommodations in order to participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the **Accessibility Advisor Coordinator** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or [accessibility@niagararegion.ca](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca).

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meeting will be collected, used and disclosed by member of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)**. The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions about this collection and disclosure should be directed to the Access & Privacy Office at 905-980-6000 ext. 3779 or [FOI@niagararegion.ca](mailto:FOI@niagararegion.ca).

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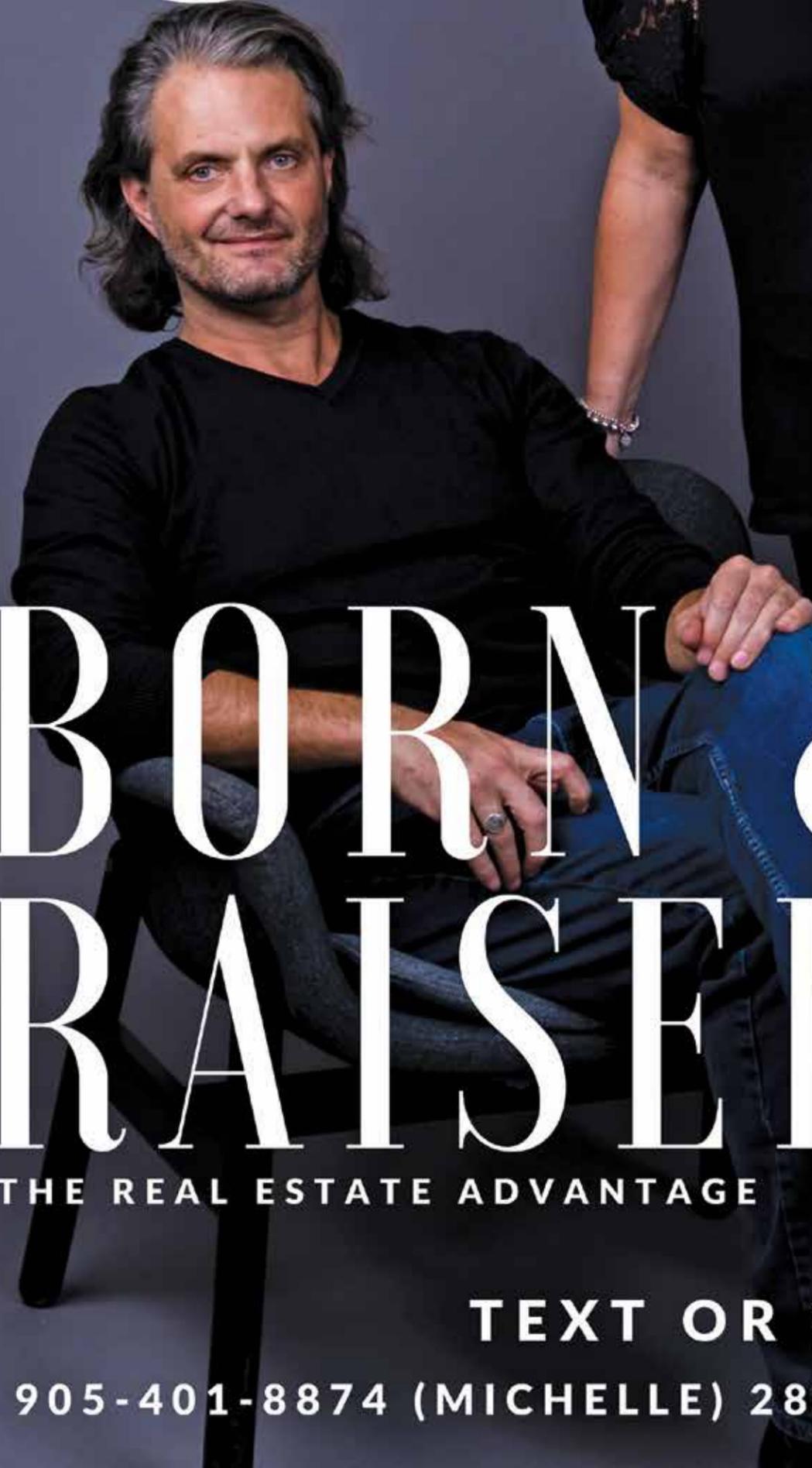
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