



Indigenous soldiers **honoured** in Queenston

Ceremony pays respects to those who fought for Canada in the **War of 1812**

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Two hundred and seven years later, Indigenous warriors were acknowledged for the significant contributions and sacrifices they made in the War of 1812 at a Valour and Victory ceremony held last Saturday.

Hosted by Niagara Parks, the service was at the Landscape of Nations Memorial in Queenston, where parks agency officials, town and regional officials, members of the Canadian Armed Forces and community residents gathered to honour the Six Nations and native Allies who fought alongside British and Canadian soldiers during the War of 1812.

The ceremony, which



Michele-Élise Burnett and Sgt. Raymond Starks perform a tobacco ceremony. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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Region hires **new garbage contractor** for NOTL

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Starting next fall, garbage across Niagara Region will be picked up by two different waste collection companies.

Miller Waste Systems Inc. will be collecting garbage in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Welland.

GFL Environmental Inc. will be responsible for waste collection in Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet and West Lincoln.

The decision was made at the regional council meet-

ing Nov. 14. The new waste collection contract, starting on Oct. 19, 2020, will now be split into two areas.

The region currently has a contract with Emterra Environmental.

"I'm very hopeful that this company that will be collecting in Niagara-on-the-Lake has the experience required and resources required to do a good job. That's all I hope for any contract," Lord Mayor Betty Disero told The Lake Report.

Regional council also has approved biweekly garbage collection starting next fall. Recycling and organic

waste will still be picked up weekly.

The main drive behind the change to alternate week garbage pickup is to encourage more frequent use of the green bin to recycle organics, such as food leftovers.

The region's 2015-16 seasonal audit showed that the average garbage container across the region has 50 per cent organic material, 14 per cent recyclable items and 36 per cent garbage.

By switching to the every-other-week collection, the region can hit its target goal of diverting 65 per cent of waste

from landfills, regional staff said in a report to council.

Last year, the diversion rate was 56 per cent.

The new garbage contract's request for proposal contained three levels of service: base, enhanced and optional services, according to a statement from the region.

The base service is available for all eligible low-density residential properties, multi-residential, industrial, commercial, institutional and mixed-use developments.

Enhanced service includes public space litter bin and

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Niagara Region has approved changing weekly garbage collection to every other week, starting next October. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



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Indigenous soldiers **honoured** in Queenston

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started with a procession from Queenston Heights Restaurant to the memorial, included remarks from Lord Mayor Betty Disero, historical address by Jim Hill, Niagara Parks' senior manager of heritage, a reflection speech by Rich Hill, a moment of silence, wreath-laying and a tobacco ceremony.

Jordan Smith, a native American interpreter at Old Fort Niagara, performed an Honour Song at the ceremony.

"It's an important thing for us as native people because we don't really often get that recognition," Smith told The Lake Report.

"We might hear about something great we did years and years later, but to keep it in everybody's mind that we were involved from the beginning and helped the country set those differences aside because we have so many similarities."

This year launched an annual Memorial, Honouring and Reconciliation Service, which will now be held

in Queenston around this time, said Michele-Élise Burnett, one of the event organizers and an assistant director at Landscape of Nations.

As a Métis and Algonquin herself, Burnett said her heart was swelling with pride and happiness.

"I felt that I was finally capable to honour my ancestors and all of my veterans," she said, adding that her father, uncle and grandfather were veterans. "For me, this is beautiful because this has never happened before. It's historic."

"It gives you that great feeling of paying tribute and honouring and giving them our pride back and honour back for all the contributions that they have made to make this country a better place," Burnett said.

"And our story is finally getting told."

St. Catharines resident Stephen Secord, who attended the ceremony with his son and grandson, said his family members were Loyalists and fought alongside native people and with Butler's Rangers.

Once the war was over,



Michele-Élise Burnett, chair of Niagara Regional Métis Council Brian Kon, Sgt. Raymond Starks and Leading Seaman Joseph Tong, members of The Canadian Armed Forces and community residents walk in a procession to the memorial. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

different sides of his family came from various states across America and settled in Canada.

"I just thought I'd honour the native people," Secord told The Lake Report.

"They even gave refuge to my great-great-great-great-aunt, probably going farther than that. But when Americans burned the house in the United States, they came with the natives north and they (natives) kept

her and her family safe for the winter."

Buffalo resident Brian Winnie, who is originally from Six Nations, said his relative Jacob Winnie fought in the War of 1812.

"You stand here and you think about what they went through. The hardships are just unimaginable," he said.

"Fighting here, fighting there, charging each other. In 2019, for the first time since the War of 1812, we're

doing something and showing everybody we're trying to live in peace."

The service also marked National Aboriginal Veterans Day, which is celebrated on Nov. 8, and also Louis Riel Day, who was a Métis fighter for Indigenous rights who was executed on Nov. 16, 1885.

"In a way, it's kind of unique and interesting that we're celebrating the veterans because you don't think

of Louis Riel as a veteran, but he fought for the rights of Métis people," said Brian Kon, chair of the Niagara Region Métis Council.

He said it was an honour to see Indigenous people recognized in a separate ceremony.

The Valour and Victory service was a blend of Indigenous and traditional Remembrance Day ceremonies, Kon told The Lake Report.

One of the reasons the ceremony was held separately from the regular Nov. 11 service is because Indigenous people celebrate differently – by playing drums, singing and having a tobacco ceremony, which "doesn't fit" the traditional "solemn" Remembrance Day ceremonies, he said.

"A lot of people didn't recognize the role First Nations, Métis and Inuit people played. That goes back to 1812, that goes to World War One, World War Two, and others since," he said.

"It's recognizing the deep impact that they had in preserving peace not only on this land but around the world."

St. Mark's **forum** lets councillors meet with parishioners

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

After three members of the St. Mark's Anglican Church congregation won seats in the last municipal election, holding a special forum to let parishioners ask questions of the councillors seemed like a good idea to Rev. William Roberts.

So, on Saturday, town councillors Gary Burroughs and Clare Cameron, and regional councillor Gary Zalepa were invited to meet with church-goers for an informal question-and-answer session at Addison Hall.

"I thought it was a very good meeting and I believe people thought the same thing," Burroughs said after the forum.

"It's very useful for residents to understand what the town is doing and to



David Smith asks a question to councillors. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

learn what they're thinking and what things we can fix."

Cameron said when all three of them got elected last year, Roberts was "excited and overwhelmed" that three elected officials also attend his church.

"He got us together because we're members of the church community so he wanted to have an opportunity for the other members of the parish to get together," Cameron told The Lake Report.

Cameron expressed hope there will be more such meetings across the community, which would allow all councillors to see residents "face-to-face."

The meeting, hosted by Roberts, kicked off with

some questions from the minister, followed by questions from the audience.

Zalepa said one of the biggest issues in town is housing availability and affordability.

"In Niagara-on-the-Lake, there's a chronic need for housing that's market affordable," he told the small crowd gathered at the church. "What that means is smaller units or apartment-style, townhouse or small homes where people can actually afford to pay the caring costs."

At the meeting, Burroughs also said communication was the first thing that needs to be worked on so that the town can learn about residents' issues and residents can be assured something is being done to resolve their problems.

Burroughs said he was

at first nervous about attending the meeting but it went well and he's looking forward to attending forums with all councillors.

"It's a good way of not just going to meetings where residents are told things, (but) where they can simply ask questions and have an open discussion. I think that's very useful," he said.

One of the meeting attendees, Lloyd Maclam, said he learned about the forum in The Lake Report and, as a retired local resident, decided to come out to learn about current and future issues as the news isn't always able to provide full details on issues.

"I like to keep up with what's happening in town and come out to events like these," he told The Lake Report.

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Tidbits

Support Newark Neighbours food drive

Newark Neighbours is holding its Annual Holiday Food Drive on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 8:30 a.m., hosted by the Niagara Area Jeep Club at Phil's Value Mart on Niagara Stone Road.

Non-perishable items needed are Sidekicks, Mac and Cheese, Baking needs, canned peaches, canned tomatoes, salted crackers, Kleenex, cream of mushroom soup, canned ravioli and cake mixes.



Don't feed wildlife, Niagara Parks says

Niagara Parks is reminding residents and tourists that feeding wild animals is prohibited.

Illegal dumping of pumpkins and other food waste has attracted wildlife to high traffic area along the Parkway, which has created a safety issue, the agency said.

Animals already have plenty of food available for them, and feeding wildlife can change its behaviour making wild animals more aggressive and less afraid of people, according to Niagara Parks.

Uncarved pumpkins can be donated to Linc Farms, which uses food waste to feed its livestock.

Queenston Christmas bake and decor sale Dec. 7

The Queenston Residents Association will hold its annual Christmas bake and décor sale on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Queenston Public Library from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Again this year, the association will have tourtières available by pre-order.

Contact Marilyn Armstrong at armstrong@bell-net.ca or by phone at 905-262-0268 to order yours.

At the sale, baked goods, coffee and muffins, and Christmas décor items also will be available.

Less waste to landfills part of goal

Continued from Front Page

recycling bin collection, containerized garbage collection and additional curbside collection of garbage, recycling and organics in downtown business areas.

All 12 Niagara area municipalities will also be able to choose their preferred enhanced services, which will not be part of the overall regional contract.

In NOTL, enhanced services are mainly used on Queen Street because it is "much busier" than a residential street, Disero said.

"So, Queen Street businesses pay extra for that enhanced service," she said. "I suspect the only enhanced service we will continue to have is the collection on Queen Street."

Since Niagara residents learned about the change in garbage collection, concerns regarding diapers and medical waste have been expressed.

The region currently provides exemptions for people with medical conditions and for household with two or more children under the age of four.

If a household has two children under the age of four in diapers, the region allows them to apply for exemption

and have one clear bag.

For households with more than two children, two clear bags are allowed.

Diapers should be placed in clear bags, with no other garbage in the bag, according to the region's website.

If approved, daycares operating out of a residential property can put out two clear bags of diapers weekly, in addition to the one garbage bag or can.

Residents with medical conditions wishing to be exempt from a weekly one garbage bag limit must provide certification from a physician. If approved, they will receive a one-year supply of tags for their extra garbage.

Old Town resident Ashley Robertson has two children under the age of two. Her son Maverick will turn two next week, and her daughter Lennon will be one in December.

As a busy household with two youngsters, Robertson said they sometimes miss the garbage collection day, which leaves the family with an "overflowing" bag full of garbage.

"I can't imagine what it would be like in the summer when we do get our garbage out there and you got diapers sitting in the heat," Robertson said. "That's going to

create an awful smell for the town itself."

Each of her children uses at least 10 diapers a day, she said.

Disero said she has concerns about diapers as well and some municipalities, like Toronto, accept diapers in green bins.

"If you're going to leave diapers in a regular black bag, that to me doesn't make sense," Disero said. "And it stinks."

One of Disero's ideas was to have a service similar to a drop-off or pick-up that might help residents with children in diapers.

She said she asked regional staff to come back to council with a report regarding the weekly collection of diapers and medical waste, including implementation initiatives and costs.

"I think it's part of our basic responsibility and I would be very supportive in spending that regional money to collect diapers and medical waste. To me, it doesn't make sense to leave it in a black bag," Disero said.

Robertson said having a drop-off site wouldn't be convenient for families with one vehicle.

"If someone is working, then who is bringing the diapers to the drop-off site?"

There are families who don't have vehicles and moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake because of accessibility."

The facility at Walker Environmental, which processes green bin waste as part of its contract with the region, doesn't have the technology to be able to accept diapers in green bins, said Niagara Region's acting manager of collection and diversion operations, Sherri Tait.

"People will adjust and get used to it, change is hard," Tait said in an interview. "Once they get used to it, it will drive all of that organic that we see in the garbage stream into the organics, into the green bin."

To adopt new technology capable of processing diapers would require "significant capital costs," Tait said, and the region doesn't produce enough waste to make it economically feasible.

In 2017, the total solid waste generated in the region was 201,273 tonnes, 57 per cent of which was recycled and 43 per cent consisted of disposed waste.

Tait also noted the total cost to build a facility similar to the Durham York Energy Centre, which is used for processing waste in Durham Region, could be huge. In Durham, it cost \$295 million.

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Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Publisher: Niagara Now
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Rob Lamond, Luke Archibald
Staff: Brittany Carter, Dariya Baiguzhiyeva, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Eunice Tang
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)

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“Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can.” – Danny Kaye



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Editorial

NOTL's Choice Awards now open

Richard Harley
Editor-in-Chief

There's a lot to appreciate in Niagara-on-the-Lake — so much that it's hard to keep track of all that's going on here. We know this well, as a newspaper with its finger on the pulse of the community.

But just saying that isn't enough.

We could write 10 editorials about how great this town is, how many fantastic local businesses there are to support, how so many of those businesses give back so much to our community, and support The Lake Report as well.

But even 100 editorials simply wouldn't encapsulate the feeling we have as NOTLers, and the loyalty to our favourite spots.

So, in keeping with trying to find ways to give back to NOTL, we are launching the first-ever NOTL's Choice Awards.

The Lake Report is proud to inaugurate the NOTL's Choice Awards,

so our readers, the residents of our town, can speak their minds about the NOTL shops and businesses, and the entrepreneurs who make them special.

We've left it to NOTL residents to nominate their favourite businesses, organizations and individuals, and we encourage people to nominate as many businesses as they would like.

After the nomination process, we'll launch the contest, where NOTLers can vote on their favourite place, in a

wide variety of categories.

To nominate a business, organization or professional individual, please visit www.LakeReport.ca and go to the nominations page. From there you will be linked to our online survey, which can be taken as many times as needed to get all of your favourites in the running.

Don't wait to submit — nominations close Jan. 30, 2020.

editor@niagaranow.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mayor's letter: Celebrating the men who have made a difference

NOTL Lord Mayor Betty Disero issued the following message on Tuesday.

Today, Nov. 19, is International Men's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the positive impact men have on their families, communities and the world.

International Men's Day provides an excellent opportunity to highlight positive male role models and raise awareness of men's well-being. The theme for the day is “Making a Difference for Men and Boys.”

Knowledge of this day has made me think of the three men in my life who taught me the most valuable lessons. They have all passed away, but they will forever be my role models.

First is my grandfather Nunzio, who taught me the value of hard work and always putting a little money away for a rainy day. My father, Raymond, instilled in me at a very young age, the value of honesty and taught me that most people are willing to accept misgivings and mistakes if they are revealed through honesty and forthcoming. This truth and encouragement have carried me throughout my life.

My third role model is my son Michael, who taught me to be adventurous, courageous, and independent, just as he was. He was curious, he loved life, and he was eager to try anything. These three men were my role models. I miss them all very much.

International Men's Day is a time for us to reflect on the contributions and progress made by men in society. Such growth includes that of men working together with women to create educational, economic, social and technological advances in our community.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is full of great men, many of whom I am grateful to know and have the privilege of working alongside. Role models like Dan Patterson, Donald Ziraldo, Ward Simpson, Christopher Newton, and Doug Garrett, as well as those who are no longer with us, including David Wall, Michael Vriens, and Peter Stokes, have made

vast advances on our community.

John Graves Simcoe, John Norton, John Brant, Richard Pierpoint and John Waters are also men worthy of mention for their impact on our history. We celebrate the lives and contributions of these men and thank them for their dedication to our community and world.

Mahatma Gandhi said, “We must become the change we seek.” It is only when we all, both men and women, lead by example, that we will create a fair and safe society that allows everyone the opportunity to prosper.

I invite you to participate in International Men's Day by celebrating the male role models in your life. Share a picture or write a short story about your male role model(s) by using the hashtag #InternationalMensDayNOTL.

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OPINION



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visits Niagara during the federal election campaigns. FILE PHOTO/DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Ignore the rear-view mirror, let's invest in innovation

Michael Eagen
Special to The Lake Report

Marshall McLuhan, the somewhat forgotten media guru of the 1960s and '70s, maintained that citizens living in any political structure, when faced with new technological challenges tend to attach themselves to the flavour and objects of our recent past. He called this the "rear-view effect."

Rather than the confronting view that we are forced to see through the windshield, we cling to the rear-view mirror because it offers a more comforting view.

The result of our recent federal election has seen two regions of the country choosing the more comfortable view "by marching backward into the future."

Alberta and Saskatchewan tend to see all issues as economic in nature while Quebec increasingly sees all issues as cultural.

Regardless, both are similar in their responses as each region refuses to look through the windshield.

For both Alberta and Saskatchewan, the past, present and future are primarily about oil and natural gas, but such a narrow strategy has been shown for some time to have weaknesses.

Oil sands extraction is

expensive and increasingly not competitive in price with other well-sourced producers. In addition, solar, wind and water energy sources are encouraging the production of electric autos, trains and even ships.

The response from 70 per cent of voters from the western region was to elect every Conservative candidate to Ottawa with no road map for future economic solutions. Instead the blame game is fuelling more animosity toward the Green Party, the NDP and the Liberals for failure to build pipelines and adding more environmental regulations for future pipelines.

This strategy will ensure the re-election of western premiers and more MPs to Ottawa and also encourage the Wexit movement, but at some point citizens will need to develop a new economic vision.

The second region to suffer from marching into the future backward is Quebec.

The previously dormant Bloc Party made significant gains in the mostly rural regions of the province as we heard its leader, Yves-Francois Blanchett, speak often of a future Quebec "nation."

As we continue to live in a global village with integrated markets, supply chains and lower tariffs

in place Blanchett's vision seems to be an unrealistic notion.

But the Bloc has been able to encourage voters to see the world through the rear-view mirror and blame Ottawa for attempting to destroy the French culture by allowing an increase in immigration numbers of people who have different religions, dress and languages.

Bill 21, concerning religious symbols, and the Bloc's Values Charter will be in place soon and the Québécois will be expending huge amounts of energy on these regulations – as opposed to looking at pathways to improve the economy and thus the lives of all the province's citizens.

Unlike Quebec and the west, Ontario did not show a regional trend in this election but since the results were disappointing for the Conservative party one could surmise that voters had seen a provincial premier who appears to be unaware of some of the more complex issues facing the province. The shoot-from-the lip policies and bluster perhaps made Ontario voters wary and they stayed with a not particularly successful Liberal party – but at least one that seemed to be aware of some of the

future challenges.

What indeed is the solution for all Canadians to start looking forward and not back?

Certainly the encouragement and incentives to Google techno incubator labs and other companies that are willing to situate in Canada, but perhaps it is time for a national program.

Big Brother as it may seem, why not fund a program in which the federal government provides seed money for new and innovative ideas, which might free up our thinking, as opposed to entrepreneurs always scratching around for funding.

In the recent past, Canadians have been responsible for several medical, scientific and technological breakthroughs. Why not quadruple our efforts by actively encouraging new ways of approaching our complex world?

Every citizen would reap the benefits and, in turn, a more united nation might be a byproduct of such ventures, as opposed to the present trend.

It's time to look at the view through the front window rather than the one behind us.

Contributor Michael Eagen lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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MORE LETTERS

Climate change editorial was **off base**

Last week in The Lake Report's editorial, ("Kudos to NOTL's young climate activists"), managing editor Kevin MacLean said "congratulations" to two 13-year-old girls for something they have "decided," for something they have "vowed."

Apparently they will end their monthly "climate strike" when our municipality does what they "want" and "declares" a "climate emergency."

This is, MacLean admits, "a largely symbolic act."

Anyone critical of this is part of a conservative-agenda "crowd" that would "mock and put down these children," critics who write at a "Grade 5" level, capable only of the "mock and squawk" form of objection.

But let me take MacLean at least as seriously as climate change. He's put a lot of pressure on these two minors to keep to their word, to respect their vows, to not deviate or desist.

Their decision isn't like your son or daughter deciding to take up the violin or to try out for the soccer team. It's serious. It needs editors exerting all their editorial pressure on them to make sure they turn out to be little Joans of Arc.

You might go so far as to wonder if MacLean has entered into a contract with these two kids. He has given his editorial approval to them, "Yea," and to everyone else, "Nay."

But if CNN can have Greta, then by gum, MacLean can have his activists, too.

His responsibility to his readers is to be impartial, disinterested, and when those principles are in doubt, to editorialize. His responsibility to the subjects he writes about is to always see the truth.

He says, so what, "They're trying to do something about it." As if the Children's Crusade was a good thing! As if that cliché of propaganda, the 13-year-old who pipes up amid the adults giving their all, "I'm doing my part, too," to tug on the heart-strings is a laudable bit of documentary filmmaking.

What terrible power is preventing every climate-conscious 13-year-old to work for nothing making Tesla batteries so as to save the planet?

This doesn't sound like a journalist writing an editorial. It sounds like a performer doing the journalist writing an editorial. Like a youth pastor congratulating the young ones for their first communion or their baptism, like a reference in a resume, giving his support.

Your newspaper is great. It's impartial, disinterested and even fair. Of all things, why does the editorial need its own editorial?

I don't think MacLean could tell me much about Socrates, Jesus or Shakespeare, but I'll bet my bottom dollar he could say something about Machiavelli.

*Jesse Lepp
NOTL*

Insulting comments about longtime residents complaining about **bird cannons**

Dear editor:

In response to the letter submitted by J. Richard Wright last week, wherein he states he is OK with growers using percussion devices to minimize damage to their crops, we would reply as follows.

We find his insulting comments, appalling.

He categorizes entire Escarpment bench neighbourhoods, and we would speculate has never met any of the local residents that live here, as being "born devoid of imagination, foresight or common sense."

Once again, he along with Bill Cochrane Sr., assumes that we just arrived from the GTA, and now we are complaining about the explosive daily noise.

Nothing could be further from the truth, as readers could see from last week's edition that we have been living here for a lot longer than they assume.

It is hard to believe that because we are attempting to deal with an issue that is violating both our human rights and our property rights, and have taken a polar opposite position to Mr. Wright, that he feels he is justified in insulting citizens who live in Escarpment bench neighbourhoods.

*Jim and Irene Fisher
Queenston*

Sheila Tierney and Joy Ormsby also deserve **recognition**

Dear editor:

Last month, in conjunction with National Women's History Month, Lord Mayor Betty Disero issued a statement lauding many of women in our community who deserve recognition for making a difference to our town. She also encouraged residents to nominate other women deserving of celebration.

Here are two women whom I think should be recognized as well.

Sheila Tierney was an alderwoman in the 1980s. Besides the many hours that took up, she has been a fundraiser for the Cancer Society for over 50 years, as well as a lead organizer of the Historical Museum's 100th Anniversary. Her children and grandchildren live all over the world so she is often not in town but whenever I see her, she is "going strong."

Another woman who we all owe a debt of gratitude to is Joy Ormsby, the first and only Official Town Historian.

I know that Laura Dodson, who saved Willowbank from the wrecker's ball, Gracia Jones, head of the Niagara Conservancy, and Judy McLaughlin, who was on Willowbank's board of directors in the early days (as was I) would, if they could, tell you how much Joy's voluminous historical research helped in the conservation of this town. She lives in Upper Canada Lodge now.

*Elizabeth Masson
NOTL*

Bird bangers were used in the early 1950s

Dear editor:

I am writing regarding the letter to the editor by Win Laar, "Actually, we were here long before the bird bangers," The Lake Report, Nov. 14.

As a matter of fact, actually, I was here long before you moved here, Win.

As a young boy in the early 1950s, I worked with George Sheppard and his wife Hazel.

I agree that Mr. Sheppard was a fine gentleman and a pioneering farmer who started the U-Pick program here in Niagara.

On his farm, I picked up brush, picked fruit of all kinds, weeded, weeded, weeded assorted crops that they were growing, and yes, periodically listened to bird bangers on his farm, my dad's farm, and Jim McGregor's farm, who lived directly opposite Mr. Sheppard's property on the 8A Highway, now know as York Road.

Maybe you "cooked your own goose"?

*John Morley
NOTL*



**We
welcome
your
letters**

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

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

Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated.

Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

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

The Lake Report



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Sing-along **Messiah** highlights ChoralFest's final weekend

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Music Niagara's first-ever ChoralFest kicked off in spectacular fashion with the Elmer Iseler Singers last weekend and the festival continues with a series of choir concerts over the next several days, including Sing-along Messiah this Saturday night.

The ever-popular, glorious Sing-Along-Messiah, conducted by Mervin Fick with the Messiah Chorus and Orchestra of St. Mark's, will be featured at St. Mark's Anglican Church in NOTL. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

Other concerts in the ChoralFest series include:

The Victoria Scholars, on Friday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace in Niagara Falls. The all-male, award-winning choir is internationally acclaimed and has released four recordings. The choir has performed with some of the biggest names in classical and contemporary music.



Lydia Adams conducts the Elmer Iseler Singers at Niagara United Mennonite Church in Virgil on Saturday as Music Niagara kicked off its ChoralFest 2019 series.

KEVIN MACLEAN

The Celaya Conservatory Children's Choir from Mexico, on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church. Considered one of the top children's choirs from Mexico, it is their first time performing in Canada. The choir performed alongside some of the top musicians in Mexico and will perform a program of Latin American music.

Two choirs, **Volunge and Vesnivka**, will entertain on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. at St. Mark's Church. Volunge, named after Lithuania's beautiful "Golden Oriole," is

an award-winning Lithuanian choir led by conductor Dalia Viskontas. Vesnivka, led by founding conductor and director Halyna Kytka Kondracki, will present a program sung entirely in Ukrainian.

The Laura Secord Concert Choir is onstage on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Church. The award-winning school choir from St. Catharines promotes student talent and fosters extracurricular involvement through high-calibre musicals, choirs, orchestras and bands. Membership is open to all students and the choir includes a mix

of athletes, artists, scholars and musicians, all under the direction of Katryna Sacco.

The Hamilton Children's Choir closes the ChoralFest on Monday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church. Considered one of the leading children's choral programs in the world, this group will be joined by Jasmin Lin, a Music Niagara Performance Academy alum and Juillard student. She will be playing the Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume "Messiah" violin awarded to her by the Canada Council Instrument Bank for three years. The Celaya Conservatory Children's Choir will also make a guest appearance at this concert.

For tickets to Music Niagara ChoralFest concerts, visit 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). Two for one pricing is available for the two concerts this Sunday.



Gracia Jones is the 2019 award recipient.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Gracia Jones honoured with Living Landmark Award

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Gracia Jones has been chosen as the 2019 Living Landmark Award recipient by the Niagara Foundation.

The not-for-profit organization, which advocates for preservation of heritage lands in town, has been recognizing NOTL residents who have made outstanding contributions to the quality of life in Niagara since 2006, according to the organizers.

As a president of NOTL Conservancy Group, Jones has been a vocal advocate for the town's historic preservation and provided input on the town's official plan.

Jones accepted the award at a reception held at Navy Hall Saturday night.

"I'm very honoured. This group, the foundation, is terrific," Jones told The Lake Report. "Other groups come and go, but we're still here. And I would say we've done some of the significant heritage saving in this town."

Jones recalled the Conservancy group's victory when the Ontario Municipal Board prevented the King's Point condominium development which allowed the community to "save the views" of Fort Niagara across the river.

Another memorable experience was when the group

persuaded the OMB to not include the Commons in the urban boundaries, she said.

"Those are the two most spectacular things we've done," Jones said.

One of the foundation directors and 2017 award winner Richard Merritt said the board takes into account who has contributed to the community when choosing a recipient.

"That can be philanthropy, donating funds or giving time to various historical or cultural events over the years," Merritt told The Lake Report. "Gracia Jones has been very active in all kinds of things in the community, a real activist."

Previous award recipients have also included Judy MacLachlan, Norma Jane Lowrey and Blair Harber, Gary Burroughs, Debi Pratt, Jim Smith, Peter Stokes, Christopher Newton, Joy Ormsby, John Walker, Calvin Rand, Donald Combe, Norm Howe and Gerry Wooll.

NOTL resident Peter Howe said Jones, along with his mother Margherita Howe, and Laura Dodson, was on the forefront preserving and advocating for the town's heritage.

"These women are pioneers who have advanced heritage preservation for 35 years in town and the community owes a debt to them which can never be understood," he told The Lake Report.

Dave Wall will always be the **Captain**

Paolo Miele
Special to The Lake Report

I first met Dave Wall when, at the young age of 15, I became friends with his son Richard.

That year I was recruited to work at the Virgil Stampede parking cars and setting up a strategic way for cars to get in and out of the park.

To this day, at 53 years old, I still volunteer at the Stampede and I am a member of the Virgil Business Association.

Mr. Wall, who died on Nov. 2 at the age of 91, was one of the founding members of the Virgil Business Association along with Leno Mori.

His death is a big loss to our community, but he will always be remembered for working hard to make our town a better place.

As a teenager, I didn't understand the whole meaning

of the Stampede, other than having fun, going on rides and eating too much food.

Later in life I understood why the Virgil Business Association and Mr. Wall created the Stampede.

It was to raise money and then put that money right back into the community. As many of you know, the Virgil Business Association has raised well over a million dollars over the years.

A great deal of that money went toward our arenas, our community centre, the Virgil soccer fields and many, many other worthwhile ventures that this community was, and is, in need of.

When I was a young man of just 22, I was given an opportunity to work at Wall's of Virgil.

My position was in sales and my first day on the job started like this: Dave Wall approached me as I came



Dave Wall. FILE PHOTO/
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

in through the front doors of the store and said to me, "Captain, do you have a minute?"

I responded, "Yes, I do."

Dave said, "What time is it?"

Well, I had short sleeves on but did not have a watch on my wrist. I went on to explain, "Sorry sir, but I don't have the exact time."

Dave then said to me, "If you're going to work for me you need to wear a watch."

That set the tone for the entire duration of my employment at Wall's of Virgil.

Dave had a particular way of doing business and many of us who worked at his store knew that things were done "the Dave Wall way."

That meant there was a certain way to greet people, there was a way to take messages, there was a way to do everything.

I, for one, thought he was going overboard, but I did it "the Dave Wall way" because that was how it was expected to be done.

Today, I am a business owner, operating the Good Eats Diner. The business ethics and techniques that I learned from Dave Wall form an important part of what we do every day in my business.

I laugh to myself on many occasions when I find myself doing something the "Dave Wall way." And I can still hear him say, "Well done, Captain."

Dave Wall was a community leader, a mentor and a man who excelled at getting things done.

Thank you, Dave Wall. You made a difference in my life and for the village of Virgil and all of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

You will always be the Captain.

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Yellow Door Theatre offers two new musical productions in December

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Virgil's Yellow Door Theatre Project is presenting two new Canadian musicals in December and artistic director Andorlie Hillstrom is urging everyone to come out and show their support for young local talents. "These kids deserve to have full houses," she said. "I believe we're doing something important for youth in the Niagara region." For its annual fall productions, the theatre usually presents an original commissioned piece. This year, due to lack of funding for a commissioned play, the organization decided to present two shows instead, both at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines. "It was a risky decision but we wanted to move forward with this programming for the kids," Hillstrom told The Lake Report.

"This is different, this isn't our usual path. This is like an icing on the cake." The first show, "Bremen Rock City," is loosely based on a Brothers Grimm fairy tale. Eighteen performers with Yellow Door's Junior Company, aged from 10 to 13 years old, will tell a story of a donkey named Jack who runs away from his boring life on a farm in pursuit of his dream of becoming a rock star. "It's a funny, very humorous little piece, very cute. The kids are cute, too," Hillstrom said. The performance features a libretto by Stratford Festival star Sara Farb, who made her Broadway debut in "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child." Songs and lyrics are by Akiva Romer-Sigal and Colleen Dauncey, and the show is directed by Lindsay Bell. The second show, "Going Under," formerly "The Subway Songs," has a more mature theme.

Performed by Yellow Door's Teen Company, the musical follows the story of a group of high schoolers who, after getting trapped on a subway, have to face their demons. There is also mystery surrounding an incident which occurred four years prior to the incident and has affected all students. Hillstrom said the audience doesn't find out what happened until the end of the show. The musical, featuring 13 teen performers, will explore not only more serious themes such as teen pregnancy, peer pressure and teen suicide, but also positive themes such as friendship, loyalty, acceptance and inclusion. Hillstrom said she's been in touch with the "Going Under's" book author Matt Murray as the team continues to make changes and additions to the script. Songwriters Dauncey and Romer-Sigal also added two

new songs to the show. "We've really been enjoying doing both pieces," Hillstrom said. "It's been a lot of work in a very minimal amount of time." This is the nonprofit company's fifth year and the organization always works hard to find sponsors and generate donations to cover production expenses, Hillstrom said. The NOTL Rotary Club and Rotary Club of St. Catharines have sponsored tickets for children who attend school matinees, she said, and TD Canada Trust has also sponsored 300 tickets for children from less privileged schools to attend the two productions. "Yes, it's important to come see the children but that ticket that you buy goes right back into the shows, goes right back into what the kids are receiving and I cannot stress the importance of that kind of support," Hillstrom said. "I can talk until I'm blue



Artistic director Andorlie Hillstrom urges everyone to attend two new musical productions at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

in the face about sponsorships and donors, which is fantastic and we love them to death, but it's important that we have those bums in the seats." Adult tickets cost \$30, seniors and students are \$25, with children 12 and under \$12. A family package for two adults and two children costs \$85. Taxes and fees are extra. "Going Under" will be performed from Thursday, Dec. 5 to Saturday, Dec. 7.

The musical will have two shows at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and one show at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. "Bremen Rock City" will hit the stage on Wednesday, Dec. 11 to Friday, Dec. 13. On Wednesday, there's one show at 10:30 a.m., and two daily shows on Thursday and Friday, starting at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.yellowdoortheatre.com/>.

RiverBrink explores feasibility of expanding

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Queenston's RiverBrink Fine Art Museum is trying to determine whether a future expansion would be viable and it's laying the groundwork by holding a public open house Nov. 29. From 6 to 8 p.m. in the museum at 116 Queenston St., consultants from Lord Cultural Resources will lead a discussion on RiverBrink's future and the possibility of expanding the space. "We're just embarking on it now. We got a grant from Canadian Cultural Spaces and a private donation to help cover the cost," said Debra Antoncic, RiverBrink's director/curator. "We felt that the best way to approach this would be through a feasibility study," she said. Before moving forward with any plans, she said they would need to determine if the community



would support an expansion. A conversation with the community through an open house is the first step, followed by discussions with the staff and board of the museum. She said if all goes well, the initial feasibility study should be complete by February. At that time it should be decided if the museum will move forward with proposed growth. As well as increasing space for collection showings, and adding rental spaces, Antoncic said accessibility is a concern the museum has been battling with.

"We have concerns about our accessibility. We have been working on this problem for a while now – we have our accessible ramp and our accessible washroom – the first floor is fully accessible. And we have a virtual tour for the upper and lower floors, but they're still not accessible," she said. Antoncic said she encourages anyone in the community to come to the open house to join the discussion. If unable to attend, she suggests sending in questions or concerns to be addressed during the public meeting. "We're hoping that with this open house many of the community will come out, and some will have questions, some will have concerns, and I think all of that is very healthy to have that dialogue. I think fundamentally we have to ask: How important is having an art museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake?"

Book document's NOTL hero who was 'braver than Laura Secord'



A portion of the book cover by Lissa Paul. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

One heroine of Niagara-on-the-Lake easily springs to mind throughout local history – but Lissa Paul is shining a light on another; Eliza Fenwick – a Canadian icon "braver than Laura Secord," documented in Paul's new book. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum will host Paul on Nov. 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. for a launch and signing of the biography Eliza Fenwick: Early Modern Feminist.

During the launch, Paul will do a few readings of the letters which were written from the Breakenridge House at 230 Centre St., where Fenwick ran a school for girls from 1829 to 1833. Paul weaves the tale of Fenwick's life in the biography, chronicling how she "paved her own unique path throughout the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as she made her way from country to country as writer, teacher, and school owner," the book description states.



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The Village gets into holiday spirit with Christmas lights and garlands

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Residents of the Village began spreading holiday cheer this week as they took to the parks to hang Christmas lights and garlands on trees and lampposts around their NOTL neighbourhood.

The official lighting of the decorations will be on Sunday, Nov. 24, followed by a neighbourhood gathering.

“It’s one of these things where, like most neighbourhood things, it started out small. Then it began to grow as the neighbourhood grew,” said holiday decorating co-ordinator Dale Des Islets. Over time more people got interested and volunteered.

“It has almost become a bit of an institution. Everyone seems to love it. It’s become one of the highlights of the holiday season for everybody here,” he said.

Now, about 30 volunteers split into teams to install the lights and decorations around the neighbourhood.

The initiative is funded by the Village Community Association. Decorations are only installed in public areas – the four parks in the neighbourhood and the streets surrounding the parks, he said.

About 65 trees and 23 lampposts are adorned with lights and garland, with decorative reindeer and a sled set up around the parks.



Doug Phibbs and Joe Allevalo hang lights on the trees in the Village. BRITTANY CARTER

Christmas with Heart helps two charities

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The Christmas with Heart market supports great causes and that’s one of the reasons Andrea Wood of Alpaca Niagara is happy to keep coming back.

Wood was one of the 35 vendors taking part in the market at Cornerstone Community Church on Hunter Road last Saturday.

All proceeds and donations raised go to two charities: Hamilton’s Ronald McDonald House and Karubabi Harvest School in Burundi.

Co-ordinator Chris Gillespie, who organized the show with her daughter Paige Rutherford, said the reason Ronald McDonald House was chosen is because when Gillespie’s grandson was three months old he had a severe illness and his parents had to stay at the house while the baby was in the hospital.

“So, it’s obviously very dear to our hearts,” Gillespie said. Her grandson is seven now and is doing well.

The Karubabi school, which is a private Christian school, has students who often are the first in their family to receive education, Gillespie said. The students,



Andrea Wood of Alpaca Niagara said she was happy to return to the market. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

many of whom travel a long distance to get to school, also get a meal a day at the school.

Last year the church donated \$1,500 to the school which allowed it to buy solar lights as there’s no electricity there.

This year, the money raised will help build two basketball courts.

Saturday’s raffle table included prizes donated by all vendors and many NOTL businesses, and the bake table had homemade goods prepared by church members.

The show was pulled together thanks to many church and community volunteers as well as nine Vineridge Academy stu-

dents who have come out to help, Gillespie said.

416 Coffee Co. and Infusion Tea provided free coffee and tea, but any donations will go to the charities. The community centre’s Sweets and Swirls Café also provided lunch.

Cheese Secrets and Sweets Mama’s Pastries and Preserves contributed extra funding to help cover expenses, said Gillespie.

“And we’re very grateful to Cornerstone church for giving us space,” she told The Lake Report. “It’s much busier this year. We’re very grateful for that.”

“It’s gone better than we could’ve hoped it was going,” Rutherford added. “We’ve had a lot of people through. We had a lot of positive comments and I think the raffle table has done better than last year.”

Wood also complimented the show and organizers who, along with volunteers, did a great job orchestrating the event and “really knew” how to take care of vendors.

“Volunteers helped me set up the table and carry items from my car,” Wood said.

“They offered tea and coffee, they rolled a red carpet for us. The event has a great cause behind it and I’m happy to support it.”

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24	25	26	
<p>ChoralFest: Volunge and Vesnivka - 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p> <p>ChoralFest: Laura Secord Concert Choir - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p> <p>Queen Street Tree Lighting - 6 p.m. - Queen Street Cenotaph</p> <p>Teen Literary Alliance - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Family Friendly Drop in Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p>	<p>Tea Tasting in Support of Yellow Door Theatre - 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre Project</p> <p>ChoralFest: Hamilton Children's Choir - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Free Youth Walk in Mental Health Clinic - 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Red Roof Retreat</p> <p>Famous and Infamous: Clementine Churchill by Craig Tallman - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Historical Society & Museum</p>	<p>November Red Tent Event - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Red Roof Retreat</p> <p>Heritage Trail Committee - 2 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Urban Design Committee - 5 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>NOTL Horticultural Society Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Chess Club - 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Lord Mayor's Youth Council - 7:30 p.m. - Room 1</p> <p>STEAM Story Time - Public Library</p> <p>German Conversations - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre</p>
1	2	3	
<p>Holiday Open House - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery</p> <p>Open Mic with Buzz Hummer - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Legion Branch 124</p> <p>Expressive Interiors Intermediate - 9:30 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Ravine Christmas Market - 11 a.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery</p> <p>Winter Urn Workshop - 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. - Niagara College Greenhouse Nursery</p>	<p>Free Youth Walk in Mental Health Clinic - 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Red Roof Retreat</p> <p>Carribbean Christmas Fundraising for Education Foundation of Niagara - 2 p.m. - Royal Henley Retirement Community</p> <p>Committee of the Whole - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Italian Conversation Group - 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>French Conversation Group - 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Nobel Prize Series Nobel Prize in Physics - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>CARP Holiday Social - 12 p.m. - Royal Niagara Golf Club</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>STEAM Story Time - 11:45 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>German Conversations - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre</p> <p>Movie: Bee Nation - Public Library</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters of Kindness - 7 p.m. - Niagara College NOTL</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	21 Niagara PF Support Group - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Parents and Tots Play Group - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church Committee of Adjustment - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	22 Annual Christmas Turkey Roll - 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall ChoralFest: The Victoria Scholars - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Our Lady of peace Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Beginners Guide to a Zero Waste Holiday - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	23 Christmas Market - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Grace United Church ChoralFest: Celaya Conservatory Children's Choir - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - TBA ChoralFest: Sing Along Messiah - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church How to get Published: A Brian Henry Workshop - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Annual Big Band Fundraiser - 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - TD Niagara Jazz Festival 169 King St. Newark Neighbours Annual Food Drive - 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Phil's Valu Mart
27 Advisory Committee 11 a.m. - NOTL ion Group a.m. - NOTL	28 Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library History in the Vineyard - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	29 Holiday Open House - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery Black Friday Shopping Event - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Claire's Harley Davidson of Niagara Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	30 Bravo Niagara! Presents Ofra Harnoy - 7:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church Expressive Interiors Intermediate - 9:30 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Holiday Open House - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery St. Vincent de Paul CWL: Fall Food Fest - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - 222 Davy St.- Church Hall
4 11 a.m. to ion Group a.m. - NOTL - 2 p.m. - NOTL : The Power to 9 p.m. - L Campus	5 Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Parents and Tots Play Group - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church The Gift Makery: Eco Friendly Wrapping - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	6 Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Open Studio Art Show and Sale - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Gate Street Studio 358 Gate St, Candlelight Stroll - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Queen Street Rotary Holiday House Tour - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Christmas Social and Turkey Raffle - 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. - Virgil Fire Hall 1391 Concession 6 Rd. -	7 Rotary Holiday House Tours - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Open Studio Art Show and Sale - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Gate Street Studio 358 Gate St, Annual Christmas Bake and Decor Sale - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Queenston Library St. Davids Veterinary Clinic Photos with Santa - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. Davids Veterinary Clinic Niagara Plein Air Painters Art Show Reception - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Revolutionary War Winter Garrison - 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Fort George

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Dan Patterson: The Energizer Bunny of Canadian colleges

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Dr. Dan is a perfect nickname for Dan Patterson, the retiring president of Niagara College.

That's what his colleagues and students often call him as he walks the halls of the campus, constantly searching for opportunities to make it better.

As a moniker, Dr. Dan perfectly embodies the balance between the familiar, personal, affable, leader of what is arguably one of the best of Canada's 300 community colleges and the school's professional, tenacious and creative driver.

Dr. Dan. It works. Everyone thinks Dr. Dan, who just turned 71, comes by his outgoing, personal style effortlessly. Not true, says the 25-five-year veteran of applied academia. "I actually do so much homework to prepare. I'm somebody that needs to be thoughtful. I am not spontaneous, although many people think I am."

Patterson's comfortable office overlooks the courtyard of the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus on Glendale Avenue. It's his domain. From here, he watches proudly over much of the product of his illustrious career.

But the building itself almost didn't happen. It was just after Patterson assumed the presidency. The province had committed millions of dollars to build the new Glendale campus. And then a new cost-cutting government was elected. The college's dream disap-

peared with a snap of political fingers.

Patterson remembers: "The campus was considered the most deteriorated in the province. There was no money. It was very discouraging times."

In characteristic style, Dr. Dan got to work.

"People don't see how tenacious (Dan) can be," says John Scott, the college's board chair and a board member, since 2014.

Scott, an experienced business leader who has seen Patterson in action for a decade, explains how Patterson got the project

doing. "I was lobbying for a new floor for the gymnasium in Welland. But I couldn't get any traction from the powers that be. So, I invited Dan to visit the old gym. I got him to roll a basketball the length of the court. Well, the ball went up and down and side to side. He got the point. Lo and behold, we got one of the best floors you could ever have."

Patterson attributes his approach to his work to three factors: his parents, his high school teachers and his wife of 40 years, Sandra.

"We believe we've found the secret sauce for anticipating labour market needs, not only for today but also for tomorrow."

DAN PATTERSON
PRESIDENT, NIAGARA COLLEGE

back on track: "Dan gets in his car and goes to Toronto and says, 'I'm not accepting this.' He gets (then-premier) Mike Harris down here and hauls him through the old Welland Vale campus. Harris couldn't believe how bad it was. And they restored the funding. He did that by himself. An incredible achievement."

That same tenacity surfaced a few years later, according to Raymond Sarkis, the college's intercollegiate athletics co-ordinator. Sarkis, who started in 1978, is the college's longest-serving employee.

"We have one of the best post-secondary athletic facilities in Canada," says Sarkis. "That was Dan's

He grew up in Toronto. His father was a milkman working two jobs so his family could have a good life.

"He had a wonderfully strong work ethic," says Patterson. He believes his mother instilled in him warmth and an outgoing nature.

The second building block was his high school education under the guidance of the Basilian Fathers, whose motto was "Teach me Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge." It's a credo with which he challenges all his ventures.

Patterson started his working career in the federal government, at the Ministry of Industry and

Trade. It was in Ottawa that he met Sandra.

"Sandra worked at the Ministry of Indian and Northern Affairs," he reminisces. "She introduced me to skating on the canal and snowshoes. She is my strongest mentor, my first mentor. She understands the complexities of working in large, complex organizations."

"Those three pillars have formed the values of my 45 years of public service."

Patterson also has a credo he puts to work every day: "Education, at its best, is the application of knowledge."

"Of course, the students are at the centre of who we are."

But, he maintains, industry partnerships are the key to the college's growth and vitality.

He points to the college's venture into alcohol — first winemaking, then brewing and, finally, a distillery. Those initiatives started with the industries coming to us and saying, "Can you help us?"

"What makes us different is that our programs are not just about the technical aspects of the businesses. We go well beyond technical learning, providing real-life experience in running businesses profitably."

"Through this process, we believe we've found the secret sauce for anticipating labour market needs, not only for today but also for tomorrow."

Patterson's decision to retire took a lot of thought. "I live and breathe Niagara College. I'm kind of the Energizer Bunny of the col-



Niagara College president Dan Patterson. TIM TAYLOR

lege scene. Some say I bleed blue.

"My energy is high. The college is in a good financial situation. We've got a great team. Now's the time, when you are at the top of your game, to get new leadership."

As to the future, he admits he's caught in the middle, wanting to pause to learn how to relax and just enjoy life. At the same time, he wants to continue to contribute and give back.

"I'm going to be incoming chair of the Ontario Centres of Excellence, a provincial agency that energizes academia and business to develop 'mind to market' opportunities. I'm going to continue working with Colleges and Institutes Canada, advocating for increased recognition of the value of colleges in our communities."

"And I'm also looking forward to providing mentoring services for new college leaders at colleges

across the country."

Dr. Dan's last official day at Niagara College will be June 30, next year.

And when he gets the phone call from the new president, asking for advice, he'll have his answer ready:

"Be visible in the community — community colleges have a leadership role to play. Make sure Niagara College's voice and resources are brought to the table."

"Get to know the Niagara landscape. It is unique. It is complex. You must earn your place."

"Keep it welcoming. And passionate and trailblazing."

Words of wisdom. John Scott sums up what Dr. Dan has brought to Niagara College over the last 25 years:

"I have this massive respect for the guy. Unique combination. On the one hand, he's the nicest guy and on the other, he's driven by his values and vision. He's tenacious. He has charisma. It's just amazing."

Niagara College to honour outgoing president for school contributions

This Friday, Nov. 22, Niagara College and hundreds of local supporters will celebrate the career and contributions of Dan Patterson at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 in Partridge Hall. For more information and tickets, go to www.firstontariopac.ca or call 905-688-0722.



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Contrasting art styles exhibited at NOTL library

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

NOTL artist Janet Newey and Hamilton artist Julia van der Laan de Vries have come together to put their contrasting artwork on display at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

The Moments in Time Part 2 show will be exhibited in the library's Rotary Room until Nov. 30. The opening reception for the show was held last Saturday, Nov. 16.

Newey's subtle and calm

paintings are hung across from van der Laan de Vries' bold colourful pieces, but their artwork doesn't "conflict," said van der Laan de Vries.

"They're not the same but they get along," she told The Lake Report.

"It's completely different feelings," Newey added. "They go well together because they don't compete."

Newey's first part of the show was held in August when she had 30 paintings on display.

"I couldn't believe it but



Hamilton artist Julia van der Laan de Vries uses bold colours and shapes in her paintings. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

less is more, I've learned. Because (it's) confusing to look at 30 (paintings) and understand them," Newey said.

She said her style evolves every time she paints. Using oil, acrylic or a mix of media in her work, Newey said she met van der Laan de Vries at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre where Newey was taking a course.

A landscape and urban designer, Van der Laan de Vries' describes her style as abstract with bold colours and bold shapes with a theme of landscape and waterscape interweaved through her paintings.

It's also the first time she has had a show with another artist.

"It's been well-attended and we've received a lot of support," she said.

Tidbits

Farm workers welcome kits

Jane Andres of Niagara Workers Welcome suggests purchasing Farm Worker Kits as a way to say thank you this holiday season.

Kits can be purchased for \$25 or filled with items such as heavy-duty work gloves and thermal socks, new washcloth and hand towel, toothbrush and toothpaste, roll of toilet paper, Tylenol travel pack, chicken soup packages, granola bars and band aids. She said a personal welcome note is also always appreciated. Visit www.workerswelcomeniagara.com for pickup locations.

Old Town Christmas tree lighting is this Sunday

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents are invited to celebrate the season on Sunday, Nov. 24, and watch as the huge Old Town Christmas tree is lit.


The event, accompanied by a performance from the St. Michael's Choir, will start at 6 p.m. at the cenotaph on Queen Street.

The tree was donated by the St. Davids Lions Club. Lord Mayor Betty Disero will be on hand for the ceremony.

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Have some fun

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

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

Crossword Puzzle

Last issue's answers

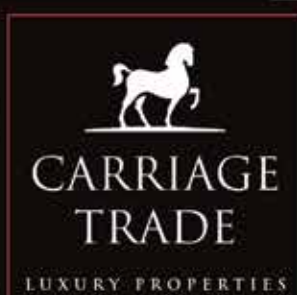
1	S	2	R	3	T	4	M	5	R	6	B	7	N	8	J
9	P	R	E	C	I	P	I	C	E	10	L	A	M	A	
	A	G	G	R	F	I	T	C							
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15	S	N	N	E	E	17	F	H	O						
16	W	I	T	N	E	S	19	R	I	O	T	O	U	S	
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21	R	I	L	E	22	S	U	N	S	23	S	T	R	O	K
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26	S	E	M	I	B	R	E	V	E	28	C	H	E	A	P
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29	A	L	P	H	A	30	I	N	T	E	R	C	E	P	T
	N	S	T	R	Y	E	R	E							

Sudoku


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




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Grace United Christmas Market is Saturday

John Sayers
Special to The Lake Report

A tisket, a tasket ... Grace has the baskets!

Grace United Church congregation members Claudia Gilchrist and Chris McQuestion have worked all year acquiring and organizing treasures for the NOTL church's annual Christmas Market.

Once they've found these items, many of them are bundled into attractive, themed packages (OK, I confess, not all of them are in baskets!) for the big sale this Saturday.

A few years ago Gilchrist and McQuestion tweaked the standard Christmas Ba-

zaar (also elsewhere called Mistletoe Bazaar, and a host of other euphemisms) to reflect the increasing popularity of seasonal markets in Europe and elsewhere.

Gilchrist explains that they wanted to create the excitement, the buzz and the sense of anticipation of those traditional events – hence the Grace United Christmas Market.

Do you realize how impossible it is to get a good photo of acres of packages wrapped in glittering cellophane? (But I can tell you there's a shy decorative Santa peeking out from a few of them.)

As the month has progressed more and more of



Santa peeks out of packages that are wrapped and ready to go. JOHN SAYERS

these goodies have been created and stored in the balcony at Grace United. In addition, Gilchrist and McQuestion are assisted in the packaging and wrapping by Carol Gorman and a group of her friends who describe themselves as Santa's Elves.

There is more. Among the curated displays you also will find knitting and sewing, including some of

the creations of Ruth Cook, sewer and stitcher extraordinaire.

So, join the crowds at Grace United on Victoria Street at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23. And note that there will also be a bake table with homemade goodies, and you'll see David Greaves and Heinz Probst with a table of their classical jams and sauces.

Shoppers score early Christmas gifts at St. Davids bazaar

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Lots of unique craft items were on sale at the annual St. Davids Lioness Christmas Holiday Market, where shoppers could hunt for early Christmas gifts.

Organized by the St. Davids and District Lioness Club, the bazaar hosted 14 artisan vendors at the St. Davids Lions Club Saturday.

The market runs twice a year, in spring and fall, and all proceeds go back into the community, said the event's co-ordinator, Diane Pever.

"Money raised will go to dog guides, Project Share, Heart and Stroke Foundations, Ronald McDonald House Charities, SickKids Foundation Toronto, Lions Eye Care Niagara, and many more," she told The Lake Report.

The club was also selling poinsettias, which were bought from two greenhouses in town, Pever said.

For lunch, club members prepared beef on a bun and the bake table featured homemade pies, muffins, tarts and



Event co-ordinator Diane Pever with her granddaughter Alyssa Dauginas. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

cookies.

For one of the vendors, Emily and Jennifer Neufeld of Bay Beach Boutique, it was the first time participating in a craft show. The mother-daughter duo said they've spent months preparing and they were excited to be there.

"It's fun," said Jennifer Neufeld.

Niagara Falls residents John and Barbara Grier said they enjoy attending events like the bazaar, where they can find unique items. They said they bought some baked goods and raffle tickets.

"And we like to support the Lions," John Grier added.

A merry old time at Mori Christmas Palooza

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

For three days, Mori Gardens was turned into a winter wonderland that brought hundreds of people and more than 50 vendors and artisans together for a festive weekend experience.

Spirits were high at the second annual A Very Mori Christmas Palooza last weekend as shoppers browsed a wide variety of handmade and craft items on sale.

On top of seasonal décor, plants and Christmas trees, the market offered a little bit of something for both tourists and local shoppers.

Some of the vendors and artisans included award-winning jams made by Kim McQuhae of Gryphon Ridge Highlands, hand-drawn prints by Refined Linery, Gracie's Christmas Cookies, Cakes by The Lake, To The Moon and Back Jewelry, Aborigin Handcrafts, Limb Handmade, among others.

Visitors could also participate in a planter-making workshop, watch the staff make seasonal arrangements or make custom orders.



Mike King, Joanne Young, Joanne Mantini, Tonie Mori and Miguel Mori sit in a sleigh provided by Sentineal Carriages for the event. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

Boutique Linen Rentals provided arches and arbours for decor, and Sentineal Carriages and Creek Road Paints also provided sleighs where visitors could sit and take photos.

Saturday alone saw 1,100 visitors, which made it the busiest day of the show, said Mori Gardens' sales and marketing consultant Miguel Mori.

In the end, it's really a community partnership for both local artists and entrepreneurs, Mori said.

"Everyone works together to promote and support and make (the event) what it is."

Santa Claus was also in attendance, posing for

photos and entertaining children and adults alike.

The usual open house, which was held at Mori Gardens with a couple of vendors for more than 15 years, was expanded into a full market in 2018.

"It's been lovely. We specialize in decoration, rental and décor so we wanted to show what we can do," Mori told The Lake Report.

Throughout the weekend, various local musicians performed live including the NOTL Ukesters, Laurel and Hulley, Bryn Garwood DJ Tanner and Kyler Tapscott.

From the money raised, Mori Gardens will provide in-kind contributions

to Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care and to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Holiday House Tour, for which Mori will be providing holiday decorations.

"I can't believe how unbelievably supportive Mori Gardens has been," said Bonnie Bagnulo of NOTL Palliative Care.

"Tonie (Mori) and her family and the workers have a lovely place here and they offer so much to the community.

Palliative Care is a crucial service and we're very blessed to have the money that we receive from Tonie and her functions."

A small group of three longtime friends, comprised of Anna Torelle, Georgia Amato and Susan Deotto, said the market was "stunning."

"It has lots of vendors, it's very festive," they said, adding they bought some jams and greenery at the market.

Niagara Falls resident Christine Andrew-Pearce, who came with her mother Jane and 11-month-old son Oscar, said it was their first time attending the event and called it "amazing."

"I love it," Andrew-Pearce told The Lake Report. "It's beautiful and gets me into the spirit."



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Saturday, November 23, 2019
11AM – 3PM

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FEATURED



Braised short ribs will melt in your mouth

Collin Goodine
Special to The Lake Report

When it comes to meats, for me anyway, braised meats are the way to go. Meats like shanks, back ribs, hocks, pork shoulders, brisket etc. are all cuts that lend themselves favourably to long cooking times. The process of building flavours and the melt-in-your-mouth results are unlike anything you can get from a quick-fry primal cut. Don't get me wrong: a beef tenderloin or prime rib have their place as well. But these delicious, tender short ribs are guaranteed to please.

Ingredients:

- 2 lb short ribs
- 2 medium onions
- 2 tbsp garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 2 cups big, bold red wine
- 1 1/2 cups Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup maple syrup
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup water

Directions:

In a large skillet, sear all sides of the beef short ribs until dark. Place the ribs into an oven-safe, deep casserole dish or baking pan.

In the skillet, sautee the onions with garlic and salt and pepper. Deglaze the pan with the red wine, stirring with a wooden spoon to free up all the bits left in the pan. Add the Worcestershire, maple syrup and brown sugar. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add over the ribs and add water until the ribs are three-quarters covered.

Cover the entire pan with foil and place into the oven at 300F for 3 to 4 hours. When tender, take out the ribs and set aside, reduce the liquid and serve when ready. If you would like the sauce to be thicker, like a gravy, you can thicken with corn starch.

WINE COUNTRY WITH VICTORIA GILBERT

Victoria Gilbert
Special to The Lake Report

"Everything starts in the vineyard for me," Fabian Reis says as he strides through a snowy row of his 21-acre vineyard.

Reis and his wife Stephanie, a sommelier, have been slowly settling into their Ferox Winery, in Niagara-on-the-Lake at Concession 4 and East and West Line.

All references to the original winery called "Vignoble Rancourt" are now gone and a stately new sign with a lion and "Ferox" glowing at night was put up this month.

"It's a very heavy cropping vineyard. We're on sandy soil, peach soil, there's huge fertility in this soil," he says of the vineyard which was once a peach orchard.

Later it was planted with predominately red grapes (90 per cent) by the owners of Rancourt. In mid-November, Riesling grapes remain, despite the early snow and the cold.

Reis, although a young man, is not new to the wine business. He was born into a vintner family in Stuttgart, Germany.

A sixth-generation winemaker, his family owns Konzelmann Estate Winery. "I always wanted my own thing. Winemakers have to paint their own canvas," he says proudly.

Reis moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1995, returning



Fabian Reis is the new winemaker at Ferox Winery.
VICTORIA GILBERT

to Germany from 2006-2011, where he attended the country's prestigious winemaking school, Staatsweingut Weinsberg.

"I wanted to go back to where my roots were," says Reis of his return to Germany. "I wanted to study their climate because our spring and summers in Ontario are very similar to theirs."

His work experience at wineries in Europe, especially in Austria, made an impression on him.

"I'm a huge Austrian wine fan," he says from the Ferox tasting room.

"I love their wines and that's where I started getting a glimpse into actually blending varieties together at the same time, not just one variety. It always stuck with me to do this."

The Ferox Elements series may be his entry level wines but the Ferox white we are tasting is so beautiful, it halts the interview and demands total attention.

"With our Elements series,

I'm doing something similar to Austria. We're doing field blends," he says as we swoon over the floral complexities of this sublime blend of five grapes: Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Gewürztraminer (the most dominate white grape planted on the Ferox estate), Chardonnay and Kerner. This mixed set of grapes or "gemischter satz" in German is not typically how vintners make their wines. "A real assemblage, a real cuvée is actually made after the fermentation," explains Reis.

The blends in wines usually occur after they are finished, but with "gemischter satz" Reis harvests different varieties of grapes destined for the same bottle, the same day, then presses and ferments these grapes together.

"I think when you are bringing in that kind of fruit together you have so many rich layers of different complexities and flavour profiles and there is such different aromatics because they are integrated better. It's called

integration when you do it early, as opposed to doing it late."

This begins with Reis taking berry samples from the vineyard, followed by a sensory analysis, which means he tastes the berries and then heads to the lab where he analyzes the grapes to determine total acids, volatile acidity, brix, and amino acids.

"I can then determine what blocks I want to pick. I take that vineyard, say Sauvignon Blanc or the Riesling on Lakeshore, then I literally pick the grapes and press them together – and that's what this Ferox white is," he says.

Ferox white and red Elements wines sell for \$25 a bottle and are available at the winery for purchase.

If Elements is Reis's entry-level, wine enthusiasts should pay close attention to Fabian Reis in the future. His "Wild Reserve," is all hand-picked grapes, and his top-tier wine, "Black Lion," made up of exclusively estate grown grapes, will be launching in the coming months.

"Giving grapes the time and not rushing. Letting the vines tell you when they're ready," says Reis when asked what he brings to grape growing.

"I get it's a business, but take your time, then it's an art. Paint it wisely, paint it gently and paint it slowly."

Ferox will host an open house Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Keep that winter weight off!

Jaclyn Willms
Special to The Lake Report

How to keep your cool and yourself fit in the holiday hustle is a question that comes up every year. With all the festivities around, the food and drink, impulse buys, and temptations can sometimes make it seem like mission impossible. But equipped with the right intentions and a practical plan, certainly it is possible to keep your fit and your stress in check this year. Let's make it a challenge. Do one thing from this list daily. And the more the merrier!

1. 80 per cent is a pass: Set the standard: Aim to eat foods that you would see living and growing in nature.

2. Space and pace yourself: No snacking between meals with a twelve-hour food break overnight is the right balance to get you across the holiday finish line.

3. Move on empty: Spending 5 to ten minutes on fasted cardio before caffeine can do wonders to help regulate a few of those extra holiday carbs.

4. Be the light: 'Tis the season of strained relationships and wounds of Christmas past. We can't control what others do, say, or feel. Remember this! And breathe through it.

5. More is better: Sleep that is! Swapping a late night holiday party for a solid night sleep instantly relieves the regret of too much booze and holiday-cheese-platter guilt.

Bonus tip! Cultivate a new perspective around "treat." Try to think of some fun holiday traditions, new or old, to celebrate the season outside of food and drink.

Join us at Niagara Fit for an interactive Christmas social + workshop! More on helping you navigate the holiday stress, food + drink. Goodine Catering will be serving lunch using one of the three recipe "reset" meals that you will take home.

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Plated "Reset" Lunch

EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH JIM SMITH



William Kirby's House

This painting, done at the corner of Victoria and Front streets, shows the home of historian William Kirby, which was built in 1818. Kirby was a novelist, poet, customs officer and editor of the Niagara Mail. His office was in the building known as the Customs House on Queen Street, next to where Valu-Mart is today. Of the many books Kirby wrote one of particular interest is titled "Annals of Niagara."

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



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The Queenston, St. Davids Golf courses will host its Annual Public Meeting, reporting on class 9 pesticide use for the 2019 season as required by Ontario Regulation 63/09.

Meeting to take place Friday, November 29, 2019 at 9:00am at Queenston the Golf Clubhouse, Concession 2 Queenston.

For any information, contact
Brian Gilmour IPM Agent (905) 262-4528

ARCHITEXT

Carriage houses anyone?

Brian Marshall
Featured



Looking across Mississauga Street from Centre Street in 1956. SUPPLIED PHOTO

My work as a consultant can, at times, lead me into research of some things that others might consider minutiae or items that are often taken for granted. For example, last week I investigated early 19th century newel post design, the type and style of fences built in the northeast prior to 1850, and carriage houses of the 1800s. The reason for this research is simple; the Architectural Review Guidelines in most heritage districts tend to include historical precedent as a pivotal and often deciding factor in the

consideration of renovation application. In any case, this type of research regularly gets me thinking about our town. This happened a few days ago as I was reading a heritage direction document from a town in New York state which set as a priority saving the garages, driving sheds and carriage houses built prior to 1920 since these buildings reflected the evolution of transportation and its impact on the "built heritage" of that town.

As I read, a question occurred to me: Are there any original carriage houses still standing in Niagara-on-the-Lake? Let's take a minute to consider the Town of Niagara in the 19th century when the principal mode of transportation was 'horse-powered'. Whether ridden or driven, horses would have been owned by anyone who could afford them. And, of course, proper ladies would not be riding but rather driven in a carriage.

While a livery stable might serve the needs of some, many would have had a building on the property to hold carriage, horse(s) and associated tack, feed, etcetera. This building would also often contain a 'workshop' and occasionally quarters for one or more indentured servants. As time passed and motorized transportation took ascendancy, garages were built to replace the much larger carriage house (by this point more commonly referred to as a 'driving shed') and many of these buildings were torn down or fell into disrepair. Still, here and there some survived and were commonly given a new purpose as a garage, workshop and occasionally converted into a home. So, I ask you the question: Do you know of any original carriage houses still standing in town? If you do, drop me a line because I'd sure like to know!

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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St. Andrew's Manse may have been **safe haven** for slaves

Betsy Masson
Exclusive/The Lake Report

Did St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Manse harbour runaway slaves during the pre-Civil War era? Very likely.

The first Presbyterian church building on Simcoe Street was built in 1795. However, during the War of 1812, it was burned by the invading American army in August of 1813.

The school house, built in 1802, on the northeastern part of the property, survived until the 1940s. It was located on Gage Street behind the current parish hall, which, incidentally, was originally a Camp Niagara building, moved to the site in the 1940s and was subsequently bricked over.

Following the War of 1812, worship services were held in the school house and the church remained without a minister until, in 1829, Rev. Robert McGill was sent from Glasgow. It was at this point that the church, known as the "Presbyterian Church in Niagara," changed its name to St. Andrew's.

And with the arrival of McGill, fundraising started in earnest to rebuild the church. In 1831, the cornerstone was laid on the same spot on which the former church had stood. The brick building was designed in the Greek-revival style and based on the Temple of Thesus. The tympanum over the church entryway has a gilt sunburst, unusual for a church since it was a pre-Christian symbol for the sun god Apollo.

McGill had the current Manse built with his own funds in 1836. When he left in 1845 to accept a posting in Montreal, it was purchased by the congregation with a legacy of 750 pounds left by John Young, the founder of Youngstown, N.Y., and a member of the church for many years.

The word manse comes from the Latin and is used to describe the house of a



Left: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Manse BETSY MASSON Right: Manse fireplace mantels in 1958. COURTESY OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM

minister; it is customarily used for the home of Presbyterian ministers.

The Manse was built in the Georgian style and has a hipped roof and symmetrical facade. A fanlight and sidelights decorate the central entry to this home, which is made of rose-coloured brick and cut stone.

Peter Stokes' description of the house in his 1971 book about Niagara-on-the-Lake says, "This is a neat hipped roof house of five bays, a centre door with sidelight and fanlight, a storey and attic over a high basement in height."

The windows have original interior shutters and three fireplace mantels are hand-carved. The basement originally included a kitchen, bake ovens and a dumbwaiter that went up to the dining room.

It is likely that runaway slaves from the United States stayed in the basement of the house after crossing the Niagara River. As is emphasized in the newly released Harriet Tubman film, the slaves, sometimes travelling for over six weeks,

followed the North Star at night and believed that they were going to the Promised Land, which was Canada.

These slaves, most of whom could not read or write, were deeply religious. So, it is likely that once they had crossed the Niagara River and heard that a church minister in Niagara would give them refuge, runaway slaves would have headed in the direction of St. Andrew's Manse.

Incidentally, the chapel in St. Catharines, which was built by Harriet Tubman and other blacks in the community in 1853, is briefly shown in the movie. It is the Salem Chapel of the British Methodist Episcopal Church on Geneva Street. Services are held on Sundays at 11 a.m.

The first blacks to settle in the area of St. Andrew's Church were two freed black men, brothers James and Humphrey Waters in 1796. The school house, next to the church, held classes for blacks as well as whites up until about 1850.

Many freed and runaway slaves lived in the vicin-

ity of the Manse. Between William and Anne streets and bounded by Regent and Simcoe, 41 of the one-acre lots were owned by blacks. In 1842, the combined population of the township and town of Niagara was 3,900 and five per cent were black.

One can see at the back of the ground floor of the Manse, a small door which supposedly led to the basement where the freed slaves were allowed to stay until they could find shelter elsewhere.

Robert McGill's daughter, Janet, who was born in the Manse, subsequently married Rev. J. B. Mowat, brother of Sir Oliver Mowat. Rev. Mowat was minister of St. Andrew's from 1849 to 1858. Mrs. Mowat, unfortunately, died within a year of moving back to her childhood home. Surprisingly, she is not buried in the churchyard across the street.

Rev. Mowat was well-loved by the congregation and was commended for finding time on Sunday afternoons to preach to

a black congregation. There were Methodist and Baptist churches in town at that time, both of which had black members. Soon after his wife died, he was appointed professor of oriental languages and biblical criticism at Queen's University.

In 1887, a two-storey brick wing was added to the Manse and the first furnace replaced the fireplaces in 1892 at a cost of \$85. The basement kitchen was moved to the main floor in 1937.

In 1933, the church's financial situation became difficult, repairs on the church were needed, and the Manse was mortgaged for \$1,000. In January 1940, Emma Houghton discharged the mortgage.

Substantial work was done in 1958. A student from the University of Toronto architecture department took photographs of the restoration and also made measured drawings.

Notable is the fact that the front porch was covered and had columns supporting it. These columns must

not have lasted long because a photo of the Manse in the "History of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 1791-1975" does not show them. Further work was done on the exterior of the Manse prior to the arrival of the present minister, Rev. Virginia Head.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Masson has been a research volunteer at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum (formerly the Niagara Historical Society Museum) for 15 years.

Information on what was called the "Colored Village" in Niagara comes from "Slavery and Freedom in Niagara" by Michael Power and Nancy Butler, with research by Joy Ormsby. It is available at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum shop on Castlereagh Street.

The Colored Village will be described in a later installment of Niagara's History Unveiled.

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

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COMMUNITY



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



David Auger initiates talks for possible NOTL radio station

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report



David Auger.
BRITTANY CARTER

A local radio station may be just what's missing in a small town like Niagara-on-the-Lake, says David Auger, and that's why he has initiated the first steps in determining if a community station could work.

"We're trying to create some awareness right now," he said during a public meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

"One of the first steps is to find people who want to be on the founding board, which will have to exist before the radio station can start."

Auger said he's looking for support and dedicated volunteers now, then concrete decisions about what the station might look like can be determined.

It would be a station for residents, by residents.

"Every time you turn it on you either know or know of someone who is on the air, or who the local sponsor is," he said. "Imagine if everything on the radio is within five minutes of where you live. That's how local it will be."

Ideally, he said he'd like to see it off the ground by Canada Day next year – but it will all come down to how much support can be found.

Another exploratory meeting will be held soon, he said.

Sandtrap Open helps children in need



Sandtrap owner Matt Dietsch and family drop off a cheque for \$5,325 to the Niagara Children's Centre. The money was raised during the annual Sandtrap Open golf tournament. Another cheque for the same amount was presented to the south Ontario Ronald McDonald House for Children. SUBMITTED PHOTO

NOTL's own Claus joins VanNoort Florists for holiday open house



Local musician John Claus plays a few tunes during VanNoort Florists' Christmas open house on Friday.



THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

With Betty and Jane

Pondview Winery



Catherine Cahill accepts the Golden Plunger for Pondview. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

As you sip any one of Pondview's wines, you are tasting three generations of grape growing and wine-making experience. You know by now, the very first place these two gals will get to is the bathrooms. First, you will unlikely ever be without toilet tissue. There are rolls in containers or baskets in each washroom. They also sported the classic tissue mountain on the tank. The second, and one of our favourites, was the tasteful chalk decorations that also promoted some fun offerings of drinks. They had slushies, hot drinks and award-winning wines. The advertising in the lavatory was ingenious. We left there with clean hands and confidence in our order of specialty hot chocolates. The staff were informed and fun. The bathrooms were informative and clean.

3.5/5 Golden Plungers



NOTL Dart League Scores

Each week, dart teams face off at local restaurants and pubs. We'll be publishing those scores in the paper weekly, exclusive to The Lake Report.

Close Shavians	60
Silks Legends	59
Legion Guzzlers	55
Silks Jini	55
Legion Airs	53
Legion Guyz	53
Sandtrap	36
Legion Dartbags	13

RIDDLE ME THIS

I'm an English word that retains the same pronunciation, even after you take away four of my five letters. What am I?

Last Week: I have a neck but no head and arms but no hands. What am I?

Answer: A shirt/sweater

Answered first by: Dinorah Centeno

Also answered correctly by: Lynne Stewart, Shelly McCloy, Sylvia Wiens, Wendy Bosela, Margie Enns, Nancy Mouget, Ginny Green, Katie Reimer, Pam Dowling

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



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FEATURED LOCAL STORY



Above: Nicole Cripps, Judith Patey and Jolanta Janny help decorate the town. Top right: Tonde Wirth decorates gazebo at Queen's Royal Park: Middle: Trisha Romance's painting decorates a flower bed on the corner of Queen and Mississauga streets. ALL PHOTOS BY DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

NOTL gets holiday makeover

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, community partners and volunteers came together Friday morning to help decorate the town for the upcoming festive season.

This year the town has an authentic Victorian Christmas village theme.

NOTL Horticultural Society has donated \$5,000 to the Town of NOTL for Christmas decorations and for six live trees which were put up at the corner of Mississauga and Queen streets.

The trees will be kept in the greenhouse during winter and, once spring comes, the Town will decide what to do with the trees, said Horticultural Society's past president Marla Percy.

Along Queen Street, lamp posts were decorated with lights and boroughs, and garlands were put up in front of several downtown businesses.

Members of the society also decorated the gazebo at Queen's Royal Park.

Christmas Decoration Committee member Brenda McArthur and Bill Buchanan of Buchanan Expert Tree Care Inc. brought four pick-up trucks loaded with green decorations for the entire town.

"The town is going to look really beautiful and special this year," McArthur told The Lake Report. "Everyone is volunteering their time to help get decorations up. The town will become more festive than normal thanks to (Lord Mayor) Betty Disero, the Chamber and so many volunteers."



Brenda McArthur provided greenery for decorations. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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