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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake  
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# The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 10

March 14, 2019

Niagara-on-the-Lake



## Ice Dogs visit Fort George

Ice Dogs mascot Bones and Parks Canada's Parka hold hands as they make their way to the Fort George rink Tuesday afternoon. The Ice Dogs visited to sign autographs and skate with local kids during March Break. EUNICE TANG/THE LAKE REPORT

## Town wants Lakeshore sewage lagoons to remain as wetlands

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Town council wants the Niagara Region to restore two wastewater ponds on Lakeshore Road and retain them as wetlands.

John Boot and Brock Sansom from the Harmony Residents Group, a non-profit organization in NOTL, spoke to council Monday night.

The group wants to create a natural heritage park on Lakeshore Road in an area owned by Parks Canada. The wastewater treatment plant on Lakeshore has been in

the works for a couple of years and is expected to open this spring.

The area was already a natural wetland before it was developed for a wastewater treatment plant, said Sansom, and it would cost the region less to keep them as wetlands than filling them in.

"The region has invested significantly to create the ponds, so why not keep them and use them to create a natural wetland," said Sansom.

"Let Mother Nature reclaim the ponds and change them into environmentally-friendly habitats

for wildlife and fauna."

The previous town council wrote a letter to Parks Canada expressing support for the Harmony Residents Group. Sansom and Boot were hoping the current council would do the same.

Sansom also addressed two main objections to keeping the ponds — odour and mosquitoes. "Odour occurs during the primary treatment process, not the second stages of that," said Sansom. "No effluents, no odour."

Mosquitoes aren't a problem either because of natural larvae predators,

said Sansom.

Council agreed to send a letter to Parks Canada and Niagara Region in support of keeping the lagoons.

Coun. Gary Burroughs said sending a letter was an important statement.

"The Harmony group has done the homework and kept it going through the years," he said.

"But the letter should come from (council)."

Council also passed a motion to ask Parks Canada and the region to hold another public meeting on decommissioning of the sewer treatment ponds.

## The great pot hole challenge 2019



Send us your photos and details of potholes in your neighbourhood or elsewhere around Niagara. Prizes (!) and infamy for the worst examples of what Mother Nature has wrought. More information on Page 19. SUPPLIED

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# Speed limits may be **reduced** on some roads

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Some Niagara-on-the-Lake residents have safety concerns about speeding and heavy traffic in their residential areas.

At the council meeting Monday night, Coun. Norm Arsenault made a motion to reduce speed limits on some roads, particularly those with gravel surfaces.

The motion proposed to reduce speed limits to 60 km/h from 80 km/h on Line 3, between Niagara Stone Road and Town-line Road, and on Line 1,

between Concession 4 and Concession 2.

Arsenault also suggested that any gravel roads with a speed limit over 60 km/h should be reduced to 60 km/h.

He said Niagara Regional Police also requested lowering the speed limit to 50 km/h from 60 km/h on Airport Road, between Queenston Road and York Road.

Ever since new homes were built in that area, people have been exceeding the speed limit, he said. "(Police) stopped numerous and numerous

people there."

Coun. Allan Bisback agreed that 80 km/h on a gravel road is too fast, but said he wants to make sure proper research was done before any decision is made.

Director of operations Sheldon Randall said the town wouldn't change any speed limit without data to back it up.

Arsenault's motion was given to the transportation committee on Tuesday. Committee members did not respond to questions before press time Wednesday.



Speed limits on local streets could soon be lowered. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

# NOTL Ukesters recognized for **outstanding community work**

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Sounds of ukuleles filled Niagara-on-the-Lake's town chambers Monday night.

A local group of ukulele players and singers, The NOTL Ukesters, were invited to a council meeting to perform the national anthem and accept a certificate for their outstanding community volunteer work.

Alan Ash, one of the founders of the group, thanked town council for their recognition.

"It's really an unexpected honour for us and it's just a thrill," he said. "What you get from doing community service is just in itself enough."

The group also performed Neil Young's "Long May You Run."

"This tune is actually dedicated to you guys, town council, because we consider you our dream team," said Ash.

"It was a very gratifying evening for all of our Ukesters, both those that were in attendance and those who were either watching from the live stream or just heard about it," Judith Tsaros, NOTL Ukesters event co-



Alan Ash, one of the founders of the NOTL Ukesters. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

ordinator, told The Lake Report. "This recognition from our town council was another juicy example of what a great community looks like."

The group was established in 2012 by two local residents, Alan Ash and Doug Widdicombe.

A small ensemble that started with only seven people has 241 registered members now.

Ukesters vary in ages, from 20 to 93, and come from many parts of the Niagara region, includ-

ing St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland, Niagara Falls, Fonthill and Grimsby. Some even come from as far as Hamilton, Fort Erie, Toronto and Buffalo.

Money received for performances as well as the monthly membership costs of \$15 go toward different charities across the region, said Tsaros.

In 2018, the Ukesters contributed over \$4,000 to local charities, including Newark Neighbours, Red Roof Retreat, Hospice Niagara, Pelham Centre, Niagara Region

Sexual Assault Centre and Niagara Workers Welcome.

The group regularly performs at area events, homes and facilities such as Stone Road Village, Hospice Niagara, Gilmore Lodge, Pioneer Eldercare, Royal Henley, and the Strawberry Festival. The Ukesters also donated ukuleles and music stands to an entire Grade 5 class at Grimsby Elementary School.

The group meets every Sunday for sing-along sessions at the NOTL Community Centre from 3 to 5 p.m.

# Non-compliant B&B owners get **extension**



Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake council voted to give one last chance to non-compliant bed and breakfast owners before revoking their licences.

At the council meeting Monday night, Coun. Allan Bisback said he supports revoking licences but asked town staff to give the owners one final contact.

Short-term rental operators are supposed to pay licence fees and renew insurance certificates by Dec. 31.

Last week, the town's committee of the whole voted to revoke 56 bed and breakfast licences for failing to do so.

The number dropped significantly, down to a total of 14 owners, after town staff made contact with the owners over the past week. Nine of them have an expired cer-

tificate of insurance and five haven't paid licence fees.

"This would be a record year of licences we will revoke," said Bisback. "That's very high. So when I see that, that suggests there's a process issue going on, something's wrong."

He suggested giving bed and breakfast owners 30 more days to comply.

Coun. Erwin Wiens spoke against the extension, arguing the rules need to be followed.

"If it's not important enough for them to follow through and do what they're supposed to do to get the stuff done, then why is it our problem to start sending them letters and emails and begging them to do this?" he said. "I'm getting emotional here but I'm getting tired of it."

Council voted to contact the owners and give them 30 days before revoking their licences.



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# Sun shines on opening day for Avondale Dairy Bar

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Avondale Dairy Bar saw bright skies and warmer weather on Saturday, as the business opened for its first official day of the season.

As though the weather wanted to illuminate the opening day, the skies were clear and cloud-free, and the sun was out all day.

Temperatures hovered around zero degrees in the early afternoon, but families still decided to make the trip to the Stewart Road ice cream shop for their first taste of Avondale's authentic ice cream.

Alaina Kelly, manager, said they have been preparing for the season for the last few weeks.

"People expect us to open around March Break, so I think we'll see a lot of people today. The afternoon is usually pretty busy."

She also credited the nice weather for the busy day ahead.

Though business is usually better later in the afternoon, the staff saw a line of customers ready for their favourite ice cream when the doors opened at noon.

The ice cream shop has ample seating room available inside. When the weather warms up a bit more, the picnic benches will be set up around the property as usual. Kelly said there's a bit of work to be done rearranging the benches and getting them ready for spring. She said that's something they will take care of in the next few days.

Gearing up for the season, about 60 new staff members will be hired over the course of the summer, which she said will be crucial when it gets busier.

"Right now, we operate with a lot less staff, but we'll need more when it picks up."

From the counter looking in, customers can get a glimpse of the ice cream makers in action through a small window, with the words above: "This is the



Owen Shimnon, ice cream maker looks out the window of the room where the ice cream is made on site, at Avondale Dairy Bar. BRITTANY CARTER



Some of the first customers this season, Xavier, Rina and Jake Nottingham enjoying sundaes on Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER

room where we make all your favourite ice cream."

"An honest to goodness dairy bar," it has been a staple in Niagara for more than 60 years. Crafting fresh ice cream on site daily, staff blend flavours into the ice cream by hand, "the old-fashioned way."

The company's website lists more than 40 flavours available daily.

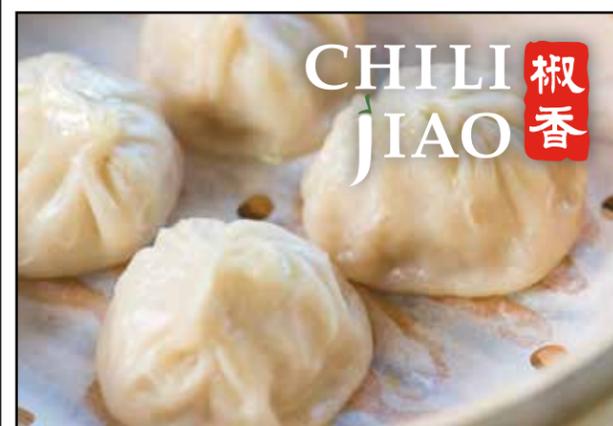
Kelly said the vegan ice cream, which was introduced near the end of last year's season, is a big hit. The other non-dairy flavours weren't available yet, so she said she expects the vegan ice cream to sell well over the first few days.



Alaina Kelly, manager and Sara Petriello, store manager, were gearing up for a busy season at the Avondale Dairy Bar on its first day open this year. BRITTANY CARTER

The dairy bar is also known for custom cakes and pies, which can be pre-

ordered for pickup. The shop is open from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. daily.



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# Disero condemns bullying

*Lord Mayor Betty Disero issued the following letter this week:*

I want to talk to you today about something that came up during International Women's Day.

In recent weeks, this topic has been raised over and over again from the public, my colleagues, locally, and at the Region. It is the issue of bullying and a common strategy used by bullies. This is not just an issue for women, it affects all of us in the community, everyone of all ages, no matter where or how we live. Even if we are not the ones being bullied, those who witness this kind of behaviour can be affected by seeing it or even worse, pulled in to siding with a bully. If that is the case, friends or communities can become extremely divided by the actions of a single person. That isn't fair or right.

In my experience of the world, bullies big and small use a combination of three particular tactics to manipulate their victims and those around them:

They create chaos and spread misinformation – with multiple platforms available to the public today on the internet and in print media, it is very easy to say something that is exaggerated, not quite accurate or to create a scenario that is fake. A bully will take a very small bit of information and

embellish it to suit their own interests. A bully will flagrantly disregard facts, and encourage people to think with their emotions instead of with logic and reason. They happily promote chaos and division, pretending to be experts or the voice of authority.

Bullies use fear as a tool. They feed off of people's insecurities and manipulate others to believe they are good. Bullies may use a variety of threats, particularly when they themselves are feeling threatened: they will openly suggest that anyone who stands up to them will have to pay dearly for opposing their wishes. They may suggest that resisting their intentions will cost money, or be unsafe, or damage your reputation, or have other long-term negative consequences. Even just implying that resisting a bully will change your life somehow in a negative way may be enough to shut down opposition to their actions and desires. This is a terrible way to treat people, whether it happens in a schoolyard or in our domestic spaces or across a local community.

Finally, bullies encourage their victims to distrust the institutions and authorities that are intended to protect regular people. Bullies don't care about the common good, or a greater good, they care about one thing: themselves and their own

personal interests. Bullies are only listening to you when it suits them. When a counteractive house of power exists to their own, whether it is the police or the government or a teacher in a schoolyard, bullies will discourage their victims from connecting with these authorities and undermine the quality of protection that can be provided to people if they do speak up and push back.

The good news is, we don't have to put up with bullies. And a first step to combating them is to recognize their tactics, and call out the strategies they use to intimidate, undermine and fear monger.

When I see bullying happening in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I know for a fact that this is not the way we want to live in our beautiful community. This is not how we should treat each other. Bullies do not add to the outstanding quality of life we live here for.

Throughout all of our lives, wherever we come from, we have had to deal with bullies. And thankfully, when we or someone acting on our behalf has the guts to stand up to them, the bullies get put in their place. Every single day, in communities big and small, pri-

vate and public, people are pushing back against bullies and saying "I see what you are doing, and it's going to stop."

As for this Council, if anyone in our community has concerns with what is being said or written about our actions, or anything you see take place in this Council Chamber, or anything you hear through the grapevine, all you have to do is ask. With respect to this Council, we will give you honest answers, even if they are difficult questions. Over time, this Council may make mistakes that need to be corrected, may not be able to please everyone all the

time, and will need to make some changes to keep up with a new generation of challenges as our community grows and develops. All I can offer is that there are nine dedicated, devoted people who you have chosen through a democratic process to represent

you, and we are all here and ready to work with you and for you, with the support 90+ members of Town staff.

We will counteract chaos with calm. We will neutralize misinformation with facts. We will soothe fears by listening, and we will build trust by acting on what we hear.

International Women's Day provided a great reminder that we all have the ability to ignore the bullies and take away their power. The exceptional quality of life and unique attributes of Niagara-on-the-Lake are worth fighting for.

*Lord Mayor  
Betty Disero*



## The Lake Report

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# New community group aims to be the 'heart' of St. Davids

Greg Walker  
Submitted

The burgeoning village of St. Davids, 11 kilometres south of Lake Ontario, has always had an independent spirit.

While many of the villagers' social, cultural and spiritual centres are in the Old Town and neighbouring cities and towns, the residents of St. Davids have enthusiastically embraced a new social initiative called the Friends of St. Davids.

The organization focuses on local events and activities for local people: to provide a heart for their community.

This all came about when my wife Dorothy Walker wrote and published "A Village in the Shadows."

The book's title struck a chord with villagers who thanked her for writing the remarkable history of St. Davids that barely gets a mention by other historians.

In conversation with her readers, it became clear to Dorothy that there is a real need for a social club whose only qualification for membership is to live in or close to St. Davids. So, Dorothy and I got to work and assembled a team to achieve this goal.

The first step was to orga-



Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyards gives a talk about the history of grape growing. SUPPLIED

nize a modest event to "test the waters."

So, with the professional support of the team at Ravine Winery, the group held a wine and cheese reception for just 60 guests in Ravine's barrel cellar in December.

The event was sold out.

Ravine's proprietor, Paul Harber, gave a talk about the history of grape growing in the unique soils of St. Davids, the Friends ran a popular prize draw and -- the most important outcome of all -- new friends were made that evening.

Buoyed by the success of their first event, the Friends held a public meeting at the St. Davids Lions Club on Feb. 5 to invite input from residents on the events and activities that they would like to be included in the group's program.

In addition to village-wide events, people want some special-interest activities for smaller groups.

While details of the comments and opinions expressed at the meeting are still being analyzed, the leadership team of four couples is busy planning the

next event.

It will be an informal family-friendly outdoor party in June at a local venue. Details will be announced as soon as arrangements are firmed up.

Residents of St. Davids and vicinity can get more information and subscribe to the free Friends of St. Davids e-newsletter by emailing: fosd2019@gmail.com.

"A Village in the Shadows" is available from many local retailers, museums, online bookstores and directly from the author. Call (905) 262-6605 for details.

# Town to share 25 per cent of parking lot charges with Parks Canada

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake asked Parks Canada to reduce its parking lot charges but the federal agency refused.

Over the past 18 years, tour buses have been using parking lots at Fort George, owned by Parks Canada, for free.

Under a new contract with Parks Canada, NOTL will now have to pay the government agency 25 per

cent of the annual gross revenue the town receives from bus operators. Buses drop visitors off at the fort and then they are shuttled to downtown.

Initially, Parks Canada was looking for 50 per cent of the fees, but the town staff managed to negotiate that down.

At the committee of the whole meeting on March 4, Lord Mayor Betty Disero asked town staff to try to get an even better deal -- 10 to 15 per

cent of gross revenues.

Disero also noted it was "too coincidental" that shortly after the town raised the bus parking fees at the Fort George lot to \$50 from \$25, Parks Canada decided it wanted a share of those fees.

Town staff and Disero met with Parks Canada to discuss the sharing arrangement, but the agency wouldn't budge.

"I'm not thrilled, but it is what it is," Disero said at the Monday's council

meeting. "All we could do is ask. We asked and we have a response today."

Coun. Clare Cameron said Parks Canada stated the negotiation had nothing to do with the town's increase in bus parking fees.

The estimated gross revenue for a one-year contract with Parks Canada, starting April 1, is \$272,000. The estimated cost to operate the lot at the fort is \$250,000 a year.

## The Lake Report

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Niagara-on-the-Lake

# Local cyclist in Italy for gruelling races

Jill Troyer  
The Lake Report

Jenny Brown is a friendly and familiar face to regulars at the gym at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, as a coach and trainer, but she won't be found there for several days in March. Instead, she'll be fulfilling a cycling and personal quest in northern Italy.

It's a long road that's led Brown to the two-day Gran Fondo race in Italy on March 16 and 17, when she will cycle 80 kilometres on the first day, and 100 kilometres on the second. The story starts in 1991, when, as a competitive cyclist, Brown started training with Glauco Ceroni, who had competed as a top junior in Italy, and ended up in

Canada.

"First he was my coach, and then he became my friend and mentor and colleague. He had a huge impact on me as a cyclist and a person," says Brown, now 48, adding, "He always talked about Italy and his passion for the country, the food, and the cycling there. So I always had it in my head that I was bound and determined to get to Italy."

When Ceroni developed multiple cancers, Brown helped him through his dying process, with trips to and from hospitals, and kept him company. Ceroni's sister Laura came from Italy to help at that time as well, and Brown says the two became friends. Ceroni died in 2013.

Fast-forward to March 2019 and Brown's trip. As

an avid cyclist, coach and trainer, Brown has become what's known as a cycling influencer: someone with a large following on social media and strong credibility in their particular area of expertise. Companies often seek out influencers to help promote their goods or services, and that's exactly what happened with Brown.

She says Cycling Emilia Romagna Tourism is covering her expenses to travel to Italy, to promote cycling tourism, and "encourage women to attend." She'll be doing public relations events and blogging.

Brown smiles as she describes the Gran Fondo rides, including 1,000 metres of climbing, though the prospect would bring more of a grimace to most faces. And there's more - Brown



A photo taken during team interval training captures Jenny Brown's passion for racing. SUPPLIED/DAN BROWN

will also ride the time trial of Stage 1 of the Giro D'Italia course, on March 18, which includes a very steep hill at the end. The Giro D'Italia course is second only to the Tour de France for competitive cyclists. Brown says she's "been racing and coaching for more than 25 years" and this trip is important to her, both for the cycling and the

connection to her much-loved coach.

Brown says "training has been a challenge with the weather this winter. There's been so much ice I've been doing a lot of indoor training, which normally I don't." But that doesn't appear to dampen her excitement and anticipation of what she calls a "bucket list" trip.

After the cycling events, Brown will meet with Ceroni's sister, who lives just 50 kilometres outside Bologna, where Brown will be based. "It's been six years since we've seen each other, so it's pretty special."

Brown, founder of Re-activated training systems in St. Catharines, will return on March 20, with many tales to tell.

# Niagara's employment rate unchanged

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Niagara's average rate of employment rate didn't rise in February, but it didn't fall either, according to new information from Statistics Canada.

The unemployment rate across the region remains at 6.8 per cent, as per data released Friday in the agency's monthly Labour Force Survey, which provides estimates of employment and unemployment across the country.

The report said Hamilton's jobless rate fell to 3.6 per cent in February from January's 3.8 per cent, while Toronto and Ottawa sat at 6.2 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively.

Nationally, the unem-

ployment rate of 5.8 per cent hasn't changed since January 2019.

Ontario was the only province which saw a notable gain in employment, with 36,900 new jobs created in February. However the unemployment rate remained unchanged — at 5.7 per cent — due to an increasing population.

The unemployment rate in the province was highest among people aged 15 to 24, at 13.3 per cent for men and 10.3 per cent for women.

Among people aged 25 to 54, 4.9 per cent of women and 4.6 per cent of men were unemployed, while 4.8 per cent of men and 3.5 per cent of women aged 55 and over also remained jobless.

# Flooding not on NPCA radar

Jer Houghton  
The Lake Report

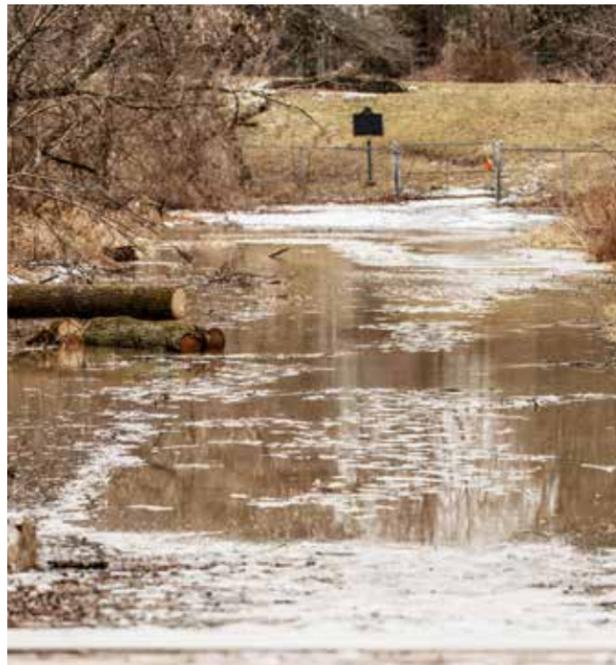
The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has yet to issue a flood warning this year, despite fast moving waters and high levels in creeks.

On March 10, NOTL saw a "rain on snow event" with snow melting and peaking water levels, but not to any major point of flooding that would have activated a flood warning, said Ryan Kitchen, Water Resources Technician of the NPCA.

"The water levels at Four Mile Creek at Line 4, they jumped about a metre," said Kitchen of the impact from the rain.

"It just got to the local flooding area, it didn't get to the 100-year level, which is the level that we're concerned with, where residents' homes might be impacted."

Kitchen said, "for the most part we're out of the woods," suggesting that all the snow has melted for the season though some ditches may be



Flooding at Butler's Burial Ground Sunday. EUNICE TANG

filled with snow drift.

"We still might have some frozen soil, which will not allow the water to enter into those soils," he said.

"Those soils are also saturated, so whatever rain we do get will make its way to the creeks quicker."

For residents living on

creeks, from One Mile Creek all the way out to Eight Mile Creek, Kitchen said it's important to monitor water levels and check the NPCA website for any messages indicating areas of concern.

"As of right now with this rain that's going to be

coming ... I don't have a concern, although low-lying flood-prone areas might be impacted," he said speaking to the upcoming forecast of heavy rain.

"There's no major risk at this point — that doesn't mean to say a thunderstorm could pop up ... And thunderstorms are always notoriously unpredictable."

Kitchen monitors the weather every day for the region, examining the water levels and soil conditions to determine any flood risks.

In NOTL, the NPCA has just one gauge that measures water levels and precipitation for all creeks. It is stationed on Line 4 above the upper Virgil damn on Four Mile Creek.

Should residents ever come across any flooded areas, especially floodplain areas, they are asked residents to notify Kitchen directly at [rkitchen@npca.ca](mailto:rkitchen@npca.ca) or 905-788-3135 x269.

Current flood statuses are available at [npca.ca/flood-status](http://npca.ca/flood-status).



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# Bottles popped in celebration at the Virgil LCBO grand opening



From left, George Soleas, president and CEO of the LCBO, Pearl Veenema, president and CEO of McMaster Children's Hospital, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Bruce Haslam, new Virgil LCBO store manager and Rafik Loui, vice president of retail operations of LCBO. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

The LCBO doesn't cut ribbons, it pops bottles. On Thursday morning, the much-awaited Niagara Stone Road LCBO officially opened its doors for the first time. Sparkling wine and local craft beer bottles were 'popped' in celebration.

Residents, town officials and business representatives came in to support the newest Virgil business.

Terry Dubuque, acting district manager, introduced George Soleas, president and CEO of the LCBO, who spoke of his excitement about opening the new location and his gratitude for the community's support.

Soleas attributed Niagara-on-the-Lake to putting Niagara's Wine industry on the map.

"We are in the birthplace of the Ontario wine industry and my old stomping ground," he said, adding that this is where his passion for wine began.

"This is the home to some of the finest wines



The new LCBO in Virgil will operate on the same hours as the location in Old Town. BRITTANY CARTER

in the country and I'm proud to include them in our assortment of over 250 Ontario wines, available in this store."

He said that Ontario's largest wine region is also quickly establishing itself as a leader in other alcoholic beverage products, "including some of our favourites: Silversmith Brewery that we'll be tasting today, the Wayne Gretzky Estates and Dillon's Small Batch Distillers."

Pearl Veenema, president

and CEO of McMaster Children's Hospital was also in attendance. She spoke of the partnership between McMaster and the LCBO and how that partnership has impacted the hospital's ability to provide state-of-the-art care.

McMaster Children's Hospital is the fourth largest of the 13 pediatric specialty hospitals across Canada. Located in Hamilton, the hospital serves the region. Veenema said about 600,000 children

rely on McMaster's services for the specialty care that they need.

"I want to touch a little bit on how you ... with George's leadership, have helped the children's hospital through the years through the Joy of Giving campaign."

She said there isn't one area at McMaster Children's Hospital that hasn't seen benefits from annual gifts received during the campaign with the LCBO.

The new 6,195 square-foot store carries a selection of 1,185 wines, spirits, beers and ready-to-drink cocktails and coolers.

The refrigerated beer room holds 600 linear feet of shelving for a wide variety of Ontario craft beer and imported and domestic brands. The store also has a chilled wine section with room for 60 feet of chilled wine.

The new store is wheelchair accessible with five checkouts. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

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# Ice Dogs visit NOTL

Eunice Tang  
The Lake Report

Ice Dog players appeared at Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake to skate, sign autographs and take photos with their fans on Tuesday.

Julia Grcevic, a Parks Canada employee, said she was pleased to see about 150 people show up for the event, especially considering they didn't know what to expect of the weather.

Parks Canada is a long-time sponsor for the Ice Dogs, the last event together took place two years ago, when the rink was first opened on Family Day.

With approximately 500 people they were asked to return this year.

"We didn't know what to expect. Two years ago, when we did it there was a good turnout. We usually draw quite a large crowd," Cori Burke said, who handles corporate sponsorships for the Ice Dogs.

The event is not annual, as it depends on the Ice Dog's schedule. Since it is March Break and they did not have a game it worked out well for everyone.

"The players have been practicing in the morning on March Break, so it left our afternoons open... normally they practice in the afternoons, so it worked out well with March Break and the availability," Burke said.

Many young fans look up to the Ice Dogs and consider them role models. Events like this, where the Ice Dog players make their way out into the community, encourage families to join, interact and to support their local team.

"They get to learn so much about them because there is only four of them, rather than trying to get an autograph from every

single player on the team. They're now asking them questions they might not be able to after a game...

Who's your role model, where are you from, what do you play? They ask about other players on the team too. It's a way to get to know the player on a personal level," Rachael Callaghan, manager of game day operations said.

Fans that attended the event had the option of skating on the rink, participating in a scavenger hunt or warming up indoors. Four Ice Dog players were present; Mason Howard, Stephen Dhillon, Jonah De Simone and Jake Uberti. The players were on and off the rink while fans requested pictures and autographs. Fans also spent time participating in a scavenger hunt that required them to find six Parka plushies, write down the letters placed on the Parka plushies on a form given to them and return the form to the Parks Canada kiosk. This gave fans a chance to win one of two hockey sticks autographed by the Ice Dog team. The Ice Dog players will select two winners by the end of the week.

Fans also spent time with the four players, learning how to march like musketeers. They threw on uniforms, held a wooden faux musket and formed in a horizontal line.

Musketeers must march first with their left, then their right, all while holding their musket in their left hand at their shoulder. They must march in a straight line and also prepare to halt when told. As the fans were young, their straight lines were not so straight, considering the Ice Dog Players had longer legs.

The Ice Dogs last home game is on March 14 at



Ice Dogs Jonah DeSimone, Stephen Dhillon, Mason Howard, Jake Uberti signed autographs at Fort George Tuesday afternoon. EUNICE TANG

the Meridian Centre in downtown St. Catharines, after the team spent the week relaxing with their fans on March Break.

Approximately 5,300 seats were sold.

The team clinched a playoff spot and are first against Sudbury.

"We are hoping to win the OHL finals and go onto the MEM cup which is in Halifax this year, which will take us to the end of May," Burke said.



Jake Uberti signs a fan's helmet. EUNICE TANG



Stephen Dhillon signs his autograph. EUNICE TANG



A hockey stick signed by Ice Dog Players. EUNICE TANG

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# Local snaps



Newly arrived local resident John DeLorenzi enjoyed an afternoon in town on Saturday with his five-year-old Grandson. SUPPLIED



SUPPLIED.



SUPPLIED.

# March break



Johnny Boese, Grade 5 student of Crossroads Public School, playing Rocket League at the NOTL Public Library during March break. JER HOUGHTON



Anessa Raso, Grade 7, next to sister, Nadia Raso, Grade 3 of St. Michael's Catholic School, using the computers at the NOTL Public Library over March break. JER HOUGHTON



Haydn Serio, Grade 3, alongside brother Ethan Serio, Grade 1, visiting the NOTL Public Library to play Crazy Pixel Apocalypse over March break. JER HOUGHTON

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p><b>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:</b></p> <p>Legion Fish Fry every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>St. Davids Lions Club Fish Fry, March 15 - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays a</p>			

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<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>Saint Patrick's Day</b></p> <p><b>Winter Wonderland Food Tour</b> - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours</p> <p><b>Author Reading: Michael Mirolla and Caitlen Galway</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Twilight Jazz Series: Jazz Queens on Queen</b> - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Corks Winebar &amp; Eatery</p>	<p><b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Line Dancing</b> - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p> <p><b>Beer &amp; Books: Still Alice by Lisa Genova</b> - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - The Old Winery Restaurant &amp; Wine Bar</p>	<p><b>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon</b> - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Golden Age Club</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p><b>Simpson's Seniors'</b> a.m. to 8 p.m. - Simp</p> <p><b>St. Andrew's Lecture Years: The McFarlane Andrews with Davi</b> - 10 a.m. - St. Andrew Church</p> <p><b>Simply STEAM Stor</b> a.m. to noon - NOTL F</p> <p><b>NOTL Toastmasters</b> 8:30 p.m. - Niagara C Campus</p> <p><b>Paint Nite at The Exchange Brewery</b> - 7 p.m. - The Brewery</p>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<p><b>Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara</b> - A Taste of Niagara</p> <p><b>Winter Wonderland Food Tour</b> - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours</p>	<p><b>Famous &amp; Infamous with David Sydor: Lloyd Dennis</b> - 2 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society &amp; Museum</p> <p><b>French Conversation Group</b> - 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p><b>Public Information Meeting: Heritage Conservation District, St. Davids</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - St. Davids and District Lions Club</p> <p><b>Plant Nite at The Exchange Brewery</b> - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery</p> <p><b>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon</b> - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>NOTL Horticultural Society: Monthly Meeting</b> - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p><b>German Conversation</b> - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Community Centre</p> <p><b>Simply STEAM Stor</b> a.m. to noon - NOTL F</p> <p><b>Painting Drop In</b> - 3 p.m. - NOTL Commu</p> <p><b>Trivia Night: Exchange (Spring League We</b> p.m. - The Exchange</p> <p><b>NOTL Toastmasters</b> 8:30 p.m. - Niagara C Campus</p>

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to [www.niag](http://www.niag)

# LOCAL CALENDAR

Mar. 14 - Mar. 30



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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>14</b> Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Super Straw Rockets - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>15</b> Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Crafty Kids - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>16</b> Seed Library Lunch with Linda Crago - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Artist Workshop: Elementary Watercolour with Peter Malaguti - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours Skating and a DJ - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery & Distillery Culinary Regions of Italy: Tuscany and Central Italy - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus
<b>20</b> Day - 8:30 Pharmacy Series 225 of St. Hemmings Presbyterian	<b>21</b> Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Practical Genealogy - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library DNA Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Art & Fashion Lecture Series: Indigenous Stories/History with Gary Parker - 7:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum	<b>22</b> Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours Comedy Night at The Exchange Brewery - 9 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara - A Taste of Niagara Live, Learn, Jazz: Diana Pantou - 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>23</b> Niagara College Spring Open House - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Niagara College, NOTL Campus Artist Workshop: Elementary Watercolour with Peter Malaguti - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara - A Taste of Niagara Winter Wonderland Food Tour - Niagara Culinary Tours
<b>27</b> Group - NOTL Time - 11 Public Library p.m. to 5:30 Centre Brewery ek 1) - 6:30 Brewery - 7 p.m. to College, NOTL	<b>28</b> Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Niagara Golden Age Club: Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Tinker Thinker Thursdays - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>29</b> Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>30</b> Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours Film Screening: Falcons of Freedom - 3 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum

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# Costumes come alive for *The Horse and His Boy*

Jill Troyer  
The Lake Report

The characters and creatures of Narnia are coming to life under the talented hands of the cutters and seamstresses in the Shaw Festival costume department.

A quiet energy hums through the room, sewing machines whirring, fabric swatches and sketches posted all over the walls, and cutting tables covered in pattern pieces. With less than a month to the April 6 opening of “The Horse and His Boy,” the process is well underway.

Janet Ellis, Associate Head of Wardrobe surveys the busy scene with a smile, admiring the rich fabrics and whimsical touches.

“The characters travel through different lands in Narnia, and they change colour to reflect the different lands,” she explains. “Each character has a base costume, and then elements of it will change to different shades as their adventures lead them from place to place. The bad guy, for example will have capes of different colours.”

The work behind creating the costumes began months ago, says Ellis, and it’s an interactive process. The designer and director begin by talking about the concepts, then serious shopping for the fantastical fabrics starts in January.

Sketches are made, patterns are cut, and first fittings lead to necessary adjustments. “There is creativity throughout the process,” says Ellis, “so much happens in the moment.”

Ellis points to a headpiece that’s been created for Aslan, the majestic lion in Narnia, noting it’s really a prototype, and could still change dramatically between now and opening night. Nearby, Sadie Ducroix is modelling a prototype for hooves, and notes there are always logistics to work out, as well as the look. Ellis elaborates, “We

have to consider what the actors are doing, are they rolling on the ground, or leaping across the scene?” There are a lot of animals in “The Horse and His Boy”, and one consideration is to be sure any headgear, such as horns or rabbit ears, are both lightweight and stable.

Senior sewers Erin Huitema and Rebecca Boyd bend their heads to careful hand stitching. Boyd says sewing is much like painting a room, “there’s so much prep, and it’s time consuming, but it makes the painting go faster and look better.” She adds, “by the time we get to the sewing machine, it can take just minutes to complete the item we’ve prepared.” The costumes are made for easy re-use, with wide seam allowances and modular pieces, such as collars, that can be changed for different purposes in the future. Once the play has closed, the costumes will move to the wardrobe warehouse, to join the 20,000 other items housed there.

Ellis says the “hardest thing for me is to be sitting in the audience and see something wrong with a costume, like a loose hem, and not be able to do anything about it.” During production the wardrobe running team takes care of most day to day repairs that are needed, though Ellis says “I have come to work in the past to find a dress hanging on my door, that needed more extensive attention.” Ellis emphasizes that “costumes should reinforce the nature of the character, not distract from it;” adding, “Costumes are part of the storytelling. We love what we do, we all do.”

The actors will don the costumes for one technical rehearsal and two dress rehearsals before the play opens in early April. That won’t mean a rest for the costume department though, by then it will be in full swing creating costumes for a whole new world.



Senior sewers Erin Huitema and Rebecca Boyd at work. JILL TROYER



Boot and shoe specialist Sadie Ducroix works on animal hooves. JILL TROYER



Rabbit headpiece, whimsical, lightweight, and stable. JILL TROYER



Associate Head of Wardrobe Janet Ellis with costumes for A Boy and His Horse. JILL TROYER



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# Wallbangers game features singing of **Happy Birthday**

Ross Robinson  
#9, Blue Team  
Special to The Lake Report

Shortly after the Wallbanger Blue and Red teams had returned to their dressing rooms at Meridian Arena early last Sunday, Red Team Captain Carl Glauser and his teammates burst into Blue's dressing room.

We wondered, "What are they whining about this week?"

Then, they broke into an off key, boisterous version of Happy Birthday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the day stalwart Blue Team d-man Dave Shantz's arrived in this world. Partly undressed players from both teams sang lustily, while Dave grinned from ear to ear, entering his eighth decade.

It was a bit awkward, because the player who was supposed to bring the birthday cake, paper plates, plastic forks and candles had forgotten them in his trunk. And, due to the strict rules of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Parks and Recreation Department, there was no cheap bottle of champagne to pop. Despite these downers, all the players congratulated Dave, before showering. Then, the short drive to Silk's Country Kitchen for the traditional hearty and noisy breakfast.

The on-ice highlight of the day was how several Blue Team players went the extra mile to get Shantz a goal on his birthday. During the third period, several stretch passes had failed to click, even though Dave did his best to stretch a bit extra. You couldn't make this stuff up, but with just over a minute left in the third period, Dave was in the dirty zone in front of the Red Team net, elbows up and battling for a rebound or deflection. Finally, the puck skirted toward him, and he batted it the last 10 inches into the net. His birthday goal either tied or won the game.

It had been a close game,



After last Sunday's Wallbangers Game, players from both team sang an unusual version of "Happy Birthday" to their buddy Dave Shantz. Warblers include Red Team Captain Carl Glauser, Marcel Lounsbury (still smiling after tallying in the 1st period,) Joe "Ace" Doria Mike Frena the younger, Evan McCaughey, Peter Vanderperk, Tarry Nord, Dave Wilson (in sweat stained undershirt) and Mike Bruce's right knee.)

with never more than a goal separating the teams. Commissioner/Scorekeeper/Right Winger Bill Dickson seemed to lose track of the score a few times, so the final score might not have been the final score. Continuing a Wallbangers tradition, nobody seemed to really care about the actual score. No one had been injured, no angry words had been exchanged, and due to a total lack of stripe shirted referees, the penalty box (what a quaint tradition, eh?) had been empty all game.

Shantz's sporting career has seen him do very well in several sports. Sailing and leading the junior sailing program in NOTL, curling, darts, tennis and now pickleball have kept him in stellar physical condition.

He plays clean but tough, obeying former Leaf Coach Red Kelly's dictum, "Arrive at the net in ill humour, and with your elbows higher than the other players." Dave is a perennial Top Four defenceman, and occasionally a solid Top Six

forward. This impressive accomplishment is made easier because Wallbangers teams generally only have four defencemen and six forwards.

This might be a convenient time to limn another Wallbangers hockey tradition. Many years ago, when hockey players wore sweaters, not jerseys, Dave Shantz and his buddy Wes Glauser were the team captains.

As they matured, winter vacations in the sun and on the Caribbean took them away for several weeks during the hockey season, so they asked their sons Mark and Carl to assume the leadership positions. They ensure enough players show up each Sunday at 6:30 a.m., and only rarely are we short a goalie.

Before most games, they meet at centre ice to negotiate a trade or two, in an attempt to produce close and fair games.

The final Wallbangers game of this, the 28th season, will be at 7 a.m. on Sunday, March 31. It is an absolute certainty

that a lot of tickets will be available for free, so if you want to see some good, easy to follow slow motion hockey, bring a blanket and pick your seat. A new championship trophy will be presented to the winning team. If the game ends in a tie, the Captains will figure out a fair way to decide who wins. The Zamboni will be waiting to flood the ice for Frank McIntyre's game, so a quick decision will have to be made.

The on-ice celebration will have to be brief, with the trophy being skated around the rink, held aloft by each winning player. Come to think of it, every player will be a winner, after trying their best every game.

Breakfast at Silk's Country Kitchen tastes better on Championship Game Sunday, and highlights and lowlights of the past Wallbangers games will be exaggerated.

The older we get, the faster we were...

We are so fortunate to live in Canada. In 2019.

We need your support.



A group of animal rights protesters has been invading the streets of our town, trying to put an end to one of NOTL's most beloved local traditions — horse and carriage rides. Help us defend our heritage by funding legal action against the group and its members. If they had their way, these people would see the extinction of **all** domesticated animals, including service animals like seeing-eye dogs. **They have filmed our children. They have taken free parking from our politicians. They are convinced they have the right to impede the success of our local businesses. It must end now.**

This is a **CALL TO ARMS** for anyone who wishes to help defend our town. We will be hosting a pasta trivia night Saturday, May 11 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124. All proceeds go to helping defend local businesses from these protesters.

Call Jen at 289-690-6492 to reserve a ticket. If you can't attend, donations can be made to:

**[gofundme.com/save-the-animals-stop-the-harrassment](https://www.gofundme.com/save-the-animals-stop-the-harrassment)**



*Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce & the town of NOTL for awarding us with the Lord Mayor's Excellence award.*

Rainer Hummel

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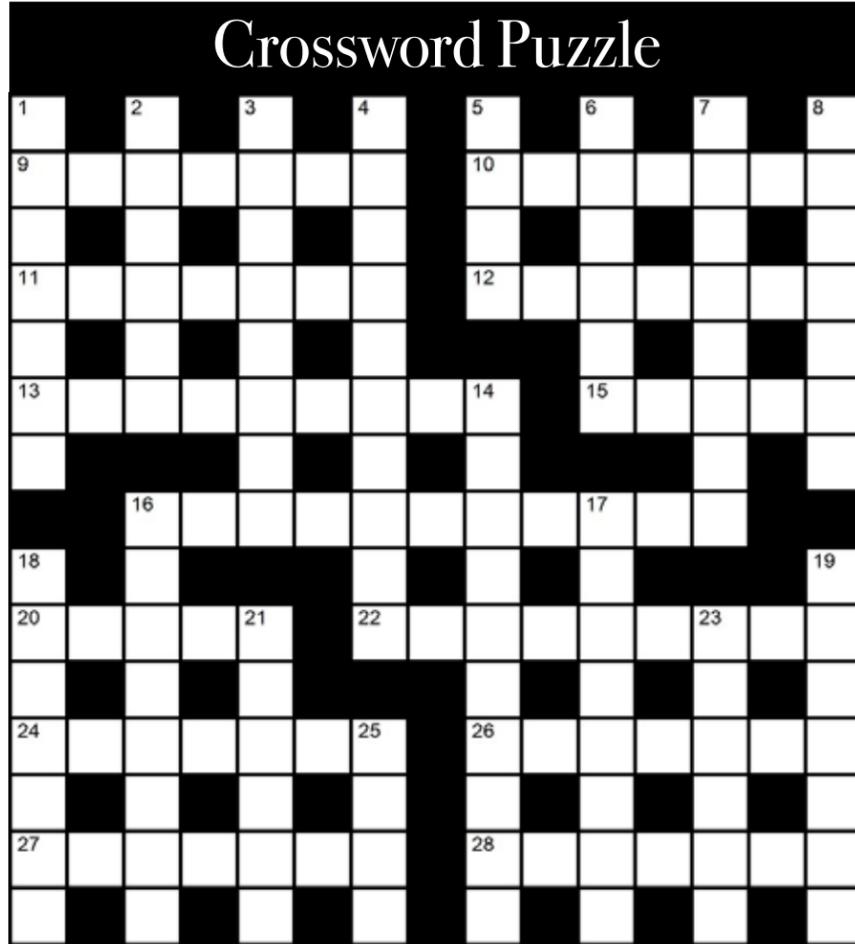
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

**Across**

- 9. Hair cleaner (7)
- 10. German measles (7)
- 11. Chatter (7)
- 12. Anxious (7)
- 13. Emphasize (9)
- 15. Astonish (5)
- 16. Decent (11)
- 20. First prime minister of India (5)
- 22. Chinese revolutionary leader (3,3-3)
- 24. Type of chair (7)
- 26. Poorly matched (7)
- 27. Demolish (7)
- 28. Cooking vessel (7)

**Down**

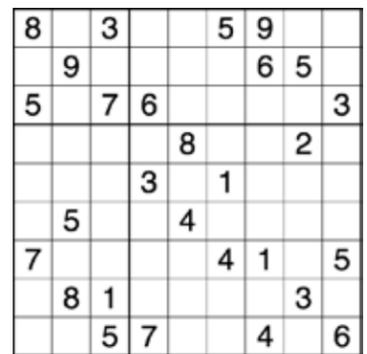
- 1. Sterile (7)
- 2. Largest desert (6)
- 3. On an upper floor (8)
- 4. Depression from lack of company (10)
- 5. Make beer or ale (4)
- 6. Spain and Portugal (6)
- 7. Last (8)
- 8. Walked like a duck (7)
- 14. Put out (10)
- 16. Practise (8)
- 17. Wrist band (8)
- 18. Indefinite person (7)
- 19. Fishermen (7)
- 21. Yet to arrive (6)
- 23. Squalid (6)
- 25. Supporting ropes (4)



**Last issue's answers**



**Sudoku**



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# FEATURED

## Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith **BAKERY WINDOW**



The window display at the Niagara Home Bakery when run by the Albrechtsen family brings back fond memories. There was no comparison to their fine baked goods especially the long Johns, empire cookies, sugar cookies and ginger snaps. They also delivered fresh bread, my favourite being the unsliced high boy which would melt in your mouth.

SUPPLIED/JIM SMITH

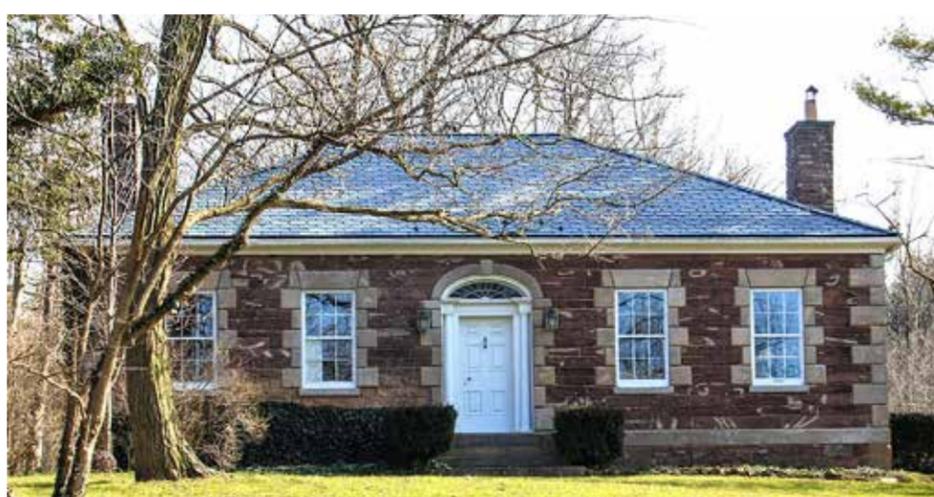
### ARCHITEXT

## Social reflection

Brian Marshall  
Featured

When we consider the Loyalist experience compounded across the community with the loss of life and possessions resulting from an invasion by a country born in revolution, it is hardly surprising that the citizens of Upper Canada might have become a staunchly conservative and fiercely loyal lot. Sometimes described as “more British than Britain”, Niagara’s socio-political climate had a very direct impact on its residential architecture.

Here, homes designed for local citizenry displayed none of the “unseemly displays far too often in-



Warner House. SUPPLIED

dulged in by the common elements who occupy the lands south of our border.”

A Georgian house radiated a sense of decorum and solidity. A Neo-Classical home was elegant in its muted purity of form and line. A Regency design was firmly anchored to the landscape, its form stable and staid.

Now this is not to suggest these homes were somehow inferior, quite the contrary, many were

brilliant expressions of the designers’ style. But, they were conservative and very often understated.

One does not need to get along with one’s neighbours, don’t you know, and it would never do to be seen brash or boastful like an American... However, given your home was a symbol of status in the community, how could you acceptably show success without crossing over that line?

The Warner House, set up on the bench just below the Escarpment, is a perfect solution to this challenge. A modest 1837 Regency Cottage design, it is integrated with the landscape in a pure expression of the style.

But this “modest” house is constructed of worked Grimsby red sandstone and Queenston limestone: the most expensive build of the day. It didn’t shout success, but it certainly conveyed it!

*Thank You*  
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Angela Marotta  
and  
Melissa Marotta-Paolice



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**16 MAY | RITA BROWN**  
"EXPOSED" - A BRIEF HISTORY OF UNDERWEAR

**20 JUN | NORMA SHEPHERD**  
CANADIAN CROWNS: AN EXHIBITION OF VINTAGE & CONTEMPORARY MILLINERY BY CANADIAN DESIGNERS

**18 JUL | JONATHAN WALFORD**  
COLLECTING FASHION: WHAT AND WHY THE FASHION HISTORY MUSEUM COLLECTS

**15 AUG | SPEAKER TBC**

**19 SEP | SONYA DE LAZZER**  
BRING ME BACK A T-SHIRT: THE HISTORY OF THE T-SHIRT AND ITS ROLE IN FASHIONING THE TOURIST LANDSCAPE

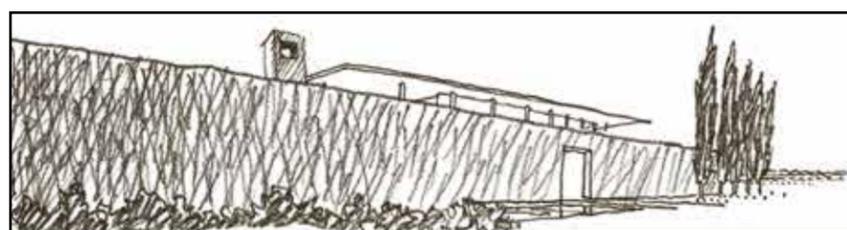
Lectures start at 7:30 pm. Call 905-468-3912 to reserve your seat. \$10 or free for Society members.  
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### Did you know?

The Lake Report's printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests. The ink is also vegetable-based.

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# Bio of a writer Bill Hamilton



Bill's interest in writing started in University. Reactivated by the NOTL Writer's Circle he has had several of his works published. Poetry is his main passion and his poem "Angel's Ghost" hangs in Ontario's oldest tavern the "Angel Inn". He is currently working on an anthology of poetry for publication.

# Innocent

*Bill Hamilton*

*"Witchy come Warlock sweep the hearth clean  
Stoke up the fire with bellows to the screen!"*

*Ardent lass, she made her way, at sunrise midst the dew  
Air refreshed by rain past night, steadily passing through.  
She stooped to pick a daisy bright, along the winding path  
Shining midst the golden mist, soon after nature's wrath.  
North Berwick soon lay in her view and townsfolk filled the street  
But commotion rose further down, a crowd was on its' feet.  
Closer she drew to see the cause of voices raised in ire  
As the masses grew, she could hear them chant the words "Liar, Liar!"  
Now she could see, who the vengeful mob were taking here to task  
Isabel, Bessie her trusted friends, shackled as they removed their mask.  
"Witches" cried someone "Witches they are" and the crowd it seemed agreed  
Took herbs from the Queen of Elfame, made potions with the seed!  
"It's not true" Alison yelled and broke through the ranks of the angry mob  
"They're innocent I say and that's the truth", as she gave a gentle sob.  
A boy cried "witch, I saw her with them," pointing where she stood  
They grabbed her too and shackled limbs, insanity was the mood!  
And so the three were led away to be tried for trumped up crimes  
Alison cried "this can't be true" but these were suspicious times.  
Tortured, tried and convicted these three faced an ugly fate  
Surrounded by fire each would die, upon a wooden stake.  
But sometimes injustice pays a price for taking lives and still  
Our three victims aren't at rest, they wander the town at will  
When the moon is full, they haunt this town and seek their vengeful peers  
And play upon their minds to conjure, up their hidden fears.  
Three stakes appear in flame, as spirits circle hallowed heights  
Demonic cries and gory visions echo from these ugly sprites!  
Remember then, these victims three and why they're restless souls  
Unjustly accused and killed at will, to die among the coals.  
"Witchy come Warlock sweep the hearth clean  
Stoke up the fire with bellows to the screen!"*

Authors Note: I have always had an interest in the witch trials of Salem Mass. U.S.A. — a few months ago we went to Edinburgh, Scotland and enjoyed the "Ghost and Ghouls" tour of the underground city. There were tales of witches as well as the ruthless torture and killing of these innocent women.

## The Niagara on the Lake Writers' Circle presents...

### How to Build Your Story

**What?** Plotting novels & Writing short stories  
**Where?** NOTL Public Library, 10 Anderson Lane  
**When?** Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
(Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for registration & coffee)

This workshop will show you how writers plot a novel and will give you the best tips on writing short stories. We'll also look at where to get your stories published and how to win contests. Best yet, you'll see how to apply the story-building techniques you've learned to your own writing.

General admission: \$49 advance or \$53 at the door.  
NOTL Writer's Circle members: \$44 advance or \$53 at the door.

To reserve a spot now, email:  
[brianhenry@sympatico.ca](mailto:brianhenry@sympatico.ca)

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is the Front Office Coordinator and a longtime resident of Virgil. Call Julia today to book a free hearing test!



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Pauline Reimer Gibson, Audiologist

# Home and Garden show supports Crossroads

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The parking lot of Crossroads Public School in Niagara-on-the-Lake was packed Saturday afternoon, as the 11th annual Home, Garden and Craft Show brought the community together to raise funds for the Virgil school. Some cars were even parked along Niagara Stone Road.

The annual event is the main fundraiser for Crossroads. The money raised at this year's show will go towards playground upkeep, kindergarten supplies, classroom iPads, musical instruments, performances in the gymnasium, actors and scientists in the classroom, and school trips, said Amy Rapone, chair of

the show.

This year 85 vendors participated, offering a variety of goods and products, including homemade soaps, knit clothes, decorative wood pieces and farmhouse décor. For the little ones, there was also a free kids zone, a Mad Science show, a glitter/tattoo booth and animals from Reptile Kingdom.

More than 1,000 guests attended the show, not including children, said Rapone.

Many vendors praised how organized the event was. For many it was their first time participating.

"I'm all about education," said Peter Hellinga who makes wood and acrylic items. "Anything to support kids at school and another

way to sell something."

"It's a great event that helps school and community," said Kristen Di Pollo, the owner of Gar Knit and Purl. "I would definitely come back next year."

The event was put together thanks to collaborative efforts between students, parents and businesses.

For Rapone, who was running the event for the first year, it was important to have school students become a part of the show.

"That's why I had them involved in making the pictures and giving back that way," she said. "And they helped a lot with the setup of the rooms... so it brought focus to them and the fact that this is a fundraiser for the school."

"It's a lot more fun too. All the parents know each other, it's social," said Lianne Lambert, one of the parents helping at the show. "There's a really good vibe in the show like everyone's happy. And it's a very positive experience because we're helping the school."

Former Crossroads students also made great contributions to the event, said parents.

"Especially the older kids, the high school kids, they come back and get their high school hours which is great because we need all of the help that we can get," said Lambert. "And then the younger ones are just proud to show off their classrooms to their parents and families."

Two high school students,

Riley van 't Riet and Julia Bartel, were in charge of selling food and drinks at the event.

"The best part of the show is probably how much money it brings for the school and the kids," said van 't Riet. "And how it's a great opportunity for volunteers to get our community service hours."

Two current Crossroads students, Lauren Davidson and Sarah Laughton, were responsible for selling tickets for the BBQ lunch. They said this was their second time helping with the show.

"We get a lot of experience," said Laughton. "It's good to be out there, checking stuff out."

"And just seeing what people are up to, business-

wise," added Davidson.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was invited to announce the winners of two grand prize draws, one of which was the Galaxy Tablet donated by the CMI Heavy Industries.

"This is a great fundraising opportunity for the school and it's also really helpful to the community," Disero told The Lake Report. "People get to come in and learn more about the products out there, particularly this time of year, because of the summer."

Disero said she was thrilled to be at the event.

"I want to wish Crossroads school success on their fundraising target and I look forward to having them continue this on for years to come."



Virgil native Nancy Smith said participating at the show "felt very much like home." DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



Sophia Vollmer, Lianne Lambert and Kerry Hendricks help out at the show. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



Crossroads students Sarah Laughton, left, and Lauren Davidson, selling tickets for a BBQ lunch. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



One of the grand raffle prizes at the show was a Galaxy Tablet. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

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# W.L. Mackenzie Part 2 of 2



Denise Ascenzo  
Featured

In the town of Niagara (Niagara-on-the-Lake), James Moreau, who commanded part of the Mackenzie rebels was apprehended, tried and found guilty of treason. On July 30, 1838 Moreau professed his faith and was received into the Catholic Church. On July 31, 1838 he was baptized by Father Edward Gordon, then executed and buried in St. Vincent de Paul graveyard. Moreau's grave is unmarked but is believed to be in the area known as the pauper's grave site on the corner of Byron and Wellington Streets.

Mackenzie was charged by the United States for breaking neutrality laws and spent 11 months in a prison in Rochester, New York. He was pardoned in May 1840.

In 1849, an amnesty act was passed in Canada and Mackenzie was now free to return from the US. He returned to Canada shortly thereafter, touring the province before ending up once again in Toronto.

Not to give up easily, Mackenzie was elected to Provincial parliament in 1851. He refused all offers of government positions, maintaining himself as an independent and incorruptible politician.

Mackenzie resigned from politics in 1858 due to health problems. He died in 1861.

The Mackenzie rebellion had a very positive effect in later years in changing the political landscape of Upper Canada. As a result of the rebellions in Lower Canada and Upper Canada, Lord Durham was sent to Canada to study the situation. He recommended a number of reforms, including the amalgamation of Upper and Lower Canada into one province of Canada.



William Lyon Mackenzie. SUPPLIED PHOTO.

Durham also suggested that Canada join with other British North American provinces into one confederation with a central government, something that would finally come to fruition in 1867.

These suggested reforms, bolstered by the reform movement in England included the enfranchisement of more inhabitants and resulted in a legislative

assembly with actual power. Although many scholars will argue back and forth about the need and results of the rebellion, it did assist with the change to moderate politicians whose focus

was on a more responsible Government.

William Lyon Mackenzie resided in Queenston for only a few years. After the reconstruction of his home in 1936, the building served

several purposes, first as the Municipal office of the Township of Niagara until 1958 and later as a museum until 1974.

Today Mackenzie's home and printery are once again a museum, thanks to the hard work of Niagara Parks Commission and the Mackenzie Heritage Printery Committee.

You will find in the museum several working presses, the oldest press is called the Roy Press (Louis Roy was appointed the first King's Printer in Upper Canada) which was donated to the museum in 1991. The Roy press was the first press used in Upper Canada in 1793. The paper was called the Upper Canada Gazette (the sight is on King Street in Queens Royal Park) with the first edition issued on April 18, 1793 in Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake).

In front of the Mackenzie home are two Honey Locust trees, of the five that Mackenzie planted to commemorate the fight for a responsible government.

Also in front is a stone marker which reads "Home of William Lyon Mackenzie. The birthplace of responsible government, 1823 to 1824."

Grateful thanks to Ron Dale and his continuous support.

References: Canadian Encyclopedia, Mackenzie Printery and Museum website, Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

**Part 1 was published March 7.**

*More of Denise's articles about the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at [www.niagararowanow.com](http://www.niagararowanow.com).*

*Denise is a regular Niagara Now contributor and a respected voice in the community on historical matters.*

*She has dedicated countless hours to promoting and advocating for the preservation of local history. If information is disputed, please send us a message.*

*To get in touch or story idea, please contact [editor@niagararowanow.com](mailto:editor@niagararowanow.com).*





# COMMUNITY

All Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and visitors are welcome to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Please send submissions to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com).



*Napping until spring.*

## Artifact of the Week: Communion Tokens from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



**Answer:** This week's artifact was a group of Communion Tokens (c.1831) from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, which were issued to church members who properly adhered to the faith and were permitted to receive communion. These tokens were based on the practice of closed communion, in which only members of the church could participate. Various religious symbols were engraved onto the tokens related to the sacrament of communion as well as biblical passages or the initials of the presiding minister. Tokens were distributed at the Sunday service and individuals who missed a service would have to forgo communion at their next attended mass.

**The Artifact of the Week column is submitted by the Niagara Historical Society & Museum, exclusive to The Lake Report.**



Can you guess next week's artifact? >

**Clue: I assisted John with his work.**

## The great pot hole challenge



Nominate the street with the worst of the worst potholes in NOTL.

Let's help the town and regional crews by showing them where some of the biggest, most dangerous, ugliest road blemishes are.

Email your photos, with descriptions and details, plus your contact info to:

[2019PotholeHunt@niagaranow.com](mailto:2019PotholeHunt@niagaranow.com)

We will publish the best submissions over the next few weeks and do our best to get them fixed.

Here is one nominee, Wilberforce Avenue in NOTL's Chautauqua neighbourhood. This is just a sampling of the numerous holes that pockmark this beautiful promenade.



**Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol**

**Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:**

**Ravine Vineyard Winery Restaurant**

We visited first the tasting rooms and country store. The washrooms there were well appointed. We got to see some pretty unique tasting venues in the basement of the old house as we wandered. Then we headed over to the restaurant to review the more accessible bathrooms there. At the restaurant we lingered over our 2017 Meritage and absorbed the view. Between that and our samplings from the tasting rooms we had absorbed enough to need the facilities. The bathrooms were rustic farmhouse charming. And so while visiting, you can enjoy some comfort food before your comfy visit to a gold plunger award winning bathroom. Ravine scored 3.5 Golden Plungers!

**3.5/5 Golden Plungers**



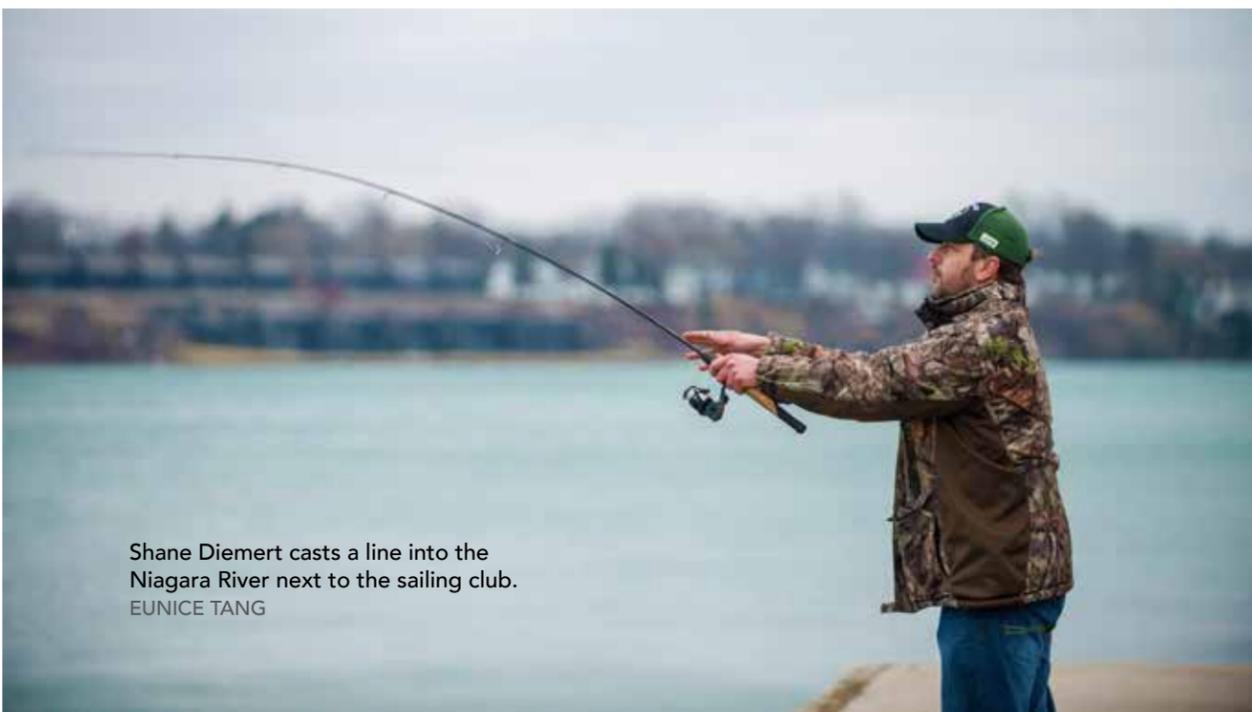
## RIDDLE ME THIS:

I am a seed with three letters in my name. Take away the last two and I still sound the same. What am I?

Last Week's answer: Footsteps.

Answered first by Shauna Dickson.

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) for a chance to win a prize.



Shane Diemert casts a line into the Niagara River next to the sailing club.  
EUNICE TANG

# SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

**The Lake Report encourages readers to support the businesses that advertise in this paper.**



## FEATURED LOCAL STORY

# Magdalena Titian - falling in love with NOTL through watercolour paintings

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

It only seems fitting a hand-painted for sale sign is what attracted Magdalena Titian to the 1842 former slave cottage she now calls home.

More than 30 years ago, as a young Toronto painter inspired by the quaint be-guiling streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake, she made the move to her Gate Street home, never looking back.

“As a floral painter, this was utopia,” she recalls.

She was attracted to the peacefulness of the small town, which she visited on several occasions before finally settling down for good.

“Every time I came here, I was just so attracted to the ambiance, the quiet streets and the ability to exhale. It was really impressive.”

Titian is a watercolour painter inspired by French Post-Impressionist Paul Gauguin. She specializes in florals, attracted to the complex arrangements and vibrant colours naturally found in gardens.

“I’m a Pisces, I relate to it somehow,” she says of her innate desire to work with watercolours.

“I chose to paint watercolours, a luminous medium, because I like painting on a wet surface, allowing the paint to create its own forms. In this way, the colours are never tampered with and are vivid and transparent as the light shines through.”

She says she’s able to create something beautiful by letting go of control.

“Letting go, freedom, has been in one way or another my ambition – in painting and in other aspects of my life.”

She worked in administrative positions until her love of painting began to take hold at the age of 25. She



Magdalena Titian in her Gate Street home and studio. BRITTANY CARTER

was a secretary at Canadian General Electric for several years; the position wouldn’t keep after her desire to create was realized.

Her preferred method is to paint “en plein air,” meaning outdoors. She says this gives her more freedom than she would have if she restricted herself to working in studios.

Immersing herself among the flowers and plants, she uses the inspiration of the up-close perspective to guide her brush strokes, creating the gorgeous floral watercolour paintings.

Well-travelled, Titian has set foot in 48 countries around the world, often bringing a small canvas and her paints along. Painting the world as she experiences it, she says she gets a better sense of the people and cultures she visits, blending into the scenery while blending the colours on canvas — and learning about people around the globe. In this way, she

doesn’t look in from the outside, rather she becomes a part of the culture through the creation of her work.

Exploring many countries and pulling inspiration from elsewhere, she remains in awe of NOTL.

“I have travelled and painted in many countries, but never with as much satisfaction as here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

Her enthusiasm for this small town was transferred to her mother, who initially couldn’t quite understand Titian’s infatuation.

“When I told her I bought a house in Niagara-on-the-Lake, she was like, ‘What, in that dumpy old town?’ She remembered it from the ‘50s, when it was an army base – and it was dumpy. Prince of Wales had sawdust on the floor and the place was almost falling down. The town wasn’t anything of note.”

Titian says she asked her mother to reserve her judgement until she could come

and visit, adding that she knew her mother would fall for the town as she had.

“She did. That very weekend when she came, she was so awe-struck that she bought a house. She moved here and lived here for 25 years, bringing my grandmother with her.”

After living in “Toronto the good,” before congestion, development and traffic took hold, Titian says she outgrew the concrete city and no longer fit it.

She belonged in a peaceful, vibrant small town.

Titian attributes some of her love for bright colours and florals to the contrasting dry plains of the Prairies, where she was born. Hailing from Lennard, Man., she says she was in awe of the botanical gardens in Hamilton, Ont., when her family moved there when she was about four years old.

Recalling her beginnings in Manitoba, she says she came from the Prairies at a time when there was little

else to focus on, besides nature.

“Dry heat, the occasional wildflower, the skies were constantly changing. My eyes always focused on nature.”

After making the move to NOTL, Titian was asked to teach some courses at the Pumhouse. When she started, it wasn’t the thriving art centre it is today.

“The Pumhouse then still had the big pump ... in the building, in the front room. There were cracked windows and mice and dripping water and so on, but it was a start. And the interest in the courses there grew slowly over the years.”

Titian had an art show in a park when Barbara Ahluwalia, one of the Pumhouse’s founders, was spearheading a move to renovate and open the Pumhouse as an art centre. She asked Titian to teach a class, and she happily agreed.

“And now it’s a very

vibrant, active place. It’s totally changed.”

She’s a creator at heart, with a strong desire to pass her knowledge and experience on to anyone with an interest in artistic expression. In her calm and serene manner, she speaks of travelling with students to help them to also see the beauty in the world.

Titian’s gentle soul is expressed through her art and her surroundings. Her quaint, cottage home in NOTL is a reflection, the basement floor a studio space housing a lifetime of paintings. She happily opens her house and studio to those wanting to view her paintings, asking only for a phone call in advance.

In the warmer weather, she can be found in gardens around town, sitting on the ground among the plants, painting her heart’s desire in the sun.

She will be showcasing her art alongside Stevensville artist Otto Fondan in April.

“His art is large and dramatic. He uses hard mediums, oils and acrylics.”

Titian says the contrast of her bright, feminine watercolours next to his hard, masculine work is about balance. Excited to showcase her work, she says it’s something not to miss.

“People are still fascinated by nature and my art never goes out of fashion. With all the new development today, it’s more important than ever to stay true to nature.”

She says that everyone has self-expression in them just waiting to be discovered. Through art, she says you learn a lot about yourself. “It’s a mirror – if you’re brave enough to look at it.”

Her month-long gallery showing at the Niagara Falls Public Library on Victoria Avenue in Niagara Falls premieres April 5 at 1 p.m.

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