

Freedom of expression is crucial part of being Canadian  
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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake

# The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 45

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

November 14, 2019



A minute  
of silence  
Story on page 8

Cadets from the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron stand sentry at the Old Town cenotaph during Monday's Remembrance Day ceremony. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

## Something to Sing About

# Music Niagara launches ChoralFest Saturday

David Israelson  
Special to The Lake Report

Music lovers are in for a special treat as Music Niagara launches its first ChoralFest, kicking off Saturday, Nov. 16, with the famed Elmer Iseler Singers performing at the Niagara United Mennonite Church in Virgil.

Voices will reverberate through the rafters at concerts in Virgil, at St. Mark's Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Our Lady of Peace Church in Niagara

Falls throughout the festival, which runs until Nov. 25 and is a new venture for Music Niagara, building on the success of its popular summer concert series.

"We're presenting eight concerts with participation from nine choirs over 10 days. Singing is one of the very first musical experiences we carry in our memory," says Atis Bankas, Music Niagara's artistic director.

To help stir audience memories, ChoralFest includes performances by several children's choirs as

well as the Avanti Chamber Singers, Celaya Conservatory Children's Choir of Mexico, and Volunge and Vesnivka, renowned Lithuanian and Ukrainian choral groups. There's also a perennial favourite — Sing-along Messiah, at St. Mark's on Nov. 23.

ChoralFest will be followed by a return of the fabulous Toronto All-Star Big Band to celebrate A Swingin' Christmas at St. Mark's on Dec. 8.

*Continued on Page 15*



Avanti Chamber Singers will be one of the performing choirs. SUPPLIED PHOTO

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# Chartwell Niagara cited for **previous** patient altercations

## Long-term care home where 94-year-old killed was investigated for two 'critical incidents' this year

Kevin MacLean  
Managing Editor

A Niagara-on-the-Lake long-term care home, where an altercation between two residents has led to a manslaughter charge, has been the subject of two "critical incident" investigations since March.

Chartwell Niagara at 120 Wellington St. was sanctioned by provincial inspectors on Sept. 19 for failing to ensure that two patients were protected from abuse related to separate incidents in 2018 and 2019.

The September order by inspector Kelly Hayes from the Hamilton office of the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care included what the ministry calls two written notifications, one voluntary plan of correction and one compliance order, according to public documents posted on the ministry's website.

The orders stem from a "critical incident inspection" conducted over six days between Aug. 14 and 21.

The inspection was in response to a "resident to resident altercation that

resulted in injury" and a fall that "resulted in a change in a resident's condition."

Last week, Niagara Regional Police charged Robert Barry Stroeh, 74, with manslaughter in the death of Verna Traina, 94, after an incident at Chartwell Niagara on Aug. 9. Traina died at Greater Niagara General Hospital on Aug. 20.

Stroeh was released on \$500 bail and returned to Chartwell Niagara, where he continues to reside.

It is not known whether the ministry inspection is related to the fatal incident as police, ministry and Chartwell officials would not provide details.

However, an anonymous source who alerted The Lake Report to the existence of the ministry reports claims they are the same incident.

The reports are convoluted and full of health care jargon and awkward terminology. As a result, deciphering exactly what happened is difficult.

The Lake Report is attempting to outline the main details of the reports so readers have an overview of

the investigations and the outcomes.

Because all residents are anonymous and only identified by three-digit numbers, it is not known how much overlap, if any, there is among the various reports and incidents.

The September report, which orders Chartwell Niagara to ensure "all residents in the home are protected from physical abuse by resident #001," gives the home until Nov. 15 to comply.

Chartwell says that has been done. "We have taken all required steps to fully comply with the order," spokesperson Janine Reed said in a statement to The Lake Report on Tuesday.

The ministry report notes Chartwell Niagara has a "history" of compliance issues. The ministry's website lists 13 complaint reports between 2010 and February 2019, but only two other critical incident investigations, in 2010 and 2012.

The report by Hayes says, "This order is made up on the application of the factors of severity (3), scope (2), and compliance history

(3). This is in respect to the severity of actual harm that the identified residents experienced, the scope of this being a pattern, two of three residents reviewed, incident. The home had a level 3 history as they had previous noncompliance" with the Long-term Care Homes Act, including a written notification in April 2019.

The September investigation notes an incident occurred between residents #001 and #002 on an "identified date" in 2019. Exactly when is not revealed. The report cites Chartwell for not protecting resident #002 from abuse.

The report also refers to a 2018 altercation between resident #003 and #004 (who was injured) and a prior incident between #003 and #008.

Reed said the residents in the 2018 altercation are not the same people involved in the 2019 incident.

As a result of the ministry's investigation of that altercation, "Resident #003 was discharged from our residence," she said in response to questions from The Lake Report.



Chartwell Niagara is located at 120 Wellington St.  
BRITTANY CARTER

The second ministry critical incident inspection report is dated April 11 and is related to seven days of investigation from March 18 to 27 headed by inspector Aileen Graba.

Concurrent with the April critical incident probe was an inspection related to a resident's complaint about a particular personal support worker, a plan of care violation and staffing and record-keeping concerns. That investigation was overseen by Graba and inspector Lisa Bos.

The April report cites Chartwell for failing "to ensure that all residents were protected from abuse by anyone."

The document says a resident suffering from "cognitive loss" and identified only as #001, and another patient, #002, also suffering cognitive loss, were involved in a physical altercation in which #002 was injured. The extent or seriousness of injuries is never outlined in any of the reports.

The April document con-

cludes Chartwell Niagara failed to protect resident #002 from "abuse by anyone" and also did not "ensure that for each resident demonstrating responsive behaviours, strategies were developed and implemented to respond to these behaviours."

It is unclear from the April report when the incident occurred, only that it happened on an "identified date."

With different resident numbers and few details, it is unclear whether this incident is the same 2018 altercation mentioned in the September investigative report.

Because officials, citing privacy concerns and patient confidentiality, won't reveal details of all the incidents, it also is unclear how serious any of the incidents actually were and if the same patients were involved in some instances.

*The Lake Report is continuing to follow this story. Contact editor@niagaranow.com.*

## Glendale Notes: Niagara on the Green park improvements have begun

Steve Hardaker  
Community Correspondent

For a neighbourhood that has seen an influx of young families, playground improvements that are being implemented in the Niagara on the Green Park are being welcomed by many residents.

Niagara on the Green is a community of 465 households in Glendale. In the 2019 budget, town council approved funds to make capital improvements in Niagara on the Green Park. The improvements include a full

court basketball surface, playground replacement, pergola refurbishment and a community information board.

The town used a collaborative approach to redesigning the park, with residents being given the opportunity to provide input and influence the final design.

The municipality's Join The Conversation platform was used so residents could provide feedback to town staff on a preferred design and colour.

There was an online survey to help determine the

location of the community information board. A public open house was held in August at which residents got a first look at the new play structure. That design was eventually redesigned based on feedback.

The basketball court was a half-court surface with one hoop. The new surface will accommodate two hoops, with line markings, and will be ready in the spring of 2020.

The old, outdated play structure, a popular destination for many of the youth in the neighbourhood, is being replaced

now with updated swings, slides and climbing equipment. The pergola's upright columns have been replaced and painted.

The balance of the structure will be painted in the late spring of 2020.

The town is now sourcing quotations to purchase a community information board, which will be used to inform residents of upcoming events in the neighbourhood, the community and town.

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



Niagara on the Green park's new design. SUPPLIED

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# Town approves additional \$83,000 for nursery school

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors have approved additional funding for the Niagara Nursery School expansion after they were told about the need for child care in town.

The extra \$83,200 will come from the town's development charges, not from the general tax levy.

In June, the town has approved construction of a new \$1.5 million nursery school.

The 4,704-square-foot facility, which will be accessed from Anderson Lane, will have rooms for 10 infants, 15 toddlers, 24 preschoolers, and 20 school-aged children. The school will accommodate 69 children with 15 staff running the operation.

The building cost will be split among the Niagara Region, Town of NOTL and the provincial Ministry of Education.

With the extra contribution approved Monday, the town will provide a total of \$248,889, all through development charges. The region will contribute \$200,000 and the nursery school must come up with \$100,000.

The town also has issued a 20-year debenture for \$552,141 to the nursery school.

Natalie Cooper, of the NOTL Mamas and Babies group, spoke in support of the new expansion and additional funding, saying daycare is crucial for families in town



A rendering of the new nursery school on Anderson Lane. SUPPLIED PHOTO

and there are no registered full-time childcare options for children under the age of two.

The NOTL nursery only accepts children 27 months and older.

As the mother of a 16-month old girl, Cooper said it was very stressful trying to find trusted child care when she was returning to work. She also applied to the nursery school in February 2019 and is number 32 on the waitlist. "Young families are moving here and it is a good thing," Cooper said, noting the town is not just a retirement community and many young families here want to contribute to a town "that's going to be great for all ages."

Rampart Street resident Adam Hawley also spoke in support of giving additional money to the expansion. As the parent of an infant son, he said one of his big concerns is finding adequate and safe child care in town.

"This is an unbelievable opportunity for the town," Hawley said. "The additional funds are a minor hurdle

to create advances and the great opportunity here to have a huge success for the town. We need this."

Town officials have discussed location options with the NOTL Public Library staff and came to an agreement to locate the facility to the northeast side of the library, staff said in a report.

The original proposed location of the building was closer to Anderson Lane.

After neighbours raised concerns about traffic safety, it was agreed to have a setback between the school and the road with a walkway leading to the facility from the drop-off area.

The relocation of the building has created additional costs such as for extra concrete for new pathways, underground services and a larger vestibule. The additional funding will help complete the project.

Building the school on the east side will limit the disruption to NOTL Community Centre visitors, allow the existing nursery

school to operate during the construction and make the building more visually appealing from the street.

According to the staff report, the costs for the extra items can be offset with money from development charges, from internal recoveries for project management and from building permit fees.

Each side of the building will also have a 41-foot setback and the project will preserve tree canopy, said the town's manager of parks and recreation, Kevin Turcotte.

Some smaller trees will be spaded out and relocated on the property, and the other trees will either be relocated or taken down as they're sitting in the existing footprint, he said.

"I'm excited to get this project going, constructed and have this facility available to meet the needs of a lot of young families in our community that really need care for those kids that are zero to two years old or up to six years old," Turcotte told The Lake Report. "It's always a challenge for parents that want that care for their kids."

The town staff have also requested \$180,000 for front parking from the 2020 capital budget. Council is expected to make a decision on that issue during budget deliberations in December.

The tender process will also be pieced out, Turcotte said at the council meeting, which means staff will put out separate tenders for steel, concrete work, for mechanical, electrical, and other items.

"We found that helps keeping the costs down," Turcotte told The Lake Report.

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## Tidbits

### Friday is official Decoration Day

Decoration Day in NOTL is this Friday, Nov. 15. Residents are invited to help decorate Queen Street and other primary locations throughout town. To help out, meet up at 10 a.m. in the Market Room at the Court House.

### Councillors host forum Saturday at St. Mark's

There will be an open public forum with town councillors Gary Burroughs and Clare Cameron and regional Coun. Gary Zalepa on Saturday, Nov. 16. Councillors will be answering questions, addressing concerns and discussing current issues and future plans. The forum starts at 10 a.m. at Addison Hall at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Coffee and doughnuts will be available for \$2.

### Social media, cybersecurity workshop on Nov. 19

Everyone is invited to learn about social media and cybersecurity at the Royal Niagara Golf Club on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Sponsored by CARP Niagara (the Canadian Association of Retired Persons), the meeting will feature speaker Nancy Siciliana of the Spark Lincoln innovation hub in Beamsville and will run from 2 to 3:30 p.m., followed by a computer workshop. Admission is \$2.

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**Contributors:** Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Ross Robinson, Brian Marshall, Tim Carroll, Susan Des Islets, NOTL Writers' Circle, Jim Smith, Jaclyn Wilms, Collin Gooddine, Plunger Patrol, and many more members of the local community

### Green Tip of the Week

**Contributed by Norm Arsenault:**  
 Use reusable water bottles instead of buying plastic ones. Scientists believe that 8.8 millions tons of plastic end up in the oceans each and every year.  
 (National Geographic)

### Positive Power +

with **Patty Garriock**  
 Never, never let action become a substitute for thought, says writer Brian Aldiss. And as you get older, keep those brain cells working!



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## Editorial

### Kudos to NOTL's young climate activists

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

Kudos and congratulations to Hazel Norris and Molly Shara, two 13-year-old activists from Niagara-on-the-Lake, who have decided they want their municipality to take the climate crisis seriously.

The St. Michael Catholic School students are vowing to continue monthly "climate strikes" outside the NOTL Town Hall.

Inspired by young Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg and others, they want our municipality to declare a climate emergency, a largely symbolic act but one that would show our civic leaders are on board with protecting the planet.

No, showing concern about the environment is not actually an area of responsibility for a municipal government. But neither are many other feel-good declarations, flag-raising and other actions that our town council, and numerous other municipalities,

enact regularly.

We're not putting down those declarations and flag-raising – they are important to the community. So is our environment.

No doubt for writing this there will be predictable feedback and comments from the anti-carbon tax, "climate change is a government scam" and "there's no climate crisis" crowd. We expect it.

But it was really sad over the past few weeks when we posted online stories about these two young NOTLers and watched in short order as the so-called adults in the room felt it was OK to mock and put down these children.

It was ironic, too, that as some of the adults were dismissing the students' efforts and telling the kids to go to school, the grownups' postings contained silly, Grade 5 level spelling and grammar errors. Oops.

Yea to Hazel Norris and Molly Shara. Maybe they don't have all the answers. Doesn't matter. They're try-

ing to do *something* about it.

So ... some yays, and a nay.

**Nay** to those who choose to mock and squawk.

**Yea** to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124, cadets, emergency personnel and all those who marched in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Old Town, Queenston and elsewhere around the country on Monday.

**Yea** also to everyone else who braved the snowy weather to pay tribute to those who fought for freedom.

**Yea** to Music Niagara, NOTL's own very special music festival, which had a record year at the box office this past summer. Kudos to board chair Margot Hickson and the entire Music Niagara team that has worked hard for years to put this festival on the map. And now, they're expanding, with a 10-day ChoralFest kicking off this Saturday with the famed Elmer Iseler Singers at the Niagara United Mennonite Church in Virgil.

editor@niagaranow.com



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### *A reminder to support The Lake Report*

Dear editor:

A gentle reminder: Congratulations to The Lake Report and staff on the glowing results of your recent readership survey, ("Survey shows The Lake Report is #1 among NOTL readers," Nov. 7).

It is a great report card for our fledgling favourite local news source.

And since it is getting near year-end, this would be a good time to remind all readers that the paper welcomes voluntary contributions, suggested at \$50 per year per household, with larger contributions also greatly appreciated.

That's less than a coffee (or a Doug Ford beer) per week.

Let's keep up support for our little Gem on the Lake.

*Cal and Marilyn Cochrane  
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# OPINION



Freedom of speech is important for libraries, which must uphold principles of freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression. SUPPLIED PHOTO

## Libraries must be bastions of free expression

Democracy and social justice die when free speech is denied

Cathy Simpson  
Special to The Lake Report

There are many famous quotes about freedom of speech because it's such an important principle and so closely tied to democracy and social justice.

One of the most famous was written by Evelyn Beatrice Hall to explain Voltaire's belief in free speech: "I disapprove of what you say but will defend to the death your right to say it."

One of my favourite free speech quotes was made recently by Toronto Public Library city librarian Vickery Bowles; "I'm not going to reconsider supporting free speech."

This statement was in response to a question from "As It Happens" host Carol Off during an interview about Meghan Murphy's talk at a Toronto library branch.

Bowles was explaining the library's decision to allow rental of a meeting room to a group hosting Murphy's talk on the impact of transgender rights on women's and girls' rights.

Murphy's views are considered controversial by many individuals and groups. Leading up to the talk, Toronto Mayor John Tory asked Bowles not to rent space to the group hosting Murphy which led to Off's question to reconsider the event.

In the face of this very public pressure, Bowles upheld the mandate of public libraries to protect free speech.

As she explained it, "We are a democratic institution and we are standing up for free speech. That's what I'm standing up for. I'm not getting into a discussion about the two sides of this issue, or the three sides of this issue, or the four sides of this issue."

This is truly the core of the controversy. We may not agree with your ideas but, as long as they do not devolve into hate speech, we must allow you to express them.

As a public institution, a public library's primary obligation is to uphold the fundamental principles of freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression as enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Democracy and social justice die when free speech is denied.

Here at the NOTL Public Library, we've adopted the Canadian Federation of Library Association's "Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries" as part of our intellectual freedom policy. The federation's statement and our policy uphold the Charter of Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes the freedom "to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and

regardless of frontiers."

The Toronto library protesters and boycotters are attacking the library when they should be challenging the speaker with whom they disagree.

As Bowles explained, "Engaging in respectful civil discourse with people of opposing views may be a more productive strategy than abstaining from public library events. Libraries have always been committed to supporting vulnerable communities by welcoming and creating space for different perspectives rather than through censorship."

The NOTL Public Library's intellectual freedom policy aligns with the Toronto library's decision to allow a third-party room rental by the group hosting Murphy and the decision is also supported by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, the Urban Libraries Council and Ryerson's Centre for Free Expression, where Prof. Alvin Schrader wrote extensively on the controversy and summed it up very succinctly:

"The public learns nothing from silence. Shutting down open debate from public library meeting rooms doesn't protect anybody in the long run from harm, oppression and discrimination. It does not advance social justice."

We have our share of con-

trovery in Niagara-on-the-Lake and many instances of people on opposite sides of issues failing to make the effort to listen, to understand each other or to at least respectfully disagree.

We can do better and the library and librarians are here to help. In his 2008 inaugural address as president of the Canadian Library Association, Ken Roberts had this to say about librarians and freedom of speech and information:

"We are the only profession whose value to society resides in a faith that people have the ability to make personal decisions that are good for them when — and if — they also have free and open access to all of the information that they might need. Our belief in the ability of people to form their own opinions trumps everything that we might personally think. This, to me, makes us remarkable."

I've quoted several people in this article in an effort to explain a complex issue. I'd like to leave you with one more quote to ponder the next time you encounter an opinion with which you disagree: "I may not agree with you, but I will defend to the death your right to make an ass of yourself."

I believe Oscar Wilde was on to something.

*Cathy Simpson is chief librarian and CEO of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.*

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## MORE LETTERS

### Thanks for supporting Open Mic at Legion

Dear editor:  
Just a quick note of thanks to The Lake Report for your coverage and support of the monthly Open Mic shows held on the first Sunday of every month at the Royal Canadian Legion in Niagara-on-the-Lake.  
A reminder to all that the next Open Mic is Sunday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome. Come out to perform or to watch some great local performers.  
Thanks,

**Buzz Hummer**  
aka **Randy Busbridge**  
NOTL

### I also am OK with bird bangers

Dear editor:  
I tend to agree with Bill Cochrane Sr.'s letter expressing his acceptance of the percussion devices used by local farmers to minimize damage to their crops, ("I am OK with bird cannons," The Lake Report, Nov. 7).  
One particular line says it all. "The farmers were here long before me, and wine country developed."  
For decades, I lived in Markham and watched residential development rapidly encroach on land surrounding our local Buttonville Airport.  
People, viewed, selected, bought and moved into houses in proximity to the runways.  
Within six months these residents, who knew full well the airport was close by, were complaining about the noise and demanding the airport be shut down or moved.  
At the time, I didn't believe the airport should be closed just because these purchasers were born devoid of imagination, foresight or common sense.  
And "ditto" for the complainers regarding the bird bangers that have been here since we arrived more than 13 years ago.

**J. Richard Wright**  
NOTL

### Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to  
[editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)



### Vineyard cannons now silent, but noise bylaw should ban bird bangers

Dear editor:  
For the third year now, residents of York Road have had to endure a travesty imposed upon us by Baker Estate Vineyards' use of propane-fired cannons.  
Finally, on Nov. 6, the guns fell silent after 81 continuous days of explosive noise every few minutes from a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. It has given new meaning to the novel I once read by E.M. Remarque, "All Quiet on the Western Front."  
Non-farming residents living in the Escarpment bench neighbourhoods of Sheppard Crescent, York Road between Queenston and St. Davids, Sandalwood Crescent, north Tanbark Road and Stoneridge Crescent, and in rural areas, take note: Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Deputy Lord Mayor Clare Cameron have shown no interest whatsoever and have not advocated on your behalf, at either the

municipal or provincial level, with regard to growers' use of sonic explosive devices and the negative impact they have on all living things within hearing range.  
Cameron also was opposed to including a review of the use of propane-fired cannons in the current noise control bylaw review. It was conveniently stated by her to not be in the mandate for discussion.  
Coun. Erwin Wiens also voted against including cannons in the review, but he has told me he uses cannons in some of his vineyards. Surprisingly, he did not declare a conflict of interest before the vote.  
To the non-farming residents who have worked or are working in different kinds of jobs, because we are not growers, we are being treated like second-class citizens.  
Our rights are being violated with impunity. It would be interesting to know how much revenue

we contribute to the region and the town in our taxes and how much the growers contribute. My guess would be most of their revenue comes from the residential non-agricultural tax base.  
To the non-farming residents living in those areas and being impacted by cannon use, I would like to make the following suggestion: MPAC will be mailing out your property assessment notices again in 2020. I would suggest that you file a Request for Reconsideration of your assessment based on your loss of quiet enjoyment of your property for the three months or length of time that it occurred.  
You have been robbed of one-quarter of the year's enjoyment of your property. Real estate assessments may be required to show that our properties have been devalued by the length of time the explosive noise occurs, and the close proximity of their cannons to our residential areas.  
The Request for Reconsideration is a required step before becoming eligible to file an appeal with the Assessment Review Board.

There is a \$65 fee to appeal.  
With reference to the town, it has failed to respect the preamble mission statements of the noise control bylaw of 2012. And no doubt as a result of the lobbying efforts of the growers who sat on the agricultural (advisory) committee during that time period, we see the placement of anything regarded as a "normal?" farm practice being included in the bylaw's Schedule A of Permitted Noise (including propane cannon use).  
Under the provisions of the Municipal Act, the town does not have to voluntarily accept so called "normal" farm practices as determined by a board of about eight farmers and three lawyers for 2019.  
The town could amend the bylaw, remove sonic device use from Schedule A, and ban their use in this jurisdiction.  
Any grower wanting to use a cannon would then have to apply to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board for a hearing to overrule the municipal bylaw in a site-specific manner.  
**Jim and Irene Fisher**  
Queenston

### Actually, we were here long before the bird bangers

Dear editor:  
I'd like to offer a great big thank you to The Lake Report for your two front page articles on the use of propane-fired cannons to deter predators from vineyards.  
How validating it is to have one's concerns recog-

nized and acknowledged, and not swept under the "it's a provincial issue" rug.  
I found Bill Cochrane Sr.'s letter, "I am OK with bird cannons," to be insulting and demeaning, on a par with those who suggest that those whose beliefs are different from your own should

pack their bags and go back to where they came from.  
We built our home in 1975 on land farmed by George Sheppard, a true gentleman.  
Tractor sounds early in the morning, voices and vehicles of pickers coming and going from the cherry orchard and mixed fruit and vegetable farm, were all part of the vitality of our neighbourhood.  
It was a time of mutual

respect and real affection.  
With the transition by a new owner from orchard to vineyard and the accompanying explosions from dawn to dusk and beyond for three months of the year, there is little affection or respect for growers who disrupt their neighbourhoods.  
It is time for this goose to be cooked.  
**Win Laar**  
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](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

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**Pauline Reimer Gibson**  
Audiologist





## We've been here 40 years, long before noisy bird cannons came to town

Dear editor:

In response to the letter submitted by Bill Cochrane Sr. last week ("I am OK with bird cannons"), I would say the following.

It is interesting that whoever opposes explosive noise for months on end is assumed to have newly arrived from the GTA, and you now wish us to choose between the explosive noise from propane cannons every three to five minutes all day long, or the noise from gunfire in the GTA.

You suggest that we get on a bus and travel back to where we came from so we can enjoy the sound of real gunfire.

Thanks for the offer of a bus ride, but when we arrive over there we wouldn't know anyone.

We have lived on our property here for 40 years and have no connections to the GTA.

My wife came here as a child in 1961 and her parents operated a tree fruit farm on York Road, where the current Baker Estate Vineyards is now established.

We pre-date their cannon use by 37 years. It was a quiet and enjoyable place to live back then.

I am reminded of the old saying, "Silence is golden," and reject having to choose between the explosive noise of gunfire and the explosive noise from propane-fired cannon percussions reverberating off of my closed windows.

We have a right to the quiet enjoyment of our property, and that human right and our property rights are being violated by what the Bakers and other growers are being allowed to do.

**Jim and Irene Fisher**  
Queenston

## We arrived in 1959 and surely there are alternatives to bird bangers

Dear editor:

I have never penned a letter to any newspaper before, but I take particular umbrage to the suggestion in last week's letter to The Lake Report by William Cochrane Sr. that those of us who do not enjoy the ceaseless noise of the propane cannons should hop a bus and go back to enjoy the sounds of genuine gunfire in Toronto instead, ("I am OK with bird cannons," Nov. 7).

I also live on York Road and have done so since 1959, so I have been living here for 60 years, long before the vineyards currently surrounding us, and indeed remember the days when most of the farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake grew not grapes but tender fruit.

The farm the Baker Estate Vineyards has grapes on now was formerly a quiet

fruit farm, as were all the other farms on this road, including the 20 acres that are now part of the Shepard Crescent subdivision, which is the other property from which the sonic cannons boom.

I knew these farmers and worked on their farms as a student in the summers and can say that they were all considerate neighbours.

This has always been a quiet street. It is one thing to move to an area with either established odiferous or loud farming practices and then complain afterward, but this is not the case on York Road.

We, and I include my neighbours, were here first, I'm afraid.

Secondly, I do not understand why the vineyards near St. Davids and the town manage to use netting on their grapes and avoid the use of the sonic cannons



A propane-powered bird banger. SUPPLIED PHOTO

and the York Road farms cannot?

Do the people living there have a greater right to peace and quiet than we do?

Or perhaps it wouldn't do for the tourists enjoying their holidays and meals in those vineyards' restaurants to accidentally think they had booked their vacations in a war zone?

For indeed, when the cannons are going off loudly

every few minutes from dawn to dusk, that is exactly what it sounds like, especially on our road where they echo off the Niagara Escarpment.

If it is possible to find other, quieter, more neighbourly means to deal with birds in some parts of town, it should be possible here as well.

**Christine Buksbaum**  
Queenston

## Council lets controversial AC unit stay near homes

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

St. David's Cold Storage's illegal, unapproved air-conditioning unit is now legal and approved.

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors okayed allowing the controversial industrial air-conditioning unit to remain outside the facility despite complaints from neighbours.

The AC unit, located on the east side of the mammoth building at 365 Four Mile Creek Rd., has been causing noise and vibration issues to Cannery Park residents since its installation in August 2018. The unit was not there when most of the neighbours moved in and it was installed without municipal approval.

At the council meeting Monday, Coun. Norm Arsenault said town has a site plan process in place for

a reason and the situation is becoming "carte blanche" with some people opting to ignore it.

"What is the purpose of having a site plan if every time that site plan is violated?" he asked councillors. "Is that really the way we want to do things in this town? I don't think it's the right way. It was done illegally."

At this point, Lord Mayor Betty Disero asked Arsenault to watch his language and asked him to apologize for saying it was done illegally.

Arsenault apologized for using the word "illegally" and said it was done "without permission."

Storage owner Alfred Dyck and his lawyer Sara Premi appeared before council Monday presenting a new report showing the mitigation measures the company took to deal with

the complaints.

According to the study done by Valcoustics Canada Ltd. for the cold storage company, the sound level for the rear yard should be 50 decibels during the daytime and 45 during the evening. The study, dated Nov. 7, shows the sound level from the condenser was 39.8 decibels, which is below the provincial environmental guideline limit at the property line.

"This is a site plan approval application. This is a planning issue and I would ask if you could review this from a planning perspective," Premi told councillors.

Since the installation of two other cooling units on the south side in 2010, there have been no complaints from residents, Dyck added.

Town councillors were voting on a staff report recommending approving



Coun. Erwin Wiens said it's common for business owners to make site plan amendments. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

site plan amendments and allowing the unit to remain outside the storage building.

Coun. Allan Bisback, who has been against the existing unit remaining at its current location, made a motion to amend the report and order the AC unit be moved to the southwest side of the facility or onto the roof of a newly constructed building within six months, that all noise attenuation recommendations be implemented and that all future condensers be restricted to the southwest side or on the roof.

At the last council meeting on Oct. 21 Premi has indicated the roof cannot support the condenser unit.

Out of nine councillors, three voted in favour of Bisback's amendment: Disero, Arsenault and Bisback.

Other councillors, including Clare Cameron and Wendy Cheropita, noted a similar amendment had already been put forward by Bisback at the committee of the whole meeting on Oct. 7, and it was voted down.

Cameron said she was satisfied with the noise reports and that the storage

owner has gone "above and beyond" what he needed to do.

Coun. Gary Burroughs noted moving the unit won't do anything but affect the neighbours around the corner and he believes the sound has been mitigated, while Coun. Stuart McCormack said he sympathizes with residents but said the company has taken appropriate measures.

"With the respect to the placement of the product, it's easier to beg forgiveness than to request permission. And I don't think it's the message we want to send to the community," Stuart said.

Coun. Erwin Wiens said it's not uncommon for site plans to have amendments as businesses grow.

"We've used words like illegal, like bad behaviour. We've used everything to run this guy down and he's a good person who made a mistake," Wiens said.

Since Bisback's amendment was defeated, the motion to approve the original staff report with no amendments was passed. Bisback and Arsenault voted against it.



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Members of the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron stand for a moment of silence during the Old Town ceremony. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Community members gather for the Remembrance Day ceremony at Queenston cenotaph. BRITTANY CARTER

## Wing family honours father lost in war



809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron at Queenston cenotaph. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

This year marks 75 years since the tragic death of Robert Wing during the Second World War, and on Monday during the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Queenston cenotaph, the Wing family laid a wreath to commemorate and honour the sacrifice he made for his family and his country.

Art Wing gathered with his wife, children and grandchildren in the afternoon to pay their respects to his fallen father. Wing said the family also gathered at a ceremony in St. Catharines earlier in the day.

While the family attends ceremonies on Nov. 11 each year, this was the first time they laid a wreath in his father's name.

"This year, for the 75 years, we thought it would be an appropriate time to make that recognition and have that memory," he said. Robert Wing was the Company Sgt. Major of the Lincoln Welland regiment. He was camped in Crowborough, England, when a rocket headed toward London was intercepted.

"Our own planes knocked it down and it landed on the tent and killed all nine guys on July 5, 1944," Wing said.

Now, Wing says he and his wife Jaqueline visit Crowborough and have made friends with Royal British Legion members there.

"My wife and I were there in July for the 75th anniversary memorial. The town of Crowborough has held a memorial service every year around July 5 since 1947,"

Wing says.

They attended their first memorial in 1994, and he said they've returned at least every five years since.

Nov. 11 is such an important day for Wing because he says he knows how much it meant to his father to be a part of defending the country and being in the army. And though his only memories of his father are from when he was very young, he said he's always admired his need to serve.

"My dad signed up I think the day the war broke out and I was probably four years old at the time. When he died it was the day after my ninth birthday. He left in '41, and I never saw him again," Wing said.

He gives the Royal Canadian Legion credit for preserving and honouring the memory of so many fallen soldiers.

"I can't say enough how important it is that the Legion works hard to keep the memory of what happened and remember those people who went over and came back – and some of them that didn't. We have to remember the sacrifice," Wing said.

On Monday, crowds gathered at the Queenston cenotaph, braving the cold weather and impending snowstorm, to stand in honour of the sacrifice made by many soldiers in both world wars.

Town and local government officials, Legion members, air cadets, emergency services and many members of the community were in attendance to pay their respects, standing in silence for those who gave their lives for freedom.

## Snowy gathering at cenotaph

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

For those who came out to pay their respects at the Remembrance Day ceremonies Monday, snowy weather shouldn't have been a problem as they could warm up shortly after the service was over.

But Canada's veterans who have fought and died in wars around the world never had that choice, said Paul Eramian, president of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124.

"They didn't know when they (would) be able to warm up, if they ever could warm up again," Eramian said.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 held two services on Nov. 11 to honour fallen soldiers and veterans as well as those who continue to serve in the armed forces nowadays.

"We try to keep the memory alive although a lot of those folks are not with us anymore," Eramian told The Lake Report. "Because the freedoms we enjoy today are thanks to them."

For Niagara-on-the-Lake residents Gwen and David



809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron commanding officer Capt. Jody Lemoine and emergency service workers parade to the Old Town cenotaph. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Laing, who came to the Queen Street ceremony to pay respects to their relatives who have fought in The Great War, the service was held with "dignity and respect."

"We're enjoying something that we could never do without their sacrifice and what they went through is unimaginable to us," said David Laing, whose uncle James McLennan Laing died in the First World War.

"We feel it's important

for the younger generation for them to be educated on the wars and people who fought for our freedom," added Gwen Laing, whose grandfather James Andrew Streeter fought in The 5th Battalion during the Great War.

"We hope to carry on remembrance of that for the years to come."

The Old Town service began with a parade of veterans, Legion members, air cadets and police, fire and

emergency service workers.

The ceremony also included a two-minute silence, singing the national anthem and a hymn, and wreath-laying.

A number of town and regional officials, including Lord Mayor Betty Disero and regional councillor Gary Zalepa, were in attendance at the morning ceremony.

"Too often in our hectic and sometimes self-centered world, it is far too easy to lose sight of the significance of this day and to take for granted the freedom and opportunities which generations of Canadians fought hard to attain," Disero said in an online statement.

"And so collectively, as a nation, we pause to honour the many brave men and woman who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. We also take this opportunity to acknowledge those who courageously serve and fight for Canada today; their sacrifice is unmeasurable," lord mayor said.

After the services were over, the Legion members and community residents gathered at the branch.



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## Ceremony remembers Indigenous veterans

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

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

Hosted by Niagara Parks, the ceremony will recognize sacrifices made by Six Nations and Native Allies during the Battle of Queen-

ston Heights and throughout the War of 1812.

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

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



Indigenous veterans will be honoured at a ceremony at the Landscape of Nations Memorial Saturday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA/FILE PHOTO

## NC re-releases new brew for Remembrance Day

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Niagara College re-released JUNO, a wartime-inspired beer, for Remembrance Day.

Students and faculty of the Teaching Brewery met with Royal Canadian Legion members on Thursday to mark the commemorative beer's release.

The 3 per cent pale ale was inspired by brews of the Second World War, which adhered to a lower legal limit for alcohol.

Brewmaster of the Teaching Brewery Jon Downing said the heritage beer was originally released in the spring of 2019 prior to the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

"It actually sold out two days before D-Day. So, we had the request from the legion to re-release it for Remembrance Day," Downing said.

After requests from the legion it was re-released in time for Nov. 11, Downing added.

Though JUNO may be one of the more significant



Niagara College's Teaching Brewery students with Legion members for the re-release of JUNO - heritage brew. BRITTANY CARTER

historical recipes for the teaching brewery, Downing said the college has created several over the course of the program.

"We do all kinds of interesting things all the time. We've done quite a few historical brews. This one was a significant one for sure," he said.

"Our Bitter 1812 - it is a recipe that we've developed, I modernized it and it's become our flagship brand," Downing added.

The brew is available while supplies last at the college's brewery and at the Legion Branch 17 in Thorold and Branch 56 in Port Colborne.

## St. Davids plaque honours war dead

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Fifteen St. Davids soldiers laid down their lives for freedom and their names are now on a new commemorative plaque at the Queenston-St. Davids United Church cemetery.

The plaque was unveiled Sunday, in time for Remembrance Day, which was a challenging feat, said Niagara Historical Society president David F. Hemmings.

Researching and verifying the names of the 68 fallen soldiers from Niagara-on-the-Lake was a vast undertaking, he said.

And in that research, he said it was discovered that 15 of those soldiers were from St. Davids.

"That's nearly a quarter of the fallen soldiers from town, which we found to be quite extraordinary," Hemmings said.

During the war years, St. Davids had about one-tenth of the population it has today.

"When you start thinking about the number of young men that were of that age in St. Davids - you're dealing with one in a very few that were killed, or died, during these wars. That's a very high percentage," he said.

That is why it made sense for a plaque commemorating those names to be erected in St. Davids.

And though, initially, David Murray and his wife Elizabeth Surtees, who donated the plaque, said



Elizabeth Surtees and David Murray unveil the new St. Davids plaque on Sunday. BRITTANY CARTER

they wanted it placed at St. Davids Elementary School so that it could be seen and remembered by young people throughout the years, it was decided that it would stand at the Queenston-St. Davids United Church instead.

"By putting it on school property though it was unclear what may happen to the plaque sometime in the future, whereas putting it at the cemetery, it's likely to remain ad infinitum, forever," Hemmings said.

With help from Steve Hardaker of the church board, Hemmings said the

plaque will now be seen each week by one of the largest congregations in town, as well as those driving down York Road.

"Steve thought it would be a really good idea for us to have this plaque where we now put it. He was able to work with his board to gain appropriate approvals," Hemmings said.

The plaque was erected by the NOTL Historical Society with the support of Surtees and Murray, in collaboration of the church's board of trustees and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Obituary

## Mark Anthony Lepp



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mark on Friday, October 11, 2019 after his short battle with cancer. He leaves behind his 3 sons Carter, Riley and Nick. Loving son of Frieda and the late Paul Sr.. Cherished Brother to Dorothy (John) Floris, Paul (Sheryl) and Melissa (John) Bashford. Beloved Uncle to Lynda (Mike), Greg (Trisha), Jamie (Whitney), Kevin (Sirena), Shaelyn, Taryn (Nathan), Devon, Ryan, Dayna, and Great Uncle to

Mackenzie, Jordyn, Conor, Lucy, Sydney, Vaughn, Malakai, Isaiah and Peyton. He will be dearly missed by his friends, colleagues at the City of St. Catharines as well as his team mates from Hockey on Saturday nights. Mark is predeceased by his father Paul Sr. and sister Barbie. Mark loved to cook gourmet meals, woodworking, hockey, hiking and basketball, especially the Raptors. In accordance with Mark's wishes, cremation and a funeral have taken place. In honour of Mark, please go out and donate some blood or if you are not able please donate to the Canadian Blood Services St. Catharines. On-Line Guest Book - [www.georgedartefuneralhome.com](http://www.georgedartefuneralhome.com)

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# Linc Farms recycles pumpkins

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Hundreds of pumpkins used as autumn decorations go to waste after the season – that’s why Linc Farm owner Juliet Oraziotti put out a call for donations this year which resulted in an “overwhelming response,” she said.

“We received a lot, much more than I expected,” Oraziotti said.

This is the first year Linc Farms at Southbrook put out a public request for donated pumpkins to help feed the livestock, she said. She posted the request on the local Facebook group called NOTL 4U after a suggestion from Bjarne Hansen who mediates the group.

“Someone on one of the local Facebook groups called and asked me if we were looking for donated pumpkins. He manages one of the groups and he asked if I would post something, and I did.”



Sheep eat the donated pumpkins at Linc Farms. SUPPLIED PHOTO

“This is the first year we received so many from the community in such a big way,” she said.

Though the farm does receive donations from Alpine Nurseries on Creek Road as well.

She said it was really nice to see how many local residents reached out to donate.

“People brought enough pumpkins to fill three, one-tonne grape bins. In addition to the four bins

from Alpine Nurseries,” she added.

The farm received more than 100 pumpkins to feed the pigs and chickens on the farm, and “the sheep have decided they like the pumpkins, too,” she said.

Pumpkins are great extra feed for the animals to have this time of year because there’s not as much grass for them to eat. Also, the seeds are a natural de-wormer for the pigs, she said, so, that’s

an “extra good thing for the fall going into the winter.”

“And they are just a good nutritious food for them, and they like it.”

Linc farm only accepts donations of uncarved pumpkins, she said.

“We tried jack-o-lanterns before, but it’s a bit of a food safety issue just because they could have candles or wax or mold and stuff in there – we try to keep them fresh.”



Chickens feast on the donated pumpkins at Linc Farms. SUPPLIED PHOTO

## Sponsored content

# Don't leave your home unattended

Brittany Carter  
Sponsored

You’re ready to fly south for the winter, don’t let the thought of leaving your vacant Niagara-on-the-Lake home unattended add to vacation stress – Attendants Home Watch Services will help bring peace of mind while you’re away for weeks or months of the year.

Local resident and owner of Attendants Home Watch Services Nancy Hart is personable, friendly and professional.

Following a comprehensive 100-point checklist she and her husband Keith created through their years of experience in the industry, they diligently ensure your home is regularly checked while you’re away.

While it’s possible nothing could happen in your absence, Hart says something as small as a leaky faucet or a flat battery in

a thermostat can cause expensive damage if gone unnoticed.

The longer something is left unchecked the worse it can get, Keith says.

“Last February raccoons made their way into one customer’s home, chewing the wiring and shutting down the furnace. Without an arrangement for diligent checks the results could easily have been catastrophic and compounded by a denied insurance claim,” Hart says.

Instead the customer returned to a warm house now inaccessible to such pests.

And Hart says this was not an isolated case. Every year there are several such examples of tens of thousands of dollars in damage prevented or mitigated though regular home checks. Recent examples include failed sump pumps, frozen sump pump lines, failed appliances,

heating system failures, and the list goes on.

Hart says even with the best will in the world we can all make mistakes. One customer inadvertently left for a short trip with a shower still running, in a home that had hot water on demand.

“It was like walking into a sauna and took the fans running all night to restore the home to normal,” said Hart.

Fortunately, in this case the only downside was a large water bill, but it could easily have been much worse.

“I have to stress the importance of having someone check your home when you’re not there. Whether it’s a week or five months you are away. You need to have someone go in and make sure everything is in order,” Hart says.

It’s more than walking in the front door; reliabil-

ity and diligence are key. She encourages everyone to refer to home insurance policies and talk to their broker to ensure they are aligned in terms of expectations.

And though she says it’s common and can work well for vacationers to ask friends and family to watch their home while away, “you really need to be sure it’s being done properly.”

Attendants provide a full 100-point report at the time of each visit, which she says can be invaluable in documenting due diligence as a homeowner.

“That’s a big ask, from a friend or a neighbour,” she says, “It can be secondary to them.”

It can also be “difficult to reciprocate in kind” for such a service and if something goes wrong a friendship can be ruined.

Long-time client Eric



Nancy Hart of Attendants Home Watch Services will diligently watch over your home while away. BRITTANY CARTER

Barton says he would rate Attendants an 11 out of 10.

“Nancy and her husband – they are first rate. They are prompt, they’re accurate and they are caring. They understand the nature of a couple who are a couple thousand miles away from home and we have complete confidence in them,” Barton says.

He travels to Florida for four months of the year. He says Hart watches everything, “right down to the minute detail – I am very, very happy with them.”

Based out of NOTL, the company being local is important to Barton, he says.

He also says that he feels they truly care about their customers.

“Even if I have something as small as I go up north for the weekend and I ask them to water the plants, instantly it’s looked after.”

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# \$16K raised for Palliative Care

Bonnie Bagnulo  
Special to The Lake Report

On Oct. 15 our Niagara-on-the-Lake community palliative care service completed a “Healing Cycle Ride” fundraiser for all hospice palliative care services from all over Ontario. Our very special corporate sponsors (some pictured here) along with awesome community support brought our grand total to \$16,836.

We secured a second place trophy for overall amount raised, as well as this year’s “Spirit Award” for showing the most team spirit. We are so very grateful to all of the very generous people who went the extra mile to support us, such as Vino Velo for the



Event organizer Ron Cassies, William Roberts, Tonie Mori, Bonnie Bagnulo, and Marlo Saganski, Erica Moncion, Alan Ash, Sean Simpson. BRITTANY CARTER

“spin-a-thon” at the community centre and the lending of their bikes for our events, and the wonderful parishioners at St. Mark’s Church who ran their own bike ride and donated the

proceeds to our fundraiser. I can’t go without saying how overwhelmed we were with the support from our community, and by way of individual donors, as well as family and friends who also

helped us not only reach but surpass our goal.

We couldn’t have done it without you all. A special thanks once again to our little team of five riders, Erica, Carol, Bryan, Ethan and Bonnie.

We change the world when we simply meet the needs of another.

This year’s Corporate Sponsors were Simpson’s Pharmasave, Mori Gardens, Penner Building Center, Hummel Properties, Mama Mia’s Italian Eatery, McGarr Realty, The Pedal Pub, Vino Velo, The Flying Saucer, Lead Mechanical, The Ukesters, The Epicurean Restaurant, Stacy Wilson, Vince Kerrio, St. Mark’s, and the NOTL Rotary Club.

Obituary

## Helle Tupholme



Beloved wife, cherished mother and grandmother, Helle passed away peacefully at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake on October 30th, 2019. Helle will forever be remembered by her devoted husband, Brian, her son Michael and his wife Meghan, and her daughter Kristi Ellenzweig and her husband Jonathan Ellenzweig, as well as by her adored grandchildren Paige and Brooke Tupholme and Heidi and Leo Ellenzweig. Helle also leaves her brothers, Peter Solu of Toronto and Mart Solu of Sarasota, Florida.

Helle was born in Helsinki, Finland to parents Paul and Agnes Solu, who had fled from Estonia to Finland during the late stages of World War II, and who moved shortly thereafter to Sweden. In the early-1950s, Helle and her parents moved to Canada, settling in Toronto. There, Helle attended Swansea Public School and Humber College. She then obtained a B.Sc. degree at the University of Toronto before enrolling in the Faculty of Dentistry, also at the University of Toronto, receiving her DDS degree in 1971. Over the following thirty-seven years, Helle practiced dentistry in Toronto, opening and running several offices where she cared for a large and devoted following of patients. In addition to her practice, Helle was a part-time faculty member at the University of Toronto’s Dental School and served on several committees at the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

In Toronto, Helle and Brian were long-time residents of the Baby Point area where they enjoyed an active social life and where they raised their children, Michael and Kristi. Helle was actively involved in the Estonian Community in Toronto. Notably, in the early-1990s, Helle, along with other members of the Estonian-Canadian dental community of Toronto, made multiple trips to Estonia, taking with them dental supplies and leading instructional seminars while there, with the aim of helping to modernize the Estonian dental profession. Helle had many interests; she was an avid skier, loved travel, became an expert knitter in her later years, and she particularly loved spending summers with her family at their Georgian Bay island cottage. She loved to entertain and her culinary skills were legendary amongst her friends. Helle retired from dentistry in 2008, following which she and Brian moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where they made many new friends and enjoyed the community. In the last several years, Helle’s health deteriorated somewhat, limiting her mobility, but being as determined as she was, she faced these challenges head-on.

A celebration of Helle’s life will take place for family and friends prior to the end of the year – date and details to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations in Helle’s name may be made to The Estonian Foundation of Canada, The Kidney Foundation of Canada and The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Arrangements entrusted to MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)

## Van Noort Florists opens for Christmas

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Van Noort florists is opening its doors for a holiday season kickoff event – under the stars.

On Nov. 15 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Annual Christmas Open House Under the Stars event will open both indoor and outdoor spaces at the flower studio on Four Mile Creek Road for an evening of food, refreshments, and the latest designs

and services for the holiday season.

Customer service co-ordinator Beth Duc said it’s a “wonderful social mix-and-mingle for the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

She said it’s also a great way to kick off the holidays. “To me it means that Christmas is here. It’s such an amazing time of year – and what’s better than to kind of see what’s new and socialize with people in your community,” she said.



The Van Noort Team. SUPPLIED PHOTO

There will be a market featuring the studio’s products and designs, as well as a poutine bar by Gooddine Catering, and hot-cocoa and a s’mores bar, weather

dependent, she added.

As the open house will be both in and outside the studio, Duc suggests guests dress warm for the occasion.

## Gifts from the Heart campaign kicks off

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Red Roof Retreat’s ninth annual Gifts from the Heart campaign is back and will run until Jan. 6.

The campaign’s goal is to raise \$60,000.

The money will help the non-profit organization, which serves more than 100 families, to continue providing respite and recreational programs for children and young adults with special needs across Niagara.

“Every donation large or small helps Red Roof to continue to improve our programs and serve more families,” special events co-ordinator Claire Ellsworth said in a statement. “Throughout Niagara there are more than 3,500 families with special needs.”

Arthur Dalfen started a Gift Matching Challenge in 2011 and it evolved into Red Roof’s Gifts from the Heart campaign.

The initial goal was to



Donations for the campaign can be made online or by calling Red Roof Retreat. SOURCED PHOTO

turn \$10,000 into \$20,000 but the campaign raised \$60,000 instead, Ellsworth said.

The campaign was re-launched the following year and has since been run-

ning with the same goal of \$60,000.

Donations can be made online at [www.redroofretreat.com/giftsfromtheheart](http://www.redroofretreat.com/giftsfromtheheart) or by calling Red Roof at 289-868-9800.



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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Tumble Tots</b> - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Therapy Tails with Jasper</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Name That Tune at the NOTL Golf Club</b> - 7 p.m. - NOTL Golf Club</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Fall Yoga Series</b> - 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Coach House Studio</p> <p><b>St. Davids Fish Fry</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall</p> <p><b>A Very Mori Christmas Palooza: NOTL Christmas Market</b> - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Mori Gardens</p> <p><b>Annual Toonie Auction and Fish Fry</b> - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p> <p><b>Annual Christmas Under the Stars</b> - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Van Noort Flower Studio</p> <p><b>Decoration Day</b> - 10 a.m. - Market Hall at the Court House</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>St. Davids Lioness Bazaar</b> - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall</p> <p><b>A Very Mori Christmas Palooza: NOTL Christmas Market</b> - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Mori Gardens</p> <p><b>Christmas with Heart 2019</b> - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - 434 Hunter Road</p> <p><b>ChoralFest: Elmer Iseler Singers</b> - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara United Mennonite Church</p> <p><b>Forum with councillors</b> - 10 a.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p> <p><b>Indigenous Remembrance Day Ceremony</b> - 10:45 a.m. - Queenston Heights</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Monthly</b> - 3:30 p.m. - Centre</p> <p>- 7 p.m. - L Campus</p> <p><b>Centre #3 - 6</b> - Day Inn Express</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Niagara PF Support Group</b> - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Parents and Tots Play Group</b> - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church</p> <p><b>Committee of Adjustment</b> - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p><b>Therapy Tails with Jasper</b> - 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Annual Christmas Turkey Roll</b> - 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall</p> <p><b>ChoralFest: The Victoria Scholars</b> - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Our Lady of peace</p> <p><b>Yoga with Jenny</b> - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Knit a Bit</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Beginners Guide to a Zero Waste Holiday</b> - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Market</b> - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Grace United Church</p> <p><b>ChoralFest: Celaya Conservatory Children's Choir</b> - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - TBA</p> <p><b>ChoralFest: Sing Along Messiah</b> - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p> <p><b>How to get Published: A Brian Henry Workshop</b> - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Annual Big Band Fundraiser</b> - 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - TD Niagara Jazz Festival 169 King St.</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>to 6 p.m. -</p> <p><b>Advisory Committee</b></p> <p>11 a.m. - NOTL</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Therapy Tails with Jasper</b> - 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>History in the Vineyard</b> - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Holiday Open House</b> - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery</p> <p><b>Black Friday Shopping Event</b> - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Claire's Harley Davidson of Niagara</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Bravo Niagara! Presents Ofra Harnoy</b> - 7:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p> <p><b>Expressive Interiors Intermediate</b> - 9:30 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p><b>Holiday Open House</b> - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery</p> <p><b>St. Vincent de Paul CWL: Fall Food Fest</b> - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - 222 Davy St.- Church Hall</p>

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# NOTL Chamber gives fair visitors **Royal** treatment

## First-time ever at the fair for chamber

Waverly Neufeld  
Special to The Lake Report

A “royal” surprise awaited visitors to the NOTL Chamber of Commerce’s booth last Thursday at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair – a chance to meet the King. The 2019 Grape King, that is.

John Fedorkow, the owner of Fruithaven Farms in St. Davids, spends a lot of time working as the ambassador for the industry after being crowned the Grape King in September.

He made a special appearance to the chamber’s booth at the Royal, informing and educating people about the wine industry and how it works – from the ground up.

Fedorkow said the main goal was to give people a better idea of what the grape and wine industry is like. Representatives from various wineries and other Niagara businesses were also on hand at the fair.

“I’m the one from the

grassroots level. I’m the grower,” he said. “So (when) they ask about the wine and the wineries, these people from Trius can answer those questions, but I can answer the other ones.”

“Our perspective as grape growers is to get people to know 100 per cent grown VQA wine,” said Fedorkow. “When you think about buying a bottle of wine, think about 100 per cent Ontario.”

From Nov. 1 to 10, the chamber marketed the town at the Royal, from educating people about the artistic and historic aspects of the town with the Pumphouse and soldiers from Fort George, to showing off the booming wine industry.

Chamber president Eduardo Lafforgue said the idea was to create the NOTL experience, with a rotation of different vendors each day.

Last Thursday, the focus was on wine and wineries, and Greaves Jams.

Greaves store manager Krista Sheldrik said the feedback from visitors was positive. “A lot of people are

just familiar with Greaves,” she said.

“A lot of people come up and they say, ‘Oh, you’re Greaves from NOTL.’ They know exactly where we’re from.”

Barbara King and Jane Weber from Owen Sound were impressed with the displays – and samples. The two have been to NOTL before and Weber said she toured Trius this past June.

Frank Dodd, executive chef of Trius Winery Restaurant, was serving a white bean and winter vegetable cassoulet with ice wine pulled pork.

“I think it’s great,” said King. “I haven’t seen anything like this before. I’ve been coming to the Royal for years and I haven’t seen local entrepreneurs showcased, which is lovely.”

Gina Flaubert and her daughter Naomi were at the fair primarily to see the horse show – and the wine. Flaubert credited the generous, tasty food portions from Trius for attracting a lot of attention.

The 40-by-10-foot booth was in the centre of Heritage Hall, an optimal spot to attract a lot of attention as it was near the main entrance and by a crossroad for lots of pedestrian traffic.

Lafforgue said that the booth was doing just that, attracting at least 1,500 visitors each weekday and nearly 2,000 visitors daily over two weekends.

“It’s very impressive,” said Lafforgue. “The demographics of this event are exactly the demographics that we’re targeting.”

Nicole Cripps, events coordinator for the chamber, said the organization believes it exceeded its target of 15,000 visitors during the fair.

Numbers are calculated by the quantity of samples served by the wineries, restaurants and breweries as well as the ballots that were filled out for the “Ultimate Niagara-on-the-Lake Experience Contest,” she said.

Valued at over \$2,500, the winner’s package highlights NOTL’s best assets, and



John Fedorkow, the 2019 Niagara Grape King, worked as an ambassador at the NOTL Chamber of Commerce booth at the Royal. WAVERLY NEUFELD

includes a two-night stay at White Oaks Resort and Spa, a round-trip flight from Toronto for two provided by FlyGTA, an assortment of gift cards to various wineries in the region and more.

Lafforgue was happy with the 10-day run and the reception from visitors. The town is coming together to sell the destination, not just the products, he said.

“They’re all working together as a team. It’s fantastic,” said Lafforgue. “The residents are selling the retailers and the retailers are selling the wineries and they’re all speaking about the destination. That is the most important part.”

He’s hoping to do it again. “All of our participants are saying, ‘OK, see you next year.’”

# History in the Vineyard to support two local organizations

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Fundraising efforts are made stronger when organizations come together – that’s why the Friends of Fort George and the Niagara Historical Society are joining forces with Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery and Parks Canada for a special collaborative fundraiser dinner on Nov. 28.

Six speakers will educate and entertain on various topics surrounding Niagara’s unique history while guests sip wine, taste gourmet food and bid on the silent auction at Ravine’s new special event’s facility – all while supporting two local organizations during History



Amanda Gamble, Scott Finlay and Amy Klassen at Ravine’s new special event’s facility. BRITTANY CARTER

in the Vineyard from 6 to 9 p.m.

The museum’s director of finance and marketing Amy Klassen said the fundraiser is a great op-

portunity to showcase the vast history of the area. She credits both Tony Chisholm and Ravine owner Paul Harber for pulling the event together.

“Tony Chisholm is sort of the impetus for it.

Also, Paul Harber is on the Historical Society board and he’s been really looking for different ways

to engage in the community and help out not-for-profit organizations,” Klassen said.

Money raised through the dinner will be divvied up between the Historical Society and the Friends of Fort George.

“We’re always trying to raise money for operational costs. We’re gearing up for an expansion at the museum, so a lot of our fundraising efforts are helping to fund all of that,” she said.

Executive director of the Friends of Fort George Amanda Gamble said the event will help support student summer employment.

“For us it’s nice because it’s an opportunity to raise

awareness for Friends of Fort George and what we do and raise some funds for student employment opportunities,” she said.

The Friends of Fort George employ students at both Fort George and the Brock Monument in the summer.

“It’s kind of nice to do that here – you can see the monument standing outside,” Gamble added.

Master of ceremonies for the evening will be Scott Finlay of Parks Canada, and the short talks will be held in the barrel and tasting rooms of the new facility. Tickets are \$120 each and include a three-course dinner, two glasses of wine and a partial tax receipt.

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# ChoralFest makes spirits bright

Continued from Front Page

“Music Niagara believes that everyone should have access to high-quality music,” said Margot Hickson, chair of the organization’s board of directors.

“By offering a broad range of music genres with world-class musicians, Music Niagara enhances Niagara-on-the-Lake’s reputation as a destination for music and culture. Our concerts and our Performance Academy, which trains promising young artists, makes it so Niagara-on-the-Lake and our neighbours are, as our slogan says, ‘where the world comes to play.’”

The 2019 Music Niagara festival broke previous ticket-earning records and reached audiences beyond Niagara Region and into southern Ontario and the United States. Nearly six out of 10 people who attended Music Niagara concerts in the summer (57 per cent) came from outside Niagara-on-the-Lake, with 16 per cent from the Greater Toronto Area and 11 per cent from the United States.



Victoria Scholars will be one of the groups performing. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Hickson said the festival has benefitted from strong support not only from enthusiastic audiences, but also from area businesses and suppliers – and the audiences respond to this synergy.

“Our research finds that 31 per cent of Music Niagara visitors from out of town stay overnight, supporting our local hotels and the Bed & Breakfast Association — 69 per cent are in town the day of a concert and then enjoy NOTL restaurants and visit other NOTL businesses,” she said.

The festival has boosted

interest by bringing in a program of strategic ticket pricing, with a number of lower-priced concerts and incentives for music lovers who buy a series of shows.

“Our six-packs sold out this past summer,” Hickson said.

The other secret to Music Niagara’s success is to make sure the festival is truly a part of Niagara-on-the-Lake and its surrounding region, she added.

“We take advantage of everything the region has to offer, with concerts in historical landmarks, churches, the wineries and brew

pubs — even the Legion. Our programming is wide-ranging, too — jazz at the wineries and classical music at St. Mark’s Church,” Hickson said.

“The result is that we successfully sell out concerts ranging from big band music to club-style jazz, in addition to traditional and non-traditional classical concerts.

“We have concerts that showcase all kinds of cultures and backgrounds — at Music Niagara you can hear Afro-Cuban sounds and in our fall series the voices of singers from Lithuania, Ukraine and Mexico. It’s where the world comes to play — and now sing,” she said.

For tickets to Music Niagara ChoralFest concerts, visit [www.musicniagara.org](http://www.musicniagara.org) or call 1-800-511-7429 or 905-468-2172. Tickets can also be purchased at the Shaw Festival box office at the Festival Theatre and at the concerts (if available).

Journalist David Israelson is a member of Music Niagara’s board of directors.

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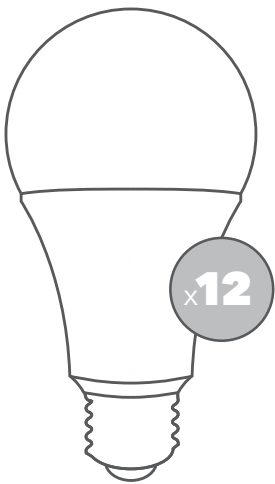


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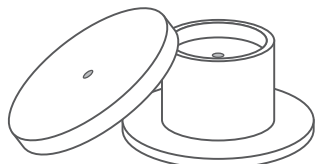
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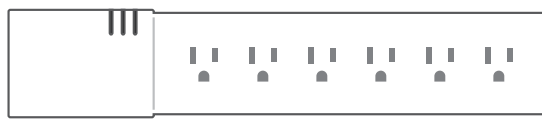
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# Niagara College ranked #1 among Top 50 research schools

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Niagara College has been named the number one college for applied research in Canada for 2018.

The college scored the top place in the annual Top 50 Research Colleges report published by Research InfoSource Inc., a research and consulting firm.

Niagara College received \$11.185 million in research funding, which included research grants, contracts and contributions from third parties varying from government agencies and companies to non-profit organizations and individual clients.

The news was announced at the Marotta Family Innovation Complex on Tuesday.

“That research and development arm for small- and medium-sized businesses gets its hub of activity from Niagara College,” outgoing college president Dan Patterson told media and a small crowd of research and

innovation team gathered at the announcement.

“We’ve become a hub for small- and medium-sized enterprises that want to grow their business, want to hire more staff and want to create more products. And so much of it starts right here,” said Patterson, who will be retiring soon.

Cégep de Trois-Rivières, which attracted \$10.5 million of sponsored research income, secured the second place followed by Lambton College with its \$10.3 million.

In total, 13 Ontario colleges, with a combined research funding of \$71.1 million in 2018, have made it to the Top 50 list.

For the past five years, Niagara College has been ranked among the top 10 colleges for research. In 2017, it was ranked eighth.

With 216 research partnerships, Niagara College ranked third in Canada. The college also ranked first in research intensity with \$329,000 of research income per faculty member.

The news arrived in time

for the college’s 20th anniversary of applied research activity.

“We couldn’t have done it without great staff, students who work, faculty and industry experts,” Marc Nantel, vice-president of research, innovation and strategic initiatives told The Lake Report. “People are the key.”

Niagara College’s Research and Innovation centres work closely with faculty members, students and graduates to provide solutions and meet the needs of industry partners.

It’s synergies like these, which bring students, experts and industry partners together, that factor for success, said Canadian Food and Wine Institute centre manager Lyndon Ashton.

“The experiential learning is coupled with knowledge transfer to our industry partners so all the intellectual property that’s being developed goes back to them,” Ashton told The Lake Report.

“And for Food and Bev-



College president Dan Patterson and vice-president of the Research, Innovation and Strategic Initiatives Marc Nantel celebrate the news with the research and innovation faculty team. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

erage Innovation centre that’s really important to us because a lot of companies that work with us need to know that they can retain those rights, they have that type of research and development supports that they need to get their products commercialized and put on the market.”

One of the recent research projects, headed by the centre, included collaborat-

ing with the Royal Canadian Mead and creating a line of craft meads with 5.6 per cent of alcohol in them.

“As we bring on new innovation centres, we’re getting more recognition from industry as a place to go,” Ashton said.

In total, colleges across Canada completed 2,344 research projects in 2018 and partnered with 4,964 organizations.

Colleges also involved 3,233 students and 3,300 college researchers to work on various research projects.

The majority of sponsored research income – 58.5 per cent – came from government sources. Industry provided 37 per cent of the funding, non-profits 3.1 per cent, and individual and foreign sources comprised the rest.

# Midget Wolves emerge champions at NOTL Harvest Classic

Submitted by NOTL Minor Hockey Association

The NOTL Midget Niagara Lions Club BB team captured gold in their home tournament in early November.

The Midget BB Wolves season has gotten off to a great start. Currently they are in first place in the Niagara District Hockey League’s Midget Rep division.

They have continued performing their best and played outstanding in the Harvest Classic tournament. The whole team gelled together: terrific passing, fantastic scoring chances and great sportsmanship.

After two wins and a tie in round-robin play, the team headed to the semi-finals against Owen Sound. Playing at home and having a large crowd from the community come out to support the Wolves, the team did not disappoint and the crowd was treated to a spectacular game.

The tight-checking

match saw Owen Sound up 1-0 most of the game but NOTL scored with 40 seconds left to send it to overtime. With 10 seconds left in OT, NOTL scored to send the team to the finals. Up against a strong team from Penetanguishene in the final game, NOTL kept up the pressure, showing great tenacity and won 4-1 to capture the championship.

The team was led by tournament MVP Jake Kocsis who was on fire and showed his amazing stick-handling skills. Jordan Wiens’ speedy play and hustle earned him a hat trick. Ian Rush was flying on the ice and was great on the penalty kill. Brett Wilson played excellent as centre and on the power play.

Angelo Orsini showed great backchecking skills and stole the puck many times. Austin York was solid at forward, making great passes.

The line of Tristan Alexander, Tyler Cullen and Josh Frena played fantastic and smart hockey. They read



Front row, from left: Cameron Huff, Tristan Alexander, Jake Kocsis, Brett Wilson, Ian Rush, Jaden Patterson, Hunter Ostromecki, Tyler Lawrence-Howard. Back row: Joel Gula, Avrien Billy, Tyler Cullen, Jordan Wiens, Josh Frena, Angelo Orsini, Bruce Deluca, Austin York, Mitchell Berg. SUPPLIED PHOTO

well off each other, making good passes, exciting moves and contributed nice goals.

The stellar defence of Bruce Deluca, Hunter Ostromecki, Joel Gula, Jaden Patterson, Mitchell Berg and Avrien Billy were

solid throughout the tournament, making many clever defensive plays and stopping the other teams’ offence. They were also key in offence, blasting many shots from the point, making good passes and end-to-end

rushes. And keeping the whole team upbeat was the outstanding play of goalies Cameron Huff and Tyler Lawrence-Howard. They have kept the team in a lot of games with their diving

saves, quick glove hands and amazing reflexes.

Congratulations to the Midget Wolves and their coaching staff: Justin York, Trevor Lord, Brett Willis, Rob Alexander and Toby Gula.



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# Wells of Hope fills backpacks for kids

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Spending a couple hours on a Saturday sorting backpacks and supplies for the Packs of Hope: Faith in Action campaign is the least Ted Van der Kaay and his family could do for Wells of Hope, he says.

Wells of Hope, a not-for-profit organization providing education, health care and clean water to Guatemala, has been collecting supplies in gently-used backpacks to bring to the poorer regions of the country for more than 14 years.

The organization reaches out to local schools to collect backpacks filled with school supplies, clothes, toiletries, sports equipment and toys. On average, about 1,000 filled backpacks are collected each year.

Van der Kaay said his family has known the Van der Zalm family for many years, and they were inspired to tag

along on one of their yearly excursions to Guatemala.

It was something he and his wife Sandra wanted to do for a long time, he said. "We had no excuse not to. We've been helping ever since," he added. "The whole experience was 'eye-opening.'"

Wells of Hope was founded by Ted Van der Zalm and his wife Miriam 17 years ago and in that time he says they have brought clean water to 80,000 homes.

On Saturday, about 10 to 15 volunteers came together to help sort and repack the donated backpacks, which will be sent to Guatemala in a 40-foot shipping container along with other supplies, donated school desks and drilling equipment.

"Because I dig very deep water wells, our well drilling equipment is very unique. The supplies and spare parts I need cannot be found down there so I have

to make sure that I have enough supplies for the year," Van der Zalm said.

The container will be timed to arrive when he makes his way back in January so that he can ensure all the donated goods get where they need to go, he said.

The backpack idea came about after the organization tried a shoebox campaign, which Van der Zalm said wasn't as practical as they initially hoped.

He said as well as being difficult to pack uniformly, the shoeboxes were limited in how many supplies could fit inside. They also broke open, causing a mess after being tossed around in the shipping container during the trip.

"And then after we repacked it and gifted the shoebox to the family or to a child, we were looking at the amount of garbage, the wrapping, the boxes that were left behind. We were



Sandy Maxwell and Ashlie Prsa sort supplies to send over to Guatemala as part of Wells of Hope's Packs of Hope campaign. BRITTANY CARTER

shipping a lot of garbage to these impoverished communities," Van der Zalm said.

The backpacks were the answer to that problem.

As well as allowing for more room for supplies in each backpack, the pack in itself was a "wonderful gift," that was needed and appreciated, he said.

Though Wells of Hope supports communities in Guatemala with the build-

ing of schools and donating supplies, the initial priority for the organization is providing clean water.

"Our priorities have always been water – because without water there is no life," he said.

"When we began Wells of Hope our vision was always twofold – to meet the needs of the poor, of course, but also to be the bridge to invite people to come and

meet the needs of the poor," he said.

Van der Zalm said he understands that each person has their own talents and skills to offer and that's why he credits the vast number of volunteers with making Wells of Hope what it has come to be over the years.

"What I can't do someone else can do, and all of us together, we can make mountains move."

# Bethany Mennonite Church slings borscht, blankets and baked goods at annual bazaar

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Borscht, blankets and baked goods go hand-in-hand for Bethany Mennonite Church's annual Borscht Lunch Bazaar, which drew in about 300 people last Saturday.

The church has been holding the bazaar for as long as anyone in the congregation could remember, and though no one could quite nail down when it began, Pastor Herb Sawatzky said it's likely been about 50 years.

Anne Bergan, one of the original organizers for the borscht lunch bazaar, said it all started as a way for the new church to become involved with the community.

"We thought that was a great idea to get everyone involved. Young people, old people, but it also involved

a lot of people making this borscht, this soup," Bergan said. "As well as the bake sale and the bazaar."

Bergan said it was a big undertaking for a church that was just starting out, but the community came together to pull it off.

"We all worked together and made it happen – it was good. The next year – let's do it again. We've been doing it ever since," she added.

This fundraiser is just one more way Bergan has been able to offer missionary help – supporting people in need is something she says is very important to her.

"When I was very young, my mother and dad instilled in me that there were people in need. And we thought we were the poorest because we lived on a homestead, much poorer than Little House on

the Prairie. But even then, we were encouraged to give at least something every year," Bergan said.

"Mission service was ingrained in each of my siblings when we were very young, and it's never left us."

Sue Weier, one of the key organizers for this year's bazaar, said it's one event where everyone from the church helps out.

"There's a lot of work and the whole church is involved. It's one time everyone comes together – young, old. So, it's a fun day," Weier said.

The bazaar has maintained its goal of bringing the community together and raising money – it's now one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's anticipated fall events.

Residents could stay for



Residents eating borscht at the annual bazaar at Bethany Mennonite Church. BRITTANY CARTER

lunch or take borscht soup to go, while also browsing the bake tables and items for sale and bidding on the hand-crafted "quilts."

"We call them quilts but they're hand-tied – so in actuality they're more of a comforter," Weier said.

Bethany Mennonite Church is well-known for its blankets, Sawatzky said. "We're not the only ones who quilt but it's a big part of what we do," he added.

He said about half of the money raised during the bazaar goes to the Mennonite Central Committee, which does outreach work in about 130 countries.

The rest of the money goes toward local organizations like Red Roof Retreat, and some goes back into the quilting fund to cover the cost of supplies.

"We need to buy the material to make the quilts. These quilts get distributed around the world as well. The impact has really touched us. There's a number of patients around the world who have asked to be buried in their quilts," he said.

Bergan said when she crafts blankets, she likes to make them educational.

"So their mothers and dads can say, how many

birds do you see, how many butterflies are there on these patches, how many colours? That's what I like to do when I make a quilt," she said.

And though the Borscht Lunch Bazaar is largely a fundraiser, Sawatzky said the church members enjoy getting together to make it all happen.

And each organizer agrees that it takes the entire church community to pull it all off.

"Another big part of it is we just love hanging out, love doing things together. We have so many people of the community coming out," he said.

The church is always accepting donations of quilting supplies, Bergan said. "And if anyone has any fabrics, or they have yarn. Please, we need it. We need supplies to make more blankets," she said.

Donations of quilting supplies can be dropped off to the Bethany Mennonite Church on East and West Line Road, or by calling the church at, 905-468-3505.



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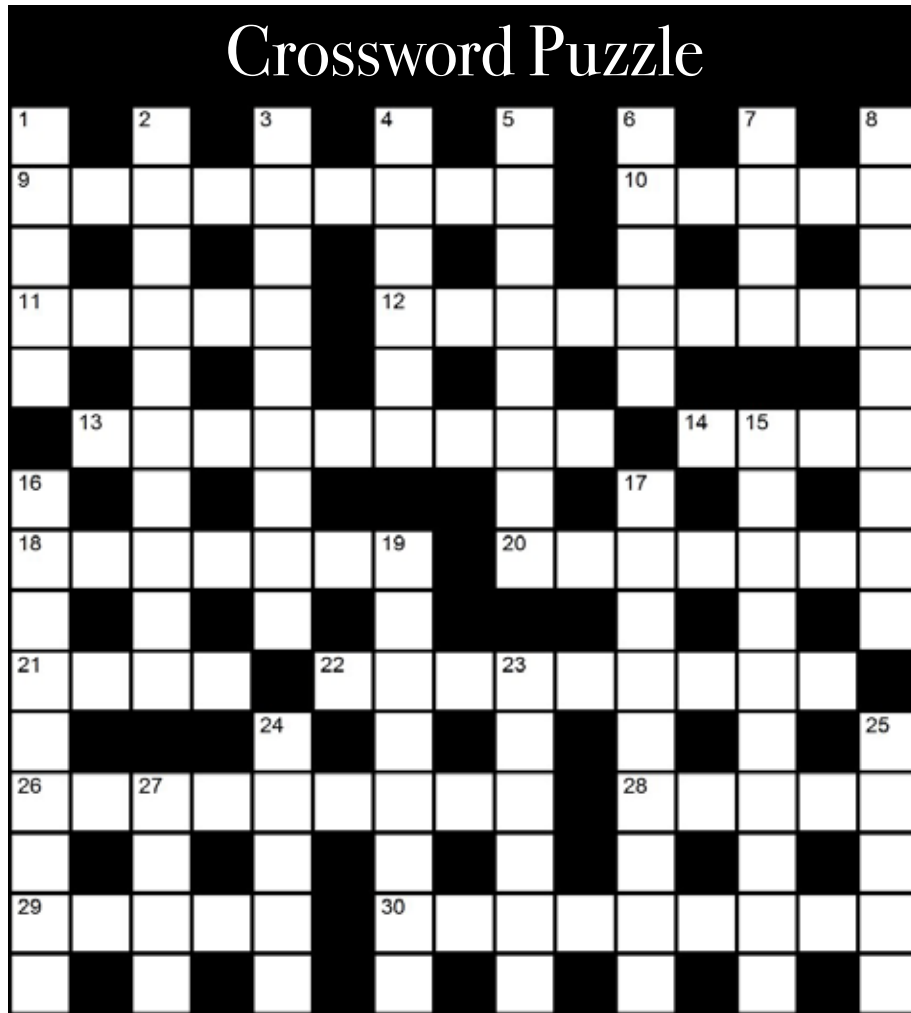
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. [editor@niagararegion.com](mailto:editor@niagararegion.com)

**Across**

- 9. Cliff face (9)
- 10. South American ruminant (5)
- 11. One who shapes metal (5)
- 12. Rhizome (9)
- 13. Telegraph messages (9)
- 14. Government supremo in a specified policy area (4)
- 18. See (7)
- 20. Uproarious (7)
- 21. Vex (4)
- 22. Caused by overexposure on a hot day (9)
- 26. Musical note (9)
- 28. Inexpensive (5)
- 29. Type of male (5)
- 30. Cut off (9)

**Down**

- 1. Sudden convulsion (5)
- 2. Type of military flag (10)
- 3. Made more restrictive (9)
- 4. Reflecting surface (6)
- 5. Progressive (8)
- 6. Utter joy (5)
- 7. Western pact (1,1,1,1)
- 8. Cold weather personified (4,5)
- 15. Retailer (10)
- 16. Fencer (9)
- 17. Eighty (9)
- 19. Memento (8)
- 23. Perspiring (6)
- 24. German submarine (1-4)
- 25. Malice (5)
- 27. Charts (4)



**Last issue's answers**



**Sudoku**

3	8	9	4		
	1	2			7 9
2 6		5 3	4		
		6	9		
5 6 4		7 2 1			
2		1			
3	5 4		6 7		
4 8		9 1			
		3 2	5 4		



**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE**

**Glendale Niagara District Plan-Phase 2 Public Information Centre (PIC) #3**

The Glendale Niagara area is intended to accommodate a significant number of new residents and jobs over the next 20+ years. The study area has all the key ingredients for a successful urban experience, such as higher education, easy highway access, residential and employment opportunities, green spaces and destination retail. A pro-active development strategy will help to appropriately direct this growth and transform the area into a vibrant, compact, mixed use urban environment.

Niagara Region, in cooperation with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the City of St. Catharines, initiated a two-phase Glendale Niagara District Plan study:

- **Phase One Visioning Exercise and Conceptual Plan:**  
Endorsed by Council in Oct 2018
- **Phase Two - Creation of the District Plan:**  
To be completed in house by Regional staff with input from a technical team and the community

Input collected through the past engagement events assisted the team in developing:

- The preferred land use concept, demonstration plan and associated urban design renderings; and
- Key directions and strategies to implement the District Plan



For additional information visit: [niagararegion.ca](http://niagararegion.ca)

Or contact:

**Kirsten McCauley, Senior Planner**  
Planning and Development Services, Niagara Region  
905-980-6000 ext. 3532  
[kirsten.mccauley@niagararegion.ca](mailto:kirsten.mccauley@niagararegion.ca)

Additional public feedback will be collected via an online commenting platform that will be linked to the project webpage.



**Please join us on:** Wednesday, Nov. 20 2019  
**Time:** 6 to 8 p.m. - A brief presentation will be made at 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Holiday Inn Express,  
524 York Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake



# Writers' Circle founder Hermine Steinberg is leaving for new things

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Writers' Circle began as a passion project for founder Hermine Steinberg but as she prepares to make the move back to Toronto, she says it's time to hand the reins over to Richard West and Sharon Frayne.

Steinberg founded the writing group in 2013 to connect with likeminded people in town; over the last six years it has grown into the supportive and flourishing community it is today. Now, the Writers' Circle meets weekly to discuss and critique each other's work, while also providing support and offering advice.

And though Steinberg says she doesn't want to leave town and the group, she has commitments back in Toronto and could no lon-

ger "do it all" trying to split her time between NOTL and the city. But she knows the circle will continue in her absence, she says, and has "a lot of faith in them" to keep it running smoothly.

West has been treasurer of the Writers' Circle for a few years and says he's been leading some of the meetings with Frayne in that time anyway.

"When Hermine was going to leave, we thought – "So how are we going to do this?" he says.

Frayne has been managing the website and newsletter for the last four or five years, she says.

"We take part in a lot of community events and we'd hate to see it go. Richard and I were very involved anyway so we just decided to step up to the plate," Frayne adds.

And though the two will

be taking over leadership for the group, they agreed there won't be much of a change in how the circle is managed.

"It works very well. It's a good system. We meet every week, we critique each other's writings, we submit to the Lake Report," Frayne says.

The Rising Spirits Writing Contest, which Frayne says is bigger this year than it has ever been, is where their energy has been directed since assuming leadership.

This year, the group decided to branch out of the region and open contest submissions Ontario wide.

"We've had quite a few submissions," West says.

The contest is a way for writer's, both novice and experienced, to hold their writing up against others, he says. And it offers another platform to get their writing



Sharon Frayne and Richard West take over leadership for the Writers' Circle as Hermine Steinberg moves from town. BRITTANY CARTER

out there.

Each year, the circle publishes a book of all the contest winners.

Steinberg says she wouldn't miss the contest celebration which will be held later this year.

"I have a lot of friends in town, so I'll plan to make it down from time to time as well," she says.

Sad at the prospect of leaving, Steinberg says she'll certainly keep writing, and will likely seek out another writing group again once settled back in

Toronto.

"I think as a writer it is important to be a part of a community. So, I will definitely be looking for that," she says.

But the NOTL Writers' Circle will always hold a special place for her, she says.

"Well I feel sad obviously. It's a community I was a part of, and proud to be a part of, and I've met some wonderful friends," she says. "It's one of the most supportive communities for writers. I think we've

accomplished a lot. Very ingrained into the cultural life of the town."

But more than just the circle, Steinberg says she's going to miss the town itself.

"I think it's a very special place. There's a lot of creative people in the town. There are so many people involved in the arts whether directly or indirectly. It's a wonderful environment for anybody who wants to express themselves creatively – and I'll miss that," Steinberg says..



## 5th Anniversary Gala

On Saturday November 23rd, we invite you for a dazzling black-tie dinner and soiree.

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## 'Tis the season for paw paw ice cream

Collin Goodine  
Special to The Lake Report

For those of you who do not know about the paw paw fruit, this is a great recipe to introduce it to you. The recipe will require you to have an ice cream maker in your cupboard, though.

The paw paw fruit has a short growing season, from late September to late October. The fruit has a creamy texture that looks, tastes and seems tropical, but surprisingly is native to this area.

Hundreds of years ago the Indigenous people used to thrive on this fruit and the trees can still be found in heavily wooded areas throughout Niagara. In some areas, the paw paw fruit is used to make wines.

The Grimo family here in NOTL has been harvesting unique nuts, making preserves and selling rare fruits since 1973.

It is now run by Linda Grimo, who has taken over for her father who started the farm. She is big on eatable landscape and would welcome the opportunity to discuss everything she knows about the paw paw and other exciting products she has.

If you're driving down Lakeshore Road, stop in and say hello to Linda and her passionate staff.

### Ingredients:

1/2 litre 2% milk  
1/2 litre 35% cream  
1 tsp Vanilla extract  
250 grams White sugar  
10 Egg yolks  
2 cups Paw paw fruit

### Directions:

In a thick-bottomed pot, bring the milk, vanilla, cream and 1/2 of the sugar to a boil.

Remove from heat as soon as mixture starts to boil.

In a bowl, cream together the egg yolks and the other half of the sugar.

Add small amounts of the hot liquid to the egg yolk mixture while whisking, until 2/3 of the hot liquid is added. This is called tempering the eggs.

Return the egg yolk mixture to the cream mix still in the pot.

Return the pot to the burner on medium heat and stir with a rubber spatula or wooden spoon until it reaches 180 degrees on a candy thermometer (about 2-3 minutes).

Strain in a fine mesh strainer and cool in the fridge. This is essentially an ice cream custard mix.

When ready to make the ice cream, cut paw paw fruit in half and deseed.

Cut out the meat of the fruit and puree in a food processor.

Turn on ice cream maker, add the custard mix and the paw paw fruit.

When ice cream is ready, put into a freezer-ready container and enjoy.



Paw Paws growing at Grimo Nut Nursery on Lakeshore Road. RICHARD HARLEY/FILE PHOTO

## Paw paws: Ontario's 'tropical' fruit you've probably never heard of

Richard Harley  
Editor

A tropical-tasting fruit that's native to Ontario? It sounds like something entirely made up, but it's real.

It's called a paw paw (or *Asimina triloba*), and most people don't know they even exist, though they've been growing in Ontario since long before Canada was a country.

The bright green fruit is about the size of a kiwi, yellows when ripe, and tastes like it's straight from a tropical island, having hints of banana, papaya and melon, with a texture like a rich custard.

Many paw paw enthusiasts say it's a taste that's hard to compare directly to anything else, and those who know about them tend to keep the secret fruit pretty hush-hush, especially if they know where a wild patch is.

And yes, this secret fruit grows in — and is native to — a very limited region of eastern North America, including Niagara and is actually America's largest native fruit, according to Green Barn Nursery, which specializes in paw paws.

Linda Grimo, of Grimo Nut Nursery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which grows and sells paw paw trees — and fruit, if you're there at

the right time — says paw paws are native to the Carolinian forest and that the fruit was a source of food for Indigenous peoples long before Canada or the U.S. were around.

But you won't find them in stores, Grimo says, because they have an extremely short shelf-life, turning a nasty brown (sort of like an overripe banana) about a week after they're picked, if they're picked just as they ripen.

"They don't have a long shelf-life but they do have an incredible flavour," she said.

Many sources credit Indigenous peoples with spreading the paw paw tree across the eastern U.S. to eastern Kansas and Texas, and from the Great Lakes to near the Gulf of Mexico. Different sources claim the tree is American or Canadian, but Grimo says it can't really be looked at as either.

"It doesn't have a border because it's a native species and it was growing before there were borders. So anybody who tells you it's Canadian or American is kidding themselves," says Grimo.

The fruit grows in clusters, similar to bananas and is extremely hard to cultivate. Seedlings take about five to seven years

before they start yielding any fruit at all, says Grimo.

A grafted paw paw tree can yield in about three years, and once the trees start to bear fruit they produce a large blood-red flower at the start of the season, which later becomes the custardy fruit.

Even stranger, the flowers aren't pollinated by bees — they're naturally pollinated by carrion flies and beetles because the flowers smell like rotten meat, which attracts pollinators who normally feast on things like dead animals.

Appetizing, right? Don't worry though, the fruit doesn't smell or taste anything like foul meat, though you'll be hard-pressed to find one — Grimo says the nursery typically sells out quickly, but if you're interested in hunting some down, now is the time to try at local restaurants serving up seasonal dishes.

Paw paws are in season in late October, and though they are rare, you can track them down if you know where to look, though plenty of growers won't sell the fruit until they've secured enough seeds for the next nursery season, says Grimo. Grimo Nut Nursery is one of such growers.

The fruit is a member of a broad botanical group,

commonly known as the custard apple family, and is often nicknamed as an Ontario papaya or a Michigan banana. It is also referred to as a North American papaya, since papayas are also sometimes referred to as a paw paw.

There's even a town in Michigan named after the fruit.

Popularity of the paw paw is growing, says Grimo, who has been growing the trees for years now and sells out every year, as well as selling to local restaurants like Backhouse in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which actively seeks out interesting local fruits, nuts and vegetables.

Grimo says the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) is currently researching what the plant would be like as a crop in Ontario.

"There is interest on the government's part. It's just going to take time," says Grimo. "The more people discover it, the more it becomes a gem of Ontario."

If you want your own paw paw tree, a two to three-year-old tree is in the range of \$25 to \$50, but be prepared to wait for the fruit. As do most great things, paw paws need time to develop.

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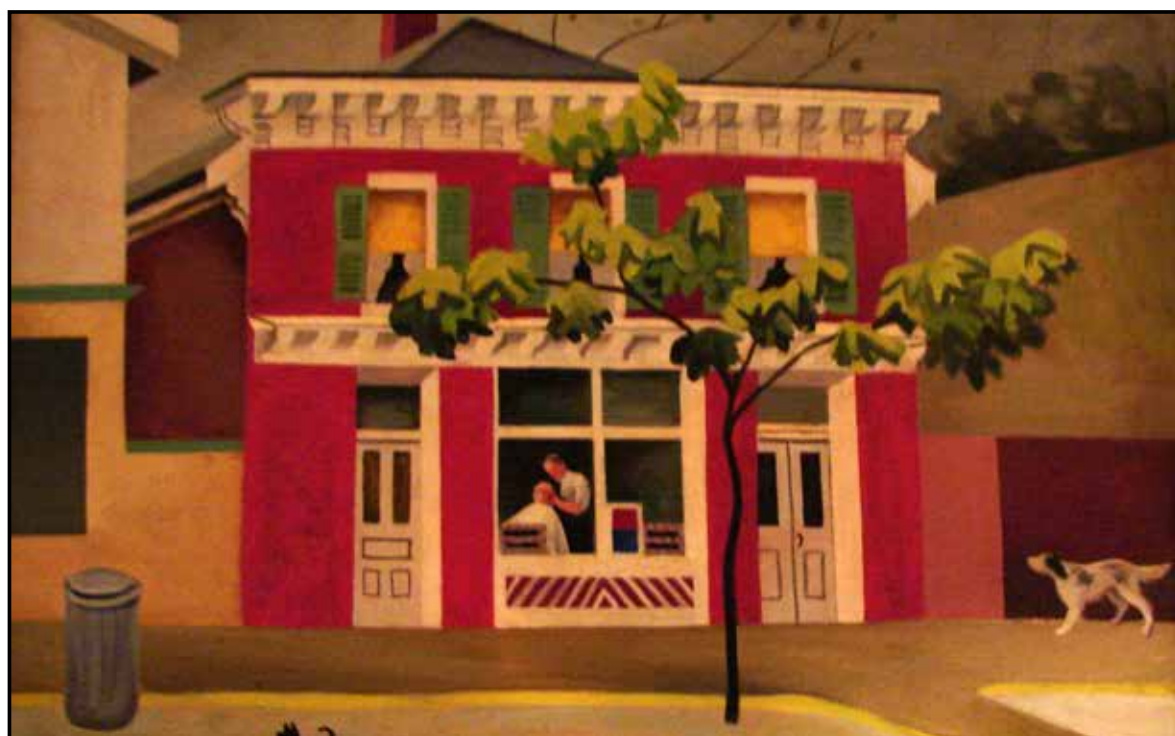
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# EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH JIM SMITH



## Fred Curtis, another barber

Fred Curtis was just one of three barbers we had on Queen Street. In this 1946 painting by Betty Lane, Fred can be seen cutting a patron's hair. As with all businesses on Queen Street, this one was family-owned. The family entrepreneurs either lived upstairs or in the back of their store, as did Fred Curtis. As seen in the picture, two dogs are running loose, which was quite lawful at the time, though dog dirt was evident on sidewalks and boulevards throughout the town.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

### ARCHITEXT

## Kitchen tradition dictated form

Brian Marshall  
Featured

So, if you were among the moneyed class living in the Town of Niagara (aka Niagara-on-the-Lake) during the first third of the 19th century, where was your kitchen?

The short answer is, not in the house.

Food preparation for the well-to-do was performed by indentured servants in an out-building that held the kitchen, which often doubled as servant sleeping quarters. It typically was joined to the house by a short covered walkway and food was placed on warmed, covered platters,



Frontispiece from *Art of the Cookery*, Hannah Glasse (au), London 1775. BRIAN MARSHALL

carried to the dining room and there served to the family and guests.

Among the earliest of the NOTL high-brow houses to have an indoor kitchen was John Breakenridge's 1823 Centre Street home.

Described in an 1828 edition of the town's newspaper as one of the "most elegant and tasty houses in town," the home was constructed on a raised foundation, allowing for a full-height kitchen and servants quarters in the basement.

Reinforcing social hierarchy, the dining room was

directly above the kitchen so the servants would be, quite literally, underfoot.

Even in larger houses of lesser status, it was not uncommon to see the kitchen tucked away to the rear of the house in an attached addition or built as a connection between the main house and carriage house/shed.

In fact, it was typically only settlers' homes and farmhouses where you would find the kitchen inside the house where the cooking was part of the owners' chores. Servants, if

there were any, were much more likely to be working outside on the farm.

While the rise of the Canadian urban middle class in the latter part of the 1800s allowed many more people to become homeowners, their pocketbooks couldn't support domestic help. Hence, meal preparation fell to the "lady-of-the-house." Despite this development, the hold-over tradition of kitchen segregation (an enclosed room in the rear of the house with doors that could be shut) was common well into the 20th century.

While some daring architects (e.g. Wright's Usonian houses) attempted to toss this convention aside, it really wasn't until the popularization of the ranch bungalow (with patio doors) in concert with the barbecue craze of the 1950s that the doors literally and finally began to come off suburban kitchens.

## What's your plan to ring in 2020?

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## The Lake Report FACTS

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

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

SOURCE: TLR Readership Survey; October 2019

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# NIAGARA'S HISTORY UNVEILED

## The quarrymen of Queenston



Linda Fritz  
Exclusive/The Lake Report

Early in the 21st century, one of Niagara's oldest industrial sites began to undergo a major change. We know it as the Queenston Quarry.

The Niagara Escarpment ranks among the most dominant geographical features of southern Ontario. (Lakes Erie and Ontario would also fit into this category.)

On the escarpment, east of the Queenston Heights battlefield, limestone and shale deposits exist. They were left behind when an ancient ocean from the Silurian and Ordovician periods disappeared.

These deposits became the Queenston Quarry. It is believed that as early as 1819, stone was being taken from the area.

In spite of the loss of this ocean, water has always been a significant feature of the area. Four Mile Creek once flowed a few hundred metres away from the quarry site, and the Niagara River, a couple of kilometres. Today, Ontario Power Generation's Sir Adam Beck reservoir is nearby.

Because of the proximity of drinkable water, within a kilometre of the Queenston Quarry there are a number of archaeological sites, some of which indicate settlements of precontact Indigenous peoples.

Nomadic hunters and gatherers visited the site and there is evidence that the Neutral Indians established a village near the quarry grounds.

The land that the Queenston Quarry sits on was obtained by the British in 1764 when Sir William Johnson completed a treaty with the Mississauga Indians.

Because the British wanted the land to create a portage route, settlement of the area had been prohibited the previous year by the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

By 1781, however, loyalists who had fought as Butler's Rangers were permitted to settle in the area. James Secord Sr., one of the first settlers of Upper Canada, owned some of the quarry land. It was subsequently inherited by his two sons, Laura's husband James Jr. and David, after whom the village of St. Davids is named.

In its earliest incarnation, the Queenston Quarry area consisted of several different lots and indeed several different quarries.

Many well-known local people owned the various lots throughout the 19th century. As well as the Secords, the Hamiltons, Dicksons, Chubbucks and Prests owned land.

Even the eminent engineer Casimir Gzowski, who served as lieutenant-governor of Ontario in 1896-1897 had an interest in a quarry lot. Besides his work on the Welland Canal, Gzowski was involved in the construction of the Queenston-Lewiston bridge, which opened in 1899. Today, Gzowski is probably better known as the great-grandfather of the late CBC radio host Peter Gzowski.

One 19th-century owner, John Brown, a stonemason, was responsible for building the railway bed for the horse-drawn railway from Chippawa to Queenston. In fact, in 1831, the Erie and Ontario Railway reported there were "inexhaustible quarries of lime and building stone" and believed the stone could provide a revenue source for its fledgling company.

Brown also provided stone for some of the buildings at Fort Niagara. His fortune was made, however, from building one of the later Welland Canals, where his many contracts made him over \$2 million.



Men at work in the Queenston Quarries. KATHY THOMAS VIA VITACOLLECTIONS.CA

By 1879, Evan's Gazetteer and Business Directory listed eight men who were stone cutters and/or quarrymen. (Almost a century later, an English pop group called the Quarrymen started to perform. They later changed their name to the Beatles.)

Although they did not survive, the quarry had approximately 10 kilometres of tunnels and caverns running underneath. There are two theories of how they came into existence.

First, that they were developed as a part of the cement-making operations that began sometime around 1884 by the Empire Cement Company. The second theory is that they have been around since mining began in the quarry nearly 200 years ago, and that they are the oldest in Canada.

In 1887, the Usher family became involved in the cement works produced at the quarry. They ran the plant until 1905 and were responsible for producing "Red Star" cement.

Like former stonemason Brown, Isaac Usher had contracts to work on the Welland Canal. In this case, the third one.

Usher had a lease by which he was allowed to mine the natural cement rock for a royalty. His was the first such plant in the province. The use of cement became more and more important.

In 1898, a 33-page pam-

phlet entitled "Practical Hints on the Use of Queenston Cement" by Isaac Usher and Sons was published in Niagara Falls. Today, it can be found in libraries as far away as Australia.

The end for the Usher cement plant, however, was only a few years away. In 1905, Portland cement was introduced. Since it was cheaper than the Red Star, and dried faster, the Ushers closed their business at the quarry.

While the new cement product may have ended the Ushers' tenure, it was not the end of the quarry.

The Lowrey family were shopkeepers who had businesses in Queenston, St. Davids and Niagara Falls. They built a canning factory in St. Davids and were among the first in Niagara to plant vineyards.

In 1910, Edwin Lowrey sold his brother Charles 99 shares in the Queenston Quarry Company. Each share was worth \$100. Edwin received "goods, chattels and stock in the Lowrey general store," which was located at what is now the corner of York Road and Four Mile Creek Road.

By 1911, the Queenston Quarry Company was buying out several of the smaller quarries nearby, and by 1928, Queenston Quarries Ltd. owned the entire site.

In 1925, the company was bought by the Canada

Crushed Stone Company and in 1928 by Steetley Industries, which continues to own several other quarry sites near Dundas. LaFarge Canada took over in 1988.

There is evidence that there was a small village of workers' houses at the quarry site. It included a boarding house for single men. The village existed until the 1950s when a beetle infestation forced the inhabitants to move and the buildings were bulldozed.

As late as 2008 there were remnants of a lime kiln still visible at the quarry site, similar to those at Ball's Falls. A microwave tower erected in the early 1950s was also found nearby. Although some people believed it was used by the United States air force, it is in fact a memento of the Cold War.

The stone in the quarries varied in colour from light grey to blue. It was easy to polish and was considered to be of the highest quality for use in making lime and cement. At its peak, the quarry was the largest in Ontario, and Queenston limestone had a strong reputation.

Among the structures that have used Queenston limestone are Brock's Monument, the third Welland Canal, the Queenston-Lewiston bridge, the Niagara-on-the-Lake courthouse, St. Saviour's church in Queenston, Table Rock House in Niagara Falls, the

east block of the Parliament buildings, the governor-general's residence Rideau Hall, the Ontario provincial legislature buildings, and the Queen Elizabeth hotel in Montreal.

Internationally, Artpark in Lewiston, and Canada House in London contain Queenston limestone. Most recently, limestone was quarried for use in the Landscape of Nations site on Queenston Heights.

Records indicate that the specifications for the Niagara-on-the-Lake courthouse are highly detailed. The contractors were required to use "good hard sound burnt brick" and a specific recipe for mortar consisting of "the best fresh burnt lime and good sharp sand mixed one part lime to two parts sand." The builders were also to use the "best Queenston or Thorold stone from local quarries."

The Ontario Archives in Toronto houses the Brock Monument Building Committee Papers and Minutes 1852. They state, rather intriguingly that "The monument is made totally of Queenston stone ("poor quality quarried material") from the original monument and a quarry immediately to the west."

Today the quarry is undergoing major change. In 2006, NOTL resident, real estate lawyer and developer Frank Racioppo began to transform the disused quarry into a master-planned community: a private hidden valley with residential and resort development that will include organic agriculture, orchards, a variety of housing styles, a golf course, spa, fitness club, restaurants and a winery. Walking trails are also planned.

The area known as the Queenston Quarry has existed for many thousands of years. Human inhabitants have used it for centuries. Its future is exciting.

*More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: [www.niagaranow.com](http://www.niagaranow.com)*





# COMMUNITY



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



## A 'pumping' display



The Pumphouse is showcasing the artwork of Welland artist Robert Bora during November, with an exhibit titled "The Things I See." Through Bora's oil paintings of vignettes from either the interior of homes or its architectural exterior, the artist challenges viewers to see everyday things in a different way. The exhibit runs from Nov. 5 to Nov. 30. This picture was taken at the reception on Nov. 7. SUPPLIED PHOTO

## A Canadian thing



The Novice Local League NOTL Wolves take on the Welland Tigers on Saturday afternoon. BRITTANY CARTER



## THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

With Betty and Jane

Lailey Winery



Aleada Henderson accepts the Golden Plunger for Lailey Winery. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

While travelling along the scenic Niagara Parkway we stopped at Lailey Winery. As you drive up, a beautifully carved totem pole greets you, setting the tone for a unique experience. The winery has been in operation since 1973 and has evolved from grape growers to wine makers and boasts some of the oldest Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vineyards in the region. Upon visiting the "loo" it was evident that the winery staff must hustle to keep up with the busy bus tour traffic that visits daily. The single-user washrooms are accessible to all. The water is ample and warm and provides just what you need for a quick visit. The "sink to ceiling" mirror gives the restroom a much bigger feel and allows one to check out that taller, good-looking "selfie." No lingering here as your favourite wine calls your name.

3/5 Golden Plungers



## Elementary schools remember, too



NOTL Town Coun. Norm Arsenault speaks during the Remembrance Day ceremony at Crossroads Public School. SUPPLIED PHOTO



Priya Litt at St. Davids Public School. SUPPLIED PHOTO

## NOTL Dart League Scores

Each week, dart teams face off at local restaurants and pubs. Find the scores here weekly, exclusive to The Lake Report.

Sandtrap Close Shavians 51  
Legion Guzzlers 49  
Silks Legends 46  
Silks Jini 46

Legion Airs 45  
Legion Guyz 44  
Sandtrap 25  
Legion Dartbags 13

## RIDDLE ME THIS

I have a neck, but no head. I have arms, but no hands. What am I?

Last Week: I am the least spoken language in the world. What am I?

Answer: Sign language

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly by: Lynne Stewart, Sylvia Wiens, Dinorah Centeno, Nancy Mouget, Sandie Lawrence, Sonja Schindeler, Katie Reimer, Britiney Turasz, Sadie Willms, Linda Rinaldis, Kathy Neufeld, Evan Ganski, Sign Language, Viv Wiens

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) for a chance to win a prize.

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL IN NOTL?

The Lake Report

DON'T RISK IT WITH JUST ANY BROKER  
FIND A TRUSTED SALES REP IN NOTL'S #1 NEWSPAPER.



Niagara-on-the-Lake's best real estate agencies know the best place to advertise locally is in The Lake Report. Not only do agents recognize TLR is the most respected newspaper in town, supporting NOTL's only 100% locally-owned community newspaper also speaks volumes about a business. After all, why trust an agent who goes with the lesser option for themselves to help you get the best value? You don't.





## FEATURED LOCAL STORY

# Memories from the beaches of Normandy



The Canadian Cemetery in Normandy. NOTL resident Rene Bertschi visited the beaches of Normandy several times over the years that he lived in Germany. RENE BERTSCHI

Rene Bertschi  
Special to The Lake Report

During my years of living in Germany from 1991 to 2011, I had the opportunity several times to visit the Normandy coast to see what the Allied forces had to overcome to storm the beaches on D-Day.

On one of those visits, I had a most humbling experience.

On a dull, cloud-covered day, I sat beside a Second World War veteran from Canada and listened to him recount his experiences from that memorable day in June 1944.

Seated in his wheelchair, looking out over the sand dunes at Juno Beach, where the Canadians landed, he told me that his son brings him there every year as long as he is still alive and can move.

He quietly sits by the seaside and remembers his friends and many others who did not make it back to their loved ones.

That father and son will be in my mind and memories forever.

Standing on the various landing sites and walking on the beaches of Normandy, you feel and appreciate the difficulties those soldiers encountered as they stormed ashore and had to run on the sand or gravel stone beaches.

Dodging bullets, with 50-pound packs on their backs limiting their progress, they needed to get away from the German firing line and to the safety of the sand dunes.

The bravery exhibited by these young men is breathtaking and, as we know, many never made it home.

The Canadian Army casualties for the Juno sector (which includes the beach and the advance inland) totalled 340 Canadians killed, 574 wounded, and 47 captured for a total of 961 young soldiers.

Another important reason I encourage people to travel the Normandy coast is the opportunity to visit the museums and the towns that were part of the invasion.

When the residents there learn you are a Canadian, they welcome you with open arms. So proudly wear your Canadian flag.

Canada's museum at Juno Beach is one of the places you should not miss. Perched overlooking the dunes and the sea where Canadians came ashore, surrounded by kiosks bearing hundreds of small plaques commemo-

rating men and women who fought for Canada, the Juno Beach Centre is a treasure trove of information and memories of the war.

Photographs from Normandy bring back many emotions.

When I see a picture of the cemeteries of all the countries that were involved – not only the Allied tombstones, but also the German graves – it is a strong reminder that so many young lives perished that day, June 6, 1944, and in the weeks afterward.

So, on Nov. 11, and at other times throughout the year, it is imperative that we remember the sacrifices of our veterans from conflicts long past, as well as those who today continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces.

May we never forget.



Top: A plaque on Cosy's Bunker. Bottom: Visitors walk along Juno Beach. RENE BERTSCHI

## PondView Holiday Open House

Sunday, November 24, 2019

11 am - 4 pm

- ❖ wine tastings
- ❖ chocolate and artisanal cheese tastings
- ❖ one-of-a-kind gift opportunities



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