



Spring sale spree! | Page 10



NOTLers are **happy** with tourism, survey finds

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A random phone poll of 300 Niagara-on-the-Lake residents found 85 per cent feel the town can simultaneously be a great place to live and a great place for tourism.

Regulations around short-term rentals and the municipal accommodation tax ranked high on the list of issues residents want

Continued on Page 5

Trio with **same birthday** unite to celebrate 75 laps of sun

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

An intimate party last Tuesday was the setting for not one, not two, but three 75th birthday celebrations.

"You know, when you get to this age, you prefer to forget your birthdays, not to remember them," host of the party and septuagenarian Murray Weaver said with a laugh as he doled out

Continued on Page 3



Kids excited for **Virgil Stampede**

Eager youth anticipate fun, friends and food as fair returns after two years



An employee of Albion Amusements sets up one of the rides for the Virgil Stampede, which starts Saturday. EVAN SAUNDERS

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Across Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond, excitement is building among youngsters and teens anxious for the return of the Virgil Stampede.

The annual carnival is

back for the Victoria Day long weekend for the first time in two years after pandemic closures restricted gatherings in 2020 and 2021.

It takes place Saturday through Monday at Virgil's Centennial Sports Park, outside the arena.

This year no parking is available on the grounds, but see Page 8 for a detailed parking plan for the weekend. There are five lots available at local businesses.

To mark the Stampede's triumphant return, The Lake Report partnered with the Virgil Business

Association (the group that puts on the event) to give out four free all-day ride bracelets to kids 11 to 16. We asked what they love about the Stampede.

Congratulations to 15-year-old Maya Gazzard, one of our winners. Maya said her favourite things are

the rides and the food. "The reptile exhibit with snakes is great! I feel very happy and excited every time I go. It brings back good memories."

Maya lost her father in 2020, a month before

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NOTL's iconic clock tower cenotaph **turns 100**

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph turns 100 on June 4, and the Legion branch 124 and Town of NOTL are planning a celebration fitting for the occasion.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero will receive guests in the oold Court House at 10:30

a.m. followed by a parade at the cenotaph at 11 a.m.

Special guest for the parade will be Ontario Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

"The Legion has always seen the cenotaph as representing their friends and neighbours in the community," the people who went off to fight and do their duty as called upon in

the First and Second World Wars, said Legion president Al Howse.

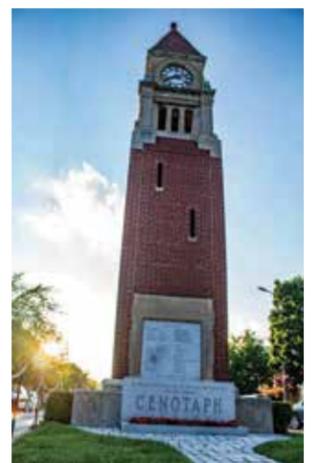
The cenotaph was unveiled on June 24, 1922, by then-Lt. Gov. Henry Cockshutt.

Since then, the names on the cenotaph have connected generations of NOTL families and neighbours, Howse said.

One example is John

Grimstead, whose family still resides here. His brother Joe just died a few years ago.

"That is a great example of how the community used to be connected to those on the cenotaph. Now, the town, population and everything has changed so much. It's the Legion's duty to remind people of these things," Howse said.



The cenotaph. FILE

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Willowbank, Niagara College ink collaboration deal

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara College and Willowbank School of Restoration Arts have signed a memorandum of understanding to explore opportunities to work together.

The college and Willowbank hope to collaborate and “explore mutually beneficial opportunities” that might range from joint

research projects to the creation of academic connections between the organizations.

College president Sean Kennedy and vice-president academic Fiona Allan met last week with college management and members of the Willowbank board, including chair Patrick Little and vice-chair John Scott, outside the Willowbank Estate House to sign the agreement.

“Niagara College is very pleased to partner with Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, a local and highly specialized college, to share expertise and create new opportunities that will benefit students from both our institutions,” Kennedy said.

Willowbank is globally recognized for its expertise in heritage conservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

Its expert faculty from around the world train graduates for careers in heritage restoration and conservation.

“We are excited to start working with Niagara College to explore areas that will lead to enhanced learning experiences and we appreciate the openness that both institutions have demonstrated” in negotiating the agreement, said Little.

Trio with same birthday celebrate 75 years

Continued from Front Page

beverages and appetizers to friends and family.

Weaver was celebrating his 75th along with lifelong friend Gina Scarlett and Dr. Greg DeCinque. All three were born on May 10, 1947.

Scarlett and Weaver were even born in the same hospital, Hamilton General, mere hours apart. But their connection stretches back before even their respective births.

“Gina, I’ve known the longest, our mother’s were best friends,” Weaver recalled.

Scarlett fondly remembered her friendship with Weaver in their youth.

Though they do not see each other frequently these days, the memories of childhood can often be the strongest.

Both of their families had cottages on Boshkung Lake in the Haliburton Highlands.

“With Murray, it was just years and years and years of growing up together,” Scarlett said.

“When I was like 14, when I was allowed to go to his cottage around the bay by myself, they had a cabin with two bunk beds in it and we would stretch out on the top bunk and read comics by the hour,” she reminisced.

“That’s what I hope they were doing,” her husband John jokingly chimed in.

Having the same birthday and mothers who were best friends often put some undue pressure on Weaver when their birthday came around.

“Growing up, Gina would always call me to wish me a happy birthday first. My mother always said, ‘This time, you’re going to call Gina first,’” Weaver said.

“And I remember one



Murray Weaver, Gina Scarlett and Dr. Greg DeCinque were all born on May 10, 1947. Last Tuesday they gathered to celebrate turning 75 together. EVAN SAUNDERS

time, we were in the kitchen, I don’t know how old, eight, nine, 10 — whatever. My mother says, ‘Did you call Gina?’ And I said, ‘Yeah, yeah. I called her.’”

“Ten seconds later the phone rings. It’s Gina.”

“Oh no, did I blow your cover?” Scarlett interrupted as Weaver recounted the tale.

“So I pick up the phone and, of course, Gina said, ‘Murray, it’s Gina. I just wanted to call and wish you a happy birthday and stuff like that.’ And I’m like, ‘Ya, ya. Thanks Gina,’” said Weaver.

“My mother immediately turns on me and goes, ‘You didn’t call her!’” Weaver laughs as he finishes the story.

Weaver met DeCinque by chance in Ellicottville more than 20 years ago.

“We were sitting there in March, April, lunch for a bunch of people and someone said to me, ‘Hey, don’t you have a birthday coming up?’” Weaver said.

“And I knew mine was coming up but someone else turned and said, ‘Yeah I do.’ I looked at him and said, ‘Well when is it?’” And he said May 10.”

“I said, ‘What year?’ He said 1947 and then I said, ‘What hour?’ I figured out he’s older than me.”

DeCinque’s memory of the meeting was slightly different. As he recalls, the two bonded over a mutual love of cigars.

He has been visiting Niagara for many years as he used to store a boat at Point Abino out by Crystal Beach, he said.

He drove over the border the night before the party and stayed in Niagara-on-the-Lake to be close to the birthday festivities.

DeCinque is sharp as ever at 75 and couldn’t help but tell a few jokes at the party.

“Remember the old Carl Reiner line? They asked him about turning 90 years old and he said, ‘Well, life

is pretty simple. I get up in the morning and I look at the newspaper and turn to the obituary column,” DeCinque said.

“And if my name’s not there I go and have a cup of coffee.”

The event was special as, despite having the same birthday, the trio had never celebrated together before, Weaver said.

In fact, DeCinque had never met Scarlett until she showed up in NOTL on Tuesday.

He had one more joke up his sleeve.

“There was this legendary jazz musician. Finally, when he is in his 90s, he gets a show on Broadway. So, someone’s interviewing him and they say, ‘You’re 90 years old. Is there anything in life you wish you’d done differently?’” DeCinque said.

“He says, ‘If I had known I’d live this long I would have taken better care of myself.’”

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Short-term rentals **near top** of residents concerns

Continued from Front Page

town council to tackle.

In data gathered by Abacus Data and presented to town councillors Monday night, NOTL's tourism entities sought to emphasize that tourism as a whole is supported by residents.

"There's been an undercurrent of information that maybe residents aren't as happy with tourism in Niagara-on-the-Lake and it's not something we've heard in the past," Lais Hotel Properties Ltd. executive Paul MacIntyre said at the Prince of Wales where the survey was presented to members of NOTL's tourism industry.

"So, what we wanted to do was get a feel if that's true, where we can help and how we can be a part of it."

As well, the survey showed that, of the 300 residents polled across town, 84 per cent consider they have a good or excellent quality of life.

"As someone whose done research in larger cities and smaller communities across the province and the country, I do say that these are really positive numbers and it's rare to see such overwhelming spirit and excitement about where people live," said David Coletto, chief executive of Abacus Data and a professor at Carleton University.

The top four reasons cited for the high quality of life were the amount of greenspace, the sense of peace and quiet, the number of amenities and local infrastructure.

Coletto tied in the number of amenities directly with tourism, as did many respondents of the survey as 89 per cent of respondents said tourism is responsible for the number of things to do.

Respondents also said tourism is essential for the town's economy, sustainability and infrastructure.

Of the 300 answers received, 11 per cent of residents said their quality of life has diminished in the past two years due to new residents moving into town.

"Every community that's growing deals with these same challenges," Coletto said in his presentation to council.

Tourism was tied for third place as the main reason



Chamber of Commerce president Minerva Ward, right, enjoys a glass of pinot grigio before taking the podium at the Prince of Wales on Tuesday. EVAN SAUNDERS

for a decrease in quality of life, along with "elected officials," both cited by three per cent of respondents.

"Tourism is often the easiest manifestation of those challenges," Coletto said.

The second-most mentioned problem was "development projects."

Roughly 14 per cent of respondents said tourism and a high quality of life are not compatible.

The number one reason, cited by six per cent of all respondents, is that tourism negatively affects residential communities.

The next two most cited answers were congestion and developments caused by tourism.

Readers may recall a series on short-term rentals published by The Lake Report earlier this year which focused on the problems rentals can cause in neighbourhoods.

Coincidentally, three of the top 12 answers from residents when asked what town council should be focusing on related to short-term rental regulations.

Prioritizing the municipal accommodation tax was cited by four per cent of respondents, regulating Airbnb was cited by three per cent and a straight reduction of short-term rentals by two per cent.

That equates to nine per cent of all respondents, making short-term rentals and tourism accommodations the number three issue residents think the town should be dealing with.

Cited by four per cent of residents was also a reduction of tourism in general, which was balanced out by three per cent of residents

saying there should be more tourism.

The top two concerns were parking issues (21 per cent of respondents) and congestion (15 per cent).

"It's clear from this research that Niagara-on-the-Lake residents want to see the town focus on improving parking and traffic congestion. That's something they'd like you to think about as you deal with your tourism plan," Coletto said.

Responding to a question from Coun. Gary Burroughs, Coletto said the survey was conducted randomly via telephone interviews with residents.

Short of breaking into one of his lectures about polling at Carleton, random sampling is the most accurate way to represent the views of a general public, he said.

Coletto explained why the negative aspects of an issue are what the people in charge will hear the most about.

"Nobody's calling up Rogers to tell them how wonderful their wireless plan is or how fast their internet service is," Coletto said.

"They're typically calling because there's a problem." While it is important not to dismiss residents' concerns just because they are in the minority, it is also essential to understand what the silent majority may be feeling, he said.

As the town moves forward with its tourism strategy it's vital that hard data be used to determine a course of action, MacIntyre said.

"It allows us to make very clear decisions that aren't artificially driven. They're factually driven."

Chamber of Com-

merce president Minerva Ward said the survey findings were not a surprise.

"It basically confirms what we already knew: that there's a strong positive sentiment about tourism," Ward said at the Prince of Wales on Tuesday.

But Ward said just because a large number of residents do not have concerns about tourism does not mean those who do have concerns should be cast aside.

"The complaints about tourism, I don't think they should be ignored. I think we need to listen and see what the issue is — It may not be about tourism, it may be about something else we can fix."

The survey was organized by several notable NOTL tourism entities, including the Shaw Festival, Niagara's Finest Hotels, Peller Estate Winery and Arterra Wines, said Tim Jennings, executive director of the Shaw as he introduced Coletto.

Jennings said one of the imperatives of putting together the survey was to ensure "our tourism ecology re-emerges and regenerates quickly and vibrantly from the pandemic."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she never believed there was a deep divide among residents who do and don't like tourism, but felt a relevant question for residents would have been about how they would like to see tourism managed.

Coletto said no such question was included and suggested residents probably wouldn't know the best ways to manage tourism. The information from the survey should be a tool for councillors to determine an approach, he added.

An online survey by Abacus of 500 people across Niagara Region yielded similar results regarding attitudes about tourism, infrastructure and economic issues, although the NOTL residents generally had a more positive opinion of where they live and differed on what they thought the government should be addressing.

Council voted to send the survey results to town staff to be included in the decision-making process for the tourism strategy.

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Townhouse project proposed for Mary Street

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



A visual of the complex facing Dorchester Street. SOURCED

A new townhouse complex is being proposed for Mary Street.

“The Gables is a four-unit luxury townhouse complex located in the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake,” marketing consultant Dylan Douglas said on behalf of the applicant, Desmond D’Silva of Integricon Developments Inc.

The development will be three-storeys and, during an open house on Monday, Susan Wheeler, planning consultant for the project, noted it is at least a half-metre shorter than the maximum height allowance in the area.

The complex is proposed for 355 Mary St., at the corner of Dorchester Street.

The land is currently a commercially zoned building, containing an office. The developer is requesting the land be rezoned to medium-density residential.

The four units would have individual driveways exiting onto Dorchester Street.

Coun. Gary Burroughs expressed concern over

the loss of a commercially zoned piece of land.

Planning director Kirsten McCauley said town staff are still reviewing the application and couldn’t comment on the effect of the loss of the commercial land at this point.

The design has been made to reflect and fit in with Old Town, Douglas said.

“The Gables have been meticulously designed to complement the streetscape on both the Mary Street and Dorchester Street frontages,” he said.

He said the architectural design is based on the style of homes in Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard.

Every detail of the design was meticulously selected, including the soft blue-gray pallet, cedar shake roof, natural stone accents and

lush landscaping, Douglas said.

Wheeler said the area is one of the main entrances to Old Town and the complex would be an “emblem and reminder to both tourists and residents that they are now entering one of Ontario’s most beautiful towns.”

Coun. Allan Bisback asked Wheeler how much the units would sell for, noting the town is looking to expand access to affordable housing.

Because of the materials selected for the project, Wheeler said it is doubtful the townhouses would meet the criteria of affordable housing but noted they would be cheaper than purchasing a neighbouring detached home.

Bisback said the material

choice was “impeccable.”

Coun. Norm Arsenault noted that three large trees on the boulevard on Dorchester Street will need to be taken down in order to accommodate the driveways and asked if there had been any consideration as to working around the foliage instead.

Wheeler said it is preferable to have the driveways jutting onto Dorchester instead of Mary Street.

“We would have preserved the trees if at all possible,” she said.

Arsenault also pushed Wheeler to explore using low-impact development materials instead of asphalt for paving, something Wheeler said had not been considered but would be taken into account moving forward.

Chorus Niagara Children’s Choir returns to the stage with NOTL bandshell show

Maddy Gordon
Special to The Lake Report

The award-winning Chorus Niagara Children’s Choir will host its first live concert in over two years, “Music In The Air,” on May 29 at the Simcoe Park Bandshell in downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The 3 p.m. performance will feature an ensemble of 55 young singers, all ranging in age from 3 to 18.

“To be able to look out into the audience and see our friends, family and choral community supporting the kids in this choir is something I’m really looking forward to,” said Amanda Nelli, the choir’s artistic director.

The group has performed at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre as well as the Bravo! Niagara Festival for the Arts, and also shared the stage with musical artists Pavlo Simtikidis, an internationally renowned guitarist, and Measha Brueggergosman, a Juno award-winning soprano.

The choir also has been honoured with a gold award

at MusicFest Canada, a national competition, and prior to the pandemic members were invited to perform at the national choir conference, Podium Choral Conference and Festival.

Despite the choir being moved entirely online for over a year, including virtual performances and rehearsals, the group has persevered and is now excited to welcome an audience back to in-person live performances.

“You really can’t replicate the joy that comes from the experience of singing together,” said Nelli on having to run the choir virtually for so long.

“Not only do their musical skills develop but their confidence in themselves as well, which is just so exciting to see.”

Tickets (\$15 plus fees) for “Music In The Air,” are available at <https://www.chorusniagaracc.org>.

The choir also is accepting new singers ages 3 to 18 for its Carnegie Hall trip next year. No auditions are required and details can be found on the group’s website.

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Kevlar vests and fake Glock: The **split-second** decisions police must make

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

To tase or not to tase? That was largely the question the Niagara Regional Police Services posed to a small group of journalists on Monday, as they opened the doors of their training facility in Welland to simulate the high-stress situations officers face and how they determine what action to take.

The simulated Police Training Day is “a very poignant learning tool” that shows people how quickly officers have to make decisions and how fast situations can change, said Const. Philip Gavin.

Journalists were fitted with Kevlar vests and a utility belt holding a fake Glock pistol, a fake can of pepper spray and a plastic baton before being led through five hours of training.

Const. Andrew Watson explained the official use-of-force training model, the bread and butter of officer training.

“It helps them assess situations and basically decide what they are going to do in dealing with certain situations based on subject behaviours,” he said.

Watson emphasized one strategy trumps all others.

“Communication. Out of everything we have on our belts, that is our biggest tool,” he said.

“Our job is to try and de-escalate a situation and the best way to do that is with communication.”

A use-of-force graph was outlined as a wheel, with categories rolling and blending into each other. But there was one constant: communication revolves around all aspects of the use of force training model – and should always come first.

The first category of subject behaviour is cooperative.

After that comes passive resistant, essentially when someone refuses to listen to an officer.

This level of resistance allows for “soft techniques,” including joint locks and pressure points, Watson said.



Top: Lake Report journalist Evan Saunders and other reporters learn the basics of boxing during a media training day with the Niagara Regional Police Services. Left: Saunders is fitted for a Kevlar vest at the Niagara Regional Police Services training centre. SUPPLIED. Constable Chad Davidson demonstrates the soft baton technique of prying out a suspects arms when they are resisting arrest. EVAN SAUNDERS

Active resistance is when someone uses their body to avoid arrest, such as holding onto an object to keep themselves in one place.

Assaultive comes after and, in such a case, officers can use hard techniques. They are trained to land two or three well-placed blows to try to control a subject.

“Distract, disorient, disrupt. That’s what we are looking to do,” Watson said.

Once a situation is assaultive, a Taser or baton is an option.

The final category is lethal force and it is only to be used when someone may cause grievous bodily injury or death to anyone around them, including themselves.

“If it’s a knife, gun, bat – we are going to be pulling our pistol,” Watson said.

One scenario a journalist was put through illustrated

the importance of drawing your gun when any other lethal weapon is involved.

The journalist was responding to a call of a suicidal man alone in an apartment with a hand gun.

The journalist tried to reason with the man, who grew frustrated and pointed his gun at the “officer.” Because the journalist did not have his pistol drawn, he was “shot.”

Watson stressed officers are not trained to shoot to kill but rather to incapacitate and are never supposed to aim above the heart.

Indeed, several journalists “died” during the scenarios. Among others, one was gunned down in an abandoned home by a thief, another was stabbed with a box-cutter and another was shot by a man who refused to reveal what he was hiding behind a box.

All of the “deaths” were a direct result of the fast-paced nature of the scenarios, forcing journalists to try to figure out how much force was appropriate. More often than not, they chose wrong.

A journalist from The Lake Report was congratulated during his scenario which featured an aggressive duo at a traffic stop. The journalist wheeled from using verbal communication to lethal force when the two men left their vehicle and tried to surround him.

After drawing his gun and forcing them back inside their car the journalist holstered his pistol and returned to communicating verbally about the speeding incident.

Learn more about training day at niagaranow.com.

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 112
Region active cases: 1,056
Region deaths: 555
Region total cases: 40,710

**May 18 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Extend the circle of "us" to include as much of the world as possible."
 - Rick Hanson

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Painted turtles soak up the sun



Lake Report contributor Steve Hardaker captured this photo of painted turtles sunbathing on a log at Niagara College on Tuesday.



Editorial

Make an informed choice

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Has anyone noticed? There's a provincial election campaign sleepwalking its way across Ontario now. In two weeks, Ontarians will have a chance to pass judgment on the past four years of governance by Doug Ford and his Progressive Conservatives.

That judgment largely will be a referendum on how Ford handled (or mishandled) the pandemic response in this province. Was he an overmatched, out-of-his-depth neophyte who repeatedly chose political expediency over science and caused unnecessary death and suffering, or was he a decisive, workman-like leader who made the tough calls to the best of his ability in crisis situations no other premier has ever had to face?

Ultimately, the voters will decide.

Despite the tendency for many voters to forever define themselves as Liberals, Conservatives or New Democrats and vote accordingly – sort of "my party right or wrong" a la American-style politics – in this particular riding, at least in the most recent elections, that isn't always the case.

It's a refreshing change from the political norm. In the last two elections, Niagara Falls riding, which also includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Lake Erie, has elected a Conservative federally and a pothole-fixin', Everyman trade unionist New Democrat provincially. (OK, he's more than a pothole fixer, that's a municipal responsibility, but that is the cultivated persona.)

So, the same voting populace has opted for two very

divergent electoral options, people from opposite ends of the political spectrum, choosing the person they feel will best represent them in Ottawa or Queen's Park. Interesting.

We're not sure why that has happened, but it seems better than knee-jerk partisan support "because that's how we vote." In Canada's parliamentary-based electoral system, technically, a vote for any candidate is not a vote for their party. Yes, you're supporting PC, Liberal or NDP etc., but your vote doesn't help the party leader – unless your candidate wins and thus helps their party take the reins of power.

Which is why we have always believed that to make your X really count at the local level people should vote for the person who will best represent their community, their interests, their

issues. And that appears to be what the voters of Niagara Falls riding have done in elections going back many years, when the provincial member often represented a different party than their federal counterpart. Similar voter pool, different outcomes.

So, what's it all mean? We'd suggest it indicates the voters of Niagara Falls riding pay close attention to what their local candidates say and how they perform. We think that is the right approach and encourage everyone to take the time to educate yourself and make an informed decision about who should represent you for the next four years or more.

You've got a couple of weeks. It's your democracy, your choice. Use that democratic choice wisely.
 editor@niagaranow.com



'No parking' signs near Grist are unnecessary

Dear editor:
 I am not a patron of the Grist restaurant in St. Davids, just opposed to knee-jerk reactions by town council.

I cannot agree more with Bill Plancke's comments regarding the "no parking" signs on Four Mile Creek Road near the Grist, "Major overkill with St. Davids

parking signs," The Lake Report, May 12).

I can understand banning parking close to driveways and side streets to give drivers safe entrance onto the street.

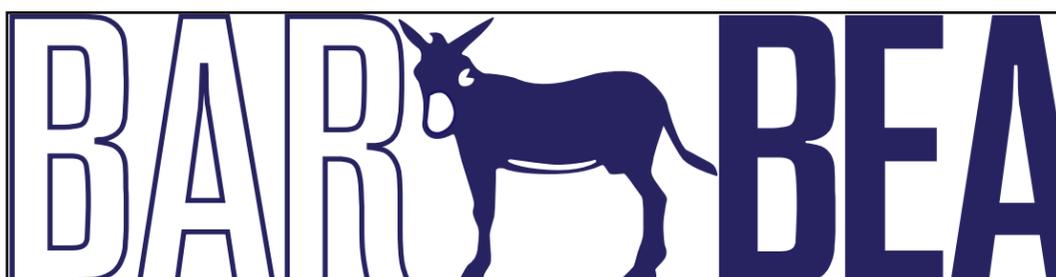
Complete "no parking" coverage along Four Mile Creek Road with the wide shoulders available is way over the top.

Oddly enough, heading from the Grist to the four corners in St. Davids, after the "no parking" signs end, there is no shoulder at all, yet anyone can park there and block half the lane.

It doesn't make sense, but obviously it's not a safety issue there compared to the ample shoulders to park 200 yards away.

I live close by and have never had a safety issue driving past the cars parked there. I feel there should be a common resolution so a business can stay successful and the complainant's issues satisfied.

Douglas Getty
 St. Davids



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Real leadership is needed to halt NOTL's slow decline

Dear editor:

Shock, denial, anger and depression – yes, I feel I am experiencing all these emotions as I watch the slow decline of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a town once known primarily as a national historic treasure with many cultural opportunities.

I agree with the letter from Elsie Lailey (“Yet another commercial development in Old Town,” April 7), who simply expressed she was “so very sad” at what was happening to the town.

Visitors used to enjoy shopping in town, going to art galleries (Angie Strauss/Trisha Romance etc.), browsing antique stores and experiencing live theatre at the Shaw Festival.

Circumstances (the pandemic) and progress often force change. However, it does not mean we have to abandon our heritage or lower our standards in order to stay an economically healthy community.

As residents, and taxpayers, for over 22 years – and visitors for another 20 before that – we have seen positive change.

Think the old gas station where the Shaw Cafe now sits, indeed an improvement. Having a Tim Hortons and McDonald's as neighbours (but not within the Historic District) was a positive change.

Limiting bus traffic in town, but offering transportation alternatives, was a positive change. We can embrace and even encourage tourism growth without

sacrificing the nature of the town and its historic significance.

On the other hand, some changes have not been as welcome or enhancing. We have witnessed the changing face of retail. Once we had a variety of clothing and shoe stores, along with jewelry, soap, candle and a few tchotchke shops.

There were one or two ice cream and coffee places, and several fine restaurants. You could even go to the Oban after a dinner and/or show and listen to live piano music.

Now, however, we have an abundance of ice cream, coffee and “goodie” shops and numerous choices for hand-to-mouth “picnics.” The result for locals has been sticky benches, discarded coffee cups and napkins, pet feces and thoughtless tourists.

Shopkeepers even need to put signs up telling shoppers not to bring food or pets into their stores.

Having served for over 15 years on various town boards in upstate New York (assessment review, building zoning and zoning variance, as well as master plan), I can attest to the fact there are many tools that can be used to support and encourage healthy economic growth.

However, all of this depends on the town's mission statement and a stewardship definition that carefully protects the quality of life for the town's residents and preserves our history.

Does Niagara-on-the-Lake's mission statement do this? Does it prioritize economic issues?

It would appear that the economy and money have become a lead factor in decision-making as the latest “word” is the mayor and councillors want to: widen the sidewalks, allow more outdoor cafes, remove on-street parking, move the flowers to the street parking areas, narrow the street and create a “mini-midway” (our own Clifton Hill?).

What was once a town awarded for its beauty and culture will now be one noted for its “fun” – and new Dairy Queen.

It begs the question of the fiduciary responsibility for town government to use our tax dollars wisely.

Healthy, positive economic development can become a welcome addition to the community – both residential and tourist.

However, to accomplish this and reverse this dismal decline will depend upon having or electing leaders who possess a sense of duty to perform as stewards for this town and its heritage, leaders who can support a mission statement and code that will indeed encourage welcomed economic growth.

And for those interested in running for office, we need more than a change of “tone.” Something to ponder.

*Rosalind McClellan
NOTL*

Please don't restrict use of old railway trail

Dear editor:

Since we all have the right to our own opinion, I can tell you that I rarely agree with issues regarding Rainer Hummel.

However, on his opinion on the former railway line, I totally agree with him, (“Let's all share the old railway trail,” Letter, May 12).

For more than 50 years, the back of our farm has bordered what is now the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.



Dirt bikes, bicycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, horses, walkers, runners all were part of using this trail.

It is unthinkable to me

that this might change.

Everyone seems to say they worry about other people when in fact actions like this show they do not.

I trust that when the next sections of the heritage trail are updated, the people who have used this trail for years will not be banned from using it in their accustomed ways.

Otherwise, that will not sit well with me.

*Susan Pohorly
NOTL*



NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

The Town is holding a Public Input Session to receive comments from the public on a revised development proposal for 200 John Street East and 588 Charlotte Street.

WHEN - Thursday, June 9, 2022 starting at 6 pm.

WHERE - Virtually via Microsoft Teams

SUBJECT LANDS

200 John Street East & 588 Charlotte Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake (see the location map).



Files - Official Plan Amendment (OPA-02-2020), Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA-11-2020) & Draft Plan of Subdivision (26T-18-20-01)

ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

In July 2020, the owner of the subject lands submitted applications for Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision (Applications) to facilitate the development of:

- 125 single-detached dwellings;
- 66 semi-detached dwellings; and
- blocks of land for parks, natural areas and future development all on a private road network

Following public consultation and receipt of agency comments, the owner submitted a revised proposal in March 2022 consisting of:

- 39 single-detached dwellings;
- 26 semi-detached dwellings;
- 107 townhouse dwellings; and
- blocks of land for parks, natural areas and future development all on a private road network

On April 6, 2022, the owner appealed the Applications to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

A copy of the Applications and supporting documents are on the Town's website at <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notice/200-john-street-588-charlotte-street-rand-estate-opa> or at the Community and Development Services Department at Town Hall.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

The purpose of the Public Input Session is to provide the public an opportunity to submit comments, orally or in writing, regarding the revised proposal.

This is not a statutory meeting under the Planning Act. This is not a Council meeting. No decisions will be made at the Public Input Session.

In advance of the Public Input Session, Staff will prepare an Information Report that provides a summary of the revised proposal and an overview of the applicable Provincial, Regional and local planning policies. This report will be available to the public after 4:30 pm on June 2, 2022 on the Town's website at <https://www.notl.com/council-government/mayor-council/meetings-agendas-minutes>. At the Public Input Session, Staff will provide a PowerPoint presentation outlining the content of the Information Report.

If you wish to participate by making an oral presentation, you must register in advance with Ralph Walton, Town Clerk at clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266. Please register as soon as possible and prior to 12 noon on June 9, 2022. On the date of the Session, you will receive an email with instructions to connect on your computer, tablet or telephone.

Written comments may be submitted to the Town Clerk, at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 or via email at clerks@notl.com referencing the above file numbers.

If you wish to view the Public Input Session for information purposes, the meeting will be available at the following link: <https://www.notl.com/council-government/mayor-council/meetings-agendas-minutes>. Registration is not required.

Unless indicated otherwise, all submissions, including personal information, will become part of the public record.

The Applications will not be subject to debate or deliberation. Staff can answer questions of a technical and factual nature. Complex questions will be documented and responses will be provided by the Town's consulting team at a later date.

Questions concerning this Notice can be directed to planning.development@notl.com.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, May 19, 2022

Ralph Walton - Town Clerk (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266)

Town Hall, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0



van noort flower studio

Happy Victoria Day Weekend!

Proud supporters of The Lake Report

We are closed May 21, 22 and 23 to support the Virgil Stampede. The grab and go market will be open all weekend for your shopping convenience.

1634 Four Mile Creek Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake | 905-468-7815 | vannoortflowers.com

St. Davids veterinarian went truly above and beyond to help ill dog

Dear editor:

This is a dog tale not about a coyote attack but rather a case of food poisoning and an amazing veterinarian who went above and beyond.

One of my Westies, Kiera, licked a few drops of spilled water from some bad salmon on Friday morning and by Friday evening she was deathly ill.

Some wonderful neighbours got me some Gravol but it soon became obvious that was not enough.

I called the emergency veterinary clinic but was told there would be a six- to eight-hour wait, which I could not imagine enduring with the amount of diarrhea coming out of her.

Panicked, I sent an email to my vet, Dr. Stephanie Hall of St. David's Veterinary Clinic, on the off-chance she might respond. This was a Friday night, after all.

To my surprise and ever



grateful appreciation she called me, calmed me down and gave me instructions. It was a brutal night.

Saturday morning Dr. Hall called me again. I think she sensed all was not well because she casually suggested she would be in my area and could she drop by with some medication.

I gratefully said yes.

Upon arrival, after a quick assessment of Kiera, she told me softly but clearly that intravenous fluids were needed and she offered to take her to the clinic right then and there – and said she would keep her for the weekend.

This was definitely above and beyond what anyone should expect from their vet.

St. David's Veterinary Clinic is not open on weekends and by rights I should have accessed the emergency clinic, but I did not realize how serious things had become.

If Dr. Hall had not made that house call and taken Kiera with her for IV treatment, it is very possible we would have lost her.

Dr. Hall is a true hero in our community. I am forever grateful.

**Nancy Barry
NOTL**

Where is council's due diligence on installing McNab four-way stop?

Dear editor:

Well, I have read the article in regard to the stop sign for Church Road at McNab, "Four-way stop coming to Church and McNab," (The Lake Report, May 12).

Hmmm, where is the due diligence to ensure that a stop sign is appropriate?

It seems that this issue was brought up at just one meeting and passed without any further discussion. Where was the public notice on this motion being brought to council? Shouldn't rebuttals have been on the schedule as well?

This feels like a knee-jerk reaction without a viable study.

If many have sent letters and emails over the years, why is it now that this an issue? A long-time resident, who has lived on Church Road for many, many years, told me they never heard of crashes that were as serious as the ones encountered at

Church and Townline Road, which is an intersection that should have a four-way stop.

Church Road was also mentioned as the only direct route to Virgil. This may be true but I'm sure the option to use Lakeshore Road to East and West Line, and hustle to Virgil that way is plausible.

Some may even use Scott Street to get there as well.

A speed reduction to 60 km/h is a good start but perhaps it should be changed to 50 km/h from Stewart Road to just past McNab to slow traffic down the hill and then increase the speed beyond that point.

As for farm vehicles travelling slowly through the area, which can be difficult at times for some, some farm vehicles can travel as fast as regular vehicles.

Simple signage such as "Slow moving vehicles crossing," "Steep hill ahead" could be a much-needed improvement

instead of a stop at the bottom of a blind hill.

I do applaud Coun. Gary Burroughs for his attempt to follow the procedure that I assume should happen: conduct a traffic/road study with a report returned as soon as possible before implementing a stop sign.

What I don't applaud is that councillors, although they agree that research should be done, jumped on the bandwagon and passed the motion.

This just leaves a sour taste especially when viable options may be more productive. With a municipal election not far away, are things being hurried through?

Anyway, at this juncture, it seems that any other remedial suggestions would be moot, as council has spoken and agreed that its decision is the only viable answer.

**Lynn Baker
NOTL**



Virgil Stampede Parking Plan

*****NO ON-SITE PARKING***
HANDICAP PARKING AND DROP-OFF ONLY**

Gate # 1. Main Gate. Entrance off Creek Rd. Handicap parking and drop off only!

Gate # 2. Pedestrian entrance only. Dead end off Lorraine Street. Foot traffic only (no vehicles).

Lot # 1.

Niagara on the Lake Town Hall. 80 spots. Saturday, Sunday, Monday. 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd. 2+ Minute walk to both Gates 1 & 2.

Lot # 2.

Niagara Motors, Virgil. 120 spots. Sunday and Monday only! 1537 Niagara Stone Rd. 5-7 Minute walk to both Gates 1 & 2.

Lot # 3.

Phil's Independent Grocer Virgil. 100 spots. **Monday overflow only!** 1551 Niagara Stone Rd. 5-7 minute walk to both Gates 1 & 2.

Lot # 4.

Meridian Credit Union. 80 spots. Sunday and Monday only! 1567 Niagara Stone Rd. 5 minute walk to Gate 2.

Lot #5.

Cornerstone Community Church 100 spots. Saturday, Sunday, Monday. 1570 Niagara Stone Rd. 5-7 Minute walk to Gates 1 & 2.

Unfortunately, we have **no parking available on the Virgil Arena grounds this year.**

All Stampede parking is at your own risk ... Please don't leave valuables in your vehicle. All other business and residential parking are private property, you must obtain permission or risk your vehicle being towed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program

Various locations throughout the Niagara region

Commencing Spring 2022 - weekdays

Motorists and the general public are hereby advised that Niagara Region's Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program has commenced. For updates on this project please visit niagararegion.ca/roads. This project is required to increase the lifespan of the road sections by improving the structural integrity.

The proposed work includes:

- Replacing selected cross culverts
- Milling off the top course of asphalt or doing a cold in place strategy of the road section
- Repairing cracks in the base course asphalt and replacing concrete curbs that are in poor condition
- Paving new top course asphalt, line marking and adding granular to shoulders

Please expect traffic delays and that daily road closures and detours as identified will be required for paving operations during construction.

The contractors' anticipated hours of operation from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**, weather permitting.

Businesses and residents will have access during the closure but may be directed to take an alternate route to get to their destination.

Emergency services will also have access if required.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Niagara Region Dispatch at **905-984-3690** or **Melissa Tomascik, C.E.T., Project Manager Transportation Engineering**, at **905-980-6000 ext. 3189**.

Your co-operation and patience during this period of inconvenience is appreciated.

Bruce Zvaniga

Commissioner of Public Works (Interim)

Niagara Region



Town passed new official plan and now it's up to region

Dear editor:

I am writing regarding the opinion piece, "Provincial changes mean town must allow secondary dwellings on NOTL properties," (May 5), by Rainer Hummel, NOTL resident and developer of dozens of housing projects in Niagara Region.

If Mr. Hummel wishes to cast aspersions on the functioning of the municipal governance of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake he should check his facts, and I would expect The Lake Report should have done its due diligence with respect to the facts.

Perhaps you forgot The Lake Report's own headline coverage on the front page on Aug. 22, 2019, "It's official: NOTL adopts New Official plan, 25 years later."

That new official plan was adopted by council Oct. 22, 2019, and duly submitted to the Region of Niagara early in 2020 and

as Mr. Hummel, and surely your experienced political reporters, should know the region has held up approval of all new municipal official plans until it has finalized its own new regional official plan and obtained provincial approval of its own conformity with provincial laws and policy statements.

Interestingly Section 10.13.1 in the new Niagara-on-the-Lake official plan speaks specifically to "the development of second residential units provides opportunities to increase the supply of affordable rental accommodation in the town."

If Mr. Hummel had tuned in to the most recent town council meeting, he would know of Scott Robinson's excellent presentation and that council is proceeding to incorporate provisions for secondary dwellings in the bylaw review and update currently underway

to simplify the process so residents will not have to go through a confusing, costly process to create such units.

Perhaps Mr. Hummel's lawsuit against the town for having the temerity to issue an interim control bylaw to pause development after getting elected in 2018, on the platform of producing the new official plan clouded his memory of its passing.

One would have thought Justice James Ramsay's comments in dismissing that suit "that council wanted to preserve the Old Town's heritage and considered the matter urgent, freezing the status quo, considering studies and public input amending the official plan and then repealing the interim bylaw, that was essentially what they were supposed to do" would have refreshed his memory.

Bob Bader
NOTL

Not impressed with mayoral candidates

Dear editor:

So far, I am less than impressed with the two candidates who have announced their intentions to run for the position of lord mayor in the 2022 municipal election.

Our current Lord Mayor, Betty Disero, is pictured maskless, surrounded by a group of supporters who almost without exception are wearing masks, in photos that accompanied articles in both NOTL papers last week.

She opted not to don a face mask despite the advice of Niagara's acting chief medical officer of health, Dr. Mustafa Hirji, who continues to advise all residents of Niagara to wear face masks voluntarily in indoor spaces around others.

While I recognize Ontario has lifted nearly all its mask mandates and the decision of whether to wear a mask indoors is now a personal choice for the mayor and most other Ontarians, I question whether the mayor is setting a good example by opting not to wear one.

Premier Doug Ford may be done with the pandemic, but as Dr. Hirji has made clear, it is not done with us.

People in Niagara continue to die of COVID, our hospitals are struggling to treat an overcapacity of patients and there is still a significant backlog of people waiting for critical surgeries.

Yet our lord mayor feels neither the need, nor the responsibility, to follow Hirji's advice and wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Plus, much of what she has put forward as her priorities for the next term of council has not changed from four years ago.

We still do not have an approved official plan, St. Davids is no closer to having a new swimming pool, the future of the Rand Estate is still in question and critical changes to the zoning bylaw have yet to be made.

What happened to the community planning permit approach that was put forward in the last election as an innovative way to control

development, and where it occurs, in our community?

And Disero's only opponent so far, regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, stated he won't back down from his decision to support the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of York Road and Four Mile Creek in St. Davids, despite strong opposition to the proposal by residents of the community.

This tells me he does not understand the principles of democratic government, which are based on the public electing politicians to represent them in the council chambers, legislatures and Parliament of our nation.

The role of those politicians is to make sure the voices of their constituents are heard and get a fair hearing when legislation, regulations and major infrastructure projects are being considered by government.

It isn't to block their ears and push for projects that are unnecessary and unwanted.

Terry Davis
NOTL

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 **FEATURED**

Spring **summer sale spree** all across NOTL

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Pots and plants

It was a Saturday for the garage sale history books in Niagara-on-the-Lake last weekend, as easing of pandemic rules allowed several markets to set up all over town and compete for attention.

And with the sunny weekend weather, all of them were getting it.

At the Virgil arena, dozens of people lined up to get the first picks at the NOTL Horticultural Society's plant sale, which offered up prime pickings from the gardens of members and tool sharpening.

Cindy Grant, co-chair of the Horticultural Society, said some people knew exactly what they were looking for. One person she talked to had sought out and purchased his desired plant in about three minutes.

"They know what they want, they come in and they grab it, and they're gone," Grant says as people shuffle in.

Most of the perennial plants are donated, but they do buy some of the non-perennials at wholesale cost from local growers.

Sandra Bott, a co-ordinator of the sale, said there were well over 1,000 plants there when it started. In less than half an hour from opening, the outdoor space and a room inside the arena were starting to empty out.

Bott didn't seem shocked to see the frenzy.

"People know this sale. They've missed it for the



Left: Bashar Haddad and his son Shebl set up a small sale stand at the Orchard Park community garage sale on Saturday. Top right: Alan Large, retired tool and die maker, sharpens garden tools at the Horticultural Society's popular spring sale, held outside of the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Bottom right: Eager gardeners make their way into the sale right at 9 a.m. to get the first pick of plants. RICHARD HARLEY



last three years," she said, echoing Grant's sentiment that people tend to show up knowing there's going to be some good selection.

"And it's not just hostas and shasta daisies," she said.

She said another draw is that members are around to help give advice on planting.

"We have people here who are so knowledgeable. They'll tell you whether it's a shade or a sun plant, or (if it will) spread, or how tall it'll grow."

Bott said it was "really nice to see so many gardeners out."

"And this is the year of the garden. This is the year that people are glad to be out and working in their gardens."

The sale is a fundraiser

for the Horticultural Society, which uses the funds for various good deeds around town. Recently the organization gave \$5,000 toward a new community garden on Niven Road, to bring a waterline across the road to the garden.

A GIGANTIC garage sale

Around the corner at Cornerstone Community Church, another line wrapped around the building as eager bargain hunters waited to get the first pickings at the NOTL Rotary Club's "Gigantic" Garage Sale.

The sale took up several rooms inside the church as well as several tents and storage containers outside the church.

People were leaving with arms full of goodies, anything from furniture and houseware items to toys and sports equipment.

Greg Fedoryn, president of the NOTL Rotary Club, was at the door helping people purchase their items.

He said an hour into the sale, plus the preview night on Friday, there had already been hundreds of people through.

There was so much stuff and so many people, they had to start limiting the number that could go in at once, he said.

"We started putting this together in February. So there was an awful lot of stuff that people were extremely generous in providing us with all the stuff we have," he said.

"We had to get more storage. We didn't have enough room to store everything we had. We just had to keep adding storage lockers and facilities because people were so generous."

Fedoryn said the next big Rotary event is Canada Day and they plan to be back in Simcoe Park for the celebrations once again.

A neighbourhood thing

Down in Old Town in the "Chautauqua X" area of Orchard Drive, neighbours all came together to turn the street into a bizarre, with people holding individual garage sales.

The event was organized by Liz Sauter, who wanted to do something special, while also raising money to

help purchase a new pony for a young girl at Red Ribbon Stables after the pony escaped and was hit by a car.

"There is a little girl who rode him for the Niagara Cup and for the Trillium. She's devastated. So we thought, what can we do to make it a little bit easier and buy a new pony and help her out?" Sauter said.

"So I decided that since we were going to have a garage sale for the street, that all the funds that I raised (would go toward a new pony)."

Sauter was also selling raffle tickets for some prizes to help boost the fundraiser. Prizes included a package from Wayne Gretzky Estates and Swarovski earrings.


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People just ‘happy to be out’

She said she’s already raised \$3,000 for the pony, and was hoping she’d raise another couple of thousand during the sale. A new pony can cost anywhere from \$3,000 to \$15,000, she said, depending on factors like breed and availability.

They’re hard to find and have to be trained. “You have to be able to jump them, you have to be able to make sure they’re disciplined, that they can carry the different kids that get on in the different levels,” she said.

“They’re not cheap.”

Shelagh Wallace was outside selling items for 25 cents each. She said she’d already had a few customers before the sale was slated to start.

“(I’ve sold) a bunch of stuff actually. Sold a lot of storms and screens that we’ve had in the house — actually just giving them away — to a young couple down on Lakeshore Road who are starting a farm,” she said.

She said it was a nice way for people to connect.

“It’s been lovely. People are so friendly and happy to have a nice warm day,” she said.

“It just feels nice to be out and talking to people and seeing everybody walking around.”

Lionesses bring the boutique

In St. Davids, the Lioness Lions were hosting a sale with more than 40 vendors selling all sorts of hand-made and gourmet items from hot sauces to wooden carvings.

Melissa Pullia had layered wood animals she makes



Top: St. Davids Lioness Lions help run the Lioness market on Saturday. Middle: The market had more than 40 vendors. Bottom: Rotary volunteer Brian Crow helps a shopper pay for a piece of furniture. RICHARD HARLEY

using a home laser engraver.

“They’re about seven to eight layers each, different types of material. We have cherry, maple, mahogany hickory, I cut them all individually and then I glue them together and this is how my business started,” she said.

She’s been making her wood creations for about three years, and this was her first time at a NOTL market.

“It’s a beautiful place. Customers are amaz-

ing here. Everybody is so friendly,” she said.

She echoed the theme of spring sale day: It’s just nice to be out in the sun, with people.

Jo-Anne Brytwak, president of the newly renamed Lioness Lions, said it was an “excellent turnout” for the first time holding the event outside.

“It’s an experiment we tried. It’s turned out perfect. Everybody’s loved it, the vendors are having a good time, people coming out

have been buying tickets for even the Lions trailer. So it’s been so far a total success,” she said.

The market is a fundraiser for the Lionesses, who support various community causes, with most of it going to Guide Dogs.

Diane Pever, a 10-year Lioness who helps organize the spring market, credited the whole planning committee with making it a success, as well as her daughter Catherine Riley, who did individual marketing for each vendor leading up to the event.

She said the most important part is the fundraising.

“We’ve been out of fundraising for two years. And this was an important event to have,” she said.

“We weren’t sure how it was going to go. It was a definite challenge. But as you can see, we have a lot of vendors and a lot of different types of people that make products and we’re happy to get them out, they’re happy to be here.”

She too echoed the theme of the day.

“(It’s) good to see people out and not afraid to go out,” she said.

She noted they got lucky with the weather, as it had been predicted to rain Saturday.

Pever said the Lioness Lions are looking for new members, and encourages anyone from NOTL who is interested to get involved.

“If you want to become a member, come out and join us at one of our meetings and just see if you want to be part of our group and volunteer to help people that need help.”



George, Helen, and Steve are drinking coffee. Bert, Karen, and Dave are drinking soda. Using logic, is Elizabeth drinking coffee or soda?

Last issue: It can’t be seen, can’t be felt, can’t be heard, and can’t be smelled. It lies behind stars and under hills, and empty holes it fills. It comes first and follows after, ends life, and kills laughter. What is it?

Answer: Darkness (nothing)

Answered first by: Claudia Grimwood

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Mike Berlis, Maria Janeiro, Wade Durling, Tammy Florio, Bert Dandy, Margie Enns, Ted Wiens, Peter Goodhand, Doug Bruce, Sheila Meloche, Elaine Landray, Dennis Blake

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

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Kids look forward to rides, food and **time with friends**

Continued from Front Page

COVID-19 hit the world and forced people to stay home. She had attended the fair with him every year since she was three.

Her mother Lyndsay Gazzard said, "I've never seen her so excited that when she saw the signs for the Virgil Stampede this year."

Corson Dick, 13, from Virgil, was another who wrote in: "I'm 13 years old and I go to Crossroads school. My favourite thing about the Virgil Stampede is the Salt and Pepper shaker," he said.

His brother Landen said, "I am 11 years old and in Grade 5 at Crossroads Public School. Why I love the Stampede is because I get to spend time with my family and friends. I like the rides because they're so exciting and amazing. And I love seeing the reptiles."

Peyton Leigh from Garrison Village said, "I am 14 years old and I can't wait to go to the Virgil Stampede so I can spend time with my friends for the first time in three years! I'm looking forward to going on all the fun rides and to eating as much



The ferris wheel at the Virgil Stampede is ready to go for the Victoria Day long weekend. EVAN SAUNDERS

Stampede food as possible! Happy Victoria weekend!"

Lily Kanters, 12, from NOTL, said, "My favourite thing about the Virgil Stampede is how nice the workers are. I've gone every year and I've always felt very welcome and safe! I also really enjoy seeing all of the community get together and enjoy their time together. I'm really excited to get to spend time with my friends and have life finally working its way back to normal. It's

been a long couple of years since we had the Virgil Stampede and I can't wait to enjoy this experience again with my family and community!"

Marty Sherlock, 15, from Chautauqua, loved attending the Stampede with her late father Shane. "Some of my favourite things about the Virgil Stampede are, of course, the rides and the games, but my favourite thing me and my Dad loved to do was watch the car derby and get our face paint

done, we also loved watching the fireworks."

Samantha Fretz, 16, said, "I love the Stampede because it's always a great time to spend a fun-filled day with friends, going on rides, eating cotton candy and playing carnival games! One of my favourite parts is seeing the animals that the reptile zoo brings!"

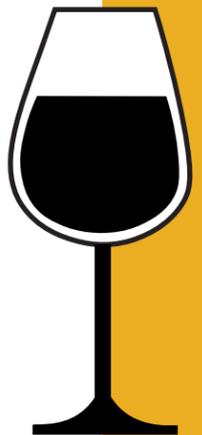
Maximus Fretz, 13, said, "I really enjoy going to the Stampede because me and my friends spend so much time together going on the rides. My most favourite ride is the Monkey Maze."

Dean Velsink, 12, said, "I am looking forward to visiting the Stampede with my best friend John who has never gone. We want to go on the rides and I really hope the UFO ride is back this year. Also, I hope the tall slides are back and I'm looking forward to watching the fireworks."

Our four draw winners in the bracelet contest are Maya Gazzard, Peyton Leigh, Landen Dick and Dean Velsink. Congratulations! And a big thank you to everyone who entered our draw. Stay tuned for next year!

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Queenston Art Show returns for 39th year

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

When the Queenston Art Show was last held in 2018, it was expected to be the end of a decades-long tradition.

But four years on, residents of Queenston are once again preparing to host the show, organized this year by Yimlei Yep.

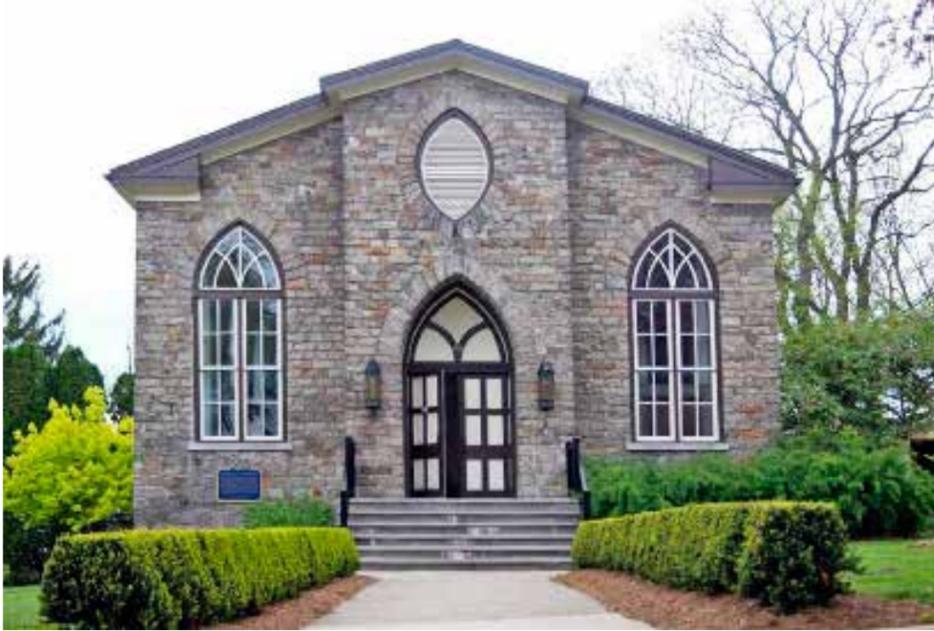
“The 2018 show was going to be the last one and it was a tribute to Alice Duke, who was the founder of the art show and passed away a few years ago,” Yep said in an interview.

Duke founded the Queenston Arts Show in the 1980s and was the main organizer for 38 years. With her death, residents of Queenston generally accepted that the art show would be gone with her, Yep said.

“But we didn’t realize that, with the pandemic, everybody was so depressed. There was nothing to do, we could not show any art even though we were painting at home like mad,” Yep said.

“So, we said let’s revive the art show.”

In an odd turn of events, the Queenston Arts Show



The Queenston Art Show will take place at the Queenston Community Centre. SUPPLIED

has COVID-19 to thank for its rejuvenation.

The sale was so closely associated with Duke that Yep hopes carrying it on without her will signal to other residents that the show must go on.

The art sale will be held on the Victoria Day weekend, from May 20 to 23, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Queenston Community Centre and Library.

Artwork from more than 45 Niagara-based artists

will be on display and available for purchase. All work is original and will encompass a variety of styles from acrylic paint to photography, Yep said.

A former teacher at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, Yep, now in her 70s, said she is happy to help keep Queenston active as an artistic hub.

“It’s really to celebrate the artists. They’ve been wanting to do art shows every year just to give artists a

place where they can show their art,” she said.

Yep said the weekend will be a busy one in Queenston.

“The Laura Secord Homestead is going to be open for the season, as well as the Mackenzie Printery.”

Yep is putting on the show with the help of the Queenston Residents Association, which will receive 25 per cent of all sales to help cover costs. The remaining 75 per cent will go directly to the artists.

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Celebration of Life for Shane Sherlock

The Tribe, Sherlock, and Bjorgan families would like to thank everyone who has reached out, given condolences, cooked meals and offered support both financially and emotionally. Words cannot begin to express our gratitude. Those who knew Shane are invited to drop in on Sunday, May 29 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a family friendly celebration of life, at Red Roof Retreat, 1594 Concession 6, rain or shine. Bring your memories and stories and help us celebrate the man, the myth, the legend.

McMacken scores big in two men's leagues

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Jim McMacken topped the Thursday men's league competition, taking low gross honours at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club on May 12.

The whistling lefty also won net skins and gross skins on #1.

Best score under the Stableford system was Martin Vagners. Other winners were: longest drive (#3) James Grigjanis-Meusel, closest to the pin Doug McCulloch (#4) and Gary Stuggins (#9), longest putt made (#5) Jim Cosgrove



Whistlin' Jim McMacken.
KEVIN MACLEAN

and seniors (60+) long drive (#6) Warren Tutton.

Net skins winners Gary Wasylow (#7). Gross skins Wil Neufeld (#2), Ted Carmichael (#7) and Joe Doria (#8).

McMacken continued his winning ways on Tuesday, with a 2-over 38 to win low gross in WOOFs league play. Bill Farnell had low net with a 37. Harry Huizer won the hidden hole contest with a birdie on #8.

Arthur Wosinski was closest to the pin on #4 and Cal Cochrane raked in \$58 in the 50/50 draw.

Women's leagues: Senior women's champ Louise Robitaille was the low gross winner with an 82 in women's 18 hole league play on May 17.

Reigning women's open champion Yolanda Henry was low net winner with a 78.

Other winners: longest putt (#5) Sue Sherk, closest to the 150 marker (#8) Carrol Baker, fewest putts: Susan Gagne (30), Sharon Marlow (30), Yolanda Henry (31), Cheryl Yamamoto (31).

Top gross score in the women's nine hole league on May 17 were Cathy Saytar (47), Maureen Dickson (50) and Deborah Williams (51).

Top net score were Saytar (34), Helen McCallum (37), Margot Hickson and Bonnie Lamourie (41).

Lucky draw winners were Wilca Lay (a bottle of wine from NOTL Golf Club) and Saytar (F45 pass).

Lawn bowling club opens the greens for the season



Left: Piper Alick Feller of the Niagara Police Pipe Band plays a song to open the lawn bowling green at the NOTL Community Centre on Saturday. Right: Lord Mayor Betty Disero tosses the first lawn bowling ball. NORFIELD DESIGN

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Pie'za giving away **free pies** for Toronto mission

Staff
The Lake Report

Maurizio and Laryssa Cesta, owners of Pie'za Pizzeria, are raising some dough again for Toronto's St. John the Compassionate Mission.

The couple will be giving away free takeout Margherita pizzas for the second year in a row all day on Sunday, May 22, to celebrate the restaurant's six-year an-

niversary and to help out a worthy cause.

All donations received will go to the agency, which works with vulnerable individuals and families.

Laryssa volunteers weekly at the mission in downtown Toronto, where she was born and raised.

Free pizzas will be available from 1 p.m. until they run out of dough.

Pie'za opened on Victo-

ria Street on the Victoria Day weekend in May 2016 and since then has been officially recognized and certified by the Vera Napoletana Association (AVPN) in Naples, Italy.

There are only 13 such certifications in Canada and the Cestas strive to deliver a high-quality pizza out of their 5,000-pound wood-burning oven imported from Napoli.



Pie'za Pizzeria is giving away free Margherita pizzas on Sunday. SUPPLIED

Museum's **history treks** return for summer

NOTL Museum
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's popular Historic District walking tours are returning.

The guided walks will take place every Saturday and Sunday from June to September, starting the weekend of June 4.

The tours begin at 11 a.m. and meet near the gazebo in Queen's Royal Park, at the bottom of King Street overlooking Lake Ontario.

Walks usually last between an hour and 90 minutes – and they end at

the NOTL Museum, 43 Castlereagh St. Cost is \$10 and includes museum admission.

In the Heritage District there is something to learn at every street corner about the people, events and architecture that make up the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Walks are accessible and friends, visitors and neighbours are encouraged to enjoy the beauty of NOTL, while learning a little more about Niagara and Canada's history.

June 4 is also Janet Carnochan Day and each



year the NOTL Museum commemorates this grand lady of the town with free admission to the museum.

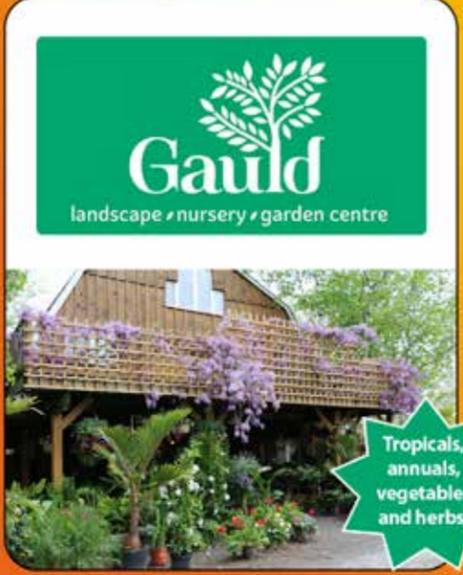
In 1895, Carnochan was the force behind the formation of the Niagara Historical Society. Her passion enabled the preservation of significant Niagara and

Canadian historical records and artifacts, now in the care of the society.

Without her, much local history would never have been documented, and the NOTL Museum may never have been built.

Join the museum's tour guides, rain or shine, for a stroll through history. There is no need to register, just meet at the gazebo at 11 a.m., Saturday and Sunday mornings, June through September.

To register for the history walks call the museum at 905-468-3912, or check www.notlmuseum.ca.



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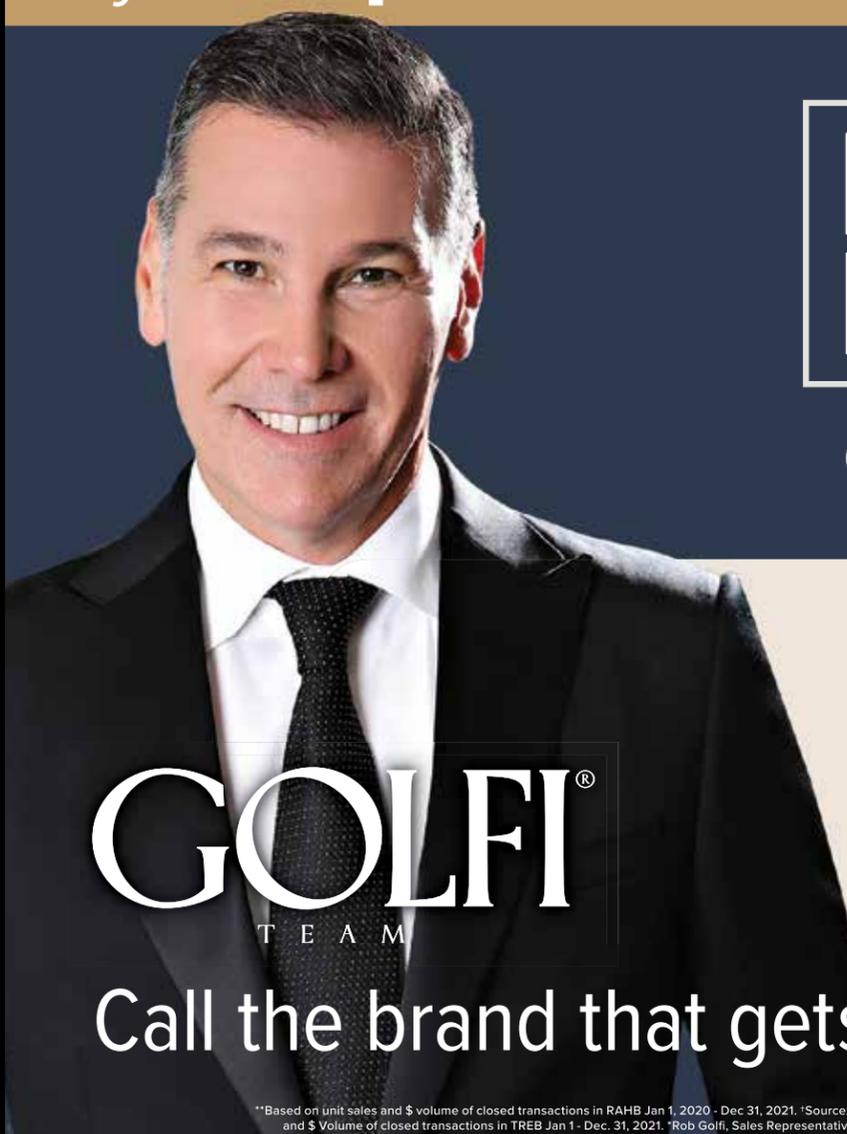
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Have some fun



- Across**
- 4. Thick slices (5)
 - 9. Greyish-fawn (7)
 - 10. Result (5)
 - 11. Efface (5)
 - 12. Recover (7)
 - 13. Path (5)
 - 14. Common people (5)
 - 17. Type of gum (6)
 - 18. Cried (4)
 - 19. Wet (5)
 - 21. Elephant (6)
 - 23. Swiss city (6)
 - 26. Vends (5)
 - 27. Bog (4)
 - 29. Bitter conflict (6)
 - 30. Armed strongholds (5)
 - 33. Thank you (French) (5)
 - 34. Type of bath (7)
 - 35. Cowboy display (5)
 - 36. Metal spikes (5)
 - 37. Diviners (7)
 - 38. Adjusted (5)
- Down**
- 1. Invariable (8)
 - 2. Natives of e.g. Venice (8)
 - 3. Calming medicines (9)
 - 4. Doze (5)
 - 5. Diminish (5)
 - 6. Prophets (5)
 - 7. Guarantee (6)
 - 8. Forsake (6)
 - 15. Notice (7)
 - 16. Stopper (4)
 - 20. 24 hours ago (9)
 - 22. Make over (4)
 - 24. Qualified (8)
 - 25. Purple quartz (8)
 - 27. Instant (6)
 - 28. Vile (6)
 - 30. Being before all others (5)
 - 31. Radioactive gaseous element (5)
 - 32. Offered oneself for election (5)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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			11				
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Last issue's answers

O	V	A	L	P	O	S	T	H	U	M	O	U	S
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		8	9				1
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Humans seem most **creative and innovative** from teens to their 30s



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

One of my pet working hypotheses is that humans are at their best, cognitively speaking, between their late teens and late thirties, especially for disciplines that do not require long periods of training and accumulated experience, before launching into the most creative and innovative periods of their lives.

The hypothesis gains traction from the observation that the pioneers who birthed the brand-new field of quantum physics in the early 20th century, including such luminaries as Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, Werner Heisenberg, Erwin Schrodinger, Paul Dirac and later Enrico Fermi and Richard Feynman, were all in their twenties or thirties when

they accomplished their most innovative and creative work.

The same case might be made for the pioneers in the small-computer world such as Bill Gates with Microsoft and Steve Jobs at Apple, or Larry Page and Sergey Brin for Google. All were arguably most creative early in their careers before they became managers of their vast companies – itself a challenging task to be sure.

The early days of Aviation were similar. Pioneers such as Sydney Camm, Geoffrey De Havilland, Reginald Mitchell, Frederick Handley Page, Frank Whittle, Charles Rolls and Henry Royce from the U.K.; Glenn Curtis, Allan Lockheed, Martin Marietta, Bill Boeing, Donald Douglas, John Northrop, Kelly Johnson, and Igor Sikorsky from the United States; Anthony Fokker, from Holland; Ernst Heinkel, Willy Messerschmitt, and Kurt Tank from Germany; and Russia's Artem Mikoyan were all gifted engineers with vision and energy.

Most were in their twenties to forties when they did their most creative hands-on work as engineers.

When I worked at London Health Sciences, I was lucky to work with several technical colleagues who were capable of designing and building novel electronic devices to support my research. One designed and built a computer system, including the mother board, for what turned out to be the best technology in the world at the time, a computerized system for assessing transmission of nerve and muscle signals.

All were in their early twenties and had little more than high school educations and perhaps one or two years at a community college. As far as I could see, they were mostly self-taught.

They went on to develop a company to manufacture the system. Every employee was under 30. In those days, I always felt I was witnessing, in a small way, what may have happened in the early days of Microsoft, Apple and Google – a lot of small creative get-togethers, and loads of energy and enthusiasm, seven days a week seemed to be a formula that worked.

From the perspective of most sports, humans are at their best in the sweet spot between the late teenage

years and early thirties. Champions in sports such as golf may continue to perform at high levels well into their forties and even fifties, although by the latter age, wins in major tournaments tend to be standalone performances often marvelled at for such surprising achievements at such late ages.

World records in timed short-distance events such as the 100- and 200-metre sprints belong to the young, as do Olympic medals in sports such as gymnastics that put premiums on highly honed balance, co-ordination, speed, power, and stamina, skills that tend to diminish with age.

For endurance events such as the marathon, older runners can be competitive well into their forties, but winners are another matter – most are young.

Those observations suggest to me that the performance of the central nervous and peripheral neuromuscular systems, which together underpin the physical aspects of athleticism, may begin to lose their functional edge beginning, perhaps as early as the late twenties and early thirties, depending on the

sport.

And if that's what happens to the sensorimotor system as we age, might equivalent age-related changes stymie the kind of thought experiments that theoretical physicists such as Einstein employed to imagine solutions to challenging problems? Certainly, Einstein reached a roadblock when he tried without success to challenge quantum physics in his last 30 years.

What does the record from Nobel Prizes in the sciences tell us?

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library has hosted an annual review of Nobel winners for the last five years. Over that period, in physics alone, seven laureates were in their eighties, including two last year in the field of climate change. Both were 89.

Several laureates received their Nobel decades after their original work, but two are still very active in their primary research fields: John Goodenough in the design of batteries and Roger Penrose, now 90, who continues to imagine, write and talk about a continuing succession of universes and the nature of consciousness (check him out

on YouTube and Amazon).

Then there's the example of Dennis Sullivan, who at 81 won the Abel Prize in mathematics this year, the equivalent of a Nobel Prize. Previously he won a string of high-level awards for his skill in applying mathematics to complex problems in space and shapes.

If that sounds esoteric, practical applications include studying airflow around wings to increase their efficiency and range, and developing a better tool for plotting the course of hurricanes, the latter surely of considerable value for weather forecasters in hurricane season.

Then there was the recent news that an 89-year-old just earned his third PhD, this one in quantum physics.

Finally, do you think my hypothesis is correct? And if so, does it apply to the arts? You be the judge and either way, let me know through the paper or when we run into one another at the post office.

Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. Email editor@niagaranow.com.

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EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



The village of Queenston

This circa 1903 photograph of Queenston looks south down what is today known as the Niagara River Parkway. The South Landing Inn, on Front Street, is in the distance at the centre of the photograph. Willowbank is featured along the left-hand side.

ARCHITEXT

The restoration question

Brian Marshall
Columnist

When it comes to our built heritage, I am first and foremost a preservationist.

In cases where historic materials, elements or details still exist, it is always my preference to save and preserve the old rather than replace.

Not only is there often a qualitative difference in historic materials and craftsmanship as compared to current-day, there is something more.

Leaning on a mantelpiece that has graced a room for two centuries, grasping a doorknob that has been turned by generations before you, treading on floorboards that have borne the weight of people who are now gone, all impart an indefinable connection with our shared history that cannot be duplicated in any other way.

It is our first charge and responsibility to preserve and restore what has been bequeathed to us.

That said, just how far down this garden path does one wish to walk?

I have had the privilege of



Georgian Fancy painted pine floor. SUPPLIED

visiting a good number of Niagara-on-the-Lake homes built in the first half of the 19th century which boast original pine floors.

These floors have been lovingly restored and then treated to coats of varnish (or polyurethane) to display the golden-yellow glow that only a naturally finished pine can offer. Unfortunately, this beautiful finish is completely wrong from a historical perspective.

Our ancestors, blessed with vast quantities of cheap and available old-growth pine in long lengths, laid their floors with this wood for purely practical reasons.

Despite being a good deal denser than its modern counterpart, the wood was easy to work and they knew the trick to making it durable: lay the boards, leave them unfinished for a few years and walk on them.

This simple act crushed the wood fibres to create a

much tougher floor. Once that was done the pine would be painted in either a solid colour or with a geometric design that was occasionally fancied-up by a free-hand or stencilled border.

Of course, for those with more cash in their pocket, leaving the planks unfinished and tacking down a pattern-painted canvas floor cloth to cover them was also an option.

So, there was none of that pretty golden-yellow glow that our modern taste prefers in the houses of this period. Which brings us back to the question of how far toward historical accuracy on the interior of a heritage house should a restoration be carried?

Once preservation is assured, in my opinion, the short answer to this question is that it depends on a variety of factors, including what it is we're working

with and the practicality of the historic treatment in terms of cost, livability and modern sensibilities.

Using our flooring example to examine these factors it might be suggested that the cost of a natural finish versus a painted finish would be roughly equivalent when all things are considered.

On the other hand, our ancestors did not wear high heels and a properly applied buildup of polyurethane (particularly one with an aluminum oxide formulation) will be much more resistant to damage and wear than a painted finish.

Finally, our modern taste generally considers painted plank floors to be rustic and will, almost inevitably, dictate the theme of interior decoration. That's all good if you like something along the lines of a country farmhouse.

However, if we switch our focus to a heritage fireplace mantelpiece, the floor proposition regarding modern taste is turned on its head.

Almost without exception, NOTL's 19th-century mantelpieces are of materials meant to be painted and, if clear finished, will present as rustic.

All this to say, engaging a restoration designer at the beginning of your project is very wise.

Looking to the Stars

Help is on the way on the work and health fronts

Thursday, May 19: The sun and Pluto are in harmony, bringing tons of willpower. And because the sun is in Taurus and Pluto is in Capricorn, it may also bring tons of "won't power." Mercury, retrograde in Gemini, is given energy by way of Jupiter so look for an eye-opening review of what we think are the "facts." It was May 19, 1780, around noon that total darkness enveloped New England. The cause was forest fires in Canada.

Friday, May 20: At 9:22 tonight, the sun leaves Taurus and enters Gemini. This is that time of the year to be a bit more Gemini – to be open-minded, curious and cross-pollinate ideas, reflections and insights. Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic on May 20, 1932.

Saturday, May 21: Yesterday the sun entered Gemini. Today it conjuncts Mercury retrograde. Sun-Mercury conjunctions (when Mercury is retrograde) mark the beginning of a new Mercury cycle. This particular Mercury cycle happens at zero degrees Gemini. Zero degrees of any sign is a very powerful degree, because it carries a raw, new beginning energy. And zero degrees Gemini is perhaps the most important degree for Mercury since that planet rules Gemini. If you have any Mercury projects in mind (writing, learning or trips), this is a truly remarkable celestial opportunity to put them into motion. Professional soccer is 118 years old today, having formed in Paris as FIFA on May 21, 1904.

Sunday, May 22: Two things today. One, it's the third-quarter moon in Pisces – time to review things happening over the past three weeks and see what can be done to catch up or revise. And two, Mercury retrograde moves out of Gemini and back into Taurus – a good time to review ideas from earlier this month or enjoy a change of direction when a "no" is now a "go." Novak Djokovic celebrates 35 years today, without COVID vaccines and without furthering his (so

far) 12 tennis singles Grand Slam championships.

Monday, May 23: Help is on the way, especially on the work and health fronts. Happy birthday to the Northwest Mounted Police, formed on May 23, 1873. The organization didn't get the "Royal" designation until 1904.

Tuesday, May 24: Mars Enters Aries, the sign of his domicile. If you've been feeling a bit sluggish in the last few weeks when Mars was in Pisces, this will now change. In Aries, Mars does what he knows best: he takes action. When Mars is in other signs, we always find reasons not to take action. Mars in Taurus? "It takes too long." Mars in Gemini? "I can't focus." Mars in Cancer? "What if it hurts other people's feelings?" Mars in Leo? "What if I make a fool of myself?" Mars in Virgo? "What if it's not perfect?" When Mars is in Aries, there are no more excuses. The last time this occurred was July-December 2020. Back in 2020 Mars was retrograde, this time, Mars is almost at its highest speed, so it will get things done quickly. Nobel Prize winner, singer/songwriter Robert Zimmerman, aka Bob Dylan, is now 81.



Wednesday, May 25: This oughta be interesting. The moon and Mars are both in "tell it like it is" Aries. Mercury is in Taurus, retrograde and today connecting to secretive Pluto in serious Capricorn. That's interesting. (Like a boxing match.) Wayne Campbell, aka Scarborough's Mike Myers, turns 59 today. His credits include "Saturday Night Live," "Wayne's World" and "Inglorious Basterds."

Check out Bill Auchterlonie's podcast, Looking up to the Stars with ad libs and music at www.lutts.ca.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.

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Mishmash gardens can turn magnificent



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

Is your garden a bit of a mishmash? Does looking at it leave you feeling blah or even chaotic?

Then you need to add some life to your garden and take it from mishmash to magnificent.

First let's define what mishmash is. It can mean a "confused collection or mixture of unrelated things" or a "hodgepodge or jumble." Does that describe your garden?

Our gardens can become a confused collection or hodgepodge of plants. Everything can start to blend together and become just a green jumble of leaves.

That means your eyes quickly pass over the garden because nothing stands out. You could purchase all your favourite flowers and plant them in your garden and still not be pleased with the overall results.

The planning stage is too often overlooked, resulting in a haphazard collection of plant materials. I like to refer to it as "plunkitis" – we just start plunking things into the garden without much thought.

The eye, though, needs there to be a sense of order to feel calm and peaceful.

So how do we turn our mishmash into "magnificent"? How can you restore order in your garden?

Whether you are starting from scratch or reviving a tired garden, the most important thing you can do is to strategically locate focal points.

Focal points are used in garden design to draw and direct the eye. Think of a garden, large or small, that was just a swath of plants. Your eye sweeps along, not knowing where to land.



Making plants and objects stand out can make your garden magnificent. JOANNE YOUNG

A sense of flow is nice, but without a focus, your garden is not really taken in. It is quickly passed over.

Now, think of a garden you saw with a wonderful water feature, a weeping tree or a dramatic structure. The first thing you notice is this feature.

Once your interest is captured there, you start to branch out and notice other plants and features. A focal point will cause your eye to stop and rest for a bit at that feature. The garden is slowly discovered rather than swept through.

Properly placed focal points give your garden a sense of purpose and order. Without focal points your garden becomes just a careless collection of plants and objects.

A focal point cannot be an after-thought. It should be an item that the rest of the garden revolves around. Think about the style of garden you want to create and make sure your focal point adds to it.

The focal point could be one of several things: an unusual plant specimen, a vibrant grouping of plants or plants with bold colours. It could also be an

ornament such as a bird-bath, gazing globe, statue or water feature. Even large boulders or a structure such as an arbour can act as a focal point.

Make sure you look at your garden from all different points of view, both inside and outside, before deciding where to locate your focal points.

Where is your eye naturally drawn when you enter your garden area? For a front garden the best place to locate your focal point is near the doorway.

The goal for any front-yard design is to direct people's attention to your front door. In the backyard, you may find that you need several focal points to lead the eye around the space. Keep your style in mind when choosing that something special. Does your point of interest portray or reveal your style?

When you are viewing a garden up close, for example next to a seating area, you don't need as much drama to catch the viewer's attention as you do with seeing an area from a dining room window some 60 feet away. The farther away you are viewing an

area the more dramatic the focal point needs to be to have the same impact.

If choosing a plant as your attention grabber, select a proven performer. A sickly looking plant or one that perpetually gets eaten or has mildew issues is not a good choice.

Make sure it also has a long peak period. Don't fall for a short bloomer or a plant that only has one season of interest, no matter how spectacular it may be.

Try to choose a plant that will catch your attention for more than just a couple weeks of the year. For example, right now you are seeing the redbud trees coming into bloom.

One variety I am thinking of is Ruby Falls redbud. It has beautiful pinkish/purple flowers in early spring, with burgundy heart-shaped leaves in summer and an interesting weeping form in the winter.

Take some time to study your garden and see what is needed to turn it into something magnificent.

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

Obituary & In Memoriam

Jean Baker



BAKER, Jean Margaret - October 27, 1935 - May 7, 2022

It is with deep sadness that we mourn the loss of Jean Margaret Baker. Loving wife of the late Peter Baker (2020). Dear mother of Adrian, Helen Kelly (Gervais) and Richard (Mary-Anne). Proud Grandma of Lisa and Diana. Predeceased by her sister Joan Marshall.

Jean was born in Leicester, England and grew up during the war years. She came to Canada in 1957 and was a primary school teacher, but she also had a very successful career in real estate. Jean was a passionate world traveler, visiting many parts of the globe. She took great joy and satisfaction in gardening, but was also passionate about music, being an accomplished pianist. Jean's children fondly remember summer fun times as a family at the cottage. Jean will be deeply missed by family and friends.

Visitation for Jean will be held at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., NOTL on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friends are invited to a graveside service that will be held at St. Mark's Anglican Church Cemetery on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 11 a.m. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



Elizabeth Speak-Ward



SPEAK-WARD, Elizabeth Louise 1949 - 2022

A kind, generous, deep sister, friend, wife and daughter, who always put others first. Born in Seaforth, Ontario, she was a proud lifetime resident of Niagara, whose landscape she cherished. Elizabeth was beloved by many. Died at Niagara General Hospital on May 11, 2022.

Predeceased by husband, Frank Ward (2002), father, W. Phillip Speak (1990), mother, Florence (Ryan) Speak (1996), sister, Rosemary (Speak) Corbett (2020), brother, John Speak (1953). Survived by siblings Margaret Anne, Frederick, Dorothy, Monica and Patricia. Arrangements have been entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St. Niagara on the Lake. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



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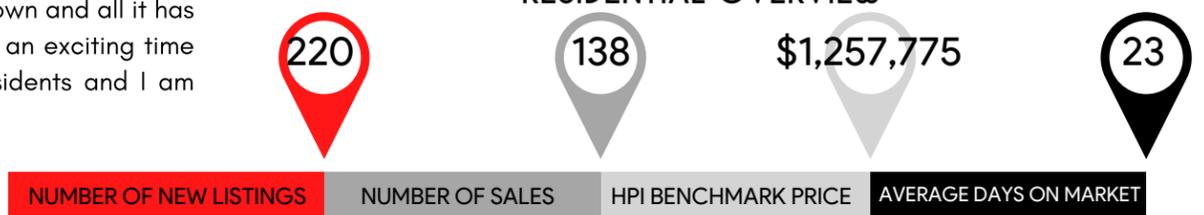
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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME



Born and raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake Michelle Reynolds, Broker and Stefan Regier, Sales Representative have witnessed the tremendous change and growth that has transformed the area into one of Southern Ontario's most sought-after destinations. Their exceptional knowledge of the Niagara-on-the-Lake real estate market, coupled with their seasoned insider's expertise of the area makes them the unequivocal go-to resource for all your real estate needs placing them at the top 2% Regionally in sales at Royal LePage. "We love Niagara-On-The-Lake" says Reynolds. "Growing up in NOTL was a dream come true, this was a small community, with small family run business' everyone knew everyone and still do today. There is no better place to call home" says Regier. Michelle and Stefan are passionate about their home town and all it has to offer. "Niagara-On-The-Lake is alive and active. It is an exciting time for us as a community. We have a great blend of residents and I am excited for the future of our Town" says Reynolds.

Michelle and Stefan are committed to building exceptional relationships and experiences for their clients, and listening deeply to their goals so they can help them achieve them. "We love meeting new people and building relationships and hearing their stories. I think that is the best part of working in Real Estate, it is building lifelong relationships with your new neighbours" says Regier. Whether you want a quaint vacation home in town or an exceptional luxury residence on the water, the Reynolds Regier Team knows everything there is to know about Niagara-On-The-Lake, property types, and value - not to mention every possible attraction to entertain you in your Niagara Life."

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE SPRING MARKET REPORT
RESIDENTIAL OVERVIEW**



Note: Number of sales represents sales reported for the months of January-April 2022 as reported by the Niagara Association of Realtors