

Jim Russell.

## Researcher seeks help identifying graves in Black cemetery

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Jim and Marilyn Russell braved the sun and rain last week to continue the process of marking and identifying the graves of those buried in the historic former Negro Burial Ground in Old Town.

But Russell is asking for the help of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, whose

*Continued on Page 5*



Ross MacIntyre.

## Good Samaritan frustrated with ambulance wait for hurt cyclist

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

After stopping to help an injured cyclist who was bleeding from a head wound, Virgil resident Ross MacIntyre grew frustrated with the wait time for the ambulance and, ultimately, the province's failure to adequately fund Niagara's emergency services.

MacIntyre was driving home from work on Line

*Continued on Page 4*

## Gates considering run for NDP leadership

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

After cruising to another big win in his riding of Niagara Falls, Wayne Gates says a run for leadership of

the Ontario New Democratic Party is not off the table.

Not long after leader Andrea Horwath announced last Thursday night that she will be stepping down, Gates's name already was being floated as a possible successor.

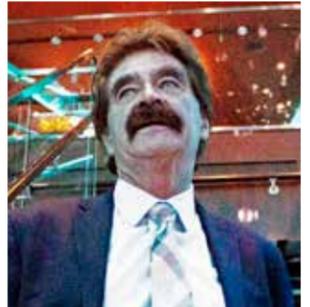
"Would I love to be the leader of the NDP? I think that answer is probably yes," Gates said.

As he cleaned up his campaign office on Tuesday, he told The Lake Report he is open to running for

the leadership but remains undecided.

"I'll be honest with you — I've had the conversation with a lot of people. But the most important is with my

*Continued on Page 10*



The NDP's Wayne Gates.

## Solemn celebration marks cenotaph centennial



Lord Mayor Betty Disero with Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell at the cenotaph's centennial parade on Saturday. EVAN SAUNDERS

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clocktower cenotaph marked its 100th birthday last weekend and, ever true to form, NOTLers came out

in the hundreds to be a part of the celebration.

"One hundred years ago this month this monument was unveiled by my predecessor, the Hon. Henry Cockshutt, who himself had served in the Great War," Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth

Dowdeswell told the crowd in front of the clocktower on Saturday morning.

Dowdeswell was one of several speakers who commemorated the occasion, including Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Coun. Gary Burroughs, who is also the chair

of the cenotaph committee, and Ron Dale, the town historian.

"It's actually difficult for us now to imagine the impact of the war on this community and this province and this country. But the fact that this monument

occupies such a prominent place in your community is telling us how important it really was," Dowdeswell said.

"There would be later conflicts, more names in-

*Continued on Page 3*

## Men of Steele: NOTL cricket captain ready for farm workers' match vs. Vineland

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Elisha Prophet Steele is ready to bring the thunder Sunday as the Niagara-on-the-Lake cricket team, the Clippers, prepares to face

the Vineland Lions.

"OK, Vineland, I would like to see you show up on the 12th for a nice game. But remember, I'm not an easy character," Steele said in an interview on Monday.

NOTL hosts the match this year, at Memorial Park

on King Street.

Steele is NOTL's team captain and cricket is in his blood.

A native of Jamaica, he has played the sport since he was a child as, next to soccer, it is one of Jamaica's most beloved sporting pastimes.

Steele has an affable, relaxed demeanour and had lots of kind words to say about NOTL and the people he meets here as he took a brief respite from working at Parkway Orchards.

*Continued on Page 11*



Elisha Prophet Steele.



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# THE MONUMENTS MEN

## Finding Private Ryan and the *mystery* surrounding one NOTL soldier

On Saturday, June 4, the Legion and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake celebrated the 100th anniversary of the iconic clock tower cenotaph with a ceremony and parade. In recognition of the cenotaph's century of service through two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on it. This is one in a series of stories to document and remember the sacrifices these combatants made. Future instalments will commemorate those named on the Queen Street cenotaph and on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale  
Special to The Lake Report

A mystery surrounds Charles Thomas Thompson, one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's casualties commemorated on the cenotaph on Queen Street.

It requires a bit of detective work to uncover the story of his service and the nature of his death.

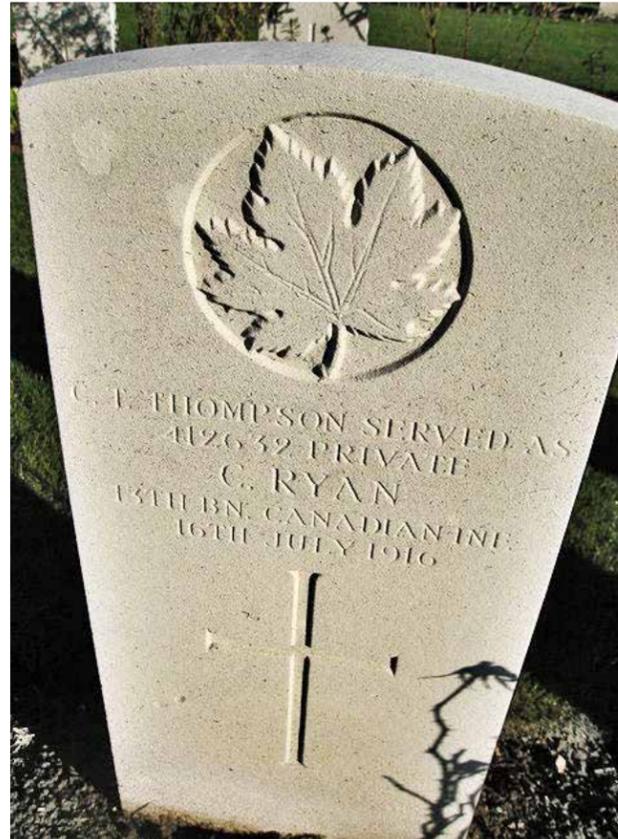
Thompson's name does not show up in a search of the Canadian War Graves Register Circumstance of Casualty and until recently his name could not be found in the index of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (known until 1960 as the Imperial War Graves Commission).

However, he is commemorated on his parents' tombstone at Grace United Church in NOTL, which notes that he was killed in France in 1916.

He is also mentioned in a 1923 publication by the Niagara Historical Society, "Whose Debtors We Are," by Catherine Creed.

Creed's book lists not only the names of the fallen but their service numbers.

Entering that service number in the search engine of the Library and Archives Canada database revealed



Top left: This image of young Charles Thompson is featured in the Niagara Historical Society's 1923 publication "Whose Debtors We Are." Top right: Charles Thompson's tombstone, with the name "C. Ryan" included on it, in the military cemetery near Ypres. NOTL MUSEUM Bottom: The Railway Dugouts Military Cemetery near Ypres where Charles Thompson, alias Charles Ryan, is buried. VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA

**"I have been in a terrible battle since I last wrote to you. It is a wonder I ever came out alive. For five hours, we, the Canadian, French and British underwent a severe bombardment from the German artillery and trench mortars, and shells bursting all around. Our trench was blown in, a lot of our battalion were killed and wounded."**

CHARLES THOMPSON  
ALIAS, PTE. CHARLES RYAN

the service records for Pte. Charles Ryan.

For some unknown reason, Charles Thompson enlisted in Port Hope under the alias of Pte. Charles Ryan, on Feb. 19, 1915.

Thompson was one of the 10 children of John and Charlotte Thompson.

He was born in Niagara-on-the-Lake and attended the public school on Platoff Street before striking out on his own as a labourer.

The family moved to Niagara Falls but Charles seemed to be unable to settle down anywhere for

long. The family considered him to be care-free.

According to Ryan's enlistment documents he was born in Niagara Falls on March 17, 1889. His next of kin was listed as his father Thomas.

In fact, Thompson was born on March 17, 1879, in

Niagara-on-the-Lake and his father was named John.

Perhaps he was concerned he would be rejected for overseas service if he gave his true age. Regardless, according to the army, he was now Charles Ryan.

He underwent preliminary training in Canada

and then sailed to England aboard the SS Missanabie on June 24, 1915.

There he received more training and in mid-November he was sent to Belgium to join the 13th Battalion on the front lines.

Thompson was now in the thick of action, going through the horror of trench warfare on the Western Front. He wrote home to his family and gave them some sense of what he was going through.

On April 26, 1916, he wrote, "I have been in a terrible battle since I last wrote to you. It is a wonder I ever came out alive. For five hours, we, the Canadian, French and British underwent a severe bombardment from the German artillery and trench mortars, and shells bursting all around. Our trench was blown in, a lot of our battalion were killed and wounded."

On June 13, a shell landed nearby, partially burying him and knocking him unconscious. He was taken to hospital where he soon recovered and was sent back to the trenches near Ypres, Belgium. A month later he was dead.

Charles Thompson, alias Charles Ryan, died on July 16, 1916. The official report of his death explained that he was hit in the temple by a stray bullet. He was rushed to a nearby first aid post but died shortly thereafter.

He was buried in the Railway Dugouts Military Cemetery near Ypres and his grave was marked by a wooden cross, under the name Charles Ryan.

The register of the burial of Private Ryan was forwarded to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Thankfully, even while official records continued to list Private Ryan as the man buried in Belgium, at home in Niagara, the locals knew the true story and engraved Charles Thompson's name on the cenotaph.



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# Parade marks cenotaph centennial

Continued from Front Page

scribed for relatives, friends, neighbours and countrymen who, as the inscription on this cenotaph reminds us, laid down their lives for our freedom.”

Dowdeswell, who was also on hand to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth, repeated a quote from the then-princess in a 1940 address when she was only 13 years old and related it to the challenges that lie ahead for younger generations.

“When peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of today, to make the world a better and happier place,” she said, quoting Princess Elizabeth.

The lieutenant-governor noted, “In some senses the world is, perhaps, indeed, a happier place. But we know there are also many dark clouds.”

“When we reflect on her majesty’s words we might consider just how much responsibility the adults of today are leaving for the children of tomorrow and what we can do to lessen that burden.”

Before Dowdeswell’s address, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Association Band marched down King and Queen streets, playing fanfare for the crowds before stoically lining up in front of the clocktower along with members from Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124.

In his turn at the podium, Dale sought to impart some of what he has learned about the history of the cenotaph along with some light-hearted humour.

Dale is also a contributor to The Lake Report whose extensively researched series “The Monuments Men” documents the lives of those whose names have been immortalized on the cenotaph.

“The election (to choose a cenotaph monument) was the busiest day Niagara has seen for many years,” Dale said, quoting a newspaper from the time.

“A political election is tame compared with the election (for the cenotaph).” Which is rather interesting. More people came out to vote on what sort of



Top: A crowd gathers to celebrate the centennial of the iconic clocktower cenotaph on Queen Street.

EVAN SAUNDERS

Right: The town’s unofficial crier Thomas Pekar watches the ceremony from an electric horse carriage.

DAVE VAN DE LAAR



monument they should have than had voted in provincial elections and that may still ring true,” Dale said to some laughter.

He noted two of the options for a memorial structure were a school and a hospital.

“Perhaps it was prophetic. Perhaps they foresaw that eventually the high school would be closed and the hospital would be closed as well, but the cenotaph would remain.”

Dale celebrated the many men and women who served during the two world wars, as well as Indigenous people in Canada who chose to fight alongside their neighbours.

The clocktower “is a monument commemorating all who served and all who currently serve, in whatever capacity, for the people of Canada and for a better world.”

He then called attention to the cenotaph’s need for repairs before handing the podium over to Burroughs.

The cenotaph’s centennial “is something that some of us have looked forward to for many years,” Burroughs said.

“Our enthusiasm for this event comes from a love and appreciation of the cenotaph, a landmark that’s so unique to this town that it separates us from nearly everywhere else in Canada and puts us on a map with some of the greatest towns in the world,” he said.

While the cenotaph has been well preserved, “still, the persistence of weather and time have begun to leave their marks,” he said.

“Today, I would like to invite those who have not yet (donated to the restoration project) to do so in whatever way you and your family are comfortable with. It’s my hope that this important work can be accomplished through the efforts of our whole community.”

“No contribution is too small and we truly appreciate you all for your support.”

Dowdeswell ended her address with some stirring words.

“This clocktower is a place of solemnity but also a place of beauty. The flowers arranged around it every spring signify and embody continual renewal,” she said.

“In honour of those who came before us and with their stories in our minds and their names in our hearts, let us commit to upholding the values of loyalty and courage that they fought for.”

“Let us work to heal the divisions between us so that we may build a better society upon foundations they have laid,” Dowdeswell said. “They will not be forgotten.”

Donations for the cenotaph restoration project can be made directly to the Legion Branch 124 in cash or cheque form. Online donations can be made through the town at [notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events](http://notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events).

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# Good Samaritan **frustrated** with ambulance wait time

Continued from Front Page

2 Road on the morning of May 26 when he saw a man lying on the side of the road next to a bicycle.

"And then I noticed all the blood kind of around him and he was conscious but very much not aware of his surroundings. I think he had been unconscious slightly before that," MacIntyre said in an interview.

He called 911 and while he was on the phone another car pulled up and Chelsea Muste, a nurse, got out to help.

He said Muste used baby wipes to try to stem the bleeding while he called emergency services.

The Lake Report reached out to Muste for comment on the incident but did not receive a response before publication.

"I told (911) that there was somebody else on the scene who was taking care of him," MacIntyre said.

"She said, 'I'll let you go now but if it gets worse, put them on his side and the ambulance should be there in about 30 minutes.'"

"And I thought that was



Long delays at hospitals can create problems across the region for Niagara paramedics. SOURCED

long. I asked her to repeat that, like, 'Did you say 30 minutes?' And she said, 'Yes.' "

MacIntyre said he isn't sure when exactly the ambulance arrived but a spokesperson for Niagara Emergency Medical Services was able to fill in the blanks for The Lake Report.

"Looking at the call history, the information originally provided to our communication centre at 11:32 hours was that there was a male patient fell off his bike, completely alert and breathing normally, with bleeding from the head," Supt. Bryce Brunarski said in an email.

"It indicated that bleeding was being controlled

by a bystander at the scene. The closest, most appropriate vehicle was dispatched Priority 3," he said.

Around 11:50, about 18 minutes after the initial call, another bystander showed up to the scene, MacIntyre said.

"Again, when I told him that it was going to be 30 minutes, he said, 'Well, that's that's not right,' " said MacIntyre.

This new bystander then called 911 and reported the cyclist had been hit by a car to see if the paramedics would arrive sooner.

MacIntyre did not know the name of the other person who called EMS. Question the ethics of the situation if you will, but the fib worked.

"At 11:53 hours we received updated information that the patient was in fact struck by a vehicle, completely alert and breathing normally," Brunarski said.

"With this new information the call was upgraded to a Priority 1 and a different ambulance was assigned (at 11:53 hours) and arrived at 11:57."

About 16 minutes later, the ambulance departed for a hospital. The Lake Report was unable to confirm the cyclist's condition or injuries.

According to Niagara Region's website, a Priority 3 call's arrival time goal is within 15 minutes. The region reports that this goal is met 82.79 per cent of the time, based on 2018 data.

In this situation, 21 minutes had passed and there was still no sign of an ambulance, prompting the second call and the incorrect claim that there had been a car involved.

A Priority 1 call, which the situation was then upgraded to, is supposed to take eight minutes for arrival. The ambulance was there within four.

"It's no secret that our communications centre is handling a high volume of calls and our paramedics are providing care to these callers, all while dealing with extensive offload delays at hospital (emergency departments)," Brunarski said.

"Our dispatchers are constantly moving available paramedics around the region to provide optimal coverage at all times."

For MacIntyre, it was scary to be dealing with what he feared was a life-threatening injury while having to wait 30 minutes for help.

As Canadian bard Gordon Lightfoot once sang, "Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to hours?"

The long wait made MacIntyre, a father of two, wonder what would happen if any of his loved ones had a similar emergency.

"Just being in a situation where we needed the ambulances as quickly as possible, and then seeing how long it took made me worried for if and when we're going to need (an ambulance) for either our-

selves, our young children or parents," MacIntyre said.

But he doesn't blame the overworked paramedics of the Niagara Region for the extended wait time. He sees the problem as a lack of provincial investment into our health system.

"This is something that obviously should be of concern for residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake," MacIntyre said.

He criticized the Ford government's decision to invest \$10 billion in the proposed Hwy. 413 north of Toronto.

"I was discussing with my wife this morning how ridiculous it seems to me to be putting that money into highway infrastructure when they're siphoning money away from health care and education and the things that seem like they would be more important to Ontarians," he said.

"First things first, we've got to take care of the people. I would like to see more money, of course, go into health care, especially having seen first-hand the effects of that kind of (defunding)," he said.



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# Researcher seeks **historical information** to help identify Black Canadians buried in NOTL

Continued from Front Page

knowledge of the history of the burial ground could be invaluable in the project the Toronto resident is funding himself.

Russell and The Lake Report have heard from some locals that headstones were removed from the graveyard in decades long past and incorporated into buildings around town.

"We're hoping publicity will encourage people who find or have inherited houses where the headstones are in people's walkways or even fireplaces or simply just in the foundations to come forward," Russell said in an interview.

The best-case scenario is that many of the headstones buried in the graveyard will be legible if they are dug up, he said.

If that is the case, "we still have eight to find," he said. "And they must be somewhere nearby because no one's going to take a 100-pound headstone and drive to Montreal."

Russell said there is no judgment at all attached to any buildings around town that have headstones included in their structure. He would simply be thrilled to locate them.

Publicity has been ramping up for the project over the last few weeks and last



Lezlie Harper and James Russell watch as Howard Bogusat spray paints the boundary of a grave. EVAN SAUNDERS

Tuesday Russell did several interviews for television and radio.

"Maybe this will encourage other people to do the same thing in other graveyards and unmarked graveyards," he said.

Russell and his wife worked long hours to lay out a grid in the burial ground and mark the locations of graves and headstones with Canadian flags.

But they were not entirely alone. They had support from lifelong NOTLer Howard Bogusat and Lezlie Harper, who runs Niagara Bound Tours.

"I am very excited," Harper said, celebrating Russell's initiative to take on the project.

"It's like divine interven-

tion, something came in this man's heart and soul to do this work that has needed to be done for so long," she said.

Harper shared the sentiment that this work can motivate more.

"I think this is going to be the catalyst to other work. There'll be others. There's a cemetery in Fort Erie that needs to be looked at. Maybe this is the catalyst to bring Black history to the surface."

While Harper champions Russell for taking the steps to do this work, Russell was a little harder on himself.

"I should have done it 37 years ago. I only have myself to blame," said Russell, who is in his 70s.

"Passing by here for the

past 37 years I just reached a point where I realized nobody's going to do this unless I do it myself."

"It's long overdue and long overdue to give the people who are buried here the respect that they deserve."

"There's really no point in waiting for someone else to get off their butt and do something. Citizens have to take this kind of thing into their own hands," he said.

Russell said archeologists associated with McMaster University are interested in helping him explore the possibility of unearthing the buried headstones.

So far, Russell has spent at least \$3,000 of his own money on the project.

One person stopped last Tuesday and donated \$100 to the endeavour, the first and only donation Russell has so far received. He said he was embarrassed to take the money and hopes the town is willing to help out.

Bogusat, who donated a lot of his time to help Russell lay out the plots, also bought spray paint for the project.

Anyone wanting to support Russell's work can contact him via email at [jmr@manks-productions.com](mailto:jmr@manks-productions.com) or reach out to him via his Facebook page dedicated to the project, Negro Burial Ground: Restoration.

# Willowbank receives **\$50K** donation for programs

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Willowbank School of Restoration Arts has received \$50,000 from the Humeniuk Foundation to enhance the school's curriculum.

The money from the private family foundation also will be used to help students attend European field schools in the summer of 2023.

"We believe in the excellent work Willowbank has been doing in the education of people interested in working in historic restoration," said Andrew Humeniuk, executive director of the foundation.



Willowbank School of Restoration Arts. FILE

"In fact, our very own Brown Homestead (in St. Catharines) has been part of the three-year learning experience and we are proud to employ graduates from

this remarkable program."

Caitlin Wooll, director of the school, noted in a statement announcing the donation, "We have forged an excellent relationship with Andrew, the Humeniuk Foundation and Brown Homestead over the past few years."

"It's amazing to have two kindred spirits dedicated to heritage restoration within close proximity."

Willowbank, an internationally acclaimed, not-for-profit, private career college in Queenston, trains experts in a variety of fields related to heritage restoration, conservation and adaptive reuse of existing older buildings.

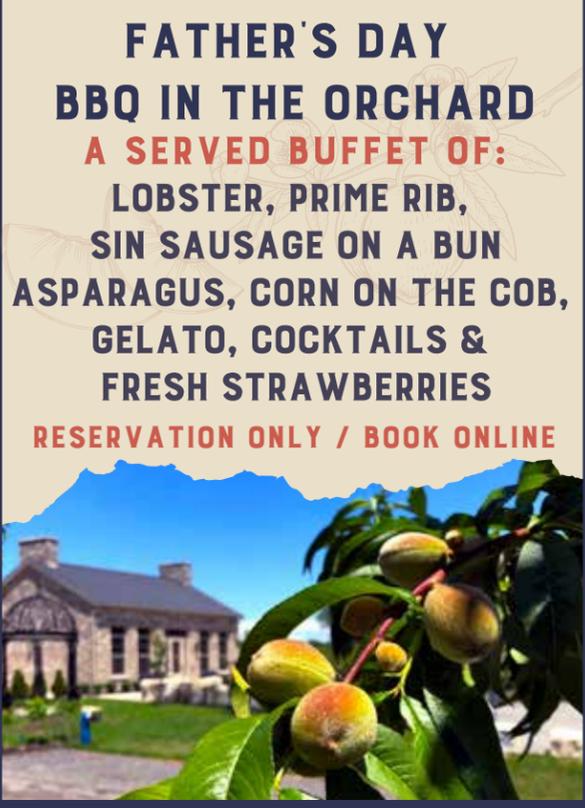
Willowbank board vice chair John Scott said it can be difficult to secure significant donations to help with the operation of the school as donors often prefer to contribute money to the restoration of the Willowbank estate house.

"We need to balance both requirements and that philosophy is embraced by Andrew and his family. We are so appreciative of their support of our mission."

The school has an employment rate of 95 per cent and its graduates work in a range of fields, from design to skilled trades to community development.

Prince Charles is a royal patron of Willowbank.

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**Canada** The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 61**  
**Region active cases: 517**  
**Region deaths: 565**  
**Region total cases: 41,284**

*\*June 8 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**

"Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day."  
 - Henri Nouwen

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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Lake Report publisher Richard Harley captured this lake scene at Niagara Shores Park last Thursday.

## Gazebo on the Lake



## Editorial

### Election is done and **real work** starts

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

And now, the real work begins.

Despite being written off early in the COVID pandemic by some pollsters, pundits and political analysts, Premier Doug Ford and his Progressive Conservatives roared back and were re-elected with an even larger majority.

The people have spoken and made their choices to lead Ontario and their respective ridings over the next four years.

Based on his campaign promises (spend, spend, spend to "Get it done") and some of his legislation during his first term (for example, the new employee right to disconnect legislation), Ford is a small-l liberal masquerading as a small-c conservative.

A conservative by convenience. Or so it seems.

Some of his slashing of expenditures early in his first term, on items like public health, came back to haunt him when the pandemic turned everyone's lives upside down.

The bulldozing, shoot-from-the-lip rookie appeared to morph into more of an Everyman premier later in his term. There's no shortage of theatre in politics, of course, so perhaps it was all a performance.

Either way, he even managed to gain the political support of several private sector unions in the process. No small feat for a Tory.

On the hustings, Ford sold us a future that includes a wide range of commitments to major infrastructure projects across the province. And in Niagara, a new hospital and twinning

the Garden City Skyway, among others.

As our story this week about ambulance response times and overburdened paramedics shows, Ford still has a lot of work to do on some of the not-so-flashy issues – like solving the region's ongoing and serious EMS funding headaches.

This provincial election was a sleepwalk win in some ways for the Tories: neither the NDP nor the Liberals mounted much of an opposition, there was no public sentiment for "change," all leading to apparently the lowest voter turnout in provincial election history (43 per cent).

While three of Niagara's four ridings remained in NDP hands, about 9,000 fewer votes were cast in our riding (Niagara Falls) than in 2018.

The results were the same:

the NDP's Wayne Gates triumphed by 5,865 votes (48 per cent) over PC challenger Bob Gale (36 per cent), with the Liberals trailing badly in third place.

Now, the real work begins for Gates and his fellow New Democrats – to hold the Tory government to account, to represent the interests of Niagara so we are not forgotten by Queen's Park (as so often has happened in the past), but, above all, to find a way to work with the governing party to get things done – to the benefit of everyone.

Congratulations to Ford on being entrusted with a second term and to Gates on handily being re-elected here in Niagara.

We look forward to seeing all parties proving they can work together to "get it done."

editor@niagaranow.com



### NOTLers need to stop with derogatory **'Toronto people'** criticism

Dear editor:

This is a call out, request or beseeching Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to stop using "Toronto people" as a derogatory term.

It has sadly become accepted lingo of divisiveness in our town.

I live on a very busy walking street and have met so many friendly, lovely newcomers to NOTL and they are well aware of the term.

Kudos to those who find

it amusing. I, on the other hand, find it mean-spirited, so I will defend those newcomers in the interest of opening the minds of long time residents.

"Born and raised" is the other side of the coin, where locals are claiming some undefined privileges.

Here's where I share my personal experience as I've walked both paths. I was born here and grudgingly moved to Toronto for my ambition to be fulfilled.

I worked hard, added value for my employers, employed many and saved ruthlessly while my friends travelled and lived in huge homes – all to get back to NOTL, the one where we hung out on the waterfront, worked on the farms, played ball and accepted everyone.

We all love it here and worked very hard to stay or get here.

Never assume a single person you meet came by

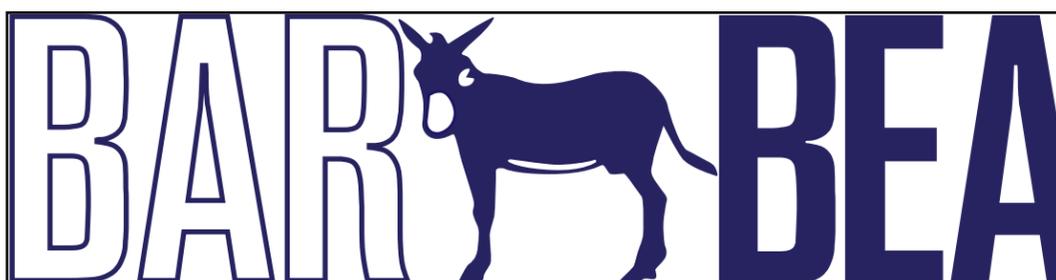
what they have easily.

"Toronto people," as do all locals, give astonishing amounts of time and money to this community to make it the cultural and natural gem that it is.

So please, instead of dividing locals into camps, really look and listen when you meet people and appreciate how thrilled we all are to be here.

Tolerance starts at home.

**Beth Macdonald**  
 NOTL



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# Mayor offers message on the lessons of inclusion and diversity

The following letter to the community was released by Lord Mayor Betty Disero and posted on the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's website.



Lord Mayor Betty Disero. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

I recently attended a Niagara-on-the-Lake Ambassadors training session and after a presentation by the town's diversity, equity and inclusivity committee, I thought it important to share some of my thoughts.

Diversity means that everyone is unique. We know that. We are all unique – when and where we were born, our physical features, thoughts and values. There are no two people exactly alike.

Inclusivity means that

everyone, even though we are all unique, has a voice at the table.

Equity ensures that everyone at the table has an equal voice and is treated with an

equal measure of dignity, respect and civility, even (especially) when there is a disagreement.

When the committee explained its mission, I

realized that its mandate is not only to ensure council is inclusive and fair to all but also to spend time teaching community members how compassion and respect for one another are vital in our everyday lives and in the way we approach each other.

But what about our own personal thoughts and actions regarding diversity, equity and inclusivity?

I began to think:

Are we, each one of us, inclusive?

Do we celebrate our diversity?

Do we try to ensure everyone is included and has an equal opportunity to share in the wonderful

benefits and beauty of our town?

Are we thinking this way all the time?

Niagara-on-the-Lake has won travel awards for being friendly. We are kind and welcoming to visitors from all over the world – people from varied locales, different races, cultures, religions and identities.

Our visitors are diverse and the kindness we show them is part of our town's character and personality. It is our livelihood, and we are proud of that reputation.

It is equally important that we are kind to each other and appreciate that everyone living in Niagara-on-the-Lake is unique.

Everyone born here or who has moved here has a specialness to them.

We may not always agree with each other, but we owe it to one another to listen, show respect and appreciate that everyone has a unique contribution to make to our community.

As I learned from the diversity, equity and inclusion committee, we are all unique, we should all have a voice and each voice should matter.

Each of us should have the full opportunity to love this town and all it has to offer.

**Betty Disero**  
Lord Mayor  
Niagara-on-the-Lake

# Grandfather designed clock tower cenotaph

Dear editor:

My attention was caught by your front page feature of June 2, "The Monuments Men" and especially by mention in Exploring Photos of the architect of the memorial clock tower, "Charles Wilmot, (sic) of Toronto."

Charles Mackay Willmot (properly, with two L's) was my paternal grandfather.

He was known to his 10 grandchildren as Mumps. A booklet produced by the North Toronto Historical Society in 1985 said he was an architect of note, who studied under his father, Mansell Willmot, and designed some of Toronto's

finest homes.

His family, which included a butcher, a druggist and a clerk, for a time owned the four corners of Bloor and Yonge in Toronto.

Mumps did not serve overseas, but his brother, Scott, did.

In 1915, when Scott was 18, he wrote to his brother from the trenches in France during the First World War.

He described one battle where only 190 survived out of 1,000. "It was awful, Charlie, men and horses were strewn everywhere."

After the war Scott returned home with a Parisian bride. He later died by suicide.

My father, youngest child of Charles Willmot, served in the Second World War.

He would not talk of the war to us children, but I sometimes overheard him tell my mother about a Mrs. Fairbourn, who lived in the countryside, and opened her home to young soldiers who were on leave.

We do not often hear of the kindness of these distant hosts. Perhaps the humanity and basic decency shown did much to preserve the mental health of soldiers far from loved ones and home.

I had not known that my grandfather based his design of NOTL's iconic

clock tower cenotaph on the St. Mark's Campanile in Venice.

When I look it up on the internet, I see the similarities. The campanile served as a landmark to guide Venetian ships into harbour.

Perhaps our memorial tower, in addition to honouring those lost in war, serves a secondary purpose, guiding tourists into our town.

I wonder how my grandfather knew about the tower in Italy before the age of the internet, but I know how he knew about those lost to war and that they must be remembered.

**Win Willmot Laar**  
Queenston



Architect Charles Willmot, with his wife Ena, stand before their home, which he designed. SUPPLIED

# Council's change to NOTL noise bylaw is a cockamamie attempt

Dear editor:

Council's rationale for its recent decision to allow recreational noise in all town parks defies logic.

The issue of concern is not the noise made at the Stampede and other similar short-duration special events, which require a permit to be held on town property.

It is the distinctive and repetitive noise made by pickleball racquets being struck by pickleball racquets repetitively in one particular park. And the fact that one resident who lives near the town's pickleball courts objected to that noise and

requested that the town enforce its noise bylaw.

Although I do not know all the ins and outs of what followed, it's likely safe to assume that the matter ended up in court when the town failed to address the resident's concerns to her satisfaction.

Instead of waiting for the court to rule on the matter, council has changed its noise bylaw in a cockamamie fashion that places the onus on NOTL's director of operations to approve noise in parks, and gives this official the ability to limit any specific noise or recreation-

al activity in parks between certain hours.

What's next – a list of permissible activities, such as loudly exclaiming satisfaction after making a winning shot or play, provided the resulting noise does not exceed a certain decibel level?

Or are park users who think they may make noise while engaging in a recreational activity in a town park going to need a permit?

To top it off, the town, with no public consultation that I am aware of, is about to create a Frisbee golf course in what was up to now a quiet greenspace

behind the NOTL Community Centre.

Has council considered the noise that will be generated by that activity and what impact it will have on nearby residents?

It reminds me of the process, as I remember it, that the town used when the tennis courts in Centennial Sports Park were converted to pickleball courts, which led to the current noise complaint issue.

The manner in which the noise issue has been managed by council and reported in the media is discouraging at best.

For The Lake Report to imply that 17,999 of us have been negatively impacted by the concerns of one individual resulting in the temporary closure of the pickleball courts in one park is ludicrous, (Editorial, June 2, "Sad that one person can affect so many").

Only the people who actually play pickleball on those courts have been inconvenienced. And instead of waiting for the court to rule, and then working on a solution to address a specific noise problem, council has created what has the potential to become a much bigger noise issue.

Having recently spent some time vacationing in a property that included a pickleball court, I understand why some NOTL residents could find the noise of a pickleball being repetitively struck by a racquet all day long feels like torture.

To say those residents should move out of their homes if they don't like the noise is unfair.

Changing our town's noise bylaw in a manner that may make it impossible for those people to remain in their homes is even worse.

**Terry Davis**  
NOTL

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## HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE



# Plan ahead now for COVID prevention, Niagara's top doctor says

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Dr. Mustafa Hirji.

As Ontario and much of the world relaxes into a semi-post-COVID summer, Niagara's top doctor says that's OK but we should be looking at how to mitigate inevitable future waves.

"People are less worried about the pandemic. I don't know if that's entirely incorrect," acting chief medical officer Dr. Mustafa Hirji told a COVID media briefing on Monday, June 6.

"We are in a much better place in this pandemic."

But the virus is certainly still prevalent and Hirji said the focus now is "how do we make sure that we prepare for the future so that we're not as badly affected by this virus going forward."

He doesn't anticipate businesses being closed or capacity limits imposed and thinks there might be "a brief reprieve" from wearing masks if infections dip low enough this summer.

"But we're going to see the virus likely resurge in the fall. We're going to see ongoing hospitalizations, death, health care strain, long-COVID and economic consequences from this virus going forward."

There are several important ways Hirji said people can start working now to mitigate future waves of the virus. Some may sound familiar but they're importance has not diminished.

The first one is getting a third dose of vaccine, he said.

Hirji said third dose uptake among older populations is high but younger generations are still lagging behind.

"We really need to prioritize getting their doses up," he said.

"If we do that, that really slows the spread of infection."

The best tool at the government's disposal for improving third dose intake is proof of vaccination requirements, he suggested.

"I propose that, really, the government take the proof of vaccination tool and updates it to incorporate a third dose," he said.

Hirji said he is not calling for a reintroduction of the proof of vaccination system at this point but that there are many places that already require proof of vaccination and making that include a third dose is essential public messaging.

"By updating that proof of vaccination tool to that third dose it hopefully sends a signal to everybody else that three doses is now the stan-

dard for being vaccinated," he said.

"You might want to go out and get that third dose so you're prepared if and when maybe proof of vaccination becomes a requirement in other places once again. I propose that's something we should be doing this summer."

His second step for preventive measures is updating Ontario's building code to make sure buildings have better air filtration.

"We know the virus spreads through the air. If we can remove that virus from the air with better ventilation, if we can remove it from recirculated air with better filtration, we can make our public spaces, our spaces where people congregate and get infected much better and safer," he said.

Hirji said the building code should be updated so that "all new buildings, buildings that are undergoing significant retrofits or significant renovations, they will be brought up to a level

where we will be protected from the virus in those spaces."

He said the government should provide financial incentives for businesses to make the upgrades.

Thirdly, Hirji said the province needs to start building a work culture that encourages people stay home if they are sick.

"If you're sick and you go to work, you go to school, you're spreading infection to many more people, in some cases vulnerable people."

He said the culture that arose about staying home if you have COVID needs to be permanently ingrained.

Essential to this is legislating permanent sick days so people do not feel economically pressured to go into work when they are unwell, he said.

"I think we need to have a big provincial campaign to make sure this culture really sticks going forward."

Part and parcel to this is the ability for remote work, Hirji said.

"We've done that for two years and we can really leverage that. So, people who are mildly sick, only have a bit of a cold but feel well enough that they can work, they can actually work from home."

Lastly, Hirji recommends the beginning of a non-partisan review of how pandemic management played out over the last two years.

"I'm thinking of the non-partisan commissions that took place after SARS. That's the kind of model of review that we need, to take a really deep dive looking at this pandemic."

Hirji said these types of reviews can take a long time but that starting now is the right move in order to get a comprehensive review of all aspects of our societal and political response to COVID-19.

A review would allow us to better understand what went wrong, what went right and how we can do better in the future, he said.

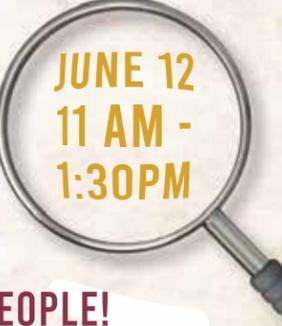


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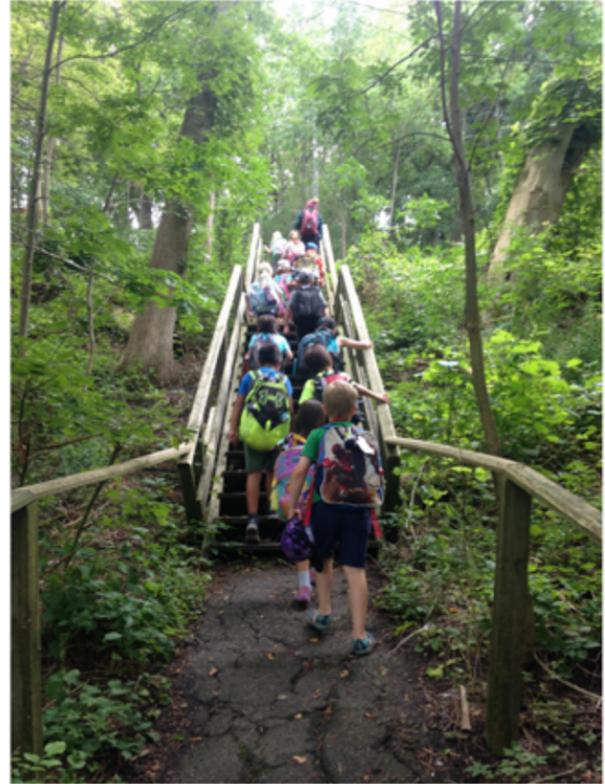
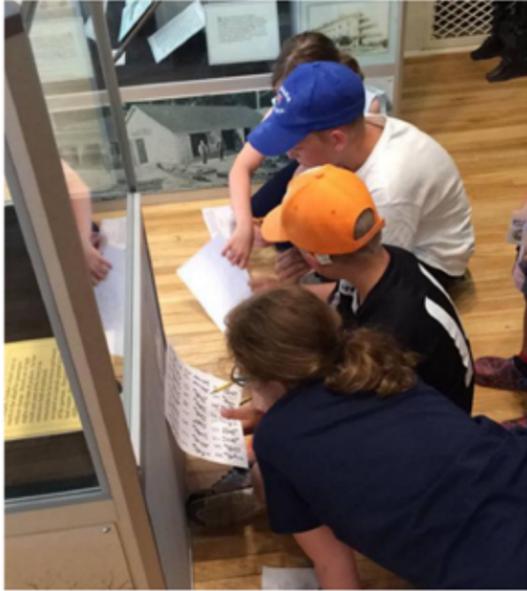
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Ruby Eltoft and her friends have extremely fond memories of this fun and enjoyable program. The Eltofts encourage all local families to take advantage of this great opportunity to learn about our Town's vibrant culture & history!

# Niagara on-the-Lake Realty



# Gates wins riding by 5,865 votes

Doug Ford's PCs coast to another victory; Gale says he's retiring from politics

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

In the end, the vote wasn't close and the race was over quickly.

Though one major polling organization had predicted a neck-and-neck race, the results in last Thursday's provincial election showed NDP incumbent Wayne Gates handily won the Niagara Falls riding.

Progressive Conservative candidate Bob Gale trailed Gates by some 4,000 votes before the first hour of the count was done Thursday night, leading Gale to concede at 9:45 p.m.

The final official tally for the riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, showed Gates received 24,207 votes (48 per cent) to Gale's 18,342 (36 per cent).

The winning margin was 5,865 votes, according to Elections Ontario.

Liberal Ashley Waters was a distant third, with 4,239 votes.

Voter turnout was the lowest ever in Ontario and in the Niagara Falls riding, almost 10,000 fewer votes were cast compared to 2018.

Gates arrived to a cheering crowd of supporters at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Niagara Falls at about 10 p.m.

He started by thanking his campaign volunteers and staff.

"I saw close to 200 volunteers that were out today, giving up your time — you could have been anywhere today — but you had a lot of faith in what we're trying to do here to make a better life for all of us," he said.



The NDP's Wayne Gates gives a victory speech to a crowd of supporters after winning re-election as MPP for the Niagara Falls riding on Thursday, June 2. RICHARD HARLEY

"Some people said we couldn't do it. I think they were wrong.

Gale and a small crowd were gathered in a Niagara Falls residence to cheer on the candidate and watch the results roll in.

"I was surprised that we got the results that quickly. I was told it might be 12 or 1 o'clock," Gale said.

"Hopefully Niagara Falls, and the Niagara Falls riding, can be represented by Wayne and we'll achieve the new hospital and other items that have come up."

Gale announced he does not plan to run again and in fact will retire from politics once his term as regional councillor for Niagara Falls ends this fall.

In an interview with The Lake Report shortly after conceding, Gale said the

only difficult part of the election was losing but that he found a lot of personal satisfaction in the process.

"I enjoyed door-knocking. I really enjoyed going house to house in the riding and that's not fake. I have the gift of talking to a lot of people and I met a lot of great people here," he said.

And it wasn't simply the joy of engaging with voters that Gale found rewarding. The long days of walking from house to house provided their own benefit.

"I'm healthier than I've been in years. I've lost 25 pounds," Gale said.

"Last September I would go door knocking and then I'd end up at a fast-food joint after. I stopped that, I've been eating healthy. So, from that standpoint it was a plus for me."

"The only negative was losing but there's always more losers than winners in these things."

Gale had some advice for the NDP's Gates.

"Their party should be focused on not complaining as much and working together with the PCs because the PCs have a majority. Try not to complain. Work with them," he said.

Official election results show that every vote counted in NOTL. Gates beat Gale by 18 votes: 3,469 to 3,451.

Gates won the poll at the Community Centre, one of the two Queenston Polls, the Upper Canada Lodge as well as the advance poll. He lost in Virgil and St. Davids and Glendale.

Gates handily swept Gale in most polls in Niagara Falls and won every poll in Fort Erie.

# Gates will consult family before deciding on NDP leadership run

Continued from Front Page

wife and my grandkids," he said.

Gates talked about how important his family is to him and how long they have been in his corner while he battles it out in Ontario's political sphere.

"They've supported me for the last 40 years. I've been elected a long, long time, in a lot of different roles in my community."

"So, would I consider running? Yes. Have I made up my mind to run? That will come with a conversation with my family and, quite frankly, with my staff members as well and my friends."

Gates tied the decision to the week-old provincial election.

"We just finished an incredible election and making hasty decisions, I'm not gonna do that."

"My staff, they're the best, by far, in the province of Ontario and they're tired, they're exhausted. So, we need to take a few weeks to kind of get our thoughts together and then maybe make a decision on what my future holds with the NDP."

In the meantime, Gates is turning his focus to pressing issues that face the Niagara Falls riding, Niagara-on-the-Lake and the rest of Ontario.

"For Niagara-on-the-Lake, we just have to continue to make sure that we protect our arts, our culture. I'm not against develop-

ment but it should be smart development with consultation with council, with the



Premier Doug Ford.

residents," he said.

"Parliament Oak, I think that's a very good example of making sure that we protect the Old Town when it comes to development and coming together as a community, as a council."

Gates was at the parade commemorating the centennial of the Old Town cenotaph on Saturday, June 4.

"We have an incredible history in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Queenston and St. Davids over the last 200 years."

"We have to do everything we can to protect that," Gates said. He referenced the Shaw Festival as one of the cultural icons of NOTL.

He said he also looks forward to further representing the wine and agricultural industries in NOTL, who "support a lot of jobs and bring billions of dollars into the local economy."

"I'm absolutely honoured that (the riding has) given me that opportunity for the fourth time to be that face, be that strong voice and listen to the residents."

**Read more of what Gates said about affordability and the second Ford government at [Niagaranow.com](http://Niagaranow.com).**

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# Cricket coach is **passionate** about sport

Continued from Front Page

But when it comes to cricket, Steele has a much more serious attitude.

And there is only one game each year in Niagara. "I like to win," Steele said.

"I'm not going here to lose, I'm going here to win. That's my intention."

Steele knows that, as team captain and coach, if victory is not secured then the blame will be on his shoulders.

"I decide who I should use to play. Because at the end of the day, if the team loses, everybody looks at the captain and asks why," he said with a laugh.

He makes sure he's choosing the best of the best for the team.

"I do training and I see the guys who are fit to play. If they can pass my physical test then they can make the team. This is not a friend game," Steele said with a smile that belied his words.

The cricket game is organized by the Caribbean Workers Outreach Program and GateWay Community Church. The program operates in NOTL and Vineland, hence the yearly match between temporary farm workers from both areas.

Steele has been the captain and coach of the NOTL Clippers for 26 years.

He's been coming to the region to work that entire time and says his boss, Walter Gaio, is a great employer.

Steele also expressed his appreciation for the Caribbean Workers Outreach Program and Nancy King.

Working with GateWay Community Church and being able to attend Sunday



NOTL Clippers team captain Elisha Prophet Steele doesn't plan on losing to the Vineland Lions during the upcoming cricket match on June 12. EVAN SAUNDERS

service there has been an important part of his time in NOTL.

"It's very nice to go to church on a Sunday night. It really can make something new happen in your life," he said.

"You meet some new people, nice people to deal with, and you can speak about God also. I'm really enjoying going to church here."

Cricket may not be the most popular sport in Canada, but the country's nature as a diverse land has seen its popularity grow in recent years.

Steele pointed out that new Canadians, immigrants from places such as India, Pakistan and the Caribbean islands, are giving the sport new life.

"In Jamaica, cricket is an international sport. Jamaica has produced some really great cricketers, for example someone like Chris Gayle."

"In Jamaica, we watch cricket a lot. It is a very fantastic game in Jamaica."

"I've been playing cricket all my life. I started when I was like seven years old. When I was 17 I played internationally, for the bigger games," Steele said.

In his 26 years as coach and captain for the NOTL Clippers, Steele boasts an impressive record: his teams have only lost two games.

His players have only three nights to practise before the sole official game they will play all summer. But it seems that, with Steele at the helm and his track record, three practices might be enough.

Steele is involved with sports organization's back home in Jamaica as well. He was sporting a Jamaica soccer jersey when he was interviewed by The Lake Report.

Steele said he coaches a 13-and-up team in his home

region of Trelawny. He also collects soccer balls while he is in Canada to bring home to the kids in his town.

"Overall, I'm a sports coordinator. Anything sport, that's in my field," he said.

Steele said he has always enjoyed working in NOTL.

"I love my job. I take it as a hobby. When I'm working it's like I'm playing a game. It doesn't come hard to me," he said.

Steele is also a musician and produces his own tracks and works as a DJ.

One of Steele's good friends, Horace Hines, a journalist with the Jamaica Observer, had some kind words about his long-time friend.

"He's a sportsman, an avid sportsman who plays cricket very well," Hines said in an interview.

He also celebrated Steele's dedication to music.

"Music is one of the things that, throughout the years, through the good times and the bad, has kept us afloat," he said.

He said Steele is a great coach "who inspires the players a lot. Because of his easy-going style he gets along with the players well."

Hines shared Steele's sentiment about winning.

"We don't like to lose."

The cricket match will be held on Sunday, June 12, at 2 p.m. at Memorial Park.

There will be free refreshments and food for those in attendance. The food is provided by one of the game's sponsors, Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, Inc.

Steele said people should try to arrive at the park around 2 p.m., but that the game will most likely start a little later.



**Lily is a lily pad in a small pond. Lily doubles her size each day. On the 20th day, she covers the whole pond. On what day was Lily half the size of the pond?**

**Last issue: Which of the following words don't belong in the group and why? CORSET, COSTER, SECTOR, ESCORT, COURTS**

**Answer: Courts**

**Answered first by: Margaret Louter**

**Also answered correctly (in order) by: Claudia Grimwood, Donna Clute, Terry Nord, Beverley Easthope, Betty Knight, Jane Morris, Howard Jones, Susan Hamilton, Becky Creager, Leanne Leach, Mary Drost, Ron Ferguson, Graham Gibbs, Olivia Heck, Gary Davis, David Steele, Maria Janeiro, Sheila Meloche, Wade Durling, Britney Turasz, Michelle Watters, Bert Dandy, Kay Waller, Margie Enns, Sylvia Wiens, Bob Stevens, Sheryl Christensen, Elaine Landray, Debbie Petrucci, Dennis Blake, Brandy Delaney**

**Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)**

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 **FEATURED**

# Going green: Lawn bowlers enjoy game's **social and physical** benefits

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

A gentle breeze blows through the air. Scattered clouds dissipate the sun's heat. Someone laughs — a ball rolls briskly through the grass.

Yes, it's another great day at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club.

"I just think it's wonderful. We are blessed to have this community centre and we are blessed to have people that run this lawn bowling club," says enthusiastic club member Teresa Gouett.

"For older people who live in the community, and there's a lot who live alone, this is a wonderful outing," she said.

The club is recruiting new members and hosted the first of a two-part open house on Saturday, June 5, to give people a chance to try the sport for free.

"You're getting exercise and you're with other people — even in the winter with the indoor mat bowling," Gouett said, referencing the club's winter operations inside the centre.



Teresa Gouett says lawn bowling helps keep her outdoors and active. EVAN SAUNDERS

The second open house will be this Sunday, June 12, between 2 and 4 p.m.

There will be an array of snacks and refreshments on site and people can try their hand at lawn bowling and get some free coaching from a club member.

The sense of community the club engenders really stood out when a reporter visited on Saturday.

Members were joking and laughing all afternoon as they got to share one of their favourite activities with strangers.

On top of that, the club is quite scenic, situated behind the community centre and overlooking a large field and nearby vineyards and woodlands.

For many of the older members the combination of being outdoors with a light workout is essential.

"It is good exercise. It's great for stretching and I do get my steps in," club member Rose Connolly said.

"It's gentle exercise, outdoors in the fresh air," club secretary Angela Lynch said.

That gentle physical activity was the reason NOTL resident Nancy McCree was there.

"The need for some exercise brought me here today. To exercise, to loosen up a little bit and to challenge myself in terms of flexibility and to gain some muscular strength," McCree, a prospective club member, said as she tried her hand at the sport.

She was still undecided about joining the club but rolled many balls and shared many laughs with

the club members.

Perhaps the most touted benefit of the club is its role as a social bastion for NOTL residents, many of them older seniors and perhaps cut off by distance or time from the ones they love.

"There's a lot of little old ladies living by themselves — probably men too. I'm just saying it's good to be able to mix with other people," Gouett said.

"We're a social club. Not very competitive," said Lynch.

Club member Patricia Reese said she switched from her Niagara Falls club to the NOTL one purely for the social atmosphere.

"It's fun. It's a social, a very social club," Reese said as she took a quick break from helping newcomers.

Lynch said it is one of the few organizations in the community centre that has been allowed to put its own personal touch on the indoor facilities.

The club has access to a multi-purpose room inside the centre for its members to get out of the heat and enjoy each other's company. The room has been adorned

with historical pictures dating from the club's nearly 150-year existence.

Founded in 1877, the NOTL Lawn Bowling Club is one of the oldest in Canada.

Connolly said the club has always been well-liked by those involved but the challenge with keeping it running lies in reminding the community that it even exists.

"It's a matter of getting people to realize it's here," she said.

Anyone interested in attending the open house can show up at the club behind the community centre on June 12 between 2 and 4.

The cost to become a member is \$110 per year for NOTL residents but the club is offering 50 per cent off for the first year. New members also get free coaching for two sessions.

Organized bowls take place on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, but members can access the court any day of the week to play on their own.

"It is great exercise and then you get to socialize and meet a few interesting NOTL characters," said Connolly.

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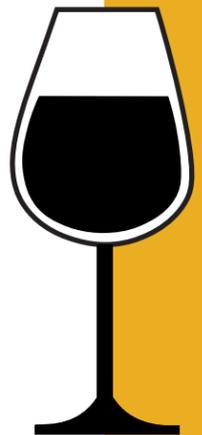
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# U22 Thunderhawks **undefeated** in Brampton lacrosse tourney

Andy Boldt  
Special to The Lake Report

The U22 Niagara Thunderhawks went undefeated in round-robin play at a weekend lacrosse tournament in Brampton and capped it off with a resounding win in the championship game.

Niagara faced the Cambridge Highlanders for the gold medal and left the floor with a convincing 11-1 victory in the John "Gus" McCauley Memorial Tournament.

Tensions were high and so were the tempers, however, the Thunderhawks were able to ignore the taunting, name-calling and cheap shots to open the scoring in Sunday's final.

The Highlanders, whom Niagara edged 3-1 in their round-robin game, matched the first marker with their own goal, but that would be their only one for the rest of the game.

The Thunderhawks' stellar defence was able to smother their opponents' fleeting attempts at generating scoring chances, while their own offence got down



A Niagara Thunderhawks player scores one of the team's 12 goals against Simcoe last Thursday at the Meridian Credit Union arena in Virgil. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

to business and picked Cambridge's goalie apart, resulting in the lopsided score.

Jack Parker (3), Keaton Boldt (2), Hunter Ostromecki (2), Jordan Wiens, Aedan O'Gorman, Liam Dietsch and the oldest rookie on the team, Sam VanderZalm, scored for the Thunderhawks.

In a warm-up to the tourney, they hosted the Simcoe Timberwolves at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil last Thursday.

Tanyan Davis started the

game between the wickets, blanking the Timberwolves, before Jack Muraca stayed the course, leading to a 12-0 win for the home side.

The last goal of the game by Boldt was a reflection of how the game was going for the Timberwolves. While being checked, Boldt's shot was deflected well over the net, bounced off the glass, then off the goalie's back and into the net.

The next day the Thunderhawks headed up the QEW to Brampton, where they started their tourney

competition with a known foe, the Hamilton Bengals.

The first period began with the Thunderhawks' Aedan O'Gorman scoring his first of two tallies just four minutes into the game. Hunter Ostromecki followed two minutes later to give the Thunderhawks a two-goal lead before the Bengals buried one of their own.

In the end, the Thunderhawks were able to collect seven goals. Aedan O'Gorman (2), Hunter Ostromecki, Jordan Wiens (2), Jack

Parker and Joe Fragnito were the scorers. The Thunderhawks net was protected by Tanyan Davis, who limited the Bengals to only two goals for the 7-2 win.

In their second game, Niagara faced Cambridge, a team larger in stature and with more talent than the Thunderhawks had come up against previously.

The Highlanders' high-intensity defence put a lot of pressure on the Thunderhawks' offence before Nolan Price was able to twist the twine for a 1-0 lead.

The aggression throughout the game was high from both teams, landing players in the box for multiple infractions. Goalie Jack Muraca was able to hold the Highlanders to only one goal after a barrage of heavy outside shots.

Aedan O'Gorman buried the game-winning goal after a beautiful feed from Nolan Price at the start of the second period and Joe Fragnito finished the scoring in the third to give the Thunderhawks a 3-1 win.

In the final round-robin game, the Thunderhawks faced the host Brampton

Excelsiors. Although less aggressive than the Highlanders, they provided excellent competition for the second game of the day.

The Thunderhawks dominated the defensive end to only allow the Excelsiors to score two, while tallying nine of their own.

Nolan Price (2), Joe Fragnito (2), Keaton Boldt, Jack Parker, Trent Hunter, Jordan Wiens and Hunter Ostromecki scored for the Thunderhawks.

Crushing defence from players such as Liam Dietsch, Noah Ostromecki, Christian Blaylock and the rest of the Thunderhawks' defence prevented many scoring opportunities. And any opportunities the Excelsiors did get were turned back by goalie Tanyan Davis.

UPCOMING: The Thunderhawks travel to Guelph next Tuesday for an exhibition game before returning home June 28 to host the Bengals. The Thunderhawks look forward to seeing a packed house for that homecoming game.

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Thunderhawks.

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# Writers' Circle brings back 'Books at the Barn'

Paul Masson  
Special to The Lake Report

The NOTL Writers' Circle is holding another book fair and chance for visitors to meet some of the authors – and enjoy the return of the Strawberry Festival.

Books at the Barn returns to 322 Simcoe St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., across from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, where the annual Strawberry Festival will also be held.

Like the first Books at the Barn in December, this will be a chance to meet area authors, buy their books, and, if you wish, get them autographed.

The available books cover a wide range of genres and styles: children's stories, fantasy, mystery, romance, historical fiction, young adult literature, as well as memoirs and other non-fiction subjects. There is likely to be something of interest for all readers.

The following authors are planning to be on hand.

Terry Belleville, author of "Raising the Bar," (a young couple struggle to restore a ramshackle coun-



Front: Writer's Circle members Eileen Campbell, Sharon Frayne, Patricia Nicholls-Papernick, and Paul Masson. Rear: Terry Belleville and Kathryn Recourt. SUPPLIED

try pub in Australia in the 1930s), "Matters of Kindness," (nine short stories reveal different aspects of kindness), "The printer, the actress, and the cat she couldn't mention," (a romantic comedy set in Buffalo and New York City), and "Things That Happened Or Might Have," (a collection of 15 short stories, many of them true).

Elizabeth Currie, who writes page-turning fiction for women, will have available "Lucifer's Pride" (rival sisters hook up with the most notorious bike gang

in the world. What price will they pay for love and money?)

Sharon Frayne, author of "Caught Between the Walls," a hybrid novel combining research and fiction set in the historic NOTL Court House and Jail.

Paul Masson, who will present his latest novel, "Evil Ever Lives," the fourth volume in his detective series the "ABC Files." A collection of his first three novels will also be for sale.

Patricia Nicholls-Papernick will have two selections available: a biographi-

cal novel spanning over 100 years, many hardships, two world wars, Alzheimer's and survival; and a trilogy of seasonal miracles (a detective story, a fantasy and a love story).

Kathryn Recourt, who writes stories for children ages 3 to 8, will have available all three books in her Sir Archibald Droolsalot series, including the latest, "Puppy Dog Blues."

In addition, books of several Writers' Circle authors unable to attend will be available on June 18. They include:

Contemporary romance by Marie Kelly, including "Fiancee for the Billionaire" and "Secretary for the Billionaire."

Memoirs of NOTL residents and works of Canadian stories written or published by People's History author Randy Klaassen.

Three fantasy novels written by Richard West ("Lightning People: Discovered," "Lightning People: Entangled," and "The Hive Revealed") and a collection of short stories based on Second World War experiences ("Recollections of War").

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GAMES 

- Across**
- 3. Ringed (7)
  - 8. --- Goldberg, actress (6)
  - 9. Highway (4)
  - 10. Lax (5)
  - 11. Last (8)
  - 12. Heavy blow (4)
  - 16. Predicted (7)
  - 19. Spark off (7)
  - 20. Belonging to us (3)
  - 21. Old match (7)
  - 23. Its capital is Montevideo (7)
  - 24. Involuntary muscular contraction (3)
  - 25. Up-to-date (2,5)
  - 26. Covered (7)
  - 30. Young lady (4)
  - 34. Instruction to keep cool (4,4)
  - 36. Tyrone county town (5)
  - 37. Forbidden action (2-2)
  - 38. Vortices (6)
  - 39. Learned the ropes (7)
- Down**
- 1. North Wales seaside resort (4)
  - 2. Incentive (6)
  - 3. Shrill chirping insect (6)
  - 4. Canons (5)
  - 5. Landlocked SE Asian nation (4)
  - 6. Sketched (4)
  - 7. Father (4)
  - 11. Spreading out (9)
  - 13. Top brass (4-3)
  - 14. Death for a cause (9)
  - 15. Place (4)
  - 17. Earthquake scale (7)
  - 18. Value (5)
  - 19. Armistice (5)
  - 22. Smoke duct (4)
  - 27. Approached (6)
  - 28. Assent (6)
  - 29. Grey (5)
  - 31. "Prince ---", Borodin opera (4)
  - 32. Spoils (4)
  - 33. Individual facts (4)
  - 35. Sediment (4)

*Have some fun*



### Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8						9	
			10				
11					12	13	14
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25					26	27	28
				29			
30	31	32	33	34			35
		36					
37					38		
		39					

Last issue's answers

1	P	Z	P	U	B	H	P							
2	R	O	M	A	N	I	A	N	U	N	D	U	L	Y
3	L	G	L	I	B	M	T	A						
4	P	O	T	R	O	A	S	T	P	V	A	N	E	
5	O	E	T	Y	B	C	N							
6	R	A	B	B	L	E	S	C	R	E	W	C	U	T
7	T	O	E	U	H	L	A							
8	R	E	M	O	V	E	R	P	R	E	D	A	W	N
9	A	B	E	E	S	I	G							
10	I	N	A	H	E	A	P	O	P	T	I	M	A	L
11	T	R	S	A	L	N	E							
12	S	O	D	A	S	S	Q	U	A	S	H	E	D	
13	N	I	O	A	K	N	A	A						
14	V	E	N	D	O	R	E	U	G	E	N	I	C	S
15	S	E	E	W	E	E	H							

		2	7		4	3
	1	7				2
				6	4	8
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		3	6	7	1	
				8	2	
	5		9	7		
9					6	1
3	6			1	2	

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# GREG SYKES

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# Jump in, the water's fine. But here's how to **keep it that way**



Keeping it  
**Green**

Kyra Simone  
Special to The Lake Report

Now that warm weather is finally here, water temperatures in lakes and local water bodies are becoming more swimmable.

Whether heading up to the cottage, camping, or taking a dip right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, there are a few ways to make sure beach days are kind to the shoreline and the water.

My family has always gone camping each year at Killbear Provincial Park near Parry Sound. Growing up, I remember how soft my hair would feel after a week of swimming in crystal-clear Georgian Bay.

This summer, I'm actually

working near Georgian Bay again for my PhD research on climate change and the effects of wildfires on ecosystems. After a long, hot day of fieldwork, there's nothing better than throwing off the sweaty long sleeves and bug net, and jumping in the lake.

## POP THE BUBBLE

It's not uncommon to see folks bring their "all natural" shampoo and sneakily bathe in the lake. Brands like CampSuds even make biodegradable soaps for low-impact outdoor use.

But, if you follow the best "leave no trace" approach to interacting with nature, even biodegradable soap can't be used in streams and lakes.

Soap has a detergent component that reduces water surface tension, which leads to reduced oxygen levels that harm fish and aquatic animals.

Detergents also break down and release phosphorus, which leads to overgrowth of algae and further issues for wildlife as algal blooms use up oxygen.

Soapy water can be safely



Campers and cottagers enjoy the clear water of Georgian Bay every summer. KYRA SIMONE

disposed of in a hole at least 50 metres from shore – these are even the instructions on CampSuds bottles.

## CATCH SOME SUN

Protecting yourself from UV rays is important, but some sunscreen ingredients can damage the ecosystem.

Originally, research showed oxybenzone in sunscreen was harming coral reefs; now, Hawaii and several other tropical islands have banned these products.

Scientists believe sunscreen has similar effects

on Canadian lakes. When sunscreens build up on top of water, they make aquatic insects less able to lay eggs, which eventually means less food is available for fish and birds.

Lab studies have also shown oxybenzone causes organ damage to fish and makes it hard for aquatic plants to photosynthesize. UV-protective clothing or mineral-based sunscreens, like zinc oxide or titanium dioxide, are safer options for wildlife.

Lakes and rivers are often sources of drinking water, so it's best to avoid introducing

anything that you wouldn't want to drink yourself.

## ONLY FOOTPRINTS

As beaches get busier, it's important that visitors interact gently to keep these natural spaces healthy and beautiful.

For example, staying on existing paths and boardwalks helps prevent erosion and protect species, like some turtles that nest in the sand.

Packing reusable containers for a picnic and carefully cleaning up any packaging or leftovers is also essential. Snack wrappers

and bottle lids are some of the most common pieces of beach litter.

Feeding wildlife or leaving food scraps behind can also cause problems. Our food makes some animals sick, or when wildlife continues to come back for more, they can become annoying or even aggressive.

Nobody likes being swarmed by seagulls and when birds crowd around high-traffic beach areas, their droppings can even increase bacterial levels in water and make swimming less safe.

When you feel like dipping your toes in this summer, you can check the latest beach water quality results on the Swim Guide app.

So come on in, the water's fine. And taking these small actions will help keep it that way.

*Kyra Simone is a green-at-heart NOTL resident with master's degrees in biology & science communication. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up litter, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.*

## WALLY'S AUTO ADVICE

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## Fort George's second powder magazine

This photograph, circa 1898, is an interior view of Fort George with one of two gun powder magazines on the left side. This gun powder magazine, located along the northeast section of the fort, was originally built in 1814 by the Corps of Royal Engineers but was not restored along with the rest of the fort and the second gun powder magazine as part of the Depression era relief work in 1937. The restored gun powder magazine building that you see today in Fort George was the original 1796-97 one. The white building in the background is the former caretaker's cottage.



### Knobs, locks and knockers

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

You are a gentleman of the late 18th century who is calling upon the impressive home of Mr. D.W. Smith Esq.

Mounting the stairs to the front entrance, the decorative iron ring knocker is prominently displayed. The absence of any door knob does not surprise you; very few homes bothered with a knob or a pull when the knocker served to swing the door shut from the outside on the rare occasion that was necessary.

However, the presence of the keyway set into the door was a clear sign that there was an expensive plate lock mounted inside, representative of the homeowner's



Morley House - Spring Latch with Keyhole Backer Plate. BRIAN MARSHALL

status.

A few moments after using the knocker to announce your arrival, the door is opened by a household servant to whom you give your card (or failing such, provided your name), after which the door is closed again as you wait outside for the master of the house to issue you an invitation to enter.

Once invited inside, as you are shown to the formal parlour, you note the brass-knobbed spring latches on the interior doors, another sign of Mr. Smith's success.

Now, had this visit occurred sometime in the 1820s, there is every likelihood that the plate lock on the front door would have been replaced by a brass Carpenter-style rim lock with or without an external pull knob (functional door knobs would not be introduced until after 1830).

That door knocker would have been just as prominent and, while most interior doors would likely still be sporting exposed spring latches, the doors to the parlour and master's study off the front foyer may also have had rim locks installed.

Let's take a moment to describe each of these locksets.

A plate lock is essentially a box mounted to the inside of a door which contains a flat bar that is thrown by turning a patterned key in the keyway. This bar engages into a keeper that is surface-mounted onto the door frame.

A spring latch is comprised of a metal plate surface mounted on the inside of a door. A flat metal bar is attached to this plate with a pin that allows it to pivot up and down (using the knob on one end) to latch it into a hook mounted on the door frame.

There is a small "V" spring attached to the metal backer plate above the locking bar, which acts to hold it down in the hook. Some spring latches incorporated a keyed bolt similar to that of a plate lock and the backer plates could be ornamental (most commonly a

keyhole shape).

If the spring latch workings were enclosed in a case, it was referred to as a rim latch.

In 1820, Joseph Carpenter patented his rim lock. In reality, this lock was simply an upgraded rim latch containing both the lift action bar and a sliding bolt keyed to both sides such that entry was impossible without a key.

The spring latch hook was replaced by an enclosed metal keeper. Typically, these rim locks were heavy affairs made in brass or cast iron or a combination of both.

Although the 19th century was a hotbed of innovation, most door-related developments focused on the locking mechanism and door knobs (the latter with over 100 patent applications filed between 1830 and 1850), so the rim lock in various sizes was the go-to through most of the 1800s.

Interestingly, while mortised locks (mounted inside the door stile) were available from the late 1700s, they were prohibitively expensive until the late Victorian period.

And through it all, it was the knocker that was the main feature on most doors.

## Looking to the Stars

### Harmony eases stresses and a full moon is on horizon

**Thursday, June 9:** With the sun in Gemini and the moon in Libra, a light and clever harmony infuses the day. Given some stressful goings on earlier, harmony is welcome. It was June 9, 1973, that Canadian jockey Ron Turcotte, aboard the incomparable thoroughbred Secretariat, becoming the first Triple Crown winner in 25 years.

**Friday, June 10:** Honest feelings disturb the end of the work week. Hang in as ideas and conversations later on reveal a cleaner way forward. Comedian and podcaster Bill Burr celebrates birthday number 54 today.



**Saturday, June 11:** On June 11 Venus is conjunct Uranus in Taurus. A few days later, Venus also connects with the north node. Venus is the planet of love and personal values. Uranus is the planet of truth, freedom and liberation. The north node is our compass. We may think we are true to ourselves, that we know what we want. But sometimes it takes a Venus-Uranus transit to shake us and show us what we really want. When we do find out that is, the whole universe conspires to make it happen. It's exciting and arrives, most likely, in the form of a new creative person who opens a way to a better future for you. Happy birthday #20 to American Idol, first seen on Fox on June 11, 2002, and starring Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson.

**Sunday, June 12:** The truth is the topic du jour – likely as Mercury, now direct, covers ground already travelled in the past month when in retrograde motion, and showing that we have been hoodwinking ourselves about what we want and what it takes to get it. Honesty with oneself is mandatory. The first animated film to gross \$1 billion was "Toy Story 3", starring Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.

*Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.*

It premiered June 12, 2010. **Monday, June 13:** On a very upbeat and generous day, Mercury re-enters Gemini for the second time this year. From now until July 5 we enjoy the open mindedness and clear thinking and communication of Mercury in Gemini. Tim Allen of "Home Improvement" and "Toy Story" fame celebrates birthday number 69 today.



**Tuesday, June 14:** It's the day of the full moon in Sagittarius for 2022. At this full moon, we may initially feel we've lost our compass. But that's because our old beliefs no longer serve us. At least not in this current context. The full moon square Neptune will show us that there is a way – a different way – to achieve our goals. At the full moon, allow the inquisitive spirit of Sagittarius to be the guide in finding different answers in unusual places. A good day to curb your enthusiasm? Remember the Falkland Islands war? It was June 14, 1982, that Argentine soldiers surrendered to Britain.

**Wednesday, June 15:** Mars in Aries conjoins Chiron while Venus in Taurus joins the north node of the moon. This is the day for healing past hurts and for warming up to the best spiritual future. Today is the birthday of one of the most powerful men in the world, Chinese President Xi Jinping, who turns 69.



Check out Bill Auchterlonie's podcast, "Looking up to the Stars" with ad libs and music at [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca).

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The biggest mistake in evergreen pruning is waiting until your shrubs are overgrown to prune them. JOANNE YOUNG

## 'Tis the season to be pruning your evergreens and shrubs



**GROWING TOGETHER**

Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

Early to mid-June is the best time to be pruning your evergreens.

Pruning seems to be one of the most frustrating and the most misunderstood areas of gardening. The longevity of a plant is determined by how well it has been pruned over the years.

It is always best to prune your conifers yearly to stay within the size and scale of most landscapes.

The biggest mistake people make is they wait until the shrub has overgrown its space and then they try to hack it back to keep it smaller. Let it be said that "hacking" is never a proper pruning technique.

Evergreens come in all different shapes and sizes – spreading, rounded, upright, pyramidal and weeping. The natural branching pattern of the plant dictates its shape.

By respecting this inherent form when pruning, it is possible to limit the size of the plant without changing its form. Not only does

this preserve the plant's true beauty, but it saves the expense of replacing overgrown plants.

Do not buy a pyramidal-shaped plant thinking that you can keep it pruned into a globe shape. You will just have a very unhappy looking globe. You need to work with its natural shape.

Here are some things that you need to understand before you start pruning your evergreens:

Evergreens retain their foliage year around. They compensate for this by losing their oldest growth every year. That is why you will always see brown needles or foliage in the centre of your trees and shrubs. This also applies to broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, hollies and euonymus. Most evergreens will hang on to their needles or leaves for three to five seasons.

Unlike deciduous trees and shrubs, most evergreens will not rejuvenate themselves if cut back to old, bare wood. Yews are the main exception. Most evergreens grow primarily from buds set the previous year and have few, if any, latent buds. It is generally safe to prune back only to one- or two-year-old growth, which still has existing buds. Do not prune back into branches where there is no growth.

It is almost impossible to rejuvenate an old, overgrown evergreen. Therefore, it is important to prune yearly and not wait until the shrub or tree has become

too large. This way you can slow down its growth so it does not overgrow its space quickly.

Most evergreens push out new growth only once or twice a year – late spring and possibly again in late summer. Best time to prune most evergreens is after the new growth has emerged in late spring to early summer. On most evergreens, the new growth emerges a lighter colour. Once the colour has faded to the same colour as the older growth that is the best time to prune. You could do a second pruning at the latter time, but not too late into the fall because it will stimulate new growth that will not have time to harden off before winter.

There are two main goals when pruning evergreens:

### Control Size of the Plant

We usually choose the plants we do because we are attracted to the natural shape of it.

When it comes to pruning them, though, we will take our shears and cut the tips of each branch to the same length. If this is how you are pruning, you will find that in a couple years all your plants have the same dense blob-like form.

You will have lost that character of the plant that first attracted you to it.

To keep a more natural look, make individual cuts with the secateurs and not with the shears. This is called natural pruning.

That means you are making selective cuts to thin or

reduce the overall size of the plant. This cannot be done with shears, but with secateurs or loppers.

It means cutting one stem at a time and not just shearing off the tips. When pruning is completed, it should look like no cuts have been made; It should still have its natural form.

### Maintain a Certain Shape

The other goal of pruning evergreens is to maintain a shape such as a hedge, pyramid, globe form or specialty shapes like spirals and pompons.

This is best achieved by shearing. With shearing you are just removing new tip growth, creating a full dense look. Even though electric shears make the job easier, hand shears make a much nicer job of things.

Electric shears just tear the plant tissue while hand shears make a cleaner cut. When the plant tissue is torn there is more die back at the tips, giving the sheared shrub a brownish cast.

To prevent this from happening, always make sure any pruning tool is sharp and clean. To achieve a more formal, sheared, geometric look shear up to three-quarters of the newest growth each year.

This way you are only allowing it to grow, say, an inch per year instead of four inches per year.

Happy pruning.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.

## Obituaries



### Beauty

*In memory of Beauty.  
25 years together.  
Sleep well.*

- Inge Enns

## Ann Gallagher



GALLAGHER, ANN EVELYN (nee Assheton-Smith)

Passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the age of 93. Feisty, strong and very loving mother of Trish (Brent) and Fiona (the late Rick). Predeceased by her beloved husband Brian, her brother Roger and her sister Joan.

Ann lived in India,

England, the Bahamas, Colorado, Montreal and Toronto before making Niagara-on-the-Lake her home in 1979. She was happiest working in her beautiful garden, taking painting lessons at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre or cooking up a storm in her kitchen making preserves for many Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum fundraising events.

At Ann's request private cremation has taken place and there will be no visitation or service.

Ann's family would like to thank Irene Young for her loving friendship and support while Ann was at home, Dr. Francois Viviers for his good-natured and outstanding care over many years and the staff at Niagara Gardens Senior Living for their amazing kindness and compassion.

If you wish to honour Ann's memory with a donation, please consider the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, one of Africa's oldest wildlife charities that rescues and rehabilitates orphaned infant elephants.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com).



## Robert Cleary



CLEARY, Robert – Passed away peacefully at home with his loving wife at his side after a lengthy illness on Monday May 30, 2022 in his 83rd year. Beloved husband of Fiona Macleod for 44 years. Loving brother of Margaret (the late Thomas) Hannan and Georgina (David) Fleming. Fondly remembered by

many nieces and nephews. Dear friend of Doug Hunter. Predeceased by his sister Anne Gillies. Robert retired from IBM in 1993 after working in engineering for 30 years. A private family service has taken place at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Arrangements entrusted to MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church or Niagara-On-The-Lake Community Palliative Care. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)



Pauline Reimer Gibson  
Audiologist

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