

**NOTL wine pioneer remembered by family and fellow winemakers**

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**UP IN SMOKE**

## Canopy Growth closes NOTL cannabis facility

Jill Troyer  
The Lake Report

The Tweed Farms cannabis growing operation on Concession 5 in Niagara-on-the-Lake closed on Friday and 30 employees were permanently laid off.

Tweed Farms is owned by Canopy Growth, which has been cutting costs in response to dramatic and growing losses.

The NOTL facility opened in 2014 and after a \$70 million expansion in 2018, the

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## Residents reject Parliament Oak redesign

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Despite some revisions, residents voiced concerns Monday that the proposed apartment building at the old Parliament Oak school site is unacceptable in Old Town.

Liberty Sites (3) Ltd. is developing the site and presented a revised proposal with several changes during a committee of the whole planning meeting. For starters, the number of apartments was reduced to

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## Remembering heroics of **Victoria Cross** soldier



Maj. Benjamin Geary.

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

**G**ary Hatton wants the world to never forget soldiers like Benjamin Geary.

For the last five years after every Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph, Hatton, a retired Royal Canadian Navy captain, has

been paying his respects by visiting a single gravestone in St. Mark's Anglican Church cemetery.

It's the resting place of Maj. Benjamin Handley Geary, who earned the Victoria Cross for bravery during The Great War and later lived and died in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"It makes a big impression on me," Hatton said in

an interview.

"I was quite impressed that our little town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has a Victoria Cross winner. We've only got 99 Canadian Victoria Cross winners."

Geary was born in London in 1891 and at age 23 he enlisted in the British Army's East Surrey Regiment and fought on the Western front during the

First World War.

He earned the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour the British Empire and Commonwealth countries can bestow, while in action at Hill 60 near Ypres, Belgium.

Geary was honoured for his bravery in holding a crater with his company of

*Continued on Page 2*

## Honouring Canada's **Indigenous** allies

Ceremony recognizes soldiers who fought for Canada's freedom, and those still serving today

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

**R**emembrance Day might not even exist, if not for Canada's Indigenous allies who fought to help the British in the War of 1812.

During the battle of Queenston Heights, without the courage of Mohawk chief John Norton and leader Joseph Brant, the British would almost certainly have lost that key battle – and likely the war.

That was part of the focus of a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Landscape of Nations memorial at Queenston Heights on Saturday.

It was also to celebrate Indigenous soldiers who have fought and died for Canada since then and continue to do so today – something that Indigenous leaders in Niagara feel is far overdue.

Brian Kon, a First Nations elder and senator for the Ni-

agara Region Metis Council, was among a small crowd Saturday to hear words as a ceremonial fire burned in the background.

He said the contributions of Indigenous soldiers were overlooked for too long and he is glad to see more recognition for the critical role Indigenous people played in the formation of Canada.

"The War of 1812 wouldn't have been won if it wasn't for the First Nations and the allies that were working with them and working with the British," Kon said.

"Also, knowing that in the First and Second World War, the First Nations, Metis and Inuit were among the first to go forward and to volunteer – and they volunteered in large numbers. They weren't acknowledged for their contribution for decades. In fact,

*Continued on Page 3*



Canadian Sgt. Ray Starks says it's important to remember Indigenous contributions to Canada didn't end with the War of 1812, but continue to this day. RICHARD HARLEY

## Ross's Ramblings: Time for a **flag** at Queen's Royal Park

Ross Robinson  
Special to The Lake Report

**A** proud and patriotic Canadian flag should be flying in Queen's Royal Park, to be featured in millions of memories and souvenir photographs of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Picture it, if you will.

A group of friends from around the world, a family, a couple in love. Parents pushing their baby in a stroller. Every visitor and NOTLer feeling totally safe and secure, enjoying the day, cooking their foods, playing their games.

The gazebo, the mighty Niagara River, Fort Niagara,

and soon I hope, our red and white maple leaf flag flapping subtly in a breeze.

This was one of those forehead bumping ideas that someone should have thought of years ago, and with the goings-on in our world today, "It's time."

*Continued on Page 5*



Queen's Royal Park needs to fly the flag. FILE PHOTO

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Left: Retired naval Capt. Gary Hatton beside the NOTL grave of Maj. Benjamin Geary. Right: A colorized photo of Maj. Benjamin Geary being carried from the battlefield by German prisoners of war after receiving three bullet wounds to the stomach in 1918. It was while lying on the battlefield not knowing if he would survive that Geary decided to become a chaplain, according to the NOTL Museum. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND. COLOURIZED BY DBCOLOUR

## Captain visits Victoria Cross recipient's grave every year

*Continued from Front Page*

men between April 20 and 21, 1915, according to the original Victoria Cross citation published in the London Gazette in October 1915.

The description of Geary's actions in the face of the enemy is certainly the stuff of legend.

"The crater was first exposed to very heavy artillery fire, which broke down the defences, and afterwards throughout the night to repeated bomb attacks, which filled it with dead and wounded," the citation reads.

The attacks were all repulsed due to the "splendid personal gallantry and example" of Geary.

"At one time he used a rifle with great affect, at another threw hand grenades, and exposed himself with entire disregard to danger in order to see by the light of flares where the enemy was coming from."

When Geary and his troops were not engaged in direct combat he focused his efforts on ensuring ammunition and supplies were readily available for the soldiers.

Then, just before daylight on April 21, Geary took a sniper bullet to the head. But that didn't stop him.

True to the descriptions of his gallant nature and although his vision was severely impaired due to the injury, Geary returned to the front for the remainder of the war where he commanded a company of men until he was shot three more times during battle in 1918, according to the Canadian War Museum.

But this was one tough man and "the following year I was playing rugby, football etc," Geary wrote in a letter to John Vereker, also known as Lord Gort, commander of the British Expeditionary Force at the outbreak of the Second World War.

Geary wrote to Gort because he was denied active service for the Second World War due to his previous inju-

ries. Geary was having none of it and asked Gort to reconsider the rejection.

"As a soldier, I am prepared to be reprimanded for writing you. As a man, I cherish the hope that you might find time to give my request (consideration)," Geary said in the letter, which has been preserved by the war museum.

Geary was subsequently allowed to enlist in the Canadian army as a major during the Second World War.

Besides his military career, Geary was also an ordained minister and served as chaplain for the British Army during the 1920s before moving to Canada.

In 1946, Geary was appointed the sergeant-at-arms for the Ontario Legislature, a position he held until 1971 when he retired.

**"If we look at post-traumatic stress disorder and shell-shock in those days, he must have been quite an unbelievable character to be able to survive all that type of stuff, to go into the church and then to continue as a soldier."**

GARY HATTON  
RETIRED CANADIAN NAVY CAPTAIN

He died in 1976 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where he had been living. He was 84 and is buried in the cemetery at St. Mark's Anglican Church.

Though he died 45 years ago, there are some who have memories of interactions with the war hero. One of those people is Robert Nixon, former longtime Ontario Liberal leader and member of the Ontario Legislature.

"We were awed by Maj. Geary's heroic war record and proud of his

Victoria Cross," Nixon said in an email to The Lake Report.

Nixon, 94, said the legislature must have been a dull place for a man with such a storied career.

"He must have been bored to tears!" Nixon said.

"However, he was ready to do his duty at the call of the speaker. I forced him to rise with hand on sword on one occasion when I rapidly retracted offending words of criticism."

Nixon recalled one incident involving the emotional flag debate of the 1960s, when Lester B. Pearson's federal Liberal government sought to create a new flag for the country that was distinctly Canadian.

Geary's British roots and humour shone through one morning as Nixon trailed him to Queen's Park.

"To my pleasure the new flag was flying for the first time — snapping in the wind. At a second flag pole on the other side of the walk was the newly proclaimed Ontario flag, with the Union Jack in the corner," Nixon said.

"I was 50 paces behind Maj. Geary as I saw him stop, come to attention and salute the red ensign. He turned to the new flag and, just as smartly, thumbed his nose and marched on to his duties in the legislature."

Hatton undertook a personal search of veterans buried in NOTL in 2016 and was surprised to find such a decorated soldier as Geary.

"Nobody wins the Victoria Cross — you earned it," Hatton said.

From the clergy to the legislature to being a bona fide war hero, Hatton was impressed with the wealth of ability Geary showed in his lifetime.

"He was a renaissance man," he said.

"It is just tremendous what these types of people could do. I would have just loved to have met him in real life."

According to a letter archived with the war museum, Geary was

appointed the honorary president of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in NOTL in 1967, Canada's Centennial Year.

Hatton was deeply impressed with Geary's initiative in writing to the commander of British forces in order to get enlisted in the Second World War.

"That's tremendous. It would be typical of somebody with that kind of background to do those kinds of things," Hatton said.

Geary's resolve and strength of character was something special, Hatton pointed out.

"If we look at post-traumatic stress disorder and shell-shock in those days, he must have been quite an unbelievable character to be able to survive all that type of stuff, to go into the church and then to continue as a soldier."

That's why Hatton has been honouring Geary every Remembrance Day for the last six years.

"When Remembrance Day services are over at the cenotaph I go down to the graveyard and I place my poppy (on Geary's grave)," he said.

"Just so he knows that somebody has marked the occasion for him."

Geary is buried with his wife Constance Joan and beside his son Nevill, who was in the Royal Air Force, Hatton said. Details on Nevill's life are scarce, and he died in 1971 before both his parents.

Hatton hopes that Geary can one day get the recognition he deserves.

"I'm going to speak to the Victoria Cross graves people and ask them if there's a greater recognition capability than just his current headstone."

And to all the veterans who call Niagara-on-the-Lake home, thank you from The Lake Report, for service past and service to come, and for selflessly sacrificing your lives so life at home can go on.



*Angelika Zammit - Local Expert*  
**Niagara-on-the-Lake Luxury Realty Team**  
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Fort Erie Native Centre executive director Jennifer Dockstader, Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Betty Disero and former Parks Canada planner Ron Dale walk through the longhouse display at Landscape of Nations to lay a wreath in honour of Indigenous soldiers past and present. RICHARD HARLEY

## Ceremony honours **past and current** soldiers

*Continued from Front Page*

the Metis veterans weren't acknowledged officially by Canada until 2019. That was the first time they started to receive any kind of acknowledgement."

"So, a lot of our veterans were in their late 90s, early 100s and getting their cheques and if they were gone, then it would go to family members. But again, for those (who died), they left this earth not being recognized for the contributions that they had made."

He noted that "it's also important, we've got some service people today that are active and so we also have to honour them and remember the contributions that they're making, even today," he said.

So, Canadians need "to honour and remember the dead, but also to support and be there for those who are currently enlisted."

Tim Johnson, an Indigenous leader and former co-chair of the Landscape of Nations Committee, spoke about the importance of holding the ceremony at Queenston Heights every year.

"Norton, Brant and the warriors who fought here have been credited by eye-



Tim Johnson addresses a crowd of about 50 people who gathered Saturday to honour Indigenous veterans and active soldiers. RICHARD HARLEY

witnesses and historians of providing strategic attacks and support that held off the American advance until British reinforcements arrived," he said.

"Several indigenous fighters would die that day, including Oneida and Onondaga warriors and two Cayuga chiefs, among a total of 105 British soldiers, militia and Indigenous forces killed in action. Some 300 Americans were killed and wounded and 958 taken prisoner."

"So, this is consecrated ground upon which we are not only responsible, but obligated, morally and ethically, to conduct this solemn ceremony each year without ambivalence and without fail to recognize and respect the commitments and achievements made by allied

Indigenous nations throughout the War of 1812. And consider what that legacy means when carried forward to the present time."

Johnson also spoke of the advancements made in the recognition of Indigenous people in Niagara since the installation of Landscape of Nations in 2016.

Some of the positives have been in the form of legacy spaces in the region, such as public artwork and exhibitions.

"Since the unveiling of the Landscape of Nations commemorative memorial, several other legacy spaces have emerged, with even more on the way," Johnson said.

"Parks Canada is also currently exploring the feasibility of a concept first proposed back in 2013 by Red Hill to establish a sym-

bolic spaceframe structure and the historic and hugely important Indian Council House in the Commons, and among other advancements, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has launched a capital expansion plan for its facilities with an exhibit and programmatic embrace of equity, diversity and inclusion principles and policies," he said.

"So, today, five years hence, we view a Niagara region that has grown considerably, and its knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Peoples, our histories, cultures and experiences."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was on hand and helped lay a memorial wreath.

"For years, and for centuries, the Indigenous people were not recognized for their major contributions to our lives and the lives we live today. And so this remembrance that they've started will help to make the public aware of those contributions," Disero said.

"We are so grateful to be able to be here on this land that is theirs, or that was theirs, and able to enjoy the natural beauty around us — and because of their contributions to the protection of it."

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# War story: A tale from the other side

Denise Ascenzo  
The Lake Report

We have all heard the stories of how our Canadian fathers, brothers, uncles or grandfathers fought in the Second World War. Stories of heroism, survival, deprivation, heartaches and hardships abound.

This is not just a story from the other side of the war, the enemy, but of a young man with hopes and dreams like everyone else. All dashed with the declaration of a world war.

Luigi Ascenzo, Gino to his family, was just 14 years old, the oldest of the five children, when news arrived that their father had been killed in the Second Abyssinian War. A war thousands of miles away from Italy, a war that the Italian people had no idea of "why."

It was 1936 and Gino was now expected to go out to work and provide for his family. He worked in rock quarries, in olive groves, in farm fields and on road crews, to bring home money so that the family could eat.

Two years later, the Second World War broke out, with Italy joining Germany on the promise that, once victorious, Italy would become a world power.

By 1940, the war in Italy was well under way with German and Italian forces fighting the Allies. Mussolini was pressed hard by the Germans to recruit more and more men into the Italian forces.

Gino, at the age of 18 was drafted into the Italian Navy and sent from his small village outside of Pescara to La Spezia, south of Genoa. He was not supposed to have been conscripted as he was classified as the head of his household on the death of his father. The rules were ignored.

When Gino was sent away, he left behind his mother, two sisters and two brothers. One brother was only 10 but the other brother was 15, a dangerous age when German patrols could scoop him up and set him to work in their labour camps in Italy.

That is exactly what happened. Antonio spent the war as a slave labourer in Italy and then was transported to Germany in the latter years of the war to the work camps.

The younger brother, Nicola, and his two sisters, Rosa and Maria, scavenged



Luigi "Gino" Ascenzo became a Canadian citizen in 1962. SUPPLIED

for food every single day. Anything they did manage to find was more often than not stolen by German soldiers or Fascist gangs. Their life was very precarious, hunger was ever present.

In 1943, when Italy surrendered to the Allies, Gino was put into another dangerous situation.

While on shore his ship was sunk in the harbour by the Germans. This sinking was to make the La Spezia harbour useless to the Allies. Gino's immediate commanding officer gathered the men on shore and told them straight up – Italy had surrendered to the Allies, their ship was sunk, they were on their own.

Gino and his good friend Gaetano, also from San Valentino in the Abruzzo province, decided it was time to head home. They had never been out of their small community and now

they were on the northwest coast of Italy, trying to figure out how to escape the madness.

There were enemies everywhere they turned. The Fascists were working with the Nazis. They turned in anyone whom they deemed suspect: Jews, gypsies, gays and soldiers of the Italian forces, who were now on the run, were all targets of the Fascists' patrols. There was also the German regular army, the Communists and even the Allies to elude.

The two friends first had to get rid of their uniforms. Gino said he had never stolen anything in his life but now his life depended on theft. His only solace was that he left his navy uniform, made of good material, behind when he stole clothes off of a wash line.

Gino and Gaetano walked by night

and hid by day. Sometimes they got rides with farmers, sometimes they managed to hop trains. On one train, as they were approaching a town, an elderly man told them Germans were boarding the train looking for young men. They jumped off the train while it was still in motion to avoid capture.

They went from La Spezia to Bologna, over to Rimini and then down the Adriatic coast toward Pescara. As they got farther south, they started to see more action between the Allies and the Germans.

Their fear heightened, their hunger got worse and they looked like skeletons with clothes hanging off of them. They finally reached the port of Pescara and then headed inland to San Valentino.

For Gino and Gaetano, reaching home was a blessing and another trial for them. They couldn't stay in their village so they headed up into the mountains, La Maiella, where they hid in caves. Food was scarce, the cold was merciless and the snakes were plentiful. Gino had a fear of snakes for the rest of his life.

They stayed hiding in those caves like hundreds of other men until Rome was taken by the Americans in June 1944.

It was after the war that Gino found out his family had been helped by Canadian soldiers who saw their plight – young children with no food. His decision was made, Canada would become his home.

After five years of working in the Belgium coal mines, Gino had enough money saved to travel to Canada with his wife Assunta and two young sons, Cam and Gabe. They arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax in July 1955 with just two suitcases for the four of them.

They reached their final destination, Toronto, by train. Gaetano and his family followed Gino to Canada in 1960.

In 1962, Gino and Assunta proudly earned their Canadian citizenship. Over the years they lived the life of an immigrant family with the big Canadian dream: A home, a job and a good education for their children, all of which came true.

Gino died in 2009, very happy to say Canada gave him and his family the opportunity to enjoy the life he worked hard for.

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# Flag pole is paid for, Town of NOTL just needs to say ‘yes’

*Continued from Front Page*

It was fatalistic that my tennis pal Keith Stuart suggested this idea to me just before Remembrance Day.

I then met with Tom and Jim Caldwell in their office at Mary and Mississagua streets, kitty corner to Willow Pastries and the Avondale, as their company’s red and white Canadian flag made its flapping presence known above us.

Caldwell Securities Ltd. has generously and patriotically offered to donate a suitable flagpole and flag to be installed in Queen’s Royal Park.

Some weeks my thoughts ramble. Occasionally, a concept is so obvious. “That’s right. It makes total sense. Who could argue?”

And there is plenty of room there for a tall flagpole and a great Canadian flag.

Last year, Keith worked tenaciously to get a Canadian flag placed in, (where else?), Veterans Memorial Park near the NOTL Legion. It wasn’t an easy process, but he worked with a few other NOTLers who



Ross Robinson says NOTL should be flying a Canadian flag at Queen’s Royal park, with a view of the U.S. sitting just across the mouth of the Niagara River. FILE PHOTO

were determined to remember the efforts of Canadians who “stood against evil and made us proud.”

Not that long ago, some of our servicemen sailed, some flew and others somehow endured the disgusting horrors of trench warfare. Many of them were volunteers and many of them returned wounded. Many never returned.

And today, we welcome people from around the world, many of whom have immigrated to Canada with dreams of freedom, safety and opportunity.

C’mon, don’t be timid or reticent. Say it: Canada is the greatest country in the world and we live in a wee corner that is a special jewel: Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

To cherry pick a phrase from former U.S. president Barack Obama, “We can celebrate our nation’s achievements, while still remembering the horrible mistakes that we have made.”

Yes, we must reckon with the cruel and inhumane treatment of our Indigenous Peoples. Yes, white

privilege still pervades our society. We must remember, admit our errors, learn and determine to reconcile with the wronged, moving ahead together to develop a fair society for all.

Some things in the world were simply meant to be. They just had to happen. These ideas required vision and tireless work to overcome obstacles, whether physical, political or financial. Problems, real or perceived. Bumps in the road. Figger it out and forge ahead.

Think of the goosebumps the Vimy Ridge Memorial in northern France inspires. It was built and financed by Canadians on land given to us by the people of France.

And other such landmarks: Christ the Redeemer statue on Mount Corcovado above Rio de Janeiro is a symbol of Christianity across the world. The Statue of Liberty warmly welcomes brave and hungry newcomers to a new life in America. Pier 21 in Halifax was a major point of entry to Canada.

These great symbols didn’t just happen. Vision,

leadership and collaboration were needed.

It’s time for us to right a wrong here in NOTL and proudly fly the flag at Queen’s Royal.

Across the river at Fort Niagara, an American flag is flying. There is no international border line or wall, just a mutually respected border somewhere in the middle of the Niagara River.

As sailors enter the Niagara River from Lake Ontario, there is no obvious indication that the little park on their starboard side is in Canada. Some years ago, a sailor friend of Tom Caldwell had to use binoculars to read a car’s licence plate, finally making out the word “Ontario.” Ah, that side is Canada.

Isn’t it truly amazing? In our world of conflict, vitriol, and greed, little old Canada and big old America manage to get along, to help each other, and to have adult discussions to solve problems.

A flag should be installed on “the Canadian side,” where the Niagara River flows into Lake Ontario. Not that long ago, which-

ever country controlled the Niagara River controlled the interior of North America. No airplanes or trains, just trails and rivers and lakes, eh?

It is said that 3 per cent of the people in the world make things happen. About 5 per cent watch things happen. And the other 92 per cent say, “What happened?”

Let’s encourage our town to be leaders on this issue. To make something really good happen. The busy people in Ottawa have made an awkward situation even more awkward regarding the raising and lowering of the flags to remember the missing Indigenous schoolchildren, and concurrently, the service and sacrifices of our military veterans.

Here, let’s demand action. A proud flag flying in Queen’s Royal Park. Illuminated by a spotlight at night, like they do in the States. It won’t be a problem to lower and raise one more flag a few times each year.

Be proud. Be leaders. Be Canadians. Let’s move forward together in greatness, in the greatest country in the world.

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### COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases: 12**  
**Region active cases: 247**  
**Region deaths: 438**  
**Region total cases: 18,404**  
**Region resolved cases: 17,719**

\*Nov. 9 data per Niagara Region Public Health



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "There are many trails up the mountain,  
 but in time they all reach the top."  
 - Anya Seton.

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## Editorial

### A century of remembrance

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

A century ago, when the red poppy was chosen as a gesture to commemorate the sacrifices of those who went to war, could the people of that era ever have imagined how enduring and endearing a symbol it would turn out to be?

Much has changed in the 100 years since the poppy became synonymous with what we now call Remembrance Day.

But the sheer simplicity and power of the little plastic flowers we wear near our hearts has carried on. Yes, they fall off, we lose them, then buy another and another, but surely that is a small sacrifice given the immensity of the sacrifice the poppy represents.

We have mused before about how every year, every community, every school in small towns and big cities across the country, stops to remember those who fought to ensure the freedoms that we take for granted today.



It is a custom we must ensure endures and that future generations embrace it.

This year, we are that much closer to saying final farewells to more veterans of the Second World War. Veterans Affairs Canada said a year ago that more

than 30,000 of the estimated 1 million who went to war were still with us – and their average age was mid-90s.

But all those who survived the Great War, 1914-18, are long gone. John Babcock, the country's last known soldier

from that era, died in 2010 at age 109.

Unfortunately, new veterans, from Afghanistan and other conflicts, are taking their place. War may indeed be hell, but ours is not a world without conflict.

We owe it to all of these veterans – new, old and very old – to never forget the sacrifices made.

That is why in this edition of The Lake Report, we dedicated several pages to stories and pictures of remembrance: From the heroics of Maj. Benjamin Geary, who is buried here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and is one of the rare recipients of the vaunted Victoria Cross, to the war tale of Gino Ascenzo, who grew up in Italy and was dragooned to fight for Mussolini against the Allies, to Ross Robinson's forward-looking column about the need for a Canadian flag at Queen's Royal Park.

These are ways to remember and reasons to never forget.

editor@niagaranow.com

## Town needs to better support kids hockey

Dear editor:

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

My kids have been out of hockey for a number of years.

But other kids are still in there, following COVID restrictions.

Now we have the Jr. A Niagara Predators playing home games on Friday nights. With, I might add, not a ton of support.

This is good hockey, for goodness sake.

Our arena in Virgil was wonderful a few years ago. Parents, grandparents and friends showed up, bought coffees, watched the games, yelled and screamed, booed the referees.

Then the kids would line up to buy all kinds of junk. No one cared – it was fun.

So, now we are trying to support our Niagara Predators as well as the other Saturday night (older) players and all of the younger hockey players, kids and grandkids.

The junior team's general manager, Johan Eriksson, is adamant his hockey squad will be a community team. Well, I guess we will see.

However, the concession stand is not open and the heat is not on.

Did the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake decide supporting young families with kids in hockey is no longer worth the price?

Is this strictly a retirement community?

Should we maybe invite tourists to join in and then get all kinds of funding?

You think this is tongue in cheek? It isn't, it annoys me that this town was once

family-oriented with lots going on for kids. Now it appears to be for tourism, heritage and retirement. How sad.

I'm aware of things for children in the Virgil park that the town has done, but cannot understand the rationale that the concession stand was too expensive to operate.

So what if you weren't making money? You do with all these new humongous houses being taxed to the limit.

Our taxes are going up because of the police and population. That was an interesting statement in the paper. I haven't seen a cop for ages and usually only when an accident occurs and they fly from St. Catharines or Niagara Falls.

But that has nothing to do with the arena.

So take some of our tax

money and put it back into our arena. Where is our concession stand? Where is the heat?

It's a make-work project for young people. Are you all old and kids gone?

Get with the program for goodness sake and support our arena.

I am really annoyed. NOTL should not always be about tourism, heritage and old, retired people.

We know this town council is trying to save money by cutting things like the concession stand at the arena, but spend tons of our dollars getting experts to do their job for them.

They don't appear to make a decision without calling in experts.

Sign me, an old retired person.

Sandie Gordon Schulz  
 NOTL

HEY NOTL! WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DINNER?

< Italian Pizza Pasta or Spanish Tapas >

NAPLES-ON-THE-LAKE OR CATALONIA-ON-THE-LAKE





# NOTL Legion helps Sparks remember

Dear editor:  
On Nov. 8, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sparks, the five- and six-year-old Girl Guides, held their Remembrance Day meeting.  
Jackie Dickieson, veterans service officer from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 attended.  
She spoke to the Sparks about the role of the Legion in Niagara-on-the-Lake and distributed gift bags from the Poppy Committee. The bags contained red mittens with a Canadian flag on them, a maple leaf flag scarf and two Canadian Flags.  
The girls followed Jackie

as she led them through a Remembrance Day activity book also provided by the Poppy Committee.  
Sparks extend their thanks to Elizabeth Richards, the Legion office secretary, Lori Beak, recording secretary, and Barb Cole, a Legion volunteer, for the meaningful items.  
The Sparks also decorated popsicle-stick crosses with the words "We Remember." To end the meeting, the Sparks walked to the cenotaph, placed their crosses and sang O Canada. Such proud, young and free Canadians.  
**Leslie Moulson**  
**NOTL**



Officials from the Niagara-on-the-Lake branch of the Royal Canadian Legion visited the NOTL Sparks. FILE

# Stop the costly PCR tests for COVID at our border

Dear editor:  
Volumes are being written about the exorbitant cost of a COVID-19 PCR test to re-enter Canada at our land border crossings.  
It can be \$169 (Cdn) if you test in Canada and \$250 (U.S.) for same-day test results or \$130 (U.S.) for next-day results if you get tested in the United States.  
Clearly Canada does not want Canadians day-tripping to the outlet malls and grocery shopping in the U.S.

It's great for snowbirds heading to Florida but for families planning short trips or visiting friends and relatives – not so much.  
Sheer political stupidity is how I classify this directive.  
For example. Get your test in Canada, go to a Buffalo Sabres game with 18,000 screaming, maskless fans.  
Afterward visit a bar or restaurant, also with no masks. Do some shopping and return to Canada within 72 hours with your Canadian negative

test results. But you could potentially bring COVID back with you. Yes, stupidity on steroids.  
Finally, it seems Canada is projecting a complete lack of faith in being double-vaccinated. Or has Covid testing become a new cottage industry and another money grab?  
Mixed signalling is an understatement when one considers that hospital staff can work without being vaccinated. They will require regular

rapid antigen COVID tests at roughly \$20 (Cdn) per test.  
Why not use this test at the land border? It's more effective, in my humble opinion, taken at the time you are returning – not 72 hours prior?  
Excuse me, I just had a seniors moment – no big profits to be made with this test.  
Where are our local provincial and federal politicians advocating to change or eliminate the PCR test?  
Samuel Young  
NOTL

# Why did Canada send so many to climate conference?

The following is a letter to Niagara Falls MP Tony Baldinelli. A copy was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.  
I have just learned that Canada sent 277 delegates to the Glasgow COP 26 conference,

the largest number of representatives of any country who attended.  
Was this really necessary? Or was this just to look good?  
I do hope the Opposition will challenge the efficacy of this sort of gravy train instead

of pointing fingers at Alberta.  
I am in support of the efforts to reel in climate change, but how can 277 people representing Canada be effective?  
I await with interest to hear exactly what action Prime

Minister Justin Trudeau intends to take to reduce our carbon emissions and also what the cost and carbon count of Canada's attendance was.  
**Jean and Ken O'Malley**  
**NOTL**

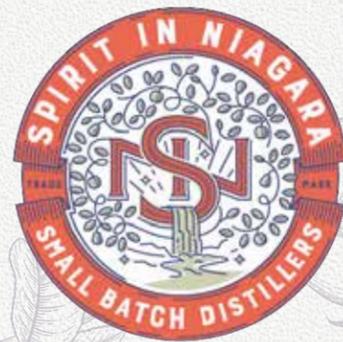
# Pleased with Solmar's appeal decision – for now

Dear editor:  
Many residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be clearly pleased to learn of the withdrawal by Solmar Development of its opposition to the heritage designation by the town of the Rand Estate with their notice to the Conservation Review Board hearing – at least for the moment.  
This would appear to be an acceptance by Solmar of the heritage designation by the town of the property under the Ontario Heritage Act.

However, Solmar has a well-known and well-documented history of contradiction in which its reliability and credibility is questioned by many, so this may not be quite what it appears to be.  
Take the article itself, for example, where it is reported that:  
a) Solmar plans to pursue alternative remedies as well as seek a binding decision on the heritage status of the Rand Estate by the Ontario Land Tribunal.  
b) The company's lawyer

states that there could be subsequent proceedings (whatever that means).  
c) Trees were clear-cut at the site in 2018. (It is claimed that they were of heritage value but this has been disputed previously by Solmar, as might be expected).  
d) Solmar states that it will amend its subdivision proposal (presently for 191 homes, with a major increase in site elevation) so as to recognize and protect all on-site heritage assets, including some that are

not even identified as such in the hearing documents. (However, Solmar is at the same time under orders from the town to repair and protect these same assets that have been neglected during the company's ownership of the property since 2017).  
So it is not at all surprising that the credibility of Solmar is highly questionable and is held in very low regard or even dismissed by many NOTL residents.  
**Derek Collins**  
**NOTL**



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# NEWS

## Bottle drop-off gets new location

The drop off at J&S Performance is closing on Nov. 27. Empties will no longer be accepted after that date at 901 East West Line. New 'pop-up' drop-offs will be announced in the new year, beginning on Jan. 8, 2022. Watch for location. Save up your empties over the holidays and donate them at pop-ups around the community. Large pick-ups may be arranged earlier by request. Huge thank you to the community, the Ruttans and the Van Noorts for their support as the drop-off was the only source of fundraising during the pandemic. We received overwhelming support. **NOTL rocks!**

### CADET NEWS

- Newark 809 Air Cadets celebrate their 50th anniversary.
- Wednesday evening 'Parade' nights are back.
- Three pop-ups are planned for January 8, May 28, and July 9, 2022. Locations TBA.



Cinderella, a 16-year-old Pecheron horse working for Sentineal Carriages, stands in front of the museum's poppy display wearing a purple poppy of her own. The purple poppy is intended to pay homage to the millions of animals that died in active service during the first and second World Wars. EVAN SAUNDERS

## NOTL pays tribute to animals-of-war

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The sufferings of war are not reserved for man alone. It is estimated that eight million horses died in active service during the First World War and the purple poppy is growing as a symbol of animal sacrifice in the service of man's most violent indulgence.

Cinderella, a 16-year-old percheron carriage horse with Sentineal Carriages, wore a purple poppy in front of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's poppy display to honour the millions of horses and service animals killed during the two world wars.

The purple poppy is commonly used in the United Kingdom to honour the animal victims of the First and Second World Wars, said Barbara Worthy, members assistant with the museum.

"They were introduced in Britain. The idea was to honour and commemorate the use of horses and other animals in the war years," she said.

"For soldiers, their animals who fought in the war were like other soldiers. They were like their comrades."

Cinderella is a massive Percheron standing nearly two-metres high at the shoulder and weighing

almost 1,800 pounds, her handler said. Her powerful build made it clear why the horse had long been man's best friend in times of war.

The purple poppy is being promoted by the Animal Alliance of Canada as a way to acknowledge the millions of animals that have died in human wars.

But the alliance stresses that this does not put the animals on equal footing as the many soldiers who chose to fight.

"It is tempting to anthropomorphize (animals') actions as acts of bravery or courage, but they had no choice in being there and had no comprehension of what they were being used for," the alliance's website says.

The purple poppy "is not meant in any way to undermine or reject the red poppy and its symbolism of the human lives who served and died in war."

While crocheting some 3,500 red poppies for the museum's display, volunteers also made several purple poppies and decided to give those to the many carriage horses that call Niagara-on-the-Lake home. The horses can be seen with their purple accoutrements working their shifts in Old Town.

And while horses may not volunteer for military service, the outstanding examples of some animals-of-war are celebrated by

the military.

Sergeant Reckless was a munitions-carrying Mongolian racehorse for the United States Marines during the Korean War. Reckless was a heavily decorated horse, receiving two Purple Hearts and the Dickin Medal, commonly referred to as the Victoria Cross for animals, among others.

"She would be my hero if I was a horse," said Cinderella's handler Cece.

During the Battle for Outpost Vegas in Korea in March 1952, Reckless made 51 solo trips carrying 10,000 pounds of ammunition to the front line, returning with wounded soldiers on her back. Reckless covered more than 35 miles that day and became a horse hero, according to the book, "Reckless: Pride of the Marines," by Andrew Geer.

Reckless was named one of the top 100 American heroes of all time by Life Magazine in 1997.

"It's magnificent to remember the use and what (animals) suffered," Worthy said.

She agreed that the animals' innocence in war does not give them the same distinctions as young men and women who sign up to enter military service.

But "It's their innocence that makes my heart burst," she said.

**On this day, and every day, we pledge never to forget.**

Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls  
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*Lest we forget*

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# Shaw Guild donates \$35,000 to festival

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Shaw Guild continues to be an ardent supporter of Shaw Festival and on Nov. 1 Allan Walker, president of the guild, presented Tim Jennings, executive director of the festival, two cheques totalling \$35,000.

The volunteer group allocated \$25,000 toward "A Christmas Carol" and \$10,000 to the festival's Resiliency Fund. The in-person presentation took place in the Festival Theatre's lobby – the first time since 2019.

The donation comes from proceeds of this year's garden tour and Sip, Savour &

Stroll, the guild's two annual fundraising events. This is the third year the guild has been able to award this gift.

Long-serving Guild members, as well as those who received the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, were also recognized during the presentation.

Jennings expressed his gratitude to guild members for all the time and effort they contribute to the Shaw.

Members of the guild have returned to their greeting and hosting duties, which now include assisting in streamlining the preshow COVID-19 check-in process.

Visit [www.shawguild.ca](http://www.shawguild.ca) for more information.



Shaw executive director Tim Jennings, left, and guild president Allan Walker in the lobby of the Festival Theatre for the presentation. SUPPLIED

# NOTL's popular Candlelight Stroll returns on Dec. 3

Staff  
The Lake Report

Worry not, anxious winter wonderland seekers, the Candlelight Stroll will be returning on Dec. 3.

"People are so excited to get out and do stuff, especially during the holiday season. I think it's going to be really popular this year," the Niagara-on-the-

Lake Chamber of Commerce's events co-ordinator Nicole Cripps said in an interview.

Attendees are asked to gather near the Court House on Queen Street at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3. The stroll will commence at 7 p.m.

"A lot of our regular bands and choirs are already on board and are

really excited about participating," Cripps said.

"We'll also be doing our food drive again for Newark Neighbours."

Cripps said COVID-19 safety protocols will be observed.

We are "asking all attendees to wear a mask when they are unable to social distance, so, probably at all times" due to

the expected large crowd, she said.

People should take their time with the stroll and not rush through, she said.

"The bands and the choir usually stay out until 9," she said.

"They could even walk around twice if they really wanted to because once it goes everyone naturally will spread out on their own."



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# Residents **reject** Parliament Oak apartments redesign

Continued from Front Page

71 from 80.

The overall design also was changed so it progressively grows in storeys toward the centre of the building, making it less imposing where it borders residential streets but still reaching its full height of roughly 53 feet at its peak.

There also were some alterations to the proposed semi-detached and detached homes. Originally 12 homes were supposed to be built on the property. The developer reduced that to nine— four semi-detached and five single-storey residences.

No residents spoke out against the proposed construction of those nine homes on the plot. All criticism was focused around the large apartment building that is potentially going to be built along King Street.

“Let’s be clear what this really is,” Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Alan Gordon said during the open house.

“It’s a 40-foot-high apartment, over 300 feet long, currently containing 71



Alan Gordon isn’t happy with proposed plans.

apartments. This, by any measure, is a massive building virtually an entire block long.”

“The visual impact of a 40-foot-high wall of apartments is reprehensible. It’s egregious.”

According to designs presented by the developer, the building actually reaches a total height of 16.4 metres, or some 53 feet, due to the inclusion of a penthouse walkout at the top.

The town’s official plan says building height should be limited to 36 feet.

Gordon said putting a building like this on King Street, which is one of the main arteries to Old Town, undermines the value of the historic district.

“It greatly diminishes the tone, style and certainly the attractiveness of the Old Town, which is why we get something like three-and-a-

half million visitors a year to this place,” he said.

It wasn’t just the sheer size of the building compared to the one- or two-storey homes that surround it that had residents like Gordon up in arms. It was the proposed density and the perceived misinformation being floated regarding it.

Mark Lamarino, a planner with the town, said in his opening overview of the project the developer wants to have the land rezoned to medium-density residential.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor pointed out that the official plan allows the area around Parliament Oak to be rezoned to low-density residential only.

Lamarino clarified his remarks and said there would need to be an amendment to the town’s official plan to allow the construction to take place.

He also said the change to medium density would allow a “maximum net density of 23 units per acre.”

In actuality, NOTL’s official plan from 2017 defines medium density as 12 units per acre maximum net density.

This did not slip by Gordon.

“This would be 66 per cent greater than what’s allowed in medium density,” Gordon said. “And, it’s a whopping 233 per cent greater than the low-density surrounding neighbourhood.”

Gracia Janes, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, also picked up on Lamarino’s comments and called the town out.

“I really do feel, without any bias on my part, that (town staff) seem to be biased. They seem to be promoting this,” Janes said.

Atis Bankas piled on. “Listening (to the) details of the official plan, I wonder if the senior planner knows of those requirements,” Bankas said.

He questioned why a developer can even apply to build something that is not legal under the town’s official plan.

“It should be scrapped and thrown in the garbage. That’s it. If the builder wants to build, let him build a park or something else,” he said.

“I don’t think they will do

that because there’s not a profit there.”

Bankas said approval of the project could set a bad precedent for the town and signal “the beginning of the destruction of this town.”

He asked what’s stopping a developer from buying two adjacent properties in Old Town, paying to have them rezoned as one and building whatever they want on the new property.

Janes said the developer was rushing the project along instead of trying to build something that would fit in with the surrounding neighbourhood.

“It’s not appropriate for this (area). It sticks out like a sore thumb. Beautiful as it is, it is very different, it’s very bulky and it’s very high,” she said.

Another contentious point was the argument presented by Lamarino and the developer that NOTL needs to meet intensification targets, which have been set by the region as 15 per cent.

“We’ve already met our target,” Janes said. “(The region) have said that we’ve met our target to 2052.”

Janes said planned devel-

opments in Glendale will provide housing for 16,000 people, far surpassing the growth rate of 15 per cent allotted to the town.

On top of that, the area where Parliament Oak sits is not actually even an intensification area, something O’Connor and Gordon noted.

“Staff are still going through the review,” Lamarino replied to O’Connor.

Janes pointed out that a previous council had rejected a large apartment proposal on Mary Street.

“I would ask council to follow the lead of staff and councillors when they turned down the apartment on Mary Street,” she said.

“That council, that staff, they listened to the public and they used the same Planning Act, they used the same provincial policy, regional policy and town’s official plan to say, ‘No.’ ”

Since the developer has supplied revised site plans Lord Mayor Betty Disero worked to ensure there would be another open house in the future for more resident input to be received.

## The “REAL” Report

The NOTL real estate market continues to hold strong while the last three months show signs of the market stabilizing and becoming more balanced.

Oct. 2020 thru Sept. 2021 (+32.9%)

QUEENSTON:	+39.9%
VIRGIL:	+36.8%
LAKESHORE:	+34.7%
ST. DAVIDS:	+32.0%
TOWN:	+31.2%
GLENDALE:	+29.6%

Q3 - July thru Sept. 2021 (+3.0%)

QUEENSTON:	+6.4%
VIRGIL:	+3.5%
ST. DAVIDS:	+3.3%
LAKESHORE:	+2.8%
GLENDALE:	+2.5%
TOWN:	+2.4%

\*Stats provided by the Niagara Real Estate Board, based on actual sales of MLS listings and using a benchmark home price index formula.



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Thirty employees were laid off on Friday after Canopy Growth closed its NOTL grow facility Tweed Farms. FILE PHOTO

## UP IN SMOKE

# Canopy Growth closes Tweed Farms in NOTL, 30 jobs lost as cannabis giant makes cost cuts

*Continued from Front Page*

operation boasted three massive greenhouses with 1 million square feet, and 270 employees.

Anticipated market expansion faltered and in March 2020 the company decided not to put its third greenhouse in NOTL into opera-

tion. By September 2020 staff layoffs began.

Canopy Growth is not alone, as many other large cannabis producers have closed operations and cut costs across the country.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she got a phone call on Thursday evening to give her the news about Tweed

Farms closing, just ahead of the announcement to staff on Friday.

"It's really unfortunate 30 people lost good-paying jobs," she said, adding that another 60 were offered relocation.

"What is happening to Tweed is happening to many other cannabis operations.

The market is not as broad as they hoped, so we're bound to see a lot of adjustments."

Disero said the facility will be put up for sale and she hopes that "perhaps it will be used for a more food-related operation."

Canopy Growth did not respond to repeated requests for additional information.



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**Julie Dyck**  
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# Bike drive for seasonal workers **exceeds** expectations

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Migrant Workers outreach co-ordinator Donna Brown had tears in her eyes as more than 75 bikes were donated to the Bikes for Farmworkers organization.

"I figured we'd get 15 or 20 total. But we got 40 in the first hour," Bikes for Farmworkers volunteer Ken Eden said as he loaded some 15 bikes onto his trailer with the help of fellow volunteer David Cox.

The community turnout on Oct. 30 was overwhelming for Brown.

"I'm elated. It's just so awesome to see the support from the community," Brown said as she wiped tears from her cheeks.

Brown thanked the generosity of Niagara-on-the-Lake's residents but noted support wasn't only from within the municipality.

"There was a couple that drove down from Toronto with some bike parts for us," she said.

"That people care about what the migrant workers do and that they're always willing to support us, that's just so awesome to know."

Brown works with Gateway Community Church as its migrant workers outreach co-ordinator. The church has partnered with Bikes for Farmworkers since 2019.

"We wanted to work with a trustworthy organization to expand our ministry to migrant workers," said pastor Michelle Mercer.

Since the volunteers do all the heavy lifting with the bikes, Mercer said the church has lent its administrative powers to help with things like insurance.



Bikes for Farmworkers volunteer Ken Eden picks up 25 bikes from Cornerstone Community Church. EVAN SAUNDERS

Bikes for Farmworkers was started in 2016 by Terry Weiner and Mark Gaudet to ensure seasonal workers in Niagara have access to safe and secure transportation.

The team will take a bike in any state and either totally restore it or strip it for useful parts. Once a bike is repaired they sell it for a nominal fee of \$20, which also includes any service and repairs the bike may need in the future.

The team members are dedicated to what they do. Gaudet said they have received bikes worth more than \$1,000, which they've turned around and sold for \$20, as their mandate specifies.

The organization has been hard at work these last few years as well. Since 2016, some 1,932 bikes have been sold to seasonal workers.

That number would be even higher if it wasn't for the pandemic.

"It was a little bit light this year because of COVID," Cox said.

"People weren't giving

up their bikes like they normally would."

In 2019, Bikes for Farmworkers repaired 331 new bikes. That number barely passed 200 this year.

But thanks to drives like the one held on Saturday the organization is hoping to see the numbers grow again next year, Weiner said.

For Gaudet, volunteering his time to help Niagara's seasonal workers is an extension of realizing those workers are one of the backbones of NOTL's community.

"If it wasn't for the migrant workers, if it wasn't for the wine industry, the soft fruit industry and the Shaw we would just be another small town," Gaudet said in an interview at the charities headquarters in the old Virgil school on Four Mile Creek.

"Some of the (seasonal workers) are here in February working in the nurseries and they stay here until December. They're away from their families for a long time."

Brown shared this senti-

ment, noting that for many of Niagara's seasonal workers, NOTL is a more permanent home than their home countries where their families live.

"The food on our tables is not just from guys coming here for a couple of months. It's guys who are basically giving up everything so they can come here for eight months to work and provide for their families," Brown said.

"If they're gonna do that for our industry the least we can do is help them out with transportation," Gaudet said.

He noted Bikes for Farmworkers isn't just a way to help farmworkers but a project that unites and strengthens NOTL's entire community.

"There's the farmworkers, the farmers, the church groups, the volunteers and the citizens donating bikes. So, we're just kind of drawing links to try and help these guys," Gaudet said.

"You've got to realize that when you're a part of a community that you've

got to help everyone in that community."

Excess bikes are shared with similar programs in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines, Gaudet said. The Bikes for Farmworkers team members also volunteer their time to help any similar upstart group by sharing the model that has been successful for them and helping teach proper bike repair skills.

Seasonal workers need not fear that the bikes they buy might fall apart. Gaudet is an avid biker and cycling enthusiast and Weiner is a retired aerospace engineer.

Weiner ensures that all bikes pass a 50-point safety checklist and are double-checked by a separate volunteer after repairs.

"That's the environment I came from. Nothing happens without at least 10 sets of eyeballs on it," he said.

The volunteers have also repaired bikes for Syrian immigrants and Gaudet was working on repairing a children's bicycle for a friend who wanted to gift it as a Christmas present.

A common safety concern for seasonal workers in the area is visibility and the lack of sidewalks and shoulders on roads in the rural areas of town. Workers out walking or biking at night are at risk of getting hit by cars in the low-visibility environment.

Brown is the chair of the Caribbean Workers Outreach Program, an organization founded 30 years ago in reaction to a tragedy.

"A farmworker got hit on his bike and he died. So, this is very dear to my heart," she said.

Weiner and Gaudet have taken that into consideration when refurbishing bikes. They used to attach operational lights on the bikes but noticed the workers weren't always turning them on once it got dark or replacing the batteries.

So now each bike comes equipped with reflective safety tape that is nigh impossible to remove.

"We put it on the front, the back and the sides so that no matter what angle a car is coming from they can see the bike," Weiner said.

Beyond helping out an integral part of NOTL's community, the volunteers are helping themselves as well.

The entire group consists of retirees who love getting together for the company and the mental exercise of repairing the bikes.

Gaudet said having that community and friendship is great but is made better because everyone is doing something worthwhile with their time and "not sitting around Tim Hortons talking."

"We are getting things done."

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Owner

# Konzelmann was a wine pioneer

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report



Herbert Konzelmann.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's wine industry lost one of its pioneers on Friday.

Herbert Konzelmann, the founder of Konzelmann Estate Winery, died after a battle with cancer. He was 84.

The Lake Report talked to friends and fellow wine giants to get a sense of what such a loss means.

Paul Bosc, whose father Paul Bosc Sr. was another major pioneer of NOTL's wine industry through Chateau des Charmes, said he remembers meeting Konzelmann in about 1984 — when he first moved to Niagara to set up as a winemaker.

"It seems like yesterday. He was just so enthusiastic about where he was. It was like he had won the lottery," Bosc said.

"And the reason I think I remember it so well is my dad was that way too. Both my dad and Herbert were European immigrants and felt very, very fortunate to be here — although there was a tremendous amount ahead of all of us."

Konzelmann would go on to plant the first wine grapes right on the lakefront where his namesake winery still operates today.

Bosc said though his own father started a few years earlier in wine, Konzelmann "very enthusiastically sort of lined up with the rest with the rest of us, like a good teammate. There was definitely a collegiality that existed back then."

He also remembers how important family was to Konzelmann — a recurring theme in talking to people about him.

"I know we're eulogizing Herbert, but let's not forget the role that Mrs. Konzelmann played. I can remember very vividly, she was at every wine show right by his side for many, many, many years and then eventually, his kids, Claudia, and eventually third generation with Fabian. I ended up being friends with three generations of their family."

Andrea Kaiser, whose father Karl was another NOTL wine influencer and founder of Reif Estates, said she remembers Konzelmann as a gentle friend who was always smiling.

"It's always a big loss for the industry to lose another pioneer, quite truly," she said.

"I think about all of the people who put Canadian wines on the map. Definitely Herbert is one of those. It's really sad obviously for the industry but also sad for the people who have known him and worked with him."

She too remembers the early days of NOTL wineries, when the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake group, of which she is now chair, used to be referred to as the "Group of Seven."

"And Konzelmann was one of them, along with Chateau des Charmes,

Iniskillin, Reif, Marynissen, Pillitteri — all those families that believed there was something different that could happen with Canadian wine."

She said the wine industry wouldn't be the same without pioneers like Konzelmann.

"It's a sad day for the industry. I'm glad I got to know him. I'm glad that he was a part of our community. He was a wonderful man, a great man, his family is amazing. And I'm just really sorry for their loss."

Andrew Niven, marketing director for Konzelmann Estate Winery, worked closely with Herbert, who even in his last years would spend his days in the office or the vineyards.

Niven echoed others' thoughts about Herbert's lasting impact on Canadian wines, but also remembers him for his strong work ethic and his appreciation for the smaller things in life.

"He didn't slow down as he got older. He was always around. He loved being on the tractor in the vineyard and he loved being part of harvest, which ironically, he managed to get his last harvest out before passing," Niven said.

He said he doesn't think Konzelmann saw his job as work.

"He always would tell people he had a wine heart and instead of blood flowing through his veins, it was wine. He woke up in the morning, was excited to come to work. He'd have a hard time leaving work because he loved it so much."

In his spare time, Herbert was an avid hunter, Niven said.

"He wouldn't just go hunting ... he would fly into remote areas. He would then canoe or bike into very remote areas, and then it would just be him and an instructor. He just liked being alone and being in nature."

It was on one of his hunting trips when he first heard about Niagara and its potential as a growing community.

He ended up falling in love with the area and moving to NOTL with his wife Gudrun and started making wine.

"He packed up everything he bought. He packed up the grafted wine vine, he brought everything to here in Niagara and then he started making wine," Niven said.

"And this is 35 years ago and it slowly grew into what it is now."

His daughter Claudia thanked the community for its outpouring of support since her father's death.

"I have not only lost a father, but a best friend, confidant and role model. My father was a man of faith who cared deeply for his friends, community, co-workers and most of all family," she said.

He lived a great life and fully involved himself in the winery, "not because he had to, but because he truly loved to. I am so thankful for his life lessons and the unconventional love he spread to everyone he met," she said. "He was a devoted husband (to Gudrun for 57 years), caring father, grandfather and great grandfather — and someone who we will never forget."

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Answered first by: Mary Drost

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Email answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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## Remembrance Day Schedule

Members of the public are reminder to wear masks and not to attend if not fully vaccinated.

### Gathering at the Old Town Cenotaph

- 6 a.m. – Cadet vigil starts. Cadets will follow protocols as listed in their operations order.
  - 9:30 a.m. – Queen Street closed to traffic.
  - 10:15 a.m. – Flag will be lowered to half-mast.
  - 10:15 a.m. – Family and institutional wreaths will be placed on the cenotaph. Flag raised for formal ceremony.
  - 10:50 a.m. – Members will gather in front of the LCBO and file on to the road led by a colour party consisting of the Canadian flag and the Legion branch banner, and at the direction of the parade marshal. The gathering will wear masks and maintain a safe distance.
  - 10:55 a.m. – Play O Canada, followed by a prayer.
  - 11 a.m. – Play Last Post, lower flag to half-mast, Legion banner will step forward and dip flag. A silence, names of the fallen called.
  - 11:02 a.m. – Play Rouse, raise the flag and the Legion banner will return to its original place.
  - 11:04 a.m. – In Flanders Fields
  - 11:06 a.m. – Place official wreaths in order: Memorial Cross families, government of Canada, government of Ontario, Region of Niagara, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, General Nelles Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, ladies auxiliary. Wreaths will be presented to a member of the Legion by representatives. The Act of Remembrance and benediction.
  - 11:15 a.m. – Play God Save The Queen.
  - 11:17 a.m. – The gathering departs.
- The gathering will consist of members of the General Nelles Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and invited representatives from the air cadets, fire department, Guides, Scouts and invited dignitaries. All will wear masks, be spaced six feet apart and will require prior proof of vaccination.

### Remembrance Day schedule at the Queenston Cenotaph

- 1 p.m. – Members will gather on the lawn in front of the Cenotaph, official dignitaries will gather along Queenston street.
- 1:05 p.m. – Play O Canada, followed by a prayer
- 1:10 p.m. – Play Last Post, lower the flag to half-mast, the legion banner will step forward and dip the flag. A silence; the names of the fallen are called.
- 1:12 p.m. – Play Rouse, the flag is raised, the Legion banner will return to its previous position.
- 1:14 p.m. – Place official wreaths one at a time, followed by family and institutional wreaths.
- 1:30 p.m. – The Act of Remembrance, followed by a benediction.
- 1:32 p.m. – Play God Save The Queen.
- 1:34 p.m. – The gathering departs



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# THOSE WHO FOUGHT



### High Flight

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
 And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
 Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
 Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things  
 You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
 High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
 I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
 My eager craft through footless halls of air ...  
 Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
 I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
 Where never lark, or even eagle flew –  
 And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
 The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
 Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

- Officer John G. Magee Jr. - November 1941



This poem was written by John Gillespie Magee Jr., a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. Magee was born in Shanghai, China, and later moved to the United States. Since the U.S was neutral at the beginning of the war he joined the Canadian air force so he could fight the Nazis. He wrote "High Flight" after being assigned to make a high-altitude flight. After landing, he ran inside and wrote this poem on the back of a letter he had written to his mother. Magee died at 19 years of age during an accidental mid-air collision in England in 1941.

Information courtesy of Veterans Affairs Canada and the Bomber Command Museum of Canada.

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## Worse before it looks better: Environmental restoration can be **messy**



Keeping it  
**Green** 

Kyra Simone  
Special to The Lake Report

Ecosystem restoration does not simply mean “green is good,” experts from Parks Canada told at an online seminar.

Some restoration practices can seem quite destructive, but they ultimately bring natural spaces back into balance, the scientists said during the latest seminar in a series by Brock University and the Niagara Parks Commission.

Tammy Dobbie, park ecologist at Point Pelee National Park, described the immense biodiversity of the park and the need for ongoing restoration.

The park was the first to be established for the

purpose of conservation and there are environmental lessons for Niagara-on-the-Lake based on experiences at Point Pelee.

“Local naturalists saw that there was an incredible phenomenon happening in terms of bird migration... unique flora and fauna. It was actually established to protect that for all time,” said Dobbie.

She urged outdoor enthusiasts to use citizen-science apps like iNaturalist or eBird. “If you can report anything, even common species, it can be really helpful to scientists and park managers.”

Many Point Pelee visitors use these digital tools. “You can see over 6,500 species observed in the park – 300 native species of birds and 64 federally listed species-at-risk, which is the most in Canada,” she said.

Savannah habitat at Point Pelee, which has very little shade, includes eastern prickly pear cactus and Ontario’s only lizard: the five-lined skink.

Historically, natural disturbances kept savannah open and sunny, explained Andrew Laforet, project co-



Brock master’s student Angela Mallett.

ordinator for Point Pelee’s resource conservation department. Today, he said, “climate change has stopped things like ice scour and fires have been suppressed for a very long time.”

To restore savannah, “we want to hit the reset button where nature hasn’t,” said Laforet. Staff cut out invasive and large, shading plants, then dab stumps with herbicide to prevent regrowth.

There is also a globally rare savannah in Niagara-on-the-Lake: Paradise Grove, which is home to 200-year-old black oak trees. Like Point Pelee’s savannah, the forest was

historically thinned by fire, but invasive species now grow rapidly and shade the rare, sun-loving plants.

Parks Canada removed about 90 non-native trees from Paradise Grove to help the eastern flowering dogwood, an endangered species that suffers from fungal infection when conditions become too shady.

As well as savannah, marsh habitat makes up two-thirds of the area of Point Pelee and supports a third of the park’s at-risk species. Unfortunately, “we’ve lost about 10 per cent of the open water habitat to invasive cattail mat and phragmites over the

past 50 years,” said Laforet.

To restore the marsh, park staff cut phragmites below the waterline, which causes the plants to drown. “It’s really satisfying to see the results of the habitat change,” said Laforet.

After cutting 16,000 square metres of the invasive weed in 2020, his team burned 82 large piles of stalks. “This is one of the most rewarding parts of my job,” he said.

The team deals with thick cattails by using a large machine, “lovingly referred to as the Swamp Devil,” to carve out channels and restore open-water habitat.

“We don’t just go in there, guns a-blazing, we have a very important protocol ahead of that,” said Laforet. The team surveys in front of the machine and adjusts the route to ensure no nests, at-risk plants, turtles or snakes are disrupted.

Brock master’s student Angela Mallett also presented her research, which compared visitor perceptions at Niagara Glen to data from an ecological assessment. She found that visitors and tour groups perceived the state of the

environment quite positively, while stewards had a more realistic view of ecosystem health.

“Overestimation from visitors could be from the preconception that green is good and that protected areas are natural,” said Mallett.

For non-experts, it’s not easy to tell what “healthy” habitat looks like. At the same time, restoration activities themselves, like burning or chopping, can seem counter-intuitive.

“When you see restoration in action, it does look a little destructive, but it’s done with the purest intentions,” said Laforet. “If you want to make an omelette, you gotta break a couple eggs.”

The final seminar in the series is Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. Participants can register for free on the Brock University or Niagara Parks websites.

*Kyra Simone is a green-at-heart NOTL resident with master’s degrees in biology and science communication. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up litter, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.*

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## Museum lecture explores old **NOTL** railroad

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's fall virtual lecture series continues with a topic that is close to Niagara's heart – the history of railways.

On Nov. 17, at 11 a.m., NOTL author Peter Mulcaster presents "A Railway History of Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1854-1959," in which he explores the socio-economic and tourist benefits of what was once a thriving railway town and how the investment, changes and decline of the railroads defined Niagara.

For more than a century the railway was a dominant feature of Niagara's landscape: from the engineering brilliance that overcame the physical challenges of a railway line climbing the escarpment and the development of the industrial



A train carries the future George V and Queen Mary in 1901. SUPPLIED

dock area, to the romance of electric tram cars rolling down King Street.

The railroads meant Niagara-on-the-Lake was connected to the entire Niagara Peninsula and the "Golden Triangle," as well as the northern United States through Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Buffalo.

This also resulted in great wealth being amassed by savvy entrepreneurs, as pas-

sengers and freight moved with ease due to the growing industrialization.

The series continues Dec. 1 with "Opening the Curator's Treasure Chest: Exploring the War of 1812 Collection, Part 2," back by popular demand with museum curator Sarah Kaufman.

The final lecture of the year is on Dec. 15, "The Lesser Known: Uncovering Some of the Black People

of Old Niagara and Surrounding Area," presented by local historian Rochelle Bush, in which she shines a light on extraordinary stories of African-American freedom seekers who settled in Niagara.

All presentations start at 11 a.m. and require registration through Zoom.

To access the Zoom registration link, go to [notlmuseum.ca](http://notlmuseum.ca).

## 'Secret' video highlights Shaw Guild's fall garden tour

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

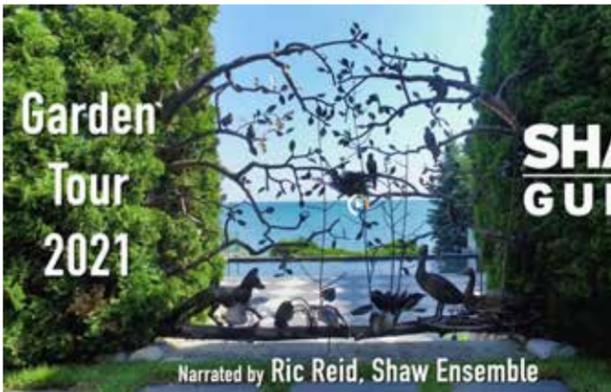
The Shaw Guild has been cooking up a special surprise for avid gardeners.

This year, with the regular June garden tour cancelled, the guild instead hosted its first fall garden tour, offering a different view of Niagara-on-the-Lake gardens.

Now, the guild is releasing a special video that highlights the tour's eight gardens in both spring and fall, so people can get a better sense of how the gardens change through the seasons.

The 20-minute video is narrated by Shaw Festival actor Ric Reid and highlights the gardens over a three-month span.

Dave Hunter, a volunteer with the Shaw Guild who helped co-ordinate the video and tour with Peggy Bell, said they have been working on the video in secret since they realized that



The video is available at [shawguild.ca](http://shawguild.ca).

not everybody could get out to see the tour this year due to the pandemic. So they got creative with the help of NOTL videographer Rene Bertschi and produced a video of all the gardens.

"(Bertschi) said, 'Look, we've got videos of the gardens in June and, of course, we have the videos for the gardens in September ...

Let's set up a video where they're side by side, that people can see that change sitting in the comfort of

their own home."

The video is now available to view for \$11 on the Shaw Guild website. Hunter notes that's basically the cost of a nice glass of wine.

"Rene has done some really gorgeous work," Hunter said, adding that there's one particular garden on the Niagara Parkway of which he was fond.

"(The garden) just opens up like this and there's this great big expanse and an old small stone shed. I's just

like going back in time."

Unlike the typical tour which focuses heavily on the Latin names for plants, Hunter said the video is more about the visual contrast between seasons. It is stitched together to make it seem like the viewer is travelling between the gardens.

"There's one cute scene, it's somebody who's got a vegetable garden — and I'm talking about a real vegetable garden — and the difference between June and September is really amazing. And Rene did some interesting things. He just didn't fill the 20 minutes with the gardens. He's interspersed some glimpses of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Hunter said he's not sure if the video tour will be something the guild starts to do every year. It depends largely on where the world is at with regards to COVID-19, he said.

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 **FEATURED**

# Dr. Brown: Physics, physicists, beauty and a **Theory of Everything**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Of the three Nobel prizes in science awarded each year, my hands-down favorite is physics.

Physics covers the really big stuff, such as the origins of the universe, the life cycles of galaxies, stars and planets, the origins and nature of black holes, the genesis of the elements, and in the atomic and subatomic universe, the nature, and relationships among a dizzying array of particles and elementary forces.

In the years 2017 to 2020, Nobel prizes in physics were awarded for the detection of gravitational waves generated by the collision of pairs of black holes (and later pairs of neutron stars), finding potentially life-friendly planets (exoplanets) within the Milky Way, strong evidence for a gigantic black hole at the centre of our galaxy (and probably the centre of other galaxies), proof for the existence of the Higgs particle, capturing neutrinos in deep spaces and using laser beams as “light tweezers” to manipulate the tiniest of objects.



Stephen Hawking surprisingly never won a Nobel prize.  
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

All of which leaves plenty of questions to be resolved and physics prizes to be won. For just what happened in those first few seconds following the Big Bang, or what about solving the nature of dark matter and dark energy, given that together they constitute 95 per cent of the universe, and answering the question of whether the standard models for the quantum world and the universe, will hold up.

Physics is unique compared to chemistry and the biological and medical sciences because there is a division between theoretical and experimental physi-

cists. Among theoretical physicists, most famously were, Planck, Einstein, Bohr, Heisenberg, Schrodinger, Born, Dirac, Feynman, and more recently Weinberg, Hawking and Penrose, all of whom won a Nobel prize, except for Hawking.

Theoretical physicists are primarily concerned with developing hypotheses using data that already exists. Einstein was justly famous for his “thought experiments” and talent for seeing relationships others missed. This was most evident in his theories for special and, later, general relativity or perhaps most impressive in

my books was his theoretical study of Brownian motion for proving the existence of atoms and the way he dealt with chaos.

On the other hand, experimentalists such as Rutherford and the husband-and-wife team of the Curies, and later teams of particle physicists, were more concerned with developing experimental evidence for fundamental particles and forces using in recent decades, high-powered particle colliders in the U.S. and Europe.

More recently other experimentalists searched for evidence for gravitational waves and exoplanets. Of course, the lines between the two groups of physicists were not so precisely drawn: some physicists were hybrids and capable of playing in both camps.

There’s another aspect to physicists, especially the experimentalists. Some, like Stephen Hawking, Brian Greene and Steven Weinberg, wrote books for the general public, which helped demystify an area of science that is often off limits to the public because of the underlying complexity of the mathematics and strange-

ness of some of the concepts. Many were regular contributors to Scientific American and leading national newspapers.

Which brings me to another aspect of theoretical physics, the relationship between beauty and theories. For example, Weinberg made the point that Einstein’s theory of general relativity won acceptance with many physicists long before most of the evidence was in, because the theory was so beautiful in the way it described the relationship between space-time and mass: mass shapes space-time and space-time dictates where mass moves.

It was all so symmetrical and so is the underlying equation, which states those relationships.

This obsession with the notion that simplicity and symmetry are at the heart of the universe has been and continues to be a commonly held view by many theoretical physicists who aren’t comfortable with messy math and relationships.

It’s not hard to see why some theoretical physicists such as Einstein, Schrödinger, and most recently

Penrose, seemed to enjoy speculating about the nature of consciousness and even God.

This year’s Nobel prize in physics is a departure from quantum mechanics and the universe. The prize was awarded to Syukuro Manabe of the United States and Klaus Hasselmann from Germany for their achievements in laying solid scientific foundations for the study and analysis of climate change.

And given the extraordinary complexity of climate and the weather as we experience it, the award was shared with Giorgio Parisi from Italy for his singular achievement in bringing sense to chaos.

The Nobel series offered through the library began on Nov. 8, with five weeks to go. If you’ve interested, sign up with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library for this Zoom program, held Mondays at 11 a.m.

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



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# 38 teams flock to NOTL for weekend tournament

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Minor hockey teams from all over southern Ontario converged on Niagara-on-the-Lake last weekend for the annual Harvest Classic.

With 38 teams in total competing – including four from NOTL – the arena complex in Virgil was hopping from Friday morning through Sunday evening’s final games.

NOTL Minor Hockey tournament convener Gino Patterson said everything ran smooth as silk throughout the weekend – though the proceedings were interrupted for about 15 minutes Sunday afternoon when the fire alarm went off.

Coaches and parents from out of town agreed with Patterson’s assessment and said they were pleased with their weekend at the rinks in NOTL.

In a sign of how even small-town competitions have progressed, Patterson said this was the second year the tournament has gone “all digital,” with schedules, scores, standings and player stats all avail-



Above: Ingersoll goes up 3-0 over NOTL in the third period of the semifinal of the Harvest Classic tourney. Right: NOTL Minor Hockey tournament convener Gino Patterson keeps tabs on the Harvest Classic. KEVIN MACLEAN PHOTOS

able online via the hockey association’s website.

It’s not completely paperless, yet. But it’s really close.

As for Patterson, he spent the vast majority of the weekend – about 45 hours in all – ensconced in an office in the Centennial Arena, keeping an eye on several digital tablets and dealing with any hiccups that arose.

It’s his 11th year as tournament convener, and he

works closely with a large team of parent and youth volunteers. Patterson’s son’s minor hockey days are over but dad has stayed on overseeing tourneys and as the association’s webmaster.

“It’s important to give back,” he said in an interview. And with the youth volunteers, it helps show them how they can give back to the community when they’re older.

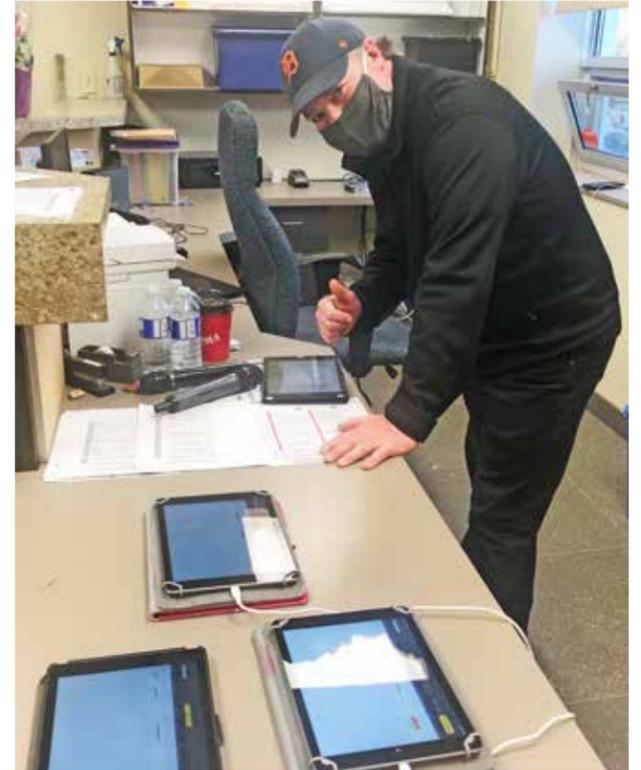
As for seeing the round-robin games, “not too

many,” the convener said. Though he does try to take in most of the semis and finals.

“I tell people I see bits and pieces whenever I can,” he said. Such is the life of the team of community volunteers who organize minor sports events.

Meanwhile, on the ice, the competition was tough and all the NOTL Wolves teams acquitted themselves well.

The Wolves’ U18 (formerly midget) BB team



played its way to a berth in the semifinal on Sunday afternoon.

The home squad faced a strong opponent in the eventual tournament champions, the Ingersoll Express.

In the semifinal, an impressive Ingersoll team came at NOTL in waves, pressuring the host squad relentlessly.

But some steady team defence and key saves by goaltender Tyler Lawrence-Howard kept the Wolves in it till late in the third period.

NOTL came out on the short end of a 4-0 score.

In the U18 final on Sunday night, Ingersoll triumphed 5-1 over the Lambeth Lancers.

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## 'Infantry' by Alex Colville

Penny-Lynn Cookson  
Special to The Lake Report

On Remembrance Day we shall fix our poppies on our lapels, perhaps attend a wreath-laying at a cenotaph and maybe give thought to fading narratives of family and loved ones who served in wars past.

Those thoughts, those narratives, are often about heroism, patriotism, duty, selflessness. They seldom dwell on the day-to-day slog, the boredom, discomfort, fear and terror that were part of those victories and defeats of armies on the march.

The official Canadian war artist, Alex Colville, gives us both, revealing what it was like to liberate the Netherlands from four years of German occupation during the Second World War.

It's autumn of 1944. In "Infantry," we see the Winnipeg Royal Rifles of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, a part of the First Canadian Army made up of

a large international force of Canadians, British, Polish and Americans.

They have been given a priority directive by the overall commander of the First Canadian Army and the Second British Army, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery, to capture the vital port city of Antwerp, to clear all access to it, which was the Scheldt estuary, and to the east, near Nijmegen, to overcome the Siegfried Line to prevent the Germans from blowing the bridges across the Rhine, and to advance into Germany itself to defeat the Nazis.

The capture of Antwerp, with its 45 kilometres of docks and its surrounding Scheldt estuary, was essential to landing military supplies for the advance east but they were heavily defended by the Germans. This was to be no easy task.

The men of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division had landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. They had



Alex Colville, Infantry, Near Nijmegen, Holland, 1946, Oil on canvas, Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa. SUPPLIED

fought fierce battles through Normandy, at Caen and Falaise, and cleared the coast northeast through Belgium to the Netherlands.

The battles through the Netherlands were some of the most difficult of the war because of the unique geography of the flooded lowlands, canals and dykes. In "Infantry," the soldiers resolutely but wearily plod single file along a water-saturated landscape.

Their eyes are downcast, faces etched with fatigue, damp bodies tense. It's one foot in front of the other, each man lost in his own thoughts, but with the

battle-hardened awareness of the unexpected, of being exposed, at risk, with its accompanying fear.

Colville uses a strong diagonal to bring the soldiers into the foreground. The furrows running parallel to the column reinforce an ordered composition. Colville believed "Infantry" conveyed his perception of war as both heroism and enduring persistence among nature's elements and constant danger.

He said: "The war had a profound effect on me. But it was all about the action of war. All my instincts as a kid were toward action.

And war is action to the nth degree. It's amazing in a sense how tough people are. I wasn't sickened or horrified or anything."

Heavily fought battles were won and the last and most formidable German line of defence, the Rhine, was captured. Second Lt. Alex Colville moved on with the troops into Germany and was exposed to the aftermath of war: the destroyed towns and villages, the scorched earth, dead bodies of soldiers, civilians and animals.

And then, he was assigned to Belsen-Birkenau, the concentration camp with its

estimated 35,000 inmates, to record and draw the skeletal dead and dying. Later, he would say that being a war artist, "You are not a camera. There is a certain subjectivity, an interpretive function."

Colville returned to teach art at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B. Fame and international success allowed him to concentrate fully on art and his family in Wolfville, N.S. He died at 93 in 2013.

More than one million men and women served in Canada's armed forces during the Second World War.

Over 42,000 died, including more than 7,600 who were killed in the eight months it took to liberate the Netherlands. There are 2,300 Canadians buried in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, close to the Dutch city of Nijmegen. Let us remember their valour and humanity.

*Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for 10 years. She was also head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Watch for her upcoming lectures at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre and at RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston.*

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# EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH NOTL MUSEUM



## Armistice celebration

Hostilities of the First World War ended on Nov. 11, 1918, at the 11th hour. A war that was thought to only take months to conclude lasted more than four years. When the word spread here many took to the streets in parades of celebration and, no doubt, relief. Soldiers still training at Niagara Camp, mostly from Poland, joined in the festivities. You can notice a makeshift jail in the centre of the parade with many dressed up in various costumes, including one as the Kaiser. Signs say things such as “Burn the Kaiser” and “Can’t get to Paris, Bound for Hell.” This photograph of the armistice celebrations was taken from the north side of Queen Street, near King. Although it didn’t exist then, the clock tower would be built just to the right of this photo. The buildings in the background from the right are the current LCBO, the Owl and the Pussycat, other small shops and the old fire hall building as well. As you walk by the clock tower this week, you can imagine the jubilation felt by many who couldn’t wait to have their family members home safe. Remember those who fought for us back then and those who have since defended our borders and our values. If you get the opportunity, visit the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum on Castlereagh Street and see our tribute to veterans through a poppy display. Donations to the Legion can be made inside.

# ARCHITEXT

## Demolition by neglect

Brian Marshall  
Columnist



Secord-Paxton House crumbling away. BRIAN MARSHALL

In last week’s column I wrote about the Secord-Paxton house in St. Davids. This historic house, now owned by a developer, is being allowed to slowly deteriorate to a point where it will be impossible to restore.

I further suggested that this was a perfect example of “demolition by neglect,” which should be addressed by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This comment elicited several emails from readers, both expressing their concern and also asking if I might expand on the issue of demolition by neglect.

Perhaps the most concise definition I’ve found comes from the U.S. National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C.: “Demolition by neglect is the term used to describe a situation

in which a property owner intentionally allows a historic property to suffer severe deterioration, potentially beyond the point of repair. Property owners may use this kind of long-term neglect to circumvent historic preservation regulations.”

This practice is all too common across North America and has resulted in the loss of many, many historic buildings when the property owner cannot see the value in preservation or, more often, when the owner wishes to tear down a historic building and redevelop the property but is blocked from doing so by governmental heritage oversight.

In 2005, Ontario amended the Ontario Heritage Act to prevent the demolition of heritage buildings (encompassing demolition by neglect) in

Section 34.1 of the act. The government went further in Section 35.3 to provide authority to municipalities to pass bylaws that prevent demolition by neglect.

Finally, in Section 69.3, legislators put teeth into the authority by outlining a maximum fine of \$1 million should an individual or directors of a corporation be found guilty of actions that lead to demolition by neglect.

These amendments provided the framework upon which individual municipalities could develop enforceable bylaws that would bring this deplorable practice to an end.

Last year, I was informed by the town’s heritage adviser that Niagara-on-the-Lake had enacted such a bylaw in 2020. Unfortunately, I have been unable to locate and read that

bylaw (the town’s website is not very intuitive) to understand its scope and detail.

That said, assuming that all necessary parameters are in place, the legislation speaks only to heritage buildings (which I interpret as those with a designation). This leaves many historic structures with inadequate protection under the Building Codes Act and the town’s general property standards bylaw.

Yes, the municipality can, when one of these buildings is considered to meet the standards and is under probable and/or imminent threat, force designate (move to designate without the support and/or agreement of the property owner) a property.

But this seems to be both unnecessarily cumbersome and fraught with legal challenges. It seems to me that England (Google “Historic England”) has a much better system.

Just off hand, I can think of half a dozen non-designated historic homes that are now well on the way to destruction; all of which could be considered demolition by neglect.

# Looking to the Stars



## Saturday could bring some surprises

Expect a quarter moon in Aquarius and more from Uranus as a week of sweet surprises gets underway.

**Thursday, Nov. 11:** At 7:45 this morning, the moon is exactly 90 degrees from the sun. It’s the moment of the first quarter moon. It’s a stressful time where feelings are driven by ideas and not in an overly cooperative way. This may last for days to come. It was the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 that the combatants in the First World War signed the armistice, ending the war. To this day we celebrate this moment as Remembrance Day.

**Friday, Nov. 12:** Neptune in Pisces is in perfect harmony with the sun in Scorpio. Good news comes to wherever these objects are in your chart. For me, it’s good news for my reputation, as my Neptune is in my 10th house. On Nov. 12, 1606, Jeanne Mance was born in France. She trained as a nurse and after moving to Canada, opened North America’s first hospital, the Hotel Dieu in Montreal.

**Saturday, Nov. 13:** Surprises today include news of revealed secrets which give long-term plans a boost. Happy birthday number 66 to Whoopi Goldberg. Grammy winner, actress and panelist on “The View,” she is controversial and common sensical.

**Sunday, Nov. 14:** In spite of the stress, Jupiter is in an Amazonian mood of timely delivery today. Security

is improved. It was Nov. 14, 1896, that Nikola Tesla threw the switch to turn on the hydroelectric power at Niagara Falls. This was the result of a lifetime of dreaming for Tesla. Recently, the power station has been reconfigured to a tourism site. It has enjoyed rave reviews.

**Monday, Nov. 15:** Another super delivery day, again from Jupiter. But this time, with gifts without stress. In 1929, William Lyon MacKenzie King was sworn in as Canada’s 10th prime minister. He would be sworn in two more times, retiring in 1948 after serving 19 years.

**Tuesday, Nov. 16:** The sun in Scorpio gets a friendly bump from Pluto in Capricorn so Tuesday has a sexy edge to it. Extraordinary talent sometimes ends in great tragedy. Such is the case with Phil Hartman. Born in Brantford, he went on the “Saturday Night Live” where he played Bill Clinton. His tragic murder happened when he was only 49.

**Wednesday, Nov. 17:** Today it’s Mars opposite Uranus. Be mindful of situations causing bodily harm. And overly sensitive feelings ask for accommodation and support. Happy birthday to the computer mouse, patented Nov. 17, 1970.

**Please check out the new website [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca) as in Looking Up to the Stars. And you can get my free horoscope with interpretation emailed to you.**

*Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.*



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## Grace United Christmas market runs **two weekends**

Staff  
The Lake Report

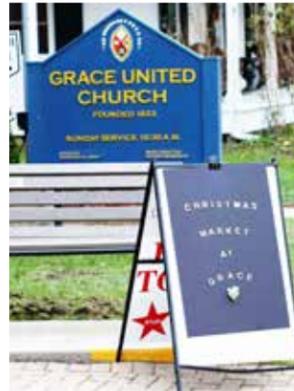
Grace United Church's annual affair, the "Christmas Market at Grace," will look a bit different this year.

It has been divided between two weekends to maximize safety in the church hall and comply with COVID-19 protocols

Different items will be sold each weekend, starting with the "Christmas Extravaganza" this Saturday, Nov. 13.

Organizers say their beautiful gift baskets will be available as well as some homemade items.

A week later, "Christmas Market at Grace" will be highlighted Saturday,



Nov. 20.

It will include Christmas baking, turtiers, unique Christmas gift items, toys, antique china, vintage items and more.

Jams and preserves will be sold on both weekends. The sales run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days.

## Obituary

# Peter Unger

Peter Unger aged 89 passed away peacefully on Nov. 8, 2021 at St. Catharines General Hospital. Funeral Service will be held at Cornerstone Community Church Orchard campus on Friday, Nov. 12, 2021 at 11 a.m. with a private burial preceding the service. Visitation will be held at Tallman's Funeral Home in Vineland on Thursday Nov. 11, 2021 from 6 to 8 p.m. Registration is required through Tallman's website. Peter was born in Aberdeen, Sask. At age six, his family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Peter remained a lifelong resident of Niagara. He worked as a Stationary Engineer for 50 years. Peter was an avid hockey player, camper, tennis player, gardener and volunteer. He is survived by his wife Ruth, three children and their spouses, nine grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Gideon International Bible Society.

Online condolences at [www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca](http://www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca)



## Help the birds have a 'berry' delicious winter



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Garden Columnist

As winter approaches and we get more nestled inside of our homes, it still is nice to sit by the fireplace and watch what is happening out in the garden.

Don't get me wrong, I am not trying to usher in the cold weather any sooner than necessary but sitting in a warm house watching large snowflakes fall and catching the glimpse of a bright red cardinal stop by your garden does the heart good.

Many shrubs and trees

provide colourful berries in fall and winter that not only add beauty to your winter landscape but also attract birds to your garden while providing them with necessary food. The shrubs listed below are native varieties and therefore are natural food sources for the birds. It is a win-win-win scenario.

**Winterberry** (*Ilex verticillata*) is a native form of deciduous holly. It is commonly found in northern Ontario. Like the evergreen hollies, there are both male and female plants. The female plants will produce masses of orange-red berries that ripen mid-fall and remain on the plants into winter or until the birds discover them. When planting winterberry, make sure that you also plant a male variety within 40 feet of the female plant so that they can cross-pollinate. Some female cultivars that you will see for sale are Berry Poppins and Berry Heavy. There is also a new yellow



berry variety named Berry Heavy Gold. The most common male cultivar is Jim Dandy. Hardy to zone 3.

**Highbush Cranberry Viburnum** (*Viburnum trilobum*) is a larger growing native shrub growing about 10 feet by 10 feet with large, white, lacy flowers in spring. It does well in full sun to part-shade locations. In late summer to early fall, clusters of bright red berries start to ripen. Berries remain on the plants into winter and after a freeze/

thaw process they become palatable for the birds. Hardy to zone 2.

**Chokeberry** (*Aronia*) is a little-known, native shrub with four seasons of interest. In the spring, the shrub is covered with masses of small white flowers and glossy green leaves. Large berries form during the summer and as the berries begin to ripen in late summer, the leaves turn a wine red colour. Once the leaves drop, large clusters of black or red berries remain on the plant into winter. These berries are a favourite of cedar wax wings, blue jays, catbirds and mockingbirds. Hardy to zone 3.

**Red Osier Dogwood** (*Cornus sericea*) is also known as Red Twig Dogwood and is another native to Ontario. As the name implies it is more known for its bright red branches, especially during the colder, winter months. What most people don't know is that it also produces clusters of small white berries from

late fall and into the winter months. So, you are getting double the winter interest with this one. Hardy to zone 1.

**Vine** (*Celastrus scandens*) is a native, twining vine mainly found in wooded areas, but is also commonly sold. Make sure if you are buying any that you get both a female and a male plant. Berries are only produced on the female plants, but it must be planted near a male plant for cross-pollination. In late fall, the shells of the yellow berries crack open, revealing the bright orange seed inside. This vine can reach a height of about 30 feet. Please note that its berries are toxic to humans but loved by the birds.

**Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*) is sort of a confusing name for a plant that is actually a member of the juniper family. This large-growing pyramidal evergreen is native to Ontario, especially along the shores of Lake Huron and Lake Erie. It has rich, emerald-

green foliage year-round. In the summer, female plants produce small grey berries, ripening to a rich bluish/purple in the fall. These berries are also known as gin berries as they were once used to make gin. The birds tend to leave the berries on the plants until mid-winter and sometimes will become slightly intoxicated eating them. A common variety of the native plant is the Spartan juniper.

Other notable, non-native trees and shrubs with winter berries are Mountain Ash (*Sorbus*), Crabapples (*Malus*), Beauty Berry Bush (*Callicarpa*), Roses (hips) and Blue Hollies (*Ilex x meservae*).

So, if you enjoy bird watching, especially during the dreary, winter months, you will make them "berry" happy with a couple of these shrubs or trees in your garden.

*Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at [joanneyoung.ca](http://joanneyoung.ca).*

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