

Lewis Lambert

Veteran's story gets new life

By Tim Taylor

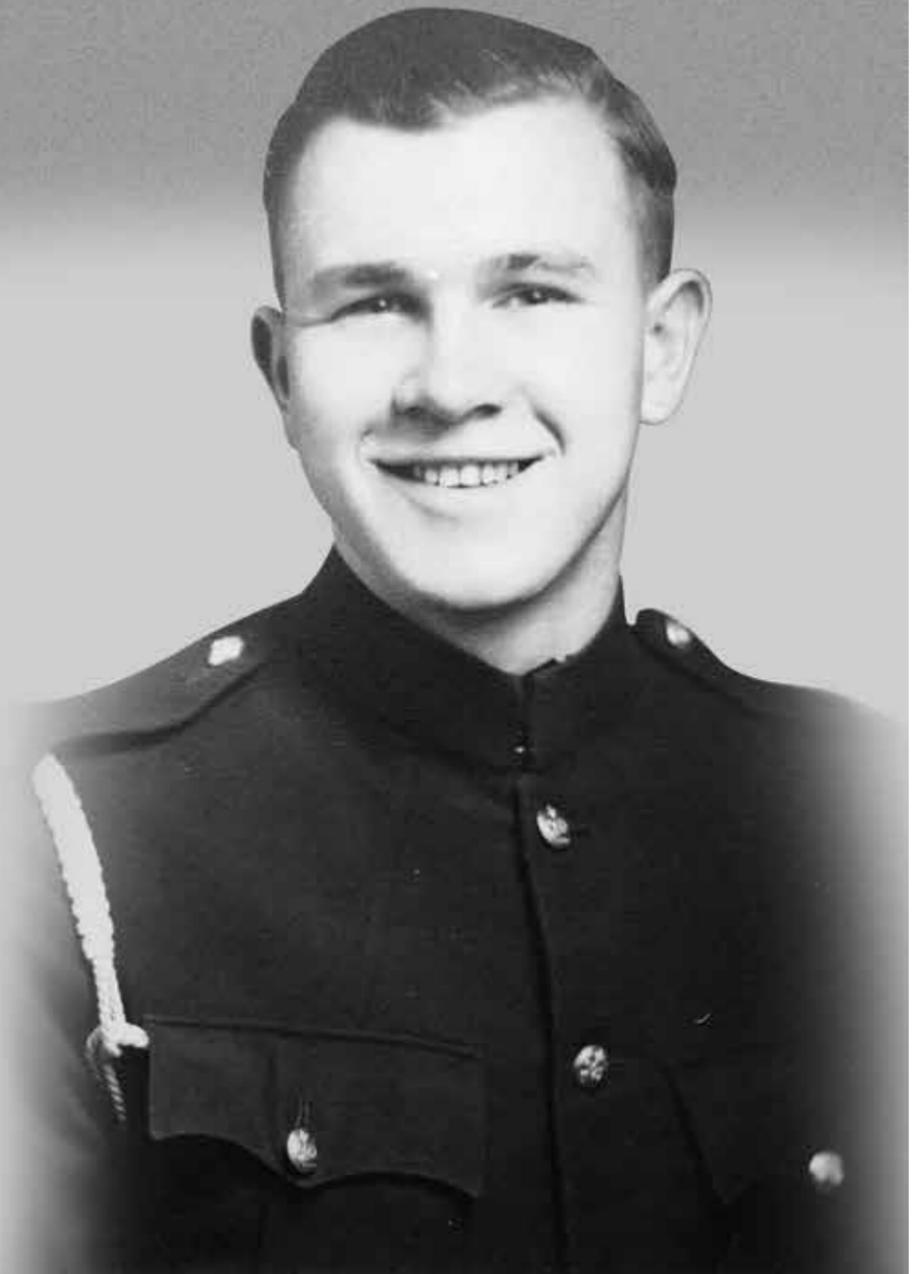
In 1987, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion Branch 124 interviewed and recorded more than 150 life and service vignettes of its members, saving their memories for posterity on now-antiquated cassette tapes, labelled and stored in three sturdy cardboard boxes above cupboards in the Legion office.

The Legion now calls the effort the Memory Project and is slowly working through the process of making the archived recordings more widely available to families and military history buffs.

As part of its Remembrance Day coverage, The Lake Report requested permission to listen to a recording, selected at random, to get a first-hand feel for the life and times of one combat veteran.

This is the story of Lewis Lambert.

Page 10



NOTL landmark Mori Gardens closing

Store forced to vacate after leased land was sold to developer Benny Marotta

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake institution is closing after 45 years.

Mori Gardens Design & Garden Centre is shutting down at the end of the season, after the land the shop operates on was sold, owner Tonie Mori said in an interview at the garden centre on Monday.

Her father-in-law Leno Mori sold the 26-acre property on Friday to developer Benny Marotta's Two Sisters Resorts Corp. for \$5 million, Marotta said. One of the requirements of the sale is that the businesses vacate the property, Tonie said.

The property is on the corner of Niagara Stone Road and Concession 4 Road. Another 50 acres of the property was sold in 2019.

The property where Mori Gardens operates has been on the market for a few years and Tonie figured



Mori Gardens staff at the back pond, with Tonie Mori leading the pack. RICHARD HARLEY

it was just a matter of time. "We knew it was sort of happening but actually happened last Friday."

The store has been a landmark for people headed into town on Niagara Stone Road, she said.

Her son Miguel said originally they planned to keep the store open, but there was no option to split the land.

"Initially we were planning to just keep going, and

then things changed and they wanted the whole property and there was no way for us to split, because it all is one piece of agricultural land."

Tonie said she tried to split the land about 10 years ago to purchase the two acres the store operates on, "but the region wasn't agreeable because it's agricultural zone or green belt zone and you can only cut off so much."

It's sort of a happy-sad feeling to close the store, Tonie said. On one hand, Mori Gardens has been more than just a garden centre. It is an experience, an atmosphere and a way to connect with the community.

On the other hand, the 66-year-old said she is ready to retire from the business and focus on her energies

Continued on Page 2



Legion members Maurice Pam, Allan Howse and Stan Harrington. RICHARD HARLEY

Legion poppies available at stores across NOTL

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in Niagara-on-the-Lake has kicked off its Remembrance Day poppy drive.

The poppies are available at a number of stores across town for a donation to the Legion.

Stan Harrington, a member of the poppy committee, said the poppies generally raise about \$20,000 for the Legion, though the numbers from this year aren't in yet.

Maurice Pam, first vice-

president of the Legion, said this year members would not be out canvassing due to the pandemic.

Similarly, the traditional Remembrance Day ceremonies held at the cenotaphs in Old Town and Queenston are both cancelled this year.

Instead there will be an invitation-only service held at the Legion monument at 410 King St., which will be live-streamed online.

There will also be wreaths laid at each cenotaph at sunset November 10, and a place for people to drop off poppies on Nov. 11.



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Maya Webster, 9, continues **fight** for diabetes research

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report



Nine-year-old Maya Webster is continuing to fight for Type 1 diabetes research. She will be speaking during an online session this week. BRITTANY CARTER

Nine-year-old Maya Webster says she will continue advocating for Type 1 diabetes research until a cure is discovered.

This week, the Niagara-on-the-Lake youngster is taking a virtual stand with more than 30 other delegates as part of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Kids for a Cure Lobby Day.

JDRF is a global charitable organization with the goal of ending Type 1 diabetes through research funding and advocacy.

Kids for a Cure, the week-long virtual event, connects youth delegates with Canada's decision-making politicians to illustrate daily challenges people living with Type 1 diabetes face, and to ask for more direct support from the government.

This year, the foundation has three main asks: for the federal government to renew a partnership with JDRF

and the Canadian Institute of Health and Research, to create a national diabetes strategy and for more people to be able to access the disability tax credit.

"What I'm doing this year, and what I did in 2018 with this, is trying to find the cure because as much as I have insulin it still isn't a cure," Maya says.

Delegates created virtual slideshows to give a personal overview of what living with Type 1 diabetes means for them. Maya says she included images of herself when she was sick, pictures of herself happy and healthy, and information on what a day in the life of a Type 1 diabetic looks like.

Maya is no stranger to

voicing concerns on a public stage. In July 2019, she went door-to-door to secure signatures for a petition asking for OHIP to cover the cost of glucose monitoring devices for people with Type 1 diabetes. Last November she met with Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates and took that petition to Queen's Park.

She says she counts herself lucky to have her own glucose monitoring device covered by her mother Christi Webster's workplace health insurance plan. Her devices, one which reads her blood sugar levels and one which administers insulin when needed, replace the five needles and 10 finger pokes she used to endure each day. She says she wants to see everyone who needs those devices to have access to them.

Even with her monitoring devices, Maya says being diagnosed at a young age, (she was two years old), she needed to grow up a little faster than most kids her age.

"I had to figure out how to be a bit more responsible with my blood sugars and to take care of myself better," she says.

Christi says much of their fight includes breaking stereotypes about diabetics and educating people about the realities of the disease.

"Making people aware there was nothing she did

to cause this, nothing I did when I was pregnant, nothing like that set it off. She just drew the unlucky card. She drew the short straw," she says.

"I don't really care what people say when it comes to my diabetes. I'm not scared to show it and I'll let people see. And that's really what being a JDRF advocate means to me," Maya says.

And though she says some kids at her school might think she's lucky because they see her eating candy, "They can't realize all of the fun activities that I do miss out on, like gym and a lot of my recess, because my blood sugar may be really low."

While she is taking the fight public through the JDRF, Maya says people can help support the cause by writing to Ontario Finance Minister Rod Phillips in support of the foundation's pre-budget recommendations and by joining the All-Party Juvenile Diabetes Caucus.

Mori Gardens **closing** after 45 years, owner to shift focus to her winery

Continued from Front Page

on Perridiso Estate Winery, which she co-owns.

"I'm kind of at the age for, you know, I guess retirement time," she said.

Miguel estimates the garden centre has created more than 2,000 designs and about 15,000 gardens over that time, "Maybe more than that."

Over the years, the garden centre has also given a lot back to the community through sponsoring events, offering event space and donating to various organizations, he said.

"We estimated probably about a million dollars has gone back to the community throughout those years," Miguel said.

Tonie said she figures at least \$20,000 a year is given back to various charitable organizations, including NOTL Palliative Care and the Rotary Club, through sponsoring its house and garden tours.

The garden centre has also been a big sponsor of Wells

of Hope's annual Passion fundraiser and was known for its annual Christmas Palooza and artisan sales.

Miguel, who was the driving force in marketing the garden centre, helping to set up events, seminars, garden courses and bringing the business online during the pandemic, said the business actually has done well during the pandemic.

"We did quite well actually this year. It was wonderful to still see people getting back in their gardens, to everything. We were top 4 per cent on Shopify actually this year. We did quite a lot. We opened up things like consultations online, our rentals. If not for what's happening now, we definitely would have just seen it continue."

He said the business will spend its final days focused on thanking the community.

"I mean, it's been 45 years. Tonie has owned and operated for 30 years now. Some of our team has been here for that full 30 years," he said.



Joanne Young, Tonie Mori, Miguel Mori and Joanne Mantini. SUPPLIED

Tonie noted about five or six staff members have been there for over 20 years.

Miguel, 33, looks back fondly at memories of growing up at the garden centre, working with his mom and his aunt Joanne Mantini.

"They've all been there pretty much the entire time. It very much is a family business," he said.

He also remembers customers fondly.

"People don't just walk in and leave, they come back. They're asking questions for years. They come just to eat their lunch even in the back next the pond, or they

got their first kitten from here — you know, all those things over the years."

Some of the garden centre's online courses will continue, Miguel said, just not as the garden centre, and Joanne Young will be continuing as a garden designer.

Both Tonie and Miguel said there are no plans to relocate the business.

Tonie said on top of the energy it takes to move and build the business again in a new location, it just wouldn't be the same.

"It's more than just selling the plants, it's all about the

atmosphere, all the things that you do around the gardens. All that make it an experience really to come in," she said, noting they built all of the buildings and the centre's popular event space by themselves.

"It's unfortunate it couldn't carry on really to new people. But, yeah, it just is that time," Tonie said.

Miguel said he'll likely still find a way to help local landscapers and garden centres, "especially the information and resources we have."

"And maybe we'll find ways to do certain little

things," he said. "We're talking about how we can maybe move some of the events and what it looks like afterwards, the Palooza, the wedding events and stuff like that."

Tonie said while she knows the property sale is a big talking point for people in town, she wants to focus on the garden centre, and thanking the community for years of loyalty.

"We wanted it more to be about the garden centre being a business in Niagara-on-the-Lake for such a long time, and that we so appreciate people's loyalty coming here, the opportunity to get to meet so many people."

Miguel said it's the same old motto the store has had for years, "Let's grow together."

"It's the idea we grew as a community — all those events that we did, all the not-for-profit things, everyone's home garden advice."

They said it's not the end of an era, just the end of a chapter.

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Fundraising opens up for new nursery school

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara Nursery School has launched fundraising efforts for its new expansion at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre.

The school, a registered charity that's been operating in town for 48 years, currently has a waitlist of about 140 children. The expansion would allow the school

to significantly reduce the numbers on that list, to add 25 spots for infants aged 18 months and younger, to keep children from the same families together and to build three new playgrounds and purchase additional educational supplies.

The school is hoping to raise \$100,000 through community donations.

"(Niagara Nursery School) is excited to launch

its fundraising campaign, engaging both community members and partners who wish to build their legacy, support their local community and ensure that the children of NOTL have access to vital early childhood education," the school said.

Candice Penny, executive director of the school, is "very excited for the expansion and what it means for the growing community."

"To be able to continue to offer quality early childhood education to more children and families in our community is a dream come true," Penny said.

More information on the expansion and donation options can be found at niagaranurseryschool.com. Anyone wishing to donate can do so directly at canadahelps.org/en/charities/niagara-nursery-school.

No Fort George rink this season

The ice rink at Fort George will not be opening this season due to COVID-19.

"We would like to inform our visitors that the Vintage-Parks Canada ice rink will not be operating during the 2020-21 winter season. These actions are intended to respect the advice of public health experts to avoid large public gatherings," said a Parks Canada media release.

NOTL COVID update

Niagara-on-the-Lake continues to see waves in COVID-19 cases. This week there are five active cases in town, up from zero last week. The overall case count now sits at 54. In the Niagara region, there have been 1,540 cases and 74 deaths due to the virus. About 26.5 per cent of cases have been related to outbreaks in long-term care homes. NOTL's long-term care homes have avoided any cases.

NOTL gets SPOOKY for Halloween

Photos by Richard Harley



Lyn and Gordon Stratford hand out candies from their decked-out porch in The Village.



Lennox Meadows, 9, Aimee Meadows, 6, Fiona Byrne and Nora Jansen, 8, trick-or-treat in Chautauqua.



Natalie Simpson, 9, Luke Simpson, 8, and William Trapasso, 7, out hunting for candy in Garrison Village.



Naomi Coles, 10, Josh Bateson, Elizabeth Hopkins, 10 and Jane Bateson, 10, go door to door in Homestead.



Eamonn and Aine Charles trick-or-treat in Chautauqua.



Some houses in town went all out with decorations, like this house in Garrison Village.



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Design & Layout: Richard Harley
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Contributors: Brittany Carter, Jessica Maxwell, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Susan Des Islets, Leslie Moulson, Norm Arsenault, Patty Garriock, Steve Hardaker, Plunger Patrol, Ross Robinson, Tim Carroll, NOTL Writers' Circle, Lisa Tache, Megan Vanderlee, and many more members of the NOTL community



Contributed by Patty Garriock
 "Long friendships are like jewels, polished over time to become beautiful and enduring."
 - Celia Brayfield



Contributed by Norm Arsenault:
 Did you know? A leaky faucet that fills a coffee cup in 10 minutes will waste an estimated 3,000 gallons of water per year. Improperly sealed or caulked windows can account for up to 25% of total heat loss from a house. Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill space and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity. (World Wildlife Organization)

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Editorial: Nursery school, poppies and more

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a community that comes together when people are in need. We've seen that time and time again, and it doesn't really get old, because it's a part of what this town is all about.

Now is one of those times where help is needed, only this time it's the community that needs help.

The Niagara Nursery School has been a part of the fabric of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community for 48 years (I went there, when it was at Parliament Oak).

The school, a registered charity, is launching a major fundraiser for its \$2-million expansion at the community centre. The expansion will cut down the student waitlist which is currently at 140 kids, and will provide a safe, licensed daycare and early education for kids in our community.

Whether you have kids or not, this is something we should all support. It helps



Nursery School staff with preschool students. FILE PHOTO

attract new families to the area and provides for our next generation.

So, here's a call to the community to support the school. We challenge everyone in town to make a donation, however big or small, to support the future of the NOTL community.

You could have fun with it, too. Why not get the family involved and hold your own little fundraiser? Maybe a little bake sale (COVID safe)? Or some nursery school bracelets or masks to sell? Maybe a virtual talent show? Surely there are some creative minds out there.

Or just drop off a cheque. Either way, let's see how fast this community can make the goal of

\$100,000 happen for the nursery school. And if you do something creative to fundraise, send some pictures to The Lake Report. We'd love to see them!

On another note, because there's so much good going on in the community right now, in the spirit of NOTL, we'd like to salute:

* **The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124** members and staff, for running a great poppy drive — if you haven't gotten a poppy, please pick one up and make a donation. Poppies are available across town at many businesses.

* **The NOTL Rotary Club** for raising \$66,000 for World Polio Month. Because of efforts like theirs the world is 99 per cent free

of wild polio virus.

* The long list of **NOTL volunteer firefighters** who received honours for their combined 200-plus years of service last week, including Dave Jones and Frank Digweed, who have each given 40 years to the fire department.

* **NOTL's longterm care homes**, which since the start of the pandemic, have remained coronavirus-free.

* **The business community of NOTL**, which has been fighting to survive this pandemic. Check out some of those businesses in our Shop Local campaign and the organizations helping The Lake Report sponsor the project. If you own a business that you'd like to see featured, send us an email. We're publishing free mini-profiles of businesses for 10 weeks, or longer, to help give back to the business community that so generously supports our publication.

editor@niagaranow.com



5 of 9 directors resigned from residents association board

Dear editor:
 I am writing further to an Oct. 29 opinion piece in The Lake Report by Victor Tarnoy, "Trouble in paradise; Chautauqua needs strong voice to advocate for change."

In that article, Victor wrote that five directors had recently resigned from the board of the Chautauqua Residents Association (CRA). It has come to my attention that the news of those resignations has not reached some members of the CRA and I am writing so that they may become aware of the information.

At the 2020 annual general meeting on Sept. 14, 2020, the CRA members voted overwhelmingly to increase the size of the board to nine and to elect three new directors (including myself) and six returning directors for the following year. The process followed

was the same one that was used at the 2019 annual meeting to increase the size of the board to eight and to elect directors for the following year.

The first meeting of the new board was set for Oct. 5, 2020. When we attended, we were told by one of the returning directors that he had decided that due to errors by the board on Sept. 14 we were not properly elected and would not be allowed to join the board. There was no vote by the directors on this.

On Oct. 13, my fellow new directors and I emailed the six returning directors outlining how we believed we were legally elected. We further outlined how, under the CRA bylaws, we could be formally appointed directors even if the board felt that it did not wish to deal with possible technical problems with the election.

We said the board had a duty to carry out the clear wishes of the members to see us on the board. We asked for a meeting to discuss the matter and we made it clear that in our view the membership of the CRA should be provided with full disclosure. In response, the same returning director replied by email, rejecting our position. No meeting was scheduled.

During this period, two of the returning directors each emailed all directors more than once, saying that a meeting should be held and that the three new directors should be allowed to join the board.

As of Oct. 19, no meeting had been scheduled. It was evident to the two other new directors and myself that there was little likelihood that our status would be resolved in a timely manner.

Accordingly, we advised the board that we were resigning or standing down as the case may be. Two of us asked that the CRA membership be advised of our resignation and the reasons for it, but this has not happened as of the writing of this letter.

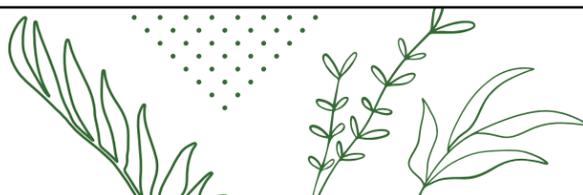
Following our resignations, the two returning directors noted above also resigned from the board in support of our concerns.

Whether some of the remaining directors made errors during or after the election, or both, it is time that some new directors are elected who can provide the necessary leadership and put in place the necessary bylaws, election processes, board practices and records management procedures that Chautauqua residents deserve.

Margot Devlin
 NOTL

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OPINION



Brock's Monument on Halloween. Queenston resident John Scott says the lighting is a "vast improvement." SUPPLIED

General Brock deserves remembrance, too

Dear editor:

More than a year ago I contacted Parks Canada and advised them that the General Brock Monument at Queenston Heights was mostly unlit, except for the base.

Every morning, usually in the dark, I walk for four or five kilometres and always have a view of General Brock. On a daily basis, I acknowledge him and thank him for his accomplishments.

On Friday, Oct. 30, I came home to the site of a fully lit monument — lights midway up wash

the main pillar and Brock himself bathed in bright light.

What a beautiful site.

On Oct. 13, 1812, Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock died leading a charge of British Regulars and Canadian Militia against the Americans who were invading Queenston Heights.

John Macdonell, his aide-de-camp, was mortally wounded leading a secondary charge. Maj.-Gen. Roger Hale Sheaffe led British, Canadian and First Nations forces to eventually win a resounding victory.

Both Brock and Mac-

donell were eventually entombed in the base of Brock's Monument.

I have always felt that this monument should be included in the remembrances of great wars that have been fought by Canadians.

Remembrance Day was first observed on Nov. 11, 1931 as a tribute to those who continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict and peace.

Surely this British soldier could be considered one of our key individuals from a time that allowed us to even have a Canada.

He was certainly thought of highly enough that the largest monument of its kind in Canada today was constructed in his honour, opening in 1859 (after the initial one was destroyed). The current one is 184 feet tall.

I recommend you take a drive to Queenston Heights, in the evening, when you can take in this well-lit tribute to arguably one of our greatest soldiers in Canadian history.

Perhaps consider a visit on or around Nov. 11.

*David Scott
Queenston*

Public criticism of volunteers was unwarranted

Dear editor:

As a longtime resident of Chautauqua (50 years), and a past member and president of our residents association, I feel compelled to respond to the submission in the Oct. 29 edition of The Lake Report headlined "Trouble in Paradise."

Our neighbourhood association, which has been active since 1952, has had a very positive working relationship with our town council over all these years. Issues that have been dealt with successfully include sewers, roads, traffic, the

Project Niagara music festival, lakeshore erosion at Ryerson Park, and many more.

Our fun events include the annual corn roast, the neighbourhood golf tournament and the Christmas Stroll. Chautauqua is truly a unique and wonderful place to live.

The sunsets at Ryerson Park are second to none and therein lies part of the problem. The issues surrounding this area as described in The Lake Report submission are certainly valid.

The extreme popularity

of this park and the beach, with only five official parking spots, is at the root of the problem. During this "pandemic summer," the residents closest to the park have been truly overwhelmed with illegal parking, traffic congestion and much more.

The concerns and complaints of the residents are legitimate and must be dealt with. However, issues as complex as this in our tiny neighbourhood are not resolved overnight. In the meantime, it is very unfortunate that one must resort

to public criticism of our present board of directors, as they wrestle with these problems.

Our CRA executive is composed of well-intentioned neighbourhood residents who volunteer their time and efforts on behalf of the entire Chautauqua area. Through consultation with town staff and other agencies, these issues can be and will be resolved. Public criticism of volunteers, is simply unwarranted.

*Buddy Andres
NOTL*



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A tree **grows** in Chautauqua

Ruth Denyer
Special to The Lake Report

My friends were looking for something meaningful to give me for my 60th birthday and, knowing my passion for trees, came up with the idea of planting one in Ryerson Park here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

So, ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce Tula, the tulip tree!

The tulip tree was chosen because it typically towers above the canopy, as it grows 35 metres tall (at over 6 feet tall myself, she will mimic the way I look in a crowd of people), will live about 500 years and both pollinators and birds



From left, Ruth Denyer, Shauna Press, Sue Baxter, Jody Evans, Lorraine Peterson, Marilyn Crow with "Tula," the tulip tree. SUPPLIED

love these trees due to the beautiful flowers that bloom on them in spring.

Tula is not the most

drought tolerant tree (her leaves will turn yellow during extreme drought), but I think it will give me a

purpose in my old age as I stagger down the street with buckets of water to ensure she remains healthy and happy, leafy and green.

I truly believe everyone should plant a long-lived gorgeous canopy tree to celebrate at least one major event in their life.

I feel happy knowing that Tula will still be here several hundred years from now, witnessing history as it unfolds, providing shade and beauty for visitors to the park and sustenance for the pollinators.

A big thank you goes to Shauna Press for skilfully handling the bureaucracy required to get this tree planted in Ryerson Park.



Birds fly over a grape field. FILE PHOTO

It's time for bird bangers to be **regulated** by town

Dear editor:

The time has come ... bird bangers need to be regulated.

I believe it is time to revisit the issue of bird bangers on a municipal level and finally get some action on this item.

My family were grape growers for many years, so I completely understand the issue of bird predation and realize bird bangers are a useful tool.

I fully support grape growers in my neighbourhood finding useful ways to manage crop protection. However, the core issue is education and policy enforcement.

Bird bangers need to be registered and monitored to ensure they are being used properly and following neighbourhood etiquette.

Enforcement needs to happen at the municipality level.

Criteria such as number of bird bangers per acre, ensuring rotation, volume and frequency between activations are some the elements that should be enforced.

There is nothing else like bird-bangers that can affect someone else's outdoor enjoyment or cause potential property devaluation. These farmers feel they have carte blanche to do as they wish when the only recourse for citizens is a lengthy, drawn-out process to appeal their use. The irony of the appeal board is it is presently comprised of six fellow farmers. This is not a very unbiased third party.

If my grass is too long – the town will intervene because of a municipal bylaw.

If I have trash on my property – the town will intervene because of a municipal bylaw.

If I am too noisy as a normal resident – the town will intervene because of a municipal bylaw.

This is not about getting the grape-grower farmers up in arms. Most of the farmers are using the bird bangers properly and fairly. But it's those few who don't know how to set them properly (or don't care) that I'm speaking to.

Yes, bird bangers are considered a normal farming practice, when executed properly. Tractors are also considered a normal farming tool, but can you image if I operated my tractor at full throttle for 30 seconds every three to four minutes of the day, from August to October, sunrise to sunset, seven days a week? What would my neighbours say?

As I write this letter, I have calculated that I have been subjected to over 80,892 cannon activations since the beginning of August, when the firing started.

Does this seem normal to anyone? Something needs to be done as it is causing a great divide between our farmers and residents, both vital to the growth of our communities in Niagara Region.

Someone on council needs to step up and bring a motion forward so that the municipality can have some enforcement rights on this issue.

And before you think I moved into a farming area from Toronto and just like to complain, I have lived at my present address for the last 46 years and pre-date any grapes and bird bangers by many, many decades.

Bob Oleksiw
NOTL

Traffic, trash and other **boondoggles** in prettiest dysfunctional town in the colonies

Dear editor:

As a resident for 20-plus years of the prettiest dysfunctional town in the colonies, it behooves me to comment on a few of the latest boondoggles and non-sensical matters facing the town:

1. Traffic and parking: The town files will reveal an early proposal to acquire the land where now sits the fire station and make this a parking lot, closing the road to visitors, and running a paid park-and-ride shuttle into town for visitors. Following this failed solution, time and dollars were spent to create the current park-

ing on side streets etc. and the acquired land dedicated to housing the fire station, library and community centre, and soon-to-be nursery school.

2. The District School Board of Niagara justified the closing of schools on expert studies that showed there would be no student-aged population to justify schools. School buses now run around town replacing the joy of children walking and playing on their way to and from school with diesel fumes. Now the town is building facilities for a nursery school while a former school sits empty

on King Street so we supposedly wealthy (soon-to-be impoverished) taxpayers will pay school taxes, municipal and regional taxes, and now a nursery school tax. I guess the experts were wrong or are we busing in children from the Garden City and the Falls? Lovely.

3. Garbage pickup is now every two weeks, a 50 per cent reduction with a 0 per cent reduction in taxes. Now I recognize this is a regional thing (another boondoggle that should be eliminated) but it is a perfect example of political logic – reduced service for

the same expense.

4. The town's planned business directory should be a Chamber of Commerce project and, quickly reviewing the Chamber's web page, it already seems to be doing the job. It should not be taxpayer-funded or -subsidized. This is, pure and simple, a bureaucratic make-work project that should be scuttled immediately.

All of which proves, once again, that government waste continues asunder at the largesse of the suffering taxpayers (suckers are us!).

William Cochrane Sr.
Queenston

Letting government take over nursing homes is **not the answer**

Dear editor:

Everyone knows for-profit nursing homes are responsible for the unnecessary death of several COVID patients in their care. Clearly there was and likely still is a problem. What was found when the military took over temporary control of several facilities was appalling and definitely contributed to many unnecessary deaths.

So what do we do about it?

Our MPP Wayne Gates has called for the government to take over all nursing homes and by implication staff them with

full-time unionized employees. Having failed to save jobs in the auto industry, he seems to found a new target.

Unfortunately he is ignoring the very poor job the government has done in protecting citizens of the province and the country. The solutions are still being ignored by government – rapid and expansive testing, contact tracing, social distancing, wearing masks, locking down isolated hot spots. So until they get the big picture right, if ever, let's not rush into letting them have a hand at running more nurs-

ing homes.

A reader has suggested that the profit motive is to blame. In a way he is right. Except that the role of government is to ensure the profit motive is controlled in such a way that society as a whole benefits. That explains why the standard of living rises as the economy expands.

In the case of the for-profit nursing homes, there are regulations set by government to ensure safe and effective care.

However, government inspections to ensure compliance were not conducted

properly. This is truly the key issue.

Why did the government inspectors not see any of the issues the military reported on? Who is accountable for this performance? What changes have been made to ensure ongoing compliance? What action has been taken to punish the owners and management responsible?

With this outrageous failure of government to inspect, why on earth would we give government full responsibility for these homes?

Mike Henry
NOTL



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On Nov. 11, we Remember

In Flanders Fields



In Flanders Fields
 In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.
 We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.
 Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.
Lt.-Col. John McCrae



Thanks to the businesses on this page for supporting this message. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in NOTL.

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RIDDLE ME THIS

The more of me there is, the less you can see. What am I?

Last week: I'm higher without a head on me. What am I?

Answer: A pillow

Also accepted: A glass of beer

Answered first by: Sheelah Young

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Pat Klotz, Margie Enns, Kathy Neufeld, Christine Yakymishen, Brenda Bartley, Sheila Meloche, Sheila Meloche, Sylvia Wiens, Wade Durling, Josh Langendoen, Pam Dowling

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



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 7:00 p.m. via Zoom web conference

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, many events are now virtual. Find a list of NOTL events here week to week.</p> <p>Stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask and distance whenever possible.</p> <p>LEGION FISH FRY EVERY THURSDAY! From 4:30 to 7 p.m. Drive-thru only Cash only</p>			
8	9	10	11
<p>Opening Reception: Eric Ranveau Ontario Landscapes - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Yoga and Macrame Workshop - 10 a.m. - Palatine Hills Estate Winery</p> <p>GOC Bike Nights - 2 p.m. - Club 55</p>	<p>We'll Meet Again: Remembrance Day Program - 7 p.m. - NOTL Museum</p> <p>Committee of the Whole: Planning - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Ask a Tech: One on One Tech Tutoring - All Day - NOTL Public Library Contact creganti@notlpl.org</p> <p>Storytime with Cubetto - 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Virtual notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Niagara's Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp</p>	<p>Municipal Heritage - 6:30 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org</p> <p>Rhyme Time: Virtual Circle Time for Infants and Toddlers - 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p>	<p>Create a Copy! A German Conversation - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: contactaol.com</p> <p>Virtual STEAM Storytime - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Nobel Prize: Zoom - 2 p.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Hello World: Virtual - 4 p.m. - Virtual: register@notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p>
15	16	17	18
<p>Opening Reception: Eric Ranveau Ontario Landscapes - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Yoga and Macrame Workshop - 10 a.m. - Palatine Hills Estate Winery</p> <p>GOC Bike Nights - 2 p.m. - Club 55</p>	<p>Committee of the Whole: General - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Ask a Tech: One on One Tech Tutoring - All Day - NOTL Public Library Contact creganti@notlpl.org</p> <p>Storytime with Cubetto - 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Virtual notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Introduction to Python - 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara's Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp</p>	<p>Rhyme Time: Virtual Circle Time for Infants and Toddlers - 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p>	<p>Free osteoporosis screening - Noon to 1 p.m. - Register at osteoporosis.ca</p> <p>Create a Copy! A German Conversation - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: contactaol.com</p> <p>Virtual STEAM Storytime - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Nobel Prize: Zoom - 2 p.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p>

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to www.niagaranow.com



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The Lake Report

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	5 Open House NOTL Transportation Master Plan - 2 to 3:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org Environmental Advisory Committee - 6 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Make it with Micro:Bit - 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Sketching Techniques - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	6 The Wild: Explore the Wilds of NOTL - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library UnWINEd Retreat - The Pillar and Post St. Davids Lions Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club	7 Replacement Animation Workshop with Cristal Buemi - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Virtual: riverbrink.org Book Club: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
11 Group of Seven - 1 to 1:30 p.m. - Use Studio ion Group - 10 at avocanotl@ ymtime - 11 bliclibrary.org Lecture Series - publiclibrary. l - 4 p.m. - library.org p.m. - NOTL	12 Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Sketching Techniques - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Pumphouse Annual General Meeting - 7 p.m. - via Zoom meeting	13 Rock of 80's - 8 p.m. - Club 55	14 Bacchus Lounge Entertainment - 6 p.m. - Queen's Landing Hotel Static Black - 8 p.m. - Club 55 Book Club: Drawing for Absolute Beginners - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
18 Seminar - Register online @ Group of Seven - 1 to 1:30 p.m. - Use Studio ion Group - 10 at avocanotl@ ymtime - 11 bliclibrary.org Lecture Series - publiclibrary. p.m. - NOTL	19 Committee of Adjustment - 6:30 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Make it with Micro:bit Virtual - 4:30 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Niagara's Name that Tune - 6 p.m. - NOTL Golf Club Sketching Techniques - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	20 The Wild: Explore the Wilds of NOTL - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Practical Geneology - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library St. Davids Lions Turkey Roll Raffle - St. Davids Lions Club That 70's Rock Show - 8 p.m. - Club 55 Shaw Festival Me and My Girl Pre/Post Show Entertainment - 6 p.m. - Queen's Landing Hotel	21 Mixed Media Altered Pages for Fun & Art Journaling - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Virtual: riverbrink.org St. Davids Lions Christmas Tree Sales Begin - St. Davids Lions Club The Irish Harp with Matti and Steve - 8 p.m. - The Irish Harp Linocut Printmaking: Holiday Cards - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Book Club: Drawing for Absolute Beginners - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

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Lewis Lambert: **A veteran's story** gets new life

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Lewis Patterson Lambert was born in June 1923, in what was then called Grantham Township, before it became part of Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1961. He was the eldest son of Frank and Annie Lambert. He had four siblings.

His family farm on Townline Road was home-steaded by his grandparents in 1868. Lambert went to grade school at School Section #9 and then went on to attend The Collegiate in St. Catharines.

In May 1941, not yet 18 years of age, Lambert made his way to the armoury on Lake Street in St. Catharines, volunteering for service in the Canadian Army.

"I was posted to the 122nd Battery, 62 Regiment," Lambert recounts, in the early moments of his taped interview. "It later became part of the 8th Light and Aircraft Regiment. Do you want my number? It was B15579.

"I went in as a gunner and came out a gunner."

After joining up he was sent to Camp Niagara. "We were very fortunate; it was a beautiful spot."

Camp Niagara was established after Confederation, by the federal government, as a military reserve on what is now the Commons, on the edge of Old Town. It served both the mustering and training needs of the Canadian military through every war until 1966.

"They put us all in short pants. The sun was very hot, we all got burned. We all got blistered. We all got sick for a week."

In June, Lambert was



Lewis Lambert, as president of Legion Branch 124, decked out with all his medals. He served as president in the late 1980s. SUPPLIED

posted to Camp Debert, Nova Scotia, for training.

"When we got there, there wasn't too much of a parade square," he recalls. "We had to cut the trees, level the ground and pull the stumps."

The winter of 1941-42 was long and cold.

Lambert contracted scarlet fever and was bedridden for a month.

"I was in isolation about 30 days. One day a nurse came in and said, 'There are 60 parcels for you.'

"My mom and dad had sent me down peaches and prunes from the farm. Most of the nursing sisters were from the east coast. They thought that was great.

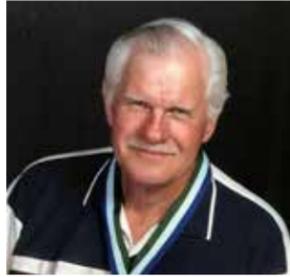
They kept eating prunes. I told them, 'Quit those prunes, you are going to have trouble.' They kept eating anyway.

"There was a dance that night. Next morning, the orderly said, 'What the devil did you give the nurses last night?' The toilet door was swinging all night.

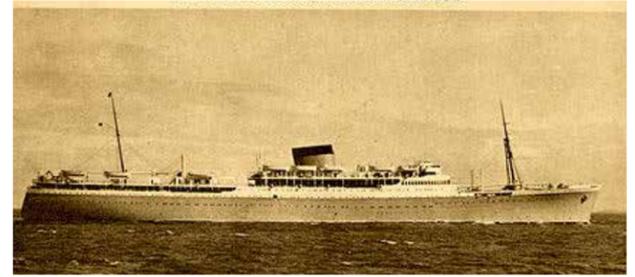
"Turned out to be a joke later, but it wasn't funny that night."

After more training in Sussex, New Brunswick, Lambert received orders for overseas in August 1942.

"We took the train to Halifax and sailed on the Capetown Castle, arriving nine days later in Liverpool!"



Left: Berkeley Lambert, Lewis' younger brother, was just a child during the Second World War. He remembers his brother fondly. Right: The Capetown Castle carried Lambert and his regiment to Europe in August 1942. During the time she was requisitioned as a troop ship, she sailed some 800,000 kilometres and carried over 164,000 troops. SUPPLIED



The Royal Mail Motor Vessel Capetown Castle was launched in 1937, in mail service from England to South Africa. She was requisitioned as troop ship in 1940 and finally returned to her owners in 1946, having sailed some 800,000 kilometres and carried over 164,000 troops.

Lambert and his comrades received most of their training in southern England: "Too many places to mention here," he tells the interviewer.

Like many veterans, when Lambert gets to his actual combat experience, he becomes somewhat guarded. He sums up his two-year combat experience in two short sentences: "In July 1943 we were moved to France. We fought our way through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany."

Then he jumps right to the end of the war. "We came back on the Queen Elizabeth in December (1945) and arrived in New York. From there we took the train to Hamilton, where our families met us. I was discharged in January 1946."

Lambert did offer one, somewhat scary and poignant story.

"Another time we were

moving up. We were in a town, sheltering in a building. All of a sudden, the door opens and in jumps this German. I don't know who was more scared, him or me.

"It turned out, he wanted to give himself up. We gave him his breakfast and took him down to the POW cage. He was just an ordinary, regular soldier."

Lambert returned to Niagara, bought a small farm, joined the Legion and married Marion Kerr in 1948. Marion died in 1961, "and I still love her." They had three children.

Until his retirement in 1983, Lambert worked the farm and held down increasingly responsible jobs at McKinnon's, with Agriculture Canada as a food and vegetable inspector, and later the Ontario Food Terminal in Toronto.

He died in August 1998 at age 75.

Lambert's brother, Berkeley, younger by 15 years, remembers him fondly.

The Lake Report found 82-year-old Berkeley at his farm home on Townline Road, the same home his grandfather built over 150 years ago.

"I was only three or four when Lewis went away to war. When he returned, I

think it was three years later. I was so happy.

"He taught me how to drive. He bought a farm and he needed help, so he taught me how to drive the tractor. He needed a little lad to sit on the tractor and steer, so I helped him."

Lewis Lambert served as president of Branch 124 in 1988-89. One of the issues of his time was whether the Legion should welcome "new blood" — non-enlisted members.

He wanted to make sure the Legion continued to have a vital place in the community.

"I think we are very lucky. We haven't had a war. I think we should appreciate the associate members coming in. If we had a war, with lots of people killed, we would have had a lot of new Legion members. So, I'd sooner the associate members come in, than have another war."

Lambert's daughter, Kathy, remembers his generosity: "An amazing personality. Outgoing. People just gravitated to my father. Everyone made friends with him. He could walk into a room without knowing anyone and leave as friends with everybody."

One veteran remembered on Remembrance Day.



Past Legion president Al Howse. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

NOTL Legion's Memory Project **preserves** the past

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Over the years, Allan Howse has been a frequent president of Branch 124 of the Royal Canadian Legion, and the self-avowed nurturer of what's come to be known as the Memory Project.

Originally called the Niagara Legion History

Project, the Memory Project live-recorded the experiences of more than 150 NOTL-Legion members who had enlisted in the military. The interviews took place over several months in 1987.

The recorded interviews consume dozens of cassette tapes, stored and catalogued in three sturdy cardboard boxes.

In 2009, during Howse's first term as president of Branch 124, he took the Memory Project on as a personal challenge.

"I felt a responsibility to do something with them," remembers Howse. "When I found the tapes and the list of participants, I noticed that I knew most of the families. I am proud of my family's

service and I'm sure that all the others are as well."

"We've been slowly working on them and completed some transcriptions."

Over the last couple of years, Howse has connected with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum to create a partnership for the storage and presentation of the recordings to a wider audience.

The Memory Project is also cataloguing pictures of veterans. "We now have over 100 and get a couple in each month.

"At some point, I hope we can call for volunteers from the community to help us transcribe these really interesting stories. We're not quite ready for that. But we will be ..."



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Linc Farm offers grass-fed delights

Submitted
The Lake Report

Linc Farm at Southbrook is one of the well-kept locals-only secrets in NOTL. Tucked away behind Southbrook Vineyards, we are a pasture-based regenerative farm raising grass-fed lamb, free-range pork, eggs, beef and wool products.

We are all about nourishment – feeding our community, feeding our animals and feeding our soil.

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Linc Farms offers grass-fed lamb and other meats. SUPPLIED

farm down the road, too?

Like so many local businesses, we are adapting to your "new normal" needs and we are so grateful for your enthusiastic support throughout the pandemic. We have moved from the

farmers' market to the online market and offer free weekly delivery of individual cuts, as well as meat boxes and custom-butchered orders.

Find us on social media or at lincfarm.com.

Nina Gelateria & Pastry Shop

Submitted
The Lake Report

Nina Gelateria & Pastry Shop is a family business at 37 Queen St. that is owned and operated by a second generation Swiss-born and trained pastry chef, Klaudia, along with her husband Mark and their children Nina and Nicholas.

The goal, since we opened our doors on April 23, 2011, was to run a European-inspired shop that follows Swiss attention to detail and quality and to offer the finest products and the finest customer service to the best of our capabilities.

Combining the dessert and cuisine of the German,



Treats on the shelf. SUPPLIED

French and Italian regions of Switzerland, we offer pastries, crêpes, French macarons, authentic Italian gelato, pizzas and paninis that are all made daily in-house. We also serve premium tea, coffee and also espresso from an authentic

Italian "Leva" espresso machine.

This year we added Keto-friendly (sugar-free and gluten-free) items and due to the positive feedback, we have been expanding the menu constantly. Find us online at ninagelateria.com

The GoGo Food Co. and Lorenzo's Diner

Submitted
The Lake Report

September 2019 marked a new business addition for us and a new home for the now popular food truck and catering company known as The GoGo Food Co., which features two trucks, Canadiana and La Cucina. Our location at 48 Glendale Ave. became Niagara-on-the-Lake's tastiest breakfast place, known as Lorenzo's Diner.

Much like the food trucks, we knew as long as we provided goodness and quality that we would earn the respect and business of our customers, one at a time. We are proud to be part of the fabric of Ni-



Lorenzo Luchetta. FILE PHOTO

agara-on-the-Lake and although these days have been trying we realize and embrace how lucky we are to have the support we have had.

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Yellow Door Theatre Project

Submitted
The Lake Report

The Show Must Go ON-line! The COVID-19 pandemic motivated a complete pivot of the Yellow Door Theatre Project's business model. Online classes and Zoomsicals were successfully initiated during the summer of 2020.

The rehearsal studio in Virgil was then COVID-prepared to enable us to offer in-studio classes (dance, musical theatre and monologue and scene study), which began in September. Online auditions were offered for the fall performance company in August and a company of 15 young performers (ages



Students social distance in class. SUPPLIED

10 to 16) has been selected to rehearse and perform in a live (socially distanced) and livestream performance of a new adaptation of "Hansel & Gretel," written by Lezlie Wade, with music by Scott Christian.

A concert version

of "Hansel & Gretel" will be presented at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Dec.10 and 11. Registration is still available for all classes. Class size is limited. Go to yellowdoortheatre.com for information.

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TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA
TONYBALDINELLI.MPCA

GAMES



Have some fun

Across

- 1. Shrink (5)
- 5. Iberian monarchy (5)
- 8. Second planet (5)
- 10. Atoll used for nuclear tests (6)
- 11. Foolish (6)
- 12. Brittle (5)
- 13. Open up (6)
- 14. Mistakes (6)
- 15. Tender (5)
- 17. Penniless person (6)
- 19. Applauds (6)
- 20. U S state famous for potatoes (5)
- 21. Greek goddess of wisdom (6)
- 23. Brawn (6)
- 25. Crawl (5)
- 26. Short cannon (6)
- 27. False (6)
- 29. Beginning (5)
- 31. Spongelike (6)
- 32. Adequate (6)
- 33. Throwing weapon (5)
- 34. Appears (5)
- 35. Inheritors (5)

Down

- 2. Systematically arranged body of facts (7)
- 3. Capital of Egypt (5)
- 4. Against (4)
- 6. Incapable (9)
- 7. Underwriter (7)
- 8. Highest military decoration (8,5)
- 9. Powerful number cruncher (13)
- 16. Scale (5)
- 18. Sleeping accommodation which is only occasionally used (5,4)
- 22. Couple (7)
- 24. Recliner (7)
- 28. That group (5)
- 30. W W II sub-machine gun (4)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
			8			9			
10						11			
			12						
13						14			
			15		16				
17		18				19			
			20						
21	22					23			24
			25						
26						27		28	
			29		30				
31						32			
			33						
34						35			

Last issue's answers

A	B	S	E	N	T	E	E	B	O	X	E	R	
C	E	O	X	B	B	X							
C	O	C	O	N	U	T	A	P	E	L	I	K	E
L	A	E	R	N	D	S	A						
A	C	T	S	R	E	S	T	R	I	C	T	E	D
I	E			M	A	E							
M	A	U	I	B	E	R	M	O	N	D	S	E	Y
R	S			U		T	P						
P	O	S	T	M	A	S	T	E	R	V	I	S	A
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P	A	T	R	S	M	T	L						
E	A	R	S	H	O	T	O	V	E	R	U	S	E
R	O	E	S	D	R	A	N						
S	T	I	N	K	R	E	V	E	I	L	L	E	

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





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NIAGARA'S HISTORY UNVEILED

FEATURED



The story of **Niagara Falls** part 1



Denise Ascenzo
Exclusive/The Lake Report



An aerial view of Niagara Falls. CHRISTINE HESS PHOTOGRAPHY

The sound of water thundering over a precipice has created a fascination for people over the ages and we in the Niagara Region are fortunate to live near one of the most powerful waterfalls in the world – Niagara Falls.

The creation of these falls goes back about 18,000 years, when the entire area was covered by the Wisconsin Glacier, which was two to three kilometres thick. That's how the entire Great Lakes Basin was created.

Then some 12,500 years ago the glacier started to recede and the basin filled with melt-water. This was "fossil water," which is considered a non-renewable water source. It is estimated that only five per cent of the Great Lakes water comes from rain and snow melt.

All this water filling the Great Lakes Basin needed an outlet to reach the Atlantic Ocean. At first there were five "spillways" from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, however, over time only one spillway remained and that is what we see today.

In geological time standards, the Niagara River is consider fairly young but the Niagara Escarpment is much older. As the glacier moved south, grinding up stone and dirt, its weight pressed down on the land and created layers of sediment called dolostone (or shale).

This is evident when you look across the river at the banks on the American side. The sediment, though, slowly eroded as it was no match for the mighty power of water and ice of the new river.

The original location of Niagara Falls is where the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge is today. It took almost 12,300 years of erosion for the falls to gradually move south 11.3 kilometres to where it is now. However, this transition was not without some drama.

Around 6,000 years ago, the falls had reached a point where they ran into an old riverbed, one that had been buried by the glacial action. This particular riverbed had gone through the St. Davids area and continued to an old lake between Two Mile Creek and Four Mile Creek.

The meeting of the Niagara Falls with the old riverbed was a violent event that experts suggest lasted almost a week. The waters would have churned up mud, stone and glacial debris before the falls took a 90-degree turn.

The falls continued on their path south toward Lake Erie. What remains of this incident is the Whirlpool Rapids, known

today to have the largest standing waves in North America.

About 500 years ago, the Niagara River flowing north toward the falls encountered an obstacle that caused it to divide in two. This created an island and two more falls, the Bridal Veil and the American Falls.

The island was first named Iris Island, but later changed to Goat Island after John Stedmand lost his entire goat herd there during the winter of 1780.

As the falls continue to claw their way south, experts believe in about 2,000 years the American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls will dry up. Eventually, in about 50,000 years, Niagara Falls will reach Lake Erie and experts say there will be no more Niagara Falls. But the Niagara River will still exist and probably be just as treacherous as it is today.

The river was actually first named Niagara Strait on the earliest maps made by French explorers. A

strait is defined as a body of water connecting two larger bodies of water.

For example, we have the Straits of Gibraltar, which connect the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean, and the Straits of Magellan connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. It is not known just when the name changed to Niagara River, but it was found on later maps created by British cartographers. Note: the Niagara River is one of the few rivers in North America that flows south to north.

The meaning of the name Niagara itself has been quite the controversy. We all probably have heard of "Thundering Waters," "The Neck" or "the Thunderer" but just what does Niagara mean and where did it come from?

I turned once more to my friend Ron Dale, an expert of the history of our region. Here is how he explained it to me.

The Jesuits made detailed accounts of their visits with

the Neutral villages on the west side of the Niagara River. In 1626-27, Father Joseph Roche Daillon resided in one of the Neutral villages. He described the Neutral Confederacy as being made up of several nations. The local Neutral group was called the Onguiaahra, meaning "Near the Big Waters," possibly the Niagara River.

Since the Neutrals were also of Iroquoians lineage, the Onondaga (Mohawk) word "onyara" was very similar in sound and meaning as Onguiaahra. Then a point speaker of the Seneca language in the 19th century confused the issue when he stated the name Niagara referred to the "Thunderer," a spirit that lived in the cave behind the falls.

As Dale said, the Thunderer is quite a whimsical and romantic story, but "near the big waters" is more likely the actual meaning of Niagara. This anglicized word from the original Neutral word appears on maps as early as 1641.

It must be noted that Daillon did not write about actually seeing the falls. In fact the first written account by a European, Father Louis Hennepin, was in 1678. He wrote about the size of the falls, the noise of the water and even drew several pictures. Years later his account was recognized as being quite exaggerated.

Although Niagara Falls is the largest waterfall in North America there are nearly 500 taller waterfalls around the world. What makes Niagara Falls unique is the amount of water that flows over the falls; every single day – 3,160 tons per second.

Niagara Falls has fascinated many who have come from around the world to see, hear and feel the magnificence of this natural wonder. And then we have those daredevils who want to challenge the falls.

NEXT: The daredevils who challenged the falls.

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

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Town communications directors Lauren Kruitbosch and Beth Audet, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and volunteer Maria Mavridis spent Oct. 29 preparing several hundred packages for kids across NOTL. The packages included candy, books, gift certificates and more. Special peanut-free and gluten-free bags were also prepared. RICHARD HARLEY

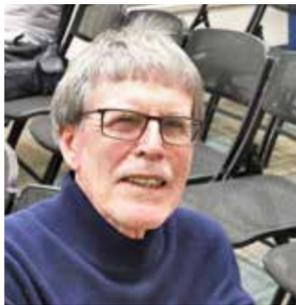
A sea of treats

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, along with the help of a long list of local businesses and residents, filled and delivered more than 700 goodie bags to NOTL children for Halloween. The effort was to help kids who might not have been able to go out trick-or-treating due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



Town staff members fill their vehicles and set off to deliver the Halloween packages on Oct. 30. Even with six vehicles, multiple trips were needed. RICHARD HARLEY

Dr. Brown: Nobel-winning gene research could also have **damaging** effects



The Nobel series at the NOTL Library continues with the chemistry prize on Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. To view the series, register through the library's website, notpubliclibrary.org.

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

This year's Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to Jennifer Doudna from the United States and Emmanuelle Charpentier from France for their pioneering work on gene editing.

The technique for editing genes – popularly known as CRISPR – is transforming biology and medicine because it has the power to change the genome. And not just the genome of bacteria, but any species, including humans.

As I pointed out repeatedly in the last few years, this tool and derivative technologies, have the potential to upend natural selection as the primary engine for evolution, including our own



Alfred Nobel. SOURCED

– to the point these days of creating entirely novel species. That's not hype – that's what's happening now with much more to come in the future.

Humans have bred animals and plants for thousands of years to favour specific desirable traits and, in the case of plants, resistance to various diseases. But with CRISPR, it's now relatively easy and much quicker to identify the genes to be targeted and delete or replace them with modified genes to secure the desired effects.

For many, gene editing offers a quick fix to rid the planet of scourges such as vector-borne diseases, like malaria and dengue fever, by neutering the male mosquitoes using the CRISPR gene-editing tool wedded to a technique called gene drive.

The latter technology spreads the preferred edit quickly throughout entire

species lines within a few generations. Or what about going after the ticks that carry the Lyme disease bacterium? There's no doubt the idea is attractive – with one reservation. Wiping out a whole species may have unanticipated and undesirable consequences for other species, possibly even us, and the consequences may be impossible to reverse.

The low-lying fruit for gene editing these days are diseases caused by a single mutant gene such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, myotonic dystrophy, progressive muscular atrophy, Huntington's disease, and the leukodystrophies – all diseases within my speciality and all of which relentlessly progress to severe muscular disabilities and, in the case of Huntington's disease, dementia.

These and other diseases such as sickle cell anemia and thalassemia are potentially treatable with gene

editing if carried out early enough to be effective. Or what about using CRISPR to modify T-cells to make them more effective at killing cancer cells?

Until 10 years ago editing the genome was a technically-challenging, error-prone and expensive affair. What changed the landscape was the discovery by biologists of a remarkable immune system possessed by bacteria for finding and destroying invading viruses.

Not so long ago scientists discovered bacteria contain an odd strand in their DNA made up of short, identical, palindromic stretches (the base sequence reads the same forward and backward) interspersed with mysterious stretches of DNA.

The latter DNA turned out to match the DNA of different viruses. In short, the bacteria possessed a library of previous encounters with different viruses. And by transcribing those DNA stretches into single-strands of RNA, the bacteria had a tool capable for latching on to matching DNA stretches from viral invaders.

Finally, using enzymes coupled to the guide, the invading viruses' DNA was cut to pieces. That's the CRISPR system in bacteria in a nutshell. What about modifying or deleting a gene

in humans?

The first task is to create an RNA guide – say 20 to 30 bases in length – whose sequence precisely matches part of a targeted gene. Next, couple the guide to an enzyme (or perhaps two enzymes) whose purpose is to cut both strands of the DNA at the targeted site. Then perhaps add a version of the gene you want to insert in the gap.

That's the package – guide, gene cutting enzymes and perhaps the replacement of part or all of the gene.

Next, deliver the package to the intended target – using a vector such as a tame virus or in the case of a fertilized egg, deliver the package by needle into the egg – ideally before it begins to divide. Once the package is inside the targeted cell(s), the guide will find its way to the site on the cell's genome which matches the base sequence of the guide.

The latter then latches onto the DNA at the intended site, the attached enzyme (or enzymes) cut both strands of the DNA, and the correct version of the targeted gene may then be inserted in the gap left behind. That's how CRISPR works – to delete, modify or replace part or all of a targeted gene.

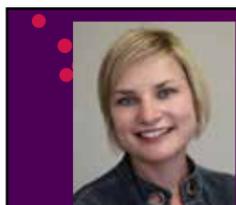
But with its many promises, there are reservations

about CRISPR edits. For one, sometimes other sites on the genome other than the intended target, are so similar to the primary target, that the guide targets the wrong site in the genome – making what's been called “off target hits.”

And while fixing the mutant gene at the germ cell stage in a dominantly inherited disease such as Huntington's disease may sound attractive because once fixed, subsequent generations would be spared the disease, it's much too early in the gene-editing field to rule out undesired and possibly damaging effects for future generations.

Safer for the time being for diseases such as Huntington's disease and primary muscular atrophy has been to forgo fixing the mutant gene and, instead blocking the effect of the gene by interfering with the intermediary mutant messenger RNA (mRNA), before the latter can be translated into harmful mutant forms of the proteins that actually cause the disease. In both diseases, recent studies suggest this approach works.

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



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Second World War salvage drive

During the Second World War, the Newark chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE) held weekly salvage drives to raise money for the Navy League, milk for the British Children Fund and parcels for local servicemen. The women obtained a truck from town council to assist with their collection drives. The group also maintained a white elephant shop and helped with the canteen at the local training camp. Pictured here at the salvage barn, from left, are Mrs. Mae Librock, Mrs. June Bishop, Mrs. Edith Currie, Mrs. Daisy Gordon, Mrs. C.H.E. Smith, regent, Mrs. L. Hardison, Mrs. Margaret Morgan and Mrs. Gertrude Gordon. Lest we forget all the men and women in the armed forces and support services for all they did, and continue to do, for us.

ARCHITEXT

The gentle heating solution

Brian Marshall
Columnist



Can you spot the rads? SUPPLIED

Most of us have been in an old building that sported cast iron radiators. Whether the plain cast utilitarian version or ornately-decorated upscale models, these rads were the Victorian answer to creating a warm, comfortable environment in private homes and commercial buildings.

Everything about this new technology appealed to the Victorian ethos. It was efficient, relying on a single heating source as opposed to multiple fireplaces or stoves. It was clean, since all of the fuel-loading activities could be confined to the basement and exhausted out a single chimney. Plus, the gentle

constant heat was leagues above the cyclical roast to chill temperatures in spaces heated with previous wood- or coal-fired options.

Originally patented in 1863, the 19th-century radiators were designed to interface with steam lines and quickly grew so popular that many cities laid steam pipe grids under public roads to service the demand.

In fact, Toronto's downtown core was criss-crossed with tunnels for these pipes; all supplied by the Central Heating Plant, which produced 330,000 pounds of steam per hour up until the 1980s. However, while this

centralized supply was practical for commercial buildings, it couldn't be scaled in a cost-effective manner for individual houses, which were required to have their own boiler.

Like many new innovations, early adopters of this technology were those with the deep pocketbooks that could afford boiler, piping and radiators. Still, it didn't take long before the "average" new house was being built with hydronic heating and many existent homes retrofitted to a boiler/rad format. Quite simply, it was the better way to go.

By the turn of the 20th

century, pressurized steam had been replaced by hot water systems in households and over the next 100 years the technology continued to evolve. Modern high-efficiency boilers are comparatively tiny. Hard surfaces like ceramic tile can generate delightful warmth under foot. Aluminum radiators, with the water pipes cast-in, snap together and precisely mimic residential baseboards while gently warming interior spaces.

So, why aren't the majority of North American houses heated hydronically? The simple answer is that developers and builders preferred the "bang-it-together" nature of forced-air systems, thereby setting the standard and, by volume purchase, reducing the equipment cost.

A shame in many ways, since modern hydronic systems deliver much more comfortable and consistent temperatures at a lower energy consumption-to-delivery ratio than most alternate heating systems.

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Featured local story

NOTL's Rebecca van der Zalm competes for **worldwide** baking title

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Rebecca van der Zalm is putting her baking talents up against global competition in hopes of being named The Greatest Baker.

She says she's already received "so much support" from the community, which she hopes will push her further through the voting process.

"I just kind of kept it on the down low and I didn't tell anyone, until the day of voting opened, that I was part of this competition. And then it just kind of blew up," she says.

The Greatest Baker is a worldwide competition that allows novice and expert bakers to compete for a chance to be featured in Bake From Scratch magazine, to receive a trip to



Left: Rebecca van der Zalm. Right: One of her creative cakes. SUPPLIED



Pennsylvania to spend a day in the life with sponsor Stuffed Puffs CEO Michael Tierney and go home with a year's supply of marshmallows – and a \$10,000 cash prize.

Voting is done online through <https://greatestbaker.com/2020/rebecca-van-der-zalm>. People can vote once per day or can purchase a "hero vote," which gives one vote per

dollar donated to the No Kid Hungry Foundation. The first round of voting ends on Nov. 5.

For 26-year-old van der Zalm, the cash prize would allow her to realize her dream of opening a storefront bakery for her home baking business, Baking by Becs. She does all her baking in a kitchen in St. Catharines that's certified and inspected by public

health, but she would love to expand to her own location.

"I would definitely use that money to open a storefront for myself and to really expand my business," she says.

Van der Zalm developed a love of baking at an early age and grew up baking at home with her mother, Cathy. Her passion for baking persisted throughout high school, where she completed her co-op placement at a St. Catharines bakery called the Frosted Cupcake. She was later hired on and worked there for several years.

She says she owes her cupcake talents to experience working with the Frosted Cupcake, but she developed a love for cake decoration and creation on her own.

"When it came to cakes I never did them there, so I self-taught myself through

YouTube videos and things like that," she says.

Van der Zalm is a full-time compounding pharmacy assistant at Simpson's Pharmacy, as well as a volunteer firefighter with the NOTL Fire Department. She says she continues to keep her baking business going by taking orders in her spare time.

"I just kind of take a look at my calendar for the month and say, 'Yes I'll take cake orders' or 'No, I won't,' and I'll go from there," she says.

Maintaining as much balance as she can is important, she says, as she tries to spend time with her family, which includes seven brothers and sisters. Admittedly, she says she has less time for a social life between work, family, firefighting and her business. But she's passionate about what she does.

Her advice? "Make an agenda stick to it. Don't overbook yourself. I'm kind of bad for that. I have a really hard time saying no to people. So, I just have to kind of create an agenda or create a plan and stick to it and not waver from that," she says.

Her baking specialty? Right now, she says she loves making drip cakes.

"That's my top-selling cake. And then I do icing and either a milk chocolate or a semi-sweet chocolate or a white chocolate drip down the side. So, I melt chocolate for the drip," she says. "They always look so cool and so delicious when they're done. I just don't want anyone to cut them."

Van der Zalm is currently in the top 10 in Greatest Baker voting. If she can maintain that status, she will advance to the next round, she says.



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