

NOTLer lost \$232K to 'romance' scam in 2019



A female resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake was taken for \$232,145 in 2019 as the result of a romance scam. SOURCED IMAGE

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

In 2019, NOTLers were taken for more than \$250,000 by scam artists, according to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

The majority of that total was from one person, who lost \$232,145 in a "romance" scam.

According to the fraud centre's list of scams, in a romance scam, the scammer "convinces you to enter a virtual, online relationship so the scammer can

gain your trust and affection."

This can occur through email messages or fake profiles on social media and dating sites.

"Eventually the scammer asks for money for travel, a medical emergency or family assistance. They might also ask you to receive money for them. By doing so, you might unknowingly commit a crime," says the centre's website.

Niagara Regional Police said the victim was a woman in her 60s.

"In May of 2019 our uniform officers met with a woman in her 60s from

NOTL. She had befriended a person over social media in October of 2017. Detectives from our Central Fraud Unit took over the investigation as it was determined that the woman had sent in excess of \$230k to the person. The funds had been sent via deposits to bank accounts and via gift cards with monetary value," said Const. Philip Gavin in an email response to The Lake Report.

Gavin said police identified a person

Continued on Page 2



Shaw's artistic director Tim Carroll reflects on the past year. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Shaw Festival sees \$500K surplus

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

at the Royal George Theatre Friday.

The Shaw Festival had another successful year last season, posting a surplus of more than \$500,000.

The Shaw's board of directors unveiled financial results for 2019 during its annual general meeting

The festival had a 13 per cent increase in gross operating revenue, resulting in an all-time-high of \$34.1 million in 2019, with one-third of all revenues coming from dona-

Continued on Page 2

Concerns raised after bad crash at York Road and Concession 6



Angelo Recine's car spun out and blocked York Road after he T-boned another car that blew through the stop sign at the intersection of York Road and Concession 6 Road. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

It was a clear March night last Monday as Cannery Park resident Angelo Recine drove east on York Road heading into St. Davids.

As he approached the intersection at Concession 6 around 10 p.m., he saw lights of another car, a grey 2020 Toyota, hurtling northbound toward York Road.

By the time Recine noticed that the car blew

through the stop sign at the intersection, it was too late to stop. He said he tried slowing down but, as he was driving 80 kilometres per hour, he T-boned the back end of the Toyota.

"There are no lights or anything for that stop sign. If you don't see the stop sign, you're going to blow right through it," Recine said.

"The street lights were not

Continued on Page 3

INNOVATION IN WINE COUNTRY: PART 3

Sensors make pruning grape vines a bit easier

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Tending the vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake is really a year-round operation, with much still to do after harvest and before bud break. The main focus in winter months, when

the vines are dormant, is pruning and trimming the tendrils in preparation for the next growing season.

Pete Buis and his brother Kevin Buis, co-owners of Glenlake Orchards and Vineyards in NOTL, have

Continued on Page 3



Pruning at Glenlake Orchards & Vineyards, with pruning machine mounted to harvester. JILL TROYER



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NOTL residents taken for more than **\$250K**

Continued from Front Page

of interest, but suspended the investigation at the request of the victim.

He said privacy laws prohibit police from identifying the victim, or providing detailed information that may cause her to be identified, but did say the investigation "determined that the funds left Canada."

Last week, The Lake Report published a front-page story detailing NOTL resident Pauline Charlton's concerns about the "psychological terrorism" caused by the proliferation of scam-type telephone calls she and many other residents receive daily.

Subsequently, the newspaper contacted police authorities for statistics on fraudsters targeting people living in NOTL.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said it takes threats to economic integrity "very seriously" and has been engaged in ongoing, complex investigations into various scams, including a Canada Revenue Agency scam, a bank investigator scam and a tech support scam "since reporting and financial losses started to increase."

"Just in February of this year, we arrested and charged two Canadian-based co-conspirators in connection to all three of these transnational phone scams, causing a significant disruption to criminal operations," the RCMP said in an email reply to questions from The Lake Report.

"Previous investigative success included the disruption and takedown of illegal call centres in India, effect-



The best way to prevent scams is to be aware of them.

ing a decrease in reported losses to the CRA scam."

The RCMP says the investigations are complex as a result of scammers using Voice over Internet Protocol, auto-dial, call forwarding applications and spoofing of telephone numbers to mask their identity and location.

Additionally, there are complex jurisdictional issues with international investigations.

"Further to investiga-

tions and enforcement, the RCMP works closely with government and domestic and international law enforcement partners to raise awareness and share best practices on these types of crimes, because public awareness and vigilance is a key strategy in preventing the victimization of Canadians and combatting fraud."

The RCMP is a joint operator of the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

"The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre routinely issues educational bulletins, provides scam alerts and has developed partnerships with financial institutions, telephone companies and courier companies."

The RCMP said it does not comment on specific tools or techniques when safety, or the integrity of operations may be compromised.

"However, we can tell you that (telecommunications companies) have undertaken specific efforts to aid Canadians by blocking fraudulent calls."

The RCMP and fraud centre encourage people to be aware of current scams.

"For specific statistical data and awareness materials, please contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre or visit their website at www.antifraudcentre.ca."

Scam Alert Romance scams

A romance scam convinces you to enter a virtual, online relationship so the scammer can gain your trust and affection. This can occur through:

- **Email messages**
- **Fake profiles on social media and dating sites**

Eventually the scammer asks for money for travel, a medical emergency or family assistance. They might also ask you to receive money for them. By doing so, you might unknowingly commit a crime.

- **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre**

Shaw Festival sees **\$500,000** surplus in 2019

Continued from Front Page

tions. In 2018, revenue was \$30.2 million.

This year, so far, the Shaw has experienced an upsurge in ticket sales in the wake of the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, said executive director Tim Jennings.

Responding to a question from the audience, he said that with people deciding not to visit Europe or Asia, the Shaw has actually seen an increase in sales in the last two weeks.

"Coronavirus is an interesting conversation, one we're keeping a close eye on," Jennings said. "We've already enacted a bunch of things to make sure we're doing more to protect our health and the health of our audiences."

Reflecting on 2019, Jennings noted the "real win" for him is how high attendance and public investment resulted in sustainable employment for the company's artists, technicians and seasonal staff, while the theatre remains a significant driver for the tourism economy in town and the Niagara region.

"All of that is due to a distinctive nature of Shaw as a destination theatre," he said. "That destination, our home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, amplifies our art and increases our collective experience. It attracts people. That doesn't happen anywhere else."

Artistic director Tim Carroll said he has learned that the audience loves spontaneity and "human fallibility."

"We don't want our shows to be all just machines. We can go to films for that," he said.

He also mentioned that Shaw offers classes and artist training programs by some of the "best theatre practitioners" in the world to a generation of young people.

"If there's a problem in the world, it is not with the younger generation, believe me. They are remarkable people here ... I've felt since I got here that the Shaw should one day be recognized as a centre of training. And I hope it will be."

Financially, last year was an "excellent" one for the Shaw, resulting in a \$519,000 season surplus, said board treasurer Kevin Patterson.

The company held 789 performances in the main season, attracting 267,413 people with more than 25 per cent of attendees being new to the Shaw.

The attendance is an increase of 10 per cent over 2018, making it the festival's best result since its 50th anniversary in 2010.

Shaw's total expenses were \$33.6 million, an increase of \$3.9 million.

The theatre's public education and outreach team held 1,907 events that were attended by 56,191 people. In 2018, the company held 1,500 events with 50,000 people attending.

Since the addition of new holiday show productions, more than 36,000 people visited NOTL during what used to be considered the off-season and almost 100 jobs were created for the company's part-time and seasonal workers.

Ticket sales boosted the revenue by \$2 million, resulting in the highest income from sales at \$17.7 million, Patterson said.

Fundraising hit a record high revenue, totalling \$8.8 million, an increase of \$598,000 from 2018.



Board of director's chair Peter Jewett, executive director Tim Jennings, artistic director Tim Carroll and treasurer Kevin Patterson at the annual general meeting last Friday. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

Artistic and production expenses increased by \$1.1 million, while marketing and PR expenses rose by \$314,000.

Due to capital investments, such as the purchase of new artist housing, investment in holiday programming, and stage and sound system upgrades, the Shaw ended the year with a bank debt on its line of credit with \$406,000.

The new sound system in the main Festival Theatre was installed in the winter to replace equipment that was more than 20 years old. Moving forward, the

company will rebuild the Royal George Theatre. After archaeological and geotechnical survey work were completed, rebuilding the theatre on the site was deemed feasible, said board chair Peter Jewett.

"In our planning to rebuild the George, we're determined to keep that style and keep the intimacy of this theatre," he said.

The accumulated deficit, made of long-term debt, property mortgages and vehicle loans, sits at \$292,000. The Shaw's board and management team are working on how to be less dependent

on loans, Patterson said.

The Shaw has also established a new board of governors.

Chaired by Tim Price, the board includes 29 appointed members: Marilyn and Charles Baillie, Barbara and Ronald Bessie, James F. Brown and Jean Stevenson, Robin Campbell and Peter Jewett, Tim Carroll, Alberta Cefis, Ilio Santilli, Betty Disero, Wendy and Bruce Gitelman, Lyle Hall, Laurie Harley, Tim Jennings, Nona Macdonald Heaslip, Mary E. Hill, Carolyn Keystone and James D. Meekison, Diane K. King, Frances M. Price, Elizabeth and Edward Simmons, Nancy Smith, Marc St-Onge, and Barbara and Colin Watson.

The festival's 2020 playbill, starting April 2, will include productions of Gypsy, The Devil's Disciple, Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse, Mahabharata, Prince Caspian, Charley's Aunt, Flush, Assassins, The Playboy of the Western World, Desire under the Elms, Trouble in Mind, A Short History of Niagara, A Christmas Carol, Me and My Girl, and Shaw Not Shaw.



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INNOVATION IN WINE COUNTRY: PART 3

Sensors make grape vine pruning easier

Continued from Front Page

300 acres of vineyards to prune every year. Like most grape growers, they've used mechanical pruning machines for years, but this year there is a new feature that makes the first pass at pruning even easier.

The innovation is a set of sensors on the machine that can detect the metal posts set along the row of vines, and automatically open and close around them as the operator drives along the row.

"This is the third version of this feature we've seen. In the past they haven't been reliable," according to Pete Buis. "This is the first one that seems to work well."

His unit is mounted on a harvester machine, so the operator "is sitting up



An exhibit of vineyard equipment at a recent trade show in Niagara Falls. JILL TROYER

on top, and can see very well. It's easier for operator comfort." The mechanical pruning unit can also be mounted on a tractor, which is the more common approach.

"Ninety per cent of growers already use mechanical pruners. They are great for pulling the tendrils out of the top wires," explains

Joe Pillitteri, president of Lakeview Vineyard Equipment.

With the new sensors, operators have to manually open and close the cutting blades around the metal posts that are spaced at short intervals along the rows. "That takes time and it can even make the operators feel a bit seasick as they

focus on each post. The new sensors make the job much easier and they allow operators to go faster."

"The people that work on it love it," says Buis.

The mechanical pruning machine chops off 18 to 20 per cent of the growth on the vines. "We still do manual trimming," says Buis.

Mechanical pruning on Glenlakes' 300 acres of vineyards wrapped up by the end of January, and manual pruning will follow, most likely in early April.

Editors' Note: This story is the third in a series about innovations and improvements in capacity and efficiency in the ongoing evolution of the wine industry in Niagara.

NEXT: Sunnybrook expands and innovates.

Crash raises concerns about intersection

Continued from Front Page

on, either. They were off, so it was completely dark."

Recine said he's driven down York Road many times and he's seen other drivers miss that stop sign.

The Mewburn Road Bridge, which connects Niagara Falls to NOTL, just reopened last November. It had been closed for a decade so Concession 6 Road wasn't used very often, Recine said. Now, it's a popular backroad shortcut for many drivers.

"When that bridge closed, it was kind of a blessing in a sense those accidents weren't happening," he explained.

Recine said the street light poles at the intersection were off at the time of the crash and suggested it could have been prevented had there been flashing lights at the stop sign or if the area had been lit properly.

"At least, light up that area, knowing it's a very troublesome spot in a highly dangerous area," he said. "That's my concern. I wasn't the first one to be involved in an accident and if nothing changes, I won't

be the last one."

Regional councillor Gary Zalepa said installing flashing lights on the stop sign is "a good suggestion" and he will look into why the street lights were off at the time of the crash.

The region is also working on designating more community safety zones across the region and putting up speed cameras in those areas, Zalepa said.

In Recine's collision, his car spun out and hit a hydro pole blocking York Road while the other car went into the ditch.

Recine was able to get out of the car, feeling "shaky" and concerned about the driver and two passengers in the other vehicle.

As his car was in the middle of York Road and the hazard lights didn't work, Recine said he was worried other drivers wouldn't be able to see it.

While he was calling 911, another driver coming down York Road from St. Davids managed to see his car and stopped at the last minute, Recine recalled.

The Toyota driver, a 23-year-old man from Niagara Falls, managed to get

out of his car, came to check on Recine, shook his hand and apologized to him.

After that, the driver went to check on his passengers, Recine said.

The NOTL fire department, Niagara Regional Police and an ambulance arrived on the scene "fairly quickly," he said.

Both Recine and his wife Chiara commended the emergency service workers for working together like "clockwork."

"It was amazing," said Chiara who also arrived on the scene after her husband called her. "He was never left alone ... There was always somebody with him."

"They were very helpful and respectful. They were attentive to making sure I was OK," Recine added.

He and one passenger from the other vehicle were then taken to the Greater Niagara General Hospital for treatment.

In the week since the March 2 crash, Recine said he's been experiencing constant chest pain caused by the activated airbag.

"I cannot sleep at night, it's uncomfortable. It's hard

to breathe. It's really, really sore."

The other passenger had "minor injuries," Niagara Regional Police Const. Philip Gavin said in an email response to The Lake Report.

The Toyota driver from Niagara Falls was charged with careless driving, Gavin said. The crash caused about \$10,000 in damage to the Toyota while Recine's car had about \$5,000 in damages, he said.

It's not the first time concerns about road safety have been raised since the Mewburn Road Bridge was reopened.

From Nov. 1, 2019 to March 9, 2020, there have been five motor vehicle collisions in that intersection, but none of them were fatal, Gavin said.

The Recines said they feel "extremely lucky" no one was seriously injured but they are concerned if something isn't done to alert drivers about the stop sign, there will be more collisions there.

"It really is a hazard and it's just a matter of time for something serious to happen."

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Editorial

Time to consider the **big picture**

Richard Harley
 Editor-in-Chief

People in town who are keen followers of political activities in NOTL know there is a big gap between the business community and the residents. It seems to be the same in many places in the world right now — never was the USA more divided, never was there more disagreement between liberals and conservatives in Canada and never did Europe have such a dysfunctional union.

We as NOTLers should do everything in our power to get unified and start making decisions based on what benefits our future, and not based on political party ties and mindsets that belong in the past.

We need big picture, long-term ideas that can solve the problems we're seeing as a result of a changing town.

NOTL has added more than 6,000 new citizens in less than 10 years. Fifty years ago NOTL was mainly a farming community. Life was hard but also pretty laid back. Then the province decided to open the Shaw theatre in town. The Pillar and Post and the Prince of Wales were the first two hotels and Inskillin, Reif, Konzelmann and a few other wineries opened around the same time. Tender fruit was still the name of the game, but the wineries, the hotels and Queen Street, with its quaint old houses, started to gain momentum. Slowly over the years our little NOTL converted from a farm town to a wonderful tourist destination.

Until about 10 years ago, there was no major influx of people into town, but that changed with all the new developments. The quaintness, the wineries, the Shaw, the parks and last, but not least, the huge improvement of Queen Street initiated by Si Wai Lai made our NOTL attractive for many people from the GTA. All these people came because our lifestyle provided an awesome environment, great cultural activities and fantastic restaurants. All these features are tourist-driven. The exact numbers of visitors to town each year is not known, but it's estimated as many as 2.7 million people come

to our lovely town annually. And they keep the ball rolling.

Nearly everything we do in NOTL is in some fashion a tourist-driven event, activity or expense. We all need to come to terms with this fact. But how we treat this fact is the big question and also the big challenge.

We all have to be happy at the end of the day and compromises have to be found to keep every interest group happy. But if we stop nurturing our tourism, the restaurants will close, Shaw will have fewer visitors, the wineries won't be successful any more, property values will drop sharply and this town will end up like many other tourist-driven towns all over the world, whose heydays are in the rear-view mirror. It would be misguided to follow their lead.

This isn't to say we need to fill the town with short-term rentals. It's obvious those businesses are contributing to a hollowing out of Niagara, which makes few happy other than the property managers, owners and people finding cheaper accommodation because the competition drives the price down.

The real solution lies in creative, long-term plans for smarter tourism. ie. How can we keep people coming in and spending money in town?

The stakeholders in our town are the residents, the B&Bs, the hotels, the retailers, Shaw, the restaurants, the farmers, the wineries and all other non-tourist driven businesses. These stakeholders need to become unified and need to make NOTL the best town to live in, while creating a sustainable, long-term future for NOTL.

At the risk of offending longtime locals who have always cursed the crowds on Queen Street, we need tourism, and lots of it. But we need to approach it in new, creative ways. We need to vitalize the winter off-season, and we have to reduce the wear and tear on our town in the high-season.

We need to improve our infrastructure for visitors, and even more for the residents who call NOTL home. The town must be promoted in a new, smarter and more sensible way.

If all stakeholders in town can get

behind the idea that we are a tourist town, we can be successful together and start to maximize revenues that help support all of us. We can't afford to make the kinds of changes we the residents want without having money in the kitty.

What Lord Mayor Betty Disero presented to council recently was her idea of a 10-year plan. We can start debating if hers is the right plan or not, but at least someone came forward considering the big picture. Being positive and open to ideas not only allows us to dream bigger and find more practical solutions, but it forces us to dream. Good job, Betty, for stepping up to the plate and saying we need to think smarter.

The problem we face in thinking big is sticking with a mindset that has been holding the town back. For example, it's alarming and tiring that one of the first comments from Coun. Garry Burroughs was a concern about the parking at Fort George. Is that really the issue? It happens too often that boards and committees kill potentially great ideas before they get off the ground by presenting roadblocks as finite problems, instead of seeking solutions to those roadblocks. If we can't get behind a big-picture plan, then we will never find a solution for the details of any plan.

But first we need to dream big and get on the same page. After we decide on some good ideas, then we can define the goals and objectives and find creative ways to make it happen.

The beauty is there are millions of dollars available for all sorts of programs, and we should be focused on getting that funding.

Why not get together and have a dreamer's workshop? Once the dreams are dreamt and agreed upon, we can condense them to a manageable size and then have a "make it happen" workshop.

It must be understood that no tourism means no money. We need income beyond parking meters and bus licences, which as they are currently structured only seem to hurt the businesses in town.

editor@niagaranow.com



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OPINION



The future of Earth is destined to be much different than it is today. SOURCED IMAGE

Dr. Brown: What the future holds: Part 1



Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Nothing with which we are familiar will remain the same; not anyone we know, not our homes, streets, rivers, lakes or coastlines. Not those charming small cottages, not those megahomes – they're all slated to go. None will survive the onslaught of nature's continued creative destruction. Shifts in tectonic plates, the ebb and flow of glaciers, erosion and repeated shifts in climate played over nature's time scales of thousands, millions and billions of years will surely erase everything we're familiar with except the skies above and newly sculpted lands and waters below and even those too will pass. And that holds true for all the great creations of human imagination, engineering and the arts. It's

hard to see how the Sistine chapel, the pyramids and any human-made marvels in the world will survive 100,000 years, never mind a million years, given that most works of art need continued coddling and restoration within hundreds, not thousands of years. In the face of such powerful natural forces, whole continents, mountain ranges, oceans and seas and the very shape of the land on which our descendants might live, will change beyond our recognition. I'm very aware of this living as I do in Niagara-on-the-Lake, because the Great Lakes from Lake Superior to Lake Ontario and the lands beneath and surrounding those lakes were born in the wake of the last ice age 10,000 to 20,000 years ago. That's not so long ago when we remember that our paleolithic ancestors in Europe created much of that cave art, and as it turns out in Indonesia as well, 40,000 years ago for modern humans and 20,000 to 60,000 years earlier for Neanderthals. At least art seems to last longer in

caves, although even here the slow drip of water and chemical action takes its toll. From the perspective of our daily lives, what surrounds us looks so familiar and unchanging. That's an illusion. For those of us who are a little older and remember times and places a few decades ago, there's a growing awareness of change on the march, of changes in our culture and others surrounding us, and attitudes, some of which may be welcome, but many of which may be unsettling and worrying. On an altogether longer time scale, Earth is on target to be stripped of all its life-sustaining water and baked by an expanding and warming sun, to become uninhabitable well before the sun engulfs the Earth and perhaps Mars, two to three billion years from now. After that, the sun will pack it in, bereft of fuel, and collapse into a very much smaller, denser, and colder, dead star. If that's not enough apocalyptic drama in our corner of the Milky Way, our nearest galaxy, An-

dromeda, is on track to merge with our Milky Way about four billion years from now, hopefully with few, if any collisions, but no guarantees on that score. So, change is on the way on almost any time scale. Given that most species, especially more complex primates like us, have relatively short shelf-lives of the order of a few hundred thousand years, or perhaps 2 million years at best, it's hard to imagine that any species like homo sapiens will be around much longer than a few hundred thousand years from now – nothing like the time before Earth bakes or the sun collapses. Long before the latter end-times we humans will likely morph into yet other homo species or perhaps a new genus, or as with so many species before us, become extinct – the end of the line. *Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the Info-health series held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.*

Tidbits

Upper Canada Lodge to move 60 beds to Fort Erie

The Ministry of Long-Term Care is reviewing a proposal from the Niagara Region that would see 80 beds from Upper Canada Lodge redeveloped for a new long-term care home in Fort Erie. The new 160-bed facility would also receive 80 beds from Gilmore Lodge in Grimsby. There will be an information session March 30 at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

The Lake Report

A bold parking solution

Dear editor:

Caroline Rigby's letter in The Lake Report of Feb. 13, suggesting a shuttle service solution to NOTL's parking problem caught my eye and immediately took me back more than 30 years when I likewise served on a traffic committee. My recommendation, at the time, was underground parking combined with a shuttle service, lacking, however, any explanatory data.

My thinking then had been prompted by a recent visit to historic Williamsburg Village located on the U.S. east coast. This reconstructed masterpiece remains uninhabited, while in contrast, NOTL excels as a living, thriving historic showpiece, presently being upset annually by increasing tourist hordes arriving by bus and car. The perennial problem needs a fix.

But before elaborating on a possible solution, let me illustrate, with two examples, how we observed Niagara in the '60s.

Back in 1960, when my wife and I as a young couple moved into our old home in Queenston Village, Niagara as it was referred to, was a quiet, sleeping town on the shore of Lake Ontario. Traffic was sparse and life appeared to be at a standstill. Shaw was but a thought in the minds of Brian Doherty and Calvin Rand.

One of the first performances to an invited audience was on the stage upstairs in the town hall. Actors in street dress sat on stools in a line on stage and read their lines. The Shaw's theatre wasn't built until 1973.

To emphasize the town's sleepiness again, I recall writing my master's degree paper on "The Early Schools of Niagara." The source of much of my research came from a pile of books and booklets piled in one corner of a room in our NOTL museum. The material wasn't catalogued or shelved.

Again, back to the point of underground parking. First, all visitor traffic entering town needs to be diverted to a parking area by installing electronically operated barriers (gates, lifts, bars, etc.) at strategic locations entering the town at John Street, Queen's Parade, the

east extension of Front Street, Niagara Stone Road and Lakeshore Road. Next, supply every resident vehicle and all service, town and emergency vehicles with an electronic eye to allow free movement in and out of town. This system should work as simply as your automatic garage door.

Secondly, at the same time, construct underground facilities at the town entrances, the Commons and Fort George, land just north of Jackson-Triggs Winery, military land off Lakeshore. A connecting road between Queen's Parade and two other parallel roads would provide an entrance to each parking garage. Similar services could be constructed at the other two town entrances.

Undertaking these developments would appear to handle the traffic situation. Returning the soil and plantings would return the area to normal use, especially the Commons and Fort George land.

I am sure that many skeptical readers will be yelling, "But how in h— will we pay for this?" Suggestions might be to charge each automobile owner for the installation of the electronic eye mechanism and include that charge on everyone's tax bill. i.e. the program here should be expanded to all citizens of Greater Niagara (Queenston, St. Davids, Virgil, etc.). They should not be inconvenienced in any way.

Remember in this plan that every vehicle will pay a parking fee, not only the few who use the town parking metered areas. Consider that most visitors come for a few hours or the whole day. As an example, the area hospitals charge \$2 or \$3 per hour. Now enter into your calculation that by our chamber's estimation, 2.7 million visitors come to NOTL annually and that figure will continue to grow.

I am sure that such a proposed traffic solution will raise many eyebrows and that it will stir up more discussion – and perhaps result in some meaningful committee recommendations.

My half a century of waiting finally may well come to an end..

*Jonathan Kormos
Queenston*

Short-term rentals add value

Dear editor:

We have been reading many letters in regards to short-term rentals and would like to share our perspective. We purchased a beautiful property in Old Town 10 years ago with the intention of running it as a luxury vacation rental.

We did this for many reasons including (but not limited to) the opportunity to meet new people, our desire to show visitors how beautiful NOTL is, and ensure we have continued income into retirement as neither of us have pensions. As owners and local residents, we are incredibly supportive of our community, sensitive to our neighbours, protective of our property, compliant to town bylaws and, lastly, we strive to provide a superior level of service excellence to our guests.

Our business is not just about making money, it's also about allowing only those guests who we feel will be respectful of our property, our neighbours and our bylaws. We have declined many would-be guests because we did not feel they were a good fit for our home or our neighbours. Plain and simple, we would rather have a lower occupancy rate with guests we know will be respectful.

We are disappointed when we keep reading about the "hollowing out" of the community and other negative comments about short-term rentals. After reading the March 5 edition of The Lake Report letter headlined, "Yes, short term rentals are hollowing out NOTL," we cannot disagree more with the comments made by Alison Hepburn and Dave Galloway.

It is both inaccurate and unfair to isolate short-term rentals as being the sole examples of unshovelled walkways and not picking up old newspapers. We live in the Village and we can tell you there are many examples of second homes that are empty most of the year where we see four or five old newspapers sitting on a porch or driveway. We also see this at many homes in Old Town that we know are not short-term rentals. Additionally we ensure the sidewalk of our vacation rental home is shovelled in a timely manner every snowfall (most of the time long before the town sidewalk plow has come by).

The "hollowing out" you refer to around your home (due to short-term rentals) is

again an unfair statement. We see many homes both in the Village and Old Town that are second homes and in many cases occupied in terms of weeks not months. Is that also considered "hollowing out?" Should we raise their taxes because they are not really contributing on a regular basis to our community?

Your comments about overnight visitors to NOTL not having a sense of or contribution to our community is yet another unfair statement. We cannot speak for all tourists, but we know for a fact that tourists we meet, and especially those that stay at our property, are contributing in many respects to our community. They support all facets, including our stores, restaurants, heritage sites, plays, festivals, wineries and some feel such a sense of community that they ultimately purchase a home and move here. We suggest you try more to engage visitors staying near you because you might be surprised what wonderful people they are.

Let's also not forget that overnight tourists (as opposed to day trippers) bring a significant amount of revenue and awareness to NOTL. We firmly believe without that revenue and global awareness, all our homes would be worth much less, our heritage sites would likely become harder to maintain and our streets would perhaps not be lined with as many beautiful flowers.

We encourage town council to help make sure bylaws are enforced on a consistent and timely basis, day or night. Embrace the help that the owners of short-term rentals are trying to provide in identifying illegal/problem homes by heavily fining or shutting them down.

These homes represent a small percentage of the short-term rental community, yet are tarnishing the image of this industry and spoiling it for those owners who work exceptionally hard to run a respectful business.

Look for ways to help make all businesses in NOTL successful, rather than generalizing and trying to assign blame to short-term rentals. Look for opportunities and solutions rather than criticism. Our bylaws need to protect the community yet also allow enough flexibility for all businesses to be successful.

*Paul O'Connor and Melissa Rocchi
NOTL*



Pauline Reimer Gibson
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No increase on water bills in 2020

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents will see no changes to their water and wastewater bills this year.

The fee for water usage will stay the same as last year, at \$1.4969 per cubic metre.

There will be no increase to the fixed water rate either with the fee depending on the meter size.

The variable wastewater rate will also remain unchanged, at \$1.2663 per cubic metre.

The decision was made at a special council meeting Monday after a municipal finance specialist John Murphy of DFA Infrastructure International Inc. firm made a presentation to council recommending no increase to the current rates as the town is in an "excellent" financial position in regard to its water and wastewater systems.

"The current rates are adequate to fund your system," Murphy told councillors. "You're in a financially sustainable position as of today."

According to the rate study done by the consultant firm, there will be about 7,574 water customers who will use about 2.4 million cubic metres of water in 2020. Residential customers account for 52 per cent of metered water, while non-residential customers comprise 48 per cent.

The amount of water purchased from Niagara Region is projected to be 3,309,802 cubic metres in 2020. About 20 per cent of that water will be what is known as unaccounted for water.

Coun. Allan Bisback asked if there was a way to meter the unaccounted water.

"There has to be a way between the water flowing through the pipes, running it past the meter, going to the billing agency, going on the bill that we can account for it," he said.

Murphy said there may be a number of reasons for water loss such as unauthorized usage or water leaks through the system.

Coun. Gary Burroughs noted every municipality has challenges with water loss and it's not something



Water rates will remain the same this year. FILE PHOTO

the town should be "panicking" about at this time.

The annual operating cost of the town's water system is \$6,412,352, Murphy said. The projected non-rate revenue, which comes from items like bulk water and administration penalty fees, sits at \$370,952.

The town will pay \$2,616,212 in 2020 to purchase water from the region.

The water rates are sufficient enough to sustain the system until 2023 when a 1 per cent increase is recommended, according to the rate study.

In regard to wastewater, there are about 6,101 customers who are billed for 1,826,129 cubic metres of wastewater.

The annual operating cost of the town's wastewater

system is \$4,821,737. The largest component of that cost, about 70 per cent, is the regional charge to treat wastewater, about \$3,300,220.

"The cost to treat wastewater by the region is expensive," Murphy noted.

Based on the number of customers and projected volume of wastewater, Murphy also recommended no increase to wastewater rates as the fees will be sustainable until 2021 when a 2 per cent increase rate is recommended followed by a 4 per cent increase starting in 2022.

Councillors also approved the Water System Financial Plan, which will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment as part of the town's drinking water licence renewal application.

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Morning Session: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

"Palliative Care: The Impact of Misinformation and Quick Fixes"

This workshop will explore the impact that misinformation about palliative care has on patients, providers and administrators. Many myths about palliative care persist and in some cases are amplified to advance other agendas. Pereira will also delve into the impact on palliative care as a result of our modern society's quest for quick solutions.

Afternoon Session: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

"Many Faces, Consistent Approaches: Palliative Care Across Different Diseases and Care Settings"

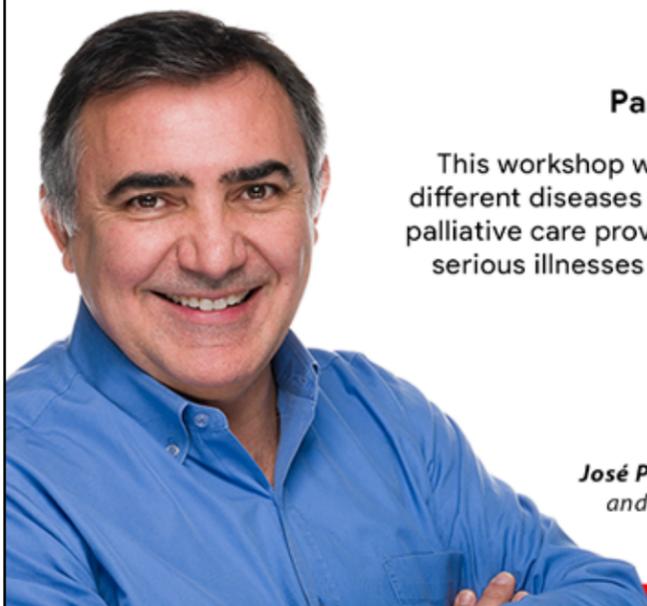
This workshop will explore the positive impact of activating a palliative care approach across many different diseases and settings of care. Needs may be similar or different across different diseases, but palliative care provides a consistent person-centered, holistic approach that focuses on living fully with serious illnesses that range from cancer and diseases of the heart, lungs, and kidneys, to dementia.

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Gates advocates for mental health funding

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

MPP Wayne Gates says the province needs to listen to Niagara and adopt mental health funding for Ontario.

Gates forced a late night debate Wednesday in the Ontario Legislature after the province didn't include funding for Niagara in Tuesday's provincial mental health strategy announcement, even though \$2.3 million in funding for expanded mental health services was unanimously agreed upon by Niagara's four MPPs in December of 2018.

The \$2.3 million was essentially set aside to create three 24/7 mental health drop-in facilities around Niagara – expanding the hours of the ones in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, and building a new one in Welland. From there, it included funds for transportation so residents from places like Niagara-on-the-Lake could call them and

get transportation there.

The decision followed the news of an increasing number of suicides at the Burgoyne Bridge in St. Catharines, and would see \$825,000 for St. Catharines and \$700,000 to Niagara Falls to expand existing care, and \$850,000 for the new service in Welland.

Gates said the funds are “urgently-needed” in Niagara.

“I'm here because I asked this government a question about the mental health crisis we have in Niagara. Frankly, their answer didn't show me they're taking the issue seriously,” said Gates during the debate in the legislature on Wednesday.

“We have a hallway medicine crisis in Niagara. Doctors, nurses, front-line health care workers are trying their best, but they cannot devote the time necessary to help someone suffering who needs mental health support right away.”

In Niagara, about one

person dies every seven days as a result of mental health issues, Gates said during a phone interview. The number was updated recently to one life every nine days, according to the Niagara Region.

“When you hear that stat, it actually jumped out at me and I was little surprised at it,” Gates said.

Gates said it's a non-partisan issue, and wants the province to commit to giving the money to Niagara.

“They voted to pass that funding, and they insulted Niagarans further when they left them out of the mental health strategy. How many more residents of Niagara must die due to mental health struggles before this government cares about Niagara?,” asked Gates.

Gates said when four MPPs across the region agree on an issue, it should be supported by the province.

“Everybody supported the motion,” Gates said. “When you have all four



MPP Wayne Gates forced a late night debate March 4 to fight for mental health funding in Niagara. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

MPPs from different parties saying, ‘yes, this is what we need’ you should provide the funding. It's a necessity for Niagara. It's a necessity for our kids, our grandkids, our young people. So that's why I did it this week.”

The \$2.3 million figure is “obviously a drop in the bucket, which would save lives and help frontline workers,” Gates said.

He said the reality is hospitals simply don't have the resources or time to devote to mental health patients. On top of that, about 70 per cent of police calls are regarding mental health.

“So I'm trying to get (the government) to highlight the issue. They're saying

they're spending \$10 billion over 10 years on mental health. What I'm saying is that I got the minister of mental health and addictions [Michael] Tibollo, to the Niagara Region. Tibollo listened to around 30 groups representing a large portion of front-line mental health service providers in Niagara. They're saying, listen, we have a crisis. People are dying in Niagara because of mental health.”

He said he gives some credit to the minister for telling him he's aware of the crisis and is supportive of Gates' efforts.

“He came up to me and said, ‘Wayne I hear you, I've been to Niagara, I know

there's a crisis there. I'm going to continue to lobby my government to provide the funding for what you need in Niagara.”

Gates, who said he's had a number of friends and family who have struggled with mental health issues, said the issue affects everyone.

“The reality is mental health is a non-partisan issue,” said Gates. “It could happen to any of us. You could be a doctor, a lawyer, a PC, a liberal, an NDPer — it doesn't matter. (Mental health) shows no boundaries.”

There is also a strong need for addictions services, he said.

“Mental health and addiction go hand in hand.”

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Statement of Opinion of Non-Conformity with the Regional Official Plan under Subsection 17(40.2) of The Planning Act

with respect to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council adopted new Official Plan

On Oct. 22, 2019, Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council adopted its new Official Plan (the “Plan”). On Jan. 30, 2020 the record pursuant to subsection 17(31) of the Planning Act was received by the Niagara Region as the approval authority to make a decision on the Plan.

Under subsection 17(40) of the Planning Act, if the approval authority fails to give notice of a decision in respect of all or part of a plan within 120 days after the day the plan is received by the approval authority, any person or public body may appeal to the Tribunal all of any part of the plan. An exception to this provision applies if the approval authority states that the plan or any part of it does not, in the approval authority's opinion, conform to the upper-tier municipality's official plan.

The purpose of this Notice is to inform you that Niagara Region, is of the opinion that the Plan does not conform to the Niagara's Regional Official Plan (2014 consolidation). Regional staff have identified multiple areas where conformity with the Regional Official Plan has not been achieved. These include, but are not limited to:

- the identification of and permitted uses within the Natural Heritage System
- the identification of and permitted uses within agricultural lands
- growth management
- proposed employment land conversions and permitted uses within the employment areas.

The identified matters above is not an exhaustive list of non-conformity, but reflect a sample of matters that need to be resolved prior to the approval authority making a decision on the Plan. Pursuant to subsection 17(40.4) of the Planning Act, the 120-day period does not begin to run until Niagara Region confirms that the non-conformity with the Niagara's Regional Official Plan is resolved. As such no appeals under subsection 17(40) of the Planning Act may be filed at this time.

Date of Notice: March 12, 2020

Municipality: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Subject Lands: All Lands within the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Crossroads home show a community hit

Home and garden show raises funds for accessible playground

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A large portion of the money raised from this year's NOTL Home Garden and Craft Show will go towards adding accessible equipment to the existing playground at Crossroads Public School.

The annual event took place at Crossroads on March 7.

With more than 95 participating vendors, the event had already attracted more than 1,000 people by noon. Attendees could shop, eat and participate in a raffle with 90 prizes donated by various organizations and companies. The grand prize was the Samsung Galaxy Tab A.

For the young ones, there were bouncy castles, a

Mad Scientist Show, Scoop McCoy Family Magic, and a Coyote Hunt. Those who could find all 10 or 12 coyotes hidden throughout the event, could win the Fire 7 Kids Edition Tablet.

The idea of donating money for the project came to Amber Dyck, a member of the parent council and an assistant event co-ordinator, whose daughter Megan, 10, has a rare genetic disorder called mosaic trisomy 8.

Because Megan has a fragile spine, dislocated knees and a low muscle tone, the existing playground isn't safe for her to participate in, Dyck said.

"At recess, she has to wander and try to find other things to do," she said.

"But it's always been an area where she's felt that she doesn't belong. It just



Top left: Grade 5 Crossroads students Fiona Bell and Eliana McManus, who also started their own eco club at the school, sell eco-friendly products at the event. Top right: Pam Bennett watches as her 13-month-old granddaughter Elle Friesen plays with balloons. Bottom left: Sweets and Swirls Café owner Erinn Lockard and her daughter Sophie Cadeau sell butter tarts. Bottom right: Event volunteers Lara Davidson and Grant Saxton serve barbecue lunch. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

reminded her of the limitations of her body which has caused her some pain over the years."

In the last few years, there have been more students with physical disabilities coming to the school, Dyck said, so she pitched the idea to the parent council and it fully supported her idea.

The pieces will include a ramp with activity panels, a moving glider where children can sit, and musical equipment.

The cost of the project is more than \$70,000, Dyck said adding that The Virgil Business Association has stepped up in a big way providing some funds.

With more than half of the cost already covered, the school is still looking for more funding to complete the project for spring.

The rest of the funds from the event will go back into the school's initiatives such as technology in the classroom, upkeeping the current playground, improv-

ing hot lunches and more, Dyck said.

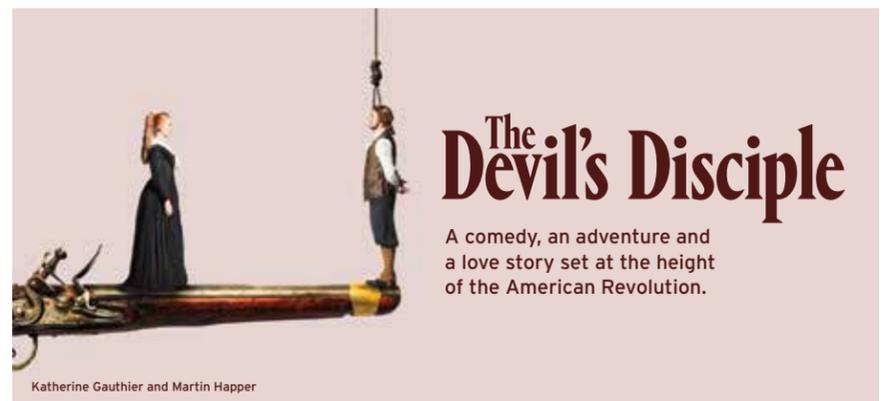
"A huge motivating factor this year is to help make play accessible for all at Crossroads," she told The Lake Report.

Anyone wishing to donate to the playground project can contact the Crossroads' main office.

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15	16	17	18
<p>Writers' Circle - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Bravo Niagara! presents MILOS - 3 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p>	<p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Babies and Books - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Scientists in School Present: Obey Newton, It's the Law - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Monday Mug Menagerie - 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>St. Paddy's Day Party RSVP 905 935 1800 - 2 p.m. - Royal Henley</p> <p>Reading the Rainbow storytime - 10 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Table Tennis - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>STEAM Story Time - 11:45 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters - Niagara College Danforth Campus</p> <p>Wine and Words: Kathleen Ashenburg - 7:30 p.m. - Winery</p> <p>Chess Club - 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>
22	23	24	25
<p>Bake with an Expert - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute</p>	<p>Committee of the whole - General - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Babies and Books - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Famous and Infamous: The Medicis Part 1 - 2 p.m. - NOTL Museum</p>	<p>NOTL Horticultural Society March Meeting - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Meditation Workshop - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Table Tennis - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>STEAM Story Time - 11:45 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters - Niagara College Danforth Campus</p>

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The Lake Report

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	<p>Table Tennis - 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Homeschooler Drop in - 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Customer Experience and Technology Committee - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Steve Goldberger and the Gentle Spirits - 9 p.m. - The Old Winery Restaurant</p>	<p>A Ball in the Regency Style - 7 p.m. - Fort George</p> <p>The Breakfast Club - 10 p.m. - Club 55</p> <p>Indoor Goat Yoga - 1 p.m. - Small Talk Vineyards</p>
18	19	20	21
<p>11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Homeschooler Drop in - 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Customer Experience and Technology Committee - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Committee of Adjustment - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Lecture Series All Along the Waterfront: Peter Mulcaster - 7:30 p.m. - NOTL Museum</p> <p>Table Tennis - 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Homeschooler Drop in - 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Popcorn Flick: Frozen 2 - 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Flowers for Seniors Welcome Spring - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Meridean Arena Virgil</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Planning Before you Plant: Garden Seminar - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens</p> <p>Spring Open House - 9 a.m. - Clare's Harley Davidson</p> <p>Indoor Goat Yoga - 1 p.m. - Small Talk Vineyards</p>
25	26	27	28
<p>11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Homeschooler Drop in - 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Table Tennis - 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Homeschooler Drop in - 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL Newcomers Coffee and Conversation - 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Homemade Pasta - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute</p>

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NOTL Sparks World Thinking Day celebrates culture diversity

Leslie Moulson
Special to The Lake Report

On Feb. 24 and March 2, the Sparks, the youngest Girl Guides at ages five and six, commemorated World Thinking Day by learning the meaning of culture and celebrating diversity within our unit.

They learned a little about the history of scouting and guiding. Did you know that the first Girl Guide meeting was organized by Mary Malcolmson and officially registered in St. Catharines in 1910?

Through discussion and brainstorming, the Sparks explored elements of culture such as language, food, clothing, sports, holidays, religion, books, the arts and traditions.

Spark Moms Margarete

Dul and Magdalena Bator and their daughters, Grace and Klaudia, shared information about their Polish culture with a map, the flag and examples of books and toys. Spark Eve Sobol with help from her Mom/Guider Ann Deuerlein and her sister Greta presented family pictures and facts about their Australian, German and Scottish ancestry.

Spark Mom Priya Litt and her daughter Achal did a poster presentation about their Indian heritage. Did you know that the game Snakes and Ladders was invented in India and is associated with traditional Hindu philosophy contrasting karma and kama, or destiny and desire?

Each Spark did a little homework between meetings and shared informa-



Klaudia Bator (left) and Grace Miarecki in their native Polish outfits. SUPPLIED/LESLIE MOULSON

tion about her culture and background including some words in another language. Both evenings, Sparks' parents treated the girls to a delicious array of sweet and savoury foods

from the many different cultures – Italian and French cookies, Scottish shortbread, donuts, perogies, Dutch cheese, German rouladen and an Indian sweet called



Maansi Gandhi-Malhotra (on left), Achal Litt and Maggie Adam sporting her German ball cap in front of the Litt poster presentation on India. SUPPLIED/LESLIE MOULSON



Finding Canada on the atlas. SUPPLIED/LESLIE MOULSON

shakarpure. The highlight of both evenings was the Sparks, leaders and family members who came in traditional clothing.

World Thinking Day is celebrated worldwide in

February by Girl Guides and Boy Scouts. It is a day when Guides think about their 'sisters' in all the countries of the world, the meaning of Guiding, and its global impact.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Niagara Region Woodland By-law Review Niagara Region is undertaking a review of the Woodland By-law.

Niagara Region's Tree and Forest Conservation By-law (30-2008) has been protecting woodlands in Niagara since 1981. The last update to the by-law occurred in 2008.

The purpose of this review is to ensure consistent service delivery and application of the by-law across Niagara.

The review will consider:

- Changes to provincial legislation
- Alignment between the by-law and the current Niagara Region Official Plan policies
- Best management practices
- Opportunities for enhancements and efficiencies in administration and enforcement

Public Consultation

Your input is important. You are invited to attend a Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the by-law and the review process. There will be an opportunity to speak to the project team, and provide comments and input on the by-law.

There will be four Public Information Centres (PIC) held in Niagara. The PICs will be held from 6 – 8 p.m. at the following locations:

- Tuesday, March 24 at Wellandport Community Centre, 5024 Canborough Rd., West Lincoln
- Wednesday, March 25 at Niagara Region headquarters (cafeteria), 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold

- Monday, March 30 at Gale Centre, 5152 Thorold Stone Rd., Niagara Falls
- Tuesday, March 31 at Vale Health and Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth St., Port Colborne

Contact

woodlandreview@niagararegion.ca

Additional public feedback will be collected via an online survey that will be linked to the project webpage.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000 ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

Niagara College brews a special batch for International Women's Day 2020

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

It was all about beer and women on Sunday, as students, teachers and family members from the Niagara College Teaching Brewery gathered for International Women's Day to celebrate women in the brewing industry.

The group, some experienced and some first-timers, brewed a special beer inspired by the Pink Boots Society, an organization that supports women in the beer industry around the world with scholarships.

The beer is called Rose Wellies, to pay homage to the Pink Boots Society.

Brewmaster student Nicola Davey said the scholarships help female students with a variety of educational opportunities.

"That could be attending educational conferences or doing internships overseas or just working towards some accreditation," Davey said.

Another goal of the

brew day was to encourage women to apply to the brewmaster program, she said.

"Having that diversity of a female voice in (the classroom) is really critical."

Lauren Zimbalatti, a part-time faculty member and graduate of the brewmaster program, said the project supports the Pink Boots Society in two ways — through the purchase of hops and the sales of beer.

The money raised will go to Pink Boots' Toronto chapter, as it's the closest one in Ontario.

As a Niagara College alum who has watched the program evolve, Zimbalatti said she's seen first-hand how these types of scholarships have changed the industry for women.

"When I was a student I was able to go to some of these educational tech talks, which are huge for networking in our industry," she said. "Especially with some of the associations, like the Brewmasters Association."



Carly DeLorme helps brew up some beer on International Women's Day at Niagara College. JESSICA MAXWELL

The college uses textbooks from the Brewmasters Association, Zimbalatti said, but it's tough to get all students out to their educational talks. Currently it's sort of like a lottery as to which students are picked to attend workshops. Having women-specific scholarships helps increase chances of women being able to go, she said.

Davey said the brew day was both fun and successful.

"It's just great to have everybody out," said Davey. "We're just having a really casual day and I mean,

what a great day — you get to make beer."

The group hopes the Rose Wellies brew will raise \$5,000 for the scholarship in their first year of fundraising, to give to students in fall 2021. Money raised will be split between the scholarship and the Pink Boots Society.

The beer is expected to be ready by the beginning of April and will be available at the Teaching Brewery retail store and on tap at Benchmark restaurant at the college's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus.

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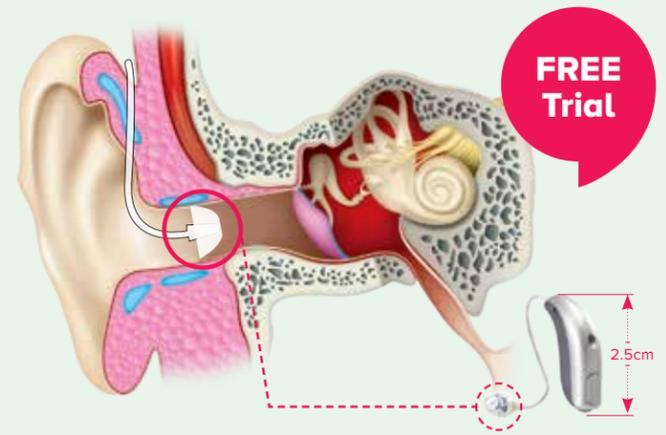
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GAMES



Have some fun

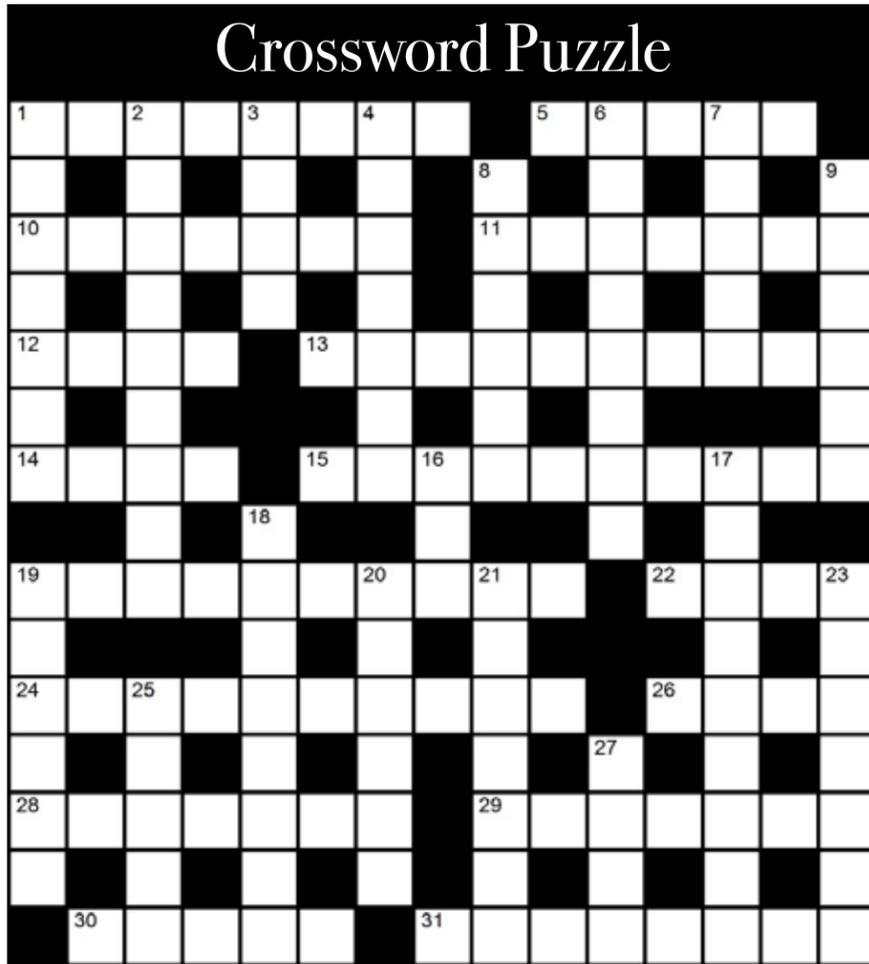
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

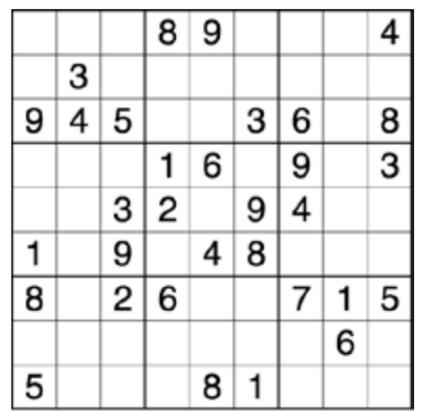
- 1. No-show (8)
- 5. Ring fighter (5)
- 10. Seed providing milk and meat (7)
- 11. Anthropoid (3-4)
- 12. Performs (4)
- 13. Limited (10)
- 14. Island in central Hawaii (4)
- 15. Area of South London (10)
- 19. Senior mail official (10)
- 22. Passport endorsement (4)
- 24. Large city (10)
- 26. Fruit a k a the Chinese gooseberry (4)
- 28. Hearing distance (7)
- 29. Employ excessively (7)
- 30. Stench (5)
- 31. Signal to arise (8)

Down

- 1. Praise vociferously (7)
- 2. Pruning shears (9)
- 3. Not one (4)
- 4. Radical (7)
- 6. Biddable (8)
- 7. Survive (5)
- 8. Chicken of very small size (6)
- 9. Lethal (6)
- 16. Furrow (3)
- 17. Religious (9)
- 18. Flatten out (8)
- 19. Treat with excessive indulgence (6)
- 20. Grunts (6)
- 21. Incident (7)
- 23. City in central Texas (7)
- 25. Fortune-telling cards (5)
- 27. Lake or pond (4)



Last issue's answers



Steve's Cycle Paths raise more than **\$10 million** for cancer research

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

When fundraising is tackled with passion and light competition, it becomes about more than simply raising money for a worthy cause – and Niagara's Steven Cohen has been growing a community through Steve's Cycle Paths for the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer for more than 10 years.

Since 2007, Cohen, CEO of Salit Steel and team captain, has encouraged friends, family and strangers to join the cause and the team has raised more than \$10 million for cancer research as a result.

"Do you have a bike, can

you ride?" He's always on the lookout and quick to conscript new riders.

While he is the driving force behind the team, he says the riders are the heart of the endeavour and he wouldn't have raised so much without solid effort from everyone on the team.

And he hasn't been shy convincing as many people as he can to take part.

"It's just simple math," Cohen says. "It's a numbers game."

The goal this year is to raise a combined \$1 million, he says, which means he needs at least 400 riders raising the minimum \$2,500 each. He's confident that goal can be reached with 300 riders each raising more.

Right now, he says he has about 250 confirmed on the team.

"I think the interesting thing is there's some big corporate national teams like RBC, and like Scotiabank. Right. Last year I think number two raised like \$580,000," he says.

"We raised almost \$1.2 million, just a local group of ordinary people."

This year's two-day, 200-kilometre ride is June 13 and 14, and Cohen says the team is gearing up to start training. On weekends from about April through October he sets out with any interested teammates to ride from Lock Three on the Welland Canals Parkway toward Niagara-



Steve Merker, vice president of The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Steve Cohen.. SUPPLIED PHOTO

on-the-Lake, stopping at Balzac's for a coffee and a break.

Recognizable in their pink jerseys, Cohen says they've been doing that practice ride for several years now.

"Usually about 40 kilometres, which is about an hour and a half. And in the end, we're riding 100 kilometres, which is like four hours. Every week just a little farther."

He says it ranges from four riders some weekends to 30 on others.

Speed isn't the goal,

he says, the team comes together over a common desire to raise money for the cause and to join the community.

"We are not setting lane speed records, but we've really gotten to meet some phenomenal people who you would never have met otherwise."

Cohen's fundraising efforts haven't gone unnoticed. On March 5 during a kickoff celebration at Ravine Vineyard Estates Winery, Cohen was honoured with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers for

his 13 years of tireless contributions to the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto.

"Recognized by the Governor General of Canada, this prestigious award is given out to Canadians who have a passion, dedication and a commitment to community," a statement from Salit Steel said.

Anyone looking to join Cohen's team, or would like to make a donation to the cause, can do so through the team page on the Ride to Conquer Cancer website.



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The winners of the 2019 Spirit of Niagara Awards. The group of outstanding individuals was recognized during an awards ceremony at Ravine Estate Tuesday. PHOTOS BY RICHARD HARLEY

Spirit of Niagara awards bigger and better than ever

Richard Harley
 The Lake Report

It was a night to celebrate the best thing about Niagara-on-the-Lake — the people that live here and help shape our community.

The Spirit of Niagara Awards celebrated some of NOTL's most outstanding citizens last night at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, in what many people in the audience said was the biggest and best awards ceremony yet.

Each award winner was first given accolades, followed by a big screen video to reveal the winner.

New to the awards this year was the Dan Patterson Youth Leadership Award, which was taken home by Owen Bjorgan, an environmental activist, local entrepreneur of Biophilic Hiking Tours and former Lake Report Nature's Lens columnist.

The Christopher Newton Award for Extraordinary Vision in Business was

presented to Gretzky Estate Winery.

The Peter Ling Award for Entrepreneurial Spirit was given to Paul Harber and Ravine Vineyard.

The Community Leadership Award was given to the Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre.

Company of the Year Award was presented to Niagara Trailers.

The Lord Mayor's Award of Excellence to the Citizen of the Year Award was given to Debi Pratt.

The Celia Liu Award for excellence in hospitality was given to Leigh Atherton and David Watt of the Garrison House.

The last award of the night, the Chamber of Commerce Chair's Award Services was given to Niagara-on-the-Lake Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services.

Presenters for the awards included outgoing Niagara College president Dan Patterson (by video), Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Coun. Wendy Cheropita, Wineries

of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Andrew Niven, Shaw Festival executive director Tim Jennings, Angela Redekopp, Stacey Mulholland, and NOTL Chamber of Commerce chair Paul MacIntyre.

Disero said she appreciates the chamber putting on the awards, because they "encourage everyone in the town to be involved and achieve their best."

She said each award ceremony gets "better and better."

This year with a new venue and the addition of film introductions, it was the best yet, Disero said.

"The chamber could not have selected a better Citizen of the Year this year. Debi Pratt is forever giving to individuals, to neighbours, to the town and to charities, and has done so for a number of years. She also helped put Niagara-on-the-Lake on the map with our wine and icewine, and so I really think that Debi is very well deserving of this award."



Andrew Niven presents the Company of the Year Award to Niagara Trailers.



Debi Pratt took home the Citizen of the Year Award for 2019.

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FEATURED



Try this sticky toffee pudding recipe. SOURCED IMAGE

COOKING WITH COLLIN

A sticky, sweet treat

Collin Goodine
Special to The Lake Report

As the winter slowly leaves and we get ready to welcome spring and all the fresh, bright new flavours, I stop to reminisce. This week while excited for daylight saving time, I paid gratitude to the season behind us, the heavier stews, cellar vegetables, icewine and darker fruits we love to consume in the winter. And in doing so I came across an older favourite recipe that I do not make much any more – Sticky Toffee Pudding, a classic, with beautiful molasses, dark toffee and rich flavours. I thought I would try to inspire you to make this recipe, a heart-warming favourite.

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Ingredients:

For the pudding

- 9 ounces chopped pitted dates
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 extra large eggs
- 3 tbsp molasses
- 2 tbsp dark corn syrup
- 1-2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 tsp baking powder

For the quick and easy toffee sauce

- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 tbsp molasses
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp maple syrup

Directions:

To prepare the pudding:

Add the dates and water to a small saucepan. Bring to a boil and simmer over low heat for just a couple of minutes. Let stand for a few minutes while preparing the rest of the batter.

Puree the date mixture in a food processor or blender and add baking soda.

Cream together the butter, brown sugar and vanilla.

Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well.

Add the molasses and dark syrup.

Add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture in three equal portions, mixing until smooth after each addition. Add the pureed dates immediately to the batter and mix until smooth.

Pour batter into muffin tins that have been sprayed with cooking spray and bake for 18 to 20 minutes at 350F until the centre is just firm.

Serve warm with toffee sauce.

To make the toffee sauce:

Bring all the ingredients to a slow, rolling boil for about 2 to 3 minutes.

Whisk continuously as the mixture starts to boil.

Serve over the pudding when ready.

Royal Oak Student Report



Royal Oak students spend the morning learning about financial literacy. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Financial literacy with Meridian Bank

Ilias and Saxon
Royal Oak Community School
Special to The Lake Report

Royal Oak was recently lucky enough to be able to spend an entire morning with our guests, Annalisa and Doug, from Meridian Bank. They talked to us about the basics of money and what they called “financial literacy,” which means being literate and knowledgeable about finances in a general way! We learned a lot about the importance of saving, when to make a purchase and how to know it’s a good one — but our favourite was learning all about how to start a business!

The steps to starting a business are:

1. Create an idea: What do I love to do? How could this be a business?
2. Make a plan: where will my business run out of? Who will work there? What will we sell or what service will we provide?
3. Create a catchy business name.
4. Find money - what will things cost in my business? What do I need to start and run my business? How much can I make in my business?
5. Present!

We had a great time and our thinking is now we will create a business plan for our next bake sale and fundraiser for our Eco Warriors Club!



March break abs on the go

Jaelyn Willms
Special to The Lake Report

March break means different schedules, commitments and perhaps some traveling.

Here are four ab exercises to keep your core lean and strong anywhere, anytime with no equipment.

Remember to keep a neutral spine to protect your back and core. Brace to work your entire core.

1. V-Sit
2. Russian Twist
3. Plank Twists
4. Superman Plank

Each exercise 30 seconds on, 30 seconds rest, two to three time throughout, depending on your fitness level.

For videos on how to perform these stretches correctly visit @niagarafit on instagram.



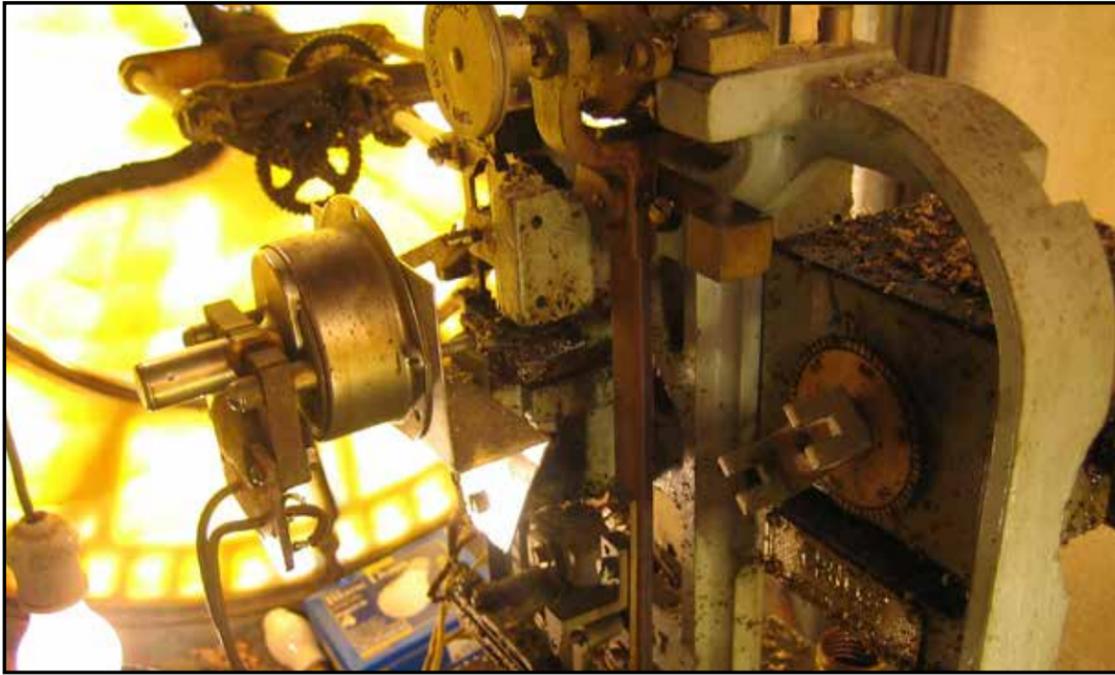
Jaelyn Willms demonstrates a V-Sit. STAY FIT NOTL

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EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH JIM SMITH



Inside the clock tower: Part 2

The mechanism that turns the hands on the cenotaph clock tower is seen in this picture. The motor that turns the hands on the face of the clock is nothing more than a tiny wall clock motor. On the upper left hand side of the picture can be seen that motor. The hands were originally turned by a very heavy pendulum powered by two car batteries. I bypassed the pendulum with a tiny one RPM synchronous clock motor. The motor is powered by the regular 110 volt AC lines and directly turns a worm gear which is greatly geared down so very little power is needed to turn the hands.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

ARCHITEXT

Chautauqua on the lake

Brian Marshall
Featured

In 1874, on the shores of Chautauqua Lake in New York, the Methodist minister John Vincent (in partnership with entrepreneur Lewis Miller) opened an outdoor summer education program for adults.

The concept was wildly successful and rapidly grew in popularity over the next 50 years. The outdoor summer format naturally lent itself to family vacations "with a purpose" that appealed to the cultural mores of the day and what began as a camping experience quickly evolved into a resort.

The success of the original New York Chautauqua As-



Chautauqua cottages in full regalia.
SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL

sembly was duplicated in what came to be known as "daughter" Chautauquas that sprang up wherever Americans were prone to holiday.

While many of these resorts were under the aegis of the Methodist Church, the "education" was not limited to tenets of the faith. Science, politics and arts (including music and theatre) were part of the lecture/performance offerings, while organized sporting competitions were almost de rigueur. In the late 19th and early 20th century, Chautauqua resorts struck a chord with

the moral and ethical mores of many of our U.S. neighbours and drew their visitors from far and wide.

Given Niagara's previous history of being a favoured holiday destination, it was almost inevitable that Chautauquas would be established here. Certainly one of the most successful of these Niagara resorts was operated in Grimsby which, by 1884, saw in excess of 50,000 annual vacationers. Two hotels were built in the resort and an associated temperance "camp" of cottages sprang up.

These cottages ranged from one to two storeys and, while of relatively simple design, were very commonly treated to gay exterior decoration. With late Victorian exuberance, Eastlake-styled fretwork and turnings were applied to eave bargeboards, porches and trim. And, not stopping there, multi-coloured paint schemes lent an almost carnival air to the camps. While these resorts might have been "dry," they were anything but sober! A vacation was meant to be enjoyed and these cottages reflected that intention with a vengeance.

Niagara-on-the-Lake had its own Chautauqua, formed in the last quarter of the 1800s. Laid out in the form of a wagon wheel, the streets were anchored on a hub that held a hotel and a 4,000-person amphitheatre while cottages lined the spokes. While today many of the cottages still remain, the decoration has been lost to time.

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> Donuts or Doughnuts?	April 5

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NIAGARA'S HISTORY UNVEILED

The story of **Niagara Falls**: Part 1

The “thundering waters” have retreated from their original location, near where the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge is today



Denise Ascenzo
Exclusive/The Lake Report

The sound of water thundering over a precipice has created a fascination for people over the ages and we in the Niagara Region are fortunate to live near one of the most powerful waterfalls in the world – Niagara Falls.

The creation of these falls goes back about 18,000 years, when the entire area was covered by the Wisconsin Glacier, which was two to three kilometres thick. That’s how the entire Great Lakes Basin was created.

Then some 12,500 years ago the glacier started to recede and the basin filled with melt-water. This was “fossil water,” which is considered a non-renewable water source. It is estimated that only five per cent of the Great Lakes water comes from rain and snow melt.

All this water filling the Great Lakes Basin needed an outlet to reach the Atlantic Ocean. At first there were five “spillways” from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, however, over time only one spillway remained and that is what we see today.

In geological time standards, the Niagara River is consider fairly young but the Niagara Escarpment is much older. As the glacier moved south, grinding up stone and dirt, its weight pressed down on the land and created layers of sediment called dolostone (or shale).

This is evident when you look across the river at the banks on the American side. The sediment, though, slowly eroded as it was no match for the mighty power



Experts believe the Niagara Falls will dry up in about 2,000 years. SOURCED PHOTO

of water and ice of the new river.

The original location of Niagara Falls is where the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge is today. It took almost 12,300 years of erosion for the falls to gradually move south 11.3 kilometres to where it is now. However, this transition was not without some drama.

Around 6,000 years ago, the falls had reached a point where they ran into an old riverbed, one that had been buried by the glacial action. This particular riverbed had gone through the St. Davids area and continued to an old lake between Two Mile Creek and Four Mile Creek.

The meeting of the Niagara Falls with the old riverbed was a violent event that experts suggest lasted almost a week. The waters would have churned up mud, stone and glacial debris before the falls took a 90-degree turn.

The falls continued on their path south toward Lake Erie. What remains of this incident is the

Whirlpool Rapids, known today to have the largest standing waves in North America.

About 500 years ago, the Niagara River flowing north toward the falls encountered an obstacle that caused it to divide in two. This created an island and two more falls, the Bridal Veil and the American Falls.

The island was first named Iris Island, but later changed to Goat Island after John Stedmand lost his entire goat herd there during the winter of 1780.

As the falls continue to claw their way south, experts believe in about 2,000 years the American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls will dry up. Eventually, in about 50,000 years, Niagara Falls will reach Lake Erie and experts say there will be no more Niagara Falls. But the Niagara River will still exist and probably be just as treacherous as it is today.

The river was actually first named Niagara Strait on the earliest maps made by French explorers. A strait

is defined as a body of water connecting two larger bodies of water.

For example, we have the Straits of Gibraltar, which connect the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean, and the Straits of Magellan connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. It is not known just when the name changed to Niagara River, but it was found on later maps created by British cartographers. Note: the Niagara River is one of the few rivers in North America that flows south to north.

The meaning of the name Niagara itself has been quite the controversy. We all probably have heard of “Thundering Waters,” “The Neck” or “the Thunderer” but just what does Niagara mean and where did it come from?

I turned once more to my friend Ron Dale, an expert of the history of our region. Here is how he explained it to me.

The Jesuits made detailed accounts of their visits with the Neutral villages on the west side of the Niagara

River. In 1626-27, Father Joseph Roche Daillon resided in one of the Neutral villages. He described the Neutral Confederacy as being made up of several nations. The local Neutral group was called the Onguiaahra, meaning “Near the Big Waters,” possibly the Niagara River.

Since the Neutrals were also of Iroquoians lineage, the Onondaga (Mohawk) word “onyara” was very similar in sound and meaning as Onguiaahra. Then a point speaker of the Seneca language in the 19th century confused the issue when he stated the name Niagara referred to the “Thunderer,” a spirit that lived in the cave behind the falls.

As Dale said, the Thunderer is quite a whimsical and romantic story, but “near the big waters” is more likely the actual meaning of Niagara. This anglicized word from the original Neutral word appears on maps as early as 1641.

It must be noted that Dail-

lon did not write about actually seeing the falls. In fact the first written account by a European, Father Louis Hennepin, was in 1678. He wrote about the size of the falls, the noise of the water and even drew several pictures. Years later his account was recognized as being quite exaggerated.

Although Niagara Falls is the largest waterfall in North America there are nearly 500 taller waterfalls around the world. What makes Niagara Falls unique is the amount of water that flows over the falls; every single day – 3,160 tons per second.

Niagara Falls has fascinated many who have come from around the world to see, hear and feel the magnificence of this natural wonder. And then we have those daredevils who want to challenge the falls.

NEXT: The daredevils who challenged the falls.

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.



The "Too Honest to Win" music trivia team celebrates an overall victory on Monday at the Irish Harp. From left, Mike and Bette Ann James (left to right), Denis and Lida Kowal Curtis, Cameron (manager at Irish Harp), Michelle and Adam Powers. To the right is host Lee of Niagara's Name That Tune. RICHARD HARLEY

Trivia team takes home **first place**



THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

With Betty and Jane

Big Head Wines



Darci Prieur accepts Gold Plunger for Big Head Winery. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

Wineries all over the world are embracing the art of drying grapes to concentrate the flavour and structure of the must. Big Head Wines have been using tobacco kilns. The kilns provide a perfect environment; plenty of ventilation and air-flow and temperatures to slow down the process and prevent rot. Their bathrooms provided the same perfect environment for many of the same reasons. Big Head Wines has a big "head". You'll find the roomy washrooms to be clean. The bathroom decor has lace in the curtains and sink skirt complimenting both its country and industrial vibe. A feel common to the whole place. Big Head Wines is moving so we were glad for this timely Gold Plunger experience.

3.5/5 Golden Plungers

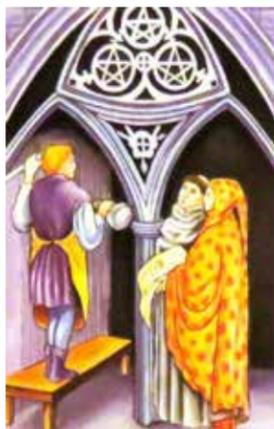


NOTL DART LEAGUE

Each week, dart teams face off at local restaurants and pubs. Find scores here weekly, exclusive to The Lake Report.

The regular season has finished. Playoffs start Tuesday, March 24. Congrats to Silks Jini, Regular Season Champs!

Silks Jini	210
Legion Guzzlers	182
SandTrap Close Shavians	167
Legion Guyz	151
Legion Airs	149
SandTrap	144
Silks Legends	125
Legion Dartbags	108



Tarot of the week

Lisa Tache/Special

DATE: March 12, 2020

The Three of Pentacles is a positive card, particularly with regard to work and career. It brings awareness to our physical environment

and the people around us. You don't have to always work on your own. The Three of Pentacles is a reminder of teamwork within our professional life and to be available when help is required. This card is about collaboration. There are many people working behind the scenes toward the same goal, even if unseen. As you put your plans to work, you will realize that you have the skills, capabilities and resources you need to accomplish your objectives. The Tree of Pentacles reminds us to disperse our energy among those different responsibilities. It's a card referring to teamwork, collaborating with others and not taking all the glory.

ASK YOURSELF THIS

How well do you think you work as a team?

RIDDLE ME THIS

I am black when you buy me, red when you use me and gray when you throw me away. What am I?

Last Week: I have two legs, but they only touch the ground while I'm at rest. What am I?

Answer: A wheelbarrow

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Kathy Neufeld, Wendy Bosela, Quinn Tiller, Mary Robson, Sheila Meloche, Terry Feig, Katie Reimer

Email answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



NOTL: SPECIAL WINTER EDITION

The Lake Report's winter magazine highlights some of the best places and things to do in NOTL.

You can pick up a physical copy at all restaurants, hotels and businesses or you can visit our office at 496 Mississagua St. in Old Town.



NOTL'S CHOICE AWARDS

You took the time to nominate your favourites, now it's time to vote on the best businesses, organizations and individual professionals in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

To vote, go to LakeReport.ca



PRESS PASS PROGRAM

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- Tear-down / handyman special (up to \$600K)
- Residential building lot, large (up to \$600K)
- Farm, 5-30 acre agricultural (up to \$2.5M)

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- Small newer bungalow, turn-key (up to \$700K)

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For more information on how you can help to transform lives through donations, volunteering, being a coach, or to participate as an athlete, please contact: Nancy Bailey, Broker - Engel & Völkers, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Brokerage

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