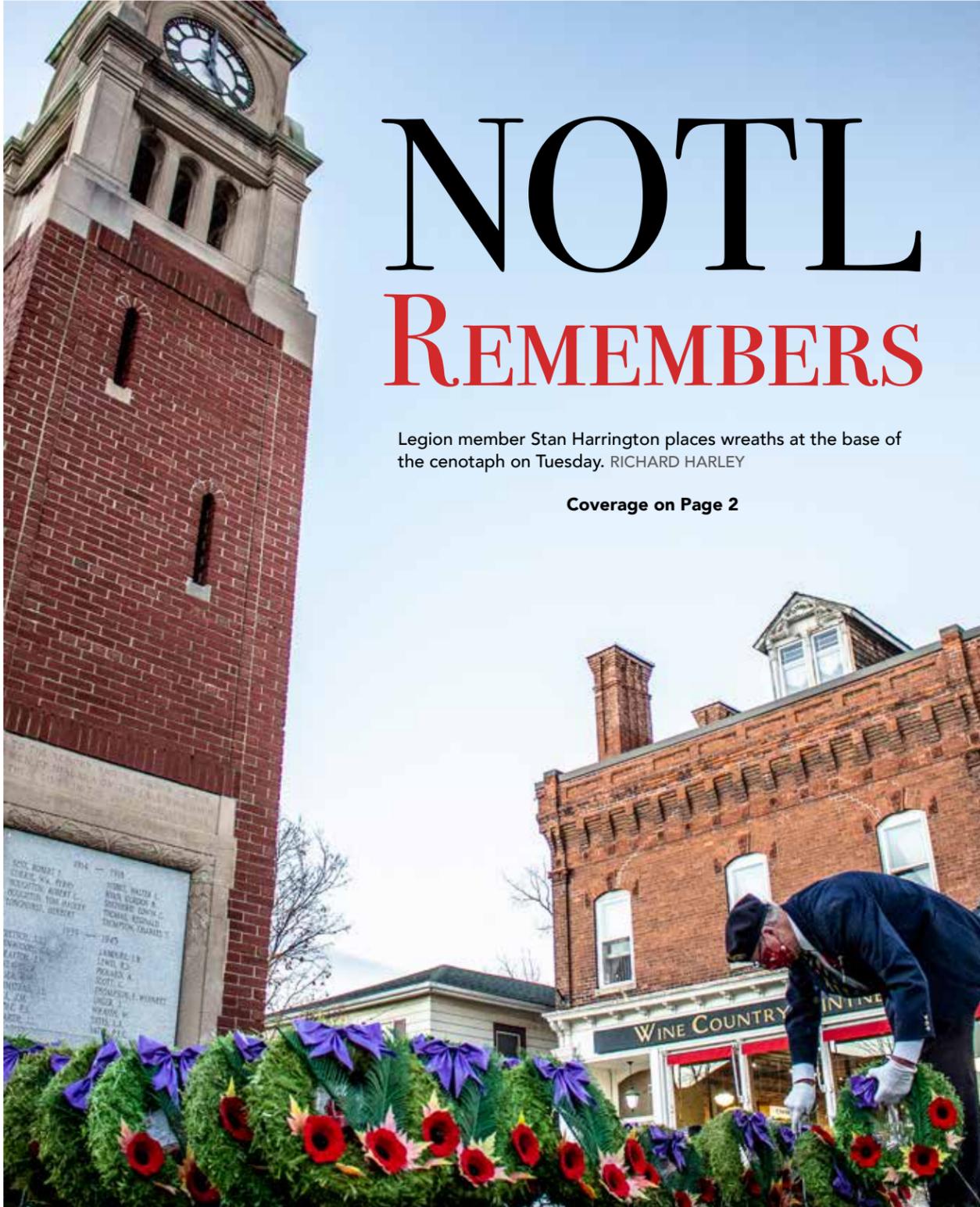




Hole-in-one, twice in a week | Page 8



NOTL REMEMBERS

Legion member Stan Harrington places wreaths at the base of the cenotaph on Tuesday. RICHARD HARLEY

Coverage on Page 2



Shaw Guild volunteers Barbara Webber and Christine Lancaster walk the streets to greet visitors. RICHARD HARLEY

NOTL ambassador program suspended

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's ambassadors program has been suspended indefinitely due to the large numbers of COVID-19 cases in Peel Region and Toronto – two areas where a lot of visitors to NOTL live.

The Shaw Guild, which oversees the fledgling program for the town, decided Wednesday to “put the ambassador program on pause temporarily,” said Margot Devlin, a Shaw Guild volunteer and co-ordinator of the program.

“The majority of our visitors are from Toronto/ GTA and their medical officer has asked them to stay home to flatten the curve,” she told The Lake Report.

“With COVID numbers increasing, we want to ensure that our ambassadors are safe.”

The ambassadors program, which began as a pilot project in August, aims to welcome visitors – and to promote COVID-19 safety protocols.

The second phase of the project had just resumed a couple of weeks ago and was going well.

“People seem to be really receptive,” Devlin said.

The ambassadors had been downtown on Queen Street Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. and had planned to continue until Dec. 20. Now that idea is up in the air, for the foreseeable future it seems.

While the program was running, Devlin said about 70 per cent of the time ambassadors were greeting visitors and letting them know about the town and answering general questions.

The other 30 per cent was

Continued on Page 15

Minor hiccups, but people getting used to new garbage schedule

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

It's the fourth week since a new garbage pickup schedule and contractor started across the Niagara region and, though there have been minor hiccups, people are getting used to the changes, a regional official says.

Garbage is now collected every other week by the new service provider Miller Waste.

“In the first couple weeks, obviously, everyone's trying to get used to the new services, including the contractor,” Catherine Habermehl, director of waste management services for Niagara Region, said in an interview Tuesday morning.

“They've had a number of new drivers, new routes, new equipment. It's a learning curve for everyone and it usually takes two to four weeks to iron out all the kinks,” she said.

In the first few weeks there were lots of calls and inquiries, and some people still putting out their garbage on non-pickup days, she said.

“I drove around, even in my neighbourhood, I saw a handful of houses that had garbage out on the off-week.”

Contractors have been putting non-compliance stickers on any bags that are put out on the wrong week to advise the resident or

business why the garbage wasn't picked up.

“We've had (stickers) made specifically for garbage placed out on the wrong week. So, it's a very clear message to the property owner that that bag isn't to be placed out that week, but to be placed out the following week.”

In week one, contractors estimated they issued about 50 or more non-compliance

Continued on Page 9



Miller Waste employees collect recycling during the first week of schedule changes. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY



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A father is remembered on November 11

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

George Wilson, born and raised in Virgil, volunteered to go overseas to war when he was 19 and spent five years in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

On Wednesday, Remembrance Day, his son Rob Wilson and daughter Debbie Zabek visited NOTL's clock tower cenotaph to lay a wreath in honour of their father, who would have turned 100 this year.

Rob Wilson, a lifelong Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, said this was the first year a wreath was laid at the cenotaph in memory of their dad.

"We're very proud of what he did," said Wilson.

"He was one of the radio guys. When the first group of soldiers usually went in and they'd take over a village, he'd set up a communications tower and run the communications," he said.

Despite official Remembrance Day services at the cenotaph being cancelled due to COVID-19, a crowd



Rob Wilson and sister Debbie Zabek place poppies at the cenotaph on Queen Street Wednesday. RICHARD HARLEY

of about 120 people spontaneously gathered to pay respects to those that fought for our freedom.

Wilson said his father would tell stories about the war years, but usually comical ones about being on leave.

"He'd say, 'Just pray you don't have to go through it.' He must have seen some terrible things, but he never talked about it."

George Wilson fought in Sicily and "worked his way up through Italy and France and he was there when they

liberated Holland. And to the day he died he spoke very highly of the Dutch people.

Wilson said his dad grew up on a farm in Virgil, "so his mother was always sending care packages over, and she'd send over big

parcels of canned peaches and apples and things. They would get to him eventually and he'd give them all to the Dutch people or wherever he was."

"I'm just very proud of my father and everyone who went over, especially

the volunteers that didn't have to go at the time. They went over and Niagara-on-the-Lake lost a lot of local boys."

During the war, his grandparents lived where the Stage Coach restaurant now is and they operated a photography studio down below, he said.

"They took all the pictures of all the soldiers before they went overseas, in their uniform all shined up," he said.

When a soldier died, the family would contact the studio and they would put a photo in the window in their memory.

"That's how a lot of times people found out," Wilson said.

His father made it back from the war and ran a successful car dealership business in NOTL for many years.

"On Remembrance Day, he would be down here. I'm here for him and not just him, all the local guys, all the guys all over the world who gave their lives so we could be standing here."

Small Remembrance Day ceremony held at NOTL Legion



Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Legion members Stan Harrington and Doug Garrett. JESSICA MAXWELL



Legion president Paul Eramian, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Legion members Stan Harrington and Doug Garrett pay respects during a small Remembrance Day ceremony at the Legion. JESSICA MAXWELL

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Due to the global pandemic, Remembrance Day services were held at a small ceremony at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion instead of at the clock tower cenotaph this year.

Wednesday's gathering honoured Canadian soldiers who fought and died for our country's freedom.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero spoke during the ceremony, which was livestreamed on the NOTL Legion's Facebook page.

"On this day, we unite with thousands of people

around the country to honour the memory of the brave women and men who sacrificed their lives for our freedom," she said.

"This year has been an extraordinary year, as evident in the way we gather today, not all together in person but rather joined hearts from a distance."

"But while we have been battling an invisible enemy, we must never forget the horrific battles our soldiers fought overseas in order to keep us safe," Disero said.

"Thank you to the families of those who have served and continue to serve Canada today."

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Medical officer warns Niagara Region could face **more COVID** restrictions

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara Region is getting “very close” to the “re-strict” range and if people don’t start to take COVID guidelines more seriously, the area will likely face further restrictions, the region’s top public health official warns.

“The people who aren’t cutting down in a social context and letting infection spread, they’re actually going to be responsible for the additional economic harm,” Dr. Mustafa Hirji told a news conference Friday.

Since that announcement Toronto and Peel are facing lockdowns.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has had 59 COVID cases since the start of the pandemic. As of Wednesday, NOTL had seven active cases, a few of which are related to a small cluster of infections among workers at the Outlet Collection mall.

The province has instituted a new COVID framework, with a revised system of restrictions for different regions. The system has five levels: green for prevent, yellow for protect, orange for restrict, red for control and lockdown as a measure of last and urgent resort.

Now, even in the protect phase (yellow), there are additional restrictions being put in place for various businesses, such as dining being limited to six people per table, personal contact information must be collected for each patron, not just a party contact, for bars, restaurants and personal services like hair cutting, and appointments must be made for sports and recreational facilities.

The bottom line is that people need to reduce social contact, Hirji said, adding cases are now spiking



Visitors are still pouring into Niagara-on-the-Lake on weekends. FILE PHOTO

higher than they did when the pandemic lockdowns began in March.

He said the rise in cases recently can be attributed to mainly younger people, between the ages of 20 and 40. He said contact tracing done on a group of young people found they contributed to more than 117 infections across multiple municipalities and hundreds of people contacted.

“This I think really illustrates how what all started with one case is spread rapidly to many more cases, led to hundreds of contacts, led to over 100 locations where we’ve had to investigate, assess the risk and, in some cases, do follow up leading to some of those contacts.”

Hirji said he understands people are growing tired of the pandemic, but it’s still important to stay vigilant by following public health recommendations and rules.

“I think everybody recognizes that there’s COVID fatigue. I’m sure every single one of us is feeling that. And I totally understand how people are really struggling to continue to have vigilance, with it really looking like it’s gonna be many more months, at

least before we have a vaccine,” Hirji said.

“And if anything, with cases going up, I think, you know, many people may be feeling quite disheartened that they might be doing quite a lot already. And it doesn’t seem to be enough yet.”

He said the reality of the situation is cases are rising, “and the only way we address that is either by reducing social interaction (through) restrictions on businesses and social life, or by us voluntarily limiting our social activities.”

Hirji said it’s possible for the region to put additional restrictions in place, but that could harm the economy further. For now the focus is on a “balanced” approach and counting on people to do their part.

Health officials are trying to “allow enough freedom so people can live their social lives and the economy can recover, while still having enough restrictions that, when paired with personal choices, leads to a flattening of infections in society.”

He said the public health department is trying not to “upset that balance too much.”

“We’ve seen lots of businesses struggling, many businesses go under, many people being out of work as a result. And we’re very mindful that those have serious social and health implications to people as well,” Hirji said.

He said the region hopes a balanced approach leads to improvement in infection numbers, by continuing to encourage young people to follow guidelines “and really lay out in quite stark terms that we’re now right up the line of moving into that restrict category, there are going to be additional restrictions on business.”

“I think it’s worth giving one last try for our people to hear that message, to understand what the implication of their choice is going to be, and hope that it has an impact,” Hirji said.

“And if it doesn’t, Niagara will, I think, move into that restrict category. And we will see additional measures put in place by the provincial government at that point, which unfortunately, will harm our local businesses and harm our economy in the name of ensuring that we don’t see unsustainable spread of COVID-19.”

Plans **uncertain** for former Mori property, developer says

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Developer Benny Marotta says he’s not yet sure what he’s going to do with the 26 acres of property he just purchased on Niagara

Stone Road in Virgil.

Marotta’s company, Two Sisters Resorts Corp., bought the property two weeks ago for \$5 million from Leno Mori.

“We’re thinking of maybe a production facility for the

winery. We’re not sure 100 per cent, we’re just analyzing all the options,” Marotta said in an interview with The Lake Report.

He wouldn’t offer any further insight into his potential plans.

Meanwhile, Mori Gardens, which has leased the property for 45 years, is closing permanently later this year as the sale requires that existing businesses need to vacate the property.

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Contributed by Patty Garriock

"If we really want to love,
we must first learn to forgive."
- Mother Teresa.



Contributed by Norm Arsenault:

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Editorial: A day to remember

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Every year, in every community, in every school, on main streets and at memorials across the land, we pause to remember those who fought to ensure our freedoms.

It has been 75 years since the last world war ended and many surviving veterans of that conflict are no longer with us. But they, and their comrades who did not return from war, have not been forgotten.

In 2020, a year like no other, the usual solemn marches and gatherings at cenotaphs across Canada were replaced by virtual gatherings. Many, like the ceremony outside the NOTL Legion, were broadcast live online.



Because not remembering is not an option.

Poppies don't seem to have been quite as visible this year, as the Niagara-on-the-Lake branch of the Royal Canadian Legion – and branches across the country – were unable to conduct their usual two-week public poppy campaign leading up to Nov. 11.

With people staying home, trying to stay safe, we will not be surprised if we learn that poppy sales were a fraction of what they have been in years past.

The poppy sale is a cru-

cial way for Legions to raise much-needed money to help veterans in need throughout the year. The Legion notes that money raised from poppy donations also helps fund medical equipment, research, home services and many other veteran needs.

If you were not able to buy a poppy this year, or even if you did, please consider making a donation directly to the NOTL Legion or online at <https://legion.ca/donations>.

On Wednesday, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was heartening, but not surprising, to see a crowd of about 120 people turn out to NOTL's clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street to pay their respects to our fallen soldiers.

We know that many, many others observed

Remembrance Day in their own way but it was especially touching that so many NOTLers took it upon themselves to safely mark the occasion, despite there being no formal ceremony this year.

In a heart-warming tribute to their late father George Wilson, siblings Rob Wilson and Debbie Zabek laid a wreath. Their dad would have turned 100 this year.

We think Rob Wilson aptly summed up why Nov. 11 is so important:

"On Remembrance Day, he would be down here. I'm here for him and not just him, all the local guys, all the guys all over the world who gave their lives so we could be standing here."

Because not remembering is not an option.
editor@niagaranow.com



Disero wants horses included in farm security bill

Lord Mayor Betty Disero sent the following letter to Ernie Hardeman, minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs on Sept. 25.

Dear Minister Hardeman:
I am writing to you to express my support of Bill 156 (the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act) and the protection it provides farmers and their businesses. I would also like to draw your attention to some operations that this

bill overlooks.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, Sentineal Carriages, a long-time family-owned horse-drawn carriage business, has been targeted by animal activists for the past three years.

While I respect everybody's right to protest peacefully, however, my fear is that quite often these protests end up in megaphone use and loud yelling and aggressive behaviour from

both sides.

It would be dangerous if the horses get spooked and end up in the middle of traffic unintentionally. The carriage drivers are stressed, which the horses can feel.

Protesters are yelling at people to boycott the carriage company and Niagara-on-the-Lake as a whole. As you know, much of the Niagara-on-the-Lake business community relies on tourism.

I ask that you consider including horses in the definition of farm animals and expand the animal protection zones to also protect animals when they are away from the farm and out in the public.

Please consider Sentineal Carriages and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake when finalizing Bill 156.

Sincerely,
Betty Disero
Lord Mayor, NOTL

Province should let municipalities borrow more to avoid tax hikes

Dear editor:
There is a financial matter that has a major impact on the budgets of municipalities that could be resolved by a provincial order-in-council introduced by the minister of municipal affairs.

Municipalities in Ontario are limited to borrowing no more than 25 per cent of municipal own-source revenues such as taxation and user fees, which was increased some years ago

from the historical limit of 20 per cent.

Why not lobby the premier to increase this limit to 35 per cent for a five-year period in order to finance infrastructure projects in light of the extraordinary budgetary demands imposed by COVID-related costs?

The province may even want to roll back the maximum to 20 per cent after that period is over, in order to ensure a restoration of

fiscal responsibility in our communities.

This will eliminate the need to increase our municipal taxes but increase borrowing expenses in the long term. This long-term expense will be eliminated as mandated by the province as the local economies improve.

Long-term infrastructure projects should not be delayed by budgetary demands as choices are made that are a result of COVID-related

costs. Municipalities are not allowed to acquire debt to fund operating costs, yet studies suggest that infrastructure spending could be higher as there is room for expansion in Ontario.

This will ensure that spending in our economy is maintained, which seems to be the priority of our provincial and federal governments – spending our way out of a plausible recession.

Derek Insley
Virgil

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A phrase book for your retirement years

Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report

Groups have long employed jargon as a kind of practical shorthand, utilizing meaningless words to others. For example, the medical field includes scientific terms and abbreviations. “BP” means blood pressure, “FX” is a bone fracture, “JT” a joint.

Retirees are no different. To interact effectively with fellow retirees, you must walk the walk and talk the talk. The following glossary of terms will assist one in this arduous task, key words and phrases deciphered for you:

“Abandon all hope ye who enter here” – Erudite seniors recognize this forlorn expression first discovered in the labyrinth of legal text involved in Walmart’s Employee Assistance Program. Dante’s Divine Comedy may have been the inspiration for Walmart executives, who describe a typical Saturday afternoon in a Walmart store as akin to walking through the Inferno or Hell.

“Abject poverty” – Often confused with a lack of ethical political standards under the reign of Donald Trump, it describes the unpleasant living conditions of millions of his constituents, given to sleeping outdoors, using food stamps (soon to be eradicated) and a lack of ready access to excessive democratic perks such as food, drink and adequate health care.

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder” – This phrase is often employed to describe the plight of retirees and men and women separated for long periods



High socks, bare knees and sandals — a retiree’s delight. SOURCED

of time, for example truck drivers, sailors and prison inmates. It gave rise to the phrase, “out of sight, out of mind,” which leads to “when the cat’s away, the mice will play,” indicating a tendency to seek temporary ad hoc pleasure in distant truck stops, ports and penitentiaries.

“Accentuate the positive” – Lyrics to a 1944 tune by Johnny Mercer, which medical experts try to extrapolate for seniors to encourage better health practice. The trick is positive spin such that men begin to brag about the number of times that they urinate throughout the night and boast about how much their asses have shrunk over the years. Women enjoy the same quantitative urinary assertions but advocate spread rather than shrinkage for their corresponding physical layout.

“Achilles’ heel” – Not to be confused with the tendon, which is a painful injury, the Achilles’ heel indicates a weakness. For retirees, the flaw is carbohydrates and involves those who hang out at Tim Hortons each morning, eating far too many doughnuts, an

unhealthy practice.

“Accident waiting to happen” – Refers to diverse potentially dangerous situations such as harsh weather conditions involving ice on the driveway or seniors who drive large SUVs with dented bumpers and grills, who quickly roll into crowded parking lots without slowing down.

“Add insult to injury” – This is comparable to a double-minor penalty in hockey for retirees, as in two minutes for being hard of hearing and two minutes for hardness of arteries. Caution, a game misconduct is to be avoided at all costs.

“After all is said and done” – Retirees like to employ this phrase to produce a dramatic conclusion to the same old story that they told you yesterday and the day before. For variety, they might also use “at the end of the day” or “the bottom line.”

“Albatross around one’s neck” – Used metaphorically to mean a psychological burden, it’s an allusion to Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s poem “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.” Coleridge toyed with “pig in a poke,” but a bird, not a pig, was more

likely to fly beside a ship. Retirees often use the term to describe decades of marriage or in some unfortunate cases, much shorter terms.

“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” – Retirees eagerly replace Jack with their own name to explain and rationalize their penchant for watching far too much daily TV, especially the soaps, Jeopardy! (to keep their minds quick) and, of course, every athletic event known to man.

“At a snail’s pace” – This is the perceived speed limit for retirees when driving around town and even on the highway because if anything, retirees are not in a hurry. They believe that life is a journey, albeit an extremely slow journey and not really a destination. Hence, for retirees, it’s all about the going, a Zen-like outlook comparable to “one hand clapping.”

“All dressed up and no place to go” – Describes typical retirees’ fashion attire, comfortably outfitted in loose-fitting pajamas, white, elastic sport socks, food-stained T-shirts and weathered baseball caps deliberately not worn backward like a silly teenager.

We will decipher more retired jargon in the future.

*Mike Keenan belongs to the NOTL Writers’ Circle. Follow his podcasts: The Retirement Coach: <http://theretirementcoach.libsyn.com/> and Travel: <http://whattravelwriterssay.libsyn.com/>. His book, *Don’t Ever Quit: a Journal of Coping with Crisis & Nourishing Spirit*, is available in in print & electronic format at Amazon.*

Were current residents association board members elected properly?

Dear editor:

In an email this week to all members of the Chautauqua Residents Association concerning the election of directors at the organization’s recent annual general meeting, it was acknowledged that the association board “... did not conduct

the election properly and so, there were no changes.”

This interpretation of the bylaws caused the three new proposed directors to stand down and two existing directors to resign in protest.

I would like to point out that I believe the returning directors must also be elected

annually, so in fact, it is likely that none of the board members, including the president and secretary-treasurer, were properly elected.

I would also point out that there are likely remedies to this problem other than calling for another election at this time. The focus of the

so-called returning directors is doing things right. What happened to doing the right things?

I am writing to you because there is no other way of communicating with CRA members.

*Paul Weiss
Chautauqua*



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OPINION & NEWS

Hotel plan for Rand Estate was **not appropriate**

Dear editor:
Thank you your excellent coverage of the Randwood Estates story over the years. Residents for Sustainable Tourism is pleased that the town's planning process worked as it should. The original hotel approved for the Randwood Estates was a scaled-back version that better fit the neighbourhood and might have been good for sustainable tourism.

Hopefully in future developers like Two Sister Resorts and Benny Marrotta could be notified before they purchase land what the rules are. The much-larger resort they were hoping to build would have adversely affected the residents in the area and contributed to the overtourism of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Overtourism is something that I know community

leaders like Mr. Marrotta would not want to happen to our historic, beautiful small town. Kudos to council and well-organized groups like SORE (Save Our Rand Estate) and other residents for following the plan and drawing a line in the sand so that overzealous developers understand what the rules are to preserve the unique nature of Niagara-

on-the-Lake for residents and visitors. The last thing residents of Queenston, Virgil or St. Davids need is multiple 500-room hotels with outdoor entertainment complexes. There is a limit to how much Niagara-on-the-Lake can handle.
Bruce Gitelman
Spokesperson
Residents for Sustainable Tourism



A design for a hotel on the Rand Estate. The property is now up for sale for \$19 million. SUPPLIED

Exercise is **hugely** beneficial for seniors – all kinds of exercise

Dear editor:
With a smile, I'd like to comment "Retirement Coach" Mike Keenan's column, "Should seniors engage in regular exercise?" (Oct. 29). I am confident Mike is also an avid fisherman. Well, I'll take the bait. Seniors who exercise have

vitality and this vitality equals a life insurance policy that will yield in longevity. I have the privilege of coaching seniors to increase their strength and therefore, functionality. I have witnessed the change of actual health stats that demonstrate decreased risk for lifestyle diseases

such as Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, osteoporosis, heart disease and deaths associated with falls. Physicians, specialists and health practitioners have endorsed the physical lifestyle I encourage. According to the annual report of the chief public health officer of Canada, 30

minutes of physical activity per day will decrease mortality by a whopping 19 per cent! Mike, you have an opinion against traditional fitness practices which is absolutely fine, however, please do not fuel ageism. Sustainable transportation, physical labour, sport and training,

offer the opportunity to increase quality of life. I am pleased that you acknowledge gardening as your preferred choice of exercise. Gardening replicates lifting iron and produces similar effects. In these uncertain times, we need to be able to control what we can. In life, there

are controllable factors and uncontrollable factors that predispose life expectancy. I intend to control what I can and inspire along the way, no matter what the age. Will you join me, Mike, in encouraging all forms of fitness for all ages?
Coach Jenny Brown
St. Catharines

Why are NOTL house prices **so appealing** for GTA buyers?

Dear editor:
Unquestionably NOTL is a very desirable destination to live, work or retire. For this reason, to no one's surprise, we have witnessed a population growth year-over-year. Home prices can be driven by many factors, but not always. Typically supply and demand is the key driver, and now in Canada, as in other countries, price increases are being affected by COVID-19 as city dwellers migrate to the suburbs and more rural areas, affording them more green space with back gardens, etc. Additionally, with more people working remotely from home, NOTL is very appealing. Accordingly, one would expect that the housing prices would be substantially higher. The sense from visitors, buyers and potential buyers is that houses in NOTL are a steal. We hear such comments from buyers relocating from Toronto, Ottawa, Oakville and Burlington, etc. who typically pocket 30 per cent or more from their former home sale as an investment toward their retirement. I am not suggesting here that our prices should be 30 per cent high-



Cutline. SUPPLIED

er, however, are NOTL prices a contributing factor to an increase in Airbnbs, as second-home buyers are renting out their potential future retirement homes and in the intervening period generating an alternate income stream? From my personal experience, a very sought-after and desirable area in the Coachella Valley in California, (home of the largest outdoor music festival in the world), property prices in PGA West, the western home of golf and home to the former Bob Hope Classic, are 35 per cent to 45 per cent less than in 2006. There are similar stories across the United States, in Florida for example. My father was a home builder/developer in Northern Ireland.

I grew up around and am familiar with the industry, although my own background is in aeronautical/mechanical engineering and as a former international business owner. The anomaly around the PGA prices in relation to the national trend, whereby prices have recovered to, or are slightly higher than, their pre-2006 boom levels piqued my curiosity. I subsequently engaged in several deep and thoughtful dialogues, from within my PGA golfing community, with Tier 1 top performance realtors, as to why prices in this sought-after community were still grossly depressed. Collectively they responded: "There are too many realtors (agents), working the small La Quinta, PGA West market. " Consequently this puts pressure on the agents to aggressively squeeze the listing prices to move the inventory. Deciphered: "There are too many agents sitting around the table and the commission pie is too small. As commissioned agents, if we don't sell, we don't eat." In conclusion they added: You have heard the old saying, "If you price your home right, it will sell, usually in a few days or a matter of

weeks. Code for if you want to give your house away, it will sell. We call it order taking." I was astonished at their frankness, and as a friend and knowing my background, their counsel was clearly given in good faith. From our own experiences we have often been told: "We can list the house at your price, however, if it doesn't sell in two weeks we will have to reduce the price. (If it's priced right it will sell.) Guess what, they often sell at your price. Realtors, of course, will often overprice your home, to get the listing. I use the realtor's price as a guide price and where possible, personally research the area in detail ... being cautious to test the comparables against potential estate or divorce selling prices and factor them out. In conclusion, I have reflected on my golf associates' conversation many times and the attendant comments that our house prices in NOTL are a steal. It prompts the question: "Are there too many agents working in our small market, thereby depressing prices?"
Samuel Young
NOTL

Thanks for lighting up Brock's Monument

Dear editor:
Thank you for publishing the letter by David Scott celebrating the new lighting of Brock's monument overlooking Queenston. All summer long it was so disappointing to see Brock unlit, projecting a shabby, disrespectful appearance; something tall and dark stood on the escarpment as though we wanted to hide our history. Now both sides of the border can admire our beautifully lit historical monument, honouring and remembering an important



soldier in Canadian history, especially during the month of our remembrance.
Bonnie Easterbrook
Queenston

We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississagua St., NOTL.
The Lake Report



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Local businesses need your support. It is so important to support them now more than ever. Need some gifting ideas? NOTL Health and Wellness is offering gift cards which make great stocking stuffers. Get yours today!

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NotlHealthAndWellness.com

Lake Report SHOP LOCAL

SUPPORTING OUR BUSINESS
COMMUNITY THROUGH COVID

COVID-19 has taken its toll on Niagara-on-the-Lake, and The Lake Report wants to help businesses that are struggling. We're offering FREE short stories to help businesses during these trying times. If you would like to be included, simply send us 150 words about your business and a photo to go with the story. We know everyone is suffering and this is just our small part to give back to the community that supports us. Send stories to editor@niagaranow.com

Cheese Secrets

Submitted
The Lake Report

At Cheese Secrets, it's no secret we know cheese. We know it better than anyone.

We know how delicious it is. We know how it can bring an occasion to life and we know its diversity. But more than that, we know where our cheese comes from.

With a strong emphasis on sourcing Canadian artisanal cheeses, there's no better place to get your fromage fix than from the cheese experts — or cheese whizzes, as we like to say.

Slice it. Bake it. Throw it on a charcuterie board or into a seasonal warm soup.



Cheese Secrets co-owner Xavier Allard prepares a charcuterie board. FILE

There's really no end to the ways cheese can (and should) be used.

Stop by our shop and see what we mean.

Tastings on us.

You can find us at 38 Market St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake, or visit www.cheesesecrets.com.

Sonos Cafe

Submitted
The Lake Report

Sonos Cafe started in 1995 under the name Donut Diner. Only a few short years ago did the offices of Donut Diner close down and we separated allowing us to change our name to Sono's Cafe while keeping our quality of fresh ground coffee blend, the addition of all day breakfast, fabulous lunch options, and adding a new line of daily fresh pastries.

From the start the Niagara-on-the-lake community has been supporting us as a small family business and in return we have provided the best



Sonos Cafe interior. SUPPLIED

quality, service, and lowest prices.

Though over the years we have had our struggles, but time and time again the community has come to our aid in response to our addition of new menu

items, increased quality of ingredients, and service.

Thank you Niagara-On-The-Lake for all the support over the years.

Sonos Cafe, 1494 Niagara Stone Rd., Virgil, 905-468-0045.

Pondview Estate Winery

Submitted
The Lake Report

In the heart of Niagara wine country, our business changed overnight when COVID-19 affected all our lives.

We had planned to host a big 10-year anniversary party in our new event venue, but that will have to wait. In a normal year we are busy with catering to local and international visitors alike who come to enjoy our award-winning wines and snack on one of our famous charcuterie boards on our vineyard patio.

This past spring we had to quickly shift our business to mostly focus on on-



Lou Puglisi - PondView Estate Winery. SUPPLIED

line sales and offering free delivery across Niagara and the rest of Canada.

Through this big transformation we are now ready to deliver locally to your front door within 48 hours to help with your wine needs.

We are so grateful for

the strong local support and for our customers who have become even more like friends and family to us during these trying times.

Pondview Estate Winery, 925 Line 2 Rd, NOTL, <https://www.pondviewwinery.com>.

Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery

Submitted
The Lake Report

Join us at Ravine Vineyard in our new dining room. The restaurant at Ravine will now be operating from inside our event and celebrations building.

We are excited to welcome back our guests for a delicious farm dining experience that is socially distanced in our 4,000-square-foot facility.

Our restaurant menus are an ever-changing carousel of ingredients from our restaurant garden and farming friends.

Our culinary team not only creates the menu around these foragers, but



Ravine restaurant. SUPPLIED

also preserves as much as possible so that "eat local" is not just a seasonal term.

In the spirit of dining on the farm, from garden to table, our commitment to freshness means some items listed on the menu

may be altered when you arrive.

We hope you enjoy this new menu and indoor experience this fall and winter at Ravine Vineyard.

1366 York Rd., St. Davids. <https://www.ravinevineyard.com>

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Budget's tourism plan **not enough**, Gates says

New Democrat says his own idea, introduced in July, is a more effective way of helping tourist sector

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Ford government's budget proposal for a tourism tax credit to encourage Ontario residents to visit different areas of the province is a good start, but it doesn't go nearly far enough, says Niagara MPP Wayne Gates.

Calling 2021 "the year of the staycation," the new provincial budget unveiled last week said the government is "exploring" ways to give people a credit for up to 20 per cent of "eligible Ontario tourism expenses."

That mirrors Gates' own private member's bill introduced in July – except the New Democrat MPP's plan calls for a flat \$1,000 tax credit to encourage families to travel in Ontario.

With the Tories' proposed 20 per cent tax credit, "to get what is in my bill you'd have to spend \$5,000. A lot of people that are taking day vacations or staycations, they don't have \$5,000 to spend," Gates said in an interview Tuesday.

It would be better to implement his plan and give people an incentive to travel domestically to help boost the tourism sector in all ar-



Wayne Gates during a NOTL visit from NDP leader Andrea Horwath to promote tourism. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

reas of the province, including Niagara, Gates said.

He said he will encourage Finance Minister Rod Phillips to alter the budget plan and adopt the \$1,000 tax credit instead.

"I have a better way to do this, to get the money into more people's hands, get more people being able to travel domestically, to enjoy Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, and Ottawa, go up north, or Toronto," he said.

"I think it's a better way, a more affordable way to have a staycation and help get our tourism sector back on its feet and create jobs."

Tourism NOTL and the Niagara-on-the-Lake

Chamber of Commerce "strongly welcomes" the province's proposal designed to support the tourism and hospitality industry, said CEO Eduardo Lafforgue.

"Supporting local tourism is the key to economic recovery in the months ahead," he told The Lake Report.

"We are delighted to see the government announce their intention to implement a travel tax credit for Ontarians to re-explore the 'world in one province' that is Ontario," Lafforgue added.

The idea was "a key pillar of the recommendations to the government that we have supported and been

advocating through the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario as part of the budget consultation process."

Small- and medium-sized enterprises need support, and "the government's decision to make permanent COVID-era exemptions from the employer health tax on the first \$1 million of a payroll" is a big help, he said.

Tourism is an integral part of Niagara-on-the-Lake's economic recovery and the provincial measures will help keep businesses open and save jobs – and "safeguard the livelihoods of many of NOTL businesses," Lafforgue said.

Gates, whose riding comprises NOTL, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie, said he hopes to hear "in the next few weeks" that the province is going to implement protection against "insurance rate gouging" for small- and medium-sized business.

Some businesses in Niagara-on-the-Lake and across the riding have seen their insurance premiums go from \$6,000 to more than \$20,000, he said.

"That's nothing more than gouging and we have to fix that or we're going to lose more small businesses," Gates said.

He also was disappointed the budget didn't eliminate the 6.1 per cent basic tax charged on domestic wine.

Gates has introduced a bill to have that levy removed and the wine industry also has been lobbying the province to eliminate the tax.

It puts small- to medium-sized wineries at "an incredible disadvantage," said Gates, adding he will keep pushing to have the tax dropped.

"Our grape and wine industry is so important to Niagara and to the overall health of the economy in the province of Ontario," he said.

"It makes no sense to give an advantage to international wines over locally-grown wines."

Meanwhile, on Tuesday he also was part of an announcement by NDP leader Andrea Horwath, who unveiled the Homes in Ontario program, which would loan first-time buyers up to 10 per cent of the cost of a new home as part of their downpayment.

Gates and Horwath noted that housing prices in Niagara "have skyrocketed by between 85 and 100 per cent in just five years," putting home ownership out of reach for many first-time buyers.

It has also made rents unaffordable for many people, Gates said.

"They have a tent city in St. Catharines. We have a tent city in Niagara Falls," something that would be unheard of a few years ago, he said.

"The number of people that are going to be hungry at night, the number of people living on the street, keeps increasing and obviously, with the number of people that are going to be facing unemployment this winter, it's going to even be worse," he said.

Golfer aces same hole **twice** in five days

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Joe Doria is going to go broke buying beer for the clubhouse denizens, if the golf season doesn't wrap up soon.

While most golfers go their entire careers without notching a hole-in-one, Doria, of Niagara-on-the-Lake has had a remarkable two in five days, on the same hole, at the NOTL Golf Club.

Last Thursday, he was playing with Paul Dickson, Brian McKillop and Stu Young when they all got to the par 3 fourth hole.

"Paul hit first, a nice shot that rolled right by the pin and to the back of the

green. Stu stepped up and hit a low stinger that landed short of the green and just rolled by the pin. Both came close."

Doria then smacked his shot 130 yards, into the wind, over a front bunker and into the cup. (It was his second career ace – the previous one was in 2007 in Alabama.)

"I hit an 8 iron high and left of the flag. It was fading back toward the pin. It landed on the left fringe of the green and bounced once, and rolled toward the pin," he told The Lake Report.

"We saw it hit the pin and drop – although because of the foam in the cup – some of the ball was above the

level of the green so we could still see part of it," he said.

Due to COVID pandemic restrictions, foam fills the hole to about one inch below the rim to discourage players from touching the pin or reaching down into the hole.

That foam played a dramatic role in Doria's second ace, on Tuesday afternoon.

This time, with a different pin placement, he hit a 9 iron 117 yards. The ball landed in front of the green, bounced once and rolled about 12 feet up a slight slope and into the cup.

Then off the foam – and out of the hole, stopping a few inches past.

"It had perfect speed. I saw it go in and bounce up," said Doria, who was the 2019 men's club champion.

"Noel Morris and Peadar Nolan witnessed it and both said it was definitely in," he said.

He spoke to an official at Golf Canada on Wednesday and he confirmed that the "foam ball" counts as a hole-in-one.

"Two in five days. Amazing," Doria said.

As for the beer budget, after the first ace he bought brews for about 20 people in the clubhouse.

Tuesday's hole-in-one cost him another half-dozen beers when he met up with friends at the Irish Harp after his latest adventure.



Playing partners Brian McKillop, Stu Young and Paul Dickson celebrate Joe Doria's hole-in-one last Thursday on the fourth hole at NOTL Golf Club. GREG MCCAUGHEY



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SALES REPRESENTATIVE



NOTL wins **six** Niagara Biennial Design Awards

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's many exuberant design efforts haven't gone unnoticed as local groups won recognition in the Niagara Biennial Design Awards this year – and NOTL teams brought home six of the 18 awards.

One small neighbourhood initiative in The Village last December was recognized with the award of excellence in the Urban Design-Urban Interventions category. Project owner Dale Des Islets said it was nice for the community to be recognized for its contribution to the neighbourhood.

"I think it's kind of cool that a neighbourhood initiative could get recognition for something like this," he said.

The Dec. 23, 2019, Luminaires candle lighting along the neighbourhood parks in the small community off Niagara Stone Road was an "elegantly simple gesture of



Village Christmas decorating volunteers. SUPPLIED

paper luminaries and light installations (which) brought the community and visitors together for the one-night event," the awards team said in its recognition video.

The category looked to temporary, small-scale, outdoor projects located on public or private land designed to improve an urban space or condition.

The other five NOTL winners were chosen because of their creative execution and developmental vision, the recognition video said.

The Glendale Niagara

District Plan received an award of excellence in the Visionary Design category. The heritage reconstruction at 106 Queen St. won an award of excellence in the Architecture category. An award of excellence for Interior Design went to the Student Commons at Niagara College's Daniel J. Patterson Campus in NOTL. And two outstanding achievement awards for Commemorative Landscapes were awarded to the Landscape of Nations and the Voices of Freedom Park.

Winners were chosen by a

panel of design professionals which included Amy Friend, Ken Greenberg, Linda Irvine, Gordon Stratford and Lois Weinthal.

This new bi-annual design awards program is an evolution from the previous Niagara Community Design Awards, which ran annually from 2005 to 2016. The program celebrates the role of design in the enhancement of unique and diverse environments in Niagara, the award page states.

There were 68 submissions this year, 18 of which were named winners.

Early data shows recycling and green bin use is **on the rise**

Continued from Front Page

stickers for every 1,200 homes (about one in 24) for garbage set out on the wrong week. Now they're issuing about 10 to 15 stickers (about one in 100), Habermabl said.

She said it's a similar process to when the region changed garbage pickup in 2011 to one bag a week from two bags.

The region is allowing people to put out two garbage bags every other week, so the service remains the same, just with a new schedule, she added.

Those previous changes only took a couple of weeks for people to catch on, she said, but noted it wasn't as "impactful" of a change as switching to alternate week pickup.

Now that everyone has been through one cycle of the changes, fewer calls are coming in and there's been an uptick in people using the region's mobile app.

"We have a number of residents and businesses



Green bin usage is up.

downloading our mobile app Niagara Waste, over 21,000 reminders have been set up," Habermabl said.

Early data shows the region's goal of reducing waste and encouraging recycling and green bin use could be working, she said.

"We've seen — and now I want to caution because it is only two weeks of data — but the data is showing us that waste is down about 18 per cent, organics are up over 30 per cent and recyclables are up over 18 per cent."

She said she's hoping those numbers continue to grow.

"Again, it is only two weeks. We're obviously going to monitor the ton-

nage. We'll be bringing a status update report to public works committee in December. By then we'll have a good month of data. And we're also going to be undertaking curbside waste audits that we do every few years," she said.

Those audits check what is going into the trash, green bins and recycling boxes.

Habermabl encourages residents to download the Niagara Waste mobile app where they can set reminders for garbage pickup so they'll know what's being picked up on a given week.

"If they don't have a smartphone, they can go on the website and sign up for reminders and those reminders can come to you via text, via voicemail, via email," she said.

The app will also let people know in real time if there are major collection delays and various other reminders.

"Last week we pushed out a message about, 'Don't forget to put your pumpkins to the curb as part of your

green bin collection.'"

With the new contractor, she said there have been some "normal transition issues" that have caused some minor delays.

"You have drivers out there who may be new to the area, or may be familiar with the area, but they're not familiar with the new equipment, because equipment is very different than what they've been operating for the last few years under the previous contractor," Habermabl said.

"There's going to be different routes, different maps that the drivers have to get accustomed to. So that's all going to add to your time."

She said the collection times are getting shorter and things are trending in the right direction.

"We're very pleased with the first three weeks of the transition."

She said sales of green bins have been up and that there is still "a good inventory of green bins" for anyone interested in picking one up.

KEEP US Playing!
— JOIN THE —
NOTL SOCCER BOARD

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Club will be hosting its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 virtually by Zoom at 8:00pm.

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

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

TO BE A PART OF THE SOCCER BOARD E-MAIL US:
niagasoccerclub@gmail.ca
and the Club will send you the Zoom link so you can join us and help keep kids playing!

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RIDDLE ME THIS

I go in the water black and come out red. What am I?

Last week: The more of me there is, the less you can see. What am I?

Answer: Fog

Also accepted: Darkness (though, technically there cannot be "more darkness" only less light.

Answered first by: Sheelah Young

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jason Baker, Terrie Courtlander, Margie Enns, Kathy Neufeld, Susan Hamilton, Sheila Meloche, Wade Durling, Pam Dowling, Ross Robinson, Sandra Lawrence, Margaret Garaughty, Howard Jones, Katie Reimer, Sylvia Wiens, Josh Langendoen, Ashik Ashraf, Glen Wickenden

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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Image Detail: Lauren Stewart Harris, Study for "In the Ward 1, City Paintings", 1918. Collection of Samuel E. Weir ©RiverBrink Art Museum
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, many events are now virtual. Find a list of NOTL events here week to week.</p> <p>Stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask and distance whenever possible.</p>			
<p>LEGION FISH FRY EVERY THURSDAY!</p> <p>From 4:30 to 7 p.m. Drive-thru only Cash only</p>			
15	16	17	18
<p>Opening Reception: Eric Ranveau Ontario Landscapes - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Yoga and Macrame Workshop - 10 a.m. - Palatine Hills Estate Winery</p> <p>GOC Bike Nights - 2 p.m. - Club 55</p>	<p>Committee of the Whole: General - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Ask a Tech: One on One Tech Tutoring - All Day - NOTL Public Library Contact creganti@notlpl.org</p> <p>Storytime with Cubetto - 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Virtual notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Introduction to Python - 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara's Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp</p>	<p>Rhyme Time: Virtual Circle Time for Infants and Toddlers - 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p>	<p>Free osteoporosis screening - Noon to 1 p.m. - Reg osteoporosis.ca</p> <p>Create a Copy! A Great Painting - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Coach House</p> <p>German Conversation - a.m. - Virtual: contact aol.com</p> <p>Virtual STEAM Storytime - a.m. - Virtual: notlpl.org</p> <p>Nobel Prize: Zoom - 2 p.m. - Virtual: notlpl.org</p> <p>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. - Public Library</p>
22	23	24	25
<p>Back to the Farm OpenHouse - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Foxtrot Fields (1950 York Rd.)</p> <p>Linocut Printmaking: Holiday Cards - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p>	<p>Famous and Infamous: Magda Goebbels (and infanticide) - 2 p.m. - NOTL Museum</p> <p>Council - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Ask a Tech: One on One Tech Tutoring - All Day - NOTL Public Library Contact creganti@notlpl.org</p> <p>Crewmate or Imposter: 3D Printing Workshop - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara's Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp</p>	<p>Heritage Trail Committee - 2 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Virtual Coffee with the Lord Mayor - 6 p.m. - Virtual: facebook.com/Town.of.NOTL/</p> <p>Rhyme Time: Virtual Circle Time for Infants and Toddlers - 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p>	<p>German Conversation - a.m. - Virtual: contact aol.com</p> <p>Virtual STEAM Storytime - a.m. - Virtual: notlpl.org</p> <p>Nobel Prize: Zoom - 2 p.m. - Virtual: notlpl.org</p> <p>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. - Public Library</p> <p>Fresh Greenery Holiday - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p>

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to www.niagaranow.com

The Lake Report

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Nov. 12 - Nov. 28



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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	12 Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Sketching Techniques - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Pumphouse Annual General Meeting - 7 p.m. - via Zoom meeting	13 Rock of 80's - 8 p.m. - Club 55	14 Bacchus Lounge Entertainment - 6 p.m. - Queen's Landing Hotel Static Black - 8 p.m. - Club 55 Book Club: Drawing for Absolute Beginners - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
18 Seminar - Register online @ Group of Seven - 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Use Studio ion Group - 10 - at avocanotl@ tytime - 11 - publiclibrary.org Lecture Series - publiclibrary. p.m. - NOTL	19 Committee of Adjustment - 6:30 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Make it with Micro:bit Virtual - 4:30 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Niagara's Name that Tune - 6 p.m. - NOTL Golf Club Sketching Techniques - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	20 The Wild: Explore the Wilds of NOTL - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Practical Geneology - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library St. Davids Lions Turkey Roll Raffle - - St. Davids Lions Club That 70's Rock Show - 8 p.m. - Club 55 Shaw Festival Me and My Girl Pre/Post Show Entertainment - 6 p.m. - Queen's Landing Hotel St. Davids Lions Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club	21 Mixed Media Altered Pages for Fun & Art Journaling - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Virtual: riverbrink.org St. Davids Lions Christmas Tree Sales Begin - - St. Davids Lions Club The Irish Harp with Matti and Steve - 8 p.m. - The Irish Harp Linocut Printmaking: Holiday Cards - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Book Club: Drawing fro Absolute Beginners - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
25 ion Group - 10 - at avocanotl@ tytime - 11 - publiclibrary.org Lecture Series - publiclibrary. p.m. - NOTL oliday Garland - Pumphouse Arts	26 Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Niagara's Name that Tune - 6 p.m. - NOTL Golf Course Sketching Techniques - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	27 Kill Bill the Band - 8 p.m. - Club 55 Bacchus Lounge Entertainment - 6 p.m. - Queen's Landing Hotel	28 A Star is Born Wreath Workshop - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Bacchus Lounge Entertainment - 6 p.m. - Queen's Landing Hotel

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NOTL duo deliver **folksy cheer** through daily music videos

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

When the COVID pandemic forced Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Roger Beedles to return from a trip to Wales in March earlier than planned, he says he wasn't going to do so quietly.

And he's been making noise, performing songs with friend Wally Knash and posting a new video online every single day since.

Beedles says he and his wife Anne made the trip back to NOTL early after recommendations from the Canadian government. After arriving home, they quarantined for the designated two weeks, but boredom quickly began to take hold.

"I was just bored out of my mind," he says.

With a music room downstairs, it wasn't long before he began playing some tunes on his guitar and singing by himself to pass the time. Beedles has been a musician his entire life, playing in several different bands in the U.K. Since moving to NOTL, he says he's been playing with a few



Beedles and Knash. SUPPLIED

friends at various retirement homes throughout the region every weekend.

When the pandemic put a stop to that, he still wanted to bring some joy to people through his music. Now, Beedles and Knash have recorded and posted more than 180 videos. And he says the response has been incredible.

"We get now two, three, four thousand views on nearly every song now," he says.

Initially, the duo was just publishing songs on personal Facebook pages. After he was introduced to a Facebook group called the Ultimate Online Nova Scotia Kitchen Party (COVID-19 Edition), he began

uploading his videos there as well. Since then, he says the views have skyrocketed.

"They've (the Facebook group) been doing a great thing for us. They've been featuring sometimes as many as 20 of our numbers one after the other. It's been available for anybody to look at any time," he says.

There was a bit of a

learning curve when it came to recording and posting the videos, he says, but after working through the kinks the pair can power through several songs a night and save them up to be published throughout the week.

The two get together once or twice a week to record their songs, Bee-

dles says. And as more people are catching wind of their online performances, he says requests and positive comments have been flowing in.

"Some have turned around and said, 'We were dancing around the kitchen, singing this because it reminded us of when we were children, and our mother used to sing that to us.'"

He says Knash and himself are "both willing and happy" to keep it going, with no plans to slow down.

"I'm 78 and Wally, he's over 80 so I mean, we're not young. We've been in the music business a long time," he says.

Mostly, the pair sticks to their roots, which is country and folk music. He says they feature two fiddle tunes a week. Sometimes one of them is a gospel tune or a hymn, but they are always willing to learn something new or take requests, he says.

You can find videos by Beedles and Knash on the Nova Scotia kitchen party Facebook page or his own personal page by searching for Roger Beedles.

St. Mark's online **auction** is 'the COVID closet clean out'

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

St. Mark's Anglican Church has expanded into online fundraising with its Haute Emporium Sale, and organizers say the web auction has already been met with a positive response from eager buyers.

Sale items are listed online at stmarksnotl.org/events/emporiumsale under various categories: fashion, accessories, decor, vintage clothing, jewelry, art, gifts, treasures and linens.

Once buyers find an item they want to purchase, they can email emporium1792@gmail.com with the item number, a brief description and the price. Organizers will email back with directions for payment and pickup times. All items must be picked up at St. Mark's Anglican Church at 41 Byron St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



A new Ted Baker sweater is up for grabs. SOURCED

Mitchell said all sales and item listing is being done manually. Patience is requested as church volunteers work through any kinks in the system.

Restructuring and moving the annual holiday sale online was a move born out of necessity, co-organizer Sally Mitchell said.

After the cancellation of the annual Cherry Festival in the summer, she said organizers began taking donations to prepare for an

in-person holiday sale at the church rectory in November.

"Our original plan had been to have a sale for two weekends at the end of November. It would be full of our normal things, like Christmas decor and treasures, with clothing and vintage purses and shoes, all of that kind of thing," she said.

"But with COVID restrictions, we're not allowed to have a large fundraising

event at the church. So, we then decided to go to plan B and see if we could try and do something online."

The online auction will be live for at least four to six weeks, she said.

"Our goal is to be able to sell everything we have," she said. But she said the sale may kick up again after the holidays if there are still plenty of items available or if there is enough interest.

Sale items have been donated by congregation members and the community at large, she said.

"We have a very, very generous community. It's the COVID closet clean out, that's what I call it," she said.

"Everybody that was pretty much indoors, I think just started going through closets, treasures and things, When they found out we were trying to have another big sale late in the fall, people started calling us"

with donations, she said.

"So very much a combination of our own congregation and community. We've always had a lot of community support and we're really very thankful for it."

Mitchell said planning and running the online auction is an endeavour run by many volunteers and church members.

She is co-organizer with Trudi Watson with a team including Carol Beckman, Elizabeth Jamieson and Faye House. Jewelry is overseen by Anjulika Chand and Lucy McEwan, Keith Bullen and Mary Webster manage the art pieces; David Levesque and Allison Kelly handle the website; and Andrea Douglas and many others work behind the scenes.

"Many, many more from the congregation are helping catalogue, clean silver, wash and iron linens, hang artwork and distribute posters

etc.," she said.

As items sell, more will be added to the site, "at least weekly," so check back frequently, she said.

Bargain hunters can find deals on items in several categories:

Vintage (clothing from renowned fashion houses including Armani, Givenchy and Prada)

Fashion (new and pre-owned ladies clothing)

Treasures (vintage china, collectibles, crystal, furniture, lamps and much more)

Jewelry (sterling silver and costume bracelets, earrings, necklaces and brooches)

Gift baskets (for all occasions)

Decor (holiday wreaths and Christmas items)

Accessories (vintage leather, new and pre-owned purses, hats and belts)

Art (prints, watercolours, acrylics and decorative pieces)

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Silks celebrates 25 years as NOTL staple

COVID means no big celebration, but popular family-run Virgil restaurant weathers pandemic storm

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Everyone may not know your name, but when you walk into Silks Country Kitchen you need only introduce yourself to be welcomed as family.

The popular restaurant on the corner of Four Mile Creek and Niagara Stone roads marked its 25-year anniversary in May, and sibling owners Joel Dempsey and Jen Phelan say there's no plan to slow down.

"It was a family thing. My mom was the driving force behind purchasing the place and getting things opened up and what-not. And then she passed away just about 11 years ago, so we've continued on with it and kept it going, as we should," Dempsey says.

Virginia Dempsey, the matriarch of the family, bought the restaurant in 1995 and it has since grown into a go-to spot and one of NOTL's most popular watering holes.

It's famous for its generous, low-priced all-day breakfast, but there's much more to it, the family says.

The eatery is frequented from morning until night. Some see Silks as a breakfast spot and it initially garnered popularity with the introduction of a 99-cent breakfast, but many others think of Silks only for dinner and late-night drinks.



Sibling owners of Silks Joel Dempsey and Jen Phelan. BRITTANY CARTER

"And the others don't know the other ones exist," Phelan says.

Though there are some that turn to Silks anytime the mood strikes.

"We have people that are here for breakfast and then they come back after the hockey game," she says.

"They keep coming back for more," says Dempsey.

Phelan says she would have liked to hold a celebration thanking the customers and staff for their support over the years, but the COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to any 25-year party plans. However, Dempsey says there will likely be something big planned for the 30-year

anniversary.

"For our 20-year we had an open house to welcome customers and staff in to celebrate. We would likely do something like that for 30," she says.

"We had a prize table, door prizes and free food and beverages (for people to) just come in and mingle and say hello. We had customers that had been coming forever and people who had worked here, and then had left for 10 to 15 years and then come back, and say 'Oh my God, I can't believe it's been 20 years,'" Phelan says.

She says the restaurant has become more than just a place to eat over the years.

Watching the families and the neighbourhood grow, it has become an integral part of the community.

As the town has welcomed and supported the restaurant, Phelan says it has been interesting to watch the surrounding village develop into a bustling hub over the years.

"I think the biggest thing for me is that we've just been here for so long that we've just seen kids that have been coming in a carrier as a baby, and then next thing you know they're getting married. You've kind of watched a lot of families grow up," she says.

"You feel like you've just really watched the commu-

nity grow. I've always liked that."

As the restaurant has continued serving the community over these last 25 years, Phelan says it's also been nice to see the neighbourhood sprout up around them.

"I've always said, do you really want to be the only place in town ... I think a thriving community is so much better," she says.

The restaurant has faced some challenges over the years. The biggest and most heart-wrenching was the loss of her mother Virginia 11 years ago, and sister Anne three years ago, Dempsey says.

"I would say that was

probably the biggest thing that's happened to us here in the 25 years is losing my mom and my sister. She (Anne) was a part of this place for a long time as well. So, losing two family members is probably the biggest hurdle to overcome," Dempsey says.

COVID-19 has also been a huge strain on the business. Pre-pandemic the establishment could fit about 75 people in the dining room, with another 15 at the bar. But with six-foot spacing requirements, Dempsey says it's down to about 45 in the dining room and seven at the bar.

But with the support of the community, he says he believes Silks will continue to be OK.

The restaurant continued offering takeout during the initial shutdown and is maintaining semi-regular business throughout the restrictions.

"Everybody's trying to be helpful and support all of the local businesses," Dempsey says.

Dempsey says he sees no reason why Silks won't continue offering a safe and welcoming space for the next 25 years to come.

With drop-ins by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, random celebrities, famous athletes and news personalities, you never know when you might end up rubbing elbows with big names during your casual meal at your favourite local restaurant.

Pumphouse kicks off fall online art auction

Aimee Medina
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is auctioning off original artworks to raise funds for its operations and for artists.

Original art is up for grabs in the centre's second online auction, running Nov. 6 to 16.

A preview of several items is on display at the Niagara-on-the-Lake gallery in its Walker Room.

The fall auction follows on the heels of the non-profit gallery's first online auction, mounted to raise money to help recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first auction raised about \$5,600, which was split between the Pumphouse and artists. Some of those artists donated their pieces.

"We are optimistic that our fall auction will be equally successful," said Lise Andreeana, chair of the Pump-

house's board of directors.

"The auction is a great opportunity for art lovers to purchase artworks by outstanding artists, while supporting a good cause at the same time."

Paintings, mixed media and sculptural pieces by artists from Niagara and beyond are featured, including works by Emily Andrews, Marilyn Cochrane, Cathy Cullis, Nancy Wardle, Jodi Kitto-Ward and Tina Clancy.

Andreeana said the Pump-

house decided to preview some of the pieces so people can enjoy the gallery experience while browsing through the works up for bids.

Like other non-profit galleries, the Pumphouse saw a drop in revenue from art sales and from special events that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

The gallery reopened to the public in August and has been able to mount four exhibits – half its usual number – since then.



Painted Turtles by Artist Vera Graham. SUPPLIED

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Ambassadors spent most time greeting, **answering questions**

Continued from Front Page

spent on pandemic safety, reminding people they have to wear masks indoors and encouraging them to use masks when social distancing isn't possible outside.

"Some of them look on us a little suspiciously because, you know, people don't do this in Toronto," Devlin said, adding sometimes people thought they were approaching to try to sell something.

"But once we introduce ourselves and welcome them to the town they're really happy — and I think it leaves a really good impression on them for Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The most common question has been where to find the washrooms, she said, adding more signage would help to let people know where to go.

"We also got a lot about hotels. Apparently, the Prince of Wales was sold out this weekend, so people were looking for other places to stay. So we directed them to other hotels they could try."



Lois Chapman and Margot Devlin welcome visitors to NOTL on the weekend. SUPPLIED

She said Sunday has been a "big day for questions," with the Chamber of Commerce office closed.

One challenge has been finding the right places to be to meet visitors, Devlin said. It seems to work out better when ambassadors are stationed in front of the Old Court House rather than walking the streets.

Unfortunately, many

downtown retailers still were not aware of the ambassadors program, she said.

"It would be nice to have a little bit more publicity, though, because even the shopkeepers don't know about us."

With last weekend's unseasonably warm weather, the streets were packed and the shops seemed to be getting a lot of traffic.



Left: Rebecca Van der Zalm. Right: One of her famous cakes. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Greatest Baker contestant **advances**, but needs support in latest round

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

NOTL's Rebecca van der Zalm has advanced to the second round of the Greatest Baker competition, a global votes-based contest on the hunt for talented bakers.

If she can secure enough votes this week she will move on to the next stage.

As of Wednesday, she was in fifth place in her group. The top five in each group will continue to the next round.

Voting for this round

ends Thursday, Nov. 12, and you can vote for van der Zalm at <https://greatestbaker.com/2020/rebecca-van-der-zalm>.

She said she signed up for the competition after suggestions from friends and family and is happy she decided to take the leap.

Van der Zalm balances her time between full-time employment as a compounding pharmacy assistant at Simpson's Pharmacy, a volunteer firefighter with the NOTL Fire Department, mak-

ing time for friends and family and building her baking business, Baking by Beccs.

The business, mainly a weekend affair, began as a hobby and grew from there. Now, she aspires to open her own bakery and storefront and hopes to progress far enough along in this contest to make those dreams a reality.

Supporters can vote once a day through the site, or a "hero vote" can be purchased, with proceeds going to the No Kid Hungry Foundation.

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GAMES



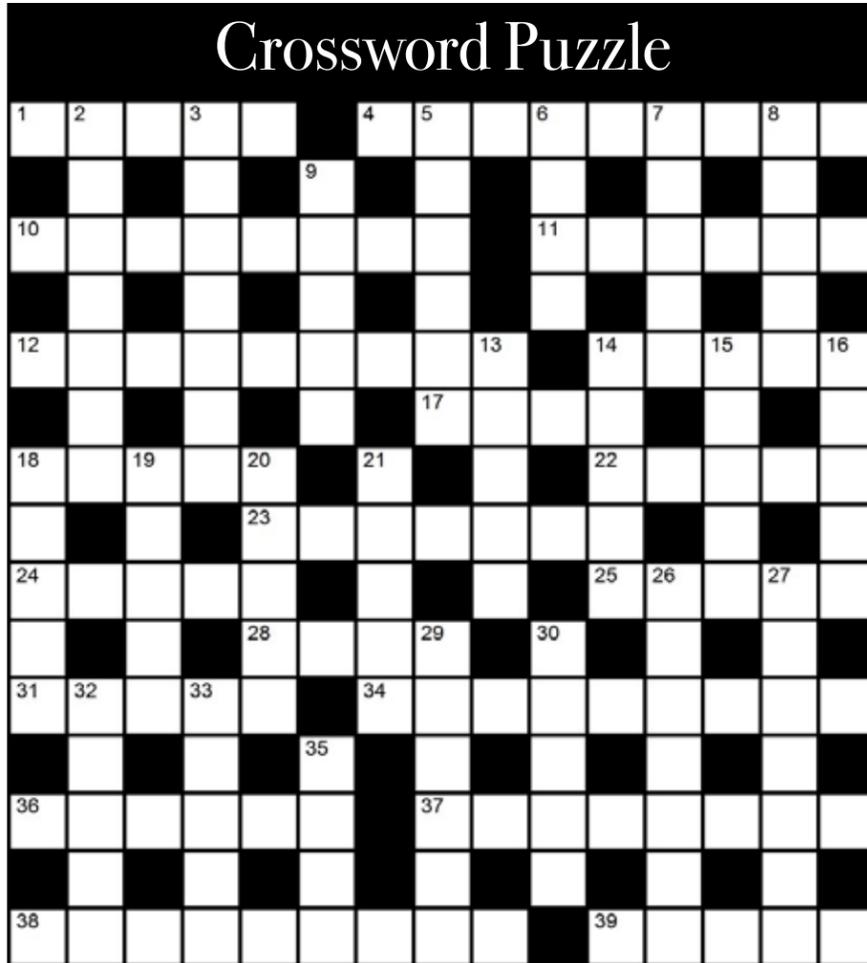
Have some fun

Across

- 1. Charges (5)
- 4. Unwavering (9)
- 10.. Wedding (8)
- 11.. Bicycle seat (6)
- 12. Tonsorial tidier (9)
- 14. Yellowish citrus fruit (5)
- 17.. Indian exercise method (4)
- 18. Type of radiation (5)
- 22. Sprite (5)
- 23.. Folds (7)
- 24. Vision (5)
- 25. Vacant (5)
- 28. Woodwind instrument (4)
- 31. Academy award (5)
- 34. Disgusting (9)
- 36. Condescending (6)
- 37. Event (8)
- 38. Secondary piece of equipment (9)
- 39. Got up (5)

Down

- 2. U S state on the Gulf Coast (7)
- 3. Aural membrane (7)
- 5. Minute (6)
- 6. Too (4)
- 7. Soft sweetmeat (5)
- 8. Simultaneous firing of artillery (5)
- 9. Native New Zealander (5)
- 13. Raise (5)
- 14. Pass into disuse (5)
- 15. State of confusion (3-2)
- 16. Destitute (5)
- 18. Zest (5)
- 19. Sorcery (5)
- 20. Participant (5)
- 21. Spanish Mister (5)
- 26. Bullfighter (7)
- 27. Lease holders (7)
- 29. Weirder (6)
- 30. Contact (5)
- 32. Operated by sound waves (5)
- 33. Residence (5)
- 35. Stains (4)



Last issue's answers



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Niagara Furniture Bank is a green **community hub**



Kyra Simone is a NOTL-born nature lover with a master's degree in biology. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up garbage, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.

Kyra Simone
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara Furniture Bank gives back to both the community and the environment by the truckload. In addition to its charitable activities, the hub at 53 Ontario St. in St. Catha-

rines is always working to reduce waste and reimagine practices that discard usable items.

HOW IT WORKS: The Niagara Furniture Bank re-purposes gently-used items to disadvantaged individuals and aims to make shelters into homes.

Where our Newark Neighbours gladly takes clothing and non-perishables, the furniture bank can accept a variety of additional items. This includes furniture, mattresses, carpets, bedding, towels and even large appliances.

At its warehouse, minor repairs are made to extend the life of previously-loved items. To date, the furniture bank has diverted over 500,000 pounds from landfill!

All donations receive a "fair market value" tax receipt and rates for furniture are fixed. For example,



Bostyn Venus and Rick Rivait organize items at the Niagara Furniture Bank warehouse. SUPPLIED

couches are valued at \$300 and sidetables are \$70.

Executive director Matt Cuthbert says the furniture bank is always in search of small household essentials such as toasters, kettles, microwaves and crock pots. Clients getting back on their feet also consistently need single beds, dressers, tables and chairs.

The retail store, open Tuesday and Thursday (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.), generates operational funds by selling unique items that cannot be used by furniture bank clients.

BEYOND FURNITURE: The furniture bank serves as a dropoff centre for the "Toolbox" program. Once bath products and warm winter gear are collected, care boxes are delivered to those living in poverty.

The furniture bank also has a unique partnership with bed-in-a-box companies. Their "sleep guarantee" allows customers to return mattresses, but, similar to Amazon, returned items are usually taken straight to the dump.

The furniture bank intercepts and rehomes barely

used mattresses. It also works with wholesalers to acquire skids of returned or scratch-and-dent items that otherwise end up in landfills.

When COVID-19 initially forced restaurants to close, the furniture bank distributed more than 10,000 pounds of fresh food from closed kitchens to 13 shelters in a single day. Throughout the quarantine, the organization has developed new relationships with local growers to distribute excess produce to Niagara's hungry.

Moving and waste removal companies also work with the furniture bank: drivers keep an eye out for useable materials and put them aside to be rehomed.

TAKE A (MENTAL) LOAD OFF: Donations to the Niagara Furniture Bank are sure to have an emotional benefit.

After a loved one dies,

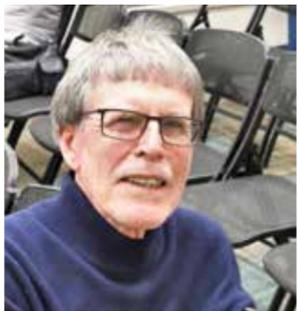
the furniture bank will do complete estate pickups. This involves cleaning out the entire house and donating usable items, which can be a great comfort during the grieving process.

Donated items has an impact far beyond equipping clients in need. A study with Social Impact Squared showed that client mental health improved after receiving items, and better sleep and day-to-day habits improved their success at school or work.

Cuthbert is extremely proud to say that 30 per cent of his agency's clients have transitioned from a shelter into stable homes. In the near future, the furniture bank intends to open a new location in Hamilton, and perhaps London.

Truly, the furniture bank's community and environmental benefits can be measured in tons.

Dr. Brown: Vaccine **progress** but still **concerns** over COVID-19



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.

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Since early this year I have written more than 20 articles on the pandemic, covering everything from the nature of the virus, the short- and long-term consequences of the disease, status of vaccines and antiviral drugs, testing, herd immunity and periodic updates on the status of the pandemic, but none in the last two months.

Why the gap? Mostly, because of fatigue with all things COVID, including the relentless 24/7 coverage from the news media. Some of the latter was excellent

but much was repetitive, speculative and even misleading.

Unfortunately, the efforts of highly reliable sources such as the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) were undermined by cutbacks and dismissive, misrepresentative information from government leaders.

The latter behaviour from those in charge did much to mute the best advice from the professionals and contributed to the recent huge surge in cases in the United States.

But we can't blame everything on the lack of political leadership – look at Europe these days. The numbers from the U.K. and other parts of Europe are almost as bad as the U.S.

In the face of this pandemic, our behaviour changed. Most locals, perhaps because of age and other factors, became wary of crowds, especially those with people who weren't familiar.

Orderliness and patience in lineups, dutifully maintaining distances from those around them and wearing face masks became the norm at the post office and other public venues.

Foremost, we learned that COVID-19 is highly transmissible, especially within closed spaces where the virus can hang suspended in the air for hours. So avoiding crowds, especially indoors, keeping our distance from others and wearing masks are very important.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect about COVID-19 has been the age divide.

Those under 50 suffer few, if any symptoms. Because the latter group includes students and those working outside the home, they can be unintentional yet potent vectors for transmitting the disease to older members of society who are most at risk for the disease.

Striking the right balance has been very much a moving target between meeting the competing needs to protect those most threatened by COVID-19, ensuring that students at all levels are able to meet their educational needs with as little disruption as possible and protecting the economy and jobs.

So far, the major financial indices haven't been hit nearly as much as markets early on expected. For the U.S. economy the saviour

has been those high-tech industries that kept businesses connected with one another and their costumers through Zoom and Zoom look-alikes and provided internet entertainment and training resources.

In case you haven't noticed, the likes of Amazon, Apple, Google and Netflix to name a few, are doing very, very well these days. Good news for investors – but tell that to the many who lost jobs during this pandemic.

For the vulnerable – older age and comorbid conditions – COVID-19 turned out to be a far greater threat than the seasonal flu. The reason is that the disease attacks multiple systems such as the heart, vascular system, coagulation system, kidneys, bowel, brain and respiratory tract, especially the lungs. It took several months for front-line health care workers to realize what a formidable high-risk foe COVID-19 could be.

Even now, there are no truly effective drugs, although remdesivir, dexamethasone and immunoglobulin infusions appear to offer some protection. Fortunately, the mortality rate for those in intensive care on ventilators

improved significantly, partly due to dexamethasone but mostly because of improvements in the general management of cases in ICU units more than any specific drug or combination of drugs.

In the past week Pfizer announced that its vaccine proved more than 90 per cent effective in preventing COVID-19. That's impressive but we need to know a lot more about this and other vaccines to follow.

For example, just how effective are they for people most at risk, such as those age 50 and up, and how long does the protection last?

We know the immune systems of older people are less capable of mounting effective immune responses to the virus and that the duration of naturally-acquired immune responses may be short at any age – based on evidence that some patients who suffered an initial documented attack from COVID-19 later suffered from a second attack from the virus.

It would be a mistake to let down our guard because we hope and believe an effective vaccine is just around the corner. Hopefully, that will prove to be the case but we're

several months away from access to vaccines and from knowing just how effective and long-lasting such vaccines will prove to be.

NOTL has managed surprisingly well given the surge of visitors in the summer and fall. But winter will be another matter because most social activities must necessarily move inside, where the virus poses the greatest risk.

What we've managed so far – distancing, wearing masks and avoidance of high risk venues – worked and we need to continue the same way probably until late spring or early summer next year when one or hopefully several effective vaccines should be widely available. Keep your fingers crossed that these vaccines will prove as effective for all ages and as long-lasting as the measles vaccine.

In the meantime the best strategy is distancing, wearing masks and avoiding get togethers outside our bubbles, especially inside. My daughter in Alaska tells me that lack of discipline on all three fronts has created a nightmare of outbreaks of COVID-19.

So be cautious.



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NIAGARA'S HISTORY UNVEILED



Left: Niagara Falls. CHRISTINE HESS PHOTOGRAPHY Right: Niagara Falls daredevils have used all manner of containers to try to survive a trip over the brink. This rendering is an artist's concept of what the first barrel might have looked like. SOURCED

Daredevils drawn to challenge Niagara Falls



Denise Ascenzo
Exclusive/The Lake Report

Niagara Falls is the place where daredevils test their luck against the odds, where the desperate take their lives and where miracles happen.

The answer to why people are so attracted to Niagara Falls seems so obvious, the sheer magnitude of the water, the thunderous sound, the smell and the always promised rainbow.

A question that one might ask though is, why do some people feel they must test the limits of

the human body against Niagara Falls?

The first recorded daredevil was in 1829 when Sam Patch aka "Yankee Leapster" jumped from an observation tower over the falls, leaping into the water below. Somehow, he survived.

The first person to go over the falls in a barrel, on purpose, was 63-year-old Annie Edson Taylor. Born on Oct. 24, 1838, in Auburn, N.Y., Taylor was a retired teacher who had lost her husband and infant son in the early years of their marriage. Finances were a problem and she hoped that should she survive the falls, fame and good fortune would follow.

Taylor was not a stupid woman and decided to first test the luck of a cat in a barrel over the falls. The cat survived so Taylor decided she would as well.

On Oct. 24, 1901, Taylor lowered herself into a simple wooden barrel. She had a cushion at her feet, cushions around her body and one on top of her head.

Her feet were hooked to a rope loop in the bottom and her hands had two rope loops to hang onto.

There was a weight attached to the bottom of the outside of the barrel. The barrel with Taylor in it was pushed into the river above the falls and onlookers watched as it reached the brink then disappeared over the edge.

The barrel was retrieved down from the falls and opened. Taylor survived the adventure and has been recorded as the first person, and the first woman, to go over the falls and survive. Her words upon getting out of the barrel "No one ought ever to do that again" were not

headed by several others in later years.

Taylor, unfortunately, did not achieve the fame and fortune she sought. Her manager absconded with all money that came in and her barrel was stolen. She died on April 29, 1921.

It was 10 years after Taylor's success that the next attempt was made. Bobby Leach, on July 25, 1911, successfully went over the falls in his custom steel barrel.

Unlike Taylor, Leach toured Canada, the United States and England after his feat, making a living by showing his barrel and bragging about his conquest of Niagara Falls. Incredibly, Leach died on April 26, 1926, after slipping on an orange peel while on a publicity tour in New Zealand. His injured leg had to be amputated and he died later of com-

plications.

Starting with Taylor, 15 attempts were made to ride over the falls in a barrel. Not all were successful. On July 11, 1920, Charles Stephens had the honour of being the first person to die in a barrel going over the falls.

His was a gruesome death, one that even the papers were reluctant to report on. His partial remains are buried in Drummond Hill Cemetery in Niagara Falls.

On July 4, 1928, the weirdest object went over the falls with a man inside. Jean Lussier had constructed a six-foot rubber and steel ball. It is said that once the ball reached the bottom of the falls it bounced several times before finally coming to a rest. Lussier survived the fall and spent many years later selling pieces of his

rubber ball to tourists in Niagara Falls.

Then on July 5, 1930, George A. Stathakis made plans to go over the falls in a specialized steel barrel. He bragged how he was taking his 100-year-old turtle with him for luck. Unfortunately Stathakis' luck was not very good; he died in the plunge but his turtle "Sonny boy" survived.

The last barrel over the falls (so far) was on Sept. 28, 1989. Two young men, Peter De Bernardi and Jeffery James Petkovich, took the plunge in a reinforced steel barrel. They survived and used the stunt to bring awareness to an anti-drug campaign.

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



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EXPLORING PHOTOS
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Roy 'Dewey' Greaves



Roy Greaves, also known as "Dewey," was the fourth son of Mabel and William Greaves, the founders of the Greaves Jam Company in Town. Roy and his four brothers all grew up helping with the family business. When the Second World War began, Roy was 19 and he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He carried on extensive correspondence with family and friends, making special requests for them to send jam!

Roy's final entry in his flight log is dated Oct. 8, 1943. He was reported missing in action on Oct. 9 when his plane did not return from an overnight bombing mission over Bremen, Germany. Roy was 23. That raid resulted in high casualties from anti-aircraft fire. Many of the Allied bombers being used were slow and had difficulty reaching higher altitudes. The family were never told what really happened to Roy's plane when it was shot down. Investigating crash sites was difficult during the war for obvious reasons and local German records were often inaccurate.

The last time his brother Winston saw Roy was during a leave in England. Roy had to get back to camp and borrowed a bicycle from the local clergyman so he would not be late. Winston took his picture with the bicycle and it was the last photo taken of Roy before the crash.

Roy is one of the men listed on the memorial clock tower on Queen Street and his name is recorded in the Book of Remembrance in the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

A special thank you to Marnie Taylor of the Greaves family for providing this information and donating the Roy Greaves Collection to the museum.

ARCHITEXT

One of the few

Brian Marshall
Columnist



A conversion that works. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL

For many years, one of the prevalent housing trends in Europe, particularly in the U.K. has been the conversion of old agricultural buildings into homes.

Of course, over there, the barns, stables, piggeries and so on, more often than not, are masonry structures made of brick and/or stone. Typically two and a half storeys tall, these old buildings tend to have rambling footprints that often exceed 5,000 or 6,000 square feet. In short, many are ideal candidates for residential conversion.

Here in Canada, the opposite is true. Why build a barn of expensive masonry

when the supply of lumber was cheap and plentiful?

The soaring hay lofts necessary to store enough feed for our long cold winters were generally clad in loose-fitted wooden planks. The rubblestone foundations upon which the timber structure rests would rarely rise to a height of eight feet. Converting one of these old century barns requires both expert design and extensive rework, which is invariably very costly. As a result, conversions in our country are rarely undertaken.

However, not all of our agricultural buildings were

constructed in this fashion.

In fact, among the monied landowner class it was not uncommon for their stables, barns and service buildings to be constructed of the masonry only their wealth could afford. So it was that when George Rand had his "farm" buildings raised in 1919 on his Niagara-on-the-Lake property. Only the best would do.

You see, Rand's son was enamoured with raising prize dairy cattle, while his daughter was equally besotted by fine horses and equestrian pursuits. To facilitate their interests, Rand

engaged an architect to design the new buildings in a style that was in keeping with his social station.

The result was an agricultural building complex reminiscent of those found in the United Kingdom. It sprawled over thousands of square feet with its highest ridge at roughly two and a half storeys. It was clad in rough-cast stucco set off by decorative stone work sheltered beneath flared eaves.

The building was punctuated by multiple windows and doors sporting diamond shaped glass panes. Anchoring one corner of the building, an integrated silo complete with a conical roof rose above it all. The Rands' livestock were certainly housed in a manner befitting their owners!

Fast-forward to 1996, the Randwood Milkhouse and Stables underwent a gorgeous residential conversion wherein heritage was graciously preserved but with a new purpose to carry it into the future.

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