

The Lake Report

Libraries solve book sharing problem, for now
Story on Page 7



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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



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Niagara-on-the-Lake's first independent newspaper

May 23, 2019



Niagara's first cannabis grads are in high demand

Story on Page 3

Niagara College cannabis production student Josh Weiss trims a cannabis plant inside the bunker. JILL TROYER

Anti-Trudeau group hits NOTL streets to protest

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A small group of yellow-vest clad protesters gathered in Niagara-on-the-Lake Sunday afternoon to express their displeasure with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The six protesters stood at the intersection of Mary and Mississauga streets, near Tim Hortons, exhorting drivers to honk in support of them.

They held signs that read "Incompetent Trudeau is a national disaster," "We love pipelines, oil and gas," "Stop electing idiots" and "Trudeau hates veterans and patriotism."



NOTL native Duke Willis was among those protesting against Justin Trudeau Sunday afternoon. RICHARD HARLEY

Some passing drivers honked their approval and gave a thumbs-up to the demonstrators.

The protesters, who say they are "Canadian patriots," told The Lake Report

they came to NOTL to voice their concerns with Trudeau's governance.

Among the issues they say they're concerned with

Continued on Page 2

Volunteers are what makes the Stampede, say organizers

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Virgil Stampede owes this year's success to its small army of volunteers and proper planning. Together they ensured everything went off without a hitch despite damp weather leading up to Victoria Day weekend.

The 350 to 400 volunteers who step up each year play a crucial role in ensuring the event runs smoothly, said Richard Wall, president of the Virgil Business Association.

"Obviously to have that many people volunteer is entirely the backbone of our organization, or we wouldn't raise the funds that we do,"

Continued on Page 12



Five-year-old Juno O'Shea from St. Catharines goes all out on the rides at the Virgil Stampede. RICHARD HARLEY

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Anti-Trudeau group protests in NOTL

Yellow vests, climate change 'a hoax' and Islam questioned

Continued from Front Page

are illegal immigration, the carbon tax and Canada being a part of the U.N. migration pact. One protester said that climate change is a hoax and a pamphlet the protesters gave to The Lake Report made the same claim.

With protest locations rotating every weekend, last week's demonstration was held in Niagara Falls.

Ten-year-old Ashley Bouvier joined her grandmother Lee Bouvier.

"I know that Trudeau is a hypocrite because he lies to people," the Grade 5 student from St. Catharines said in an interview. "I'm out here to protest because I feel that Trudeau shouldn't be here because he's bringing all these illegal immigrants to our country and they shouldn't be here."

Ashley said the issue has been important to her since Trudeau was elected and said she'd like to see him resign so that Canada "would become better."

Lee Bouvier said she fears for her granddaughter as she feels people aren't allowed to speak about certain top-



Ten-year-old Ashley Bouvier came to the protest with her grandmother Lee Bouvier. RICHARD HARLEY

ics, such as Islam.

"We have to tip-toe and use coded words to have conversations," she said.

Bouvier, who said she is an atheist, said Islamophobia needs to be defined and she asked why Islam is "put above" Christianity. She compared it to a parent favouring one child over another.

Duke Willis, who grew up in NOTL, agreed, saying there is no freedom of speech in the country and he feels he has to be cautious about what he says about some topics.

"I'm against special rights for certain groups," he said in an interview. "Sikhs are being allowed to not wear a helmet... Since when is a

religious ideology above our laws?"

A man, who introduced himself as Rahn Edwards, said he is the organizer of the group, which he said has about 50 members across the Niagara Region.

He said their first protest was on Jan. 2, 2018, in front of the office of St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle.

They've been holding protests across Niagara Region since then, he said.

During their first protest in January last year, members of Antifa, an anti-fascist group, held a counter-protest, Edwards said. Counter-protesters called them names, stood in front of their signs and put their hands up, he added.

"When they can't handle facts, they call people names," he said.

Edwards said the group used to advertise their upcoming protests in advance, but now the times and locations are given out to participants one day prior.

A protester from Welland, who identified himself as Vince Sutch, has previously participated in protests in Welland and Niagara Falls. He said he is against bad government and is scared Trudeau will give the country away.

One of the protesters, who declined to give his name, said he can't be called a Nazi or a white supremacist because his grandfather fought against Nazis in the Second World War.

He said he thought a protest in NOTL might spark a "hostile" reaction as the town is "high-end" and people living here "don't really care."

The protesters said they will continue holding demonstrations across the region until the federal election in October.

— with files from Richard Harley.

NOTL chamber narrowing search for new president

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Chamber of Commerce is looking for a president who will carry on Janice Thomson's legacy, says Paul MacIntyre, chair of the chamber.

After 18 years running the chamber, Thomson has left to become president and CEO of Niagara Falls Tourism.

The interviews for the chamber's new president started three weeks ago, MacIntyre told The Lake Report. The hiring committee, comprised of four board members plus Thomson, has interviewed 10 people so far.

"We don't want to put somebody in this position out of a sense of urgency. We want to pick the right person," he said.

Candidates from all across Ontario have been applying for the job, said MacIntyre, and they seem to grasp the "essence" of NOTL even if they're not from the Niagara Region.

MacIntyre said it's been tough choosing from many strong, high-skilled candidates.

He said having business acumen, good communications skills and strong tourism-related and marketing skills are just some of the requirements for the successful candidate.

The board feels like



Paul MacIntyre and Janice Thomson. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

it doesn't have to rush to pick a new person, said MacIntyre.

"From a management perspective, it's not how the business runs when you're there. It's how it runs in your absence that

really determines if you've done a good job," he said in an interview. "We're not going to rush but we're in a hurry."

He said a new president is likely to be hired "within a month."

Getting to know everybody in the community in the first three months is what MacIntyre wants the new president to do "out of the gate."

It's important to "get to know what's so special

about Niagara-on-the-Lake before you can start strategically planning," he said.

Thomson's advice to her successor is to "really understand the DNA of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

"To understand the heritage, the history, the agriculture. What's our roots, our customer service mandates... making sure that people come here and have a positive experience and leave wanting to return," she said.

"Just, frankly, relax and enjoy that because that's the pedigree that Niagara-on-the-Lake already has. Just stay the course, follow the strategic plan, work with the board... just follow their lead and you'll enjoy your career," Thomson said.



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Niagara's (and Canada's) first cannabis grads are in **high demand**

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Affectionately dubbed the "cannabunker," an unpretentious metal structure behind a heavy chain link fence and strong security, is home to the teaching lab for the commercial cannabis production program at Niagara College, the first of its kind in Canada.

The one-year program launched in September, and graduation ceremonies for the first group of students will take place in late June, but all of those students are already far from the cannabunker, following their new career paths.

According to Niagara College Prof. Sebastien Jacob, "Many ended up working where they did their co-op placements, but there is so much demand they have the choice of where to go." Every one of the students has a job.

One of them is Kaitlynn Anderson, one of the 24 students accepted out of the 300 applicants for the first cohort of the program. Her first degree was in agricultural economics from the University of Guelph.

"I grew up on a beef farm, and never did I think I would end up in cannabis, but I'm so glad I have," Anderson says.

She is passionate about agriculture and hopes to "bridge the gap. There's still a stigma about marijuana and I'd like to be part of getting rid of that in agriculture."

Anderson is enthusiastic about the Niagara College program, saying, "it was very hands-on, so we could apply what we learned in the classroom the very same day with the plants." She is quick to add, "I was glad the instructors were so experienced, I learned so much from them."

Anderson has just been offered a position as a master grower at a micro cultivator, and she says she is thrilled about that. Micro cultivators in the cannabis world are akin to craft



Top: Prof. Sebastien Jacob with students in the cannabunker. Bottom: Cannabunker, the teaching lab for cannabis production at Niagara College. JILL TROYER

breweries in the world of beer.

As a master grower, Anderson will be responsible for "working with the plants every step along the way, keeping them healthy from start to finish, covering feeding, pests, harvest and more."

Back at the cannabunker, the second cohort of students, who started in January, is more than halfway through their program and they have great expectations for their own futures when they graduate in August.

They say it's exciting to be at the forefront of an emerging industry and they clearly have a passion for being in the vanguard.

"This is all new and it's the first explosion of an industry since the tech sector," notes Josh Weiss. He adds there are many different types of opportunities, not simply growing

the plants, for example, "specializing in extraction of oils, research, integrated pest management (IPM), quality assurance, or business ventures."

Jacob says the cannabis program "was developed in partnership with the industry and we continue to seek feedback from the industry and the students as the program evolves. One key aspect of the program is its hands-on approach.

"For every one hour in the classroom there are two hours hands-on with the plants," Jacob says. "Industry wanted graduates who can touch the crop," and the students say they learn better that way.

One of those industry partners is CannTrust, a licensed producer in Pelham.

CannTrust's director of cultivation, Nick Phelan, a graduate of the Niagara College horticultural tech-

nician program, says it's "been a privilege to help the cannabis program get going. We worked hand in hand with college staff to develop the curriculum."

The co-op segment was designed to be well-rounded for the students, so they experience all stages of growth, including propagation, flowering, harvest, drying, and integrated pest management, he says.

Four students from the first cohort chose to do their co-ops at CannTrust, and Phelan says he was "super happy with them." Two students from that first group of 24 have been hired full-time, one as a plant technician, one as part of the integrated pest management team.

Phelan says the students he sees from the program are "educated, passionate people. They are the whole package. This is where they want to be and they are very inquisitive and want to learn more all the time."

CannTrust is in expansion mode, and Phelan says, "there are amazing opportunities in all different areas of production."

As for the future of the program, Niagara College is considering some potential changes, for example in the co-op program.

Currently students attend their placements one day a week for 10 weeks, but Jacob says they're considering "changing it to being two or three weeks full-time near the end of the term, so students can get immersed in the process."

Niagara College communications consultant Andrew Korchok adds that expansion is on the agenda and while plans have not yet been finalized, "the college intends to build upon its leadership role in Canada's emerging cannabis industry, both by growing our capacity to provide skilled workers to fill workforce demands through our commercial cannabis production program, and by expanding our capacity to conduct applied research activities."



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Editorial: The good, the bad and the ugly

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

There always is plenty to celebrate in NOTL: For starters, congratulations to the organizers and volunteers who helped make the Virgil Stampede a resounding success. All your hard work paid off big time.

And kudos to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Communities in Bloom committee for their enlightened idea of encouraging service groups to participate in an Adopt-a-Park program.

The premise is simple: Tap into civic pride and community expertise to beautify public parks around NOTL. And the town, literally, will give groups the tools to groom and tidy the parks.

This is a low-cost, almost no-cost, way to ensure that Niagara-on-the-Lake's many parks and parkettes continue to be shining jewels where residents can gather to relax and enjoy themselves. We expect there will be no shortage of proud citizens and talented gardening folk who will rise to the challenge once the Adopt-a-Park program rolls out in June.

That's the good news. The bad and the ugly side of humanity also reared its head this week in NOTL.

Many residents expressed their shock and revulsion on social media after a, thankfully, small contingent of Yellow Vest protesters came to town to express their disdain for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. And Muslims. And Sikhs. And climate change.

The Lake Report published an online news story Sunday (and in print today) about the protesters in order to shine a light on them and their message of intolerance masquerading as patriotism and political commentary.

One of the saddest parts of the whole, brief, appearance of these demonstrators was the inclusion of one woman's 10-year-old granddaughter, who was happily spouting the predictably shallow and ill-informed talking points of the Yellow Vest movement.

We are loath to be critical of a child, but surely this is a textbook example of how misguided adults can colour a young person's views by filling their heads with such talk

It's ugly, and sad.

editor@niagaranow.com



Lee Bouvier brought her 10-year-old granddaughter to protest on Sunday. RICHARD HARLEY



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More letters on Page 6.

Defence of Tory MPP was fact-free political rhetoric

Dear editor:

I was unhappy to read Neil Tokar's May 16 letter to the editor "A liberal defence of Tory Sam Oosterhof" because it is a perfect example of the kind of emotionally charged but fact-free political rhetoric that unfortunately pollutes modern political discussion.

Contrary to Mr. Tokar's letter, nobody called MPP Sam Oosterhof a "Nazi" because of his views about

abortion – as a simple Google search would have easily revealed.

Contrary to Mr. Tokar's letter, International Women's Day did NOT originate in the Soviet Union, but in 1909 in the United States – as a simple Google search would have easily revealed. <https://www.un.org/en/events/womensday/history.shtml>

Mr. Tokar seems to feel that the use of hyperbole

and bogus "facts" are allowable tools for whipping up some extra political drama.

But, in my opinion, this view is short-sighted.

"Gresham's Law" states that "bad money drives good money out of the marketplace."

"Wilson's Law" states that "fact-free political arguments drive factual ones out of the marketplace of ideas."

James Wilson
NOTL



We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often.

Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation.

Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

The Lake Report

The Lake Report

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Heidi Nickel, Linda Nickel, Richard Harley, Jeff Ruttan, Chloe White and Rob Lamond volunteering at the Virgil Stampede. EUNICE TANG



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Petra Halbgebauer, left, and Teresa Lesyk have fun dancing at Peller Estate Winery's Party in the Vineyard: Food truck edition, despite rainy weather. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Op-ed: Sailing club's Embden geese and the **circle of life**

Melanie Morris
Special to The Lake Report

Upon our return from the warm south this spring, we were excited to discover what appeared to be two surviving Embden geese nesting in the thicket outside our window near the NOTL Sailing Club.

This triggered many questions for me. Who are these geese? Last year's goslings who were hatched late summer 2018? Could they be old enough? Surviving adults, of which I believe there was only one? Who is/are the father(s)? The bereaved gander, unlikely to mate so soon after his tragic loss and who appears to show little interest in the nest? A Canada goose? No gander seems to be "standing guard."

Since they were on the nests when we arrived home, how many days left before we could experience the loud and joyful honking that would announce the successful addition to the family, closing an unfortunate chapter in the lives of these geese and opening a new one?

We have since observed that there was only ever



Embden geese have taken up residence near the NOTL Sailing Club. SUBMITTED PHOTO/MELANIE MORRIS

one nest. Both females appear to be last year's goslings as evidenced by the remaining brown coloration on their wings. Little sister seemed to stay close to her nesting sibling.

Honking cries from the direction of the lake often signal the nesting geese are upset and facing a potential crisis. That is what happened one afternoon when we looked out our window in response to such cries to see one of the nesting geese in the sailing club waters frantically trying to get back to her nest presumably after a short respite to eat and bathe. She was on the other side of the fence from her nest and couldn't find her way back.

I had seen her there previously but the rising waters have reduced the passageways through the six-foot fence between the water and the bank. She used to be able to slide into the water from the bank and swim under the fence to the river but now, with the rising river waters, there is no space under the fence.

She appeared not to be able to fly over the fence nor find a route through it. How she got there in the first place is anyone's guess. She kept swimming up and down in front of the fence, hopping onto the dock, hopping off again, frantically honking.

At one point, it looked like the Embden gander was

leading her toward the river to go around the fence to get on the other side, but she didn't follow him to the end and turned back.

We went down and opened the fence gates in two places and she finally walked through one of them, muttering under her breath in a clearly negative manner. The peace had been restored.

Sadly, for reasons unknown to me, on May 14 mama goose suddenly left the nest for frequent and extended periods. Upon checking the nest, there were five whole, unbroken eggs abandoned. The next morning I could see that some hungry mammal enjoyed a meal through the night, which brings our hopes for a rejuvenated family of Embden geese in NOTL to a crashing halt – for the moment, at least.

We are back to our usual suspects since Christmas, which form our secondary extended family of geese after the colony of Canada geese and include three Embden, one Greylag and one Canada goose with a wonky wing.




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MORE LETTERS

Congratulations to SORE on latest legal victory

Dear editor:
The members of Save Our Rand Estate should be congratulated on their success in obtaining the well-deserved party status (now confirmed by three separate judicial bodies) allowing SORE to appear as a recognized third party in the upcoming legal proceedings between the Marotta Group and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.
This is due to the dedication and hard work of the SORE core members as well as the support provided by the larger group of enthusiastic SORE followers – and to the obvious merits of their argument.
At the same time, of course, this lays bare the groundless and self-serving claim recently put forward

by Benny Marotta and his legal counsel Michael Melling that rather than representing a large body of opinion, SORE is nothing more than a small group of activists, representing nobody but themselves, and motivated to fight a development proposal that is not to their liking and is located in their own backyard.
The presence of so many concerned NOTL residents at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal hearing at the community centre proved the fallacy of this argument.
Their efforts to deny the simple truth of the matter is now patently obvious and in turn raises the important issue of credibility.

Derek Collins
NOTL

Few 'party house' villas in town, numbers show

Dear editor:
I am writing in response to the letter to the editor headlined, Who wants to live beside a party house? (May 9), which expressed concerns about villas and homes with hot tubs or pools.
I just want to provide some numbers.
I downloaded the list of licensed short-term rentals in the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.
Here is the breakdown:
Bed and breakfast: 153
Cottage rental: 124
Country inn: 12
Vacation apartment: 10
Villa: 29
Total: 328
Owner-occupied (B&B or inn): 165
Unhosted (cottage/apart-

ment/villa): 163
Villas (aka party houses) are only 8.8 per cent of the total licences (29 out of the total 328).
If I look on AirBnB, there are eight homes listed with a hot tub and 13 homes listed with a pool in Old Town.
Not exact numbers, but NOTL is maybe 10 kilometres square, so the recommendation that they be spaced no less than one kilometre apart would mean maximum 100 short-term rentals in total. And Old Town is maybe three kilometres square, so that's no more than nine short-term rentals in all of Old Town.
Jason Clements
NOTL

No help for restoring historic homes

Dear editor:
I am writing regarding the May 2 ArchiText column by Brian Marshall about historic properties that succumb to neglect.
I'd like to say that while I share Mr. Marshall's sentiments (I too have watched for years as the house in the picture falls into ruin with absolutely no attempt at any maintenance by anyone), but I have to point out that I own the "other" McFarland House, at 1436 Concession 2.
I came to the house as a buyer 12 years ago and it was starting to look just like the one in your picture. My wife and I set to work and I now think (my wife passed away) the house is not just recovering, but thriving.

However, this was not due to any assistance or advice I received from anybody: In fact, I received none, despite asking for it.
I asked, among others, the "good folk" at the so-called "school of restoration" in Queenston, who did not bother to even reply to me.
If others have had the same experience that is one of the explanations for why our historic heritage is disappearing.
I gather the "rich folk" who own the Old Town historic properties can tap into funds for restoration, but not so us yokels with equally, if not more so, historic heritage buildings.
Kaspar Pold
NOTL

Restoration of historic War of 1812 building to begin in late summer

Tony Chisholm
President
Friends of Fort George

Friends of Fort George has learned Parks Canada is planning to start restoration and stabilization work on the Junior Commissariat Officers Quarters building at Butlers Barracks in late summer.
The officers quarters is the oldest of four remaining 19th-century military

buildings which make up the Butlers Barracks National Historic Site. It was built in 1816 by the Royal Engineers and was used by the military throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. It is a wonderful example of Georgian-era architecture, with its simplistic, symmetrical and balanced appearance.
The Friends of Fort George, in partnership with Parks Canada, held a

special fundraising event at the quarters in June of 2015. Several thousand dollars were raised to contribute to the restoration of the building.
The initial objectives are to evaluate and correct structural elements such as failing timbers. Parks Canada has announced the building is now under design review with Resource Conservation, the Federal Heritage Building Review

office and other agencies. The estimated cost of the work is more than \$1 million.
The Friends of Fort George is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with Parks Canada to preserve, promote and protect the heritage of Niagara's national historic sites. Through special events and the operation of two gift shops, the Friends of Fort George generate awareness



An illustration of the Junior Commissariat Officers Quarters building at Butlers Barracks. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and funds to support student summer employment opportunities at Fort George and Brock's Monument.

Last year, we provided funds for an additional 16 students who worked on-site all summer.

TIDBITS:

Music Niagara 'Big Night' June 15

A few tickets are still available for Music Niagara's "Big Night" fundraising gala at the NOTL Community Centre. The June 15 dinner, prepared by master chef Collin Gooddine of Gooddine Catering, also features silent and live auctions. Afterward, there is dancing to the music of the Doubts. All Big Night proceeds support Music Niagara's 21st season, which starts in July.
Gala tickets are \$160 each and can be purchased online at www.musicniagara.org/big-night-2019/ or by calling 905-468-5566.

Single-use plastics banned from town facilities

- Niagara-on-the-Lake council has banned single-use plastics from all municipal facilities and operations.
The motion by Coun. Norm Arsenault was passed during a special council meeting on Saturday morning.
Rather than banning plastics across town, "I think we have the best bet at it if we start with ourselves," said Coun. Clare Cameron, who suggested limiting the ban to town-owned facilities.
Coun. Stuart McCormack was the the only one to vote against the move.
The controversial motion had been carried over from Monday's regular council meeting.

Niagara on the Green clean-up Saturday

- The annual Niagara on the Green Clean-up Day is this Saturday, starting at 10 a.m., weather permitting.
Organizers call it the "Be A Good Neighbour" event as residents pitch in to help tidy up the neighbourhood by collecting debris and garbage that accumulated over the winter.
Through the student services department at Niagara College, students also have been invited to pitch in. Lord Mayor Betty Disero and several councillors will be participating, organizer Steve Hardaker said.
The town has donated garbage bags and gloves, as well as a post clean-up garbage bag pick-up. Residents will meet in the neighbourhood park at 10 a.m. and then disperse from there, Hardaker said.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
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Grade 8 conference focuses on mental health and wellness

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

NOTL Grade 8 students are coming together next week to talk about mental health.

The second annual Grade 8 Mental Health and Wellness Conference, organized by the Lord Mayor's youth advisory council, is Monday, May 27.

The event has expanded since last year and will include four hands-on workshops and four speakers, said Bethany Poltl, a Grade 11 student and the youth council's chair.

Around 140 Grade 8 students are expected to attend the half-day conference.

The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Ron Clavier, a psychologist and neuroscientist. Melissa Dunlop from the Niagara North Family Health Team will speak

about nutrition and Karen Post from Red Roof Retreat will hold a workshop on goal-planning through vision boards. Vaping and smoking are among the other topics that will be covered at the conference.

When the event began last year, there was little information and few services in NOTL specifically addressing the youth's mental health.

"(Mental health) is a big topic ... I think it's a very important topic for students to be discussing," said Poltl.

Grade 12 student Tiffany Leung, who is also a member of the youth council, said she wishes there was an event like this when she was younger.

"I think I would've enjoyed coming to something like this," she said.

Hazel Norris and Jasmine Griese, Grade 7 students at



From left, Bethany Poltl, Tiffany Leung, Hazel Norris, Jasmine Griese, Clara De Munnich and Nathan Van de Laar. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

St. Michael Catholic School, said they are excited to meet people and have new opportunities as they transition into high school.

"I hope (the conference) encourages youth to watch their mental health and encourages them to want to have a good time," said Griese, while Norris expressed hopes the students "learn something about their mental state."

Grade 9 student Nathan Van de Laar, who will be going to the conference for the first time this year, agreed that being a high school student allows him to meet different groups of people and gives him more freedom.

Another member of the youth council, Clara De Munnich, said she hopes students learn something from the event.

"I know when I was 13, I was pretty ignorant. I hope they become enlightened by our very talented speakers," she said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero will also speak at the conference.

"It's something that I'm very proud of, that they do. It's youth helping youth," Disero told The Lake Report. "It's very important that young people sit down and talk about issues and how to deal with them. I think it's very important for the town."

Libraries solve book sharing problem, for now

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The region's libraries have come up with a made-in-Niagara solution to the suspended interlibrary book loan program.

The six libraries that form the Libraries in Niagara Co-operative will be using staff vehicles and covering costs from their operating budgets to move books around the region to meet the needs of patrons.

The co-operative, known as LiNC, opted for the "simplest, cheapest, temporary plan" after Ontario government funding cuts led to the suspension of two province-wide interlibrary lending programs last month.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library CEO Cathy Simpson said the Fonthill branch of the Pelham library system will act as a central depository for books and materials.

Once a week, each participating library – NOTL, Lincoln, Pelham, Fort Erie, Thorold and Niagara Col-

lege – will arrange a pickup in Fonthill. The old system, under the Southern Ontario Library Service, known as SOLS, had three pickups weekly, so library patrons might wait a bit longer for that item they really need.

"It won't be quite as fast as under SOLS, but I imagine it will take a week, no more than two weeks" for people to have their requests filled, Simpson said. Once the program is fully up and rolling, she expects a weekly turnaround will be the norm.

The Niagara libraries shared far more materials via LiNC than by SOLS over the past few years. For instance, in the first three months of 2019, NOTL library users borrowed an average of 762 items each month through LiNC and 45 items each month from libraries outside Niagara Region, library statistics show. Those deliveries were made using the now-suspended SOLS van service.

Simpson said the new sharing system will be

in effect at least until the end of the year. The rather utilitarian approach will see on-duty library staffers travel to Fonthill and be reimbursed mileage for their efforts. The NOTL branch's first pickup was Tuesday.

Fonthill was chosen because geographically it is somewhat central, Simpson noted, and it has space for the multiple "bins and bags full of books" that will be sent to the depository.

Not all the staff trips will be on "company time," however.

"People have been really co-operative," Simpson said. "For instance, one of our staff, her kids play basketball in Fonthill, so she has to go there anyway" and will make a pickup. "We had a staff member from Niagara College who lives in Fonthill and he offered to help out, so we're trying to take advantage of anything like that to keep costs down."

The LiNC librarians explored a number of options, including the Canada Post/

courier solution suggested by Culture Minister Michael Tibollo last month. No options have been ruled out long term, Simpson said.

However, there remains a lot of uncertainty for libraries, and not just because of budget cuts. With the province's ongoing review of regional government, "We soon could all be one big happy city in Niagara, so we didn't want to put something in place with a private courier and then have it all change if we have a brand new municipality."

Since the libraries suspended the LiNC program in late April, "We've really appreciated the support we received from the public. They've really been keeping up the pressure and keeping this in the news."

Library patrons were "very happy" to hear they can again start reserving books from other locations, she said. "We relied heavily on it and (when the program was suspended) it left quite a gap in service."

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Niagara College forum tries to change the conversation on aging

Waverly Neufeld
Special to The Lake Report

Niagara College wants to reshape attitudes toward growing old so it is hosting a two-day forum in June with 12 dynamic speakers discussing a range of topics about positive aging.

The Art of Ageing Forum on June 26 and 27 is hosted by the college and organized by Ageworks, a company committed to reducing stigma around aging and debunking myths about older people.

Marylou Hilliard, principal of Ageworks, says the forum is to help fuel positive energy and build healthy attitudes towards aging. "What we want to do is help stimulate minds and examine new ways to think about older people and share the vibrancy," said Hilliard.

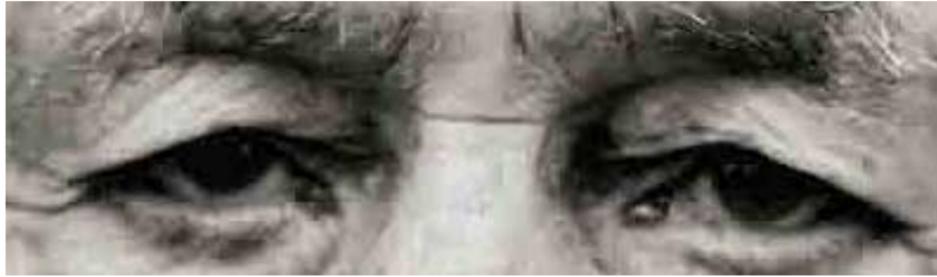
Hilliard said Niagara is a great location for the event, as there is a high percentage of older people in the region.

The forum will spark a thought-provoking and educational experience, Hilliard said.

In addition to a dozen speakers, the event will feature a photography exhibit, a design challenge in which Niagara College design students and delegates will vote on their favourite poster that challenges outdated perceptions and presents the positive art of aging and networking opportunities.

"Expect a really energetic two days with mind-stimulating activities," said Hilliard.

One of the speakers, Mark Venning, will talk about "Making Sense of



File photo. PXHERE

a Longevity Economy." Venning is the founder of Change Rangers, a company that focuses on the relationship between the economy and people's rising life expectancy.

Venning is focusing on changing the conversations people have around longevity, as well as exploring opportunities in a longevity economy for a consumer, a business or a new career seeker. Part of Venning's presentation is the evolution of the modern economy, now including not only

boomers but Gen-X babies. By 2030, the first millennials will be turning 50.

"Can you imagine how marketing to a 50-plus consumer might change by then?" Venning said in an interview?

Carolyn Triemstra, dean of community and health studies at Niagara College, says community members can expect excellent speakers, a fun opportunity for networking among peers and older adults, and an opportunity to contribute to the age-friendly move-

ment.

Triemstra said the forum is a unique offering for Niagara. "It is a chance for young and old to come to the college to learn about moving forward the agenda of age-friendly communities, supporting older adults and how we prepare for a future."

Niagara College is among the first community colleges in Canada to join the Age-Friendly University network, said Triemstra.

That network is a global body of higher education

institutions committed to being more accessible to older adults. It is building on the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Communities Initiative, which encourages communities to shape their physical and social environments to support people of all ages.

Working with Ageworks is a step forward for the college in building relationships with older adults, both in the classroom and through events like this forum for community members, Triemstra said.

Other topics that will be covered at Ageworks include the positive effects of mindfulness and neuroplasticity, which relates to how the brain and mind adapt and change throughout people's lives.

"It doesn't matter how old you are," said Hilliard. "[As long as you] continue to live life to the fullest, regardless of age."

Tickets for the forum, at the college's Welland campus, start at \$125 and available at <https://ageworks.co/events/art-of-ageing-forum/>.

Guiding family honoured for fortitude after fire damaged home

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Amanda Fretz's house was badly damaged after a fire at her neighbour's home in Virgil last September.

But it didn't stop her or her daughter Samantha from attending all Girl Guides meetings and continuing to participate in their unit's activities.

"My biggest concern after the fire was keeping life as normal as possible for my children," said Fretz.

She and Samantha, a Pathfinder, were recipients of the Fortitude Award at the advancement ceremony for NOTL Girl Guides on May 14 at Grace United Church.

Granted by the Girl Guides of Canada's board of directors, the award is given to a girl or adult members who have "shown great courage and endurance in adversity."

The Fretz family lived in a hotel for six weeks after the fire. The renovations have been taking months and are still ongoing, Fretz told The Lake Report.

"I love seeing the girls enjoying, trying new things, pushing their limits," said Fretz, who has been a Pathfinder leader for two years. "Stuff that makes them feel uncomfortable but they still do it and they really enjoy doing it. I love watching them grow."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was also in attendance to present the award to the family and congratulate all the Girl Guides for their achievements.

Another special award, the Lady Baden-Powell Award, was presented to three third-year guides – Ava Geissler, Hannah Gilchrist and Josie St-Onge – who showed dedication to completing program work

and participated in patrol and unit activities. The award is the highest award a Guide can earn.

The ceremony also celebrated the Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders who moved up to the next level of guiding.

It was a special night for 83-year-old Shirley Olley, who has over 60 years of experience volunteering in Girl Guides. She said she is retiring as a Guide leader but will still provide training and advice for other leaders.

"I get more out of it than I have ever given to it," she told The Lake Report. "It's wonderful to have friends all over Canada whom I've met with Girl Guides... It's been a whole world of friendships among the adults."

After the ceremony, Olley, as the most senior Guider, cut the cake with the youngest Spark in attendance, Maggie Adam.



Top: Sparks advancing to Brownies, left to right Nora Jansen, Maelle Pohorly and Millie McGreachin. Bottom: Shirley Olley, left, presents the Fortitude Award to Samantha Fretz and Amanda Fretz at the Girl Guides advancement ceremony. Lord Mayor Betty Disero joined to congratulate the recipients as well. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



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Members of the NOTL Golf Club's Friday night Couples League toast the Queen and the new royal baby Archie at the group's Victoria Day weekend kickoff. KEVIN MACLEAN

Couples league tees off with a royal toast

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

With a giant 18- by 9-foot Union Jack for a backdrop, members of the NOTL Golf Club's Couples League toasted the Queen and her two-week-old great-grandson Archie as the golfers kicked off a new season Friday night.

The enormous flag is an item from Tim and Kathy Taylor's cache of royal memorabilia. The Taylors were also honoured as best-dressed couple for the royal-themed event.

On the golf course, the winners were: First place, the foursome of Stephen Warboys, Louise Robitaille and John and Elena Thomson, with a scintillating 33. Second place, one shot behind, were Oleh and Kim Hrycko and Glen and Cathy Murray. Most honest/honorable mention went to Charlie and Suzanne Rate and Martin and Margot Richardson. Closest to the pin: Kevin MacLean and Deborah Williams. Longest putt: Don Saytar and Maria Townley.

Tuesday 18-hole Ladies: Low gross winners were Louise Robitaille (88), Yolanda Henry (89) and Barbara Ahluwalia (100). Low net honours went to Yolanda Henry (73), Cathy Murray (76) and May Chang (77). Birdies: Margot Richardson. Chip ins: Donna Lailey, Cathy Murray, Yolanda Henry, Margot Hickson, May Chang.

Thursday Men's League: Joe Doria and Stephen Warboys topped the field, shooting 1-over 37 on May 16. The "A" flight winners, with 22 points each, were Craig Currie and Glen Murray. Jack Hanna, Bill Garriock and John Grimstead had 23 points each to share "B" flight honours. Closest to the pin winners were: Dan Regan #2, Glen Murray #4, Mark Derbyshire #6 and Jeff Jacques #9. Sean "The Bomb" Simpson had the longest drive on #3. Seniors long drive was by Stephen Warboys on #8. Gross skins winners were Ted Carmichael, John Reynolds and Sean Simpson. Mark Derbyshire collected \$255 in 50/50 winnings.



Back row, from left: Stephanie Kozak, Penelope McClure, Kathleen Maier, Ellie Harrison, Daphne van Egmond, Emma Johnston, Leah Schouten. Seated: Grace Healy and Ava Randall. Front row: Jenna Cowan, Kira Fediuk, Amelie Merrill. KEVIN MACLEAN

NOTL dancers score gold and platinum

Students from Miss Ilona's School of Dance in Niagara-on-the-Lake participated in a pair of high-calibre dance competitions in Niagara Falls this month and came home with several awards for their efforts.

The girls rehearsed and practised their skills for several months and competed in every category from classic ballet to lyrical and tap. The school's performances of Secret Garden and Once Upon A December received platinum placement, while other dances scored high gold awards.

The school is operated by Ilona Newton, a former member of the Hungarian National Ballet, who has been teaching for more than 30 years, including 16 years at her studio on Hunter Road. Her students range in age from three to 18, and the studio also offers a women's dance class.

The girls are continuing to hone their talents for their June recital at Alliance Church, on Valley Way in Niagara Falls. For tickets and information, contact Newton at 905-468-0947 or France Merrill at 905-933-6570.



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26	27	28	29
<p>Family Friendly Art Studio: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Niagara College: Bake with an Expert - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Niagara College, CWFI Campus</p> <p>Niagara Pumphouse: 25 Years of Style and Beauty Fashion Show - Noon to 5 p.m. - Hilton Garden Inn</p> <p>Lions Walk for Dog Guides: A Walk in Our Park - 10 a.m. - St. Davids Lions Park</p> <p>Workers Bicycle Safety Rodeo & Information Festival - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Virgil Centennial Arena</p>	<p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Famous & Infamous: Theodore Roosevelt with Michael Clark - 2 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p> <p>Open House: Residential Infill Policies - 5 p.m. - Town Council Chambers</p> <p>Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Horticultural Society: Climate Change and Gardening - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Transforming the Heart Through Music and the Arts - 7:30 p.m. - Mori Room, NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Simply STEAM Story Time - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Painting: Drop in - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters - 9 p.m. - Niagara College Campus</p> <p>NOTL SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - The Village</p>
2	3	4	5
<p>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>3rd Annual Lions Golf Tournament - 11 a.m. - Eagle Valley Golf Course</p> <p>Teen Literary Alliance - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>Flag Raising for Niagara Pride Week - 9 a.m. - Town Municipal Offices</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Committee of the Whole - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Public Meeting: Residential Infill Policies - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>Janet Carnochan Day</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>40 Creek Whiskey Pairing Night - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp Pub</p> <p>Movie: Mary Queen of Scots - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>NOTL SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters - 9 p.m. - Niagara College Campus</p>

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29 Movie Time - 11 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Seniors Fitness: Health Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	30 Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Tinker Thinker Thursdays - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Seniors Fitness: Health Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	31 Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	1 Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Winning Plant Combinations - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park Ragnar Niagara 2019: Running Event - 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Queen's Royal Park Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village
5 Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson Opening Reception: Founding Members' Art Exhibition - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	6 Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Neighbourhood Walks: Queen Street Estates - 6 p.m. - Post Office, Queen Street Interfaith Devotional Gathering - 7 p.m. - 11 Harmony Drive, NOTL	7 Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Pruning Evergreens - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens 14th Annual Shaw Guild Garden Tour - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Shaw Festival Rest & Refreshment Stop on Shaw Garden Tour - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Grace United Church: June Jamboree - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Grace United Church Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village	8

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Kaitlin Hinz, Alan Rosselet, Herb Hinz, Ella Hinz, Francisco Del Campo, Maria Del Campo, Dorothea Enns, Emily Enns and Julieanne Enns volunteer at the Virgil Stampede. EUNICE TANG

Volunteers are what make the Stampede, say organizers

Continued from Front Page

Wall said. “We only have about 35 to 40 members. Without that extra few hundred people it would be impossible to run the event the way we do.”

He said he had initial concerns about moving the

midway rides to the parking lot, which was done to reduce mud and ensure public safety. Throughout the weekend, though, he said rides remained full and families were happy with the alternative solution to the wet grounds.

As for lost parking spaces, Wall said he hasn’t heard

any negative feedback from residents. In fact, the comments he did receive were all positive, he said.

“We’ve actually received a couple nice letters from local people commenting on it,” he added.

This year, the association decided to increase security for the Stampede.

For the first time since the event’s inception, the event was entirely enclosed by fencing and had two secure entrances. The security plan was created in consultation with the Niagara Regional Police.

Viking Security Corp. performed bag checks and ensured public safety throughout the weekend. Wall said he was happy with the level of professionalism exhibited by the company.

Due to the questionable status of the field leading up to the Stampede, Wall said he wasn’t sure if the association would be able to pull it all off.

“A week later, I would definitely say it far exceeded our expectations. It was a tremendous success and we had a great finale fireworks show at the end.”

He said the weekend closed out with a bang.



Above: Cody Jenkes and six-year-old son Corben Jenkes of St. Catharines won a Squirtle and Rick at the Virgil Stampede. Below: Six-year-old Max Plomish of Niagara-on-the-Lake enjoys some cotton candy. EUNICE TANG



Three-year-old Grace Goulet rides the gator roller coaster at the Virgil Stampede on Saturday. EUNICE TANG




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Blythwood homes are places to retreat

Brittany Carter
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Blythwood Homes stands for quality custom homes – evident in The Vintages at Four Mile Creek – the high-class single-detached and family townhomes being built on Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids.

The company focuses on the personalized aspect of home-building as well as meeting and exceeding Ontario Building Code regulations. Knowing many families buying his homes are looking for a place to retire, Rob Mills, founder and CEO of Blythwood, says he wants to help realize the perfect dream home for his clients.

“We spend a lot of time working on our home designs. We’re fanatics and we have a passion for design.

“We’re really looking forward to seeing our new home designs come to

fruition,” Mills says of the new development.

Alexa Mills, vice-president and the next generation at Blythwood, says it’s rewarding being able to help each customer design their ideal home, and no detail is too small.

“Most of our buyers are retirees and building their last homes. I work with all our homebuyers to achieve the design they want. They’re all super excited,” Alexa says, adding that some clients have been waiting for more than three years for their home. “Now that the time’s finally come it’s been very satisfying.”

By working directly with Blythwood’s suppliers and tradespeople, customers can count on the consistent level of quality expected from Blythwood.

“We always know what we’re going to get because we have been working with our trades for so long. It enables us to get the

level of quality that we want,” Mills says. Many of the contractors are local family businesses.

The 18 exclusive single-detached homes on Four Mile Creek Road back onto the Four Rows Vineyard owned by the Lowrey family, providing a unique view of western sunsets and the vineyard, hard to find anywhere else. The view, the exceptionally built homes, the ability to customize every detail – it all adds up to the superior quality Blythwood stands for.

The company has been building its foundation through a reputation for high-quality homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake for more than 20 years. Butler’s Creek Estate on Bayberry Lane was built almost 25 years ago and Mills says it still looks great today. Blythwood most recently completed an enclave of 12 towns and 30 singles called Tanbark Trail in St. Davids.

“It sold out about two years ago. It was quite successful and we’ve received a lot of referrals from that project,” Mills says, adding that similar quality and exceptional workmanship can be expected in this next community.

Mills started renovating homes as a hobby while in university before he says he “got hooked” on the business. He started his career building homes in Toronto, Muskoka and Niagara, but says Niagara is where he wanted to be.

“Since I was always touting the beauty of this area, I decided it would be better to just move here and enjoy. So, I focused on the Niagara Region, I found that was the best place to be in the province for sure,” he says.

Mills’ decision to specialize in upscale adult lifestyle homes has made Blythwood a leader in the field. It also has allowed him to learn from each cli-



Rob Mills, Jamie Paroschy and Alexa Mills in front of The Vintages at Four Mile Creek. The project is nearing completion. BRITTANY CARTER

ent and perfect the quality of service provided.

“The whole lifestyle is primarily focused on having an absolutely wonderful bedroom and ensuite, fabulous great room, great patios for entertaining. And having guest rooms for their kids. It’s just a different kind of house design. Also, since our home styles appeal to empty nesters, neighbours have lots in common and soon have a great network of friends with similar interests.”

Units in the new development on Four Mile Creek Road are still available, but Mills says they’re already about 50 per cent sold. Custom homes range from a base price of \$639,000 to just over \$1,300,000.

Those interested in inquiring about purchasing a unit at the Vintages at Four Mile Creek can contact Randall Armstrong, broker at Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty, 905-651-2977, randynotl@gmail.com



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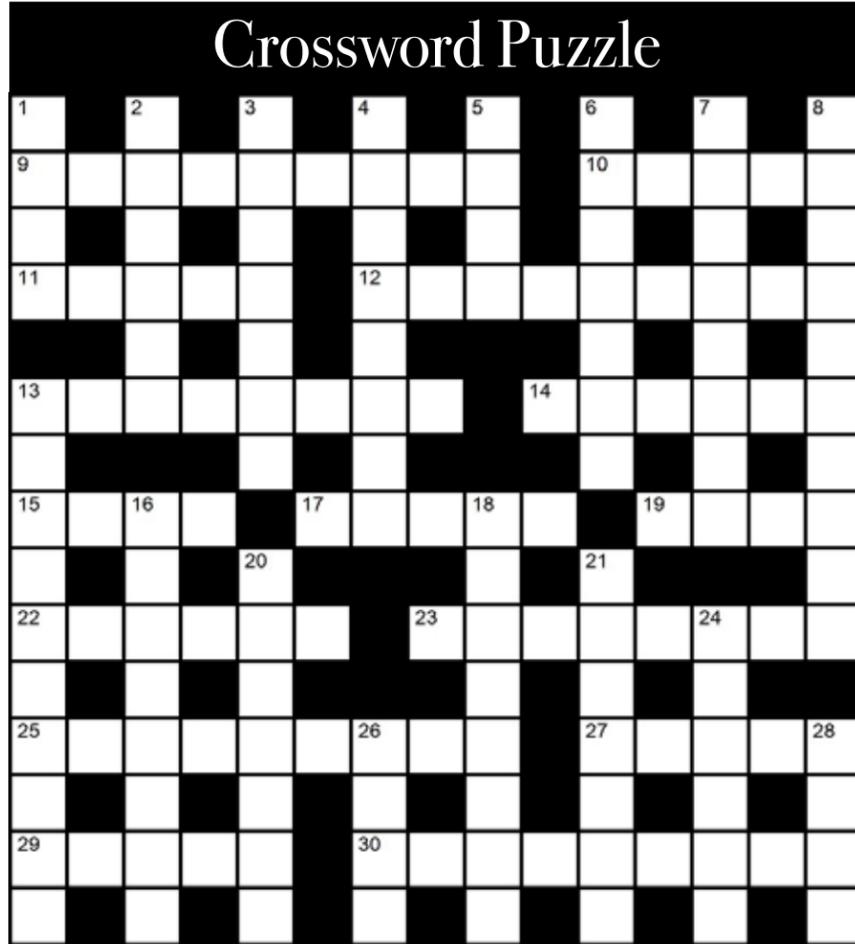
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 - 13. Unusual (8)
 - 14. Botch (6)
 - 15. Snug (4)
 - 17. Prepares for publication (5)
 - 19. Homework (4)
 - 22. Order to come (6)
 - 23. Comfortable piece of furniture (8)
 - 25. Misunderstanding (9)
 - 27. Paddled (5)
 - 29. Burdened (5)
 - 30. Form of hypnosis (9)
- Down**
- 1. Expel (4)
 - 2. Choice (6)
 - 3. Bow and arrow skill (7)
 - 4. UK biscuit brand sold as cookies (8)
 - 5. Tolerate (4)
 - 6. Serious collision (5-2)
 - 7. Longitudinal fuselage component (8)
 - 8. One who maintains accounts (10)
 - 13. Easy to reach (10)
 - 16. An unspecified person (8)
 - 18. Hare beater (8)
 - 20. Perfumed toilet water (7)
 - 21. Film: "The Hunt for Red ---" (7)
 - 24. Apprehensive (6)
 - 26. Gammy (4)
 - 28. 10 U.S. cents (4)

Have some fun

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



Last issue's answers



Sudoku





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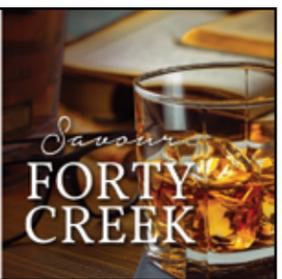
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Community partners join hands to help migrant workers

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A new partnership was formed in Niagara-on-the-Lake thanks to migrant workers.

Each year, the NOTL safety committee hosts bicycle safety rodeos for migrant workers around the same time the Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group holds its annual summer festival for migrant workers.

So it made sense to combine two events into one big festival, said Crystal Goicoechea, counselling support co-ordinator for Positive Living Niagara.

The summer festival for migrants will take place at Centennial Arena on Sunday, May 26, from 3 to 7 p.m.

The Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group, comprised of non-profit community organizations,



A migrant worker at Thwaites Farms sells fresh asparagus. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

provides services to migrant workers in Niagara Region. The group has been holding its summer festival for migrant workers for 11 years.

“We used to do everything ourselves and same with the safety committee,” Goicoechea said in a phone interview. “So, this year

we’ve been able to help each other out... (This year) it has been a little bit easier because of the partnership.”

“It just makes more sense to work together and make the event bigger and better,” said Catherine Wickabrod, chair of the NOTL safety committee.

The festival will feature a free dinner and a bike repair area run by a local volunteer group Bikes for Farmworkers. And 37 bikes will be raffled this year, the highest number so far.

The safety committee provided 15 of the bikes.

“The rules of the road are much different coming to Canada than what (the workers) are used to. We want to ensure they're riding the safe bikes,” Wickabrod told The Lake Report.

Entertainment will be provided by Enlace Community Link, a non-profit organization of Spanish-speaking volunteers, that will present Mexican folk-lore dancing.

About 15 organizations, such as Quest Community Health Centre, Justice Niagara, FCJ Refugee Centre and the Welland McMaster Family Health Team will have tables to provide information about their services for migrant workers and immigrants.

“We’re excited to kick off the summer and get to see everybody again,” said Goicoechea.

Local Snaps: War of 1812 remembered at the Fort

Reenactors remembered the War of 1812 at Fort George Saturday. Top: Sam Challen makes snickerdoodles, a type of traditional sugar cookie. Bottom: Chris McKay at the officers’ dinner. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



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NOTL Writers' Circle

A hike at Queenston Heights



By Annamarie Kelly

Trudging up the grass from where we had finally found a parking space, I dragged my less than willing daughter through the park. It was a warm spring afternoon and the sound of children's laughter and the buzzing of flying insects filled the air. I love this time of year, the trees bursting with new buds and leaves thick and full, mak-

ing Queenston Heights Park a place of unspoiled beauty.

But that day, I was on a mission. One to help said daughter with a school problem, in which they were required to research an individual of note to the area. And who better than the man who stood atop a huge pillar, his statue immortalizing him, hand pointed towards the Americas. I could almost hear those last words accredited to him "push on, don't mind me" as he fell. So British. And given he was shot in the heart, probably so unsaid. But it made for a more interesting, if not slightly Python-esque story.

"Wow! Look at that!"

My fond gaze took in the way my daughter was already lining up her iPhone to take a picture of the impressive monument. Bursting with the enthusiasm of a parent ready to fill their little half-empty vessel with knowledge, I broke

into the story of the mighty Sir Isaac Brock. Hands gestured wildly as I lost myself in the passion of the moment.

I eloquently spoke of how the brave General, who when faced with an invading army of American soldiers entrenched in the Heights, made the decision to attack. Fearing that the Americans would soon be bolstered with larger numbers from those still trying to cross the river, he led the assault up the hill to drive them off. He believed if they waited for reinforcements, then the rest of the Americans would join their brethren, and the battle would be lost.

Not a man to expect his troops to do anything he himself would not, the tall, brightly uniformed General bravely led from the front. With words of encouragement he forged onward, even when injured in the arm. But, tragically, the fatal shot to his heart felled him before he made it to the field of battle. But that day

the British were victorious, the Americans driven back. And General Brock was declared a hero, forever immortalised by the tall majestic monument.

I paused, awaiting the accolades of having told a riveting story. But rather than the expected adoration, her look was one of irritation laced with a great deal of embarrassment. With a long-suffering moan, she averted her eyes from two teens who strode past, head shaking, eyes rolling. "Mum. You're weird." The huffed-out words were accompanied by the lifting of her phone allowing me a look at the screen. The monument now blended into the background as I regarded the strange little cartoon character before it.

"What is that?"

The confused question elicited yet another eye-roll, my lack of knowledge seemingly unforgivable. "That's Pikachu. Don't you know anything?"

Shaw Festival review: **Rope, a solid start to the season**

Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report

Judging by TV's taste for mayhem, this is a society engrossed by murder and shrewd detectives who solve it — Morse, Poirot, Miss Marple, Columbo, Quincy (first to employ forensic science), and for the older demographic — Dick Tracy, Philip Marlowe and Sam Spade. Even William Shakespeare wrote tragedies that littered his stage at the end with lifeless bodies.

In recent years, fiction mutated into reality with a media frenzy featuring serial killer Bruce McArthur in Toronto's gay community and — as chilling in Niagara, the demented duo of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka.

Last season, Shaw thrilled us with a premiere of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, a murder mystery featuring veteran Ric Reid as Dr. Watson paired with skilled newcomer Damien Atkins as Sherlock Holmes. This season, artistic director Tim Carroll takes us to a darker place.

Homicide motives differ in fiction and non-fiction, but rarely is someone murdered because of intellectual arrogance. Patrick Hamilton's 1929 psychological thriller, *Rope*, explores such a murder, masterminded by Oxford student Wyndham Brandon (Kelly Wong) and assisted by his lover, Charles Granillo (Travis Seetoo). As the play opens in darkness, they carry the inert body of strangled classmate Ronald Kentley and cram it into a trunk in their Mayfair flat in London.

Hamilton's inspiration is the infamous case of Leopold and Loeb at the University of Chicago, who in 1924 kidnapped and murdered 14-year-old Bobby Frank to demonstrate their intellectual superiority, which they thought allowed them to commit a "perfect crime." Wong and Seetoo invite college friends and Kentley's father over for a party, and they act as perversely as Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus, offering dinner on the top of the trunk that serves as a buffet. The play's suspense literally

hinges on whether they'll be caught.

Director Jani Lauzon abandons an over-the-top-Trump-rally-type approach, and steers her cast toward a nuanced, incremental intensity that begins slowly but shapes into a frenetic finale: a battle between Wong, who hits the ball out of the sociopathic ballpark (he's smug and at ease throughout), and understudy Mike Nadajewski, filling in for Michael Therriault as Rupert Cadell, the perfect foil as a cynical poet wounded in the First World War, and witness to death in its myriad, grotesque forms.

Nadajewski never missed a beat, displaying Shaw's incredible acting depth. He plays Freud's super-ego, the critical and moralizing role to Wong's id, its libido the primary source of an instinctual force totally unresponsive to reality.

Other characters are solid yet not as significant — Seetoo unravels from the beginning, insisting on darkness and with snowballing uneasiness and drink, he makes a fatal mistake, which leads to the denoue-



Travis Seetoo, as Charles Granillo, and Kelly Wong, as Wyndham Brandon, in *Rope*. SUPPLIED PHOTO/DAVID COOPER

ment. Alexis Gordon and Kyle Golemba are perfect as bland socialites; veteran Peter Millard is convincing as the victim's father; Patty Jamieson and Élodie Gillett are spot on as vacuous socialite and common maid.

Lauzon's collaboration with Joanna Yu (sets and costumes), Louise Guinand (lighting), John Gzowski (music and sound) firmly

place us in the appropriate period and help foster the rising suspense amid lighting bolts and substantial rainfall, straight out of Julius Caesar.

Hamilton's title, *Rope*, suggests binding, tying up even lynching; rope indicated as the murder weapon. In the enriching Shaw program notes, Bob Hetherington suggests that the title

is derived from Nietzsche's Thus Spake Zarathustra. The 1929 Broadway play was entitled *Rope's End*, which indicates the limits of one's resources, implied by Samantha Power's disturbing *A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* (2002).

Does this play have resonance now? Samantha Power would say yes. It's easy to project Brandon's microcosmic sociopathy into current state leaders who narcissistically watch missiles drop into the sea while 40 per cent of their population starves, and brutal oligarchs who either imprison or murder anyone who dissents.

Rope is a sure-fire money-maker for Carroll, whose stewardship and program innovation last year resulted in a Shaw profit of \$537,000 as 251,321 patrons attended 755 performances.

Rope by Patrick Hamilton, directed by Jani Lauzon, plays till Oct. 12 at the Royal George Theatre, 85 Queen St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Shawfest.com, 905-468-2172 and 1-800-511-7429.



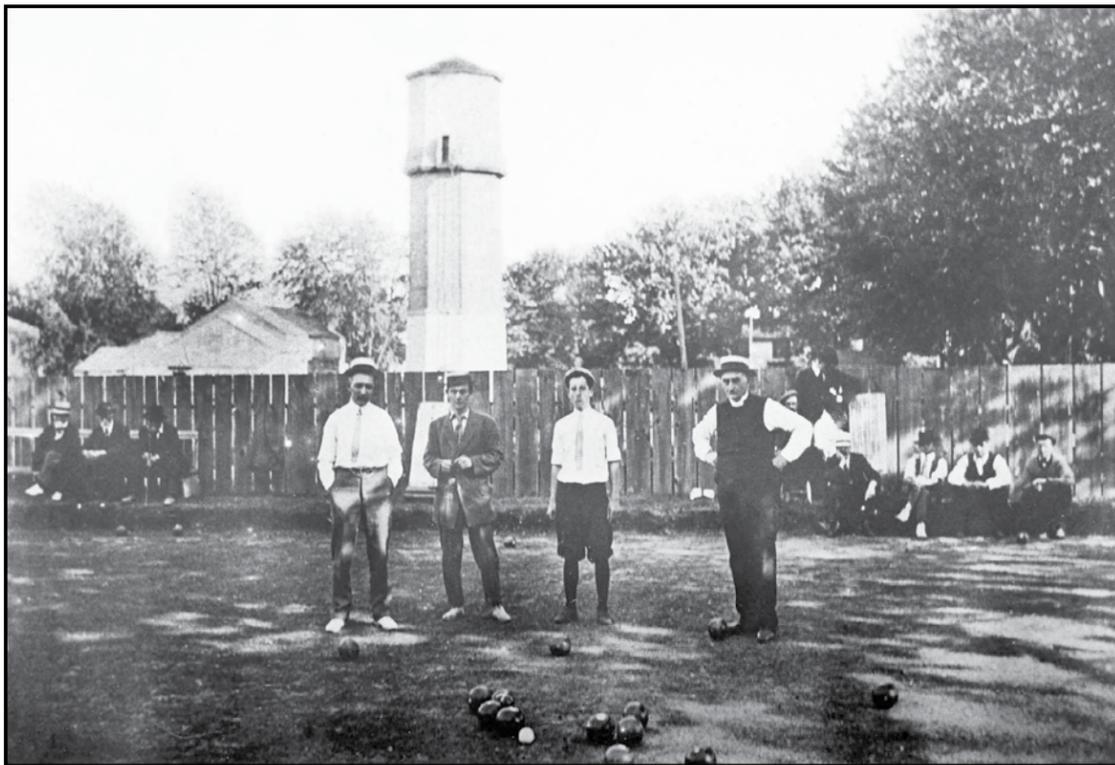
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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



THE OLD WATER TOWER

From the late 1890s to 1955, our town's water tower was located on King Street, where Simpson's Apothecary is today. The old water tower can be seen in the photograph taken from the Niagara Lawn bowling club. The bowling grounds are now the new Voices of Freedom memorial garden commemorating blacks who came to Niagara and freedom by way of the Underground Railway .

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



Wartime-era Victory House

Brian Marshall
Featured

Upon entering the Second World War in late 1939, Canada faced a housing crisis. A number of factors generated by the Great Depression had created a housing shortfall estimated at 232,000 units. Slums and homelessness were rampant in industrial centres. Consider the 1941 statistics reported for the city of Hamilton where 12.4 per cent of dwellings were occupied by two or more families, 10.7 per cent of all housing was defined as "overcrowded", 28 per cent of the houses were identified as "sub-standard" (lacking plumbing or in desperate need of repair) and 56 per cent of



The Victory House was popularized during the Second World War. BRIAN MARSHALL

all homes were rented (often to multiple lodgers). So where could they house the labour force required by the industrial war effort? The country needed a solution. C.D. Howe, Mackenzie King's "Minister of Everything," responded by creating Wartime Housing Limited. This crown corporation, led by construction magnate Joseph Pigott with directors drawn from every part of the building industry (including unions), was charged with

immediately addressing the issue. They did so with startling efficiency and innovation. By the end of the war the company had completed multiple residential blocks for single workers, 25,771 single-family detached houses and all the associated infrastructure. How did they do it? Part of the answer lies in the creation of a new architectural style which has since been called Minimal Traditional, but at the time was simply called the Victory House.

Architects developed several completely standardized house plans between 600 and 1,200 square feet, which were designed to be built on blocks or piers (no basement) using prefabricated panel-style construction. This building method allowed for an assembly line-like process wherein specialized teams were assigned to individual parts of the build. It worked so well that one of these single-storey or 1.5-storey houses could be completed in 36 hours.

While the government's original plan was to tear down these rental houses after the war, they were so popular that many were purchased and had basements put under them. Indeed, that popularity (and the simplicity of the build) spurred many private developers to build the slightly upscale versions of the Victory House still seen across the country today.

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The churches and graveyards of Queenston

Linda Fritz
Exclusive/The Lake Report

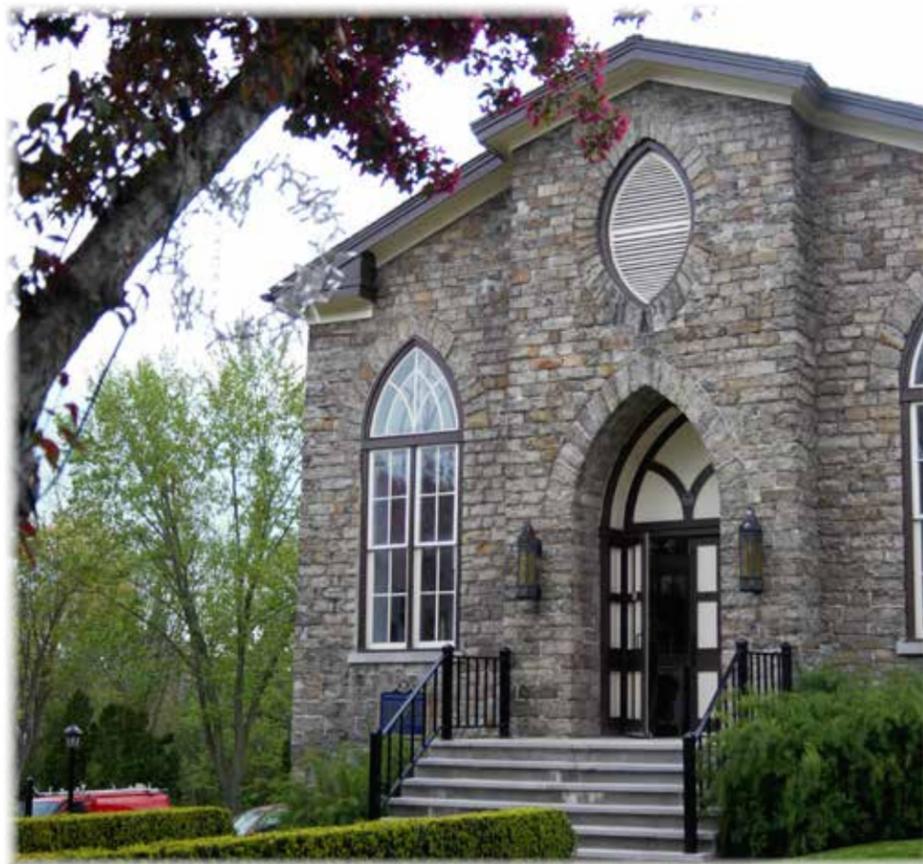
The small village of Queenston, with a population that never exceeded 400, had three churches during the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, only one remains as a religious institution.

The congregation of St. Saviour, The Brock Memorial Church, was originally formed by a group of United Empire Loyalists sometime before 1788. They came from a variety of denominations, so the church didn't become officially Anglican until 1820. Although a historical plaque at the church says the present church was begun in 1877 and completed two years later, Harold Usher, a former treasurer and historian of the church, claimed that the present church was in fact started in 1873.

The church is dedicated to the memory of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock. It is believed to be the only Anglican church known to honour a layman. In an interview with newspaperman Jimmy Simpson, Usher is quoted as saying, "Before 1849, Ontario Anglican Churches were administered under the Diocese of Quebec. The Diocese of Niagara, of which we are a part, was formed in that year. We have been unable to trace records past Nov. 2, 1879, when Brock's Memorial Church of St. Saviour was dedicated with the completion of the present building."

Simpson also wrote that when the present building was planned, members of the congregation contacted the Brock family in the United Kingdom and were able to obtain plans for a small church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. While the proportions of the church have been praised in relation to its size, a Wren characteristic, present day historians are unable to connect the church to any of his designs.

In 2012, the retired Bailiff



The Queenston Library is located in the former Baptist Church. BRITTANY CARTER

of Guernsey, Sir Geoffrey Rowland and the Constable of St. Peter Port, Dennis Le Moignan, from the island of Guernsey, Brock's birthplace, presented a commemorative plaque to the church. The service took place on Oct. 12, the day before the bicentennial of Brock's death.

The Queenston Library is housed in what was once a Baptist church.

It was built by, among others, Solomon Vrooman, a descendant of William Vrooman, the slave owner who was responsible for sending Chloe Cooley back to the United States. The outcome of that incident was Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe's 1793 law banning slavery in Upper Canada. The church was built between 1841 and 1845. It never had a large congregation. When it closed in 1916, there were only six, some of whom were Vroomans.

There has been a suggestion that the Baptist church had a black congregation. Ransom Goring, who came to the Niagara area as a clerk in the fur trade and

later settled here, kept a record of all of the families in the Queenston/St. Davids area in the 19th century. He does not mention any black families. While some freed slaves served as Butler's Rangers, they tended to settle closer to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Transportation to Queenston, over 10 kilometres away, would have been difficult at the time.

After the church closed, it was sold to the Women's Institute. The institute originally had a meeting room in the Laura Secord School. In 1924, the school trustees no longer wanted them in the building and sent a letter demanding that they remove their belongings. The institute sued to get back the money it had spent on the room, and, in 1928, bought the old church building.

In 1967, an entrepreneur from Niagara Falls named Djamal Afrukhteh bought the building. In 1971, he donated it to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was to be the community centre for Queenston. Afrukhteh, however, specified that it should contain a library, which it does to this day.

The final church in the village is described as the little white church. It began as a Wesleyan Methodist chapel, at the corner of Queenston and Dumfries Streets. The church, built in 1862, became the Queenston United Church in 1939. Since the Methodist ministers and leaders served for only two years, it has been recorded that some 132 people led the church.

The building was moved to a location on the Niagara River Parkway in 1958 and rededicated. In 1997, attendance had dwindled so the parishioners decided to join with St. Davids United Church. They donated the building to the Niagara Parks Commission. In 2011, it was moved a second time, to the Laura Secord home- stead site where it is now used for events such as weddings and book readings.

It is interesting to note that while Queenston had three churches, none of them had graveyards. St. Saviour's is built on the riverbank on limestone and shale. It was considered far too dangerous to dig in the area. As a result, the Angli-

can community shares the graveyard with the United and Presbyterian churches in St. Davids.

However, there are cemeteries in Queenston, including the Brock Monument.

The largest is the Willowbank graveyard, one of the most interesting parts of the Willowbank property. It is on a small plot of land located northwest of the mansion itself and is surrounded by a low stone wall and trees. It is accessible through a discrete gate off the Niagara River Parkway.

The only people buried at the Willowbank graveyard who were not a part of the extended Hamilton family are Brock and his adjutant John Macdonell. These two were buried four times, first at Fort George where the bodies laid for 12 years. They were then moved to Queenston Heights and buried under the first Brock's monument.

When the monument was destroyed by rebels in 1840, the bodies were taken to Queenston and placed in the Hamilton burial grounds. Later, they were returned to Queenston Heights when the new monument was built in 1853. The Willowbank graveyard is still being used for Hamilton descendants.

The last grave site in Queenston can be found at RiverBrink Art Museum. RiverBrink's builder, Samuel Weir died in 1881. He received permission to be buried on the property. Weir said that "the house was designed to be a library and a museum for all time."

His grave is near the entrance to the house he considered to be his home for many years. He arranged that his estate be left in trust to the people of Niagara.

Today, his art collection and library is open to the public year-round.

More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: www.niagaranow.com

Brock's Monument open for season, with NOTL discount

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Brock's Monument at Queenston Heights is offering a special discount for Niagara-on-the-Lake residents this summer.

For the month of May, NOTL residents can climb the tower for only \$1 after providing proof of address.

The 56-metre monument is now open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The price for climbing and guided tours for adult visitors is \$4.50 and \$3.50 for youth aged from six to 16 years old. Admission is free for children under five.

The stairs, 235 in total, are open every day and those making it to the top will receive a certificate.

Visitors can also tour the battlefield with costumed staff, stop by a small museum and a gift shop inside the monument and participate in a scavenger hunt program.

The Friends of Fort George also provide guided tours to learn more about the Battle of Queenston Heights. In May and June, tours run every Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Throughout July and August, tours run daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Situated on the site of Battle of Queenston Heights, the tower is a federal historic building. It is also the final resting place for Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock, who was killed in the Battle of Queenston Heights, and his aide-de-camp Lt.-Col. John Macdonnell.

The money from the programming at the site goes toward student summer employment at Fort George and Brock's Monument.

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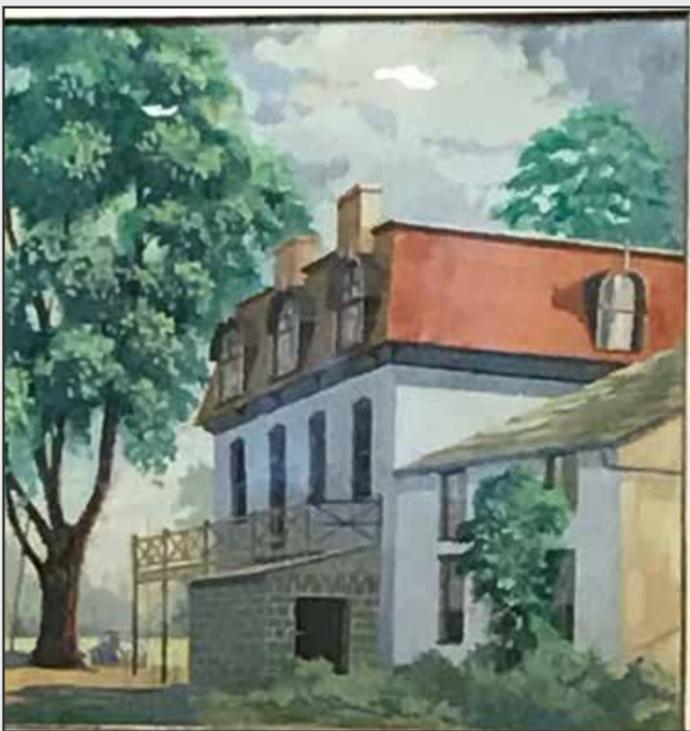
We invite you to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Send your submissions to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to be featured.



Stampeding into summer



Artifact of the Week: "Niagara-on-the-Lake" painting



Answer: This week's artifact is an oil on canvas watercolour by Jackson G. Smith, painted in 1949. The framed painting depicts the Lakeview House, also referred to as the Riverside Inn or Harbour Inn, built in 1860 by John Thornton. The Inn was built on the corner of Melville Street and River Beach Road for one of the owners of the railway car company. John Rousseau Senior bought the establishment in 1970. His son John Junior inherited the business in 1881 and leased it to a series of innkeepers. It was the only Inn in Niagara that remained open year-round in 1934. It burned in the late 1990s and is now the site of riverfront condominiums.

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

Can you guess this artifact? >

Clue: The desk of an attempted Butler Ranger



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:
Sunset Grill



The Sunset Grill receives a Golden Plunger award. PLUNGER PATROL

The Sunset Grill is located in the heart of NOTL. Whether it is "sunrise or sunset," this eatery is your answer for an all-day breakfast opportunity. The warm sunset is reflected in this establishment's "pine wood" decor, which invites you to sample a wide variety of fresh food, from fruit to English muffins topped with smoked salmon and Hollandaise sauce. Service with a smile is complementary with every meal. Upon further exploration we found a family washroom located at the rear of the restaurant equipped with a baby change table, a button to lock the door, and an emergency call button for additional assistance. There are large restrooms available downstairs to accommodate this busy venue. The Sunset Grill received a warm glow with 3.5/5 Golden Plungers.

3.5/5 Gold Plungers



Lions award

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lions Club president Len Ferry, far right, and vice-president Erwin Wiens presented the Silver Centennial Award to club member (and paramedic) Terry Flynn last week. The award recognizes Flynn for recruiting new club member Steve MacSween (far left) and his wife Mary MacSween (absent). The Lions meet the third Wednesday of every month at the Virgil Firehall. SUPPLIED PHOTO / DOROTHY WIENS

RIDDLE ME THIS:

Spelled forward I'm what you do everyday, spelled backward I'm something you hate. What am I?

Last Week's Riddle: I fly without wings, I cry without eyes. What am I?. **Answer: Clouds**
Answered first by Katie Reimer
Also answered correctly by:
Shelley Kobelsky
Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



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Featured local story

Jamie Mainprize: Acting career brings character to quarter-century of B&B hosting

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

A prominent filmography website formally describes Niagara-on-the-Lake's James Mainprize as a film and stage actor with over 40 career film and television credits.

But he's best known around town as Jamie, dapper bed and breakfast host, occasional thespian and consummate raconteur.

The 82-year-old Mainprize and Virginia, his wife of almost 50 years, share the workload of their Simcoe Street bed and breakfast.

Virginia is the cook and gardener. Jamie plays host, sets the table and does the marketing and the books. They both share the house-keeping duties.

He chuckles: "I wait the (breakfast) table and bore people with stories about the theatre."

And he's got lots of stories from an eclectic career as teacher, book editor and, for much of the last 30

years, stage and film actor.

"I went to school at UTS (University of Toronto Schools)," says Jamie. "I was 12. I had a wonderful English teacher — a frustrated actor who produced a Shakespearian play every year. That was my introduction to the theatre."

Even after achieving a history degree from the University of Toronto, he just wanted to pursue acting.

After a stint at the Central School for Acting in London, he returned to Canada. "I was actually getting both film and stage work."

But bowing to pressure from his father, who did not support his penchant for acting, Jamie applied for a history teacher position



Left: Jamie and Virginia Mainprize celebrate a wonderful spring afternoon in the award-winning garden of their Niagara-on-the-Lake bed and breakfast. TIM TAYLOR Right: Jamie Mainprize starred as a senior stockbroker of a family investment company, just before the 1929 crash, in the 1988 production of the Merrill Denison comedy, *Contract*, at Toronto's Harbourfront Theatre. Jamie shares the stage with actress Diana Wessels. SUPPLIED PHOTO

at St. Andrew's College, north of Toronto in Aurora. And to his surprise, he was hired. "I was just playing the role of a history teacher," he says.

It was almost 20 years before he returned to acting. In the meantime, Jamie dabbled again in the teaching profession and ultimately became a history editor for a major Canadian publishing house.

But he was never far away from his love of acting. By the middle of the 1980s, having shifted his editing career to freelance, he secured parts in a number of film and television productions: *The Magical World of Disney*, *Street Legal* and *Cocktail*, to name a few.

"I was fortunate," he muses. "There was a lot of stuff going on in those days. American companies were doing a tremendous amount of filming in Canada."

Then he smiles: "I played a lot of lawyers and butlers."

One of his personal film highlights was the 2003 film, *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*. "It was an improbable plot line, but somehow it worked."

Much of his burgeoning career was accomplished while he and Virginia were developing their new bed



and breakfast in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Both had thriving careers in Toronto. She a book editor and he, editing and acting. "We were both freelance people. It didn't really matter where we lived."

"We came down to the Shaw Festival to see *Pygmalion*. We were driving around town and saw a for sale sign on a B&B. One thing

led to another ..."

They've been at it for almost 27 summers. Three bedrooms, swimming pool and an award-winning garden.

"I wait the (breakfast) table and bore people with stories about the theatre."

JAMIE MAINPRIZE
ACTOR, TEACHER,
EDITOR AND B&B HOST

film and television.

If the bed and breakfast has given him the freedom to pursue his acting career, his acting skills, in turn, have paid off in creating a memorable experience for his guests.

"My acting experience has helped. I'm really on stage performing from first thing in the morning."

(Reporter's Note: Jamie's acting voice is so wonderful, they could sell tickets just to listen to his soothing, dulcet tones on the B&B's telephone answering message. Really.)

He admits the hospitality industry isn't as easy as it looks.

He remembers 20 years or so ago, when there were as many as 400 B&Bs in town. He believes the dramatic decline in those numbers has been caused by two factors.

Firstly, "it was the rapid rise in the price of local real estate. People thought they could by a house and have the B&B revenue help pay off the mortgage. That just doesn't work now."

And some people went into it without understanding how much work the business is.

"They think, 'I'll serve people breakfast in the morning, make a few beds and be finished by 10.' No. It is a 40-hour-a-week job. And that doesn't count the smiling part."

Jamie says he prefers the stage to film. "There is a consistency to it, moving from one scene to the next, in order. In film, you might be shooting the last scene of the story today and the first scene tomorrow.

"And more importantly, on stage you can really feel the audience reaction."

That's true for the bed and breakfast business, too.

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