

## Town considers 26 options to control development

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is looking at a myriad of options to have more control over development across the municipality.

During Monday's council meeting, planning consultant Art Zuidema presented council with an update on six priorities and a slew of other actions the town can take to have a stronger say in development in town.

The presentation was a direct result of a special closed council meeting that

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## All regional COVID clinics exclusively for kids now: Hirji

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

With the rollout of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in children age five to 11, Niagara's top doctor says public health clinics from now until Christmas will be exclusively for that age group.

All children whose parents want them vaccinated can get their first jab before Christmas, said Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Niagara's acting medical officer of health.

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# NOTL volunteers honoured by town



Lise Andreana at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pumphouse Art Centre. She was given the culture award. EVAN SAUNDERS

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

After a hiatus due to COVID-19, the annual Lord Mayor's Volunteer Awards have returned, honouring 11 of Niagara-on-the-Lake's many outstanding volunteers for their selfless charity and community work.

Town council bestowed the awards during an online

ceremony on Monday night.

**Marilyn and Jim Armstrong** won the award for community and civic engagement. The couple have lived in Queenston for 23 years and started the Queenston Residents Association in 2007.

Marilyn said she is most proud of how the association has strengthened community spirit in the village.

"It's not just about preserv-

ing the village, it's also preserving community spirit," she said in an interview at their home.

**Niki Walker** didn't even know she was nominated until the town told her she was receiving the award for diversity, equity and inclusivity.

As a white woman, Walker was a little embarrassed to be the winner of the diversity, equity and inclu-

sion award, but said she got involved as a way to use her privilege for a good cause.

Walker is the co-chair of the diversity and inclusivity committee and said everyone has a responsibility to promote equity in NOTL.

"I try to be aware of the benefits that I enjoy because of who I am, my identity," she said in an interview at Balls Beach.

**Caitlyn Neufeld, 24, vol-**

unteers with the Cornerstone Community Church junior youth program and won the award for working with children and youth.

She was a member of the program when she was a kid and said she was embarrassed to have received the award instead of her deserving peers.

"It feels like this should

*Continued on Page 2*

# Like it or not, roundabout seems destined for St. Davids

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

With an environmental assessment nearing finalization, representatives from the Region of Niagara say the proposed roundabout in St. Davids is past the time for public consultation.

And it could be under construction by 2025, an official said.

"Residents have had those opportunities through the public engagement we have currently had to this point," Frank Trassone, the associate director of transportation for Niagara, told

Niagara-on-the-Lake council Monday night.

The regional director of transportation services doubled down on the comment.

"We've had the (public information centres) number one and two, and I don't believe a third one is required for this project," Carolyn Ryall said.

"We're in the midst of finalizing the documents around the recommendation for a roundabout based on a number of criteria that all options were considered against."

The region has weighed the benefits of roundabouts

carefully, Ryall said, and noted traffic circles are being installed across the region.

"We are actively putting roundabouts throughout all of Niagara Region and that's something that we put a lot of consideration into as we move forward," she said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors unanimously voted Monday to voice their disapproval of a roundabout at Four Mile Creek and York roads in St. Davids, saying it would alter the character of the village and be more dangerous for pedestrians and children to use than a traffic signal.



Niagara Region seems adamant on a roundabout in St. Davids, despite resident concerns.

But, with additions from Coun. Gary Burroughs, council also acknowledged that a lot of work had already been completed on the roundabout.

"I'm supportive of this motion because I think it's important that even if it's too late in the game, and is just going to be met with more explanations about why we can't do much else, at least it's one thing we can do to express what we're hearing from our community," Coun. Clare Cameron said.

Trassone said with the environmental assessment nearly complete, he expects detailed design to begin in 2023 and for construction to commence in 2025 or 2026.

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Samantha Fretz  
Volunteer under 16



Carrie Robinson SUPPLIED  
Volunteer under 30



Marilyn and Jim Armstrong  
Community and civic engagement



Kyra Simone SUPPLIED  
Environmental efforts



Caitlyn Neufeld  
Working with youth/education



Lise Andreana  
Culture award



Rosemary Goodwin  
Sports and recreation



Niki Walker  
Diversity, equity and inclusion



Joan King  
Council appreciation award



Tim Taylor  
Working with seniors

# NOTL volunteers receive special honours

*Continued from Front Page*

be for my whole team that I work with. But I feel like I can kind of accept it on behalf of them," she said in an interview at the church.

**Rosemary Goodwin** was recognized for her involvement in sports and recreation.

Goodwin, a longtime member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club, can talk at length about all things tennis and even has a bowl of tennis balls in the centre of her dining room table.

After her adored husband Don died, Goodwin found that tennis, a passion they both shared, was the one thing that made her happy.

"Somehow, when I'm

doing anything with tennis it just makes me feel close to him," she said with a big smile in her Old Town home of 34 years.

Goodwin invited all the town councillors out to play tennis come spring. She is 75 and says she plans on playing tennis for another 20 years.

**Kyra Simone** was the well-deserving winner of the environmental efforts award.

Simone has been cleaning up NOTL's environment since she was a kid and recently picked up more than 30,000 cigarette butts from areas around town.

"I have so many amazing memories of cleanups with family and friends, espe-

cially at Niagara Shores Park where we've dragged out car tires, Adirondack chairs and damaged canoes and removed hundreds of balloons, bottle caps and straws from the shoreline," she said.

Simone writes a regular column on environmental issues for The Lake Report and is a member of the town's environmental advisory committee.

**Carrie Robinson** was named volunteer of the year under 30.

She volunteers for a myriad of organizations in NOTL, from the young adult focus group to the Santa Claus parade.

Robinson, 21, was recognized for her work this year

with the Daughters of the Vote project, which seeks to recognize 100 years of women having the right to vote in Canada, and is addressing the issues that still remain for women in the political sphere.

In a message to The Lake Report, she said she will continue to "lobby to make it feasible for young adults to work, live in and enjoy our town."

**Samantha Fretz** won the volunteer under 16 award.

The teenager donated her long hair to a wigs for kids program earlier in the year and is a member of the town's youth advisory council.

"I've belonged here for

many years and I love giving back to my community," Samantha told council.

**Tim Taylor** was singled out for his work with seniors.

Taylor, who is a regular feature writer for The Lake Report, raised thousands of dollars this year for palliative care riding his bike throughout September.

"I feel a little guilty, though," Taylor told councillors. "I raise money for local palliative care but I also do it because it's fun. It's fun to go cycling in the month of September."

**Joan King** was given a special award created to honour her 15 years of organizing NOTL's Terry Fox run and for the milestone

of surpassing \$1 million in donations.

"There's so many admirable people here in Niagara-on-the-Lake that volunteer and it helps me shape my way of thinking, that each and everyone of us has the capacity to make a difference," King said during the award ceremony.

**Lise Andreana** won the culture award.

Andreana was recognized for her work as the chair of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

"If you are thinking about volunteering, I encourage you to follow your passion and your talents and to bring those to a cause that interests you," Andreana said.

## Roundabout seems destined for St. Davids

*Continued from Front Page*

Cameron continued to voice her disappointment that public opinion on the roundabout had already had its day.

"Perhaps some of what has happened in this regard is that a fair number of the community may not have realized that something called an environmental as-

essment was their one and only chance to weigh in," Cameron said.

Coun. Allan Bisback echoed this sentiment.

"I'm cognizant that this is way down the process and there was opportunity for involvement and commentary by residents. Unfortunately, maybe they did not realize it," Bisback said.

Ryall suggested NOTL council could express its displeasure to regional council.

Cameron noted that council spent more than an hour on Monday discussing ways to bring planning under control and better shape the character of NOTL's five communities, saying it "just isn't sitting right with me,

the thought that there's going to be a roundabout there."

Echoing comments by Coun. Sandra O'Connor earlier, Cameron said the roundabout will "forever alter the centre of what remains of what was a historic village."

**Read the full story at [www.niagaranow.com/news.phtml/6623](http://www.niagaranow.com/news.phtml/6623)**



A conceptual design of the roundabout proposed by the Region of Niagara in St. Davids. SOURCED

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## Seniors get COVID boosters at NOTL clinic

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Seniors roll into the Community Centre to receive their COVID-19 booster. EVAN SAUNDERS

A steady stream of seniors from all over Niagara flowed into the NOTL Community Centre last Friday where public health nurses gave them their third shot, a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

Inside, public health staff gave patients the choice of receiving either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. They also did brief education sessions about the merits of each available booster and answered questions about side effects and other concerns.

Four vaccine stations were set up in one of the centre's meeting rooms and the line moved quickly. After receiving their booster, all patients had to stay in the clinic and wait 15 minutes in case of any immediate

adverse reactions.

"I'm so grateful. Terribly grateful," Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Syme Jago said as she headed in to the centre for her third shot of a COVID-19 vaccine.

"I think it's wonderful, absolutely wonderful."

Jago also called out anti-vaxxers for exacerbating the

pandemic.

"If everybody got (vaccinated) then we would be fine," she said. "It's the people that aren't getting it that are making it dangerous for everybody else."

People afraid of mRNA technology don't realize it has been under development for decades and is not

a new or rushed vaccine technology, Jago said.

It's "been in development longer than the polio vaccine, and we all know how effective the polio vaccine has been," she said.

Jago said people should see COVID vaccines for what they are: miracles of modern science.

## Regional vaccine clinics for kids until Christmas

Continued from Front Page

Vaccines for children will also be available through a family's primary care providers, he said. Pharmacies are also expecting to receive doses for children "any day now," Niagara-on-the-Lake pharmacist Sean Simpson said.

The first clinic in NOTL for children age five to 11 will be Dec. 10 to 12 at the community centre on Anderson Lane.

More pediatric clinics could be added, but other scheduled clinics include: Fort Erie (Nov. 28 and 29, Dec. 7 and 8); Port Colborne (Nov. 28); Niagara Falls (Nov. 28 to 30); West Lincoln (Nov. 29 to Dec. 3); Wainfleet (Dec. 1 to 3); Niagara Falls (Dec. 1 to 13); Pelham (Dec. 4 to 13); Port Colborne (Dec. 4 to 6); St. Catharines (Dec. 14 to 18).

Older people in need of booster shots need not worry, Hirji said, as shots will still be available at all pharmacies and other private locations. Only clinics hosted by Niagara public health will be exclusively for children.

And the reason for that? Children, the largest group of unvaccinated individuals, are also the largest source of active infections.

"It's particularly school-age children, age six to 11, where we are seeing the most spread of infection," Hirji said during a public health COVID-19 update on Monday.

About 40 per cent of all recent outbreaks have come from schools, he said.

"If you look at what kinds of schools infections are spreading in, it's overwhelmingly in elementary school, which, again, fits directly in with that being the population that cannot yet be vaccinated."

As in all age groups, unvaccinated people are responsible for the largest number of infections, hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths, Hirji said.

Instances of vaccinated people getting hospitalized are essentially zero, he said. And, although COVID-19 has been less detrimental to children's health, the infection can be deadly.

Hirji pointed to the death of a child under 10 years old due to COVID-19 in Waterloo several weeks ago as an example of the cost of having children remain unvaccinated.

Overall, 17 children have been killed by COVID-19 in Canada, six of them in Ontario, Hirji said.

Out of chickenpox, influ-

enza, the rotavirus, hepatitis and other diseases for which there are vaccinations, COVID-19 is the deadliest for children, Hirji said.

He pointed out that children get vaccinated against the rotavirus as young as six months old.

"If we're vaccinating to prevent deaths for these types of infections, we want to be vaccinating for COVID-19," he said.

In the United States, which has not done a good job of controlling the spread of COVID-19, the virus is now the eighth leading cause of death in children aged five to 11, Hirji said.

So, if every parent gets their child vaccinated against COVID-19, "these really preventable deaths" can be avoided and "ensure that COVID-19 never becomes one of the top 10 causes of death for children in Canada."

Hirji also emphasized the disruption to life that a child's infection causes.

"They're missing school, their parents' lives are disrupted. There's a real cost of these infections," he said.

That is why the approval of the Pfizer vaccine for children under 12 was good news for parents who don't want their children to get sick with COVID-19, he said.

The vaccine has been shown to be 90.7 per cent effective at protecting children from COVID-19, Hirji said.

Just as good as that, "the vaccine is actually very safe."

Children have significantly reduced side effects from vaccines when compared to adults, Hirji noted, citing with data from the Centres for Disease Control.

"Children are not only getting a really effective vaccine, they are actually going to be getting a vaccine that's slightly safer than the rest of us got," he said.

Hirji said there will be a focus on making the clinics "child-friendly."

"We're going to have a more welcoming environment for children, lots of distractions for them, try and make it a really positive experience so that they don't feel like they don't want to come back and get that second dose a few months from now," he said.

Hirji recommended parents wait at least eight weeks after their child's first dose before getting their second.

Appointments to vaccinate children aged five to 11 are now open online at [ontario.ca/bookvaccine](http://ontario.ca/bookvaccine).

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Dr. Lauryn Friesen was born and raised in Virgil, Ontario. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences at Queen's University. Lauryn then obtained her Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. Dr. Lauryn has also obtained certification in Instrument Assisted Soft Tissue Therapy, Post Natal Assessment and Rehabilitation, and is currently enrolled in the Contemporary Medical Acupuncture program through McMaster University. Lauryn has experience with neck and back pain, extremity injuries, athletic injuries and rehabilitation. With a very active upbringing playing several sports and experience in university varsity-level basketball, Dr. Lauryn has developed a special interest in women's health and athlete care. Dr. Lauryn will always strive to provide an environment where her patients feel heard, understand the root of their pain, and tailor treatment to patients' individual health and wellness goals.



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# Pharmacy hopes to have **kid's vaccines** soon

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Within days, Niagara-on-the-Lake pharmacist Sean Simpson hopes to have doses of the Pfizer vaccine available to start inoculating children ages five to 11.

There are no guarantees, but "we've been told that we can expect some to show up this week and not to book any appointments before Thursday," he said in an interview Tuesday.

"But I'm getting the feeling that we might have vaccine as early as Thursday. Not a ton, but we'll have some limited doses."

Meanwhile, Niagara public health is launching children's clinics across the region. One is set for the NOTL Community Centre Dec. 10 to 12.

At the same time as Simpson anticipates pediatric doses to arrive, his pharmacy and others are juggling multiple pandemic-related services.

Besides the big push coming to vaccinate young children, pharmacies like Simpson's are co-ordinating the delivery of doses 1 and 2 for those over 12, booster shots



Sean Simpson performs a rapid test for COVID-19. FILE

for older adults who already have two doses, the annual flu shot and COVID testing for asymptomatic people.

On top of all that, since pharmacies are now permitted to do COVID tests on people exhibiting symptoms of the virus, Simpson said they're trying to establish a way to do that safely.

There are a lot of known unknowns at the moment and that can wreak havoc with staffing and planning, he said. It can be very exhausting for people working in the health field.

As well, many residents are getting tired of life with COVID, the restrictions and changing rules and

practices – "and they expect us to have all the answers," Simpson said.

"But the reality is usually we're getting information around the same time as everyone else. So, we're just going with what we have and doing the best we can."

"I think everything's wearing on people and some people are taking that out on us," he said.

"We're trying to manage that kind of overload and burnout feeling as a team and so overall that's what we're dealing with right now."

Simpson said his store has had a handful of inquiries about doing COVID tests

on people who are exhibiting possible symptoms of the virus.

But conducting those tests requires a plan to ensure everyone is safe and to minimize exposure.

Symptomatic patients won't be allowed inside but Simpson said he's hoping to be able to do some form or drive-through testing.

They're working on a system where a patient would make an appointment to pick up a self-testing kit at curbside.

"They can do a swab in their vehicle without having to come in to the pharmacy. We're just trying to figure out how we can do that without exposing our other customers and guests, and also putting our staff at any additional risk."

Those kits would be less invasive than the uncomfortable "giant Q-tip" tests many people have experienced.

"With the self-test they're doing a cheek swab and a nasal swab. They swab the inside of each cheek as well as their nostrils and then seal it in a tube and seal it in a bag and we will process it and send it off to the lab."



The sale runs Dec. 2 to 4. FILE PHOTO

# Pumphouse sale features **300 original artworks**

Staff  
The Lake Report

Everyone at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is gearing up for its major art sale next week.

The annual sale, which runs Dec. 2 to 4, features original artwork by Niagara-on-the-Lake painters and items from personal collections.

"Everyone's excited. We're getting ready for it," said Aimee Medina, marketing co-ordinator for the Pumphouse.

"We were able to gather more than 300 pieces of artwork. This was all volunteer-run. Our volunteers were very determined

to make this fundraiser our biggest yet."

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the art centre's children and youth programs, such as the healing arts for kids and family-friendly online studio and in-person studio programs.

Pumphouse membership holders will get a first look at the artwork on Dec. 1 from 4:30 till 7 p.m. Potential art collectors better get their early if they want the good stuff.

"I have my eye already on some of the pieces. There's a Campbell Scott (painting) that was donated so I'm watching out for it," Medina said with a laugh.

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# Town explores development controls

Strict new building rules could affect Old Town, 26 ideas being examined

*Continued from Front Page*

took place at the end of September, which was referred to as a planning workshop for staff and councillors.

“I really commend this work. It’s great to see and I’m glad that we can share it publicly as well,” Coun. Clare Cameron said.

Coun. Allan Bisback said he was pleased with the priority items “and even more important is they really do reflect what residents in our town have been saying to us on an ongoing basis.”

Actions the town could undertake include rezoning Old Town to set new building standards, being more aggressive about heritage buildings and designations, and using Garrison Village as a testing ground for the community permit planning system.

One of the main steps recommended by Zuidema is rezoning all of Old Town to impose more restrictive performance standards.

That would include restrictions on height, lot coverage, side, front and rear setbacks, parking and basement coverage, according to the presentation.

Old Town is the only community in NOTL that doesn’t have a secondary plan, Zuidema repeatedly reminded councillors.

Besides restricting the style of development in the area, Zuidema also recommended the town implement policies that “direct growth away from the Old Town.”

Public consultations before substantial work takes place would be key to rezoning Old Town, Zuidema said.

“That’s very important,” he said, “Sometimes consultants can get married to a solution and then at the end of the process they find out that they’ve missed the mark in terms of what the public is looking for.”

Cameron asked that developers who live in town be involved in consultations.

Overhauling the town’s approach to heritage designation was another priority adopted by councillors.

The town is planning on holding heritage workshops in January for staff, council-



Council is looking at ideas to help protect NOTL from inappropriate developments. Pictured above is a proposed apartment design for the historic Parliament Oak site. Residents have strongly voiced that they don’t think it is appropriate for the historic area of town, which is composed of mainly detached homes. FILE PHOTO

lors and the heritage committee, Zuidema said.

Council also wants the town to actively work on determining what buildings should be designated as heritage properties and how that can be done efficiently.

Zuidema said the town will consult with the heritage committee and the town historian to determine what buildings and areas should be prioritized for designation.

He emphasized that prioritizing which areas to designate is essential and that simply creating a list is insufficient.

“The capacity to designate is a function of available resources and that means time of the individual to do the appropriate work and also the resources, money, in order to ensure that work can be done.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero pushed to ensure the town historian was involved in any heritage work so designations could be built around cultural history as well as architectural characteristics.

“As a town we look more at the architectural significance of certain buildings and places but the town historian talks more to the culture, the cultural background and historical significance,” Disero said.

In all, Zuidema presented council with 26 items: six priorities, nine “quick wins,” four escalation items and seven suggestions that need further review.

The final item of 26 was the use of the community planning permit system

as an alternative to zoning bylaws.

Disero asked Zuidema to clarify what exactly the community planning permit system can accomplish.

Zuidema said the permit system can be viewed as completely separate from zoning changes and heritage designations.

The permit system “is on a different table. It’s a different puzzle,” he said.

Since the permit system is a new and unique beast for the town to use, Zuidema recommended the creation of a pilot project in Garrison Village.

“The bulk of those lands have already been developed and so I think the Village would create a real soft landing to experiment” with the planning permit system, he said.

Since there is not a large amount of active development in the Village, the town could learn the ins and outs of the permit system by managing a small number of builds instead of using it on a wider area, like the whole of Old Town.

Cameron wanted to ensure that NOTL’s other communities don’t get overlooked.

“There have been concerns from the community in Virgil that areas that were initially developed in the mid-20th century are now also seeing major character changes,” Cameron said.

“It’s worth remembering that in Virgil, in St. Davids and remaining areas where there is a unique character. I

don’t want them getting completely wiped out of the picture.”

Cameron recommended that the permit system be tried in another area of town where it would be more challenging and therefore allow the town to see the extent of powers the permit system has.

Zuidema said the use of the permit system requires extensive research about implementation before any pilot project gets underway.

Council directed staff to put together a report on the possibility of doing a pilot project with the community planning permit system and bring it to council in January.

One of the “quick wins” Zuidema presented was related to the appeal by Solmar Inc. regarding the heritage designation of the Rand Estate. Solmar dropped that appeal several weeks ago, thus removing the item and making it the quickest win of them all.

Other “wins” include building a roster of capable consultants, making a strong impression at the Land Planning Appeal Tribunal, being more competitive in hiring planning staff and requesting a provincial ministerial zoning order – an MZO – to eliminate appeals where the town has justification.

Bisback tried to temper residents’ expectations about what the town can and can’t control.

He asked Zuidema to confirm that any developments already underway won’t necessarily be subject to new restrictions.

“We can’t change the rules along the way,” Zuidema replied.

The town is also considering changes to how the committee of adjustment might operate, updating its secondary plans, revamping the planning process and hiring an in-house lawyer for land tribunal disputes.

Council directed staff to continue work on the six priority items as well as the quick wins, with some 11 other recommendations still to be reviewed and possibly implemented in the future.

## Bottle drop-off gets new location

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

## CADET NEWS

- Newark 809 Air Cadets celebrate their 50th anniversary.
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**Canada** The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.



**NOTL active cases: 7**  
**Region active cases: 189**  
**Region deaths: 439**  
**Region total cases: 18,747**  
**Region resolved cases: 18,119**

\*Nov. 24 data per Niagara Region Public Health



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity freshen into smiles."  
 - Washington Irving.

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Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

## Editorial: Dedication personified

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

We have written many times about how Niagara-on-the-Lake's community volunteers are the backbone of this very special town.

Without the hard work, whether in the spotlight or behind the scenes, of literally hundreds of helpers who volunteer in a wide range of capacities, many of NOTL's organizations simply couldn't operate.

And many more important community activities – like the annual Terry Fox Run, spearheaded by volun-

teer Joan King – might fall by the wayside. Or at least not be as vibrant and successful as they are now.

It was gratifying to see Niagara-on-the-Lake council on Monday night single out and celebrate the work of some of our town's dedicated volunteers – and to publicly thank the 11 recipients whose work is emblematic of what being part of a community really means.

The Lord Mayor's Volunteer Awards are a worthy and admirable way to honour the work done by so many individuals.

So kudos to all those who

were honoured. You can read all about them on our front page and page 2, but we also would like to formally highlight them – and applaud them and all the other NOTL volunteers who give of themselves to help our community.

Thank you to: the aforementioned Joan King, for whom a special award was created; Queenston Residents Association founders Marilyn and Jim Armstrong for community and civic engagement; Niki Walker for her work on diversity, equity and inclusivity; Caitlyn Neufeld, for

her helping children and youth; Rosemary Goodwin for sports and recreation; Kyra Simone for her ongoing environmental efforts; Carrie Robinson for her work with a variety of causes, including Daughters of the Vote; teenager Samantha Fretz, winner of the volunteer under 16 award; "Santa" Tim Taylor, who works tirelessly supporting seniors, in particular NOTL Palliative Care; and Lise Andreana, chair of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, who was honoured with the culture award..

editor@niagaranow.com

## Racism is inexcusable no matter the context

Dear editor:  
 Racism is inexcusable in any context.

As residents of over 15 years in Niagara-on-the-Lake, my wife, who was Black, and I experienced racism here but we always felt it was declining and the community was evolving toward a more enlightened society.

She passed away five years ago, leaving a great void in my life, which friends here helped to fill.

I would not want the media of Ontario to target NOTL in the way it did the Simcoe Board of Education. On the face of it, racism in Simcoe was compounded by a reluctance to tackle the matter of racism, overt racism, head-on.

When a young Black

student was repeatedly targeted, the system did not respond appropriately.

I sent the following letter to the Simcoe board, but, not surprisingly, have not had a reply:

Dear Sirs:

I read with horror, literal horror, of the events in your schools targeting, yes targeting, Black students.

My wife was Black (I am now a widower at age 80) and we raised and schooled three children in eastern Ontario, namely Frontenac County.

Throughout their primary and secondary schooling there, they never had a racial experience. This was in the 1970s.

You and your board have clearly taken Canada back-

ward: you should be deeply ashamed of racist white students being tolerated in your school.

You should be deeply ashamed of your virtual lack of response to the virulent racism on display in your school. You should be deeply ashamed of your lack of response and lack of policy to deal with the situation and change the "culture" of your schools.

You should be deeply ashamed of having allowed racism to take root in your schools and not dealing with it expeditiously from the beginning. You should be deeply ashamed of allowing a young child (and quite likely a number of Black and brown children) to be traumatized by hate in your

schools, to the point where the family has no recourse but to move or to take legal action.

Clearly you, the board, have been negligent on a number of counts.

You, as a board, seem unable to empathize with young children being targeted with racist hate. As educators you have abdicated your responsibility to "educate" and "socialize" our children.

Basically, the entire school board should resign, as should the director of education and his staff. There is no place in our Canada for people like you all.

Not "sincerely," but with "Shock and horror,"

**Kaspar Pold**  
 NOTL

## Yes, let's raise the flag at Queen's Royal Park

Dear editor:

I am responding to Ross's Ramblings in the Nov. 11 edition of The Lake Report, "Time for NOTL to fly a flag at Queen's Royal Park."

Yes, Ross; a resounding Yes! It is time for a Canadian flag to fly patriotically in Queen's Royal Park.

With a backdrop of the gazebo, the Niagara River and Old Fort Niagara, a Canadian flag will complete the perfect picture.

Every year, thousands of people visit and are photographed in our beautiful and picturesque Queen's Royal

Park but there is no indication that they are standing in Canada and looking out at a view of both Canada and the United States.

Let's educate those visitors and show our pride for Canada with the addition of our impressive red and white Canadian flag.

I walk to Queen's Royal Park almost daily and as I stand on the gazebo, taking in the magnificent panorama, I often hear visitors discussing the view. A Canadian flag would remind everyone that we are standing in Canada.

As you pointed out, a Canadian flag in Queen's Royal Park would also be very helpful for those who are approaching NOTL by water.

Aside from my emotional and patriotic reasons for wanting a flag installed in Queen's Royal Park, I fully understand that we must consider economical and practical issues.

Who will pay for this flag and install it and who will raise and lower the flag? The finances issues have been resolved. The people at Caldwell Securities Ltd. have already generously agreed to

provide a flag and flagpole.

As for the raising and lowering of the flag, some hardworking Town of NOTL staff members who are already maintaining the lovely grounds and gardens at the park would be able to perform that small additional task.

As residents of historic NOTL, we are sharing our town with visitors every day so let's also show our pride in both our country and our town – the first capital of Upper Canada.

**Emily Hyde**  
 NOTL



**HEY NOTL! WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DINNER?**

← **Italian Pizza Pasta** or Spanish Tapas →

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



# OPINION

## Stop Doug Ford's highways to hell

David Israelson  
Special to The Lake Report

Doug Ford seems to be aiming to go down in history as Ontario's most destructive premier with his plans for paving hideous highways to hell across the Greenbelt.

It's actually that bad. World leaders met in Glasgow this month to confront overwhelming scientific evidence that we're running out of chances to manage climate change damage.

And what does Ford want? More damage.

"We are going to build more highways," his fundraising emails say.

With your money, Ford wants to spend up to \$6 billion to cut down trees and pave two giant roads cutting across prime southern Ontario natural areas.

It almost defies description how far Ford's Progressive Conservative government will go to harm Ontario and make people's lives worse.

Ford's fall economic statement, delivered on Nov. 3, says he'll spend \$1.6 billion to start cutting trees and slathering cement and asphalt to build two ugly roads: a largely unwanted Highway 413 between the 401 and 407, and another called the Bradford Bypass, through prime farmland between Highways 404 and 400.

Ultimately the project will cost \$6 billion — money that could otherwise go into, say, health, long-term care, education ... or protecting the environment and building the new, green economy.

It appears that this project is being promoted because some unelected political strategists who work for Ford think it will sucker in voters in a few ridings in the next provincial election, scheduled for June 2. As the Toronto Star reported, it appears that eight developers who support Ford own land along the highway corridors.

Ford claims that spending this money would cut 30 minutes off driving time, but that's the fine print. Earlier government studies said the 30 minutes would only be for drivers who use the entire 59 kilometres of



The proposed Highway 413 plan. SOURCED

highway; this paving project would save only a few seconds off typical trips.

It's being touted by Ford and his minions exactly at the moment in time when everyone else in the world is trying to get cars off the roads. In Ontario, traffic research goes back to the days of the ill-fated Spadina Expressway, showing that building more and bigger roads doesn't solve traffic problems, it begets more cars and driving.

And traffic. Virtually every other place in the world is trying to get vehicles off the road. If this monstrous paving program goes ahead, the only thing Ontarians can look forward to is more pollution, more traffic, dirtier air, traffic that's as bad as ever and a dirtier, uglier Ontario.

What's interesting — if one puts aside the thoughtless nastiness of this road-building for a moment — is how Ford is doubling down on being an enemy of the environment at the same time as he's attempting a sad little charm offensive in other areas.

The charm offensive is sad because it's so transparently disingenuous. So far it consists of moves such as Ford claiming he's a supporter

of the labour movement — the same people he called "union thugs" last year — and a benefactor of lower-income people because he is raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

This is the same \$15 minimum wage that Ford gleefully cut when he took office in 2018. Restoring it and asking for credit is like stepping on someone's foot and then asking them to thank you for stopping. Ouch.

Nearly everything with this premier is a two-step. First, he's "for the people," then for proof-of-vaccine, and for requiring all health workers to be vaccinated. Until he's not.

He's "for" the Greenbelt, unless he's caught on video telling developers who support him that he's not. Anyway, he's not — the new highways will rip through the Greenbelt, environmentally sensitive wetland and at least 27 waterways.

Ford's disingenuous two-step moves touch nearly every policy area. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when more than 4,000 long-term care residents have died, the situation was most dire in for-profit homes. For-profit homes had nearly twice as many residents infected

with COVID and 78 per cent more deaths compared with non-profit homes.

So what's the Ford government doing? Planning for half the new long-term facilities to be privately owned.

Ironically, environmental policy may be the one area in which the premier is not doing a two-step — he's flat-out against the environment.

So far Ford has already weakened the province's conservation authorities, which are supposed to protect wetlands and watersheds. His government also has issued dozens of ministerial zoning orders (MZOs) for controversial or unwanted developments, taken away money incentives to buy hybrid or electric cars, and gone to court to fight against the carbon tax aimed at combatting climate change — and lost.

That court fight was one loss for Ford. The real loss will be Ontario's if the province continues with a premier who's an environment hater.

David Israelson is a nonpractising lawyer, author and journalist based in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A version of this article appeared recently in the Lawyer's Daily.

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# Loblaw corporation ignored pleas for community project

Dear editor:  
Loblaw, the parent company of three of our local franchise businesses, namely Phil's and Hendrik's Valu-mart plus Shoppers Drug Mart, ignored repeated requests to contribute to the \$25,000 construction shortfall for our newly constructed and recently opened Niagara Nursery School, beside the NOTL Community Centre.

Immediately following publication of the article "Niagara Nursery School partners with NOTL Valu-marts for donation drive" in the Aug. 12, edition of The Lake Report, whereby the operators of both these businesses encouraged shoppers, at the check-out counter, to contribute \$2 each toward the aforementioned budget shortfall, I contacted the corporate offices of Loblaw Companies Ltd. requesting a contribution out of their enormous and generous marketing or other discretionary spending budgets.

Accordingly they responded to this request by opening a "case number" and stating that "A representative will contact you soon." They never did.

Subsequent follow-up efforts on my part, four in all, failed to elicit any response. My correspondence fell on deaf ears. (And I later confirmed that the school never received any corporate donations from Loblaw.)

In spite of my pleadings for a simple yes or no (or any answer) and a final communication advising them I would be writing a letter to your newspaper, Loblaw elected to remain silent.

In retrospect I should not be surprised by this

corporation's lack of action. Owned by the Weston family and a consequence of a 14-year bread price-fixing scandal exposed in March 2015, Loblaw was often referred to as being morally bankrupt and ethically challenged.

In this instance, the company ignored the donation request and displayed a total lack of respect for our community.

Shame on them. Our community deserved better.

It is often said that visionary corporate leaders practise good corporate governance and ethics.

They recognize community investment is a means to attracting the workforce of tomorrow and thereby take their commitment to community to the next level.

While the Valu-marts in town did their part, it seems community goodwill is not on Loblaw's radar. More like an attitude of "Too big to fail."

Obviously the corporation learned nothing from the bread scandal, where they offered customers a \$25 voucher after picking their pockets for 14 years.

Indeed, they should learn from and follow the lead of their Niagara-on-the-Lake franchise owners, who are all upstanding citizens in our community.

Alas, it seems others like the Westons, only donate when their names are attached to a hospital wing, university, arts centre etc., whereby they buy name recognition and a legacy with their names up in lights or prominently displayed on a wall plaque.

The needs of the Niagara Nursery School did not cut it.

**Samuel Young**  
NOTL

# A lot of questions about government and our taxes

Dear editor:  
What happens when your taxes increase? What do increased taxes do to your ability to spend? When the public cuts back their spending what effect does that have on our economy? Increased tax dollars for the most part go where? What does a government do with a tax windfall? How transparent are our governments with the tax dollars they take in?

Wouldn't you love to have the pensions and the benefits our civil servants receive, or better still, the pensions and benefits our politicians get, compared to what you receive?

We pay into a system that they do not. We're then told that the money we paid into the system that is paid back to us is a benefit that we should be grateful to be receiving. The money you paid into the system is money the government spends instead of investing.

The more money governments get from you and me the more they have to spend and to allot to themselves. Who benefits from the carbon tax? Has that tax reduced the number of cars on the road? Is the automobile the real culprit in climate change?

Or is this just another tax grab to help the government make the books look better than they are? Why should we pay for governments' improper and lavish spending habits? Why does our federal government believe it has the right to give members pensions you and I could only dream of receiving?

Shouldn't we all get the same pension, one based on what we have put into the system, with interest? Why do elected officials believe they have the right to increase their salaries when we are in a deficit? The debt they have run up should not be the time for them to get a raise.



NOTL resident Tom Thornton isn't happy with a carbon tax, which he says is just a cash grab and doesn't have much effect on the environment. FILE PHOTO

Should a governor-general be able to submit expense reports, lavish or not, after serving his or her term in this privileged appointment? When you leave a company does that employer allow you to put in expense reports after you move on to the next job?

So many government people think they are entitled to go to the trough for anything they wish. Isn't it time we drained the trough so they can't misuse our money? What would our country be like if the elected provincial and federal officials received salaries equivalent to those of the average Canadian employee?

Pensions they receive should also be the same as you and I get, based on their contributions to the system. Government employees should receive only what they have contributed to the system, just like all of the citizens of this country.

Rewards should be given to employees who have put forth ideas that save the government money. Department heads should have to show cost savings if additional employees are hired.

The business of running a government should be like running any large com-

pany. Companies that we invest in give us yearly and quarterly statements so that we know the health of our investments. Governments must also be transparent so we know the health of our country and, more importantly, where the dollars are going.

Taxes keep increasing every year. Can someone explain to me how a carbon tax on my heating fuel and gasoline for my automobile will reduce the amount of emissions that are destroying our world? Since the tax came in, have the citizens of our country changed their driving habits or reduced the use of heating fuel?

All this tax has done is increase our cost of living and given the government more money to spend. We need to stop wasteful government spending and put a strong government in place that knows how to properly handle our dollars.

What would our country be like if many of the taxes added in the last 50 years were eliminated? Governments must learn to spend only if necessary and only if they have the money in the first place. More people in leadership should be like former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion.

The money governments take in does not belong to them. It's a percentage of our hard-earned dollars and I'm tired of them squandering what I have to give them. What would governments do if we all stopped paying taxes and stopped buying taxable items?

No one ever gave me the money I live on. I either worked for those dollars and put away for my old age or paid into a system that now gives me a paltry amount of the money back that I paid into the system. Now they want to call our money a benefit that they can take away when, and if, they wish. It's time for a tax revolt or at the very least a petition.

We live in a safe country for the most part, without fear the government will bomb our homes. But if they tax the gains on our homes it's just like stealing our gains without the benefit of tax relief for the mortgages we have had on these homes.

Every day we hear our left-leaning government and their left-leaning partners crying that those of us who worked hard, saved what we could and invested wisely are supposed to give up our dollars to those who spent freely or failed to put in an honest day's work.

If you are like my family, you were hard-working all of your lives and watched what you spent to be able to live a comfortable life in your retirement. Does that make us bad people? Should we be made to feel ashamed of our present financial situation?

I paid my taxes, worked 16-hour days and was careful not to spend what I had squirrelled away. Now the government wants to take from what is left? I'm fed up. What about you?

**Tom Thornton**  
NOTL



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# Grace United market shows off **NOTL**

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Iris Guo moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake earlier this year and says she loves the people, the scenery and class of the town.

There was no better place to experience all of those things last Saturday than at the Grace United Church Christmas Market.

"I've got to get some of the bakery stuff," Guo said as she scanned the items for sale at the market.

She moved to NOTL from Niagara Falls and spared no time becoming a member of Grace United Church.

"It's beautiful here. Quiet, the people are nice. People are so polite to each other," she said.

Guo walked away with a box full of baked treats from the market.

Linda Pequegnhe was searching row by row for a specific flavour of jam. "I'm looking for something like gooseberry," she said.

She found it, but it wasn't for herself.

"This is where I get my Christmas gifts. My parents are older, they're in their



Linda Pequegnhe buys some gooseberry jam at the market on Saturday. EVAN SAUNDERS

90s. So, what do you get them? You get them jam."

Joyce Brown said the market was a much-needed reprieve from cloistered COVID life.

"It was not fun," she said.

She said she has been getting into the Christmas spirit but it has some sad overtones for her this

season.

Earlier this year, a close friend died from COVID-19.

"She was in the hospital for something else and that's where she got it," Brown said.

Brown and her friend were frequent participants in the Santa Claus parade,

marching with the float for Grace United Church.

"It's going to be very sad this year," she said.

She said the parade will have special significance for her this year and is happy the town is hosting it, though she looks forward to its return to the original format.

## Testimonials

Since the onset of the pandemic, Treadwell has had to pivot to various takeout concepts, such as "Dev's" Indian Takeout and British Pie Night. We have found that using The Lake Report has allowed us to successfully communicate these experiences to our local clientele on a weekly basis. Richard and Rob have been great to work with and we look forward to continuing our relationship with The Lake Report moving forward.

- James Treadwell



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# Jeep Club celebrates community with Newark Neighbours food drive

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Everyone loves their cars, but for Niagara Area Jeep Club president Steve Gulley, the community that springs up around cars is what he really loves.

“This right here, this is what jeeping is all about,” Gulley said as he gestured to members of the Jeep Club as they accepted nearly a ton of food donations for Newark Neighbours.

“It’s fun going off-road up north, but this right here is family. All these people here, well, almost all of them, I’ve known for years. They are family.”

The club held its seventh annual food drive this past Saturday at Phil’s Valu-mart in Virgil. Gulley said the group collected some 1,800 pounds of food



Left: Joel Graham, Nathan Woiceshyn and Kristyn Dimaria work the sidewalk to make sure donations keep coming in. Right: Steve Gulley, Anthony Montagna and other Jeep Club members try to keep up with the donation supply. EVAN SAUNDERS



throughout the day and nearly \$600 in cash donations.

He said it took five jeeps and two pickup trucks to carry all the donations.

Gulley, a resident of

Virgil, said there are some 1,600 members in the Jeep Club across Niagara and more around Ontario.

Two of them, Janina and Anthony Montagna, organize the charity events the

club holds.

“We want to be seen as members of the community and helping others is what we’re all about,” Janina said.

“We’re like a big family.”

“We have a big charity show every year. We haven’t had it in two years because of COVID,” Anthony said.

The club hopes to host a charity show again next

year. Every year, proceeds go to support Bethlehem Housing, an organization that strives to provide affordable housing for

*Continued on Page 11*



Tom and Maureen Goodbody  
Old Towne NOTL

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# FOOD & TOY DRIVE

**Food & Toy donations support Newark Neighbours and are in great need. Extra toy donations will support Gillian's Place and Project Share. Drop off location:**

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# Niagara on-the-Lake HYDRO

## 1,800 pounds of food and \$6,000 cash collected for NOTL charity



Left: The Niagara Area Jeep Club's seventh annual food drive on Saturday at Phil's Valu-mart saw nearly 1,800 pounds of food donated for Newark Neighbours. Right: It took five jeeps and two pickup trucks to transport all the food donations the Jeep Club received on Saturday. EVAN SAUNDERS

*Continued from Page 10*

individuals and families. The buddy-buddy atmosphere of the club is reflected in its irreverent beginnings.

"Basically, we got kicked out of another jeep club and we started our own," Anthony said with a laugh. With 1,600 members and counting, it seems like the Niagara chapter has had the

last laugh. Club member Joel Graham was out on the sidewalk waving signs to ensure passersby knew the drive was happening. "It's absolutely great to

be part of this community," Graham said. "Everyone's out here, everyone's helping everyone, giving tips and tricks, teaching you little things you might not know about

your Jeep and giving you the ins and outs of jeeping." Graham said he isn't too motivated to do off-roading with his Jeep. "I haven't done a lot of trails, a few unassumed

roads," he said. But he had some advice for potential trail blazers. "As long as it's OK by the landowners that's what matters. Don't be doing any illegal wheeling."



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# FEATURED



A yacht, similar to the Foam, sailing in local waters. Image by James Hind, courtesy of Andrew Hind, originally appearing in Ghosts of Niagara-on-the-Lake. DUNDURN PRESS

## SINKING OF THE FOAM

### Part 1: Seven died in tragic Lake Ontario maritime mishap – 147 years ago

*This is the first in a series of stories about the sinking of the Foam, one of the worst tragedies in Lake Ontario maritime history. The incident is shrouded in mystery and many fundamental questions remain impossible to answer.*

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

The recent grounding of a Toronto-based yacht on the sandbar at the mouth of the Niagara River is eerily reminiscent of a similar incident on a warm summer evening 147 years ago.

On Sept. 1 of this year, as reported by The Lake Report, a 35-foot keeled sailboat, Casa

Libre, from a sailing club in the Toronto islands, with an experienced sailing couple at the helm, grounded on a sand bar in the mouth of the Niagara River, off Queen's Royal Park, in Old Town.

On Saturday, July 11, 1874, the sloop Foam, with seven sailors aboard, out of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto, foundered on the Niagara Bar, a mere three miles from its destination, the Queen's Royal Hotel, on the western bank of the river at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

But that's where the similarities end.

One story has a happy ending, the other ends in tragedy.

Within hours of grounding, the Toronto couple aboard Casa Libre, was safely res-

cued by Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services. Two days later, after a group of local samaritans unsuccessfully attempted to right the boat, it was finally freed by professional salvagers. The Casa Libre was unscathed.

In many ways, the haunting story of the Foam remains a mystery. In the darkening night, just minutes from the docks, the Foam foundered and seemingly vanished, only to be found in the following days, with only the mast of the vessel appearing just above the water.

There one moment, gone the next.

All seven souls aboard were lost. All are buried in a small, respectful plot in the St. Mark's Church cemetery, still owned by the

Royal Canadian Yacht Club. The Foam was raised, returned to Toronto, and destroyed.

Sixty-two years later, in the Toronto Telegram's Schooner Days column of July 11, 1936, the Foam was recalled as "a comparatively small yacht, not much more than 30 feet long, but quite wide, probably 10-foot beam. She was the old-style shoal centreboard type, with little freeboard and draught, sloop rigged with long overhanging bowsprit and main boom."

The loss of the Foam is a romantic story. The seven young men, all from prominent Toronto families, were coming to Niagara, in part to attend the famous Queen's Royal

*Continued on Page 13*

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# The Uptown NOTL News

happenings at the corner of mary & mississagua streets

EDITION | 3

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE  
FOR THE LOVE OF HOSPITALITY

WINTER | 2021



a bicycle built for 4 ©2020 PHOTO anonymous

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A lot has happened on our little corner over the past year. BARBEA Wine Shop & Snack Bar opened in early July, delayed 3 months because of COVID. Haven't been yet? It's a great little private wine shop, with wines you won't find at the LCBO, all available to take home. It's also the kind of spot where you can spend a leisurely afternoon or evening exploring new wines from Niagara's largest selection of VQA & international wines. Come join us and enjoy a glass or two of wine and some amazing spanish influenced tapas. Our chic & welcoming atmosphere encourages socializing with friends and fellow wine lovers, and our knowledgeable team

allows for a journey to somewhere. We are now open for lunch & dinner Wednesday to Monday. Barbea has that perfect bottle of wine for a host gift or wine lover on your christmas list. Need to unwind before going home after a long day of work? No worries! As of December we will be offering 1/2 price oysters and bubbly during our Happy Hour from 4-6pm daily!! We're sure you saw the Ruffino's patio this summer! Always bustling with the feel of an Italian Piazza. We're sorry we didn't always have room for everyone. But with restrictions lifting & thanks to our great town we will be doing an even better Piazza next summer! Until then, come join us inside

and enjoy the warm glow of our wood-fired grill and pizza oven. If you don't want to leave your house, we've also started up delivery again and would happy to bring Ruffino's to you!! When designing Barbea we also rennovated Ruffino's and added some great new spaces for private parties and gatherings. From pizza parties to a business lunch for 16 or a large family gathering we're here to help you celebrate the holidays in style! Give us a call and let us help plan you party!

Cheers,

Ryan, Brett & Our Ever Growing Family  
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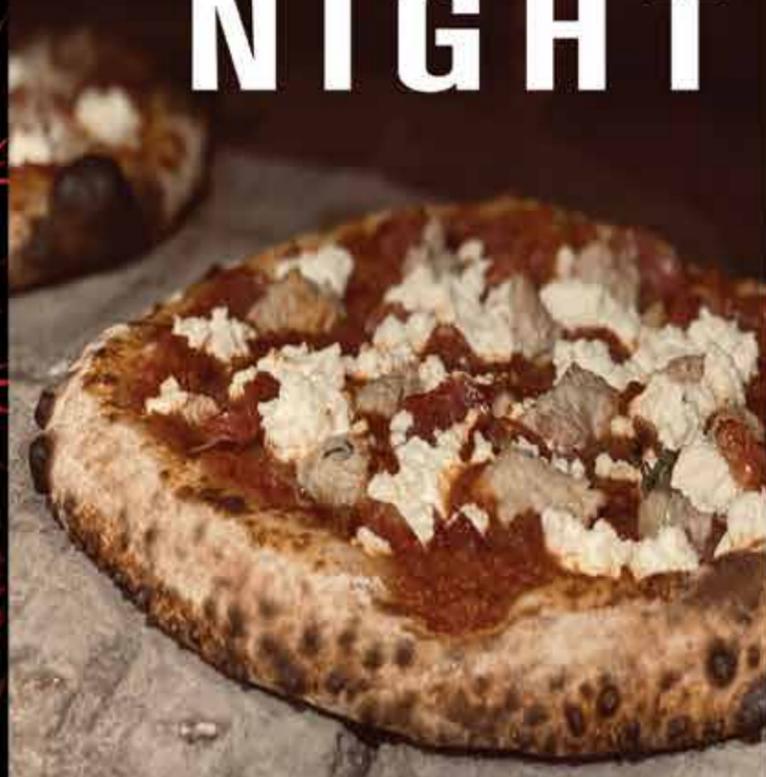
cardoons | polenta

**PANETTONE**

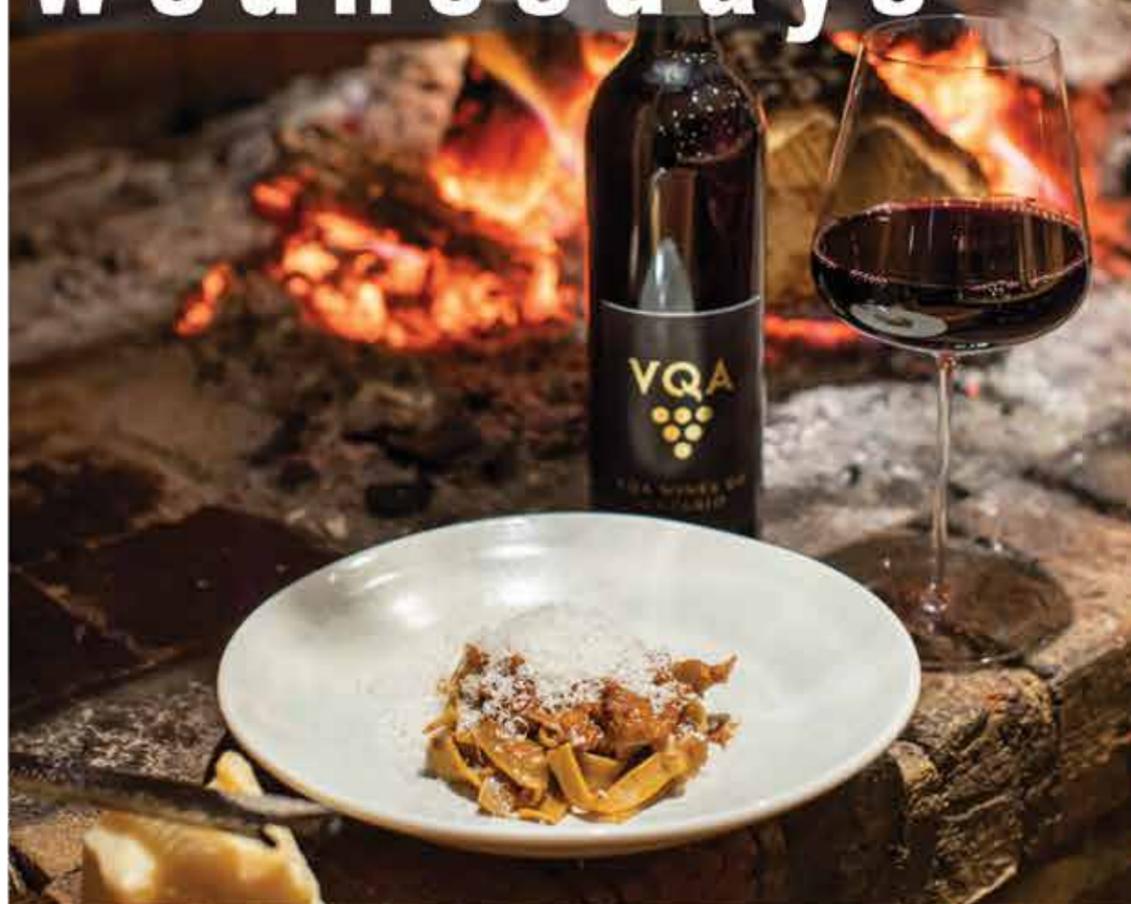
preserved summer berries | pawpaw zabaglione

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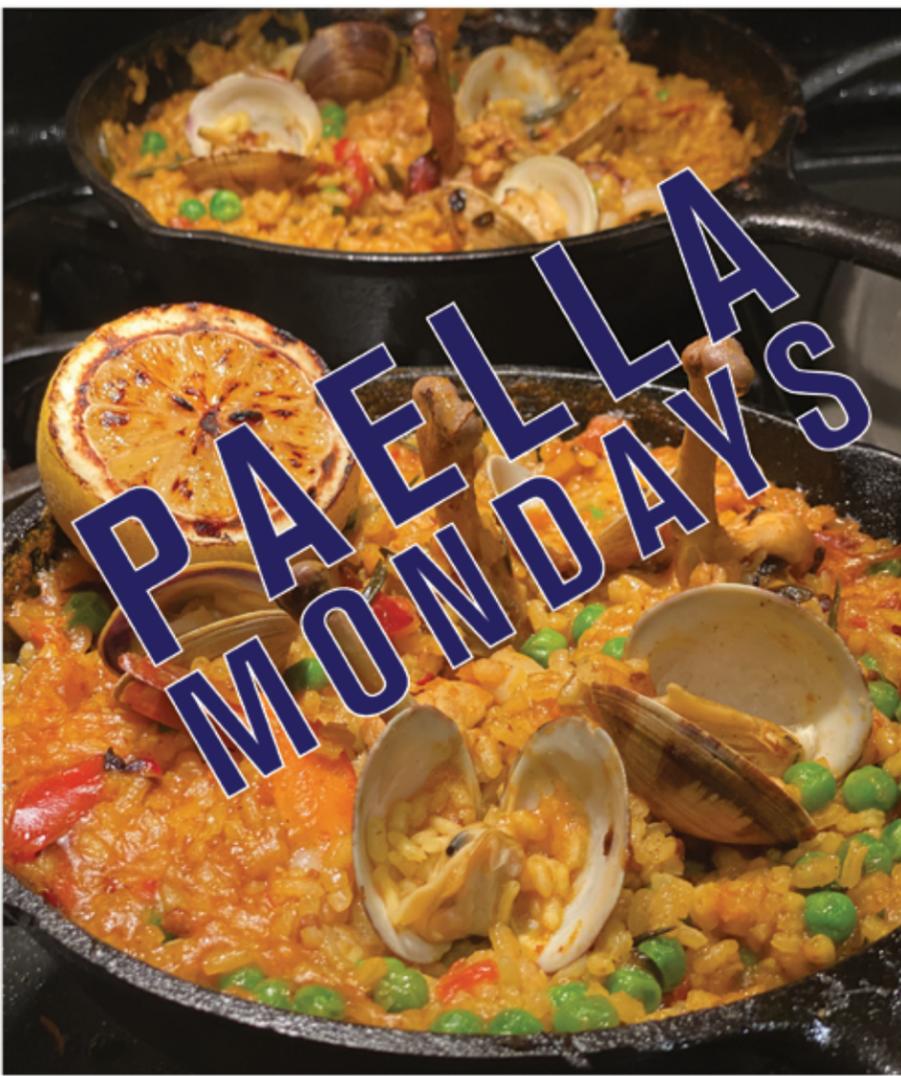
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## insider news

EDITION | 3

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE  
FOR THE LOVE OF HOSPITALITY

WINTER | 2021



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PERSON  
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EVERY  
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The Queen's Royal Hotel, (shown in 1904), was at the foot of King Street. It has a commanding look over the mouth of the Niagara River. In 1874, it was well known for its Saturday Night Hops. COURTESY NOTL MUSEUM

## Seven people died in **sinking of Foam**

*Continued from Page 12*

Hotel Saturday Night Hop, a social occasion known far and wide.

Some of the town's young women waited in vain for their dancing partners to arrive.

Why did the yacht founder? Should a centre-board boat, with such a shallow draft, have attempted the lake crossing? Why did it take so long to find the Foam? Where were the bodies found and when? Why are they buried in St. Mark's cemetery? Why was the boat destroyed so quickly?

All questions raised by The Globe newspaper of the time, The Toronto Telegram over 60 years later and through the stories and lore of both professional and amateur historians, throughout the decades.

There are few definitive answers.

Twenty years ago, Jean Baker, while on one of her regular walks through the peaceful St. Mark's churchyard, was captivated by the Foam's monument and small white gravestones.

Baker, 85, is a longtime resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a St. Mark's parishio-

ner and a prolific writer for newspapers and magazines across the United States and Canada. Her first novel, a historical fiction work, "Albatross Hall", published this year by FreisenPress, is a rollicking story from the time between the American Revolution and Napoleonic Wars.

She comes by her "eye-for-a-story" naturally. Her father was a prominent English journalist, with a 40-year career with a big British newspaper. "I think I got the journalism DNA in my blood," Baker says.

"I was intrigued by the

seven gravestones. Here they were, the sons of prominent Ontario person-ages. They had to have some money to sail here on the yacht. I really wanted to know why their graves were here in the first place."

Baker went immediately to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, accessing the microfiche of the newspapers of the day.

"I knew immediately that I wanted to put the story together. Just for me."

Next: Read Jean Baker's colourful vignette about the demise of the Foam.

## RIDDLE ME THIS

I'm a word, six letters I contain, remove one letter and 12 remains. What am I?

Last issue: Two in a corner, one in a room, zero in a house, but one in a shelter. What am I?

Answer: The letter "r".

Answered first by: Sheelah Young

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margie Enns, Sam Thibodeaux-Endesfelder, Mary Drost, Terry Nord, Howard Jones, Susan Hamilton, Bob Campbell, Maria Janeiro, Janice Hall, David Steele Rob Hutchison, Pam Dowling, Irene Wewers, Sylvia Wiens, Morgan Mitchell, Josh Langendoen, Sheila Meloche, Wade Durling, Gary Davis, Doug Bruce

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

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**NOTL  
SNAPS**

Left: The new Little Library in St. Davids is marking its first festive season and has been suitably decorated. **LESLIE MANN** Right: A nighttime view of the cascade of poppies outside the NOTL Museum. The display has since been taken down and put into storage for next year. **J. RICHARD WRIGHT**

# Climate conference signals shift away from fossil fuels



Keeping it **Green**



Trees themselves are extremely effective carbon-capture technology. **KYRA SIMONE**

Kyra Simone  
Special to The Lake Report

After two weeks of negotiation, all 197 countries participating in the 26th United Nations Conference of Parties (COP26), an annual meeting to address climate change, agreed to the Glasgow Climate Pact, which establishes clear next steps for preventing the worst impacts.

**LESS FUEL TO THE FIRE:** Despite overwhelming evidence that carbon emissions drive warming and severe weather, the pact is the first climate agreement to explicitly acknowledge the role of fossil fuels. This concrete language and new pacts to phase out their use signal the end of an era for these dirty fuels.

It is estimated that Canada spent \$18 billion to support fossil fuel industries in 2020. Even though more than 500 industry lobbyists attended COP26, all participating countries agreed to “phase down” coal use and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.”

Coal burning is the largest contributor to global warming; however, some coal-reliant nations, like India, would not commit to completely phasing it out.

Including Canada, 30 countries agreed to end public support for unabated international fossil fuel energy by 2022, and 20 countries also made this commitment for oil and gas projects. Some “abated” projects, which incorporate carbon-capture technologies, may still receive funding.

Some nations and sub-national governments even pledged to completely eliminate oil and gas – this new Beyond Oil and Gas

Alliance (BOGA) includes Québec, but not yet Canada. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed Canada would cap oil and gas emissions and reach net-zero by 2050.

However, Canada did exhibit leadership when Trudeau encouraged all countries to settle on a global carbon-pricing system.

**COOKING WITH GAS:** Some COP26 pledges also targeted methane: within 20 years of being released into the atmosphere, this greenhouse gas has 80 times more potential to cause warming than carbon dioxide.

While governments work to reduce industrial methane emissions, including from agriculture and resource extraction, individual lifestyle actions can also limit warming by this potent gas. Diets that frequently include beef and lamb carry a substantial methane footprint.

Methane is also produced when organic materials like food and fabric break down in landfills without oxygen. Composting food waste and recycling textiles reduce local methane emissions; for example, clothes, shoes and accessories can be recycled at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in St. Catharines.

**EVERGREEN INVESTMENT:** Though many have already made this shift, hybrid or electric vehicles will soon become the new norm. At COP26, countries signed several different agreements aiming to sell only zero-emission vehicles by 2040.

In the meantime, personal travel footprints can be lowered by using public transit or active transportation (walking, cycling, roller skating).

Air travel is often the largest personal greenhouse gas contribution. If flying is unavoidable, buying carbon offsets is inexpensive: a round-trip from Toronto to the Bahamas can be offset for less than \$35.

At the climate conference, more than 100 countries agreed to stop deforestation by 2030; together, those nations are responsible for 85 per cent of the world’s forests. Planting and protecting native trees on our own private properties, as well, can be a valuable contribution.

Even several hundred financial organizations, which collectively manage assets worth \$130 trillion, agreed to shift investment strategies to prioritize net-zero emissions by 2050. This will involve funding renewable energy and divesting from fossil fuels; on a smaller scale, these are also valuable parameters to set for personal investment accounts.

COP26 highlighted the urgency of the climate crisis, the obsolescence of fossil fuels and the need to collaborate with fellow nations and nature itself to prevent severe climate change impacts.

That said, success in this global challenge will require individual contributions and continued pressure on companies and governments to follow through on agreements.

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



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# A glimpse into the **Niagara Parks Power Station**

Sponsored  
Submitted

For more than 100 years, the Canadian Niagara Power Company Generating Station harnessed the powerful energy of the Horseshoe Falls and turned it into a great source of electricity for communities in western New York and southern Ontario.

After lying dormant for over 15 years, the doors to the reimagined Niagara Parks Power Station have now reopened to offer visitors an in-depth look inside the only fully intact, decommissioned hydroelectric power plant of its era remaining in the world.

More than 400 people worked to restore the historic facility and transform it into Niagara Falls' newest must-see attraction. Phase one of the Niagara Parks Power Station first opened to the public in July 2021 with new experiences currently in development to launch in July 2022.

**An engaging, educational experience for all ages**

Repurposed artifacts, interpretive exhibits and interactive installations offer a first-hand look at how this hydropower pioneer



"Little Inventors" workshop is designed to inspire kids to explore science and technology. SUPPLIED

was constructed at the turn of the century and how it harnessed the power of water to generate electricity for more than 100 years.

The original equipment in the main generator hall was meticulously shined and restored to showcase the incredible power-generating technology built in the early 1900s. The revolutionary works of innovators like Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse are also highlighted in captivating stories located throughout the building.

**Nighttime Experience**

The Niagara Parks Power Station comes to life at night with Currents: Niagara's Power Transformed.

This one-of-a-kind nighttime experience, created by

Thinkwell Studios Montreal, combines interactive media, mesmerizing lights and a breathtaking musical score to transform the heart of the station into a magical cathedral of power.

In this playful experience for all ages, visitors can rediscover the incredible history of this iconic building from an extraordinary perspective as they become part of the awe-inspiring sequences of Currents.

**Enriching workshops for the little ones**

Hosted twice-daily on Saturdays and Sundays, the Little Inventors Workshops offer STEM-related activities designed to inspire young minds to explore their curiosity and creativity through science, technology, engineering and mathemat-

ics. Children will have the chance to make their own battery, design a simple circuit, recreate famous inventions and more.

Access to these educational workshops is included with regular child admission to the Niagara Parks Power Station and all materials are provided.

**More to come in 2022**

As grand as the Niagara Parks Power Station is above ground, the scale of its underground infrastructure may be even more impressive. Beginning in July 2022, visitors will be able to travel down 180 feet beneath the main generator hall to discover the tunnel at the Niagara Parks Power Station. Travelling in a glass walled elevator, visitors will descend to the wheelpit below and begin their walk through the tunnel to the exit portal located 2,200 feet away at the base of the Niagara Gorge. Here they will experience unparalleled views of the Horseshoe and American Falls from an all-new vantage point.

Additional information and tickets for the Niagara Parks Power Station are available at [niagaraparks.com/power](http://niagaraparks.com/power).

**NIAGARA PARKS**

**EXPERIENCE THE POWER**

Feel the charge of the all-new Niagara Parks Power Station. From the most towering turbine to the tiniest detail, uncover captivating stories hidden within the only fully intact, decommissioned hydroelectric power plant of its era in the world.

At night, experience Niagara's newest must-see attraction from an incredible perspective with Currents: Niagara's Power Transformed. This one-of-a-kind nighttime experience, created by Thinkwell Studios Montreal, combines interactive media, mesmerizing lights and a breathtaking musical score to transform the heart of the station into a magical cathedral of power.

*Niagara Parks*  
**POWER STATION**  
EST. 1905

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*Starring*

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 Melanie Janzen	 Jamie Williams
<b>DEC 8, 11, 12</b>	<b>DEC 9</b>
 Donna Belleville	 Ric Reid
 Jenny L. Wright	 Juan Carlos Velis
<b>DEC 14</b>	<b>DEC 15 &amp; 16</b>
 Karen Wood	 Shawn Wright
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**BE AMONG THE FIRST TO SEE THIS NEW NORM FOSTER PLAY!**

Foster Festival audiences have exclusive access to experience this delightfully funny and heartwarming holiday reading series in an intimate setting. See it before any other audience in North America!

**1 SCRIPT. 12 ARTISTS. ENDLESS LAUGHS.**

Norm Foster has fashioned a cheerful one act Christmas play that throws a widow and a widower together at their apartment building's Christmas dinner for those who are alone during the holiday season. Michael and Sharon wind up at a table for two during this December 23<sup>rd</sup> dinner and what follows is an evening of getting to know one another with all of the awkwardness and politeness and silliness that a first meeting often includes.

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# NEWS



A 2013 Mercedes crashed through the front entrance to the Old Town Avondale on Sunday. Nobody was hurt in the incident. DONALD O'CONNOR (TOP), SUPPLIED PHOTO

## Car ploughs into Avondale store, causes estimated \$30,000 damage

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

A car that drove through the front entrance of Niagara-on-the-Lake Avondale store on Mary Street caused about \$30,000 in damage, police say.

No one was injured in the mishap, which occurred before 7 a.m. Sunday.

Photos taken from inside the Avondale show the 2013 silver Mercedes sustained serious damage to its front end.

A NOTL woman in her 60s was driving but because the incident happened on private property no charges will be laid, Niagara Regional Police

Const. Phil Gavin said.

Police suspect the driver made an error that caused her to drive through the front wall of the convenience store, Gavin said.

Avondale employee Max Houseman wasn't there to witness the early-morning incident but heard it described first-hand from an employee who did.

"The clerk who was working was actually in the back when it happened. She said it sounded like the store was falling in," Houseman said.

He said the mess was cleaned up quickly and the store was open by noon. Sheets of plywood were used to shore up the store front.

There are protective bollards directly in front of the Avondale and the nearby Royal Bank of Canada branch to stop vehicles from ramming the structure.

But a small space between the two businesses is open. As luck would have it, that is exactly the spot the car went through.

"I can tell you they came at an angle," Houseman said.

"I suspect that the plaza maybe will decide to add some more (bollards)."

It's not the first such incident in the plaza. Twice in the past few years vehicles have accidentally smashed through the front of the bank.

**Niagara Lake**  
-on-the-Lake  
EST. 1791

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18**

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES AT THE  
FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESSES IN THE TOWN OF  
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

**NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of  
Niagara-on-the-Lake has passed

By-law No. 5365-21  
By-law No. 5366-21  
By-law No. 5367-21

designating the following properties as being of cultural heritage value  
or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990,  
Chapter 0.18

**21 Prideaux Street (Hummingbird Hill)  
(PLAN 86 PT LOT 31)**

**27 Prideaux Street  
(PLAN 86 PT LOT 30)**

**31 Prideaux Street (Servos-Jones House)  
(PLAN 86 PT LOT 30)**

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
this 19th day of November, 2021

Colleen Hutt, Acting Town Clerk

Further information regarding these designations is available  
from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Any inquiries may be  
directed to Jeremy Parsons, Heritage Planner at 905-468-6481, or  
905-468-3061 ext. 297, or by email at [jeremy.parsons@notl.com](mailto:jeremy.parsons@notl.com).



The Shrine of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, currently under construction near Akka in Israel

## Centenary of the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

The Bahá'í Community of Niagara-on-the-Lake - along with Bahá'ís the world over - are commemorating this year the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the individual they know as the Perfect Exemplar of their Faith, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the son of the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh. During 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to Canada in 1912, the *Toronto Star* wrote, "What is it that strikes one most in this remarkable man? Is it his message? Is it his power of

*thought, his manner of expression, the privations he has endured? No, it is none of these. It is his great sincerity. He is a humanist of a high type; his church is the world."*

A film titled *Exemplar* is available to view or download on the Bahai.org website. The Canadian site can be found at <https://portal.bahai.ca/centenary>. You are invited to view the film and recall the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, an exemplar for humanity.

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## Writers' Circle showcases NOTL authors in 'Books at the Barn' on Dec. 4

Paul Masson  
Special to The Lake Report

Book lovers can meet local authors and buy books for Christmas at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Writers' Circle book fair.

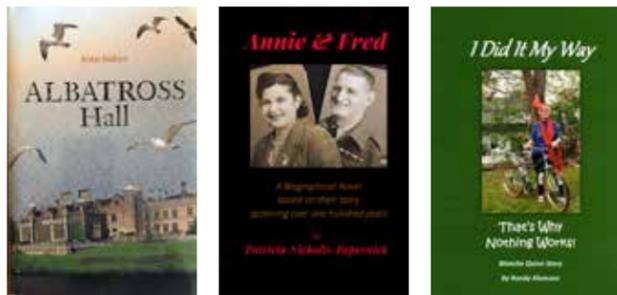
The Dec. 4 sale will be held under a tent at the red barn at 322 Simcoe St., opposite St. Andrew's Church – one of the few barns still standing in Old Town.

That date is the second day of the Rotary Club's Holiday House Tour and the book fair's location is halfway between the first two homes listed in the tour brochure.

The Writers' Circle members whose books will be available include Jean Baker, Terry Belleville, Sharon Frayne, Marie Kelly, Paul Masson, Patricia Nicholls-Papernick and Richard West.

In addition, Writers' Circle author Randy Klaassen, who publishes books with local themes, will be displaying some of his press's titles.

The books cover a range of genres and styles: fantasy, mystery, romance, historical fiction, young adult literature, as well as memoirs and other non-fiction subjects.



Among the featured books are "Albatross Hall" by Jean Baker, "Annie and Fred" by Patricia Nicholls-Papernick and "I Did it My Way" by Randy Klaassen. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

There is likely to be something of interest for all readers.

Among the recently published books that will be for sale are:

\*Patricia Nicholls-Papernick's fond recounting of her family's history spanning two world wars and her personal recollections of Camp Niagara and the ravages of Alzheimer's, in "Annie and Fred."

\*Three of Paul Masson's detective novels set in the fictional town of Ashcroft-by-the-Sea, N.S., collected in a single volume entitled "The ABC Files."

\*Marie Kelly's latest novel in her Surviving Hearts series, "Fiancee for the Billionaire," as well as volume one of the series, "Secretary For The Billionaire." (See her website, [www.romancemarie.com](http://www.romancemarie.com))

\*Jean Baker's "Albatross Hall," a tale of an aristocratic family set in England and North America during the reigns of George III and IV.

The following books will also be available for purchase:

\*By Terry Belleville, "Raising the Bar," (a young couple struggle to restore a ramshackle country pub in Australia in the 1930s); "Matters of Kindness," (Kindness comes in many forms. Nine short stories reveal different aspects of kindness); "The Printer, the Actress, and the Cat She Couldn't Mention," (a romantic comedy set in Buffalo and New York City); "Things That Happened," (a collection of 15 short stories, many of them true).

\*By Sharon Frayne ([www.fraynesharon.com](http://www.fraynesharon.com)): "Caught Between the Walls: Tales of the Old Niagara Court House and Jail."

\*Memoirs by Randy Klaassen: "Quartermaster Jack: Jack Hunter's Story," "I Did It My Way: That's Why Nothing Works" (Blanche Quinn's story), "Maxie Ross: Memories of a Dancer," "Wall's of Virgil: Dave Wall's Story."

\*Works by local authors or on local themes published by Randy Klaassen: "Berries, Tickles and Saltwater Ice," by Reg Faust (stories of Newfoundland); "Under the Trembling Aspen," by Reg Faust (stories of Newfoundland); "The Cost of Freedom," by Madalyn Neufeld (a young reader's story of the Underground Railroad); "Hero For a Hundred," by Mark Dobell (post-World War Two suspense);

\*By Richard West ([www.richardwest.ca](http://www.richardwest.ca)): "Lightning People: Discovered," "Recollections of War," "Lightning People: Entangled, Book 2," "The Hive Revealed."

For more information about the NOTL Writers' Circle, see [notlwriterscircle.com](http://notlwriterscircle.com).

## NOTL author reads his book to Sparks

Leslie Moulson  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Brian Tupholme liked nothing more than reading to his young grandchildren.

Then, because he grew tired reading the same books over and over, he began to make up his own stories.

He was encouraged to write and print his tales – and the result is now a self-published book.

Illustrated by his four grandchildren – now aged seven to 12 – his book, "The Adventures of Peewee," was published in September.

"The Adventures of Peewee" follows the tale of a dalmatian from his original family to living at a fire station and Peewee's amazing adventures as a fire dog.

On Monday, Tupholme spread the joy and read from his work at a meeting of the NOTL Sparks.



Brian Tupholme reads to Sparks Lily Sliwas, Meika Jantz and Olivia Driedger. SUPPLIED

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# Curator **digs deep** into museum's War of 1812 collection

Barbara Worthy  
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's 2021 virtual lecture series continues with part two of Exploring The War of 1812 Collection.

Museum curator and managing director Sarah Kaufman's earlier spring lecture created an explosion of interest in the facility's 1812 collection.

So, back by popular demand, Kaufman takes this opportunity to dig deep into the NOTL Museum's unique collection again, one of the best in the province, and a

treasure chest of militaria that attracts not only local enthusiasts, but international military scholars.

Join her for "Opening The Curator's Treasure Chest," on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. via Zoom, for more 1812 treasure hunting.

Today, more than 200 years after the War of 1812, Canada and the United States each claim victory in a war that in reality had no victors.

Although the debates are friendly now, the military campaigns saw pitched battles that destroyed land and lives. But perhaps it was

the First Nations that had the most significant losses, despite winning every battle in which they fought.

The cultural memory of that war runs deep in the heart of NOTL locals.

After all, the town's residents lived under a foreign occupation for nearly a year, and during a blistering winter storm in December 1813 they watched as the retreating Americans burned their beautiful settler town to the ground.

A massive library, medical supplies, orchards, farms, churches and more than 100 homes were all

destroyed.

There was retaliation and revenge, until enough blood had been spilled. Treaties were signed. Promises given and broken. But there was still the task of rebuilding, on all levels.

Remarkably, during the next few decades the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake was not only rebuilt, but entered a period of significant economic growth.

The War of 1812 defined a country. And it also gave birth to a peaceful border that has lasted for more than 200 years.

The NOTL Museum is



General Brock's hat. SUPPLIED

proud of its role in being steward for the historical artifacts that survive that period, and which help make the museum even

more unique.

Registration is required. For more details, see notl-museum.ca/whats-on/view/id/339.

# History in the Vineyard gourmet dinner returns Dec. 9

Staff  
The Lake Report

History in the Vineyard is returning just in time for the holidays.

The Friends of Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum and Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery are hosting a special History in the Vineyard (at home) fundraiser on Dec. 9.

"After a busy summer, we are very excited to be back at Ravine for another great gourmet dinner and history event," Tony Chisholm, president of the Friends of Fort George, said in announcing the event.

Included with the dinner will be a special preview of the upcoming publication "Fort George: A History," which is to be

released in 2022 by the Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada.

Amy Klassen, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's director of finance and marketing said the History in the Vineyard fundraisers have been a great source of income for both the museum and the Friends of Fort George.

Previous events sold

more than 200 dinners and raised thousands of much-needed dollars for both organizations, she said.

The dinners also supported three local restaurants: Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, the Garrison House and Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill.

Due to COVID restrictions, this will be a gourmet take-out/delivered event.

The three chefs have prepared a special menu with lots of choices.

The food will be distributed in special containers that can go directly in the oven to be warmed up. With each ticket purchase, you can also purchase up to two bottles of Ravine's Sand & Gravel wine for \$15 per bottle.

Tickets are now on sale



The event will be takeout, with pickup at Ravine Vineyard.

and can be purchased at [www.nhsm.ca](http://www.nhsm.ca) or [friendsoffortgeorge.ca](http://friendsoffortgeorge.ca).

Tickets are \$100 per person and include a \$30 charitable tax receipt.



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# Predators light up scoreboard against weaker rivals

Kevan Dowd  
The Lake Report

Friday night's match-up between the Niagara Predators and Tottenham Thunder may literally have burned out both goal lights at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

In a high-scoring game that saw goals coming almost every five minutes and three hat tricks (two for Niagara and one for Tottenham), the goal barrage came to a close with an 11-7 victory for Niagara.

The points kept coming for Niagara the following day when they put eight more pucks between the pipes in Tottenham for an 8-1 win to wrap up the weekend's Greater Metro Jr A. Hockey action.

Despite the double-digit scoring, Predators general manager Johan Eriksson was disappointed in his team's Friday night performance against Tottenham who sit in last place of their division.

"Friday's game was not a good game. Yes, we scored 11 goals but neither our forwards nor defence



The Niagara Predators beat Tottenham Thunder 11-7 on Friday. RICHARD HARLEY

helped our goalie. It was a little sloppy and we wanted to change that for Saturday," he said. "Friday night was not the goalie's fault. It was the team that just wasn't there."

Starting in net was Iain Riordon making his debut with the team, who was pulled halfway through the second period, replaced by goaltender Justin Appleton. Riordon returned for the third period and played all 60 minutes the next day,

in what Eriksson felt was a much better game.

"We played our own game Saturday," said Eriksson. "The first game, I feel like we played against a team in the bottom of the standings and the guys were thinking about goals or points they could get for themselves. And you can't have that mentality as a team."

"There is no easy game in this league, even playing lower teams. The win has to be earned."

On Friday's scoresheet for Niagara was Jesper Eriksson with three goals, two in the first 10 minutes of the game, and the third five minutes into the second period.

Also with a hat trick Friday was St. Davids resident Maxwell Bredin, who was also named as the second star behind Eriksson. The 6-foot defenceman netted his first of the trio three minutes into the second period, another six minutes

into the third with his final tally coming almost five minutes later.

Niagara's Nathan Fehr, Henry-Pierre Jayet, Mario Zitella, Noah Caperchione and Reese Bisci netted one each but Tottenham kept the score tight. Niagara only pulled ahead thanks to three goals in the second half of the third period.

On the road Saturday, Zitella and Caperchione gave the Predators an early lead with two goals in less

than five minutes of play. Caperchione managed a second six minutes into the second, with Eriksson starting off his second hat trick of the weekend two minutes later.

Tottenham's Max Brewster brought the game to 4-1 by the end of the second period, but two more goals from Eriksson, and singles from Alexander Insulander and Georgy Kholmovsky – scoring in his first game with the team – let Niagara skate away with an 8-1 win.

The Predators hit the ice again this Friday against the St. George Ravens, who Johan Eriksson considers to be his team's biggest rivals. Niagara has lost two of three games against the Ravens so far but Eriksson says his team is healthy and prepared for round four.

"They don't really like the big ice we have here at home and we're going to use that to our advantage," he said. "We will be ready for them."

Game time is 7:30 p.m. this Friday, Nov. 26, at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil.



## What's your plan to ring in 2022?

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# GAMES



*Have some fun*

**Across**

- 4. Arm joint (5)
- 9. Cheering person (7)
- 10. Texan mission (5)
- 11. Existence (5)
- 12. Difficult question (7)
- 13. Brusque (5)
- 14. Arcadian (5)
- 17. Sovereign's seat (6)
- 18. Shooting star (6)
- 19. Card dispenser (4)
- 20. Kidnap (6)
- 22. Small measure (6)
- 25. Republic between Iran and Syria (4)
- 26. Plot (6)
- 29. Far distant (6)
- 30. Hebrew patriarch (5)
- 33. Steeps (5)
- 34. Apprentice (7)
- 36. Seaport in NW Israel (5)
- 37. The last of a series (5)
- 38. Spire (7)
- 39. Preen (5)

**Down**

- 1. Helper (Abbr.) (4)
- 2. Asked (8)
- 3. Machinery repairer (8)
- 4. Cinder (5)
- 5. Wild rose (5)
- 6. Move back and forth (6)
- 7. Formal gesture of respect (6)
- 8. Group discussion (10)
- 15. World's southernmost city (7)
- 16. So be it (4)
- 17. Semiconductor device (10)
- 21. Fastens a knot (4)
- 23. Performs surgery (8)
- 24. Adults (5-3)
- 27. Paradise (6)
- 28. Accident (6)
- 31. Proof of being elsewhere (5)
- 32. Fastening device (5)
- 35. Ridge of rock (4)

## Crossword Puzzle

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		39					

Last issue's answers

S	V	R	A	T	S	A	B						
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R	O	W	P	E	R	T	I						
A	U	D	I	O	E	U	C	H	A	R	I	S	T
P	O	R	A	A	I	V	Z						
C	O	C	K	E	R	S	P	A	N	I	E	L	
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A	V	E	R	A	G	E	E	L	F	L	I	K	E
Y	N	L	D	R	F	N	E						

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



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## 'Freedom from Want'

Penny-Lynn Cookson  
Special to The Lake Report

This is a work of art – yes, it is, in spite of its creator, Norman Rockwell, being dismissively referred to as an “illustrator” by art critics and curators.

“Freedom from Want” has never ceased to resonate with the North American public since the day it graced the March 6, 1943, cover of the Saturday Evening Post.

It is a happy work because it represents family, not necessarily next of kin, but friends as well, relishing shared stories, laughter and engagement with one another.

It is Thanksgiving in America. The hardships of the 1930s are over. There is no “want” in the United States because there is still abundance and gratitude in the land. The glistening turkey is being presented by the family cook but the

three generations gathered at the table are not yet eyeing the bird – they are delighting in the company of one another.

It’s not about the food, although the table presents the side dishes of the 1940s: the covered casserole, likely holding hot mashed potatoes, the full gravy boat, a mould of cranberry sauce, celery sticks, a platter of fresh fruit and glasses of water. It’s a time without mobile phone fixation, cable TV background noise, short attention spans, pandemics, opioid and fentanyl concerns, and what wine goes best with turkey and won’t be destroyed by the cranberries.

Technically, the work scores high in Rockwell’s masterful handling of the white-on-white of the table, the composition pyramid of the patriarch, matriarch and turkey, and the dynamic pull of the viewer into the feast by the direct eye contact of the of the cheery male



Norman Rockwell, “Freedom from Want,” 1943, oil on canvas, illustration for the Saturday Evening Post, March 6, 1943, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Mass. SUPPLIED PHOTO

figure in the lower right.

Our eyes easily meet his before sliding left to the fruit in the foreground, which echoes the shape and colour of the turkey and, by capturing our attention, draws us back, up and into the composition.

Rockwell had a voracious

appetite for authenticity of detail and although he declared, “I do ordinary people in everyday situations ... and that’s about all I do,” it was American life at its best that he wanted to convey: “Santa down the chimney, lovely kids adorning their kindly grandpa

sort of thing.” In so doing, he was no slouch in his knowledge and technical understanding of old masters such as Tintoretto, Hals and Rembrandt.

Rockwell always wanted to be an artist. Born in New York City in 1894, he studied at the Art Students League, then became an artist and editor for Boys’ Life, published by the Boy Scouts of America. In 1916, he had his first cover of what would be 323 original covers for the Saturday Evening Post, with its large weekly circulation of 3 million.

Inspired by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1941 State of the Union address to Congress, which advocated four basic human rights – freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom from fear – Rockwell went to Washington to present his sketches for posters of these freedoms based on his hometown experiences in Arlington, Vt.

He was turned down by the Ordnance Department of the U.S. Army but not by the editor of the Saturday Evening Post, who commissioned the idea for four consecutive monthly covers of

the magazine beginning in February 1943. The paintings were a huge success.

In a joint campaign between the Post and the U.S. Department of the Treasury the paintings went on a national tour visited by more than one million people, who purchased \$133 million of war bonds and stamps. Rockwell had gone from being a national name to an American institution.

By the 1960s, America had changed. Rockwell’s focus and work of the next 10 years for Look magazine turned to civil rights, race, ethnicity and poverty, most memorably seen in two multiracial paintings, “The Golden Rule” which includes the phrase “Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You,” and “The Problem We All Live With” in which Ruby Bridges, a small Black girl in a white dress, is being escorted by four federal marshals to integrate a school in New Orleans.

Rockwell said, “I really believed that the war against Hitler would bring the Four Freedoms to everyone.

**Read the full story at [www.niagaranow.com/news.phpml/6617](http://www.niagaranow.com/news.phpml/6617)**

# Release your inner creative self and decorate with **fresh greens**



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Garden Columnist

Can you believe it’s only four weeks until Christmas?

There I said it – now, let the panic begin.

Hopefully, you are not feeling panicked at all. It’s been another tough year, but we do have a lot to be grateful for.

Instead of “panic” I should have said, “Let the decorating begin.” Now that our gardens are going dormant for the year, we still

can have exciting containers and decorations to adorn our homes.

I love using fresh greenery to create planters, wreaths, swags and garlands that will help to herald in the season and will last well into the winter. Even if Christmas isn’t your thing, consider it a winter planter – no sparkles necessary. There is no need for your home to look drab during the cold months of the year.

One could go wild on websites like Pinterest, getting inspired ideas of how to decorate the outside of your house. Many area garden centres offer workshops at this time of year where you can learn how to make your own Christmas planter or for those non-DIYers, you can purchase a premade one or have one custom made.

No matter on your style type, whether contemporary, classic or rustic, a winter planter can be that accent to convey your style to guests.



Covering your evergreens with burlap depends on the conditions they face in the winter. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTO

Here are some things to consider before you make yourself a planter or purchase one at a garden centre:

Think about where you will be placing the planter. How much space do you have? If you have a small front entrance make sure that your planter is proportional.

Placing a large arrangement in that small space will overwhelm the area and make it difficult to manoeuvre around it.

On the other hand, if you have a larger entrance and

you place a small planter in that space, it will look lost and have no real impact.

If your planter is going to be sitting up against a wall or fence and you will only be seeing one side of it, you may want to consider going with a flat-black arrangement.

If you are going to be viewing the planter from more than one side, a round arrangement will look best. Do you need a pair of planters to draw the eye into your doorway?

What’s your style? A planter can portray the style of the outside of your home or reflect how the interior of your home is decorated. For example, for a contemporary look, choose just three or four different evergreens and arrange them in denser groups with simple lines.

If you enjoy a more natural look, you can achieve it by using the basic evergreens along with natural cones and seed pods. If you

are the sparkle/glitter type, you can find all sorts of baubles and shiny accents to give you that effect as well.

Make sure the greenery is fresh. When you are buying bundles of greenery or a premade arrangement check to see if the greens are feeling fresh. If you run your hand along a few stems and a number of needles just drop off, it’s a good indicator the evergreen cuttings are already drying out and will not last very long.

The most used evergreens used for Christmas planters are: cedar, white pine, douglas and balsam fir, evergreen magnolia, boxwood and blue berry juniper. A variety of greens will provide you with a colour contrast as well as a contrast of textures.

Any outdoor arrangements should be made in soil. Making a planter in soil, as opposed to a floral oasis, will hold your stems in place throughout the

winter. After you have made or brought home your planter make sure you water it about every three or four days until the soil has frozen solid. Once that happens, the stems will be held firmly in place all winter.

Consider collecting from your garden. Take a minute to look around your garden and see if there is anything you can use with your holiday decorating. Do you have any evergreens that you can take cuttings of? Do you have any dried flowers or seed heads such as hydrangeas and sedums?

Shrubs with colourful branches like red twig dogwood can also give additional colour to your planters.

So, let the winter decorating begin! It is time to release your inner creative self.

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



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# EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



## Tennis at Queen's Royal

Many of you are still trying to fit in a few more rounds of tennis or golf before the snow starts to really fall. Here's a photo of an intense tennis match being played on the grass courts formerly located at Queen's Royal Park. You may recognize some of the homes on Front Street in the background. A tennis tournament was established in 1886 known as the "The International at Niagara-on-the-Lake." It quickly became a "must do" for the major players of the day. Over the next 25 years, all the American and Canadian champions would play "The International," along with a number of Wimbledon champions. In 1895, the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association (forerunner to Tennis Canada) moved the Canadian championships to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Toronto. In both these international tournaments, men and women were accorded equal treatment, a significant element during a time when women were denied the vote, had limited access to higher education and were excluded from most sports. In tennis, they competed on the same stage as the men.

### ARCHITEXT

## On development, integration and saving trees

Brian Marshall  
Columnist



Brian Marshall.

When speaking to designing and the landscape, the eminent Canadian architect Ron Thom said, "There are three choices: destroy, alter or integrate. The first option is the one invariably chosen by subdivision developers because it's all about maximizing their return. The third option is the ideal, where the architect is able to design enfolding existing slope(s), features and plants. Unfortunately, it's very rare that complete integration is achievable. So, the objective becomes to design in a fashion that alters as little as possible and, when you're done, replace in a manner that in a few years leaves no trace of what you changed." I recall quite clearly a

house Thom designed in King Township here in Ontario that demonstrated his approach. This house cascaded down a ravine slope in five levels. The top two levels were specifically designed to create an interior courtyard, in the centre of which stood a mature white pine. Realistically, there are occasions when one has no alternative but to alter the landscape. However, if you can save that rocky outcropping, that natural meadow or a mature tree, is it not the best thing to do? Unfortunately, it is far too easy to cut down a tree. In a letter to the editor last week, Victor Tarnoy pointed out

that Chautauqua has lost roughly 33 per cent of its tall trees in the last 12 years. The loss of these trees has multiple negative impacts, all of which reduce our quality of life. Sometimes trees must be taken down, but remember, if you plant an oak tree today, you'll likely not live long enough to witness its full glory. And, speaking of human-wrought changes that might have irreversible effects, we have the question of the proposed Parliament Oaks development. As regular readers of my column might recall, some time ago I wrote about the first design iteration of the proposed apartment building. In short, I thought it too tall, too massive and from a stylistic perspective completely out of context with the surrounding dwellings. The second version, as recently introduced, has done nothing to change my opinion. Aside from my other concerns, the issue of context remains of paramount issue.

By way of illustration, let's step out of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Not too far from here as the crow flies, there is an enclave of houses all of which are designed in the modernist International style. It is a neighbourhood in which white stucco and glass dominate the streetscape. Some of the designs might be considered mediocre while others are brilliantly executed. However, taken as a gestalt, the enclave is cohesive and flows from one home to the next. What would happen, do you think, if someone decided to build an exquisitely designed red brick Georgian in the middle of that neighbourhood? Not only would it stick out like a sore thumb, but it would actually diminish the design itself while negatively and irrevocably altering the cohesiveness of the entire enclave. This, in my opinion, would be the result of approving the Parliament Oak proposal in this current form.

## Looking to the Stars



## All that hard work could finally pay off

This week we see Mercury and the sun together in Sagittarius.

**Thursday, Nov. 25:** Between Nov. 23 and 25, the sun and then Mercury line up with the south node of the moon. When our ego (sun) and our mind (Mercury) meet the karmic point of least resistance (south node) in the sign of wisdom (Sagittarius) I can almost hear Paul McCartney singing, "When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be." After one month of Scorpionic turmoil, it's time to relax and let it be – not to be confused with "let it go," which means to acknowledge what is otherwise an unquestionable truth. What is meant to be, will be, what is meant to unfold will unfold. It was Nov. 25, 1867, that Alfred Nobel registered his fifth patent. For dynamite.

**Friday, Nov. 26:** The moon is once again today, void of course, until late tonight when it enters Virgo. Wait until then before starting anything new. Today is a momentous day for Egyptologists. On Nov. 26, 1922, Howard Carter broke the seal on the treasure trove of the Boy-King, Tutankhamun.

**Saturday, Nov. 27:** Today is the third-quarter moon in Virgo. It's time to review our to-do lists and get more focused on accomplishment. It was Nov. 27, 1895, that the Nobel Prize was created. It came about as a result of direction from Alfred Nobel's will.

**Sunday, Nov. 28:** Today, Mercury is conjunct the sun. We are already in the middle of the sun-Mercury cycle that started on Oct. 9. This is the full moon phase of the Mercury

cycle, when we reap what we have sown. The good news is that Saturn beautifully supports the conjunction. Our hard work will eventually pay off. Good things do come to those who wait. Forty-eight years after inventing basketball, Canadian James Naismith died at age 78.

**Monday, Nov. 29:** Mars in Scorpio is in perfect harmony with Neptune in Pisces. There is good news on the work front for some. Good health news for others. Both, for the truly lucky. Pong, the original video game, was first seen on Nov. 29, 1972, at Andy Capp's Tavern in California.

**Tuesday, Nov. 30:** The solar system is very busy on this last day of November. The moon in Libra makes seven contacts. Mercury is busy. So are Venus and Neptune. Good fortune is everywhere. One of America's greatest humourists was born Nov. 30, 1835, just as Halley's Comet passed overhead. Eerily, he died on April 10, 1921, as Halley's Comet was again very visible. Mark Twain was born Samuel Clemens and was a great friend to Nikola Tesla.

**Wednesday, Dec. 1:** Neptune has been retrograde in Pisces since June. Today the great gas giant turns direct. It's the first day of putting dreams into realities. At least until next June. Dec. 1, 1955, is an important day in American history as Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus. This was in Montgomery, Ala.

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## Obituaries

### Jack Braun



BRAUN, Jack - With his loving wife by his side, Jack died peacefully on Nov. 18, 2021 at the age of 91. Devoted husband to Pat for nearly 60 years. Jack is survived by his sisters; Irmy Woelk, Helen Unrau, Anne Letkeman, his brother John Braun, and brother-in-law John Giesbrecht. He will be greatly missed by his nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents, Jacob and Sara Braun, as well as his sisters Hilda (Charles) Handziuk, Agnes Giesbrecht, Irene (Dave) Rempel, Mary (Frank) Letkeman, Katie (Cornie) Friesen, and Herta (Orlin) Anderson, and his brothers-in-law Daniel Woelk, and Eddie Unrau.

Born in Manitoba, Jack was raised on a farm and as a 22-year-old, travelled and enjoyed many motorcycle adventures in Vancouver with his cousin Henry. He returned to Ontario in 1954. Ever the hardworking man, he took a factory job until he began his passionate career in policework with the Niagara Regional Police.

Jack was most proud of his 30 years of service with the NRP, swiftly moving up through the ranks from Constable to Superintendent. He most enjoyed his work as a detective in the Criminal Investigations Unit. Jack was active in several types of sports including baseball, skiing, and as a longstanding member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club he won many tournaments. He played bridge to please his wife and could be found spending many hours in his garden.

Jack was a hero to his family, friends and members of the community in which he so proudly served.

A special acknowledgement to Dr Young and the staff at St. Joseph's Hospital who provided excellent care which added 14 quality years to his life. Thank you to Dr. O'Leary, the staff at Niagara Health System and the Cardiac Care Unit at Hamilton General Hospital for the ongoing care Jack received. Lastly, a special thank you to Nurse Helen from ParaMed whose visits Jack looked forward to. Appreciation also goes to our neighbours and friends for their care and support.

In keeping with Jack's wishes, cremation has taken place. Guests will be received on Friday November 26th at 10am at the George Darte Funeral Home, 585 Carlton St., St. Catharines. A Celebration of Life will take place in the Ceremony Room at 11am with a reception to follow. In keeping with current Covid guidelines, proof of double vaccination is required for all guests who wish to attend the ceremony. Masks must be worn while in the funeral home. For those wishing to attend virtually, a livestream link will be provided on the funeral home website. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Joseph's Hospital (Chest Program/Thoracic Surgery) or the Niagara Health System would be appreciated by the family.



### Sarah Drope

DROPE, Sarah - Sarah Drope lived a truly happy life and made those around her happy too. Sarah loved parties, music, dancing and going to the theatre. She could listen to Mama Mia all day long. She loved to dress well, always carrying a neatly organized handbag. She loved chocolate and was never far from a can of Diet Coke. Sarah was always agreeable—her most common expression was an emphatic, “Yeah!” Sarah died, peacefully at her Community Living home, on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021. She was almost 66. She is deeply mourned by her siblings: Kathy Taylor (Tim), Pat Balasiuk (Ron), Nancy Drope, and Will Drope (Linda) and lots of nieces, nephews, and grandnieces. The family's time with Sarah was rewarding and satisfying for everyone, as we got to know and understand her better when she moved closer to home. Sarah taught us all about unconditional love and deep listening. Sarah's second family were her many friends at her residence and the incredibly warm and loving caregivers of Community Living Welland, who poured their hearts and souls into improving Sarah's life on a day-to-day basis. In particular, Amy Norman was an angel heaven-sent. She truly loved Sarah as a sibling for over twenty years. Of course, this is not to take away from the wonderful care of Karrie, Kyle, Leanne, Marissa and Sandra and so many others that deserve special mention. Cremation has taken place. By mandate from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, funeral homes have the option to provide a choice to families the option for providing that all patrons have proof of covid-19 double vaccination. Those who wish to attend the service for Sarah must provide proof of double vaccination, government issued photo identification and must wear a face mask. A Funeral service for Sarah will take place at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Thursday Dec. 2, 2021 at 11 a.m. She will be buried with her parents, John and Mary, at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, in Toronto, the following day. Those who wish to attend the funeral service must register at Sarah Drope's Obituary on Morgan Funeral Home website ([www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)). In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to The Welland District Association for Community Living at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)



## Dr. Brown: Antivirals, antibodies, boosters and **worries about the coming winter**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Remember this time a year ago, all was relatively quiet several months following the opening first surge of COVID-19 in the winter and spring of 2020.

That early days surge seemed to affect mostly the elderly and those with comorbid conditions. Then everything seemed to settle down by the summer and deep into the fall of 2020.

After the initial scare, the news was encouraging – vaccines were proving to be very effective in clinical trials and would hopefully be available by December and January. It was surreal – an uneasy yet hopeful period set between Thanksgiving and the Christmas and New Year's festivities.

Then the Alpha (U.K.)

variant struck with a vengeance in the latter half December 2020. Alpha proved to be far more catchable and possibly lethal than earlier variants. If that wasn't bad enough, on the heels of Alpha came another, even more easily transmissible and possibly more deadly variant – Delta.

There was a rush to vaccinate the most vulnerable and health care workers throughout the Western world, but it was too late for most nursing homes – even more died and disturbing trends emerged.

The young and healthy were more vulnerable than earlier days and the anti-vaccination movement began in earnest, fuelled by misinformation on social media and by word of mouth. It was the perfect storm of a surging virus

and a significant minority refusing the jab, making herd immunity impossible, if indeed that was ever possible with such a transmissible virus.

Now, I am worried about a repeat. Winter and the festive season are coming again and while most have learned to distance, socialize within their bubbles of friends and families, and wear masks, many are tired of COVID and monk-like living. They want out.

By now, a majority of adults in most provinces are “fully” vaccinated, but we're learning that's no guarantee against infections and symptomatic infections occasionally severe enough to warrant hospitalization, as the effectiveness of the mRNA vaccines and probably all other vaccines, begins to wane at the four-

to-five-month mark following the second jab.

That's the lesson from Israel and Qatar in recent months. With well over 80 per cent of its population vaccinated, Israel opened up earlier this year, only for breakthrough cases to surge in the face of waning protection. That's what the future holds, yearly or perhaps more frequent vaccinations, especially against yet-to-emerge threatening variants.

The earlier we get the rest of the world vaccinated the better off we all will be, although international co-operation on such ventures is hard to achieve. As the science journal “Nature” put it in its Nov. 11 issue, “vaccine effectiveness against infection, hospitalization and death fell considerably after six

months, particularly among older people.”

The review added, people who received “a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were almost 20 times less likely to get seriously ill from COVID-19, and 10 times less likely to get infected than people who had received their second and last dose at least five months before.”

There you have it – the booster shot works and the earlier we receive it, the better, especially for those over 60.

That's where good news about the arrival of effective antiviral drugs comes in. Given within three days of testing positive for COVID-19 for a five-day course, Pfizer's drug (Paxlovid) cut hospitalizations by a whopping 87 per cent in early studies.

That's impressive protection for those who otherwise might have developed serious disease or died. Merck's oral antiviral drug (Molnupiravir) wasn't quite as effective as Pfizer's in early testing, but both antivirals await solid proof of their efficacy and safety.

If the early numbers hold up, they will offer an effective way to fend off the virus for the fully vaccinated whose protection is waning – and the unvaccinated. For Canadians, the stumbling blocks will be supply and cost. Early estimates suggest the cost for a single course of the drug will be several hundred dollars – that is, if we can get it.

**Read the full story at [www.niagaranow.com/opinion.phtml/6613](http://www.niagaranow.com/opinion.phtml/6613)**



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