

**Strawberries
kick off summer
festivals**
Story on Page 24



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

The deck is under water

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

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Town warns residents to prepare for floods

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Local gelato maker wins international bronze award

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Affordable housing project cancelled by developer

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Hotel planned for Old Town property

Story on Page 3



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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 footing 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."

The club has since closed off the parking lot to vehicles to help reduce the murkiness, he said.

"They've got it all fenced off so you can't go in



anymore, but somewhere in that parking lot it goes from (inches deep) to 12, 13 feet in one step. So it's dangerous, too," 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 boat probably floats 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.

He said the lake levels haven't been the same since "they changed how they let

(the water out) the other end ... they changed how they control the lake levels."

Another problem was the parking lot, said Chris.

"So what they normally do is they oil the parking lot in the summer because it gets dusty. It's kinda like what they do on any dirt road, but when the water came up it actually pulled a lot of the oil off and put it into the water,

and you could actually see in the very beginning of the year when we put the boats in that the oil was in the water a little bit."

While things are under control for now, both Mills boys wonder what will happen if the water level rises even more.

"Ah well," John said, walking away in rubber boots that could handle a few more inches.

Residents warned of flooding, Page 7

Town accuses Marotta companies of damaging historic landscape at Randwood

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has charged two of developer Benny Marotta's companies with contravening the Ontario Heritage Act by "altering" some of the heritage attributes of the Randwood Estate.

The charges, filed in the Ontario Court of Justice in Welland in March, accuse Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc. and Two Sisters Resorts Corp. of damaging the historic landscaping at 588 Charlotte St., 200 John St. E., 144 John St. E., and 176 John St. E.

All four properties fall under a town application to be designated under section 29 of the Heritage Act. None of the town's accusations have been tested in court.

While the charges were laid more than 10 weeks ago, the town has never publicized nor announced that it has launched the court action against the developer.

Municipal officials repeatedly refused over the past



A group of protesters gathered one morning after being notified of cutting sounds coming from the property.

RICHARD HARLEY

week to make any comment or provide 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.

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 documents which relate to matters before the court. The town must remain impartial in these types of matters and providing information to the public or the media could be used against the town in prosecution. There are proper methods to follow to obtain these types of documents, and the town has been advised to direct any person requesting legal documentation

to go through the official process."

However, Save Our Rand Estate — SORE — the citizen organization that is opposing Marotta's development plans for Randwood, obtained the documents from the court in Welland and posted them to its website.

Because the court documents offer few details, and the town will not publicly say what the accusations entail, it cannot be confirmed that the charges relate to possible damage to the historically protected Dunington-Grubb landscape features. It also is not known if the allegations relate to when the developer cut down numerous trees on the site last November. SORE officials believe they do.

The court documents, issued by town planning manager Eric Withers, state the alleged infractions occurred between Nov. 1 and 12, 2018, but offer scant details.

Lawyer Michael Melling, who represents Marotta's

companies, denied that the developer has done anything wrong.

"The charges laid by the town are without basis in law or fact," Melling said in a statement to The Lake Report.

"The actions in question were approved by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and were taken with advance notice to and full knowledge of the town. If necessary, this will be proven in court."

Melling added, "Solmar's focus now is on the confidential settlement discussions with the town and SORE. Although it's regrettable that these charges were brought, we look forward to a quick and positive resolution for everyone."

Landscape architect Alex Topps, a spokesperson for SORE, said the group is "incredibly grateful" that the town felt that charges were warranted under the Heritage Act. He noted that at one time SORE considered launching a

private prosecution over the changes that were made to the property.

Topps called the work done on the site last fall "tactical and deliberate" — and "not just clearing trees."

On its website, SORE said the town's accusations are "quasi-criminal charges under our legal system and can result in substantial fines for corporations and jail time for individuals upon conviction."

The organization also notes that it could not obtain a copy of the charges from the town, adding, "We look forward to the town posting timely information on these charges on its website going forward, including upcoming court appearances and trial dates. There is enormous interest in this matter among SORE's supporters and town residents in general."

SORE also suggested that if the developer is convicted under the Heritage Act, the town can force the company to pay the costs of restoring any damaged features.



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Developer Hummel plans **hotel** for Old Town property

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Developer Rainer Hummel wants to build a three-storey hotel, restaurant and spa at the corner of Queen Street and Niagara Stone Road. The plan was presented to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's urban design committee for feedback on its schematic design. The committee members, whose role is strictly advisory, expressed concerns about the size, design and character of the proposal. The property Hummel

wants to build on already has a large house on it, along with a coach house and accessory building, a town planning report noted. That piece of land has been in a state of perpetual construction for several years. The plan Hummel's company presented to the committee called for all three existing buildings to be incorporated into the new development. A new three-level hotel building, with 74 guest suites, would be added to the property. The site is actually comprised of three properties,

228 Queen St., 209 Simcoe St. and 217 Simcoe St. The development would merge all three into one property, according to the staff report by planner Raymond Tung. While the property is not the official entrance to Old Town, "it should be treated as an important node that leads into the 'heart' of Old Town," the report said. In reviewing the plan, the urban design committee, chaired by architect David Parker, said the proposal is "detrimental" to the existing buildings and landscaping in the area. The

committee advised Hummel to "develop alternatives that sensitively relate" to the area. The committee also suggested major changes to the location of the hotel on the site, the parking lot and the loading facility. The proposal would require official plan and zoning bylaw amendments. The committee said the proposed hospitality facilities are "considerably larger than what zoning currently allows" and recommended that Hummel stick to "what is allowed by current zoning."



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 40 five- or six-storey buildings on a portion of 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 build 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 development. Meanwhile, Hummel said he will continue with his affordable housing project in Pelham.



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The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper, whether through our donate button online or by mailing us a cheque. The paper encourages all residents to support the paper through a "voluntary subscription" annually. For those interested in supporting us, we suggest \$1 per issue, per household, at 52 issues per year. That's only \$52 — less than most people spend on pizza and wings. Larger donations are also greatly appreciated. For transparency, donations of more than \$1,000 will be published in the paper (with a big thank you) and donors will receive an exclusive limited edition Lake Report mug, as well as a copy of the first edition of the paper signed by staff. (Limit of 20 special mugs) To support The Lake Report, mail cheques to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Post Office, L0S1J0, PO Box 724. Please make cheques payable to Niagara Now Ltd. and note it as a donation.

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A fire burns during the opening celebrations of Indigenous Month at Queenston Heights.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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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, Pride Month around the globe and it marks 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 well, we should all stop by the Legion for fish and chips or a cold bevy and to pay our respects to those who fought and died for us.

Without them, we might not have Pride parades. We might not be a modern country that recognizes the contributions of Indigenous peoples before us, on whose very land we nurture our food and wine.

The Lake Report encourages readers to head to Page 14 and see some of the local businesses that supported our commemoration of D-Day, with text kindly submitted by outgoing Legion president Al Howse.

A big kudos to Al for years of service to the Niagara-on-the-Lake community and well beyond.

We have a wonderful, giving community. The Lake Report wants to do its part, so we are donating a portion of the proceeds from the D-Day remembrance page to the Legion.

editor@niagaranow.com



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 on 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.

“We feel that the messaging we heard from the mayor's office will drain our energies and resources.”

RAINER HUMMEL
OWNER
HUMMEL PROPERTIES INC.

sources that cause us grave concern.

Jeffery 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 Woiceshyn, 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 will 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.

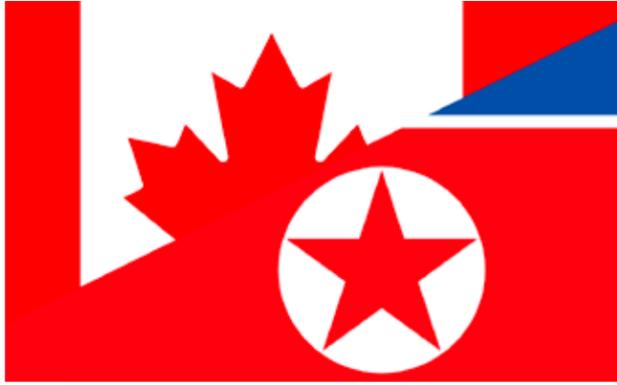
Rainer Hummel
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Op-ed: Niagara school board's disgraceful cone of silence



Left: District School Board of Niagara Trustee Kate Baggott. Middle: Photo Illustration combining the Canadian and North Korean flags. Right: Board chair Sue Barnett. RICHARD HARLEY

North Korea-style gag order imposed on trustees by board chair 'Silent Sue' Barnett

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" on the perpetually underperforming DSBN. This board and its chair barely seem to even realize that we live in a democracy.

How else to explain the disgraceful gag order imposed by the board after one trustee, Kate Baggott,

dared to suggest change? Baggott's crime? At a 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; another trustee, Jonathan Fast, filed a complaint, saying Baggott has violated the

board's code of conduct.

That may be the most activity 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.



We welcome your letters

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

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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.

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MORE LETTERS

NOTL 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 yea's 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, which generated over \$10 million in revenue and global media exposure (on CNN), 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.

Imagine with 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 tossing 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



John Hawley, president of Traditional Neighbourhood Developments Inc.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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.

TIDBITS

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 group, the town wants participants to figuratively cross Canada together – that's about 14,856,000 steps combined.

Registrants can sign up online at www.notl.org.

Portable radar coming

Two portable radar speed boards are coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake's streets. The town has budgeted \$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 Arseneault. The transportation committee and town council will discuss the item next week.

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.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
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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 last Friday.

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.



Sandbags are in place to prevent flooding as water is anticipated to rise. EUNICE TANG

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,

town staff also started to place flood protection bladders along Melville Street. The town is also working to protect the sewage system by sealing manholes in the area so the sanitary sewer system doesn't overflow, said Ruck.

The fire department is helping the town's operations department to prepare support services such as volunteer evacuation or temporary housing in case of a breach, said Nick Ruller, the deputy fire chief.

Meanwhile, town staff will continue visiting homes in the affected area to deliver notices, which include emergency contact numbers.

The issue of E. coli in Lake Ontario was brought up by one resident but Ruck said the town has taken measures to minimize the

overflow of the sewer system and doesn't expect it to be a "full-on problem in the near future."

Tim Curtis, president of NOTL Hydro, said there are seven transformers in the area that could be at risk. However, the water will only become an issue if it rises above the concrete pad that a transformer is installed on. If there are power outages due to a flood, NOTL Hydro would work on case-by-case to reroute the power, Curtis told The Lake Report.

A resident of the King's Point condominium development, Graham Bailey, said owners there rely on an exterior pump as water can run into the building's electrical room via a hydro conduit.

"That little pump is saving our lives," said Bailey. "Without that, we're dead in the water."

Virgil resident Cory Abt asked what the air cadets, Virgil Business Association or the public could do to help the town. One of the residents said considering many dock area residents are seniors, they would like to have some volunteer help.

Town urged to crack down on short-term rentals

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

All short-term vacation rentals in residential areas should be owner-occupied homes, a Garrison Village resident told town councillors Monday night.

Kurt Hagan appeared before council's committee of the whole to speak on behalf of a group of residents in Garrison Village and Old Town. Visitors staying at short-term rental accommodations often cause disruptions and negatively affect the neighbours, he said.

"What we believe is that our neighbourhoods, by definition, should be shaped by and defined by long-term

neighbours, not by short-term visitors," Hagan said.

Among the issues he cited were excessive daytime noise and noise after 11 p.m., parking and traffic problems, littering and rentals being vacant 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 "intrusive 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."

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The third annual ceremony launching Indigenous Month was held at Queenston Heights Park Saturday afternoon. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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 people, 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, fire-keeper 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.



Six Nations artist Raymond Skye helped to create the Landscape of Nations memorial at Queenston Heights. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



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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 some-



Joe Marchese, the owner of Twisted Vine and Kitchen.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

thing 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 in-

door 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



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

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.

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/>.



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Paul Rakoczy, Lucas Skowronski-Schultz and Sam Maxbauer. Mike Lyons is also a member of Exchange's brew team, not pictured here. BRITTANY CARTER

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 kind of as 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 says he was on the lookout for a new project. With his love of sour beers and experimental brewing technologies, he was excited and eager to join Robin Ridesic, owner and CEO of Exchange, in her new venture.

"She (Ridesic) was looking to open a brewery focused on sour beers and I was looking

to do a startup. It worked out really well," he says.

He tackled the limited space while building the brewery with relative ease; it is shoe-horned into the former first telephone exchange building, built in 1880. The narrow, multi-level brewing floors provided a challenge, but Maxbauer says he just had to think about what was needed in the long run in terms of production.

"Here the space is such a premium that everything had to be dialled in as much as we can," he says.

While he has no formal schooling in brewing – he worked as a music sound engineer before breaking into the beer business – he did work as an apprentice for six years under several different master brewers in Michigan. He spent years helping breweries renovate, grow and expand before Ridesic brought him into Canada to work for her.

Bringing Maxbauer into the country was an ordeal, Ridesic says, but it was well worth the effort. Immigration rejected the application initially, but eventually he was approved to come work for her in Canada, she says.

"It was no fun, let me tell you that. Basically, I was bringing him up a year

before the brewery was opening so he could kind of design and install his brewery for the Exchange. I had to prove that no Canadian could do the job," she says.

Ridesic says he came with the experience to hit the ground running with his specialization in sour beers.

"That, to the best of my knowledge, didn't even exist in Canada at the time," she adds.

She says his skills really shone through in the production of sour beers.

During his time at Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales in Dexter, Mich., he gained valuable experience that set him on a path toward sour beer specialization.

"That was where I kind of got my more specialty experience. That was kind of what led me here," he says.

Humble but self-assured, Maxbauer isn't one to sing his own praises, Ridesic says, but she is happy to fill in the gaps.

"Sam is just a great all-around guy. He's smart, he's talented. He's a nice guy. I feel I'm very lucky to have met him," she says.

Above and beyond brewing sour beers, Maxbauer brought with him an interest in cultivating wild yeast, something he says no one else in the region has done.

While it only has about a 50 per cent success rate, he says it's a fun process to experiment with.

"As the beer is cooling down it's pulling in basically anything that's floating around in the air as kind of a negative pressure pulling things towards it. So, it's pollen, it's the wild yeast and bacteria that's floating around.

And whatever can survive in that beer media will flourish. Ideally, the nasty bacteria and things that you don't want will die off within 24 hours," he says. Basically, it's a big Petri dish, he adds.

Ridesic says his ability to experiment and his drive to keep pushing forward make him a great partner in the brewery.

Though he originally hails from Traverse City, Mich., he says he feels right at home in NOTL and doesn't plan on leaving any time soon.

Brewing is his passion. In his limited free time, when not walking with his girlfriend Megan Konstantonis and their rottweiler Shatzie, he's experimenting with wild yeast for fun. He's made a home for himself in NOTL – the perfect place for an experienced brewer in a budding craft beer industry, he says.

Local Snaps



Locals ride the Pedal Pub. Visible from left, Greg Wiens, Tracy Wiens, Fern Colavecchia steering, Steve Walker in front pedals and Trevor Falk pedals from behind. Christine Read surprised Rob Read for his 40th birthday.



Ben Leitch, Wallaceburg Griffens from South Sarnia, warm up before their lacrosse game against Cambridge Chiefs at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.



Local kids play tennis on Wednesday. BRITTANY CARTER



People fishing in the rain on Saturday.



Jim Simone and Marjory Villegas at Ryerson Park enjoy their evening after dinner.

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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



Donna Brown, chair of the Caribbean Workers Outreach Program, Prophet Elisha Steele, coach of the team, and Nancy King, longtime member of the outreach program, with the trophy. BRITTANY CARTER

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 leav-

ing 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 dif-

ferent 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, and it was an honour to compete against him.

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.

The winning group scrambled to a 5-under 31 to scoop the top prize, one shot ahead of the foursome of John Reynolds, Linda Williams and Dow and Judy Wright. Tied for third with 33 were Joe and Cathy Taylor and Dean and Lyn Sanders, along with the trio of Ross Smith, Bonnie Kinal and Jim Sifton. Honourable mention: Paul and Ginny Green and Grant and Deborah Williams.

Closest to pin: Larry Mantle (#4). Longest putt: Jim Sifton, Judy Wright.

Business ladies league: Low gross winners May 27: Julie Hunter (44) and Marty Macdonald (45). Low net: Bobbi Epp (29.93) and Cathy Vanderzalm (30.41). Closest to line #1: Deborah Williams and Eleanor Reed. Closest to barrel #6: Suzan Roerich and Ann Alderson. Closest to pin: Kim Breakspeare and Barb Douglas (#4), Bobbi Epp and Mary Taylor (#7), Celina Whittal and Naledi Bainbridge (#9). Longest drive: Karen Balcom and Marty Macdonald (#2), Pam Jeacock and Mary Taylor (#8). Longest putt:

Kim Legros and Bonnie Lamourie (#3), Cathy Tocchio and Sheila Gayman (#5). 50/50 prize: Cathy Vanderzalm and Audrey Glauser (\$150).

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 net (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 Garriock (#4), Robitaille (#13). Birdies:

Henry (#2). Chip-ins: Barbara Ahluwalia and Henry (#7), Garriock (#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 honours with Peter Falconer and Kevin MacLean (23 points). Bill Baitinger was B flight winner with 26 points. Jim McMacken won a gross skin on #2. Net skins winner was David Gagne (\$118). Closest to the pin: Robert Patterson (#4), Roland Bissell (#6), Dow 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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Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.			
9	10	11	12
Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park Polish Sunday in NOTL - Noon to 3:30 p.m. - Byron, Wellington and Picton Street The Niagara Symphony presents: Face to Face and Fabulous with TORO Percussion - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant	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	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 Far 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
16	17	18	19
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 - 8:30 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' - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Simpson's

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6 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 Opening Reception: Founding Members' Art Exhibition - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Niagara Jazz Festival presents Live Learn Jazz: Women Of The Hour, Voices In The Vines - 7 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards	7 Duplicate Bridge - 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: Queen Street Estates - 6 p.m. - Post Office, Queen Street Interfaith Devotional Gathering - 7 p.m. - 11 Harmony Drive, NOTL Rosé Day Getaway - 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Two Sisters Vineyards	8 Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Pruning Evergreens - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens 14th Annual Shaw Guild Garden Tour - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Shaw Festival Rest & Refreshment Stop on Shaw Garden Tour - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Grace United Church: June Jamboree - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Grace United Church Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village
12 Family Health - NOTL Net - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. to ge, NOTL	13 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 The White Effect Dinner - 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Queenston Heights Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson	14 Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Neighbourhood Walks: Irish Town/Rye Park - 6 p.m. - Rye Park Annual Seafood Picnic - 7 p.m. - Reif Estate Winery Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Mama Mia - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant Fireworks at Reif Estate Winery - 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Reif Estate Winery	15 Homegrown Wine Festival - Wineries of Niagara Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village United Empire Loyalist Flag Raising - 9 a.m. - Queen Street, Cenotaph Niagara College: Mastering the BBQ - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College
19 Net - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. to ge, NOTL Day - 8:30 son's Pharmacy	20 Practical Genealogy: Beginner Class - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Practical Genealogy: Intermediate and DNA Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Art & Fashion Lecture Series: Canadian Crowns, An Exhibition of Vintage & Contemporary Millinery by Canadian Designers - 7:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum	21 Duplicate Bridge (Sancioned 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: Queen Street Estates - 6 p.m. - Post Office, Queen Street Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: My Best Friend's Wedding - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant	22 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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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

Remembering D-Day

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.

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Left: A student makes a seed bowl using soil, a ball of clay and white clover seeds. Middle: With limited supplies, Grade 7 students Kaden McGuire, left, and James Protopapas work on creating a race track at the business and marketing workshop. Right: Carol Heafey, chef professor at Niagara College, shows how to make ice cream. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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 is 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 Woehl, 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 32-kilometre walk in 1813, Betty Disero, the first female Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake, will read a proclamation declaring the opening of 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



Caroline McCormick, president of Friends of Laura Secord. BRITTANY CARTER

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 roadways 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 Canadawide 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 shuttles running 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 through Secord’s story, many other important stories can be told. The connection to the First Nations and their contribution to Canada’s beginnings is just one of them.

Secord’s story relates to that of War Child Canada as well, McCormick said, which is why it was chosen as the recipient for the money raised through the walk this year.

“We decided that we would try raising funds for something related to Laura

Secord’s story. Laura Secord was the victim of war. She was a veteran and the wife of a grievously wounded veteran. The parallels of her story can relate.”

War Child Canada helps children in war-affected areas get back to school and tries to lift the families out of poverty.

The organization’s founder, Samantha Nutt, said in a media release that the partnership between the Laura Secord Walk and War Child Canada “makes sense.”

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



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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 significantly less than previous years, said organizers, but that

didn't subdue the spirits of those who attended.

Two local enthusiasts Michelle Broughton and Don Driedger came to enjoy some beverages by the picnic tables while they listened to the band. Driedger, who said he has a car to show off, kept it at home because of the weather.

"You gotta understand car guys. They don't want to get their cars wet," he said.

"Last year there was a lot more (people). 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 hold 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.

Denis 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

From left, Ed Froese, Alan Teichroeb, Lois Hobbs, Rod Konik, Phil Bergen, Ray Hobbs, Burt Ward, Willy Janzen, Ken Slingerland, Bob Dick, Mike Frisen and Lukas Frisen volunteer at the third annual Virgil car show. EUNICE TANG

Nationals where about 9,000 classic cars come to the show in New York 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 see 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.

Other 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



Coun. Erwin Wiens sits as chair at the committee of the whole meeting on Monday, June 3. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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

on 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 Monday 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 Conservancy 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 lot areas, frontages, heights or privacy.

"Won't the planned 'consistency' lead to a 'cookie cutter' design of develop-

ments 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.



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Carlotta takes home bronze in international gelato competition

Richard Harley
Editor

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 Zuhair (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 would have been very proud to hear that his wife had won bronze again."



Carlotta Cattani, right, with fellow winners of the International Gelato Competition 2019 in Boston. SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Lake Report

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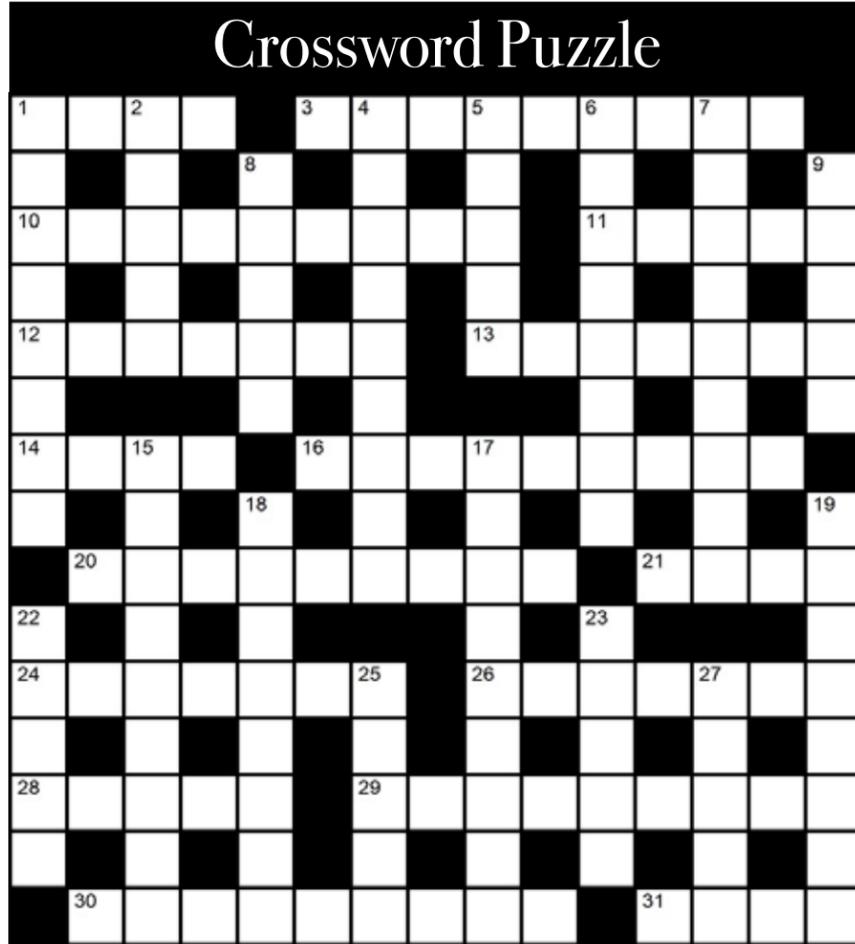
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

- 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

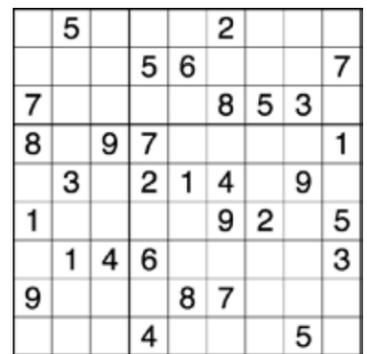
- 1. Removing faults (8)
- 2. Speed contests (5)
- 4. Farthest from the centre (9)
- 5. Rub vigorously (5)
- 6. Desire for food (8)
- 7. Type of impermanent tenure (9)
- 8. Communion table (5)
- 9. Injury (5)
- 15. Rectory (9)
- 17. Air-freshener (9)
- 18. Put on a pedestal (8)
- 19. Investigate (8)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



Last issue's answers



Sudoku



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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.

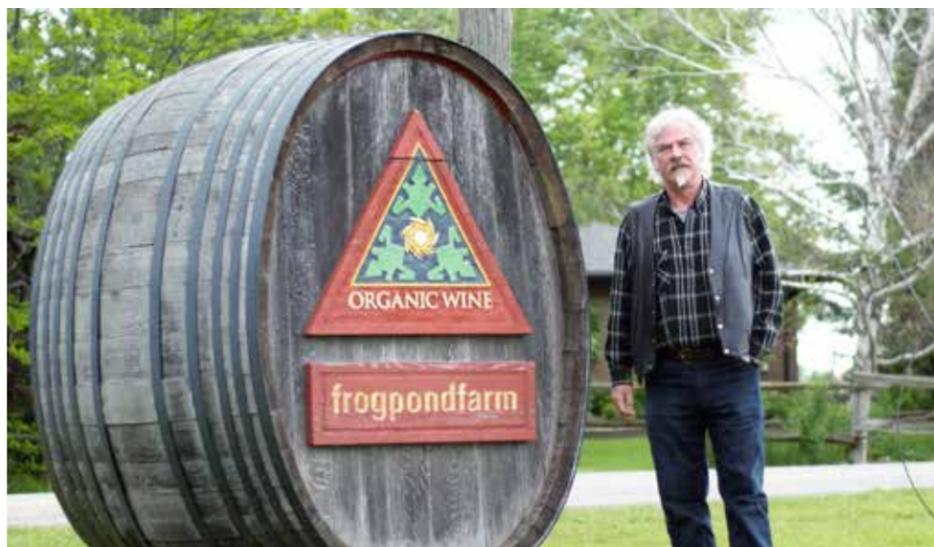
Jens Gemmrich, owner of Frogpond, said he is busy getting ready for the annual public event at the end of the month.

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



Jens Gemmrich, owner of Frogpond Farms Organic Wines is hosting the annual Art in the Vineyard on June 22 and 23. BRITTANY CARTER

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 Lidija Biro, a marketer for Frogpond.

The quaint property provides a "closer to the Earth" vibe, she added.

"Great responses from the article. We have been approached at least five times with 'hey, you're that guy in the paper.' One thing's for sure, everyone in town reads your paper front to back! Great use of our marketing funds and great article."

- James Green
Owner, Ravenshead Homes



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Shaw Review: *Getting Married* picks up in second act

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 Cecil (Cameron Grant).

In Shaw's 1911 protracted preface, he lampoons marriage with, "When two people are under the influence of the most violent, most insane, most delusive, and most transient of passions, they are required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal and exhausting condition continuously 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-nuptial legal precautions.

In an often tedious first act, General "Boxer" Bridgenorth (Martin Harper) commits slapstick 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 matrimony 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.



Chick Reid as Alice (Mrs. Alfred) Bridgenorth and Graeme Somerville as Alfred Bridgenorth, Bishop of Chelsea, in *Getting Married*. SUPPLIED PHOTO/EMILY COOPER

Green grocer William Collins (Damien Atkins), characterizes his wife and marriage as: "No, ma'am: it (marriage) didn't come natural. My wife had to break me into it. It came natural to her: she's what you might call a regular old

hen... She's a natural born wife and mother. That's why my children all ran away from home."

Lesbia Grantham (Claire Jullien) rejects Boxer's multiple proposals, and adds, "The one thing I never could stand is a great lout

of a man smoking all over my house and going to sleep in his chair after dinner, and untidying everything. Ugh!" Later, "If I am to be a mother, I really cannot have a man bothering me to be a wife at the same time."

Commenting on divorce

law, Reginald Bridgenorth (Steven Sutcliffe) laments, "What's the good of beating your wife unless there's a witness to prove it afterwards? You don't suppose a man beats his wife for the fun of it, do you? How could she have got her divorce if I hadn't beaten her? Nice state of things, that!"

The action mercifully picks up steam in the second act with the flamboyant arrival of Mrs. George Collins (Marla McLean), a clairvoyant 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 1-800-511-7429.

NOTL WRITERS' CIRCLE



Myrtle Burton Bio

Editor's note: Myrtle Burton is a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident and a member of the NOTL Writers' Circle.

Burton: I came across the border from the States in 2000 to retire. I have done everything but retire. The Writers' Circle has been one of the lures that makes me want to write when I should be doing housework. It's easy to start typing stories, but difficult letting it rest. The writers in our group are also guilty of being what I would call ultra-motivational. Perhaps I could put some blame on them for my staying up too late at times and neglecting chores.

Excerpts from 'Gallimaufry: Fiction, Poetry, and Reality'

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 stretch now on the great expanses for many miles, and tons are pouring in daily in every part of the globe, destroying wildlife and polluting water even for our own consumption. The governmental plans for cleanup are insipid. Political beings seek improvements only if their lobbying partners allow them to.

From Part II "Poem for a Thoughtful Child"

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.



Lisa WALE
Broker/Manager
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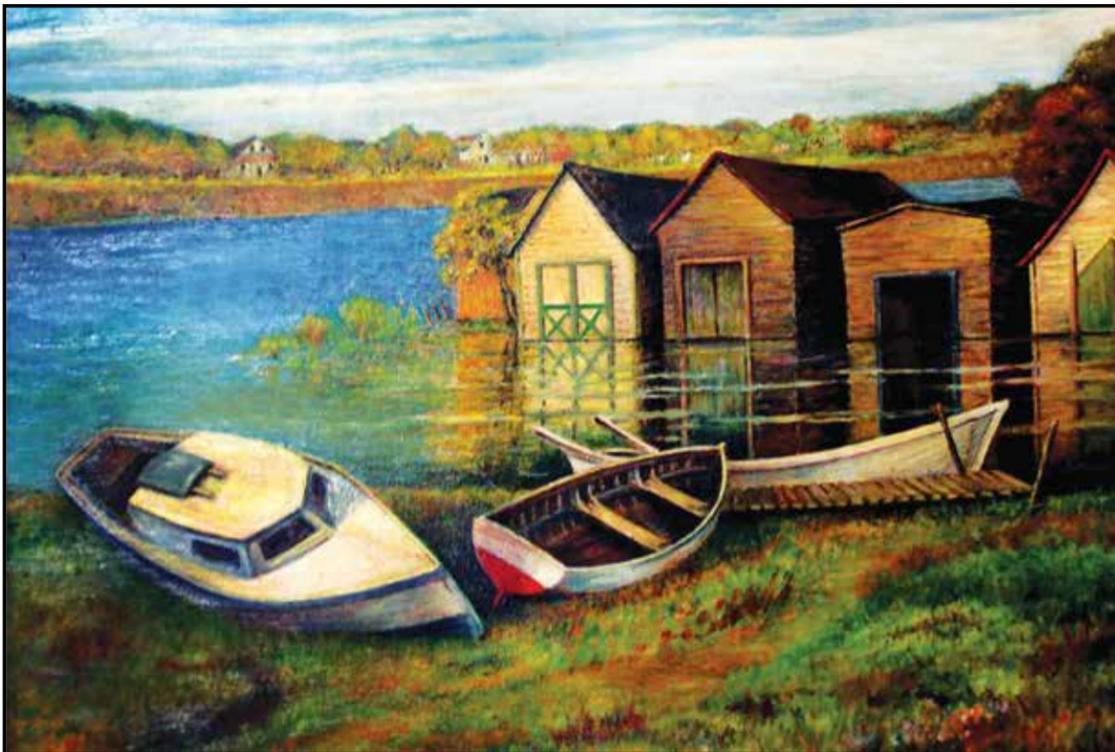
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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



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.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

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Capture the splendour of 19th century redcoats in uniform in this 2-part workshop on Saturday, June 29th, 2019

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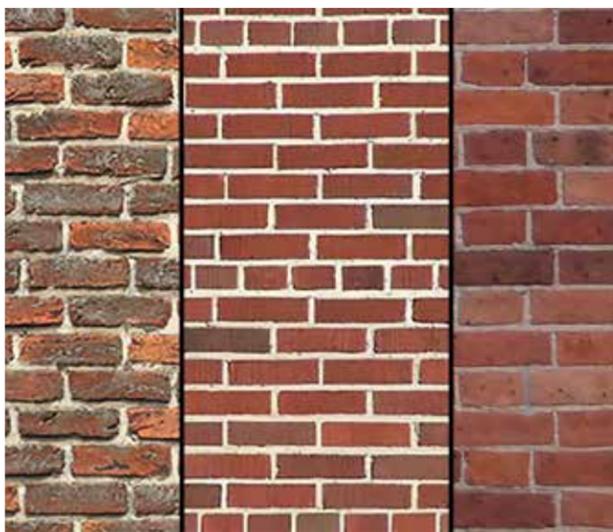
Canadians love bricks and mortar

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.



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

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.

Distinctly different than today's brick veneer, which

is merely an exterior cladding, the brick of 18th- and 19th-century houses supported both roof and the interior structure.

To deal with the structural stress, the walls were several bricks (wythes) deep and needed to be cross-tied by bricks laid at 90 degrees (headers) for stabilization.

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.

Both John McFarland's home on Niagara River Parkway and the Field House just a little farther toward Queenston were built of the bricks from McFarland's works. While 219 years of weather has left its mark, those hand-made bricks are still doing just fine.



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Follow Queenston's trail of historical plaques

Linda Fritz
Exclusive/The Lake Report

During the summer, the students who work at RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston will take people on 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 Residents 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 Peter Martin, a freed slave. He went to 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 the first British colony to do so. Cooley's fate, however, remains unknown.

Along Queenston Street in the village proper, there are a number of plaques. The story of Willowbank, with the house on the hill above it intrigues visitors. The architect of Willowbank, A.E. Nicholson was also responsible for the design of the former Laura Secord School. By walking up nearby Dee Road, it is possible to see the new barn and forge built by the students at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts.

Farther along Queenston Street, at the former school (now serving as Wil-



Top left: Time traveller stone on Queenston Street. Top right: Horse monument at Mackenzie Printery. Bottom left: The Laura Secord Home. Middle: Willowbank School of Restoration. Bottom right: Queenston public library. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



lowbank's lower campus), information about John Richardson can be found. Born in 1792, Richardson was Queenston's first author. He served and was captured during the War of 1812. After the war, he lived in Europe, returning to Canada in 1842.

His major contributions to literature were his poem, Tecumseh, and a novel, Wacousta. He also published a history of the War of 1812. Fame and fortune eluded him, however. He died in poverty in New York and his work is mostly unknown.

The Queenston Community Centre is home to two historical markers. The first commemorates the building's origin as a Baptist Church. The second gives a brief history of the founding of Queenston. When reading the plaque, it's hard to believe that this small, quiet community was once a thriving port, with 13 taverns among its many amenities.

The village's heroine, Laura Secord, lived in a small house on Queenston Street. The house remained a private home until 1969, when it was sold to the Laura Secord Candy Company. In 1971, the Niagara Parks Commission took over the

property, converting it to what it had been in 1812.

There are two plaques at the Secord home. In front of the picket fence on Queenston Street, the Women's Literary Society of St. Catharines placed a stone monument in 1901. A rededication was added in 1972. The second plaque, erected by the provincial government, can be found in the car park behind the house.

Continuing along Queenston Street, a marker commemorates the house where Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock's body was placed after his death at the Redan Battery on Oct. 13, 1812.

University of Western Ontario historian Guy St. Denis believes Brock's body was removed from the field of battle and safeguarded in the home of Patrick McCabe, who also owned a tavern in Queenston. The house faced the river and was at the southeast corner of what are now Queenston and Partition Streets.

St. Denis studied contemporary documents and pictures before coming to his conclusion. In 2008, St. Denis identified the location in an article in the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research, entitled The House Where Brock Died.

Referred to as the Dead House, or mortuary, the house remained standing until the 1920s, when it fell into disrepair and was torn down. The foundation of the house was discovered in 1987, when a later owner had some work done to add a porch to the home now on the site. The Brock Dead House is now acknowledged with a historical plaque designed by a Queenston resident.

In the green space in front of the Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum there are three monuments. One is a bronze statue of Brock's horse, Alfred. The other two are boulders with commemorative markers. A previous article spoke of the one that explains the contribution of the Indigenous people to the War of 1812. The other commemorates the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1861. The prince, who was 19 at the time, gave 100 pounds to an elderly Laura Secord that day.

The plaque at the Mackenzie Printery, at the south end of Queenston Street, tells the story of William Lyon Mackenzie, a former mayor of Toronto. Mackenzie led the rebellion against the governing Family Compact

in 1837, which brought Upper Canada closer to a truly representative democracy. Mackenzie's grandson, William Lyon Mackenzie King, became Canada's longest-serving prime minister.

Both the Mackenzie Printery and the Laura Secord House are open to the public during the summer season.

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 Secord and Brock, as well as showing the plans of the Battle of Queenston Heights.

If, however, the visitor chooses to turn first east and then north at the Printery, even more history is available. St. Saviour's, the Brock Memorial Church tells its story on two plaques, one of its founding and one about the visit in 1912, of the retired Bailiff of Guernsey, Sir Geoffrey Rowland and the Constable of St. Peter Port, Dennis Le Moignan.

Brock was born on Guernsey and is well known

there. His portrait hangs in the island's museum.

A number of private homes in Queenston have been designated as possessing proven historical interest. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has provided markers with the dates when these homes were built.

In a country that is fairly young, buildings that have survived from the 18th and 19th century are significant. The small clapboard saltbox on Queenston Street, for example, began life as a tavern, and later became a boarding house before it finally settled into its present role as a family home.

One final marker is worth seeking out. A small stone hidden among flowering plants and vines near a large house at the northwest end of Queenston Street reads: Frederick John Wimple, 1812-1896, Time Traveller, Lived here in 2065.

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.niagaranow.com

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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.



Deer summer, please come soon



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

Going crazy for tennis

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



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

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.



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 "tuoaleta," 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.

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.



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Featured local story

HERE COME NOTL FESTIVALS



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.

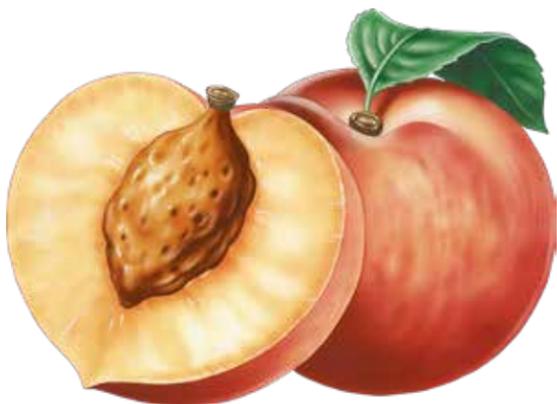
Where: St. Andrew's Church, 323 Simcoe St., Old Town
When: Saturday, June 22, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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 luncheons among the fields of purple.

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

News that



Hits home

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