

The Lake Report

Lest we forget
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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



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Niagara-on-the-Lake's most respected newspaper

November 7, 2019

Senior charged with manslaughter

Man, 74, accused in death of 94-year-old woman at Chartwell's NOTL long-term care home

Richard Harley
Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

A 74-year-old man from Niagara-on-the-Lake is facing a charge of manslaughter after the death of a 94-year-old woman at Chartwell Niagara Long Term Care Residence on Wellington Street in NOTL.

The victim, Verna Traina, was assaulted by a man on Aug. 9 at a long-term care facility in NOTL, where the two both lived, Niagara Regional Police said in a statement Monday.

Police refused to identify which long-term facility was involved, but a Chart-

well official confirmed it happened at the company's NOTL location.

Traina was taken to Greater Niagara Hospital in Niagara Falls where she died of her injuries on Aug. 20.

Police launched their investigation into the incident almost three months ago, but have released few details and made no announcement about the attack until this week.

However, a public report to the Niagara Police Services Board on Sept. 26 states that a woman at the NOTL facility was pushed by a male resident and fell, suffering a serious, life-threatening injury. She died on Aug. 20.

The report says the incident occurred at about 7:45 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 9, and police responded to the incident the next day, Aug. 10.

Minutes of the September police board meeting state that there were no plans to file any charges in the case.

"An investigation into all the circumstances in this matter, including the fact that the (then) 73-year-old male was identified as having serious cognitive issues, and in consultation with the Crown Attorney's office, it has been determined that charges will not be laid," the document says.

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Left: Chartwell long-term care facility in NOTL says it is co-operating with police. Right: Vera Traina succumbed to injuries after an assault at Chartwell. SUPPLIED PHOTO

IN-DEPTH: 'Bird bangers' least effective choice long-term, researchers say

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Propane cannons, commonly known as bird cannons or bird bangers, have been used for deterring birds from agricultural crops for years, but many experts say they are only effective in the short-term or when used in conjunction with other deterrents.

Birds and other animals are smart and adaptable. Using only loud explosions does not deter them for long, extensive studies have shown.

During harvest season from late summer through autumn, farmers use a wide variety of techniques to scare away birds and ani-



If not deterred, birds can cause significant damage to agricultural crops, says the provincial ministry. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

imals from crops.

Loud, auditory deterrents – which inevitably lead to complaints from some residential neighbours and to “the farmers were here first” push back from proponents – can include bird cannons, air horns, shotguns, electronic sound

devices or pyrotechnic pistol cartridges.

Visual techniques such as tapes and streamers, balloons, scarecrows, falcons, American Kestrel nest boxes (a natural pest deterrent) and other meth-

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Town at impasse over noisy, unapproved air-conditioning unit

Cold storage owner has tried to reduce noise and vibrations, but councillors are concerned unit was installed without approval

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Cannery Park resident Chiara Recine, who has been dealing with an illegally installed, noisy industrial air conditioning unit outside the St. David's Cold Storage facility for the past year, says she still “has faith” Niagara-on-the-Lake council will force the company to move the unit.

At the council meeting Oct. 21, town councillors



Pat Doyle and Chiara Recine are some Cannery Park residents who have had issues with the illegally installed air conditioning unit outside the St. David's Cold Storage facility on Four Mile Creek Road.. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

couldn't come to a consensus and deferred making a decision on the noisy unit to the next council meeting on Nov. 11.

Recine, who lives less than 50 metres away from the cold storage facility, questioned what prompted some town councillors' vote against an amended staff report which suggested moving the existing AC unit to the south side of the

building or up on the roof.

“The council needs to do the right thing,” Recine told The Lake Report. “Either (move the unit) to the south side where the other ones are or on top” of a new wing of the facility that is under construction.

The company, at 365 Four Mile Creek Rd., owned by Alfred Dyck, provides

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Town at impasse over noisy, unapproved AC unit

Continued from Front Page

freezer and cold storage services to businesses across Niagara region.

Neighbours said they have been dealing with noise and vibration issues since the cooling unit was installed in 2018. Dyck has attempted to reduce the problems, but sound barriers haven't helped, residents said.

"We, like many other residents, voted for council members that spoke of change and preserving quality of life in NOTL," Recine told The Lake Report. "To see some councillors change their mind from supporting the residents to giving grace to a business for ignoring bylaws is disappointing."

Last week, on Oct. 29, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Coun. Norm Arsenault toured the cold storage operation.

"I'll now have to think about what I saw and look at the report again from staff, and we'll deal with it on Nov. 11 at a public forum," Disero said in a phone interview.

She said the biggest issue now isn't so much the noise but the "fact the owner did it without site plan approval." Moving forward, town councillors need to look at having a policy to deal with people who "build before they get permission," she said.

"Rather than dealing with this on an individual basis constantly, I think we need a policy going forward on

how the staff administration should be dealing with them," Disero said.

"I want to see what is available through the Municipal Act or through the Planning Act on setting a policy on how to deal with people that are asking for forgiveness rather than permission."

Arsenault said he visited the site "for information" but didn't say anything more about the tour. He echoed Disero's comments, saying there needs to be a full review of how such issues are dealt with.

"When people don't follow the site plan agreements and they don't follow the proper zoning rules and they come looking for acceptance after they've done something, I think we need to have a second look at that to see how we're going to deal in the future," Arsenault told The Lake Report.

Dyck couldn't be reached for comment.

Coun. Allan Bisback, who has been addressing residents' complaints, said he was also invited to visit the site but he was away in Ottawa that day.

He said he hasn't changed his position and he still stands by his motion to force the company to move the unit.

At the committee of the whole meeting Oct. 7, Bisback suggested amending the staff report by asking that the existing AC unit, located on the east side of the facility, be moved to



All mitigation measures have been done, says storage owner Alfred Dyck.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

the south side or up on the roof within 60 days, that all noise attenuation acoustics be implemented and any future condensers should be restricted to the south side or the roof.

The issue for him wasn't the noise, Bisback said, noting he appreciated the owner putting up an acoustic wall and trying to mitigate the noise.

"I'm staying in that position based on principle," Bisback told The Lake Report. "That unit was placed there without site plan approval ... But I don't appreciate the fact he said he didn't know he needed a site plan approval because I can't accept that. Because the other two units on the south side were on the site plan."

Dyck and his lawyer Sara Premi spoke at the Oct. 21 council meeting addressing some of the issues raised by councillors.

"(The unit) is meeting the

guidelines on the exterior of my boundaries," Dyck said.

"This was an oversight putting this here without coming to staff," Premi told councillors. "It wasn't bad behaviour."

All noise mitigation measures have been done, she said, adding it cost the owner \$75,000 to do mitigation work and noise studies.

She said the roof cannot support the existing unit. The decommissioned units on the roof are also not condenser units like the one neighbours are complaining about, Premi said, adding moving the unit also requires time and doing additional studies.

It was an oversight on Dyck's side as he didn't know the site plan needed an amendment, Premi said.

Coun. Stuart McCormack was absent from the Oct. 21 council meeting when councillors first defeated the motion to defer the decision to the Novem-

ber council meeting.

Council voted down the amended report, which recommended moving the units to the roof or to the south side within 60 days. Councillors Wendy Cheropita, Gary Burroughs, Erwin Wiens, John Wiens and Clare Cameron voted against the amended report.

The motion to approve the original staff report, which recommended allowing the existing unit to remain outside the facility, was also defeated.

"We're at an impasse. Sounds like we should be supporting the deferral," Disero told the councillors.

That's when the decision was then deferred to the Nov. 11 council meeting.

Disero also noted the owner can appeal the town's non-decision in the meantime.

Cheropita originally voted to force the business to move the unit but two weeks later changed her mind. She

said she saw Dyck is trying to mitigate the noise and, ideally, she'd like to see businesses and residents working together.

"Since the first vote, Mr. Dyck came forward, made a presentation showing that he had actually done a number of sound barrier improvements. To me, it felt like he was trying to compromise, like he was trying to do something," Cheropita said. "Whereas before, it just looked like nothing was happening and he was allowing this to take place."

Cheropita said she hasn't personally talked to Dyck or his lawyer but, coming home from work one day, she stopped by the facility. It was after hours and nobody was at the site, she said. She said she was left with the impression the sound barriers did their job in mitigating the noise and the sound "wasn't bad."

However, she added that Dyck "did something that was against the bylaw" and she thinks, "we can't let businesses get away with that."

Coun. Gary Burroughs, who also voted against the amended report, said after hearing the cold storage owner speak, he had a better understanding of the issue. Sixty days was also not enough time for the unit to be moved, he said.

"It took them months and months to get (the unit) where it is so I don't think it's feasible," he told The Lake Report.

Garbage delays continue to plague senior resident

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Frustrated and fed up, Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Kaspar Pold was threatening to bring his uncollected garbage to the town hall Monday after he once again had to deal with garbage pickup that was delayed for several days.

Pold, who lives on Concession 2 Road, said his garbage wasn't picked up last Thursday although his recycling material was collected. When Pold called the region the following day, he was told the crews would be collecting garbage until 8 p.m. Friday.

His bin was left untouched until early Monday morning.

"It's kind of depressing in a way," Pold said. "It should not happen and I find it really difficult to understand how a crew driving one of those trucks could miss the (bin) standing there on the driveway beside the road. You just can't miss that."

Back in the summer he experienced similar problems with missed pickups.



Kaspar Pold. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

He said he emailed Lord Mayor Betty Disero on Friday night and, in another email sent to the town and the media on Saturday, he announced his plans to bring his garbage to town

hall Monday.

Pold said the region's acting public works commissioner Catherine Habermebl emailed him on Monday saying his garbage would be picked up as soon as possible but it had already been collected between 6 and 8 a.m. Monday.

The lord mayor also responded to Pold on Monday, suggesting next time he notifies her right away and she will contact the region for pickup.

"Seems a strange way to do things, I know, but it seemed to work the previous time you emailed," Di-

sero told Pold in an email.

Pold said there haven't been any garbage delays since he last spoke to The Lake Report about it in July. At that time, his garbage wasn't collected on Thursday but, after the mayor contacted the region, it was picked up on Saturday morning.

"(The lord mayor) did it at the time out of goodness and sense of duty, which I respect," Pold said, explaining he didn't email the town right away last week because it's not lord mayor's job to call for garbage pickup.

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Virgil clinic makes flu shot easier with virtual reality headsets

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake pharmacists are urging residents to get their flu shots now – and one pharmacy is using new technology to ease nervous patients through the door.

Julie Dyck, pharmacist-owner of Stone Road Pharmacy in Virgil, has a pair of virtual reality glasses to distract kids and adults alike while receiving their flu shot.

“It helps take their mind off the shot – no tears,” she said. The glasses virtually transport flu shot recipients underwater with a scuba diving app.

The Vanderlee family were the first to try out the glasses on Monday evening, with seven-year-old Sam Vanderlee stepping up first. He said the glasses helped to take his mind off the impending shot.

Stone Road Pharmacy is a member of Whole Health Pharmacy Partners, a national network of independent pharmacies.

The network launched the virtual reality experience for flu shots last year and was met with “extremely positive response from children and adults alike,” said a statement from Whole Health Pharmacy Partners.

“With the use of VR, patients become immersed in the video experience while being vaccinated by their pharmacist – decreasing both the fear and perception of injection pain. The aim is to improve immunization



Sam Vanderlee, 7, is distracted with a virtual reality headset while receiving his flu shot on Monday at Stone Road Pharmacy. BRITTANY CARTER

rates within each community, but also to enhance each patient’s overall experience,” the statement read.

Dyck said the shot is important to prevent the flu from spreading – even those who feel healthy can transmit the virus, she said. And getting the shot early is ideal.

“The sooner you get the flu shot the better because it takes a few days for the immunity to kick in,” said Dyck.

Already, she said the new pharmacy has administered an entire shipment of the quadrivalent flu vaccine, which protects against four strains of the flu virus. She said there’s been an “overwhelming response” with the flu shot since the pharmacy began administering on Oct. 24.

Pharmacies can give the vaccine to anyone five years and older, anyone younger will need to see a physician. The same is true for the high-dose vaccine, a trivalent flu vaccine with a higher dosage protecting against three strains of the flu,

which is only available for seniors through a physician.

“The Ministry of Health hasn’t expanded (the high-dose vaccine) to pharmacist offices yet, but we’re hoping for it. We’re petitioning for that – so fingers crossed that next year we’ll have access to that,” Dyck said.

Simpson’s Pharmacy on Niagara Stone Road has administered at least 250 flu shots, said pharmacy manager and pharmacist Vicky Banka.

Banka said she encourages everyone to get the shot because “you not only protect yourself – you protect everyone around you.”

Leslie Alderman, supervisor of the vaccine and preventable disease program for Niagara Region public health, said 10 to 20 per cent of Canadians get the flu each year.

In Niagara, she said children nine years and younger most frequently go to the emergency room due to respiratory infections, including influenza.

“That results in anywhere from 4,000 to 5,000 ER

visits, and about 400 to 500 hospitalizations annually in this age group,” Alderman said.

The vaccine is especially important for the vulnerable population, such as young children, pregnant women, adults 65 years of age and older, and people with certain medical conditions, she said.

Upcoming flu shot clinics

* On Monday, Nov. 11, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., there will be a flu shot clinic for families with small children at the Boys and Girls Club in Niagara Falls.

* Stone Road Pharmacy at 1630 Niagara Stone Rd., Virgil accepts walk-ins and appointments during opening hours, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

* Simpson’s Pharmacy at 1882 Niagara Stone Road is taking appointments during opening hours from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The pharmacy will hold a walk-in clinic on Friday, Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

* Simpson’s Apothecary at 233 King St. is taking appointments and is open 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

* Shoppers Drug Mart at The Village accepts walk-ins but recommends an appointment to bypass long wait times, open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Senior facing charge in death of 94-year-old woman

Continued from Front Page

The report is from Niagara deputy police chief Brett Flynn, who was acting chief in the absence of Chief Bryan MacCulloch.

A little over a month later, however, charges were laid.

Stephanie Sabourin, media relations specialist

for the Niagara Regional Police said that as the investigation continued, following a review and further consultation with the Crown Attorney, it was decided that a charge of manslaughter would be appropriate in this circumstance.

Robert Barry Stroeh was charged with manslaughter

Monday and arraigned at the Robert S.K. Welch Courthouse in St. Catharines.

He was released on \$500 bail and ordered to return to court on Nov. 26.

Janine Reed, senior director of communications and public relations for Chartwell, said in an email response that it would be

“inappropriate to discuss a matter that is before the courts.”

However, she did say the company is “fully co-operating with the police.”

“We will continue to take steps to ensure the safety and security of all of our residents and employees, who are our primary concern,” she said.

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Green Tip of the Week

Contributed by Norm Arsenault:

Reduce electricity costs by cleaning the coils on the back of your refrigerator; change incandescent bulbs to CFLs or LEDs; plug small appliances into a smart power strip that can be turned off; turn off computers, TVs, VCRs, PVRs ... all use passive power that is wasted.

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Editorial

Take time to remember

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

The mournful sounds of The Last Post.

Rhythmic footfalls of veterans and cadets, marching to honour the past.

Heartfelt, tearful tributes to men and women who fought for their country.

Young and old, and in between, paying respects as a nation stops to acknowledge and to say thank you.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

The sounds of silence, everyone alone with their thoughts. Lest we forget.

As crowds gather over the coming days at cenotaphs and war memorials across the country, we once again will take a few moments to remember the fallen, those who literally gave their lives fighting to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today.

Freedoms we too often take for

granted – or worse, seldom stop to contemplate. Remember that.

We need only look around our world, where upheaval, war, terror and insurrection roil many countries to this day.

We are fortunate to live here in Canada, shielded and protected from most of the problems that plague so many other corners of our world. Yes, we are lucky. Remember that.

However, being lucky does not diminish the fact that war could again rear its head.

As the aging veterans of the Second World War leave us, we must continue to ensure successive generations know and understand the sacrifices they made.

But, also, it remains our job to continue to educate them in an attempt to make sure peace triumphs over conflict. Remember that.

There is plenty to be hopeful about and it is heartening to see the work of veterans groups, the Royal Canadian

Legion, teachers in our schools, community groups, families and others keeping alive the legacy of those who went before.

Over the next several days, there will be numerous opportunities to publicly show your respect and thankfulness for what our veterans did. Take time.

For you, it could mean wearing a symbolic red poppy, attending a Remembrance Day ceremony here in NOTL or elsewhere, or simply interrupting your own busy existence to take a break from the hustle and bustle.

Take time to contemplate, understand and appreciate how a generation of soldiers, many still in their teens, went off to foreign lands to fight a brutal war that is beyond the understanding of most of us today.

Many of those young soldiers never returned. Take time – and remember them.

editor@niagaranow.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Angel's Rest Dog Sanctuary offers sincere thanks



Dear editor:

We at Angel's Rest Dog Sanctuary would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the amazing coverage of our July 2019 fundraiser on our property 1079 Queenston Rd., in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

From this coverage, we have received so much help from the community with our old and ill dogs that we never would have gotten without your newspaper.

Sincerely,

Christine Van Moorsel
 NOTL

Wright's Miracle at Halloween an exceptional tale



Dear editor:

Thank you for the wonderful piece by J. Richard Wright ("Miracle at Halloween," Oct. 31).

It's exactly what we need in these times of strife and bad news.

Mr. Wright has shared an exceptional tale of faith, beauty and friendship that will move all of us to reconsider the priorities of a meaningful lifestyle.

A miracle at Halloween? Of course, it couldn't be otherwise!

Sincerely,

George Dunbar
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NEWS

NOTL Museum expanding, asks town for budget increase

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has long been underfunded and it is now asking for a “final major increase” in the town’s 2020 budget, the museum’s curator told council’s the committee of the whole meeting Monday.

Sarah Kaufman made two presentations to councillors. She first asked for a letter of support for the museum’s renovation project and then made a request for more money in 2020.

The museum hasn’t expanded since the 1970s and the renovation project is “long overdue,” Kaufman said.

The \$8-million project will make the museum fully accessible, with an elevator and universal bathroom, add community space and research space, will increase square footage to 18,000 from the existing 10,000.

The project is shovel-ready, Kaufman said, asking town councillors for a letter of support for a Canada Infrastructure Grant.

“This grant could provide, approximately, up to 73 per cent of the build cost and

to a non-profit, like ourselves, this grant is crucial,” she said.

Councillors approved Kaufman’s request for the letter of support.

Kaufman then made her pitch for more money from the town, which ultimately councillors hedged on.

They voted to defer any decision to the 2020 budget deliberation talks. That recommendation will be voted on at the next council meeting on Nov. 11.

In her presentation, Kaufman described the role of the museum, listed events it has organized and mentioned some of its future projects.

One of their new projects is Tiny Museum, a mobile museum on wheels that will go to schools and community events. The construction is in progress and the educational program is expected to launch next year. The project has also received a \$125,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

In 2016, the museum board has found the museum has received the least amount of funding out of all community museums despite being located in the most heritage-



The research and collection at the museum is one of the most valuable heritage assets in the community, museum curator Sarah Kaufman told councillors Monday.

DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

mind and historically significant community.

For the 2020 budget, Kaufman has asked for operational funding in the amount of \$264,936.

“This may seem like quite a large request. However, this is the museum’s final push for more sustainable funding from the municipality,” Kaufman told councillors.

In 2019, the museum received \$209,790, while in 2018, council allocated \$158,535 to the museum.

Between 2006 and until 2016, the town’s contribution to the museum only increased to \$99,000 from \$85,000. That means over a 10-year period, the museum on average received an annual increase of \$1,400 or 0.02 per cent, Kaufman said.

If the town approves her request, the money will support general operation

and maintenance of the museum and its heritage buildings, marketing events and programs, benchmark funding, non-discretionary expenses and staffing to maintain the collection and provide better programming, Kaufman told councillors.

Without funding, the museum will see a reduction in programming, in exhibition and conservation of collection funds and will have to cut back on its marketing efforts, she said.

“The research and collection at the museum is one of the most valuable heritage assets of the community and must be protected. Without the collection, our hard-working researchers, staff and volunteers, the distinct heritage landscape of Niagara-on-the-Lake may not have survived the change of time,” Kaufman said.



A fallen tree on Niagara River Parkway.

DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

engagement co-ordinator Lauren Kruitbosch.

Environment Canada had issued a wind warning and a special weather statement for Niagara on Thursday, warning residents of heavy rain and strong winds with gusts reaching up to 90 kilometres per hour.

The high winds and

heavy rain have also caused significant flooding along Lake Erie.

Port Colborne experienced road closures, downed trees and power outages after the storm. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority issued a flood notice for residents living along Lake Erie shoreline.

Trees howled down on Halloween night

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Not long after witches and goblins took to the streets on Halloween night, some scary weather blew through Niagara.

High winds caused downed trees and branches around NOTL and on Friday morning crews were busy cleaning up.

Several power outages were reported along Lake Ontario, particularly on Lakeshore Road, McNab Road and the Firelanes, said NOTL Hydro president Tim Curtis.

Hydro workers were out Thursday night fixing the damage and were busy restoring power all Friday morning, Curtis told The Lake Report.

“It was multiple outages, not just a big one, so you got to fix each one of them. One at a time,” he said.

Curtis advised residents that anytime wires are down they should stay away – because a downed line could still be live.

There was minor damage around town and crews were also out cleaning up area roads, said the municipality’s community

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with **Vanessa Vani**, Doctor of Audiology at our Virgil clinic

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MORE LETTERS

Let's patronize wineries that don't use **bird bangers**

Dear editor:

To those considerate farmers using non-canon deterrents, I say stand up and let us know who you are so we can show our respect and gratitude by buying your wines in particular. (eg. Ravine Vineyard Estate).

To those councillors ignoring our pleas to address the distressing antisocial farming practice of explosive wildlife deterrents, I say your effectiveness in protecting the community's well-being amounts to lint gathering in the deep pockets of the offending farmers.

Peace, quiet, and enjoyment of one's property are normal expectations in any community. Our town has the authority to, and an obligation to make bylaws, uphold those bylaws, and to prevent violation of bylaws.

However, the province and farmers formed the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board and included the explosive wildlife deterrents as a normal practice. Furthermore, this board has authority over and above our town's by-laws, thereby eviscerating our council's ability (perhaps from intimidation) to protect us from those smug farmers who think they have some kind of charter right to rake in their profits at the expense of our community's well-being.

To minimize the violent effect of explosive blasts on families in their homes and children in classrooms and playgrounds within earshot, the farmers refer to these detonating devices as "bird bangers."

The fact is manufacturers and retailers market these devices at 120-130 dB to deter animals including bears, foxes, rodents, etc. Really? Animals, as large as bears, are frightened away by the blasts? Is it conceivable children, infants, poultry and other farm animals are somehow excluded from the blasting effects?

Let's look at one aspect of community well-being. What is acceptable noise and what is excessive noise in our classrooms, daycare centres, playgrounds, homes, etc. Noise is measured in decibels (dB). A watch ticking, a fridge humming and a dishwasher measures 20, 40, 60 respectively. City traffic, a noisy restaurant, a mower measures 70, 80, 90 respectively. These are more or less in the range of ambient noise.

Here's where the problems start. According to

the World Health Organization, hearing loss can occur at dB 90, and lower dB for children. A car horn, rightfully meant to startle a person or child to mind the traffic, measures dB 110.

At 120 dB (equivalent to a jet engine at 100 feet), fear and shock begin.

A propane cannon blast emits 120-130 dB! Consider the dB effect of continual detonations from dozens and dozens of cannons within earshot of our schools and homes. Beyond the 130 dB is a shotgun at 140, and a 12-gauge shotgun registers 150 dB.

According to the World Health Organization, some of the known health effects of decibels over 80 include confusion, disruption to thought, inability to learn, difficulty concentrating, nervousness, anxiety, and increases blood pressure and heart rate. How many of our students are experiencing anxiety and learning difficulties?

Additionally, desensitization can occur. Is that what we want for our youngsters? For them, while riding their bikes or walking through an intersection, to have become so desensitized that they fail to respond appropriately to car horns, vehicle back-up beeps, sirens?

To those of us living farther from the cannons, I say let's not be so callous as to ignore the distress of the families whose homes are nearer to the appalling detonating cannons. Don't we all have responsibility toward the well-being of our neighbours?

To the offending farmers, I say knock it off! You've been in my airspace, on my property, in my home, you've forced your explosive presence upon me since August and even today, Nov. 5, you are a pain in my ears!

There's no disputing that this region was agricultural before I moved here some 20 years ago. But don't try throwing that argument at me because I, along with most of Niagara-on-the-Lake's population, have been living here long before your cannons obliterated our peace and quiet.

The NPC (Noise Pollution Clearinghouse www.nonoise.org) says, "Your right to make noise ends where your neighbour's right to peace and quiet begins" and "Good neighbours keep their noise to themselves."

Valeria Sebella
Queenston

Let's ban the word **'promise'** from future election campaigns

Dear editor:

In light of our recent election (and elections everywhere), I have two rhetorical suggestions for election campaigns.

Any government is elected to advance national or regional interests and those of its electorate.

Those interests must be pursued in dynamic, constantly changing circumstances, and unforeseeable crises. Policies must be based on reality in light of those fluctuations.

Somewhat facetiously, I suggest that the word "promise" be eliminated, even banned, from all campaign rhetoric and reportage.

Any candidate, at most, can "promise" priorities, objectives, and, perhaps, outlines of general, related policy initiatives.

But given the ever-changing world, detailed specific "promises" may cease to make sense as situations evolve. A government must have the flexibility to adjust priorities and policies, rather than doggedly/slavishly implementing "promises."

Sadly, the term "scandal" is far too frequently and freely used by all, especially the media.

Often, the term is used speculatively, subjectively and/or simply for rhetorical impact, i.e. drama, and for giving a story lasting "legs" for political or journalistic advantage. The term "controversy" is accurate, and generally objective/neutral. "Scandal" is not.

Let me add, the panels of "analysts" used by most of the media too often means these forums are comprised of politically committed members (or perhaps "shills") who are not objective, and hence, do not qualify as true analysts.

The "analysis" of such panels is of little use, because the "analysis" by the members is almost always completely predictable.

Rick Kirby
NOTL

I am **OK** with bird bangers

Dear editor:

I am not a grape grower but I do value them as neighbours and their crops are one of the reasons we moved to NOTL some 20 years ago.

Having done the research before purchasing our first home, we were ready for the bird bangers when they were fired and rested calmly knowing that the crops were saved and that the wine would flow.

The farmers were here long before me and wine country has developed.

Meanwhile, back in Toronto and its close neighbours, the sound of indiscriminate gunfire rings with deadly results.

I'll take the farmers any time and those that won't can merrily finish their coffee, jump on the bus and enjoy the sound of real gunfire from whence they came.

Bill Cochrane Sr.
Queenston



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.

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Jean Baker
Special to The Lake Report

Christmas 1942 in wartime Britain was marked by austerity measures.

Food and clothing rationing, a minimal petrol allowance for cars, infrequent bus services, mandatory blackout of all windows to avoid detection by enemy aircraft.

A childhood without toys, few books and a walk to school carrying a gas mask in case the wail of a siren warned of an imminent bombing raid.

The Battle of Britain was over but London was a place of buildings now in rubble, some smouldering. More attacks would devastate many other cities, including my home town Leicester. More deaths and hasty funerals.

Winston Churchill in a prophetic radio speech to the nation warned of the “spreading evil empire of Hitler’s Nazi Germany would overwhelm and swallow up this island realm unless the war effort was stimulated by greater zeal.”

Well, our iron railings in front of our house were confiscated for munitions without a knock. My mother, on noting the gaping hole left, promptly fainted. People gossiped on the street that Churchill was a warmonger. His gloomy prediction of a forthcoming apocalypse gained no traction.

No, the populace was exhorted to “dig for victory,” plant potatoes instead of flowers, veggies where the raspberries once prevailed, be discreet on public transport where a grim reaper poster warned that careless talk costs lives.

Soon a chicken house would appear in our garden. Just think: real eggs, freshly laid instead of those horrible dehydrated tasteless dried eggs imported from the United States.

We could barter any surplus eggs with our neighbours in exchange for extra tea. My mother could bake a real cake instead of the fatless, eggless sponge! A win-win for everyone. What an event to break the monotony of the daily routine.

The afternoon the three Black Leghorns arrived, carried by my father by train and bus in a perforated box from his place of work, the fire station in Rugby was memorable for its humour.

The box opened, the three birds said to be on the “point of lay” promptly flew up into the trees, not interested in the bowls of grit, food and water placed in front of their new abode.

Father flapped his arms wildly around the trees. My sister, mother and I collapsed laughing at the kitchen window. Father was not amused. The birds were taken to the butcher the next day to have their wings clipped.

Bruised pride notwithstanding, my father took us to the fire station for the annual Christmas party.

After the usual fare of jellies, blancmange, sandwiches and lemonade, Father Christmas walked in carrying his magical sack.

Being resourceful chaps, the firefighters had used pillow feathers to stuff animals, dolls and wooden toys, which I coveted. I received a wooden scooter with wheels purloined from a wrecked pram. Now I could terrorize the neighbourhood and leave my tame whip and top to my sister. In any case, I did not envy her wooden butterfly even though it flapped its wings.

The following Christmas of 1943, Kurt Zerm entered our lives as a Christmas dinner guest.

“Why not,” my father suggested, “invite a German prisoner of war from the nearby camp to share in our meagre festivities?”

Would the Commandant grant permission if my father gave a solemn undertaking to bring him back at the appointed hour of 7 p.m. According to our neighbours the bounds of patriotism were being breached, but with the blessing of the authorities, Kurt came to our home.

We enjoyed our traditional glass of non-alcoholic ginger wine (my father was a strict teetotaler).

After the skinny chicken with all the trimmings, my mother, to loud applause, imitating Mrs. Cratchit in Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” triumphantly bore in a speckled cannon ball-sized pudding sporting a holy sprig. Heartfelt carols sung around our beat-up old Collard and Collard piano ended a happy day and, as Tiny Tim said, “God bless everyone.”

However, we had established a bond with Kurt. He became a good friend and was allowed back to assist in the digging of potatoes, which remained a substantial part of our diet. In this way, he helped contribute to an Allied victory.

Jean Baker has been an author for many years, with a long list of published articles to her credit. A member of the Canadian Authors Association and Niagara Writers’ Circle, her award-winning mystery story was published in “Rising Spirits.”



What’s happening Remembrance Day in NOTL?

Ceremonies

A Remembrance Day ceremony will be held at the Old Town cenotaph on Queen Street at 10:45 a.m. on Nov. 11.

There will also be a ceremony at the Queenston cenotaph at 12:45 p.m.

Concert

There will be a Remembrance Day concert at St. Mark’s Anglican Church at 11 a.m.

Indigenous ceremony

A ceremony honouring and remembering Indigenous veterans is being held at the Landscape of Nations Memorial on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Hosted by Niagara Parks, the ceremony will recognize sacrifices made by Six Nations and Native Allies during the Battle of Queenston Heights and throughout the War of 1812.

The rain or shine event will start at 10:45 a.m. in front of the Queenston Heights Restaurant before a procession to the Landscape of Nations Memorial at 11 a.m.

The ceremony will also be held in recognition of National Aboriginal Veterans Day, which is celebrated on Nov. 8.

In honour of our country’s veterans, a portion of the proceeds from this page will be donated to the Legion Branch 124. Thanks to all who helped contribute to our community.

Lest we forget.

A salute to veterans who risked their lives so we could live ours freely. Thank you for your service from **The Lake Report**

IN-DEPTH: ‘Bird bangers’ often **not most effective** choice

Continued from Front Page

ods are also used sometimes.

Most studies and researchers say there usually needs to be a combination of deterrents for the best success, experts say. But keeping birds away from crops is a real challenge.

“Deterring birds is difficult,” retired University of Guelph professor Helen Fisher said in an email response to The Lake Report.

“There are nets, cannons, squawkers and many visual deterrents – mylar tape, paper owls, light shows – and the use/encouragement of raptors in the immediate area. Nothing is perfect.”

Karen Steensma, a professor of biology and environmental studies at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C., said the gold standard has now become the use of professional bird abatement techniques such as falconry.

“It may be inexpensive to light up a propane cannon and set it to go off every 10 to 20 minutes all day long but it won’t last for the long term,” Steensma said in a phone interview. “The birds will eventually learn and there have to be other techniques combined with that.”

As a farmer herself, Steensma said she understands all sides of the issue, but said propane cannons may now be an outdated technique.

“In some ways, it (cannon) seems to almost call the birds in. They learn: ‘Oh, this is where the fruit is.’ So, there’s some evidence for that,” Steensma said. “Birds are very smart to figure things out.”

Falconry, active shooting of pest birds, netting when feasible, habitat modification to encourage natural predators and habitat modification to discourage pest birds are the most effective methods, according to a 2009 pilot study headed by Steensma.

The research paper, titled “Efficacy of bird deterrent devices in agricultural areas of the Fraser Valley of British Columbia,” was prepared for the B.C.

provincial government and the Fraser Valley Regional District.

It concluded that propane cannons, reflective tape, distress and predator callers, scarecrows and other visuals have limited effect.

Using lasers, lights, smoke, microwaves, high intensity, infra- or ultrasounds were not recommended by Steensma.

“You get what you pay for, usually,” she told The Lake Report.

“Ideally, if you can keep a good habitat around your farm for other wild animals, that might help,” she said, such as setting up nest boxes at the farm so large birds of prey can protect crops from fruit-eating birds.

For a small grower, netting also proved to be effective, she added.

Debbie Zimmerman, chief executive of the Grape Growers of Ontario, said some Niagara growers have tried using drones and predatory birds, such as falcons and owls. There is no “easy fix,” she said.

“The bird cannons are the most effective right now,” she told The Lake Report. “They’re necessary to keep the crops. It is necessary to maintain our vineyards and it (cannon) is a part of normal farm practice.”

Most Niagara farmers use netting and bird cannons, Zimmerman said.

In 2016, senior viticulturist Jim Willwerth and technician Mary Jasinski of Brock University’s Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute worked on an award-winning project to test the effectiveness of new bird deterrents.

One of the methods, which involved installing American Kestrel nest boxes at several trial sites and monitoring bird pressure and damage, showed kestrels’ presence reduced the number of birds and their activity.

Research showed nuisance bird populations dropped 20 to 30 per cent at the sites where the nesting boxes for kestrels were installed, Brock’s marketing and communications officer Kaitlyn Little said in a media statement at the time.



Trinity Western University professor Karen Steensma says bird cannons may be an outdated technique now. SUPPLIED

The collaborative project among Brock, the Grape Growers of Ontario and Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Association, won the Regional Premier’s Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence in 2016.

The best solution to reduce birds destroying grapes or other berry crops is using a variety of bird abatement techniques, Willwerth said.

“Acoustical types of deterrents such as propane cannons are normally used for short time periods and in conjunction with other types of deterrents, such as visual deterrents, as it is important to diversify and have randomness to keep birds from habituating to the deterrent,” Willwerth said in an email response to The Lake Report.

“Local research from (Brock) found that attracting natural predators such as birds of prey (kestrels, Cooper’s Hawks, etc.) can be beneficial for reducing birds from congregating and foraging in vineyards.”

“New technologies being explored for bird control worldwide include the use of UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles, i.e. drones) or new types of visual deterrents (lights or lasers) to deter birds while minimizing impacts on neighbours. Local research has demonstrated mixed results so far from a practical or effectiveness standpoint.”

More than 20 years ago, a 1998 report, “Evaluation of the efficacy of products and techniques for airport bird control,” prepared

by King City-based researchers Ross Harris and Rolph Davis for Transport Canada, said birds can get used to the sound of propane explosions.

“The loud bang of a propane cannon is known to be effective at scaring birds for short periods of time, but birds soon habituate to the noise,” the authors said in the report.

According to the study, the advantages of cannons are that they’re movable, effective during day and night, and direction, timing and volume of blasts can be controlled.

Falconry is also successful only if it is conducted by well-trained falconers, Harris and Davis said in their report.

The use of falconry is also expensive, so the crop has to be valuable enough to make it economically viable, Steensma said, and it might require sharing the expense of having a falconer with other nearby farmers.

Talking to growers in Washington State, Steensma said they found the use of falconry during harvest season, combined with a wine-tasting experience at the estate winery, can draw tourists.

“People are fascinated to watch the falcon, so it can actually be a part of their marketing. And it’s been shown by some of our research that economic incentives are there to use natural means or falconry because the public is willing to pay more for fruit that has been protected in that way as opposed to fruit that’s been

protected by shooting or poison,” Steensma said.

Besides falconry, drones are another method being investigated, Steensma said, adding the research is still in the early stages but having drones that mimic falcons might be possible in the future.

The blueberry growers on the Washington side of the B.C. border use fewer propane cannons, after switching to falconry instead, and some farmers in B.C. also started using falcons and drones as well, Steensma said.

The lack of knowledge of cost-effective alternatives to bird cannons could contribute to the reason why “cannons are being widely used,” another report stated.

The 2003 study, “Review of international research literature regarding the effectiveness of auditory bird scaring techniques and potential alternatives,” written by Jack Bishop, Heather McKay, James Allan and David Parrott, suggested that auditory bird deterrents are seen to be cheap, portable and labour-free compared to other techniques, but they should be “intensively maintained and monitored.”

“Habituation seems to be the main reason for their loss of effectiveness. A cannon firing repeatedly without any variation in timing or direction quickly loses its potential to scare birds.”

The provincial Farming and Food Production Protection Act safeguards farmers against nuisance complaints by neighbours when they are following “normal farm practices.”

According to a 2017 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs factsheet, a flock of 5,000 starlings can consume 1,000 kilos or one metric tonne of food over a 10-day period.

The ministry recommends that farmers be proactive and start with identifying what bird species cause problems, where the birds are coming from and how they behave.

Some of the most common problem birds that

target grapes in Ontario are sweet robins, starlings, orioles, mockingbirds and finches.

“The most effective bird control uses a combination of deterrent methods at the same time. Even netting does not provide 100 per cent protection and can be improved with other devices,” authors James Dyck and John Warbick said in the factsheet.

“During the growing season, do not operate equipment too frequently, or the effectiveness will be reduced.”

Propane-fired cannons are considered of medium effectiveness with medium costs but a high nuisance potential.

Among other auditory deterrents, pyrotechnic pistols have high effectiveness with medium annual costs and medium nuisance potential, the factsheet says. Netting and falconry when a bird is airborne are the most effective deterrents with low nuisance potential but high annual costs.

The least expensive deterrents are acoustical, but they are also the most annoying to neighbours, Dyck said in his online presentation.

Bird bangers can be used during daylight hours only, between 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset from August to November. Using cannons adjacent, below or on the Niagara Escarpment can also cause echoing, another provincial factsheet states.

Research has shown there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution when it comes to finding a balance between neighbours’ complaints and protecting farmers’ crops.

Growers are advised to reach out to neighbours beforehand to inform them about bird-control devices being used near their homes. Neighbours are reminded that farmers need to protect their crops as birds are a threat to farmers’ businesses and livelihood, the factsheet says.

If common ground can’t be reached between farmers and residents, their disputes can be taken to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board.



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Glendale Notes: Info meeting Nov. 20 for new phase of district plan

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

Last week, we learned about Glendale and Niagara Region's project to develop the Glendale Niagara District Plan, a proactive development strategy.

Phase 1, the visioning and concept planning stage, was completed in September 2018. Phase 2 commenced in October 2018 with an objective to transform the vision into definitive land use plans and strategies for economic development within the district.

To accomplish this in a collaborative fashion, a community focus group was formed along with planned community information centres where stakeholders, residents, Niagara College, landowners and businesses could provide input.

The final public information centre before the plan is finalized is set for Nov. 20



Glendale's envisioned future main street.
STEVE HARDAKER/TLR CORRESPONDENT

at the Holiday Inn Express off York Road in Glendale.

A technical advisory committee was formed to look at urban design, commercial land needs and transportation. Phase 2 will be completed later in 2019 with the preparation of the district plan with approval from Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Region councils and the drafting of a regional official plan amendment.

When fully built out over the next 20-plus years,

Glendale promises to be a live-work-play community with a mix of low-, medium- and higher-density housing options accommodating a full spectrum of ages and lifestyles.

Mixed uses will be incorporated in a number of areas of Glendale with businesses occupying street level spaces and residential above. Employment areas north of the QEW will include traditional industries and mixed-use employment and retail ensuring a range

of employment opportunities.

It is envisioned that Niagara College will be integrated into the community experience with restaurants, open spaces and housing options. A tree-lined Main Street is being planned between Glendale Avenue and the Outlet Collection with pedestrian-friendly sidewalks.

Views of the Escarpment and other natural heritage areas will be maintained. There will be robust transit connections, walkable streets, trails and connections across the QEW. With growth and the influx of new residents and businesses, amenities like a grocery store, theatre, community centre, schools and festivals will be attracted to Glendale.

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for nine years and is active in many community organizations.

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<p>10 Artists' Studio Intermediate - 10 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Sunday Jazz Brunch - 11 a.m. - Queen's Landing Hotel</p>	<p>11 Remembrance Day Concert - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church Council - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre We'll Meet Again Performance - 7 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum Remembrance Day</p>	<p>12 Transportation Committee - 2 p.m. - Council Chambers Municipal Heritage Committee - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>Communities in Bloom Council Chambers Glendale Task Force Council Chambers Lord Mayor's Youth Council - 7:30 p.m. - Room 1 STEAM Story Time - Public Library Wine and Words: T p.m. - Palatine Hills E</p>
<p>17 Evergreen Singers Choir Anniversary Performance - 3 p.m. - Grace United Church Young Adult Author Joanna Hathaway - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Artists' Studio Intermediate - 10 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre A Very Mori Christmas Palooza: NOTL Christmas Market - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Mori Gardens</p>	<p>18 Beer and Books: The Art of Racing in the Rain - 7 p.m. - The Old Winery Restaurant Bring Your Own Makery Series: Vinyl Decal Pillowcases - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>19 ChoralFest: Avanti Chamber Singers - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church CARP Meeting: Cyber Security - 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Royal Niagara Golf Club NOTL Safety Committee - 4:30 p.m. - TBA Children Dance Auditions - 6 p.m. - Shaw Festival Theatre</p>	<p>NOTL Newcomers Meeting - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>

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	7 Tumble Tots - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Under African Skies Film Screening - 7:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Parents and Tots Play Group - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church	8 Fall Yoga Series - 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Coach House Studio Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Beefsteak Dinner - 7 p.m. - Navy Flu Shot Walk in Clinic - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Simpsons Pharmacy	9 Saturday DJ Nights at Wayne Gretzky Estates - 6:30 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery Borscht Lunch & Bazaar - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Bethany Mennonite Church Yard Sale: Antiques, old tools, collectibles - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Yard Sale at 174 Hunter Road Bravo Niagara! Presents Artists as Activists - 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum
13 Room - 2 p.m. - Advisory Committee - 11 a.m. - NOTL Ferry Falls - 7 p.m. - State Winery	14 Tumble Tots - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Name That Tune at the NOTL Golf Club - 7 p.m. - NOTL Golf Club	15 Fall Yoga Series - 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Coach House Studio St. Davids Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall A Very Mori Christmas Palooza: NOTL Christmas Market - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Mori Gardens Annual Toonie Auction and Fish Fry - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	16 St. Davids Lioness Bazaar - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall A Very Mori Christmas Palooza: NOTL Christmas Market - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Mori Gardens Christmas with Heart 2019 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - 434 Hunter Road ChoralFest: Elmer Iseler Singers - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara United Mennonite Church
20 Monthly - 3:30 p.m. - Centre	21 Niagara PF Support Group - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Parents and Tots Play Group - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church Committee of Adjustment - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers	22 Annual Christmas Turkey Roll - 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall ChoralFest: The Victoria Scholars - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Our Lady of peace Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Beginners Guide to a Zero Waste Holiday - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	23 Christmas Market - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Grace United Church ChoralFest: Celaya Conservatory Children's Choir - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - TBA ChoralFest: Sing Along Messiah - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church How to get Published: A Brian Henry Workshop - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Annual Big Band Fundraiser - 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - TD Niagara Jazz Festival 169 King St.

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Cast revealed for 2020 Shaw season

Some familiar faces, some new names

Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report

Shaw Festival artistic director Tim Carroll is offering an eclectic theatre mix for the 2020 season.

Carroll is maintaining popular items such as Sherlock Holmes ("Sherlock Holmes And The Raven's Curse"), projections designed by Cameron Davis, more Narnia ("Prince Caspian") directed by Molly Atkinson, and associate artistic director, Kate Hennig, who stars in "Gypsy," choreographed by Kimberley Rampersad, and last performed in 2005.

Gypsy's music is directed by Paul Sportelli and features a strong cast that includes Andrew Broderick, James Daly, Kristi Frank, Kyle Golemba, Drew Plummer, Kiera Sangster, Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane, Jacqueline Thair, Jay Turvey, Kelly Wong and Jenny L. Wright. Inspired by the memoirs of famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee, this

should be a sure money-maker for Shaw.

Tom McCamus returns as well as longtime favourite Moya O'Connell ("Desire Under The Elms"), and former Shaw artistic director Jackie Maxwell will direct "The Playboy" of the Western World, (Moya O'Connell, Gray Powell), which has won multiple Tony Awards.

Bernard Shaw is relegated to a single play, "The Devil's Disciple." Martin Happer plays scoundrel Richard Dudgeon and Eda Holmes directs.

Carroll introduces "Mahabharata," a contemporary take on a Sanskrit epic that is more than 4,000 years old. It's a gripping story of a family feud, an exploration of profound philosophical and spiritual ideas, directed by Ravi Jain.

Elizabeth Barrett and her cocker spaniel are added in the lunchtime show, "Flush" (Jeff Irving, Julie Lumsden, Drew Plummer and Jacqueline Thair), which features

traditional romance, the complete opposite of this season's exciting offering, "The Russian Play," which I loved.

Stephen Sondheim's darkly comic musical revue "Assassins" presents the nine men and women who have attempted to kill an American president.

Would-be assassins are Andrew Broderick as Giuseppe Zangara, Jason Cadieux as Samuel Byck, James Daly as John Wilkes Booth, Kristi Frank as Lynette Fromme, Kyle Golemba as John Hinckley and David Herold, Jeff Irving as the Proprietor, Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane as Emma Goldman, Jay Turvey as Charles Guiteau, Kelly Wong as Leon Czolgosz and Jenny L. Wright as Sara Jane Moore.

More heavy-duty material includes Eugene O'Neill's "Desire Under the Elms" (Julia Course, Tom McCamus) and a continued examination of African-American racial tension with playwright Alice Childress's



NOTL resident Elodie Gillett will join the cast again next year. DAVID COOPER

"Trouble in Mind," which follows "An Octoroon" (2017), "The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God" (2016), and "The Mountaintop" (2014).

Philip Akin directs David Alan Anderson, Neil Barclay, Patrick Galligan, Cameron Grant, Madelyn Kriese and Peter Millard.

"Charley's Aunt" at the 305-seat Royal George Theatre might prove to be the season seller, given that it's directed by Carroll and therefore enjoys a powerful cast, including last year's star Mike Nadajewski, along with Neil Barclay,

Rong Fu, Patrick Galligan, Claire Jullien, Marla McLean, Sarena Parmar and Ric Reid.

In partnership with Parks Canada, the company will also move slightly away from its theatres for "The History of Niagara," a 30-minute production at Fort George.

The 2020 holiday season will feature Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," directed by Molly Atkinson at the Royal George Theatre for its fourth year and a revival of "Me and My Girl," directed by Ashlie Corcoran.

Carroll defines his 14 shows spread among its three Niagara-on-the-Lake theatres and, for the first time, Fort George as "a season of classics across the board: classic musicals, classic comedies, classic dramas."

With Tourism Minister Melanie Joly's recent \$330,000 for Shaw Festival theatre upgrades for the purchase and installation of specialized audio equipment in the 856-seat Festival Theatre, Gypsy's Everything's Coming up Roses seems an appropriate tune for Carroll.

Newark Neighbours expands to help school food program

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Newark Neighbours has expanded its mandate and is now offering help to non-profit groups not only in Niagara-on-the-Lake but across the region.

Newark has partnered with Food4Kids Niagara and has donated \$3,000 to the St. Catharines-based not-for-profit organization.

Food4Kids provides food packages to 240 children in 14 schools across Niagara.

The organization, which ran a pilot project in January 2018, works with the Catholic and the public school boards to identify children from kindergarten to Grade 8 who have limited access to food.

A cheque was presented to Food4Kids this Tuesday at its office.

"We're really glad to start the partnership with Food4Kids and it ties in with our mission: we don't want anybody to go hungry," said Newark Neighbours' chair Laura Gibson. "What a worthwhile organization to contribute to."

The donation will go toward making Christmas stockings for children, said Food4Kids' executive director Amber Hughes.

"It's been great. The community has welcomed us very warmly," Hughes told The Lake Report. "We're thankful for partnerships like the one we have with Newark Neighbours. It lets us provide a little bit extra for our kids."

Each stocking will have treats, such as hot chocolate and gingerbread cookies, and some necessities, such as a toothbrush, socks and mittens.

Newark's board has recently started looking at expanding its mandate and reaching out further into the Niagara community, Gibson said.

She said Newark will make sure NOTL people continue to be looked after, but the expansion makes her "really happy" because it means Newark is a successful organization capable of giving back to the community.

"And because people who come in to purchase from our thrift shop, which, in turn, helps our food bank,

are all from the Niagara region," Newark's vice-chair Suzanne Vaillant added. "So, it's not necessarily just people from Niagara-on-the-Lake who come shopping. It's the whole region, so we're trying to help everyone."

Each food package, prepared by Food4Kids, costs \$10 per child or \$400 to feed a child for an entire school year, Hughes said.

Each package has 12 to 14 food items such as ready-to-make meals, fruit, vegetables and snacks.


After parents fill out a registration form, organization volunteers deliver packages to schools each Friday morning so children have something to eat for the weekend, Hughes said.



Newark Neighbours' chair Laura Gibson, Food4Kids' treasurer Jonathan Charron, executive director Amber Hughes, Newark's vice-chair Suzanne Vaillant and Myles Watson with the \$3,000-worth cheque donated by Newark Neighbours to Food4Kids Niagara. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

The organization's pilot summer feeding program, which provides weekly food bins to the whole family as opposed to each

child, served 25 clients this past summer, Hughes said. Each food bin cost about \$65 and included a recipe of the week.




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Sparks write letters to NOTL veterans for Remembrance Day

Leslie Moulson
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Sparks wrote and decorated post cards for 20 veterans in the area at their meeting on Nov. 4.

Addresses for the veterans were provided by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124.

In the language of five- and six-year-olds, the

Sparks thanked veterans for their service to our country and for their sacrifices in assuring our peace.

Some of the comments made were, "Soldiers are the best," "Happy Remembrance Day," and "Thank you for keeping us safe."

Each card is sure to bring a smile and perhaps a tear to the eye of recipients. We wanted to send the message that "We Won't Forget!"

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Club will be having an Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, in the Mary Snider Room, Virgil Arena at 8 pm.

All current members are welcome to attend, and we welcome new members! We have vacancies on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Board which need to be filled.

The NOTL Soccer Club is particularly in need of a club treasurer; if you have an accounting background, please share your gifts and talents and give back to your community! Come out to get involved in soccer, in your community and help keep more than 400 kids playing!

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Businessman, community builder, Dave Wall dies at 91



Helen and Dave Wall. FILE PHOTO/DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Dave Wall died at age 91 on Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Greater Niagara General Hospital.

A prominent business owner and sportsman, he operated Wall's Furniture and Appliances in Virgil for many years.

Wall was inducted into the NOTL Sports Wall of Fame this past summer for

his behind-the-scenes contributions toward helping build the sports park, two arenas in Virgil and baseball diamonds.

He is survived by his wife Helen, and children Sharon MacMunn and Richard (Cathy) Wall, grandchildren Brandon, Thea and Taylor, and his brother Jack Wall.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Nov. 6, at Niagara United Mennonite Church.

Did you know?

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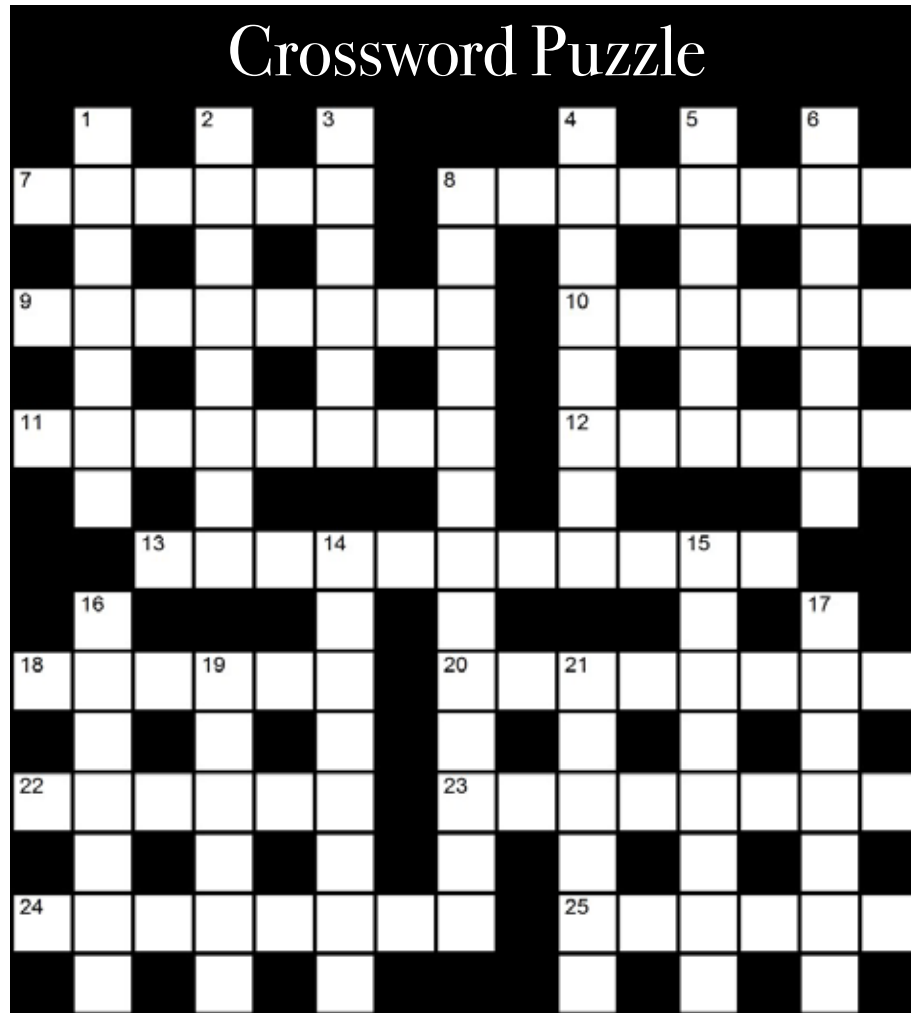
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

- 7. Missing (6)
- 8. Enormous (8)
- 9. Type of lights (8)
- 10. Shrink back (6)
- 11. Saviour (8)
- 12. Man (6)
- 13. Moving to and fro (11)
- 18. Austrian composer (6)
- 20. Inspector (8)
- 22. Light-hearted TV show (6)
- 23. Person practising deception under an assumed name (8)
- 24. Forced high notes (8)
- 25. Tooth covering (6)

Down

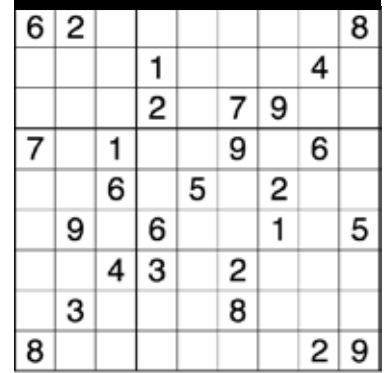
- 1. Belly (7)
- 2. Uneasy (8)
- 3. Flowing water (6)
- 4. Yes (3,5)
- 5. Tapered frozen mass (6)
- 6. Circumscribed (7)
- 8. Supreme commander (13)
- 14. Cosy (8)
- 15. Abroad (8)
- 16. Of local interest (7)
- 17. Regimental commander (7)
- 19. Charge (6)
- 21. Small sword (6)



Last issue's answers



Sudoku



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Fire halls gets **all dressed up**

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Two of Niagara-on-the-Lake's fire halls opened their doors last Thursday night for their annual Halloween celebrations.

Both St. Davids District 2 fire station and Queenston District 4 fire station held parties with costume contests and prizes.

Firefighters from the Glendale fire station 5 also celebrated Halloween by handing out candies in Niagara on the Green.

The Queenston Volunteer Firefighter Association started the night with a fire truck going around the block, which is a tradition to let children know it's time to stop trick-or-treating and come to the party, said Virgil resident Erin Mitchell.

Mitchell, who used to live in Queenston and was at the event with her two sons, Morgan and Spencer, said they attend every year.

"They do a great job at the fire hall with a party," she said.

Assistant district chief Dave Jones recalled coming to Queenston's Halloween parties when he was a child.

"All kids have smiles on their faces and it's one of the community events where we give back to the community for supporting us, like for spaghetti dinner," Jones told The Lake Report.

Festivities were in full swing at the St. Davids fire



Mike and Meghan Prosyk dress as a ghostbuster and a pirate. Far right is Cheryl Prosyk and children Michael, Mark, and Matthew. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

hall, too.

Firefighter Steve Ray said holding a Halloween party was an opportunity to give back to the community, let people meet the firefighters and see what the firefighters do.

St. Davids resident Teresa Coles said she likes seeing different costumes and meeting up with people at the party, while Corey Cater said the St. Davids fire hall "always puts out the best Halloween party for the kids."



Eli Pfeffer, 5, celebrates Halloween at the St. Davids' fire hall. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Hamilton Children's Choir. SUPPLIED

Music Niagara's Choral Fest **first of its kind** in region

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Music Niagara will bring a collection of choirs together for its first-ever ChoralFest – featuring eight concerts by nine choirs performed over 10 days.

From Nov. 16 to 25 each choir will put on a performance that will be "powerful and tremendously moving," said artistic director and founder of Music Niagara Atis Bankas.

Choral Fest is Bankas' passion project, one he said he's been loosely planning for more than six years.

But the plans began coming together in the form of the concert series with sponsorship and funding from Niagara Investment in Culture, the Niagara Community Foundation and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Bankas said over his 22 years running Music Niagara, he has seen first-

hand an appreciation for choral music – adding that he's happy to be able to present Choral Fest, the first festival of its kind in the area.

The series is also "ethnically diverse," featuring three children's choirs, one internationally-acclaimed all-male choir, and several troupes local and abroad, he said.

He plans to hold concurrent Choral Fests, likely every three years.

The logistics that went into co-ordinating nine choirs close to the holiday season was tough, he said, but it will all be worth it.

"All of the choirs were very much willing to participate. It was a lot of work in that way, organizing the choirs and booking them for November as many choirs are busy during the season," he said.

Concert dates and times can be found at MusicNiagara.org.

Purple Ribbon Gala aims to **end stigma** of epilepsy

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Carson Tucker says he is planning the Purple Ribbon Gala in January to raise money and awareness for "severely underfunded" Epilepsy Canada.

Tickets for the black tie affair are already on sale online at <https://www.epilepsy.ca/black-tie-purple-ribbon-gala.html>

for the Jan. 11, 2020, gala which will be held at the Old Court House on Queen Street in Old Town from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Tucker is a volunteer firefighter well-known locally for driving Sentineal Carriages with his dog Stella. He said he decided to host the fundraiser after someone he knows had a seizure.

"I have someone close to me who has epilepsy. There's a pretty big stigma

with epilepsy – I'm just raising awareness," he said.

"A lot of people hide it. A lot of people think they need to hide it," Tucker said, which is one of the reasons he said he's holding the event. "A lot of people don't like talking about it."

Though once he began organizing the gala, he said he was surprised by how many people shared their personal stories of relatives and friends living with

epilepsy.

"I just jumped down the rabbit hole researching. It's a really common problem," Tucker added.

The gala will feature a cocktail hour, live music by X-Prime, and Matt Anthony performing magic. Tickets start at \$60 and include hors d'oeuvres, with a cash bar.

Sponsorship ticket options are also available online from \$250 to \$2,500.



Carson and Stella both wave at passersby while operating the local horse and carriages in Old Town. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

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WINE COUNTRY

WITH VICTORIA GILBERT

A winemaker's playground for Amélie Boury of Château Des Charmes



Château des Charmes winemaker Amélie Boury samples wine using a "wine thief." MARIO TROYA

Victoria Gilbert
Special to The Lake Report

A slight Parisian girl with metal in her tragus, on her fingers, and around her wrists, Amélie Boury could very well be a French rock star if she weren't Ontario's edgiest winemaker.

"This is leaking: fix it now please," she says kindly but firmly to a worker in the bustling barrel room of Château Des Charmes in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Harvest is in full swing and Boury's attention is sharp – she doesn't miss a trick – from overseeing 255 acres of vineyard on four different sites, to managing the immaculate winery of the expansive châteaux, the petite winemaker is a force to be reckoned with.

With two wine related degrees from France, Boury set out to work the harvests of the wine world. "My idea was to do a vintage in Canada and keep going,

travel the world, but I'm still here, nine years later; I just love it," she says atop an oak barrel she has jumped up on for the interview. She joined Château Des Charmes in August of 2011 and as Vice President of Winemaking and Operations, Boury says making wine in Canada is "like a big game!" because of the variety of grapes she's able to play with.

"In Bordeaux you can only grow only five varieties. In Alsace, only the Alsatian varieties, in Beaujolais, the Beaujolais varieties," she explains from atop her cask.

"You are restricted to what the appellation lets you grow. Where, here in Ontario, at Château des Charmes, I have the Burgundian varieties, I have the Alsatian varieties, I've got the Bordeaux varieties, so it's just amazing to be able to make wine with all of those varieties; I always call it the winemaker's play-

ground."

Boury was sworn in as a Canadian citizen in 2018 and her lime green and neon yellow plaid shirt seems to reflect her Canadian and French identity all at once. Her pride in the Niagara-on-the-Lake terroir makes introducing Ontario wines to visitors from her native country a special pleasure.

"When I get a group of French who come here, they are always surprised at the quality of the wines. They don't expect the new world to be like this – California they know – but Canada? – it is surprising."

As we talk, harvesters are working the rows of the Chardonnay grapes around the Paul Bosc estate. The Bosc family started the winery in the mid-seventies and the estate continues to be family run; Paul-Bosc Jr. at the helm with continued guidance from his now elderly but razor-sharp father, Paul Bosc Sr. Both father

and son were impressed by Boury's talents as a winemaker and her demand for excellence.

"Amélie represents the future leadership of our industry," writes Bosc Jr. in one correspondence.

It's easy to be swept away by Boury's enthusiasm for her profession and the wines she puts her hand to, after all, it is obvious she herself is swept up in the beauty of her vocation.

"Every vintage is so different," says Boury. "Taking those grapes and turning them into a wine and give a bit of my signature on it – but not too much – because I love to respect the terroir and I love that you have a sense of place when you drink the wine and give emotions to people when they drink it."

NOTL resident Victoria Gilbert has been telling the stories of wine people in Canada and abroad through print and video for 15 years.



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Chaptalization



Sugar cubes. SOURCED PHOTO

Each week, the staff of Ravine Winery share their expertise and offer a brief explanation about an aspect of wine. So, whether you're an expert oenophile or a newbie just finding your way around wine country, we trust you'll enjoy. Cheers!

Chaptalization is the addition of sugars to unfermented grape juice.

The intent is to increase the alcohol percentage of the wine; it is not to make the wine sweeter.

This process was developed by Jean Chaptal, a French chemist who later became minister of the interior under Napoleon.

The legality of chaptalization depends on the wine region, however it is accepted in most cool-climate regions.

This is common practice in regions such as Burgundy and Champagne, France and also legalized in Bordeaux.

According to VQA requirements, chaptalization is allowed but it is controlled.

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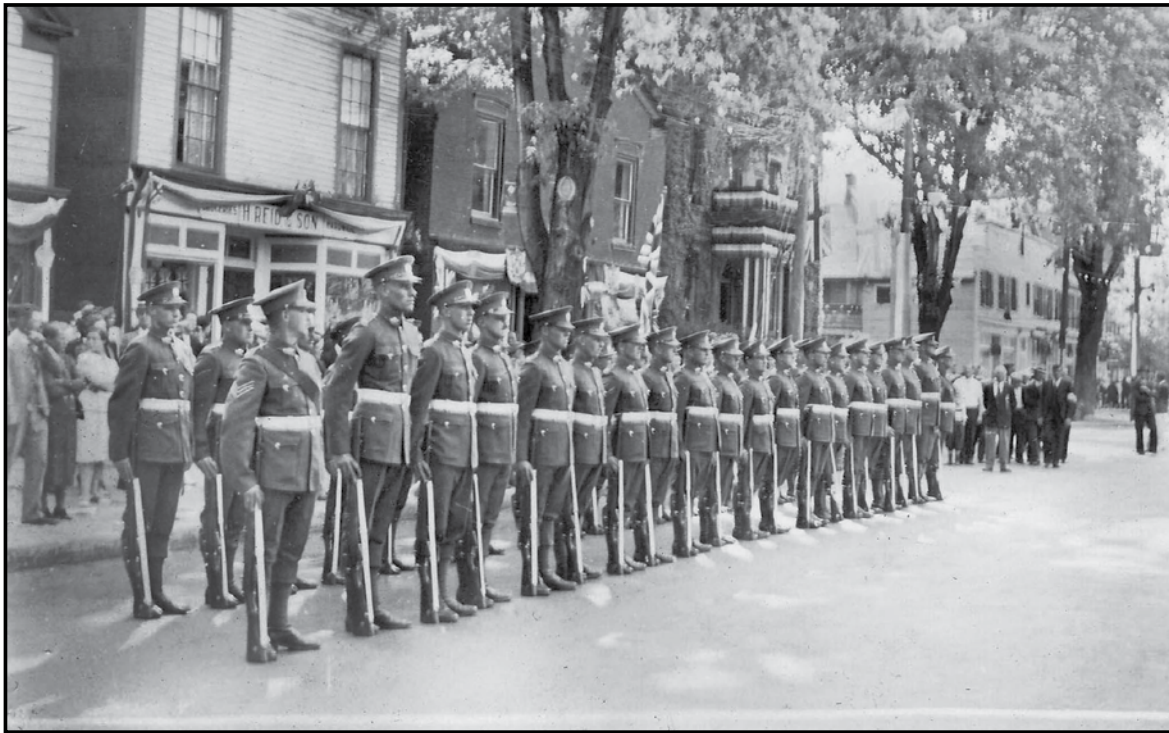
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EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH JIM SMITH



Regimental inspection on Queen St.

The Royal Canadian Regiment, often referred to as the "RCR," is seen being inspected in this 1939 picture. After the war, every Nov. 11 we schoolchildren from Parliament Oak were marched to Queen Street to attend the service. After a three-gun salute, we stood in silence, with only the sound of the cenotaph clock bell ringing 11.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

ARCHITEXT

The Regency manor

Brian Marshall
Featured



Mid-19th century Regency manor. BRIAN MARSHALL

If you could afford a craftsman-built house in the decade after the War of 1812, the choices of architectural style were few.

Of course, the venerable Georgian remained the dominant preference among the traditional crowd, while English Neo-classical designs offered a decorated facade without any hint of American taint.

Finally, if you wanted to follow the latest fashion in architecture, the newest style from England was the Regency, like the cottage built by Judge Butler in 1817.

But, that was a cottage and, among the well-heeled in town, perhaps a little modest? What to do, what to do? How could one be in fashion and make that all important success statement?

The answer came in late 1818 when the plans for the new Upper Canada Legislative Assembly building were approved for construction in York. Finished in 1820, the central massing of this building featured a Regency design but it was big, two storeys, and very impressive.

It wasn't long before the pens of local architects were busy rendering drawings of residential interpretations for clients among the moneyed class. Possibly the first of these manors (and to my knowledge one of the oldest surviving examples in the province) built in NOTL was John Breakenridge's circa 1823 home at Mississauga and Centre streets, but it was certainly not the last.

These imposing homes were "the" choice for many country estates and prosperous farms.

Consider the mid-19th

century Roselawn House on Lakeshore. Set well back from the road, down a long driveway, this home sits on a small rise with treed lawns to the fore. The classic cubic form's facade is appointed with three stacked bays containing two very large main-floor windows balancing the prominent central entry.

By this time, the decorative elements had lost any hint of the neo-classical borrowings used on early Regency homes, replaced by clean, elegantly simple built-up mouldings that convey a slight sense of the oriental. Anchored by a brick watertable, the walls rise to equally uncomplicated frieze and brackets under a typical hipped roof appointed with four tall chimneys acting almost as finials to crown the composition.

Regency manors survive here and there across Niagara-on-the-Lake. If you're looking, watch for the cubic form as your first clue.



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The Lake Report

FACTS

The Lake Report recently conducted a readership survey, and sent information on how to participate to every farm, residence and apartment in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

More than 80% of people surveyed chose The Lake Report as their preferred choice for local news and information.

SOURCE: TLR Readership Survey; October 2019

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Private Stanley Byfield: *A soldier's story*



Denise Ascezno
Exclusive/The Lake Report

As we approach Remembrance Day, it is only fitting that the story of Stanley Byfield be told – a young man, like millions of others, who joined the Canadian Army during the First World War to fight for the freedoms that we all enjoy today.

On Aug. 4, 1914, Britain declared war on Germany and Canada had officially entered the First World War. The rallying call went out across Canada with the hope that 25,000 men would volunteer. A new training facility in Valcartier, Que., was hastily set up and by Sept. 3, 1914, over 33,000 volunteers were billeted in the new camp.

Unemployment in Canada had been very high prior to the First World War so many young men signed up for what many thought would be the adventure of war. Little did they realize the horrors that awaited them in the trenches of Europe.

With just three weeks of training, the first Canadian contingent of soldiers set sail for England on Oct. 3, 1914.

Many men, though, held back from volunteering at first. They were needed in the factories and in the fields, farming. Without munitions and food a country does not survive a war. However the pressures to volunteer were great, with women handing out the “white feather of cowardice” to any able-bodied man they spotted walking the streets.

Stanley Byfield, was just a simple farmer from the London, Ont., area. Farmers were needed but with the pressure of friends and family going to war, he finally enlisted in October 1915 at the age of 21.

Unlike the first wave of

Canadian volunteers, his training was a bit more extensive before he was shipped over to England several months later.

By July of 1916, Byfield was with the 70th Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, where he was found serving at the Battle of the Somme with the 5th Canadian Mounted Regiment, 24 Battalion.

He wasn't there long when he suffered multiple shrapnel wounds to his hands and arms. As well, he was shot, with the bullet lodging behind his heart. Byfield was sent back to England, where he spent 99 days recovering from his wounds.

In November 1916, having recovered from these wounds, Byfield was sent back into the war, back to the trenches, back to the Battle of the Somme.

Just 16 days after returning to the front, he was wounded again. This time he was hit in the left shoulder, hand and arm. Back to England he was sent to recover from his wounds. He spent 53 days in the hospital this time.

However, once he was healthy, he was not sent home but back to the trenches where men were desperately needed.

Prime Minister Robert Borden (1911-20) had pledged to send 500,000 Canadian soldiers overseas in the First World War. From a small population of just over eight million in Canada, this was a very difficult promise to keep. By December 1915 only 330,000 Canadian soldiers were in the war. Thus all soldiers who were wounded, but had recovered were sent back to the front.

The war raged on through 1917. Byfield would have been in several battles throughout the first half of this year.

The Battle of Arras was from April 9 to May 16, 1917. Part of this same offensive was the Battle of Vimy Ridge, from April 9 to April 12, 1917, where four Canadian battalions proved that Canada was a fight-

ing power not to be taken lightly.

Then from July 21 to Nov. 10, 1917, the Battle of Passchendaele was fought. Byfield was with the Canadian battalions in this offensive as well.

In October 1917, Byfield was injured for a third time. He was buried alive when an exploding shell fell near the trench he was in. He survived, but barely.

Byfield was sent back to England yet again to recover, but this time he was deemed unfit for duty. The term used was “shell shock,” coined by Medical Officer Charles Myers in 1917. He determined that this condition was caused by being buried alive or having suffered through heavy bombardment. Today, it is known as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Byfield was one of the lucky men to have survived the First World War and return home.

On his return to Canada, Byfield tried to fit back into civilian life here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. However, like many others, he suffered for years from the effects of war.

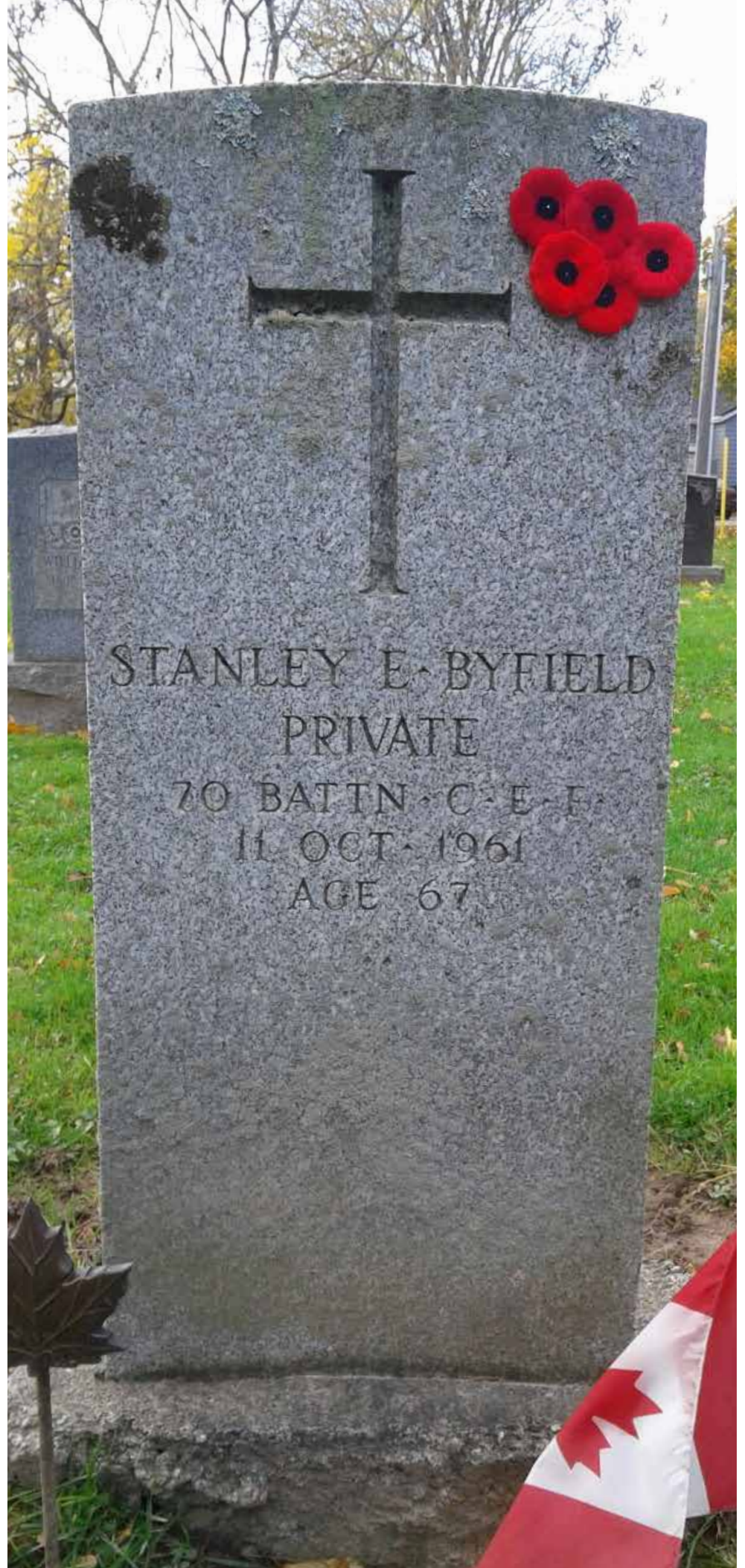
He died on Oct. 11, 1961, at the age of 67 and is buried in the cemetery at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

By the end of the First World War, Canada had 619,636 enlisted men in the war. Of those, 61,000 were killed, 172,000 were wounded and just over 9,000 men were documented to have shell shock.

May they all rest in peace as we remember their valour, their strength and their willingness to die for our beautiful country – Canada.

I wish to thank Stephen Steele for his research on Stanley Byfield and for permitting me to tell Byfield's story.

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



Private Stanley Byfield is buried in the cemetery at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He was wounded multiple times during the First World War, but survived. He lived in NOTL after the war and died here in 1961. DENISE ASCENZO



COMMUNITY



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.



Smile Cookie campaign raises \$8,000 for Red Roof Retreat



Franchise owner Lori Paterson, Red Roof's special events co-ordinator Karen Post, restaurant manager Mayank Mittal, supervisor Danielle Bedard and Red Roof's executive director Steffanie Bjorgan. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

In just a week, Tim Hortons' Smile Cookie campaign has raised \$8,033 for Red Roof Retreat.

"We like to make sure the funds stay in our community and Red Roof Retreat does such amazing work with a group of people that don't always get all the

support they should benefit from," said Virgil Tim Hortons' franchise owner Lori Paterson as a cheque was presented to Red Roof last week.

The national campaign kicked off on Sept. 16 and ran until Sept. 22.

Each cookie cost \$1 and all proceeds, raised from four Tim Hortons locations across Niagara-on-the-Lake,

will go toward the charity.

Red Roof executive director Steffanie Bjorgan said she is "surprised but not surprised" with the amount of money raised for the organization.

"Our community is great," Bjorgan told The Lake Report. "That's a hell of a lot of money. And a lot of cookies."

"It's fantastic. Be-

ing for the first time in the campaign, that's an overwhelming amount of community support in a week," added Karen Post, Red Roof's special events co-ordinator.

"It makes such a big difference for us as far as being able to put the money toward the programs and keep doing the work that we do."



THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

With Betty and Jane

The Gatehouse Kitchen & Cafe



Devin Stewart accepts the Golden Plunger for Gatehouse. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

As we strolled through the historic town of NOTL, we stopped by the Gate House Kitchen & Cafe restaurant for a quick "nibbly." The Gate House has quite a history dating back to the 1700s where it was a common meeting place in Upper Canada. Some of the original stone work is displayed throughout the cafe. The bright and cheery dining room reflects the menu and the service, which we enjoyed very much. The restrooms did not disappoint and were privately located, providing accessibility to all. The lavatory was welcoming with several stalls for customers' convenience. The porcelain bowl sink was surrounded by a basket of hand towels and "goodies" for the most delicate hands. Be sure to check out the framed self-portrait, known to most as a "mirror."

4.5/5 Golden Plungers



Bazaar attractions



Maggie Davis browses a variety of items on sale at the St. Davids-Queenston United Church bazaar. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

The Legion open mic



Keith Williams performs some tunes at the second monthly open mic held at the Legion. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

RIDDLE ME THIS

I am the least spoken language in the world. What am I?

Last Week: I'm tall when I'm young, I'm short when I'm old, and every year I make my home in a pumpkin. What am I?

Answer: A candle

Answered first by: Lynne Stewart

Also answered correctly by: Quinn Tiller, Julia Klassen, Wendy Bosela, Marion Briston, Margie Enns, Susan Pohorly, Dinorah Centeno, Ginny Green, Sandie Lawrence, Pat Braun, Britiney Turasz, Crispin Bottomley, Elly Kopp, Viv Andres, Brian Emes, Claudia Grimwood

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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

Survey shows The Lake Report is #1 among NOTL readers

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

We asked and you answered.

Nearly 500 readers participated in The Lake Report's first readership survey this fall and we are indebted to you for the exceptional feedback and suggestions we received.

We also are impressed with how much trust and faith you put in The Lake Report and the fact you demand, expect and turn to our paper for the most accurate and comprehensive news coverage of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It's a tall order and we strive to live up to your expectations.

In addition to your comments and critiques, you told us what we knew anecdotally from the comments we hear from people all over town every week: You really love The Lake Report and look to us to bring you the news, features, information and advertising about what is going on in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

And you said unequivocally that, more than any other publication in Niagara Region, our newspaper is where you turn to know about your community.

We appreciate the faith you have put in our almost two-year-old newspaper, and we promise to continue doing the things you have told us are important to you.

In designing our readership survey, we needed to ensure the questions and data analysis were fair and balanced. So, we turned to the professionals.

The survey was overseen by NOTL retiree Steve Ferley, former president of Canada's Print Measurement Bureau. He brought to the project his years of ex-



Rick and Carol McIntosh with their prize gift certificate for a three-course dinner for two at Ravine Vineyard Restaurant. They won the draw for participating in The Lake Report's readership survey in October. RICHARD HARLEY

perience in providing media research and readership information to Canada's newspapers, magazines and ad agencies.

Having Ferley's guidance "just adds a whole new layer of credibility and accuracy to our results, knowing we had a professional carve out our questions, organize the survey, and help us with the analytics," said editor-in-chief Richard Harley.

He was happy with the overwhelmingly positive reaction from readers. "It's always a bit nerve-wracking putting yourself out there for open feedback, but it's extremely rewarding to know people really love our paper, and that people want us to keep doing exactly what we're doing."

"We have, since the beginning, strived to be the gold standard for community papers, recognizing that publications around the country are suffering. Now,

'hyper-local' papers like ours are proving themselves to be sustainable across the nation, at a time when trustworthy local news is demanded, perhaps more than it ever has been."

Among the survey's key findings:

* 80 per cent of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents prefer The Lake Report for NOTL news and information.

* 75 per cent of The Lake Report readers read the paper every week.

* 73 per cent of The Lake Report readers usually read 75 per cent or more of the paper.

* 78 per cent of The Lake Report readers live in NOTL for all or most of the year.

* 74 per cent of The Lake Report readers rate the paper 8, 9 or 10 for enjoyment (1-10 scale).

* 60 per cent of The Lake Report readers are female.

* 52 per cent of The Lake Report readers spend over \$3,000 on annual vacation and travel.

"These days there are so many ways to receive feedback, from comment sections on social media, to word of mouth in a small town," Harley said. "But it's not the same as hard data. Knowing we can really put our name behind these numbers is a big accomplishment and it shows us that our paper really resonates with people."

Our young journalists, numerous volunteers and staff, the vast majority of whom live here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, are dedicated to the community.

"We've taken the hole that was created with the demise of the Niagara Advance, and filled it with a newspaper NOTLers can open up and find filled with stories that matter to them."

Among the survey's key findings:

80%

of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents prefer The Lake Report for NOTL news and information.

75%

of The Lake Report readers read the paper every week.

73%

of The Lake Report readers usually read 75 per cent or more of the paper.

78%

of The Lake Report readers live in NOTL for all or most of the year.

74%

of The Lake Report readers rate the paper 8, 9 or 10 for enjoyment. (1-10 scale)

52%

The Lake Report readers spend over \$3,000 on annual vacation and travel.

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