



Clients blissful hair salons open | Page 11



## Anchored in for solstice

The Summer Solstice brought crowds, and boats, to Ryerson Park in Chautauqua to celebrate the longest day of the year and the start of the summer season. A powered paraglider also made a pass by, showing off some aerial tricks. RICHARD HARLEY



## Closing Queen Street not so easy: CAO

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

It's a mixed bag when it comes to opinions on closing Queen Street, Lord Mayor Betty Disero told council Monday.

There are a plethora of problems, including loss of parking revenue, traffic concerns because of the dead ends that would be created, access for tenants, shop owners and employees, as well as thousands of vehicles being pushed into residential areas.

Coun. Clare Cameron asked the status of emergency management group discussions about closing Queen Street, to find out how much time has been spent on the idea.

She said she's also been contacted by multiple people, who also have mixed opinions about closing the main way through Old Town.

"And on one side there seems to be some grave concern about it, on the other there's a lot of desire



There are a number of problems with closing Queen Street for pedestrian traffic only, the town says. JESSICA MAXWELL

for it," Cameron said, wondering how much the emergency control group, which is overseeing town operations during the pandemic, has discussed the issue.

Interim CAO Sheldon Randall said the idea is discussed every day, but one thing nobody can agree on is whether closing the street will benefit businesses.

"When talking to a lot of the businesses downtown, some say it will, some say it won't," he said.

He added that with 12,000 vehicles coming into town most weekends, the vehicles would be pushed

into residential neighbourhoods.

"Where are those cars going to go?" he said, noting the residential roads aren't designed for such heavy traffic.

"So if you live on Prideaux or Johnson, you're going to be bumper-to-bumper with cars now on your street."

The town also would lose parking fees, a major revenue source, he said.

Disero said the town would lose \$495,000 if it closed Queen Street from July to October, compared to 2019 revenues during

that time. Each parking spot brings in about \$12,000 from July to October.

Randal said other problems are:

- \* The dead ends created on streets perpendicular to Queen Street, which would be difficult for traffic to turn around on.

- \* Businesses losing access to deliveries, and customer and staff parking.

- \* Tenants on Queen Street not having access.

- \* Lack of accommodation for people and tenants with disabilities.

"So it's not as straight forward as people may think," Randall said. "There's a lot of things that need to be considered."

He said the town "doesn't have a firm handle" on who is renting on Queen Street.

They've been requesting help from the Chamber of Commerce, he said, but haven't heard back about it.

"We've been asking the Chamber over and over to get involved ... we're yet to

*Continued on Page 3*

## Town repeals freeze on urban development

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Town council has voted to repeal an interim control bylaw that restricted development within the urban area of Old Town.

The bylaw, passed on Dec. 5, 2018, in one of the first acts of the newly elected council, and extended on Nov. 11, 2019, has received criticism and sparked a legal battle with area developer Rainer Hummel of Hummel Properties.

The bylaw was enacted "to allow council to complete a comprehensive review of the town's official plan policies to determine the provision of appropriate development policies as required by the Planning Act," the town said in a media release announcing the cancellation.

"Staff look forward to once again working with developers to grow our community within the parameters outlined in the official



Town hall. FILE PHOTO

plan and in accordance with the town's strategic plan," stated interim chief administrator Sheldon Randall.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said, "We are a town with a rich historical foundation and a strong agricultural backbone, but we know there are also opportunities for compatible development."

"It is a balancing act, but town council and staff are committed to upholding those two truths."

The interim control bylaw restricting the use of all lands in the municipality for any cannabis-related lands use remains in place.



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# Deloitte report shows areas where town could **improve**

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is doing well in some areas, and under-performing in others, says a \$218,100 service review report presented to council Monday.

The 94-page report by consulting firm Deloitte was meant to address where the town is performing well and what areas it can improve, in all areas of administration, including services, staffing, spending, resident satisfaction and revenues.

The report recommended hiring somebody for procurement, reducing the number of town committees, potential revenues from trying to improve



Town council on livestream broadcast. SOURCED

water leakage, reviewing parking revenues and parking areas to bring in more revenue and increasing user fees.

“So the water, the user fees and the parking were how they believe we can increase revenue. And with respect to increased efficiency, they thought that this procurement person would be a good addition,”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in an interview.

“The rest are longer term objectives and council decided to wait until we have a new CAO before actually moving forward with the rest of the suggestions or recommendations.”

The town deferred the report until a permanent chief administrative officer is hired.

# Restaurants can expand patios on town parking spots – **for a price**

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

As part of its strategy to help restaurants recover from the COVID-19 shutdown, the town has allowed six restaurant patios to open on private property and has 12 permits still waiting to be approved.

Some of the patios opened Friday, including the Sandtrap Pub & Grill, Irish Harp Pub, Gate House and Fournos Restaurant.

Coun. Allan Bisback told council Monday night that he was on Queen Street a lot during the weekend and commended the town on getting patios open quickly.

Businesses requesting to expand into municipal parking spaces on the roadway are required to pay a fee equal to what the parking space would have generated in a full day.

Costs for parking spaces range between \$32.50 and \$37.50 per day.

“The breakdown for the typical model for cost recovery on paid parking is based on 100 per cent occupancy for the full day,” said town spokesperson Lauren Kruitbosch in response to questions from The Lake Report.



Arthur Janny, a manager at the Angel Inn, isn't happy about parking fees. RICHARD HARLEY

Kruitbosch said town staff suggested council only charge businesses half of the top daily rate, for a total of \$18.75 per day.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita said she has received a number of calls from businesses complaining about the fees for parking spaces. As of Monday, only one business had applied to use a town parking space, Kruitbosch said.

Cheropita proposed waiving the parking fees entirely until Sept. 30, given that the merchants have been hit hard by the ongoing pandemic.

However, her motion was defeated and council did not

agree to decrease the fees.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked if the emergency control group has considered letting businesses other than restaurants use extra space.

“They're also restricted and it seems to me we're not treating all of the business community the same,” he said.

Interim chief administrator Sheldon Randall said the emergency group is focused solely on restaurants because “they've been impacted the hardest through the COVID emergencies.”

“A lot of retailers had the opportunity to open up to customers prior to that, and again, restaurants not so much,” he said.

Burroughs questioned whether that can be rationalized to businesses that haven't been allowed to expand.

Randall said there's been some delay with permits for expansion onto municipal roads.

“We just want to make sure that anybody working on a municipal right-of-way, or near or on a road, are doing what they need to do to be sure everyone is safe, and it's a safe work site,” he said.

# Town imposes **600-metre** setback for large cannabis grow operations

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Cannabis operations larger than 10,000 square feet will now need to be at least 600 metres from

houses or other businesses, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors decided Monday.

The figure is double the original 300-metre setback approved at a

committee of the whole meeting last week.

The decision was almost unanimous, with only councillors Allan Bisback and Norm Arsenaault not supporting the setback.

# Emergency group to **remain** in charge

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will continue to take direction from its emergency control group for now, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

Having the emergency group in charge enables the town can act quickly and refocus staff efforts in case there is a second wave of COVID-19 in the community, Disero told council Monday night.

The emergency control group is comprised of the mayor, senior staff, members of the town's fire and emergency services department and others. The group oversees all town operations during the pandemic.

Coun. Clare Cameron asked about when the town's



Lord Mayor Betty Disero wants to see how reopening goes before disbanding the emergency group. RICHARD HARLEY

state of emergency might end and whether it would coincide with the province's plans.

Disero said she'd like to see how the opening phases work out. Operating under a state of emergency gives town leaders special powers to make some decisions without having to get council approval.

“I'm fearful that if we get rid of the state of emergency too quickly, that we won't be able to continue to redeploy staff as we see fit, because without the state

of emergency, we can't do that,” she said.

She said she's also interested to see if the number of COVID-19 cases rises.

“If that doesn't happen, then we will move as swiftly as we can,” she said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs has been vocal in saying he thinks council should be more involved in decision-making.

Disero said she's been bringing “more and more” decisions back to council.

“If it's something that needs to be made right

away, we do it and report it,” she said.

“But things like whether or not we make masks mandatory, or whether or not we're going to charge for parking for patios, those decisions I want council to make. I don't want to make those decisions myself,” she said.

Interim CAO Sheldon Randall agreed he didn't want the emergency group making those decisions either.

The emergency group has been in place since the town declared a state of emergency in March.

Disero said a document produced by the Chamber of Commerce on reopening the town will be brought to council next week, which will “help people understand how the town is opening up,” she said.

# NOTL sees **12,000** vehicles over weekend

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

More than 12,800 vehicles entered downtown NOTL this past weekend, according to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Interim CAO Sheldon Randall updated council with some numbers on Monday. He said on the weekend of June 6-7, the town recorded 12,690 vehicles entering Old Town, on June 13-14 there were 11,864 and last weekend there were 12,852.

Furthermore, he said that last week, from June 15 to 21, the public washrooms in Old Town were used by 9,088 people.

“They're getting well used. And I'm sure you can appreciate the amount of work that's required to keep

those washrooms clean, and that people are using them appropriately and physical distancing,” Randall said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she was downtown a lot during the weekend and noticed almost no one was wearing a mask on Queen Street.

“That was concerning to me,” she told council.

Disero said she's been getting plenty of letters from residents inquiring about making masks mandatory, but said she thinks that should be up to the region.

Town council also supported a letter from the Town of Fort Erie which asked the federal government to consider policies around mask-wearing when social distancing is not possible.

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**Wayne Gates** MPP Niagara Falls representing Niagara-on-the-Lake & Fort Erie  
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# Severed fawn head 'disturbing'

'Cut was clean,' says man who found deer's head on Victoria Street driveway

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report



Gordon Cutts outside his Victoria Street home.  
RICHARD HARLEY

Gordon Cutts woke up to a gruesome surprise on Sunday — something, likely somebody, had left a severed fawn head at the end of his driveway.

Cutts, a resident of Victoria Street, contacted The Lake Report after reporting the incident to police.

He said the scene left him disturbed.

When he went to remove it, he noticed the neck had been clean cut, indicating to him and the police officer who responded that it was not an animal that killed the young deer.

"This was a clean cut, and no drag marks, no blood," Cutts said.

He said the police officer also said it didn't appear to be the result of a vehicle or a coyote.

Cutts suspects the cut could have only been made by a human.

The fawn and its mother

had been seen in recent weeks by neighbours, eating plants in backyards.

"I came home the other week and there was a grown adult deer walking down the middle of the street. (It was) fascinating," Cutts said.

"I pulled up, watched it. People came out, were watching it eating people's hostas and flowers and they're all laughing and one lady said, 'Oh, yeah, it's been living in my backyard for a week and it just had a newborn,'" he said.

"Everybody thought it

was adorable."

Cutts said he checked with neighbours to ask them if they noticed the head.

One of his neighbours had left the house early in the morning for a bike ride and didn't notice it when they passed by at 8:30 a.m., but another neighbour saw it around 9:30 a.m., so he figures it was left there sometime in between.

"This is amateur detective work," he said.

He noted he doesn't think there would be any reason somebody would be targeting his house to leave dead

animal parts around.

He said he hopes letting people know about it raises more awareness that there might be somebody doing these kinds of things.

Cutts said he hasn't been sleeping well since.

"I had nightmares last night," he said Monday.

"I just love animals so much and to see that, even snapping turtles, I mean, they're ugly, nasty things. I see them on the side of the road I'll stop and I'll risk getting bitten to move them into the ditch so they don't get hit by a car. So imagine what a beautiful fawn does to you."

"It's disturbing to say the least," Cutts said.

A deer was also found drowned last Friday in Port Dalhousie with a rope tied to its hoof, the St. Catharines Standard reported.

The same story also mentioned a Niagara Falls resident had found the remains of three deer in the Niagara Gorge a week earlier.

## Heritage tax rebate approved by council

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

After a continuous push from business owners on Queen Street, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake now plans to establish a heritage tax rebate program.

The tax rebate is intended to help businesses in heritage buildings maintain the structures, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said during Monday's council meeting.

Council voted to form a working committee to start working on the plan, rather than hire a consultant as it had previously agreed to do.

Coun. Allan Bisback pointed out the issue has already been researched by the town and is almost ready to go, and the only reason it didn't happen earlier was the town did not want to fund it.

"It is time, it is close," he said.

However, Disero said there are still a lot of questions that need answered, such as:

- Will the rebate be available to all of NOTL or just the Heritage District?
- Which buildings will be eligible?
- What is the percentage of the tax rebate?
- Will the rebate be on just the commercial parts of buildings or residential too?
- How does the town ensure people paying the tax are the ones getting the rebate, and what goes into those agreements?
- What are the penalties if owners don't live up to the agreement?
- Does the town need to put an easement on the property?
- Where the money is going to come from?

## Queen Street closure not so simple: CAO

*Continued from Front Page*

hear back from them," he said.

Disero said she spent "a lot of time down on Queen Street" during the week and observed that people were mainly just strolling, and questioned if people would make the effort to walk to the shops if Queen Street was open for walking.

However, she said she's still looking at the idea of closing a portion of some

side streets off of Queen Street and putting picnic tables in.

"There's been a lot of discussion going on."

A lot of retailers on Queen are worried their regular customers won't come if the street is closed, Disero said.

Randall said he thinks the businesses need to be involved, so they can decide if it will be good for them, as well as the residents who live in the area.

## Town pushing for high speed internet in rural areas

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Town of NOTL is pushing to get high speed internet to rural areas.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the town is currently

requesting funding to subsidize work to install broadband lines in areas where it normally wouldn't be profitable to do so.

Niagara Regional Broadband Network will also be involved, she said.



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A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default (July 1, 2020) and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, **payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date.**

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. **If you have not received your tax notice, please contact the Finance division at 905-468-3266 to ensure that your correct mailing address, including PO Box, is on file.**

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## TLR

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Contributed by **Patty Garriock**  
 "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." – Theodore Roosevelt.



Contributed by **Norm Arsenault:**  
 Reduce electricity costs by cleaning the coils on the back of your refrigerator; change incandescent bulbs to CFLs or LEDs; plug small appliances in a smart power strip that can be turned off; turn off computers, TV's, VCRs, PVRs...all use passive power that is wasted.

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## Editorial: Plenty to celebrate

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

This year we will mark Canada Day like no other July 1 in recent memory.

In the COVID-19 era, here in Niagara-on-the-Lake there will be no cake parade through the streets, no party at Simcoe Park, no Rotary Club barbecue, among just a few of the traditions we have come to know and love.

But let's all find a way, in our own families, in our "bubbles," maybe in our neighbourhoods, to break out the red and white to celebrate July 1, in a safe, physically and socially distant manner.

So raise a cheer to Canada and to some noteworthy

NOTL accomplishments as well. Here's to a few of the many who deserve kudos:

\* **Norm Arsenault**, the NOTL councillor, who organized a hugely successful campaign to get NOTLers to fly the flag of NOTL.

\* The grassroots organizers of the recent **anti-racism rally** and march in Old Town. They are shining a light on an aspect of society that is stuck in a bygone era and needs to change. Their work is just beginning.

\* The **Heritage District Merchants Group**, for pushing hard to convince the Town of NOTL to help struggling small businesses that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

\* NOTL's numerous res-

**taurants and wineries**, for continually embracing innovation and finding ways to operate safely and responsibly.

\* The friends and fans of the **Sandtrap Pub & Grill**, for coming together one day last week and building a new outdoor patio in the parking lot of one of NOTL's favourite watering holes.

\* The **Town of NOTL**, for striving to keep residents' health and safety paramount.

\* The **NOTL Public Library**, for devising an innovative and creative program to keep kids reading over the summer.

\* The **Rotary Club**, for raising a remarkable \$50,000 in April to aid

the global fight against COVID.

\* The **Migrant Workers Alliance for Change**, for highlighting the complaints of migrant workers during the pandemic. And to **Erwin Wiens**, a town councillor and farmer, for pledging to help any farm workers who speak out about problems. Next, we look forward to both the alliance and Wiens following through to help anyone whose rights have been violated.

\* Friends and parishioners of **St. Mark's Anglican Church** who gathered 30 cartons of food and \$3,500 in donations for the Newark Neighbours food bank.

editor@niagaranow.com



## Rotary raised \$50,000 for global COVID fight

Dear editor:

In April, the NOTL Rotary Club chose to support Doctors Without Borders in the global fight against COVID-19. We've stepped up and wish to say thank you, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Thank you for sharing

with those facing COVID-19 in the beleaguered refugee camps of Bangladesh and the slums of Lima, Peru, and in countries where health care systems have collapsed and communities are too poor to provide hygiene or minimal safety.

Health care heroes of

Doctors Without Borders risk everything to save lives, give dignity, treasure each human right to health, to just have that chance.

Doctors Without Borders is at work in 78 countries hardest hit by COVID-19. And you helped — the funds we raised provide

care, hygiene and life-saving equipment, and you've got doctors into the field.

In April, NOTL Rotary Club raised more than \$50,000 to help those in need.

Thank you!  
**Rotary Club  
 of Niagara-on-the-Lake**

## Unanswered questions about migrant workers' treatment

Dear editor:

In your June 10 article, "Report accuses farmers of exploiting migrant workers," the reader is left with several questions unanswered.

In this article, NOTL town councillor Erwin Wiens made blanket statements regarding workers' safety, such as: "Every worker is being contacted on a daily basis to ensure that they are safe," "We're making sure that (protocols) are being followed," and "We're making sure that everything's fine."

Who is Mr. Wiens referring to as "we"? Is he really contacting every worker?

Is the reader to actually assume that Mr. Wiens, on behalf of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, has personally undertaken the logistics of a multilingual call centre and tracing unit to serve as a watchdog for the rights and working conditions of hundreds of migrant workers? What clarifying question was posed to Mr. Wiens as to how this operation is being executed?

Furthermore, if Mr. Wiens is personally taking time "to follow up with some growers just to make sure that everything's fine," how many growers did he visit? Which growers?

What assessment or evaluation was done to render an outcome that deemed all complaints and grievances to be "fine"? Which growers didn't he visit? Oh wait, but I thought he was visiting every worker — isn't that all growers?

Why instead didn't Mr. Wiens or The Lake Report speak with the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change? Didn't they already undertake this work and write a 28-page report about it? Where is Mr. Wiens' report?

And finally, the reported sentiments that "migrant workers have the same rights as anyone else living

in Canada," is a blatantly false statement.

Publishing such a statement unchallenged only endorses the racist system of vulnerabilities and conditions that migrant workers must endure, including the threat of deportation. COVID-19 has amplified the severity of these issues. This is precisely why there is a movement to demand permanent residency status for all migrant workers.

My hope, dear editor, is that you provide answers to these questions. Your readers shouldn't have to do the journalism for you.

**Andrea Conte  
 NOTL**

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# OPINION

## Thanks for help distributing NOTL flags

Dear editor:  
This past weekend I had the pleasure of working with an incredible group of volunteers who came forward to help me distribute our NOTL flags.

They all showed up at 8 a.m. and helped set up our tents, tables, traffic cones, etc., and even put up with my bossiness.

Everything went smoothly with the pickups and enthusiasm was evident with all the customers who showed up over a three-hour period. A sincere thanks to all of them.

For those who may have missed the pick up time on Saturday, please email me at notlflagpride@gmail.com to arrange a suitable pick up time. I should mention that we do not have any more flags available.

So to begin with, I need to thank my wife Diane, who was more than patient with the amount of time I spent



Cadets Ryan London and Shay Vidal help councillors Norm Arsenault and Allan Bisback distribute Niagara-on-the-Lake flags on Saturday. JESSICA MAXWELL

on this project.

As always she was very supportive of what I was trying to accomplish which was to boost residents' morale a bit during the COVID-19 shutdown and to show our resiliency and pride by flying our flag alongside our national flag on Canada Day – and everyday.

Second, sincere thanks to town staff Dan Maksenuk,

Kevin Turcotte and Sheldon Randall for assisting with equipment, supplies, food and access to the NOTL Community Centre.

Last, but not least, and in no particular order, my colleagues Coun. Al Bisback, Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, Cory Abt and his wife Kim, Donna Barrick, and, of course, the following cadets; Emily Abt, Spencer

Abt, James Couroux, William Couroux (809 alumnus), Ethan Lett, Ryan London and Shay Vidal. All proceeds from the sale of the flags goes to support the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron.

I could not have done it without you.

**Norm Arsenault**  
Councillor  
Town of NOTL

## Snowbirds could hurt Trump's re-election bid

Dear editor:  
Florida has long been recognized as a must-win battleground state to win the U.S. presidency and synonymous with the importance of a win is the health of the state's economy.

Remember Jim Carville, nicknamed "The Ragin

Cajun," the campaign manager and chief strategist for Bill Clinton, and his famous quote, "It's the economy, stupid."

Accordingly, the Florida and Arizona (another closely contested state) economies will be negatively impacted to the tune of billions upon billions

of dollars by the severe drop in snowbird tourism. Florida has a higher concentration of snowbirds than any other state.

Canadians, as are residents of other world countries, are viewing staycations as a safer vacation option, as is evident by the skyrocketing RV sales and

rentals. Canadians may have the last laugh at President Donald Trump in November for his attempt to strong-arm the 3M company from shipping masks to Canada during a critical phase in the COVID-19 crisis.

**Samuel Young**  
NOTL

## Why won't McCormack speak to media?

Dear editor:  
As a NOTL resident and journalist, I am dismayed by Coun. Stuart McCormack's inexplicable refusal to speak to the media.

He is an elected official, accountable to the citizenry.

In any democracy, the

media play a vital role in keeping those in power answerable for their actions and decisions.

The councillor's disdain for local media is an affront to fundamental democratic principles. He has not explained why he refuses to engage with

journalists and boasts that he doesn't even bother to read any local papers.

How can an elected official be uninterested in what is happening in his own town, and not want to hear the voices of its residents as reflected in those papers?

Why does Mr. McCormack want to be a councillor if he has no interest in communicating with the people who elected him?

He owes us all an explanation, through the media.

**Jim Handman**  
Virgil

## 'Devasted' Ford has gutted protections for vulnerable

Dear editor:  
Perhaps you have spared yourself the ordeal of daily news presentations.

Then you have not seen the public face of Premier Doug Ford who is "devastated" by the virus rampage in our long-term care homes, the ones he had excused

from unannounced and rigorous inspections.

Coincidentally, he is gutting the human rights tribunal system and reduced by half the number of Landlord and Tenant Act adjudicators, designed as a "last defence against avarice, caprice, and malice." The social

benefits tribunal adjudicators also have been halved, from 22 to 11.

The court system is too slow and too expensive for those in desperate need of help in their pursuit of justice. Thus the tribunals.

We hear that the coronavirus is a game changer, that

it has exposed the systemic injustices inflicted on the vulnerable many by the entitled few.

Are we, as a consequence, on the threshold of long needed reforms?

Clearly, not in Ontario.

**David Lailey**  
NOTL



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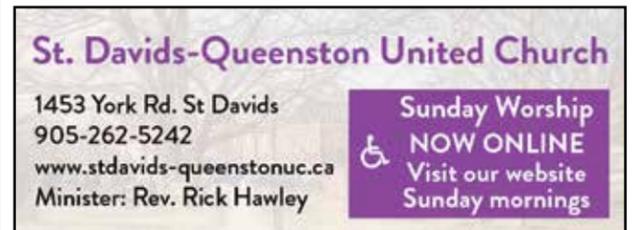
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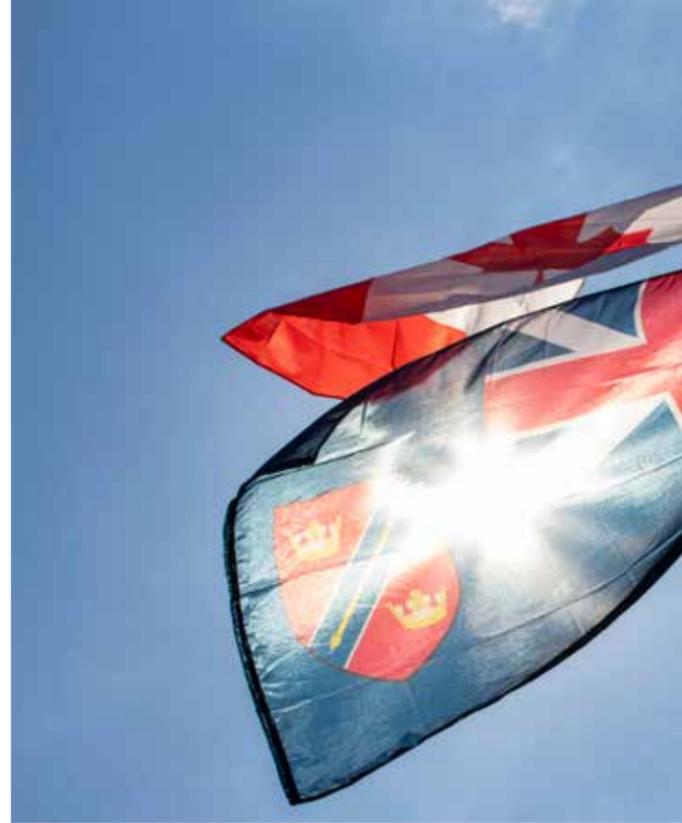
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The NOTL flag flies at the DeLorme household. SUPPLIED



Doug McCulloch and his dog Spice with the new flag flying proudly at the front of his house. SUPPLIED



Stephen Lowe's NOTL flag flies at his home along the Niagara Pa



Mike Carruthers' flag in The Village. SUPPLIED



The NOTL flag flies on Bayberry Lane. JESSICA MAXWELL



NOTL flag flies on Circle Street in Chautauqua. JESSICA MAXWELL

# #NOTL

## Niagara-on-the-Lake pop up all

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Last Week: You can hold me, fill me, but you can't pour me. I am needed to live but can be broken. What am I?

Answer: Your heart

Answered first by: Janice Hall

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Susan Hamilton, Sylvia Wiens, Carol Durling, Sheryl Christensen, Sheila Meloche, Lynda Collet, Kieran Jones, Katie Reimer, Gary Davis, Margie Enns

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

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arkway. NOTE: This is improper flag use, the government says.



Jack Shrubbs and his NOTL flag. SUPPLIED



NOTL flag at the Davidson residence on Read Road.



NOTL flag on Butler Street. JESSICA MAXWELL

# Lproud

he-Lake flags  
over town

## How to fly the Canadian flag

Many people might not know there are rules about how to fly a Canadian flag, but according to the government of Canada, there are.

“The National Flag of Canada should always be flown on its own mast or flag pole; flag protocol states that it is improper to fly two or more flags on the same mast or flag pole (for example, one beneath the other),” says the governments “rules for flying the national flag of Canada.”



The NOTL flag flies on John and Mississagua streets. JESSICA MAXWELL

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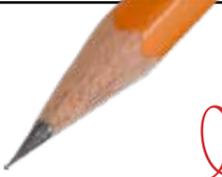


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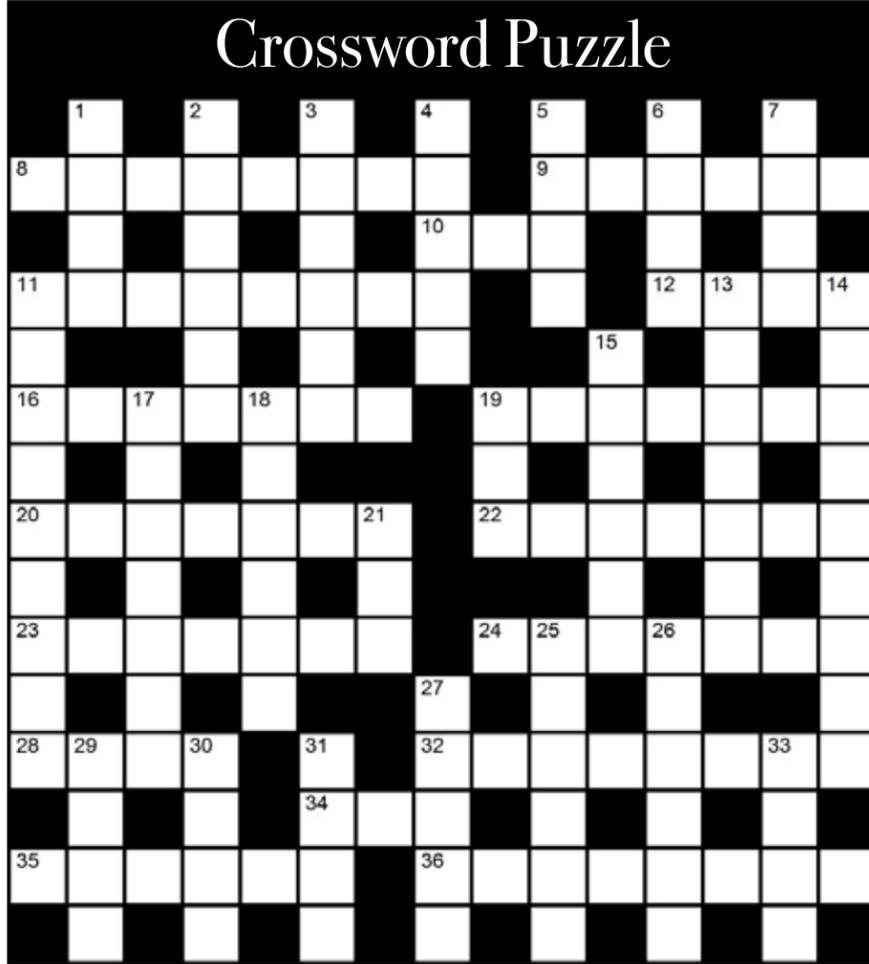
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers.  
editor@niagaranow.com

**Across**

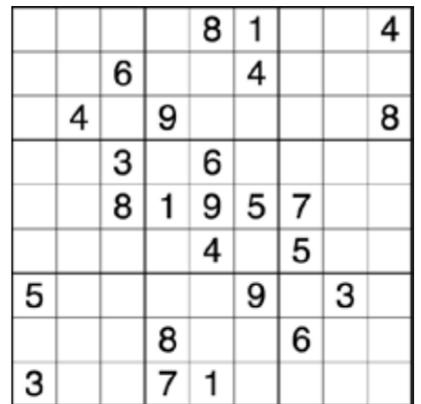
- 8. Bucharest resident, for example (8)
- 9. To an excessive degree (6)
- 10. Company known as "Big Blue" (1,1,1)
- 11. Hearty Sunday lunch (3,5)
- 12. Fan blade (4)
- 16. Mobs (7)
- 19. Close-cropped hair style (4,3)
- 20. Solvent (7)
- 22. Before sunrise (7)
- 23. Piled carelessly (2,1,4)
- 24. As good as it gets (7)
- 28. Scotch partner (4)
- 32. Flattened (8)
- 34. Hard, durable wood (3)
- 35. Seller (6)
- 36. Science of heredity (8)

**Down**

- 1. Game played on horseback (4)
- 2. Capital of Croatia (6)
- 3. He asked "What is truth?" (6)
- 4. One (5)
- 5. Knock (4)
- 6. Very detailed picture receiver (1-1,2)
- 7. Scheme (4)
- 11. Pictures of people (9)
- 13. Applaud (7)
- 14. Twisted into a confusing mass (9)
- 15. Command (6)
- 17. Pepper (7)
- 18. Morning assemblies (6)
- 19. Drinking vessel (3)
- 21. Salesperson (3)
- 25. Nosedive (6)
- 26. Cracked (6)
- 27. Wonky (5)
- 29. Singles (4)
- 30. Assistant (4)
- 31. Tender (4)
- 33. Apiece (4)



Last issue's answers



MEDIUM

# Legion preparing to reopen

Jessica Maxwell  
The Lake Report

Volunteers are working to provide a safe space for Legion members to enjoy camaraderie and a cold drink on a patio.

Royal Canadian Legion branch 124 in Niagara-on-the-Lake is planning to reopen for members starting July 2.

Outdoor patio service will operate Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 3 to 8 p.m.

It's not known yet when the Legion's popular Thursday night fish fry will resume.

Reopening the doors at the Legion, "is not really an economic gesture we're making," said Beth Black, the ladies auxiliary president, bar steward and an associate member.

"We're trying to accommodate the members and give them a safe place

to come and say hi from a distance."

Black said the priority is maintaining as safe an environment as possible for the members, many of whom are seniors.

Upon arrival, members will be required to follow original Legion rules of signing in themselves and their guests as well as maintaining responsibility for their guests, ensuring they are following protocol.

Reopening for patio service is, "a gesture we're making on behalf of our members," Black said.

"It's a privilege, right now, not a right, to open."

The use of masks is recommended but not mandatory.

"We're a volunteer corps," she said. "We don't want to put anybody at risk."

Black said members have been great helping to take care of the property during



The fish fry at the Legion is still closed, but members are working on ways to reopen safely. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

the pandemic shutdown and helping to prepare to open July 2.

"It's been a real team effort in here," she said, "trying to keep our distances, doing only what we

had to and caring for our families. We're all volunteers in here."

"We're looking forward to it," she said. "Drink specials and seeing some friendly faces."



Happy  
Canada Day!  
NiagaraLake

Happy Canada Day from the Council and Staff of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake! This year's celebrations may look different than years prior, but we hope you are able to enjoy the day with the people you love.

When out in public, please remember to maintain a safe physical distance of 6 feet (2 metres) whenever possible from anyone with whom you do not reside or anyone outside of your social circle. If this is not possible, consider wearing a mask.

Stay safe out there! #StaySafeNOTL #StaySafeNiagara

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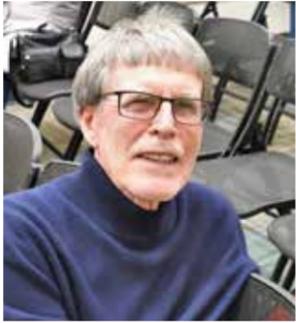
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# Dr. Brown: We need to be wary of future waves of COVID-19



Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the Info-health series held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

From the beginning in China six to seven months ago, COVID-19 spread like a series of viral wildfires throughout the world, infecting, as of late last week, nine million and killing 450,000 – numbers that surely are underestimates.

Airborne and contact spread, this novel coronavirus proved to be highly transmissible and hit a world with no natural immunity – the perfect storm – made worse by the fact that, unlike its earlier cousin SARS, patients infected by COVID-19 shed the virus freely for up to two weeks before they developed symptoms, or perhaps none at all.

The results have been catastrophic as the virus cuts swaths through communities, countries and

continents, and in the process shut down or hobbled economies, including the world's strongest and costing millions their jobs.

Those countries and jurisdictions that were most successful in stemming the tide of the initial surge were those that early on, instituted strict travel, quarantine and social distancing regulations and offered widely available testing for the virus. That was the recipe for success.

Unfortunately for well-healed and developed health care systems, such as several European countries and the United States, the guidelines were implemented too late and with mixed messages from political and health care experts.

And the cost of “too late” action and mixed messaging was horrific, especially for long-term care facilities – 80 per cent of the deaths in Ontario and Quebec were in long-term care.

That was phase 1 – flattening the curve by social distancing, isolation where necessary and ramping up testing for the virus.

Now with fair weather upon us, the strong urge to get out and mingle with others, opening up of more and more businesses and the sense among many, that the worst is over – the question is, what's next? Is the worst over? Is it safe now or is this the quiet before the storm of successive waves?

Remember the worst of the great influenza

pandemic of 1918 for the United States was not the first wave but the second wave, when U.S. troops returned home.

Remember, of Canada's population of 38 million, only 100,000 have been infected so far. Even, if the latter figure is a gross underestimate, the estimate falls well short of the number of Canadians as yet unexposed to the virus.

That means a lot of Canadians would be at risk should there be another round of the pandemic and nowhere near the 60 to 70 per cent of the population with naturally acquired immunity to the virus needed to provide herd immunity.

And this presumes that any naturally acquired immunity would be both effective and long lasting. Unfortunately, we don't know whether one or the other or both are true.

We do know that naturally acquired immunity to those corona strains responsible for the common cold is short and as short as two years or less for the vaccine against the SARS. That's not encouraging.

But, hopefully, one or more effective and long-lasting vaccines will be available by early next year and if we're really lucky, as early as this fall, if the Oxford vaccine pans out.

Failing an effective vaccine this summer and fall, what's likely to happen? By my calculations there will be recur-

ring waves of the pandemic – beginning as early as August or September in the wake of a return to “social life as usual” in the summer months, especially if everyone succumbs to summer happy-hours and social events without distancing and groups begin to congregate in the usual summer fashion with no awareness of the risk to themselves or others.

That certainly holds true for large groups such as festivals, theatres and busy restaurants but it also applies to garden parties. Just look at the rebound in cases and deaths in several states following the recent opening up in the United States.

So, my advice for the coming months, especially to those of my generation, is to behave as you have in the last few months about social distancing in a town such as Niagara-on-the-Lake, which is likely to see big weekend spikes in visitors, most of whom will not be distancing.

A good friend passed on a very good video clip from the CBC highlighting the views of Dr. Gabriel Leung, the dean of medicine at Hong Kong University and, incidentally, a graduate of Harvard University and our very own Western University. Listen to him and you may be worried, as I am about the coming months. <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1754026563683>

## SPORTS: Doubles tennis returns to NOTL courts



Derrick Penman serving. KEVIN MACLEAN

Larry Mantle  
Special to The Lake Report

The season's first doubles matches were played this week at the NOTL Tennis Club, with players strictly adhering to the Ontario Tennis Association's return to play stage 2 and public health guidelines.

Previously only singles play was allowed, under

stage 1 guidelines as part of the COVID-19 recovery plan.

On Tuesday, players followed safety protocols that included: entering the courts via the front gate, exiting via the rear gate, playing on one court only, crossing the nets on different sides, maintaining two metres safe distancing at all times on the courts and grounds, serving

only with the server's balls, returning out-of-play balls to the server with racquet contact only and liberal use of hand sanitizer.

Some very cautious players wore disposable gloves. Despite all the restrictions and some longer-than-normal hairdos, everyone enjoyed getting back to near-normal. And the rain held off.



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# Pushing through troubled waters

## Jet boats prepared to salvage what's left of summer season

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

While the Whirlpool jet boats are literally built for turbulent waters, the COVID-19 pandemic has the company worried about keeping its head above water.

John Kinney, owner of Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours, said the global pandemic has caused a major rift in the company's season, and they're still not permitted to open until July at the earliest.

"Transport Canada unilaterally suspended the operating certificate of every passenger vessel in Canada and at present they're contemplating reinstating our licences as of July 1."

He said even with the plans to open in July, there are major risks that come with that.

One of the problems with getting back to business is the sheer cost of putting the boats in the water, which happened Wednesday.

Between trucking boats from Virgil to Queenston, hiring expensive cranes to get the boats and docks into the water, annual certifications from Transport Canada and other annual fees like radio licences, raft recertification and training, it leaves the company vulnerable, should the government tighten emergency protocols again.

"Our fear this year is that we go through all those things, and let's say as of July 1 we are operational, but let's say two weeks later COVID cases spike, and they come back and say, 'Oh, sorry, boys, you know, just not working out the way that we hoped. So, shut her down again,' and then we have to incur all of those costs again to decommission ourselves. And yet, we've not only not had the April, May, June revenue, but then we don't have anything to go along with it."

On top of the already long list of challenges, new sanitization measures are going to be tougher than ever. For a passenger vessel company, it means new technology to clean boats quickly, clean-

ing lifejackets, and screening visitors for potential symptoms of the virus.

"We've obviously had to adopt a complete COVID protocol that really starts when somebody arrives at our property," Kinney said.

The process starts on land, where they must social distance for registration and get suited up in lifejackets, and continues to the boats, which must be sanitized.

For the boats, he said the company is investing in "fogging equipment" which can cover the entire craft.

"This is something that you're going to see a lot in hallways and elevators and places where you can't physically wipe. You know, a 54-passenger jet boat, you can't wipe every one of those surfaces down in between departures. So that's why we've adopted this fogging equipment," Kinney said.

"The list goes on and on. We are working with the local health department to ensure that any water droplets that go onto a person, that there's protective equipment issued between face shields and splash suits that would prevent COVID transmission. Obviously something we've never had to deal with in the last 29 years," Kinney said.

He pointed out "all this does is add to costs."

"None of this goes to the revenue side whatsoever. And so we're purchasing fogging equipment, which puts a sanitizing fogging solution over the boats and over the equipment and whatnot."

Kinney said even when the tour company is open again, global travel is going to have a severe impact on it, as 90 per cent of business comes from the United States, Europe and Asia.

"We will not be able to do what we do based on domestic business from Ontario and the rest of Canada," he said. "So, it's a huge, huge challenge."

Right now there are no federal incentives specific to passenger vessel operators.

"This includes ourselves, includes Hornblower, the dinner cruise boats in To-



Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours owner John Kinney.  
RICHARD HARLEY

ronto, ferry boats that take you out to Toronto Island, B.C. ferries — it's all Transport Canada. And at this moment in time, with the exception of the CEWS program for wage subsidies and those programs, which, of course we've taken advantage of, there hasn't been any specific program from the federal government," he said.

"Obviously Transport Canada is a federal agency, not provincial. But there hasn't been anything where it says, 'Hey, since we shut you down, and haven't told you when you're going to be able to start again, we're going to do something for you to cover your costs.' No, that has not happened."

He said he "wouldn't say no" to some assistance for tour operators.

"If Transport Canada or the federal government wanted to throw some cash our way here, goodness knows, I wouldn't argue with that."

What he's more concerned about is the classification of a non-essential business.

"It's not essential to everyone except the people that get their paycheque there," he said.

"But if you're a florist and that's how you pay your mortgage and put your kids through university, it's a pretty damn essential business."

He points out his company usually hires about 125 people during a season, with 22 full-time employees.

"We have a wide variety of employees, from well beyond boat captains and crew members that operate the

boats. We have diesel mechanics, we have aluminum welders, we have sales and marketing people, we have accountants, we have guest services people that manage our reservation systems," Kinney said.

And to them, their work is essential, "because it's essential for them to support themselves and their families."

He said it's still unclear whether they will be able to open for the season.

"We really have a very truncated season here," so if Transport Canada pushes the reopening to mid-July, "now we're really compromised and we really are gonna have to think long and hard about whether or not it does justify even attempting to operate."

He said no matter what happens, it's going to be a long recovery — longer than in other years when things changed dramatically in the world, such as after 9/11.

"And even as completely world changing as 9/11 was, the 2002 tourism season was a fantastic year ... because travel wasn't impacted, the way we do business wasn't impacted, and that recovery was able to happen quickly. This is not going to be that way. This is going to be a very long recovery."

Despite the challenges, Kinney says he thinks the company will survive.

"We think we're going to make it through this but, you know, we — nobody — really knows," he said.

"Like so many other businesses, it's just so, so challenging to operate."

### Obituary

## David Waller



David died peacefully at home on June 14th surrounded by his family.

He was the beloved husband, partner and best friend of Barbara for 50 years. He will be sorely missed by his children Alison (Sasha), Ian (Christine),

brother John and family and grandchildren Kieran, Stevan, Nikola, Sean, Daisha and Luke as well as his many friends.

David was born in 1946 in London, England. His working life in England was with the UK Civil Service. David and his family moved to Canada in 1979 where he worked with several organizations ending his working career with the Toronto Stock Exchange.

On retirement David moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake where he enjoyed singing with the Evergreen Singers community choir and Grace United Church choir. He also enjoyed golfing with his son, Wednesday pub nights, walks with the Bruce Trail club, Friday walks with the Wanderers, and the camaraderie of the Niagara Men's book club.

David was a kind, considerate man loved by all.

He cared deeply for his children — his favourite saying to them was "safety first." When asked by friends how he was, he usually replied "all the better for seeing you."

David was also blessed with a quick wit and a warm sense of humour which was appreciated at many gatherings of friends and family.

David would want his friends and family to come together for a celebration of life at a future date when conditions permit.

Donations can be made in his name to Prostate Cancer Canada.



## St. Mark's helps Newark Neighbours

A small team of St. Mark's Church parishioners and friends collected some 30 large cartons of food and house-keeping items and over \$3,500 in cash donations to support Newark Neighbours, a local food bank serving the needs of Niagara-on-the-Lake families. 65 donor families participated. From left, outside the building, are food drivers: Ben Buholtz, Jodey Porter, Larry and Joan Bourk, Syme Jago, Adrian Goldberg and Kathy Taylor. Receiving the donations, on behalf of Newark Neighbours are: Suzanne Bailiant and Jayme Swanwick. According to Swanwick: "This food drive will keep our shelves stocked for many weeks." (Tim Taylor)

  
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# Pedal Pub anxious to get rolling

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report



Pedal Pub owners Fernando Colavecchia and Tony Visca. FILE/DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

NOTL Pedal Pub is anxious to get rolling again, after Niagara Region said it wouldn't approve the operation of the vehicle on regional roads.

The region is looking for town comment on the issue before a decision is made about how the Pedal Pub will operate.

"It's sort of like a speak now or forever hold your peace kind of deal," Lord Mayor Betty Disero told council Monday.

Tony Visca, owner of Pedal Pub, presented possible routes for council to endorse.

One route goes through the Old Town, while the other goes through Garrison Village and back to Mary Street, stopping at some wineries on Niagara Stone Road.

The Old Town route was the most popular in 2019, the first year of operation,

with 1,500 groups taking the tour.

Visca said though the bike isn't a motorized vehicle, the company does its best to operate as if it was.

He said there was some concern about volume of songs, so the company has lowered the volume in residential areas.

The Pedal Pub has brought about \$50,000 in revenue to area businesses, by way of cost-per-guest payments, he said.

That's not including the amount of money people are spending while at the wineries, which Visca estimated to be about another \$25,000.

Coun. Clare Cameron asked how the company would ensure social distancing.

Visca said the seating would be limited to 10 instead of 15 people and riders would have the option to wear a mask or a shield.

He added the bike requires at least eight people to pedal it.

Disero asked whether provincial orders during the pandemic even allow the bike to operate, but interim CAO Sheldon Randall said he didn't know.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked if there were problems getting down Queen Street, creating traffic jams but Visca said the bike pulls over if there's traffic behind it.

Visca said there hasn't even been a "close call" on the routes so far.

Disero asked the Pedal Pub to not start operating on Sundays before noon.

She said she hears "We Are The Champions" eight times a day, as she lives close to the Pedal Pub's headquarters — not close enough to declare a conflict of interest though, she said.

A motion by Burroughs referred the presentation to staff so they can report back to council later.

# Clients blissful as salons finally reopen

Jessica Maxwell  
The Lake Report



Sandra Cocetti, Bliss Aveda Salon owner, cuts a client's hair on Tuesday. JESSICA MAXWELL

After months of uncertainty, stylists and clients of Bliss Aveda Salon in Virgil are happy to reintroduce a sense of normality to their routine.

"It was great to see some of the faces back in and seeing the salon full again," said Sandra Cocetti, master stylist and owner of Bliss.

Salons like hers across Niagara have been permitted to reopen in stage 2 of the pandemic recovery.

Clients on the first day of reopening on June 23 included Ruth Denyer, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, who said, "I could hardly wait. It was like coming back home when I came back in here again."

"This is normal and that's what we want is normal, right?" she said. "As normal as it can be."

"I think I'm one of Sandra's original 10 clients," Denyer said.

"So I've been here for probably about 20 years. You don't give up that kind

of relationship," she said, "I completely trust them."

Cocetti said the first client she had in her chair literally burst into tears and, "she said you know now it just feels that bit of normality coming back into her every day."

"It just puts a smile on everyone's face when they get their hair taken care of, they feel complete," she said. "It's a really good rejuvenating, revitalizing experience for them."

With proper procedures in place, like masks, face shields and spacing out

appointments, it hasn't been too challenging adjusting to the new normal, she said.

"We've always been a by-appointment salon," she said, "so we really just communicated individually with the client and just ask what their needs and wants were."

Full services are available to clients at Bliss and stylists are making an effort to personalize each appointment so that everyone is comfortable, Cocetti said.

"Some clients will have to wait a little longer, but

at least if they wait longer, they'll get the full service and it'll be worth the wait," she said.

"A lot of clients were quite happy with that." "I'm sure people are happy to get back in the salon chair and even just the sense of normality that comes with it," Cocetti said.

As operations at the salon resume, the focus is on trying to keep everyone safe. "For ourselves, my team and for the guests," Cocetti said, "and to make it that clients feel comfortable coming in with our new norm."



The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is pleased to announce the continuation of its summer day camp program. While camp will look and run differently than previous years, Staff are excited to welcome campers back to a fun-filled summer camp schedule for children ages 6-12.

Our camp strives to provide children with a safe and inclusive camp experience in which they can meet new friends and participate in a variety of activities, including cooperative games, sports, arts & crafts, science experiments, and outdoor adventures.

Visit [notl.com](http://notl.com) for more information or to register online.



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# #UNIGNORABLE issues are hurting our community.



**United Way  
Niagara**

Issues like poverty and social isolation are easy to ignore when you can't see them. Unfortunately it took a pandemic to bring these critical social issues to the forefront.

United Way works to tackle #UNIGNORABLE issues in Niagara, investing in programs that provide real solutions to local problems.

## THE ISSUES:



### SOCIAL ISOLATION

**1 in 5** people in Niagara experienced some form of social isolation before the pandemic hit. The numbers have increased significantly. The absence of belonging and connection can have serious physical, mental and emotional consequences.

People who are socially isolated are at a higher risk of developing health problems, slipping into poverty and experiencing a higher rate of mental health challenges and mortality. Last year, United Way investments helped **64,695** individuals connect to their community.



### POVERTY

The most recent statistics state **1 in 7** people in Niagara live in poverty. The recent spike in unemployment suggests this number could be much higher now. Poverty refers to the lack of resources to provide necessities of life - food, water, shelter and clothing. It leaves individuals and families vulnerable to problems beyond the lack of basic necessities. The impacts of poverty on a community are far reaching and devastating. Last year, United Way investments helped **37,263** individuals living in poverty improve their situations.



### FOOD SECURITY

Over **50,000** local people struggle to afford healthy food. The pandemic amplified food insecurity across our region. The struggle to make ends meet is a source of tremendous stress and anxiety, often making it difficult to focus on anything else. When forced to choose between healthy food or paying rent, shelter becomes the priority. With the rising costs of living and sudden spike in unemployment, more people are forced to make these difficult choices. Last year, United Way investments helped **37,159** people feed their families.



### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**1 in 4** women are said to experience domestic violence in their lives. With the order to stay home, women were cut off from their support systems and forced into lockdown with their abusers. The trauma of family violence creates long-term repercussions for survivors and their children. United Way invests in programs for women and their families to access emergency safe shelters and safety planning programs amongst other supports. Last year, these investments helped **5,449** women and their families break the cycle of violence.



### MENTAL ILLNESS

Mental illness affects **1 in 5** people in Niagara. Poor mental health can have detrimental effects on our lives. Social isolation, poverty and a lack of accessible services make it even more difficult for people to get the mental health support they need. While it is normal to feel anxious while we deal with the effects of this pandemic, people living with mental illness may be finding it especially difficult to cope. More support is critically needed. United Way investments helped **43,511** individuals and families improve their mental health last year.



### HOMELESSNESS

The last point-in-time count showed 625 individuals were homeless at a given time in Niagara. This number does not include the invisible homeless or those living in unsuitable or precarious housing situations. Housing plays a critical role in providing the stability individuals and families need to thrive. When families don't have stable housing, their risk of struggling with poor health outcomes and material hardships, such as food insecurity, increases substantially. Last year, United Way investments helped **3,257** people secure and maintain housing.

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