

HATE POSTERS SPARK CONCERN



Posters which many residents feel are white supremacist propaganda have been spotted around Niagara-on-the-Lake. This poster was posted in 2019. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Richard Harley
 Editor

A series of anti-immigration posters circulating around Niagara-on-the-Lake has some residents feeling unwelcome and even concerned for their safety.

The posters contain rhetoric attacking immigrants and messages advocating against diversity.

One flyer, similar to posters circulated in town two years ago, asks, "Is diversity a code word for anti-white?"

Another poster, from a group calling itself the Canada First Immigration Reform Committee, features a photo of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sitting in what appears to be a Sikh temple.

The text says, "We'll be a minority by 2050. Canadians were never consulted

about this ethnic cleansing."

A number of residents have told The Lake Report they feel the posters are hate speech.

The letters have appeared on bulletin boards outside the post office on Queen Street.

A man who answered the phone at a number listed on the flyer identified himself as "Shawn," but refused to comment on the flyers.

Tony Hendrik, owner of the Valu-Mart, said it's "not a good situation."

He has been removing the posters from the bulletin board in his store and says it's made him question the continued use of the bulletin board.

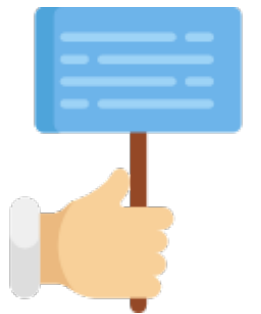
"Our Local Events board is for the postings of events that celebrate all the amazing people and happenings in our town, not for political

or ideological opinions," he said.

"We would like to keep this board up, hopefully, as it is an important part of the fabric of our store and community information source."

Doug Binning, manager of the Canada Post depot in Old Town, said he isn't authorized to comment, but noted that Canada Post is not in charge of the bulletin board outside of the post office.

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Bigger classes could mean teacher job cuts, Catholic board chair says



Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
 The Lake Report

The chair of the Niagara Catholic School Board expects provincial plans to increase average class sizes will mean teacher layoffs, but the vice-chair of the public board is taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Frank Fera, chair of the Catholic board and a trustee for Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake, said the class size increase might affect the board's budget.

"I would think that there will be layoffs because of lack of funds that are coming in from the ministry," he said. "We don't know

exactly how much short our board is going to be and what cuts have to be made. We'll know that soon, when we start the budget process. We don't know exactly how much the ministry is cutting us back."

The province's plan to increase average classes in Grade 4 to 8 by one student and high schools to 28 from 22, is a "terrible" idea, Fera said.

"More students you have in classrooms, more difficult it becomes for the teacher to be able to teach effectively and give the students one-on-one instruction which is required," said Fera. "Also, the special needs children

are going to be affected tremendously by it."

The vice-chair of the District School Board of Niagara, Dave Schaubel, said the board is concerned about the increase in class sizes in secondary schools but he was cautious to say how it would affect everyone until the board sees the details of the government's plan.

"We're kind of ahead of the game if we're going to say, 'Well, push the panic button here, we're going to lose teachers.' Because our enrolment is going up," he said. "We see no reason to believe it's not going to continue that trend."

Education Minister Lisa

Thompson announced changes to the provincial education system on March 15 and said the new plans will be phased in over the next four years.

Besides bigger classes, the changes include banning cellphones in classrooms, instituting a "back-to-the-basics" math curriculum and making every high school student take one mandatory online course each year.

According to the District School Board of Niagara, using mobile devices are allowed where "they are deemed not to interfere with their personal learning

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Students and parents question wisdom of education changes, especially mandatory online courses

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or the learning of others.” However, cellphones are prohibited in private areas such as locker rooms or washrooms.

The Niagara Catholic School Board policy states cellphones aren't allowed for use in classrooms unless school staff approves the use for instructional or co-instructional purposes.

Fera said he would “embrace” the concept of students using cellphones in high school as they're more mature than elementary and middle school students.

“(At the elementary level), as long as they're used on assignments that are curriculum-based, I would embrace them also. But with caution and supervision. They're not to be utilized as a toy,” Fera told The Lake Report.

Amal Qayum, a Grade 12 student at Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls and president of Ontario's Student Trustee Association, said the support provided in a smaller class is “much more beneficial” than what students receive in a larger class.

“It's just hard for teachers to support so many students, especially at a secondary level, with everyone's learning skills and learning needs (being) so diverse already,” she said.

Qayum said she also thinks the government should not be mandating four online courses.

“E-learning courses are difficult in a sense that you're not face-to-face with a teacher,” she said.

As for the math curriculum, Qayum said there should be a “balance of both” methods where students can learn basic math as well as critical thinking and data analysis skills.

Three Laura Secord Secondary School students had strong opinions on some of

the proposed changes.

“The cellphone ban and larger class sizes are largely non-detrimental and cellphones are already supposed to be banned,” said Sarah Baker, a Grade 11 student.

“Mandatory online courses will hinder more students than it helps others. Having the option to take online courses is very helpful for most students, but having them mandated is not the best course of action that the government could take,” she said in an email to The Lake Report.

“I feel that there should not be mandatory online classes. That being said, having a greater variety and accessibility to these e-learning courses will greatly help students. Having them mandated will not.”

Bethany Poltl, another Grade 11 student and chair of Lord Mayor's youth advisory council in NOTL, said many of her peers feel banning cellphones in classrooms isn't a big deal for them, but larger class sizes “are something we would have to see in action.”

“With the motivated students in the room and the strong teacher facilitating our course, we were all successful,” she said in an email. “I think that the larger class size success will depend on what the subject is, how motivated the students are to learn and how the teacher delivers the course.”

Poltl also mentioned taking online courses in the summer and doing online work through web portals like D2L.

“I think having students become familiar with how to learn digitally and use the e-learning environment effectively will prepare them for university and the real world,” she said.

Another Grade 11 student, Sophia Galbraith, said banning cellphones was “pointless” as students can



Changes to classroom sizes could result in teacher layoffs, says Frank Fera, chair of the Catholic board and trustee for Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. SUBMITTED PHOTO

use computers in school and “social interactions online cannot be prevented.”

“Larger class sizes can lead to students not receiving the attention and help from teachers they need, as

“It kind of feels like Doug Ford is just trying to earn some points with parents that are frustrated.”

LIANNE LAMBERT
MOTHER OF THREE CROSSROADS STUDENTS

well as an increase in the ability of being distracted by their fellow peers,” she said via email.

“Having online classes as a mandatory requirement is unfair to those who are unable to learn in that

fashion and rely on hands-on learning. It is uncertain that everyone has access to this way of learning and that it will enhance or increase student success rate,” she added.

For Joy Janzen, a member of the parent council and a NOTL representative on the public board's parent involvement committee, the government announcements take attention away from other issues.

“(The cellphone ban) implies that teachers don't know how to manage their classrooms and need legislation to institute civility with their students,” said Janzen in an email.

“I agree that many young people need instruction on phone etiquette, but the idea of legislation on this topic is ridiculous.”

Bringing back old math curriculum is another “waste

of time,” said Janzen pointing out how the math scores for public board schools in the region have increased in the last two years.

In Grade 3, 72 per cent of Crossroads students and 76 per cent of the public board students exceeded the provincial standard of 61 per cent, according to the EQAO 2017-18 school report.

In Grade 6, 58 per cent of Crossroads students and 61 per cent of the board students have met the provincial standard of 49 per cent, the report says.

Janzen attributed the increase in math scores to a focus on math instruction among teachers and an increased emphasis on STEM programs (science, technology, engineering and mathematics.)

“These were tangible initiatives that created real results,” she said.

The increased class sizes, however, is a real concern, said Janzen, as it “is also a tool used to justify decreased school funding and bring about school closures.”

Lianne Lambert, a mother of three Crossroads students, said she agrees with the cellphone ban to some extent although the decision has to be made by teachers and the school board. She also said while some teachers are divided about the new math curriculum, some parents have to take time to relearn math to help their children with homework.

“It kind of feels like Doug Ford is just trying to earn some points with parents that are frustrated,” she said in an interview. “Maybe he's trying to get parents on his side by doing these small measurements. It's hard to know.”



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Niagara Regional Police: Posters are 'concerning'

Continued from Front Page

The board is monitored by the Friends of Fort George, however president Tony Chisholm said his group can only monitor the posters it puts up, since the board is open to the public.

A local resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said she first noticed anti-immigration flyers on the community notice board at Phil's Valu-Mart in Virgil around April 2017.

"Then the flyers started showing up on the community notice pillar in downtown NOTL, directly in front of the post office," she said in an email to the paper.

"When I complained to a Canada Post supervisor, they said the notice board had nothing to do with them. A town bylaw officer said the same thing. No one took responsibility for monitoring the board," she said.

"Next, the posters showed up on the notice board at Hendriks' Valu-Mart across from the NOTL post office. I complained to Tony and he was really upset. He promised to check the board constantly and remove the poster if it ever showed up again."

After complaining, she said she didn't see any similar posters in town until this past month.

"I do not feel comfortable, welcome or safe in NOTL anymore," she said.

Niagara Regional Police spokesperson Phil Gavin said the letters are "concerning" and warrant "further review and investigation."

"We would be apprehensive to characterize it as a 'hate crime' without further investigative information," Gavin said in an email response to an inquiry by The Lake Report.

"We would encourage anyone who has received one of these posters, if they have concerns, to call our communication unit to report it."



Anti-immigration flyers like this one have been posted in NOTL. Its text includes the message, "We'll be a minority by 2050. Canadians were never consulted about this ethnic cleansing." SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hendrik said he first reported the issue to the police in 2016.

"They have contacted the people involved but say they can do nothing to stop the postings," he said.

"Last week, we spoke to the 2016 investigating officer and sent him email copies of the most

recent postings and asked him to investigate further. We have not heard any response as of yet."

Hendrik said the posters have been "intermittently" posted over the past three years.

"Police have advised us that this does not constitute hate speech. But

anyone reading this knows that these type of posters are specifically targeting specific ethnic/minority/immigrant groups. They are distasteful, unwanted and unacceptable anywhere in today's society and especially in such a welcoming community such as NOTL."



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Editorial: Let's eradicate hate speech

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake prides itself on being a welcoming, friendly, beautiful town.

Though the town's populace is predominantly white, NOTL is overwhelmingly accepting of people of different races, sexual orientation, cultures, religions, ages, and lifestyle choices.

The Lake Report has always encouraged acceptance and diversity. So when we learned that posters promoting hatred are again circulating in town, we knew we had to investigate and shine a bright light on this odious practice.

The posters contain racist, anti-immigration rhetoric such as, "Is diversity a code word for anti-white?" and "We'll be a minority by 2050. Canadians were never consulted about this ethnic cleansing."

This is white supremacist hate speech and should not be tolerated in our town. In case the people putting up these posters have forgotten, most Canadians are immigrants.

So, what are they really trying to say with these flyers? It's fearmongering, it's cowardly and it's dog-whistle race-baiting that plays to the lowest common denominator in society.

The creator of the group that calls itself the Canada First Immigration Reform Committee identifies

himself as Shawn. When contacted by The Lake Report, he refused to comment on whether he was even affiliated with the group. Even the person running this group seems ashamed to admit it.

That speaks volumes.

Business owners have been removing the posters from their bulletin boards, which the paper commends.

We encourage residents to follow suit and remove these flyers if they appear again.

And, as for those cowards spreading the hate, your rhetoric has no place in civil society. Crawl back under your rock.

editor@niagaranow.com



[More letters](#)

Thank you for the fine work

I am writing to thank and compliment Brittany Carter on the article that appeared in the March 21 edition of the Lake Report, re: Meals on Wheels.

The details were accurate, comprehensive and very well-written. I thank you sincerely for such a fine article. I have no doubt we will realize new volunteers and/or clients as a result.

Sincerely,

Marianne McRae

Concerned about regional amalgamation? Submit your thoughts to the province

The Lake Report

The province is asking Ontarians what they think about the possibility of amalgamating tiers of municipal and regional governments.

No decisions have been firmly made, but it is clear Premier Doug Ford's Conservative government is interested in cutting back the number of politicians across the province.

Based on provincial riding boundaries, Niagara could see a number of different types of mergers. Subsequently, politicians across the region have expressed concerns about loss of identity in small communities like Niagara-on-the-Lake. Similar communities have distinct needs that don't always coincide with other municipalities.

Furthermore, privatization of services has been a topic of discussion, and many Niagara politicians agree when mergers happen, nobody saves any money.

The province is asking for resident opinions through a survey. It can be found at www.ontario.ca/form/survey-regional-government-review. The paper encourages all residents to write in with questions and concerns.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From the horse's mouth

Councillor Norm Arsenault should be commended for his independent analysis of specific roads or sections within Niagara-on-the-Lake that may warrant speed limit reduction. His suggestions include gravel road sections and areas of new residential development on Airport Road. His recommendation will be provided to the newly formed (how timely!) transportation committee.

The committee will probably do an overall study including main and auxiliary country roads, drawing "lines" and making "concessions."

Two issues need utmost consideration in speed limit reduction — the proliferation of new development and horses and carriages.

New restaurants, Crossroads school, LCBO, the clinic in the Virgil corridor of Niagara Stone Road necessitates addressing speed limit reduction, left hand turns from driveways and erecting additional traffic lights.

On a more critical point, I visited Laura Sentineal recently and asked if I could interview the 20 ponies of the carriage trade. I wanted to get the info straight from the horse's mouth. There was no crazy horse; they were all stable-minded!

Some were proud to claim bloodline from the advent of Sentineal Carriages in the early 1990s. This has been an intrinsic and traditional component of the Old Town heritage landscape, emulat-

ing the slower pace of by-gone days.

And they weren't horsing around when they concurred that safety between vehicles and horses/drivers necessitates reduction in speed limit in the entire designated boundary zone of Sentineal Horse and Carriages in the Old Town.

One proud fillie brought me a sign she made: "Horse and carriage route — stay well back!"

She emphasized these signs must be posted repeatedly every furlong or less along the routes. It was plain horse sense to me; I wasn't about to muzzle her.

After the team addressed the mane argument, I assured them that the Transportation Committee, town

senior staff and council would act with fair judgement, kind hearts and open minds, and would assume a high responsibility in ensuring safety for the horses and drivers, in effect being the sentinels.

Fred and Laura and their wonderful staff have provided so much happiness and enjoyment to so many over the years. They are not about to foal their business now; the Town must support them given their current challenges. I need not elaborate.

P.S. Another female horse, who may one day run for mare, asked me if the town could also lower the speed on development. I answered, "we'll see what happens."

Stephen Oprici

The Lake Report

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Protecting small farmers

Dear Mr. Harley,

A good report, covering all the bases. I see that the minimum 10 acres for a farm winery is a proposal in the final draft of the official plan.

I believe that a discussion is in order here as our mayor and councillors seem to be going with the 10-acre suggestion. The rationale provided reflects what is going on in other parts of Canada. It does not recognize that Niagara-on-the-Lake has a unique climate, nothing like it anywhere else in Canada. It is why this area became a leading producer of fruit and vegetables long before the wineries took off.

As we have learned, farms and wineries require a huge amount of heavy hard work, and they all started off small. That is why most of them have fallen into the hands of land assemblers and developers, for lack of good planning. More recent generations of inhabitants apparently did not care for

this type of work for a living. Historically speaking, this has been evidenced in Grimsby, Stoney Creek and Beamsville. Evidently the town councils did not protect the small farmer, who was often someone who was eking out his land merely to provide for his family, often with only immigrant status.

It seems to me that today if a farmer wishes to cultivate part of his 7.9 acres for fruit and vegetables, and the other part for grapes or winery, then who are we, townspeople, to interfere? He does the work, not us. I would much prefer to buy his fruit and vegetables because he is close to where I live, as is Quiet Acres, Walkers and others. I laud Mr. Florio's efforts to try to produce both commodities. And, I prefer to support both of his local business ventures. Perhaps, he, and others in his position, prefer to farm on a small basis and are not pressured to farm 'big'. Perhaps the farmer's

circumstances have not been so fortuitous as others — to inherit or to be able to purchase the minimum requirement. Perhaps he prefers hobby farming. I fail to see how we can impose any minimum land requirement. Perhaps this farmer will develop an award-winning farm method or strategy to make his farm winery sustainable. I have lived in parts of Italy and France where vineyards, fruit trees and herbs are part of town and city living. I have seen dairy cattle grazing on the front lawns of homes and pastures in town parks in Switzerland. And in Germany and The Netherlands I observed reindeer wandering among the biergartens in the countryside. Please council members, do not forget what attracts us to this area - the farms together with the small towns all in the countryside. It is not always about big money — big is not always better.

Let's not forget the history and extremely valuable stories of how successful vintners such as Paul Bosc, Mr. Ziraldo, Mr. Reif, Mr. Konzelman, Mr. Pilliteri, and Les Rancourts began

their farms, farm wineries and estate wineries. Their stories are what enrich us as a community. They will become part of our Historical Museums one day.

Ten acres seems like a figure drawn out of the air, since apparently '20 acres' is required for estate wineries to be 'sustainable'. Firsthand, I might be inclined to agree with the town council who have planning consultants - but farmers never had planning consultants back in the day. And, yet, I cannot ignore the plight of Mr. Florio. Why should there be a rule for how many acres he must have for a farm winery? Is it really meant to help this farmer or others like him? How? We ought to be encouraging our farmers, not making it more difficult. If a rule is absolutely necessary, would a compromise of minimum 5 acres for a farm winery be suitable to both sides?

Why not?

Something for the town and the planning consultants to think about. Kudos to Mr. Florio for asking the question.

Nancy Maeri

Healthcare in Canada

Do you remember when you needed surgery you could get it in a matter of days, not years? Do you remember when doctors made house calls?

In 1945, when I was just eight years old, I had my tonsils removed at Saint Mary's Hospital in Montreal. Our family doctor who was not part of a Quebec Medical Clinic told my parents I would need my tonsils and adenoids removed. He immediately called the hospital to make arrangements for that operation. That was on a Monday evening while he was in our home. He had me scheduled for my operation Wednesday morning. After surgery I was kept in the hospital until Friday and during that time while in hospital I was given a large share of ice cream to sooth my throat. That's what remains in my mind to this day. Oh, and how kind the nuns/nurses were to me.

Starting to get the picture of what it was like then and before Tommy Douglas and the NDP in 1961 gave us our present system? Now I'm not saying we should throw the baby out with the bath water, but did this new system solve our medical problems or did it just make things worse for all of us? Have we ever seen a government-run organization that was successful? Let's look at the CBC and the millions of dollars invested to keep government-run TV on the air. That's just a small taste of government-run ineptitude. Are we starting to get the picture of why so many people hate to see the government-running any organization that requires financial responsibility? More recently we should remember, for a very long time, the Federal mishandling of the western pipeline that cost us billions of dollars and has yet to pump an ounce of oil through it's system.

Privatization of our medical system would be a step backward for all of us no matter our financial position. But, is a government-run

medical system working? Ever had to wait 18 to 24 months with a pain level of 10 on the scale of one to 10, to receive surgery to relieve that pain? Ever had to wait a month for results from a biopsy to learn if you indeed had cancer. Why the delay in this process? Is it due to a lack of funds or is it mismanagement of funds that allows the system to have insufficient personnel to handle these tasks?

Is Privatization, Government management or a combination of the two a way to get back to the medical system we had over 74 years ago? Is there a way to combine the two that might be better? Or do we listen to the left and continue with the criminal mismanagement of our medical system? Have you ever had surgery at the Shouldice Clinic or was your operation done at your local hospital? I've experienced both and had total success at Shouldice whereas the local hospital repair had to be redone by Shouldice. Should we have specialized services done at clinics like Shoul-

dice? Total government-run medical service will just perpetuate the same mistakes and run up a greater debt than we already have.

There are many questions that need to be answered to the problems with our medical system. That will require people with the knowledge to decide the solutions and not by people who are determined to do a poor job only seeking personal gains. Should politicians be left with the task of sorting out this mess made by them, or do we need the minds of our medical people, brilliant minds of people in the community and people who have experienced problems with the system to make the right decisions? Leave it up to governments to resolve these enormous issues and you will get more of what we already have. That's not what I want and I'm sure it's not what you want. These are problems that require intelligent minds and not people who have continued to fail at it for all of these years.

Tom Thornton

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Plenty residents can do to minimize coyote problems, expert says

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Spring is an active time of year for wild animals, including coyotes, and there's plenty NOTL residents can do to minimize problems, a local coyote expert says.

When Lesley Sampson, founder and executive director of Coyote Watch Canada, investigated coyote sightings in Niagara-on-the-Lake earlier this winter she quickly found what likely was attracting the animals.

"We saw french fries from McDonald's under bird-feeders on a sidewalk, off of private property, right on to actual public property," Sampson said after she and two local residents looked into the coyote sightings.

She said the food, as well as bird feeders, can attract other small animals and birds of prey.

Once she advised on ways to solve the problem, residents took action, Sampson said in an interview.

"They worked very quickly in that community, and with (stopping) the feral cat feedings as well. It ended up really quickly changing, it was quite a



Coyote. SUPPLIED/PIROSKA BACSO

shift."

Sampson, who spoke Wednesday at the NOTL Community Centre, stresses the importance of being nature resilient. She wants residents to understand the important role they play in keeping the community and the ecosystem safe.

"This time of year is a busy time for all wildlife families. Understanding

the seasonal milestones that not just coyotes but other animals go through this time of year (is important)."

And it's not only coyotes that area residents need to be concerned about.

"Most people who have small dogs do not take into consideration that they're just letting their dog out back. They have a bird



Lesley Sampson, founder of Coyote Watch Canada, spoke at the NOTL Community Centre Wednesday afternoon. BRITTANY CARTER

feeder. A great horned owl or hawk will take that dog or small cat in the blink of an eye, and you'll never know what happened."

Pet safety and care is something people don't think about when it comes to coyotes and other predators, she said.

Through education and community involvement, she hopes to send the mes-

sage about the role coyotes and other animals serve in the ecosystem. It's not about removing them from town, it's about conditioning them to continue taking care of themselves.

"They're completely losing the connection within an ecosystem. If you think you have a high-high fence, and you let your dog out in the middle of the

night, and you've also got a bird feeder. Wildlife is so savvy and intelligent," Sampson said.

"Coyotes are so well-equipped to provide for their families, they do not need our hand-outs. They are really great, they provide a great eco-service to the community."

Most important, Sampson said the fear of coyotes needs to be eliminated. Respect and knowledge can go a long way.

"Fear is not an appropriate response. Or indifference. People having a coyote bed down in their backyard, that's not appropriate either."

Sampson runs the Coyote Watch Canada program in Niagara Falls, but there are canid response teams across Canada. She'd like to recruit volunteers to help out in NOTL.

"We get reporting from residents from Niagara-on-the-Lake. It would be nice to have a response team developed. So, I'm looking to hopefully recruit some volunteers as well."

Coyote sightings can be reported through the Coyote Watch Canada website. Anyone looking to get more involved can contact Sampson through info@coyote-watchcanada.ca.

NOTL to raise a flag for Cancer Awareness Month

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

April is cancer awareness month and the Niagara-on-the-Lake chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society is revving up for a major push for donations.

The organization has been in operation in NOTL since the 1950s. Chair Sheila Tierney said the group raised \$31,000 last year through the daffodil pin drive, door-to-door canvassing and donations.

Throughout April, volunteers in NOTL will set out in their neighbourhoods to seek donations for the cause.

"We have several ways of raising money, but the residential campaign brings in the most for our branch. That's what we start doing in April."

The group is very much in need of more volunteers and canvassers, and Tierney said she would love to see more residents join the efforts.

"We would like to have people to volunteer for these fundraising projects. Also, if anyone would like to volunteer to be on our planning committee, that would be good, too."

Right now, she said the charity has 85 canvassers making their way across town throughout the campaign.

Taking the time to acknowledge and commend current volunteers and campaign members, Tierney said she is grateful

to the people who come out to raise money for the cause.

She said the organization will hold its daffodil pin sale on Saturday, March 30. Volunteers will be out from open to close at Harvest Barn on Niagara Stone Road, Hendrik's Valu-Mart on Queen Street and Phil's Valu-Mart in Virgil.

On April 1 at 11:30 a.m., there will be a flag raising at the town offices in Virgil, with Lord Mayor Betty Disero in attendance.



Sheila Tierney, chair of the NOTL Canadian Cancer Society. BRITTANY CARTER

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Residents question benefits of heritage district preservation plan

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is still considering implementing a heritage conservation district in St. Davids, but some residents at a meeting Tuesday night said many homes in the area have little or no historical significance.

Andrew Dionne said he bought an abandoned house in the village about five years ago. He said it has no historical value but because it is located within the proposed boundaries of the heritage district, he won't be allowed to renovate or build a new house.

"These houses are the cheapest houses like in every other city, these old wartime houses," he told The Lake Report. "But mine is in this high-end neighbourhood so I'm stuck in this cheap house."

Another St. Davids resident, Anne Sachar, addressed town staff and public saying some properties in the village don't have any remaining historical significance.

She also said reminiscing about the past is not a solid reason for designation.

In 2017, the St. Davids Ratepayers Association asked the previous town council to designate a Heritage Conservation District.

The heritage district would "allow responsible development and re-development of the village while preserving its historical features," said Mike Pearsall of the association.

"We're pro-development but we want to maintain the character and the looks of those main roads where the heritage homes are," Greg Dell, president of the ratepayers association, told The Lake Report.

Town councillors, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and regional councillor Gary Zalepa were on hand Tuesday and Disero told the audience there should be a discussion whether St.



Jesse Auspitz, town planner, said open house was being held to see if there's an interest in a heritage district from St. Davids' residents. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

David's has a characteristic that "we want to maintain."

"Instead of working totally with horsepower, we need to work a little bit with mind power," she said.

For the first part of an open house, town planner Jesse Auspitz, town's manager of planning Eric Withers, and Mike Pearsall and Greg Dell from the St. Davids Ratepayers Association took turns speaking about the project.

After a number of meetings and discussions with the previous town councillors and Lord Mayor as well as with the heritage committee, the association was suggested to start a public consultation and gather comments from the public to see if there's an interest in designating a heritage district in the village.

Auspitz said there were no official boundaries to the proposed district. The ratepayers association suggested, however, to designate the area on York Road

between Tanbark Road and 100 metres east of Paxton Lane, and the area on Four Mile Creek Road between Creekside Drive and 400 metres north of York Road.

If approved, a study of the area will have to be done and the council may adopt a control bylaw to protect "the integrity of the area" while the study is ongoing.

When asked by one of the residents if there is anything to protect St. Davids heritage without designating the district, Auspitz said the village is still protected by the town's secondary plan and urban design guidelines.

Auspitz couldn't answer another resident's question about how much exactly the project would cost nor did he provide an exact timeline as a study of the area and a number of tests will have to be done but said he was talking about years.

One York Road resident

said he received a notice about the open house but he said he also owns another property on Sandalwood Crescent. Neither he nor his neighbours who live there received any letters from town.

"You don't want 40 people that sign up for this survey that are either for or against it and then stirring council because they think that's the majority," he said. "I think the only way to get a majority is to make sure everybody is engaged."

During the second hour of the open house, residents had a chance to share their comments one-on-one with councillors and town staff.

Residents have until April 25 to submit their written or online comments to the town. The town staff will prepare a report based on public feedback and council will then decide whether to proceed with the project.



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Calling all chefs!

Local recipe book planned for 2019

The Lake Report is calling on all cooks, chefs, bakers and food enthusiasts in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We want your favourite family recipes, and the stories that go with them, to share with the community. Whether it's a special stew, soup, or salad; the best bread or muffins; or a decadent dessert, we'd love to hear from you!

We'd love it if you could include pictures of the food where possible, and of the family member who might have passed the recipe down. If there is any family folklore associated with the recipe, we'd love to hear that too. Maybe there's a certain occasion when it's always made, perhaps there's a funny or sad story to tell that relates to that particular recipe, or certain traditions that accompany it.

We will publish selected recipes regularly, and at the end of the year we'll compile all the recipes together as a book of NOTL family favourites. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to a local charity.

Please send your recipes, pictures and stories to: recipes@niagaranow.com

The top recipes will be published in an annual paperback book which will be available (in limited supply) to residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake at The Lake Report office. This year's book (title uncertain!) will be released in the coming months!



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Hometown brewer: Griffin Data breaks into craft beer market

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Griffin Data is realizing his dream of opening a brewery that pays homage to his hometown's humble beginnings.

The sole owner/operator of Newark Brewing Company, Data, 28, is slowly rolling out his new beer, trying to get on to the taps of local bars and restaurants in town.

It wasn't one single eureka moment that led him to his goal of setting up shop in Niagara, but a collection of little things laying the path out before him, he says.

The sense of community really stuck out, he says, adding that there was never a shortage of people willing to help or offer him advice along the way.

Data enrolled in the Brewmaster and Brewery Operations Management program at Niagara College when he realized he wanted to pursue a career in the growing craft-beer industry.

A few months after graduating in April 2016, he says the idea sort of revealed itself to him. He had worked in the beverage industry for years, employed at Molson Coors Brewing Company, Trius Winery and Sawdust City Brewing Company in Gravenhurst, and says it was a field he wanted to continue contributing to.

The idea of being his own boss didn't hurt, he says.

After college, Data took a trip to Germany, "to see the rich history they have there. Hundreds of years (of history) and they still stick to their traditions."

He says while in Germany, Niagara College had organized for the group to do a brew day at the Weihenstephan brewery and university.

"The night before, we had found out about a residence bar and decided to go there for the night."



Griffin Data. BRITTANY CARTER

He says he was one of four from the group to show up in the morning ready to work and learn. "Kind of expected when you can get pints of some of the best beer in the world for two euros," he says.

While in Germany he immersed himself in the culture. That experience accelerated his desire to work in the beer industry. Sampling traditional beer styles in abundance with friends, he wanted to recreate that feeling back home.

Drawn to classic styles and German beer, his first brew is a brown lager.

"The style of the beer is called a Munich Dunkel. It's more toasty in flavour than a normal lager, with a hint of chocolate."

Without a physical brewery in place, he has contracted with Taps Brewing Company Inc. to brew his beer. He says he provided the ingredients

"The style of the beer is called a Munich Dunkel. It's more toasty in flavour than a normal lager with a hint of chocolate."

GRIFFIN DATA
OWNER OF NEWARK BREWING
COMPANY

and, using his recipe, the Niagara Falls brewery made batches for him.

Data's desire to keep life classic and traditional is evident through the branding for the new brewing company. He says he wanted people to look at his logo and believe that this company will be around in 50 years.

With no inclination to rush into things, he has been working on branding and building up a name for



Griffin Data's Dunkel, Newark Brewing Company. BRITTANY CARTER

himself until the opportunity for a physical brewery comes available. "Everything will happen when it's supposed to."

While he is the sole proprietor of the business, he says he isn't alone.

Supported and encouraged by his girlfriend, Natalie Ramsay, he says

their first date should have scared her away. Sporting a black eye after taking a stick to the face during a hockey game the previous night, he says he came off as some kind of "goon fighter," but that's the opposite of his personality.

Obviously overcoming that first impression, they

have been together for years.

"She gets to be on the front lines for any taste-testing going on and even helps me pick up supplies when I need them. She's been an all-star."

Beer never played a large role in his household growing up. His mom, a wine-drinker and his dad, a lover of rum, meant he didn't really think much about beer until he went to bars and discovered it on tap.

Shying away from the big-name light beers, he gravitated toward the full-bodied, flavourful drafts available at the time, particularly Rickard's Red.

He became a connoisseur of craft beer around the time Silversmith Brewing Company was established.

Silversmith opened the door for quality craft beer in his neighbourhood and Data says he began to realize his love of the complex and highly praised beverage.

Driven and eager for this new venture in his life, Data says he thinks he fits into a niche where he is doing something a bit different with his Dunkel.

"Nobody around really does that. Even in the LCBO you don't see a lot of them. If you do, they're European versions. So that is a little bit of a niche."

By breaking into the local craft-beer market, Data says he wants to bring something new to his hometown, remembering his roots and doing what he loves. He says his beer is not on tap anywhere at the moment, but he has hit the ground running, approaching local bars and restaurants in hopes of getting his first beer out to the public.

He says he will be set up at the Albino Rhino Beer Festival in Ridgeway on May 25. He will post updates about what he's up to and when his beer can be found locally through his Instagram, @Newark-Brewing.

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NOTL golf club open for new season amid \$4.7 million shoreline project

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

As Niagara-on-the-Lake's golf club's restaurant opened its doors Wednesday, the massive \$4.7 million project to restore the Lake Ontario shoreline along the northern edge of the course is continuing.

"We've been closed for a couple of months, but we're excited to be re-opened again," said John Wiens, owner of the NOTL Golf Club.

Wiens said he is really thankful that Parks Canada is working with the club on restoring the shoreline.

"(The project) is coming along really well," he told The Lake Report. "They've done quite a bit this winter. We're excited to get a good portion of it done."

Parks Canada has been working on creating a rock breakwall to protect the shore from erosion that was posing a threat to Fort Mississauga and causing trees and large chunks of earth to fall into the lake.

Phase 1 of the project, which started last spring and finished in the fall, included 80 to 100 metres of shore protection work along the western end of the course. Phase 2 started this winter and will cover about 500 metres moving eastward toward the fort.

Brendan BuggeIn, Parks Canada's asset manager, said the project was initially scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2020 but now hopes to be done this summer.

"I'm really pleased with how much we've been able to get done today," he told The Lake Report.

In total, \$4.7 million will be spent on the project, including environmental assessments and tree planting. BuggeIn said \$970,000 was first allocated for studies and phase designs in April 2018.

Between 100 and 200 trees need to be removed during the work because they are either dead, fallen or at risk of falling into the lake, said BuggeIn.



Large stones are dumped into Lake Ontario to improve shoreline protection along the waterfront at the Niagara Golf Club. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



Large stones are dumped into Lake Ontario to improve shoreline protection along the waterfront at the Niagara Golf Club. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

"We did survey them and most of them are not native species. There were no species at-risk trees, so we didn't have any concerns there," he said.

Once the breakwall construction is complete, Parks Canada, along with NOTL Golf Club, will replant about 300 native species of trees and bushes along the shore.

Parks Canada is aware the public wants proper pedestrian access to the shore but, at this point, doesn't know yet how it can be done safely, BuggeIn said.

Wiens said he encountered some challenges this past winter while preparing for this week's reopening.

"There was a lot of wind. We had a lot of natural pruning out on the course," he said. "There's been a lot



A truck carries large stones to be used for shoreline protection along the waterfront at the Niagara Golf Club. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

of cleanups. And we had an arborist this winter as well when he trimmed a good number of trees."

The golf course is set to open next Friday, April 5, weather permitting, he said.

The semi-private golf club, with over 500 members, features a full-length nine-hole golf course and a

dining area with a waterfront patio.

The clubhouse restaurant brings back some old items like Taco Tuesdays and Name That Tune trivia game on Thursdays. It will also have new items on the menu such as a family-style roast dinner on Sundays, Wiens said.



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31	1	2	3
<p>Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours</p> <p>Family Friendly Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Teen Literary Alliance - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Chocolate Making - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus</p>	<p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Flag Raising for Canadian Cancer Society - 11:30 a.m. - Town Hall</p> <p>Committee of the Whole - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Monday Night Teen Hang Out - 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>Tumble Tots - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Flag Raising for World Autism Day - 10 a.m. - Town Hall</p> <p>Common Ground Exhibition: Daniel Pigeon & Julie Ponesse - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Bus Trip to the AGO - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Riverbrink Art Museum</p> <p>Free Tax Clinic - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Chocolate and Tea - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Movie: Boy Erased p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Painting Drop In - 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange (Spring League Week) p.m. - The Exchange</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters 8:30 p.m. - Niagara Campus</p>
7	8	9	10
<p>Cupcake Decorating - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus</p> <p>25th Anniversary Celebration Party at Niagara Pumphouse - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara</p>	<p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Town Council Meeting - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Monday Night Teen Hang Out - 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>Tumble Tots - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Golden Age Club - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>St. Andrew's Lecture: 225 Years: The Crooked Movers and Shakers of Canada - 10 a.m. - St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church</p> <p>Beyond The Myth: Leonardo da Vinci in the 15th Century p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum</p> <p>InfoHealth: The Toxic Ovarian and Pancreatic Cancer p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange (Spring League Week) p.m. - The Exchange</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters 8:30 p.m. - Niagara Campus</p>

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3 Ice Cream Social - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Beer & Bites - 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Orange Brewery (Week 1) - 6:30 p.m. - Orange Brewery College - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - College, NOTL	4 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 Opening Reception of Common Ground Exhibition: Daniel Pigeon & Julie Ponesse - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	5 Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre St. Davids and District Lions Club: Friday Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids and District Lions Club Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara - A Taste of Niagara An 1812 Officers' Dinner - Fort George Beef on a Bun Supper (\$15) - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Grace United Church Yellow Door Theatre Project: Coffee House Youth Series - 7 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre Project	6 Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Healthy, Green Lawn Care - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens Free Tax Clinic - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library How to Build Your Story: Plotting novels & writing short stories - 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Children's Day at St. David's Vet Clinic - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. David's Vet Clinic Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara - A Taste of Niagara
10 Ice Cream Social - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Beer & Bites - 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Orange Brewery (Week 3) - 6:30 p.m. - Orange Brewery College - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - College, NOTL	11 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	12 Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Bravo Niagara! Presents Cheng Duo - 7:30 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards Humour & HOPS Anniversary Show - 9 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery	13 Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Spring Garden Essentials - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens Bravo Niagara! Presents Nat Cole: A King's Centennial - 7:30 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards The Greatest Songwriters You've Never Heard - 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre Project

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NOTL Ukesters remember Miranda

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Remember Miranda, a charity fund raising money for children's cancer research, was gifted \$1000 by the NOTL Ukesters on March 24.

The charity started as an idea by Miranda Bauer before she tragically lost her battle with cancer on March 27, 2013.

Upon discovering that only four to six per cent of funds donated to Sick Kids goes directly to research into children's cancers, she decided she would take a stand and fight.

With the support of her mother and father, Patti and John Bauer, and her younger brother, Eric – and armed with \$500 given to her by her parents – she organized a BBQ fundraiser event in June 2012.

Through that fundraiser, which included a BBQ, live music and a silent auction, she raised exactly \$10,260.38.

After Miranda died as the result of a rare and aggressive form of cancer called Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, her family decided to continue the fight.

The Bauer's now host an annual event to raise money for research for the "grossly-underfunded" children's cancers.

On April 13, the family will host the Sixth Annual Making More Miracles, in memory of Miranda Bauer. The trivia night with a pasta dinner, silent auction, cash bar and penny tables will be held at John Michael's Banquet Hall in Thorold. Doors open at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by emailing jbauer3@bell.net, or texting 905-246-2914.

Appreciating all the support received, Patti Bauer said she will keep raising money for children's cancers, continuing her daughter's fight.

She said the tragic loss they experienced shouldn't have to happen to anyone else.

"Something like what we've gone through isn't



Bauer family receiving check for donation to Remember Miranda, from the Ukesters. BRITTANY CARTER

something that people expect you to go through, and it isn't something that they would just know."

She said when she met Alan Ash of the NOTL Ukesters he was speaking of the charities the group donates to and she asked if he had ever thought about donating to Sick Kids.

"That's how our relationship started."

She said it was wonderful and bitter-sweet receiving the check on Sunday.

"It was such a generous thing that they did."

The ukulele group opened the afternoon by introducing the Bauer family. They played a rendition of With a Little Help from my Friends by The Beatles, in tribute to the Bauers.

Bauer said her family has received support and love from so many, crediting the owners of Niagara Institute of Music and Arts, Rick and Rosa Rose, for being there every step of the way. She said NIOMA has helped with fundraising and events, adding that Miranda



Alan Ash and Diana Ash present Patti Bauer with a donation check of \$1000 on Sunday, March 24. BRITTANY CARTER

and Eric both attended the school for music.

"Rick and Rosa have almost become part of our family. They've been so supportive of everything we do, every year, always. And so supportive of what Miranda wanted to do."

Bauer said Miranda was so focused on making a

difference.

"She knew it was a miracle she was still with us."

Knowing that such a small amount of research deals with the type of cancer she dealt with, Bauer said her daughter kept the fight going.

"It's 30 years before you have a change in protocol.

It's ridiculous. It's unacceptable."

Crediting her daughter with getting the initiative off the ground, Bauer said everything they have done since is all because of her dedication and quality of character.

"That was her thing, she was going to make that dif-

ference."

The difference she has made so far is evident in the amount raised and the support gathered. To date, Sick Kids has received \$107,000 from her cause's fundraising and donations.

Donations can be made to Sick Kids - reference Remember Miranda - T8294.



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Jamming a tune

Kyla Paul sings her heart out during the first ever The Greatest Songwriters You've Never Heard event at Yellow Door Theatre Project Saturday night.

The most wonderful time of the year

Tim Carroll
Executive Director
Shaw Festival
Exclusive to TLR

This is the most exciting time of the year at The Shaw. The place is buzzing with creativity: at the Court House and the Festival rehearsal rooms, seven different plays are at different stages of preparation. At one end of the spectrum, Brigadoon and Rope are about to move into the theatre, while, at the other, Sex and The Glass Menagerie had their first read-throughs this week. A handful of shows, including Cyrano de Bergerac, will not even start rehearsal for another few weeks. Meanwhile, over in Virgil, our scene shop is putting the finishing touches to The Ladykillers and the prop shop is making a splendid wedding cake and much more for Getting Married. Creativity everywhere you look.

First on stage will be The Horse And His Boy. This show is especially close to my heart, not just because it is part of the Narnia series that I started last year with The Magician's Nephew, but because it is aimed at family audiences, for whom I have always loved making theatre.



Tim Carroll in the Royal George Theatre. SUPPLIED PHOTO

This kind of programming is relatively new to The Shaw, having started with Peter and the Starcatcher a couple of years before I arrived, and I never had any doubt that I wanted to commit to it. In my first year we staged Wilde Tales, which was beautifully directed by Christine Brubaker; so this year I have asked her to tell the next chapter of the story

of Narnia. The Horse And His Boy is a beautiful, romantic adventure story about a boy and a girl and the journey they have to undertake. The sets, which I have seen being painted in the paint shop, are breathtaking; and I know that, for all the time children spend in front of screens, they still get a unique buzz from sharing a space with live perform-

ers in the act of creation.

In each of our family shows since I started we have had an interactive element, with a special workshop before the performance giving the kids a chance to be involved in the telling of the story as it unfolds on stage. This has been one of our most successful innovations, and I have loved listening to the team coming up with creative ideas for how to make the experience of the show unforgettable.

I feel very passionate about this kind of work. The thrill of live theatre is a basic human need, one that all children should experience. It makes me rage when school budget cuts are targeted at the arts because, somehow, they are less 'useful' than other subjects. The assumptions behind such cuts are questionable on every level: do we educate people to be economically useful, or to be good citizens who can fulfil their human potential? And anyway, even if we are only preparing young people to join the workforce, what are employers and economists all saying we are going to need most in this rapidly-changing world?

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Across

- 1. Gossamer (6)
- 5. Like many Sherpas (8)
- 9. Affliction of cats and other fur-lickers (8)
- 10. Skin condition sought by beachgoers (6)
- 11. Science of logic, quantity, shape and arrangement (Abbr.) (5)
- 12. Tacit (7)
- 15. Owner of a business (10)
- 17. Inert gaseous element (4)
- 18. Sour (4)
- 20. Place for American children in the holidays (6,4)
- 22. Galilee native (7)
- 23. Spread out (5)
- 27. Small restaurant (6)
- 28. Elongate (8)
- 29. South American boa (8)
- 30. Person in the petroleum industry (6)

Down

- 2. D-Day beach (5)
- 3. Navy vessel (7)
- 4. Spoiled child (4)
- 5. World's longest river (4)
- 6. Autopsy (4-6)
- 7. Wool fat (7)
- 8. Private room on a passenger ship (9)
- 13. Hollywood (10)
- 14. Stub (5)
- 16. Economic decline (9)
- 19. Severe (7)
- 21. Uppercase (7)
- 24. Cub leader (5)
- 25. Entreaty (4)
- 26. Keen on (4)

Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9						10			
11						12			
			13	14					
15	16							17	
18		19	20					21	
22							23		24
27						28			
29								30	

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

Last issue's answers

1	S	C	R	A	M	4	A	S	S	6	I	S	T	A	N	T		
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	E	O	L	L	E													
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Sudoku

4				7		9		
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			9			2	1	
	9	8						7



SPICY

National art competition celebrates Pumphouse's 25th year

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Pumphouse is celebrating 25 years of artistic growth with a Canada-wide art competition.

Sponsored by Walker Industries, the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is holding a competition to spotlight emerging or established artists across the country.

Submissions are being accepted until this Saturday, March 30. For a \$25 application fee, artists are asked to provide up to three images of the piece of art being submitted, plus a short bio and artist statement.

Two-dimensional art pieces must be between eight and 36 inches in any dimension. Three-dimensional pieces can be no larger than six feet high by two feet long or wide.

By early Wednesday afternoon, the Pumphouse had received 130 submissions. Rima Boles, director, said many were received over the last few days, expecting to see many more before the submission deadline.

The art media being submitted have been varied. The largest percentage are paintings so far, she said.

"We have had mixed media, we've had sculpture submissions, drawings.

There's a total of \$3,000 in cash prizes to be won. First place is awarded \$2,500, second is \$250. Third place, the people's choice award, is also \$250.

The 25 finalists will be notified via email by June 15.

Boles said the art centre provides opportunities for artists locally on an on-going basis but for the 25th anniversary, "We wanted to reach out to a wider

group of artists beyond the Niagara Region."

"Of course, we want to represent the Niagara region, and we do with a lot of our exhibitions on a yearly basis. But we want to reach out further across Canada and we wanted to provide opportunities for new artists to get some extra publicity."

In a media release, board chair Lise Andreana said Walker Industries is committed to the community and supports the arts.

"We are thrilled Walker Industries took up the challenge to become the art competition sponsor," Andreana said. "With this competition we hope to discover and feature a whole new group of artists and bring their works to public attention."

The competition will be judged by a panel of six jurors – renowned experts

in the Canadian art field.

Boles said the committee working on planning the 25th anniversary celebration created another committee to deal with the competition. Through that, the panel of jurors was selected.

"One of our jurors, Lenore Richards, joined that committee and sort of took on the larger role, helping to coordinate. She reached out to some of her contacts in the art community to join the jury."

The work of the 25 finalists will be on display at the Niagara Pumphouse and Arts Centre for a one-month gallery show. That show will coincide with the 14th annual Art at the Pumphouse Original Art Show and Sale on Aug. 3 and 4.

"That's our big indoor and outdoor event. So that will be at the end of that exhibition. It attracts over 2,000 people. We're hoping to get



Rima Boles, director, Lenore Richards, head juror, Cheryl Morris, member of the board, stand in front of the Pumphouse. BRITTANY CARTER

a good turnout so people can cast their vote for the people's choice award."

The last day of the exhibition will also include the Pumphouse's 25th anniversary party, on Aug. 4.

Boles said the competition is an ideal way for artists to gain exposure.

"For artists thinking about submitting, I would

say that this is a great opportunity to have your work reviewed by a jury of arts professionals, an opportunity to exhibit as part of the group exhibition of 25 finalists and a chance to be selected for a prize."

Artists can submit their art through the online form on the Pumphouse's website.



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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report

THE OLD PUMPHOUSE



The Pumphouse art gallery supplied drinking water for the town from the Niagara River up to the late 1970s. At one time the pump house also generated electricity for the town. The brick building in the foreground of the picture was likely the sub station for power distribution.

SUPPLIED/JIM SMITH

ARCHITEXT

Marriage by design

Brian Marshall
Featured

I fail to understand people who believe that an addition to a building should never be of the same design style as the original. Their argument appears to be that if there is no differential, then the original is somehow diminished or lost in the new composition. While this certainly can occur, why would a different style for the renovation alter the level of threat to the integrity of the original? In my opinion, it doesn't. Simply put, without the skills of a sympathetic and highly talented designer any addition is likely to result in a seriously flawed composition.

Consider the case of To-



Woodbourne Inn in St. Davids. SUPPLIED

ronto's Royal Ontario Museum and its 2007 "Crystal" addition wherein two wildly divergent styles are locked in a discordant battle for dominance within the presentation. In effect, there is no overall composition but rather an attached juxtaposition of two separate and distinct designs which, lacking any mutual design continuity, diminishes both.

Whether designing an addition in the style of the original or another form,

success lies in using the key design principles in a sympathetic fashion which respects the heritage of the original building while creating a unified composition. Take for instance the Woodbourne Inn located in St. Davids.

In 1839, the Woodruffs built a solid Georgian home which they occupied while their family fortunes multiplied. By 1880, they decided to add a substantial extension in the Gothic

Revival style. Importantly, the original Georgian was left unaltered and its linear lines were carried across the new Gothic addition. The cross gable orientation of the taller Gothic balances the weight and expanse of the Georgian. Even the clapboard was precisely aligned to re-enforce horizontal continuity between the new and the old. The result is a happy 'marriage' of complementary partners which just "feels right."

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The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper, whether through our donate button online or by mailing us a cheque.

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Bio of a writer Richard West



Richard grew up in London, England. He trained as an engineer then emigrated to Canada. His career involved travel to many parts of our wonderful planet. Richard is blessed with two wonderful children, and four super grandchildren.

West has lived in NOTL since 1979. He has always loved to read. Exposed to Welsh poetry and verse by his wife, he has a soft spot for Dylan Thomas.

He started writing stories in the early 1990s, to see how it was done. Over the intervening years, he has written about family memories and science fiction stories. His journey of learning about this craft has been rewarding.

Richard has written a number of short stories and newspaper articles, as well as two novels.

Corporal West's Adventures

By: Richard West

Corporal Dick West served in the British Army, Royal Artillery during the Second World War, while his wife Winnifred (Winn) struggled with the war in London, England. They were my parents. These short stories are derived from them telling me what it was like in those times. All the characters except for Corporal West and his wife Winn, are fictitious.

Dick was first called up in 1938 during the Munich crisis. He returned to civilian life in 1939 only to be called up again in late summer as the Second World War broke out. He was finally demobbed early in 1946. These stories are in chronological order.

Editor's note: This story will be published as a series of 10 short stories. This is part two. Check the paper weekly to keep up with the series.

WEDNESDAY STORE RUN

"Corporal West."
"Yes, Sir."
"From now on we have to collect our stores from a depot in Croydon. You are licenced to drive a three tonner. Am I correct?"
"Yes, Sir."
"Fine. Then sign out a lorry and take a squaddie with you. Find this place in Croydon and collect our stores. Check them against this list and make sure you get back here in one piece."
"Yes, Captain."
"Dismissed, West."

This is a welcome break from the endless drills preparing for when the Luftwaffe decide to bomb us in earnest.
A nice drive in the country. If I play my cards right we might even be able to stop in Downham and see Mum on the way back.
Getting to Greenwich to see Winn is too far to go. We'd be really late and they would realize I'd used a lot of extra fuel.

They set off and collected the stores in Croydon. It was a pleasant 45 mile drive through English country lanes. Visiting Downham would add about three quarters of an hour to the trip.
By the time the lorry was loaded and they were on the way back to camp it started to get dark. They had to stop regularly to pass the security checks at most crossroads as they wound through the lanes of Sussex. Driving in a blackout is not easy. The headlights are painted black with just a slit to let out narrow beams of light. The dark country lanes

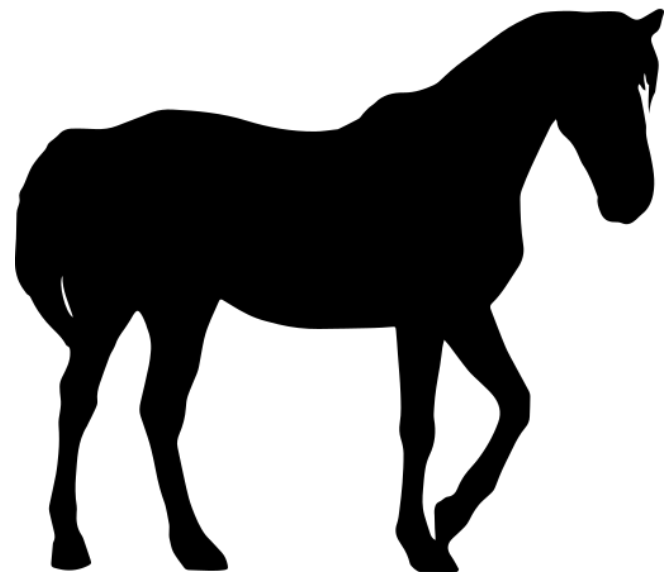
meant Dick had to drive slowly to avoid hitting anything.
The trip went well though they did not get back to camp until gone 10 p.m.
"OK, West. Now you know the drill, collect the stores list each Wednesday from Sergeant Humble, and get what we need."
"Yes, Sir."

This welcome diversion from the normal camp routine went on for three weeks.
On the fourth trip he had Jonesy with him as they crawled back through the last few miles of country lanes. It was raining and so darker than usual. It was not a comfortable ride. The three tonner had an open cab with a small collapsible windscreen. They were both soaked and getting tired.
Suddenly the lorry bumped to a stop as a massive head knocked the

windscreen flat.
Jonesy ducked down and yelled. Dick sat wondering what on earth had happened. That terrifying head disappeared but they were still left shaking.
"God. That was a bloody horse, Corp."
"A horse? It was huge."
"Some horses are very big, Corp."

They got down from the lorry. A large horse lay across the lane in front of the vehicle.
"Have I killed it?" Dick asked. Jonesy came from a farming community in South Wales and when it came to animals Dick deferred to his superior knowledge.
Jonesy knelt down and stroked the huge animal. It twitched, neighed and clattered to its hooves. The horse swung its head away from them and trotted off down the lane, leaving two wet soldiers standing in

front of the dented three tonner.
Later, back at camp, "So you drove into a horse?"
"Yes, Sarge."
"Didn't know you were blind, West."
"Couldn't see it until we were right on top of it, Sarge."
"OK. How much had you had to drink?"
"Nothing, Sarge."
"That's right, Sarge," piped in Jonesy.
"Hold your tongue, Private."
"Yes, Sarge."
The sergeant eyed them both for a few more seconds then said, "OK. I'll deal with the Captain. Report back here next Wednesday to get the stores list."
"Yes, Sarge."
"And no messing about next time."
"Yes, Sarge," as he lowered his head, so not noticing the grin on the Sergeant's face.



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Rob and Jim Black wait for their next catch.
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Cruising on Lake Ontario for the catch of the day.
EUNICE TANG



Rob Black happily holding his catch of the day.
EUNICE TANG

Shaw film series regulars at somewhat of a loss

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

Countless psychologists and self-help gurus have told us that if we do the same thing over and over again at least nine times, it becomes a habit. Dale Carnegie, Dr. Phil, Billy Graham, Freud and now Doug Ford espouse this concept. The same is true for good habits as well as bad habits.

This is certainly the case on Saturday afternoons in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the less warm months of the year. For some fifteen years now, the Shaw Film series has provided entertainment and cocktail fodder for hundreds of local residents and visitors to "our town." So much more than just a movie, the films selected by Stephen Levy expand our horizons, introduce us to the real world out there, and allow us to enjoy the cachet and comfort of the Festival theatre.

We all have certain



The venerable Stagecoach restaurant enjoyed a bumper day last Saturday. Downtown NOTL was a bit more crowded than usual on Saturday afternoons, now that the 2018-2019 Shaw Film Series is over for the year. Film regulars wandered from storefront to storefront, from restaurant to restaurant, anxiously searching for something to do.

ROSS ROBINSON

anchors in our weekly activities. The faithful sitting in church at 10:30 Sunday mornings, a haircut every four or five weeks, a coffee group at Tims or Willow or Sweets 'n Swirls Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Perhaps a choir practice each Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m. in Queenston, or a

cold, frothy Oast House or Silversmith ale at 4 p.m. each Friday.

When one of these activities is not available, it causes a certain disorientation. We need to readjust, to find something new to do. We drift for awhile, until we find a substitute for the cat-cuddly comfort of our

regular routine. We wander a bit, trying to get our feet solidly on the ground.

For over a month now, many NOTLers have found themselves walking on Queen Street on Saturday afternoons. A bit out of sorts, disoriented, something is not normal. After five months of knowing that

they would be with friends enjoying a film at the Shaw Festival Theatre, the season ended in late February. Our comfort zone had us in the foyer by 1:30 or so, enjoying a light lunch from Good-dine Catering, and a glass of Niagara's finest. Casual conversations, commenting on the frightful and wonderful weather outside, waiting for Stephen Levy to introduce the day's film.

Now, what to do? Window shopping, a tuna salad sandwich at the Stagecoach, a pint at The Harp or The Sporty? Our comfortable old cardigan had gone missing. We took a long walk along the Niagara Parkway path, but something just wasn't right. Finding something else to do was disconcerting.

The Shaw Film selections this year were so enjoyable and educational. Leave No Trace, Can You Ever Forgive Me, I Feel Pretty, BlacKkKlansman – it's a real world out there past the vineyards and Q.E.W. And the last film, A Star is

Born, what a story.

I remember back a few years when we watched *The King's Speech*. What a story of determination and bravery. The fake speech therapist from Australia, and then the elation we all felt as the King delivered his speech flawlessly, without a stutter.

Now, we wander, we find other things to do on a Saturday afternoon. By April, we will have adjusted our behaviours. Stephen Levy and Carol Walker and their team will put together another great series of films for us to enjoy next winter. We will enjoy the cold, crisp days, the coziness of the Shaw Festival Theatre, the comfortable casualness of watching a film and learning something new. Being reminded there is a real world out there, beyond our beautiful Niagara Peninsula.

So much more than a film. Long live the Shaw Film Series.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada in 2019.

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Navy Hall Part 2 of 2



Denise Ascenzo
Featured

Not thinking of preservation of history, Navy Hall was unceremoniously moved across the road closer to the ruins of Fort George.

By the turn of the 20th century, Navy Hall was on the verge of collapse. It was now being used as a cow barn and stables.

We can be thankful though, that through some misguided belief, Navy Hall was thought to be one building that survived the War of 1812, was historic because of its association with the Simcoes and as well was the seat of Ontario's first government. With this in mind, in the early part of the 20th Century, local residents interested in history petitioned the federal government for funds to restore Navy Hall. The Army responded by stabilizing the building.

During World War One, when NOTL was a massive training camp, Navy Hall was used as a medical facility with six dental chairs, an inoculation area and storage for medical supplies. After the war, Navy Hall was once again left to deteriorate.

The Great Depression of the 1930s hit Canada very hard; men were out of work and families were homeless. It was during this time that Fort George, Fort Mississauga and Navy Hall were rescued from total rot and ruin.

In 1934 the Niagara Parks Commission, for the grand price of \$1.00 per year for 99 years would lease these three historical properties from the Federal Government. Part of the agreement would be to restore the buildings, using federal funds, for "make work" projects during the depression and restore



The Navy Hall. BRITTANY CARTER

these three properties.

Navy Hall was to finally be restored properly and the first action, in 1934 was to move the building back to the river, close to its original site. The railroad spur was no longer in operation.

A cursory archeological assessment was done prior to moving Navy Hall but only in areas that were excavated for the new foundations and for the trench that would bring services to the building. It is unfortunate to say that between moving Navy Hall the first time, digging up the area for the railway line, digging the trench for services to be brought into the area and general commerce over the years pretty much destroyed any significant finds.

Shards of earthenware, stoneware and ceramics were found. Fragments of glass bottles, some even dating into the 20th century, as well as metals, the most common being nails from three different eras. A metal

strap of a wagon wheel was found near an electrician's wire. The dig was a disappointment for all.

There were no conclusive finds at this time that dated before the War of 1812, not even the foundations of the first buildings were found. The restoration of Navy Hall could continue.

A basement was dug and a new stone foundation was built. The wooden building was then moved back across the road onto its new foundation to once again sit beside Niagara River.

The final reconstruction of Navy Hall did not get started again until 1937 when the wooden walls were clad in stone on the outside to save the wood from the elements.

Many of the wooden walls and beams inside Navy Hall were from the original construction of 1814. However many had deteriorated beyond saving, so beams from an old barn in Niagara Falls were used to replace them.

New windows were added where there had never been windows and a fireplace built where there had been no fireplace in the original. However a great deal of the original fabric of the 1814 Navy Hall was preserved.

The reconstruction of Navy Hall was completed in 1937.

Navy Hall is not open to the public but can be rented for functions through Parks Canada.

One small building of interest across the street from Navy Hall is the "Stone Cottage". This was the old customs house when the King's Wharf was in full use during the 1830s. At the same time that Navy Hall was being restored, this Stone Cottage was restored and also clad in stone.

Over the years the Stone Cottage has had many uses other than a customs house. In 1936/37 it was the office of Ronald Way who was the historian for the reconstruction of Fort George. In

the 1970s it was the office of Dan Glenney who was the Manager of Interpretation in Niagara along with his assistant Vera Demetre.

At one time the Stone Cottage was the location of the library for Fort George before the library was moved into Block 3 inside the fort in the 1990s.

Then from 2007 to 2013 it was the offices of Ron Dale (historian) who was the project officer for the federal government's initiative to recognize the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.

The Stone Cottage is now used for storage by Parks Canada but will likely be used again as a pleasant office space in the future.

Today you can stroll along the river's edge by Navy Hall and imagine tall ships mooring there.

Or stop and listen for the bustle of the crowds around the steam train as it sat by the wharf waiting to return to Buffalo.

Walk around a lovely

stone monument in honour of Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe and his wife Elizabeth. You will soon come to understand why the Simcoe family preferred living under canvas in such a lovely setting.

Ref: Parks Canada – manuscript report 386, On Common Ground – Merrick, Niagara Historical Society and Museum – archives, Ron Dale – Niagara Historian.

**Part 1 was published
March 21.**

More of Denise's articles about the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at www.niagaranow.com.

Denise is a regular Niagara Now contributor who 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 with a story idea, please contact editor@niagaranow.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.



Soon we'll be camping



Artifact of the Week:

**Judge's Bench from
Town of Niagara Courthouse, 1817**



Answer: This week's artifact is a bench or judges' seat from the Town of Niagara Courthouse in 1817. From 1781 to 1862, the Town of Niagara was the legal centre of the Province of Upper Canada and the county of Lincoln and Welland. This resulted in the development of a large legal community and the building of three different court houses. After the first courthouse was burned by American forces in December 1813, a replacement was constructed in 1817 and located in present day Rye Park to ensure it was out of range of American cannon fire. This chair served as the bench for the presiding judge. As one of the earliest neo-Gothic chairs in Ontario, this formal seat remained in use at the third courthouse on Queen Street until 1847. After the county court was relocated to St. Catharines, the Queen Street courthouse was transformed into a Town Hall and the chair was utilized by the Mayors of Niagara in council meetings until at least 1877.

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 have high standards.



The great pothole challenge



Potholes on Old Lakeshore Road.

Know of bad streets in town? Let's continue to help the town and regional crews by showing them where some of the biggest, most dangerous, ugliest road blemishes are. How? Nominate the street with the worst of the worst potholes in NOTL and send us a picture or address. Email your photos, with descriptions and details, plus your contact info to: 2019PotholeHunt@niagaranow.com We will publish the best submissions over the next few weeks and do our best to get them fixed. Here are some examples of potholes on Old Lakeshore Road.



**Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:
Hob Nob Restaurant**

Upon entering the historic Inn one feels the right amount of "hobnobbing" truly happens in this intimate venue. The restaurant offers fine dining as well as a selection of casual finger foods and boutique wines. The washrooms were discreetly located down a private corridor with room for two. The black and white tile floors spoke of its historic charm. The room was cozy with a stylish glass bowl sink and faucet. A purse or bag hanger was provided and the large mirror amplified the overhead lighting.

3.5/5 Golden Plungers



RIDDLE ME THIS:

I belong to you but others use me more often than you do. What am I?

Last Week's answer: An egg. Answered first by Cheryl House.

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



A scenic view of the Commons on Saturday.
SUBMITTED BY JORDYN MATOLLA.



Tony Chisholm, president of Friends of Fort George, presents Irish Design owner Paul Dickson a plaque to recognize years of support for FOFG.
SUBMITTED BY TONY CHISHOLM

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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

DOROTHY WALKER

THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND FRIENDS OF ST. DAVIDS



Dorothy Walker, author of *A Village in the Shadows* and driving force behind Friends of St. Davids. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

With a desire to bring St. Davids into the light, Dorothy Walker, author and publisher of *A Village in the Shadows*, is the driving force behind a new community group, Friends of St. Davids.

Together with her husband Greg, the pair has helped organize the St. Davids community, garnering support and interest in the social group.

The aim is to breathe life into the village by energizing and unifying the residents.

Walker says, as a result of her book launch in July 2018, she discovered a need for community in the village. After the book was published, she hosted a garden party in her backyard in celebration.

"The reception was beyond my wildest dreams." Inviting those who pre-

ordered the book and others in the neighbourhood, she says she met many wonderful people, but few of them really knew each other.

She wanted to find a way to bring the community together socially.

"The book is the heart of the group."

St. Davids played a pivotal role in the War of 1812, but has been left out by most historians, she says.

In conducting extensive research for her book, Walker says she was amazed how much history existed in St. Davids. "There was the Woodruffs and David Secord, he was a major in the militia during the War of 1812. So, those are the names that people remember. But there's so much more to the history of the village."

The project started out as a request to retype a previous book outlining the history of St. Davids, but

Walker says she conducted research and dove deeper into the village's inception. By the time she completed the book, she says she wasn't comfortable publishing, knowing it was essentially a rewrite and could be construed as plagiarism. Though she says she had permission from the family of the original author, she wasn't happy moving forward.

Instead, she took what she had learned in her research and probed even deeper. She used skills acquired during her career in the medical drugs and devices research field, on a mission to tell the story of the oftentimes forgotten St. Davids community. The resulting book is "completely different" than the one she initially started retyping. Finding her voice and telling the story of St. Davids, it was the culmination of four years of work.

The area holds historical and cultural significance that shouldn't be forgotten, she says.

"People use St. Davids to get to Niagara Falls or Queenston, or Old Town, but they don't stop."

Walker says she wasn't bringing the Friends of St. Davids to life for political reasons, but to gather residents together socially. Though, that doesn't mean the group won't be a driving force behind the change she hopes to see in the community.

"I am going to be the fire under the feet of council members."

Bringing community services such as transportation, a pool, a community centre and a library to the people of St. Davids is important, she says. Set 10 kilometres from Old Town, she says many residents in the village can't make it to community buildings in NOTL, adding that St.

Davids is quiet, but that doesn't mean it should be forgotten during the decision-making.

Friends of St. Davids is still working out operating details. With no funding coming in, she says it's up to the group to cover any insurance or costs that arise through event planning.

"We have no funds. We are planning, and the local people seem to be acceptable to paying \$15 per person. That will give us a bit of working capital."

She says the money raised through the annual membership fee, which will be effective May 1, will go to paying for amenities and costs associated with running the group properly.

For instance, at the organization's first family summer event on June 23 at Coyote's Run Winery, "we have to rent porta-potties because they don't have bathrooms."

Events will be organized by different members of the group. She says a wine and cheese night was one of the first events the group put together and it sold out. She says she expects equal reception at other initiatives.

There will be several special interest groups: mahjong, golf, dining in and out, and brunch, to name a few. The groups will touch on a variety of interests for the residents.

"We'll have anyone, as many people as we can, we'll get involved in creating the social life of St. Davids. We don't want to be the entire focus, we're just the people who have jumped off the cliff with this (initiative)."

Walker says she wants to bring St. Davids out of the shadows. Through her book and the new community group, she is well on her way to accomplishing just that.

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