



Kids get back on the sports fields



Story on Page 3

Kids play lacrosse at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil for the first time since the pandemic began in March 2020. RICHARD HARLEY

Quiet Acres: A family farming legacy

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

To hear Scott MacSween tell it, his family's 250-acre tender fruit business is founded on serendipity, a lucky moment in time when things just turned the right way for him and his soon-to-be-wife, Maureen.

It was 1982, Scott and Maureen had been sweethearts since high school. They met as summer students, working at Seaway Farms, he in the fields and greenhouses, she at the garden centre.

They both loved the whole idea of growing things and bringing them to market but did not see any way to make it happen on their own.

"Ever since I was a high school student, I just fell in love with farming," says



Three members of the MacSween family — Scott, left, Kevin and Maureen, holding George — share the reins of Quiet Acres, their 250-acre tender fruit and farm market business. TIM TAYLOR

Scott. "It's gotta be in my blood. I don't know how to explain it. I just had a passion for the farm."

Just as Scott was about to graduate from university, with a degree in political science, Vince Pillitteri, owner of Seaway Farms, came to him with a proposition.

"It was perfect timing."
"Vince knew I loved

farming," Scott remembers. "He says, 'Scott, I want to sell a few of my leases. Would you be interested? If you wanted to buy my leasehold interests, I could use the money to build greenhouses.'"

The offer came out of the blue.

"It was the only way we could have gotten in to

farming 30 years ago. And a lot of landowners asked us to farm their farms. Being able to rent in the beginning was so lucky. Luck, it was all I can attribute it to."

Over time the family worked as many as 10 small farms at once, gradually building the business to a combination of rented and owned acreage, almost exclusively tender fruit.

Today, about 95 per cent of the produce is distributed through Vineland Growers Co-operative, to grocery chains across Canada. Two of their biggest customers are Walmart and Costco.

But, in many ways, Quiet Acres, a roadside stall at the corner of East West Line and Lakeshore Road, is the public face of the operation.

Continued on Page 7



An illustration of the proposed design. SUPPLIED

Parliament Oak development plan is too big: Neighbours

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A proposed housing development on the old Parliament Oak school property has some nearby residents angry and ready to fight back against the developer — and one elderly couple feeling they are being driven out of their ancestral home.

Residents Gail and Ellwyn Campbell have lived in their home at 36 Centre St. for over 50 years. They were planning to spend the remainder of their lives there and pass the home on to their kids. But the proposed development is threatening to drive them out of their home, they say.

Continued on Page 2



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From June 11th

Residents worried development will **destroy** area's livability

Continued from Front Page

"Who approved this? It's terrible," Ellwyn said. The development proposes to put a three-storey apartment building behind the school and to add 12 semi-detached homes as well, according to a media release from Montreal based developer Liberty Sites (3) Ltd. "We don't think we will be able to stand it. We are going to have to move and we thought we would die in this house," Gail said. The couple said the proposal means an end to their hope of handing down their home to their children after they die.



Left: An illustration of the proposed design. SUPPLIED Right: Gail and Ellwyn Campbell pictured at the back of their bungalow home, say the Parliament Oak development could drive them out of their family dwelling of 50 years. EVAN SAUNDERS

Gail and Ellwyn, 79 and 81, have lived their whole lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake. "My family goes back generations. My grandfather, my great-great grandfather. We've been kicking around here a long time," Ellwyn said. Their home is tranquil and that's the way the couple like it. "The dirt, the noise, the massive trucks coming and going – everything. The construction is going to take years. We're old and I don't think we could stand it," Gail said. The couple feel their neighbourhood has been betrayed by the town. There's

only four homes on their section of Centre Street and it could soon be home to an 80-plus unit apartment building and 12 semi-detached homes. "How could they give it away? Why would the town let them do this?" Ellwyn said. They added they don't understand why the town let itself get outbid for the property by the developer Liberty Sites (3) Ltd. when the school board sold it in 2018. Other neighbours shared their frustration and disappointment. "It's just a greedy project. They paid no consider-

ation to the surrounding neighbourhood – they don't care," Regent Street resident Dominic Trapasso said about the developer. Trapasso, like other neighbours, was not against the property being turned into housing. It is the type of housing Liberty is proposing that has him angry. "It would be nice to have homes there. But let's make it look like the rest of the area. We don't need it to look like downtown Toronto." John Law, who has lived on Regent Street across from the school for 25 years, echoed that sentiment.

"I don't have any problem with what they're doing other than the three-storey building," Law said. "It's over the top and it doesn't keep with the rest of the neighbourhood." Law emphasized that development on the property was inevitable, but the level of density was not. "We have no option. They're going to do something with the property. It's better to do something we can live with," he said. As with Trapasso, Law felt the scope of the development was a symptom of developer greed. "How much money do they feel they have to make?"

Law said he and his wife have no issue with the semi-detached homes and would prefer that Liberty remove the apartment building and add more houses. "If they didn't put the apartment building and instead put another six semi-detached homes, that's a lot of money!" he said. He also argued against comments that the noise of schoolchildren playing is the same as construction. "It's funny, some people say to me, 'You know, the children made a lot of noise.' Children's noise is a very different thing," he said.

Gage Street resident Connie Tintinalli was appalled by the density. "It's awful. Too much," she said. Tintinalli was also worried about the influx of traffic in the area. "They're going to have a driveway pointing into people's houses. They're going to turn Gage Street into a major thoroughfare." She stressed that residents would not go down without a fight. "We're not just going to sit back and let it happen," Tintinalli said. Trapasso agreed. "We're going to battle it as far as we can," he said.

NOTLers happy to get **second jab** at community centre clinic

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Niagara-on-the-Lake was bustling on Monday, with lines of people headed in for their second dose. Everyone in line seemed happy, with many people looking forward to getting back to normal life once they're fully protected from the virus that's killed at least 3.87 million people globally in less than two years. "I couldn't be happier," said Jack Bulmer, who received his first dose March 23. He said he hopes the pandemic is coming to an end.



Don Cameron, Jack Bulmer and Donna Hatton received their second doses of vaccine on Monday at the community centre. RICHARD HARLEY

Having a second dose gives him a sense of relief, so he's not too worried. "I just followed the rules and here we are. A lot less decisions to be made, you know, 'where do we go, where do we go eat?' We don't have to make any decisions any more. Just stay at home and eat what's

in the fridge." He's most looking forward to eating out again and hopefully returning to his Florida home for the winter months. "I missed out last year," he said, adding going south depends on how well Florida is doing. "As long as they keep do-

ing what they're supposed to be doing down there, you know, because there's a lot of rednecks down there," he said. Donna Hatton, who lives in St. Davids, was glad to be getting her second dose, too. She received her first shot in April and said she's happy the second dose was

moved up. All of her family lives in the United States, so she hasn't seen them in six months. She travelled once across the border to see them and is hoping the next time she won't have to quarantine. "I really miss that social contact," she said. She said she plans on taking things carefully when she does visit — "no shopping, just to visit them," she said. She's also looking forward to "being able to plan ahead." "I feel like we've been on hold for a good long time," she said, noting it's been easier for her being retired. Don Cameron, who lives

in Old Town, didn't have any major plans on the go. "I'm going home to have lunch," he said after leaving the clinic fresh from receiving his second jab. For him, life "hasn't changed" much, he said. He doesn't go out to restaurants often and is more of a homebody. Getting his first shot in March was a bigger relief than his final dose, as the protection rate was still quite high. "They told us that at least if we got the virus, we wouldn't have to go to hospital." Meanwhile, he has happily been carrying on with life and still doing his shopping and other chores.

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Adam Abraham does soccer drills at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil. RICHARD HARLEY

Soccer, lacrosse, skateboards and splashes: Families **overjoyed** to be back outside again

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake kids were out in almost full force on Monday, as sports teams finally started to return to the fields.

At Centennial Sports Park in Virgil, the NOTL Soccer Club and Niagara Lacrosse League were holding drills for the first time since the pandemic closed down team sports last year.

The general feeling in the air was of relief, happiness and laughter.

"It's first time he's touched the ball in quite a while — a year and a half anyway," said Rick Abraham, whose nine-year-old son Adam was playing soccer.

His mother Heni said it was a huge relief that soccer was starting again.

"He has not seen his friend for two years in a way," she said.

"They need some normalcy in their lives. Just playing with your brother alone or primarily is not normal. This is great. They get to go out and interact," Rick said.

They both said they feel comfortable being out again, now that they've got their first vaccine shot and are coming up on their second.

Rick said they've been looking forward to getting back to sports for a while.

"We have three kids and they're all very active. One son is very active in hockey and that's basically

been a total shutdown for a year and a half."

Adam normally plays squash at White Oaks, but can't yet because it's indoors.

"Look at all those smiles. Priceless," Heni said.

Chris Williams, president of Niagara-on-the-Lake minor lacrosse, was on the field with presidents from St. Catharines, Lincoln and Fort Erie. He and the other presidents recently formed a Niagara-wide lacrosse league.

"It feels good to be back out with other kids, other parents, watching the kids interact with each other."

MARK KEDZIORA
PARENT

Monday was the first time the kids have been able to play for 18 months, he said.

"We're super excited," he said. "We created something that's called the Niagara Lacrosse League, it's for all the Niagara region. And we're going to get the kids back on the field playing again," he said.

He said the league includes kids from ages three to 20 and already has about 300 registered.

The younger age groups started on Monday while the older ages were gearing up on Wednesday.

He said using the NOTL fields in Virgil is only temporary, until they can use turf space in Niagara Falls.

St. Catharines lacrosse president Sallah Hamdani said, "We love the game. We want to give back and the kids want to play."

"And it's exciting to see the kids out here laughing again, seeing friends that they haven't seen in a long time because some kids come from different areas of the Niagara region. It's good to see them having fun," Williams added.

"That's the joy. Absolutely. We just heard some kid laugh over there, like just this big belly laugh right and it was kind of like, OK, this is awesome. This is how it's supposed to be."

He said the league is following all rules, doing COVID health checks and limiting the number of people on the field. For now they're only allowed to do training exercises.

NOTL soccer coach Adriano Giordano said it's a big relief to get the kids back out on the field. The kids were playing an open session before the season really starts, sort of like tryouts.

"It's been a long time coming. We're just trying to get ready for the season and have these tryouts or open sessions right now to see who's going to be on the team this year and we can't wait for the season to start," Giordano said.

He said it was nice to see all the activities taking place, including the lacrosse.

"You could tell everyone is just ready to get back out," he said, noting they're doing it safely and taking it step by step. The soccer club is also limited to drills and training exercises right now.

"We did a little warm up, we did like a little obstacle course where they're running through the cones, dribbling, passing and taking the shot," he said.

The main focus is on individual skills until the province allows more activity, hopefully in a few weeks.

He said the parents seemed just as excited as the kids.

Mark Kedziora was watching his son Henry do soccer drills and echoed the same feeling of just being happy to be outside with people again.

"It feels good to be back out with other kids, other parents, watching the kids interact with each other. It's great to see the community coming together for sure."

Like most, his son hadn't played soccer with other kids since March 2020.

Kedziora said it's been tough and the kids have gotten "very antsy. It's important for them to let out some of that energy."

At the same time, it's amazing how resilient the kids are, he said. Watching them run and play, it's like a pandemic never happened.

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Canada

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COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 4
Region active cases: 203
Region deaths: 413
Region total cases: 16,155
Region resolved cases: 15,539

*June 23 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it." - Helen Keller

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Editorial: Listening is the first step

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

We live in a white supremacist society.

This doesn't mean people attending clandestine KKK meetings, but rather that our world's dominant social, cultural and power structures are overwhelmingly white-centric.

If you doubt the veracity of that statement, please dig deeper.

One of the side effects of this structured society is that BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of colour) and marginalized individuals suffer. We see it daily in the news and in the stories people tell.

Remember, the words people use are important. They define us and others. In recent weeks, in the pages of The Lake Report, there has been debate about issues of race in Niagara-on-the-Lake, sparked in part by the findings of a survey by the town's inclusivity committee.

Some of this conversation has been constructive and, intended or not, some of it has been harmful in its treatment of BIPOC



individuals.

As a society, we all know we can "do better" but to do what is right and what is needed is going to require a sea change in how the dominant, white culture often approaches and deals with issues of race.

We cannot simply wish away and erase racism in all its permutations. We must deal with the realities and issues of race head-on and openly.

But above all, we must listen.

Listen to the stories and the lived experiences of BIPOC residents, recognize that their story is THE story when it comes to living a

racial existence.

If you're part of the white majority, frankly, your opinion and experience is largely irrelevant. You are not subjected daily to the attitudes, microaggressions and violence that a racialized person endures.

Being well-intentioned is not enough. If you want to help ameliorate racism, understanding is key. Not from the outside or the comfortable, theoretical white, privileged sidelines – but from the perspective of those affected.

And if you don't think you're privileged if you are white, think again – and read and educate yourself.

Whether people are Black, brown, Indigenous, Asian or any blend of the racial construct, when it comes to race, it is their experience that matters.

Many white folks like to say they are "colour blind" on race issues. However, that diminishes and ignores the truth that colour can largely define a BIPOC individual.

These are not easy notions for many in the majority to embrace. But on issues of race, when we start to say things like "I think" or "You should" or "This is how," we need to stop ourselves.

This concept, called tone policing, attacks the tone or delivery of racialized people's messages rather than dealing with the issue. It changes the channel, makes it about us, the majority, rather than about those who are aggrieved.

So, hear their stories. Read, research, empathize and learn. Then act.

If you want to be an ally and friend, if you want to "make it better," first you must listen.

editor@niagaranow.com



Town councillors are not 'old boys' network

Dear editor:

This is in reference to Samuel Young's June 10 letter to the editor, "Underground group aims to unseat town council."

I feel some clarification is required on the statement that this council is an entrenched "old boys" network and in the hip pocket of various groups and industries in town.

Of the present town council, this is the first term for Norm Arsenault, Allan Bisback, Clare Cameron, Wendy Chero-pita, Erwin Wiens, Sandra O'Connor and Betty Di-sero as lord mayor. Previously Gary Burroughs was our regional representative.

I find it hard to believe

they are members of an old boys' network or in anyone's pocket. The reference more aptly applies to members of the previous council who were repeatedly elected for many years.

In over 20 years we have lived here, the same names appeared in election after election.

Yes, the new residents in town did indeed change things. The election of 2018 had a record number of 25 candidates for eight council seats, three running for lord mayor and four running for regional council. The only incumbent re-elected was John Wiens.

Does this sound like the old boys' network or old clique? Clearly there was

dissatisfaction with the previous council.

These councillors and lord mayor are to be applauded for their hard work and in spending their time not only to deal with being in their position for the first time, but also dealing with the challenges of COVID.

It is not this council that has kicked the can down the road; they are dealing with the fallout of the can being kicked down the road for decades in order to keep our taxes lower than they should have been. Today's councillors are the ones paying the price.

Many years ago land was designated for a large

parking lot (where the fire-hall and community centre were eventually built) with shuttles transporting tourists to Queen Street.

When the council of the day tried to implement this idea, residents on Simcoe Street loudly complained that headlights from the cars would shine into their windows and this idea was abandoned by council. This would have solved today's parking issues, proving you can't please everyone.

I say kudos to our current councillors and to the difficult tasks they have faced during their first term in office.

Luba Fraser
 NOTL



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OPINION

Newark Neighbours' Thrift Store has **reopened**

Dear editor:
We are so happy to welcome back our volunteers and customers to our Thrift Store.

We have had a very successful first week with folks dropping off their donations and customers anxious to shop again.

You may recall we had to close the Thrift Store last November because of the pandemic.

However, because we are very fortunate to have the support of this generous community, it allowed us to not only continue serving our food clients, but to also



Newark Neighbours volunteers. FILE PHOTO

accept and serve a significant number of additional individuals and families who suddenly found them-

selves in need.

We wish to acknowledge the following recent supporters and extend our sincere gratitude to them: St. David's Lion Club, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Scottish Loft, NOTL Legion, Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, Community Garden Project managed by Communities in Bloom, NOTL Rotary Club, the generosity of the community in the recent porch pick up food drive, and the many individuals who have made monetary and/or food donations.

Our Thrift Shop is now open Monday to Friday and on Sundays from 9:30 am until 2 p.m.

We are accepting donations of seasonal clothing and small household items. We appreciate you dropping off your donations during our open hours in the bins provided outside.

Please check our website at www.newarkneighbours.ca for up-to-date information.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 50th year with you soon.

Laura Gibson
President
Newark Neighbours

Former planner took comment **out of context**

Dear editor:
I would like to respond to an allegation made by Leah Wallace (former Town of NOTL heritage planner) during the Rand Estate virtual open house last week.

She was speaking about the historical designa-

tion that was applied to our home on Ricardo Street and more specifically about the garden that was designed by Lorrie Dunnington-Grubb.

Wallace chose to take my question/comment out of context when I said that our very tiny remnant of a

Dunnington-Grubb garden was designated, yet somehow the Rand Estate, which is the home to a much larger and significant Dunnington-Grubb garden, was not.

I have no complaint with our designation. In fact, I am glad that we have it.

But I am shocked at the hypocrisy that allows for such a discrepancy in what becomes deemed to be worthy of a historical designation in this town, especially by those who should know better.

Lauren Goettler
NOTL

Kudos to town staff for a **simple solution**

Dear editor:
I want to offer my sincere thanks to Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake staff.

The security guard in front of Balls Beach received pamphlets from the Town of NOTL to hand out when visitors

arrive at the beach with questions and concerns.

This has gone a long way to enable these security people to do their jobs and deflect rumours and innuendo.

Access to the waterfront in this area has been closed because the large

rock groyne barrier has fallen into the lake.

The response from visitors is impressive. You can see people are asking questions and feeling confident that there is nothing inexplicable going on and that they are welcome to enjoy the beach away from

the fences.

The security personnel are rotated every few days and a simple pamphlet provides so much more continuity when communication is critical. Well done.

Ron Simkus
NOTL

Reckless motorcyclists rediscover NOTL

Dear editor:
Absent in numbers for many years, the Rolling Thunder groups have rediscovered NOTL.

Yes, the Harley-Davidson etc. riding clubs are back. We are now on their bucket list and with them come a few bad actors and crazies who spoil the party.

We encountered such a group. My wife and I were returning from our daily Parkway walk. Driving into town, we were approaching the Shaw when five riders speeding and zig-zagging decided to pass a slow-moving car leaving NOTL. They obviously thought all five could swerve between

us and the oncoming traffic.

Wrong. But for some defensive driving on my part, two of the crazies would have hit us head-on, most certainly resulting in one or more fatalities.

I was forced off the road and luckily exited the soft shoulder into the bus parking entrance. Otherwise I would have landed in the ditch. As usual no police presence was evident to catch these wreckless idiots, who must be an embarrassment to their fellow bikers and club members.

Given our substantial tax contribution to the Niagara police budget, why

do NOTL officials not petition the police authorities or Region of Niagara for two police detachment cars specifically to monitor Old Town during the May through October high tourism months?

Numerous near-misses with cyclists, speeding motorcycles and cars have been reported in recent years. And yes we have had fatalities.

Stretches of Anne and Simcoe streets are like the Indy 500 and there is no speed monitoring in spite of repeated resident complaints and letters to the news media. Surprise. What else is new? Deaf

ears again until there's a serious accident or another fatality.

Finally, with the ever-increasing traffic along Anne and Simcoe (development driven), the NOTL Community Centre traffic, plus the eventual opening of the expanded child care centre, when will our elected officials realize we need stop lights at Anderson Lane and Niagara Stone Road?

Ever try to exit onto Niagara Stone Road on weekends from Anderson Lane or St. Andrews Glen? It's an accident waiting to happen.

Samuel Young
NOTL

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Jewelry shop closing after **23 years** of business in NOTL

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

It's a happy-sad feeling for Mac and Shelagh Moolman as they prepare to retire from their jewelry shop in downtown NOTL.

The couple has operated Niagara-on-the-Lake Jewellers and Precious Metal Studio for 23 years, specializing in custom-made jewelry.

Asked why they're retiring, Shelagh says it's pretty simple — it's just time.

"He's an old man. He's 77," she says, with a bit of a chuckle.

"All good things come to an end. There comes a time when you've got to stand away," Mac says in agreement.

The couple immigrated from South Africa, where they had a store, too. Overall, they've been in business for more than 40 years.

Though they're staying in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Shelagh says the most difficult part will be saying goodbye to a long list of friends made over the years.

"We love the business, we love the people, we've made



Shelagh and Mac Moolman look out to new ventures from their jewelry shop. The couple is retiring after 23 years in business this July. RICHARD HARLEY

so many good friends," she says.

Currently the only jeweler in NOTL, the store has outlasted many others.

They plan on closing the doors to the shop at the end of July and until then are having a retirement sale to clear out as much inventory as possible.

When they do shut down, Shelagh says it will be "very sad," but Mac says it's

just going to be a "different way of life."

"This is the only life we've ever known, coming to work every day, seeing people, doing things. Mac has done some very creative things over the years, very special things for special people," Shelagh says.

"I think we've had the best of times here."

They say the pandemic isn't the reason they're

closing, but it was a "good time" to make the call.

The plan has been in the works for about a year and now they're both looking forward to having free time. The couple have run the shop themselves seven days a week since they opened.

Looking toward their free time, they're eager to spend more time with their grandchildren.

"And gardening has

suddenly taken over," adds Shelagh.

"It'll be a nice change, a different routine," Mac says.

To their valued customers, they both want to express sincere appreciation for the years of support.

"We're very, very thankful for them. They've been very kind to us and I hope we've been kind to them over the years. We've had a wonderful following. We just love the people in the town," Shelagh says.

"I hope we've made them happy," Mac adds.

They opened the shop mainly for locals, they say, and have always kept that as their main focus.

"We opened for the locals. And when I put our business plan together however many years ago, we looked at the stats, how many people were in town. And we worked on the government statistics, of what you would need to make a living. And that's how we started out. So we never bothered with the tourists. Tourists is nice thick jam on the bread," Mac says.

However, they've made some good American

friends and clients over the years, too.

Custom-made jewelry has long been their specialty — an art that's not so common any more.

"Very few people do that today. Very, very few people. It's kind of like old school. Whereas today, all the jewelry is coming in from China and India and places like that. That's what you would get in many stores," Shelagh says.

Mac says they've had a good run and thanks his good health for being able to operate so late in life.

"I was very fortunate. My eyes are going now though," he says.

Now that they're closing, they've been getting a rush of last-minute fixes, with people saying, "I've got to quickly bring my chain and bring my ring," Mac says.

He says they're looking forward to winding down, catching more sunsets and having a bit more time to relax.

"Terrible stress," Mac jokes.

"There's time for everything and this is the time now to move on," he says.

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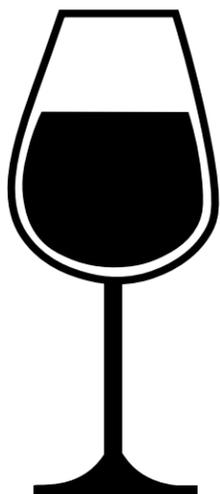
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SATURDAY

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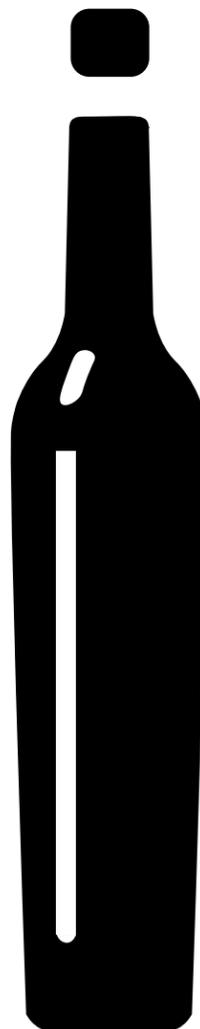
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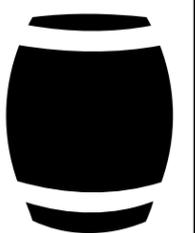
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Chautauqua parking restrictions, hefty fines approved by town

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Town council has voted unanimously to install no-parking areas on one side of all the streets north of Circle Street in Chautauqua, including the entirety of Circle Street's inner ring.

The Friends of Ryerson Park group has been one of the main drivers of increased restrictions in the area, having led del-

egations to town council throughout the year raising concerns about parking and safety concerns in the neighbourhood.

"We certainly feel good that council over the last few months recognized that we have issues down here and have accepted our recommendations in a number of cases," Friends of Ryerson Park representative Brian Crow told The Lake Report.

An online town survey showed most respon-

dents preferred to implement even stricter parking measures.

The majority said they wanted no parking on either side of the streets in Chautauqua and a permit system to be implemented for residents.

Respondents also voiced concerns that street parking was preventing access to the area for emergency vehicles.

But the fire department said stricter restrictions were not necessary, ac-

ording to a staff report.

"Prohibiting parking on both sides of the street and implementing a parking permit system would be onerous from an administrative and enforcement perspective and would not address access concerns," the report said.

Even without the stronger restrictions, Crow said he is happy council is doing something.

"It feels good, absolutely it does," he said, adding he has already seen an im-

provement in the area.

"It's improved, certainly more than we expected it to be by the summer, so we thank them for that," he said.

There will be 61 no-parking signs installed throughout the neighbourhood to enforce the controls. A special enforcement area has been declared around Chautauqua, which means violators will be hit with an additional \$150 penalty on top of existing fines.

The town will also be moving the two-way stop-signs at the intersection of Niagara Boulevard/Shakespeare Avenue and Vincent Avenue, to make them more visible.

As well, "Share the Road" and "Pedestrians Ahead" signs will be erected on Niagara Boulevard to increase traffic safety, according to the report.

The total cost of the changes will be \$9,105 and will be charged to the roads department budget.

Tender fruit operation in strong second-generation hands

Continued from Front Page

It is here that Maureen and her team sell only fresh produce from their own farms. "Except some asparagus for the Thwaites, around the corner."

Each growing season, Quiet Acres peddles over 30 different fruits and vegetables, just as they are ready for picking from the surrounding fields. It started a few weeks ago with strawberries and will end in October with apples, pumpkins and gourds.

Roughly in order of appearance, you'll find: Strawberries, rhubarb, asparagus, peonies, cherries, raspberries, black and red currants, garlic, beets, zucchini, potatoes, plums, apricots, peaches, nectarines, tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers, beans, corn, onions, sovereign coronation grapes, sun flowers, gladiolus, apples, pumpkins and gourds.

"We've developed a good reputation," Maureen says with obvious pride. "People want to be aware of where their food comes from. People are so enthralled by that. There are not many roadside stands, like ours, where you are actually buying directly from the farmer."

A number of local restaurants and bed and breakfasts are part of the buy-local bandwagon, regularly purchasing their produce from the MacSweens.

It is a bright sunny day when we meet, sitting in Muskoka chairs under a massive purple beech tree, in front of their attrac-



The MacSween women, ready to serve their customers at Quiet Acres on Lakeshore Road. From left, Elizabeth, Maureen and Caroline. SUPPLIED

tive home on the Quiet Acres property, a couple of hundred metres up the lane from the market stand on Lakeshore Road.

The affable couple first got involved at Quiet Acres in 2000, when Bruce and Ruby Romanek, longtime proprietors of the 33-acre farm and market, decided they wanted to retire. The MacSweens leased the business at first, purchasing it in 2017.

"They asked us if we wanted to lease the property," says Scott. "They knew Maureen knew how to run the fruit stand and I knew how to farm."

Unlike many Niagara farming families, the MacSweens are really first-generation farmers.

Their dynasty starts here. Scott grew up on a small hobby farm on McNab Road, son of a St. Catharines obstetrician and a stay-at-home mom, one of six siblings. He attended Niagara District High School, before he went off to university.

"My father didn't know the first thing about driving a tractor or farming or anything," says Scott. "After

two summers working at Seaway Farms, I made half of it productive – five acres of the farm were arable."

Maureen grew up locally, too, on Read Road. She was a Cratt. After attending Dennis Morris High School in St. Catharines, she went on to Mohawk College. Her parents operated the Esso fuel oil franchise in Niagara.

Maureen remembers spending time in the vineyards with her grandfather, Frank Walsh, the 1964 Niagara Grape King.

She and Scott were married in 1986.

For Scott, now 60, and Maureen, 59, family plays a huge part in their business.

"We've always wanted to have the children working with us," says Maureen.

"They were instrumental in growing our farm. They've all worked on the farm during their growing-up years."

"The kids never got bored in the summer months. It was never a chore. They always wanted to work on the farm. That work ethic was engrained."

The parents knew they weren't all going to be

interested in the farm. "But I know if I needed them to help me at the fruit stand over the weekend, they'd be here."

Caroline, 24, now an environmental engineer in Toronto, started helping on the farm at four years old.

Elizabeth, at 29, the eldest, is a pharmacist in St. Catharines.

And Kevin, in the middle, at 28, earned a commerce degree and is now a partner in the business. His wife Emily helps on the admin side and in the market stand.

"The kids have all added their touch."

But it is clear, Scott and Maureen believe, they have an even larger family.

They include 50 temporary farm workers from Jamaica and some 25 locals during peak periods, in their extended family.

"We sure depend on our offshore workers," says Scott. "Every year they are becoming more and more important to us. Without them we wouldn't have our tender fruit industry."

When Kevin joins the conversation, talk turns to how the industry is adapting to changes led by technology, climate change and other market forces.

One of the biggest changes has happened in packaging. Father and son agree the new way of doing things is good, but buying and commissioning a new packing line 10 years ago had its challenges.

Both also agree that climate change is making everything dryer, forcing

greater attention to irrigation. "We have three experts who do almost nothing else but manage our irrigation," says Scott.

On the positive side for these tender fruit farmers, the past decade has brought increasing demand for what they grow.

"Ten years ago, there was really too much supply," says Scott. "But the wineries have done so well that some tender fruit acreage has gone that way. Now there's big demand and we don't have enough product."

Scott and Maureen agree that Kevin is making a huge contribution on another big change in the industry — the paperwork.

"Emily and I have a big

task just keeping up with the demands of government oversight," says Kevin. "COVID stuff, traceability, food safety reporting, all tied to the computer."

What is next for the second generation at MacSween Farms and Quiet Acres?

"I guess you could say I just bring youth," Kevin ponders the question. "I'm younger and not as banged up as he is," he adds, sharing a chuckle with his father.

"We're all in on tender fruit. I think we will probably just keep things going the same way. This business is satisfying enough."

Scott and Maureen nod proudly.

Tell us your favourite farm and fruit stands

Where do you go for fruit, veggies, eggs, meats and other home-grown, farm-to-table fare?

Besides all its other attractions, Niagara-on-the-Lake is renowned for its many small roadside fruit stands and spots that offer farm-fresh food items.

What's your favourite? What places do you recommend? What do they sell and where are they located? What makes them special?

Please tell us so we can share the information with readers. We'll feature short stories in upcoming editions about some of the most unique, interesting, quaint, out-of-the-way or offbeat offerings.

The only rule is they must be located in NOTL. Send your suggestions along with all the pertinent details, and your contact information to editor@niagaranow.com.

Let us know and we'll let everyone else know!



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Step Challenge **smashes** 20M goal

Stephanie Beattie
Special to The Lake Report

Two teams, Pfinally Pfeeling Pfine and Notty People, have been jockeying for first place in the NOTL Step Challenge, and their prolific totals are one reason the town doubled the event's goal to 40 million steps.

Cornerstone Community Church pastor Kevin Bayne and his family's Pfinally Pfeeling Pfine team were leading as of Wednesday with 2,035,395 steps logged in the month-long challenge.

Notty People were right on their heels, though, with 1,958,213 and counting.

The squad calling itself We're Small But Active was third with just over 1.7 million steps.

"My wife and our boys are really competitive, so they have really upped their 'walking the dog game,'" Bayne said.

The family previously won the prizes for the highest step count in week one, which included several gift cards and baskets.

This year, the town



Members of Team Pfinally Pfeeling Pfine, from left Kevin, Sherrie, Andrew, Levi Bayne along with Daisy, who helps accompany them on their outings. SUPPLIED

encouraged participants to come up with "fun and creative" COVID-themed team names.

The team Pfinally Pfeeling Pfine is a riff on the Pfizer vaccine name, Bayne said.

"We think it is really incredible that such effective vaccines were developed so quickly and are thankful to those who have devoted themselves to

their development, testing, distribution, and implementation," he said.

To increase his step count, Bayne said he walks their dog Daisy every morning and plays baseball with the kids.

He also said the family has been playing pickleball on the Virgil courts and going for long walks.

To track their steps, Bayne said the family

uses Apple and Garmin watches.

Participants record their steps on the MoveSpring website or app, where teams and individual participants are then ranked based on their step counts.

"It's been a great motivator. The kids do all kinds of activities outdoors, but it's been fun to walk together," Bayne said in a phone interview.

"For the town, I think it's great to model and encourage healthy living," he added.

This year 37 teams totaling 178 people registered for the fun fitness challenge, including a group from The Lake Report, which has a solid grip on 30th place.

The initial goal of the challenge was 20 million total steps but the participants were more than halfway there after one week of walking.

So on June 15, the town announced in a social media post, "After walking more than 25 million collective steps by the halfway point of the #NOTLStepChallenge, we're doubling our group goal to 40 million steps."

It looks like the new goal is easily achievable. As of Wednesday, the total was at 38.4 million, or 96 per cent of the goal, with a week to go.

"Seems like there's a bunch of competitive and active folks who are really engaged, so it's a lot of fun," he said.

"I think it's a COVID-safe activity but it's also great for your mental health and great relationally to be doing things together," Bayne said.

"It's been a nice little nudge, especially for our kids to get a little bit more active than they were," he added.

Bayne said the family is not in it for the prizes and sees the challenge as a way to do things with their kids and spend time together in a "healthy way."

The Step Challenge was interrupted last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but in 2019 participants logged 14.8 million steps.

The challenge continues until June 30 and the winners will be announced on Friday, July 2.

NOTL driver, 54, charged in **fatality** of Matt Wilson

Staff
The Lake Report

Police have charged a 54-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake man after a pedestrian was killed while walking on Lakeshore Road in April.

The victim, Matthew Wilson, 40, was headed home late at night when he was struck near McNab Road. His body was found in the ditch on the morning of April 5.

The driver of a vehicle involved in the crash has been charged with failing to report an accident, an offence under the Highway Traffic Act.

No criminal charges have been laid in the incident and Niagara Regional Police have not released the name of the accused driver.

Within a day of the fatality, officers said they had identified the driver of a Ford F-150 pickup truck that was eastbound on Lakeshore when Wilson was hit.

They said Wilson was struck by the passenger side of the vehicle.

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CON“GRAD”ULATIONS!

Congratulations to all of Niagara-on-the-Lake's graduating students. We know it's been a tough year, but you've managed to pull through these challenging times and we hope you're all the better for it. At the very least, there's a story to be told. You are the future of our town, province, country and world. It's our privilege to honour you for the milestones along your journey. Keep up the great work.



Cole Friesen, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.



Charlotte Bowslaugh and Jorga Lepp
Grade 8, Crossroads Public School.



Alex Amodeo, Grade 8,
St. Michael Catholic Elementary School.



Hannah Burns, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.



Lereeza Bautista, Recreation Therapy,
Niagara College.



Sophie Gatt, Grade 8,
St. Michael Catholic Elementary School.



Brynna Bartel, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.



Kaleb Dietsch, Grade 8,
St. Michael Catholic Elementary School.



Lucy Hopkins, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.



Lauren Shedden, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.



Hailey Epp, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.



Allie Kroeker, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.



Sam Vanderlee, Grade 8,
St. Michael Catholic School.



Camden Davidson, Grade 12,
Laura Secord Secondary School.



Noah Andrusiw, Grade 12,
Holy Cross Secondary School.



Quinten Davis, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.



Ben Janzen, Grade 12,
Eden High School.



Julia King, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School.

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Pumphouse hosting July 1 scavenger hunt

Staff
The Lake Report

NOTL's Pumphouse Arts Centre is hosting a Canada Day art scavenger hunt that will lead participants to various artworks and locations throughout town.

Some local artists will be setting out their pieces for the public to view on July 1.

"We love engaging with our community and promoting the local arts scene," said Rima Boles, director of the Pumphouse.

"The Canada Day Art Scavenger Hunt is a perfect opportunity to showcase the local talent while having fun doing it."

Participants will have to answer questions related to the artwork, artist or venue for a chance to win an art-themed gift bag donated by area artists, studios and galleries.



The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. FILE PHOTO

The entry form to join is in the "news" section of the niagarapumphouse.ca website. Completed forms must be dropped off before July 5 in the mail slot at the door of the centre, or a scanned copy of the form can be emailed to marketing@niagarapumphouse.ca.

Leading up to this event, the Pumphouse held virtual

meetings with area professional artists and representatives of art galleries and commercial spaces to form a Niagara-on-the-Lake Arts Collective.

A common goal shared by those who attended was "to advance the local arts community through promotion, partnership and networking initiatives."

Lise Andreana, chair of

the Pumphouse's board, said, "We are proud of our role in growing the artistic community in NOTL while building strong ties to our cultural partners through collaborative public events."

"These efforts increase awareness and appreciation of the visual arts in our region. By working together, there is so much potential for NOTL to become known as a destination for visual arts."

The Canada Day Art Scavenger Hunt is the start of many promotional activities the NOTL Arts Collective is planning in the coming months, she said.

The Pumphouse also is inviting Niagara-on-the-Lake professional artists to join the group and help build the arts collective. Information to participate is found on the centre's website.

Peter Todd out as municipal clerk

Staff
The Lake Report

After eight years with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, municipal clerk Peter Todd has run his last council meeting.

New chief administrator Marnie Cluckie fired Todd about three weeks ago. The town has begun a recruitment search for his replacement.

The move was unannounced and came as a surprise to people who tuned in to watch the committee of the whole planning meeting on June 7.

"It is unfortunate that my employment with Niagara-on-the-Lake has ended," Todd told The Lake Report in a LinkedIn message.

"I've greatly appreciated

the time I spent there and the experience I have gained," he said.

"I had the opportunity to learn from many dedicated and knowledgeable staff who I will sincerely miss."

Todd started as an intern with the town in 2013 and became municipal clerk in 2017.

Among other duties, the clerk organizes council meetings and helps draft bylaws and agendas. It is considered one of the senior jobs within the town bureaucracy.

For now, Todd said he is focusing on finishing his master's degree in public administration at Western University before seeking future opportunities.

His role as town clerk has been filled by deputy clerk Colleen Hutt.

Fort George celebrates Canada Day – with virtual events

Staff
The Lake Report

Canada Day will be celebrated virtually by the Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada with a full slate of events this year.

"You are cordially invited to join us on Canada Day for special messages and programs to help the community celebrate at home," executive director Amanda Gamble said in an announcement.

There will be programs all day on the Friends' website, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts. Events include a history of the Fort George national historic site, fife and drum demonstrations, the singing of O



Canada Day celebrations will be online this year. FILE

Canada, Kiddie Militia program and pre-recorded messages from dignitaries.

"We are excited to be working with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, who will be reading some Canadian-themed books for a special story time, and with Quantum Kyle

from MadScience Niagara, who will be hosting a live program on Canada Day," said Gamble.

"This year, we also wanted to incorporate Canada's early history into the virtual program. Throughout the day we will be sharing a few videos from the Greater

Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map project to highlight Niagara's 13,000-year history."

Canada Day virtual schedule

8 a.m. – Welcome from Parks Canada and the Friends of Fort George

9 a.m. – The Greater Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map: Indian Council House

10 a.m. – The History of Fort George

11 a.m. – Story Time with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library

Noon – Messages from dignitaries

1 p.m. – Mad science with Quantum Kyle (advance registration required)

2 p.m. – Colouring pages

from Zig Misiak, award-winning Canadian author
3 p.m. – 41st Regiment of Foot Fife and Drum Corps Presentation

4 p.m. – Mini Militia program

5 p.m. – The Greater Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map: The Landscape of Nations

6 p.m. – Singing of O Canada

7 p.m. – Music from More Bad News and the Horns from Hell

Follow along for free online on friendsoffortgeorge.ca, Facebook, Twitter: @fofg or Instagram: friendsoffortgeorge.

There will also be photos, children's activities, and more shared throughout the

day. The Friends of Fort George have also created the hashtag #CanadaDayNOTL for everyone to share their Canada Day celebrations.

To register for the MadScience program, visit <https://www.engaging-learning.ca/shows/friends-canada-day>

Don't forget to grab your Canada Day packages to help you celebrate at home. Each package includes cupcakes from Willow Cakes and Pastries, Canadian flags, pins, kettle corn, glow sticks, balloons, bubbles, children's activities and more.

Order yours online at <https://friendsoffortgeorge.square.site>

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Paul Devitt is looking forward to getting his bike back on the road with his motorcycle club. BERNARD LANSBERGEN

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

After the pandemic Cruising the **open road** again

Bernard Lansbergen
The Lake Report

Paul Devitt, who lives in Virgil, is the Canadian national officer of the Southern Cruisers Riders Club, an international motorcycle group of which he has been a member for more than 20 years.

When the pandemic broke out the activities of the club came to a screech-

ing halt.

“Everything fell through,” says Devitt. “We like to go out and ride (but we can’t go out together.”

It’s the social aspect of the club he misses most.

“We’re a year-round club but we can’t ride motorcycles here in January (so) we go out for dinner, we go for breakfast once a month just to get together,” but that has now been impossible

because of COVID.

So these days he just goes for motorcycle rides with his wife Cecilia.

Devitt says being on a motorcycle gives him a sense of freedom. “I can’t quite describe the feeling. You’re on the open road, you’re discovering something new. It’s not the same as riding in a car. If you don’t know, it can’t be explained.”

Now that restrictions are loosening Devitt is looking forward to seeing his friends again.

“We’re so happy that COVID is now hopefully on the way out and we can get back to doing the things we love, meeting with the people we like to meet with,” he says.

They’re starting with groups of 10 and will “just go out for a ride.”

RIDDLE ME THIS

My life can be measured in hours, I serve by being devoured. Thin, I am quick. Fat, I am slow. Wind is my foe. What am I?

Last issue: I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone, and cities with no buildings. What am I?

Answer: A map

Answered first by: Sheelah Young

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Margie Enns, Margaret Garaughty, Steve Chalastra, Tammy Florio, Glenda Hall, Jim Handman, Wade Durling, Diana Santaguida, Pam Dowling, Sheila Meloche, Maria Janeiro, Sylvia Wiens, Ardeth Staz, Elaine Landray, Wesley Turner, Katie Reimer, Robert Wilms, Charlotte and Gwendolyn Webber Mayeda, Tee Bucci

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

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Birdies galore in women's match play

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Maybe it was Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club pro Billy Simkin's preseason video of chipping tips, says women's 18 hole league captain Val Chubey.

But whatever the reason, on Tuesday during a match play competition, the birdies were falling fast and furious.

Six women combined for seven birdies on the front nine, a remarkable display of golf prowess.

Leading the way was Ginny Green, with birdies on #2 and #6, while Cathy Taylor and Sally Miller added their own on #2, Cathy Murray notched one on #3, Gayle Tanner had one on #4 and Patty Garriock finished in fine fashion with a bird on #9.

In the match play competition, the winners were: Carolyn Porter, Janice White, May Chang, Mary Powers, Ginny Green, Cathy Murray, Cathy Taylor, Michele Darling, Gayle Tanner, Margot Richardson, Donna Lailey and Patty Garriock.

9 Hole Women: Cathy Saytar led the 9 hole wom-



Ginny Green had two birdies Tuesday. FILE PHOTO

en's league Tuesday with a low gross score of 48. She was also the closest to the pin in two on #9. Wilca Lay and Penny Bannister were second- and third-closest.

Runners-up for low gross were Penny Green (49) and Lyn Sanders (50).

WOOFs: Rob Yamamoto was the big winner in Tuesday's WOOFs league play. He shot a 1-over 37 to

win low gross, birdied #2 to share the hidden hole prize and won \$60 in the 50/50 jackpot draw.

Other hidden hole birdmen were Tom Goodbody and Stu Young, while Goodbody and Mike Eagen shared low net honours with 34. Brian Heer was closest to the pin on #4.

Men's league: Robert Haylor shot an even-par 36 to win low gross in men's league action last Thursday.

His fine shooting also earned him 24 points in the modified Stableford scoring, good for first place.

There was a four-way tie for second spot as Warren Tutton, Steve Ferley, Jim Sifton and Tom Elltoft all had 22 points.

They were followed by Martin Vagners and Dean McCann with 21 each.

Drew Porter was closest to the pin on #4 and Bob Cheriton was closest on #9.

There were some big-money skins winners.

Former club champion Joe Doria earned a \$130 gross skin for his birdie on the par-5 fifth hole while Jack Hanna (#2) and Rob Chubey (#7) scooped \$100 in net skins.

Golfer scores first ace at St. Davids

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

For a golfer, there is nothing quite like hitting the perfect shot, where everything comes together and the ball goes exactly where you intended it to.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Mark Mckay experienced that joy – and more – Saturday, when he hit a perfect shot and then watched it roll into the cup for a hole-in-one.

Mckay and three buddies – Hermano Ponte, Bill Christensen and Len Day – were on the seventh hole at St. Davids Golf Club when he recorded his first ace.

"It was a solid 7-iron connection with the ball and straight for a change," Mckay told The Lake Report.

The hole, about 180 yards on the scorecard, requires a shot over a large gully, to a large, flat green. "It happened so quickly."

"As a lefty, I tend to slice my shots towards the left on any fairway. The ball came off the club with great loft and was on a direct line heading towards the flag. The ball hit the green with a couple of bounces," he recalled.



Mark Mckay retrieves his ball from the hole after his ace at St. Davids Golf Club. SUPPLIED

"No issue with backspin on the ball because I could not hit that type of shot if my life depended on it."

The ball rolled several feet onto the green and right at the flag.

"Then ... it disappeared. For a moment I thought it rolled past the pin and to the back of the green, out of sight. Then my golfing buddies started celebrating confirming they saw it go in the hole," Mckay said. "We had a lot of high-fives."

Pumped up, they walked up the path to the green and could see three balls.

"I was still expecting to see mine on the back fringe of the green. I walked to the cup and in the hole was the ball," he said.

"At that moment it felt absolutely awesome to know I had my first ace, and likely the last."

The enthusiastic golf partners "all enjoy the game and don't take it too seriously," Mckay said.

They get out several times a week to courses in the area, including the NOTL Golf Club, Whirlpool, Queenston, Ussher's Creek and Battlefield.

PUBLIC NOTICE



INSTALLATION OF AN ALL-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF GARRISON VILLAGE DRIVE AND JORDAN STREET/PEREZ ROAD

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has amended By-Law 4308-09 to establish an **all-way stop** at the intersection of Garrison Village Drive and Jordan Street/Perez Road.

Currently, only Jordan Street and Perez Road traffic is required to stop. Based on the amended By-Law, now drivers on Garrison Village Drive are required to stop as well.

Drivers are urged to use extra caution at this intersection as traffic on Garrison Village Drive adjusts to the new stop signs.

New stop signs will be erected on June 28, 2021, and enforcement of the all-way stop will commence immediately upon installation.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by emailing mike.komljenovic@notl.com or calling (905) 468-3061.



A heartfelt hug from 2-year-old great-grandson – finally

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

As pandemic restrictions continue to ease and cases of COVID-19 fall, people are finally starting to be able to connect with their loved ones again, which is especially important for family members who were isolated in long-term care homes.

Two-year-old Owen Auld was able to visit his

great-grandmother Norma Zanus, who is a resident at Niagara Long Term Care Residence on Wellington Street in Old Town.

Zanus, who turns 96 on July 4, was ecstatic to see her great-grandson.

“Being able to see her family again was unbelievably beautiful and she shed tears of joy when she saw him,” said Zanus’ daughter Silvana Auld, who lives in Niagara-on-

the-Lake.

“My grandson was so chatty with her at only 2 years old,” she added.

The last time Zanus was able to see Owen was on Family Day 2020, about 16 months ago.

“He calls her GG and couldn’t stop chatting and laughing with her,” Auld said.

“Mom is legally blind and hard of hearing but that day she saw and heard

him. It was so sweet.”

She is proud of her mother, who contracted COVID-19 during a significant outbreak at the home at the start of 2021.

“She beat COVID and survived,” Auld said, lauding the staff’s commitment to keeping people as safe as possible.

“I feel they should be praised for their hard work and dedication in protecting our elderly.”



Owen Auld, 2, hugs his great grandmother Norma Zanus for the first time since COVID-19 began. SUPPLIED

New NOTL Museum courtyard nurtures ‘community wellness’

Staff
The Lake Report

The Incas knew it. So did the ancient Romans and even a few monks or two: Create a courtyard to nurture and help build community wellness.

Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, small driveway courtyards and patios are popping up and now the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has created a Community Courtyard right in its own garden, in front of the museum at 43 Castlereagh St.

The museum received a federal Healthy Com-



The NOTL Museum’s new courtyard tent. SUPPLIED

munities Initiative grant to enhance its courtyard area.

With the addition of a large tent, new benches and recycling bins, the peace-

ful courtyard has become an ideal protected space to dwell, have coffee or a take-out lunch, and sit with friends, surrounded by trees

and flowers.

Historically, the purpose of a courtyard was to be a place of social interaction, with a sense of intimacy and feeling of community.

Here in NOTL that’s something everyone can benefit from right now, after the long pandemic pause on activities. Until the province changes the rules, there are still restrictions on outdoor gatherings – 10 people at one time, socially distanced.

The museum hopes that number will increase as we move into the next stage of openings here in Niagara.

The Community Courtyard offers free wifi too, so visitors will have the opportunity to not only check their email and catch up on some work, but they can also explore the various information sites of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

For a more tranquil time, Sonya Marie de Lazzer will be offering Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard on Wednesdays at 9 a.m., from July 14 until Aug. 18.

These Hatha yoga classes are for all levels, and offer a gentle, mindful and meditative approach to the day. Space is limited to

nine participants, and interest is high – July is already sold out.

To register for August, or go on a waiting list, email aklassen@nhsm.ca.

The classes at the museum are free to all, but donations are accepted.

And for more information on the yoga programs, check out www.sacredfern-yoga.com.

As restrictions lift, the Community Courtyard will also be used to expand museum programming. Updates will be posted on the museum’s new website, www.notlmuseum.ca.

Sunset Grill gives back with free breakfasts

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Sunset Grill is giving back by doing what it does best – cooking up hearty breakfasts for volunteers and people from the community.

The restaurant has served up about 75 free breakfasts to NOTL firefighters, mask ambassadors, the Queen Street merchant group and even a few dedicated journalists over the last month.

People had their choice of any breakfast item on the menu.

Brad Disher, fire prevention and public education officer for NOTL Fire and Emergency Services, said the gesture was welcome.

“It’s nice to be appreciated obviously by a local business,” he said. “It’s not why any of us do what we do, but it’s always nice to be appreciated.”

Matt van der Zalm, an administrative assistant in the fire department, echoed the sentiment. He had the Eggs Sunset (the restaurant’s version of eggs benedict).

“It is nice to see local businesses supporting our volunteer firefighters

who are coming out at all hours of the day and night to come do things for the community.”

Cheryl Morris, communications chair for the Shaw Guild, had a breakfast on Friday. She said the gesture came “out of the blue” for all mask ambassadors. While she said many haven’t actually taken advantage of the offer, she thought it was “really generous.”

Kim Gauld, who owns the restaurant with her husband Scott, said the meals are just a nice way to show appreciation for the work people do in the

community.

“Just this last year we realized how important friends, family, community were. We’ve always realized, but we recognize it even more in these times,” she said.

“We really appreciate all the efforts in this town. We love being part of this community.”

As well, she said, it was nice to brighten a few people’s days.

“And then we got lots of positive feedback, which brightens our day and it’s just like that full circle. And then the other side to it, too, is that we were



Cheryl Morris, Kim Gauld, TJ Gauld, Brad Disher and Matt van der Zalm. RICHARD HARLEY

trying to bring back our staff and get them trained and we want to keep them employed. We want to keep

them happy,” she said. “They need to get back and they need their spirits lifted up, too.”



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Deadheading is dull, but flowers are grateful

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

Marla Percy



Special to The Lake Report



Deadheading is vital if you want your flowers to continue to bloom throughout the summer season. SOURCED

Unless your garden has nothing but shrubs and evergreens, you will inevitably have to confront flowering plants with shrivelled, spent blooms. If you want your garden looking presentable, you will have to deadhead.

Deadhead doesn't refer to your odd nephew, it simply means cutting off dead blossoms to tidy up the appearance of your plants. But appearance isn't the only reason for doing it.

By cutting off old blooms, the plant is encouraged to send out new blooms and often the second blooms are longer-lasting. Without

deadheading, the plant thinks it is time to produce seed, so it will stop the production of flowers.

Grab the stem and cut just above the first set of full healthy leaves. Cutting off the stem too high leaves silly sticks, so cut down to the first set of a good leaf joint and tidier plant.

For small flowers with small stems, simply pinch the stem and snap it off with your fingers. Garden snippers (similar to but sharper than scissors) are easier for arthritic fingers.

For larger stems, use secateurs and cut at a 45-degree angle. The sharper the better, as mashed edges make a messy job and encourage diseases.

If your plants are low, get a pad to kneel on so you're not bent over for long periods.

Deadheading is not difficult but can be boring. Try to deadhead every couple of days for short periods rather than one day for hours. (Although, you can always think of things you don't like as you're snipping.)

You can get great value from deadheading plants such as phlox, delphiniums, lupines salvia, shasta daisies, yarrow, coneflowers, and, of course, roses. If you deadhead them before they have wilted, you can enjoy them for a few more days indoors.

Some plants with many small flowers growing together can be sheared, but be careful not to shear so low that you're cutting new blossoms coming up from beneath.

Summer is short so this is only a two-month job. Once September comes around, you can let your flowers go to seed and enjoy the seedpods in the lovely autumn months or collect the seeds for next year.

* Visit jointheconversationnotl.org/garden to check out the Garden of the Week contest, run by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Communities in Bloom committee, and submit your garden or garden feature for consideration in one of 10 categories.

Marla Percy is past-president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society.

NOTLers fundraise for kids respite care, hospice facility

Staff
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake woman and some of her friends are helping raise money across southern Ontario to expand a respite care home and hospice for children with complex medical conditions.

The Darling Home for Kids in Milton provides high-quality respite, residential and hospice palliative care services for children.

NOTL resident Michele Darling and her husband Mike Eagen are major donors to the home, which is planning a 10,000-square-foot addition.

The home's Wheels campaign, first established by builder Mattamy Homes in 2011, is a virtual fundraiser this year, allowing people to run, walk or ride to raise money. Real estate developer Orlando Corporation is matching all donations up to a total of \$3.7 million, Darling said.

"We are fundraising right across Halton, Peel and Niagara," she said.

"There are teams going



Michele Darling is leading fund drive. PATTY GARRIOCK

out to ride, and our friends from Mattamy Homes have many teams everywhere. Locally, it is myself and Michelle and John Scott, and our teams. Some are participating virtually, others are walking, riding, pushing a wheelchair or just donating and cheering us on."

Earlier this week, she noted, "I have raised \$3,000 so far. So with the match, it will be \$6,000."

Among the new features included in the expansion are more bedrooms and bathrooms, a larger Snoezelen room (which engages kids' senses and imaginations through images, lights, textures, sound and colour), and a private kitchen and accommodation for families who have a child receiving end-of-life care.

More information is available at www.darling-homeforkids.ca



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Fire department buying **new tankers** to fight fires in rural areas

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A review of the Niagara-on-the-Lake fire department's access to water in rural areas found crucial gaps in the service's ability to fight rural fires and that led the town to approve buying two new \$425,000 tanker trucks.

Fire chief Nick Ruller told councillors in committee last week that the review in March identified serious problems as there are few hydrants in rural areas.

The department has budgeted \$628,500 to spend on new vehicles between 2018 and 2027, and Ruller proposed using that money for the tanker trucks. Another \$300,000 will be moved from a previous plan to upgrade an existing vehicle.

That way there will be no extra cost to taxpayers, he noted. Council approved the plan Monday night.

The department faces unique challenges due to NOTL's large rural areas, its location on the greenbelt and the fact it is isolated to the north and east by bodies of water.



Nick Ruller, when he was deputy fire chief, Dave Ignatczyk, captain of St. Davids Fire Station 2 and Colin Hunter, with the new Tanker 2 in 2019. FILE PHOTO/BRITTANY CARTER

Ruller pointed out several areas that have a dearth of water sources. Particularly vulnerable are the corridors of Concessions 1 and 2, the area from Concession 7 to Four Mile Creek Road and almost the entire area northwest of Niagara Stone Road and Concession 7. That includes the areas of Carlton, Lakeshore, McNab and Stewart.

And it was near Carlton that a massive fire erupted last February at 1238 Townline Rd. The department called in mutual aid from the Thorold fire department to help with water supply.

The NOTL fire department uses a system of mutual aid from surrounding municipalities to help with rural firefighting operations. But the surrounding geography presents a challenge.

"With the lake on the north of us, the U.S. to the east of us and two urban municipalities on the south and west that don't have tankers available to us, we're in kind of a unique situation," Ruller said.

Coun. Norm Arsenault asked about adding hydrants so trucks have access to a reliable water source but Ruller said the "expansive" rural area makes it difficult

to add such infrastructure.

Coun. Clare Cameron noted much of NOTL is on the greenbelt and said she would never support infrastructure development in those areas.

"If we want to see lots of subdivisions on top of our specialty crop land, having municipal water and us as the public service paying for it is a great way to invite loads of development applications," Cameron said.

According to Ruller, tanker trucks are more reliable than alternatives, such as building cisterns throughout the town to draw water from. Plus tank-

ers are mobile.

The fire department currently has two tanker trucks each capable of holding 11,500 litres of water. The trucks are always full and ready to be dispatched to a fire. They dump their water into large holding containers which the pumper trucks then pull from.

The tanker trucks then go to the nearest fill site to get more water, Ruller told councillors.

It is a time costly but efficient system but it becomes exacerbated the farther a fire is from a fill zone.

Ruller pointed out a situation where, due to limited access to laneways and water supplies, the department would have to set up a series of portable ponds and relay water from pond to pond, almost 2,000 feet to the site of the fire.

"What we're essentially doing is creating our own water main system," he said.

This combination of elements makes tanker trucks essential for rural firefighting in NOTL.

Another concern for the department is the changing nature of buildings in rural areas.

"The increased use of synthetics and engineered building products has resulted in a dramatic change in heat release rates of fuels and in turn we require more water to extinguish" them, Ruller said.

Open-concept homes also require more water in a fire, the chief said.

"If you look back 50 or 60 years ago, more homes were compartmentalized and that helps limit fire spread. Now, most places are open concept," Ruller told The Lake Report.

In a closed room the smoke that a fire produces has a suffocating effect and can help put the fire out, he said. In open-concept homes, the flow of oxygen is readily available, so fires grow and spread faster.

"To simplify firefighting, it's gallons per minute against us. That's what we're trying to match and overcome," Ruller said.

The new tankers won't just mean increased fire security for residents, he said.

"Hopefully, our residents in the rural areas will be able to benefit from some insurance premium reductions," Ruller said.

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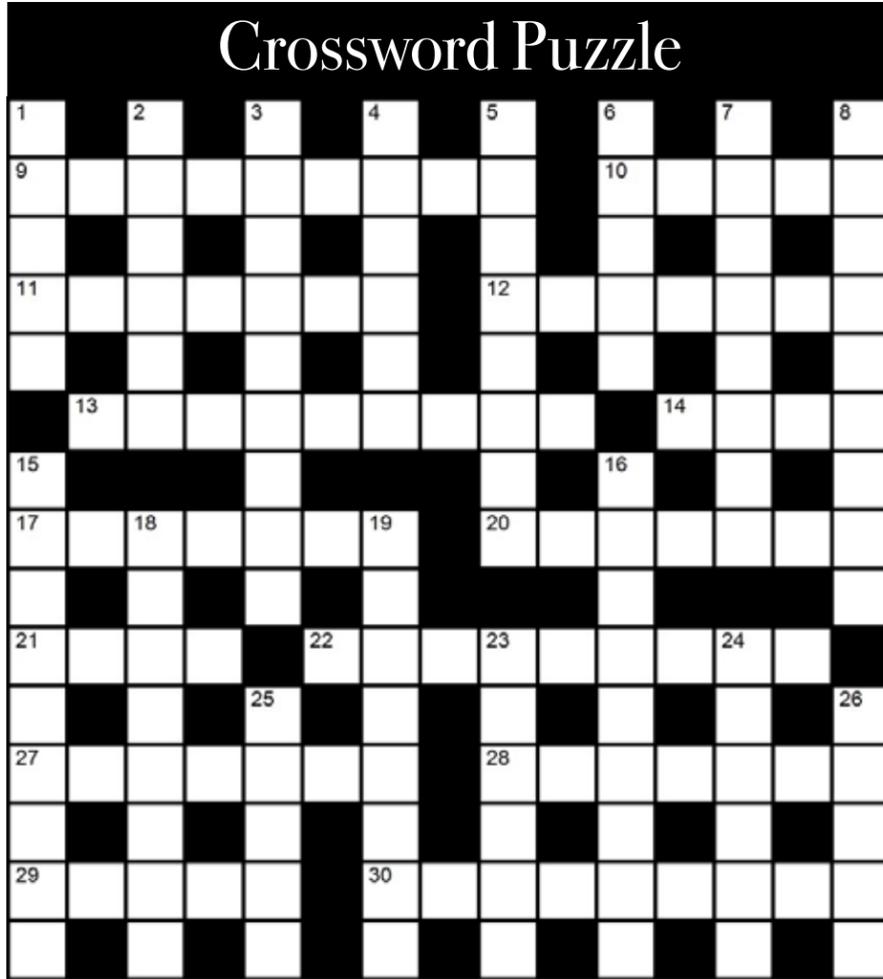
Have some fun

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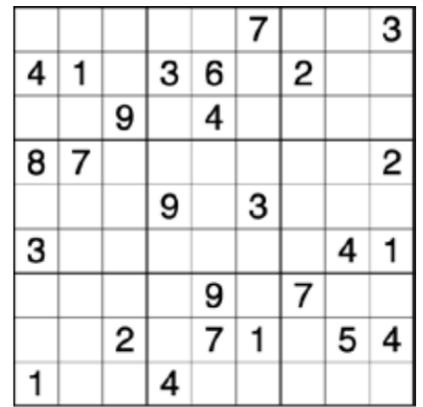
- 9. Strangle (9)
- 10. "Steady State" astronomer Sir Fred --- (5)
- 11. Creatures (7)
- 12. Senior Australian politician (7)
- 13. Deliberate destruction of property (9)
- 14. Career golfers (4)
- 17. Six legged creatures (7)
- 20. Superficial area (7)
- 21. Short death notice (4)
- 22. Not here (9)
- 27. Makes sorrowful (7)
- 28. Regulate (7)
- 29. Essentials (5)
- 30. Genuine (9)

Down

- 1. Dam across the Nile (5)
- 2. Second-largest continent (6)
- 3. Timidity (9)
- 4. Maiden (6)
- 5. Continues obstinately (8)
- 6. Ring (5)
- 7. Emotional outburst (8)
- 8. Downcast (9)
- 15. Luxurious car (9)
- 16. Northern Russian city (9)
- 18. Superficial (4-4)
- 19. Rep (8)
- 23. Stir to action (6)
- 24. Something unusual (6)
- 25. Animal (5)
- 26. Absence of light (5)



Last issue's answers



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FEATURED

NOTL ambassadors back on the streets

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's friendly mask ambassadors are set to hit the streets again July 9, in anticipation of summer crowds.

The ambassador program began in 2020 as a way to educate visitors about COVID-19 safety and offer a bit of guidance on what to do in town.

Volunteers from the Shaw Guild wear blue NOTL ambassador T-shirts and walk around Old Town's commercial district, kindly asking visitors to keep COVID safety in mind and to wear a mask if they can't physically distance.

"This summer we're going to do the same thing. We're actually going to start July 9 and hopefully go until December," said Cheryl Morris, who helps coordinate the project between the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Shaw Guild.



Mask ambassadors will be out on Queen Street starting July 9. FILE PHOTO

She said one thing learned from last year's program was the need for bilingual support.

"Especially French," Morris said. "A lot of visitors come from Quebec."

She said this year guild members who are bilingual or French Canadian will be helping out.

Volunteers also will be more directly on the main

street this year. Last year the ambassadors avoided the crowds on Queen Street because keeping a physical distance from people was difficult.

She said Shaw Guild members are eager to take part, as they haven't been able to volunteer for the Shaw since the pandemic began.

"It's great for the vol-

unteers," she said. "They haven't been able to support the Shaw this year, so it's great for them to give back to the community."

Ambassadors will be on the streets from Friday to Sunday in two shifts, from noon until 2 p.m. and 2 until 4 p.m.

"Residents appreciate it and it's just a really nice feature," Morris said.



The Strawberry Social in 2019. FILE PHOTO

Strawberry Social returns Monday

Staff
The Lake Report

Make sure your car is gassed up on Sunday night because the NOTL Strawberry Social returns on Monday, June 28, in a COVID-safe drive-thru format.

Residents aged 65 and over who registered can attend the event and receive their box of treats between 1 and 3 p.m. at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre.

"All of the participating residents will receive an individual box full of

baked treats, tea and, of course, strawberries," chief administrative officer Mar- nie Cluckie said during a council meeting Monday.

Besides the hundreds of seniors signing up to partake in the drive-thru, the town will also be delivering boxes to more than 200 residents of NOTL's long-term care communi- ties, Cluckie noted.

Deliveries will also be made to residents who signed up to receive them. Expect your box to be dropped off between 12:30 and 2 p.m. at the ad- dress provided to the town.

Dr. Brown: Celebrations, yes, but some cautionary COVID tales as well

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

A week ago the Sunday New York Times was in full celebration mode, festooned with plenty of photos of packed indoor and outdoor activities, open restaurants, bars and theatres, admittedly with some residual distancing and a few masks – but a declared victory nonetheless for a city devastated by COVID a year ago.

The same celebratory mood was evident elsewhere in the United States, even in some places still smarting from too many active cases and deaths.

Many had had enough of isolation, shuttered businesses, bleak roll calls of spiking cases and deaths and finger-wagging calls to get vaccinated.

Still, there were real victories: the numbers were coming down and half the country had received at least one shot. In Canada, although case numbers were still high, they were coming down and Canadians could be justly proud that most had received at least one shot. With more vaccine on hand, the number

of those completely vaccinated is climbing and younger age groups are now included.

But there were some canaries in the mine, which warned of trouble to come prompted by the appearance of new variants of concern. Early members included the U.K. (Alpha) variant, the Brazilian (Gamma) variant of which there are now at least two sub-variants, the South African (Beta) variant and, now, the Indian (Delta) variant of which there are now three sub-variants.

It wasn't so many weeks ago that horrendous images from India reminded the world what can happen when a health care system collapses for want of resources to corral a raging pandemic made much worse by crowding and shortages of health care staff, facilities, oxygen, drugs and vaccines, and especially, the appearance of the dangerous new Delta variant.

It turned out to be 60 per cent more transmissible than the U.K. variant, which itself was 50 per cent more transmissible than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. So infectious is this Delta variant,

that it's prevalence in Scotland and the U.K. surpassed its U.K. predecessor, which just months ago, fuelled the second gigantic waves in Europe, the U.K. and much of North America.

That's why getting as many people vaccinated as soon as possible is so important. Without a majority of the population fully vaccinated, we could be in real trouble with the Delta variants or others emerging, yet unknown in pandemic hotspots throughout much of the poor and undeveloped incubator regions of the world.

Just look at what's happening in Nepal these days. It's scary.

So far, we've been comparatively lucky because our vaccines appear to be effective against all known variants; although perhaps less so for the Beta and Delta variants, especially for those less capable of mounting effective enough immune responses to ward off severe enough infections to warrant hospitalization.

And the latter is really the important question because in the real world, what's important is protection

against moderate or severe infections, not neutralizing antibody levels, as interesting and important as such biological markers might be.

As of mid-June, there were at least 10 variants of known high risk. But, almost certainly, there are many more subvariants of known variants and many other brand new variants yet to be identified.

As I've pointed out before, this is an arms race between a virus that continues to mutate in millions of hosts worldwide and a defence that depends on highly successful, simple public health measures such as mask wearing, social distancing and restricting contacts to known bubbles, worldwide genomic intelligence to quickly identify and characterize emerging variants and monitor their spread, and vaccines to protect us from serious life-threatening disease.

By and large, given the magnitude of the challenge, we've done well, despite the opposition of some to those same public health measures, the reluctance of many to be vaccinated, vaccine shortages and spotty genomic surveil-

lance. Thank goodness for the United Kingdom's work on the last.

But before we take a victory lap, it's important to realize this battle isn't over by a long shot. Left to mutate out of control, recent history on this virus suggests that it's only a matter of time before variants evolve that are capable of evading our current vaccines.

Vaccine manufacturers such as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna and others, continue to track the evolution of the virus' genome, especially for worrisome variants.

Without too much trouble they can modify their current vaccines to keep them up-to-date and possibly introduce modified booster shots several months or possibly a year following the second shot. That makes a lot of sense to me.

The biggest success story of this pandemic has been the rapidity with which highly effective vaccines were developed using widely differing technologies in so many countries. If there were problems with the vaccines, they turned out to centre on scaling up production to

many millions of doses and figuring out the best way of equitably distributing available vaccines to those most in need, as quickly as possible.

COMING UP: "What Worked, What Didn't Work and What the Future Holds for the Pandemic" is the subject of the next Infohealth program on July 7 at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Plan to sign up with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library and bring your questions.

Here are a few from the Journal Nature to consider: How well do the vaccines work in the real world? How effective are the vaccines against variants? How long does protection against disease last? How much do vaccines block transmission? What have we learned about safety? What impact have the vaccines had on the course of the pandemic? What's long COVID about anyway?

More about that at Infohealth in September.

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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SALES REPRESENTATIVE



EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Wampum beads

June is national Indigenous History Month and in recognition of that here is an image of a collection of wampum beads at the NOTL Museum. Wampum beads were manufactured by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people in a difficult and painstaking process through which small, smooth, cylindrical beads were created out of shell. The beads vary in colour, from white to a dark purple-black, and each colour had a certain value attached to it, with the darker colours being more valuable. Contrary to popular belief, wampum was not used by the Haudenosaunee as a direct form of currency, but rather as a means of exchange or barter. The beads had many uses, including as a gift or as part of treaty negotiation. Wampum belts, which consist of many beads of varying colour strung together to form complex patterns, were an important diplomatic tool among native peoples and are considered the same as a treaty. Perhaps the best known of these is known as the Hiawatha Belt, which memorializes the Iroquois Great Law of Peace, which united the original five nations, later joined by the sixth, the Tuscaroras. The Great Law represents one of the earliest forms of diplomacy and has lasted far beyond modern treaties and alliances. Wampum belts, in various patterns, were also used to seal agreements with Europeans.

ARCHITEXT

Niagara's 'help houses'

Brian Marshall
Columnist



A Niagara "help house" with additions. BRIAN MARSHALL

The mechanization and consolidation of Canada's fruit and vegetable industry at the end of the 19th century transformed the farms and canneries of Niagara.

Where earlier farms were typically operated by the farm family and a few hired hands, the intensification generated by a much higher demand for produce created a significant labour shortage.

Very early in this cycle, farm operators drew upon the labour pool represented by the Haudenosaunee people of the Grand River. Entire families would migrate to the farms on the western shores of Lake Ontario in early May, returning to their homes in the autumn after the harvest.

When the Indigenous

labour pool proved to be insufficient, the industry turned to "imported" workers from Buffalo. Principally immigrant Italian and Polish women with their children and their husbands, who were commonly employed in factory jobs, they simply ignored the border in order to come for the work in the fields and canneries.

In the very racially stratified environment of early 20th-century Niagara, housing conditions for these workers were typically deplorable. The Indigenous workers might be allowed to set up an encampment or doss down in an empty barn, while imported workers could be provided a dirt floor shack of dubious weather tightness.

Between Indigenous and "imported" workers the labour requirement was met, but with the advent of World War I, its associated increased food production demands and reduction in the minority male (the majority being female workers) farm labour component, they once again faced a worker shortage.

Enter the provincial and federal governments with a program to recruit female university and senior high school students, teachers and young business women (or clerks) to step in and fill the gap. The women responded and quickly became commonly known as "farmerettes."

Now, this was an entirely

different proposition from what the industry was used to in terms of seasonal workers. These were women "of good class," "educated," of "good home training" and as such were not housed in a similar fashion to the Indigenous and imported workers.

During the war, the government provided housing and support (through the YWCA) for the farmerettes, but afterward the responsibility for their living accommodations fell back upon the individual farmers.

The answer came in the form of a relatively small, sturdily built house. Its main floor was devoted to kitchen and living space with a winder staircase leading up to dormitory-style sleeping accommodation on the second floor.

When the farmerette program dwindled after the Second World War, these "help houses" were occupied by migrant workers. Today, a few hardy survivors of this housing can still be seen; some empty, some buried inside additions and others still performing their original purpose.

Looking to the Stars

Neptune goes retrograde

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Lake Report

The week of June 24 through June 30 includes the full moon in Capricorn, Neptune going retrograde and Venus entering Leo.

Thursday, June 24: Today is the full moon with a sweet sextile to Jupiter. Most full moons in the past 10 years or so had a Pluto flavour. This is one of the most positive and constructive full moons of the year, so we need to make sure we take advantage of it. That means clear, strong feelings which need to be followed. On June 24, 1497, John Cabot (aka Giovanni Caboto) arrived in Canada and claimed it for England.

Friday, June 25: Today, Neptune goes retrograde. When a planet changes direction, we notice an intensification of themes connected to that planet. When Neptune goes retrograde, old memories, dreams, fantasies or longings resurface, asking us to deal with them. Let's say something happens to us but we can't really process it. This unprocessed thought or feeling eventually shows up in a dream. We get stuck in a problem and we can't seem to find a solution, but then suddenly, when we take a shower or go for a walk, the solution comes to us. Dreams, serendipities, unexpected encounters ... these are all the workings of Neptune.

Neptune may not be straightforward, but it does offer solutions. Pay attention to signs, dreams, unusual communication messages. June 25, 1876 was the day of Custer's Last Stand. The U.S. 7th Cavalry was wiped out by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse with Lakota and Cheyenne support at Little Big Horn in Montana.

Saturday, June 26: The energy of the full moon begins to wane as she moves from Capricorn to Aquarius this morning. Mars in Leo energizes activities bent on making life more enjoyable. On June 25, 1945, the charter for the United Nations was signed by

50 countries in San Francisco.
Sunday, June 27:

Today Venus enters Leo and starts applying a conjunction to Mars. Next month, we will have a beautiful Venus-Mars conjunction in the sign of Leo. This is the most joyful, romantic and creative aspect we can have, and perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of the year. More about Venus conjunct Mars soon. On this day in 1890, Canadian boxer George Dixon became the first Black world champion when he stopped English bantamweight champion Edwin "Nunc" Wallace in 18 rounds in London, England.

Monday, June 28: While it may take a bit of adjustment, an opportunity – romantic or financial (or both?) – presents itself. Born in South Africa, educated at Queen's University in Kingston, today rocket man and Mr. Tesla, Elon Musk, turns 60.

Tuesday, June 29: A mixed bag of activity in our solar system today brings challenges by way of confusing news and a surprise that is quietly comforting. It was June 29, 1613, that the Globe Theatre in London caught fire and burned to the ground. It was rebuilt but closed a few years later due to Puritans outlawing entertainment. It reopened again, a few years ago.

Wednesday, June 30: On the last day of the month, it seems eerily fitting that Neptune and the moon are together in Pisces and then an hour later, the moon moves from Pisces into the first sign of the zodiac – Aries. The day begins dreamily and ends energetically. Michael Schumacher's Formula 1 brother, Ralph, was born June 30, 1975.

Next, we get the third quarter moon on Canada Day and good news on the work and health fronts.

Obtain your personal birth chart including a forecast for the year ahead on Bill Auchterlonie's podcast at www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca.



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Obituaries

Paul Catling



CATLING, Paul- Suddenly, on June 16th, 2021 at the age of 79. Loving husband of Margaret for 46 years. Dear brother of Michael (Ruby) and Brother-in-law of Murray Boyer (Viivi). He will be missed by his niece, nephew, grand niece and nephews, and his many friends.

Paul was the founder of the Shakespeare Group, and President of the Charles Dickens Reading Group in NOTL, where upon he received an invitation in 2012 to meet the Queen at a reception held at Buckingham Palace. He was passionate about history and an avid stamp collector, and loved to travel. He was a long-time member of St. Vincent de Paul Church in NOTL.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Tuesday, June 22nd at 1 o'clock. Private interment with Rite of Committal followed on Wednesday. As an expression of sympathy, those who

wish may make a memorial donation to Covenant House.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Sam Kingdon



Kingdon, Sam (October 9, 1936 – June 18, 2021)

With great sadness we announce the passing of Sam Kingdon on June 18, 2021 after a brief and courageous struggle with cancer.

Sam was born in Peterborough, Ontario October 9, 1936 to Phyllis May Mann and Edward Stanley Kingdon.

In 1961 he married Pat (nee Alexander) in Grimsby, Ontario. On July 8, 2021 they would have celebrated 60 years together. He leaves sons Ted (Kelly), Richard along with Taylor & Ben, and Mark (Launa) along with Caedon and Calliope. He will be greatly missed by his brother Alin (Daina) on Lake Skugog and his sister in law, Joan of Ottawa and all of her extended family.

Sam attended College Militaire Royale (CMR) in St Jean, QC and RMC in Kingston, ON. He also completed his Civil Engineering Degree at UofT majoring in town

planning. He was fortunate to pursue his dream of flying with the RCAF and was initially posted to Maritime Command in Comox, BC.

In 1968 he left the Air Force to take a post at McGill University, responsible for Physical Resources and Business Operations, he advanced and retired as Associate Vice Principal. At McGill he took on many challenges, some of which were personal passions: the heritage renovation of Pollack Concert Hall, new construction of the book store, the Gault Estate at Mont Ste Hilaire, and the stewardship of the campus gardens and grounds.

Over the years he had some constants in his life: singing in the church choir, reading, gardening and, of course, bird watching. In retirement he devoted many hours in Perth to the church, the Rideau Valley Naturalists, and the Perth town heritage management board, and Inge Va. He also served as a Director of the RMC Foundation. Sam received three medals: Canadian decoration; Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal; Ontario Heritage Trust Certificate of Achievement.

Upon moving to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2013 his favourite activities continued, with gardening at the Shaw Festival grounds, choir at St Mark's Anglican Church, and the Royal Canadian Air cadet Committee.

Best of all, he loved family. He loved spending time with Pat, especially in their winter trips to St Simons Island, GA. He also loved spending time with his sons and his beloved grandchildren.

Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home. Cremation has taken place and, at a later date, there will be a private family celebration of life at St Mark's Anglican and a burial service at St Andrews Anglican, Grimsby, ON. Flowers are gratefully declined. Please support a charity for one of Sam's passions at your convenience. That would be gratefully appreciated.

Mimi McEwen, 82, owned Chautauqua's colourful Peake Inn

Shaun Devlin
Special to The Lake Report

Miriam "Mimi" McEwen, owner of the colourful Chautauqua home known as the Peake Inn, will be remembered by her many friends, relatives and acquaintances for her infectious laugh and her warm, outgoing personality.

She died on June 13 at the age of 82.

Mimi's great-grandfather Rev. Lewis C. Peake was the secretary of the Niagara Assembly and the managing director of the NOTL Chautauqua established in 1887. Lewis built his family one of the original Chautauqua cottages, located near Lansdowne Pond.

In 1919, Mimi's grandparents Charles and Edith Peake bought a separate Chautauqua cottage at 23 Vincent Ave. that had been built by a St. Catharines doctor.

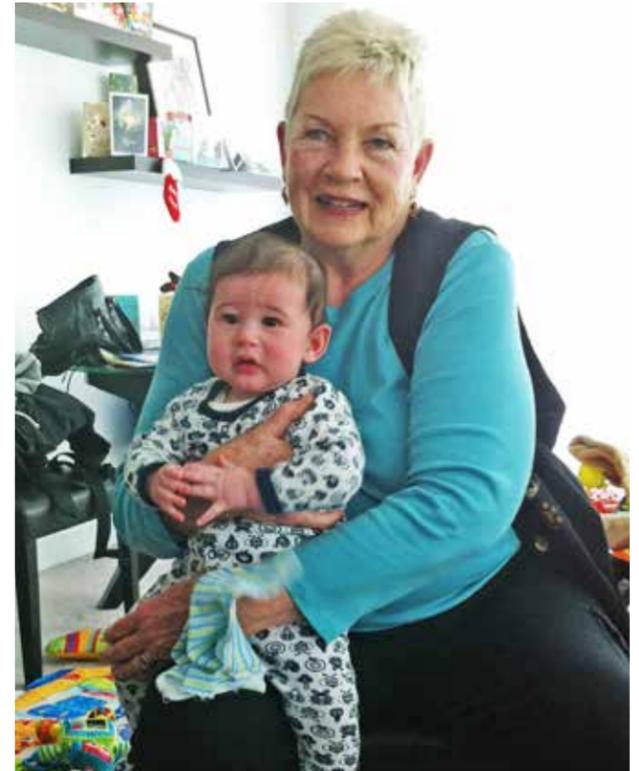
The cottage became known as the "Peake Inn" (although it has always been a residence.) The family has maintained a cottage log of events and visitors ever since.

Mimi and her sister Bonnie grew up in Toronto but spent their childhood summers at the cottage with their grandparents. As young girls, Mimi and Bonnie would head down the street to smoke "cigarettes" made from oak leaves wrapped in paper.

Her aunt was Margaret Peake Benton, the successful painter and writer. Benton apparently also fancied herself a singer, though others did not agree, and Mimi and her sister made fun of their aunt's efforts during recitals when she couldn't see them.

Their antics apparently were undetected, as Benton asked them once to sit for a portrait. Alas, the girls were too impatient to do so and missed their chance at artistic fame.

As teenagers, Mimi and Bonnie got jobs working at



Mimi McEwen and her grandson Samuel Jowett. SUPPLIED

Charlie Ledoux's along the Niagara River, and when not working spent their wages waterskiing on the river.

They had local boyfriends for the summer, but when September arrived, they said goodbye and went back to their boyfriends in Toronto.

Married at the Presbyterian church on Simcoe Street, Mimi lived and worked as a teacher in Toronto and elsewhere in Ontario, visiting NOTL over the years, until she retired in the mid-1990s and acquired the cottage from her mother.

She added a back kitchen, from which she could glimpse Lake Ontario, and a deck where she loved to entertain friends and relatives or sit with her dog enjoying nature.

She carefully maintained the look and feel of the cottage, including the original "Peake Inn" sign which on occasion she had to take down to avoid passersby asking to rent a room.

Mimi liked a good protest, especially if the cause was heritage preservation. She joined the NOTL Conservancy Society, where she helped with the efforts

to preserve the Willowbank estate and became a member of its board of directors.

She loved to travel, visiting and cruising in Europe many times. She also owned a camper van and she and her pet pooch drove south for the winter, often meeting up with a friend from NOTL who also had her own van.

She had many good friends in town and was active in the community, whether it was walking her dog (or sometimes dogs) to Ryerson Park, having dinner with friends or participating in one of the groups and organizations with which she was involved.

Her approach to life is best summed up by her son Adam, who said, "She loved NOTL so much and it was the place she most wanted to be."

"It was such a big part of her entire life and she was always sharing memories of her childhood there ... she so loved talking and laughing with everyone there," he said.

"Her laughter seems to be the common memory of most I've spoken with, and I couldn't ask for anything better."



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