



## Developer **withdraws** Rand designation challenge

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Development company Solmar has dropped its challenge to the town's plans to designate parts of the Rand Estate under the Ontario Heritage Act.

In a letter Tuesday to the Conservation Review Board, a lawyer for Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc. and Two Sisters Resorts Corp. said while their objections have been withdrawn, "our clients intend to pursue alternative remedies."

*Continued on Page 2*



Alan Gordon.

## Resident urges people to attend **Parliament Oak** public meeting

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Alan Gordon wants everyone who cares about the future of the former Parliament Oak school site to take part in a public meeting on Nov. 8.

A resident of Regent Street, near the old school, Gordon has concerns about the proposed development for the site.

Gordon, who also spoke at the initial open house for the project earlier this year, said he's gone through both

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# Cascade of poppies adorns museum

Volunteers spent hundreds of hours crocheting 3,500 poppies for display



Museum volunteers spent Monday morning hanging a patchwork display of 3,500 poppies from the museum entrance. EVAN SAUNDERS

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Nearly 3,500 bright red hand-crocheted poppies now adorn the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's facade to honour Remembrance Day.

Volunteer Terry Mactaggart

likened the weeks of work making the poppies to the experiences of women during the Great War.

"You really almost felt like you were helping with the war cause," Mactaggart said as volunteer crews from Davy Tree Service helped string up the poppies.

Mactaggart said the group of women who crocheted the poppies were akin to women during the war having to work in munitions factories while the men fought and lost their lives in the muddy, noxious trenches scarring the European continent.

"It was so wonderful to

see all the women coming together. Most of us didn't know each other," she said.

Mactaggart said as soon as she heard about the project she had to get involved.

"It's just so appropriate for Remembrance Day," she said.

Museum director Sarah Kaufman agreed, saying the

poppy display grew into more than an ode to the fallen heroes of the First World War, it became a symbol of "community participation."

"This selection of women who have come out to work on this project for

*Continued on Page 8*

# \$3 on-demand transit **expanded** to all of NOTL

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

It's not quite dial-a-bus or your own personal taxi service. But it's close. And cheaper.

After a year-long pilot project, the NRT OnDemand transit service has been expanded to include all of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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The change will allow more riders to use transit whenever they need it, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Region of Niagara said in an announcement on Nov. 1.

Rob Salewytch, the region's transit service program manager, noted the service originally included two vehicles providing trips along Niagara Stone Road and the areas of Old Town, Virgil and Glendale.

Now, "NRT OnDemand will pick you up where you are or close to it. There are no bus stops or designated

*Continued on Page 3*



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## Exclusive: Santa says he's **looking forward** to NOTL drive-by parade

*Due to the COVID pandemic, Niagara-on-the-Lake is holding a drive-by Christmas parade again this year. Santa will make a special visit to town and will make the rounds of all the communities of NOTL for Santa Around the Town. In the meantime, he has sent us this special dispatch, direct from the North Pole. He's looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.*

Santa Claus  
Special to The Lake Report

Ho-ho-hello to all the families in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake. I have been asked by the NOTL Christmas Parade

committee to make my appearance again this year and I am truly looking forward to the trip.

Last year was one of the most unique parades that I have been involved with as it took me through all the different suburbs from Glendale to St. Davids to Queenston to Old Town to Garrison Village and finishing up in Virgil.

What an amazing view to see all the beautiful, decorated houses from the street rather than overlooking them all from the rooftops.

Riding around on the float was much quieter than usual as I missed the music from all the bands but it brought me much closer to those



Santa Claus is excited to come to town. FILE PHOTO

watching me go by.

Of course, the crowds were much smaller but I found this a much more personal experience for myself and for everyone who came out.

The most unique adven-

ture last year was when I actually climbed down from the Santa float and was able to mingle with some of the families along the way.

Also getting to travel along many of the rural concessions and lines gave

me a different perspective of the beauty of the whole area, especially in daytime. (It looks a lot different at night, when I usually visit.)

I know it would be impossible for me to do something like this on Christmas Eve because I have so many countries to visit all around the world, so many houses to stop at, so many cookies and glasses of milk to eat and drink.

I have to use my wonderful reindeer to fly me from all over the world, to visit every house with a load of presents for all the wonderful boys and girls.

So, I look forward to visiting all the areas of Niagara-on-the-Lake again this year.

I haven't received an official date and route for this year's drive-by so keep watching The Lake Report for all that information.

I hope we will have nice weather on the day and I again remind all the moms and dads out there to help Santa (my memory isn't what it used to be). Please call out the names of the children along the way or signs, black on white with large letters, really helps me. My vision isn't what it once was. Ho, ho, ho ...

I am looking for Ward to being part of the Christmas season once again in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Merry Christmas – I will see everyone soon!

## Hydro offices **closed** after two vaccinated staff contract COVID

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro hopes to reopen its offices on Monday after two fully vaccinated employees tested positive for COVID-19.

Both workers have had mild symptoms and are recovering, hydro president Tim Curtis said in an interview.

One employee, who was home because he wasn't feeling well, was infected after his two children contracted the virus at their Niagara Falls school last week, Curtis said. The children have now recovered, he said.

It is not known how the second worker became infected though it is suspected



NOTL Hydro's offices were closed by a COVID outbreak this week. FILE

he was exposed to COVID by earlier contact with the first employee.

That second worker was negative on a rapid antigen test last Friday at work but tested positive on Monday and subsequently on a PCR test.

"It just shows you how infectious this virus is," Curtis said.

All 18 of NOTL Hydro's

staff members are fully vaccinated and follow COVID protocols in the office, he said. Everyone is required to wear a mask when they are not at their desk.

With the Henegan Road office closed this week, people are working from home but customers are still able to reach hydro workers by phone, he said.

The utility is following the guidance of Niagara public health officials, Curtis added.

While the company routinely uses rapid antigen test kits supplied to businesses by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, after the COVID cases were discovered all employees underwent the more reliable PCR tests by attending testing clinics at

Niagara hospitals.

Being an essential service, some hydro workers have been in the building during the pandemic. Most staff resumed working in the office earlier this year when retailers reopened, Curtis said.

Everyone undergoes rapid tests three times a week and the second employee discovered he was positive thanks to one of those routine tests, he said.

"He immediately turned around and left the office" after the positive test so as not to expose anyone else, Curtis said.

On Wednesday, Nov. 3, the utility learned that all remaining employees have tested negative.

The next step is for

everyone to undergo a final PCR test at a hospital clinic by Friday and hopefully reopen the office on Monday, Curtis said.

**Anatomy of an outbreak**  
NOTL Hydro president Tim Curtis provides the timeline of the COVID outbreak, which forced the utility's offices to be closed to visitors on Monday.

**Wednesday, Oct. 27:** Infected employee #1 stayed home as he was not feeling well. The next day he was notified of an outbreak at his children's school and he got tested.

**Late in the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 29:** He learned his test was positive so all remaining hydro staff received rapid tests. All were negative.

**Monday, Nov. 1:** All staff underwent rapid antigen tests and employee #2's was positive.

**Monday and Tuesday:** All other hydro staff received PCR tests based on seven days having elapsed since their last contact with employee #1.

**Tuesday, Nov. 2:** Employee #2's PCR test also came back positive.

**Wednesday, Nov. 3:** All remaining employees get negative test results from their PCR tests and have booked another PCR test based on seven days elapsed from last contact with employee #2. Most of these tests will be on Friday.

Assuming all are negative, NOTL Hydro plans to reopen as normal on Monday.

## Solmar says it will **amend** its subdivision plan based on town's heritage stance

Continued from Front Page

It is not known what those remedies might be, but lawyer Sara Premi, of Sullivan Mahoney in St. Catharines, suggested there could be "subsequent proceedings" in the case.

Solmar plans to file applications under the heritage act seeking a binding decision from the Ontario Land Tribunal on the property's heritage status, she said.

As well, Solmar, which is owned by developer Benny Marotta, will be revising its

proposed subdivision plan for the properties at 200 John St. E. and 588 Charlotte St., she said.

Marotta declined to comment on the decision.

The community group Save Our Rand Estate (SORE) was pleased with the announcement the developer is dropping its objection to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's designation plan.

"We have lost count of how many legal battles Mr. Marotta and his companies have initiated

and then lost or abandoned concerning the Rand Estate. This is just the latest," SORE said in a statement on its website.

"SORE, and we assume the town, will be considering seeking costs from the Marotta companies for dragging them through years of a now-abandoned (Conservation Review Board) challenge."

Disputes over proposals for four properties related to the historic Rand Estate have been ongoing for more than three years.

Challenges to the conservation board regarding 144 and 176 John St E. were abandoned previously.

SORE also encouraged the town to "vigorously pursue the heritage act prosecution against the Marotta companies for the 2018 clear cutting" of trees on the estate.

"A potential remedy for the town in the event the prosecution is successful is to reinstate the illegally destroyed heritage landscape and mature trees," the group said.

In her letter, Premi also said, "As a direct result of the disclosure required in the (conservation board) process, Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc. has finally been able to gain a much greater understanding of the town's position on heritage attributes as it affects the subdivision."

Based on that, she said Solmar will amend its subdivision plan, "in particular as it affects heritage features."

"This will include recognizing, protecting, re-creating and rebuilding

heritage features, including some that are (i) beyond the scope of issues identified in the (Conservation Review Board) process; and/or (ii) the subject of disagreement between various heritage experts."

The revised development and any related applications under the heritage act "can be considered by the town and, if necessary, on appeal to the tribunal, which is empowered to make binding decisions, rather than just recommendations to the town."

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# Gyms, restaurants welcome eased restrictions

Evan Saunders  
 Local Journalism Initiative  
 The Lake Report

It's been over a week since Ontario lifted capacity limits for indoor dining and gyms, and owners are keen to see a business boon.

Scott Paines, owner of NPNG Fitness in Virgil, hopes the lifted restrictions will boost consumer confidence in getting gym memberships.

"Lockdown stopped people from coming and it stopped people from wanting to join the gym, too," Paines said.

"Because they're like, 'Oh, what if I get a six-month membership and there's another lockdown? I waste my money.'"

Paines noted it was the community in town and his loyal members that carried him through multiple lockdowns.

"We're gonna hold to ourselves, we're gonna keep ourselves up and the town really does kind of support each other and generally I like that about Niagara-on-the-Lake," he said.

"All my members stuck around. They were all really, really loyal."

He said the pandemic put a triple whammy of problems on the backs of gym owners.



Mocha the Labrador retriever and Scott Paines man the front desk at NPNG Fitness in Virgil. EVAN SAUNDERS

"It enticed people to quit their gyms and work out at home and it prevented people from applying for memberships," he said.

On top of that, Paines didn't qualify for any government assistance.

"It was basically just me on my own and the government didn't care."

He said the gym is still open despite it all.

Other than enticing non-members to join gyms, he said the relaxed capacity restrictions haven't affected his day-to-day operations much.

"It didn't really affect us too much because we're not a huge location," Paines said in an interview.

He said the gym has been

able to accommodate all its customers and maintain pandemic restrictions since being allowed to reopen earlier this summer.

But he hopes more people will start applying for memberships again.

Bricks & Barley general manager David McDonald said the eased capacity restrictions make organizing the restaurant a little easier.

"We've been busy. It's good news. Let's hope we keep going that way," McDonald said.

He said staff had measured the available floor space in the building and calculated the number of indoor patrons allowed.

Removing the hassle of counting people at the door

and ensuring there is proper distance between all tables will ease day-to-day headaches for staff, he said.

He also noted the relaxed restrictions come in handy when the weather is lousy – like it was last week.

"We could take in more people and honour more reservations because it was crappy outside," he said.

The province introduced QR codes for people to demonstrate their vaccine status for businesses requiring it.

McDonald said that hasn't been very helpful.

"It's easier to just physically check people's vaccine passports," he said.

Phones can be slow to load or operate while a physical copy of the passport and photo I.D. suffer no such limitations, he said.

Last month, Bricks & Barley closed briefly because a staff member caught COVID outside of work, McDonald said.

But the manager said he will not cut any corners when it comes to ensuring the health and safety of his staff and patrons.

"We aren't taking any risks. We said, 'We are going to make sure everyone gets tested in house and once all the tests come back negative we'll reopen.' And that's what we did."

# On-demand transit extended to all of NOTL

Continued from Front Page

pick-up spots."

"So, if you request a pickup at home to go to Fort George, the vehicle will pick you up at your home and drop you at Fort George," he told The Lake Report.

Trips within NOTL are \$3 each way and if a rider wants to connect to an NRT bus and leave NOTL, it's \$6, Salewytch said.

But it is a cashless system. While you have to pay a fare or show proof of payment when you board, "most of the trips are paid for by having the rider's credit card on file already" so there should be few hiccups, he said.

The region wants riders to use the system's pre-booking feature as much

as possible – and you can request pickup times from three days in advance up until 10 p.m. the night before.

If riders don't use the pre-booking feature, they could wait up to 60 minutes for a trip, "but average wait times are half that and even lower in high-traffic areas like the (transit hubs)," Salewytch said.

However, if you booked in advance, your ride should arrive within a 30-minute window (plus or minus 15 minutes on either end), he said.

"A trip request for 10 a.m. will arrive between 9:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., and the rider is required to be ready during that entire window," he added.

The service uses software from U.S.-based Via, which

will use "intelligent algorithms" to direct riders to a "virtual bus stop" within a short walking distance of their home, if necessary.

"Currently, payment on the vehicle is not permitted, however Niagara's transit providers are upgrading their fare payment technology to align with the St. Catharines Transit Commission" by early 2022, Salewytch said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero applauded the new service.

"Transit is a much-needed, essential service, and I am so pleased to see this service now available for all of our residents," she said in a media statement.

"I am glad to see residents have made use of this service over its pilot year and I look forward to seeing how this improved coverage and

availability will result in increased service use in the days and months to come," Disero said.

NOTL ridership has steadily increased, especially when Ontario moved through the various COVID-19 reopening stages, the region said.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, riders have taken nearly 2,500 rides in the past 12 months. But the region's data shows from July to September ridership averaged just under 500 rides per month, a "more than a 1,300 per cent increase since the service launched."

People without a smartphone can call 289-302-2172 to book a ride. Riders can also select whether they want a wheelchair-accessible vehicle or one with a bike rack.

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# Resident **urges** public to attend Parliament Oak meeting

*Continued from Front Page*

of the town's official plans — one that's current and one that's awaiting approval from Niagara Region — and said he's found some major discrepancies between those official plans and the developer's planning justification report.

"(The report) makes many references to the official plans, as to what justifies their application. I went through the same official plans and came up with a number of areas where they substantially contravene the official plans," Gordon told The Lake Report.

Details about the Nov. 8 meeting are on the town's website at [notl.civicweb.net/document/21408](http://notl.civicweb.net/document/21408).

Gordon said he has been going door to door, handing out information to nearby residents about the concerns he's identified.

Among the issues, he said, are that the site is not a location designated for intensification and that the proposed density is almost double what is allowed in an area that is designated for intensification.



Regent Street resident Alan Gordon says the Parliament Oak redevelopment proposal is not appropriate and doesn't conform to NOTL's official plan. RICHARD HARLEY

As well, there will be 177 parking spaces with direct access onto Centre and Gage streets.

He also said the building height will be more than 40 feet above Gage Street, or about the equivalent of a four-storey building.

In addition, a mechanical penthouse on top which will make the structure more than 50 feet high in total — even though the town's official plan states building

heights in Old Town are not to exceed 10 metres (about 33 feet).

He said the height, mass, scale and architecture do not "achieve a harmonious design and integrate with the surrounding area and not negatively impact lower density residential uses," as the town's official plans require.

"That's lifted right out of the official plan ... and this building is not even close to anything like that," Gordon said.

In a letter to residents, he warns, "The character and future of this town are at stake," if such a large development is approved.

Gordon said he wants people to be aware, so they can voice their objections or support for the development.

"I just want people to attend the public meeting," he said. "I will expand upon this substantially and I will go through every single point."

The main concern of residents he's spoken with is

the size of the development, pointing out that most infill developments are two-storey houses.

"I think people were anticipating some form of development like that here. Well, this isn't that. It's an apartment building — an 80-unit apartment building. There isn't one that exists anywhere in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It just doesn't exist."

"Not only that, and this is where I'm having problems with the developer — they state throughout their application that this building is 11 metres tall. And it isn't," he said.

The town's zoning bylaw and official plan define how you measure the height of the building, he said.

"Using the town's definition, that building isn't 11 metres, it's 12.45 metres. Using the applicant's own drawings above Gage Street, and I put a dimension there, it's 13.1 metres. The difference between 11 metres and 13 metres, or 13.1 metres, is almost seven feet."

"Whether they're for it or they don't care or whatever," he said he wants residents to know what is being planned.

# Police charge man, 39, in **NOTL** fatality

Staff  
The Lake Report

Niagara Regional Police have charged a 39-year-old Niagara Falls man in relation to an August collision in Niagara-on-the-Lake that left a 19-year-old woman dead and a 19-year-old man with serious injuries.

Police charged Dimitris Marianos with one count each of criminal negligence causing death and criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

The collision happened at about 2:19 p.m. on Aug. 28 near Concession 7 and Line 6 roads.

The original police investigation revealed the 19-year-old male was operating a silver Subaru Impreza southbound on Concession 7 Road with a 19-year-old female passenger.

Police said Marianos was driving a black Audi R8 on Line 6 Road with a 36-year-old passenger.

The driver of the Subaru attempted to make a left turn onto Line 6 Road when the vehicles collided.





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# Legion poppy campaign, Remembrance Day return to ‘new normal’ after an uncertain year

Mark Dawson  
Special to The Lake Report

Remembrance Day ceremonies in Niagara-on-the-Lake will be slightly streamlined this year, but the public is encouraged to come out and pay their respects on Nov. 11.

The Legion flag is flying at the town’s administrative offices, most of the traditional Remembrance Day activities are resuming and the promise of better days is clearly evident.

It’s a big change from a year ago when the pandemic curtailed ceremonies and remembrance activities.

Now, “the poppy campaign is in full swing,” said Legion branch 124 president Victor Packard, “and we encourage all who are able to join us at our cenotaphs on Nov. 11.”

“This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Remembrance Poppy in Canada and poppy boxes are now available at local businesses,” Packard added.

“Our members and volunteers will also be out in



The poppy flag was raised Saturday morning at town hall.

the community with poppy boxes, continuing the tradition of remembrance for our veterans.”

Poppy campaign chair Al Howse said it all culminates, as always, at the cenotaphs in Old Town and in Queenston on Nov. 11 with the laying of wreaths and official ceremonies.

People attending any Remembrance Day events should be masked and fully vaccinated.

The day starts with a vigil by the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Our local Sparks, Brownies and Guides all participate in their own way, as do many schools, groups and individuals. It’s been great to see a bit more engagement

this year.”

Howse said the laying of wreaths for families and institutions will begin at the cenotaph/clock tower, on Queen Street in Old Town at 10:15 a.m. as the flag is lowered to half-mast and the street is closed to vehicular traffic.

Aside from what the Legion hopes will be a good turnout from the public, Legion members and representatives from the air cadets, fire department, Guides, Scouts and invited dignitaries will be present.

Names of the fallen will be read and official wreaths will be placed after the playing of “The Last Post” at 11 a.m.

For those who can’t at-

tend, Cogeco will record the service to be broadcast multiple times over the two weeks following the ceremony, Howse said.

In Queenston, attendees are asked to gather at 1 p.m. on the lawn in front of the cenotaph on Queenston Street. At 1:10, names of the fallen will be read, followed by the laying of wreaths.

The day continues with an open house at the Legion branch on King Street and the popular fish fry fundraiser.

Packard said he’s encouraged that things are starting to get back to normal.

“We’re seeing an increase in general in our activities. Our fish fry numbers have been steadily growing and we’re finding there’s more interest in our programs, like our Memories/History project,” he said. “That’s a large undertaking and we’re halfway through the digitization of the tapes for it.”

“Things may be trimmed down a little, but it’s very good to see the beginnings of a return to more normal times.”

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**Canada** The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.



**NOTL active cases: 6**  
**Region active cases: 200**  
**Region deaths: 438**  
**Region total cases: 18,244**  
**Region resolved cases: 17,606**

\*Nov. 3 data per Niagara Region Public Health



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 “Nothing is better than going home to family and eating good food and relaxing.”  
 - Irina Shayk

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

## Editorials

### Poppies, Parliament Oak and **perseverance**

Richard Harley  
 Managing Editor

As many have no doubt seen (because it’s hard to miss!) the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has created an incredible art project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the poppy being used as a symbol of Remembrance Day.

Museum volunteers worked long, hard hours creating the display, composed of some hand-knitted and crocheted 3,500 poppies.

We are duly impressed at the end result and commend all the dozens of volunteers who worked for many weeks to create this art installation.

If you haven’t taken a drive by, make sure to get out and see the display, which cascades down from the museum’s tower and across the lawn.

This is by far one of the most inspiring and novel ways to mark Remembrance Day – but it also is

a fitting commemoration for the 100th anniversary of the use of poppies to remind us of the sacrifices others made for us all.

NOTL is also getting ready for an open house regarding the planned Parliament Oak redevelopment and, as evidenced by a story and letter in this edition of The Lake Report, residents have a lot to say on the matter.

Most seem to agree that the development is completely inappropriate for the centre of Old Town.

And we agree. The town needs to find a way to tame this project and encourage the developer to create something more suited to an infill development in the middle of a residential neighbourhood in the midst of the heritage district.

Meanwhile, about a kilometre away on the historic Rand Estate, Solmar’s proposed subdivision – which has been blasted for its jam-packed

cookie-cutter style homes – might actually be more NOTL-like than the proposed apartment development at one of NOTL’s landmark sites.

That’s not to say Solmar’s plan is acceptable. It is not. And as we’ve said before, the Rand project is a great opportunity for Solmar to do something special and memorable.

On Parliament Oak, it’s time for residents to persevere and make their concerns known to councillors and the developer.

This project needs to fit in with our community, not destroy its charm.

As NOTL resident Alan Gordon says, people who are concerned about this should attend the virtual public meeting Nov. 8.

The good thing is, we’ve seen positive results from the hard work and perseverance of the people behind Save Our Rand Estate (SORE), who this week celebrate what they see as another victory in the saga

of this special property.

Solmar and Two Sisters have withdrawn their challenge of the town’s heritage designation of 200 John St. E. and 588 Charlotte St.

If, as residents, we can all find the same dedication within us regarding Parliament Oak, we may also be able to effect positive results there.

So let council know we don’t want this oversized apartment building in the middle of an area that’s filled with detached homes, on a property that has significance to the entire community.

And let the developer know it’s not going to fly here in NOTL.

But, ultimately, let’s remember who is to blame for this situation – the District School Board of Niagara, which refused the town’s offer for the property and instead sold Parliament Oak to a developer.

editor@niagaranow.com

### Town **wasn’t responsible** for closing NOTL schools, hospital

Dear editor:

This letter is in reference to Samuel Young’s Oct. 21 letter to the editor headlined “Rather than fight developers, work with them.”

He makes reference to our visionary elected

officials closing our high school, Parliament Oak Public School and our hospital. Town council cannot be blamed for those closings.

I choose not to get involved in his message that our council should make

things easier for developers in the face of progress, but to point out that many years ago it was the District School Board of Niagara that closed our high school as well as Parliament Oak school, both against large opposition by the residents.

As for our hospital, it was the Niagara Health System that withdrew its services.

At that point our council stepped in and bought the building in order to have a home for our doctors.

Luba Fraser  
 NOTL

### Retirement village is **great suggestion** for old NOTL hospital

Dear editor:

In the last edition of The Lake Report, in your series on suggestions for what to do with the site of the former Niagara-on-the-Lake hospital, writer Lois Stevens suggested a seniors retirement “vil-

lage” as an option.

What a perfect project! It is exactly what is needed in NOTL.

When age makes life difficult in a house it is so sad to be forced to leave the place you know and love.

The elderly population, although very large here, tends to become forgotten among more exciting and youthful projects to bring tourism and young families with children to the area.

We all try to ignore the

fact that we will get old – until we do.

Perhaps the decision-makers can keep that in mind when deciding on plans for the whole spectrum of life in NOTL.

Ann Handels  
 NOTL

### Touching editorial highlighted **importance** of planned giving

Dear editor:

Thank you for your recent story the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library’s new planned giving campaign, “NOTL library launches major

fundraising drive,” (Oct. 21).

Kevin MacLean’s touching editorial this week, “A circle of community care,” (Oct. 28), really got across the

importance of planned giving.

In fact, I thought the promotional impact was so strong that I think I will ask Kevin to write our copy in the future!

Many thanks from the library staff and board for your support as we reach out to the NOTL community.

Dave Hunter  
 NOTL

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

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



# OPINION



A proposed development on the former Parliament Oak property on King Street. SUPPLIED

## Parliament Oak plan is **just wrong** for NOTL

Dear editor:

When the public meeting for the proposed redevelopment of the former Parliament Oak school site was delayed and I heard there would be revisions to the original proposal, I was so hopeful that the proponents had perhaps finally read the official plan and the zoning bylaw and/or spent some time in our town trying to discover what makes it special.

Sadly, after watching the proceedings of the town's urban design committee meeting held on Oct. 26 it appears none of these things occurred. The height, density and total incompatibility of this proposed infill project are totally at odds with the official plan and zoning bylaw.

The Parliament Oak site is classified as open space and community facilities in the official plan and institutional in the zoning bylaw. So why is this high-density residential development even being considered?

I agree, the town would benefit from a diversity of housing types. And there are sites identified for intensification in the official plan, but 325 King St. is not, nor should it be one of them.

It is in the middle of an established residential neighbourhood of one-, one-and-a-half and two-storey homes. Medium-density residential is defined as a minimum of six and a maximum of 12 units per acre, not the 20 units per acre now proposed for the Parliament Oak site.

There are some who hopefully see this as afford-

able housing just because it promises apartments. There are more than two underground parking spaces per unit, an indoor swimming pool and multiple entertaining rooms and terraces. This will not be affordable to most people.

The "Great Wall" of the proposed three storeys plus a mechanical penthouse stretches the entire block along King Street. The latest proposal does drop down to two storeys for a short distance at either end, but this gesture, along with the "heritage walk" identified on the site plan and depicted in the artful renderings will do nothing to diminish the oppressive nature of the wall.

The linear park already exists. The developers are simply adding some plant material and paving stones and claiming authorship. The surrounding streetscape and neighbourhood is composed of a rhythm of built form (houses) and open space (gardens and side yards). This is the syncopation that creates the charm of the town.

In the latest presentation to the urban design committee, the developer and architect have proposed some thoughtful (though ultimately useless) gestures.

Yes, dipping the road down in the middle of the block subdues the entry/drop off area, but the road still has to rise up to meet the residential roads of Gage and Centre at either end and therein the problem lies.

These two roads are residential roads and meant to serve single-family or

semi-detached homes – as stated in the official plan – not the comings and goings, garbage collection and deliveries of a 71-unit apartment building. Is this new two-way street parallel to King Street even necessary? Why not use the existing (arterial) street?

From the rear yards of the new single homes proposed for Regent Street, it appears to be a four-storey building. Who would want to sit in those rear yards, both looking at the building and being looked down upon?

The road access to these 11 dwelling units seems excessive. They are surrounded by roads. Why is there so much paving? Eliminating the mid-block road might allow the semi-detached and singles to be set back farther and have a more traditional access, rather than creating yet another unnecessary street system.

Raising the grade to allow the apartment units to have access to terraces on King, Centre and Gage is a great idea for those suites but this does not change the overall height of the building – 16.4 metres (53.8 feet) to the top of the mechanical penthouse.

Even if the mechanical penthouse is excluded, the true building height is 13 metres, not 11 metres as noted on the drawings and in the application. (In the official plan and zoning bylaw, 10 metres is the maximum building height.) Why is the true dimension never shown on the drawings?

The bylaw's definition of building height says: When

used in reference to a building or structure, (it) means the vertical distance measured from the average finished grade around the structure to the peak, except: (a) In the case of a flat or shed roof, the highest point of the roof's surface; (b) In the case of a structure not having a roof, the uppermost part of such structure; or (c) Where an exterior wall other than a required fire wall extends above the top of the roof of a building, the topmost part of such exterior wall.

Adding the singles into the mix has been done "to mitigate" the transition from the existing neighbourhood to the apartment building. Maybe it is a radical idea, but why not have a proposal that does not require mitigation? A proposal that is inherently compatible with the town and the neighbourhood? One that achieves "a harmonious design and integrate(s) with the surrounding area and (does) not negatively impact the lower density residential uses"? (Official plan, 2019 4.10.3.5.a)

To quote an article published in The Lake Report on July 15, 2021, "... the town does not have many options to influence infill or redevelopment areas such as the Parliament Oak development," according to planning director Craig Larmour.

If the town has no control, who does? The developer? This is absurd. As my husband says, "It is time to put the NO back in NOTL."

**Connie Tintinalli**  
**NOTL**




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Volunteers work together to string up a display of 3,500 hand-crocheted poppies at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. EVAN SAUNDERS

## Display is salute to 100-year anniversary of Remembrance poppy

Continued from Front Page

the last couple of weeks have been loving it and they really took control of the project," Kaufman said in an interview at the museum.

"They all came together and crocheted the poppies and they're here, all of them, helping to design it. It's their museum and they're having fun. It's nice."

Kaufman said the poppies will stay up until Nov. 12,

when volunteer crews from Davys will return to unlatch the display from the museum's roof.

It's the first year the museum has undertaken such an ambitious display. "We're really excited about it,"

Kaufman said.

The display was inspired by a similar one by the Niagara Falls Museum, which donated some of its leftover poppies for NOTL's project.

But the leftovers weren't enough for the NOTL volun-

teers, Kaufman said.

"They did thousands more and wanted to do a real in-depth display, so it took on a life of its own. It's going to be its own form, which is great," she said.

One volunteer guessed the

team used some 100,000 zip ties to attach all the poppies to the netting. It's impossible to verify that number but a close look at the mammoth display leads one to think it's a good ball-park estimation.

## Black Tie Purple Ribbon Gala supports epilepsy monitoring

Sharon VanNoort  
Special to The Lake Report

The second annual Black Tie Purple Ribbon Gala is returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake on Jan. 22.

Building on the inaugural event's overwhelming success, the black-tie affair, presented by Inter-Atlas, will once again raise money and awareness for epilepsy research.

In addition to the gala, a silent auction will be held at Ferox Winery on Nov. 17 at 4 p.m., which will include wine tastings, food and music.

Epilepsy hits close to home for my family. Our

son Eric Van Noort has suffered from epilepsy and debilitating seizures.

Money raised this year will support the Toronto Western Hospital epilepsy monitoring unit — a 10-bed unit where patients stay for long-term monitoring of their behaviours and brainwave activity during seizures. Such investigations take place to help plan for potentially life-changing epilepsy surgery.

While most treatment for epilepsy is long-term drug therapy, the cocktail of medication did not bring Eric's seizures under control.

He underwent diagnos-

tic brain surgery, which required 14 electrodes to be surgically implanted into his brain. Eric spent 30 days in the epilepsy monitoring unit in the hopes that he might be a candidate for surgery to hopefully end his seizures.

After months of analysis, Eric successfully received what he calls "life-changing brain surgery" to treat his seizures. I'm not sure where we would be without all the support from Toronto Western's epilepsy monitoring unit.

Epilepsy affects about one in 100 people in Canada, with an unexpected sudden death occurring in about



The Black Tie Purple Ribbon event on Jan. 11, 2020. FILE

one in 1,000. New advancements occur every year in software that improve physicians' abilities to analyze the data that they capture.

With the support of Carson Tucker and a team of community members, funds

raised will support the purchase of new software upgrades that will improve doctors' ability to detect seizures in the monitoring unit in real time.

This will help the lives of Ontarians with epilepsy

by improving the outcomes of patients coming through the unit, potentially reducing patients' length of stay and helping to serve more patients each year in the process.

The Jan. 22 Black Tie Purple Ribbon Gala will be at the Court House Theatre in Old Town and is expected to sell out again.

The night will feature live music by X-Prime and an open bar generously supplied by Big Head Winery, Niagara Cider Company and the Collingwood Brewery.

To learn more, purchase tickets, or sponsor the event, visit [www.blacktiepurple-ribbon gala.com](http://www.blacktiepurple-ribbon gala.com).



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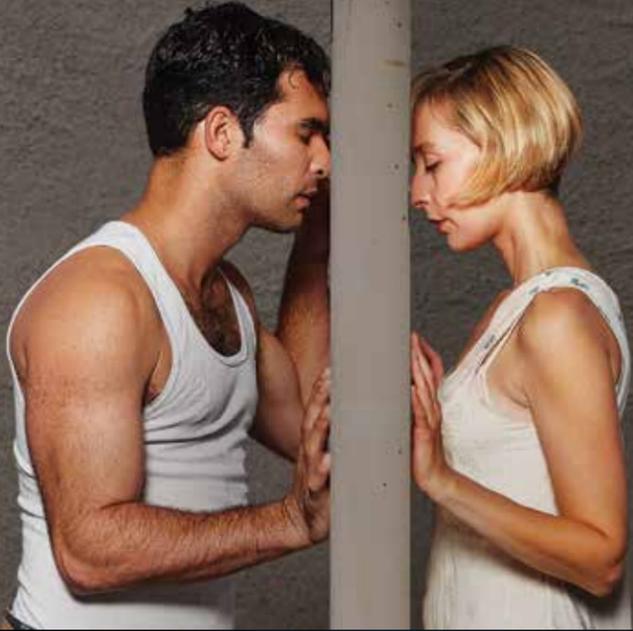
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Johnathan Sousa and Julia Course. Photo by Peter Andrew Luszyk, Michael Therriault in *A Christmas Carol* (2017). Photo by David Cooper, Jenny L. Wright and Kyle Blair in *Holiday Inn* (2019). Photo by Emily Cooper.



Left: Father and son duo Wolf and Jeff Dorak took in the sights of Fort George on Halloween dressed as Harry Potter and a ghostbuster. Right: Emily Fieguth and her son Logan set up an elaborate trunk or treat display featuring a large cut out of a gumball machine. She distributed candy with a toy claw for social distancing. EVAN SAUNDERS

## COVID-safe Halloween let kids get back to **being kids**, pastor says

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Putting on a costume and going door to door collecting candy is one of many childhood traditions people took for granted until COVID-19 shut down the world.

That's why the Niagara United Mennonite Church decided to have a COVID safe "Trunk or Treat Halloween" on Sunday – so kids could get back to being kids, pastor Chris Hutton said.

"For some of these kids, who were born less than two years ago, their whole life has been COVID. Just being able to see people is new for them," Hutton said in an interview outside the Redbrick Church on Sunday.

He helped organize the Trunk or Treat day, which had more than 30 cars parked in the church's lot with their trunks wide open for kids to walk car to car getting candy.

Hutton saw it as a good opportunity to start rebuilding community gatherings after the pandemic while keeping safety protocols top of mind.

"It's encouraging to see so many people coming back. It has been a very gradual process. There's lots of families who came out today for this specific event and they haven't been out before," he said.

Activities for Niagara-on-the-Lake's youth have the dual importance of enabling significant childhood memories to be created and helping with mental health and socialization skills affected by the pandemic, said Marlene Corzychowski.

"My granddaughter is really shy. Not all kids are shy, but she is a little shy and she's been having Zoom class all year," Corzychowski said.

"It's hard for her. She's getting better, but it's hard."

Hutton said his church is supportive of any COVID

safety precautions health authorities recommend and he does not understand religious organizations that have got involved in any political debates about the virus.

"It's weird that (COVID) is a political issue. And, yeah, churches have unfortunately got caught up in that," Hutton said.

"Our feeling has been that God gave us medical professionals for a good reason. They know what they are talking about. We don't see a reason why we would object to that."

Hutton said he also doesn't understand why some people look for malicious intent behind something inherently good, like a vaccine.

"Listen to our professionals and do our best to keep people safe," he said.

Emily Fieguth took COVID precautions seriously.

She set up an elaborate Trunk or Treat display consisting of a homemade design of a gum-ball ma-

chine painted onto plywood which even had a handle and opening slot on it.

There was hand sanitizer attached to the cutout and Fieguth brought a toy claw so she could distribute the candy without having to ever touch it herself.

The mother said all of her children are grown and she hasn't done anything for Halloween in years.

"It's fun to get back into it and do something nice for the kids," she said.

Over at Fort George another Trunk or Treat was taking place, coinciding with the fort's final day of operations for the season.

"We want people to know that we are still here and we're trying to keep things as normal as possible and still run our events," Friends of Fort George representative Maureen Hayslip said as she waited for trunk or treaters.

The Fort George event wasn't quite as crowded as the one at the Redbrick

Church, but there were some notable figures present, including Harry Potter, a ghostbuster and even Roman emperor Julius Caesar.

"Hopefully my Brutus doesn't show up," Alexander McGee joked in his Roman regalia.

Dan Laroche, site supervisor for Fort George, said in 2020 visits to the fort fell 90 per cent but numbers significantly recovered this year.

The fort was limited by pandemic restrictions from putting on its usual activities, but there was one metric Laroche was particularly proud of for the year.

"The fact that we were able to open up and provide safe programming for the public and the fact that no staff got sick. I will take that as a success any day of the week," he said.

At the Redbrick Church, the success of the Trunk or Treat wasn't just because it embraced COVID precautions but because it also made Halloween more

accessible for a lot of NOTL kids who live in rural communities, Fieguth said. And maybe it will spark a new tradition.

"I don't ever actually get kids at my house because we are in the country," she said.

"We have two grandkids in Europe and this is what they always do," Corzychowski said.

For some of the adults, it was comforting to see the world functioning somewhat like they are used to.

"It's really, really nice to get kind of back to a near-normal," Graham Thwaites said while his two kids were out trunk or treating.

"We're bringing back a sense of normality for the kids. They had it tough this last year," said Alex Bradnam.

"You can see how everybody's engaged in this. It's just so great to be able to make this a really wonderful experience for the children," said Erika Froese.

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**Mike Shatkosky**  
Owner



## Halloween contest winners

The two photos above were chosen as the winners of this year's Halloween costume contest. Congratulations to sisters Charlotte Webber Mayeda, 10, and Gwendolyn Webber Mayeda, 8. Charlotte went as her own creation, "Willowbark the Elf," while Gwendolyn went as Wednesday Addams from The Addams Family (and really got into character!). Contest entries were judged on the creativity of the costume as well as the setting of the photos.



Left: Renton Craig Dagenais, 8, as a ghost skeleton, and Tristan Craig Dagenais, 5, as Han Solo. Right: The first square is Zelda as "Singin' in the Rain." Second is Captain Raymond Sparrow. Third is also Raymond, but younger, and dressed as Fred Astaire, and the fourth is Priscilla as "Amelia Furhart." SUPPLIED

## RIDDLE ME THIS

I'm a five-letter word that becomes shorter when you add two letters to it.  
What am I?

Last issue: Mary has four daughters, and each of her daughters has a brother. How many children does Mary have?

Answer: Five.

Answered first by: Sheelah Young

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Terry Nord, Margie Enns, Margaret Garaughty, Jane Andersen, Becky Creager, Chris Yak, Sheila Mead, Wade Durling, Bob Stevens, Sheryl Christensen, Maria Janeiro, Steve Siansky, Rob Hutchison, Moksha Shah, Sheila Meloche, Valerie McLean, Tammy Florio, Fred Teichgraf, Carl Nickel, Ron Cane, Gary Davis, Harold Buchan

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

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From left: Rebecca Scott, Meika Jantz, Achal Litt, Lily Sliastas and Olivia Driedger, Achal dressed in traditional attire, Sliastas and Jantz hold Diwali candles. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

# NOTL Sparks learn about Diwali, the **Festival of Lights**

Priya Litt  
Special to the Lake Report

Diwali is most commonly known as “The Festival of Lights” and in India it is the most celebrated festival and biggest holiday.

This year I had the honour of being a special guest speaker and teaching the

youngest members of the Girl Guides of Canada, the NOTL Sparks, all about Diwali.

This wonderful festival is widely celebrated by many people around the world and symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.

We celebrate by lighting up many diyas and candles and it becomes the brightest night of all. Diyas are oil lamps that are traditionally lit up by using a cotton wick dipped in ghee or vegetable oils.

The Sparks used beautiful gems and decorated their very own diyas made from clay.

The girls also coloured rangoli designs, an art form of beautiful patterns. Traditionally we use flower petals and coloured sand, flour or rice to make rangoli designs at the entrance of our homes to bring good luck and welcome happiness.

Special guest helper Achal Litt came dressed in

beautiful traditional Indian attire and showed the girls how she dresses up during Diwali.

The festival is all about giving, sharing, caring and spreading love, joy and happiness. The girls were filled with gratitude as Achal kindly gave out gift cards to each Spark so they could

buy themselves some treats.

Everyone enjoyed learning about this wonderful cultural festival. Each girl was glowing in their brightly coloured glo necklace and bracelet, and the night ended with the Sparks lighting up their beautifully decorated diyas with tealights.



## Bottle drop-off gets new location

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



## CADET NEWS

- Newark 809 Air Cadets celebrate their 50th anniversary.
- Wednesday evening 'Parade' nights are back.
- Three pop-ups are planned for January 8, May 28, and July 9, 2022. Locations TBA.



# Resident pleads for accessible park

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Pamela Wilson wants to create an accessible park behind the community centre to promote wellness and community for all NOTLers.

“I want people to be able to walk there safely. It’s the safety aspect I think that matters,” Wilson said in an interview.

It’s important for there to be outdoor parks accessible for residents who rely on wheelchairs, walkers, canes and other mobility devices, she said.

Wilson, a resident of Old Town, said she often travels to Virgil to enjoy the Centennial Sports Park’s well-manicured paths. Even though she doesn’t suffer any mobility impediments, she still feels “safe there to walk.”

“Using a park in our area can sometimes be cumbersome for those with mobility devices,” she said during a committee of the whole meeting.

“I’ve seen and I’ve been in accessible parks and they are wonderful. It makes it so that everyone can enjoy the beauty.”

She said town staff would “love the challenge” of



Old Town resident Pamela Wilson wants the town to build an accessible community park behind the Community Centre on Anderson Lane. EVAN SAUNDERS

making an accessible park with flat walking paths for those who use mobility devices.

“Nature excursions to forests are not feasible for everyone,” she said.

Wilson said she also enjoys Centennial Park due to the bevy of trees on the property, something she thinks would enhance the empty space behind the community centre.

“It’s just a blank slate back there and it has such potential to be a nice walking park — no bicycles allowed,” she told The Lake Report.

Outdoor exercise is recommended by doctors as a cure for many minor maladies, Wilson told council.

“A strong body of literature shows that those who spend as little as 20 to 30 minutes outside a day leads

to better health outcomes such as blood pressure, mental health and a boosted immune response.”

Wilson suggested the park be built between the community garden and the vineyards.

Loneliness imposed by COVID-19 has been a big problem for mental health and an accessible community park would facilitate more social interaction for residents who have found themselves increasingly isolated by the pandemic, she told The Lake Report.

Councillors were receptive to the proposal but wanted a report on the cost and maintenance before making any decisions.

There were also some concerns raised about other projects that may require the space in the future, Wilson said after she

discussed the project with chief administrator Marnie Cluckie.

Wilson had an idea for how to lessen the financial burden on the town: “Allow residents to grow, plant a tree or plant, put in a bench or a bush for a memorial garden,” she told council.

“(The costs could) be defrayed by families who wish to memorialize a loved one.”

“This would provide such a meaningful connection to our park — and I’m already calling it ‘our park,’” Wilson laughed.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero suggested Wilson connect with parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte to discuss the suitability of the location, noting planting trees near the vineyard could be problematic.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor asked Wilson whether any residents had committed to supporting the park.

“I already have orders for two trees and a couple of benches. I think our town will come forward,” Wilson said, adding everyone she has talked to about the project has been supportive.

Any decision on the park will come after a staff report on the proposal in February or March, Cluckie said.

# Popular Taste the Season wine event returns

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Get ready to sip some VQA wines and taste some gourmet pairings, as the popular Taste the Season tour of NOTL’s wineries returns this month.

Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake chair Andrea Kaiser said she’s looking forward to getting people back into wineries to try great food and wine pairings, noting this will be the first in-person experience held by the wine group since the global pandemic was declared in 2020.

Like so many other events, Kaiser said Taste the Season has been reinvented due to the ongoing pandemic — but she says it could be

a blessing in disguise.

Because of restraints for COVID screening, Kaiser said the group decided to slow the pace of the tour a bit this year.

Instead of offering tastings at 20 different wineries, which can become rushed, tickets will be for longer, more robust pairings at four wineries. Each pairing will require a reservation to be made beforehand.

She thinks the new format will offer a more “intimate” experience for ticket holders, who will be able to really soak up the experience by spending longer at each winery — plus a bit bigger portions of food.

“We looked for that silver lining of COVID: our team members really enjoy-

ing spending more time with individual guests, guests really enjoying that one-on-one experience,” Kaiser said.

“We’ve realized that I think the customer actually ends up having a better experience when there is a reservation made, when there is more time allocated, when we do have time to spend with them and talk about the wines.”

She said each pairing experience will be a minimum of half an hour.

“It’s just allowing the wineries also to express their own wine brands and their experiences a little bit more intimately,” she said. “Each winery is really putting a little bit more energy and investment into the experience

for the guests.”

Taste the Season runs the entire month of November on any Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Items on the menu include “Gnocchi Dokie” at Konzelmann Estate Winery, which will see “pillowy soft gnocchi” paired with a 2020 reserve chardonnay. Pillitteri Estate Winery will be serving up a tomato bisque paired with its Carretto Cabernet Franc.

Tickets for a one-day pass are available for \$75 plus tax at [wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/shop](http://wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/shop). Visits must be booked in advance at set times of 11 a.m., 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. each day, based on availability.

COVID-19 precautions and proof of vaccination are required at all locations.

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 NEWS

# UNICEF tap box a creative way to **reinvent** fundraising, says NOTL father, tech worker

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

While most other kids were getting ready for trick or treating, Ben Van Veghel-Wood was out on the streets of Old Town in Niagara-on-the-Lake raising money for UNICEF.

The 12-year-old and some of his classmates from Royal Oak Academy stood at the steps of the old Court House on Halloween, with a box rigged up with technology to collect electronic donations in amounts of \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20.

Ben's father Jason works for Tiptap, a financial tech company in Burlington that helped develop the boxes for the global charity. He said the technology has been helping to change the way donations are collected, since fewer people are carrying cash.

The box essentially functions like a point of sales system, with an option to tap your card.

Jason said the technology is now widely used by major charities.



Ben Van Veghel-Wood (left) and friends Skie, Saxon and Sebastian help raise money for UNICEF on Sunday. SUPPLIED

"You've probably seen them at Tim Hortons, or the Legion's using them this year as part of their poppy campaign (at 1,000 locations across Canada). The Salvation Army used them last year and they'll use them again this year as part of their campaign," he said.

"They basically replace cash donations, because fewer people are carrying cash and they were all looking for a way around that, a way to sort of offset the donations that they were losing."

One day UNICEF

boxes came up at work, and his boss said, "Let's make giant ones."

"And I said, 'You know what? My son's been looking for a charity to support. I'm sure he could get all his friends on board. Can we get one for Niagara-on-the-Lake if I get permission from the town council?'"

He said Coun. Clare Cameron went to bat for him and it was approved. He even received a call from the town's director of operations Sheldon Randall to make sure he had everything he needed.

For Ben, raising money to help people in need is something he's become passionate about. Jason said Ben has been educating his friends Skie, Saxon and Sebastian on preventable deaths from diseases like malaria, and they wanted to do something to help.

"We've become part of the solution and the solution is a \$2.50 net for over their bed. And it's like, we can raise so much money for that and we'll be part of the solution that saves these kids. So his friends were like, 'Yeah, we'll go sign up with will stand there with you.'"

"They're all gung ho. I love them to bits for that," Jason said.

Jason said he's looking forward to seeing how the technology changes fundraising, noting the Legion's campaign that started on Friday was doing extremely well in just the first 30 minutes.

"So, it's just one of those things where it's like, 'Yeah, this is good.' This is going to change the way people give."



## A night at the **museum**

The NOTL Museum and hosts Lauren and Vaughn Goettler invited members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community to an evening gathering last week to learn about the museum's planned expansion and renovation. Standing under a tent in their backyard, the Goettlers spoke fondly of their longtime connection to the museum which began when they learned that the original landscape plans for their historic home had been carefully preserved by museum staff. The event was one of a series of information gatherings the museum is planning in order to spread the word about the expansion project and generate community feedback and support. SUPPLIED



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# Predators **bounce back** from one-sided loss to North York

Kevan Dowd  
Special to The Lake Report

“Claustrophobic” might be the best word to describe last Friday night’s Niagara Predators game. With the North York Renegades seemingly everywhere the home team turned, the game ended in a 5-2 loss for Niagara.

With that loss, followed by a 5-2 win on the road Sunday, the formerly first-place Predators are in third behind North York and the Durham Roadrunners in the southern division of the Greater Metro Jr. A Hockey League. The Preds are now 7-3, but have played one more game than their top two rivals.

The Niagara team has a bye week ahead, with no games scheduled till Nov. 12 – plenty of time to practise, add some players to their already-short bench and maybe find a new head coach.

Friday’s match, the team’s third game since the departure of former head coach Andrew Whalen, saw team owner Robert Turnbull back on the bench. “We made little mistakes,



Niagara goaltender Oskar Spinnars Nordin stretches to make the play against North York’s Warren Wang (47).  
KEVAN DOWD

we turned over the puck, a couple guys could have gotten to the puck a little bit earlier, we didn’t,” said Turnbull after the loss.

“We had a couple chances to shoot the puck and we didn’t. One guy is not going to skate by three, it’s not rocket science. Dump the puck in, let your winger go get it and then go right to the net. We didn’t do that.”

Turnbull still felt plenty went right for his team, saying he thinks the Predators outplayed North York during the first period, which ended without either team scoring. He also takes less issue with the Renegades’

fifth goal on an empty net.

“Really, it’s a 4-2 game without the empty net goal. But we took a lot of unnecessary penalties and that’s kind of it in a nutshell. We worked hard. I thought we played very well and I commend us.”

The scoresheet was blank until 1:14 into the second period with a goal for North York and their second tally came six minutes later.

North York took a 3-0 lead after 42 minutes of play, earning forward Santino Foti a natural hat trick. But he wasn’t finished.

Foti would also get his team’s fourth of the night

with four minutes left in the game but not before Niagara’s Jesper Eriksson and Alexander Insulander netted the Predators’ only two goals of the night before the midway point of the third period. North York’s Nikolai Salvo got the empty netter with 33 seconds left in the game.

Along with their two goals, the third period saw the Predators coming back onto the ice with a fury, an effort Turnbull recognized.

“I explained to them (in the dressing room), that in order to go where they want to go, to finish where they want to finish, they have to show the other team what they’re made of,” said Turnbull.

“They have to get to the puck, they have to skate their butts off and you have to be more physical – and that’s what they did. And I said, ‘You have to pass the puck a little bit more.’ And everything I asked them to do, they did.”

Despite the loss, Turnbull remains optimistic, saying the Renegades had the advantage of practising together since mid-summer, something his team has

been unable to do.

“So I give full credit to our team. I think with some real good practices, teaching them a few things that maybe they forget or showing them things that I may not be showing them, it can be better. I really believe in my heart we can beat them.”

Friday night’s game was also the debut of St. David’s native Maxwell Bredin, the Niagara team’s only hometown player.

A recent A.N. Myer Secondary School graduate who moved to NOTL six years ago, Bredin most recently played for the Pelham Panthers in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

“I’m just happy to be here locally in Virgil. It’s a great group of guys, really great hockey players, too,” he said in an interview. “I just want to really do well out here, perform for my parents and friends and just play for my hometown.”

Bredin feels he has a lot to offer the team both on and off the ice.

“I think my passing and skating are probably my biggest attributes I can bring to the team. I also like to think of myself as a good

locker room guy,” he said. “I like hanging with the guys, meeting new people and just being another friendly face in the room.”

The Predators fared better during their Halloween afternoon road game against the Streetsville Flyers, flipping the score and winning 5-2, their third victory in three games against the Mississauga-based team..

Streetsville’s Ryan Byrne struck first a mere eight seconds into the game but Niagara’s Reese Bisci evened the score at the 14:04 mark.

Dante Massi got a second for the Predators just under four minutes into the second period and Streetsville’s Cole Wigle tied it 20 seconds later. But Niagara’s Mario Zitella and Jesper Eriksson gave the Predators a two-goal lead going into the third.

Bisci put his second past goaltender Lynden Blanchet five minutes into the last period for the final goal of the night.

With their bye week, the Predators next hit the ice versus the Plattsville Lakers in Virgil on Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

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# Dr. Brown: How we **feel** touch, warmth, cold and pain

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report



Without our senses, our bodies and brains would be unable to make sense of what's going on outside and within our bodies.

Those senses depend on billions of sensors (receptors) and their related nerve cells, each tuned to specific, often narrow banded electromagnetic, chemical, mechanical and noxious (unpleasant) stimuli to provide the nervous system with the information needed for the brain and body to function.

By the end of the 20th century much was known about the structure and physiological characteristics of the touch-pressure, temperature and pain systems.

However, little was known about how those stimuli were translated (transduced) into electrical signals transmitted in the peripheral nervous system.

David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian changed that and for their achievements were awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, "For their

discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch."

In the early 1990s, Julius discovered the gene that coded for the capsaicin-sensitive sensory receptor, which he called TRPV1.

Not only was this receptor sensitive to capsaicin (which is found in chili peppers), but also to temperatures equal to or exceeding 45C. Thus, this receptor was sensitive to both pain and hot temperatures.

In 2002, the gene, and thus the sensory receptor for cold sensation, was discovered by the Julius and Patapoutian, working independently, based on the assumption that menthol, a natural compound that elicits the sensation of mild coolness in humans, would bind to a receptor that was activated by cold.

Using similar reasoning and methods, both groups identified another receptor, which they called TRPM8.

It was activated by mildly cooling the skin (25C to 5C) and showed in later studies, again working independently, that deletion of the gene for TRPM8 in mice blocked the sensation of mild coldness.

Of this discovery, the Nobel committee commented: "The discovery of TRPM8 as a cold sensor placed the TRP superfamily at the centre stage of thermal somatosensation and paved the way to identifying additional TRP channels responsible for thermal sensation."

Patapoutian's lab turned its attention to mechanosensitive receptors and identified a cell line that was sensitive to mechanical stimulation. From that line he identified 72 genes as possible candidates for the mechanosensitivity of the cells.

By knocking out one after the other of the candidate genes, he found one that coded for the receptor.

Moreover, he was able to show that introducing that same gene into cells without any sensitivity to mechanical stimuli conferred sensitivity to mechanical stimuli on the cells. They called the receptor PIEZO1, after the piezoelectricity observed in crystals, some ceramics and organic materials whose charge changes with physical stress.

Later, a closely related receptor, PIEZO2, was found. It turned out to be the receptor protein for such ubiquitous mechanoreceptors as Merkel's discs, Meissner's corpuscles, Pacinian corpuscles and hair follicle receptors, which collectively provide precise, highly localized tactile information.

In a related fashion, PIEZO2 receptors within muscles and tendons, provide information about changes in the length (muscle spindles) and tension in muscles (Golgi tendon organs) that are important for co-ordinated movement and balance.

On the other hand, PIEZO1 receptors play important roles in monitoring distention of the

bladder and urethra, and pressure within the inner lining of the heart and arteries where their sensitivity to stretch and pressure makes sense.

The PIEZO protein is the largest transmembrane receptor yet discovered – over 2,500 amino acids with a central ion-conducting pore.

Extending into the space outside the cell membrane are three large mechanosensitive blades that create a bowl-like structure on the surface of the membrane. Mechanical forces applied to the membrane flatten the blades and open the ion channel.

This triggers an electrical signal that is transmitted to the spinal cord or brainstem and a chain of nerve cells, which pass the information along to the thalamus and primary sensory cortex, and beyond.

It's really an extraordinary tale that begins with distorting a protein in a membrane and an after-stimulus trail of signals all the way to the brain.

The story is incomplete but this year's laureates in physiology-medicine, Julius

and Patapoutian contributed mightily to a story that stands on the shoulders of the contributions of 22 other Nobel laureates, beginning with Camillo Golgi and Santiago Ramón y Cajal in 1906. Quite the ride.

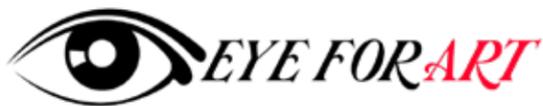
The studies by Julius and Patapoutian are important because they provide information about how touch, temperature and pain are translated at the molecular level into electrical signals in the nervous system.

This information is essential for developing more effective, less-risky medications for treating pain and other sensory symptoms related to nervous system diseases.

## NOBEL SERIES

Remember to sign up for the Nobel series beginning Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. through Zoom links on the NOTL Public Library's website. Hope to see you there..

*Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.*



## 'Eclipse of the Sun'

Penny-Lynn Cookson  
Special to The Lake Report

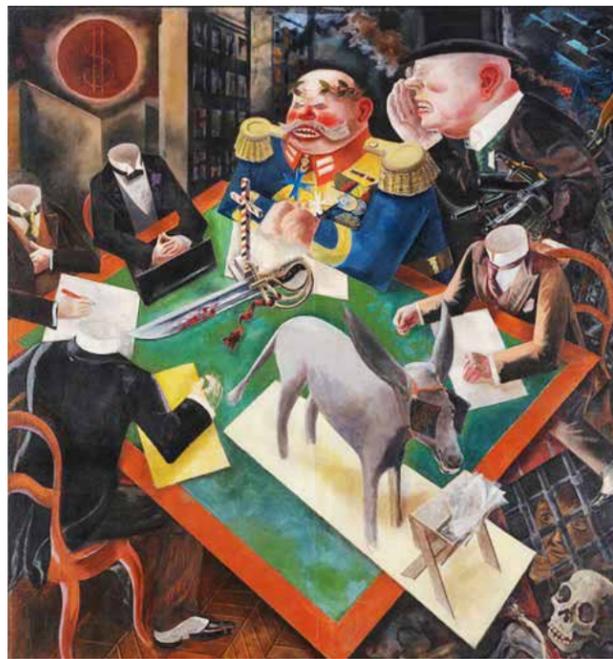
This week's COP26 Glasgow Climate Change Conference has brought delegates, world leaders and activists together with the urgent aim of reducing carbon emissions and preventing further temperature increases that, if unchecked, will have catastrophic future consequences for the world.

The New York Post's editorial board's headline of Oct. 30 states, "Glasgow idiocy! Climate change isn't remotely the world's No. 1 problem" and it goes on to say: "The hype over the Glasgow climate summit is the usual over-the-top nonsense ... Extreme weather is not growing more common and an ever-richer world handles it better ..."

One might ask what planet do owner Rupert Murdoch and his New York Post editors live on?

We might consider a German Weimar era painting by George Grosz, "Eclipse of the Sun," created in 1926 in Berlin, which reveals how short-term interests of those wielding power and economic resources can lead a nation to financial collapse, poverty and hunger, the loss of democracy, incarceration of those who disagree, corruption, increased militarization and ultimately war.

The "Sun" in the painting is a coin tarnished by the smoke and flames of the city in the background with its dollar sign symbolic of American money supporting the industrial growth of Germany after the First World War.



George Grosz, "Eclipse of the Sun," 1926, oil on canvas, Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, New York. SUPPLIED

The president, Gen. Paul von Hindenburg, wears his bemedalled uniform, a victory laurel wreath perched on his head. He is solid and stolid, flushed, staring fiercely ahead with an aggressive mouth and mad dog bared teeth beneath his swooping military moustache.

A crucifix and a blood-stained sword lie on the table in front of him. Here is the man who in seven years will appoint Adolf Hitler as chancellor of Germany.

An industrialist, who holds toy-sized trains and armaments under his arm, leans over to whisper, lobbying

conspiratorially into von Hindenburg's ear. Headless bureaucrats sitting around the table in their formal suits and spats, mindlessly sign whatever paperwork is placed before them.

The blinkered donkey standing on a plank, nose to a trough of papers (promises? sports? entertainment?), is symbolic of the easily led common folk.

Another functionary has his foot on a floor grill under which an imprisoned activist youth, wide-eyed and innocent, looks up at the proceedings. An all-knowing skeleton, representing death, lurks in the bottom right, tethered to the plank holding the donkey.

Who was this remarkable artist? Grosz, born in Berlin in 1893, was famous in Germany for his fearless caricature drawings and paintings of Berlin life in the 1920s. He was a founding member of the irreverent anti-war and nihilistic Berlin Dada group of artists and the New Objectivity movement.

Grosz's dark, humorous style and use of satire was highly influential among his contemporaries and his unflinching paintings influenced future artists such as Francis Bacon and Lucien Freud.

Once the Nazis came to power in 1933, it was inevitable that they would come for Grosz. He fled with his family to the United States in 1933 and became a teacher at the renowned Art Students League of New York.

He exhibited but his work had changed. It lost its bite in America. In May of 1959, he returned to West Berlin and two months later, after a night of drinking, fell down some stairs and died.

*Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for 10 years. She was also head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Watch for her upcoming lectures in 2022 for the Pumphouse in Niagara-on-the-Lake and RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston.*



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# FEATURED



## The old rifle range

This Second World War photograph shows soldiers training at Niagara Camp's rifle range. The grounds were located along Lakeshore Road, just west of Shakespeare Avenue. Today the land is still fenced off with federal government signage marking the entrance. The training involved at this site included general target practice but also training the soldiers to continue firing while wearing gas masks and being exposed to gas. The flag to the left signals "Stay-Away" so that anyone nearby, whether on land or in the lake, would keep their distance. This land was also used to practise rocket launchers, mock battles between the soldiers and other training tactics meant to prepare them for the new weaponry they would face in Europe.



## Touring around St. Davids

Brian Marshall  
Columnist



Woodruff-Rigby House sporting +200-year-old clapboard.  
BRIAN MARSHALL

It is a bit of a challenge for me to write about St. Davids in the context of this column since in recent years this village has come to typify what can happen when a locale is abandoned without an articulated vision for development, design review guidelines and effective administration (enforcement) of both.

Still, while from a design and planning perspective there may have been questionable (i.e. Mississauga-like) development in the village, St. Davids has a long history, possessing some very fine surviving examples of our built heritage.

Take, for example, the Woodruff-Rigby house at 1385 York Rd. Constructed circa 1815, this gracious five-bay Georgian dwelling has been lovingly cared for,

restored and maintained by its owners of nearly five decades.

It is thanks to them that the original white clapboard is still in place after more than 200 years; a testament to the durability of this cladding choice. And the chimneys you can see service six original fireplaces. Although the front door and surround is a circa 1870s Victorian modification, it still tells part of the story of this fine home.

On the opposite side of York Road at #1388, #1376 and #1359, are three superb examples of the uniquely Canadian expression of Edwardian Classicism.

Across Four Mile Creek Road, running off York Road, is Paxton Lane and, on the corner, is Locust Hall,

built again by the Woodruffs circa 1823. This solid brick home is stylistically Neo-Classical with substantial limestone quoins and watertable. Note the main entry and ranked window surrounds.

At the end of Paxton Lane is the Secord-Paxton House. This is one of the few dwellings in Niagara-on-the-Lake that pre-date the War of 1812, having not been put to the torch. It is heritage designated, its condition deplorable and it is owned by a developer. In my opinion, a perfect example of demolition-by-neglect that should be addressed by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Moving to Four Mile Creek Road, if one turns north, at #290 is St. Davids' Clement House (distinct

from the Clement House in Virgil). This dwelling, originally built circa 1786, was burned in 1814 but the structure is believed to have partially survived and been incorporated when the house was restored after the war ended.

Remaining on Four Mile Creek, on the south side of York, are several houses that I have featured in past articles, the first of which is the Duggan House at #238. Displaying as it does Edwardian, Arts & Crafts and Prairie influences, it's circa 1911 build was done when concrete block was the new cutting-edge vogue material for statement homes.

Another survivor of the War of 1812 is the Peter Secord House at #215. A pretty little home constructed of whirlpool sandstone it was featured in my Aug. 19, 2020, column that is available on the Niagara Now website.

And across the road, we cannot forget the Woodbourne Inn, another Woodruff home. Read more about it at [heirloomhomeguide.ca/](http://heirloomhomeguide.ca/) rare-unique-storied (scroll down to the fourth page).

## Looking to the Stars



## Relationships sparkle and simmer starting Saturday

This week, we see the new moon in Scorpio and Mercury entering Scorpio.

**Thursday, Nov. 4:** A walking contradiction it is to say "today we see the new moon in Scorpio," because the new moon is never visible. It's when the sun shines no light on the moon. That means it's a suitable time to plan accomplishments for the full lunar month ahead. It was Nov. 4, 2008, that Barak Obama became the 44th president of the United States of America.

**Friday, Nov. 5:** Scorpio is the theme again today as Mercury moves from balancing Libra into mystical, transformative Scorpio. From now through Nov. 24 thinking is deep and uncovering of motives and the mysteries of many things. Including matters of sexuality. Canadian musician Bryan Adams turns 62 today.

**Saturday, Nov. 6:** Mercury, having just moved into Scorpio, makes a friendly connection with Venus in Capricorn. It may be a few words or a new understanding, but either way both intimate and business relationships sparkle and simmer. Just past his 30th birthday, Canadian teacher James Naismith oversaw the first game of the sport he invented. Basketball's rules were first set out in time for Christmas 1891. Naismith would be 160 years old today.

**Sunday, Nov. 7:** Stresses today are focused on our desire for better communication and for deeper truth. Getting these improvements is where the stress comes from. Success is very rewarding. She was born Roberta Joan Anderson on Nov. 7, 1943. We know her as Joni Mitchell. From Fort McLeod, Alta., to Toronto to Laurel Canyon, Calif., she has

conquered the world with timeless songs like "Both Sides Now" and many more.

**Monday, Nov. 8:** With the moon in serious Capricorn, this week begins on a generous, charming and sexy note. Enjoy! Nov. 8, 2020, was a very sad day for millions of TV viewers all over the world. It was the day Alex Trebek died after 36 years hosting the trivia-based game show, "Jeopardy!".

**Tuesday, Nov. 9:** The moon is in the same place in the sky as is Pluto this morning. Then there is a blank in the solar system until very late tonight when the moon enters Aquarius. It's known as a "void of course" moon and is usually interpreted as a good time to not initiate new things. It's been only one year since Pfizer Pharmaceuticals announced its COVID-19 vaccine was 90 per cent effective after 44,000 phase 3 trials.

**Wednesday, Nov. 10:** If two days could be more unlike, they would have to be more different than yesterday and today. While Tuesday saw almost no activity in the solar system, today is busy and demanding. In addition to seven lunar aspects, Mercury is square to Saturn in Aquarius and conjoins Mars in Scorpio. News is serious and news is deep. Remember to breathe. Canada's fourth prime minister, John Thompson, was born Nov. 10, 1845. He served for two years before a heart attack took him from us. He was Canada's first Roman Catholic PM.

**Please check out the new website [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca) as in Looking Up to the Stars. And you can get my free horoscope with interpretation emailed to you.**

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## 'There is no tool like an **old** tool'



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Garden Columnist

If you are like me, you probably have a favourite garden spade that you have been using for years, or maybe favourite pruners that you just couldn't do without.

If you are not like me, you are probably thinking that I need to get out more often.

Today, as I was gardening, I got thinking about how old my secateurs (pruning

shears) are and realized that I have had them for just over 30 years.

I believe that I also have had my shovel for at least 25 years. My dad always told me to, "Buy good and buy once." If you buy tools of good quality, you do not have to keep replacing them every year or two. So, the saying, or my interpretation of that saying, "There is no tool like an old tool," is true.

The trick is how to keep your gardening tools in good working order. As we wait for the leaves to fall from the trees and start packing things away in the shed or garage, why not take a couple minutes and clean up your garden tools properly.

Shovels, rakes, hoes and garden forks: The first step in cleaning up your shovels, rakes, hoes and garden forks is to use the hose to wash off all of the dirt remaining



on them.

If they are still dirty after rinsing them off, you may need to use a stiff bristle brush for a more thorough scrubbing. This is also a great time to sharpen the shovels and hoes. You can use either a file, wet stone or a sharpening tool like the ones used for pruners. Putting a good edge on shovels or hoes will mean not having to work harder in the spring.

To keep the tools from rusting over winter, take a

large pot or pail and fill it with sand. Add about 1 cup of vegetable oil to the sand and mix them together.

Then insert the shovel, rake or hoe and the sand/oil mixture which will coat the metal part of the tools. Pull the tools out of the sand and leave this mixture on them over winter. It will stop rust from forming.

If the wooden handles are feeling rough, causing blistered hands, take a piece of sandpaper and rub it up and down the handle several times to smooth it out. To help the wood from drying out over the years, you can also put some linseed oil on a cloth and rub it into the handle.

Shears, secateurs and loppers: Again, with your pruners, make sure that you wash off any soil. Use steel wool to remove the sap from the blades.

If the blades have be-

come rusty over time, there is an easy way to take off the rust. Simply put some distilled white vinegar into a spray bottle and spray the blades of your pruners.

Then wrap the blades in paper towels and spray again until the towels are soaked. Leave the pruners sit for two hours, with the paper towels still wrapped around them.

Then remove the paper towels. Using a sanding block or a piece of steel wool, scrub back and forth and the rust should come right off. I have also heard that Scrubbing Bubbles toilet cleaner works well for removing rust.

Now that the blades and handles are all spruced up, it is a good time to sharpen them up. There are many different sharpeners available to purchase.

For bypass pruners, where the two blades bypass each

other, the blades are always bevelled on the outer-facing edge. Always sharpen the bevelled edge and never the flat, inward-facing edge.

Once the blades are sharpened, use machine oil (like 3 in 1 Oil) and lubricate all the working parts of the pruners (spring, bolts, screws, etc). Your pruners are now ready to be stored for winter.

After you have mowed your lawn for the final time this season, why not take a few minutes to clean up the blades before putting away the mower. Use a file to remove all of the dried grass cuttings from the blades and the underside of the machine.

And just like that, your tools are now ready for winter..

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

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