



Remembering sacrifice | Pages 10-13



Ceto Reid.

Investigation: A confusing hodge-podge of laundry rules for farmworkers

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Some NOTL farmers unknowingly might not be living up to federal contracts with their seasonal workers thanks to confusing rules over something most Canadians take for granted – doing the laundry.

Guidelines from federal and provincial governments differ regarding laundry facilities and, in turn, Niagara's regional public health department is the agency that handles inspections. And it follows Ontario's rules.

An investigation by The Lake Report into farmworkers' laundry facilities was prompted after Niagara-on-the-Lake seasonal worker Ceto Reid was badly injured while riding his bike in St. Catharines.

He was returning from a laundromat, toting his laundry, when he was struck by a car on Oct. 6.

Migrant workers come to Niagara-on-the-Lake every

Continued on Page 4

Orange is the new white

Southbrook steps back in time to create one of its most popular wines



Jorge Fragosa and Emily Lacey start production of orange wine by stomping grapes at Southbrook Organic Vineyards. DON REYNOLDS

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Everything old is new again when it comes to producing one of the most popular white wines at Southbrook Organic Vineyards.

The wine industry in Niagara is high-tech in many ways, but

come harvest time at Southbrook, you'll find cellar master Emily Lacey and farm worker Jorge Fragosa literally stepping back in time.

Once the handpicked Vidal grapes come in from the vineyard, Lacey and Fragosa dump the yellow picking boxes into big blue quarter-ton totes, don their

rubber boots and clamber in.

Not for the fun of it, because it's hard on the legs by all accounts. They stomp the grapes as part of the time-honoured process of making skin-fermented white wine.

Today, it's known as orange wine. "Orange wine is new, but it is made in the oldest way,"

explains Southbrook proprietor Bill Redelmeier.

After the grapes are stomped, to squeeze out just enough juice to allow fermentation to start, the grapes are dumped into enormous, seven-ton open tank fermenters, made of either neutral

Continued on Page 14

By the numbers: How Zalepa scored a dominant election victory

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Analysis

Dave Eke, Patrick Dart and now Betty Disero – one term and done as lord mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In the Oct. 24 vote, NOTL extended its recent history of ousting the sitting lord

mayor after just four years in office.

Why and how remains to be seen and we'll leave that to the political pundits and campaign insiders to debate.

The last lord mayor to

string together consecutive wins was Gary Burroughs (re-elected as a councillor again this year).

He used to dominate the mayoral races, victorious three times, including once by acclamation. He won in 2000, 2003 and 2006.

Since then, it's been a revolving door: Eke winning in 2010, Dart in 2014, Disero in 2018, Gary Zalepa in 2022.

While confidential poll numbers from one of the campaigns (and popular wisdom) had Disero and Zalepa running neck and

neck this time, with only a percentage point or two between them, when the rubber hit the proverbial road on election day, it wasn't even close.

Change ruled again. Those survey sample



Continued on Page 8 Gary Zalepa.



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Left: Norman Nelles, marked with an X above his head, in a yearbook photo with his graduating class at Kingston's Royal Military College. Right: A clipping from the St. Catharines Standard announces Nelles' death. CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL

NELLES, OF TORONTO, KILLED IN FRANCE

Mother Was Just Leaving for Bermuda to See Another Son.

Word was received yesterday by Mr. Horton Walker, of the death in France of his cousin, Lieut. Norman Nelles, of the Northampton Fusiliers, a native of Brantford, and resident of Toronto. His mother is at present in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where they have a summer home. Mrs. Walker has gone to that place to be with the bereaved mother. The message, sent by Lieut. Nelles' father, Lieut.-Col. C. M. Nelles, commander of the Royal Canadian Dr-

LIEUT. NORMAN NELLES, Toronto man killed in action in France.

NOTL hires new operations director, seeks strategic planner

Staff
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has hired a new director of operations and has launched a search for another senior executive.

Romolo D'Angelo starts as the new director of operations on Nov. 14.

And the town has posted a job opening for a new position: a strategic planning and government relations officer.

The newly created position pays \$102,794 to \$124,888. The director of operations job pays \$118,755 to \$144,271.

The strategic planning and government relations officer will report directly to chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie, as will D'Angelo.



Romolo D'Angelo.

responsible for planning and executing government relations activities and initiatives by liaising with other levels of government and key stakeholders in public and private sector organizations to support the development of positive relations."

During this fall's election campaign, Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa emphasized the need for a new strategic plan for the town and promised to implement one quickly.

As chief administrator, Cluckie has the autonomy to create such a position if she determines it is needed. The previous council never discussed adding the position, a source said.

Applications are being accepted until Nov. 14. D'Angelo succeeds Sheldon Randall, who retired in the spring.

He comes to Niagara-on-the-Lake from the City of Hamilton, where he was a director in public works, among many other senior positions he held there.

As well, from 2017 to 2022, D'Angelo was president of Hamilton Renewable Power, an energy provider.

"Romolo's strong leadership, extensive experience, knowledge, and goal-oriented mindset will make him a tremendous asset to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake," Cluckie said in announcing his hiring.

D'Angelo holds an industrial engineering diploma and is a certified engineering technologist.

“This position is also responsible for planning and executing government relations activities and initiatives by liaising with other levels of government and key stakeholders in public and private sector organizations.”

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR NEW SENIOR TOWN JOB

The job description, dated Oct. 18, says the person will be “responsible for managing the development and implementation of the town's corporate strategic plan, overseeing priority corporate initiatives, and providing advice and support to the chief administrative officer and senior management team in the resolution of town business issues that are often highly sensitive and confidential in nature.”

Whoever is hired also will be active lobbying senior levels of government, the posting says.

“This position is also

THE MONUMENTS MEN

The Niagara Township memorial at Queenston

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph. Two years later, in 1926, the Township of Niagara unveiled its own memorial in Queenston. In recognition of those who fought and died in two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on the two cenotaphs. This marks the beginning of a series of stories documenting and remembering the sacrifices of those commemorated on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

In 1969, the Town of Niagara amalgamated with the surrounding Niagara Township, which included the villages of Virgil, St. Davids and Queenston, along with the settlements of Homer and McNab. The result the new municipality of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Prior to that the town had its own municipal government with a lord mayor and council while the township was governed by a reeve and council. Each built its own war memorial or cenotaph commemorating those who gave their lives serving their country in the First and Second World Wars.

The Town of Niagara completed the Memorial Clock Tower Cenotaph in 1922, unveiled by Lt-Gov. Henry Cockshutt in June of that year.

Four years later, on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1926, Cockshutt unveiled the Township of Niagara's war memorial at Queenston. The monument was “erected to the memory of the men of Niagara Township who gave their lives for freedom in the Great War ... whose names are here recorded.”

The names of 19 men were commemorated. Later an additional name was added, Capt. William Archer who had gone overseas as a chaplain in the First World War and died on Sept. 18, 1931.

In 1947, the names of 13 men who died in service during the Second World War were added to the monument. The monument was further altered to commemorate the Korean War and the statement added that the monument was not only to commemorate those who had made the supreme sacrifice but also “in honour of those who served.”

Among these men, the first person listed on the monument was 2nd Lt. Norman Nelles, who was serving in the British army when he was killed in action a little over five months after the beginning of the

First World War. While he was not a native of Niagara, he did have a connection to the area.

Nelles was the son of Ida Mary Maud Walker and Col. (later Brig.-Gen.) Charles Nelles, an officer of the permanent force of the Canadian Militia.

Norman Nelles was born in Brantford and educated at Trinity School in Port Hope before enrolling in the Royal Military College in Kingston in August 1912.

Colonel Nelles was in command of the depot at Stanley Barracks in Toronto, spending the summer months at Camp Niagara, training militia of the non-permanent (part-time) force. The colonel and his wife purchased a summer home in Niagara and became permanent residents in 1920. Norman likely spent a couple of his summers in Niagara.

When the war broke out, newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Norman Nelles volunteered for active service. The need for junior officers in the rapidly expanding British army resulted in Nelles being assigned to a British regiment.

He was shipped to England in late October 1914 and joined the Northamptonshire Regiment in France in November. His commanding officer commented that Nelles “was a fearless

soldier and was killed in a gallant charge.”

Norman Nelles was killed by German artillery fire during an assault on German trenches in January 1915. His body was not recovered and he has no known grave. Nelles is commemorated in Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg-l'Avoue, North Pas-de-Calais.

Nelles' father, Brigadier General Nelles, was a very influential man when the Queenston monument was built. He was a decorated veteran of the Northwest Rebellion, the Boer War and the First World War, a driving force behind the establishment of the Cottage Hospital on Queen Street and a founding father of Branch 124 of the Royal Canadian Legion in 1928.

The Legion branch was named in his honour.

His contributions were appreciated by the citizens and he served as lord mayor of the Town of Niagara in 1929 and 1930. While one son gave his life in the war, his other son, Percy Nelles, became an admiral in the Royal Canadian Navy.

It may have been through Brigadier General Nelles' considerable influence that his son Norman's name was the first listed on the Queenston War Memorial and is the only listing with his military rank included.

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Mayor not a 'full-time' job: Zalepa

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Gary Zalepa says he can balance work life and politics and that the job of mayor isn't meant to be full-time. SUPPLIED

Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa is confident he can walk a tightrope and balance his work between the political and private sector during his first term in office.

Zalepa said he intends to keep his position as a strategic developer for realtor Century 21.

"I plan on doing what's necessary to make it all work," he said in an interview.

"I don't believe (being lord mayor is) a full-time role," he added.

The mayor's job in Niagara-on-the-Lake was never meant to be full-time, he added.

That job begins in earnest in a little over a week. The new council will be sworn in at a ceremony at the old Court House on Tuesday, Nov. 22. A public reception will follow the inaugural.

Zalepa said he manages his time very well and has been balancing his responsibilities to Century 21 with his previous duties as NOTL's regional councillor.

Town council positions, including that of lord mayor, require significant dedication.

However, NOTL councillors are only paid about \$15,000 a year and the lord mayor earns about \$44,000 a year, according to the town's orientation package for the previous term of council.

The lord mayor earns

nearly \$39,000 more for sitting on regional council as well, according to the region's website.

Unsuccessful candidate John McCallum promised that the political office would be his full-time responsibility because he is retired. And defeated Lord Mayor Betty Disero campaigned on being "your full-time" mayor.

Coun.-elect Adriana Cater Vizzari assured voters during the FocusNOTL meetings that she would not be too busy for the role despite her professional commitments.

"I'd really like to focus on the town's procedural by-law," Zalepa said, theorizing that this would help shorten council's notoriously long meetings.

He believes he can weigh the two commitments evenly because his employer has been "really supportive of (him) taking on this role."

Zalepa said he does much of his work for Century 21 from home and that the flexibility of his position should help him meet his mayoral responsibilities.

The election campaign

raised some questions about political transparency and conflicts of interests.

Zalepa said representing the town's interests is his top priority, noting that while he still has his real estate licence, he hasn't sold real estate for at least 10 years.

"My role is really strategic planning," Zalepa said.

"There's nothing that we would deal with, from my company's point of view that would have any type of pecuniary conflict of interest."

Retired Brock University political science Prof. David Siegel said municipal conflicts of interest boil down to whether a council member will make a direct financial benefit from a decision.

According to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, any sitting council member or head of council should "disclose the interest by filing a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the clerk of the municipality," if ever a pecuniary interest arises during their civic duty.

The act lists seven excep-

tions to this rule.

The two items that Siegel focused on in this case were the significance of the pecuniary gain and whether that gain is shared with the wider community.

In Siegel's estimation, Zalepa would not have to declare a conflict of interest over a decision affecting housing density for the town because, while his company might gain from an increased housing supply, so would the public, generally.

So, just because Zalepa has a job in the real estate sector does not mean he would have a conflict in development matters.

But, in the event that council was debating a new development plan for, say, Glendale, and Century 21 "was going to be selling a lot of houses in that development," then Zalepa would have a pecuniary interest in the decision.

"You have an interest in a matter if your employer has an interest in the matter," Siegel added.

The town has also had issues with short-term rentals and council could be acting to further regulate them in future.

Siegel said that while a council decision might benefit some real estate agents there would be no guarantee that buyers would be using Zalepa's company to buy or sell their properties.

So, the potential gain would therefore not be significant enough to warrant declaring a conflicting of interest.

Vandals deface town's Virgil's rainbow bench

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The town is repairing a vandalized bench painted in the colours of the Pride flag after it was defaced with apparent homophobic slurs.

The bench, which had been installed at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil, was defaced with messages "interpreted by town staff to be intentionally hurtful to those the bench represents."

A town spokesperson

said "it was very disheartening to see this" and they hope it "will remain free of vandalism in the future."

The bench was removed to repair the damage and staff said it will be a few weeks before it can be returned to its seat at Centennial Park.

Richard Mell, who sits on the diversity, equity and inclusion committee, said the town was "very vague" when it mentioned the news of the vandalism on social media on Oct. 25.

"If it was - you know

- hateful, homophobic language then I feel that the response should have been stronger," Mell told The Lake Report.

The town did not explicitly describe the messages as homophobic. News of the damage was posted to Facebook. Commenting on the posting was disabled.

Mayor Walter Sendzik of St. Catharines dealt with a similar act of vandalism to a crosswalk in June last year.

He opted to publicly decry the vandalism over Twitter.

This bench is one of five approved this year by council. The other four are planned for Mary and King streets, the Queenston firehall, Sparky's Park in St. Davids and Niagara on the Green park.

The town also plans to paint the crosswalk at Anderson Lane in Pride colours. While that plan has been approved, it's not known when the crosswalk will be completed.

This bench was installed Sept. 23 after being approved by council July 25.

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Some field workers only have **plastic tub** to do laundry

Continued from Front Page

year through the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program to help area farmers with the intensive work of planting, caring for and harvesting various fruits and vegetables.

Under the federal program's contracts, farmers are required to provide accommodations and a series of amenities that go with them – including laundry.

The terms of these contracts are negotiated between the Canadian government and the home country of each worker.

A federal official said employers who don't comply could be penalized or banned from the program.

However, the standards of the accommodations provided to these workers are enforced and monitored by the provincial government, with some inspections by the region's public health agency.

And the rules about laundry are different at every government level.

According to the contracts issued to all participants in the program, "laundry facilities, including an adequate number of washing machines and where possible, dryers," should be provided to the worker by the employer.

The Niagara Region public health department gives its health inspectors a different set of standards when they're assessing worker bunkhouses for compliance.

Niagara's public health department inspects upward of 430 bunkhouses each year.

Public health has not updated its guidelines for worker housing standards since 2010.

Those guidelines say bunkhouses need "at least one laundering tub for every 15 bunks or the equivalent."

Peter Jekel, manager of environmental health for Niagara's public health department, said, "These are guidelines that are provided across the province."

According to the inspection report public health uses, the workers' employer should provide "one laun-



This 2020 photo shows a wash tub at P.G. Enns Farms. Inconsistent guidelines about laundry facilities allow farmers to only provide a wash bin. SUPPLIED

dry tub or washing machine per 15 persons."

Jekel described laundry tubs as "deeper tubs with ribbed edging that you can sort of scrub your clothes on. Similar to a washboard. And has hot and cold running water."

"That would be considered a laundry tub," he added.

According to the province, if bunkhouses are not equipped with the appropriate laundry facilities, the employer must provide weekly transportation to the nearest laundromat.

"If the laundry tub is provided to the workers then there is not a requirement for the employer to provide transportation to the laundromat," said Jekel.

Some bunkhouses lack dryers as well, so many workers will hang their clothes out to dry in the sun.

"They have to provide a line, which they do have a clothesline, but if it's raining or if it's cold, it just freezes," said Jane Andres, a prominent Niagara-on-the-Lake advocate for migrant workers.

Mila Roy, a spokesperson

for Employment and Social Development Canada, said "concerns have been raised about the safety of dryers in all circumstances."

When The Lake Report asked what she meant by that, she didn't respond before publication.

The guidelines are just that – guidelines. Anything more provided is out of the goodness of an employer's heart, said Andres.

"This is something that the guys have been talking about as long as I've been getting to know them," she said.

Reid, who was due to return to Jamaica the day after he was injured, was hurt while cycling back to P.G. Enns Farms after doing his laundry in St. Catharines. There are no laundromats in NOTL.

Andres estimated Reid's roundtrip on his bike was about 16 kilometres.

Not having regular laundry facilities for workers who toil in the fields comes as a surprise to many.

"Never expected this in a first world country," another worker from P.G. Enns Farms told Kit Andres from the Migrant Workers Alli-

ance for Change, in a text message from 2020.

He had to hand-wash his clothes or go to the laundromat, he said.

"I think if you comment on those things the boss will not make you come back (next) season, so everyone keeps quiet," he told Kit Andres.

According to the federal government's standards, farms without washers need to provide weekly transportation to a laundromat.

"Employers found to be in non-compliance could face a penalty or be banned from the program," said Roy.

But according to provincial public health standards, tubs are considered sufficient for a worker's laundering needs. And regional public health inspectors abide by that standard.

It's hard to fine a farm when the province and nation disagree over what's required.

Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services (FARMS) is a federal operation that plays an administrative role in the seasonal worker program.

Farmers submit a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LIMA) along with the mandatory housing inspection report. FARMS vets the application then sends it off to Service Canada.

Every employer must fill out an assessment, which will determine if there is a need for a foreign worker.

Some public health units have modified the seasonal farm housing guidelines, senior communications adviser Anna Miller from Ontario's Ministry of Health said in an email to The Lake Report. No details were provided.

When Ken Forth, president of FARMS, was asked why the federal contracts don't match up with the provincial housing guidelines, he commented, "We've got a dumb country."

"Local health units actually have the ball," he added.

When the province's health ministry was asked the same question, an official said to contact the federal government.

As for whether FARMS has ever raised concerns

over the discrepancies between the accommodation standards in the contracts and the compliance requirements enforced by public health inspectors, Forth said, "Probably not."

"That wouldn't be our place to. That'd be the foreign country (who) should do that," he added.

Forth said he doesn't make the contracts. He reads them.

The lack of collaboration between the provincial and federal governments is making the lives of seasonal workers more difficult when they are in Canada.

"I do know that Service Canada has talked about some national housing standards," said Niagara public health's Jekel.

"And it was during the height of COVID that they had started those, at least comments being made, but subsequent to that we have not heard anything at all regarding that," he said.

"I think it'd be nice if we had some guidelines that were updated."

Since the December 2021 "What We Heard" report, which outlined some of the concerns regarding employer-provided accommodations, Employment and

“The issue is ‘complex and multi-jurisdictional in nature.’”

MILA ROY
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT CANADA

Social Development Canada has been working on new program requirements that address health and safety concerns.

The 2021 report covered issues like overcrowding, health and safety, inspections and access to resources.

Roy said the issue is "complex and multi-jurisdictional in nature."

Forth called the "What We Heard" report a "joke." "I was at some of those meetings. You had screamers there, just screaming stuff that wasn't true," he said.

"Like those groups that are around, they'll tell you that farmers don't have WSIB or OHIP and all that," he added.

He said WSIB is a "no-fault system."

"And that means that if you're in a designated occupation, like agriculture is, that workers are covered. Period," he said.

Roy said the government can't set national housing standards by itself and because of that, in March a team was put together that includes the federal government along with provinces and territories to work on the issue.

A roundtable was also held in July, which focused on housing standards. However, that could take a few years to implement.

"Employment and Social Development Canada expects to be ready to communicate program changes in early 2023, with implementation anticipated as soon as 2024," said Roy.

Though every case is different, some workers may be in for a shock when they arrive at bunkhouses only to find a laundry tub and a clothes line.

Roy noted there's a tip line workers can call to lodge a complaint. Those calls are taken seriously, she said.

The calls are free from any Canadian phone line. However, many workers don't have Canadian phones.

Sometimes workers aren't even told about the tip line, said Kit Andres.

The tip line is operated by live agents who offer services in more than 200 languages.

"These live agents can help workers communicate situations of mistreatment or abuse, and provide additional education for workers on their rights," said Roy.

However, that's hard to do when the guidelines are different across the board. In many cases, the workers don't speak up for fear of being sent home as well.

"These calls for change need to be coming from the community. That pressure can't just stay on the workers to speak up because that power is taken away from them," said Kit Andres.



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Three recipients named for proceeds from this year's Candlelight Stroll

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Three recipients have been chosen to share the proceeds from this year's Candlelight Stroll on Dec. 2.

The main beneficiary will be Ceto Reid, a migrant farm worker from Jamaica who was injured when he was hit by a car while riding his bike in St. Catharines last month.

He will receive half of the proceeds raised from candle sales.

The stroll also will donate 25 per cent of candle revenue to the Farmworkers Hub and the remaining 25 per cent to Niagara-on-the-Lake's Community Palliative Care agency.

Riding in a horse drawn carriage, Reid will start the stroll and will lead thousands of people around historic Old Town.

The stroll begins at the old Court House at 6:45 p.m. with a ceremony as thousands of people fill Queen Street.

The crowd then winds its way through Old Town, singing carols and listening to choirs, bands and musical acts along the route.

"It was an overwhelming decision to honour and recognize Ceto and give the majority of the funds to



Ceto Reid, left, stands with Kathy Brown. A donation jar set up by Brown has been collecting money at her Avondale location in Virgil to help with Reid's recovery. SUPPLIED

him," said Andrew Niven, chair of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL, which organize the stroll.

This is the first time the chamber has honoured three recipients, he said.

Chamber president Minerva Ward noted, "It is my first year hosting this heart-warming event and I am pleased to be part of a community that celebrates the holiday season with such a generous spirit."

"This is an important event that raises funds for worthy causes in our community and I thank the residents and business community for opening their hearts to assist," she said.

The community has really

rallied together for Reid since he was hurt.

Kathy Brown, manager of the Avondale in Virgil, has been raising money in her store for him.

The money from the stroll will help Reid with any costs that come his way while he recovers.

"I think it's two months that he has to go waiting for some benefits to kick in," said Julia Buxton-Cox, founder of the Farmworkers Hub.

"So this really helped with the income that he's lost and the fact that he's staying on longer than expected," she said.

Buxton-Cox is excited that the Farmworkers Hub is also being supported by the stroll.

"We're absolutely honoured to be chosen as one of the recipients," she said.

The chamber has been extremely supportive of the hub and the work it does for farmworkers, she said.

The money raised from the Candlelight Stroll will go towards the hub's operating costs in 2023.

"So that we can continue to do what we do and offer clothing and household goods and hopefully food next year at no cost to seasonal workers," she said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care offers many programs for its clients and the stroll donation is most welcome, said executive director Bonnie Bagnulo.

"Every cent that we receive to this service stays in this service," she added.

Bagnulo was thrilled when she found out the agency was one of the recipients.

The candles cost \$3 each, and will be sold between 3 and 8 p.m. in front of the Court House and at stalls between King and Regent streets.

Another tradition of the Candlelight Stroll is a food drive for Newark Neighbours. Donations can be dropped in bins at Fort George or in front of the Court House.

Volunteers needed to fill stockings for seniors

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

For the third year in a row, Niagara-on-the-Lake's Joan King is hoping to bring some holiday joy to seniors in long-term care facilities.

In response to the COVID pandemic, King first began distributing Christmas stockings to help lighten up a lonely environment.

At the time, care facilities had restricted visits due to the spread of COVID, so the stockings were a really welcome gift.

Now, it's becoming a tradition.

Last year, 220 volunteers were needed to fulfil the need for stockings and this



year is no different.

Stockings will be donated to Pleasant Manor in Virgil (which has 31 residents), Upper Canada Lodge (80 residents) and Niagara Long Term Care Residence (101

residents).

Volunteers are needed soon, with a target date of Dec. 16, to have stockings in and sorted at the homes.

Those interested in filling a stocking can contact King to receive a list of approved items needed by the seniors.

"They're all items you could get at the dollar store. It's really simple," King said in an interview.

"They don't have to buy everything on the list, just enough to fill a stocking and fill it with what they want."

King was blown away by the town's generosity and kindness in prior years and looks forward to another holiday season of community and giving.

"It's such a wonderful community. They're just so giving and generous," said King.

Last year, St. Davids Lions Club member did it together as an evening.

"They picked up the items and the stockings and they filled them all together. Crossroads school kindergarten class also brought in items and filled up stockings as well."

If you are interested in spreading some community spirit this holiday season by filling up a stocking, contact King at joankemp10@yahoo.ca, 905-262-5898, or send a message on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/joan.king.7587>.



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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 52
Region active cases: 1,004
Region deaths: 644
Region total cases: 48,191

**Nov. 9 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



Contributed by Patty Garriock

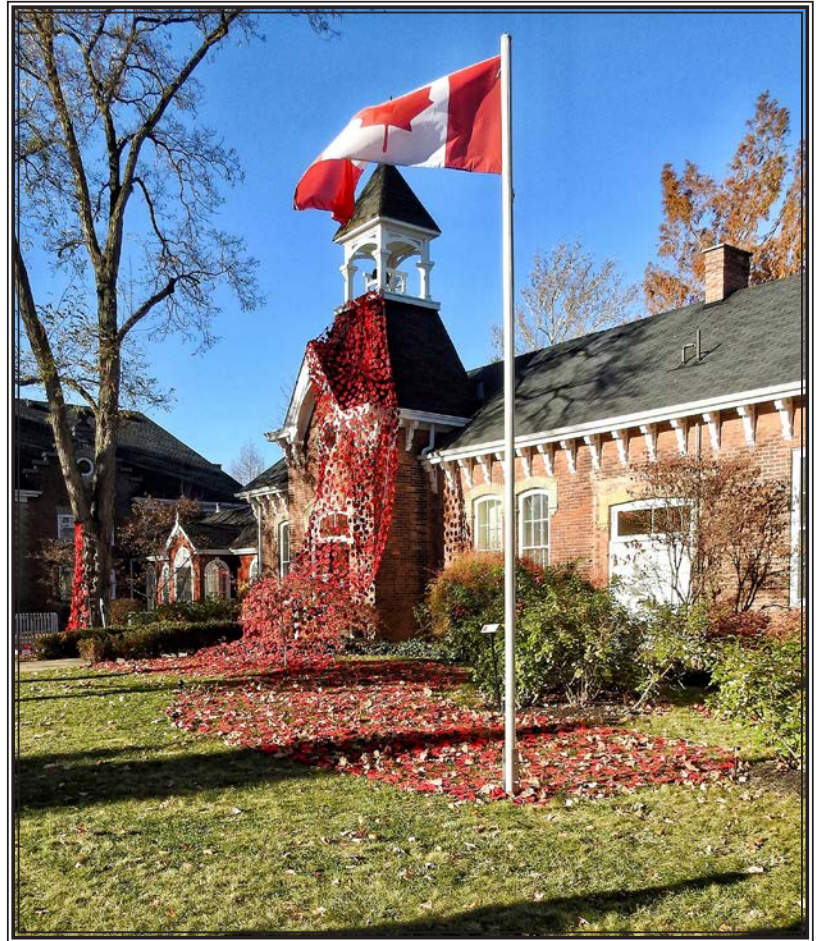
"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not." - Oprah Winfrey

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A tribute to remember

Lake Report correspondent Steve Hardaker captured this photo of the NOTL Museum's Poppy Project, with the Canadian flag blowing in the wind. Poppies are also draped over the Court House and on shops in Old Town.



Editorial

More than an act of vandalism

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Perhaps it was inevitable. One rainbow bench installed, one case of vandalism.

The fact Niagara-on-the-Lake's lone (so far) rainbow bench has been defaced by vandals is not a surprise.

It's just disappointing.

Some people in NOTL have been against the idea of the town-funded rainbow crosswalk and five rainbow benches approved by council earlier this year but, having stated their objections, many of them also accepted the reality that it was going to happen.

Now, the lowest common denominator has reared its ugly head and chosen to damage the bench. That is really unfortunate.

And far from proving that the rainbow celebration idea was misguided, we think it reinforces how necessary it is for the community to acknowledge

those who are LGBTQ or people who support those who are.

For now, the colourful bench has been removed from its spot in Centennial Sports Park in Virgil.

It will be repaired and back in service at the community park in a few weeks.

What prompted this act of vandalism? We don't know, but we can guess.

Ignorance. Stupidity. Maliciousness. Maybe blatant homophobia ... are all words that come to mind.

As Remembrance Day approaches, it really is sad to be reporting and commenting on this sort of behaviour by some elements within the community. Those who fought for our freedom in world wars and other conflicts, while not knowing it then, also were defending the rights of those who are LGBTQ.

It has long been our view that sunlight is the best disinfectant when such sad

spectacles as this – or racist incidents, antisemitism, sexism, misogyny and other similar acts – are perpetrated.

Society and our leaders need to shine a light on them, talk about them, denounce them and help educate those who might perpetrate them.

That's why we are concerned with how the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has, in part at least, handled this incident. Kudos to the town, firstly, for posting about the incident on social media. A great start.

But now is not the time for political niceties or soft-peddalling what happened.

Part of the problem is we actually don't know what really happened. Base on the limited information made available by the town, we are assuming – always a bad idea in journalism – that the damage was inspired by homophobia.

The bench was defaced with a "disheartening"

message "interpreted by town staff to be intentionally hurtful to those the bench represents."

Sounds distinctly like homophobia, but maybe not. We can't be 100 per cent sure because the town refused to use or acknowledge the "H-word."

We understand this could be seen as embarrassing to our "prettiest" little town, but please let's be honest and frank when bad things happen. And not talking about bad things out of fear that it might inspire others to follow suit is just wrong-headed in our view.

We – and the community – don't need to know what actual words or symbols might have been used. We all just need to know what happened (without mincing words), what is being done about it and, ideally, some strong words of condemnation.

And, yes, let's all hope it does not happen again.
 editor@niagaranow.com

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Resident professionals could be **sounding board** for council

Dear editor:

Our small town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is awash with practising and retired professionals from a broad cross-section of disciplines.

Our municipal government needs to pick their collective brains.

We will soon embark on a new council term, hopefully

a more sympathetic one, with councillors attentive to their constituents' concerns and aspirations.

I look forward to a culture in keeping with improving our quality of life and retaining the heritage of NOTL.

Accordingly it is incumbent on councillors to effect a paradigm shift in their

mode of operation, be more transparent (as they promised during their election stump speeches) and, more importantly, solicit, learn from and consult with the abundance of talented professional individuals residing in our community.

The cost savings from their counsel would be im-

measurable.

I would qualify that such input would be received on a sounding board basis only – a professional guideline for negotiations or discussions with any regulatory body or others.

A free education, so to speak, as a prelude to addressing matters unfamil-

iar to those on the council.

Professionals in our town expressed their opinions to our previous council and, in numerous cases, solutions to problems. They were ignored and their input fell on deaf ears, perhaps one reason for a lower turnout in the Oct. 24 election.

These are residents invest-

ed in the future success and growth of our town because they are passionate, caring individuals.

Let's change the culture during the next term and maximize these talents for the growth and well-being of NOTL going forward.

Samuel Young
NOTL

Removal of headstones from Black burial ground a **sad chapter** in NOTL's past

Dear editor:

Sadly, Kevin McCabe's letter to the editor, "Some Black cemetery gravestones were taken by locals" (The Lake Report, Nov. 3), is probably true.

My parents' property, at 226 Mary St., where the RBC plaza sits today, backed onto the northeast side of what was then called the Negro Burial Ground.

The burial ground was never maintained. Dominated by large thorn bushes throughout, a few scrub trees and interspersed with many gravestones, it was the neighbourhood playground.

There were a good number of gravestones when I was a kid playing there through the late 1940s to mid '50s.

At least two large stones were totally hidden to the casual observer, sequestered deep inside a space encircled by thorn bushes.

Of particular note, at the very back of the graveyard, was a quite large plinth atop which stood a three or four foot tall, narrow pyramid. I remember seeing engraving on the front of the plinth.

Gone now, it would have taken considerable effort to remove it.

As Mr. McCabe notes, the gravestones seemed to disappear over the years.

In the mid-1960s, with what I know was good intent, my mother had me gather up the few remaining six or eight stones and assemble them at the base of a

walnut tree on our property.

I remember her trying to find a home for them before they were all gone. For some reason, the museum turned her down.

Unfortunately, at just this time, both my mother and father became seriously ill, and their property was sold. What became of the stones, I do not know.

I do know what happened to many of the earlier stones. Before my parents acquired 226 Mary St., many grave stones had been used as fill when pouring the cement basement of the house.

You could see their shapes through the concrete where they lay as the colouration of the floor was somewhat lighter. Head-

stones were also used in at least two of the basement window frames to form the windowsill.

One was used in the window where coal was dumped into the basement, probably to help with wear from the coal.

In the 1970s, I remember seeing an inverted gravestone in front of the hearth of a fireplace in town.

As Mr. McCabe notes, there certainly were rumours that gravestones were being used throughout the town for other purposes.

It was also rumoured that this was on the initiative of a local person known for his restoration skills. My experience of seeing a headstone being



Headstones at the Black burial ground. FILE

used in this manner fits well with Mr. McCabe's story of them being used as "flagstones for patios and walkways."

This was an insensitive degradation of a people,

their religion and their culture especially for a town which had historically prided itself on the treatment of Black people.

Terry Boulton
NOTL

Santa gearing up to support NOTL Palliative Care with **Christmas visits**

Dear editor:

I know it seems early, but the length of my beard is telling me we must be nearing Christmas.

I just can't believe how fast time is flying. The elves are toiling away and the reindeer are fattening up for our long winter's ride.

I'm sure you are beginning to make plans for your holiday merrymaking. I would love to be part of those festivities. And Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Services really needs our support.

Once again, Santa for Palliative Care is available to visit homes and businesses throughout the region, wherever people are gathering to celebrate the Christmas season.

Or I am pleased to visit virtually by Zoom again



Santa in his virtual set. SUPPLIED

this year. We've had great success virtually visiting families around the world from my "Santa set."

In fact, it is a wonderful way for many far-flung families to bring some excitement to their regular video calls.

As always, you can contact me by email at santaforpalliativecare@gmail.com.

com or 905-468-2536. Let's connect and see how we can help make your gathering special.

Have a wonderful Christmas season and please spread the word to friends and family. I want to be really busy this festive season.

Santa for Palliative Care
NOTL

Monuments Men series by Ron Dale is **excellent** historical reading

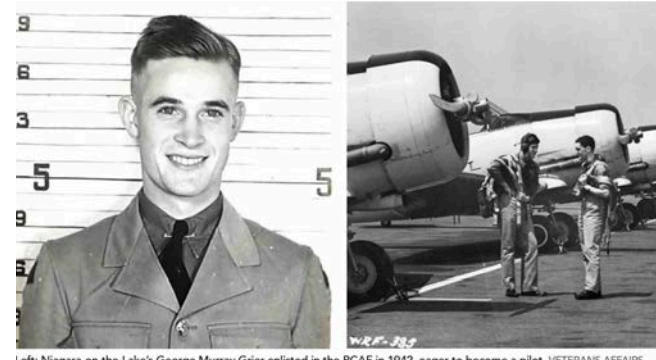
Dear editor:

I would like to thank Ron Dale for his excellent writing of The Monuments Men series, the biographies and circumstances of all the military men who sacrificed their lives during the two world wars – and whose names are engraved on Niagara-on-the-Lake's two cenotaphs.

I was interested in the Oct. 6 instalment (part 19) on George "Murray" Grier and the tragedy of his death in a training accident at Aylmer in a Harvard aircraft.

My cousin, F/O Douglas Thorpe, was a trainer at Dunnville, who survived the "yellow peril," as the Harvard (painted yellow) was named.

He told us that the single engine was prone to "conk out" and he was grateful to survive.



Left: Niagara-on-the-Lake's George Murray Grier enlisted in the RCAF in 1942, eager to become a pilot. VETERANS AFFAIRS
Right: Harvard aircraft similar to what George Murray Grier flew when he was killed. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Flight training accident claimed life of young pilot

There is one at Mount Hope RCAF museum.

Years later, as a Girl Guide leader in Trenton, our companies were proud to march behind the RCAF during the gifting of the Memorial Gates from Great Britain and the Commonwealth to RCAF Air Train-

ing Command.

Many thousands passed through those gates for training across Canada.

Our museum's Poppy Project is a wonderful reminder – to be grateful and never forget.

Elizabeth Oliver-Malone
NOTL



Uncertain futures for historic McNab church and Queenston cottage



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

In the late spring of 2021 I wrote a series of pieces about the churches of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Included in the April 21 column was Christ Church McNab, a wonderful example of mid-19th century ecumenical architecture with a centrally placed bell tower that has called congregants to worship for 169 years.

I had heard a persistent rumour that this church, suffering as many are from dwindling congregations and financial shortfalls, would likely be closing.

Unfortunately, this news was confirmed in last week's Lake Report article by Julia Sacco ("Christ Church McNab closes its doors after 175 years").

While I understand that

if the dollars coming in are less than the dollars going out sooner or later a "hard halt" must be actioned, this decision puts an irreplaceable part of our shared heritage in danger.

This building represents far more than its architecture.

In the early 1850s, Edward Hiscott and James Servos (both from families deeply embedded in the town's history) mortgaged their farms to build it.

Historically, this building and others like it served as a central social hub around which the community revolved.

Yes, it was a place for weddings, funerals and weekly devotion, but it was also the focus for a social service network long before the government got its sticky fingers into community welfare.

In so many ways, our church buildings represent a cultural heritage value well in excess of any other surviving colonial built architecture.

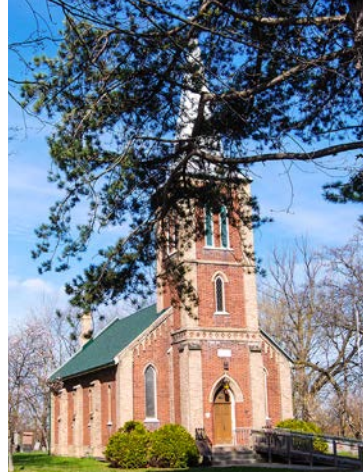
And how do we respect this?

The answer is ... not at all.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, not one single church is Part IV (the building itself) designated and only one, Grace



The Colonial cottage in Queenston and the McNab church. BRIAN MARSHALL



United Church, is granted some protection by virtue of being located within the Old Town historical district (Part V).

So, St. Mark's in Old Town, with two centuries interwoven into the warp and weave of the community, could fall to a developer's axe should its future financial position parallel that of Christ Church McNab.

Similarly, the threat exists for St. Andrew's and St. Vincent de Paul in Old Town, St. Saviour's in Queenston, and others.

Also consider that many churches (including the cemeteries) sit on large plots of land and I have seen multiple past examples in Ontario of

graveyards being excavated and consolidated into single minimally intrusive (to development) strip memorials.

I consider this situation appalling and feel that something must be done to save and protect these pieces of our shared cultural heritage.

That said, by the direction of our new town council, town staff might reach out to each of the institutions who own these properties to explain the benefits of having their holdings designated.

However, should those owners not be amenable to designation, it is my position that the heritage importance of these buildings and lands may fulfil the criteria of a forced designation as an

"action of last resort" (as outlined in last week's Archi-text column).

Not claiming, only saying. And now let's move on to the second thing that might initiate folks to do some wondering about.

In NOTL's village of Queenston sits a modest house at 14 Highlander St.

From our modern perspective it may seem strange that this house presents its end gable to the street and its front facade faces into the lot, but this was not uncommon during the late 18th and through 19th century.

There were potential tax considerations associated with lot frontage (along the street) build-out and, perhaps

more commonly, the original property lot lines actually encompassed a straight line-of-sight to the then-existing road parallel to the building facade.

In any case, absent the various additions, the house at 14 Highlander represents in form and execution a typical and representative example of a Queenston settler's cottage home that may have been built at some point between 1780 and 1850.

Historic depictions of Queenston during the 19th century show such dwellings in the village.

A proposal has been made to the town to demolish this historic dwelling and sever the lot it sits upon into two separate parcels with the intent to build single-family homes on each. This proposal will be heard by the committee of adjustment on Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Once again we face the potential loss of a historic structure because Niagara-on-the-Lake has no design guidelines to set the rules of the game.

Brian Marshall is a NOTL realtor, author and expert consultant on architectural design, restoration and heritage.

Zalepa beat Disero in the polls everywhere **except Old Town**

Continued from Front Page

sizes were probably way too small to ever be reliable (automated queries with responses from a few hundred voters). Certainly, in the cold light of election night, with Zalepa taking 49 per cent to Disero's 34 per cent, the real numbers told a much different tale.

So, what happened?

Niagara-on-the-Lake only had 15 polls in total (including advance polls, long-term care homes, proxy and mail-in vote). And the hard data from the Town of NOTL only summarizes info by the five communities: Old Town, Virgil, Glendale, St. Davids and Queenston.

But the numbers still tell some interesting tales.

Overall, Disero attracted 1,583 fewer votes than she did in 2018 when she beat Dante by a margin of 1,426.

This time, she edged



Betty Disero.

Zalepa by 260 votes in Old Town, but he won all the remaining polling districts. (In contrast, she beat Dante by 1,625 votes in Old Town in 2018.)

More than half Disero's total 2022 vote deficit compared to four years ago was in Old Town, considered by some, including people with the Zalepa campaign, to be "a Betty stronghold."

She won Old Town but her total dropped by 872 from four years ago and Zalepa (1,203 votes) had a lot more support in Old Town than Dante did (710

votes in 2018).

Third-place finisher Vaughn Goettler earned 561 votes in Old Town, 95 more than Daniel Turner took in 2018. Goettler's 1,268 total was a respectable finish for a political rookie who entered the race late.

Town-wide, voter turnout was about 58 per cent in 2018 and fell to about 47 per cent this year, but that only translated into about 800 fewer votes being cast.

And the total mayoral ballots cast in Old Town were 3,227 this year versus 3,511 in 2018.

Any way you look at it, this year's Old Town results really hurt Disero, when many thought that area could return her to office. Old Town said no.

Zalepa took Virgil by almost 1,100 votes (1,504 to 484) as Disero's support fell by about 400 compared to 2018. That year, Dante

(1,180) won Virgil by about 300 over Disero.

This year, Zalepa was untouchable, it seems.

With the mayor-elect's support of the regional process that led to the proposed – and controversial – St. Davids roundabout, many people figured it would hurt him among village voters.

Didn't happen.

Zalepa won St. Davids 597-411 over Disero. Her support there dropped 20 per cent from 2018 when she won St. Davids 609-482 over Dante.

Village voter turnout was 42 per cent and total votes St. Davids votes fell by just 66 over 2018.

Some other interesting numbers lurk among the data. Erwin Wiens, the new deputy lord mayor, topped every poll except Old Town, where he was a mere 14 votes behind the popular Burroughs (1,913 to 1,899).

Often a thorn in Disero's side, the plain-speaking, outspoken Wiens obviously resonated with most voters. A grape farmer who aims to champion the interests of the agricultural community, he received almost 5,000 votes overall.

Incumbent Allan Bisback, edged out by Maria Mavridis by 66 votes for the eighth council seat, actually polled 200 more votes than he did in 2018, finishing seventh. This time he was ninth.

St. Davids resident Adriana Cater Vizzari thumped all council candidates on her home turf, taking 914 votes. Wiens was closest at 811.

Cater Vizzari also did well way over in Old Town, garnering support from 1,173.

NOTL has a "vote anywhere system," meaning you can submit your ballot at any poll but your vote is recorded under the district

in which you live.

Old Town showed the highest turnout, with 54.5 per cent, Virgil was 48 and St. Davids and Queenston 42 each.

Perhaps some Glendale residents' complaints of not really feeling like they are part of Niagara-on-the-Lake were reflected in the poor turnout there.

Only 28 per cent – 364 of 1,283 eligible voters – cast ballots. And Zalepa gobbled up 227 of them.

That turnout statistic might be evidence that the town – and the new council – has a long way to go to make Glendale residents feel included.

If growth projections hold true, some day soon that neighbourhood will be home to nearly half of the town's populace and could have a big say in how the town is governed.



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Ford's plans **worry** Niagara conservation authority

Planned changes to housing legislation could have serious impact on region wetlands, CAO says

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The chief administrator of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority fears agencies like hers may lose the ability to protect vulnerable environments if the province passes a new bill to help developers build houses faster.

"It is almost like the proposed changes simply take conservation out of the conservation authorities," Chandra Sharma said in an interview.

Conservation authorities act as regulatory advisers for municipalities by assessing the environmental impact of development proposals.

"We've been collectively doing it for 70 years," she said.

"Many small municipalities do not have the capacity and resources to do it themselves," she added.

Bill 23, also known as the More Homes Built Faster Act, will limit their ability to advise towns on threats to the environment and also will amalgamate the province's 36 conservation authorities into one.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Coun. Sandra O'Connor is "very concerned with the conservation authorities" and their reduced capacity to oversee the environmental impact of development.

Premier Doug Ford's provincial government tabled the bill Oct. 25.

It aims to increase density and affordability by cutting through bureaucratic red



Premier Doug Ford touted new housing plans and protecting the Greenbelt during the last provincial campaign. Niagara conservationists are concerned Ford's new housing plan could hurt the environment. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

tape and making it easier for developers to build more homes.

The Ontario Association of Architects estimates the province loses anywhere between \$300 million and \$900 million every year because of project delays.

"The housing supply shortage affects all Ontarians," Steve Clark, the minister of municipal affairs and housing, said in the province's news release.

The legislation follows on the back of a series of new bills designed to help the Progressive Conservative government meet its goal getting 1.5 million homes built in 10 years.

Sharma is especially concerned by the proposed changes to the wetland

evaluation system.

One of the proposed changes will exclude a subclass of wetland from the definition.

The excluded subclass is called a wetland complex, which is a stretch of swamp-like territory broken up by other land formations, like uplands or lakes.

While a wetland complex is not contiguous, it functions like a single ecosystem.

Sharma points out that about 135 of Niagara Peninsula's nearly 170 wetlands are complexes and the changed definition may inadvertently strip them of their protections.

Coun. Gary Burroughs said he is more concerned about protecting agricul-

tural land.

"We've got such specialized agricultural land and it is protected and it's actually saved our town to this point. If it was cancelled, that would be devastating," he said

Burroughs suggested rather than build more homes, the best solution to Ontario's housing shortage is to convert single-family homes into multi-dwelling units.

Households with one or two people could, "instead of moving to a smaller place, allow someone to live in their place," he said.

Property owners can already modify their properties to accommodate additional living units but under the new legislation

those modifications can be implemented regardless of municipal bylaws.

This would help to increase density in urban areas "with minimal impact on existing neighbourhoods," the bill says.

Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa calls the new legislation "strategically a smart idea."

According to Ontario's webpage on the the legislation, Bill 23 could help fill the "missing middle," a type of home more attainable to middle-class families and first time buyers.

These include terrace homes, condominiums, semi-detached houses and infill houses.

Chuck McShane, CEO of the Niagara Home Builders

Association, said the new legislation is a step in the right direction as it will help to build more affordable options for youth.

"Our youth cannot afford to live here," he said.

"We have literally stifled any development that might achieve affordability with our planning policies and nimbyism," he added.

McShane says the problem isn't unique to Niagara-on-the-Lake though.

McShane is confident there's a market for attainable houses in NOTL, despite the town having a median income of \$98,000 a year and a median age of almost 57.

He explained that not only would the town's youth be interested in attainable options but seniors looking to downsize would be as well.

The new act raises questions over heritage protections like those in the Old Town.

"We're also proposing a series of updates to balance preserving Ontario's history and heritage with the need to build more homes," reads the government's webpage on the new legislation.

Neither Zalepa nor McShane are concerned for Bill 23's effect on heritage districts.

Burroughs pointed out the town still has the right to choose where it meets its developmental growth requirements, but his concerns were not zero.

"Within six months. I'm hoping this new council will have a new zoning bylaw that deals with contextual zoning," Burroughs said.

What's up with NOTL's high voter turnout? **Controversy**, says expert

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

What is it about Niagara-on-the-Lake politics that attracts more voters to the polls than almost any other municipality in the province?

Overall, turnout province-wide on Oct. 24 was just 33 per cent, according to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

But in NOTL, nearly 48 per cent of voters cast ballots, tops in the region and way more than most Ontario municipalities – despite a 10 percentage point drop from 2018.

So what gives?

Re-elected Coun. Gary



Burroughs said high turnout is fairly typical for the town historically, though he was alarmed by the fall off from 2018.

He wondered if electoral controversy "on the mayor side" may have "dampened people's intent to come out."

Social media activity, people "putting their

opinions on everything" and certain "articles in the paper" might have curbed turnout, he said, but didn't offer any specifics.

Livianna Tossutti, an associate professor of political science at Brock University, argues that contentiousness and controversy can motivate more people to cast ballots.

"In places where there are competitive races that pique the interest of voters, or close races, you're going to have higher turnout than in communities where the race is not competitive," she said.

Her view seems consistent with the results of the Niagara Falls race, where Mayor Jim Diodati was

head and shoulders above the competition in the polls with his 66.72 per cent share of the vote.

But Niagara Falls had one the lowest turnouts this year at about 27 per cent – barely one in four voters.

NOTL Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa was pleased with the town's high turnout compared to neighbouring municipalities.

"I was surprised, to be honest," said Zalepa.

He thought the turnout might be credited to "a rather engaging campaign."

But, "I definitely would like to see it higher," he said.

Tossutti said this year's drop in turnout is "consis-

tent with the turnout trends we've seen at the federal and provincial level."

"The most recent provincial election had the lowest recorded turnout in Ontario's history and the 2021 federal election also had the lowest turnout in over a decade," she said.

According to Statistics Canada, lack of interest in politics was the most commonly cited reason for not voting federally in 2021.

One reason the turnout in NOTL remains high among its neighbours is because NOTL has an older, wealthier population, all of which are predictors of higher voter turnout, said Tossutti.

"Generally people with higher incomes are more likely to turn out to vote at all levels of elections," she explained.

NOTL is also a smaller community, which can make a big difference in a municipal election.

Tossutti said turnout tends to be much higher in smaller communities than it does in larger centres, like St. Catharines, which had alarmingly low voter turnout at just over 26 per cent.

But in the tiny township of Pelee in southwestern Ontario, where there were only 555 eligible voters, 324 of them – 58 per cent – cast ballots.

NOTL REMEMBERS

Descendants remember sacrifice of Indigenous ancestors

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The mood was sombre but the wind was restless. It carried with it the smell of tobacco and smoke from a sacred fire burning nearby. Saturday marked the sixth anniversary of Indigenous Veterans Day in Canada. It was also the fourth year the people of Niagara reflected in silence for the Valour and Victory ceremony at the Landscape of Nations monument in Queenston Heights.

The monument was built in 2016 to recognize and memorialize the contributions of Indigenous soldiers throughout Canadian history, but placing special emphasis on their contributions at the Battle of Queenston Heights.

“As the son of an Indigenous veteran – My dad served in the Vietnam war – it’s really touching to me to know that his sacrifice and the sacrifice of people like him is acknowledged,” said Karl Dockstader, executive director of the Niagara Regional Native Centre.

Dockstader said his father never talked much about his experience at war.

“He wasn’t able to when we were young,” adding that he talks more openly now, especially with Karl’s own



Brian Kon, this year’s fire keeper, sets up the sacred circle. EVAN LOREE

children.

Dockstader gave a traditional greeting at the ceremony.

The significance of the greeting, he said, was to teach that “we have a responsibility to align our consciousness – our consciences – for the collective good.”

Richard Merritt, one of the co-chairs for the Landscape of Nations, gave the historical address for this year’s memorial.

The battle of Queenston Heights took place Oct. 15 and claimed the lives of 28 soldiers, Canadian, British and Six Nations alike.

Maj.-Gen. Isaac Brock was among the dead.

John Norton (Teyoninhokarawen) and John Brant

(Ahyouwa’ehs), the son of Joseph Brant, played an instrumental role in the battle when they and nearly 80 Haudenosaunee and Delaware warriors arrived to hold off the American advance.

Norton and Brant are depicted in statues at the Landscape of Nations monument.

While “the Indigenous chiefs and warriors had for years fought bravely” alongside their British and Canadian allies, Merritt said it would be a mistake to think of the colonialists and Indigenous as separate, homogenous groups.

The truth, he said, was there was a lot of mingling between the two groups, and that even Nor-

ton and John Brant, came from multi-ethnic families.

The Landscape of Nations was built as part of the Niagara Parks Commission’s commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

“(The monument) is important in revealing the missing pages of history that provide powerful lessons for all peoples within Canada,” Tim Johnson told the crowd in a speech.

Johnson acts as a senior adviser in heritage, legacy and Indigenous education for Niagara Parks. He has been active in the procurement of the monument since day one and has spoken of its symbolic meaning in previous years.

This year he chose to talk mostly about his family’s

military service.

His father served 18 months in Germany as a radio operator during the Second World War and his great-grandfather was a sapper (private) in the First World War.

“Here, on this hallowed ground, I’m gratified to be able to honour and recognize my ancestors. My father, my great-grandfather, and all those through my family lineage,” Johnson said.

The gathering was honoured by the presence of two Indigenous veterans, Brian Williams and Howard Hill, who served in the U.S. marines and airforce respectively.

Gary Parker was invited to sing an honour song for the Victory and Valour memorial service.

Parker chose a victory song for the soldiers who came home from war, describing it as “a lot of pain and suffering for families to go through.”

“It’s an honour to have them back home with us regardless,” he said. “That’s a victory.”

Parker has a long military lineage.

His father, grandfather and uncles all served in the military but Parker’s dad felt his son was on a different road.

“He knew I was going down a path of culture,”

Parker explained, adding that he works hard to preserve the knowledge and customs of his community.

In his community, Parker is not just a drummer and singer, but is also a knowledge keeper. He works as an Indigenous education adviser all across Ontario, and now sits on the Niagara College Indigenous Education Management Circle.

A group of Scouts Canada Cubs were at the park to pay their respects as well.

The 57th St. Catharines troop was there to learn about the contribution of Indigenous soldiers at the Battle of Queenston Heights.

The group does something a little different every year for Remembrance Day.

“It’s important to show the boys and the girls that we can never forget,” Andrew Zacharuk, one of their leaders, told The Lake Report in an interview.

Zacharuk was there with his five children and a newborn grandchild. Scouts Canada has been an important part of his life for 20 years.

“Family is important,” he said.

Zacharuk continues to volunteer with Scouts Canada because he’s amazed by the growth in leadership skills and personal character in the children who go through the program.

Remembrance Day ceremonies will take place across NOTL

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Remembrance Day is this Friday and there are a number of ways for people

to pay their respects in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Branch 124 of the Royal Canadian Legion will hold a memorial service at the cenotaph on Queen Street beginning at 10:30 a.m.

As well, there will be a separate ceremony at the municipal cenotaph at Niagara Parkway and Queenston Street in Queenston starting at 12:30 p.m.

All three of the town’s

elementary schools will be holding Remembrance Day assemblies in the morning so children can reflect on the sacrifice of Canada’s soldiers.

The Niagara Regional Na-

tive Centre at 382 Airport Rd. also will hold a memorial at 10:45 a.m., followed by a luncheon.

The NOTL Museum’s Poppy Project is on full display at both the old Court

House on Queen Street and at the museum.

As well, a poppy garden honouring all those who died during the two world wars is on display on the museum’s lawn.

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NOTL REMEMBERS



Memories of war in the desert

William Mays, son of William Mays Sr., shared the above pencil art his father drew while he was enlisted as a soldier in the British Royal Air Force. His father drew it during the Second World War while serving in Egypt. His son now lives in NOTL. Left: Mays Sr. while stationed in the desert.

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NOTL REMEMBERS

Legion honours veterans with Remembrance Day dinner

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Every year the Legion hosts a dinner to remind us that an essential part of Remembrance Day is thanking our veterans for their service and efforts.

On Saturday evening, 45 guests were in attendance for the first remembrance dinner since 2019, featuring food, friends and a unique guest speaker.

“Every year, we invite veterans and supporters of the Legion to come and have dinner with us,” said branch president Al Howse.

“Many of the people here have particular memories of a fallen grandfather or father.”

Before dinner began, the night started with introductions, an opening ceremony, O Canada and a



Forty-five guests were in attendance at the legion's Remembrance Dinner on Saturday. JULIA SACCO

blessing.

For dinner, guests enjoyed a caesar salad, short ribs, gnocchi, fall vegetables, mini tarts and a big cake for dessert.

The meal was free to all veterans as well as any caregivers who attended with them. For all others, the cost was \$20, which was simply to cover the cost of the meal.

“We aren't making any money from this particular activity. It's just a social time to gather and have good conversations,” said Howse.

Following the meal, guest

speaker Ron Dale, a regular Lake Report contributor, shared stories about some of those whose names are listed on the town's cenotaphs.

His ongoing series, The

Monuments Men, appears weekly in The Lake Report and tells the story of everyone commemorated on the war memorials.

The evening gave NOTLers a chance to share memories and connect with each other over why the Legion exists and what Remembrance Day is all about.

Retired Lt.-Col. Doug Johnson, the branch's sergeant-at-arms, especially enjoyed the conversation.

“It was a great night! I sat across from a young fellow who was a commanding officer for the air cadets, so we got talking,” said Johnson. “It brought back all kinds of memories. It was really fun.”

Johnson also liked the dessert.

“The cake was pretty good. I was surprised when the lemon popped in.”

Memories of war: The ragtag bunch who became the Home Guard

Roger Kirby
Special to The Lake Report

These are childhood recollections of growing up in Woodhouse Eaves in Leicestershire, England, during the Second World War. The Home Guard was a U.K. militia created to support the British army.

The Home Guard was formed in the 1940s across the country as a whole and, of course, Woodhouse Eaves was no exception.

Comprised mainly of men who were deemed unfit for regular forces service, they were to defend the country if we were invaded by German forces.

Eventually two million men joined: a ragtag bunch but enthusiastic in their endeavours.

The Woodhouse Eaves Home Guard was a typical contingent. Its commanding officer was a Major Arbuckle, who lived on Beacon Road.

He was a major in the First World War and determined to whip his charges into a first-class fighting force.

Drilling was the first effort and it was carried out on the first field below the Bull's Head Inn.

This field had a rolling contour from years of ploughing in the same direction; it also had long grass due to it being a hayfield.

The squad had no rifles (just a few shotguns), a pike from the Boer War and pitchforks meant to resemble rifles. Oh yes,



Winston Churchill inspects the 1st American Squadron of the Home Guard on Horse Guards Parade, in London, on Jan. 9, 1941. IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUMS

there was one Elephant Gun, a formidable and heavy-bore rifle.

Imagine this squad, which included old Joe Stockwell of Brook Road Farm in his knee-high leather leggings, and

Arthur Tyler, a painter at Beaumanor Estate, limping along on one short leg.

Trying to keep in line and in step was almost impossible considering the long grass and rolling terrain.

The order “Quick march!” was given. Some stepped off with their right foot and some with their left; some did not know left from right as they had never been taught.

“Halt!” came the order. Some stopped and others kept going, stumbling and tripping over one another. Chaos ensued. They were then told that “Halt!” meant stop.

Some wore shoes, others wore boots while some were in Wellingtons – they arrived for drills in whatever footwear they wore at work or home.

Boots and uniforms came later. After a period of several weeks they passed the major's inspection and, of course, adjourned to the Bulls Head to slake their thirst.

These groups across the country were charged with stopping the might of the German army, should there be an attack.

My father, John Kirby, landlord of the Bull's Head, was made a corporal. He had an old James motorcycle and sidecar. The sidecar was removed and replaced with a flatbed.

When a Northover Projector (an anti-tank weapon) was installed on the flatbed, the unit was to become the Motorized Armoured Division of the Woodhouse Eaves Home Guard.

Of course, the German invasion never materialized, but what began as a ragtag group of misfits grew into a well-prepared citizen militia determined to defend England at all cost.

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 **FEATURED**



Top left: Emily Lacey dumps grapes into bin. Top middle: Jorges Fragosa climbs into bin to stomp grapes. Top right: Bill Redelmeier, proprietor of Southbrook. Bottom middle: Lacey moves bins to the fermenter. Middle right: Grapes in the open-top fermenter. DON REYNOLDS PHOTOS

From field to fermentation, Southbrook **steps back in time**

Continued from Front Page

oak or stainless steel.

Spontaneous fermentation begins with just the wild yeast already present in the air and on the grapes.

No sulphites or preservatives are used and it's bottled cloudy and unfiltered, so there is some sediment left in the finished wine.

"In 2012, we started experimenting with small batches of orange wine," Redelmeier said.

"In 2014 we launched our first batch for sale. We only made 50 cases, so we thought, 'If no one buys it, we can drink it ourselves,'" he recalled.

"Last year, we made 4,000 cases. It's a major part of our business today."

Orange wine was unknown in Ontario when Southbrook became the first winery in the province to make it 10 years ago. Redelmeier had to travel to find others to learn from.

"My eyes were opened when I went

to the Raw Wine Fair in London in 2015. It was all organic wine, made with natural skin contact," he said.

There were 400 to 500 different wines, "so that helped give a sense of direction. In Ontario there were so few, it was hard to know what we were aiming for," he added.

When the Niagara-on-the-Lake winery first launched its orange wine, "new VQA (Vintners Quality Alliance) regulations had to be written, to codify skin-fermented white

wines. At the time, white wine had to be clear, with no sediment and classic flavours," said Redelmeier.

Southbrook executive winemaker Ann Sperling penned proposed new regulations for VQA approval and the rules were changed in 2017.

"Those regulations were the first written for skin-fermented white wine in the world," explained Redelmeier with pride.

For those unfamiliar with orange wine, he describes the flavour char-

acteristics as "confusingly orange, citric, some tangerine or seville tastes of Earl Grey tea, and it's funky."

"It's a wonderful wine. Opened with half a dozen friends and together, slightly chilled."

One of his favourite experiences pairing orange wine with food at "a Spanish restaurant in Toronto with foods that had lots of bright flavours, but they weren't overpowering, or dominating, and the or-


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...ok Organic Winery with his orange wine in hand. Bottom left: Grapes being stomped for orange wine.

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wine just fit in with everything.”
According to Redelmeier, “one-third of Southbrook’s customers come from Quebec and many of them are fans of our orange wine, having discovered it through the SAQ (the provincial liquor retailer in Quebec).”
“We sold 4,700 cases to the SAQ in the last three years, compared to just 100 cases to the LCBO in the same timeframe. We get huge support from the SAQ in Quebec.”

Southbrook is so popular among Quebecois, “we were number 1 on Google last summer, in French,” exclaimed Redelmeier.
Orange wine is still unusual, but no longer rare. “It’s becoming more common now and people are jumping the bandwagon,” he said.
“Niagara is a hotbed for orange wine now,” he noted.
The Wine Marketing Association of Ontario reports the production of orange wine has grown significantly

since the VQA regulations were adopted in 2017.
As of last year, 22 wineries in Ontario were producing 30 different orange wines.
It’s an important part of Southbrook’s wine portfolio, so expect to see staff there pulling on rubber boots and stomping the grapes the old-fashioned way when harvest time rolls around again and the yellow picking boxes come in from the vineyard.

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Last issue: An engineer named Robert Moog developed this instrument in the 1960s.
Answer: What is a synthesizer?
Answered first by: Bob Wheatley
Also answered correctly (in order) by: Susan Hamilton, Maria Janeiro, Daniel Smith, Jane Morris, Wade Durling, Bert Dandy, Pam Dowling, Gordon Yanow, Gary Davis, Sheila Meloche, Yvonne Des, Margie Enns, Carl Nickel, KC King

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Almost sold out, Rotary house tour sets fundraising record of \$165,000

Staff
The Lake Report

This year's NOTL Rotary Club Holiday House Tour is shaping up to be the most successful one yet.

Organizers have already sold more than 3,000 tickets and revenue is more than \$165,000, a record for the hugely popular event.

The daytime tour of six homes around Niagara-on-the-Lake is capped at 3,000 tickets and another 1,500 tickets were available for the evening "Merry & Bright" tours of the McArthur Estate.

So, there are not a lot of tickets left for the Dec. 2 and 3 tours.

The Rotarians have it down to a science now, with an email list of more than 6,000 people, they have a running start to ticket sales each year.

"We have very loyal supporters who come back



because they know we know how to put on a good event while raising money for our Rotary Club," said 2022 house tour chair Fran Boot.

There are still a few openings for volunteer positions, Boot said. They're using software to manage the schedule for their almost 250 volunteers.

Go to signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4cadac2ca0facf8-charity if you'd like to help out.

Tickets to both tours are sold online only on the

Rotary Club's website, niagaraonthelakerotary.ca/page/holiday-house-tour.

All the money raised goes toward Rotary community projects at home and abroad.

The club's community services committee, chaired by Jamie Knight, supports many worthy causes in NOTL and around Niagara, including the NOTL Museum expansion project, the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, Red Roof Retreat and the Yellow Door Theatre Project.

The committee also helps out Gillian's Place, Westview Centre 4 Women, NOTL Palliative Care, the Niagara Nursery School expansion and the Pumphouse Art Centre's youth summer programs.

One of the club's major international projects involves Hadad Primary School in Kargi, Kenya.

A picture taken at the

school includes a prominent message crediting the NOTL club for its support.

The club has helping Kargi via global and direct grants "over the last 10 or so years," said Rotarian John Boot.

On a trip there in October with an engineer to assess expanding a water supply to nearby villages, Boot also was able to deliver some much-needed food to the community.

"Kargi is on the front lines of the fight against global warming. It is 25 kilometres from the expanding Chalbi desert," Boot said.

"They have suffered through four years of drought and it doesn't look promising this year."

"On our eight-hour drive over incredibly rough roads we saw little wildlife. Most men are away herding with what is left of their cattle, camels and goats," he said.

NOTL's Ferox white wine to be showcased at Queen's Park

Staff
The Lake Report

Ferox by Fabian Reis has been named the official white wine for the Ontario Legislature for 2023, one of three wines to receive the prestigious designation for the coming year.

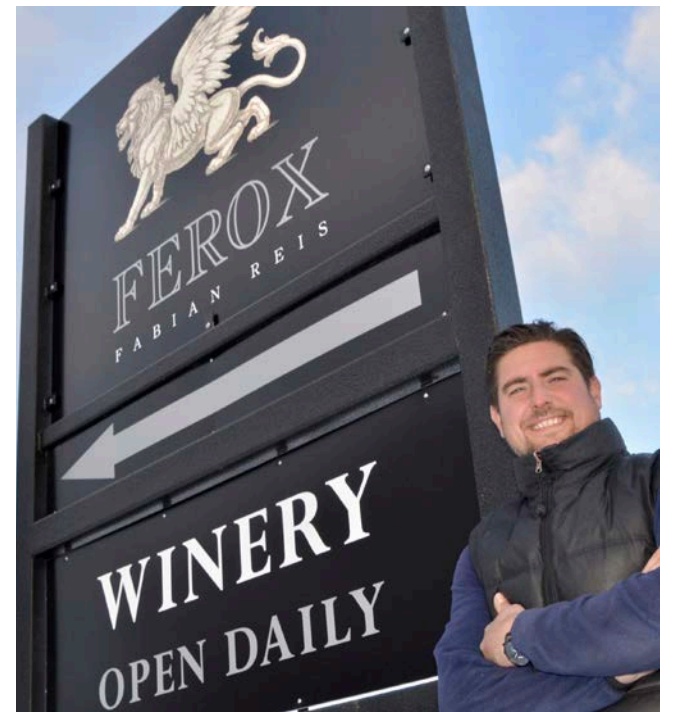
The Niagara-on-the-Lake winery's 2020 White Ferox by Fabian Reis received the honour after a special tasting event held at Queen's Park and a vote by MPPs who sampled different wines.

The designation means that Ferox will be served at Queen's Park's on-site restaurant and at events held in the legislative building.

"As one of Ontario's newest wineries, this is a special honour that showcases our commitment to producing high-quality wines," said Fabian Reis, Ferox's vintner and co-owner of the winery with his wife Stephanie.

"We're excited that our sustainable, precise approach to making great wine is being recognized and that people who work at and visit Queen's Park will be able to enjoy and learn more about what we do," said Stephanie Reis.

Ferox's white will be joined at Queen's Park by a



Winemaker Fabian Reis is being highlighted by the Ontario Legislature. His wine will be served at Queen's Park's on-site restaurant and events in the legislature building. FILE

2017 cabernet merlot from Kacaba in Vineland and a sparkling Borealis 2021 Method Charmat by Hinterland, in Prince Edward County.

Ferox and its companions were chosen from among samples provided by seven Ontario wineries competing for the annual honour of becoming Queen's Park's official VQA selection.

"The wines showcased at this event reflect the connection between 100 per cent Ontario-grown grapes

and the winemakers who craft them," said Debbie Zimmerman, chief executive of the Grape Growers of Ontario.

Ferox, whose name comes from the Latin word for fierce, began with three barrels of wine produced in 2015.

In 2018, the couple purchased the Vignoble Rancourt winery. The winery is completing an extensive renovation of its facilities to enhance its production methods and capabilities.

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‘Jam Queen’ Kim McQuhae **wins big** at 100th Royal Winter Fair

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake “Jam Queen” Kim McQuhae has done it again.

The proprietor of Gryphon Ridge Highlands brought home an armload of awards at the 100th anniversary Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

She entered the preserves competition as usual and won one first place award, two seconds and six thirds.

The winning entries were: first – Strawberry Honeyberry (Haskap) Jam; second – Kickin’ Kahlua Jelly and Redcurrant White Balsamic Chili Jelly; and third – Sour Cherry Blueberry Jam, Seedless Raspberry Jam, Pure Blueberry Jam, Mango Chardonnay Jelly, Maple Ginger Blueberry Jam and Blackberry Raspberry Rhubarb Jam.

More importantly, McQuhae said, she was chosen as one of the contributors for a Royal gift basket, “the first of its kind to celebrate the 100th anniversary.”

Her 2021 award-winning

Heritage Jam-Calico Peach Pineapple Conserve is included in the basket.

It won in the Heritage Award category, sponsored by the Culinary Historians of Canada.

Recipes for that category must be from prior to 1967 and McQuhae’s came from her step-grandmother Pat Buterbaugh, who died in the 1990s.

“She had gifted the recipes to her daughter Dona Masters after her wedding in 1956. Dona in turn gifted them to me a few years before her death in 2020 after hearing that I liked making jams and jellies,” McQuhae said.

“I didn’t really go through them until the pandemic and entered Plum Nutty, which won champion in 2020.”

When she heard about being chosen for the gift basket, she only had a month to produce 200 jars by Nov. 1.

“Due to supply chain issues I couldn’t get my regular jars so had to drive to Toronto to get smaller ones and start jamming to get them done as well as my regular competition entries,” she said.



Left: Kim McQuhae shows off her award-winning jam and conserve with her cow Breeze. Right: Her Strawberry Honeyberry (Haskap) Jam took home a first-place prize. The preserves were also included in the 100th anniversary Royal gift basket. SUPPLIED

“A wee bit of stress there.” McQuhae said she is “thrilled” that her Kickin’ Kahlua took second place. “It’s espresso and Kahlua – great on hot buttered

toast, on ice cream and excellent mixed with cream cheese as a fruit dip.” She said she entered it in the Royal competition about 10 years ago since it was

one of her best sellers at the NOTL Farmers Market. “It was totally panned by the judges, one of whom commented that it wasn’t ‘agricultural enough’ even

though the category it was entered in was Spirited Jelly (any jelly made with alcohol).” Not so this year. It’s a winner.



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Closed car wash creates unsightly **conundrum**



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

Since the days of the horseless carriage arrived here in Niagara, residents have proudly kept their vehicles clean and shiny.

It has been a mystery to me how even the most macho half-ton pick-up trucks were spotless in time for the drive to Sunday morning church services.

Even during the coldest winter months, somehow vehicles are washed in the driveway or at the automatic Virgil Car Wash. Then, a wipe with the family chamomile returns the family car to an acceptable level of beauty.

I observe in admiration, silently applauding, how several of my friends are always driving a pristine,

shining automobile. Often, a white car.

Herein lies my confusing, counterintuitive conundrum. Until five years ago, I wouldn't buy a white car, because it was obvious it would be hard to keep clean.

Dust, dirt and birdy doo would necessitate regular car cleaning. But look around in the ValuMart (I know, I know, it's now the Independent Grocer) parking lots and over 40 per cent of the vehicles are white.

Why? Because ownership surveys tell us that they require washing far less often than red, blue, black or green cars.

Weird, eh?

Perhaps I need therapy, but has a long suppressed psychological issue lurked behind my happy exterior for all these years?

Since my elementary school days in Winnipeg in the 1950s, I have occasionally heard myself reciting the poem, "Birdy birdy in the sky, Dropped a whitewash in my eye. Couldn't laugh, couldn't cry, I just thank God cows can't fly."

A clean car has been important to me. And, like



NOTLers won't have to drive their dirty cars around anymore starting Nov. 12. ROSS ROBINSON

washing the windows of a house, these tasks have provided visible proof of accomplishment.

Get at it, work hard, and as they say in Alberta, "Let's git 'er done."

What with the excitement of the recent municipal election campaign, the sale of the Virgil Car Wash slipped by without fanfare.

I had always been a fan of the former owners. It provided great service at a

fair price. Even when its coin machines swallowed my money, I would simply call the provided telephone number to report my sad story.

Within a week, a handwritten note of apology would be in my postal box downtown, with the appropriate number of 25 cent pieces taped to the note. Perfect.

Now, the indefatigable (or is it "indy fatiquable"?) Enns family has purchased this operation in the Virgil Busi-

ness Park, and I am certain that things will only get better. But the planned opening has been delayed and there is no nearby coin wash.

Many locals are driving dirty vehicles, hoping no one recognizes them. They duck, they put on sunglasses, they look the other way.

Are we being held hostage by municipal bureaucracy? Have the time-consuming and costly archeological surveys and heritage studies

been completed? Will the new car wash and car dry machines make less noise and decibels than a rousing outdoor pickleball game or a 180-passenger Hoverlink vessel?

I look forward to enjoying the mellifluous tenor voice of Rudy Enns welcoming us to the new family business. Soon, I hope, as this town is well-known for many things. Including sparkling automobiles.

SOME TOURISM IS GOOD. TOO MUCH IS BAD!

What is the purpose of your recent newspaper ads?

To make tourism an election issue so that we can come together as a community and maximize the benefits of tourism rather than blindly maximize the volume of tourism. We are glad to see all of the candidates now understand too much tourism is a problem for many and we need a town tourism strategy that works for the town's citizens.

We can no longer deny there are any problems. Hiding and ignoring the problems is not conducive to cooperating and finding solutions.

Educate the public, councillors, town staff and the industry that if mismanaged even a small rate of planned growth will result in a doubling of tourism from 2020 to 2030 at a large cost to all of us. The net benefits of additional low yield tourism are minimal. Higher yielding tourism is better for the towns welfare. The invisible burden of tourism is explained at: thetravelfoundation.org.uk/invisible-burden or video at youtu.be/ON_wVykiVLO

The town's time and money is better spent on creating housing, higher paying jobs and diversifying the economic base of the town.

Why did you not recommend candidates in the election?

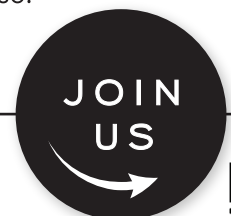
Because, no matter who we elect, we need to let our representatives know what is expected of them. Our elected officials need to put the people first.

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We are your neighbours. Like you we enjoy the benefits tourism has brought to our town but we know excess high volume tourism is a burden on our quality of life and our finances.

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Volunteers are needed to help with the cause. Please let us know if you are willing to help.



Presidential visit **an honour** for Hungarian bakery family

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

As world leaders do, she rolled up with a convoy of black SUVs and an entourage of bodyguards.

But it was really just a casual visit, as Hungarian President Katalin Novak stopped in for some tasty treats from Niagara-on-the-Lake's Budapest Bakeshop.

For Todd and Anett Kane, owners of the bakery, who brought Anett's Hungarian roots to the business, it was an honour to host Novak in their Hungarian-inspired bakery.

Anett is Hungarian and moved to Canada 10 years ago. Together she and Todd started their business based on chimney cakes, a traditional Hungarian dessert, but with a twist.

While the hollow light bread is usually only a sweet treat, covered in sugar and cinnamon, they took a savoury approach and make theirs with cheese, bacon sausage — you name it.

They said Novak was thrilled to see them carrying on Hungarian traditions in Canada.



Left: Katalin Novak, president of Hungary, visited Budapest Bakeshop last week and spent about 45 minutes chatting with the owners and staff. She's seen here with her arm around Eva Fenyvesi, whose daughter Anett Kane runs the Hungarian-inspired bakery with her husband Todd. Right: Todd shows Novak the selection of chimney cakes. SUPPLIED



hands, introduced herself," Todd added.

The highlight of the visit was being lauded for bringing a bit of Hungary to Canada.

"She was so proud that we were doing this traditional Hungarian pastry in Canada and bringing Hungarian culture across the ocean and carrying those special traditions on. She was really, really proud," Todd said.

He said she spent about 45 minutes in the store, with the whole delegation trying lots of different items.

Novak, the youngest president Hungary has ever had and first female president of the country, tried the classic cinnamon sugar, but took home an Oreo, a sausage and an aged cheddar bun while she was there.

Anett said she was "shocked" by the visit.

"I would never in a million years think I would meet the president. And it was an amazing experience. And a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"My mom was calling my dad and calling everybody in Hungary. They just couldn't believe it."

The whole visit was sort of a whirlwind — one they had to keep on the down low.

"We got an email from the Hungarian consulate in Toronto," Todd said in an interview.

The email, with official letterhead, asked them to phone to arrange up a visit to the bakery.

"So right away, we call," Todd said.

They were told a special delegation of about 25 to 30 people would be coming through with security.

"We asked, 'Who's coming?'" Anett said.

Todd said the two had their "jaws on the floor" looking at each other when they found out it would be the president of Hungary.

They were told Novak had heard great things about the bakery from people who work at the consulate and had visited before.

"What was also so cool about this was that Anett's mom has been with us visiting since the middle of September. So here she is in Niagara-on-the-Lake,

Canada, visiting us, and she got to be there to meet the president of Hungary — of her own country — at the bake shop."

Before Novak arrived, Todd said heavy security checked things out.

"Security came through the store and looked through everything, checked the back kitchen, checked (the business next door) and they were behind by our patio like between us and Treadwell," Todd said.

"Within that five minutes, all of a sudden four of these

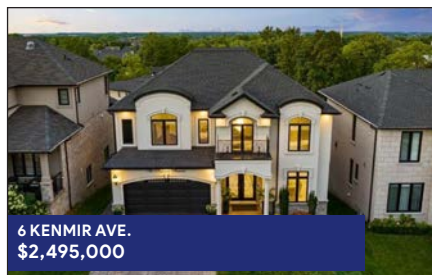
big black Suburbans pull up on Queen Street right in front of the store. And the first two are security, the third one she gets out of, and all of a sudden, she's walking into the shop."

Novak was with her son and the Kanes said it was almost like meeting someone they've known forever. "It felt like we know her. She was very, very friendly. She was shaking hands with everybody. It was amazing," Anett said.

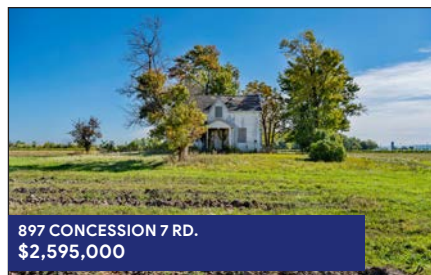
"She went to each of the staff and shook all their

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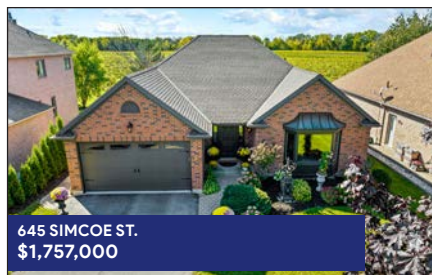
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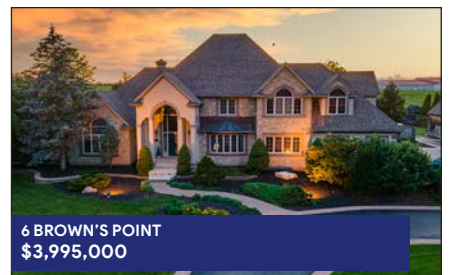
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NOTL's clock tower cenotaph still awaits much needed repairs

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The quest to restore Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph is unfortunately a slow one.

This June marked the 100th anniversary of the Queen Street landmark and it is starting to show its age.

In May, the town began working with the NOTL branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to raise the money needed to restore the cenotaph.

"We're coming up to the 11th of November. We're going to be standing there looking at these wonderful poppies hanging from the Chamber of Commerce," said Peter Warrack, a NOTL resident who is concerned about the condition of the cenotaph.

"And then, turning the other way, and you look at the cenotaph and all you can see is the brick pointing pulling out," he added.

Warrack, who is ex-military and ex-police, said it's sad to see the how the cenotaph has deteriorated.

"A lot of the brickwork inside needs to be re-

paired," said Legion president Al Howse.

"One of the issues has been that there are spots across the top if you look at it that have been open to the elements for the last 100 years," he added.

Which is why the inside is not as structurally sound as the outside, he said.

The Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston has been in charge of putting together a report on the costs to repair the cenotaph.

"They wrote a report, which we got back at the end of August, and we turned it over to the town," said Howse.

The town is getting an engineering estimate on the work that needs to be done, he said.

The town is also working on a list of what repairs need to be done and in what order.

The whole thing has been dragging on, said Warrack.

Howse agrees it's been a slow process, but right now they're trying to focus on building an interest for the project within the community, he said.

Warrack said he was told it would cost about \$46,000 to repair the cenotaph and

that so far \$16,000 has been raised.

"I don't know. And I don't want to make a guess," said Howse when asked how much has been raised.

However, he said they received a donation of \$2,500 recently from the United Empire Loyalists, an organization that focuses on teaching the history of the loyalists and how they helped shape Canada.

When The Lake Report asked the town how much has been donated to date, a spokesperson couldn't supply a total.

"Town staff is currently calculating the total amount of donations received to date," said spokesperson Marah Minor.

She also said the committee has paused the fundraising portion of the project while awaiting updated costs.

"At that point, there are several federal grants that we can apply for and we will restart our fundraising campaign," wrote Coun. Gary Burroughs in an email to Warrack.

For now, members of the community can still make a donation via a PayPal link at tinyurl.com/y2a4wy4c.



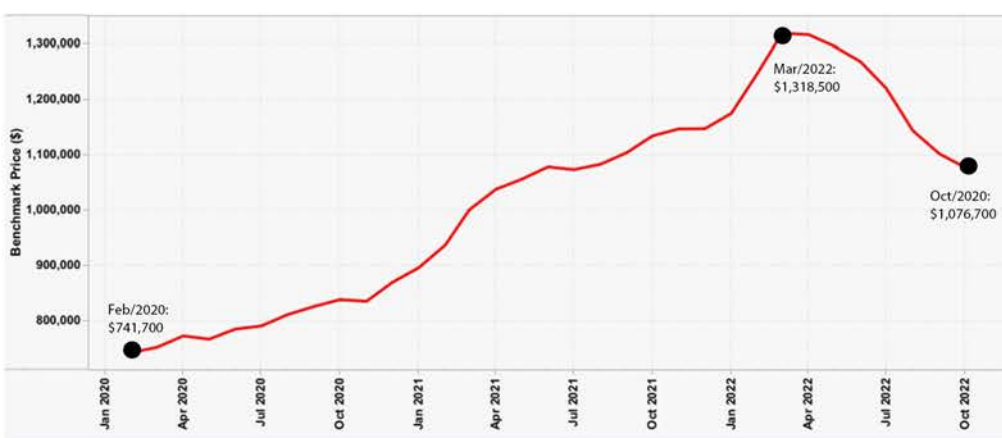
NOTL's iconic clock tower cenotaph needs to be restored. SOMER SLOBODIAN

The "REAL" Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake October 2022

MARKET UPDATE

- Average benchmark real estate prices have adjusted downwards to prices experienced in June 2021
- Between June 2021 and the PEAK in March 2022, average prices rose by 22.4%
- Compared to pre-pandemic (Feb 2020), average prices are UP 45%!



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Army of volunteers keeps **Harvest Classic** tourney on ice

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The Centennial Sports Park was bustling with life all weekend as it welcomed 36 teams from across Ontario to the annual Harvest Classic hockey tournament.

Parents, players, volunteers and all ran around the Centennial and Meridian Credit Union arenas at all hours of the day to catch a glimpse of the games.

Such a large tournament doesn't just happen, of course. It really does take a village.

If you stood outside the Centennial Arena office long enough, you might be able to catch a glimpse of the brains behind the entire operation, tournament convener Gino Patterson.

"We have over 287 volunteers this year, between barbecuing, timebox and concessions," said Patterson. "I myself put in 16 hours Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

"I should've worn better running shoes!" he chuckled.

He no longer has kids playing hockey but is happy to volunteer alongside other parents to keep a sense of community alive in the sport.

Many people share a similar sentiment. Peter Flynn, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, said recruitment of volunteers for the tourney has been a long process, but parents are more than willing to help out.

"It's all year round," he said.

Hockey dad Jo Zambito is one of those parents happy to offer assistance, helping out with the fundraising barbecue at the arena entrance all weekend.

"We have been here Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We are definitely up to over 700 burgers sold," exclaimed Zambito. (When he's not busy at the rink, the NOTL resident is busy as the fire chief in Niagara Falls.)

He said the beautiful weekend weather boosted sales, but the delicious scent of onions and food grilling must have been a big help as well.

Volunteer co-ordinator Carrie Plaskett was also active throughout the tournament, working the concession stand with the aid of other parents and kids.

Running around from corner to corner, Plaskett and others helped sell snacks and drinks to NOTLers and visitors alike.



Top: Ethan Dulas, Ben Raso and Max Braun volunteered as timekeepers during this weekend's Harvest Classic tournament in exchange for community service hours. Bottom left: GOAL!! Vincenzo Coppola raises his arms in pride as his teammates score a goal during the Harvest Classic Tournament on Sunday. Bottom right: Luke Simpson (#19) scored both goals in NOTL's 2-1 championship win over the Toronto Avalanche. Below: The U11 rep team poses for their championship photo. JULIA SACCO

"The concession stand had been closed since the pandemic and many local parents expressed their desire to see some sort of service coming from the concession stand on a regu-

lar basis," said Plaskett.

The stand was certainly welcomed back warmly, with lineups at the counter all weekend long.

Parents weren't the only people to volunteer over the

weekend, though.

Found laughing and drinking pops were three of the tournament's timekeepers, high school students and NOTL Wolves themselves, Ethan Dulas, Ben

Raso and Max Braun.

The boys happily volunteered their time at the tournament in exchange for community service hours.

"The arena is short on staff and Gino is such a nice

guy, he gets us to volunteer and gives us school hours just to help out. It's nice to do it with the home tournament," said Dulas.

"It's fun because you get to watch the game and also interact and take part in it," added Braun.

Patterson and Flynn are especially thankful for the help of the students since it saves quite a bit of cash on an already-expensive endeavour.

"A lot of them need community hours and we try to support that here. It helps us save some money if they help out too, so it works out great," said Patterson.

Flynn said costs can build up when taking into account ice rentals, paying referees and buying insurance, so they are happy for any help that is available.

"We had people like Club Roma donate a popcorn machine to use, the town donated a pizza warmer and we had a couple of our customers give us a deal on pizzas, like Sandtrap and Garage Pizza, who are sponsors in our league," said Patterson.

With all of the kind donations and help from volunteers, any profit made is able to be put back into minor hockey development.

Flynn extended thanks on behalf of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association.

"A serious thank you to all the volunteers, people like Carrie Plaskett, she was there the whole weekend, Gino was there the whole weekend," he said.

"Just a huge shout out to the volunteers that made everything successful and all the teams that came."

U11 NOTL Wolves skate to **championship**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake U11 Rep Wolves won the championship in their division at last weekend's Harvest Classic Tournament.

Luke Simpson scored both goals as the Wolves edged the Toronto Avalanche 2-1 in the final on Sunday afternoon.

Players and coaches swarmed the bench to hoist the winning trophy and then posed on the ice for the traditional post-victory celebration.

The team loudly cheered "Wolves!" as the cameras flashed, capturing their championship photo, proudly toting the sizable trophy.

Hometown teams performed extremely well in the tournament, with the U18 Wolves making it to the semifinal against the Lambeth Lancers while the U16 contact team lost in the final to the Stittsville Rams.



The U11 rep team poses for their championship photo at the Harvest Classic Tournament Sunday evening. JULIA SACCO

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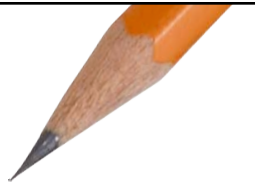


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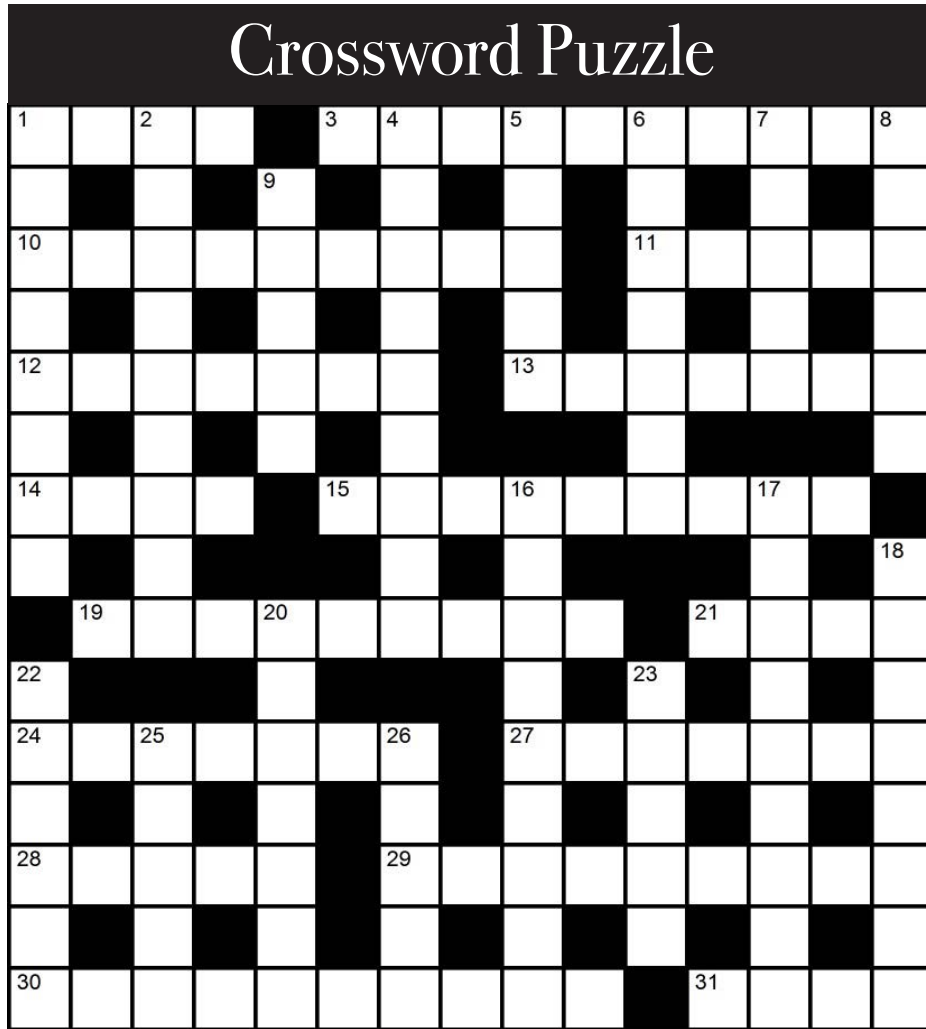


Across

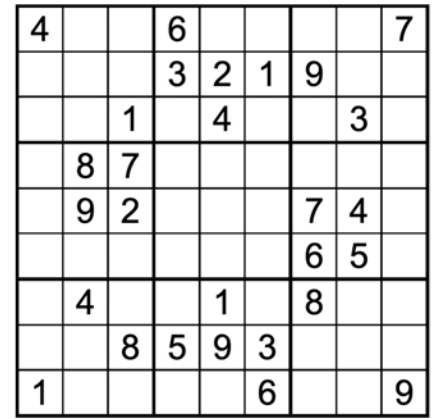
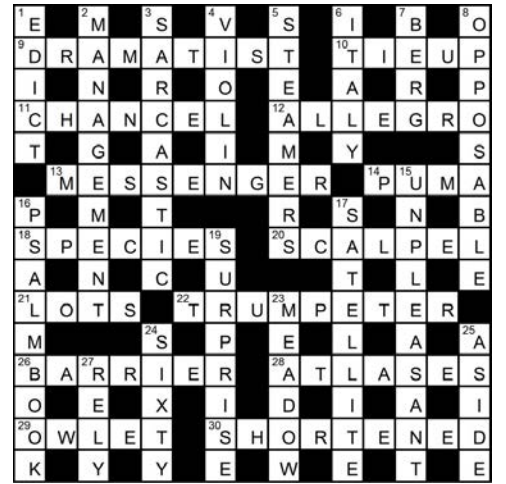
- 1. U S space group (1,1,1,1)
- 3. Court game (10)
- 10. Consequently (9)
- 11. Female sovereign (5)
- 12. Survive (7)
- 13. Bowling pin (7)
- 14. Skin eruption (4)
- 15. Pachyderms (9)
- 19. Sue (9)
- 21. German Mrs (4)
- 24. Passage (7)
- 27. Surrey commuter village (7)
- 28. Trembling poplar (5)
- 29. Mouth organ (9)
- 30. Science of numbers (10)
- 31. Undiluted (4)

Down

- 1. Belonging to a country (8)
- 2. Enticement (9)
- 4. Papal (9)
- 5. Leg joints (5)
- 6. Mexican liquor (7)
- 7. Proficient (5)
- 8. Beam over a door (6)
- 9. Started (5)
- 16. Medley (3-6)
- 17. Frighten, usually by violence (9)
- 18. Take away (8)
- 20. Squeeze together (7)
- 22. Las Vegas setting (6)
- 23. Racecourse (5)
- 25. Island in the Bay of Naples (5)
- 26. Resort lake in both California and 22 down (5)



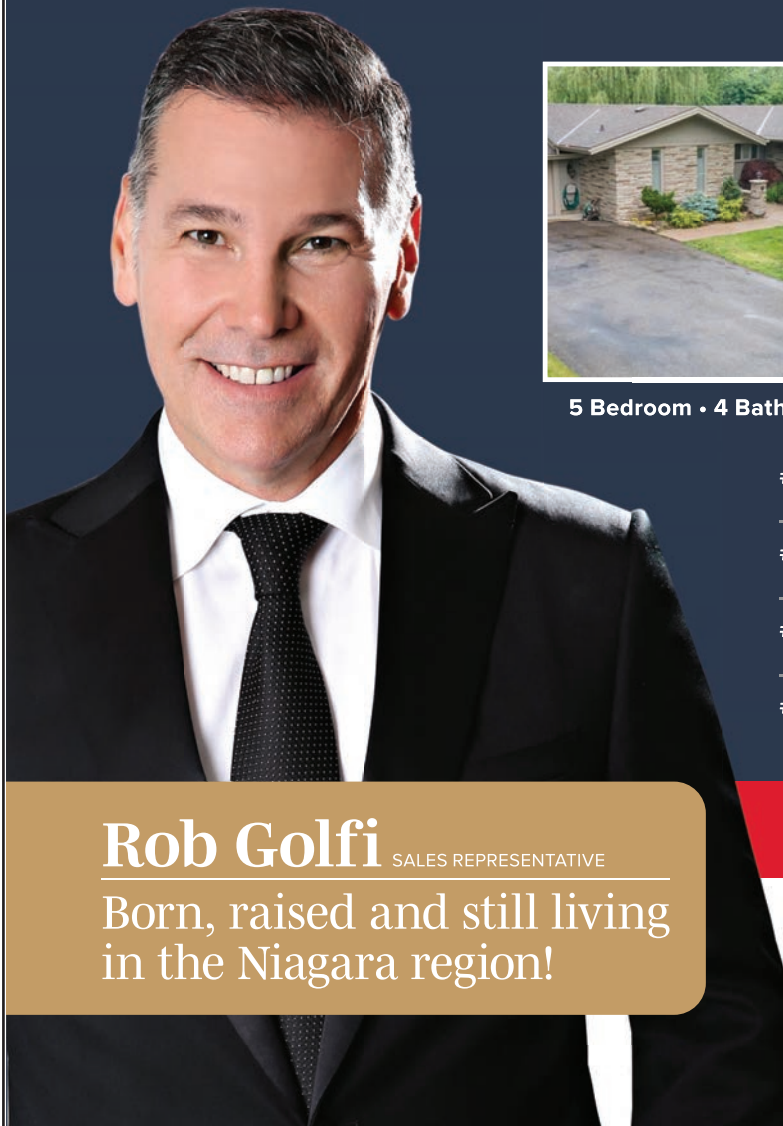
Last issue's answers



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It 'clicked': A Lego solution and the Nobel Prize for chemistry



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

This year's Nobel Prize in chemistry to Barry Sharpless, Morten Meldal and Carolyn Bertozzi was a work of art in science.

It was a beautiful, elegant and compelling story of how the best scientists work: define the challenge, figure out how to solve it and work collegially with colleagues toward the answer.

The late 1900s was a heyday for molecular biology with discovery after discovery. But there was a major stumbling block – building complex molecules was costly, time-consuming and often left unwanted molecular byproducts behind.

The field changed abruptly at the turn of the century, when Sharpless, already a Nobel Prize win-

ner, published a transformative paper that provided an intellectual roadmap for the future of molecular engineering.

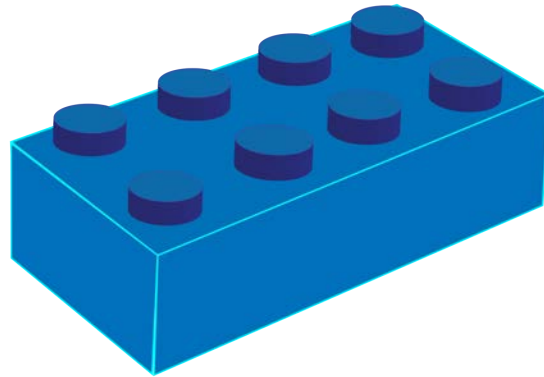
If you want to build complex molecules, begin with smaller, easier-to-manage molecules with carbon skeletons, which could be "clicked" together by employing chemical reactions that form strong bonds, don't interfere with other molecules and leave no unwanted byproducts behind.

Within a year, Sharpless and Meldal, working independently, discovered what was later likened to the crown jewel of the new field of "click" chemistry.

The jewel was the reaction between the azide molecule, which contains three nitrogen atoms, and an alkyne molecule, which contains a triple-bonded carbon atom.

The two clicked securely together in the presence of a copper catalyst, much as matching Lego pieces click together (an often-used analogy by chemists).

By attaching an azide molecule to one molecule and an alkyne molecule to



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another molecule, the two molecules clicked tightly together. It worked beautifully and provided the missing key to assembling complex molecules from simpler, molecular building blocks.

But there was a challenge for Bertozzi, a biochemist who was interested in studying how glycans work by tracking them going about their business in living cells.

Glycans are complex sugar molecules, which often combine with proteins to form glycoproteins. For example, glycan shields the coronavirus from antibodies.

Glycans are one of the last great frontiers in biology to crack. We know a lot about how RNA, DNA and proteins are created and function, but surprisingly little about glycans, which often cover the surfaces of cells.

Bertozzi needed a click reaction that worked without copper because copper is well-known to be toxic to cells. She discovered the answer in a literature search – change the alkyne molecule into a ring-like structure and bingo, she had the answer – an alkyne-azide reaction with no need for copper.

Now she had a tool to track glycans on the surface and inside cells by attaching a fluorescing molecule to the modified alkyne, which would click with the azide molecule attached to the glycan of interest.

The technique made it possible to visually spot and track glycans and glycoproteins of interest in living cells.

Click chemistry has revolutionized a whole new field in biology akin to the more established fields of DNA or RNA biology, by focusing on the mysterious functions of complex sugars in health and disease.

The 2022 Nobel Prize in chemistry fits in with earlier Nobels to Francis Arnold who in 2018 harnessed evolution to create better, cheaper enzymes, and two Nobel Prizes in 2021.

The first was to David Julius and Arden Patapoutian for their discovery of the genes and related protein receptors that translate touch, temperature and pain sensation into neural signals sent to the spinal cord and brain.

The second 2021 Nobel was awarded to Benjamin

List and Dave MacMillan for their work developing organic catalysts as tools for creating more effective drugs. All these Nobels were richly deserved.

Click chemistry turned out to be an invaluable tool in the search for precisely targeted drugs to treat cancer and immunological diseases and a marvellous way to track what's going on in cells without interfering with their natural functions.

We're sure to hear more on both fronts in the near future.

Finally in this year of conflict in Ukraine and other human-created disasters, it's refreshing to know, that at least in some areas of human activity, working together collegially, works as it did so well with these Nobel winners and their many students and colleagues in an area of human endeavour where there is a common language and purpose.

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.

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THIS REMEMBRANCE DAY

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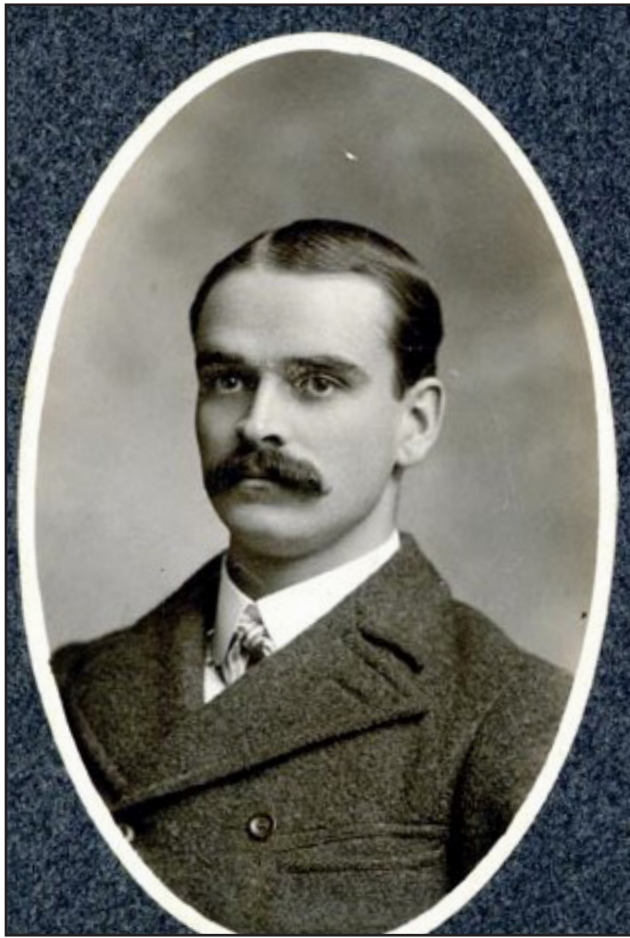
We honour and thank them for their courage, dedication, and contribution to our country.

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EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM

Lt. William Wright

This week's photo is a portrait of Lt. William J. Wright, a former principal of the Niagara High School (now the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum building). Wright felt a strong duty to enlist and he was described with the following: "There is no braver or better-loved officer than Lt. Wright; he never asks his men where he will not go himself." He made the ultimate sacrifice on Aug. 18, 1917 in the attack at Hill 70, near Lens, France. He left behind his wife and three children. Letters in our collection from his wife Edith describe the unbearable grief she felt. She anticipates she will again "collapse" with grief when his comrades of the 19th Battalion return by ship to a celebration. She writes: "How different everything would be for us had he been coming (home) and what a different person I would have been." The loss of these brave souls was, and still is, heartbreaking for many. Nov. 11 is an opportunity to remember those who fought for us back then and those who have since defended our borders and our values. It is also a time to reflect and be thankful for the families who made sacrifices on our behalf. The Legion's ceremonies start at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 11. I hope to see you there. If you get the opportunity, visit the Court House on Queen Street and the NOTL Museum on Castlereagh Street and see our magnificent poppy display, which pays tribute to veterans.



Where wine and history meet



The Friends of Fort George, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery and Parks Canada are gearing up for another History in the Vineyard dinner on Nov. 30. Pictured are Paul Harber of Ravine, Amy Klassen of the NOTL Museum, Amanda Gamble from the Friends of Fort George and Mona Babin, president of the NOTL Museum. See the events page of notlmuseum.ca for full details and a link to purchase tickets. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Looking to the Stars

Having a relaxing break is a worthy idea this week

Bill Auchterlonie
Columnist

Thursday, Nov. 10: The facts are getting in the way of ideas and stopping the dream in mid-stride. Still, the need to get away cannot be ignored and even if it is a book and a break, it is worthy. Happy birthday to Canada's fourth prime minister, John Thompson, who only served for two years. He died at age 49 in 1894 following a heart attack.



Friday, Nov. 11: With 11 aspects in the solar system, it's a very busy end of the week, including the moon, the sun, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto. It's a day when many opportunities make for many options. It was the war to end all wars – and in the 11th hour of the 11th month of the 11th day of 1918, the Armistice was signed, bringing an end to the First World War.

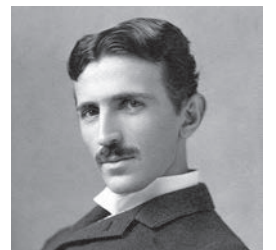
Saturday, Nov. 12: With Mercury in Scorpio in harmony with Neptune in Pisces, it's a laid-back time when imagination rules and a "day off" is greeted with a thank you. Happy birthday to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, American abolitionist and leader of the early women's rights movement. She was born on Nov. 12, 1815.



Sunday, Nov. 13: Venus is friendly with Pluto while Mercury disagrees with Mars. Relationships need a re-evaluation in order to keep pace with the latest facts. He wrote "Kidnapped," "Treasure Island" and "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" – and a lot more. He was Robert Louis Stephenson, born Nov. 13, 1850, in

Edinburgh, Scotland.

Monday, Nov. 14: Ideas and imaginations about psychology, especially sexuality, are on stage this evening. It's a good day to record your ideas. It was Nov. 14, 1896, that Nikola Tesla's boyhood dream of creating AC electricity at Niagara Falls became operational, supplying 50 cycles of AC current to Bethlehem Steel in Buffalo.



Tuesday, Nov. 15: Solve a problem. Don't create one. This may require a step outside your normal comfort zone. It may also ask you to open your heart to someone new. On Nov. 15, 1948, Canada's longest-serving prime minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King, retired in his twenty-second year in office.



Wednesday, Nov. 16: With the sun in Scorpio and the moon in Leo, today is the third-quarter moon at 8:26 this morning. This happens on the same day as Mercury leaves Scorpio and enters Sagittarius. While ideas about motives have preoccupied us the past few weeks, today begins a time for re-evaluating things from the biggest perspective imaginable. Canadian Metis martyr Louis Riel was hanged for treason on Nov. 16, 1885.



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Cleaning your tools for winter storage



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

As you start packing things away in the shed or garage in anticipation of winter, take a few extra minutes to clean up your garden tools properly and have them ready for action in the spring.

Shovels, rakes, etc.

The first step in cleaning up your shovels, rakes, hoes and garden forks is to use a hose or bucket of water to wash off all of the dirt remaining on them.

If there is still some dirt remaining after rinsing them off, you may need to use a stiff bristle brush to give it a more thorough scrubbing.

The second step is to take this opportunity to sharpen the shovels and hoes. It really isn't that difficult to do it yourself.

You can use either a file, a wet stone or a sharpening tool like the ones used to sharpen pruners to put a good edge on shovels or hoes. Sharpened tools will mean not having to work as hard in the spring.

If your shovels, rakes or hoes are starting to get rusty, there is a simple way to eliminate it. And you probably already have it in the house.

Place your tool in a pail or tote and cover the metal part with white or cleaning vinegar. Let it soak in the vinegar for 12 to 24 hours depending on how rusty the tool is.

You will see that some of the rust will vanish. Remove the tool and use a stiff bristled brush or a piece of steel wool to remove the remaining rust.

Once cleaned up you can rub some 3-in-1 All Purpose Oil on the metal and leave it on all winter.



Use steel wool to remove dirt and sap from your shears. JOANNE YOUNG

To keep the tools from rusting over winter, you can also take a large pot or pail and fill it with sand. Add about one to two cups of vegetable oil to the sand and mix them together.

Insert the shovel, rake or hoe into the sand/oil mixture to coat the metal part of the tools. Pull the tools out of the sand and leave this mixture on them over winter and 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 (with the wood grain) 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 into the handle.

Shears, secateurs, loppers
Again, with your pruners, make sure you wash off any soil that may be remaining on them. To clean up the blades, use some steel wool to remove the sap.

If the blades have become rusty over time, follow the procedure above by soaking the blades in vinegar.

Once most of the rust has come off, use a piece of steel wool, scrub it back and forth, and the rest of the rust should come right off. I also have heard that Scrubbing Bubbles toilet cleaner works well for removing rust.

Now that the blades and handles are all cleaned up, it is a good time to sharpen

them up. For bypass pruners, where the two blades bypass each other, the blades are always beveled on the outer facing edge.

Always sharpen the beveled edge and never the flat, inward-facing edge.

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

Lawn mower blades

After you have mowed your lawn for the final time this season, take a few minutes to clean up the blades before putting the mower away. Use a file to remove all of the dried grass cuttings from the blades and from the underside of the mower.

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.



The late Austin Kirkby, who was a member of the agricultural advisory committee, had concerns about portions of the official plan and its potential impact on the farming community. FILE/BRITTANY CARTER

With regional official plan approved by ministry, NOTL's is one step closer

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Inch by inch, Niagara-on-the-Lake is getting closer to having an approved official plan, even as the town sits at an awkward junction between the old council departing and the new one preparing to take office.

The Region of Niagara announced on its website that its official plan has been approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with some modifications.

The region adopted its new plan June 23 before sending it to the ministry for approval.

Now that the region's plan has been rubber stamped, Niagara-on-the-Lake's plan is free to move forward.

Coun.-elect Gary Burroughs said NOTL's official plan is "as close as it can be" to being done.

While incoming Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa campaigned on getting the official plan finished,

Burroughs thinks the most important thing for the new council to do in the next six months is get the town's zoning bylaws updated.

"That's where we're weak," he said.

Zalepa said there is "still quite a bit of work to do" to make the plan compliant with the region's plan, however.

He's not sure yet how soon the new council can expect to see updates on its own official plan but that he'll know more once he takes office on Nov. 22.

The town adopted its new official plan in 2019, but had to make changes to it after the province recalculated its density demands.

The plan was delayed again because the region was still working on its own plan and could not approve the town's without ensuring the two documents worked together.

The new plan, when finalized, aims to make it easier for the town to develop in a way that best serves the needs of its residents.

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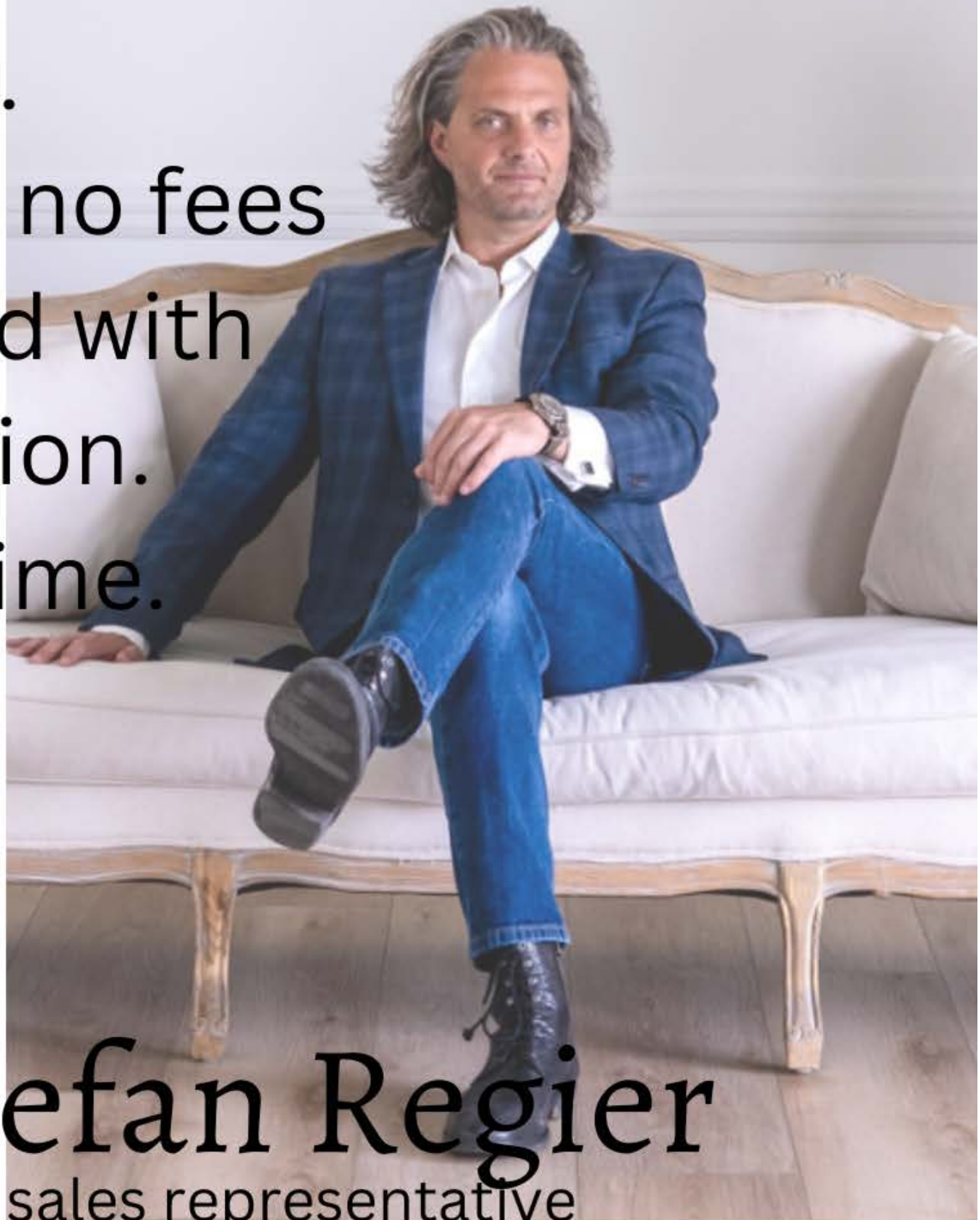
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