



The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 9

March 7, 2019

Niagara-on-the-Lake



GATES TALKS REGION MERGER

Consultation is crucial for smaller communities like Niagara-on-the-Lake

MPP Wayne Gates fears the province will make a rushed decision when it comes to options for making regional government more efficient. He says the province needs to listen to the public and the wishes of small communities with unique identities. RICHARD HARLEY/THE LAKE REPORT

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates says he is worried about whether the wishes of smaller communities will be heard during a provincial review of regional government.

While the province's plans for the future of regional governments remain

unclear, Premier Doug Ford has said he wants to find efficiencies and eliminate duplication. That has many Niagara politicians worried about amalgamation and merger of some municipal governments.

"I'll be honest, we know very little about the plans of the province," said Gates. "They have not indicated to us or talked to us about any

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is a very unique community. It's got an incredible amount of history. We continue to fight every day to make sure we keep our identity and our heritage."

MPP WAYNE GATES

legislation that's going to be brought forward yet."

Still, he is "absolutely" concerned the provincial government is going to make a rushed decision. The regional review is expected to be completed by the summer.

"Everything that I've seen since we've had a new premier in the province of Ontario has been rushed,"

he said during a phone interview with The Lake Report.

"He rushed the bill to go through for autism. That's got parents from right around the province so upset. Instead of consulting with experts around that bill they just went ahead and did it — did not talk to parents, did not talk to the service providers; didn't

talk to the universities and the colleges. Everything they seem to do is a rush without consultation. And I think that's a mistake. I think you've got to talk to people."

Public consultations will be held this spring, an official with the provincial Ministry of Municipal

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Residents champion Niagara spirit

Jer Houghton
The Lake Report

The Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Spirit of Niagara Awards Tuesday, recognizing individuals and businesses for achievements and community contributions to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"It was a fantastic experience for everyone," said Janice Thomson, president of the

Chamber of Commerce.

Nominees, winners, fellow business owners and staff cheered for each other throughout the evening at Queen's Landing as each presenter gave heartfelt comments to each of the recipients.

"We had a real sense of camaraderie among all our business people and our residents who were here," added Thomson.

"They're not competitors — we're all colleagues, we're all in business together. We're in the business of making Niagara-on-the-Lake shine."

Nominations came through the public and business community before the Chamber of Commerce awards committee selected the winners.

The awards night honoured seven groups and companies that included the Christopher

Newton Award for Extraordinary Vision in Business, the Peter Ling Award for Entrepreneurial Spirit, the Community Leadership Award, the Company Year Award, the Lord Mayor's Award for Excellence, the Celia Liu Award for Excellence in Hospitality, and the Chamber of Commerce's Chair Award.

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Raiana Schwenker speaks to her father's achievements and contributions for winning the Citizen of the Year Award at the Spirit of Niagara Awards. JER HOUGHTON

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MPP: Consultation is crucial for smaller communities

Continued from Front Page

Affairs and Public Housing told The Lake Report. However, no dates or locations are available yet, he said. Conrad Spezowka, media relations spokesperson for MMAH, did not comment on whether amalgamation or reducing the size of local councils is being considered.

“Any time you hear the Conservative government talk about finding efficiencies, it’s hard not to get a little nervous,” said Gates. “And when I say that I think there’s some examples of what transpired over the years under the Harris government, when they said they were going to find efficiencies.”

Some changes resulted in the loss of services, which he doesn’t think is in the best interest of taxpayers.

Other examples have had long-lasting and even fatal effects, he said, such as the water treatment disaster in Walkerton.

“Seven people died in Walkerton because of the privatization of the (water treatment) services there,” he said.

Another part of the review, which mayors across Gate’s riding have also expressed concerns about, is the possibility of reducing the number of politicians. “Maybe around the same (way) that I have, like I’m elected to represent Niagara Falls, NOTL and Fort Erie,” Gates said.

By removing local politicians, Gates said people “lose that politician that’s going to come to your house when they have a flood in the basement and a cracked sidewalk.”

“I think having less politi-

cians isn’t always the best for the community,” he said.

One thing he finds “interesting” is that mayors across the region agreed there weren’t many details discussed during their meeting last month with the province’s two special advisers.

“One of the things I was hoping they would have done during the review — that they have to do on a go-forward basis — is give a commitment to the local municipalities that they’re going to be consulted and local input will be taken seriously. I think that’s very important for smaller communities like Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie,” he said.

“Niagara-on-the-Lake is a very unique community. It’s got an incredible amount of history. We continue to fight every day to make sure we

keep our identity and our heritage.”

Fort Erie is similar, he added.

In cases where there are such different identities to communities, the provincial reviewers should be talking to the people and to the politicians elected by the people to represent them, he said.

“My issue is that I don’t want a heavy-handed situation here. They’ve got to consult with the municipalities and the municipalities have to be on board. ‘Cause I’m not so sure a place like Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie would like to see their identities lost with any kind of forced amalgamation.”

“Is there ways to find efficiencies? You can have that discussion with the elected reps.”

“If they’re going to



Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

do something like this, wouldn’t it make sense to have town hall meetings right across Niagara? And listen to residents’ concerns and listen to the elected reps who have been voted in just a few months ago to represent them?”

He said he doesn’t think Niagara needs to be one city to find a voice at a

provincial level.

“We can talk with one voice,” Gates said. “I think we’ve proven that,” citing getting GO Train services to Niagara as an example of when communities came together at the provincial level.

“The reality is on GO Train, there was one voice.”

Sweets and Swirls Cafe’s owners concerned over proposed rent increase

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A proposed rent increase for the NOTL Community Centre’s Sweets and Swirls Café could hurt the business, the owner says.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has included the taxes in a new lease agreement for the cafe and that has owner James Cadeau concerned.

The town didn’t include payment of the property taxes for the site in its original lease agreement and the municipality has been paying those taxes, said Holly Dowd, the town’s chief administrative officer.

At council’s committee of the whole meeting Monday night, Cadeau wanted to know how the tax value was ascertained.

“The additional tax proposed will effectively raise our rent by 50 per cent,” he said. “So I feel I must do my due diligence on this to be fair to the town and ourselves.”

Cadeau said he contact-



James Cadeau and his wife Erinn Lockard have been operating the cafe for five years. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

ed the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) but doesn’t know when he will meet with its representative.

“Once this has been cleared up, we can discuss what is a reasonable contribution of property tax,” he added.

“We paid a reasonable amount of rent during the first five years of our lease, with reasonable increases built in,” said Cadeau.

“We believe the town council is working on an equitable solution and we are confirming the accuracy of the assessment with MPAC.”

In the previous lease contract, the property tax wasn’t included due to the town’s error, according to the staff report.

“(The owners) knew property tax was part of (the lease agreement) but maybe they didn’t know they were supposed to pay it,” Dowd said.

Cadeau and his wife Erinn Lockard have operated the Sweets and Swirls Café at community centre for five years. The first two years were difficult for them, he said.

“Erinn poured her soul and her heart into that place and

it’s only within the last two years we’re starting to see benefits,” said Cadeau.

If the rent goes up, the prices at the café would also have to increase, he said.

“We’ve tried really hard to keep it reasonable,” he said. “It’s going to be hard to keep the prices down if we have to pay more and more. We want to cater to all the people of the community.”

Sheldon Randall, the town’s director of operations, said the tenant knew how much the taxes would be at the time of negotiating the café’s lease extension back in November 2018.

Coun. Gary Burroughs suggested there had to be a transitional charge of property taxes and Coun. Wendy Cheropita supported him.

“I would hate to see us force a good tenant to not be able to have a viable business if we’re increasing the lease payment so high in one year,” she said.

Coun. Allan Bisback also spoke in favour of the motion, saying, “we want to support small business and it’s a great

venue to go.”

Coun. John Wiens said as someone in the food industry, he knows how difficult it can be to make ends meet.

Bisback also expressed concerns about possible precedents as there is another tenant in the community centre, Niagara Nursery School.

If we put transitional planning for one place, we need to put it in for the others too, said Bisback.

“We have to be very careful,” agreed Coun. Stuart McCormack. “If we’re going to do a deal for one party, we should be doing for all that are similarly situated. And to not do it is giving somebody a favourable or preferential treatment.”

As the new lease agreement with the café is for five years, Coun. Norm Arsenault made a motion to have the full amount of property taxes to be phased in over the first three years of the lease.

The motion was carried and the final decision will be made by council next Monday.

Legion presenting local schools with awards during month of March

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

For the month of March, The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in Niagara-on-the-Lake is giving awards to local schools as part of its annual Remembrance School program.

Awards are given out for posters, poems and essays to the students according to grade, said Legion president Al Howse.

St. Davids Public School was the first to receive awards at an assembly held Monday, March 4.

Royal Oak School will be visited by the Legion’s Poppy committee March 7 at 1:30 p.m., and St. Michael’s Catholic School will receive awards at 11 a.m. March 8.

Concluding the month, high school students from Vineridge Academy will receive awards on March 29.




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Town may revoke 56 bed and breakfast licences

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

About one third of Niagara-on-the-Lake bed and breakfast owners could lose their licences for failing to renew and pay for their permits as well as for having an expired certificate of insurance.

NOTL's committee of the whole voted to revoke 56 short-term rental licences during its Monday meeting.

According to the town's 2018 report, there are 145 bed and breakfasts in town.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked what efforts were made to contact the owners.

"I just hope we're not hurting somebody's livelihood," he said.

Chief Administrative Officer Holly Dowd said annual payments for short-term rental permits must be received by the end of December each year and the owners were notified multiple times through emails and phone calls.

"If they don't respond to us, you can only phone and send... I don't know how many times you'd like us to do it," she said.

Burroughs said he would



56 bed and breakfast properties may lose their short-term rental licenses if approved by council. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

like to make "human contact" as the town doesn't "do that a lot anymore."

Coun. Allan Bisback, who used to operate a bed and breakfast business, asked how many properties on the list were repeat offenders as it wasn't fair to those who are licensed.

"Do we go year after year after year after someone who doesn't pay and only when they show up on the list or on the paper... do they finally come up and pay?" said Bisback. "Because if they don't pay, that's not very fair to folks who are licensed and are following the rules. That means they're purporting them-

selves in a public domain being a licensed establishment in this town."

"If you're licensed, I see it as a privilege, not a right," said Bisback. "I see no issue revoking licences as long as we're very sure that we've done the mail and the contact."

This year, the number of operators owing money is up significantly compared to previous years, said town clerk Peter Todd.

"The last couple of years I don't believe we've had any be revoked because they saw their name on the list, they came in and paid," he said.

Short-term rental licences

are valid for four years and the insurance coverage should be a minimum of \$2 million. Bed and breakfast operators can reapply for their licences within a year and that would be considered a renewal. The entire application process takes four to six weeks.

Coun. John Wiens said operators need to "sign up and pay."

"I don't know how far we can hold their hand," he said.

Coun. Norm Arseneault agreed with Wiens, saying knocking on doors was "absurd" and it would set a precedent.

"These businesses have to take responsibility," he said. "If this is your livelihood, then step up."

In a report to the town's corporate services advisory committee, staff said the listed properties will be monitored to ensure they don't operate without a licence. Violations can result in a \$500 fine per occurrence.

The committee approved the report with only Burroughs voting against it.

The final decision will be made by council March 11.

Town to negotiate parking lot charges with Parks Canada

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

NOTL will start paying Parks Canada for use of its parking lots by tourist buses.

Parks Canada was initially looking to charge 50 per cent of gross revenues for the use of its parking lot in Fort George. The town staff negotiated that down to 25 per cent.

For the past 18 years, the town hasn't been paying Parks Canada for using its parking lot at the fort. Tour buses drop visitors off there and then they are shuttled to downtown.

"(Parks Canada) were awesome to work with," Sheldon Randall, the town's director of operations, told council's committee of the whole meeting Monday

night. "This lot is very valuable to the town."

"The time has come. There's a big push from Parks Canada that they need to change the way they're doing their business and this is the way they want to do business going forward."

"Sounds like we owe them a big thank-you note," said Coun. Clare Cameron in regards to Parks Canada allowing the town to use its lot for free in the past.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero made a motion to pay 10 to 15 per cent of gross revenues to Parks Canada instead of 25 per cent.

"It's too, too, too coincidental for me that on the same year we double the price for buses to park in that parking lot, all of a sudden Parks Canada wants

(some) percentage of gross which is even worse for us," she said.

The town increased the bus parking fee from \$25 to \$50 this year.

Disero acknowledged the staff's efforts to negotiate the price down but said the lot brings added value to Parks Canada as it gets visitors to Fort George and into their gift shop.

"The \$25 that we've added to the parking fee for buses, I guess (Parks Canada) decided they wanted it for themselves," she said.

Randall argued saying it was difficult to make people go on tour around the fort.

"The big impact for tourism in the area is downtown," he said. "Right now, Parks Canada's perspective is that primarily having their

buses really does support downtown than it does them."

For a one-year contract, starting April 1, estimated gross revenue is \$272,000. The estimated cost to operate the lot is \$250,000 a year.

Parks Canada also owns 34 parking spaces at the former NOTL hospital site on Wellington Street. The estimated gross revenue for parking meters at the former hospital is \$16,000. The town would receive 60 per cent of this gross or \$9,600, and Parks Canada would have 40 per cent share of its gross revenues.

The committee approved Disero's motion to reduce the fee for Fort George lot. Town staff will report back next council meeting on March 11.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Cindy Grant
Newark Neighbours

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Backpacks



More letters

'In whole-hearted agreement'

Attention Richard Harley:

I'm whole-heartedly in agreement with your assessment of the NOTL vs. Marotta situation. One of the lord mayors' first actions after taking office was to tell council to lawyer up for the fight against Marotta.

Anyone with experience in the legal system would know right away that this was going to be expensive. And perhaps very expensive depending on the outcome. In my view this was a knee-jerk move by the incoming mayor who given her years of experience in Toronto should have known better.

The Lake Report is a great local paper.

Craig Corcoran

Proud of *heritage*

As someone who is proud of his Greek heritage, March 25 marks a very important day for me — Greek Independence Day.

On this day in 1821, the Greeks decided to take up arms and fight for their freedom after nearly 400 years of slavery under Ottoman rule. It has now been 198 years since the people of Greece declared that the centuries of political, religious, and cultural repression and occupation would no longer stand. And after eight long and bloody years of struggle, the Greek War of Independence (also known as the Greek Revolution) led to the creation of

the modern Greek state on March 22, 1829.

The origin of the Turkish occupation began in 1453 with the fall of Constantinople (currently referred to as Istanbul). After centuries of unsuccessful uprisings and the failure of the Ottoman Empire to assimilate and convert the Greeks, the indomitable Greek spirit, as it has done throughout human history, proved that it would not only refuse to be broken, but would prevail. And it did. Despite enduring untold atrocities, where thousands were killed and tortured for simply attending church or teaching their children Greek culture, history, and

language, these faithful Hellenes, with the help of the Greek Orthodox Church, thankfully made it through the dark years of the Ottoman occupation with their proud identity, courageous character, and indomitable spirit intact.

As a result, the Greeks became the first people of the Ottoman Empire's subjects to secure recognition as an independent nation by the Treaty of Constantinople in July 1832.

The anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence is a national holiday in Greece and is recognized and celebrated across Canada and the USA.

Importantly, the celebration of Greek Independence Day on March 25 was deliberately chosen to coincide with, as well as draw inspiration from, one of the holiest days for Greek Orthodox Christians, the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Theotokos).

On March 25th, let's all pause to honor this landmark milestone in the legacy of Greek heritage, culture, and tradition, which has done so much to shape and steer the course of humanity throughout the centuries/millennia, and upon which our own notion of democracy relies.

Alex Pattakos

'Holy macaroni'

March 1:

One big good morning to you RH.

You are a man of your word.

As Robin would say to Batman, "Holy macaroni Batman," as per the opinions on the Randwood event in town.

Thank you for printing the letters.

Keith Bullen

'Gone are the days'

Gone are the days when my town would plow my road within 12 hours of the start of a significant snowfall.

Name withheld (as I don't want a big plow drift left in front of my driveway)

Resident, Line 7 Road

The Lake Report

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Contributors: Denise Ascenzo, Owen Bjorgan, Ross Robinson, NOTL Writer's Circle, Catherine Skinner, Tim Carroll, Jim Smith and many members of the community.



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A modicum of redemption. **But ...**



In the Lake Report's Feb. 28 edition, the paper achieved a modicum of redemption to the editorial of its previous edition by posting a number of cogent letters to the editor criticizing the previous week's editorial on the matter of Randwood legal fees.

Yet, in the Lake Report's following editorial, the paper perpetuated its earlier mischief about legal fees

arising from Solmar's litigation against the Town.

It challenges again the wisdom of the Town's legal initiatives to protect the community's heritage not mentioning that each of them are in response to Solmar's aggressive legal attacks on the Town's heritage initiatives.

Why so?

Apparently reliance is based upon a bank of legal sources and the Editor's own analysis that concludes the legal defences to Solmar's attacks are misguided and lack merit.

The Editor does not explain why he and the paper's legal experts have so concluded nor is there disclosure as to who these

legal experts are.

The editor decries the fact the Town has not been forthcoming in disclosing its own legal advice ignoring that such disclosure would be a serious breach of what is otherwise an in-camera matter and would be strategically unwise.

Of course, he does not ask for Solmar to do the same and assumes the propriety of Solmar's position on each of the five suits without a wink of due diligence to which we are privy.

Perhaps the Editor might muse that Solmar's legal attacks on the Town's heritage initiatives are part of a broader strategy counting principally in its deep

pockets and the Town's lesser ones and that albeit its legal initiatives lack merit and are frivolous and vexatious, they will never be so determined by the Courts, as Solmar counts on the Town caving before then due to adverse press publicity and cost fear-mongering-such as the Lake Report itself is about.

Think again please.

The Feb. 28 edition through a sop to those critical of last week's editorial in publishing letters critical to it, but then repeats itself not addressing the validity of the arguments posed in the letters to it."

Peter Howe

NEWS

Pancake Tuesday **fights cancer**

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Sunset Grill in Niagara-on-the-Lake participated in Pancake Tuesday for the second year, offering servings of pancakes for \$1 each.

Proceeds earned through the fundraiser were donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. More than \$100,000 has been raised nationwide since the chain's initial participation in the fundraiser 11 years ago. This year \$27,000 was raised across Canada compared to the \$24,000 last year.

Scott Gauld, owner of the Queen Street location, said it's NOTL's off-season so he didn't notice a huge increase in customers, but he said those who did come in were looking forward to it.

"It's a decent turnout. It's not too bad but it could improve. We try to promote it the best we can," Gauld said, adding that it is all for a good cause.

The fundraiser takes place annually throughout the chain across Canada. Last year, he said



Archie MacKenzie dines out on blueberry pancakes for a great cause at Sunset Grill on Pancake Tuesday. RICHARD HARLEY

the store earned upwards of \$300 by the end of the day's campaign.

"We're just trying to earn some money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Everyone knows someone who has cancer."

This year, Gauld said

the store earned about \$200, adding that he would bump that number up to \$300 for the charity. "What I tend to do is bump that number up, given it's not a very busy time of year for us."

He said customers can

look forward to it in the future, adding that the store will continue promoting it each year.

Keeping fundraising campaigns in mind all year, Gauld said the store also promotes the Terry Fox Run in the summer.

The Lake Report

The Lake Report strongly encourages readers to support the local businesses that advertise with us. When reading, we ask you to remember the businesses you see allow us to operate and keep the paper free and independent. When you're looking for a service or product, check the paper and try someone local first. There are a variety of great businesses inside to choose from — don't forget to mention you saw them in the paper! The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper, whether through our donate button online or by mailing us a cheque. The paper encourages all residents to support the paper through a "voluntary subscription" annually. For those interested in supporting us, we suggest \$1 per issue, per household, at 52 issues per year. That's only \$52 — less than most people spend on pizza and wings. Larger donations are also greatly appreciated. For transparency, donations of more than \$1,000 will be published in the paper (with a big thank you) and donors will receive an exclusive limited edition Lake Report mug, as well as a copy of the first edition of the paper signed by staff. (Limit of 20 special mugs) To support The Lake Report, mail cheques to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Post Office, L0S1J0, PO Box 724. Please make cheques payable to Niagara Now Ltd. and note it as a donation.

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Tampon Tuesday has Niagara women covered

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The United Way called for under-donated products for women during Tampon Tuesday, a fundraising campaign that took place across Canada March 5.

An initiative by the United Way to gather unopened boxes of feminine hygiene products for women in need, Tampon Tuesday has been happening annually for 10 years.

United Way Niagara joined the project three years ago in St. Catharines, expanding the reach to Niagara Falls and Welland this year after three local United Way chapters came together to form the Niagara branch.

Tanya Faulkner, labour program and service coordinator for United Way Niagara, said the event provided an evening of socializing and networking while bringing awareness to the fact that these products are often under donated and in demand.

With support from community partners, who had bins out to collect boxes leading up to Tuesday evening's event, Faulkner said she was hopeful they would reach their goal.

Referencing the #onebox-



Sean Simpson, owner and Rebecca van der Zalm, pharmacy assistant. BRITTANY CARTER

challenge that circled social media sites, Faulkner said the community was "very involved." The challenge asked people to donate just one box of pads or tampons. "One box to make a difference," she said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents were up to the challenge.

Simpson's Pharmasave on Niagara Stone Road in NOTL took part this year, collecting boxes right up until they were delivered

to Cat's Kitchen on Tuesday evening. Operations manager Catherine Porter said the store received overwhelming support from community and staff.

"Often those sort of products are forgotten but very much needed. It's really something that the United Way has highlighted. Their mission is to highlight the need for those products."

Porter said the store actively supports the United Way, promoting initiatives

in-store and online to boost community involvement.

Faulkner said the Tampon Tuesday campaign is important because it helps women receive products they may not have otherwise. Often women have to make the choice between buying food or buying tampons. She said they should be able to have both.

Some parents, unable to afford hygiene products for their daughters, will have to keep them home from

school, she said.

"It creates a bigger problem getting into missed school and falling behind."

"It's something that we can do to help them, so they can worry about the things they need to worry about, not to have to worry about something that is natural for women. We want to take away the stigma of needing these products and having your period."

On Tuesday evening, supporters gathered at Jack As-

tor's in St. Catharines, Cat's Kitchen and Bar in Niagara Falls and Mr. Mike's Steakhouse Casual in Welland, to listen to representatives from some of the agencies speak about the importance of these donations and the impact they have on the lives of women in need.

Faulkner said United Way hosted similar events on the same night across Canada.

People were asked to bring an unopened box of feminine hygiene products and the first 150 people through the doors received a pink lei as a thank you.

Last year, Faulkner said the project gathered 2,300 boxes, which went out to three or four area agencies.

This year, she said the goal was 6,000 boxes, which they gave to 16 different agencies around the Niagara region, including the YWCA and Gillian's Place. "Almost triple, but we're tripling our area."

By the end of the evening, Faulkner said they had collected 3,000 boxes. United Way Niagara will continue to collect them all week, up to and including International Women's Day on Friday.

Agencies will accept donations of feminine hygiene products year round.

Documentary 'risks everything' at History Museum

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Fighting for freedom, African-American's who journeyed to Canada are documented in *Risking Everything: A Story of Niagara's Freedom Seekers*. The Niagara Historical Society and Museum will host a free screening of the half-hour film on March 14 at 6 p.m.

Directed and produced by Isadore 'Izzy' Bleckman, award-winning photographer, and his wife Mary Roseberry, retired professor of literature and journalism at Niagara County Community College, the film tells the story of those who made the journey from the



The Niagara Historical Society Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

'slave states' to Canada before the US Civil War.

The film was released on Feb. 20, during Black History Month, in celebration of all of the people who made the dangerous journey in the search of

better lives.

Sifting through hundreds of hours of video footage and recordings, Bleckman and Roseberry, with Bleckman's daughter, Sheera Bleckman, edited the material down to a half-hour

documentary film.

The creation of the 'Freedom Crossing' monument in Lewiston, NY, kickstarted the team's film in 2009.

Hours of the construction and installation of

the monument, by Susan Geissler, renowned sculpture, was filmed while the team also conducted interviews and research of the history of people on both sides of the border with a commitment to the opposition of slavery.

In an NHS Museum's media release, Roseberry is quoted: "The monument tells a powerful story, a continuing story about people who risk their lives to find a place where they can live a decent life, and others who are willing to assist them."

"We often think of slavery as if it is a long-ago story," Roseberry said, "but the past is our beginning and has taken us to who we

are today. The stories of earlier generations need to be told again and again, not only in written narrative, but in images, in the spoken voice, and in art such as Susan's sculpture. My husband and I have had the opportunity to play a role in expanding and deepening our international story."

Niagara Historical Society and Museum host special events and exhibitions throughout the year, which can be found at www.niagarahistoricalmuseum.org or by calling 905-468-3912.

Located at 43 Castlereagh St., the museum is open daily from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. until April, then 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May to October.



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Yellow Door Theatre Project to present *Crack of Doom*

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The world is ending, and Niagara-on-the-Lake teens are demonstrating how they're spending the crucial moments leading up to their eventual demise – through musical theatre.

The Yellow Door Theatre Project encourages and trains local kids in theatre, providing guidance in the dramatic arts. The company aims to provide NOTL youth with a valuable space to develop skills, both on and off stage. The group consists of local performers between 14 and 18 years-old, honing their acting, dancing and singing talents.

On March 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. at the Yellow Door's rehearsal studio in Virgil, the

Teen Theatre Company will be performing *Crack of Doom*: Or How I Learned to Love the Meteor. Admission is \$10 at the door.

The play is an original piece written by Canadian playwrights Suzy Wilde and Matt Bernard.

The screenplay, initially geared toward college-aged performers, has been adapted to make it more relatable to teenagers. Originally, the play was set in a University, for Yellow Door's performance it's been changed to take place in a high school.

Andorlie Hillstrom, artistic director of Yellow Door, said the screenplay didn't require a lot of other changes. A few characters have been updated to make them more relatable to the young actors.

She said the kids have been having a lot of fun with the material.

"First and foremost, the musical is a comedy. We have laughed a great deal over the course of rehearsals thus far. And the kids are having a wonderful time."



Crack Of Doom Cast. SUPPLIED

It deals with high school relationships, with struggles kids might have regarding dating and friendships.

"What I've observed is they learn how to be comfortable in front of a group, public speaking, to be articulate. They learn to work in small groups, large groups, to collaborate with others."

ANDORLIE HILLSTROM
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
YELLOW DOOR THEATRE PROJECT

Thematically, the musical poses the question – what in this life is the most important?

Throughout the play the characters struggle with education and career choices, until the meteor crashes into the mix, adding another dilemma altogether. Suddenly, the characters must deal with the fact that they only have a few hours left to live. She said it becomes make-believe. "It's not something that could be dealt with realistically."

She stressed the humour of the musical, "I know it doesn't sound like much of a comedy, but it's very funny, it truly is. There is a seriousness, overall, to the premise, but it's written in such a beautiful way."

As for the characters portrayed by the teens, she said they're all unique.

"It's been a challenge, from an acting perspective, putting together their thoughts and ideas."

She said they continually workshop the piece, engaging closely with the director and interacting with each other.

"They get to truly work together, as a group, in a collaborative sense, and they're having a blast."

Yellow Door works with professionals in the theatre industry to bring authenticity and education to the kids.

"The people we have had work with us not only have a professional pedigree but they also love being in an environment with children. They're teachers and they're mentors."

Class becomes a mentoring environment for everyone, Hillstrom said.

The performance is put on in their rehearsal space, not on a traditional stage. Hillstrom said working in that manner provides a host of benefits for the kids, allowing them to work closely with each other and the audience, as well as fostering a more relaxed atmosphere.

Acting in a small space so close to the audience, the teens learn to remain focused the entire time. She said that's a learning curve they need to work through.

Yellow Door is a theatre project for local kids, in operation for the last four years. Hillstrom said it's still

in its infant stage; there's so much more they can do. The Teen Theatre Company began two years ago to hone in on budding teen's talents.

She said there were so many talented teenagers in the program that she wanted to offer them something more.

Through the individual attention the group receives during workshops, she said they develop faster as performers.

"Quite honestly, I've got some great kids. I thought, I need to find something else for you guys."

So, that's how it has kind of happened. They're spectacular, they really are. I have no doubt that we're seeing individuals who are going to later go on to professional careers."

Giving that age group the opportunity to work through a piece that is both mature and challenging, targeted specifically to them. It helps to move them forward technically, she said.

Yellow Door provides the performers with what Hillstrom calls a transferable skill.

"What I've observed is they learn how to be comfortable in front of a group, public speaking, to be articulate. They learn to work in small groups, large groups, to collaborate with others."

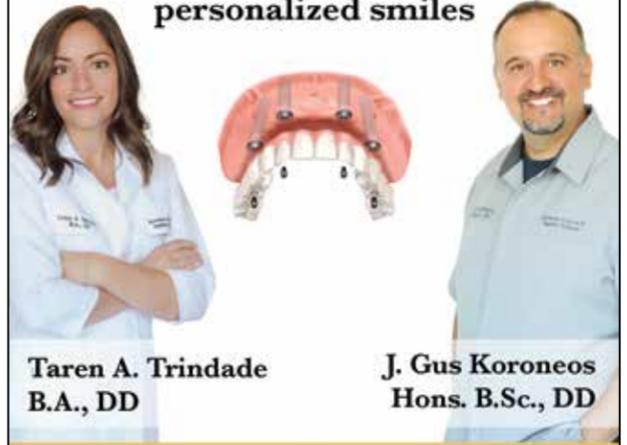
She added that skills they learn as young people through the theatre have made them better at everything else they do.

"It's also a great deal of fun with really wonderful music."

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The oldest books west of Quebec

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

St. Mark's Anglican Church has been sitting on a historical goldmine for generations. Housing one of the oldest libraries in Canada, the Addison Library holds books dating back to the 1700s. The oldest is dated 1548.

Donald Combe, one of the library's caretakers and a member of the archive committee, said it's the oldest library in Ontario, "Arguably, one of the oldest in the country."

Robert Addison originally brought his collection of 1500 books overseas to Canada from England in 1791. Now there are about 1350 in the collection.

"When Addison came, he brought with him the library, which is an extraordinary feat to think in 1791. Crossing the ocean was one thing but carting along with him 1500 books as carry-on luggage was another," Combe said.

Stored in St. Mark's church, he said they're the town's books.

"From the beginning, St. Mark's was always the centre of the town. The earliest burials are here. The other cemeteries didn't exist until the mid-1830s," he said, reinforcing the idea that the books are a hidden gem of NOTL. "This library, I like to feel in a real way, does belong to Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The books are now housed in the room designed by Canadian artist Campbell Scott and constructed by Bill German, a local craftsman.

Covering a variety of subjects, it was likely that Addison travelled to Canada as a missionary, Combe said, speculating that Ad-

dison was hoping to create a school when he arrived.

"In which case he would have needed a good selection of books."

There are many religious works in the collection, from volumes of scriptures and sermons to an early version of the bible, known as the Britches Bible, published in 1599.

"There are other books by other rectors where there's no indication of their provenance at all, they very well may have come from Addison's private collection. But more than likely, it was that other clerics, knowing that Addison was coming here to become a missionary, helped him. They likely said here, these will probably help you in preparation of sermons, etc.," Combes said.

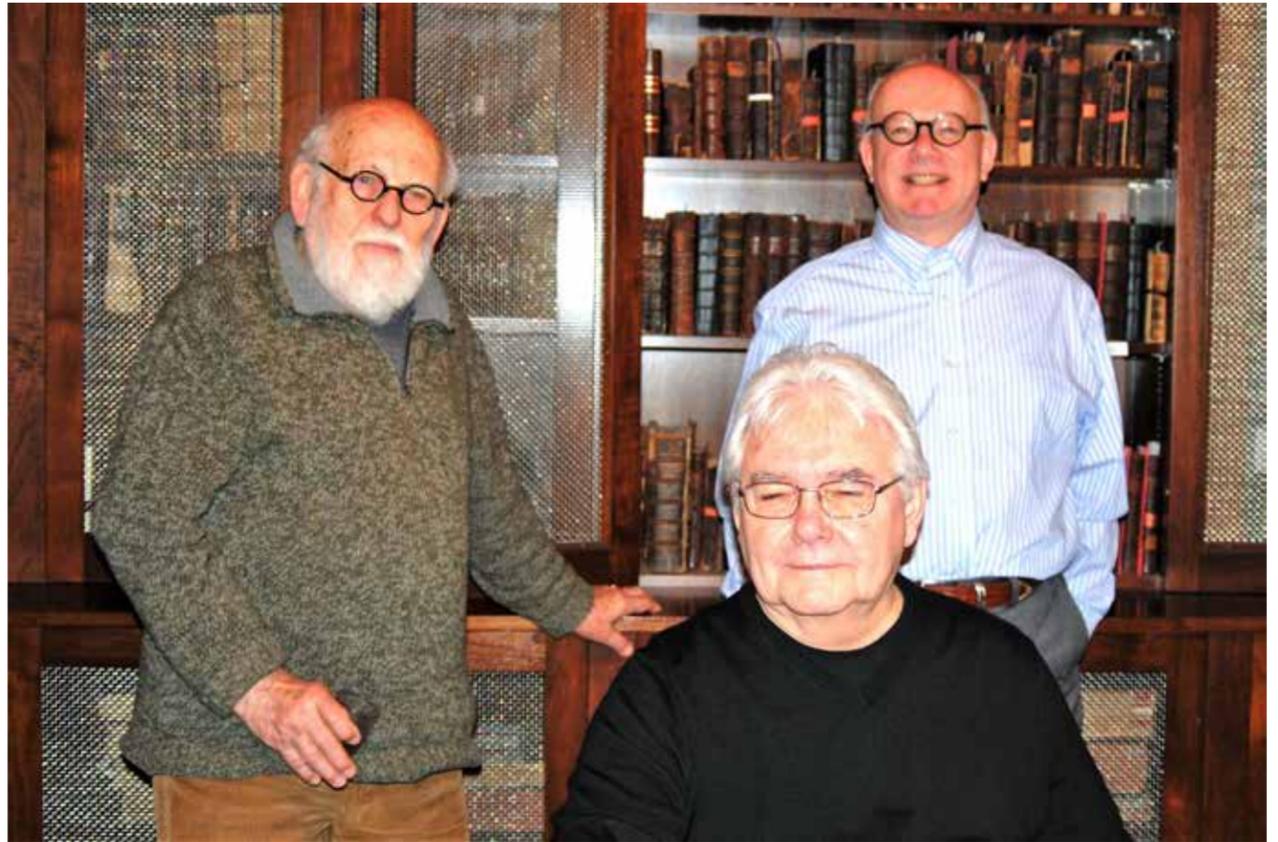
There are also self-help, philosophy and other books in the collection.

"We have the first English translation of Machiavelli's works. They've never gone out for publication. There are things that are as relevant today as when they were first written. Others are more obscure."

Addison died in 1829, but his wife, who was much younger, didn't die until the 1850s. At that point, the Addison's grandsons passed the collection of books on to the rector of St. Mark's Anglican Church 'in perpetuity' – a bond or other security with no fixed maturity date.

The books were kept at the church, not belonging to the church itself and only belonging to the rector as long as he was part of the church.

The collection was eventually donated to McMaster University, with some contention from the parishioners. After several



Donald Combe, Peter Babcock, Murray Wilcox in the Addison Library. BRITTANY CARTER

years, the church reclaimed the books and they were stored in the crypt under the church, where they sat until the library was built.

"They were put into the crypt and sealed - because it was such a contentious issue, that the rector at that time didn't wish to deal with the contentious issue."

Combes said the books sat in the crypt for at least 10 years before it was reopened.

"When they were opened, they were in perfect condition because McMaster had begun restoration with them, had put preservatives on the covers. They were all individually bubble-wrapped in the crypt, and they were safe."

To properly house the books, Combes said it was decided that the hall would be created.

From that point, Combe said Peter Babcock and Murray Wilcox, both members of the archive committee, have "worked tirelessly, endlessly with the books" to gain knowledge of what the books are and, to some extent, how important they are.

The product of two years of work, Babcock and Wilcox published a transcribed version of a book of sermons.

"What is interesting about the book is that after the first few sermons were written the author turned the book around and upside

down – so we mirrored that in our published version," Babcock said, adding, "it looks something awful."

The pair poured over the original, transcribing the book word for word, calling on Fred Habermehl, another member of the archive committee dedicating his time to working with the books, for help with particularly tough words and phrases.

Wilcox said their aim was to replicate the original volume, adding the markings, strike-out's and notes in the margins to the published version.

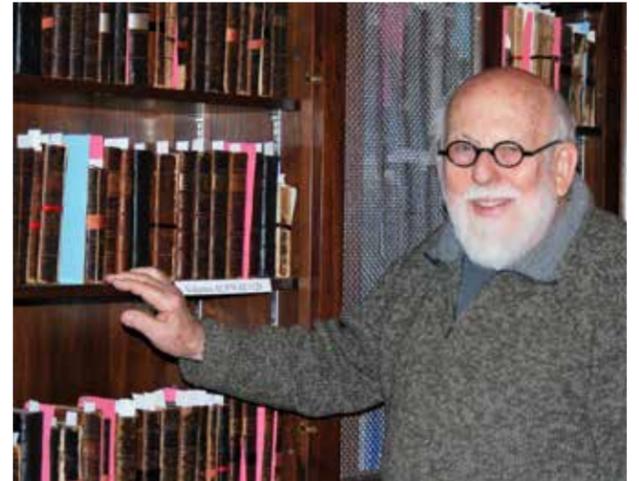
Wilcox said he got involved with the library after using the church's archive material for some personal research. For three months he returned consistently, pouring over material with assistance from members of the archive committee. After that, he said he saw Babcock transcribing in the library, with a magnifying glass, writing everything out by hand.

"I had previous experience transcribing letters and taking photos, digitizing it and enlarging it on screen. I thought, I can help Peter out."

He digitized all of the pages in the sermons book.

"I thought, well I'll help them for a bit. They gave me three months, I'll give them three. Well it got to be so enjoyable."

He said he enjoyed it so much he continued working



Donald Combe stands beside a shelf of books. Some of them date back to as early as 1599. BRITTANY CARTER

with the books long after he initially planned.

Babcock was pulled in by Combe.

"That's my fault," Combe said, adding that he knew Babcock would share his interest in the library's history.

As for Combe, he started by first transcribing the stones in the town's three cemeteries. A true storyteller, he said the lives of the people buried in the cemeteries interested him. With the help of Habermehl, a book providing a walking tour of the three cemeteries of St. Mark's, St. Andrew's and St. Vincent de Paul's called Stones, Saints and Sinners was published.

"It's wonderful to think that there are a lot of stories out there, and there are a lot of stories in here too," Combe said, referring to the cemetery, viewed out the

window of the library, "Not just the contents of the book but who owned the book and why they owned it – it moved to the next person, and who that person was, and why it ended up here, was it really valuable?"

Habermehl and Combe published many books together.

"As far as the books are concerned, Donald and I have been working on books for years. We started out transcribing historic cemeteries. Published that. We had so much material we didn't know what to do with it, so we decided to put it in print," Habermehl said, joking that it started them down "this ugly path."

Combes said the work that can be done with the books is endless, "There's enough work in this library to keep a bunch of librarians busy for several lifetimes."

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10	11	12	13
<p>Spring Forward</p> <p>Bake with an Expert - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus</p> <p>Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours</p>	<p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Mario Kart Tournament - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Town Council Meeting - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Google Expeditions Virtual Reality Adventure - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Infohealth Clinical Good Reasons to Jo p.m. - NOTL Public Lib</p> <p>Sewing in the Make Happy! - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Public Library</p> <p>University Women p.m. - NOTL Commur</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters 8:30 p.m. - Niagara C Campus</p> <p>Wine & Words with Shoalts - 7:30 p.m. t Southbrook Vineyard</p>
17	18	19	20
<p>Saint Patrick's Day</p> <p>Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours</p> <p>Author Reading: Michael Mirolla and Caitlen Galway - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.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>Beer & Books: Still Alice by Lisa Genova - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - The Old Winery Restaurant & Wine Bar</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>Simpson's Seniors' a.m. to 8 p.m. - Simp</p> <p>St. Andrew's Lectur Years: The McFarlan Andrews with Davi - 10 a.m. - St. Andrew Church</p> <p>Simply STEAM Stor a.m. to noon - NOTL F</p> <p>Paint Nite at The Ex Brewery - 7 p.m. - TH Brewery</p>

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13 Trials: Ten in - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library ery: Sew - 7 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre in Niagara - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - College, NOTL Adam - 9:30 p.m. -	14 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	15 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	16 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
20 Day - 8:30 - Son's Pharmacy re Series 225 - nds of St. d Hemmings's Presbyterian y Time - 11 - Public Library change - ne Exchange	21 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	22 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 Panton - 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	23 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

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This story is 50 years in the making

How passion, a sharp mind, and the Shaw Festival are helping a local book store stand out in the modern world

Jer Houghton
The Lake Report

For a half a century, Laura MacFadden has been working hard to bring good old-fashioned books to the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Over the years she's had different storefronts in town, but there's one thing that's remained unwavering throughout it all — MacFadden's love of literature.

As the proud owner of the Old Niagara Bookshop — the only dedicated book store in the heritage district of Old Town — she has worked tirelessly since its inception to ensure the shop has remained a landmark stop for residents and tourists alike.

In an age where book stores are struggling around the country, she tells a tale of how the shop came to be.

After leaving Toronto and a career in financial investment, she moved with her husband to NOTL to raise their two children in 1968.

"I had this image of a fleeting visit of Niagara-on-the-Lake being a quaint little village, which would be a lot better than the city of Toronto to raise a family," MacFadden recalls.

At the time it was a "very interesting village," she says. The Shaw Festival was starting out at the Court House Theatre, the Prince of Wales played host to a beverage room, and Parliament Oak was actively educating children. Queen Street also offered the Country Store, Kurtis' Barbershop and the offices of the Niagara Advance newspaper.

"It hadn't been discovered," she says, explaining a lot of the properties in Old Town were used as summer retreats for people from the U.S.

She was drawn to the town's rich history, attributing much of her attraction to the geography of the area.

Growing up in Toronto,

MacFadden wasn't used to small communities, but that didn't discourage her from looking to her passion in books to find a way to start a business venture.

And so when she learned the Niagara Advance was moving across the street and their office space was available, she took it over and opened up a very small book store called The Book Nook.

"When I moved in I had maybe 300, maybe 250 square feet — it was tiny," she says, laughing to herself. "And when I first opened up, some of the people in town said, 'You're going to burn up in here.' It was so tiny."

Ironically, she didn't even have heat back then.

"I had to get a space heater," she jests.

Thinking back to her discovery of books, MacFadden remembers receiving them throughout her childhood as gifts for her birthday and Christmas — each one inscribed by her father.

"They were important in our household," she says proudly. "I grew up with books ... I was surrounded with books, I was curious about books."

Her father had a great library and was a "true collector," she recalls.

"There's a big difference between a reader and a collector, and my father was a collector ... People collect because it's a passion," she says fondly of him.

MacFadden now too has quite the collection, with her first inventory coming from the Oxford University Press.

"That's where I started and I still have customers who remember as children getting their first book on Brock — and that was an Oxford classic."

When she first started out, she didn't want to bargain for her sales. She preferred the set-price model.

"When you buy new books, there's a price on it. And that was why I started selling new books."



Laura MacFadden stands in front of the Old Niagara Bookshop. JER HOUGHTON

In those days, a trade paperback would be \$2.50 compared to \$20 today.

She remembers being met with a lot of opposition when first opening the shop, explaining a lot of residents questioned her and the need for a book store when there was a library.

"I was a married woman with children. I should be home with my children. And I was depriving somebody of a way to earn a living," she says, describing the sentiments of those times.

"I've always focused on what I'm doing, which is selling books and learning what I want."

For the past 50 years, MacFadden has managed to successfully operate the only book shop in town, despite few other shops carrying some over the years.

She says the growing popularity of the Shaw Festival has been integral to her business in that she has always tried to find books pertaining to shows every year.

"I was just an independent bookseller — I'm not catering to a huge market and certainly in those days, I was always trying to find things that were related to the theatre," she says.

"I wouldn't have been here 10 years if the theatre

hadn't survived, and so as long as they survive, I thought a book shop would survive."

Despite various struggles in being a female business owner, MacFadden treaded ahead, growing her business, increasing her inventory and moving locations three times over four decades, all within Queen and King Street.

Her store now resides on Regent Street, having changed names to the Old Niagara Bookshop.

"I was in the old part of town, so I called myself the Old Niagara Bookshop, simple as that."

"I've always been in the radius of Old Town in Queen and King, I sort of grew with the town in that sense," she says.

As an independent bookseller, the Old Niagara Bookshop has become known for carrying books of the "true sort" that "have merit," denotes MacFadden. You can find shelves that range from non-fiction to Canadiana classics, to many other noteworthy heartfelt classics in fiction and children's literature.

"I only carry books of the true sort; those that inform, entertain and enlighten — and I digress a little bit in

the summer and have more what I call fluff, my overnight mysteries that aren't disturbing," she says.

"And you can't talk down. I try to only have really good writers, good authors. Books are really an extension of the arts and so that's the important part."

MacFadden says for a small bookseller, it's a "hard balance" dealing with customers and knowing what they want.

"The town has changed, and certainly my inventory has changed — but then the people coming here have changed, and we attract people from all over the world."

MacFadden says she likes to carry Canadian authors, especially those she considers the greats in Canadian literature, which have always been in demand.

"When you get people from other countries, they know Farley Mowat, they know *The Boat Who Wouldn't Float* and *Never Cry Wolf*, they know Pierre Berton, and of course they know the girl with the red pigtails, they know Anne of Green Gables," she says.

Her dedication to the shop and her desire to read all these years has been about the freedom she has had as

an independent bookseller. "I'm a big one for freedom, I'm like Anne of Green Gables, a free spirit," she says with a smile.

"I think to be restricted in what you carry, which the chains are, wouldn't work for me — I want that freedom, to read something and say, 'I want to carry that,'"

Part of that freedom comes with researching the catalogues to learn about the publishers, the authors, the stories and their value. As much as she finds this process fascinating to figure out trends, it helps her sell books of her choosing.

"I carry things because I think they're important. The other reason I carry them is sometimes there is an anniversary for a person or an event," she says.

"You've got to be in tune with what's going on."

Other times books will likely never be reprinted because they get subsidies, she explains.

MacFadden admits she is a "bit serious" when it comes to the selection of books she carries, but it is also part of deeming "good literature."

"I know I'm quirky, and (people) think I'm a bit bizarre, but that's what booksellers are all about," she says.

"My children are grown, my grandchildren are grown, so what do I do? I read books, I read catalogs, I'm not alone — I know that many curators, that's what they do."

Moving forward she says she's been fortunate with good health and will continue operating the shop for as long as she can.

"It's like everything else, it's called a music-deliberate practice," she says, explaining the idea is to work daily whether you have one customer that day or none at all.

"If it wasn't my shop, it would be another. It would be whoever decided to put in a book shop."

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Local snaps

Photos by Eunice Tang/The Lake Report



Anne-Julie D'mico and Samuel Rasine enjoy a skate at the Fort George rink.



Louis Rasine gives it his all skating at Fort George Sunday.



Samuel and Rose Rasine.



Louis Rasine.



Samuel and Louis Rasine.



Louis Rasine takes a little break in the snow.



Patrick and Louis Rasine skate at Fort George.

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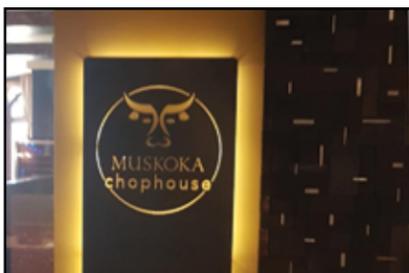
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- Across**
- 1 Eyots (5)
 - 5 Rubbish (5)
 - 8 Incantation (5)
 - 10 Russian sleigh (6)
 - 11 Defence covering (6)
 - 12 Having the form of a song (5)
 - 13 Sister of Mary and Lazarus (6)
 - 14 Resident of e.g. Nairobi (6)
 - 15 Stage play (5)
 - 17 Scratched (6)
 - 19 Plan (6)
 - 21 Cuban dance (5)
 - 22 Die from lack of food (6)
 - 23 Professional killer (6)
 - 24 Locations (5)
 - 25 Workshop machinery (6)
 - 27 Pressed (6)
 - 29 Grecian architectural style (5)
 - 31 Go back (6)
 - 32 Beast (6)
 - 33 Porridge (5)
 - 34 E.g. Tarka (5)
 - 35 Is inclined (5)
- Down**
- 2 Rill (9)
 - 3 Throw out (5)
 - 4 Not in any circumstances (Poetical) (4)
 - 6 Recall past experiences (9)
 - 7 Sweat room (5)
 - 8 Mayonnaise (5,8)
 - 9 Lazy (13)
 - 16 Allow to enter (5)
 - 18 Storage building (9)
 - 20 Cemetery (9)
 - 26 Representative (5)
 - 28 Oil source (5)
 - 30 Part of speech (4)

Have some fun

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

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		
			8		9				
10					11				
			12						
13					14				
			15	16					
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			29	30					
31					32				
			33						
34						35			

Last issue's answers

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2	O	I	D	N	C	A	A	B								
10	O	F	F	B	E	A	T	11	A	V	I	A	T	O	R	
	D	L	N	R	I	R	T									
12	B	E	E	S	13	S	U	M	M	E	R	T	I	M	E	
	Y															
14	E	L	S	E	16	R	H	I	N	E	S	T	O	N	E	
	U	D														
19	P	A	S	S	A	G	E	21	W	A	Y	22	T	Y	K	E
	A	P	T	V	N											
24	P	R	E	M	A	R	I	T	A	L	25	G	E	M	S	
	E	N	B	C	R	U	L	T								
26	R	A	D	I	A	N	T	28	C	O	N	C	A	V	E	
	Y	E	S	S	H	D	T	R								
30	U	D	D	E	R	31	T	Y	R	O	L	E	A	N		

Sudoku

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



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17 CRIMSON DRIVE, NOTL
\$664,000



MLS# 30711903
Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redekopp***

2 SAMUEL STREET, NOTL
\$1,395,000



MLS# 30691472
James O'Connor* & Margie van Gelder*

1 HARVEST DRIVE, NOTL
\$539,900



MLS# 30712977
Beverley Wiebe*

26 KENMIR AVENUE, NOTL
\$1,499,000



MLS# 30704495
Casey Langelaan* & Marge Ott**



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FEATURED 

Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

CORNER OF KING



The corner of King and Queen streets used to be known as Connolly's Corner. It was a favorite store for kids in town as Jim Connolly sold penny candy. Three black balls for a penny, three tar babies a penny, and twist licorice was two cents each. Mr. Connolly would put the candy we bought in a little brown paper bag.

SUPPLIED/JIM SMITH

ARCHITEXT

Unifying the composition

Brian Marshall
Featured

While there are many design principles and elements in the tool-box of the talented designer, there is only one more combo that I wish to address in this series: rhythm and pattern.

Carefully applied in concert with the other principles we have addressed, rhythm and pattern speak to the natural human attraction for order thereby conveying a sense of comfort and contentment.

These two principles work "hand-in-glove."

Rhythm can be defined as the regular (or rhythmic) occurrence of similar and/or identical elements to produce a sense of predictability, movement and se-



Unity with rhythm and pattern. SUPPLIED

quence across the composition. Although rhythm can be achieved with various forms, the two most common are structure (such as a series of columns) and pattern.

Patterns are surface elements, generally decorative, which visually provide both variety and unity.

Here's the key, items set in cadence create a sense of rhythm and 'rhythm repeated' forms a pattern.

The Gothic farmhouse

shown boasts multiple examples of applied rhythm and pattern of elements (brackets, pillars, etc.) which contribute to a unified composition that extends past the facade to successfully marry the original front portion of the house and the rear addition.

That said, like other key principles, rhythm and pattern must be used carefully — too much results in a sense of chaos, while too little loses the effect.

So, at the end of the day, the architect will use the key principles in concert, always considering the composition as they employ them.

The result will be a 'good' design; a home which evokes a sense of order, balance, hierarchy, scale, proportion, rhythm and pattern; a unified composition that integrates with its site, and simply feels "right" while delivering intuitive liveability.

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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 like 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

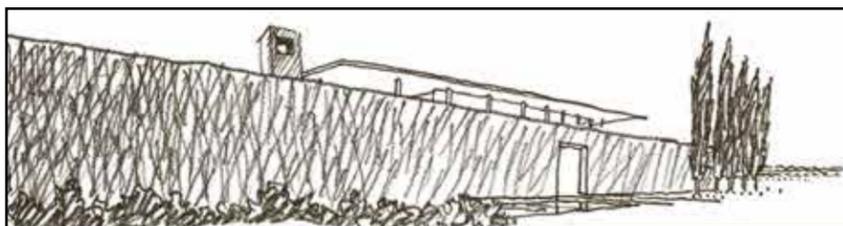
The top recipes will be published in an annual paperback book which will be available (in limited supply) to residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake at The Lake Report office. This year's book (title uncertain!) will be released in the coming months!

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.

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SPIRIT OF NIAGARA



Erica Lepp, Celia Liu's sister, presenting the Celia Liu Award for Excellence in Hospitality to Mark Torrance of Andrew Peller Ltd. with Janice Thomson, president of the Chamber of Commerce. JER HOUGHTON

Continued from Front Page

Among the seven awards given out, Lord Mayor Betty Disero presented the Citizen of the Year award to Rainer Hummel of Hummel Properties Inc.

"He's a fine choice for someone from the business community," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

"He's been very generous to the town through the Virgil Business Association and the Chamber of Commerce ... And just all the good he does in the community with respect to the parks and charities."

Hummel was shocked to receive honours of Citizen of the Year. He humbly suggested the award embodies someone who is a volunteer person and not necessarily a business person but feels strongly it should always be about giving back to the community.

"My community has given more to me than I can ever give back to it, and I think we

always have to look at things that way," he said, which came through in his acceptance speech.

"Every day we're in business, every day we're in a community but what can I do to give back."

Hummel's daughter, Raiana Schwenker, also took to the podium to speak to her father's achievements and character in recognition of the award.

"Having my daughter show up and her very touching words, that probably meant more than anything else to me," Hummel said.

"We all want to be proud of our children, and we have a bigger responsibility that our children are proud of us and things that we do. If they reflect on our children in a positive way, then those become memories for our children."

Among the award recipients was Two Sisters Vineyards. Proprietors Angela Marotta and Melissa Marotta-Paoli-

celli took the honours of the Company of the Year award and spoke to the same sense of community pride.

"It's recognizing that there is such a great sense of community here in Niagara-on-the-Lake ... It's an absolute honour to be recognized by our peers and the business sector," said Angela.

"It's amazing to be in a room where you're inspired together with other leaders who share in the same level of sacrifice that we have all had ... to be in a room with people that understand that, who persevere, it's great to acknowledge that within ourselves."

"Hard work, dedication and perseverance are things that we've been raised with, it's in our blood ... it's nice to be recognized for our hard work," added Melissa.

"They're proud - even though many of them are shy, they're proud, humble people to get their awards," said Thomson.

YOUR SPIRIT OF NIAGARA AWARD WINNERS

Presented by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Spirit of Niagara awards honour residents who have made a lasting impact on the community. This ceremony started 28 years ago with one award for Citizen of the Year.

Christopher Newton Award for Extraordinary Vision in Business - Alfred Dyck, All Green Irrigation

Peter Ling Award for Entrepreneurial Spirit - Outlet Collection at Niagara

Community Leadership Award - Bob Mavridis, Corks and Orzo Restaurants

Company of the Year Award - Angela Marotta and Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli, Two Sisters Vineyards

Lord Mayor's Award of Excellence (Citizen of the Year) - Rainer Hummel

Celia Liu Award for Excellence in Hospitality - Mark Torrance, Andrew Peller Ltd.

Chamber of Commerce Chair's Award - Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council

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!



Pauline Reimer Gibson, Audiologist

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Peter Ling Award for Entrepreneurial Spirit winners, the Outlet Collection at Niagara: Ellen Kennedy, Ruby Paola, Carly Rucpic, Joanne Ross, Ashtar Zubair and Margaret Povey. JER HOUGHTON



Rainer Hummel receives the Citizen of the Year Award from Lord Mayor Betty Disero during this year's Spirit of Niagara Awards. JER HOUGHTON



Proprietors Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli and Angela Marotta of Two Sisters Vineyards receiving the Company of the Year Award alongside winemaker Adam Pearce. JER HOUGHTON



Bethany Poltl along with fellow members of the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council receiving the Chamber of Commerce's Chair's Award for their leadership. JER HOUGHTON



2013 Citizen of the Year recipient Joe Pillitteri makes welcoming remarks with comedic poise to start the awards for the evening. JER HOUGHTON



Janice Thomson, president of the Chamber of Commerce. JER HOUGHTON



Thank you to all who submitted nominations and attended Spirit of Niagara.

The Chamber of Commerce appreciates this opportunity to salute the Town's Finest Citizens.

Nominations are open year 'round at www.niagaraonthelake.com/spirit-of-niagara.



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W.L. Mackenzie Part 1 of 2



Denise Ascenzo
Featured

The Birthplace of Responsible Government

At the turn of the 20th century, lying hidden at the bottom of the Niagara escarpment in Queenston, Ontario, was a building with only a few walls left standing. A stone marker was all that could be seen that told the curious tourist that this had been the home of William Lyon Mackenzie.

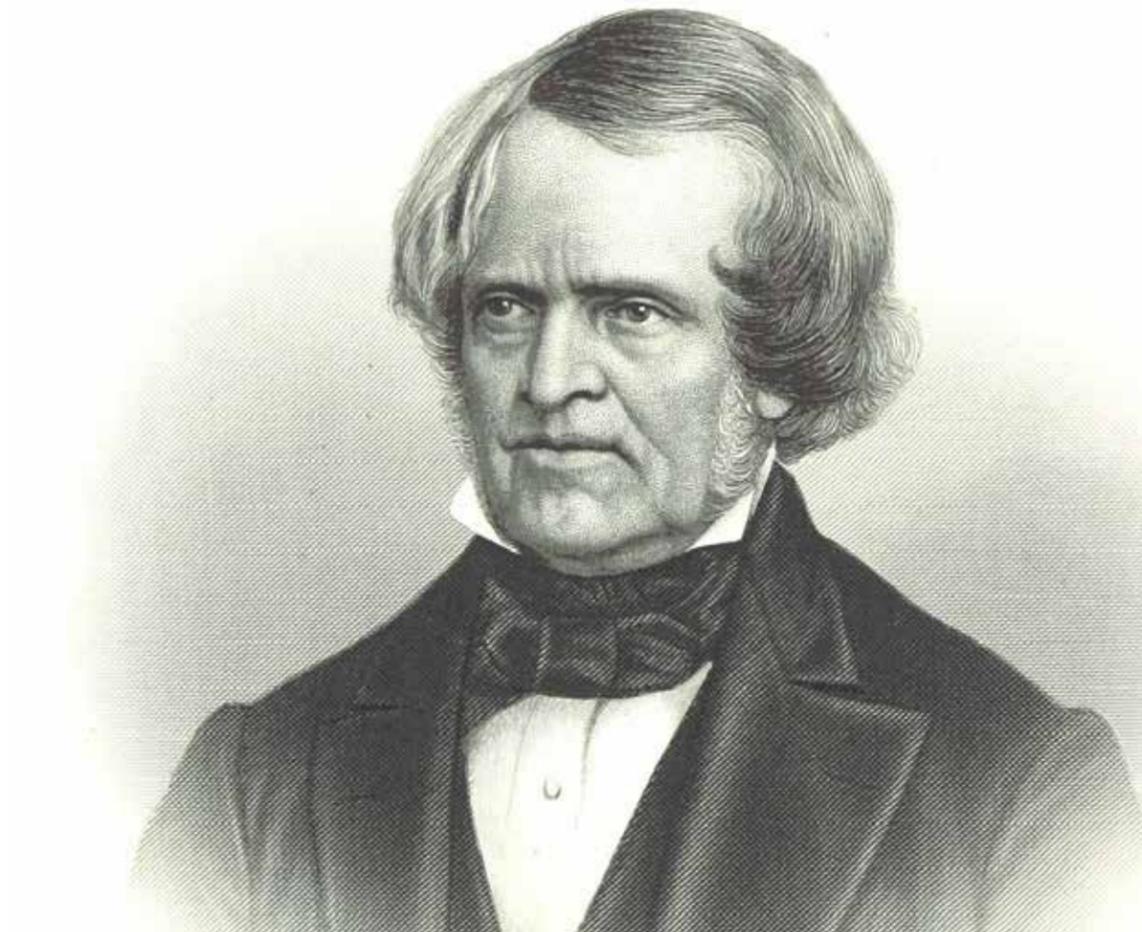
In 1936, the Provincial Ministry of Highways and Public Works, under the direction of Thomas McQuesten, began restoring and reconstructing historic sites in Ontario. This was to provide relief work during the Great Depression, to build tourism infrastructure and to instil in Canadians a pride in our past achievements.

Among the sites reconstructed was the Mackenzie house. The remaining ruins were used in the reconstruction of the building which was based on typical building styles of the 1820s era.

On June 18, 1938, the 126th anniversary of the beginning of the War of 1812, the Mackenzie home was opened to the public by William Lyon Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada (1921-30 & 1935-48) and the grandson of William Lyon Mackenzie.

William Lyon Mackenzie was born in Scotland in 1795 and immigrated to Upper Canada in 1820. By 1824 while living in Queenston, he became involved in politics and founded a newspaper called the Colonial Advocate. Mackenzie's editorials criticized the ruling oligarchy who were known as the Family Compact because their positions in government were filled through nepotism.

The Lieutenant Governors of the province,



SUPPLIED PHOTO.

appointed by the British parliament, tended to appoint very conservative, wealthy men who had gained prominence in the War of 1812 or who were successful businessmen to the Executive Council.

Upper Canada did have an elected assembly but the real power lay with the Lieutenant Governor and the unelected Executive Council. Those who could vote for the Legislative Assembly were limited to land owners with property worth a certain amount. Farmers renting their property, many minor tradesmen and labourers were not enfranchised.

Mackenzie was very critical of this and by 1824 decided to move his paper to York (Toronto) where he could respond much more quickly to government decisions. By 1826 he was deeply in debt with his creditors threatening to have him arrested.

Mackenzie fled to the United States in May of that year. Shortly after his

move, his entire printery in York was vandalized by his political opponents. He was awarded damages and this enabled him to return to York, repay his debts and set himself up again in the newspaper business once again.

Not to be restricted to just voicing his political views in the paper, Mackenzie entered politics and was elected to the Provincial Parliament in 1828. His primary goal was to have fair government representation for the people.

He had quite the colourful political career, always attacking and criticizing his political opponents. He was expelled six times from the Legislature by the Tory Majority, only to be returned to office by his constituents in subsequent by-elections.

In 1834 the town of York was incorporated as the City of Toronto. Mackenzie was elected as the Mayor of Toronto but was defeated in the 1835 election. The following year he lost his provincial parliamentary

seat. At this time, Mackenzie founded a more radical newspaper, the Constitution where he continued to savagely criticise the provincial parliament.

It was during the depression of 1837 that talk of rebellion was being bantered about in local taverns and in Mackenzie's paper. Free grants of land were only available to United Empire Loyalists and their families, veterans of the War of 1812 and to immigrants from the British Isles. American immigrants had to purchase or lease their land.

Only those who owned property worth a certain amount (5-10 pounds depending on the period) and who had sworn the oath of Loyalty to the Crown were eligible to vote. Understandably, there were many discontented new immigrants from the United States.

With the economic turn down and two years of failed harvests, many of the colony's farmers were subject to harsh debt-collection laws.

The seeds of discontent had been planted, a rebellion was inevitable.

In December of 1837, around 500 would-be revolutionaries gathered at Montgomery's Tavern on Yonge Street. They were ill-equipped for any type of battle but they decided to march south on Yonge with the aim of seizing muskets and ammunition from the Armoury at Fort York. They were opposed by 27 Loyalist volunteers who fired a volley of musket fire, killing three and wounding five of the rebels.

The remaining rebels quickly retreated to Montgomery's Tavern. Later that evening and the following day hundreds of loyal militia, including many farmers from York County and the Hamilton area arrived to bolster the government forces. This force then marched towards Montgomery's Tavern, disbursing the remaining rebels.

After the failure at Toronto, Mackenzie fled to the Buffalo area and garnered

support. In the winter of 1838, Mackenzie and his remaining rebels, along with some American supporters occupied Navy Island in the Niagara River, south of the Horseshoe Falls. Mackenzie claimed the island as the capital of the Republic of Upper Canada.

However this too was short-lived when a group of Canadian volunteers captured and burned the supply ship, Caroline, that the rebels were using and bombarded the island from the mainland with cannon and mortar fire.

The rebellion was over in Toronto and the rebels had been driven from Navy Island, but it was not over. There were a few more skirmishes in 1838 including invasions by Upper Canadian rebels and American supporters in Essex County, Niagara and Prescott.

In each of these actions the rebels were defeated by strong forces of loyal militia and British regulars. The people of Upper Canada did not rise up to join the rebels, support for armed insurrection ended. Farmers had to get back to their land and merchants could not afford to host the rebels for fear of government retaliation.

Several of the rebels were caught and their leaders were executed. Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were executed in Toronto. Many other rebels were exiled to the penal colony of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), Australia.

Read Part 2 next week.

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





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.



Snow birds

Artifact of the Week: Mrs. Sampson's Hearing Aid



Answer: This week's artifact was a hearing aid or ear trumpet used and owned by a Mrs. Sampson. This hearing aid (circa 1882) would have been set on a table and pointed at the person speaking to her. Because of its large size, it would not have been carried around every day, but would have been used for larger gatherings or meetings. This piece was donated by Miss Minnie Ball in 1911.

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



Sophie keeps the staff company at One Earth.
RICHARD HARLEY



**Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:
Between the Lines Winery**

Looking for a bit of winter relief, the NOTL Plunger Patrol found the right "flush" which sent us to a delightful winery called Between the Lines. Several unique features awaited our visit. Between the Lines is very proud of it's famous fishing guru Bob Izumi's wine collection, which he personally selects and oversees every year. One dollar from each bottle sold is donated to his foundation and the Ontario Fisheries Conservation. Between the Lines also boasts of being Canada's first Winery to produce sparkling wine in a can, very convenient for those impromptu picnics or road trips. When visiting the privy we noticed several unique qualities here as well. It was large and privately located with an extra level of rustic comfort and lots of room for total accessibility. Between the Lines came up "sparkling" and was awarded 3.5\5 gold Plungers!

3.5/5 Golden Plungers



Can you guess next week's artifact? >

Clue: I am needed to receive a sacrament.



Congratulations, Dorothy!



Longtime local Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Dorothy Bates was the winner of an online contest by Niagara Now and The Lake Report. Congratulations Dorothy, and thank you for sharing and liking our Facebook page. Dorothy will soon be snacking on \$60 worth of products from local artisan cheese shop Cheese Secrets. Thanks to the owners of Cheese Secrets as well!



RING FOUND

A valuable ring was found back in December of 2018 in the battery recycle bin at the Virgil Avondale. At the finder's request, if you have lost a ring and suspect it may be yours, please call Rosemary at 905-688-3673 to describe and claim it.

RIDDLE ME THIS:

The more you take the more you leave behind. What am I?

**Last Week's answer: Silence.
Answered first by Sabrina Hymus.
Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com
for a chance to win a prize.**

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

Women walk for fitness and friendship

30 years of walking and talking in town forges strong bonds

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

For almost three decades, a group of Niagara-on-the-Lake women, have gathered every weekday morning, almost whatever the weather, to walk around town for exercise and fellowship.

"That's longer than some marriages last," one of the women quips over coffee at Sweets and Swirls Cafe at the Community Centre, following one day's brisk walk.

These days there are as many as twelve walkers/talkers, but the normal daily average is seven or eight. And they are not weather-wimps, braving the elements on all but the slipperiest ice day.

"While the walking keeps bodies active, it is only the vehicle for connecting with each other," says Kathryn Litke, focusing on the fellowship thread.

"We have so much respect for each other," Terry Mactaggart, says. "We're always there for each other in sickness or hard times. And the good times, too!"

In the early days, the group picked people up—like the Pied Piper—as they walked around town. "We kind of collected people as we were walking through town," Audrey Glauser, an original, describes how the small group added members. "Terry (Mactaggart) had a big Newfoundland dog—McKenzie—that really drew attention."

In the pre-internet era, the next day's walking plans were made the night before,

by telephone. Now it's all email.

Over the years, their post-walk talking spots have moved to various cafes around town. But now they meet at the Community Centre, both to have a central spot to gather, but more importantly, to rally after the walk for what most agree is almost more important than the exercise—fellowship and networking.

The group generally sets off in one of four directions from the Community Centre. Where they walk each day isn't decided until the mood of all the day's walkers is surveyed.

Over the years, the group has learned to punctuate their walks by searching for "spots of beauty". A spot of beauty is most often something in nature that strikes the hikers—a patch of blue sky in an otherwise drab day, a small garden of colourful flowers, anything that brightens the moment.

"Even in the winter, when things are grey, we find our spot of beauty," says Maureen Dalgleish.

At the post-walk confab, the community information surfaces faster than a Google search. What's happening, where and when. It is all anyone needs to know about what's happening around town.

Not surprisingly, the group around the table, this cold and windy morning, comes from a wide array of different backgrounds, careers and locales. That makes for both more cre-



The Calendar Girls celebrating a birthday. From left front around the table: Maureen Dalgleish, Dale Stuteley, Kathryn Litke, Joyce Loewen, Heather Hall, Terry Mactaggart, Marlene Bridgman, Kathy Clark, Ruth de Laat, Sheila Tierney, Charlotte Letkemann and Lorraine Kelly. Helen Chapman and Creena MacNeill are also Calendar Girls, but not present for the photo. SUPPLIED PHOTO

ative conversation and some expanding horizons. Dale Stuteley teaches the others Mahjong. Other members lead crafting sessions or organize monarch catching.

Some liken the daily post-walk sessions to a book club—trading books, magazines and recipes, even celebrating each other's birthdays.

For most, the added attraction is the mutual support. Charlotte Letkemann remembers: "You all helped out when I had heart surgery three years ago, preparing and delivering lunches for my first week home."

Ruth de Laat, a group veteran, wants to make sure everyone understands they are not just a walking group or rather a fellow-woman-ship group," she states strongly. "We are a support group for each other. A network." Everyone around the table nods

enthusiastically.

Some, like Mactaggart and Glauser have stepped up their hiking game, completing the 880-kilometer Bruce Trail over several summers.

But most of the walkers are content with a little exercise and a lot of togetherness.



An autumn spot of beauty. The Calendar Girls look for places around town than brighten their days.

What's in a name? One thing that has defied agreement amongst the stalwart group is what to call themselves.

They've rejected "Streetwalkers", perhaps for obvious reasons. The "Lovelies" didn't seem right. The "Walky-talkies" was already taken.

But on this occasion, as if by magic, a consensus is finally reached, after 30 years, some 6,000 walks and just as many talks.

The group will henceforth be known as the Calendar Girls, picking up the idea from a 2018 photo calendar, created by Lorraine Kelly, to commemorate the year's activities.

"Won't someone think we walk around naked," someone at the gathering worries.

"So what," someone else pipes in. It's a fun group.

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