



## NOTL's 2% hotel room tax begins July 1

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

It's been simmering a long time on the back burner, but NOTL is finally ready to serve up its municipal accommodation tax.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's long-awaited and hard-fought hotel tax is set to begin on July 1 after council unanimously approved a staff report and bylaw on the levy during a Monday, June 20 council meeting.

The new levy is a two per

*Continued on Page 2*



## Disero focused on solutions for pickleball club members

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The sport must go on.

It has been a little more than a week since a justice of the peace placed a probation on the use of the Centennial Sports Park courts for pickleball for two years.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero says she is focused on what comes next and finding solutions for the NOTL

*Continued on Page 4*

# Butterflies honour loved ones lost

Symbolism of release is 'just beautiful,' says NOTL Palliative Care director



Liam Archibald, 7, releases a butterfly for his father Luke Archibald, who died suddenly in 2021. RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

About 250 new residents moved in Saturday afternoon and each one of them represents someone who was deeply loved and lost.

They weren't people, they

were indigenous painted lady butterflies, released at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre as part of a ceremony to honour people who died in the last two years but were unable to have proper funerals due to the pandemic.

Organized by NOTL Palliative Care, it was a chance to join with others to share love and grief, said executive director Bonnie Bagnulo.

"What a travesty it was not being able to visit them and having families

not be able to come and witness the end of life and the mourning and grieving afterwards," Bagnulo said.

"As they were releasing the butterflies you could see that hope, that symbolism, in hoping that their loved ones were free. A little bit

of it set them free, too. It was actually beautiful, just beautiful."

Inside the community centre auditorium, pictures of loved ones lined walls and tables, where people

*Continued on Page 5*

# Navy's oldest ship HMCS Oriole makes harbour in NOTL

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Perhaps one of the greatest old sailing vessels in the world called Niagara-on-the-Lake its home this past weekend.

The HMCS Oriole, the Royal Canadian Navy's oldest ship, docked at the NOTL Sailing Club from

June 17 to 20.

The ship's executive officer, Lt. James Craigie, said working on the sail-powered tall ship was possibly the best position in the navy.

A reporter from The Lake Report spent the better part of two hours aboard the ship, talking with the crew and appreciating a well-kept relic from the age of sail.

Indeed, being on the ship

evoked some of the immortal opening lines of Herman Melville's legendary novel "Moby Dick," as the author describes his and humanity's fascination with the sea.

"If they but knew it, almost all men in their degree, some time or other, cherish very nearly the same

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The HMCS Oriole docked in NOTL. EVAN SAUNDERS

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# Heritage experts say NOTL is a leader on **conservation**

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



NOTL is at the forefront of heritage conservation, says professor Marcus Letourneau. FILE

Preserving the character of Niagara-on-the-Lake may be a tough battle for some councillors and residents but it seems the town is getting widespread recognition for its efforts.

During a special council meeting on June 20, Marcus Letourneau, an assistant professor of planning at Queen's and Waterloo universities and managing principal at LHC Heritage Planning and Archaeology gave councillors a heritage training session.

Letourneau, who also teaches part-time at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston, was accompanied by Dan Schneider, former senior heritage policy adviser for the province and a leading expert in the field.

Letourneau said the town is considered at the forefront when it comes to heritage planning and conservation in Ontario.

"It's fair to say that Niagara-on-the-Lake has really been a leader in heritage

ally, really good policies in there. I think that will help because it provides greater clarity and clarity about what rules apply," he said.

If he was a councillor, Letourneau said he would be constantly asking the region when the official plan is going to be approved. Regional council is set to vote on its new official plan on Thursday, June 23.

But Letourneau wasn't there to tell council everything it was doing right and provided a wide range of recommendations for how the town can better bring heritage conservation under its planning umbrella.

One of the best ways for a municipality to tackle heritage conservation in the face of growth and development is through the use of a heritage impact assessment, he said.

Prof. Brendan Stewart discussed that topic extensively during an open house regarding the Rand Estate, as noted in The Lake Report last week.

"Essentially a (heritage impact assessment) is both a planning study and a conservation study to determine if and how

heritage resources might be impacted by a development and what can we do to mitigate those impacts," Letourneau said.

Increasingly, though, such assessments are being used as a precondition of approval of developments, he said.

He noted the City of Toronto has tough guidelines when it comes to submitting a heritage impact assessment before a development is approved.

In response to comments from Couns. Erwin Wiens and Clare Cameron, who both raised the issue of the perception of heritage designation as an onerous, overbearing process, Letourneau said the town should lean into incentives.

"I think that's something that we often don't think about. Grants have often been really, really successful. A lot of communities do facade improvement grants or loans for commercial areas."

"I've seen communities partner with local credit unions to provide low-interest loans."

He said there is a heritage property tax relief program

possibly in the works for NOTL.

He also encouraged non-financial incentives to encourage designation, such as throwing parties for heritage building owners and taking other community building initiatives.

Letourneau said a well-run heritage program is no more onerous than building or fire code requirements.

"And that's what I think heritage programs need to aspire to."

He said council should consider further supporting its municipal heritage committee with a larger budget so that it can accomplish more goals.

Regarding concerns about provincial bill 108, which has municipalities worried they will lose control over many aspects of local planning, Letourneau said heritage designation and heritage delisting always comes down to a vote from council.

However, under bill 108 property owners can appeal those decisions to the Ontario Land Tribunal, he said.

Heritage protection is not just a benefit to preserving the character, which is the selling point of NOTL, he

said. It also provides environmental benefits.

"A significant proportion of our waste in Canada is construction waste. So, if you're not tearing a building down you are actually diverting that waste from the landfill," he said.

Preserving old neighbourhoods also reduces reliance on vehicles since older neighbourhoods were designed to be walkable, he added.

Above all, Schneider and Letourneau said the town simply needs to prioritize heritage and invest staff time and resources into making it an integral part of the planning process.

And while the experts had more suggestions on ways the town can protect its local character, there was plenty of praise reserved for the work the current council has done.

"The town has just incredible people. The politicians, staff, heritage committee members — you have all the ingredients for a great team," said Schneider.

"Somehow the town is putting these people together and making things work."

# NOTL predicts it will make **\$1M additional revenue** from hotel tax

*Continued from Front Page*

cent tax on all accommodation businesses that have five or more rooms.

Town treasurer Kyle Freeborn told council that includes about 14 of the nearly 300 short-term rental accommodations in town.

All hotels will be subject to the tax.

The levy will ramp up to 3 per cent at the start of 2024 and 4 per cent in 2025.

During a council meeting on Dec. 20, 2021, Freeborn offered an overview of how much money the levy may generate, presenting several options with various scenarios.

One option calculated earnings based on a 60 per cent room occupation rate, an average room price of \$200 and a tax of 2 per

cent. This resulted in more than \$1 million in annual tax revenue, with the municipality keeping 50 per cent for itself, or \$530,987.

The presentation estimated the town will earn roughly \$44,000 per month from the tax. When implemented in July, that could total some \$264,000 by the end of 2022, he said.

But actual revenue is likely to be less this year. Due to logistic concerns, the tax will not be applied to rooms that were booked before July 1.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor expressed some concern the tax is low for starters while other municipalities are going full bore right out of the gate.

St. Catharines approved an accommodation tax on May 30. It kicks in on Aug. 1 and will be four per cent immediately. It will also

apply to all accommodations, regardless of the number of rooms.

Council has debated the tax idea many times over several years but always resisted passing the levy.

The current council has "been a year at this and we're gradually going to implement it over three years," O'Connor lamented.

She proposed moving up the timeline for increasing the rate so it would reach its full four per cent by 2024.

She received no support from her fellow councillors. "Nice try," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said.

The tax will be split 50/50 between the town and the Chamber of Commerce, which serves as the town's destination marketing organization.

Under the provincial legislation that enables the levy, the town must give a

minimum of 50 per cent of revenue to the local tourism marketing organization.

Freeborn noted Niagara Falls gives 95 per cent of its levy to its marketing board and Huntsville gives 100 per cent.

St. Catharines approved its levy at a 60/40 split in favour of its tourism management entity.

Coun. Erwin Wiens expressed concern that the town is taking its maximum amount from the levy. He asked what the town would be doing with its share of the money.

Freeborn said the only predetermined project with the revenue is a \$100,000 donation to the NOTL Museum.

Freeborn said staff recommend the creation of a governance advisory committee to further establish what should be done with the money.

Wiens cautioned his fellow councillors not to let the revenue from the tax become something the town depends on and compared it to parking revenue, which dropped substantially during the pandemic.

Wiens, who is not running for re-election, said he would like to see 100 per cent of the money going toward tourism projects and hopes future councils will revisit the percentage split.

"I'm just afraid that somewhere along the line this is going to go off the rails," he said.

In response, Freeborn again emphasized the governance advisory committee recommended by staff.

That committee could be made up of councillors, staff, residents, destination marketing organization representatives and short-

term rental operators, the report says.

Their job would be to develop approval criteria and make recommendations about capital projects to be funded by the tax revenue.

The current bylaw and report was drafted in consultation with several people from the accommodation industry in NOTL, including among others Chamber president Minerva Ward, Paul MacIntyre from Vintage Hotels and the chamber, Stephen Livett from White Oaks Resort & Spa, John Foreman from the NOTL Bed & Breakfast Association.

Freeborn also said staff are considering creating a full-time position to manage the levy instead of using a third-party company. It would cost about \$70,000 per year for the employee, he said.

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From left: Robert Houghton, Joseph Herbert Houghton and Tom Hadley Houghton. NOTL MUSEUM IMAGES

# THE MONUMENTS MEN

Three Houghton boys went off to war. Only one returned

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

Ron Dale  
Special to The Lake Report

In the first two years of the First World War, three of Joseph and Emma Houghton's four sons marched away to war.

Only one returned.

Joseph and Emma emigrated from England and settled in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where Joseph worked as a gardener.

The couple had four sons between 1889 and 1900: Thomas, Joseph, Robert and Francis Harold.

Tom trained as a tinsmith and was working as a pattern maker in Niagara while his brothers Robert and Joseph moved to Toronto.

Joseph worked as an undertaker and Robert was employed by the post office. Francis Harold was still in school when war broke out and was too young to enlist.

While the Houghton family was flourishing, trouble was brewing in Europe.

On Aug. 4, 1914, Britain declared war on Germany. As part of the British Empire, Canada was automatically included in the British declaration of war.

Among the first Canadians to answer the call to arms was Joseph Houghton.

He had been a militiaman for a few years, serving in the 10th Royal Grenadiers of Toronto and immediately enlisted for overseas service on Aug. 9.

With others, he was sent to Valcartier, Que., where he joined the 4th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

After very rudimentary training at Valcartier, the 4th Battalion was shipped to England, arriving on Oct. 14, 1914.

There they received further training and were soon sent to France, landing on Feb. 11, 1915, and were quickly thrown into action.

Joseph fought at the Second Battle of Ypres and suffered from the first major poison gas attack of the war.

He was evacuated from the battlefield and sent back to England to recuperate. He would take almost a year to recover. He finally rejoined the 4th Battalion in France on April 7, 1916.

While Joseph was recuperating from being gassed, his older brother Tom, who had married in 1913, enlisted for overseas service.

Joseph had also been a militiaman, serving in the 9th Field Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery when he volunteered for active service on June 10, 1915, enlisting in the 36th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

He was soon shipped out of Canada, landing in England on June 28. He underwent a period of training and was shipped out again.

On April 24, 1916, he was attached to the Canadian Army Medical Corps in Salonica, Greece. He arrived in Greece only a couple of weeks after his younger brother Joseph was sent back to the trenches of France.

Meanwhile, another Houghton boy enlisted.

Robert signed up on Feb. 18, 1916, joining the 134th Battalion (the 48th Highlanders) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Following a brief spell of training at Niagara Camp in Niagara-on-the-Lake, he was sent to England, arriving on Aug. 19, 1916, where he was transferred to the 15th Battalion, which was fighting in France at the time.

In Salonica, Tom Houghton had received word that two of his brothers were now serving in France.

Tom submitted a request on Feb. 6, 1917, to be transferred to the 4th Battalion, which was fighting in France, "to be with my brother J.H. Houghton."

While the army was mulling over his request over the next several months, his plans to rejoin at least one of his brothers met with disappointment and tragedy.

Joseph was wounded at the Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917, shot through the left leg. By the time he recovered on May 11, 1918, he was transferred to the Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

When Tom's request was finally granted and he was able to join the 4th Battalion, arriving in France on April 4, 1918, brother Joseph was in hospital in England, prior to his transfer to the Machine Gun Corps.

In the meantime, their younger brother Robert was fighting in France in the 15th Battalion.

His luck ran out on Aug. 15, 1917, at the Battle of Hill 70. The Canadian Corps assaulted a strong German position near Lens, to draw German units from the area of the main British assault at Passchendaele.

Robert was hit and initially reported as wounded and missing, but later assumed to have been killed in action. His body was never identified.

On Oct. 1, 1918 Tom Houghton was fighting in the Battle of Canal du Nord. His battalion advanced north of Cambrai and was supposed to be attacking in conjunction with a British division on its flank.

However, the British attack failed while the Canadians advanced, exposing them to flanking German machine-gun fire. Tom was killed right after going "over the top."

He lies buried in the Sancourt British Cemetery, Pas du Calais, France.

Tom Houghton was the last Niagara-on-the-Lake soldier to die in the First World War.

Of the three Houghton boys who enlisted, only Joseph survived. He had been gassed at Ypres and wounded twice, but survived. He died on April 5, 1967.

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# Lake Report's 2022 visitor's guide magazine now available



The front page of the 2022 edition of "NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers." RICHARD HARLEY

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Lake Report is excited to announce the return of its summer edition of "NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers," an 80-page glossy magazine published just in time for Canada Day.

The high-quality, souvenir magazine is geared to visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake, with an emphasis on all the things that make NOTL one of the best destinations on the planet.

It hits the streets Friday, June 24 and will be available at all of the town's major hotels and tourist hot spots, such as the visitor centre at Fort George and the Chamber of Commerce.

A complete digital copy of the guide will be avail-

able to everyone on our archive website, lakereport.ca.

As well, the magazine will be distributed at sporting venues during the Canada Summer Games in NOTL.

Each year our guide offers visitors a look at some of the "who's who" of NOTL, so they can plan out their stay and learn about some of the places they simply shouldn't miss.

Special features in this year's edition include: A brief history of NOTL's Maritime history by Tony Chisholm, our "Summer Top Pick" food review about The Oaklands restaurant at Riverbend, brief histories on the Commons and Fort George, a list of picnic destinations and parks, features on the NOTL Golf

Club, Landscape of Nations memorial and "A stroll down Queen Street," which offers a look at some of the sights and buildings in the town's historic district.

The magazine is also a chance for businesses to tell their stories through advertising to people visiting our town and the guide contains beautifully designed advertisements from many NOTL shops and attractions.

"Our guide is really designed to show visitors the absolute best of what NOTL has to offer," said publisher Richard Harley, a lifelong NOTL resident.

"When visitors come here, many of them don't really know much about our town. Some are stopping in as part of a trip to multiple destinations,

so they might not even be aware of places like Fort George and the deep history in NOTL," Harley said.

"This guide gives them a crash course on NOTL, while also recommending things that they might otherwise be unaware of. Sure, everyone knows about wine tours, but do they know we have a 1,000-pound cake paraded through Simcoe Park on July 1? Do they know the famous gazebo really isn't historic at all? But it's still a beautiful location."

"We hope people learn there's more to NOTL than just wineries, important as they are. We want them to see our town as a destination to return to year after year for the special things we have to offer."

# Changes to official plan were always anticipated, Disero says

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Tweaks and alterations to Niagara-on-the-Lake's proposed official plan to bring it into conformity with regional and provincial plans are no surprise and were anticipated, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

And having the town's plan finished three years ago has actually enabled NOTL to deal with key issues and influence the creation of the region's plan, Disero said in an interview.

"An official plan is a living document and as the province makes changes we have to make changes as well to meet the provincial policy statements," she said.

Official plans are arcane, complex and detailed documents, painfully dense to outsiders, but crucial guides to the future direction of any municipality.

Town planner Kirsten McCauley confirmed NOTL is working closely with the region to ensure the official plan is aligned with regional directives.

She said the region's plan could be approved as early as June 23. The next step would be to get regional approval of the

town's plan, which was submitted in 2019.

The town has borne the brunt of sharp criticism for submitting a plan that didn't meet all regional and provincial criteria, but Disero is confident those issues can easily be addressed.

One of the key issues the current council dealt with in its 2019 plan is density within NOTL.

"The silver lining to this is that, at the region, as they were going through their density numbers, I kept pushing the regional commissioner of planning to allow us in Niagara-on-the-Lake to shift densities around for different areas as long as the total is the same in terms of our density requirements," Disero said.

The region agreed, she said. Shortly after, the City of Welland asked for similar consideration.

And now the Niagara Region official plan "will allow all municipalities in the region to shift their densities to meet their priorities in terms of compatibility, heritage protection and that kind of stuff," she said.

In a growing town like NOTL, the ability to target density in certain areas is a great benefit, she said.

"Oh my God, how lucky



Councillors Wendy Cheropita, Stuart McCormack, Gary Burroughs and Clare Cameron look over official plan documents in 2019. BRITTANY CARTER

can we be that the region has recognized this?" Disero told a recent council meeting.

"We will be able to have lower densities in areas where heritage and preservation are paramount and we'll be able to have a little higher densities in areas that are good transportation lines, that are good in terms of services and everything else."

And that is because the current town council got ahead of the game and completed its draft official plan three years ago, Disero said.

Emails exchanged between the mayor and regional planning commissioner Michelle Sergi

obtained by The Lake Report corroborate this development.

Disero said working with the region to ensure conformity between official plans is not a NOTL issue but something every municipality will do and is doing.

Disero said some of the policies included in the town's plan were a "conscious decision made by council to support the farming community" in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Another key issue was watershed mapping in NOTL.

"This council chose to take the side of our farming community rather than the side of the region and

the province in terms of the watershed mapping," Disero told council on May 30.

This was a key issue that had been a problem for well over a decade and the town opted to use the mapping created by NOTL's agricultural community in its proposed official plan instead of what the province and region had determined.

Representatives of the farming community said, "Let the farming community go and argue this out with the region — why we believe our mapping is better," Disero said in an interview.

This led to conversations at the region's agricultural committee, of which she is a member and which also includes residents of NOTL.

"That will help an agreement between region, the town and the farming community in the long term."

An email from senior regional planner Sean Norman confirmed the issue was resolved and made part of the region's official plan.

"So, that is something that took like 10 years or more, I guess since 1995, to try to resolve," the mayor said.

Disero attributes the resolution of these two key issues as a direct result of

the town's proposed official plan.

"Sometimes you get so busy doing the work you forget to tell people what you're doing," she told council.

She said no other official plans have been approved or even submitted as the region wants to finish its plan before approving any others.

"So, we're, I think, again ahead of the game," she told The Lake Report.

"All local area municipalities will have to review their plans and ours is in and we just have to make these adjustments and get the approvals that we need."

She's confident that will go smoothly.

In an email exchange between Disero and Doug Giles, acting commissioner of planning and development with the region, Giles said that since NOTL already has its plan submitted and reviewed by the region, it likely could be approved before the municipal election this fall, so long as it is revised to fit the region's approved plan.

All in all, Disero said the town is in a better position than it would have been if the plan had not been finished yet.

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# River swim to highlight mental health crisis

Molly Bowron  
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake man is preparing to swim from the Queenston boat launch to the gazebo in Queen's Royal Park to raise awareness and money for mental health.

Besides drawing attention to the crisis in mental health, Dylan Rumsey wants to help Niagara's Pathstone Mental Health Foundation and has launched a GoFundMe with a goal of raising \$7,500.

As of Wednesday, June 22, it had already hit \$6,270.

Rumsey has dealt with mental health issues for several years and said he wants to "send a message for the kids that are struggling and feel like there's no hope. If you train hard enough and focus on something hard enough you will be able to succeed."

When he enters the water of the Niagara River on Aug. 13, Rumsey plans to start about 300 metres offshore to avoid strong currents.

Along with many supporters, his trainer Scott Paines



Dylan Rumsey will swim for Pathstone Mental Health Foundation on Aug. 13. SUPPLIED PHOTO

"will be beside me with a life jacket following and monitoring me the whole way," said Rumsey.

They will be accompanied by other people on paddle boards and in boats, all coming out to show their support and help along the way.

"I'm not a trained swimmer by any means, so I see it as if you put your mind to something, you can make it possible, as long as you stay focused and determined," Rumsey said.

Rumsey said he is training four to five hours most days to prepare.

It's been a long journey for him, "off and on for two

years. I wanted to do this last year, but I have gone through a lot lately."

"I just restarted training, around February and it's been pretty vigorous, with my swimming workout in the mornings and my conditioning training starting every day at 2 a.m.," said Rumsey.

Coupled with work it makes for an exhausting routine.

Now in his mid-20s, he was at Pathstone throughout his younger years and has "been in and out of hospitals" for about 12 years, said Rumsey.

Along with his own experience at Pathstone, "I have

a friend who passed away in a train accident, he has a bench that was donated to him there. His younger step-brother and sister are also at Pathstone."

Thanks to Rumsey's experience at Pathstone, he said, "it is nice to be able to give back to the people that were trying to help me."

"I am trying to make a little bit of a difference in the health system and the justice system," he said.

Along with Rumsey's journey to better himself through the swim and boost awareness, he hopes to create a non-profit foundation in the future to help kids get "back into a normal life or daily routine."

As a victim of trauma as a teen, he wants to try to ensure others don't endure what he has been through.

"I struggle to get up in the mornings, work two jobs," he said, adding no one should be "paying hundreds of dollars for therapy."

Donations to Rumsey's GoFundMe in support of Pathstone can be made online at <https://gofund.me/8bf2f232>.

# Butterflies a symbol of change and new paths

Continued from Front Page

picked up small two-by-two inch boxes with their butterflies and moved outside to let theirs go.

NOTL resident and bereavement counsellor Sandra Hardy shared a few words, before Lord Mayor Betty Disero read the names of more than 80 people who were being celebrated.

"(Hardy) talked about bereavement and its impact on people and the need for support and how she thought this event was extremely important to help people — to witness people's grief and to add some, hopefully, a little bit of closure to what they've just gone through," Bagnulo said.

"And then we invited the people to come up and to release their butterflies. And, oh, it was amazing to see the excitement on their faces and to know that their feelings were attached to that little two-by-two representa-



Connor Feren, 8, releases a butterfly for his papa Larry.

tion of their love."

Liam Archibald was there with his mother Alanna McDonald and brother Landon Archibald, to release a butterfly for their father Luke, who died suddenly in 2021.

"I love you, Dad," Liam said as he released his.

Theresa Bell, from Virgil, was there to pay tribute to her only son Christopher who died of a heart attack in 2020 at age 52.

She never had a chance to have a funeral or visitation, and said the butterfly

release really helped her be able to grieve.

"It was a very touching moment," she said,

Other life struggles since then have forced her to have to be strong, so she didn't really have time to cry.

"Saturday did that for me," she said.

"As soon as I opened up the box in that little butterfly became alive and flew out, it was like 'Oh, wow. This is just so great.' It was a relief for me. I cried and

got over it — and came home and cried again. I think Palliative Care did a wonderful job at helping people get through their grief."

Bagnulo said the butterfly's evolution from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly signifies a new path and change.

"That caterpillar might have to go through a lot of pain and struggle and a lot of trauma while it's navigating its life here. But then just when it thinks that its life is over, it emerges from a chrysalis from a cold, dark time and in a cold, dark place anew and revived and full of spirit," she said.

"It's a symbolism of something after. Whatever that may be."

She said there was a feeling of spiritual connection, "because we were all there for a common purpose. You could feel it amongst everyone. Everyone there was feeling the same way."

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

## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 52**

**Region active cases: 383**

**Region deaths: 566**

**Region total cases: 41,554**

*\*June 2 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**

"There are two things to aim at in life: first, to get what you want; after that, to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second."

- Logan Pearsail Smith

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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## First sunset of summer



The sun turns the sky red at Ryerson Park as it sets on the first day of summer. RICHARD HARLEY

## Editorials

### Deja vu: Make patio program permanent

Richard Harley  
Editor-In-Chief

It's a bit of deja vu, seeing NOTL council extend its patio program for another year — welcome deja vu.

The program was established to help businesses with pandemic recovery when indoor dining was shuttered in 2020.

Since then it's proved to be popular, pleasant and trouble-free.

The sky hasn't come crashing down and nobody seems to be complaining.

Nice.

Now we're feeling a little more back to normal and can feel more comfortable getting out to enjoy the patios and great restaurants our town has to offer.

It looks like we've learned that Niagara-on-the-Lake can handle having some additional patios, after all.

The town actually saw an increase of \$190,000 in metered parking in 2020 compared to 2019.

But aside from a few pesos on the budget, the patios have brought something

new and welcomed change to NOTL and a new way to enjoy our town.

As we said last year, especially on Queen Street, they bring a great vibe and liveliness to staid Niagara-on-the-Lake. And that should be welcome.

Restaurateurs wouldn't be doing it if it wasn't good for business and, generally, what's good for our businesses is good for the town.

And the longer people stay and sip on the patios, the more the parking revenues grow.

Now, when those visitors book an overnight stay, the town will get a piece of the pie thanks to the municipal accommodation tax, which begins July 1.

It would seem at a glance that the patios could actually have benefits beyond just looking nice, helping businesses out and adding another dimension to the NOTL experience.

Bravo to council for extending the patios for another year. Next, let's make them permanent.

[editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

### A berry important return to life as we knew it

Kevin MacLean  
Managing Editor

At last weekend's Strawberry Festival, a certain joy was in the air, almost palpable, as what is perhaps the unofficial kickoff to summer in Niagara-on-the-Lake returned after far too long.

Organizers and festival-goers alike expressed their happiness at the resumption of this much-loved rite of spring and summer.

Everyone, it seems, was ready for it and ready to spend time socializing, sampling the tasty fare, bargain-hunting and berry-buying.

Like the annual tulip bulb sale the day prior and the upcoming Strawberry Social, these returns to normalcy are necessary and welcome.

Yes, COVID is still out there and still worrisome, with new variants in the offing and more waves pre-

dicted this fall.

But being sociable types, humans crave and need such interaction.

So, looking ahead, we'll have plenty of opportunity for just that.

As we already have reported, the Cake Parade, pancake breakfast and July 1 barbecue, plus a host of other Canada Day festivities, also are returning.

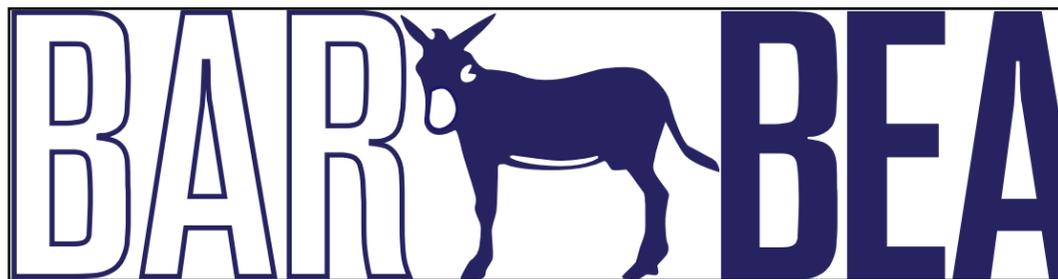
And just a week later, we'll mark the return of

the Cherry Festival. And in August, peaches.

Despite what might come to pass next fall, it is important for all manner of reasons that we take the opportunity to safely enjoy these gatherings.

We look forward to seeing all our friends and neighbours out and about in the coming weeks.

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# Government must put an end to mandatory use of ArriveCAN

Tony Baldinelli  
Special to The Lake Report

Our Canadian travel and tourism industry was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic first, it was hit the hardest and will take the longest time to recover.

For more than two years, tourism businesses in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie have been looking forward to finally achieving some form of economic recovery this summer.

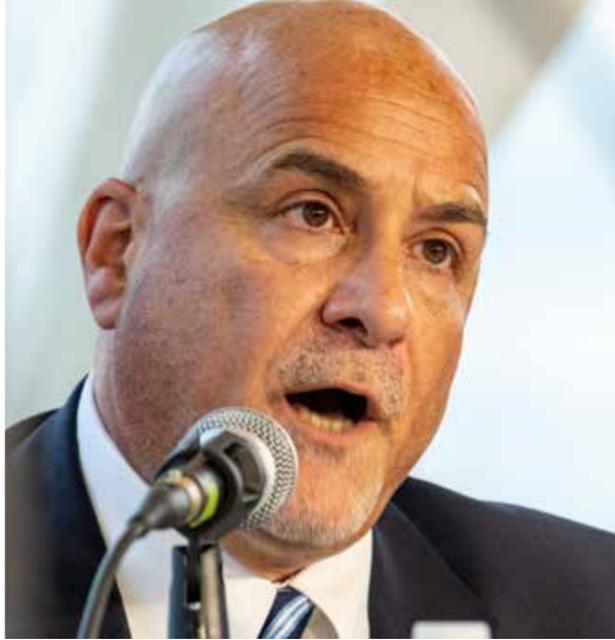
In Niagara, local tourism businesses generate 75 per cent of their revenue over the summer season, which is just 25 per cent of the year – or simply put, over the course of four months – and June is now almost over.

While many public restrictions and mandates have been lifted recently, one major federal obstacle remains in the way – and it threatens to derail the entire 2022 summer tourism season in Niagara and across Canada: The continued mandatory use of the ArriveCAN application at all ports of entry in Canada.

By doubling down on the continued mandatory use of ArriveCAN, the Liberal government is actively discouraging travel to Canada and that is terrible news for tourism businesses that depend on international visitors for their revenue and economic recovery, as so many in Niagara do.

Just last week, the International Trade Committee, of which I am a member, heard from witnesses testifying on our study of “Potential Impacts of the ArriveCAN Application on Certain Canadian Sectors.”

Through this study, which I initiated in late May, the committee has heard from the Customs and Immigration Union that the federal



Tony Baldinelli. JESSICA MAXWELL/FILE

government failed to consult with its own Canadian Border Services Agency employees before implementing and launching this app.

According to the union, border processing times have gone from 60 vehicles per hour pre-pandemic, to 30 vehicles per hour, and at times even fewer, since the implementation of ArriveCAN.

The committee also heard from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which highlighted a number of ongoing issues with ArriveCAN, including duplicate information input requirements at ports of entry; senseless data requirements, such as the need for an American day trip traveller to submit a Canadian address as a place to quarantine; network roaming issues in border communities; universal access to the app – not everyone has a smartphone, or can afford one; and tech literacy, which affects many travellers, especially seniors.

Beth Potter, president and CEO of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, agreed with my call on the federal govern-

ment to end the mandatory use of ArriveCAN. She also informed us that American visitation is not expected to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels until 2026.

This is extremely discouraging because American visitation to the Niagara region accounts for 50 per cent of the revenues generated by our local tourism operators, and the last thing our 40,000 Niagara tourism workers need this summer is the federal government standing in our way of achieving this badly needed local economic and financial recovery.

The ArriveCAN app has turned into a symbol of this Liberal government’s incompetence and mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The federal government must immediately end the mandatory use of ArriveCAN at our land borders, marine ports and airports, so we can save the 2022 summer tourism season.

*Tony Baldinelli is the Conservative MP for Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie.*

## How many town staff to change a light bulb?

Dear editor:

There is a street light outside my home that has not worked for over three months.

The area just outside the house is unusually dark so I

made all the required calls and emails, even to the mayor.

I received many promises but total inaction from anyone.

Usually the town seems good about attending to this

sort of thing. Not this time.

”How many people does it take to change a light bulb in town?”

Just asking.

*Christopher Allen  
NOTL*

# Pickleball Karen

There was motion in the town, till they locked us all back down  
And NOTL closed their shops and tourist stores.  
But the numbers kept increasing, putting pressure on policing  
And they told us we all had to stay outdoors.

Though some folk had some misgivings, most preferred to keep on living  
So they modified their outdoor tennis space  
Pickleball became the rage, a game to play at any age  
And the P.B. Club was born there, just in case.

The game’s following increased, not one player grew deceased  
Courts were jammed, though all the shops stayed mostly barren  
Then one woman took a stand, she declared this must be banned.  
It was the hero that we needed, Pickleball Karen.

Now her real name wasn’t Karen, could be Kim, or Kate or Sharon  
It’s irrelevant, for she was heaven sent  
Her complaints about the din, were ignored, to her chagrin  
So she lawyered up and off to court she went.

Now there are ways and there are means, to make a point. Or so it seems  
But diplomacy, we know, is for the weak.  
This was no time to back down, she would sue the club and town  
It was time for them to hear her bold critique.

“I’m not one to hold a grudge. But my life’s hell,” she told the judge  
And due to noise it’s hard for me to function  
My nerves are quite a wreck; I can’t sit upon my deck  
So I pray the court will grant me an injunction.

Her lawyer thusly plead, that the noise messed with her head  
For the volume was indeed a trifle high  
And the sound of whacking balls left her climbing up her walls  
So he asked the judge to ban the game hereby.

And the judge, named Mary Shelley, said this case seems rather smelly  
But nonetheless, the town must still comply  
With the laws of God and Britain, and town’s own laws they’d written  
So the volume must decrease; the game must die.

As I near the end of sonnet, there’s a padlock placed upon it  
And the courts stand very silent to this day  
So the case was put behind ‘em, and the town and club, she fined ‘em  
For their impudence for letting people play.

The players are not raunchy, though since then some have grown paunchy  
For they’ve taken to enjoying cups of wine.  
You can’t play here, it’s a pity, though they play in the Garden City  
And the villages and towns across the Line

You can play within Australia, but not here, for fear they’ll jail ya  
If you should break the padlock on the gate  
All the players now are banished; as for Karen, she has vanished.

*Graham McMillan  
NOTL*

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## DEAR DIARY

## Trials and tests on 4,400-km ride in honour of brother

*NOTL native Kaleb Schriefer is riding the Tour Divide from Alberta to New Mexico in honour of his brother Noah, who died of an overdose. This is his first report from his journey.*

Kaleb Schriefer  
Special to The Lake Report

Greetings,  
What a wild first 10 days it has been.

I have completed about a quarter of the race so far. Currently at mile marker 726, of 2,700 total miles, in Butte, Mont.

I have travelled south from Banff through Montana and will be entering Idaho in the next week or so. The terrain is breathtaking.

I have never spent any significant amount of time in the mountains, only flown over and driven through them. It is absolutely stun-

ning riding through these mountain passes, negotiating the terrain, coming across wild rivers and lakes. And interacting with the wildlife is something I will not soon forget.

The first three days after departing Banff were a real struggle. The route threw us out into the wilderness to cross Alberta's Elk Pass near Kananaskis.

The wild terrain and cold rainy and snowy weather was a real surprise and struggle for me. I came prepared to ride my bike, not hike to the top of a mountain in four feet of snow.

With a few late season winter storms affecting the higher altitudes, our route got changed as we entered Eureka, Mont.

We opted to stay off the mountains and stick to the highways to get into Whitefish. I'm glad we did,



Kaleb Schriefer has hit some snags along the way, but he's still rolling. SUPPLIED

because up to 10 people with extreme hypothermia ended up getting rescued by local search and rescue helicopters.

The last several days have been excellent weather as we make our way southeast through Montana heading toward Idaho. The landscape has already changed

drastically from sheer mountains to a more rolling hillside.

My attitude continues to be positive, despite some real hardships finding water and being able to pack and store the right amount of food in between resupply points.

I've been mostly stay-

ing at campgrounds, with a few rest days already due to the extreme weather. I'm surprised how well my body is holding up. I've come to terms with the fact that I am not 20 anymore and my body consistently reminds me of my age.

My legs and butt are constantly super sore, but not so much so that I don't get on the bike at 5 a.m. and pedal over 100 kilometres. It's amazing how resilient one's body is.

Once you break through the comfort bubble, the body adapts. I've had very little bike trouble but had to replace my rear tire due to a bad puncture. Otherwise, just some regular maintenance and I feel like it is serving me well.

Thank you to the Pie Plate Bakery Cafe in Virgil for sponsoring my bike, aptly named "California Toast"

because it's avocado green. Other people have not been so lucky, with broken cables, blown out tires and cracked handlebars.

As much of a struggle as it is riding while loaded down with nearly 40 pounds of gear, food, and water, the descents and views are worth every grinding pedal stroke.

As this trip means a lot to me, I find myself overwhelmed with emotions as I spread Noah's ashes along the peaks of the Continental Divide and their priceless panoramic views.

This was what Noah was in love with: The clean mountain air, the laid-back lifestyle of the small mountain town and the sense of self-sufficiency.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to my ride and all the in-kind support.

## Possible alternatives for courts include badminton, volleyball

*Continued from Front Page*

Pickleball Club.

"That's the big thing for me. 'OK, we find ourselves here, where do we go now?'" Disero said in an interview.

"We have to figure out how we can accommodate pickleball and where we can accommodate pickleball. For this year, it may have to be indoors," she said.

Disero, as the town's leader, said she wanted to focus on what can be done instead of brooding over the result of the legal action.

She has suggested several alternative locations for the courts: The old Virgil school on Four Mile Creek Road, Vineridge Academy on Niagara Stone Rd. (formerly Niagara District Secondary School), Parliament Oak and the Croatian Community Centre as jumping off points for a staff investigation.

But there is a second aspect to the situation that is important for Disero.

"We've spent money making a court, how can we use it? How can the community use it? It's there, we've paid



Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

for it and I don't want it to sit empty," she said.

Disero made several passing suggestions for use including as a volleyball court, a badminton court or for spec tennis, a growing sport among seniors.

"Although I think we'd leave the beach sand out of it if we were going to do volleyball," Disero said, referencing a comment made by Coun. Clare Cameron during a council meeting on June 20.

"It's a great surface. It's

got to be used for something that won't destroy the surface."

Disero wanted to assure the town's many pickleball players that something will be done to address the loss of the courts.

"Council and staff will endeavour to try to assist to help find alternative locations. I realize the arena is not the ideal location because it is concrete flooring."

Disero said one of her immediate reactions upon hearing the verdict last week was disappointment that town council had not sooner passed an amendment to the noise bylaw which allows for recreational noise from town parks.

"It was unfortunate that council didn't adjust their bylaw last November or even a month before we did because I think it made the difference in the legal framework of the verdict."

"That's just my opinion."

The bylaw change originally came up during an April 25 council meeting. It was defeated in a tie vote. Couns. Gary Burroughs, Clare Cameron, Wendy

Cheropita and Sandra O'Connor voted against the motion. Coun. Erwin Wiens was absent.

As a result the change to the bylaw was not brought into effect until the June 20 council meeting.

David Germain, a partner with Thomson Rogers and a specialist in municipal affairs and bylaws, said it is completely within council's wheelhouse to change the bylaw.

"Municipal councils are the ones who get to decide what the content of those bylaws is. They're the ones with the responsibility for passing those bylaws and the power to amend them as they see fit," Germain said.

"So, it's totally within their power to change the rules so to speak."

Disero thinks a bylaw amendment would not affect the current ruling, but would prevent future cases on the matter.

But she also doesn't want to leave the impression that the town will not address noise concerns coming from town parks.

"If there is an issue with noise in a sports field that is

something that we can work towards mitigating then we should do it," she said.

The Lake Report reached out to Terrence Hill, the lawyer who represented the town during the case, for clarification on how the ruling and the bylaw change would interact but did not hear back as of deadline.

Germain said he was unsure how a bylaw change would be affected by the probation order. But he strongly suggested going against the probation order is not in anyone's interest.

"Contempt of court is serious," Germain said.

One of the apparent key points of the case is the subjective nature of the bylaw. Germain said subjective wording in municipal bylaws is common.

"You see that sort of thing a lot, especially in older municipal noise bylaws where the standard or the prohibition is something like, 'No one is permitted to make a noise that is likely to disturb someone,'" he said.

"And sometimes there's parameters around that, like you can't make the noise after 11 at night or that will

bother someone inside their home."

"But that kind of subjective standard, yes, is very common."

Germain said more detail in noise bylaws is often to the benefit of residents trying to understand the parameters – and for enforcement.

He noted that even once the probation period is over, the offence can still recur.

"If something was an offence today and the bylaw is not changed (then) it's going to be an offence tomorrow," he stated simply.

This means that once the two-year probation is up, if the bylaw had remained unchanged, players could return to the courts but any resident could charge the town and club with the same noise bylaw infraction.

Disero also raised the issue to the rest of council about how the town can help the pickleball club find a new temporary home.

Council unanimously agreed to have staff prepare a report on alternative locations and to look at what different sports can be used on the existing courts.

# STEELE GALLERY

496 MISSISSAGUA ST., NOTL | THURSDAY TO SUNDAY

# Heritage trail unveils **Canopy Growth** plaque

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

It's time to put your money where your shoes are.

The Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee is organizing a fun run and dog walking fundraiser to raise money for the ambitious project.

"It's a 5k fun run for the runners and it's a 2k dog walk," said chair Rick Meloen.

"We're hoping to try and raise some money for the next section of the trail."

The run will take place on Sept. 24 along the heritage trail, starting at 7 a.m. Runners will start first, with dog walkers beginning an hour later to ensure some distance between the groups.

Check-in for the event will be at Veterans Memorial Park on King Street.

The cost to participate in the event is \$45 up until Sept. 21. Afterward, individuals can sign up on the day of the event in-person for \$60.

The event is limited to 150 runners and 50 dog walkers with two dogs allowed per



Sean Webster of Canopy Growth Corp. was on hand for the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to the company for its \$40,000 investment into the heritage trail. EVAN SAUNDERS

person. So, be sure to sign up while you can.

There is also a new plaque standing in front of the Charlotte Street entrance to the trail, dedicated to corporate sponsor Canopy Growth Corp., which donated \$40,000 to the project.

"Without the significant contribution from Canopy Growth we would have never been able to finish this section of the trail," Meloen told Sean Webster, Canopy's head of government and stakeholder relations.

"We are so thankful for your interest in this."

Meloen also highlighted Canopy's contributions to planting done along the trail last year, providing more than 50 trees for the planting as well as volunteer labour.

"You're a great guy," Meloen said to Webster.

"If I didn't know any better I would think you were running for mayor or something," he said to laughs from the small assembly, including Lord Mayor Betty Disero and regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, who is running against Disero for mayor.

"We're so pleased that this leaves a long legacy here in the town for visitors to enjoy, residents to enjoy, for families to enjoy."

"Get out, get some fresh air and enjoy the canopy."

The company recently closed its multi-million dollar facility in NOTL.

Canopy "has been a good corporate citizen for the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake," Disero said.

"We'll miss you," she said, while noting there had been disputes about the odour arising from the cannabis facility in town.



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# Change comes even to good ol' NOTL, usually for the better



## Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson  
Columnist  
The Lake Report

"One of the things that never changes is that things always change."

This high level and tricky aphorism offered by Michael Clarke in the Veterans Memorial Park tennis pavilion earlier this week caused me to think about the rapidity, frequency and certainty of change.

My partner and I had been spanked by Michael and his partner in our Big Hitters doubles match, so I was in the mood to listen and reflect.

Michael always has a

clever way with words and the perfect spring weather on the eve of the summer solstice had encouraged us to linger and enjoy a few cups of tea.

Not that long ago, pay telephones were ubiquitous and most of us inserted quarters into them on a regular basis. Now, good luck finding a pay phone, even on Queen Street.

Last Saturday afternoon, the town was hopping with visitors and local folk, but only one person used the Bell pay phone during the hour I observed.

I attempt to be accurate when quoting statistics, but in this case let's just agree that most Canadians between the ages of 16 and 66 carry a mobile device of some kind in their pocket or purse.

Back about 30 years ago, airlines were spending piles of money to install telephones in each row of seats. Touch tone, not rotary dial, of course. Remember rotary dial phones and their long,



Newspaper boxes, like this one by Timmies, aren't getting much love these days. ROSS ROBINSON

coiled cords? Dialing 411 for directory assistance?

Not so long ago. Now, most sharpies Google it.

And how about newspaper boxes? There were several different papers for sale in brightly coloured boxes in high-traffic locations.

Where did they go? Apparently they snuck off into the night during the past few years. Without fanfare, not even missed by people like me who used to deposit coins to allow me to buy a paper almost every day.

Now, the sharpies consume their news online. And even the Saturday Toronto Star is a shadow of its former self. Not that long ago, we advertised stuff in the classified ads. Now, Kijiji.

The derelict blue Toronto Star box in front of Tim Hortons near the red light hasn't been used for years. No one seems to notice or care.

Remember the angst when Bell Canada informed us that it was going to be necessary to dial 10 numbers instead of seven to make a local telephone call? Again, not that long ago. We had to add an area code to the telephone number. Change is never easy, but this was asking too much. Ah, how we adapt to new realities.

The periodic bell tinkling to announce the local knife sharpener and maybe the tinkerer? And on hot summer days, the Good Humour man on a bicycle. Now, is there even a Good Humour person?

Just askin'. From local shops to department stores and then to Walmart and now Costco. At the risk of being repetitive, not that long ago. How about online shopping and how about all the package delivery trucks we see every day on our streets? Tell me please, how can you buy a pair of shoes online, without trying them on, walking around a bit and looking in the angled mirrors?

Buy a book online yes, but boxer shorts or a dapper button-down shirt? I am really behind the times with this whole online shopping revolution.

Let me ramble now to amalgamation. Into one Niagara? Horrors. Think back, though, and not too long ago, in 1970, the

villages of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Queenston, St. Davids, Virgil, Glendale, McNab and Homer joined together in spite of much pushback? Sheesh, eh?

Confederation in 1867 was an amalgamation, to theoretically benefit people living in several different geographic locations. Canada, what a concept!

Our Fathers of Confederation were true visionaries and couldn't wait for a majority of their fellows to agree. I think it was British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who said, approximately, "Consensus is often an absence of leadership."

OK, I have gone on about change. Let me confide that one of the fun things about Rambling each week is the regular use of my two Thesaurii and my old dictionary.

Take a moment now and look up the noun "trumpery." Frightening ...

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# CanadaDay5K race will kick off July 1 celebrations

Staff  
The Lake Report

Get ready to pull up your socks and run on July 1 at the CanadaDay5K race.

The run will take place in the morning, during the pancake breakfast Canada Day celebrations at Simcoe Park.

Race director Kelly Arnott of VR Pro Races said she's hoping to see lots of people out dressed in Canadian red and white while they run.

The paid event is a five-kilometre route around NOTL and a portion of the proceeds will help support Niagara Health in building a new hospital in Niagara Falls.

Arnott said 25 per cent of the ticket proceeds from the event will go to Niagara Health, as well as all donation pledges that runners collect. Tickets are \$45 and \$25 for kids.

The race will start promptly at 9 a.m. at Simcoe Park, with a kids one-



VR Pro Races, the company that puts on the Santa5K in NOTL, is hosting a Canada Day run at Simcoe Park this year. FILE PHOTO/DAVE VAN DE LAAR

kilometre run beginning at 8:40 a.m.

Winners will receive a "special medal" and everyone who crosses the finish line will get a crystal medal with a maple leaf on it.

Arnott's company also put on the Santa5K in NOTL last year, an event that surprised residents as about 300 people in Santa costumes ran through Old Town.

The Santa5K is returning this year and Arnott hopes to see lots of people signing up.

She said the race business began 28 years ago

when they operated an athletics shop in Burlington.

The store closed a couple of years later, but they continued with the runs and now they put on events in several cities in southern Ontario.

"It's a business but it also contributes to health and fitness. And give people a goal to start running or walking to train for, possibly, say a 5K. It keeps them in shape and motivated, especially the last couple of years during the pandemic," Arnott said.

"And then we always pick a charity that we would

like to raise funds for. So in Niagara we're going with the new hospital build. And they're very excited about that."

She said they can't always raise a huge amount of money after paying costly expenses like municipal fees, police fees, costs for medals, T-shirts, workers — but it's a chance for people to collect pledges and it also gives the causes some exposure.

With help from the community they recently raised \$50,000 for Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and another \$31,000 for the Red Cross's Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, she said.

Participants also will be encouraged to head over to the celebrations at Simcoe Park after the run — and to check out and support local businesses.

Anyone interested can sign up for the run at [raceroster.com/events/2022/57563/notl-canada-day-5k](http://raceroster.com/events/2022/57563/notl-canada-day-5k).

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The  
**Lake Report**

# Grand sailing vessel part of mission to recruit 1,000 sailors

Continued from Front Page

feelings as me towards the ocean,” Melville writes in the opening of the novel.

Even for members of the navy, getting the chance to train and work on a true sailing ship of yore provides special and unique experiences.

“You get a better appreciation for the sea itself. You are closer to the water so you feel the spray on your face, especially with an open bridge like this,” said Craigie.

“You’re out in the element, not protected by the bridge or the bridge windows. You’re in (the sea), you’re not just looking at it.”

## THE SHIP

Craigie gave detail about nearly every aspect of the ship, far too much for a single story. Here are some of the pertinent details.

The HMCS Oriole was built in 1921 to serve as the flagship for the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto. It was commissioned into the navy in 1954 and is the oldest ship at the navy’s disposal.

It has a twofold use: as a training vessel for sailors and an outreach vessel for the public.

The Oriole is a 102-foot long relative of the schooner. Craigie described it as a “Bermuda catch.”

It has a draught of nine feet and a maximum width of 19.5 feet. One thing that differentiates it from a schooner is the size and positioning of its masts.

The main difference is its mizzen mast (or aft, or, in layman’s terms, rear mast) is smaller than the main mast



Executive officer of the HMCS Oriole James Craigie demonstrates how the helm is positioned in large ships. The helmsman typically has one foot on either of the side blocks and holds the helm of to the side of his body. EVAN SAUNDERS

and set farther aft, according to the navy’s website.

Its mast stands at 70 feet while the main is 103 feet.

It isn’t just the nearness of the ocean, as described by Craigie, that makes the Oriole a unique, one-of-a-kind experience for Canadian military sailors.

The ship, when fully rigged, sets 13,133 square feet of Dacron sail, every inch of it manipulated entirely by hand.

“Usually we have six on a sled team, three people on the halyard, one person on the downhaul and the chief bosun mate directing everyone.”

It’s a physically demanding job and necessitates teamwork in order for the ship to run smoothly. That’s why the ship is used as a training ground. There is

no automated system to fall back on when the going gets rough.

And it can get rough, as anyone who has spent time on the open ocean or a windy day on one of the Great Lakes can attest. All this work makes it fairly easy for the sailors to pass their time when they are off shift.

“A lot of people just sleep because you’re tired after a day of this. It’s exhausting,” said Craigie.

He said the sailors work three hours on with six hours off.

The ship, while fitted with extensive sails, does have an engine. But it travels faster when at full sail than the motor could ever take it, Craigie said.

He said the fastest he has ever gone on the ship at full

sail is 14.2 knots. The engine usually cruises around six but can be pushed to 10, though Craigie said that is not good for the engine and virtually never happens.

As the executive officer of the ship, Craigie’s responsibilities generally revolve around leading navigation and directing where the helmsman steers the ship.

“I’m the one plotting the course and I usually have a helmsman. I order him a course to steer, he looks at the compass and follows the course.”

And he truly has some state-of-the-art equipment to do that with.

“We have the same thing that we have on all the warships. So, our electronic charting system, where I put all my tracks in, it’s the

same thing you would find on a Halifax class frigate or a winter class submarine.”

## THE MISSION

“The current mission is we are doing a huge outreach. The navy’s short about a thousand personnel.”

He said the age cut-off for applying to join the navy is 60.

“We’re supporting the recruiting operation that’s ongoing right now to recruit a thousand individuals into the navy. It’s been a downturn since COVID and we’re trying to turn that around.”

The current mission has taken the Oriole from the docks of Halifax down the St. Lawrence River and into the Great Lakes where she started 101 years ago.

The mission ends on

Canada Day when the Oriole reaches Sault Ste. Marie on the St. Mary River, between Lakes Superior and Huron.

Sailing up river on the St. Lawrence offered the toughest challenge of the entire cruise.

“There was one point around the Richelieu rapids that we were full bore on the throttle and we were barely making headway. We were just going left and right in the river,” said Craigie.

“At one point the current was almost nine knots. We were considering turning around, dropping anchor and just waiting for the tide to turn.”

In the heyday of river sailing, ships would often have to bushwhack up river when the current was too strong. This old sailing term means crew members would literally pull the ship up the river with ropes as they walked along the shoreline, according to the Collins Dictionary.

Or, if you like to learn from tradition, “Now the current’s got her boys, we’ll take in some slack. We’ll float her down to Shawneetown and bushwhack her back,” goes the lyrics to the old American river boaters song “Hard on the Beach Oar.”

Unfortunately, the crew of the Oriole did not have any shanties prepared to sing at harbour but considering how hard they worked to get the ship to NOTL it is barely worthy of note.

But we’re sure the men and women of the HMCS Oriole will continue to impress Canadians as they sail to their recruiting mission’s end, making harbour between here and the Sault.

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# NOTLer wants to ‘keep the drum beating’ with cycling fundraiser for **Ukraine relief**

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The war in Ukraine remains very real and Ukrainians still need our help.

That’s why Christyna Prokipchuk is organizing Steppe Up for Ukraine to “keep the drum beating” while raising money and awareness for the embattled nation on July 23.

Prokipchuk envisioned the fundraiser as a way to remind people that the suffering of the Ukrainians has not diminished.

“War fatigue is real, especially with this nice warm weather coming. People are sick of hearing about the war in Ukraine. I’m sick of it too and Ukrainians in Ukraine are sick of it. They don’t want this to be happening,” she said.

Prokipchuk, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident of Ukrainian heritage, said it is merely luck that has her on this side of the world while her parents’ homeland is under siege.

“Where we’re born is the luck of the draw. That’s something no one can determine,” she said.

Prokipchuk’s parents were both born in Ukraine and emigrated to Canada, where she was born.

“With privilege comes responsibility,” she said.

Prokipchuk said the ride is self-guided, with two routes laid out by the organizers for cyclists to tackle on July 23.

Both of the predetermined routes are in the Niagara region. One is 19 kilometres long and the other is 120 kilometres.



Christyna Prokipchuk is hosting a ride for Ukraine to raise funds for the embattled nation and keep the drum beating so Canadians don’t forget that the country is still in the grips of a unprovoked Russian invasion. SUPPLIED

Because the rides are self-guided, people can start whenever they choose. There will be a gathering, however, at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Church, 6248 Main St., Niagara Falls, in the morning and after the ride.

“The church is going to bless the bikes. It’s actually a very traditional thing,” Prokipchuk said.

“You buy a new home, the priest comes over and blesses your home. For Easter, we prepare Easter baskets and the Saturday evening we get our baskets blessed and then we eat that food on Easter Sunday.”

“Blessings with holy water are a very traditional Ukrainian ceremony.”

After the ride, St. Mary’s

priest’s wife will have the kitchen open and will be cooking traditional Ukrainian food for everyone, Prokipchuk said.

The cost to eat has not yet been determined but Prokipchuk said it would likely be around \$20.

There also will be a silent auction online. The auction will remain live for several weeks after the ride.

Participants can sign up online <https://www.justgiving.com/team/STEPPEUPforUkraine>. Once registered, you can begin collecting donations to meet your team’s goal.

One fundraiser, Toine van der Knaap, has already raised more than \$8,000.

The choice of the word “steppe” in the name of

the event references the Ukrainian steppes, a natural grassland region in southern Ukraine with the country’s longest growing season.

“Not unlike our Niagara region,” the event’s webpage says.

Prokipchuk said the old-fashioned habit of being unconcerned with crises that don’t occur in your part of the world just doesn’t cut it these days.

“We are in a global world and it’s not a problem for ‘over there.’ It’s our collective problem. It’s not their problem,” she said.

Every person who tries to make a positive difference matters.

“I personally know people who have already come from Ukraine, whose kids are already in school because people are raising their hands to help. So, it does make a difference. It makes a huge difference.”

She said organized events are an important outlet for people’s compassion to become action.

“I know that there’s a lot of individuals doing things to help but collectively we can do a lot more. So, I’m really looking forward to people reaching out when they see this because they are also doing something,” she said.

Prokipchuk said anyone who needs to contact her can get in touch via the event’s webpage.

All the money raised will be going toward Help Us Help Ukraine, a registered Canadian charity. Donations can be made directly to the charity at <https://helpushelp.charity/>.



**Three playing cards in a row. Can you name them with these clues? There is a two to the right of a king. A diamond will be found to the left of a spade. An ace is to the left of a heart. A heart is to the left of a spade. Now, identify all three cards.**

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

**Answer: Eat**

**Answered first by: Terry Nord**

**Also answered correctly (in order) by: Bob Stevens, Jane Morris, Howard Jones, Leanne Leach, Susan Hamilton, Sylvia Wiens, Bert Dandy, Maria Janeiro, Ross Robinson, Susan Dewar, Donna Clute, Pam Dowling, Wade Durling, Margie Enns, Patricia Fraser, Michele Zoccoli, Kay Waller, Brandy Delaney, Sheila Meloche, Gordon Yanow, Dennis Blake**

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## Strawberry Festival brings life, tradition back to NOTL

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Strawberry Festival returned on Saturday, after a two-year COVID hiatus.

Across the grounds at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, people of all ages were out getting a taste of the season's first major fruit harvest in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

There were the traditional strawberry crepes and shortcake, strawberries for sale by the quart and strawberry jams made by members of the church.

Other activities included games for kids, a book sale and bake sale, a silent auction and live entertainment by the NOTL Ukesters.

Rosemary Vysohlyd, office administrator for the church, was inside helping to run the silent auction. She said there was a "steady flow all day."

"We're quite happy. It's a lot smaller this year than it has been in previous years due to COVID, of course, and restrictions and all that, but we're very happy and it's a beautiful day for it."

The silent auction was reduced in size a bit, to keep traffic flowing more smoothly through the building.

It was Vysohlyd's first Strawberry Festival, as she only joined the church in September, having moved to NOTL five years ago.

The whole congregation – and the people visiting the festival – were glad to see its return, she said.

"People are so happy to have it back – we're getting that, 'We're so glad you're back,' and I think that's the feeling throughout the day."

While the festival is immensely popular for locals, she was getting calls for the last two months from people in Toronto and other areas asking if the festival would be on this year.



From top: The NOTL Ukesters have the crowd dancing. Edmond Clark, Jesse Dwyre and Barbara Worthy pick up some books, strawberries and jam at the festival. Guests peruse the book sale. Marlene Bridgman of Virgil buys strawberries from church volunteer Danielle Waters. Lynn Lingard, Matthew Lingard, Liza Klepacs and Beth Alma prepare strawberry crepes. Landon Archibald turns into a cat after his face paint job. RICHARD HARLEY

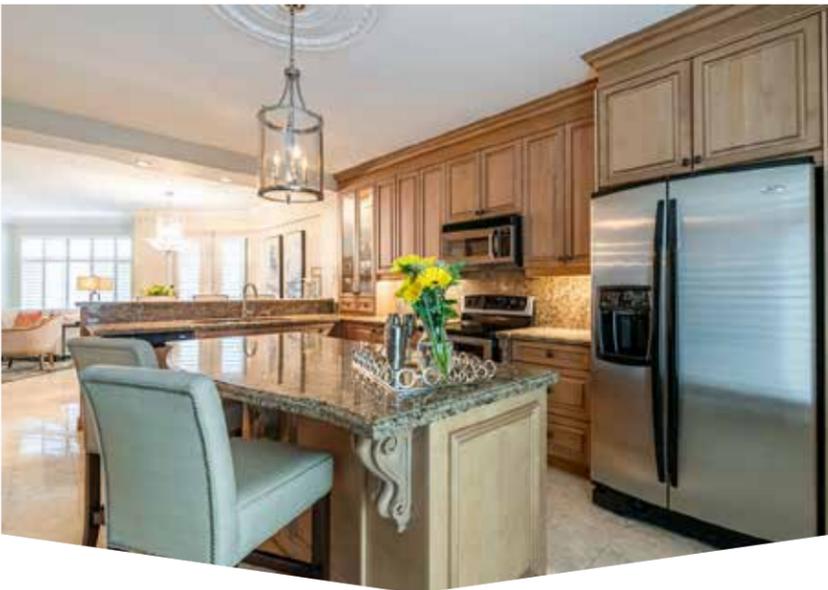
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**NANCY BAILEY**

# Town gives carriage operators extra **space away** from protesters

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



NOTL's new licence contract with the town means protesters will have to stay further away. FILE

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has moved to improve safety and security for horse-drawn carriage operators.

Council has unanimously approved licences to occupy land outside of the Prince of Wales hotel to Sentineal Carriages Inc. and Queens Royal Tours Inc.

“This licensing that we’ve put in place was meant to provide a level of protection for the workers (and) for the horses,” manager of parks and recreation Kevin Turcotte told council on Monday, June 20.

The licence restricts access to the designated area, “so that any people going into that area (are) only going for caleche business,” said Turcotte.

The licence to occupy land means the carriages have ex-

clusive use of and access to a rectangular area along the curb on King Street beside the hotel.

“With adding this area it allows us a little bit of leeway to keep people — I’m not going to say directly

protesters — to keep people out of that area for safety,” said Turcotte.

“It’s creating a safe work area for these two operators.”

The designated area is on the east side of King, directly adjacent to the Prince of Wales hotel.

The carriage operators have exclusive use of the secondary sidewalk, which borders the road, while the inner sidewalk, which borders the Prince of Wales, is still open for anyone to use.

The immediate corner of the intersection of King and Queen streets, where people cross the street, is also still open for public use.

The designated area stretches 29 metres down

King and 7.5 metres from the centre of the sidewalk onto a portion of the road.

Coun. Erwin Wiens asked Turcotte to explain how enforcement would be managed.

“It’s going to be managed through our bylaw department. It’s going to be based on time in order to manage the incidents.”

Turcotte said the change had been drafted multiple times during extensive consultation with the caleche operators, town staff and lawyers, and the Region of Niagara and its lawyers.

“I would say that’s a pretty comprehensive plan to review.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

said she also consulted with the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Protests against the horse-drawn carriage businesses in town have been ongoing for several years. Last year, the tension reached a pitch when a physical confrontation broke out between an employee of Sentineal Carriages and a protester.

Sometime after the confrontation, the young employee’s mother arrived on the scene and was arrested after an altercation with a protester.

The town is providing five licences for the spaces at a cost of \$500 each. Three will go to Sentineal Carriages and two to Royal Tours.

# Niagara Regional Police launch **#StopHateNiagara** campaign

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara Regional Police Service has launched a #StopHateNiagara campaign which it hopes will eliminate barriers to reporting hate incidents and hate crimes.

Police have dealt with a growing number of hate

crimes in Niagara over the past few years and several this year, including a recent incident when pro-Russian graffiti was used to deface a residence supporting Ukraine.

The police also want people to know there is a difference between hate crimes (a criminal offence motivated

by hate) and hate incidents (eg. racial and religious slurs).

Since early 2022, the Niagara police force has been working with community partners and the chief’s Community Inclusion Council on a campaign to address hate-related incidents in Niagara.

“The Niagara Regional Police Service takes inci-

dents of hate and violence very seriously and will investigate them through our detective offices as well as our equity, diversity and inclusion unit,” Chief Bryan MacCulloch said in a media statement.

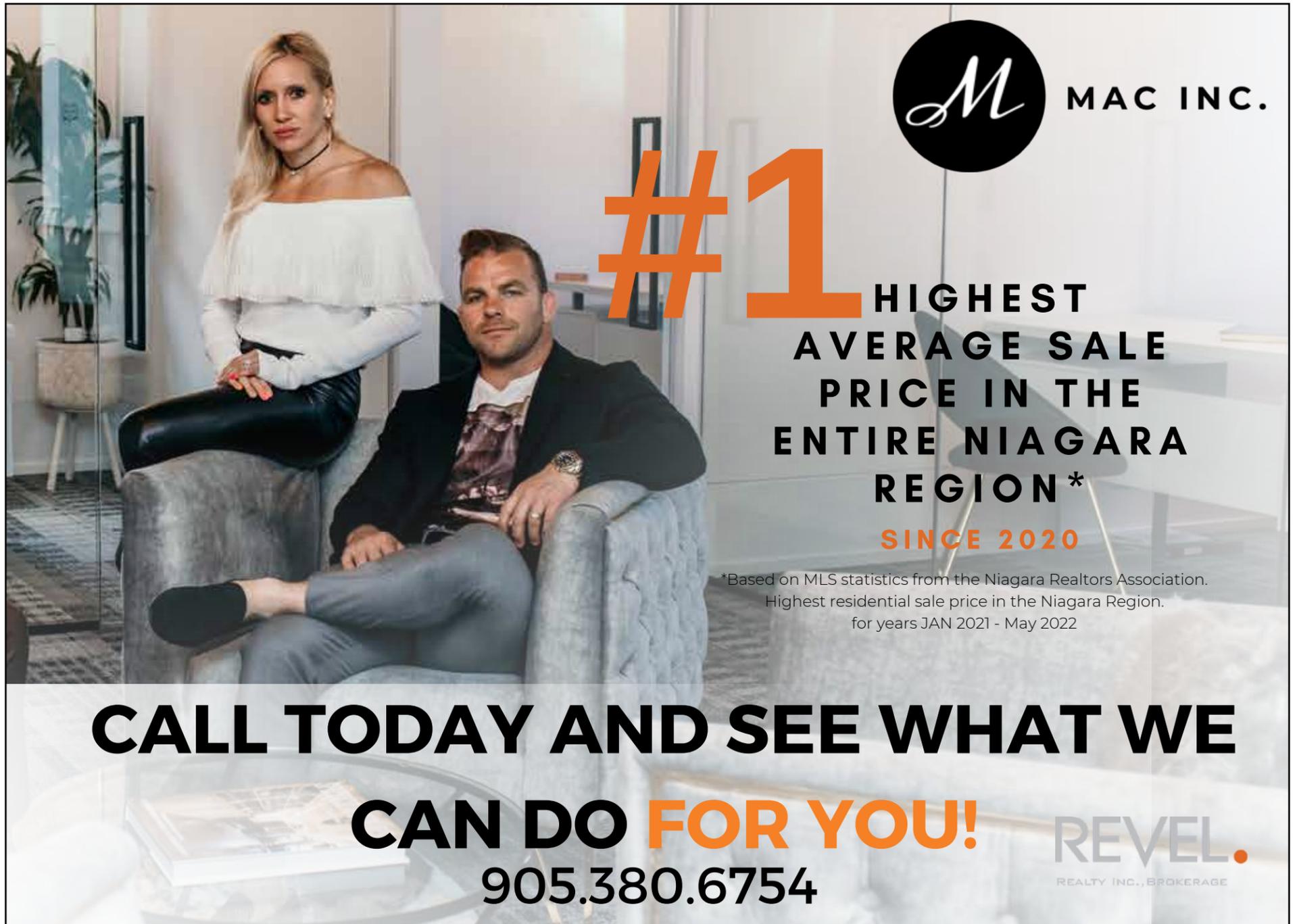
“We encourage anyone who experiences an incident of hatred to report

it to police so that it can be properly investigated and addressed. Hate has no home in Niagara.”

Hate crime pamphlets with more information can be found at police district front desks.

They also are online at [www.niagarapolice.ca/en/what-we-do/report-hate.aspx?\\_mid\\_=102839#Hate-Crime-VS-Hate-Incident--what-is-the-difference](http://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/what-we-do/report-hate.aspx?_mid_=102839#Hate-Crime-VS-Hate-Incident--what-is-the-difference).

The pamphlets have also been translated to French, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, Farsi, Ukrainian, Hindi and Urdu. The leaflets will be provided to places of worship and community groups across Niagara.



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Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane and Andrew Lawrie with members of the Shaw Company in Fairground (2021). Photo by Peter Andrew Luszyk.

# Derbyshire dominates WOOFs men's league with steady play

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Rain played havoc with the Thursday men's league at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club again last week, but the Tuesday WOOFs competition escaped the downpour.

And 30-time club champ Mark Derbyshire continued his steady play, winning WOOFs low gross on June 14 with a one-over 37 and

sharing top honours on June 21 with Rick Janes, Glen Murray and Alan Robb (39).

Low net this week was Oleh Hrycko (35), while Dave Gagne was closest to the pin on #4. Guest player Owen Howells eagled #8 to win the hidden hole.

On June 14, low net winners were Terry Catney and John Read (35), and Grant Williams was closest to the pin on #4. Jim Cosgrove won the hidden hole prize (#5).

## WOMEN'S RESULTS

Reigning club champ Yolanda Henry was the low shooter in the 18-hole women's league on June 21, carding a 90, followed by Valerie Chubey (93), Cathy Murray (94), Martha Cruikshank (96) and Brenda Bell (97).

Low net scorers were: Sharron Marlow (69), May Chang and Chubey (73), Murray (74) and Marg Ketchison (75).

Bell and Chubey (#4) and Lynette Saunders (#8) all had birdies, while Ketchison (#4) and Cheryl Yamamoto (#10) had chip-ins. Saunders sank the longest putt on #8.

Ginny Green had the fewest putts (30), followed by Chubey (33) and Chang, Marlow, Judy Mantle and Janice White each with 34.

In the women's nine-hole league on June 21, Trish Anthony was the big winner, taking low gross with a 42,

low net (29) and was the secret draw winner.

Other low gross winners were: Marlene Sibbald (47), and Suzanne Watson and Kim Hrycko (50). Sibbald (34) and Hrycko (37) were low net runners-up.

Catherine Novick sank the longest putt on #8 and Sibbald was closest to the line on #1.

On June 14, Maureen Dickson was the low shooter with 43, ahead of Diana Dimmer (44), Sherry Gysler

(46), Cathy Saytar (48), and Suzanne Rate and Linda Williams (49).

Low net went to Gysler (31), followed by Dickson and Williams (34), Janice McMacken (35), and Rate and Saytar (36).

McMacken also sank the longest putt on #2 and Gysler was closest to the pin in two on #9. Gysler and Dimmer tied for fewest putts (14). Golf lesson winner was Karin Nitsch.

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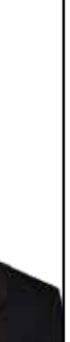
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# Undefeated Thunderhawks beat Guelph 6-3

Andy Boldt  
Special to The Lake Report

The U22 Niagara Thunderhawks entered the floor for their pre-game warm up excited to play, while a much physically larger team from Guelph sauntered out exuding a quiet exuberance.

The undefeated Thunderhawks were about to face their toughest competition in Ontario Lacrosse League and tournament play so far this season.

The June 14 game started with a face-off win and possession of the ball for Niagara. Guelph instantly applied relentless pressure to the Thunderhawks' ball carrier, causing them to burn through their first 30-second clock and not providing a decent scoring opportunity.

That pressure was a strategy used by the Guelph Regals for the rest of the game. It didn't deter the visitors from Niagara, though, who went home with a 6-3 victory.

The Regals were able to open the scoring two minutes in when a long shot beat Jack Muraca through the five hole.



#6 Ethan Williams  
Offense

Jack Parker answered by scoring on a nice bounce shot two minutes later to tie the score 1-1.

The Regals' high-intensity pressure eventually earned them a penalty, allowing the Thunderhawks to capitalize on their man up situation with a goal by Ethan Williams with five minutes left in the first period.

Although the score was in the Thunderhawks favour, the Regals were controlling the play, getting to most of the loose balls first and forcing poor scoring opportunities for the Thunderhawks.

They dominated on the floor, but Niagara was ahead 2-1 on the scoreboard.

The second period start-



#21 Jack Marotta  
Defence

ed with the same intensity as the first. The Regals' intense play away from the ball caused a Thunderhawk to take an unnecessary penalty 200 feet from the play, nullifying a break-away by a Thunderhawks teammate.

The Regals capitalized on their power play to tie the game at 2.

Niagara responded with positive energy and determination to score three more goals in the second.

Aedan O'Gorman's bounce shot through the opponents legs, Parker's rocket off the post while shooting around Jordan Wiens who was tussling in front of the net to screen the goalie and Ethan Williams' simple shot on the move beat the Guelph

goalie stick side with 24 seconds left in the second.

Both teams matched goals in the third, scoring once each to make the final 6-3.

The Regals got the first third-period marker, displaying a pattern of a lack of intensity at the start of each period. Trent Hunter was able to answer the Regals on a great give-and-go play with Joe Fragnito to wrap up the scoring for both teams.

The Thunderhawks have a bye this week and will face the Hamilton Bengals at home on June 28 at 8 p.m.

Then, on July 9 for NOTL Lacrosse Alumni Day, they have a double-header versus the Milton Mavericks, with 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. start times.

There will be a barbecue between games.

All former NOTL lacrosse players are encouraged to come watch the 2022 Thunderhawks take on a team with a similar undefeated record, meet the players, catch up with former teammates and spread the history of NOTL lacrosse.

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Niagara Thunderhawks.



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# Nature's **brain pruning** and making sense of life as we age



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

My father was born in England and, like one of his brothers, loved to work in his garden.

That sometimes required selective and even aggressive pruning to bring out the best in his roses, hedges and other plants.

For me, gardening was less of an interest. Fortunately, as with so many other matters, my wife Janet was far more knowledgeable than I about pruning.

Of course, nature does its own pruning.

For example, early development of the brain is associated with the production of too many nerve cells and cell processes, which compete with one another to make the most effective

connections with other nerve cells, or in the case of motor nerve cells in the brainstem and spinal cord, with muscle fibres.

Cells that make the most effective connections with their genetically dictated target cells will survive, while less successful cells and their related processes, disappear without a trace, in a process referred to as programmed cell death.

A Nobel prize was shared in 2002 by Sydney Brenner, Robert Horvit, and Sir John Sulston for their studies of this subject.

Evolution by natural (and sexual) selection has worked much the same way by favouring species or species' variants, which were better adapted to their environment than less well-equipped variants.

Between the common ancestor to what would become chimpanzees and bonobos on the one hand, and the branch from which modern humans would later emerge, there were many interim, transitional species.

Should that several-million-year trend continue, our species will surely continue



IMAGE BY GERD ALTMANN  
FROM PIXABAY.

to evolve, perhaps to be replaced by later, better adapted versions of homo in the future.

In his seventies, Brenner speculated whether age-related memory loss might be a question of cluttering the processes by which the brain establishes, stores and retrieves memories by overloading the system with a lifetime's worth of memories.

He used the example of computers, which slow down and begin to make mistakes because the computer's memory is cluttered with too many memory-gobbling, no-longer-necessary files, redundant files, photos and especially video clips.

Cleaning up my computer's memory certainly

works for me. Maybe Brenner was right on that one: too many memories clutter our brain.

Toward the end of his life, Oliver Sachs, a neurologist and first-class writer, pruned his interests.

In Sach's book, "Gratitude" he states, "There is no time for anything inessential. I must focus on myself, my work and my friends. I shall no longer look at the Newshour every night, I shall no longer pay any attention to politics or arguments about global warming. This is not indifference but detachment – I still care deeply about the Middle East and about global warming, but these are no longer my business, they belong to the future."

There is also the example of Thomas Aquinas, a 13th-century Dominican monk, theologian and scholar, who, with aid of several scribes to whom he dictated successive sentences, over 20 years dictated 50 folios, the equivalent of roughly 500 books, about the nature of God – only to find after a mystical experience in which he encountered God,

that his labours were like so much "straw" (Aquinas' word) compared to the God of his revelatory experience.

Whatever we make of Brenner's, Sachs' and Aquinas' experiences, each in their own way, speak of pruning what's no longer essential from their lives.

In my own way, I'm going through a similar experience – pruning what's no longer needed, the clutter of a lifetime's accumulation of possessions and some associations.

Decluttering has never been my strong point but is now overdue. This involved retiring from active practice a year ago and in my own fashion, no longer trying to keep up to date with the latest diagnostic tools and treatments, attending rounds in Hamilton, or frankly, giving attention to much of what consumed me even a year ago.

Ten years ago, my attention shifted to entirely new areas for me, such as paleogenetics, paleoanthropology, geology, evolution, astrophysics, quantum physics, chemistry and the story of human origins.

Some, in later life, whether their health remains good or not, become more reflective and less attentive to the everyday business of life in order to refocus their energy toward what they now see, with more experience, is most important.

For some, like Sachs, there was an urgency about his life, if only because in his case, he developed metastatic melanoma. For others, winnowing may be a more gradual, unforced series of decisions about where they're going to live and what they want to do with what time remains.

Some manage transitions in their life well, some with less success and some poorly, but at every stage there are opportunities to refocus and redirect.

That's my take. What's yours?

Surprising what you think about when you set about pruning.

*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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# The NOTL Craftsman



**ARCHITEXT**

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

When the British Arts & Crafts style made its entre into North America, it generated a wave of creativity among architects.

On the east coast, Arts & Crafts found its expression in Shingle homes, in the midwest the Prairie was developed, and from California came the Craftsman.

Craftsman design was originally based on the Anglo-Indian bungalow form. Following local California tradition, this Arts & Crafts expression drew liberally from elements and stylistic cues of both Japanese and Swiss wooden residences.

The result was informal and brilliantly crafted houses with strong horizontal lines, incorporating natural rustic materials, large low-pitched roofs with exposed rafter tails, sleeping porches, banks of windows and often sporting dormers.

They were charming and comparatively inexpensive, a formula the new and growing middle class of the early 20th century found irresistible. And the folks of Niagara-on-the-Lake were no exception.

Let's visit three of NOTL's Craftsman homes, each showing the tenets of this design school in its own way.

In the heart of Old Town, is a home sheltered by the deep overhanging eaves of its slightly belled hip roof which is broken at intervals by short, comparatively wide gable dormers. Visually, the roof actuates the horizontal lines of the house while pushing it down into the landscape. Four simple vertical pillars, joined by low, solid rail walls, front a deep porch that focuses



Top: Craftsman 1, stucco with belled dormers. Middle: Craftsman 2, clipped hip and Tuscan columns. Bottom: Craftsman 3, front gable and shed dormers. BRIAN MARSHALL

the eye on the main entry. The windowed front door has been cleverly used to create the impression of a bank of five windows to make the facade statement. The unbroken white stucco cladding, uncommon on period Craftsman builds, is somewhat relieved by the rectangular insets in the rail walls and the regular punctuation of the exposed rafter tails in the eaves. The concrete staircase is a sad modern add.

Outside of town and despite several modernizations (windows, siding, closed eaves), our second example proudly proclaims its Craftsman heritage. At

the bottom and top of the brick wall cladding, a brick soldier course establish bands that bracket and emphasize the building's horizontal lines. Here the roof is a clipped hip (a.k.a. clipped gable, jerkinhead, etc.) with open gables. It is also dropped and extended above the substantial footprint of the front porch, one defined by a low brick rail wall atop which are two sets of three Tuscan columns to make the facade statement.

Less common in Ontario, our third Craftsman is an example of the storey-and-a-half front gabled form. Five thru-tendon brackets

support the front roof gable while the side eaves of both the main roof and the shed dormers display exposed rafter tails. Here, the second half-storey extends over a porch that flaunts formed wooden U-brackets that extend completely across each opening. The small windows on either side of the front door (and on either side of the chimney) would commonly be inset with stained glass panels. Displaying typical Craftsman understatement, this home is a real gem.

Keep your eyes open for the Craftsman. In NOTL no two are identical.

## Looking to the Stars

### It's officially summer now and new moon brings change

**Thursday, June 23:** Today, Venus enters Gemini and shows us what we value. If in Taurus, Venus valued stability and comfort, in Gemini, Venus values curiosity and intellectual pursuits. Learning a new skill, travelling, meeting new people, singing, dancing, writing or working with your hands are some of Venus in Gemini's favorite activities. Gemini is a Mercury sign, so communication (Mercury) in relationships (Venus) is a central theme of this transit. When Venus is in Gemini, we find it easier to articulate our feelings. One thousand and ninety-two years ago, on June 23, in the year 930 the world's first parliament was proclaimed. Where? In Iceland! They called it the "Alpingi."

**Friday, June 24:** Look for a well-made surprise as the moon in Taurus gets a bump from Uranus, also in Taurus. For some, this will be a nice financial surprise. One of the soccer greats, Lionel Messi, celebrates his 35th birthday.

**Saturday, June 25:** The moon moves from Taurus into Gemini this evening, making life livelier. Given how stubborn the morning is likely to be, a bit of brevity will be most welcome. Ricky Gervais, British comedian and creator of "the Office" and "After Life," turns 61 today.



**Sunday, June 26:** Things start off with a generous and friendly morning but grow more challenging as the day unwinds. Avoid overreacting and it will be easier. Happy birthday to the universal product code – aka UPC – first seen in Troy, Ohio, on June 26, 1974, with a stick of chewing gum sold at a Marsh Supermarket.

**Monday, June 27:** On the day before the new moon, discipline and patience are what's most needed to deal with stubborn cosmic energy.

If delays are encountered, they may prove to be helpful. The ATM, or automatic teller, was first operated in England on June 27, 1967.

**Tuesday, June 28:** Two major events today, first Neptune goes retrograde in Pisces. When a planet changes direction, there is an intensification of its themes. When Neptune goes retrograde, old dreams, desires, fantasies, longings and feelings we haven't fully processed resurface, demanding our attention. What makes Neptune different from other planets is its subtlety. Neptune is not the Uranian lightbulb moment, nor the Plutonian slap in the face.

And late tonight, we have a new moon in Cancer. The new moon is conjunct the black moon Lilith (the moon is at its farthest point from the Earth), and it is exactly square Jupiter. This is a bold, action-oriented new moon. Jupiter in Aries gives us the impulse to act upon what it is that we hold most dear. Our emotions (Cancer) fuel our actions (Aries) and the other way around. The impulse to take action is very strong, almost Pavlovian. It may be raw and taboo, but it eventually will set us on a new trajectory, one that is more aligned with who we truly are. Born in South Africa, educated at Queen's University in Kingston, the richest man the world, Elon Musk turns 51 today.



**Wednesday, June 29:** A good day to be open to new ideas and to build bridges that help heal old wounds. It was June 29, 1613, that Shakespeare's Globe Theatre burned to the ground during a performance of "Henry VIII."

**Please have a listen to my podcast. It's on my website at [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca). I write and record a new episode every week.**

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# Check your boxwood shrubs for **box tree moth** infestation



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

Last fall, I wrote about a new insect that was finding its way into Niagara – the box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*).

As the name indicates, it is primarily found on all species and cultivars of boxwood plants. The box tree moth was first reported in Europe in 2007 and made its Canadian debut in 2018.

The moth was first seen in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area in 2020 and this year as I am visiting gardens, I am seeing many cases of the damage this insect is causing.

The box tree moth can have two to three generations per year. The adult moth has a wingspan of

about four centimetres and has white wings with thick, dark brown borders around the entire wing.

Its body is also white with a few dark brown specks on it. When the larvae first hatch, they are greenish/yellow in colour with a shiny black head.

As the larvae mature, they become more green in colour, with thick black and thin white stripes along the length of the caterpillar. It is the larvae that cause the damage on boxwoods.

The adult moth lays eggs on the underside of the boxwood leaves in clusters of 10 to 12 eggs. The eggs hatch in three days and the young larvae feed on the underside of the boxwood leaves and start to form webs between the leaves.

As the larvae mature, they become skeletonizers, leaving just the midribs of the leaf. If there is a heavy infestation it can turn the entire boxwood brown in a short time.

It takes about 14 days for the larvae to mature and pupate. Pupae live about 14 days before becoming adults. The moth overwinters in the larval stage, protecting itself by spinning

a silky cocoon among the leaves.

Routinely examine your boxwoods for signs of chewed leaves, caterpillars, webbing and frass (a fancy term for caterpillar poop). The best times to check for larvae are May 15 to June 15, July 15 to Aug. 15 and Sept. 1 to 20.

By frequently monitoring your plants, you can catch the problem early, making it much easier to take care of and stop it before it becomes a problem.

The best time to spray this pest is when it is in the larvae stage. There is a biological control spray called BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*) whose active ingredient is safe for humans and pets. It is sold at most retail garden centres.

If you still see the caterpillars feeding now, spray them. If you see damage but no caterpillars hold off spraying until July 15 to Aug. 15.

BTK application is most effective when used two or three times a year during the time frames listed above. Recheck your plants five to seven days after spraying to see if the spray has worked.

If caterpillars are still feeding, repeat the application of BTK. You can also hire a professional arborist to spray for you.

Please note that even though high populations of box tree moth caterpillar may defoliate boxwood plants, and in some cases, result in plant dieback, as long as the outer stems are green, there is a possibility that the shrub can push out new leaves.

In severe cases, though, it may be necessary to remove or trim the infested shrub. Effective removal and disposal of infested plants is crucial to slowing the spread of box tree moth.

Place all cutting into a black plastic bag, tie it tightly and place in the full sun for 48 hours. This should be enough to kill off the caterpillars. If you handpick the caterpillars, drop them into a bucket of soapy water.

All findings of the moth should be reported to officials who are tracking the pest. Contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency via <https://inspection.canada.ca>.

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



Top: An adult box tree moth. Bottom: Box tree moth damage. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

## EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



### Thayendanega-Rousseaux powder horn

June 21 was National Indigenous Peoples Day and this week we are featuring an artifact from our collection. This powder horn is beautifully decorated with birds, leaves, plants and animals. The leaves and branches on this horn are reminiscent of the designs commonly used on Iroquoian or Ojibwe porcupine quill-decorated bags of the period. Powder horns were used for carrying gun powder and were made from the horn of a cow or ox. This powder horn was given by Mohawk leader Thayendanega (Joseph Brant) to Jean Baptiste Rousseaux, who was a fur trader and an interpreter with the British Indian Department. Thayendanega must have held Rousseaux in high regard to provide such a wonderfully ornate piece.



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As a community resident, Brittany thoroughly enjoys sharing her knowledge and expertise on the Niagara experience, with not a single winery left undiscovered. As a sports and travel enthusiast, when not assisting clients, you will catch her exploring a new city, on the beach volleyball court, or biking to her next winery destination for a crisp Sauvignon Blanc. Michelle and Stefan are excited to welcome Brittany to the Reynolds Regier Team.



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