

TLR winter mag comes out Dec. 3
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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Lake Report

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

November 28, 2019

Bridge connecting Niagara Falls and NOTL reopens after 10 years

Project cost about \$5 million to complete and is expected to last 'for generations'

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

After 10 long years, the newly rebuilt Mewburn Road Bridge will finally offer drivers another connection between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

On Tuesday afternoon the bridge passing over the CN Rail line along Mewburn Road near the Mountain Road roundabout was officially reopened.

In 2009 the original bridge was closed due to "deformations and severe section loss of the main structural steel members," Sherri-Marie Millar, project manager and engineer for Niagara Falls, said in an email response.

After several years of negotiations, CN Rail agreed to pay up to \$1.5 million to share the cost of constructing the new bridge. The Town of NOTL committed to \$250,000 and Niagara Region covered the remaining cost. During initial talks with CN Rail, the company was willing to pay just under \$600,000 for the bridge's replacement – but the region and city of Niagara Falls wanted to build a wider bridge and include bike lanes and paved shoulders.

Historical research showed that Mewburn Road existed as a farmer road in the 1840s, and CN Rail wasn't built until the 1850s, Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said.



Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati, regional chair Jim Bradley and NOTL Lord Mayor Betty Disero unveil the plaque to be placed on new Mewburn Road Bridge Tuesday. BRITTANY CARTER

"The road was here before the train tracks – basically what that means is we got more money out of CN. So, really important on the timing," Diodati said.

The \$5 million investment is a project that Niagara Region chair Jim Bradley said he is confident will "stand for generations."

The winning bid of about \$3.7 million for construction of the bridge was awarded to Dufferin Construction Company; final construction costs were closer to \$3.5 million, Millar confirmed. The total for the entire project, which included pre-design investigations, engineering, a legal survey, prop-

erty purchases, material and quality control testing brought the entire project total to the \$5 million mark, she said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she believes the bridge will offer another, safer route for the many transport trucks and vehicles travelling into town – keeping them out of the

centre of the "vibrant" community of St. Davids.

"We have many people on York Road, and this will allow a safer York Road and a safer downtown and a safer village," she said.

Although the bridge is now officially open, Disero

Continued on Page 2

Tree lighting ceremony draws crowds to town



More than 40 migrant workers joined the tree lighting ceremony in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday. Local Julia Buxton-Cox helped arrange for them to come share the evening.

Local woman helps in sharing downtown holiday joy with migrant workers, most of whom had never been to Old Town before

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

People gathered around the Old Court House steps for Sunday evening's Christmas tree lighting while the St. Michael Catholic Elementary School choir serenaded the crowd – but this year's celebration connected the town more than ever.

Many farm workers who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake seasonally have never made it to Old Town

but on Sunday, a group of Mexican workers joined in on the town's holiday spirit during the festivities for the first time.

It was also the first time a tree lighting ceremony took place downtown, said town spokesperson Lauren Kruitbosch. A tree hasn't been displayed in front of the cenotaph since 2014, and it was done with the blessing of the the Legion this year.

Julia Buxton-Cox, who arranged to bring the group

of workers to Queen Street, said she was inspired by the efforts of Niagara Workers Welcome founder Jane Andres and touched by the tragic death of Mexican farm worker Zenaida this past summer.

She said she wanted to reach out to help any way she could.

Of the 35 workers who boarded the bus from St. Davids Hydroponics, where many of them are employed,

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Falls gateway bridge opens after 10 years of being closed for work

Continued from Front Page

said the town will still have work to do to improve the remainder of the road leading into town.

She added that, in next year's budget, council will need to allot money to repair Mewburn Road, which turns into Concession 6 Road.

"I'm looking forward to having our guys come forward in our 2021 budget to complete the road on the other side of the bridge down to York Road so people will have safe travels," she said.

Local resident and previous council member Paolo Miele said he's concerned about the safety of the road on the NOTL side of the bridge.

"My biggest concern is the safety of human life right at that intersection

at Concession 6 and York Roads ... You've got kids out on ATVs and motorcycles and farming equipment out there," he said, adding that the influx of trucks and traffic travelling from the bridge may open the town up to more collisions.

"From what I remember there were two fatalities at that intersection," Miele said.

He said the stretch along Concession 6 Road is narrow, and one large truck travelling down the hill will take up the entire road, which he said will cause problems and possible safety issues as well.

Above and beyond convenience, Diodati said in those moments "when seconds really matter," the new connection between the two communities will allow emergency services from Niagara Falls to reach areas like York Road

and Warner Road.

"We're going to be able to take care of them much better. It's an important connector for both our communities," he said.

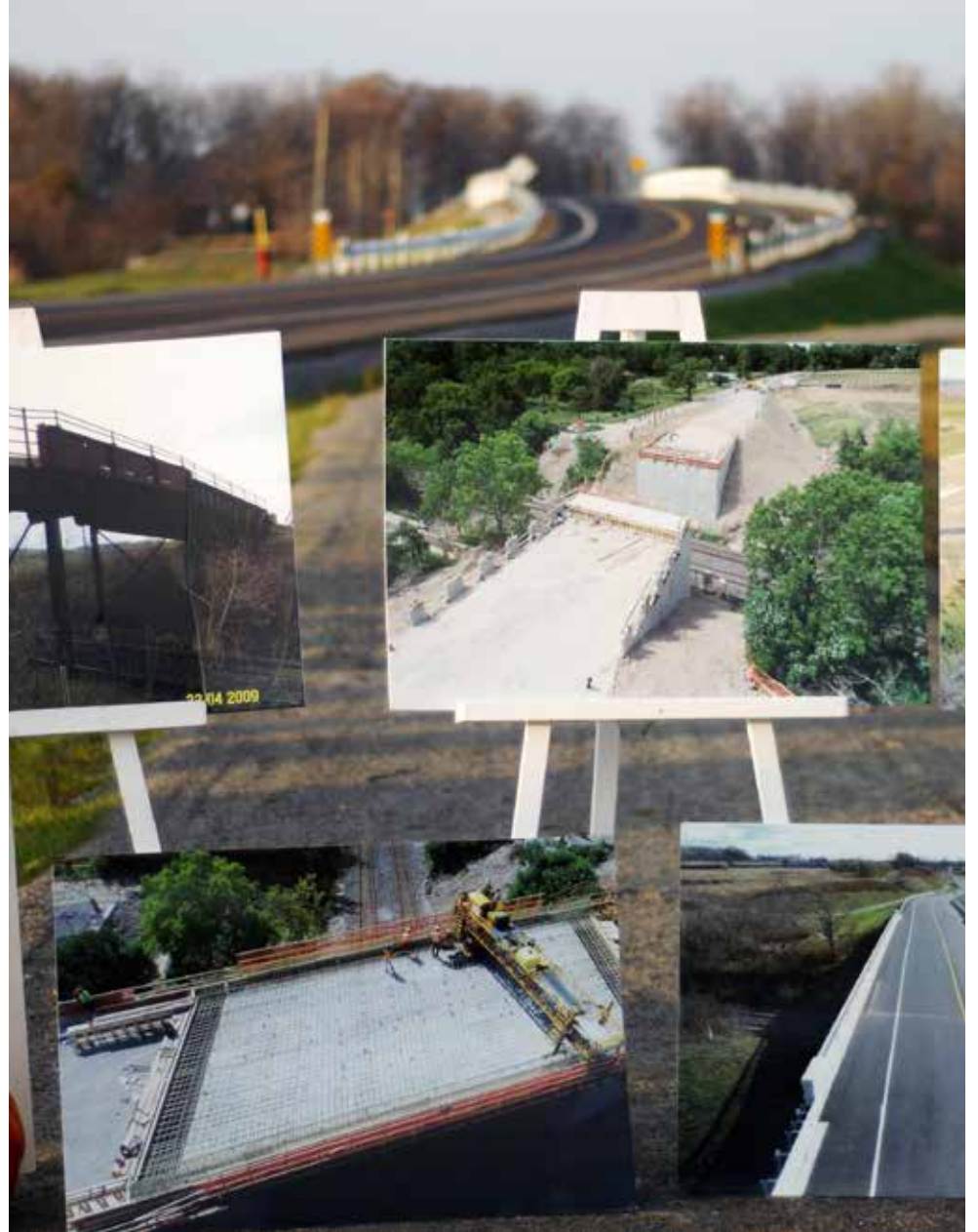
Diodati recalled the last time he drove down the bridge with his family, before its decade closure.

"We would maybe accelerate a little bit because the kids liked to catch air," he said. "Little did I know (part of the bridge) had come unattached and it was really dangerous."

That last time he drove over he said, "we really caught air" and the deteriorating bridge was shut down the next week.

But after years of negotiations and plans, he said he's proud to say the bridge is complete.

"Finally, we've got this beautiful bridge," Diodati said.



Photos of the old bridge and various stages of the new bridge's completion. BRITTANY CARTER

Niagara College campus renamed after Dan Patterson

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara College campus on Taylor Road has been renamed to Daniel J. Patterson Campus, after the outgoing college president who has made a lasting impact not only on the college, but on the entire Niagara community during his 25-year tenure.

Patterson said the surprise announcement, made by the Niagara College board of governors at a special celebration held last Friday, came as a shock.

"I had no idea that was in the works," Patterson told The Lake Report. As Niagara College is geographically a "gateway" to NOTL and borders other Niagara municipalities, having the NOTL campus named after him was a "moving gesture."

"Securing the campus was a dream come true. To



More than 600 people came out to celebrate Dan Patterson at Partridge Hall at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. SUPPLIED PHOTO

now having my name on it is truly humbling. Without a doubt, a particular highlight for me and my career."

The event bidding farewell to Patterson, who will be stepping down as college president next June, attracted more than 600 people at Partridge Hall at

the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre.

It was an emotional night filled with tears, laughter and heartfelt wishes, Patterson said, and he was "moved" to see so many people from various sectors come together to also acknowledge the role

Niagara College plays in the community.

"It was a night I will never forget," he said in an interview. "I'm not someone who likes the centre of attention but it truly was a special night."

Patterson started his career at the college in 1995. During his tenure, enrolment has grown from 4,500 students to more than 11,000 full-time students in more than 130 programs, according to a college media release. One of the evening highlights that struck a chord for Patterson was when college alumni from every year of his career, from 1995 to 2020, came out on stage to thank him.

"I know all of them and it was a real joy to see they came back to celebrate my 25 years," Patterson said.

The event, hosted by board chair John Scott, started with an In-

digenous welcome by elder Gary Parker and a performance by Chorus Niagara.

The evening also focused on Patterson's legacy and the relationships he has built within and beyond the Niagara community.

Videos showing congratulatory messages came from Ontario Premier Doug Ford, former premiers Kathleen Wynne and Mike Harris, Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, and former U.S. ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman and his partner Vicki.

Patterson's wife Sandra also made a surprise speech about their life together.

Regional chair Jim Bradley also presented Patterson with a special certificate of recognition, while St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik gave Patterson the key to the City of St. Catharines.

"I'm not sure what I can

do with it, but it was a wonderful gesture," Patterson said. "It was lots of fun."

Friday, Nov. 22, was also proclaimed Dan Patterson Day by the mayors of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Welland.

While he will continue to live in Niagara, Patterson said he will also embark on a new journey as a chair of the Ontario Centres of Excellence.

On top of being a board member of the Colleges and Institutes Canada, Patterson said he intends to mentor students and help raise money for bursaries, scholarships and projects designed to provide Niagara College students an opportunity to live abroad.

Patterson said he will step down knowing the college, which had "humble beginnings," has transformed into a "world-class institution of higher learning."

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Lake Ontario water level remains much higher than normal into winter

Experts unsure if last year's flooding and record levels will be repeated in spring

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Water levels in Lake Ontario have dropped significantly since the record high peak in June, but they're still well above average for this time of year.

Back in June, the water level peaked at an all time high of 75.92 metres.

At the same time, "the Niagara River hit a record high average flow since records started being kept in 1860," says Frank Seglenieks, a water resources engineer for Environment & Climate Change Canada.

"It was the highest flow ever seen on the river, at 8,0559 cubic metres per second. The average is in the low 7,000s."

As of Nov. 21, the level dropped to 75.02 metres, but it's still the highest level for November since 1945, said Steve Miller, senior manager of water resources for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

"The water level is still

49 centimetres (1.6 feet) above average on Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie is 68 centimetres (2.2 feet) above average."

There are no controls on the flow of water from Lake Erie into Lake Ontario, and the only point of control for letting water out of Lake Ontario is at the Moses-Saunders Power Dam in Cornwall.

"Outflows through the dam are at the highest they've been for this time of year since 1986," said Rob Caldwell, Canadian secretary for the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board, as efforts continue to reduce water levels in Lake Ontario.

"We anticipate high water levels in the Great Lakes going into spring," said Miller.

"Even with average conditions, levels will still remain high going into early spring. It would take very dry conditions to get to average levels by spring," added Seglenieks.



The water level in Lake Ontario reached a record high in the summer, and researchers aren't sure if it will happen again next summer. BRITTANY CARTER/FILE PHOTO

Several factors will influence just how high the water will be.

"This time of year, evaporation begins. When we have the greatest contrast between water temperature and air temperature, we get evaporation, and that helps lower water levels," explained Seglenieks.

A winter with heavy snowfall and prolonged ice cover would contribute to higher levels in the spring, while a milder winter with low precipitation would point to lower levels.

When it comes to predicting whether there will be repeated flooding in the spring and summer of 2020, "my crystal ball is fuzzy, there are just too many fac-

tors," said Caldwell.

But "a lot has to happen for a repeat, and the chance is low. It takes a perfect storm of factors, including high inflows from Lake Erie, ice in the river, snow melt, wet precipitation, and flooding in the Ottawa River," which puts constraints on how much outflow is safe.

Over the winter, outflow will be kept at the highest level safely possible, Caldwell said.

"We have the green light from the International Joint Commission to look for every window of opportunity to go above and beyond to release as much as feasible in the months ahead. We'll do everything we can."

Maya takes fight for diabetes monitors to Queen's Park

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Eight-year-old Maya Webster took her fight for government-funded glucose monitors to Queen's Park Wednesday.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake youngster, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age two, met with Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates, other politicians and joined the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's lobbying effort to have continuous glucose monitoring devices covered by the province.

Maya's mother Christi said their family is lucky - her work benefits pay the \$4,000 annual cost of the

monitor device and supplies. Many others are not so fortunate.

Gates presented the Legislature with a petition that Maya compiled over the summer and urged the health ministry to step up and pay for the potentially lifesaving monitors.

"We're working very hard and being very loud" to try to make that happen, said Christi Webster. "And we appreciate all the work that Mr. Gates is doing."

Maya, a precocious, well-spoken youngster, said, "I just want this to be available for everyone."

The technology for the continuous glucose monitoring devices is still evolving, but is a major step up from



Maya Webster visited Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates Wednesday at Queen's Park to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's attempt to have the Ontario government fully fund continuous glucose monitoring devices. KEVIN MACLEAN

multiple daily finger pricks and other systems, like flash glucose devices, that don't warn when a patient's blood sugar reaches an unsafe level.

"This system can save lives," said Webster.

Unfortunately, continuous glucose monitoring is expensive and its components have to be replaced every three months at a cost of \$1,000 each time, she said.

Gates said he was "impressed and inspired by the dedication Maya has shown to people in our community."

"People, especially young people like Maya who stand up for their fellow community members, are what make Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Fort Erie such a great place to live," he said in a media statement.

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Contributed by Norm Arsenault:

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Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Just because you are offended by something doesn't mean you are right."
 - Comedian Ricky Gervais.

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Editorial

Nominations pour in! Mag on the way!

Richard Harley
 Editor-in-Chief

Wow! Since last week's paper The Lake Report has received more than 500 nominations for the NOTL's Choice Awards.

Thanks NOTL!

The next step after nominations close in January is compiling the nominees for a town-wide vote, and after that hosting an awards ceremony.

The Lake Report is looking for dedicated people to help plan the event, and for eight corporate sponsors who would like to help us make it happen.

We've put together a pamphlet that explains what we're asking for, what we need it for, and why it will benefit the entire community. Those who wish to check out the pamphlet may stop by our office at 496 Mississauga St. and pick one up.

We're also looking for venues to donate space for the night.

On another note, we're extremely excited to announce our special winter

magazine comes out on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Similar to our extremely well-received premiere magazine released in the summer, the second issue of "NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers" will focus on Niagara-on-the-Lake sights, attractions, food, wine and everything in between – but this time with a winter theme for 2019/2020. **Read about it on Page 20.**

Because the magazine is focused on visitors, we will not be mailing a free copy to each household. Copies will be distributed to hotels, B&Bs, numerous businesses around town. However, it is chock full of great stories, stellar pho-

tography and spectacular advertisements promoting the best of NOTL. Those who wish to pick one up can do so at our office while quantities last.

Now, back to the nominations.

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

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

editor@niagaranow.com



Correction: In our Nov. 22 story about Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Gracia Janes receiving the 2019 Living Landmark Award from the Niagara Foundation, we misspelled her surname. The Lake Report regrets the error.

Queenston Quarry story evoked fond memories

Dear editor:

First of all, my compliments on your newspaper.

I have enjoyed the local history articles by Linda Fritz. Recently, the one about Queenston Quarry ("The quarrymen of Queenston," Nov. 14) was of particular interest.

My father worked at the quarry, and when he and my mother married in January of 1948, they lived in a house at the quarry.

I was born in December of 1948 and lived there as well for awhile.

Unfortunately, I didn't ask many details of that time, but I do remember my mother saying she never ventured outside without a hoe in her hand, because of the numerous snakes.

Ironically, when we got married in 1969, we moved into our newly built house, of all places, in Bevan Heights, next door to the Queenston Quarry.

My father's one-time boss, Carl Bird, lived down the street. There were times when we weren't exactly thrilled with the noise from blasting at the quarry and the resulting rock "fallout."

My thanks to Linda Fritz for her story about the quarry, which stirred memories for me.

*Phyllis Babyk
 Queenston*

Thanks Lake Report for comprehensive coverage of Remembrance Day

Dear editor:

We want to thank your paper for the excellent coverage you have had this month on various Remembrance Day services.

It is very much appreciated by all residents and particularly the veterans in the area.

Thanks also to the leaders of the First Niagara-on-the-Lake Sparks for teaching the five- and six-year-old girls about Remembrance Day.

It was most thoughtful of them to have the girls colour the postcards and send them to the local veterans. It meant a lot to them to be remembered by these young children.

Keep up the great service you are providing.

*Jack and Dorothy Bates
 Queenston*

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NEWS

Michael 'Mikey' Labonte memorial hockey game raises \$5,000 for charity

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Michael Labonte, or "Mikey," was known as the life of the party; a memorial hockey game held in his honour brought crowds together in a boisterous celebration of his life.

The memorial game would have been "right up his alley," his uncle and caregiver Harvey Falk said. "He would have just loved this. He's watching from heaven – he's living it, right now. He loved attention, he loved a good time and he'd always be right in the center of it," Falk said.

Labonte was diagnosed with brain cancer in the spring, and after fighting for several months he lost his battle – Labonte died on Oct. 23 at 16 years old.

Last Wednesday night Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey hosted a special midget local league game



A team member lays Mikey's jersey out on the red carpet during the memorial game for the teen. BRITTANY CARTER

and fundraiser in honour of Labonte's memory at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil.

One of the game's organizers Christine Lett said the event was planned to celebrate him and bring his friends and family together. Turnout was much higher than she would have expected, she said.

"We expected maybe 100 people or so, but there's so many more than that here." "He loved the game of

hockey, he loved being with people – so we wanted this opportunity for people to come together in a game that he loved," Lett said.

Last year Labonte, sporting "number two" was a player on the league's midget team. His jersey was placed on a chair in the center of the ice for a ceremonial puck drop before the game.

"Some of us still have kids on that team, we wanted to celebrate through

the game," she added.

The family requested any money raised during the memorial event and fundraiser be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities, she said.

"It's an organization we recently had a lot of experience with this past year which had a big impact on us," Falk said.

About \$5,000 was raised during the event. Crowds of teenagers, family and friends all came out to pay their respects, honour his memory and raise money for the charity. The referees donated their wages for the game back into the fundraiser.

"He loved to laugh, he loved to be at parties, and he loved to be at the centre of parties. Other than that, he was a typical teenager. He had a messy room didn't like chores, and always had a mischievous twinkle in his eye," Falk said.

Fire program aims to prevent CO deaths

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's fire department, with the help of Enbridge Gas Inc., is on a mission to eradicate the silent killer in residential homes – carbon monoxide.

The town's fire department has received 126 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms as part of Enbridge's Project Zero public education campaign which aims to reduce carbon monoxide-related injuries and deaths to zero.

The announcement was made at Fire Station 1 on Anderson Lane in Old Town on Monday afternoon.

Each year, Enbridge Gas, in conjunction with the provincial Fire Marshal's Office, reviews applications from municipal fire services and chooses recipients and how many alarms each municipality will receive.

This year, the company said it invested \$275,000 in Project Zero to provide more than 9,100 alarms to



Fire prevention officer Brad Disher with one of the smoke alarms the fire department received from Enbridge. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

residents in 40 municipalities across Ontario.

Alarms are expected to be distributed through the fire department's public events and education campaigns by mid-January, said fire chief Nick Ruller.

On average, the fire department does about 60 to 70 carbon monoxide investigation calls per year.

In October, town fire services received five gas and carbon monoxide-

related calls, according to the department's fire incidents map.

"In the past, we've had carbon monoxide incidents where residents had suffered from an explosion of carbon monoxide. It doesn't happen exceptionally often, but periodically ... we do experience those incidents," Ruller said.

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odorless and tasteless gas that is toxic and can cause poisoning or death.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include a headache and nausea, Ruller said.

He advised residents to have smoke alarms tested on a regular basis and ensure the alarms are installed correctly. Families should also have a proper home escape plan in case the alarm gets activated.

The last time NOTL fire department received free alarms from Enbridge was in 2015 when the town obtained 102 units.

Besides NOTL, other area

municipalities that received free alarms this year include Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Pelham.

"It's great the town can distribute (alarms) as they see fit to people who possibly aren't protected or people who can't afford it. Just to make the town safer," Henry Timmers, operations supervisor of customer safety at Enbridge, told The Lake Report.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero thanked Enbridge Gas for taking the initiative and including the town as part of the project.

"It shows a great co-operation between Enbridge and the town to assist residents in getting safer," she said in an interview.

"Most people in Niagara-on-the-Lake and businesses are equipped, they know the rules because it is really important. But there are some that are a little more vulnerable and don't have the means to get both carbon and smoke detectors, so this is great," Disero said.

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MORE LETTERS

Some farmers **quit** using cannons for neighbours

Dear editor:

In response to John Morley's letter of Nov. 21, ("Bird bangers were used in the early 1950s"), noting that when he picked fruit for George Sheppard in the early 1950s, he periodically listened to bird bangers on the Sheppard farm, I note that after George subdivided some of his land and new neighbours moved in in the early 1970s, he no longer used cannons.

That's a considerate neighbour. That's a gentleman.

The Normal Farm Practices Protection Board guidelines say that use of cannons may be considered normal in a location where few, if any, neighbours live nearby, but not normal if there are many residences nearby. And that one must take into account echoing from the Escarpment.

That's the issue.

*Win Laar
Queenston*

NDP and Greens need to work with **Liberals** towards future

Dear editor:

Many Canadians sighed with relief when the Liberal party led by Justin Trudeau won a minority government.

Though many Liberal supporters have their reservations about Trudeau, they couldn't see a victory in voting for the NDP's Jagmeet Singh instead.

Having said that, we have hopes for a progressive future in the hands of a minority Liberal government, with support from both the NDP and Green party.

We see now a unifying moment for these three parties in the face of defeating the dangerous prospects of the Conservative party by a hair.

Canada is a strong presence on the world stage and we have witnessed the destructive agendas being put forward by Conservative parties across our allied nations.

With America playing a loose game of impeachment tied to a president who is vastly compromised by foreign influences while simultaneously romancing the idea of dictatorship, and the U.K. walking a tightrope with the destructive results of a possible exit of the EU, Canada has decided to stay the course with what progressive leaders we can manage to hold onto as of now.

Trudeau is not perfect, but he is the best of a bad situation. With Conservative leader Andrew Scheer not being honest with the public about his platform with talks of health care privatization and the ideas of breathing life into a dying oil industry, he stoked the fear of Canada turning its back on the progress of addressing a climate change crisis and adapting a problematic health care system that has a history of bankrupting a middle class.

Canadians were left to feel nervous about turning to the NDP, which, unfortunately has not historically had many victories at the federal level.

Understanding that placing your hopes in the hands of a progressive party that didn't have a strong chance of winning left Canadians sticking to what they know.

Trudeau, wrapped up in scandals that were overplayed by Conservative attack ads, had Canadians reluctant to keep him in power.

The Prime Minister now has the opportunity to write his wrongs on the progressive agendas he failed to accomplish in his first term. With the scare of such a regressive Conservative party almost taking power, the NDP and the Greens need to step up and become strong influencers and supporters of the Liberal party as it is.

Canadians walk into a sombre victory knowing you can't always get what you want. But if you compromise without sacrificing all sense of progress, you can get what you need.

*Cameron Taylor
St. Catharines*

Use of 'native' in Indigenous story was **bad form**

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to your article "Indigenous soldiers honoured in Queenston," (Nov. 21).

While I am sincerely happy as a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake to see a commitment to sharing local Indigenous stories and ensuring that the many stories surrounding the contributions of Indigenous Canadians to the settler state are thrust into the spotlight, I found some of the language used in the article incredibly troublesome.

Most notably, the repeated use of the word "native" was problematic.

For some people, that word only refers to First Nations Peoples, while for others it is an implicitly catch-all term, more informal than Aboriginal (which should only be used in a legal context, due to its use in the Constitution Act of 1982, wherein terms such as Indian, Inuit, or Métis were not officially defined) or Indigenous.

While the term Indigenous is also very broad, it is the term currently accepted by a majority of Indigenous Peoples in Canada for referring to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples together.

It is important to emphasize, however, that specificity is best wherever possible/if known to avoid homogenizing the rich and diverse cultures of many Indigenous groups.

By many academics, native is cited as an internal term due to the historically pejorative connotations that it may have. For instance, native has been associated with offensive colloquialisms such as "going native" which perpetuates the idea of hegemonic, hierarchical power relations between the settler state and Indigenous Peoples through its original historical context.

While I recognize the term native was used once in the article by someone who self-identifies as "native," the repeated usage outside of quotation by the author was inappropriate.

Additionally, at the very beginning of the article the word warrior was used. Perhaps the word soldier or peoples may have been more appropriate here – the portrayal of Indigenous Peoples as "savages" or "warriors" is a common, untrue and harmful stereotype established by the settler state in Canada to exercise sovereignty.

As well, it intrinsically upholds a highly colonial notion of the superiority of Western thought over Indigenous ways of knowing, and thus the settler state in and of itself. Would British soldiers in the War of 1812 be likely referred to as warriors?

I am a strong believer that words are powerful and have the ability to perpetuate our privileges and the structures that uphold them. Language, even implicitly, shapes power structures and relations.

While likely an innocent oversight on the part of the author, I feel that honest conversations and education are an integral part of Indigenous-settler reconciliation/restitution.

Some excellent educational reads that I have quite enjoyed include "Indigenous Writes: A guide to First Nations, Métis, & Inuit issues in Canada" by Chelsea Vowell, an article by Tuck & Yang entitled "Decolonization is not a metaphor," and with regards to Indigenous women and Canadian settler sovereignty, "The State is a Man: Theresa Spence, Loretta Saunders, and the Gender of Settler Sovereignty" by Audra Simpson.

All of these readings are, in my opinion, essential for all Canadians, and have truly helped myself personally to become better educated and self-reflect as to how I can attempt to be an ally to Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

As a member of the settler state who benefits from the ongoing, violent, genocidal dispossession of Indigenous lands in Canada, ensuring the language I use and that I see being used aligns with values of respect and mutuality, continuously educating myself, and aiding others in becoming more knowledgeable about the history of the peoples whose land they live on is something that I feel is of serious imperative and underlies the basis of reconciliation/restitution.

Asking who's land one lives on, what do/did they call themselves, what was done to them, how do we benefit from that, and what are they doing now is a really great start. If you can't answer these questions (which is incredibly common!), ask yourself why, and then search for the answers.

Once again, I am grateful to see Indigenous topics in Niagara being covered by a local news outlet, and hope this continues into the future.

Indigenous issues in Canada are highly complex and it is no singular individual's fault for the oversight; it is by the very structure of Canada as an exploitative nation built upon genocide that oversights like this occur.

It is my hope that continued coverage of Indigenous stories serve to dismantle stereotypes, promote the agency present in Indigenous communities, and begin to undo structures that uphold the violent nature of the settler state.

Sincerely,

*Annelise Perron
NOTL*

We welcome your letters

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

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

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

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

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

The Lake Report



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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Glendale Niagara District Plan phase two. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Glendale Notes: Final draft of Niagara District Plan revealed

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

Glendale-area residents got another peek last week at what their community might look like as it develops over the coming years.

The Region of Niagara conducted the last of three public information meetings to inform and gather input for Phase 2 of the Glendale Niagara District Plan on Nov. 20.

Phase 2 commenced in October 2018 with an objective to transform the Phase 1 vision into definitive land use plans and strategies for economic development within the district.

About 60 people attended the latest presentation.

Attendees reviewed display panels showing proposed land use planning concepts and streetscape renditions of the district before a formal presentation by Niagara Region senior planner Kirsten McCauley.

The Glendale district has been divided into residential components including low-, medium- and higher-density builds, plus mixed uses, a hospitality district north of the QEW, and a protected employment component north of the QEW on either side of York Road.

Niagara College has been designated a special study area as the college works to complete its own master plan.

The highlight of the district will be a proposed main street running from Glendale Avenue to the Outlet Collection mall. Builds along the main street will be mixed-use with ground-floor businesses and amenities, and residential above.

The other highlight was a proposed combined community and multi-modal

transit hub at the corner of Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road.

McCauley said the next steps will be to gather more input from the community through a crowdsourcing commenting platform on the region's website, niagara-region.ca/projects/glendale-niagara-district-plan.

Based on ideas and suggestions they receive, staff will prepare the final district plan for town and regional council approvals in the first quarter of 2020. A regional official plan amendment and Glendale Secondary Plan update will follow.

In response to one resident's question concerning timeframes for development, McCauley said, "the Glendale district plan is a long-term strategy for growth and development. The update to the Glendale secondary plan will be the vehicle to implement the land use designations and policy framework to achieve the vision of the district plan.

"The secondary plan will also be informed by technical studies that review transportation, infrastructure, the natural environment and commercial land needs, among others. Following the completion of the secondary plan, the timing of development is largely dependent on the landowners and when they are ready to submit applications," she said,

While many factors could affect timing, "it would be fair to think it's probably five years before you see any major residential construction starting. The district plan vision for ultimate build-out of the entire Glendale area may go well beyond the usual planning timeframe of 2041," McCauley said.

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

Obituaries

Allan David 'Butch' Grimwood



GRIMWOOD, Allan David (Butch) 1947-2019- Passed away surrounded by family on November 20th after a short battle with cancer.

Loving husband of Claudia (nee Erwin) for 47 years, loving father of Rob and Chris and caring grandfather of Devin, Carly and Lauren. Predeceased by his parents Ted and Betty. Loving brother of Ted (Carol Anne) Grimwood and Marilyn Hackett, brother-in-law of Carolyn Philbrick and predeceased by sister-in-law Rosalyn MacTavish.

He will be lovingly remembered by an aunt, many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Butch was a life-long resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake and a long-time volunteer firefighter and ambulance attendant, while working at C&C Yachts and then later being self-employed.

Thank you to the staff of NHS St. Catharines site 3A and Doctor Maddison for their exceptional care.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life is being held on Saturday Dec. 7 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the St. Davids Fire Station, 745 Warner Rd., St. Davids.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

Alma Dyck

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved Auntie Alma (Dyck) on the morning of Monday, Nov. 23 2019, in her bed at her Tabor Manor home at the age of ninety four.

Alma was born on May 28, 1925 to Margaret and Abraham Dyck. She was raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake with four siblings, Eric, Henry and Helen who preceded her in death and Jake who resides in Chartwell in Niagara. At the young age of four as a result of an accident, Alma lost the majority of her eyesight, which of course impacted her entire life. She never married nor had children of her own and consequently her family and all her friends became very important to her. She was the first cornea transplant patient at Toronto General when she was thirty which unfortunately was unsuccessful. At the age of sixty-five a second cornea transplant took place that gave her 80% of her vision. It was a miracle after almost sixty years without sight.

Alma lived a frugal and very simple christen life. She resided at Pleasant Manor for many years where she had a wonderful circle of friends. She was quite social in a smaller gathering, however never wanted any attention to come her way. Alma could speak her mind, but she always made you feel loved. She was the ultimate "baby whisperer" and babysitter and all children loved her. Her faith was strong and brought her much comfort throughout her life and death. Following a fall and broken hip at the age of ninety she was released from hospital into Long Term Care at Tabor Manor until her passing. There she was reacquainted with her long-time friend Anna Wall. Their friendship spanned more than eighty years. The Tabor Manor staff have been absolutely wonderful in their attention, love and care for Auntie Alma and we will always be grateful for that. Although we often encouraged her to become the "First Centurian" in the family (and she quite liked the idea of that) ... that was not to be.

In accordance to how Aunt Alma lived her life ... an intimate, Christian graveside service has taken place at Lakeshore Cemetery. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so to the "Radiant Care Home."

Betty Helen (Suderman) Dick



Betty Helen (Suderman) Dick
Nov. 23, 1932 – Nov. 23, 2019

On her 87th Birthday, Betty Helen Dick passed from this life into eternity, securely into the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our mother and grandmother served faithfully her family and the community with a gentle spirit and humble heart.

Betty is pre-deceased by her husband Wilbert N. Dick (2014) and her son Gerry (1981). She is survived by her children, Jim Dick (Eleanor), Barbara Pulst (Siegmar), and Fred Dick (Connie); by her 10 grandchildren; and by her 9 great-grandchildren. The second youngest child of Emma and Abram Suderman, Betty is survived

by Frieda Andres. She is pre-deceased by Lydia Boldt, Anne Andres, John Suderman and Emily Neufeld.

The family would like to give their heartfelt thanks to the staff at Radiant Care Pleasant Manor.

Family and friends are invited to a visitation on Thursday, Nov. 28 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town Campus of Cornerstone Community Church. The Funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 29 at the Town Campus, 1570 Niagara Stone Rd., Virgil. Donations to Multiply (Formerly MB Missions) or Cornerstone Community Church would be greatly appreciated by the family. Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

Tidbits

● Virgil Christmas tree lighting is Dec. 5

A tree lighting of the pine tree in front of the town administrative building on Four Mile Creek Road will be held on Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m.

All are invited to join for cookies, hot apple cider, a musical performance by the NOTL Ukesters and a special appearance by "a jolly man in a red suit."

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Farm workers visit Old Town for tree lighting ceremony

Continued from Front Page

only two had been down to Old Town before. Armed with what little Spanish she knows, Buxton-Cox said she's connected with a group of women farm workers over the last couple months. She's been driving them to run errands and spending time with them socially. "I do it with the underlying message – which is 'We appreciate you and the work you're doing.' It's all about creating a relationship." Buxton-Cox said she approached Barry Wilding, who drives a school bus, and he arranged for the use of the bus and donated his time to bring them to Queen Street. She wanted to arrange a thank you for them for Christmas, she said, and the tree lighting presented a perfect opportunity. "I think that there's a real shift in town that people

want to know more – and they want to get more involved. We have about 2,000 farm workers who come here annually. Instead of just passing them in the grocery store and saying "Ola" or "Hi," some of these people need actual help," she said. She said she regrets she can't do more for all the farm workers in town. Right now, limited resources limit what she can do, but she said she hopes that will change as the message spreads. "We're just trying to do something that's manageable right now. This is the first time we've ever done it," she added. "I would love to take all the farm workers that stay for Christmas. The hope is to grow and to create community and relationships, so they know how much we appreciate them." She enlisted the help of a local pastor who speaks

Spanish and could help with translations. She also reached out to Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who said she was "so happy they're coming." And while bringing the workers to the ceremony and offering her time is a start, she said she would like to do more. Partnering with Andres, she's working on getting the word out about farm worker welcome kits, which Andres has been putting together. Buxton-Cox said she is sending out an information page about cost of the kits and how they can help farm workers. "It's a way to offer them something over the holiday season," she said. Email money transfers can be sent to niagara-workerswelcome@gmail.com to purchase kits which will be distributed in February 2020. Use the word "welcome" for the e-transfer question.



The community gathered around the Old Court House steps for the tree lighting ceremony on Sunday evening. RICHARD HARLEY/JESSICA MAXWELL

Sending \$25 will fund one kit; \$50 for two; \$35 for one kit and a reflective vest; \$70 for two kits and two reflective vests; and \$100 will fund three kits and

three vests. Kits will be filled with heavy duty work gloves, thermal work socks, a new washcloth, hand towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet

paper roll, Tylenol travel pack, instant chicken soup package, granola bar and Band-Aids. And a personal welcome note is always a special touch.

Polish army chief visits NOTL to pay **homage** to fallen soldiers

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Poland's army chief visited Niagara-on-the-Lake Monday to pay tribute to his homeland and to the Polish soldiers buried in Haller Cemetery at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Lt.-Gen. Rajmund Andrzejczak, the chief of the general staff of the Polish Armed Forces, participated in a wreath-laying ceremony. "I'm absolutely obliged to go wherever there's a piece of Poland and a piece of Polish history and see the Polish flag," Andrzejczak told The Lake Report. The burial plot in NOTL, which is officially considered sovereign Polish

soil, commemorates Polish soldiers who trained at Camp Niagara from 1917 to 1919. More than 22,000 volunteers of Polish descent crossed the border from Youngstown, N.Y., to join 221 Polish-Canadians for military training at Camp Niagara in those years. That part of the camp became known as Camp Kościuszko. During training, 41 Polish soldiers died from the Spanish flu, 20 of whom were buried at the NOTL cemetery. Four other Poles and a priest who died from other causes are also buried at the plot. The others were repatriated home. "I was really inspired by activities of the Polish society here and attention

they're putting in keeping in good shape this piece of history of Poland," said Andrzejczak. "I got to (come) here to see and talk to Poles and it's very nice. Also, I very much appreciate Canadian efforts and support of (lord) mayor of the city to help keep (cemetery) in a good shape. Love the respect," he said. It was his first visit to Canada and Andrzejczak attended the Halifax International Security Forum last week, gave a talk at Canadian Forces College in Toronto and visited NOTL before heading back home to Poland. He noted his troops in Latvia are commanded by a Canadian battalion, which is a "great example of alli-

ance." Also present at the ceremony were Coun. Norm Arsenault, members of the Polish Canadian Congress Niagara District, representatives from Poland's consulate in Toronto, members of various Polish organizations as well as community residents of Polish descent. Before wreaths were laid, Niagara district president Zofia Soja addressed the crowd in Polish, speaking about Haller's "Blue Army" and the history of the cemetery. The Polish volunteers were trained by Canadian officers and were outfitted and financed by France. They wore French uniforms and were called the "Blue Army."



Public Affairs Officer of the Polish Armed Forces Joanna Klejszmit listens to Lt.-Gen. Rajmund Andrzejczak's speech at the ceremony Monday. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

After their training, more than 20,000 volunteers were sent overseas to fight in France, then in the Polish-Ukrainian War in 1919 and later in the Polish-Soviet War. Following the First World War, Canada ceded the NOTL burial plot to Poland. Marek Lesniak of the Polish Special Forces said he appreciated the Canadian government's gesture in providing a training camp to Polish volunteers and won-

dered how those recruits, who were born in America or Canada, agreed to fight for Poland's independence despite never being there. "How can you motivate somebody to give up everything, your family, your home, and lay down your life for a better community? Which is amazing," Lesniak said. "As Polish people, we have that attachment to Canada because of what happened here," he said.



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Christmas parade ready to roll Dec. 14

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report



The parade is supported each year by the sale of buttons, which can be found at local shops. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 will be the parade marshals at the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The parade will start at Memorial Park on King Street at 11 a.m. Legion members will lead the procession in a horse-drawn carriage provided by Sentinel Carriages.

Each year, the Christmas Parade committee chooses an organization or individual to lead the parade based on their achievements or major milestones.

In previous years, the NOTL Rotary Club, the town's Communities in Bloom committee and volunteer firefighters – to name a few – were among the honorary parade marshals.

"The Legion has always been a great supporter of the parade so we thought it was something that was appropriate and they accepted it,

so it was great," said Kevin Turcotte, the town's manager of parks and recreation.

With about 100 entries and six or more bands, the parade will proceed to Castlereagh Street, turn left to Wellington Street and on to Byron-Prideaux Street, turn left to Simcoe Street, Queen Street, and will end at the corner of King and Johnson streets.

For spectators waiting on Queen Street, the parade should arrive there by about 11:30 a.m.

NOTL residents can support the parade by purchasing Christmas

buttons, which can be found at Valu-mart stores, the NOTL Community Centre and other locations throughout town.

Participation at the parade is free but the Town of NOTL pays for policing, maintaining Santa's float as well as for supplies and bringing in some of the bands, Turcotte said.

Proceeds from button sales and all donations from local businesses will go toward supporting the parade for future years.

This year, the Town of NOTL decided there will be no judging of floats.

"We didn't feel the need for judging. Everybody gets recognized," Turcotte said. "We thought this would be better participatory rather than a competition."

Many participating area businesses and organizations, such as Simpson's Pharmacy and the NOTL Historical Society, have interesting floats, said Turcotte.

Other participants, like the Burlington Teen Tour Band, have a reputation of putting on great shows, Turcotte said.

Brock University and area elementary schools also have great floats that showcase community spirit, he said.

And, of course, no parade is complete without the man of the hour: Santa Claus who will make an appearance at the end.

"It's the best Santa Claus Christmas parade in Ontario," added the town's community engagement co-ordinator, Lauren Kruitbosch.

Who let the dogs out? ... Virgil Animal Clinic

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Virgil Animal Hospital held its official grand opening on Saturday, giving animal lovers a new option for monitoring the health of their beloved pets.

The clinic was met with an abundance of community support as residents, clients, plaza neighbours and town

staff gathered to cut the ribbon and celebrate the new business.

Starbucks and Stone Road Pharmacy are in good company with the animal hospital nestled in between the two, finally filling the last vacant space in the new plaza on Niagara Stone Road.

Owners Ron and June Mergl beamed as they



Minnow stands as mascot for the Virgil Animal Hospital grand opening ceremony Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER

welcomed friends and toured clients through the new space. The open house featured prizes and raffles to win gift baskets, treats or specialized animal care.

The clinic is open from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Call 905-468-8585 to set up an appointment.

Gates gets flu shot and encourages others do the same

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

On Friday afternoon, MPP Wayne Gates rolled up his sleeve for his annual flu shot at Simpson's Pharmacy in Virgil.

Gates said he's been coming to Simpson's for the flu shot for the last five years.

"I think it's important to highlight these things because it educates and shows people the importance of the



MPP Wayne Gates gets his flu shot at Simpson's Pharmacy. BRITTANY CARTER

shot," he said. "It helps alleviate some of the problems with our hallway medicine."

While stressing the

importance of getting the shot, Gates said he comes to the local pharmacy because supporting locally-run businesses is important to him.

"We come to Sean Simpson's place because it's locally owned, it's locally run and I think it's important to support local businesses," Gates said.

This year owner of Simpson's Pharmacy Sean Simpson said they have administered more than 700

doses so far - surpassing last year's total number.

"Last year we did about 600 ... And the season isn't over yet," Simpson added.

The pharmacy encourages appointments to better manage work flow, but will accommodate walk-ins as well. Simpson's Pharmacy can administer doses of the flu shot during regular opening hours at both the Queen Street location and on Niagara Stone Road.

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<h2>The Lake Report</h2> <p>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES: Legion Fish Fry every Thursday 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.</p>			
1	2	3	3
Holiday Open House - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery Open Mic with Buzz Hummer - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Legion Branch 124 Expressive Interiors Intermediate - 9:30 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Ravine Christmas Market - 11 a.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Winter Urn Workshop - 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. - Niagara College Greenhouse Nursery	Free Youth Walk in Mental Health Clinic - 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Red Roof Retreat Caribbean Christmas Fundraising for Education Foundation of Niagara - 2 p.m. - Royal Henley Retirement Community Committee of the Whole - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre	Nobel Prize Series Nobel Prize in Physics - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library CARP Holiday Social - 12 p.m. - Royal Niagara Golf Club Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	STEAM Story Time - 11:45 a.m. - NOTL Public Library German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre Movie: Bee Nation - Public Library NOTL Toastmasters of Kindness - 7 p.m. - Niagara College NOTL
8	9	10	10
Revolutionary War Winter Garrison - 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Fort George Open Studio Art Show and Sale - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Gate Street Studio 358 Gate St. NOTL Ukesters Annual Christmas Party - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Swingin Christmas with the Toronto All Star Big Band - 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church Swing and Sparkle: Social Swing Dance Event - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Club 55	Council - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre Free Youth Walk in Mental Health Clinic - 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Red Roof Retreat Italian Conversation Group - 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre French Conversation Group - 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	Municipal Heritage - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	STEAM Story Time - 11:45 a.m. - NOTL Public Library German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre Communities in Bloom - Council Chambers Lord Mayors Youth Council - 7:30 p.m. - Council Room 1 Chess Club - 5 p.m. - NOTL Library Wine and Words: John Robson - 7 p.m. - Konz Winery Christmas High Tea for Education Foundation of Niagara - 2 p.m. - Royal Retirement Commu

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	28 Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library History in the Vineyard - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	29 Holiday Open House - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery Black Friday Shopping Event - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Clare's Harley Davidson of Niagara Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre RiverBrink Open House: Expansion Project - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - RiverBrink Fine Art Museum	30 Bravo Niagara! Presents Ofra Harnoy - 7:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church Expressive Interiors Intermediate - 9:30 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Holiday Open House - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery St. Vincent de Paul CWL: Fall Food Fest - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - 222 Davy St. - Church Hall Holiday Open House Shopping Event - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Clare's Harley Davidson of Niagara
4 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Parents and Tots Play Group - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church The Gift Makery: Eco Friendly Wrapping - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	5 Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Parents and Tots Play Group - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church The Gift Makery: Eco Friendly Wrapping - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	6 Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Open Studio Art Show and Sale - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Gate Street Studio 358 Gate St, Candlelight Stroll - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Queen Street Rotary Holiday House Tour - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Christmas Social and Turkey Raffle - 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. - Virgil Fire Hall 1391 Concession 6 Rd. -	7 Rotary Holiday House Tours - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Open Studio Art Show and Sale - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Gate Street Studio 358 Gate St, Annual Christmas Bake and Decor Sale - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Queenston Library St. Davids Veterinary Clinic Photos with Santa - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. Davids Veterinary Clinic Niagara Plein Air Painters Art Show Reception - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Revolutionary War Winter Garrison - 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Fort George
11 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Willowbank Holiday Open House - 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Willowbank Community Christmas Dinner - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre	12 Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Willowbank Holiday Open House - 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Willowbank Community Christmas Dinner - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre	13 Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Stuffy Sleepover - 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	14 Christmas Parade - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - King Street, Castlereagh Street, Wellington Street, Byron Street, Prideaux Street, Simcoe Street, Queen Street Garrison Christmas - Fort George

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Holiday House Tour: It takes a village

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Rotary Holiday House Tour is one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's most anticipated seasonal events bringing close to 4,000 people through expertly decorated homes and landmarks in town – planning begins as early as January to get the two-day spectacle off the ground.

It may seem as simple as asking residents to open their homes for the weekend and allowing designers to deck their halls for the holidays. But if it weren't for the dedicated committee putting in months of planning, the town-wide holiday open house would never have become the success it is today.

"After the tour ends, we have a post tour meeting, and then we start again in January looking for houses and getting our committee set up. It really never ends – it's a 12-month commitment," said this year's chair of the house tour committee and Rotary Club member Lorna Penman.

The Holiday House Tour will be on Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7. Penman said it's one of the Rotary's biggest fundraisers in 3,800 people – she said the annual event has grown from its humble beginnings to one of the most attended holiday house tours in the Niagara region.

Last year, the tour raised



Decorations over the fireplace at "King's Landing" in NOTL during the Holiday House Tour in 2019. RICHARD HARLEY

almost \$100,000, Penman said. The money raised goes directly into the Rotary, which funds charities and organizations both locally and internationally.

While the tour is organized by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, 250 volunteers help pull it off. Not to mention the skillful design talents of the four local organizations, and this year two homeowners, who tirelessly design and decorate each home.

Barbara Bedell of the Garden Club of Niagara said members have been decorating for the house tours for at least nine years. Each year most of the 67 members set to decking out the McFarland House "to the nines." The garden club also takes on an extra house for the tour, she said, which

is managed by about six to eight of the more senior members of the group.

"Every year we try to make the (McFarland) house a whole new design. Our extra home is for probably the more senior designers. We start planning in June," she said.

At that time, the club begins gardening and coming up with a concept for the design. This year, she said the theme for the McFarland House is "Christmas Carols of the 1800s."

The key to the garden club's designs is the use of fresh materials, Bedell said.

"We'll go out and pick them fresh – so we'll probably start the Monday before," she said. "Everything's fresh, we don't use any artificial materials."

The garden club will also decorate 31 Prideaux St.,

the home of Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty co-owner Tom Elltoft.

He said he's been involved with the house tours for several years – connecting the Rotary Club with homeowners and suggesting potential appropriate houses.

"In the industry I have access to that, I suggest homes that may be appropriate, or they will approach me and tell me they're looking for a certain style of home and I may be able to find that for them," he said.

After the completion of a three-year home renovation project, he said it was his turn to open his doors.

And though he jested the thought of having thousands of people walking through his house might be a bit "terrifying," he said his has always been a "welcoming home."

"We're a leave your shoes on kind of home," he said, adding he was happy to be able to contribute.

"It's such a great cause. These garden tours and house tours we have all provide great funding for things – whether it's Rotary in this situation or the Shaw Guild. It's a great way to show off our town and the pride people have in sort of maintaining and preserving the town," he said.

"It's why people love it here."

As for anyone thinking of offering up their homes for future house tours, Elltoft said it's been a good experience.

"For people coming after us – there's no reason to be afraid of it. It's been a positive experience. They're well prepared and very considerate with your time

... I think it's really good for the town."

Aside from Elltoft's home, there are five other houses on the regular tour. The special VIP evening tour of the McArthur Estate has been sold out since October, Penman said. There are also several "auxiliary" stops on the tour: the McFarland House, the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, and RiverBrink Fine Art Museum will also be decked out for the tour.

In celebration of St. Mark's Anglican Church's 225th anniversary, St. Andrew's Manse on Simcoe Street has also been added.

It's the quality of the decorations and variety of houses that Penman said keeps people coming back. And she said social media and proper marketing has played a large role in helping to get the word out.

"We couldn't have a tour without the homes and we certainly couldn't do this without the decorators."

This year the decorators are Mori Gardens Design and Garden Centre, Regal Florists and Garden Centre, The Garden Club of Niagara, and a new decorator, Spade and Sparrow. Two of the homes will be decorated by the homeowners themselves.

Tickets are selling fast, and can be purchased at <https://niagaraonthelakerotary.ca/page/events-tickets>.

Evolution of an art show

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

A group of local creatives dubbing themselves the Plein Air Artists will showcase the work of 13 members at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library for the month of December.

The group was initiated by Cindy Sheridan who wanted to paint plein air, which means to paint outdoors; but she didn't want to paint alone.

"So, she reached out to like-minded artists who also wanted to paint in a group outside," said a member of the group and organizer of the gallery showing, Janice Opie.

Opie said what began as a solo show had evolved into a group showing for the month.

She had booked a gallery showing in the Rotary Room of the library for herself, but she was unable to produce enough artwork on her own to fill

the room.

"So, I handed the reserved space over to my group – with the blessing of Carole Butlin who is in charge of the bookings. She said it was quite alright for me to forfeit my solo show and open it up to the group," she said.

An opening reception will be held on Dec. 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., where guests can meet the artists, view the paintings and enjoy refreshments, Opie said.



Cindy Sheridan and Janice Opie paint plein air. SUPPLIED PHOTO



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He won't quit: NOTL author chronicles life's ups and downs

Brittany Carter
 The Lake Report

Mike Keenan always tried looking on the bright side, even after living through several crises at different stages of his life.

He wrote about how he's coped by using humour, jogging and positivity in his self-published book "Don't Ever Quit: A Journal of Coping with Crisis and Nourishing Spirit," which is available now on Kindle and Kobo.

He says he hopes the book will offer some comfort and solace to those going through difficult times in their own lives.

"I think it might be beneficial for other people who have to encounter these types of things – particularly anybody who has to go through a major event like hospitalization," Keenan says.

"I would have liked to read something like this when I was in the hospital." That "was a big push" for

him to get the book off the ground. "I would have found it comforting, I think. It was scary what I went through."

He was hit with a midlife crisis around his 40s when he says his life was going "swimmingly." At the time, he had been married for 18 years, had two kids, two cars, a career and a house.

Suddenly he says he started questioning everything.

"I got into a very reflective mood and that forced me to start dealing with my dysfunctional family growing up in Toronto in poverty. It was something that I always pushed aside and never dealt with directly."

He dealt with it indirectly, he says, by diving into athletics as a kid and taking up running later in life. But it wasn't until he began writing different parts of the book that he was able to work through how his past had been taking a toll on his present.

Keenan, who is The Lake Report's theatre critic, worked on the book

for several years, always making notes and forming ideas when he had time, though he says it wasn't until he retired that he took up writing more seriously.

"It's something that I have been working on throughout my entire life. The book was written in several stages. When I was in the work world, I was pretty busy as it was, I didn't have a lot of time for writing."

The first portion of the book touches on his relationship with his father, or lack thereof, and his experience in athletics as a way to seek his dad's attention and approval, he says.

After an all-star football career at Western University, he was trying out for the Calgary Stampeders, when it dawned on him that he wasn't doing it for himself.

"I thought to myself, 'What the hell am I doing this for?' I had the realization that I had been doing it to get my father's attention. My entire athletic career

was inauthentic."

Moving forward, he says he wrote about throwing himself into jogging and reaching six miles a day. He composed poetry while running and talks about the symbolism of running to and from his issues.

"Because I got up to six miles a day I was floating on endorphins and a runner's high."

I thought that was a great solution, but it was a diversion. I use running as a metaphor – running toward or running away from confrontation with myself."

After an exceptionally terrifying moment waking up with no feeling in his lower body while vacationing in Athens with his wife, he says he spent months recovering and learning to walk again at Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital in St. Catharines.

He credits his recovery to the nursing staff, for their positivity and excellent care, he says.

"The people who worked there really impressed me.



Mike Keenan with a shirt from Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital that reads 'don't ever quit' which inspired the name of his book. BRITTANY CARTER

It had a big impact on my recovery. There were a couple nurses in particular that are in the book that were like my guardian angels," he says.

And as well as encouraging his rehabilitation, his stay at the hospital inspired the name of his book.

"I saw a shirt that read 'don't ever quit' – I knew that would be the name of my book."

After coming to terms with his "awful upbringing," overcoming a midlife crisis and learning to walk again, Keenan was hit with yet another crisis.

He was diagnosed with prostate cancer, compelling

him again to find ways to cope with life's constant roadblocks, he says.

Armed with a sense of humour, which he says is extremely important in making it through any crisis, and his own experiences, Keenan compiled the book as a way to work through everything he has undergone so far while also offering some solace and comfort to those dealing with their own personal crises.

Keenan's e-book is now available for Kindle at <https://tinyurl.com/yeybavvj> and for Kobo at <https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/ebook/don-t-ever-quit>.

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Have some fun

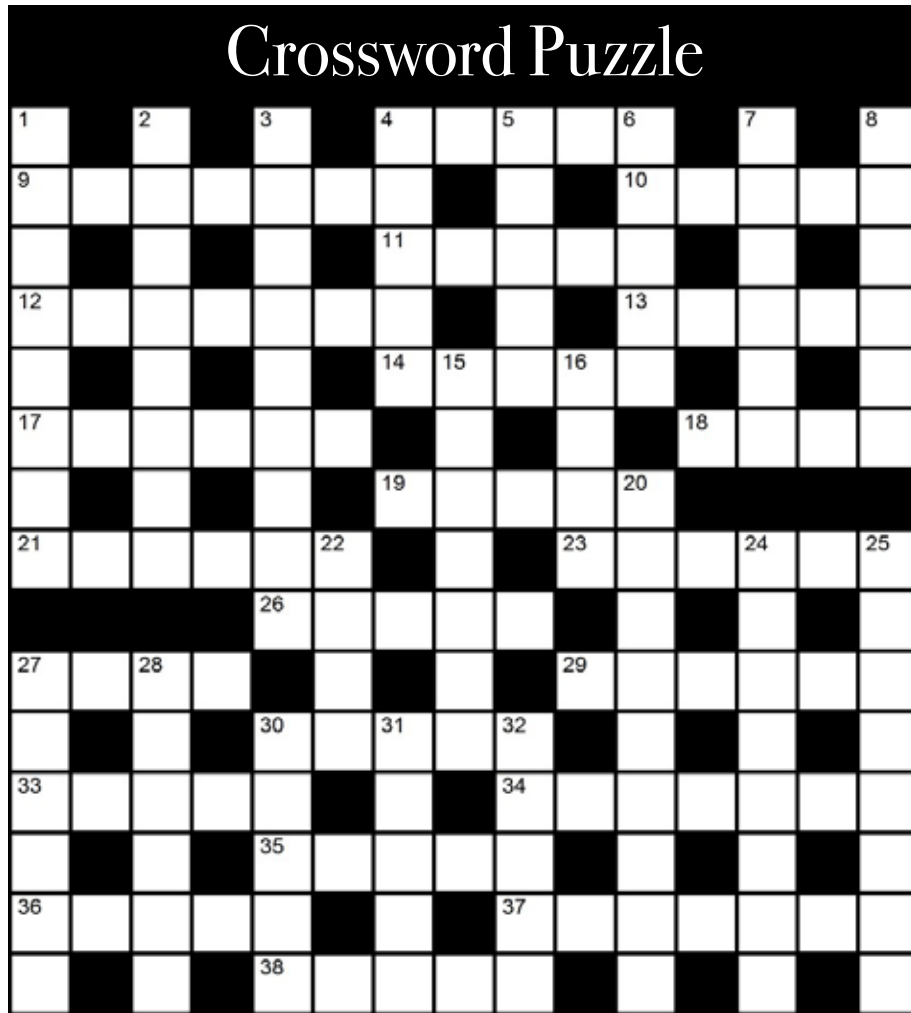
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

- 4. Thick slices (5)
- 9. Greyish-fawn (7)
- 10. Result (5)
- 11. Efface (5)
- 12. Recover (7)
- 13. Path (5)
- 14. Common people (5)
- 17. Type of gum (6)
- 18. Cried (4)
- 19. Wet (5)
- 21. Elephant (6)
- 23. Swiss city (6)
- 26. Vends (5)
- 27. Bog (4)
- 29. Bitter conflict (6)
- 30. Armed strongholds (5)
- 33. Thank you (French) (5)
- 34. Type of bath (7)
- 35. Cowboy display (5)
- 36. Metal spikes (5)
- 37. Diviners (7)
- 38. Adjusted (5)

Down

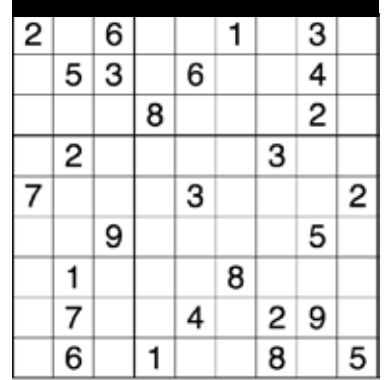
- 1. Invariable (8)
- 2. Natives of e.g. Venice (8)
- 3. Calming medicines (9)
- 4. Doze (5)
- 5. Diminish (5)
- 6. Prophets (5)
- 7. Guarantee (6)
- 8. Forsake (6)
- 15. Notice (7)
- 16. Stopper (4)
- 20. 24 hours ago (9)
- 22. Make over (4)
- 24. Qualified (8)
- 25. Purple quartz (8)
- 27. Instant (6)
- 28. Vile (6)
- 30. Being before all others (5)
- 31. Radioactive gaseous element (5)
- 32. Offered oneself for election (5)



Last issue's answers



Sudoku



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Niagara Area Jeep Club and friends gather at Phil's Valu-mart in Virgil for the Newark Neighbours Food Drive on Saturday. Steve Gulley, Holly Potter, Tayler Rodrigue, Rob Harold, Janina Montagna, Anthony Montagna, Lorraine Rodrigue, Austin Montagna and Marissa Montagna. BRITTANY CARTER

Jeep enthusiasts collect 1,400 pounds of food for Newark Neighbours

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Jeep aficionados stood up for those who have it rough on Saturday morning as the Niagara Area Jeep Club collected four vehicles full of donated food during the annual food drive for Newark Neighbours.

"We had two pickup truck beds and two four-door jeeps full, from the back of the front seats to the tailgates," said club administrator

Janina Montagna.

More than 1,400 pounds of items were collected, she said. "We look forward to next year when we can hopefully collect more."

The food drive has been held at Phil's Valu-mart on Niagara Stone Road for the last three years.

Montagna said the group is thankful to Valu-mart owners Phil and Shannon Leboudec for use of their parking lot as Jeep club members collected donations from customers.



Sandra Iafrate will shine a light on her Gate Street Studio during Candlelight Stroll weekend. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Shining a light on art

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

NOTL artist Sandra Iafrate hopes to shine some light on her Gate Street Studio in downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake during the Candlelight Stroll weekend.

On Friday, Dec. 6 the studio at 358 Gate St. will be open all day, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., with live music in the evening by Andrea Polito, who will be singing some carols and opera, Iafrate said. The studio will remain open on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During the weekend Open Studio Art Show and Sale, Iafrate will exhibit her original and print artwork – as well as offer artwork for sale.

She paints primarily in oils, featuring bold and complex nature, floral and foliage pieces.

Recently named a finalist for International Artists Magazine's garden and flower competition, she said she continues to evolve as an artist.

Visit her website at www.sandraiafrate.com, or reach her by phone at 289-696-2789.

Aspiring NOTL actress gets to meet a role model

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Some say don't ever meet your heroes, but Tate Kenney, a local aspiring actress and graduate of the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York, says meeting hers was not only inspiring, it was life changing.

On Nov. 4, Kenney introduced acclaimed actress Marlo Thomas during the institute's 50th anniversary celebration in New York City.

"She's all the things I want to be," says Kenney. "They say don't meet your heroes but in my experience that has not been the case; she was very delightful."

Kenney, 27, was asked to come in as a beneficiary of the institute, and though she says that may sound cliché – the opportunity to represent the institute which transformed her life and career, while also introducing a giant like Thomas was "emboldening."

"It was really incredible. They've had a couple little galas like this before and they've asked me to speak – and I'm obviously very humbled to do so. I love being a representative of the

school because it means so much to me personally and to my creative journey as well. (The school) gave me all the tools to be a working actor," she says.

Kenney says Thomas's career is something she could model her own path after.

"She's someone who has had such a diverse career but then always in tandem with her activism. Your art should be your protest, your art should be your politics – that's certainly how I feel. She's always done that with grace and humour and tact."

The positive influence of a strong female role model whose career is sort of winding down while she herself is embarking on her own journey is proof Kenney doesn't need to set limits on her goals, she says.

"I can do all the things I want to do. I'm not going to be limited in terms of my ambition," she adds.

"Stuck between two places," she bounces between Niagara-on-the-Lake, where she spent many years working at local wineries to fund her New York jaunts and where her parents live now, to New York, where she received a scholarship for and graduated from the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film

Institute. She is currently studying screenwriting at the New York University.

"I feel very privileged to come from where I come from but I'm also so excited that it has fuelled all of the different passions that I have, and now I'm here (in New York) I can make them all possible."

Access to the Shaw Festival Theatre is one of Kenney's highlights growing up in Niagara, she says, and it helped fuel her passion for dramatic arts.

"We're really lucky to have the Shaw because it was really the only place I knew that actors could work. And it was such a special occasion when I got to go growing up," she says.

Her love of the craft isn't limited to stage acting though. She says she'll "work anywhere for a sandwich."

"I love the work. I'd ideally love to do a play and maybe three movies a year, because there's just such different benefits from being on stage and being on camera," she says. "There's nothing like that real-life experience. When you can hear someone sobbing in the back row, there's a power in that."

But the "infamy of on-



Stefon Benson and Tate Kenney introduce Marlo Thomas. SUPPLIED PHOTO/HUNTER CANNING

camera work" speaks to her as well, she adds.

"I love that you can have a little more time to grow into something."

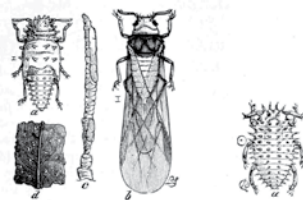
Kenney is taking the time to grow into her career, and says New York is where she feels she belongs right now. Managing the logistics of working in the United States, she says she believes her path is through higher education, which is why she is currently enrolled in a screenwriting program at the New York University. And though she sees New York as her home for now, she says she makes it back to NOTL to visit her parents often.

"My parents have made enormous sacrifices. Personally, financially, and I'm sure emotionally on their part. But they have really supported me from the beginning. Not only supported but encouraged. I try to see them as much as possible," she says.



What is phylloxera?

Each week, the staff of Ravine Winery share their expertise and offer a brief explanation about an aspect of wine. So, whether you're an expert oenophile or a newbie just finding your way around wine country, we trust you'll enjoy. Cheers!



Phylloxera. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A microscopic aphid-like insect, phylloxera resides in the rootstock of a grapevine cutting off nutrients and water, eventually killing the vine. It evolved in North America, due to various conditions, including harsh weather, developing somewhat of a resistance to this pest. Unfortunately, European rootstock (*vitis vinifera*) did not develop such resistance. In the mid 1800s, the French tried to cultivate North American vines from Virginia and didn't realize that they were about to have about 80 per cent of their vines wiped out in a matter of four years due to the infestation. This story led to the origin of A.O.C. – Appellation d'origine contrôlée – France's version of VQA. We'll visit this subject another time.

However, a solution was developed, one that is still used today: the European *vitis vinifera* is grafted onto the North American rootstock. The North American rootstock is able to get water and nutrients from the ground to the rest of the vine unaffected by still existing phylloxera. Most wine-making regions around the world use this practice to grow healthy vines, including France, Germany, Italy, the U.S. and Canada. Phylloxera the Devastator was aptly named and changed the course of grape growing around the world.

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Collin Goodine
Special to The Lake Report

Icewine is a beautiful, sweet, fruity and viscous wine that is a much-sought-after acquired taste. In Niagara, we are very fortunate to be surrounded by so many amazing wineries that produce a wide variety of complex icewines, so much so that some even have an ice room dedicated to their bounty.

This simple recipe combines a prized Niagara-grown fruit with the nectar of icewine. The crispy brule that is formed on the peach after braising, with the intense sweetness followed by the bitter chocolate, is classic.

Enjoy.

Ingredients:

- 6 Niagara peaches
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 bottle (about 100 ml) of Vidal icewine
- Dark chocolate for shaving

Directions:

Wash and cut all the peaches in half, removing pit. Set peaches aside on a plate. (Try to buy free stone peaches in season.)

In a small, thick-bottomed pot, bring the water and sugar (simple syrup) to a boil. Add the vanilla and turn the mixture down to a simmer for about five minutes.

In a casserole dish, or any oven-safe dish with one- to two-inch sides, place a piece of parchment paper. Lay the peaches cut-side down onto the paper. Try to use a dish that allows little space around the peaches. A small, eight-inch square dish works well.

Pour the hot liquid over the peaches.

Place the peaches into a hot oven at 400F, for about 20 minutes or until the peaches are a little soft and the skin starts to pull away from the fruit.

Take the peaches out and the skin should pull right off. Allow the peaches to cool. If the skin did not pull right off, once they are cool enough to handle, peel the skin off with the help of a paring knife.

Remove from the pan and cool until ready to serve.

To serve:

In cast iron pan on medium to low heat, add the icewine and allow to simmer.

Place the peaches in face down and continue to simmer until the icewine starts to reduce a little and look more like a thick syrup.

While the icewine is reducing, use a spoon to baste the peaches with the icewine, trying to cover the back sides of the peaches. Once the icewine is almost reduced, remove the peaches and place onto a plate.

Spoon the icewine reduction over the peaches and grate your favourite dark chocolate over top.

If preferred, you also can add whipping cream, sweet mascarpone or even ricotta..



Hermine Steinberg
Writers' Circle

Festive Tales: Hanukkah's story of **courage** and determination



It was a cold and dark winter's evening in December but my home was filled with the delicious aroma of potato pancakes and the lively chatter of friends coming together to celebrate the season.

A few years ago, my husband and I, together with our good friends, the Claviers, decided to organize a latke party. We wanted to share our holiday tradition with friends in the community. What started off as a simple idea evolved into a cherished annual event.

Although Hanukkah originally was considered a minor holiday, it frankly has grown in popularity as a cultural counterweight to Christmas. It celebrates a miracle that occurred about 2,200 years ago when a Damascus tyrant tried to force the Jewish people to worship Greek gods.

Jewish rebels fought for their freedom for three years, won, and reclaimed the holy temple in Jerusalem. They wanted to rededicate the temple and needed oil to light the menorah, but had only enough to keep the flames burning for one night. The oil lasted for eight days, enough time to produce more of the precious oil needed to keep the eternal flame lit.

Hanukkah is about the powerless being victorious over the powerful and, against all odds, maintaining religious freedom. Unfortunately, an ongoing theme in Jewish history has been resistance against oppression and preju-

dice, so remaining resilient, proactive, and hopeful is not only a cause for celebration but a cultural imperative.

However, the part of the story that always intrigued me the most is that in my mind the miracle wasn't really that the oil lasted an additional seven days, but rather that our ancestors lit the first wick at all.

They knew they didn't have enough oil but forged ahead anyway. The miracle was that they took the chance, a leap of faith. It teaches us that courage and determination, overcoming our fears in the darkest of times, is what manifests miracles and magic.

It is no coincidence that this Celebration of Light falls around the winter solstice, when many cultures around the world celebrate the "turning of the sun" or the end of the long dark days with feasts, festivals, and holidays. It is a symbolic reminder to search for light in dark times.

That night at my home we all gathered together to light the Hanukkah candles, inviting individuals to share their wishes for the season,

Afterward, I walked around observing friends sharing stories, toasting each other, and sampling each other's latke. It was a brilliant convergence of histories and traditions, all of us celebrating the possibility of the rebirth of light into our lives.

In that moment, I secretly hoped that perhaps we could create a new tradition that brings together people of all faiths, backgrounds, creeds, races and genders to bring greater enlightenment into our world and keep the eternal flame burning.



Jaclyn Willms and Danielle Lepp demonstrate a quick workout. STAY FIT NOTL

The **six-minute** work out challenge

Jaclyn Willms
Special to The Lake Report

Lets do this together. I'm challenging you to do six minutes of exercise everyday until Christmas.

This is the time of year exercise and healthy habits tends to go on the back burner. The voice in the back of your head keeps telling you that the hustle

and bustle of Christmas is too busy, you have extra commitments and that you'll get back on the healthy train in January.

Breaking this mindset can be difficult and overwhelming so we avoid it all together.

Instead of focusing on all the extra stress and things you have to do this holiday season I want you to add

to your list of priorities six minutes of movement in the morning or at night every single day.

Set a timer for six minutes and start to do a minute each of two exercises switching back and forth or one-minute on and one-minute rest if you are a beginner.

Make it simple so you have no excuse not to do it. Maybe each day focus on

just one exercise or combine them each day.

Bottom line- movements creates more movement and if you are taking this step every day you are likely to do more and watch a little closer what you eat.

Check out @niagarafit on Instagram for videos on exercise ideas and the six-minute work out challenge!



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EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH JIM SMITH



John Travolta movie filmed in NOTL

The John Travolta movie was called "The Experts" and it was filmed here in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1989. Many good movies were made in town but this film was a flop. As part of the set, a store that at the time was home to Rolly's Jewellers was renamed Jones Insurance.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

ARCHITEXT

It's a **rarity**
in NOTL

Brian Marshall
Featured



A Second Empire in Niagara. SUPPLIED PHOTO

There is something glorious about fully-expressed Second Empire buildings. Perhaps it has to do with the vertical lines, which draw one's eyes upward. Then again, it may be the continental flavour imparted by the mansard roof and Italianate-styled windows. But whatever the source of this feeling might be, there is an undeniable presence about this architecture that makes most folks stop and stare. Regionally, Niagara is blessed by a good number of stellar Second Empire homes that were designed

and built as full expressions of the style. Popular in North America between 1860 and 1890, Second Empire homes often incorporated Italianate and Gothic elements, but the mansard roof truly defined the style. The mansard was a two-sloped hipped roof that created a full upper storey which was typically finished but still defined as an "attic" (at a time when attics were exempt from tax). Almost without exception, dormer windows with decorated surrounds were set in the lower slope, often

against a decorative pattern of multi-coloured slate roof tile. Many of the surviving Niagara houses possess a tower (or faux tower) on the facade which rises to break the main mansard roof line and can (as shown in this photo) have a different roof silhouette. These homes seem to soar skyward, unabashedly proud of their embellishments. So, is Second Empire styling absent from NOTL? No, there are buildings after the Second Empire style, however likely none are "as-built." There are a couple of mansard-roofed

vernacular cottages but there is strong evidence to suggest the roofs were later renovations. Randwood, impressive though it might be, is also an 1870s large-scale face-lift to Second Empire from its original Regency style. The Prince of Wales? It, too, was retrofitted to Second Empire in the 1870s when it was still the Long Hotel. Interestingly, this last reno may provide a clue in explaining the scarcity of design-built Second Empire homes in town. To underwrite the hotel renovation one of the owners, Frederick Date, took a mortgage on his home; a home he eventually lost when an economic recession that began in 1873, compounded by a run on Wall Street in 1884, hit both tourism dollars and general business revenues. Second Empires were expensive to build when money, for most, would have been very tight.

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NIAGARA'S HISTORY
UNVEILED

The house in the crate



Denise Ascenzo
Exclusive/The Lake Report

It was just a small one-and-a-half storey home, built by David Secord in 1803, then destroyed during the War of 1812 when American forces burned St. Davids to the ground on July 19, 1814. The only remnants of the small home left standing were the fireplace and massive chimney.

The Secords, like all survivors of the war, rebuilt their home. A new one-and-a-half storey house was built around that fireplace and chimney in the latter part of 1814. By 1815, the Secords added a summer kitchen to the back of the house.

Richard Woodruff, who ran a successful general store in St. Davids, purchased the Secord home for his family in 1824. In 1827, William Woodruff (brother to Richard) added an addition onto the front of the first structure in the Wilderness Georgian/Loyalist Georgian design. Then another and final addition, the parlour, was added to the home sometime before the 1860s.

Richard Woodruff died in 1860. The Woodruff family continued to live in the house until 1882 when Mrs. Margaret Woodruff died.

After her death, the house was divided into apartments that were rented out to families who were new to the area. Sometimes three or four families lived in the house at any given time. The home became affectionately known by the locals as the "House of Nations." Although rented out, the house remained in the Woodruff family, the last



The welcome centre for Ravine Winery has a long and interesting history, having left St. Davids in a box, only to return years later. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

owner being Maj. Wilfred Woodruff.

In 1967, things took a funny turn for the house. Maj. Woodruff sold it to Judge Cudney, who then sold it to Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Doerr of Caledon Ont.

It was the Doerrs who decided to move the house. From 1969 to 1970 the house was dismantled. Each beam, post, door, floor board, every single item in the house was numbered, documented and then crated. This meticulous, time-consuming job was done by the architect firm of Fin Fris. The entire house, now all in crates, was moved to Caledon, where it was to be reconstructed.

Unfortunately, the recon-

struction never happened. In 1992, Douglas Doerr died. Mrs. Doerr did not want to take on the project so her son sold the entirely crated house to David and Bruce Chamber of Bond Head, Ont. The crated house was moved there.

For some reason though, the house remained crated and was sold again, this time to Peter and Jane Rumgay of Port Hope. Their plan was to rebuild the home on a lake lot in Port Hope.

Once again, the house did not get rebuilt and sat for another few years in crates.

In 2003, Norma Jane and Blair Harber, the owners of Ravine Winery, tracked down the location of the house. The Harbers con-

tacted the Rumgays, offering to purchase the still-crated home.

The Rumgays agreed and the home was once more on the move, this time back to its roots in the village of St. Davids. It would be rebuilt this time and would become the welcome centre for Ravine Winery.

In 2004, Jane Burgess, of Stevens Burgess Architects, started the restoration of the home's many components. Marion MacRae, a renowned Canadian architectural historian, documented in her book "The Ancient Roof" the entire structure of the building. The detailed drawings and research that MacRae had done on the home was a great asset to the Burgess

Architects during the restoration.

In her notes about the house, MacRae referred to it as a "valiant beauty of a dying house." By 2007, full construction of the entire complex started. In November 2008 the temporary tasting room was opened in the newly reconstructed summer kitchen.

The Harbers had been told that there was a painting of the house done by Frederick S. Haines. He was a colleague and friend of the Group of Seven. He had painted a picture of the home in 1937, calling it the "House in St. Davids Where Wm. Lyon Mackenzie Lodged."

More research was done; the painting was located

and purchased by the Harbers in 2007. As a side note, there is no documentation to prove that Mackenzie ever stayed in the home.

So, 40 years after the home was moved from St. Davids, the "House of Nations" was back where it all started and opened its doors to welcome all to enjoy a small piece of history.

And, yes, that original fireplace and massive chimney that stood strong during the burning of St. Davids in 1814 proudly still stands today in the home.

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



COMMUNITY



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



Caroling fun



Royal Oak students headed over to the Romance Gallery to place handmade decorations on Monday. SUBMITTED BY LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO



Despite the apparent abundance and wealth in Niagara-on-the-Lake, there are those in need. For the third year, NOTL Sparks decorated grocery bags for the Christmas clients of Newark Neighbours. Guiders explained to the girls that not everyone is able to afford a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. It made the girls happy to know the bags were often used for the "good stuff" — cookies, candy and dessert. SUBMITTED BY LESLIE MOULSON



The Village gets lit

Sunday, Nov. 24 marked the 8th annual Village Holiday lighting ceremony. At 5:30 p.m. Dale Des Islets welcomed the local residents who gathered for the traditional lighting and with the assistance of some of his team, signalled the lights to be turned on. Dale and his team of 30 volunteers once again brought magic to the Village!

After the initial lighting in Dietsch Park, everyone carried on to the park at Jordan and Norton streets for hot apple cider and cookies provided by the Village Social Committee along with the help of 20 volunteers. The Evergreen Singers entertained the residents with Christmas carols which added to the celebration.

The trees full of colour throughout the Village is always a beautiful start to the holiday season and contributes to the town's holiday festivities.



THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

With Betty and Jane

Pillitteri Estates



Sandra Sanchez accepts the Golden Plunger for Pillitteri Estates. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

Pillitteri Estates Winery is on Niagara Stone Road and provides an "Olympic" experience, proudly presenting "Team Canada's" wine collection and a donation is made to the team for every bottle sold. You will find this winery steeped in local viticulture and agriculture history with over 50 years of growth. Leave ample time to soak in a tour of their wine production facilities. Now on to the "toiletas." The first thing we noticed were unique, large wood and cork doors leading into the accessible restrooms. Inside, the room was divided into two distinct areas. The first space encouraged "final touches" for your overall appearance and the inner sanctuary allowed visitors to do their "business" in private single stalls. Overall, a very comfortable and well "corked" experience.

3.5/5 Golden Plungers



NOTL DART LEAGUE

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

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Tarot of the week

Lisa Tache/Special

DATE: Nov. 29, 2019

With the Ace of Cups, you are bursting with love and compassion. You are experiencing pure joy and emotional fulfilment. This is the time for new beginnings and growth. Open your heart and experience the flow of

emotion available to you right now. You are more receptive to creative opportunities and loving connections.

New relationships or friendships may bring new romances. Don't be afraid to open yourself up to giving and receiving unconditional love. You'll bring great happiness to those around you. And you will find that the more you give, the more you receive on all levels.

ASK YOURSELF THIS:

How is love flowing through me right now?

RIDDLE ME THIS

I'm seen in the middle of March and April, but can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month. What am I?

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

Answer: Queue

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly by: Lynne Stewart, Denorah Centeno, Win Laar, Ginny Green, Lida Kowal, Shelly McCloy, Jo Penner, Betty Brunton, Gary Davis, Katie Reimer, Jim Handman, Doug Bruce, Ruby Eltoft, Olivia Santelli, Gabriel Santelli, Aine O'Neill, Marilyn Milani, Isabelle Pilon, Pam Dowling, Lynn Macaulay

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



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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

Lake Report winter magazine captures very best of NOTL

NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers is available Dec. 3

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

We at The Lake Report are happy to announce the publication of our special Winter Edition magazine which will be available Dec. 3.

After an outpouring of positive feedback from residents, community members and business owners alike about our special Summer Edition magazine, we set out to shine a light on the cozy hangouts, exciting activities and festive events that make Niagara-on-the-Lake the gorgeous winter wonderland it has become renowned for.

Read about the finest ways to celebrate the winter season in NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers.

Learn more about a few of the town's choice restaurants and why The Lake Report deemed them five-star locations. Each eatery offers its own unique dining experi-

ence and ambiance.

Lace up those skates and head to the skating rink near Fort George National Historic Site, which features a warming ambiance, special events and open skating times from December until March.

The Meridian Credit Union Arena is another hotspot for open skating times.

And you can't forget the Wayne Gretzky Estate Winery's signature outdoor rink and whiskey bar.

Follow along on a self-guided walking tour, exploring the hidden stories of NOTL's interesting history and oldest buildings with the guidance of Niagara's History Unveiled columnist Denise Ascenzo. The history unveiled contributions are a staple segment in each week's issue of The Lake Report since its inception.

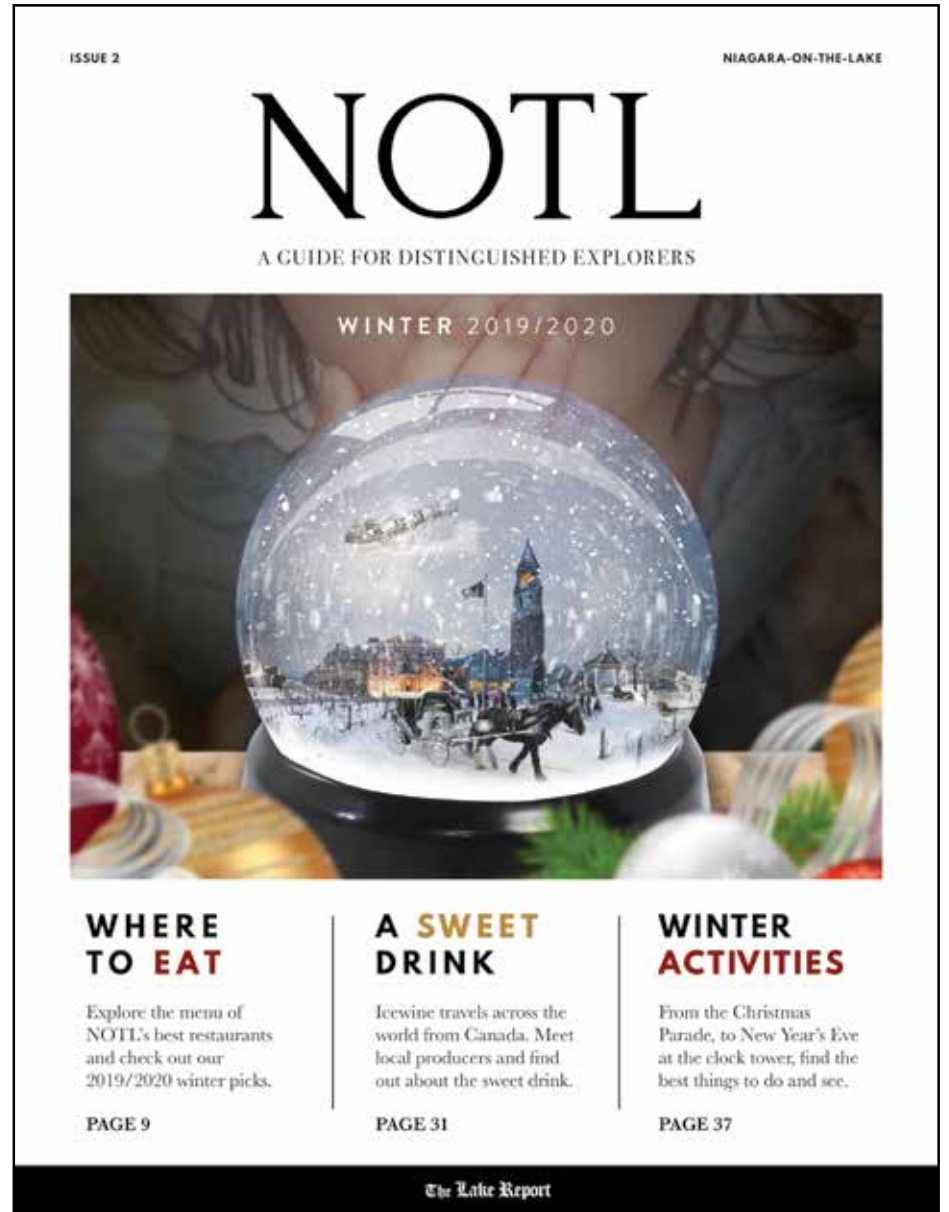
NOTL's resident Santa Claus and contributing writer

Tim Taylor imparts holiday wisdom and advice with a "nice-to-do" list of local activities and events.

And don't forget about the Candlelight Stroll and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Parade – holiday must-sees which take place each year in the core of Old Town.

As nights draw longer and days grow colder the holiday spirit in Niagara-on-the-Lake is just ramping up – pick up a copy of our special edition so you won't miss out on any of the action.

Because the magazine is focused on visitors, copies will be distributed to hotels, B&Bs and numerous businesses around town. However, it is chock full of great stories, stellar photography and spectacular advertisements promoting the best of NOTL. Feel free to pick one up in town or drop by our office to get one while quantities last.



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