The deck is under water

Sailing club members are wearing rubber boots to get to their boats

Story on Page 2

Town warns residents to prepare for floods

Story on Page 7

Hotel planned for Old Town property

Story on Page 3

Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club members John and Chris Mills stand in lake water covering the docks. RICHARD HARLEY

Local gelato maker wins international bronze award

Story on Page 17

Affordable housing project cancelled by developer

Story on Page 3
Water level causes a hassle at sailing club

Richard Harley
Editor

When Chris and John Mills went sailing Sunday, they both wore rubber boots — otherwise they might as well have gone for a swim, too.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club members had to wade through almost six inches of water to get to their boat — watching their feet going on what is now a slippery, algae-covered dock, fully immersed in the lake.

Rubber boots are a common sight at the sailing club now, with the water level in Lake Ontario at a record high. But wet feet isn’t the biggest problem for the sailing club. John said the high levels were creating dangerous conditions for boat launchers, who couldn’t see where the edge of the dock was, made worse by cars driving through the parking lot and making the water muddy and murky.

“They were worried that when they were launching boats the lift couldn’t see where the edges were and they were afraid they were going to drive right off into the water,” Chris said.

For some boaters it’s become a hassle getting in and out of their spots at the dock.

“The docking’s not too bad just yet. It’s just craziness,” said John. “When I’m coming in I can’t see where this front dock is, so when you’re coming in, you come in dead slow and you have to be careful because you don’t want to run into it.”

“Mind you, right now the lake probably boats above the dock so you’d probably run into the fence before you hit the dock,” Chris added.

“The other thing is, it’s all OK right now, but what happens if there’s a storm, or what happens if some idiot goes by with a power boat with a big wake? What happens?” John said.

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When asked for some basic information about the case, a town spokesperson said in an email: “Legal counsel has advised that the town cannot be providing any details about the accusations. The Lake Report could find no court documents nor any references to the charges posted on the town’s website. The documents are fully public and there are no known legal provisions that would preclude them from being revealed by the town.

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Affordable housing project cancelled

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A NOTL developer says he is cancelling plans to build affordable rental units in Virgil, just three weeks after unveiling the proposal.

Rainer Hummel of Hummel Properties Inc. announced his decision in a statement issued Monday afternoon.

“We thought we would get ahead of it. We thought it would be a good initiative for the town and we thought, ‘Well, let’s pitch this,’” he told The Lake Report in an interview. “And that was a mistake.”

Hummel introduced the plan at a town council meeting on May 13. The project called for two four- or six-storey buildings on a 16-acre property in Virgil. There would be 40 units in each building with 20 per cent of the units being considered affordable housing. Those 16 units would have monthly rents of $1,260. Hummel’s project was going to be built under the federal government’s National Housing Strategy.

In a story published in The Lake Report on May 30, a housing advocate for the Region of Niagara questioned whether the Virgil project would help NOTL’s “most vulnerable” residents.

After the article appeared, Hummel said he became concerned with some of the negative feedback. He said he didn’t discuss his concerns with anyone from the town or the region prior to deciding to withdraw his proposal.

“There’s no profit in this, there’s no way to make money on this. If we’re doing this, it’s because it’s something positive for the community,” he said. “But to waste a lot of time, a lot of money and a lot of staff time based on the messaging we heard, it’s not going to work.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero’s comments concerned him the most, he said, adding that he met with the mayor of Pelham, where the developer is also proposing to build rental accommodations, and the meeting was “wonderful.”

Disero previously told The Lake Report she had two concerns with Hummel’s proposal. One is that the developer was asking for “quite a lot” from the town in the form of tax breaks and reduced development charges. Disero also wanted to know what Hummel planned to do with the portion of the 12.5 acres that is designated as employment lands.

Hummel said he doesn’t know what exactly he will do on the 3.5 acres of residential land where the affordable house project was planned. Because the site is close to Crossroads Public School, he said he might build condominium townhouses or single-family homes for young families there.

For the rest of the property, the developer said he will wait until new provincial legislation is passed, which is expected to ease restrictions on developments.

Meanwhile, Hummel said he will continue with his affordable housing project in Pelham.

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Editorial: An important month

Richard Harley
Editor-in-Chief

June is an important month — and not just because summer (hopefully!) arrives.

June is also Indigenous Month in Canada, a celebration of the anniversary of D-Day, when many young Canadians gave their lives to defend our freedoms.

The Lake Report encourages our readers to spend some time learning about the land we live on and spreading joy to the people in our lives who have had the courage to come out as gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans -.

As we should all step by the Legion for fish and chips or a cold beer and to pay our respects to those who fought and died for us.

Among the other events happening this month, June is an important month — and not just because summer (hopefully!) arrives.

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Pride Month around the globe and it marks the anniversary of D-Day, when many young Canadians gave their lives to defend our freedoms.

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Letters to the Editor

Why developer says he cancelled affordable housing project

Dear editor:

Providing any kind of rental housing, regardless of price, is extremely difficult to accomplish. It’s the reason rental apartments have not been built in decades.

To provide a portion of them as affordable, is even more difficult.

Communities such as Peterborough and Kitchener have given the development industry 10 years with no property taxes, no park dedication or development charges, no permit or application fees and have even gone so far as to provide cash incentives to spur construction of rental buildings.

These communities had no willing developers and initiated a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) in the hopes of attracting investors. They were successful.

We approached the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake with a plan for rental apartments. We did not seek concessions in the magnitude, freely offered by other communities.

However, we have carefully worked out the costing and determined the bare minimum to make such a project possible. A May 30 article in The Lake Report, Affordable development really affordable?, cites several sources that cause us grave concern.

Jeffrey Sinclair from the Region of Niagara seems to be confused in thinking this is meant as housing for the homeless or most vulnerable.

It isn’t. It is an affordable housing initiative under the Federal Housing Strategy. I’m not sure what he is talking about, however, persons moving from lesser rental accommodations to a new, more substantial property, would free up the less expensive rental units for a more vulnerable tenant.

In short, the rental housing supply would increase, offering more choice at different price points.

Donna Woeschryn, CEO of Niagara Regional Housing, seems to clearly grasp the intent of the legislation and its potential positive effects. We appreciate her input.

This was an effort on our company’s part to try to fill a local need. The messaging from the mayor’s office suggests to us that we apply and work through a process. Without some assurance there is a willingness to achieve an objective, we will have invested a large amount of money and be left with an unworkable financial situation.

Providing rental housing requires a commitment and I hope that at some point in the future, our council sees fit to follow the path of other communities that have had success in attracting rental development.

We feel that the messaging we heard from the mayor’s office would drain our energies and resources. It seems clear we would end up with an outcome that is less than what would be required for success.

With that said, we are regretfully withdrawing our proposal to provide rental apartments for Virgil. We will continue to explore the interest in Pelham, with the staff and community leaders there.

We would like to thank the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake staff, for their positive efforts and creative input in looking for solutions. We would also like to thank Regional Councillor Gary Zalepa for his immediate and unwavering support to try to create an environment where this could have become a reality.

Rainer Hummel
Hummel Properties Inc.
Op-ed: Niagara school board’s disgraceful cone of silence

David Israelson
Special to The Lake Report

The District School Board in Niagara seems to be working harder than ever to maintain its reputation as the worst school board in Ontario.

That’s how it appears — except it’s hard to tell. We voters can’t really know what’s going on, thanks to the Cone of Silence imposed by board chair Sue Barnett.

We’re not allowed to know, according to the edict imposed by “Silent Sue” Barnett on the perpetually underperforming DSBN.

This board and its chair barely seem to even realize we live in a democracy. Voters are supposed to know what’s going on, thanks to the public board meeting she asked if the board could come up with a better way to review the performance of its education director, Warren Hoshizaki.

Is Hoshizaki doing a good job? Who knows? He was paid nearly $272,000 by the taxpayers in 2017, by the way.

In requesting a performance review, Baggott, who represents Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines, said she was not implying criticism — people just want to know more.

Knowing stuff is apparently too much for Silent Sue and the dismal DSBN. Not only did they shoot down Baggott’s idea; an attempt was made to freeze out an elected official, Jonathan Fast, who represents Niagara-on-the-Lake.

By the board’s code of conduct. That may be the most disgraceful cone of conduct that Slow Jonathan Fast has shown in his entire career as a school trustee.

Nevertheless, the gag order is real, Silent Sue Barnett says. She says the board’s code of conduct, which all boards are required to have, says that only the chair is allowed to speak to the public “unless otherwise determined by the board.”

She explained to the St. Catharines Standard that trustees are required to be authorized by the chair to express their opinions in public and must make it clear that they aren’t speaking on behalf of the board.

Now, it’s true that there are valid reasons for school boards both to have a code of conduct and to insist that school board members abide by one. It doesn’t serve democracy to have elected officials slandering or maligning people or policies they don’t like, or lying or contradicting what a board or any other public body has decided.

Not that it doesn’t happen, of course.

In any case, there is a world of difference between a reasonable code of conduct for officials and a North Korea-style gag order that would sanction people we elect for simply expressing an opinion or putting forward an idea. This board needs to be re-educated on what a code of conduct is and what should go into one.

We can do better. Someone ought to remind Silent Sue and Slow Jonathan Fast that we elect people precisely to hear their opinions. Voters are supposed to hear what people have to say and choose.

Full disclosure: I learned this because in the last election I ran for the DSBN and lost.

Perhaps it was for the best — had I won, Silent Sue might have ordered me not to write this.

David Israelson is journalist and resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake.
N OTL could reap millions by working with corporate brands

Dear editor:

I read The Lake Report’s editorial last week, The good – no bad, no ugly.

Although I agree with the year you identified, we should also consider the opportunities that are being missed to make our town great!

The town, the Chamber of Commerce, even some of our valued assets (like the Shaw Festival) are missing opportunities to work with national brands, desperately looking for ways to activate in our market.

There are some terrific examples of municipalities working with brands that provide funding to elevate new and existing amenities for residents.

A number of towns and cities are realizing their assets have a marketable value to brands and are selling sponsorships, advertising, naming rights and partnerships to local, regional and national corporations.

The Town of Pickering collected $16 million from corporate sponsors to build and develop new assets for the community, including a new central library.

As someone who was responsible for bringing a major televised golf event, the Telus Skins Game, to NOTL a few years ago, I know funding available and take a sophisticated approach to corporate partnerships.

That brands are willing to invest in this market and global media exposure (on CNN), I know the Shaw Festival 2019, to NOTL a few years ago, I know that brands are willing to invest in this market with the right partners.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and others need to recognize the opportunities and funding available and take a sophisticated approach to corporate partnerships.

Imagining the right partners what additional assets we can build and refurbish for our community.

Glenn Young
NOTL

Village grocery store gets green light after Loblaw settlement

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A new grocery store in Niagara-on-the-Lake is a go.

John Hawley, president of Traditional Neighbourhood Developments Inc., said the company got the green light to proceed with the development near Garrison Village on May 7, after reaching a settlement with Loblaw Companies Limited.

Last year, in addition to the existing zoning for the land, Hawley asked town council for permission to build a hotel and a grocery store in the Village Centre. The town approved Hawley’s request but Loblaw then appealed the inclusion of a grocery store to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

Hawley had previously signed a decades-long agreement with Loblaw not to open a grocery store in the location. During the public meeting for the Village development on Aug. 7, 2018, Hawley said his company was toying that agreement to the wind.

Loblaw requested a market study to determine if there is a need for another grocer in town, said Hawley. After his company hired the consultants to conduct a study, he said it was confirmed there was a need and Loblaw then abandoned the appeal.

“Was competition a factor? No doubt,” Hawley told The Lake Report. “But they were very good in the final analysis, they were very reasonable. Once they saw the market study, they were fine.”

The grocery store is planned to be part of a larger development on the seven acres of land located at the corner of Niven and Niagara Stone roads. The project will also include a boutique 60-unit hotel, a restaurant, a grocer, a performance centre with 300 to 400 seats, as well as a number of retail shops in and around the hotel.

The new store will be more “upscale,” mostly targeted to the people in town wanting a “higher-end shopping experience,” said Hawley.

By opening another grocery store, Hawley said he hopes to “fill in a niche” by bringing people who shop outside NOTL back to town, as the market study showed there were residents who drive to other places to shop.

“We hope to pull them back to shop in town,” said Hawley, adding he hopes to find the right grocer who will work with local farmers to bring a different experience to NOTL shoppers.

“It will offer something different, a different experience than the two Valu-marts,” said Hawley. He praised those two grocery stores, which operate under one of Loblaw’s banners, and added that “there is enough room for another small grocer.”

After the drawings and the plans are finished, Hawley said he hopes to start building next summer and, with the construction taking about nine to 12 months, to have the centre open in mid-2021.

Pumphouse announces contest winners

The first- and second-place winners for the Walker Industries Art Competition will be announced on July 4. The competition, hosted by the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, is part of the organization’s 25-year anniversary celebration.

The 25 finalists will be on display from July 4 to Aug. 4 at the Pumphouse. First place will be awarded $2,500 and second will be given $250. The third-place prize, which will be the people’s choice award voted on out of the 25 finalists on display, will also be awarded $250.

Awards will be presented on Aug. 4 at 3 p.m. during art centre’s 25th anniversary celebration party.

Queenston garage sale is Saturday

The annual Queenston community garage sale is this Saturday, June 8, from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. All households are welcome to participate and the sale goes rain or shine. Event organizer Adrian Schoot Uiterkamp said the sale, which started almost 15 years ago, is good for the environment as it encourages people to sell and buy used items. The event, operated by the Queenston Residents Association, happens alternate years in early June. This will be also the first year Queenston Volunteer Firefighters will not host their annual barbecue due to a scheduling conflict, said Schoot Uiterkamp.

Town sponsors step challenge

Step to it – the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is sponsoring the Step Challenge 2019 all through June.

Registration is open to individuals or teams of four who live or work in NOTL. It runs until June 30 and, as a town, the Chamber of Commerce, even some of our valued assets (like the Shaw Festival) are missing opportunities to work with national brands, desperately looking for ways to activate in our market.

The operations department has yet $18,000 to buy the boards, which would be moved around the town.

The operations department has yet to determine which areas would require the speed boards, said Coun. Norm Arsenault. The transportation committee and town council will discuss the item next week.

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Residents warned to be ready in case lake floods homes

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

As the waters of Lake Ontario continue to rise, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake officials say they are working hard to prevent properties from being flooded.

But if wind, waves and more rain cause water to breach the town’s barriers, homes could be damaged, an emergency public meeting was told Wednesday.

Brett Ruck, the town’s manager of environmental services, told the crowd of about 25 people at the NOTL Community Centre the main priority now is flood prevention.

The water level in Lake Ontario has already passed the 2017 record of 75.75 metres. As of Wednesday, June 5, the water had crept up to 75.90 metres, according to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

If the efforts to contain the flood waters fail, residents would have to be ready to take action and protect their homes. About 500 properties and homes in the dock area would be affected if the water level reaches 76 metres, he said.

Ruck previously told The Lake Report that residents may have to be evacuated if flooding occurs.

“This is a double-edged sword for us. We’re bringing people in here to say that you need to start seriously thinking about if this isn’t contained and something were to happen,” he said, noting the town is supplying sandbags to residents.

The high water levels are expected to return to normal in late November, so protections would have to stay in place until late August, said Ruck.

Sandbags are available at Collingwood Street, Nelson Park and at the parking lot at the River Beach Drive.

With check valves keeping the lake water out of the sewers and with pumps placed in the drains, residents are seniors, they would like to have some volunteer help.

Ruck also said there should be owner-occupied homes in Garrison Village and Old Town. Visitors staying at short-term rental accommodations often cause disruptions and negatively affect the neighbours, he said.

“We believe it is that our neighbourhoods, by definition, should be shaped by and defined by long-term neighbours, not by short-term visitors,” Ragan said.

Among the issues he cited were excessive daytime noise and noise after 11 p.m., parking and traffic problems, littering and renting being vacated in the off-season. If additional enforcement staff is required to monitor the rentals, neighbours would have to pay for them through their own municipal taxes, he said.

There is also no limit on the number of renters per unit and no limit on the number of short-term vacation rentals in residential areas, said Hagan.

When property owners or rental management companies are absent or don’t occupy the property themselves, they’re not held responsible for their guests’ behaviour, said Hagan.

“No absentee landlords. All short-term vacation rentals must be owner-occupied,” said Hagan and suggested a number of solutions which he said will mitigate the issues.

The first suggestion is that short-term vacation rentals only be allowed in commercially zoned areas, not residentially zoned areas. Hagan also recommended imposing a “noise deposit.”

The renters would pay the landlord or a management company a deposit ensuring they don’t cause noise. If there are no complaints about the noise made to the town within the next business day, the deposit would be refunded.

“If, however, complaints have been made to the municipality, the owner or a management company would be obliged to forward the noise deposit to the municipality,” Hagan explained to The Lake Report. “Failure to do this would result in the revocation of their license.”

He also said there should be a system for tracking complaints from “intensive properties” and after three complaints, owners’ licences would be revoked.

“Most of all, we believe that our particular problem can be solved by mandating that all short-term vacation rental properties be owner-occupied, not operated by property management companies and corporations with no motivation but profit,” Hagan concluded.

“Let us welcome visitors here to Niagara-on-the-Lake. But let’s maintain our community values and have these visitors hosted by neighbours.”
Ceremony celebrates Indigenous Month

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Reconciliation doesn’t take a year. It’s not a two-year process, either — it does take a generation, says the director of an Indigenous education initiative in Niagara Region.

Tim Johnson, director of Landscape of Nations 360 Degrees, spoke to a crowd of more than 100 people who attended the opening ceremony for Indigenous Month on Saturday afternoon at the Landscape of Nations Memorial at Queenston Heights Park.

The annual event was held in celebration of the start of Indigenous Month, which acknowledges the achievements of Indigenous peoples. In the wake of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Indigenous Month aims to inform and educate Canadians about Indigenous issues.

The ceremony, organized by Niagara Parks in partnership with the Landscape of Nations 360 Degrees Indigenous Education Initiative, is one of a number of events taking place across Niagara as part of Indigenous Month. Guest speakers on Saturday included Six Nations artist Raymond Skye, Michele-Elise Burnett, president of Kakekalanicks, an Indigenous arts and consultancy company that helps promote Indigenous art and artists, Niagara Parks chair Sandie Bellows and Niagara Centre MP Vance Badawey.

“I think anybody that walks on these grounds can feel the peace and harmony that is created now and going forward,” Bellows told The Lake Report. “It’s so great to see this crowd out here and I’m very honoured to be here.”

There’s no relationship more important than with Indigenous peoples, Badawey told the audience.

“In Niagara, we’re extremely lucky to have such a vibrant and engaged Indigenous population,” he said and encouraged people to learn, reflect and pass on the inspiration to others.

When he was designing the memorial, Skye said he was thinking about the warriors on Queenston Heights during the War of 1812.

He said he wanted to create something that honours not only leaders but unknown fallen warriors as well, to acknowledge and remember their efforts.

A few metres away from the ceremony, firekeeper Fred Bowering was keeping a sacred fire burning. He was also performing a smudging ceremony using white buffalo sage, sweetgrass and tobacco. Keeping the fire also helps him maintain sobriety, said Bowering.

Upcoming celebratory events in NOTL in honour of Indigenous Month include:

* Friday, June 14, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Queenston Heights, Celebrate OUR Nations: An Interactive Educational Experience.
* Friday, June 21, from 3 p.m. to sundown, at Virgil Sports Park, National Indigenous Day Celebration.
* Thursday, June 27, at 7 p.m., at Queenston Chapel, Laura Secord Homestead, author Tanya Tagaq speaks about her book Split Tooth.
Twisted Vine opens in Virgil

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A new Virgil restaurant is bringing Italian cuisine to town.

Twisted Vine Kitchen and Market had a quiet opening on Friday, located on Niagara Stone Road near Sono’s Cafe, the restaurant offers Italian and continental cuisine with daily features.

With two soft openings last week, restaurant owner Joe Marchese said most customers loved the place, which has a “rustic but modern look.”

Construction started last May and the grand opening was initially scheduled for October. It was delayed due to construction issues, said Marchese. With “beautiful” Lake Ontario and Virgil being a “great” town, Marchese decided “it would be a nice spot for Italian cuisine,” he said.

Coming from a family of Italian immigrants, Marchese said he got his “food influence” from his mother Ada Marchese, who was a chef for 50 years.

Over the past 15 years, he owned two La Scala Ristorante locations in St. Catharines. He doesn’t operate any other businesses right now as his main priority is the new restaurant, he said.

“It still never gets easier,” he told The Lake Report. “There are always challenges and always something that you’re always learning.”

There is eight to 15 staff working at the restaurant, said Marchese, as well as a local chef, Nina Sharpe, who is from St. Catharines.

There is also a small indoor market with imported Italian foods such as olives, pasta and Marchese’s private-label Sicilian olive oil.

“So far, we’re pretty happy with everything. We’re going to do our best to do the best we can,” he said.

1,200 young performers in Niagara for Ontario music competition

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

When he’s singing, Queenston teenager Alexandre Brillon says he feels like he can do anything.

“When I sing, I feel like I’m on top of the world,” says Brillon, 18, one of the performers who will be competing this week in the annual provincial finals held by the Ontario Music Festivals Association.

Over 1,200 competitors from across Ontario are coming to the Niagara Region this week.

This is the first time the annual competition has taken place in Niagara. Performances started Monday and continue through Saturday, June 8, in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In NOTL, performances will take place at St. Davids-Queenston United Church, Yellow Door Theatre, St. Mark’s Anglican Church, Niagara United Mennonite Church and Bethany Mennonite Church.

The public is welcome to attend. Admission is $2 and is valid for any venue for an entire day. The competitions generally start as early as 9 a.m. and last throughout the day.

Performers, up to 28 years old, will compete in piano, harp, brass, strings, guitar, woodwinds, chamber music, musical theatre and speech arts.

There are 56 competitors coming from Niagara and about six of them are from NOTL, said Lisa Brillon, Alexandre’s mother and president of the provincial organization.

“We’re lucky to live here,” said Brillon, adding the provincials rotate locations every two years, so it returns to NOTL next year.

This is Alexandre Brillon’s sixth time competing at the provincial finals organized by the Ontario Music Festivals Association.

The competition was held in Hamilton last time.

To qualify for the provincials, participants have to score a mark of 85 per cent or higher and be recommended by adjudicators.

Only two finalists per level and per discipline from each local music festival can be nominated to perform at the provincial level.

Since some classifications range in sizes, participants may be split into groups. Two finalists from each group will then compete later that day in the so-called “playoffs,” where the final winners will be selected.

Adjudicators will be judging the performance as well as providing a workshop to all competitors, who could win over $39,000 in scholarships. An adjudicator may also choose first-place winners at the national qualifying level to represent Ontario at the National Music Festival Competition, which will take place in Saskatoon this August.

Brillon said it took a year to prepare for the event, which included securing the venues, booking hotels as well as arranging schedules and rehearsals. Over 80 volunteers from across Ontario help run the event and 75 per cent of them are local, she told The Lake Report.

Alexandre, who has competed six times in the provincials, said he hopes to do well and leave the festival on a high note before heading to Sheridan College in Oakville to study musical theatre this fall.

“When I’m performing, it’s less for an award, it’s more for the audience. I want them to have a good time,” he said.

For a full schedule and a list of all the venues, visit https://omfa.ca/2019-class-schedules/.
HOMETOWN BREWER: Sam Maxbauer of Exchange Brewery

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

From the ground up, Sam Maxbauer has been at the helm of the Exchange Brewery’s brew team literally since before construction began. The Exchange has been in operation for five years, and Maxbauer helped it become Niagara-on-the-Lake’s go-to for sour beers.

The 31-year-old’s previous six years in the craft beer industry in Michigan prepared him to take on the leadership role at the Queen Street brewery in NOTL.

“I helped design the building, all the brewing equipment. I started working as a kind of a consultant and then, once the project was further along, became the head brewer. I was the first person hired,” Maxbauer says.

Through his membership in the Brewer’s Association, a trade group comprised of more than 7,200 brewers, he was approved to come work for quaffs in the region has done.

Brittany Carter
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Hard work and play pays off for cricket coach

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Work hard, play harder – coach Prophet Elisha Steele infuses his passion and dedication into the annual migrant worker cricket match, which takes place this Sunday.

The match is hosted by the Caribbean Workers Outreach Program. Held at the Veterans Memorial Park on King Street in NOTL from 2 to 7 p.m., the public is invited to watch as the Niagara Clippers take on the Lincoln Lions.

Grace Foods, Bethany Mennonite Church and Welland’s Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen are sponsoring the event, providing a chicken dinner and refreshments for everyone in attendance.

While the Caribbean workers’ cricket matches have been taking place since before Steele came on board in 1992, he has taken the team to the next level through his leadership. He insists on three practices before each annual match, ensuring those who do make it onto the team are as dedicated, serious and passionate about playing as he is. He’s 60 now and has been playing since he was 17.

It’s not just about playing the sport, he said, he wants to win. And when it comes to his team he said his standards are high. His eye is on the trophy and Steele said he doesn’t plan on leaving the match without it in his hands this year.

“I don’t like to lose, I’m a trophy guy. I really love to play. I love the fun, but I like to win the trophy,” Steele said, adding that most years the Niagara Clippers have been victorious. When Steele is back home in Jamaica, he said he plays for several different teams – cricket is a big part of who he is.

“I play lots of cricket here, but I play more back home.”

The best cricketer Steele said he ever played against was Rohan Kanhai of the West Indies. He is considered one of the best batsmen of the 1960s, Steele said, acknowledging that most players have been victorious.

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On the tee: Mantle-Young team rolls to big win

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The foursome of Larry and Judy Mantle and Glenn and Debbie Young putted their way to one of the lowest scores ever in NOTL Golf Club Friday night Couples league competition on May 31.


Women’s 18-hole league: Louise Robitaille and Martha Cruikshank were neck-and-neck in June 4 play, shooting 85 and 86 respectively. Yolanda Henry had third low gross with a 92. Cruikshank also had low nett (67), fewest putts (27) and a birdie (#8). Other low nets: Valerie Chubey and Cathy Murray (72) and May Chang and Henry (75). Fewest putts: Henry (28) and Robitaille (30). Closest to pin: Patty Garrick (#4), Robitaille (#13). Birdies: Henry (#2). Chip-ins: Barbara Ahluwalia and Henry (#7). Garrick (#11).

Thursday Men’s Night league: Mark Derbyshire was the big winner May 30, with a 3-under 33 to take low gross. He also won gross skins worth $40 each on holes 1 and 9, and he shared A flight top points honour with Peter Falconer and Kevin MacLean (23 respectively). Bill Baizinger was B flight winner with 26 points. Jim McMackin won a gross skin on #2. Net skins winner was David Gagne ($118). Closest to the pin: Robert Patterson (#4), Roland Bissell (#6), Don Wright (#8) and Al Bannister (#9). Longest drive: Doug Garrett (#3), Don Allen (#8). Kurt Hamm won the 50/50 prize worth $205.

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COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:

Sunday

Walking Tours of Old Town: 11 a.m. - Queen’s Royal Park
Polish Sunday in NOTL: Noon to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
The Niagara Symphony presents: Face to Face and Fabulous with TORQ Percussion - 1 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant

Monday

Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Town Council Meeting - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers
Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre
Monday Night Teen Hang Out - 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library

Tuesday

NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre
Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Pizza Garden - 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
InfoHealth: The Fast Team - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Public Library
NOTL SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - The Village
NOTL Toastmasters - 9 p.m. - Niagara College Campus

Wednesday

Legion Fish Fry every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

Father’s Day
Homegrown Wine Festival - Wineries of Niagara
Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen’s Royal Park
Ghost Tours of Fort George - 9:30 p.m. - Fort George
Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre
Monday Night Teen Hang Out - 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Strawberry Social - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre

NOTL Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament - 11 a.m. - Royal Niagara Golf Club
NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre
Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Carvey Wooden Sign Workshop (Adult) - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library

NOTL SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - The Village
NOTL Toastmasters - 9 p.m. - Niagara College Campus
Simpson’s Seniors’ a.m. to 8 p.m. - Simpson’s Seniors’

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**Fort George**

- **8:30 p.m.**
  - **Ghost Tours of Fort George**

- **11 a.m.**
  - **Walking Tours of Old Town**

- **Father's Day**
  - **Trius Winery & Restaurant**
  - **and Fabulous with TORQ**
  - **The Niagara Symphony**
  - **to 3:30 p.m.**
  - **- Noon**
  - **Walking Tours of Old Town**

- **Legion Fish Fry**
  - **every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to www.niagararanow.com or send us an email at events@niagararanow.com.

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**Regional Native Centre - Niagara**

- **Community Drumming Night**
  - **NOTL**
  - **6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.**
  - **Monday Night Teen Hang**
  - **NOTL Community Centre**
  - **9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

- **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
  - **Carvey Wooden Sign**
  - **NOTL Community Centre**
  - **1:30 p.m.**
  - **Seniors Euchre**
  - **Niagara Golden Age Club:**
  - **Community Centre**
  - **1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
  - **Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL)**
  - **NOTL Community Centre**

- **Annual Golf Tournament**
  - **NOTL Chamber of Commerce**
  - **Royal Niagara Golf Club**
  - **11 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

- **Simpson's Seniors' Day**
  - **Campus**
  - **9 p.m.**
  - **Niagara College, NOTL**

- **NOTL Rotary Club**
  - **The Village**
  - **NOTL SupperMarket**
  - **Public Library**
  - **2 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Museum - Niagara Historical Society & Canadian Designers**

- **Contemporary Millinery by An Exhibition of Vintage & Art & Fashion Lecture**
  - **NOTL Public Library**
  - **3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

- **Practical Genealogy: Beginner Class**
  - **NOTL Public Library**
  - **1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

- **Practical Genealogy: Intermediate and DNA Workshop**
  - **Art & Fashion Lecture Series:**
  - **Canadian Crowns, An Exhibition of Vintage & Contemporary Millinery by Canadian Designers - 7:30 p.m.**
  - **Niagara Historical Society & Museum**

- **Laura Secord Walk in support of War Child Canada - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
  - **Laura Secord House**
  - **Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
  - **The Village**
  - **Strawberry Festival - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
  - **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**

- **Summer Kick Off Party at the Library - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
  - **NOTL Public Library**

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Al Howse  
Past-president  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124

It is not an exaggeration that June 6, 1944, is one of the most important days in world history. This is the day that started a change we still live with today. It was the start of “Operation Overlord,” a complex attack on German-held territory in France by Canadian, American and British military forces. It was the beginning of the end of the Second World War and stabilized Europe as never before.

The attack took place along the Normandy coast of the Atlantic ocean, focused on five points, known as Omaha, Utah, Sword, Juno, and Gold beaches; Juno was the Canadian objective; 155,000 soldiers in total charged ashore that day; 14,000 were from the Canadian 3rd infantry Division, and the 2nd Armoured Brigade, including 450 paratroopers; 10,000 Canadian sailors in 110 ships and 45 air squadrons supported the effort, as they fought from the sea to the shore, and then to the cliffs. The German defences were well-built and well-armed. By the end of the first day, the Canadians suffered 1,074 casualties, 359 died. France was finally freed by August when the Germans were defeated in Falaise and Paris.

The Allied forces fought through Belgium and the Netherlands and into Germany. The German military surrendered on May 7, 1945. Oct. 24, 1945, marked the forming of the United Nations. Rebuilding of Germany would soon follow. Another key date was May 5, 1949, when the NATO alliance was created.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an agreement to give collective support to each of its members, mostly protection from a Russian (then Soviet) invasion. A key part of the treaty is the declaration that an attack on one country is an attack on all within the group. There are currently 29 members of NATO. The result has been 70 years of relative peace in Europe. NATO has allowed European countries to prosper in peace and influenced the world economy. There is no doubt the United States is the centrepiece of this group, but Canada has contributed troops in Germany, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and currently in Ukraine, and Georgia. During this time Canada has become a leading contributor to peacekeeping throughout the world, a proud heritage that started June 6, 1944.

Remembering D-Day

Follow-up waves of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade disembark with bicycles from landing craft onto Juno Beach at Bernieres-sur-Mer on June 6, 1944. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Elementary school students get a glimpse of college life

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Elementary school students got a sneak peek into college life last week.

Niagara College held its annual Destination College workshop to welcome about 400 students from 12 elementary schools across Niagara Region.

The event was held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus on May 28 and 29 and the Welland campus on May 30 and 31.

Grade 7 students from the Niagara Catholic District School Board and the District School Board of Niagara visited both campuses and learned more about offered programs and services by participating in hands-on activities.

The annual workshop is funded by the provincial government. The $30,000 cost covers organizational and transportation costs, said Phil Hayes, associate director of recruitment at Niagara College.

Niagara College started organizing the Destination College workshop about 15 years ago.

The college hosts about 100 students a day who split into groups rotating between the interactive sessions and attending presentations on college life.

Working with the two Niagara school boards, the college makes sure different schools are hosted every year. Organizers also try to identify schools that have a lot of “first generation” students or schools that have populations that need additional support,” said Hayes.

Some of the workshops, offered at the NOTL campus, included making ice cream in a bag in the culinary lab and creating white clover seed balls for bees in the environmental lab.

In a Dragons’ Den-inspired business workshop, students had to create and pitch a product, while at an event management workshop, students got to plan their own Grade 8 graduation.

Students at the Welland campus crafted faceless dolls to raise awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada, worked with an oscilloscope to generate sounds and made their own triangle peg game.

Such hands-on workshops allow students to start thinking and exploring some of their future career paths now.

“For the most part, the theme was students had no idea this goes on in postsecondary,” said Hayes. “For many of the students – and this is exactly why we are doing this – they’ve heard about college and university, they don’t necessarily know the difference nor do they know much about it for the most part.”

Hayley Woel, who will graduate from the college’s business administration and marketing program in June, said her experience helping to organize and plan the event was “daunting” at times.

“But it’s really fun to see it come to life,” she said.

Laura Secord Walk supports War Child Canada charity

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The annual Laura Secord Walk, which lets you follow in the footsteps of Canada’s first female trailblazer, will support the War Child Canada charity this year.

The walk offers an opportunity to raise money for women and children who are victims of war while honouring and acknowledging Secord’s contribution to Canadian history. It also provides a chance to collect steps in NOTL’s June Step Challenge.

On Saturday, June 22, the anniversary of Laura Secord’s 3.2-kilometre walk in 1813, Betty Disero, the first female Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake, will read a proclamation declaring the opening of the Laura Secord Weekend.

Secord’s famous walk 206 years ago from Queenston to Beaver Dams, in what is now Thorold, warned the British contingent and their allies that the Americans were planning a surprise attack.

However, Secord is more than just a strong historical figure, said Caroline McCormick, president of Friends of Laura Secord and a descendant of Canada’s national heroine.

“She’s enabling. She’s still a great metaphor for courage, determination and fortitude, for bravery and strength. That’s why we just keep pushing on – to perpetuate her legacy and all that she stands for.”

Opening ceremonies will begin at 8 a.m. at the Laura Secord Homestead in Queenston and the official walk will depart at 8:30 a.m.

The seven- to eight-hour walk will take participants through the Laura Secord Legacy Trail, about half of which is in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The legacy trail is one leg of the Great Trail, which is a cross-Canada system of trails, waterways and roads spanning 24,130 kilometres.

The first sign for the cross-branded Laura Secord Legacy Trail and the Great Trail will be symbolically installed before the walk begins on Sunday by Valerie Pringle, chair of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation and honorary chair of Friends of Laura Secord.

Adding adventure and excitement to the walk this year, Friends of Laura Secord will be participating in the Great Trail Treasure Hunt, a Canadianwide contest featuring caches hidden along the trail for walkers to find. The caches will be hidden from June 19 until Aug. 18.

There will be shuttle runs throughout the day for anyone not wanting to walk the entire 32 kilometres.

The trail traverses through four municipalities in the region: NOTL, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Thorold, ending at DeCew House Heritage Park in Thorold, where Secord delivered her message to Lt. James Fitzgibbon in 1813.

DeCew House is also where Friends of Laura Secord created the First Nations Peace Monument for the Canada 150 celebrations.

McCormick said said through Secord’s story, many other important stories can be told.

“The story of Laura Secord’s walk is inspirational and I recognize her courage in the women and girls War Child serves in warzones across the world,” Nutt said.

* This registration for the Laura Secord Walk is $30, and participants can sign up online at friendsolaurasecord.com by setting up a pledge sheet. The fundraising goal is $12,000.

Laura Secord Walk supports War Child Canada charity
Car show takes over Virgil park

Eunice Tang
The Lake Report

A severe thunderstorm warning didn’t stop NOTL Kinsmen and Virgil volunteer firefighters from hosting a car show at the Virgil Sports Park on Saturday.

The park was filled with live music, activities, drinks and vintage cars. Due to the chance of rain, the turnout was significant with live music, activities, drinks and vintage cars. The whole turnout was significant.

Live music, activities, drinks and vintage cars. The whole turnout was significant. The whole field was full of cars. The cars bring the people.

The NOTL Kinsmen and Virgil firefighters decided to merge their car shows this year, since both held events in the summertime.

“The idea of this show is once it gets into the evening, we do it under the lights so we turn all the ball diamond lights on and it’s pretty neat and all the LED lights shine down on the cars,” says Jason Disher, a Virgil firefighter.

All of the proceeds from the event go back into the community for things like improving playgrounds and helping sports teams.

“Everything that we raise between the Kinsmen and us, all goes back into the community,” Disher said.

Dens Harder, a retired firefighter, brought in his car, a 1993 Ford, which he bought locally and has owned for a year.

Ron Rumsey is one of the Ontario reps for Syracuse Nationals where about 9,000 classic cars come every year. He has been going to the Nationals since day one.

Rumsey presented a plaque to Harder because his vehicle was “one of the nicest cars here.” The award is from the Right Coast Association and includes a free pass to the Syracuse Nationals.

“It’s quite an award, it’s a reps’ choice.”

Rumsey loves the atmosphere at car shows. “You are friends you haven’t seen all year. It’s time to get out in spring and show your nice, bright, shiny cars up,” Rumsey said.

Some car shows are right around the corner, including one at the Kinsmen Scout Hall on the second Saturday of August and another on the last Sunday of August at the Virgil Fire Hall.

Don’t rush new infill development bylaw, council told

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Some Niagara-on-the-Lake residents feel a proposed amendment to the town’s official plan regarding infill housing policies is being rushed.

A number of residents spoke their minds about the amendment at Monday’s committee of the whole meeting on Monday night.

Council has previously directed community and development services to review the official plan and develop policies and requirements regarding infill and intensification in the residential neighbourhoods of NOTL.

In December 2018, council also passed an interim control bylaw prohibiting lot division within Old Town while the review of land use planning policies is underway.

Community and development services then recommended amendments to the town’s official plan. The proposed amendments include such development criteria as the width of the garages and driveways, building heights and massing, and tree retention.

Infill housing is often built on undeveloped vacant lots or properties where an older home has been torn down.

Rick Wilson, the town’s manager of planning, made a presentation at the committee of the whole meeting explaining the proposed changes.

The Region of Niagara has no objection to the proposed changes and has asked to exclude Glendale from the amendment as increased intensification, as part of the Glendale District Plan, is expected in that area.

At an open house on May 27, some residents also wondered if the amendment was dealing with all urban areas or only Old Town and whether new changes would make all development look the same.

On Monday night, Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservation Council president Gracia Jones asked councillors if the amendment should deal with each community within the whole town separately rather than as a whole. She also wondered what vague words such as “consistent,” “generally” and “minimize” used in the amendment meant when dealing with lots, areas, heights, or privacy.

“Won’t the planned ‘consistency’ lead to a ‘cookie cutter’ design of developments like some of those that have been built lately?” Jones asked.

She pointed out the town has already met its minimum intensification target of 15 per cent set by the region.

Coun. Gary Burroughs noted that with Glendale project coming on, he “would imagine we have more than enough growth to cover any intensification that might be required.”

Old Town resident Paul Shepherd agreed with Jones, saying the existing interim control bylaw is in effect until December 2019 and there are a lot of “generalities” and “vague terminology” in the amendment.

Nancy Carriere, who lives on Raiana Drive in Virgil, said she wasn’t against development but she would like to see builders submit a final grading with their plan and make sure the development is aligned with the neighbouring homes in the area.

Some homes behind Carriere’s residence are higher than it is allowed, she said, and these homes are “massive.”

The province’s Bill 108, which aims to increase affordable housing supply and ease restrictions on development, would affect “a lot of what we do,” said Wilson.

The town has also sent a letter to Premier Doug Ford expressing its opposition to the proposed legislation. The bill would have “negative consequences on community building and proper planning,” town clerk Peter Todd said in the letter.

Council will make a decision regarding the proposed official plan amendments at a later date.
Local resident Jane Overmeyer recently called the paper to let us know of a resident’s international award win for gelato. Carlotta Cattani of NOTL’s “il Gelato di Carlotta” took home a bronze medal at the International Gelato Competition held this past weekend in Boston. It is the second time Cattani has won bronze in the competition. “The competition attracted thousands of people and it is a great achievement for Carlotta to take the bronze medal for the second time,” said Overmeyer. It is also wonderful publicity for our town.”

Overmeyer said she’s delighted for her friend. “Carlotta sadly lost her husband Zahir (Kash) Kashmeri this past Christmas. He was a very well-known journalist for The Globe and Mail and Bill Hamilton of the NOTL Writers’ Circle wrote a very good article on him, which was published in your newspaper,” Overmeyer wrote us in an email. “Kash had been very proud to hear that his wife had won bronze again.”

Richard Harley
Editor

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Richard Harley
Editor
Across
1. Relating to aircraft (4)
3. “The Hay Wain” artist (9)
10. Moving stairway (9)
11. Joanna (5)
12. Hopelessness (7)
13. Among (7)
14. Back of the neck (4)
16. Poisonous mushroom (9)
20. Custom (9)
21. Doing nothing (4)
24. Pear-shaped fruit (7)
26. Breakfast flatbread (7)
28. Dull yellowish brown (5)
29. Professional personal car driver (9)
30. Observe with festivities (9)
31. Irritate (4)

Down
1. Removing faults (8)
2. Speed contests (5)
4. Farthest from the centre (9)
5. Rub vigorously (5)
6. Desire for food (8)
7. Type of impermanent tenure (9)
8. Communion table (5)
9. Injury (5)
15. Rectory (9)
17. Air-freshener (9)
18. Put on a pedestal (8)
19. Investigate (8)
22. Small nails (5)
23. Rigid (5)
25. Happen (5)
27. Wide-awake (5)

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@niagaraworld.com

Last issue’s answers

Across
1. Relating to aircraft (4)
3. “The Hay Wain” artist (9)
10. Moving stairway (9)
11. Joanna (5)
12. Hopelessness (7)
13. Among (7)
14. Back of the neck (4)
16. Poisonous mushroom (9)
20. Custom (9)
21. Doing nothing (4)
24. Pear-shaped fruit (7)
26. Breakfast flatbread (7)
28. Dull yellowish brown (5)
29. Professional personal car driver (9)
30. Observe with festivities (9)
31. Irritate (4)

Down
1. Removing faults (8)
2. Speed contests (5)
4. Farthest from the centre (9)
5. Rub vigorously (5)
6. Desire for food (8)
7. Type of impermanent tenure (9)
8. Communion table (5)
9. Injury (5)
15. Rectory (9)
17. Air-freshener (9)
18. Put on a pedestal (8)
19. Investigate (8)
22. Small nails (5)
23. Rigid (5)
25. Happen (5)
27. Wide-awake (5)
Frogpond winery brings art to the vineyard

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Art in the Vineyard is a free alternative to large summer festivals this June. Frogpond Farm Organic Wines will again host the annual event on June 22 and 23. Jens Gemmrich, owner of Frogpond, said he is busy getting ready for the annual public event at the end of the month.

From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both days, the property will be full of Ontario artists and vendors, set up under tents around the farm on Larkin Road.

Wine tastings and catered snacks will also be available. Employees will pour samples of Frogpond’s organic wines inside the retail shop and outside on the farm.

Gemmrich said it’s a nice weekend to spend on the farm. “It’s a fun day, you can stroll around and look at the art, have a glass of wine, have some fun, have some food.”

While there will be some food and craft vendors, Gemmrich said the event is really all about the art.

“Art and wine go together. Really, culture and wine go together. It was a good fit,” he said.

He has been holding the event for several years, but can’t quite recall exactly when it began. His daughter is a lover of art, which might be why he started it, he said.

Since its inception, the event has grown from about six artists in the first year to 30 last year, said Lidiya Biro, a marketer for Frogpond.

The quaint property provides a “closer to the Earth” vibe, she added.
Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report

Shakespeare’s Hamlet asks, “To be or not to be?”

George Bernard Shaw pens a similar query in Getting Married, as family and friends gather in the kitchen of Alice (Chick Reid) and Bishop Alfred Bridgenorth (Graeme Somerville) to celebrate the wedding of youngest daughter, Edith (Katherine Gauthier) to her own. This prequel to the play of a cast of 12 would-be brides and their friends, addresses the question of who should be doing housework. It’s easy to start but retire. The Writers’ Circle has been one of the most transient of passions, insane, most delusive, and of the most violent, most exhausting condition continuous until death do them part.”

Troubled by the male-dominant marriage contract and wishing to liberalize divorce laws, Shaw did not foresee same-sex marriage nor multiple Trumpian pre-families. They are required to swear in Getbe? “To be or not to be?”

The action mercifully picks up steam in the second act with the flamboyant arrival of Mrs. George Collins (Marla McLean), aclairvoyant and femme fatale, appropriately outfitted by Shannon Lea Doyle in a blazing red dress. McLean displays attitude and watching her duel with the pompous St. John Hotchkiss (Ben Sanders) is the best part of the play, her dazzling power demonstrated at the end of the first act when mere proximity forces flowers to bloom.

“Getting Married” by Bernard Shaw, directed by Tanja Jacobs, plays until Oct. 13 at the Royal George Theatre, 85 Queen St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. shawfest.com or 1-800-311-7429.

Green grocer William Collins (Damien Atkins), characterizes his wife and mother. That’s why my children all ran away in his chair after dinner, “If I am to be a wife and mother, I really cannot have my children all run away from home.”

Lesbia Grantham (Claire Julien) rejects Bonet’s multiple proposals, and adds, “The one thing I never could stand is a great lout in his chair after dinner, knocking over wooden stools once too often, as Shaw’s characters express conflicting theories about what should be in the contract — medical, religious, financial provisions, etc. They eventually agree that customary marriage is much easier, with the possibility of divorce. We arrive full circle, but not without some merriment thanks to director Tanja Jacobs, who examines the idiosyncrasies of a cast of 12 would be marital jurors. Unfortunately, the large number often succumbs to caricature portrayals with not enough development to go around the rather plain set. Conflict occurs when Edith and her fiancé read pamphlets warning of the dangers of marriage. For example, a husband’s libel and consequent jailing, with his wife unable to divorce him and forced to rear children on her own. This precipitates hilarious dialogue, with a need for more.

In an often tedious first act, General “Booser” Bridgenorth (Martin Happer) commits slapping by knocking over wooden stools once too often, as Shaw’s characters express conflicting theories about what should be in the contract — medical, religious, financial provisions, etc. They eventually agree that customary marriage is much easier, with the possibility of divorce. We arrive full circle, but not without some merriment thanks to director Tanja Jacobs, who examines the idiosyncrasies of a cast of 12 would be marital jurors. Unfortunately, the large number often succumbs to caricature portrayals with not enough development to go around the rather plain set. Conflict occurs when Edith and her fiancé read pamphlets warning of the dangers of marriage. For example, a husband’s libel and consequent jailing, with his wife unable to divorce him and forced to rear children on her own. This precipitates hilarious dialogue, with a need for more.

Shaw Review: Getting Married picks up in second act

From Part III
Experience/Opinion/Defiance

The great wealth of growth and perpetuation of life in the past have given us the future in which we now live. The flora and fauna have been and continue to be harvested and captured, perhaps with energy and hard work creating propagation, but perpetual seeding and animal husbandry are pursued only for our own use. We take from all directions, but we have difficulty giving back.

Innocence has been secure only in the animal kingdom; the mightiest beast is free from evil. He has taken care only of himself and his progeny since he first roamed the earth. Unfortunately we, the people, have evolved into severely flawed beings.

The oceans that wrap around the continents and the rivers and streams are dumping grounds for us. The refuse and the toxic are tossed in. Plastic of every shape and size and the toxic are tossed in. Plastic of every shape and size. Any rain is enchanting, and it nurtures. It is disguised as wayward and mean, but we know better.

Any rain is enchanting, and it nurtures. Its destiny is within the earth.

Sooner small white and yellow blossoms will bloom. The cold rain insults us, but we tell it that we understand. It is disguised as wayward and mean, but we know better. It makes promises. Any rain is enchanting, and it nurtures. Its destiny is within the earth.

Soon small white and yellow blossoms will be impelled to push up through the comforting beds they have slept in. Happily, for them it’s enough to feel the sunshine advancing, stirring life. They speak to us: “See us. Smile at us. Love us.”

And we do.

“Even when you were asleep we knew you were there. The prospects of your magic debuts made us feel close to you even in your temporary slumber.”

Promises kept.

From Part II
“Poem for a Thoughtful Child”

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Promises kept.
Canadians love bricks and mortar
Brian Marshall
Featured

Since our earliest settlement days, Canadians have had a love affair with bricks. Whatever the source of this attraction might have been, the fact is that commercial production of brick began in Niagara-on-the-Lake during roughly the same timeframe as the earliest commercial sawmills were opened.

Imagine the activity in the 1790s at McFarland’s Brick Works, where workers mixed native clay with water to make the slurry that was then hand-packed into forms to produce wet rectangles, which likely were laid out to dry in the sun. Picture other hands stacking the dry clay blocks in a wood-fired kiln wherein the bricks were baked for one and a half to two days. The process required constant feeding of the fire to maintain the high temperatures needed to make the molecular changes that produce a hardened brick.

Over the centuries, several different patterns or “bonds” were developed, depending on structural requirements and the owner’s budget. Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake the most often used structural pattern was the common bond in which between three and nine layers (courses) of brick were laid end-to-end (stretchers) at least two wythes (five wythes being common) thick followed by a course of “headers” and then repeated up the wall. Rarer, but more structurally sound, the Flemish bond alternated headers and stretchers in each course all the way up the wall.

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The NOTL sailing club

This painting was done by late Niagara artist and sailor, Capt. John Shaw. It is now in the possession of resident Terry Boulton. The painting shows what the entrance to the Niagara Sailing Club looked like in the early 1950s. The slip, as it was called, was lined with private boat houses where residents could simply motor their boat straight into their shed and tie it up.

Patterns - left to right - Modern Running Bond, Common Bond & Flemish Bond. BRIAN MARSHALL

Advance Care Planning

with Joan Graham, Mental Health Nurse

Thursday May 16

Caregiver Relief

with Jim Smith

Thursday May 23

Elder Care (Palliative Perspective) Alzheimer’s

with Dr. Jooyeun Jang

Thursday May 30

MAID - Medical Assistance in Dying

with Dr. Karen Bent

Thursday June 6

The Importance of Palliative Care

with Mr. Jim Adair

Thursday June 13

Grief and Bereavement

with Merri-Lee Agar, Death Doula

Thursday June 20

Palliative Care Education Workshop Series

Presented by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service and the Niagara North Family Health Team

You are welcome to attend one or multiple workshops!

Caregiver Relief

with Carma Shawn, Palliative Pain & Symptom Management Consultant

Advance Care Planning

with Joan Graham, Mental Health Nurse

Elder Care (Palliative Perspective) Alzheimer’s

with Dr. Jooyeun Jang

MAID - Medical Assistance in Dying

with Dr. Karen Bent

The Importance of Palliative Care

with Mr. Jim Adair

Grief and Bereavement

with Merri-Lee Agar, Death Doula

All workshops are free and will take place from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre (Auditorium)

Anyone is welcome to attend! "No registration is required" Questions? Call 905.468-2177 x 130 "light snacks and beverages will be served" You are welcome to attend our multiple workshops!

Content provided by: niagara NOW News that hits home

Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com

The view is absolutely breathtaking

Waterfront dining & patio open to public

905-468-3424 | www.notlgolf.com | 143 Front Street | Niagara-on-the-Lake
During the summer, the students who work at RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston will be on people walking tours of the village.

To many visitors, the village seems to be caught in a time warp. It has the classic elements of an English village – the sunken lane, the stately home (two can be found in Queenston), the well-tended gardens, the former school and the churches.

Another way to tour the village is to follow the historical plaques or markers. Erected by the provincial government, public organizations, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the Queenston Resident’s Association on behalf of the people in the village, they offer a different insight to local history.

At the north end of the village, at Vrooman’s Point on the Niagara River Parkway, a marker commemorates Chloe Cooley.

In March 1793, Cooley, a black slave was sold by her owner to an American. She protested vigorously, but was forced to cross the Niagara River to the United States. Her case was taken up by Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe, who could do nothing about it because slavery was not illegal at the time. When Simcoe passed his anti-slavery law later in 1793, Upper Canada became a free state. Cooley's fate, however, is mostly unknown.

In 1793, Upper Canada became a free state. Cooley's fate, however, is mostly unknown.

In a country that is fairly young, buildings that have survived from the 18th and 19th century are significant. The small, quiet community of Queenston has many amenities.

If, however, the visitor chooses to turn first east and then north at the Printery, even more history is available. St. Saviour’s, the visiting historian may want to make a choice at this point of the journey.

A walk up the escarpment to Queenston Heights will lead to more commemorative markers. The original position of Niagara Falls is described in the story of the Ross Terrace. The Heights also gives more information about Brock and Queenston Heights.

There are two plaques at the Dead House, or mortuary, the property, converting it to what it had been in 1812.

The plaque at the Dead House is now accessible from the northwest at Queenston Street reads: Fredrick John Wimpole, 1812-1896, Time Traveller, Lodged here in 2005.

Queenston, small, quiet, tucked away under the Niagara Escarpment, and not necessarily visible from the Niagara River Parkway, has a huge story to tell.

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

Deer summer, please come soon

Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:
Orzo

Orzo receives a Golden Plunger award.
PLUNGER PATROL

While shopping on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake, a restaurant with a quaint outside patio caught our attention – Orzo, Taste Our Passion! On further investigation we were clearly “pastafied” with its Mediterranean flavours and suggested wine and cocktail list. The restaurant was bright but cozy and inviting, with a distinctive bar area luring you to enjoy your favourite beverage. The staff were most helpful and pointed us to the “touletas,” which had its own charm with modern metal artwork, a historic photo, a curved full-length mirror that pleasingly accents your silhouette. A unique trough-like water faucet continues to feed your visual appetite and make the hygienic experience pleasant. The restroom was family-friendly and accessible.

Orzo received 3.5 / 5 Gold Plungers.

The Lake Report

Corvettes cruise into town to raise money for SickKids

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Chase Kostiuk lost his mother to cancer last September and in her honour, he decided to start a charity Corvette cruise. The result: About 32 corvettes made an appearance in Niagara-on-the-Lake Saturday afternoon and over $1,000 was raised for SickKids Hospital.

Kostiuk, who lives just south of Barrie, said he saw that the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto is accepting gift donations for mothers and because he couldn’t do anything for Mother’s Day this May, he decided to raise money for the hospital.

“This is just me giving back to mothers,” he said.

Kostiuk said 57 Corvettes were supposed to come for a drive, but some couldn’t join because of the poor weather. With cruisers coming from different parts of the province, the drive started outside Niagara Falls, said Kostiuk, making a lunch stop at Butler’s Bar and Grill in NOTL, before proceeding to the route and heading home. The drive was also organized thanks to the HDR Corvette Cruisers group and its members who came out to support Kostiuk. In a Facebook post, Kostiuk said $1,050 was raised. He will use the money to buy fleece blankets that he will deliver to Sick Kids, he told The Lake Report.

Chase Kostiuk started a charity Corvette cruise in memory of his mother who died because of cancer. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

3.5/5 Gold Plungers

RIDDLE ME THIS:
I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?

Last Week’s Riddle: I welcome the day with a show of light, I stealthily came here in the night. I bathe the earthy stuff at dawn, But by the noon, alas! I’m gone. What am I?
Answer: Morning dew
Answered first by: Katie Reimer
Also answered correctly by: Margie Enns, Cheryl House, Britiney Turasz, Susan Pohorly
Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.

Don’t miss out on the chance to make your business synonymous with NOTL


Children running drills at the NOTL Tennis Club Wednesday afternoon. BRITTANY CARTER

Going crazy for tennis

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Strawberry

The first of Niagara-on-the-Lake's annual festivals celebrates Niagara's sweet strawberries. The event takes place at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. This will be the 36th year the festival has been running, operated by volunteers from the church. The festival offers a variety of activities and strawberry-themed products. And, of course, strawberry pies. They sell out fast, so you'll want to get there early to get one.

Where: St. Andrew's Church, 323 Simcoe St., Old Town
When: Saturday, June 22, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cherry

The second annual fruit festival of the season celebrates Niagara cherries. The event takes place at St. Mark's Anglican Church across from Simcoe Park in Old Town. Also organized by members of the church congregation, the festival offers a variety of activities and cherry-themed treats, as well as the famous bake sale, penny sale and clothing sale. Cherry cola floats are one of the signature things to indulge in — and like most NOTL festivals, the pies sell out just as fast as the strawberry festival, with patrons lined up before the gates open to get one of the homemade treats.

Where: St. Mark's Church, 41 Byron St., Old Town
When: Saturday, July 6, 2019, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Peach

The annual peach festival takes place both along Queen Street, and at St. Vincent de Paul church. Like its sisters, this festival is run by the members of the church. Everyone pitches in to help make pies, set up events and celebrate one of Niagara's most-grown stone fruits. The festival offers a variety of activities and peach-themed treats. The festivities on Queen Street have become a large draw, having been adopted from the original festival by the Chamber of Commerce.

Where: Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Old Town
When: Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lavender

The annual lavender celebration at NEOB Lavender Boutique will be a little different this year. Instead of a two-day event, NEOB will be hosting pick-your-own lavender days and lavender lunches among the fields of purple.

Where: NEOB Lavender Boutique, 758 Niagara Stone Rd.
When: 11:30 every Saturday, starting in flowering season.