

The Lake Report

Canada Day essay
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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



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Niagara-on-the-Lake's first independent newspaper

June 27, 2019



The Thorold Pipe Band performs at Ryerson Park during Scottish celebrations on Saturday. RICHARD HARLEY

Spectacular sunset for Scottish festivities in 'Chautauqua-by-the-Lake'

Richard Harley
Editor

Ryerson Park was slowly painted plaid Saturday night, as the Piping Down the Sun celebration drew a crowd of about 150

people, many dressed in tartan kilts and Celtic dresses.

The event was a celebration of all things Scottish, says Ross Robinson, a Chautauqua resident who helped plan the evening.

"For the second year, Piping Down the Sun was an event that was fabulous. You can feel everybody pulling for it to be perfect. It's a wonderful neighbourhood event in Chautauqua-by-the-Lake."

The festivities kicked off with a performance by the Thorold Pipe Band, which marched through the park, followed by dancing and remarks from Robinson, Alan Dickson, incoming president of St. Andrews

Society, and Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

Sentinel Carriages donated a carriage, which Robinson turned into a last-minute "R-r-raptors bandwagon."

Robinson said it was ap-

propriate after all the hype for the Raptors leading up to their NBA championship win.

"I laughed all last month after watching everyone —

Continued on Page 9

Great War remembered at Fort George

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

First World War re-enactors and vintage aircraft paid tribute to veterans during "Fort George in the Great War: A WW1 Commemoration" last weekend in NOTL.

The two-day event brought re-enactors from all

over North America to the national historic site, on the grounds of what was once Camp Niagara, an active training ground for Canadian, American and Polish troops during the First World War.

Peter Martin, special events co-ordinator at Fort George,

Continued on Page 3



Ashley Creed helped rebuild this First World War ambulance with her late grandfather. BRITTANY CARTER

Strawberry Fest a big jam-bouree

Richard Harley
Editor

The Strawberry Festival took over St. Andrew's church for the 36th year on Saturday. As is local tradition, there was a long line for homemade Strawberry pies in the morning, with pies selling out quickly after opening.



Lynn Lingard serves up strawberry crepes.

Find a gallery of photos on Page 14.

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NOTL Kinsmen's sign victim of **hit-and-run**, for a second time

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen Club is looking for the person who damaged the club's sign last week.

The sign was "completely destroyed" for the second time in the past six months after somebody drove over it, said Bob Forbes, the club's president. His wife got a text message from a relative last Thursday asking if they knew the sign, which was located near the intersection at King and Mary street, had been hit.

A Buick emblem was found lying on the ground afterward the culprit might have been driving a small SUV, said Forbes.

"Maybe somebody will feel guilty (and come forward)... That's what we're hoping for," Forbes told The Lake Report.

Last December, somebody also ran over the sign but police never found who did it, he said. The Kinsmen moved the sign to what they thought was a safer location but now, a



Bob Forbes, president of the NOTL Kinsmen Club, stands next to the club's damaged sign. It was run over by a car last week. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

month and a half later, it's been hit again.

"This is just bad luck for us," Forbes said. "To move it way over here and still get run over ... We're glad nobody was hurt."

Replacing the sign will

cost about \$5,400 and the club has \$1,000 insurance deductible, said Forbes.

After Martin Mazza, owner of the Italian Pizza and Subs in Virgil, noticed the ruined sign last week and wrote a Facebook post

about it, people started to donate money to help pay for the sign.

"They're the quiet service club. They don't go around promoting themselves. They just volunteer and they're a good bunch of guys,"

Mazza said in a phone interview. "They're very quiet, very humble."

The community's response has been "really positive," Mazza said. As of Wednesday, June 26, almost \$700 had been donated.

It's going to take two months to build a new sign from scratch but it most likely will be installed at the same spot, Forbes said.

"Luckily, nobody was hurt," he said. "The only thing we were thinking we could do is use a big steel post so if they hit it, they can't drive away. But then we're afraid somebody will get hurt."

Police are investigating the incident and witnesses are encouraged to contact police, said Stephanie Sabourin, a media relations specialist for Niagara Regional Police.

"Officers are continuing to seek out video surveillance footage in relation to this matter," Sabourin said in an email to The Lake Report.

Anyone wanting to donate money to the NOTL Kinsmen Club can contact Forbes at 905-360-0455.

Lake water high, no immediate threat

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The water levels in Lake Ontario seem to be levelling off, a Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake official says.

"(The levels) are fluctuating an inch right now, up and down," said Brett Ruck, the town's manager of environmental services. "But we're staying pretty status quo, I would say, on average right now."

As of Monday, June 24, the water was at 75.80 metres, he said.

Earlier this spring, the water level in Lake Ontario passed the 2017 record of 75.75 metres.

The town took measures to protect residents from flooding by placing sandbags and flood protection bladders along the dock area as well as installing fencing along the bladders.

"Those bags, everything that's out there right now, is protecting us from the high water," Ruck told The Lake Report. "And we're comfortable that everything is good so far."

The **Grove Farm Shop** to open in old Fruit Shack location

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The Fruit Shack lives again.

Well, sort of. Chef Charlie Clowes and her husband Steven Wharton are launching the Grove Farm Shop on the site of the Pohorly family's much-loved Fruit Shack on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil.

"We're not the Fruit Shack but we're hoping to pick up very similarly from where the Fruit Shack left off," said Clowes.

Easing toward semi-retirement, the Pohorly family closed the Fruit Shack this past winter after 16 years of operation, but maintains its

50-acre farming operation.

"We won't have their butter tarts – we know everybody wants their butter tarts – but we will have butter tarts," Clowes said in an interview. "We're going to bring in the best of Niagara. We've got a couple of different bakeries that we're working with so we'll have great butter tarts in-store."

But they're also going to have a petition at the Grove to try to convince Steve Pohorly to bring back his famous butter tarts.

Like its predecessor, the new operation is a family-run business, with Clowes and Wharton, plus her dad Phil, sister Sam and a staff whom they consider family.

"I think the reason the Pohorly family chose us to come into their space is that we share the same values and we share the same mission as a business," Clowes said. "And we want to support the local farms as well. So we're still going to be carrying all the local farm produce that we can get."

And anything that the Pohorlys produce on their farm, including their peaches, will be available at the Grove. In addition, they'll have all the organic, antibiotic-free and hormone-free meats that the Fruit Shack carried, Clowes said.

The Grove will also offer a lot of the latest modern culinary sous vide-ready

products, "because that's very much what we do in line with the restaurant that we have at Silversmith (Brewery)."

The shop will also carry a wide variety of baked goods, she said.

Clowes, known by many for Ello Guv'na, the British food truck she used to operate around Niagara, has also been chef at Silversmith's Mason restaurant for the past two years.

"So, anything you eat at Silversmith has come from us," she said. And that will continue.

The Grove plans to open in early July.

Additionally, last week their business, Clowes &



Steven Wharton and his wife, chef Charlie Clowes, at the 1Awards sponsored by First Ontario Credit Union. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Co., was one of the firms honoured at the 1Awards from First Ontario Credit Union.

The family enterprise won a grand prize of about \$50,000 in cash and in-kind services. "We were recognized for our mission of being great employers,

collaborative business partners and supporting local all-round," Clowes said.

"Clowes & Co. sounds like a big corporation, but in actual fact we're tiny, we're family-operated, we just wanted to do things in the most professional way to truly help us grow."



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Planes from the Great War Flying Museum put on a demonstration Sunday in the skies over NOTL. BRITTANY CARTER

Re-enactors, vintage planes steal the show at Fort George



Left: Re-enactors feign shooting down a plane as they fly over Fort George on Sunday. Right: Kathleen Manneke, Debra Turrall and Niamh Koch, re-enactors of the Canadian Army Medical Care WW1 Nursing Sisters. BRITTANY CARTER



Continued from Front Page

said the re-enactors really brought the event together. "They really go above and beyond. They're passionate about what they do and it shows," Martin said. After closing on Saturday, Martin said employees of the fort hosted a private movie night social as a thank you to the re-enactors for their hard work. "It's just something small we do. Everyone seems to enjoy it," he added. The fort worked alongside re-enactors to develop the

program for the weekend, Martin said. Ashley Creed, event coordinator at Rouge National Urban Park, was on scene showcasing the First World War vintage M1918 army ambulance she rebuilt with her grandfather, Len Rolls. Together Creed and her grandfather worked on the vehicle, toiling away until it was completed. Her grandfather has since died, but she carries on with the ambulance, showcasing it whenever she can. She has taken it on tour across central and eastern Canada,

visiting 12 national historic sites along the way. "Still driven by the desire to educate and inspire remembrance, but even moreso by the desire to spend quality time learning from and bonding with my grandfather," Creed said in a write-up about the story behind the ambulance. Another highlight of the weekend was the airshow. Flying above the fort, four planes from the Great War Flying Museum near Brampton put on a show for spectators below. Martin said just one of

the war plane museum's planes didn't make it out, the Fokker DVII wasn't available on Saturday. But three biplanes, a Sopwith 1-1/2 Strutter, Royal Aircraft Factory SE5a, Nieuport 28 and a Fokker Dr. 1 triplane (aka the Red Baron), all made an appearance during the event. Martin said it was a nice change to put on the First World War event. "We're always an 1812 site, that's what we do here. Once a year we want to be able to honour the veterans of the Great War," Martin added.



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Go Green Tip of the Week

When shopping anywhere, consider using re-usable bags instead of plastic. Great Britain's Royal Statistical Society estimates that 90.5 per cent of all plastic ever created has never been recycled!

Positive Power +

By Patty Garriock

Cherish yesterday,
dream tomorrow,
live today.



We welcome
your letters

Editorial

Some new ideas, big and small

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

One of the great joys of working in journalism is that often, it's not really work at all. Oh, it's long hours, constant deadlines and tough slogging sometimes to get "the story," but moreover, it's fun, invigorating and seldom dull.

When I was in the daily news business, people would often wonder how we dealt with the stress and strain of deadline pressure. My answer: as with anything in life, you adapt, stay positive and learn to go with the flow. Like the old Lego mantra, journalism is "A new toy every day" – encountering new, fascinating people and telling the stories of the individuals and events of our community.

That's one of the things we strive for at The Lake Report: bringing you stories about your friends, neighbours and the great town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Another thing we strive to do is tell stories you won't find anywhere else, and I hope as you look through our pages each week in print and online, you see that philosophy reflected.

This week we are pleased to introduce the first of a number of new features, some big, some very tiny, that we hope you will enjoy and embrace.

We have talked a lot about positivity on this page in recent weeks and now we are introducing what is without a doubt the smallest item in the entire paper. NOTL resident Patty Garriock is probably the most positive person I've ever met. Whenever something negative happens, she seems to be able to find the silver

lining. About three months ago, she suggested we should publish a regular "positive" message to in a small way balance some of the negativity of everyday life.

So, if you look in the bottom left corner of this page, you will find the first instalment of Positive

Power +. It is a simple compendium of affirmative thoughts that Patty and her able assistant Bill Garriock have come up with.

Another new item is a weekly environmental tip, courtesy Norm Arsenault, who also happens to be a member of town council. It is right above Positive Power +.

My old Toronto Star colleague Jack Lakey established the hugely popular Fixer column about 15 years

ago (inspired by a similar project by a U.S. paper).

Well, that has inspired us to launch Fix It, the NOTL version. As I wrote in the tagline for the first column: Is something broken or in need of attention in your neighbourhood? Tell us about it. But you must include your full name and contact information. No anonymous complaints will be entertained. Email FixIt@niagaranow.com.

No promises of success, but we will consider every submission.

And finally, there's The Great NOTL Summer Walkabout, which kicks off, suitably, with the annual Laura Secord Walk. This summer-long series will bring you stories of interesting people, places and things our reporters encounter in our community. Some will be familiar, some offbeat, occasionally even a bit odd. We hope you will enjoy them.

editor@niagaranow.com



Tired? Yes, **but** I'm inspired to be better



Brittany Carter
OPINION

I've been inspired – and I've been quick to tell anyone who will listen.

Working that hustle, I'm the first one to complain of being tired.

In fact, in some circles, if I haven't alluded in one form or another to my higher-than-average level of exhaustion, I'll be questioned about it. It's gotten

to that point of expectancy in my conversations – and I hate it.

To be fair I am busy.

I'm a mother of two (very active) young girls, a wife, I work full-time writing for this wonderful paper, and I've held onto a part-time bartending gig in Niagara Falls just for the fun of it.

I incorporate as much time running and practising yoga as I can squeeze into my schedule.

Trying to stay on top of maintaining a house, a family and a career-and-a-half would certainly exhaust most anyone. So sure, I feel a little justified when I respond to questions of "How are you?" with, "I'm tired."

But that's a cop-out.

After meeting the incredible Sheila Hirsch-Kalm I was inspired. I spent the

afternoon walking her gorgeous gardens and listening to her even more fascinating life story. She's lived a full life and, more than that, she's not willing to lay it all down yet.

Where some might say to themselves, "I've battled cancer, I've lived 83 years, I've travelled the world – it's time to slow down," Sheila says – "I'll rest when I'm dead."

She's not about to let anything slow her down.

So, in that vein and with her inspiration behind me, I vow to respond to questions of how I've been with more thought and more deliberation.

Sure, we're all busy. What would life be without those schedules keeping us on track? We can all do better and all I ask is instead of

simply responding with "I'm busy" or "I'm tired," pause to think about how wonderful it is to get to be busy.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a vibrant, bustling community.

It wouldn't be the incredible place it is without the inspiring people or the hard workers who keep it going. Appreciate the hard work, appreciate the schedule and appreciate the life you have.

Yes, I'm busy and yes, I'm tired. But I'm happy and thankful I get to meet the people I do through this job and humbled by the inspiration of so many, like Sheila.

So, from now on – I'll say, "I'm wonderfully happy and grateful" – instead of that "I'm tired" we've all grown so accustomed to hearing. I urge you do the same.

Happy Canada Day from
your community paper

The
Lake Report

OPINION

A Canada Day essay Love and acceptance of our differences



Colin Brezicki met this Iranian family in NOTL on Canada Day last year. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Colin Brezicki
Special to The Lake Report

Four months away from a federal election and immigration is again a burning issue.

With all our challenges — climate change, a history of genocide, economic instability — we still lock horns over who gets to live here.

Niagara-on-the-Lake recently witnessed a brief hate campaign against immigrants that was commendably defused by the town's counter messages of welcome.

Our prime minister believes welcoming new arrivals isn't enough and that Canadians "need to talk about love and acceptance." I was reminded of Christ when he — Jesus, not Justin — also told his followers to love their neighbour.

"Who is my neighbour?" asked one listener. A good question, which Jesus answered with the parable of the good Samaritan. A man travelling to Jericho is attacked and left for dead at the roadside. A couple of passersby take no notice, but a third stops to help him. Go and do likewise, He said.

He didn't add qualifiers. Nothing about questioning the mugged traveller first to see if his belief system was acceptable.

Same with Justin. Love everyone of whatever race,

creed and values. Just do it. Or at least, say you do.

Ticking the box is easy enough, but when it comes to putting theory into practice a special kind of person is needed.

Like a saint. What if I'm asked to love unconditionally a xenophobe, or a misogynist, a homophobe, anti-Semite or Islamophobe? How about an opponent of the carbon tax and a lover of pipelines?

Then there are proliferators and those who resist the progressive sex-ed. curriculum in our primary schools, and others who aren't dog-lovers.

The trouble with loving everyone is that when you scratch the surface you find some aren't all that lovable any more.

Philosopher Edmund Burke believed that as imperfect human beings, we find it impossible to live by top-down universal rights and freedoms, and international pieties that say all you need is love, though such things are easy enough to sing about.

Burke believed such easy mantras can lead to a zealous righteousness and even fanaticism.

Neither a saint nor a zealot myself, I'm more comfortable with ordinary people.

I met some on Canada Day last year. At a roadside,

like in the parable.

My mother and I were picnicking at a secluded spot by the Niagara River, when two minivans pulled in. Two Middle Eastern families emerged from their vehicles, carrying blankets and picnic baskets. I could see Mum wasn't pleased by the invasion — there were suddenly a lot of people around us.

One of the party approached and asked, smiling, "Can we share your picnic place? We will go elsewhere if you want."

We had no claim to the spot and they were being polite.

"Please join us," I replied.

"There's plenty of room." They thanked us and spread their blankets. Eventually, the man reached over to hand us a full paper plate and a drink each. "Iranian food, I hope you like it."

We accepted his offering and thanked him. I enjoy Middle Eastern food, though the yogurt soda was an acquired taste. We exchanged small talk for a while and then let them get on with it.

Before we left I asked if I could take a photo. They mugged for the camera and shouted "Happy Canada Day" as I took the picture.

I didn't know them, nor did they know me. We didn't exchange views on politics or religion. It

might have spoiled the day. Instead, respectful of our presumed differences, we shared pleasantries on a small patch of grass.

"Diversity Is Our Strength," a political platitude, wasn't what I felt that day. Civility was more like it, a bonding, despite differences.

Diversity is a given. Civility is how we make it a strength.

I think of Canada as a mosaic, a picture composed of many disparate pieces requiring an adhesive. Our civility is that adhesive, a willingness to accept differences, especially the ones we might not love — like the belief that abortion is murder, women are subordinate and must dress to a code, gender is non-negotiable.

We live amidst cultures that determine who the children can marry, or what medical treatment they may receive, or whether women can go out to work. There's nothing illegal here — it's not hate speech, or sexual abuse — but while I can't love such values, I respect another's prerogative to have them.

Neither do I love all my neighbours, but I know who they are. I found them at the roadside, not beaten or robbed, thank God, only asking to share a patch of ground.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mennonite church discriminates against gays and lesbians

Dear editor:

In the article, "The Mennonites' long road to Virgil," published on June 13, The Lake Report celebrates the history of the Niagara United Mennonite Church in Virgil.

If gay and lesbian people were a race, the Mennonite religion would be called racist. If gay and lesbian people were a people of colour, Mennonites would be called spreaders of hate.

This religion actively discriminates and promotes discrimination against LGBT people, claiming that they are deviants against the will of God, that they are sinners, and that they will go to hell when they die. I call this hate.

As a man in my 60s, I have been persecuted my entire life for being gay. I have had decades of my life destroyed by heterosexual society.

Organizations such as the Mennonite and Catholic churches continue this perverse practice today, having only fairly recently been put under some control by the Supreme Court and the laws of Canada.

There does exist a small

number of individual Mennonite congregations in Canada that are at least somewhat supportive of the LGBT community. However, I have been unable to find any mention of homosexuality on the Niagara United Mennonite Church website, <https://redbrick-church.ca/>.

The Mennonite Church of Canada seems to have removed almost any mention of homosexuality from its website.

Wikipedia, on its website List of Christian denominations affirming LGBT, omits the Mennonite denomination.

On its website list of Christian denominational positions on homosexuality, Wikipedia states, "... Mennonite Church Canada denominations work with the Supportive Communities Network to support the small proportion of congregations that include openly gay members" and "It must be noted that a vast majority of conservative Mennonite churches which practice conservative values (such as head coverings and modest dress) completely forbid homosexual marriage. In



John Boydell. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA/FILE PHOTO

these churches and also in their conferences, homosexuality is seen as sinful. Homosexual marriage is seen as a sin and against the biblical teaching of a marriage between one man and one woman."

To paraphrase Paul W. Bogner in a letter in the June 18, online edition of the Globe and Mail, the essence of heterosexual privilege is not recognizing it. Bigotry isn't necessarily a conscious choice to be mean to a certain people.

A bigoted society can exist despite its citizens being of goodwill.

While I am sure The Lake Report has not made a conscious decision to promote discrimination against gays and lesbians, with this article, that's exactly what it does.

I do not celebrate the presence of the Mennonite church in my community, but in fact abhor it.

Sincerely,
John Boydell
St. Davids

Federal money goes to research, not directly to grape growers

Dear editor:

Re: the June 20 article, "Federal money helps growers cultivate virus-free vines," published in The Lake Report:

I just wished to comment that, in general, when residents read that federal money is helping grape growers, they often assume the growers are getting funding.

This is certainly not the case.

I would like to point out that this money is being spent strictly on research in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

The benefit to the grape growers is that if virus-free vines can be established, the grape growers in the aforementioned provinces could be eligible to purchase these vines at regular vine prices or possibly at a higher price due to research and development.

There may be some growers in each province who will be lucky enough to plant these vines at no cost to them before they are released to other grape growers.

However, it could also be risky for them if red blotch disease is still present in the released vines.

We, as growers, thank the government for giving research money toward this project, but would like to make it clear that we derive no monetary benefit. And there are many of us growers who have this disease in our vineyards.

For the most part, the grapes from these diseased vines cannot be sold to a winery unless you actually own the winery and use your own winery grapes from these diseased vines to make "entry level" wine.

Susan Pohorly
NOTL



We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often.

Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation.

Please include your full name, street address and a

daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated.

Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

The Lake Report

TIDBITS

Step Challenge weekly winners

With just one week to go, Niagara-on-the-Lake walkers are stepping toward the end of the June Step Challenge. The walkers who improved the most since week one were named winners for week three.

Two individual winners each receive a \$10 gift card to the Exchange Brewery. The two winning teams were The Nottage, whose members won a swag basket from the Exchange Brewery, and MB Family NOTL Giro won four 750 ml bottles of beer from the Exchange Brewery. As a group, NOTL's 149 participating steppers have now reached 234 per cent of the initial goal at 34,892,306 total steps.

College to help businesses with tech

Niagara College's Research and Innovation division will help small- and medium-sized businesses solve their technology and innovation challenges. The college received \$210,000 from the Ontario Centres of Excellence through the College Voucher for Technology Adoption program, which is run in partnership with Colleges of Ontario. Twenty-five businesses will have access to the college's resources while working with its faculty, staff, students and researchers on technology adaption in the sectors of advanced manufacturing, food and beverage, and agriculture environment technologies. By partnering with the industry, students will also have a chance to apply their classroom skills into solving real-world problems.

Tulips for Trees raises \$2,500 for tree fund

June's Tulips for Trees fundraiser brought in almost \$2,500 for the Town Tree Fund. The bulbs were sold for \$3 per dozen.

In a media release, Lord Mayor Betty Disero thanked the NOTL Horticultural Society and Communities in Bloom Committee for their work in helping run the fundraiser.

The bulbs are planted each fall for the following spring season and are pulled out when then tulips are done blooming and the annual floral displays are installed. Tulips for Trees has been raising money for the tree fund since 2015.

"Have a great summer and don't forget, keep those bulbs in a cool dry space over the summer, and put them in the ground by Thanksgiving! I cannot wait to see everyone's beautiful gardens next spring, filled with colourful tulips," Disero said.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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Fix It: Drivers refuse to stop at parkside intersection

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Amelie Robinson is worried a pedestrian is going to get hurt trying to cross Niagara Boulevard at Ryerson Park in NOTL.

It's a busy area, popular for picnic, peaceful lake views and the best sunsets in town. But it's also a key lakeside thoroughfare for many locals.

The problem is that drivers westbound along Niagara Boulevard seldom obey their stop sign at Vincent Avenue. It is an admittedly odd intersection as Niagara Boulevard sweeps around the park at Vincent and up to Shakespeare Avenue in the west end of Old Town.

There is a stop for traffic on Vincent but the eastbound vehicles on Niagara Boulevard have the right of way, with no stop sign for them. That's not really the problem, though.

"I walk everyday around



Chautauqua and Ryerson Park but I feel very unsafe once I arrive at the intersection," said Robinson, who lives a few houses up on Vincent.

"The stop sign on Niagara Boulevard is absolutely not marked on the road and no one stops. They just keep going, admire the view and do not pay attention to anybody walking or in a car on Vincent Avenue trying to go."

"I have missed being hit by a car about twice already crossing to go to the park due to cars not slowing down and stopping at the stop sign."

She's not the only one. As a nearby resident, I've had the same experience several times and heard from others with the same concerns. Traffic on Niagara Boulevard seldom stops at the sign – sometimes just gunning right through, oblivious to the stop, or more often just treating it as a yield and coasting through.

During a thoroughly unscientific, one-hour observation of the intersection, I noted 23 cars westbound on Niagara. Only six actually stopped and two of those were turning left onto Vincent and had to wait for oncoming traffic. One of the most obedient drivers was in a Town of NOTL red truck. He came to a complete stop, paused and moved on.

Robinson suggests the town monitor the intersection and find a way to enforce the stop before someone gets hurt.

Meanwhile, an interim so-

lution might be pretty simple: a bucket of white paint.

There is no stop line painted on the pavement and the only other stop on this stretch is at the clock tower in Old Town, more than two kilometres away.

Of course, not all low-traffic, residential roads get full-fledged stop lines and signs. But it would appear that adding a wide strip of white paint to the blacktop at this one might give drivers a stronger visual than the clearly visible, but largely ignored, stop sign.

Or maybe a three-way stop is the safest solution.

What sayeth the town? We'll let you know.

* Is something broken or in need of attention in your neighbourhood? Tell us about it. But you must include your full name and contact information. No anonymous complaints will be entertained. Email FixIt@niagaranow.com.

Pork in the park



Bella Recine and Zoe Abraham, young LEOs with the Lions Club, sold raffle tickets during Sunday's Porchetta. BRITTANY CARTER

The Lake Report

The Friends of St. Davids hosted the first Porchetta in the Park on Sunday afternoon at the St. Davids Lion's Club.

Members of the group enjoyed porchetta, (slow-roasted pork) with sides and drinks. DJ Ryen serenaded the crowd while St. Davids residents enjoyed the nice weather, food and company. Lord Mayor Betty Disero made a brief appearance.

Greg Walker, one of the founders of the Friends of St. Davids, said the event wouldn't have come together if it wasn't for the efforts of Sergio and Rosie Sporza.



Sergio Sporza serves up lunch for the Porchetta on Sunday. He and his wife Rosie made this event happen, said Greg Walker. BRITTANY CARTER

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Barry Steinberg leads the drum circle on Friday night in Ryerson Park, as Drum Down the Sun took over the waterfront for Summer Solstice. RICHARD HARLEY

Drums roar on Summer Solstice

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The sound of drums took over Ryerson Beach on Friday, as a crowd gathered to drum down the sunset for the longest day of the year.

The Summer Solstice celebrations took place all across the Niagara region, with simultaneous events in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

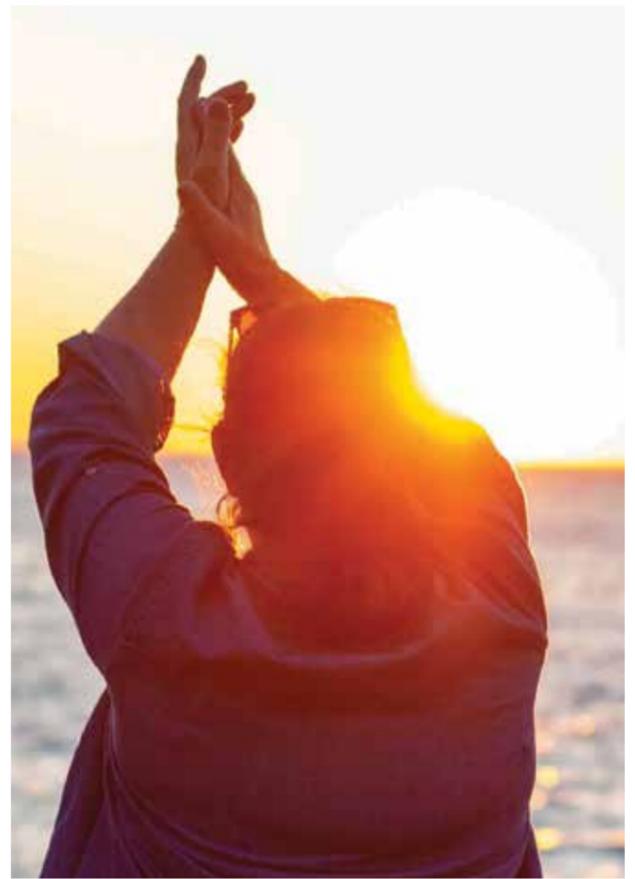
This is the 21st year Niagara-on-the-Lake has had its own event, organized by Loretta Pietrobon.

This year, due to the originally planned drummer cancelling last minute, Pietrobon looked to the community to find a replacement.

Barry Steinberg stepped up to the plate and led the drum circle for the night, first teaching some simple rhythms, and then letting everyone go wild.



A crowd gathered with drums to bang in the summer on Friday night for Summer Solstice. RICHARD HARLEY



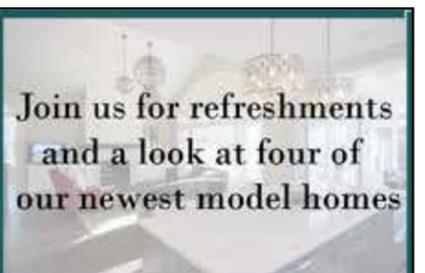
The sky was clear for the sunset on Summer Solstice. JESSICA MAXWELL




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Ross Robinson leads the Thorold Pipe Band through Ryerson Park during Piping Down the Sun on Saturday. RICHARD HARLEY

Pipes, sun and Scottish vibes

Continued from Front Page

including me — jump on the bandwagon.”

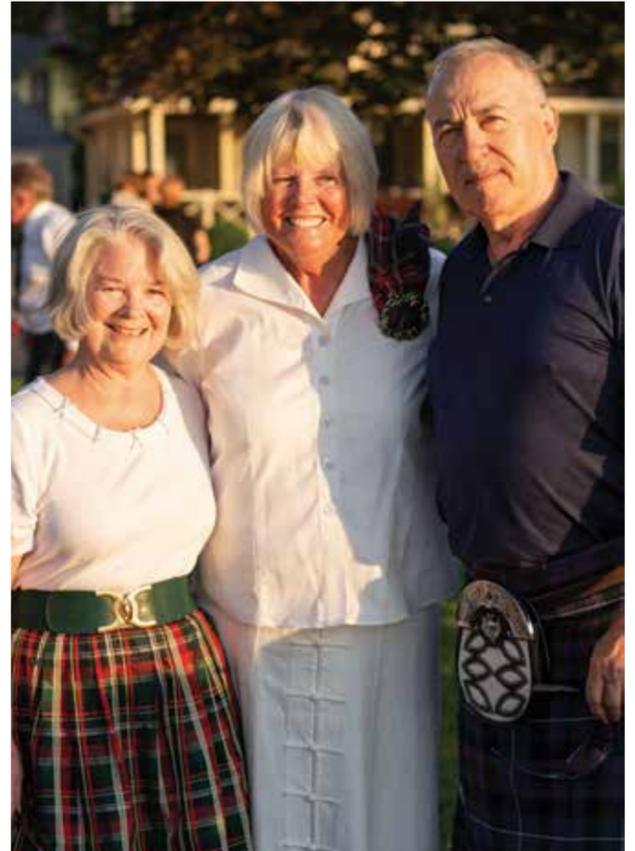
He said Piping Down the Sun is going to continue as an annual event. It began last year as a celebration of life for the late Ramsay Morrison, a Chautauqua resident who Robinson says was proud of his Scottish heritage.

This year was just celebration of all things Scottish.

As a spectacular sunset settled over Lake Ontario, the evening ended with a solo performance by bagpiper David Janaszek, who also lives in Chautauqua.



There was no shortage of dancing during the Scottish celebrations at Ryerson Park on Saturday evening. RICHARD HARLEY



Spectators showed up to celebrate Scottish heritage in kilts and other Scottish attire. JESSICA MAXWELL



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Kathy Thomas crafted the dress for the first Laura Secord Walk and also created the map of Laura Secord historical markers. BRITTANY CARTER

Following in the steps of Laura Secord

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

More than two centuries after Laura Secord's trek to warn the British of an impending attack by the Americans during the War of 1812, the Canadian heroine's action continues to inspire people like Kimberly Abt and Heidi Poltl.

The two Niagara-on-the-Lake women believe Secord's bravery in hiking more than 30 kilometres through dangerous territory should never be forgotten.

So, on Saturday morning, they joined more than 80 other hikers who travelled in her footsteps during this year's Laura Secord Walk. Some of the 85 registrants walked part of the route, some walked only "in spirit," but all raised a total of \$10,000 for War Child Canada.

Leaving her six children and wounded husband behind, Secord journeyed

from Queenston to DeCew House in Thorold, not knowing what she might encounter along the way – a feat that leaves Abt somewhat awestruck.

"It's an incredible thing she did. I can't imagine doing that in the conditions she would have had back then, not knowing what could be around any corner," Abt said.

While completing the same walk last year, Abt said she and Poltl discussed Secord's journey at great length, thankful for what her heroism meant for Canada and noting that, if the American attack had not been defeated, Canada might not be the country it is today.

The two friends said living in NOTL and taking part in the walk reminds them to take stock of the history of their town and of the heroic woman who once called it home.

This year, people filtered

**The Great
NOTL
Summer Walkabout**

Welcome to the first episode of the Great NOTL Summer Walkabout, a summer-long series of stories that will take you to all corners of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Our reporters will trek around the community to meet residents and visitors, attend events, visit area landmarks and tell stories about what they find. Our story about the annual Laura Secord Walk is the first step on the journey. Enjoy the Walkabout.

in from all over Ontario for the annual walk, citing Secord's inspiring example, the ambition to challenge oneself and a desire to be out enjoying the gorgeous day as reasons for embarking on the 32-kilometre hike along the path she famously took more than 200 years ago.

Since the first official Laura Secord Walk in

2013, the trek has become a tradition for many of the visitors who gathered at the Laura Secord Homestead in Queenston, many arriving before 8 a.m. to enjoy coffee, snacks and conversation.

The walk takes hikers 32 kilometres along the five sections of the Laura Secord Legacy Trail, which is one leg of the Canadawide Great

Trail. An approximation of the route Secord initially took, the path starts from the Laura Secord Homestead and runs to Fireman's Park in Niagara Falls.

The second stage goes to Niagara College, where many of Saturday's walkers said they would either stop for a break to maybe enjoy the wine and beer tastings put out by the college and continue on, or perhaps call it a day and take one of the shuttles back to the homestead.

The third stage of the trail brings walkers to Rodman Hall Art Centre on St. Paul Crescent in St. Catharines. The fourth connects to Rotary Park in St. Catharines and the final leg takes the participants to DeCew House in Thorold, where the Friends of Laura Secord had refreshments and water waiting for them, and a shuttle to take them back to the start.

Above and beyond

honouring one of Canada's heroines, the walk also serves as a great way to appreciate and celebrate the start of summer. With the summer solstice arriving the night before, everyone was in good spirits and happy to be out on the journey.

Sisters Leah Feor, a Niagara College employee and a member of the Niagara Parks Commission board, and Sarah Canidi, who works in the office of the mayor of Niagara Falls, set out to complete the first two stages of the walk together, planning to conclude their hike at Niagara College.

"Just call us the esoteric sisters out for the Laura Secord Walk," Canidi said in jest. The women said they are interested in everything that brings them closer to the Earth, happy to be taking part in such a historic walk after the summer solstice. Both were eager to get

Continued on Page 11



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Following in steps of Laura Secord

Continued from Page 10

started on their hike. A trio of women walked the majority of the hike, donning pink Laura Secord shirts. Erika Barber, Marg Pearson and Najma Rawjee, friends and former co-workers, come together each year for the Laura Secord Walk. This year, the three made their way to the finish line with Pearson's shoe coming apart at the soles. So did they do all 32 km or just the "majority of the hike"?? "I held it together with this hair tie we found along the trail," Pearson said. If they hadn't found something to secure the broken shoe, she says she would have kept walking anyway. "What else could I do?"

The hike was also completed by a young group of Pathfinders from Guelph, who arrived at DeCew house around 5:30 p.m. "It was a great day _ really a wonderful event. I must say, every single person we encountered was wonderful. You really have the nicest group of volunteers," Laura Kellor of the Guelph Pathfinders said in an email response sent out by Caroline McCormick, one of the walk's organizers.

The walk and the trail itself came together thanks to the work of McCormick, a direct descendant of Secord, and the Friends of Laura Secord group. Closing out the weekend at the Queenston Heights bandshell, a full orchestra performed Eroica at 2 p.m., following a short hike led by Tim Johnson, a senior Indigenous adviser from Six Nations.

Conductor Melanie Paul Tanovich, founding director of Orchestra Brava, led the free performance for more than 150 spectators in the park.

"It's an incredible performance and we're so lucky to have Melanie here," McCormick said.

She said the concert, which was titled Eroica, a Sesquicentennial Tribute to Laura Ingersoll Secord, was the perfect way to close out the weekend.



Chloe Dierling, 14 and Sarah Dierling, 17, pose with sign before the walk on Saturday morning. BRITTANY CARTER



The group walks the first leg of the hike early on Saturday morning. BRITTANY CARTER



Caroline McCormick, Simone Hicken, Betty Disero, Valerie Pringle and Katherine Bambrick before Saturday morning's walk. BRITTANY CARTER

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The Lake Report

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:</p> <p>Legion Fish Fry every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1</p>			
30	1	2	
<p>Family Friendly Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Artistry by the Lake - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Teen Literary Alliance - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Artistry by the Lake - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Canada Day: Rotary Pancake Breakfast - 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Simcoe Park</p> <p>Canada Day: Rotary BBQ Lunch - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Simcoe Park</p> <p>Canada Day: Cake Walk Parade on Queen Street - 3 p.m. - The Charles Inn (Start) to Simcoe Park (End)</p> <p>Canada Day: Evening BBQ & Fireworks at Fort George - 4 p.m. (10 p.m. fireworks) - Fort George</p>	<p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Power Off & Play - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>German Conversation - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Maker Club: Wildfire Bombs using the S - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL SupperMarket 9 p.m. - The Village</p>
7	8	9	
<p>Jazz Muzz: Summer Sunday Morning Music Festival - 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p> <p>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>Yellow Door Theatre Summer Camp Program (July 8 to July 19) - Yellow Door Theatre Project</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Committee of the Whole - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Public Meeting: 445 Line 2 Road - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Scandal & Gossip Tour - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p>	<p>4 Week: Create Your Own Design Class - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Special Council Meeting: Presentation of Draft Plan - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>NOTL SupperMarket 9 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>Cider with Gavin Reimer 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Food and Wine Institute College</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	27 Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson	28 Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Neighbourhood Walks: Irish Town / Rye Park - 6 p.m. - Rye Park Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Mean Girls - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant Fiddlestix Live at The Irish Harp - 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant	29 Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village Artistry by the Lake - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Queen's Royal Park
1 p.m.			
3 ion Group - NOTL ower Seed and Library - NOTL Public et - 4:30 p.m. to	4 Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson Niagara Jazz Festival presents Live Learn Jazz: Women Of The Hour, Sax in the Vineyard - 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George	5 Artist Workshop: Impressionistic Architecture with Julie Ponesse - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: You've Got Mail - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant	6 Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village Cherry Festival - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church 28th Annual NOTL Garden Tour - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Horticultural Society Niagara Etsy: Hydrangeas + Handmade at Mori Gardens - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Mori Gardens Canada Historic Places Day at The Museum - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum
10 ur Own Garden - Mori eting: Shift Strategic - Council et - 4:30 p.m. to	11 Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson Maker Club: Build Your own Inspiration Board - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Barbecue Marinades and Rubs - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College Concert by Guernsey Music Centre, from the Channel Island of Guernsey - 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church	12 Science Fun Fridays - Noon to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: The Notebook - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant	13 Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village Battle of Fort George, War of 1812 Re-enactment - All Day - Fort George Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park Family BBQ: Polonia Park - 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. - 765 York Road

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Julie Hunter and Natalie Dick sell fresh local strawberries at the annual Strawberry Festival. RICHARD HARLEY

The Strawberry Festival



Grace Farnell gets her face painted. RICHARD HARLEY



As usual, the lineup for pies was long before the festival even started. RICHARD HARLEY



Debbie Scott arrived early to get a strawberry pie. RICHARD HARLEY



Jennifer Gardiner, Rob Misiak and Terry Davis were the first in line for pies. RICHARD HARLEY

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Kurt Neumann's family vineyard has been dealing with the red blotch and leafroll disease for some time now. The problem has been present in the industry but hasn't been identified for a long time, he said. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Grape growers applaud planned research for virus-free vines

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Having nursery suppliers with virus-free grapevines is crucial to the success of Niagara's grape and wine industry, say some of Niagara-on-the-Lake grape growers.

And last week's announcement that the Canadian government is spending millions on vine research is good news, they say.

"It is most important that the nurseries make sure that the rootstock is virus-tested and the budwood is virus-tested," said Albrecht Seeger, one of NOTL's longtime grape growers. "That's the only way to succeed, that's the only way to move forward."

Kevin Buis of Glenlake Vineyards agreed, noting clean nursery stock is key and having a strong local nursery industry "suits our whole (wine and grape) industry better."

Another grower, Matthias Oppenlaender of Huebel Grapes Estates, echoed Seeger's comments, saying

the industry has to be proactive in dealing with infected vines as it competes with other wine and grape industries across the globe.

"It's very exciting, even the federal government and the provincial government see the opportunity and actually give us the funds to help," he told The Lake Report.

The government has announced it is spending more than \$2.3 million on creating certified, virus-free vines. However, that money is not going directly to farmers. It's for research. The Canadian Grapevine Certification Network, a nationwide not-for-profit organization, will receive the federal funding through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, and will work on developing virus-free plant materials.

Red blotch disease and leafroll viruses are among the serious problems growers can face in the wine and grape industry. A 2018 Ontario performance study showed that accessing

virus-free vines has been one of the top five challenges for the industry.

Infected vines are low in sugar and may produce lower-quality wines. As there is no cure for infected vines, if more than 25 per cent of a property's vines are infected, it is recommended to remove the whole vineyard, according to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs website.

Because it may take from three to five years for vines to come into full production, ripping out the vines and replanting them with new stock can also be expensive for the growers. Planting and establishing a vineyard can cost from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per acre.

Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute has partnered with the industry and will provide virus testing using molecular techniques, according to a statement from the school.

Growers often rely on purchasing virus-free vines

from Ontario nurseries. Starting off with clean plants is crucial and can help growers save money, time and resources.

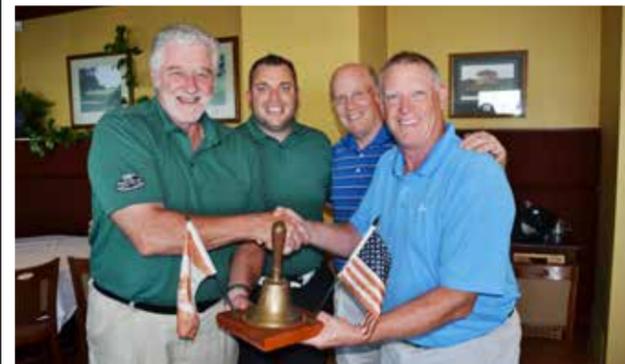
Vines can be purchased from local nurseries, such as Mori Nurseries Ltd. and VineTech Canada Inc., while other vines are imported from Europe or the United States.

"We want to become self-reliant on our own nursery stock. We grow our own but we also import a lot," Oppenlaender said.

Kurt Neumann, another NOTL grape grower, said if the federally funded research helps determine the cause of the virus, it will enable the nurseries to grow clean vines.

"The biggest thing for the public to understand is that the tax revenue generated by the grape and wine industry is in the billions and billions of dollars," he added. "So to spend a few million on testing vines and providing some insurance on the longevity of the industry, I think it should be acceptable."

NOTL golfers squeak out win over U.S. rivals



NOTL Golf Club team captain John Wiens, left, is congratulated by his Niagara Frontier club counterpart Pete Lovering, right. In background are pros Billy Simkin of NOTL and Dan Antonucci of Frontier. KEVIN MACLEAN

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The NOTL Golf Club men's team stormed back Sunday from a 12-point deficit to narrowly recapture what's billed as the oldest international inter-club competition in North America.

NOTL defeated the team from Niagara Frontier Golf Club in Youngstown, N.Y., by two points to win the annual match play competition.

Nobody is sure how long the event has been going on, just that it's been way longer than any other such international contest, said U.S. captain Pete Lovering.

Niagara-on-the-Lake pro Billy Simkin and 11 players travelled to Youngstown on Saturday where the home team easily won the first leg of the team better ball competition 24-12.

With 72 points at stake Sunday at home in head-to-head singles matches, the NOTLers prevailed, but the teams were so close that it came down to the final foursome. Mike Eagen stole a point in a see-saw match versus Dragan Racic to help the team to victory.

Team players were: Ted Carmichael, Joe Doria, Mike Eagen, Peter Falconer, Kevin MacLean, Roman Mamalyga, Ron Planche, Rob Reimer, Joe Taylor, John Wiens and Dow Wright.

**Business Ladies
June 17:**

Low gross: Petra Brown- ing (43). Low net: Marion Row. Closest to the line: Ann Watson. Long drive: Wendy Edwards, Karen Bellamy. Long putt: Angela Redekopp, Jane Barnet. Closest to barrel: Kim

Breakspare. Closest to pin: Monica D'Andrea, M. Jane Catcher, Wendy Edwards. 50/50: Jennifer Matsushita (\$140).

WOOFs league June 18: Low gross: Don Allen (even par 36). Low net: Keith Lay (28). Closest to pin: Gerry Sibbald (#4). Hidden hole: Ken Wilms (#9).

**Womens 9 Hole League
June 18:**

Low gross Chris Walker (50), Judy Cardiff (52).

Low net: Marlene Sibbald (35), Trish Anthony, Chris Walker (37). Fewest putts: Penny Bannister (14), Sharon Allen (17). Day game winners Rosemary Vysohlid, Jo Castledine.

**Friday Couples league
June 21:**

First: Frank & Sue Avent and Don & Cathy Saytar (28, lowest score this year). Second: Tim & Kathy Taylor and Jim & Janice McMacken (28). Third: Gerry Shelly & Peggy Larder and Stephen & Nikki Jenkins (29). Most honest: Keith & Wilca Lay and Bernard & Sharron Marlow. Closest to pin: Grant Williams, Lyn Sanders.

Tuesday women's league June 25:

Lisa Allen was the big winner, with best low gross (88) and net (67), second fewest putts (31) and closest to the pin (#13). Low gross: second Barbara Ahluwalia (93), Ginny Green (95). Net: Ahluwalia (68), Chris Earl and Sharron Marlow (71). Fewest putts: Peggy Larder (28), Andrea Douglas, Marie Ellison, Patty Garriock and Cathy Murray (31), Green (32). Closest to pin: Ahluwalia (#4). Birdie: Larder (#2). Chip-ins: Garriock (#10), Larder (#15).



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NOTL library kicks off summer with a bang

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Although visiting the library is typically an indoor activity, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library hosted an outdoor summer kick-off event in the green space behind the building on Saturday.

Library staff invited families from all over town to bask in the sun, enjoy an abundance of free food and activities and to sign up for the summer reading program.

On Saturday's, 41 kids signed up for the summer reading program, and 10 had signed up for the program on the Thursday before.

While many activities were set up for the kids from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., adults were able to get in on the action as well. Mark Longster, the execu-

tive chef at the Pillar and Post, hosted a cooking demonstration as part of the library's Fresh from the Garden program.

Saturday's event was about more than just kicking off summer – it was about showcasing the many activities the library will be hosting and bringing the community together, said Debbie Krause, community engagement co-ordinator for the library.

There were freezies and free cotton candy, a bouncy castle was set up for jumping and the Reptile Kingdom brought out chameleons, turtles and snakes.

Captain Underpants made a few brief appearances throughout the afternoon as well.

Kasia Dupuis, the children's library services associate, said she would call the afternoon a success, adding that everyone

seemed to be really enjoying themselves.

Singer/songwriter from Burlington, Nicole Henderson, spent a couple hours walking around the grounds serenading the crowd.

Dupuis said she and the library staff want to thank everyone who came out to the Summer Kick Off Party.

"From the bouncy house to the Reptile Kingdom display, from the barbecue and Makery activities to the Fresh from the Garden presentation, it was an amazing day. We want to send a big thank you to all of the library and Town staff who helped make the day a success," she said in an email.

She added that the library had a great response to the Summer Reading Program.

"Over 50 summer readers



have registered so far! If you missed the party but still want to register for the Summer Reading Program, we've opened up registration on the library website for our Read for Beads program," Dupuis said.

The summer reading program will be open for registration at the library all summer. Check out the website for the different activities and programming offered for kids this year.



Top: Alice and Mille McGeachin, hold a snake from the Reptile Kingdom on Saturday. Bottom: Jake Prusko, 6, holds a snake during the summer kickoff event on Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER

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Loney Construction: Excellence and value

The Lake Report
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Todd Loney grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake and is proud to be part of the community he now serves. Loney says he develops relationships with his clients that continue long after their projects are completed, because he delivers high-quality work, reliably on time and on budget. The trust that builds means both his residential and commercial clients return, knowing they'll have an excellent experience.

Loney Construction offers a wide array of services, including construction, renovation and maintenance on both residential and commercial properties. Additions and renovations can transform any home, whether with custom cabinets, modern lighting, new

fixtures or flooring. Loney emphasizes that the success of all projects starts in the planning phase, saying, "It's in everyone's best interest to define the scope and specifics of the work, so both the client and the contractor know exactly what's being done."

That results in accurate cost estimates and happy outcomes for everyone. Loney says he works closely with clients to help turn their dreams to reality, building designs and plans to make it all happen. He advocates design drawings for most projects as a valuable tool to create clarity around exactly what's involved and what the final result will be. Loney adds, with a wry smile borne of past experience, that "a lack of clarity in the planning phase can lead to disappointment all

around, so I always make sure upfront plans are laid out to avoid that."

In addition to the more than 50 residential clients Loney has served since his company started in 2016, his commercial clients include Vintage Inns in NOTL. Loney Construction did the outdoor lighting at the Charles Inn, built the private dining room at Niagara's Finest Thai restaurant on Queen Street and just last month repaired masonry in the loading dock at Pillar and Post.

Loney himself is a highly skilled Red Seal certified carpenter, so he has hands-on expertise and he also has a network of as many as 100 different tradespeople of all disciplines to get things done. His attention to detail and experience in project management keep things flowing and on track.



Niagara-on-the-Lake native Todd Loney is a Red Seal certified carpenter. RICHARD HARLEY

Some of that expertise came from his experience as site superintendent of the Hilton Niagara Falls/Fallsview Hotel and Suites, a 58-storey hotel that took three years to complete. In that role Loney was first in and last out, responsible for co-ordinating all phases of construction from pre-construction excavation to exterior finishes.

Loney Construction also fosters the development of those entering the industry. Two young women are

currently with the company, one as an apprentice general carpenter, one as a co-op student from the renovation program at Niagara College. Loney says that's part of contributing to the community he lives in and opening doors for the next generation of skilled tradespeople – and the contractors of tomorrow.

When he's not on the job, making certain he's delivering on his promise of quality work, on time and on budget, you might glimpse Loney out on the

water, as a longtime avid sailor, or perhaps working with his fellow volunteers at the NOTL Fire Department. Loney also likes to support local causes, including the "Eat, Drink, Pink Event" coming up on Friday, July 5, in support of the Pink Pearl Foundation, which helps young women facing cancer.

For more information about Loney Construction, or to book a consultation, visit the website at <https://loneyconstruction.com/>



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A little TLC for park on Nassau

After planting about four bushels of canna lily bulbs in the memorial garden in the park at Nassau and William streets last week, this diligent crew of NOTL Horticultural Society volunteers attack some weeds in the rose garden. From left, Marla Percy, Aurel James, Ingrid Regier, society president Joanne Young, Myrna Hynes and Andrew Hynes.
KEVIN MACLEAN

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Across

- 1. Charges (5)
- 4. Unwavering (9)
- 10. Wedding (8)
- 11. Bicycle seat (6)
- 12. Tonsorial tidier (9)
- 14. Yellowish citrus fruit (5)
- 17. Indian exercise method (4)
- 18. Type of radiation (5)
- 22. Sprite (5)
- 23. Folds (7)
- 24. Vision (5)
- 25. Vacant (5)
- 28. Woodwind instrument (4)
- 31. Academy award (5)
- 34. Disgusting (9)
- 36. Condescending (6)
- 37. Event (8)
- 38. Secondary piece of equipment (9)
- 39. Got up (5)

Down

- 2. U S state on the Gulf Coast (7)
- 3. Aural membrane (7)
- 5. Minute (6)
- 6. Too (4)
- 7. Soft sweetmeat (5)
- 8. Simultaneous firing of artillery (5)
- 9. Native New Zealander (5)
- 13. Raise (5)
- 14. Pass into disuse (5)
- 15. State of confusion (3-2)
- 16. Destitute (5)
- 18. Zest (5)
- 19. Sorcery (5)
- 20. Participant (5)
- 21. Spanish Mister (5)
- 26. Bullfighter (7)
- 27. Lease holders (7)
- 29. Weirder (6)
- 30. Contact (5)
- 32. Operated by sound waves (5)
- 33. Residence (5)
- 35. Stains (4)



Have some fun

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

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	
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31	32	33		34					
			35						
36				37					
38							39		

Last issue's answers

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C	A	V	E	N	U	S	O	N	
B	I	K	I	N	I	T	U	N	W
E	R	C	R	I	S	P	E	E	U
U	N	B	O	L	T	E	R	R	O
C		15	O	F	F	E	R	L	E
B	E	G	A	R	L	C	H	E	E
		20	U	I	D	A	H	O	S
21	22		A	T	H	E	N	A	K
W	S	25	C	R	E	E	P		O
26	M	O	R	T	A	R		27	U
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34	S	E	E	M	S		N	35	H
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Sudoku

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		1				3		
			2				5	
7	3		5	1				
		9					5	
			4	9		8	3	
	1			7				
	5					8		
4	2			8	5			



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Re/Max Esc	~250
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McGarrr	~100
C21 Today	~80
NOTL Realty	~70
DW Howard	~60
Besley	~50
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Review: Newest **Foster** play a riveting production

Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report

Yes, indeed, it's already season number four at the Foster Festival in St. Catharines, which celebrates the prolific Canadian playwright's endearing comedies.

This season, Foster has penned two more newbies for world premieres at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre on St. Paul Street – "The Writer" and a musical, "Beside Myself" following last season's new plays – "Renovations For Six" and "Come Down From Up River."

"The Writer," Foster's 60th play, makes for compelling viewing. The story of Donald Wellner, a renowned playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner and his son Blake, a much more common travel writer/food reviewer who literally roams the earth and just doesn't measure up to the old man, or does

he?

This new work typifies Foster's trademark "Humour with Heart" with riveting dialogue between Guy Bannerman (Donald) and Jamie Williams (Blake) who both occupy the minimalist stage for the entire production. Yet, for not one second does our attention waver as Foster astutely explores the intricate bond between father and son with a surprise ending that forces everyone to re-examine their original take on the delightful dueling duo.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Bannerman, the Shaw Festival veteran actor who has appeared in over 4,000 performances, brings gravitas to his role as a father with a dark secret that he cannot reveal under normal circumstances, and Jamie Williams, who has performed in 15 Foster productions, adds tender pathos as he yearns for love and understanding



Guy Bannerman (Donald) and Jamie Williams (Blake), Foster Festival 2019 - The Writer.
SUPPLIED PHOTO/ALEX HEIDBUECHEL

from his father.

Patricia Vanstone is the capable director, Peter Hartwell (Shaw and Stratford), set and costume

designer and Chris Malkowski, lighting designer. The script is tight, often hilarious and equally captivating as it zeroes in on

the father-son relationship. It's a delicate balancing act with the aging paternal caregiver ultimately switching roles as memory weakens and he is placed in a nursing home with not much to anchor his hopes other than a bottle of scotch.

Foster is so talented and comic that he adroitly assigns lines to an unseen lady next door to Bannerman in the nursing home, an inane sexual wannabee who has the house howling with laughter.

In her program notes, Vanstone explains that the story is primarily one about family – a father who consumes all of the oxygen in their relationships and a son who diligently acts as go-between for the estranged wife and daughter – along with a sharp commentary on the illusory concept of fame.

Emily Oriold, executive director of the festival, points out that "with three

sparkling seasons under our belt we are thrilled to be once again bringing our audiences two Norm Foster world premieres in our 2019 season! Our audiences are the first in the world to see a new Norm Foster hit. That's pretty special."

After watching "The Writer," I heartily agree. And I thoroughly recommend it.

The Foster Festival has picked up several former Shaw stalwarts. Bannerman has received the "Guthrie Award" at Stratford and the "Newton" and "Paul Reynolds Awards" at Shaw. Jim Mezon will direct his second Foster play this season, "Hilda's Yard," July 10 to 26. More festival information is available at: <https://www.fosterfestival.com/site/season-2019-norm-foster-festival>

"The Writer" by Norm Foster runs at the FirstOntario centre to July 5.



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NAME: _____ AGE: _____ Who is in the photo? _____

Canada Day activities

Lots of activities are planned in Niagara-on-the-Lake for Canada Day. The national holiday, marking Canada's 152nd birthday, is celebrated on Monday, July 1.

- * For early-birds, the party will kick off at 8 a.m. with a pancake breakfast at Simcoe Park, provided by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The club will also serve a barbecue lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by live music and kids entertainment.
- * The annual Cake Parade, led by the 41st Regiment Fife and Drum Corps, will start at 3 p.m. Heading down Queen Street, the giant cake will be taken to Simcoe Park where it will be sliced and served to the public at about 3:30 p.m.
- * The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 will also celebrate Canada Day by holding a barbecue starting at 11 a.m. There will be giveaways and live music will be provided by The Rockets.
- * On Canada Day, Fort George will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. An evening barbecue at the fort will start at 4 p.m. The entertainment, including kiddie militia and drill, will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by a presentation by the Fort George Infantry, Artillery and Fife and Drum Corps.

The Howling Horns will be on the stage performing a range of tunes from blues to classic rock. All events at the fort will be free but the money raised from food concessions will help support student summer employment at Fort George and Brock's Monument. The celebrations will end at 10 p.m. with fireworks choreographed to music.



Carol Giang, a chef's assistant, Alyanna O'Donnell, who's been helping to make the cake, and chef Catherine O'Donnell show some of the elements of the Canada Day cake. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

300 slabs come together to form **one massive cake**

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

About one-third of the giant Canada Day cake has been already done, says Catherine O'Donnell, chef at Willow Cakes and Pastries.

The bakery has been producing a huge cake for Canada Day for 14 years. Together with apprentices from Niagara College, O'Donnell has been working on weekends and days off to create the cake, which will be paraded through Old Town to Simcoe Park on Monday.

The cake will be baked on Saturday afternoon and will be put together at the bakery starting Sunday morning. The massive cake is assembled on a special cart which is then placed on a trailer provided by the Friends of Fort George and rolled through town.

Assembling the cake is a feat of culinary expertise and engineering. On Sunday, O'Donnell starts to put the layers together, mixing them with buttercream and maple syrup. The cake will be eight layers high and held together by wooden pegs.

The cake's top pieces and characters are screwed to the boards. At the park, the feature pieces will be lifted up



Catherine O'Donnell, chef at Willow Cakes and Pastries, has been producing the giant Canada Day cake for several years now. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

and displayed on the table in the park so people can have a better view of the cake. "So people can still look at the characters and see what the theme was," O'Donnell said.

"If they didn't get to see the parade, when they come to the park, all these pieces are on the picnic tables so they get an idea of what we were making."

Because there are 300 slabs of cake, the team has to make sure the layers don't fall on to each other. Assembling the cake wouldn't have been possible without the help of David Levesque, a local bed and breakfast owner, who provides structural supports and bases for the cake's characters.

"One of the things I learned about doing big-shaped cakes: it's all about

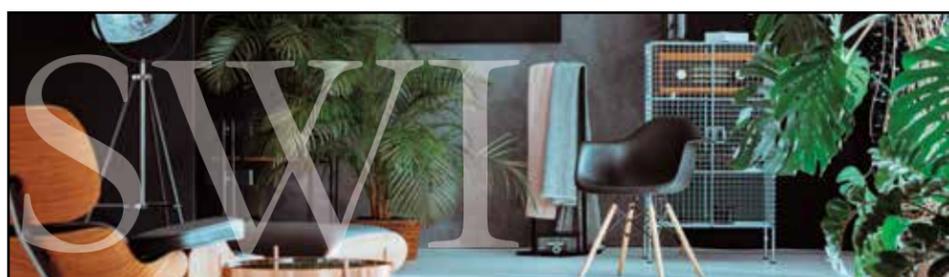
the engineering behind the cake," O'Donnell told The Lake Report. "My end of the creative side really only works if all of those elements (stay together)."

She brings about five knives with her to slice the cake but some people even bring their own knives, which she finds "quite funny."

Last year it was really hot and some of the characters melted a bit.

"It wasn't the cake that melted. Because I make a butter cream (icing) of butter, it's not artificial icing ... we were watching pieces of it kind of fall," she said.

Luckily, this year's weather forecast is for temperatures of about 24 C, which is "perfect" weather for the cake as well as for people celebrating outside, said O'Donnell.



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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



Zoegers' 5 to \$1 store

Bill Zoeger and his family ran the five to a dollar store on Queen Street. It was located in the building that used to be By The Lake. This picture shows how it looked in the mid-1940s. The Steward family owned the building and rented apartments upstairs. Besides Zoegers' store, the building also was home to John Bates' Rexall Pharmacy and Gus Chambers' Red & White store. The young woman standing in front of Zoegers', also known as the "five and 10" store, is Elizabeth Moore, who worked in the store. It was my favourite store as my mother would sometimes buy me gumdrops there.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

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ARCHITEXT

What's wrong with this picture?

Brian Marshall
Featured

I received an email not long ago from a regular reader of this column. A professional designer in his own right, he sent photos of two newly built houses with designs that he quite accurately described as a "potpourri of architectural styles and clichés."

While there are several technical flaws in the design, it's the chimneys which really gave me the pip.

Historically, wood-burning fireplaces set in bulky chimneys were the principal source of heating and the hearth for cooking in the houses of colonial Niagara. Respecting the functional



There is something odd about these chimneys.
BRIAN MARSHALL

importance of the comparatively tall and always massive fireplace stack posed a direct challenge to achieving a good design of the formal house.

Early North American houses were often built around a single centrally located chimney, however, as homes grew larger with more divided interior space, the heating requirement necessitated two (or more) chimneys, which gradually migrated to the outer walls.

By the time of the rebuilding of Niagara after 1814, most houses were built with chimneys neatly balanced at each end of the design. While technical improvements through the 19th and 20th centuries reduced the sheer bulk of the chimney and allowed for a variety of placement options, it remained a functional requirement in every house.

Most designers, seeking to contend with the chimney while achieving good architectural design,

worked to minimize the visual mass of the stacks by methods such as integrating them into the overall brick pattern, or bricking individual flues to produce tall, slender, visually lighter stacks. Still, no matter their approach, the objective was a chimney that did not dominate but seamlessly merged into the overall composition.

Today, technology has made the chimney an optional design element. However, the word "optional" in no way suggests that the principles of good design can be tossed out the window.

Here, infected by the worst tendencies of the McMansion craze, two proportionally massive chimneys are used to add more complexity to an already heavily cluttered gambrel roof. And, just to prove they're merely decoration, each is pierced by a porthole window ... Oh my!

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The Queenston Post Office

Linda Fritz
Exclusive/The Lake Report

In an unpublished re-search report, J.A. Doyle wrote the following:

Among Robert Hamilton's more lasting legacies in Queenston is the post office. Hamilton became postmaster in 1820. Rules governing the delivery of mail were in flux. At the time there were three postmasters in the Niagara region and they got on cordially.

Hamilton developed the cross-border postal system. Much of the mail going to Britain passed through Queenston and went on to New York.

Overseas mail had to have both Canadian and American postage paid. As the letters had to cross the Niagara River, an extra fee was added for the ferry journey. With all of the various fees to be collected, Hamilton managed to increase his fees for services six-fold.

As the Upper Canada frontier government gained more control, Hamilton could no longer charge fees for collecting overdue postage or for handling undeliverable mail. A new post master general, Thomas Stayner, reduced Hamilton's ferry fees. Stayner wanted to standardize all of the postal services, including fees, rather than continue with the haphazard collection.

In 1829, the same year the Welland Canal opened, the post master general moved the official post office to Niagara. Hamilton continued to run his services out of Queenston, while he lobbied the government to overturn this. By 1831, Hamilton won the battle, however, his compensation and the fees he could charge as Queenston post master were now decreed by the government.

The position of postmaster remained in the Hamilton family, as the following advertisement printed in 1833 indicates.



Top left: Queenston General store and post office. (Credit: former postmistress Laurie Dickson) Top right: Charles Matthew Lowrey with his three daughters, Luella, Edna and Marguerite. The picture taken inside the general store he owned and operated in Queenston. Undated, probably in the 1910s. Bottom: The old Queenston post office. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

*POST OFFICE,
QUEENSTON U.C.
21st JANUARY, 1833
NOTICE
Is hereby Given –
That SEALED TENDERS
will be received at this Of-
fice till the Fifteenth day of
February next, inclusive,
for transporting his Maj-
esty's Mails from the Post
Office at Queenston, to
the post office at Fort Erie
and back three times per
week, four times per year,
from the, 6th day of April
now next ensuing, and also
for three additional Trips
per week, from the Post
Office at Queenston, to
the Post Office at Drum-
mondville, and back, from
the 8th day of October in
each year.*

*The said Tenders to
be in strict conformity
with certain Articles of
Agreement to be entered
into by the Contractors,
which may be seen at the
Post Offices at Queenston
and Fort Erie – The said*

*Contract to be taken is to
and for a specific sum per
annum, payable quar-
terly as stipulated in said
Agreement. The Contrac-
tor, and two unexceptional
Sureties, will be required
to enter into Bond for the
due fulfilment of the said
Contract, whose names
must accompany the Ten-
ders. It may be proper to
observe that the said Ten-
ders require the approval
of the Deputy Post Master
General of Quebec, before
they can be accepted.*

*ALEXANDER
HAMILTON, P.M.*

By the 20th century, the post office was a grocery store and a waiting room for streetcar passengers. It was also a gas station run by Pop Sheppard, yet another well-known Queenstonian. (A street starting at York Road commemorates the Sheppard family.)

Many children used to play checkers with Pop

Sheppard as they waited for the streetcar to take them home.

Helen Glendenning, who lived in Queenston from the 1930s, and who died at the age of 101, told the 1988 Queenston walking tour that when she was a child, she lived with her parents in Niagara Glen, several kilometres south of Queenston.

Her mother gave her money for the streetcar. She said she was usually late getting home because she spent that money on candy at the post office and then walked home.

Another story about the post office concerns the move to have glass windows installed at the post boxes.

In the mid-20th century, people had to go in to the post office and ask the post master for their mail. The constant influx of customers interrupted the poker game that was going on in

the back room.

After the glass was installed, people could see if they had received any mail. If they had none, they didn't have to interrupt the game.

The post office still exists in Queenston. According to longtime residents Jonathan and Elizabeth Kormos, there was an effort to remove it in the mid-20th century.

Elizabeth and several other villagers decided it was worth fighting for. The crusade was one of the actions that helped lead to the founding of the Queenston Community Association, which remains active in the 21st century as the Queenston Residents Association. The post office was indeed saved.

The operation has moved at least twice from its original location. Some archeological evidence suggests that the first building could have been

at the northwest corner of Dee Road and Queenston Street, close to the Hamilton home, Willowbank. During the 1988 walk, the location of a later sorting office was identified on Princess Street.

The Queenston post office is a survivor from the days of Queenston's prosperity.

In the new millennium, it has become a major source of information for the village's inhabitants. When they pick up their mail, villagers find out about upcoming meetings, potluck dinners, and musical performances as well as services such as lawn mowing or snow clearance, and requests to help find lost pets.

It remains a village hub to this day.

More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: www.niagaranow.com



COMMUNITY



We invite you to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Send your submissions to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to be featured.



Don't litter

Two in the bush



Submitted photo.

When Brian Crow and his wife Marilyn were watering the ferns on their veranda on Wilberforce Avenue in Chautauqua, they found a surprise lurking amid the greenery.

“At one of the ferns we were greeted by two little eyes looking back – those of a mourning dove. At least, that’s what we know them as,” said Brian.

The bird seemed very comfortable just sitting

there with no apparent fear and did not move. It had nestled in to the fern and was sitting on unhatched eggs.

“We continued to water the fern for the next few days but attempted to keep the water from the eggs,” said Brian.

“It worked, as shortly the eggs hatched and we now have two little doves about to make their way in the world.”



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:
Colaneri Estate Winery



Angelica Hill accepts Colaneri's Gold Plunger award. PLUNGER PATROL

While out and about on a recent Plunger Patrol around town, we happened upon this unique estate winery in the St. Davids Bench region of NOTL. This 2010 winery was built in the Romanesque style. With palm trees swaying, one feels transported to another place and time, as this structure reflects an Italian piazza in Rome, complete with bell tower, large centre staircase and soon-to-be massive fountain. An outdoor patio beckons you to sit and enjoy a “sip of scenery” before perusing the wine store inside. Each label on a Colaneri wine bottle boasts of a unique work of art, revealing a piece of the “family story.” The “le toilette” reflected some of the structural detail with art and a graduated wall ledge that held floral arrangements. The restrooms were designed for a single user. With modern conveniences, they fit in well with the Romanesque style. Colaneri Estate Winery received a 3.5 Gold Plunger award.

3.5/5 Gold Plungers



A glorious sunset

Photo submitted by
Alesha Cummings

King St. couple's garden honoured



Alex and Randie Topps. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

A garden featuring peonies and irises as well as salvia and lupins at 643 King St. is the latest winner of Niagara-on-the-Lake's annual Garden of the Week contest.

The homeowners, Randie and Alex Topps, said it is not the first time their garden has been honoured in the contest but they felt “happy” and “proud” to be the winners.

“Happy to be recognized for my hard labour,” Randie told The Lake Report and said she loves to look at

the garden. Alex, a retired landscape architect, said he spends from 30 minutes to one hour a day watering and weeding.

Judges commented on the garden's “lovely symmetry of Kousa dogwoods and white birch.”

“The strategic placement of a spruce tree provides privacy and there are lovely perennials in co-coordinating colours with a viewing bench to enjoy the gardens,” the judges said in a news release from the Town of NOTL.

RIDDLE ME THIS:

**I am gentle enough to soothe your skin,
light enough to fly in the sky, strong
enough to crack rocks. What am I?**

**Last Week's Riddle: To you, rude would I never
be, Though I flag my tongue for all to see.
What am I?**

Answer: Water

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly by:

**Cheryl House, Katie Reimer, Joan Moore,
Doug Hernder**

**Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com
for a chance to win a prize.**

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Featured local story

Sheila Hirsch-Kalm and her magical garden oasis

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

About 40 master gardeners and friends arrived by bus at Sheila Hirsch-Kalm's home on York Road last Wednesday evening to walk through her garden and appreciate the dedication and love she puts into the space.

She is a member of the NOTL Horticultural Society and known for the installation of the Daffodil Gardens of Hope around NOTL in 2018. She has opened her home to tour buses of interested gardeners and garden-lovers on countless occasions, and says she will continue to do so.

But this isn't just a story about a glorious garden – though it is indeed glorious – it's about a woman who refuses to give up. Barriers mean nothing, she'll simply plow through them.

That steadfast attitude is evident in her creation of an abundantly flowing garden scape from what was once nothing more than an open field. When she purchased the property in 2001, she says the field was simple and bare, "You could see straight over the escarpment."

The backyard spans more than an acre out her kitchen window and has since been transformed into a lush botanical garden. Much more than gorgeous landscaping and beautiful flowers, it's a little piece of paradise for Hirsch-Kalm, where she says she continues to work and focus on the hobbies that have brought her so much joy over the years.

She won't sit idly by



Sheila Hirsch-Kalm rests after 40 Master Gardeners walked her property for a tour last Wednesday. BRITTANY CARTER

while age creeps up – at 83, Hirsch-Kalm says she'll sleep when she's dead.

She's an advocate for adapting with age, not simply giving up on the things you enjoy because your body isn't as strong as it once was. She has been updating her garden over the last few years, installing leaning gardens and flower beds that she can work on while using her walker. She had the walls torn down and renovated her main floor to allow for better mobility around her home.

She says she sees her garden as a learning tool for others who, through aging or disability, have to change how they garden.

"How to think ahead

by redesigning plantings so they require less work. My large perennial beds turned into beds of Japanese maples, gives wonderful fall colour. Ground cover is fabric covered with stones/pebbles. No weeding! Raised beds that you access from sitting on a walker etc., and surround on three sides."

On top of that, she was invited to a conference, Ageworks – The Art of Aging Forum. The conference is an assembly of organizations and individuals who want to make a difference by reducing ageist attitudes.

Hirsch-Kalm says NOTL's seniors are not represented enough and that's something she wants to work on bringing to town.

"NOTL is the only local community who is not participating in being an age-friendly designated community," she says.

"We have the Youth Advisory Committee. We need senior representation more."

She has been battling a rare blood cancer, called myelofibrosis, for the last 20 years. And though at times she needs to incorporate rest into her busy schedule (as she insists everyone should), she isn't about to let the latter years of life pass her by.

To see her, you wouldn't know she's been ill, though, she's not letting cancer slow her down. "My garden is what keeps me going. It's my healing bed."

Her garden, much like her

life, is an inspiration to anyone who crosses its path.

As the visiting gardeners walked the grounds, smelling the varieties of roses and peonies and other flowers that fill every nook and cranny, they spoke of the love and devotion that went into the space, the amount of time it must have taken to plan out and create the sprawling gardens and the inspiration and respect commanded by the woman who made it all possible. Hirsch-Kalm is a force and that's evident in everything she does.

Lori Vanderlinden, one of the visitors from Northumberland Region, says she was struck by Hirsch-Kalm's example.

"Isn't she something? She's so inspiring," Vanderlinden says.

Hirsch-Kalm has been entertaining busloads of visitors interested in her garden for several years. Before each tour rolls through she spends weeks leading up to the date preparing the space for their enjoyment; setting up seating, maintaining the gardens and getting the space ready for their browsing eyes and wandering feet.

There are no hard surfaces in her garden aside from the absorbent stone around the pond and trees. She gets a lot of run-off water from up the escarpment she says. "But that's a whole other story."

The Lake Report arrived before the bus to get a jump on the interview and take some photos but Hirsch-Kalm was already busy in the kitchen cutting fruit and setting out water and cups for her guests.

Of course, she doesn't do it all by herself. Her friend Kathy Seymour was by her side to help prepare the property for the tours. Seymour says she came to help with the construction of the koi pond several years ago and has been coming back regularly to help ever since.

"She's the kind of person you want to stay close to," Seymour says.

Though the garden requires a lot of upkeep, and busloads of visitors can make for an exhausting afternoon, Hirsch-Kalm says she takes great joy out of all of it. "It's all in a day's work when you open your garden."



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