

The Lake Report

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

October 17, 2019

Police investigate after over 200 Liberal election signs vanish on weekend

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Hundreds of lawn signs supporting Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser vanished or were stolen over Thanksgiving weekend, says an official with her campaign.

Between 275 and 300 Liberal signs across the Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, were removed.

It started in Niagara Falls, and similar incidents happened across the whole riding, including NOTL and Fort Erie, said Read

Leask, deputy campaign manager for Andrea Kaiser.

In NOTL, Leask said signs were removed from lawns at homes and businesses on Niagara Stone Road, York Road, Niagara Parkway, Queenston Road, Orchard Drive, Mississauga Street and Gage Street.

Elsewhere across the riding, signs were removed on McLeod Road, Thorold Stone Road, Montrose Road, Swan Drive and St. Paul Road, Leask told The Lake Report.

All the missing signs were legally placed on pri-

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Julia Buxton-Cox with the Green party sign out front of her house. BRITTANY CARTER

Election fever grips NOTL

Story on Page 20

Residents and growers at an impasse on bird banger noise

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

York Road residents and owners of Baker Estate Vineyards are at an impasse about the use of propane cannons on neighbouring farms.

The propane-fired bird-scaring cannons, often referred to as bird bangers, fire cannon-like sounds periodically throughout the day to control crop damage caused by birds and pests.

Residents like Jim Fisher and Dr. Yüksel Ören said they aren't happy with the "excessive noise" of the propane cannons used by nearby farms and are left "feeling hopeless" with the situation, which they said

they have dealt with for three years since the Bakers began using the cannons on the 1850 York Rd. property, and another on Sheppard Crescent.

Under guidelines set by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, bird bangers are a permissible sound and can be fired no earlier than half an hour before sunrise to no later than half an hour past sunset.

Fisher said between the three cannons on nearby farms, one is fired at least every five minutes throughout the day, if not more frequently.

"This is enough to cause noise-induced hearing impairment, when you're



York Road residents Dr. Yüksel Ören and Jim Fisher say they aren't happy with the "excessive noise" of the propane cannons. BRITTANY CARTER

hearing it all bloody day like we are. I don't want to have to wear hearing aids until I absolutely have to, and this is not helping,"

Fisher said.

Jason Baker, owner of Baker Estate Vineyards, said the York Road residents had a chance to address

their concerns last year during a scheduled hearing with the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board, but after the prehearing they

withdrew, and he said he hasn't heard any complaints from them since.

Fisher said the group of residents withdrew from the hearing because they didn't have the resources to move forward.

"There were just a lot of health issues that were impacting the people involved, so we got together and said we can't continue with this. We have health issues that we're dealing with, and we know what the outcome is going to be," Fisher said, adding that he believed the board "held all the cards."

Fisher said the board is managed by farmers and he believes it puts the agricul-

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Hundreds of Liberal signs **vanish** in riding

Continued from Front Page

ivate property, Leask said. Security cameras at one business captured images of a car stopping and stealing a Liberal sign. The grainy, low-resolution video has been provided to police, Leask said.

Niagara Regional Police confirmed they received a report of a theft in regard to an election sign in Niagara Falls. The investigation is continuing and no charges have been laid yet, police spokesperson Stephanie Sabourin said in an email response to The Lake Report.

It's been disappointing as her campaign team and volunteer sign crew have been working hard and illegally removing signs on private property has been "unfortunate," Kaiser said in a phone interview.

"I would perceive this

as a very orchestrated and planned effort to remove my signs. It was obviously not a random act of vandalism."

Both Kaiser and Leask were careful not to accuse any particular group of stealing their signs, but both have said the incidents started happening after the vote projection for Niagara Falls riding showed the Liberal and Conservatives were running neck-and-neck.

"Maybe there's a concern we're doing well and it's just an unfortunate way to react to that," Kaiser said.

"I can't speculate on who did it," Leask told The Lake Report.

"It happened at a time when it became clear it was close and I'll say that this happened over the advanced poll weekend, which is a really critical weekend during campaigns, so this was an effort to distract us from getting our

vote out." Kaiser added despite what happened, she's received support and offers to help replace the signs.

"We're continuing to knock on doors and keeping the momentum up and trying to not be distracted from the end goal," Kaiser said. "It's been really amazing for people to step up and help us out."

Green candidate Sandra O'Connor said her team hasn't experienced anything of the sort, at least nothing they're aware of. The only incident happened at Betty's Restaurant in Chippawa but all parties' signs were removed, not just the Green party's, O'Connor said.

"If there's any widescale targeted sign destruction, I think that goes against our democratic way and it's totally unacceptable," O'Connor told The Lake



Police are investigating after Liberal party campaign signs were stolen around the Niagara Falls riding over Thanksgiving weekend. BRITTANY CARTER

Report.

NDP candidate Brian Barker said a handful of signs have gone missing from his campaign, though nowhere near the number of missing or damaged signs Kaiser has experienced.

He said while he may disagree with the other parties in terms of policy, he doesn't condone damaging or taking signs.

"I respect my opponents.

If people have displeasure about what's happening, they need to decide that at the ballot box, not by trashing signs."

Conservative candidate Tony Baldinelli said he also has been informed that some of his campaign signs have been damaged.

"With the election ongoing, we have experienced some signs taken and damaged. This past Saturday I got a text photo from a

couple of business people in Fort Erie where the signs were damaged and basically cut down the middle," he said.

Regardless of political affiliation, Baldinelli said there's no excuse for this to be happening.

"It's unfortunate and unacceptable," he said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Niagara police at (905) 688-4111 dial option 4, ext. 2206.

Election Profile: Sandra O'Connor **Green Party**

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

For people who don't believe climate change is real, Green Party candidate for Niagara Falls riding Sandra O'Connor says science speaks for itself.

"I would suggest looking at what happened last year with the unprecedented flooding in this particular area. With the forest fires that were out in B.C... this has not happened before," she says. "Our old norms are just not good enough because things are changing."

Born and raised in St. Catharines, O'Connor graduated from Brock University where she studied physical and urban geography.

During her career, O'Connor has worked for a variety of organizations including the Ministry of

Natural Resources and Forestry, the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, Natural Resources Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and more.

What made her move into more formal politics is a desire to give back to the community, O'Connor says.

O'Connor also ran for NOTL town council last year but lost by 32 votes. Her community engagement also includes contributing to the urban tree bylaw and fighting to keep the local hospital open, which got closed in 2015.

"That was my way to try give back to society, to the community I live in," she says.

One of the reasons she joined the Green Party is because of the climate change crisis, which, on a local level, has caused

flooding. "It is impacting us and will impact us even more," O'Connor says. To mitigate the issue, the Greens suggest retrofitting houses to save energy, producing more electric vehicles, transitioning to green energy production, and more.

All of this will create more jobs, O'Connor says, as there's a lack of good-paying full-time jobs that could sustain a family in Niagara.

"You will create a market for new jobs and to me, this is an economic opportunity that's almost unprecedented," she says. "I'm looking at this as being hopeful, not as doom and gloom."

Agriculture is another topic O'Connor is passionate about. Niagara has the best soil in Canada, she says, and small farmers must be supported because



Green party candidate Sandra O'Connor. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

of rapid urbanization and development.

If elected, the Greens would have a separate trust fund where farmers would put their land on a deed and would be paid a certain amount of money per year for keeping their land as a farm. Such easement programs have worked in Wisconsin, California and several European countries and have helped to slow down development, O'Connor says.

The Green Party would also make sure local products, such as wine and food, will get on shelves at the local stores, and that every

person gets a guaranteed livable income above the poverty line.

The Greens would balance the budget in five years and increase revenues by stopping subsidizing international fossil fuel companies, putting a higher tax on the top 1 per cent earners, tax companies such as Netflix and Google as well as going after Canadians who keep their money offshore.

"Those are some of the areas that we have found and budgeted that we can get money to pay for these bold initiatives and still be fiscally responsible because it is possible to have our fis-

cal house in order as well as our environmental house," O'Connor says. "We can do both but we need a bold vision to do that and people have to step out of their comfort zone and look at the Green Party."

What makes her stand out from other candidates is her "breadth and depth" of political experience and her analytical skills, O'Connor says.

"I've worked hard all my life and I will work hard for people of this riding," she says.

"I will fight for people of this riding and I have the skills to be able to do that."



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Bird bangers bother neighbours

Continued from Front Page

tural community's interests first, and said the group felt they wouldn't be properly represented at a hearing by the board.

Baker said the issue of the bird bangers has been ongoing for several years and he experienced vandalism of the propane cannons on his property in August 2017.

Police verified that a report of vandalism was filed on Aug. 28, 2017, in the area of York Road and Concession 2 Road in NOTL. No charges were laid.

Though Baker said he hasn't heard complaints from the neighbours since the hearing last year, he did receive a letter from one family thanking him for dropping one of the two cannons on the farm near Sheppard Crescent after the 2018 prehearing.

"At the motion hearing you asked us to give you a chance, and you have proven that growers and residents can live together in harmony.

Ultimately we would prefer the quieter life we used to have, but one can't have everything, and if you keep to the volume and numbers of explosions that are current, we will not be complaining," Sheppard Crescent resident Win Laar said in the letter addressed to Baker on behalf of Kal Laar and Mike and Pat Kostecky. Baker provided a copy of the letter to The Lake Report.

Laar said in an email response that although Baker lowered the number of cannons being used the noise "continues to be an irritant."

The reduction in cannons, which were also moved further from his residence, means that he is now able to go outside safely, he said.

The residents said that the noise of the cannons being fired constantly so close to their homes could have caused potential hearing damage.

Though he said they are still being fired past the



Jason Baker experienced vandalism of the propane cannons on his property in August 2017. SUPPLIED

times set in the ministry's guidelines.

"The noise continues to be an irritant, especially when it is now used beyond the times given in the guidelines. We know from conversations with other growers that it is possible to grow grapes without using cannons at all, and still have a profitable operation," Laar said.

Ören suggested the use of netting as a quiet alternative to the propane cannons.

"I am not against the growers themselves. They should use non-sonic devices to protect their harvest. In the meantime, the ministry should provide grants to growers to substitute bird cannons with netting," Ören said.

Counc. Stuart McCormack put forth a motion last year to address regulating the use of bird bangers

in the future and to discuss less-intrusive means of crop protection. The motion wasn't passed.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she sat with Fisher and some of the York Road residents last year to listen to their concerns.

She said upon completing her own research into the use of propane cannons she discovered it was a provincial issue.

"I don't believe at this point that there's anything that the town can do. I know a couple members of council are still researching it. I came to the conclusion that it was a (ministry) issue," Disero said.

Counc. Clare Cameron said she has spoken with the York Road residents but agreed that the regulation of propane cannons for agriculture isn't a municipal issue at this time.

NDP unveils plan to 'fight for Niagara'

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Vowing to "fight for you," federal NDP candidates across Niagara on Monday unveiled a list of promises that they say will help make a difference in the lives of area residents.

The candidates were speaking outside the Welland Hospital, which the NDP fears could be closed by the provincial Tories.

Brian Barker, the New Democrat candidate in Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, said, "People in the Niagara region desperately need access to health care services. Douglas Memorial in Fort Erie is under the threat of closure and people in Niagara Falls still don't have the new hospital they were promised."

In a media statement, Barker said New Democrats

will "fight to ensure all Canadians have the health care services they need including prescription drug and dental coverage."

The candidates said they will "fight for things that matter to people in Niagara" such as pharmacare and dental care, affordable homes, student debt, fighting climate change, and capping cellphone and internet bills.

Barker said his party's plan "recognizes how unique Niagara is in Canada and recognizes the role of Niagara-on-the-Lake within Niagara."

"Our plan provides direct funding to help municipalities deal with the climate crisis and repair the flooding that has affected us. It provides supports for farmers – whether they grow grapes or other crops – so that their products can make it to shelves with priority and their families can get the supports they need to

keep their farms going."

"As most people have seen, the NDP has been surging in Ontario and, as polls are showing, especially in Hamilton & Niagara. Yesterday we unveiled our plan, 'A New Deal for Niagara'. It outlines specifically how the NDP will pay for and implement things like universal dental care and pharmacare while lowering student loan repayment costs, and your bills at home.

Niagara has an aging population and Barker said his party wants "to ensure that cost of living doesn't outstrip incomes seniors are living on. It protects pensions, increases access to healthcare services instead of cutting them and finally makes affordable housing a reality in Niagara."

As well, the NDP will continue to stand up to major corporations and developers to protect greenspaces, he said. "As the MP for Niagara-

on-the-Lake, I recognize the importance of our natural and cultural heritage and would work with the community to make sure we're open for business but that we can still protect the very character that makes the town so special."

With only days till the election, Barker also expressed confidence about his chances. "As most people have seen, the NDP has been surging in Ontario and, as polls are showing, especially in Hamilton and Niagara," he said, referring to Campaign Research poll that says the Liberals, Tories and NDP are running neck-and-neck in Hamilton-Niagara.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is a very special and unique place, and as such it requires a locally focused approach to politics. Given our recent surge in the polls, I plan to bring that unique focus to Ottawa," Barker said.

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A maple leaf begins to show the colours of the season.

BRITTANY CARTER

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Green Tip of the Week

Contributed by Norm Arsenault:

Be a selective consumer. Choose products that come with less plastic packaging, even if they're a little bit more expensive or a little less convenient. If you do have to use single-use plastic, make sure it makes it into the blue recycling bin.

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Editorial

Make an informed choice, but **do vote**

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Every four years or so we get to exercise an inalienable democratic right by choosing our elected representatives in Ottawa.

For the past five weeks, and for many months before that as the inevitable "permanent campaign" of the federal parties vied for our attention, we have heard promises, accusations, promises, criticisms of one party or leader by another, more promises and – you get the picture.

Now it is up to you.

In the public sphere – and that includes the social media world in which information, disinformation and fake news are all widely traded, usually with no critical lens applied – there is a plethora of information all trying to grab your attention and inspire you to

support one side or another.

It's not an overreach to suggest that as each election comes along it gets harder and harder for ordinary folks who are unaffiliated with one party or another to determine who is the best choice for our riding and our country.

The amount of information circulating and seeking our attention is astonishing – and the avalanche of one-sided, erroneous, fake, intentionally deceptive disinformation even moreso.

It really seems to be getting more difficult with each passing electoral mandate for ordinary folks to parse the Truth from among all the "truths" bandied about by all sides in the deluge of electoral discussion.

What is an individual to do? There is no easy answer.

Thankfully, there have been a few opportunities to meet candidates in person at all-candidate meetings in the riding

of Niagara Falls, which includes NOTL and Fort Erie. And all our local riding's hopefuls have been busy knocking on doors trying to spread their message.

But that is just a start for voters. If you are still undecided about whom to support on Monday, please take the time to read each local candidate's literature, view the platforms of the various federal parties, and think critically about what each is saying or promising.

It's far from a perfect system, but it remains the best one we've got. If you have not already cast an advance ballot, then between now and Monday, educate yourself and dispassionately analyze the candidate platforms so you arrive at the ballot box as an informed voter.

Vote for whomever you wish, but please do vote. You owe it to yourself and to your country.

editor@niagaranow.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Council should **reject** chamber request

Dear editor:

When Niagara-on-the-Lake's infrastructure – roads, sidewalks, wastewater treatment system, parking spaces – are already being used beyond their capacity, and residents will almost certainly be hit with a municipal tax increase in 2020, it makes no sense for council to give the NOTL Chamber of Commerce an advance of \$15,000 to attract more tourists to town.

The chamber says it needs the funds to rent and setup a booth at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto next month, plus pay for parking and accommodation costs during the 10-day run of the annual exhibition.

Its goal is to attract more tourists to NOTL in the winter, and to increase the number of participants in winter events such as the Candlelight Stroll and ice

wine festival. This, when the Candlelight Stroll, in particular, is already so crowded with tourists that several local residents I know have stopped going to the event.

It's concerning that the chamber's request came to council at the last minute. The Royal has been an annual event since 1922 and from 1997, when the Enercare Centre was completed, a large exhibition area has been available to vendors and organizations wishing to rent and setup booths. So why did the chamber wait until two months before this year's fair to request funding?

Where is the business plan that demonstrates a positive return on investment for the town funds that the chamber wants to spend?

The decision of the committee of the whole to recommend ap-

proval of the chamber's funding request also raises questions, most notably:

Did the committee evaluate the request against the objectives established for NOTL in the town's strategic plan and against other funding priorities? Did it consider the impact on 2020 municipal taxes? And did it stop to consider the risks/benefits and costs of supporting an effort to bring more tourists into the community?

I believe that funding requests such as the chamber's should only be considered by NOTL in years when the town can provide them without reducing the level of services it provides to residents or raising taxes, and only in exceptional circumstances. It's time for council to set funding priorities and stick to them.

Terry Davis
NOTL



We welcome your letters

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

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

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

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OPINION

So thankful for life in Canada

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

With Thanksgiving in the rear-view mirror, here are some random thoughts about Canada and Canadians, jotted down during a 2,368-kilometre journey this summer from Niagara to Ottawa to New York City and back to home.

I connected with dozens of people, asking directions, asking about their towns. As the short order cook at the Raceway Diner in Yonkers, N.Y., said when I thanked him profusely for taking so much time with me, "Hey, I think almost everybody wants to help everyone be happy and safe."

In a world of bad news and political weirdness, a good road trip proves he is right.

Several people asked me, "Don't you have GPS in your car?" I replied, "No, because then I wouldn't get to meet people like you."

We are so fortunate to live in Canada in 2019 because:

We have Ronald McDonald Houses, and we have Tim Hortons Camps for Children.

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We have tens of thousands of volunteers, who donate their time, talents and passions to help. All over Canada, every day, year after year, to help fellow Canadians, to make their lives better.

We have thousands of volunteer coaches, most of whom understand that while we cannot always control the result of a game, we can always control the try. Practice, practice, practice, try, try, try, have fun, fun, fun.

We respect freedom of the press. Fake news is minimal (mostly). We fight for our rights and freedoms. We respect diversity and we learn from Canadians from other cultures.

Our ancestors had the courage to sail away from their homes, emigrating to Canada, to build our free and democratic society. They were cold, lonely and hungry, but they persevered. Can you imagine?



And, not that long ago. Now, we have scores of craft breweries. We don't have to drink Budweiser or Labatts or Molsons. We can quaff Oast House or Silversmith or the Exchange's offerings. What a country! We are so lucky, especially after an old timers hockey game, or on a hot July day in Chautauqua-by-the-Lake.

We realize the mistakes that were made with Canada's residential school system. And it was not that long ago. Now, efforts are being made to right this wrong. Let's all work on this project. Canada wasn't discovered by Europeans. It was stolen. I know, I know, that was then.

In Canada, we have coloured bank notes. So much easier, eh? And, we don't have to prepay for gas. We can pump, go inside to pay, and have a brief chat. The honour system is alive in Canada.

Gated communities are almost non-existent in Canada. And, we have one of the best public education systems in the world.

"Democracy can only exist in a society of knowledge." We all have the opportunity to study and learn. Maybe split classes are a good thing. We have teachers from all over the world. Mrs. Habdani, Mr. Inglis, Mrs. Giesebrecht, Mr. Gretsinger, four of my favourites.

We are so lucky to live in Canada in 2019.

Our universal medical system shines brightly. And, the free columns in our newspapers, by Dr. Bill Brown and Dr. W.Gifford-Jones, the pen name for Canadian physicist Ken Walker. So informative and useful.

As Canadians, we can join together in our communities in solidarity, feel

heart broken, and show determination and love during tough emotional times. Group hugs are good. The Quebec City mosque massacre, the Pittsburgh synagogue tragedy and the Christchurch terrorist rampage. This one streamed live on the internet, in real time. What is happening to our civil and kind world?

Across Canada, people get together for the Legion Fish Fry. In NOTL we do it on Thursdays.

We have picnics in our parks. The cake parade here in NOTL on Canada Day. What a phenomenon. Thank you Willow Bakery. And, please, Town of NOTL, be fair next year and reimburse Catherine O'Donnell for the thousands of dollars in time and ingredients she contributes. It makes our town so special. So red and white. So unique, such fun to sing O Canada together, even if it's off-key.

Local political leaders, even Rob Nicholson, a former federal cabinet minister, serving cake to their fellow citizens. With no security in sight.

The Strawberry Festival, the Cherry Festival and the Peach Festival.

And, in early December, even on the coldest evening, our town is so perfect for the "Candlelight Stampede," walking and singing and trying to hear the singers and bellringers. Such love on display, in the snowflakes or drizzle or wind. Yay, another chance to make trite comments about the weather. Bien canadien, eh? We have the Pumphouse Arts Centre. Who was there in September for the Picnic Under the Moonlight and dancing to Back in the Daze.

We can kayak on the river, stand up paddleboard on a Great Lake, and hike

in the Niagara Glen or on the Bruce Trail.

People come from all over the world to ooh and ahh at our Cabot Trail on Cape Breton Island and our Icefields Parkway in Alberta.

We meet people having a nice day together. And, just think, it's all in our backyard.

At the risk of being repetitive, let me be repetitive. We are so fortunate to live in Canada in 2019.

We have Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Newark Neighbours, Red Roof Retreat. And other super groups. Love and thank the volunteers.

We have the warm and friendly staffs at the StageCoach and the two ValuMarts. And, thank goodness we have to collect our mail downtown. We get to chat with the amazing Canada Post/Poste Canada staff, and bump into our neighbours/nos voisins.

A chat here, a chat there. Gotta love the Avondale staff.

We are so fortunate to live in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2019.

And, how about the most active and fun community tennis club in Canada? Right here in Memorial Park. Attagirl, Vendy and group leaders! The perfectly named Tennis Ball held in September. More dancing.

And, a short drive and GO train ride to Toronto for the Pride parade and Caribana each summer. It's a beeg world out there.

Take part, get out of your comfort zone.

Canadians have contributed so much to the world. Salk vaccine, Gordon Lightfoot, Celine Dion and Stompin' Tom Connors.

And a Canadian invented the zipper. In St. Catharines. Clamato juice is ours.

Canada is a beeg country. Seven U.S. states border the Great Lakes. Only one Canadian province borders the Great Lakes. Impressive, eh?

And, to drive from Windsor, Ont., to Detroit, Mich., we drive north?

Help me. Remember, we like to help.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada in 2019.

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MORE LETTERS

Thanks for letter about **act of kindness**

Dear editor:

Thank you for the wonderful letter to the editor, ("More good things happen in Niagara-on-the-Lake," Oct. 10), from Jane Calver regarding the helpful young man who stopped his truck to check the collar of an old dog wandering by the side of York Road, even though this meant slowing down the traffic briefly.

It's so nice to know this act of kindness did not go unnoticed and appreciated.

Thanks.

Bonnie Easterbrook
Queenston

An **election poem**

Majority governments be
Based upon minority.
Minority governments be
Based on a majority.
Voters practice to believe.
Leaders practice to deceive.
This all in the bag of tricks
We call Canadian politics.
Still, we hope the chosen stands
Bravely, for the common man.
Man meaning woman, but woman not man.

David Lailey
NOTL

Why only **one station** at advance polling?

Dear editor:

It's about noon on Friday, Oct. 11, and I am just back from advance voting at the NOTL Community Centre.

It was my second attempt. My first try was around 10 a.m.

The queue then was down the hall to get into the room. I left and returned late morning.

It's a good thing I live close enough to the community centre that I can walk over.

BUT — same situation — the queue was still down the hall and 18 persons long inside the room.

The woman ahead of me gave up and left after about 20 minutes.

The problem? ONE voting booth!

It appears the room could easily accommodate three.

Hopefully the next MP for Niagara Falls riding will read this and remedy with Elections Canada.

Voting should be fun, not painful.

Larry Mantle
NOTL

I am **Canadian**

Four years ago, prior to the 2015 federal election, Scott Finlay of the Friends of Fort George shared these thoughts on Facebook. The posting popped onto people's newsfeeds again this week and we are happy to share it with readers of The Lake Report. It's a timely reminder of things for which we can be thankful and the importance of participating as a voter.

I am a Canadian ...

I live in a country that is decent and accepting.

I live in a country that was born of discussion, debate and compromise.

I live in a country that welcomes and embraces diversity.

I live in a country that is open and evolving based upon constant dialogue and understanding.

I welcome immigrants to this nation because I am the grandson of immigrants.

I recognize that others were here before me and I treasure their presence and participation in the governance of this nation.

I believe in free speech, the freedom of religious belief and a free press.

I do not wear my patriotism on my sleeve because I do not need to. I know that I live in the best country in the world.

I refuse to live my life based upon fear or respond to those who would try to make me feel afraid.

My national legacy is quiet and steady courage in the face of trouble. I respond with bravery where it is needed and I respond with compassion where it is required.

I believe in open dialogue with those whose opinions differ from my own.

Being a Canadian means living in a vibrant, growing environment where all of my fellow citizens enjoy the same rights.

Being a Canadian means caring for those in our society who most need that care and fiercely protecting the rights of my fellow citizens ... all of them.

This week I will exercise my right to be part of the process which results in how Canada goes forward.

I will respect that duty and carry it out with the understanding of what Canada best needs.

I love this country and I will vote accordingly.

I am a Canadian.

Scott Finlay
NOTL

Have an **opinion** you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to
editor@niagaranow.com



Torture by **sonic devices**

We live on York Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake, between St. David's and Queenston. Some of us have been neighbours for more than 40 years.

Until propane-fired cannon use began, we enjoyed our life on the escarpment, living in harmony with nature and our neighbours.

In recent years, the lives of people living on the Escarpment Bench neighbourhoods have been dramatically altered. As the vineyards replaced orchards and growers adopted propane-fired cannons to deter birds, the area residents became subject to frequent explosions from the middle of August to late November.

These cannon explosions repeat every three to five minutes, there are three explosions per cannon separated by about five seconds.

These cannons can be used by growers beginning half an hour before sunrise and continuing all day to half an hour after sunset.

The continual daily noise becomes unbearable, distressing, torturing the entire neighbourhood. The effect is even more agonizing as the explosive sound reverberates on the unique topography of the Niagara Escarpment.

The impact of the sound generated by the cannons can be compared to the effects of water torture where one water drop on the top of the head of a person repeated continually, seemingly innocuous, until the repetition drives the victim mad. The grower in question leaves to go to his off-site job for the day, but his neighbours have little choice but to endure 160 to 260 explosions daily.

We, as residents of York Road, are frustrated and aggrieved with this intrusive and torturous farm practice that can be replaced by netting or other non-audible methods. Indeed, one vineyard on York Road does not use propane-fired cannons and its vineyard is entirely netted. Therefore, alternatives exist to sonic devices.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs allows the use of propane-fired cannons and refers to their use as a "normal farm practice," in spite of the negative effects of explosions for the nearby residents.

The growers are protected by the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, which protects farming operations from nuisance complaints and restrictive municipal bylaws.

It is obvious, the root cause of this travesty is the ministry giving a carte blanche for the use of propane-fired cannons and other sonic devices to growers despite many complaints. Growers have an obligation to respect their neighbours' right to live in an explosion-free environment as a basic human right.

We believe the town has a responsibility to protect its non-farming community living in both urban and rural areas by advocating on our behalf to the ministry to stop this environmental travesty and gross abuse of our property rights.

Currently, the town chooses the easy way out and denies any responsibility, by forcing us to take each grower to a tribunal to dispute what "normal" is. We have documents showing the bylaws of several municipalities in B.C. where audible bird scare devices are regulated.

We believe our complaints are being ignored and we are aggrieved by the Town of NOTL and the Ontario government by being subjected to this torturous form of bird deterrent method.

We demand that the Town of NOTL protect its non-farming community and reject the use of sonic devices, (propane-fired cannons) as a "normal" farm practice and remove their use from Schedule A of permitted noise in the municipal noise control bylaw.

Dr. Yüksel Ören, Ülkü Ören,
Halina Rozpedowska,
James Fisher, Irene Fisher,
Valeria Sebella, Christine Buksbaum
NOTL



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Audiologist

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MORE LETTERS

Now is not the time to vote **Liberal**

Dear editor:

Thank you for featuring discussions in The Lake Report on the forthcoming crucial federal election, which will determine what type of country we will have for generations to come.

All eligible voters not only have a duty to vote, but also to vote wisely. In order to do so, one must try to obtain adequate information and review other people's perspectives without hostility, hopefully resulting in an informed decision. One can resort to YouTube videos or the internet for a variety of presentations and also read comments from fellow Canadians.

I trust that a vast majority of Canadians believe in values like common-sense spending, competence, fairness and ethical/moral integrity. Liberal or Conservative, these qualities are a must for any Canadian prime minister.

A very serious matter is the SNC Lavalin scandal,

which questions Justin Trudeau's moral/ethical integrity and good judgment, along with his firing of the then-attorney general, who stuck to her principles and integrity.

The Liberals also budgeted a \$600 million bail-out to Canadian media, which is extremely prejudicial to fairness in media coverage of the competing candidates and further investigation of SNC Lavalin ... another example of a grave issue.

Most of the Liberal supporters in NOTL are undoubtedly excellent in character and mainly supportive of the less fortunate. However, this may not be the time to be loyal and stick to one's party of preference and ideology.

Various sources allege that Trudeau has not acted in the best interest of our country, and he has been accused or judged to be unethical, incompetent to perform the highest position in the land, and haphazardly gives money away for causes of his own choosing instead of

spending our money wisely to improve the lives of less-fortunate Canadians or the really destitute.

In fairness, Liberal supporters can also enlighten non-Liberals by citing Trudeau achievements that improved the lives of ordinary Canadians and the country as a whole and convince others to re-elect him.

These are hard and challenging times and our young people are now suffering economically and financially. It is prudent to fix our financial problems now – this is a normal first step to fix a failing organization.

In government, this is usually initiated by a Conservative federal government. We cannot help the poor and the needy when so much of our revenue is used to pay interest on huge debts. The likely future under Trudeau is more hefty, unaffordable donations for developing countries that never get developed because of corruption.

After being adequately informed, in case some voters of different affiliations have second thoughts, there could be another way. Those who do not like Conservative leader Andrew

Scheer because of his mild manner and alleged lack of good looks and charisma, may consider voting for him anyway (nobody is perfect) as the Conservatives have the best chance of defeating Trudeau.

A Conservative majority would be most effective in sorting out our financial and economic problems; a diluted agenda will result from a coalition. A vote for any other party will be a vote for the same current Liberal government, which does not seem to be as responsible and ethically/legally inclined as previous ones.

Liberal die-hards will be able to vote Liberal some other time when a competent and trustworthy candidate for prime minister comes forward. However, this will not happen if the current Liberal party remains in power, as it may be perceived that present-day Canadian voters no longer care for competence, fiscal responsibility, moral/ethical integrity, fairness and rule of law, all of which form a solid foundation for this wonderful country.

Yours truly,

Cecilia Bennett
NOTL

Attacks on Trudeau are more Conservative **misinformation**

Dear editor:

Here we go again with letter writer George Warkentin's attacks of misinformation, ("It's not possible to defend actions of PM Trudeau," Oct. 10).

Just read PM Trudeau's biography online and his autobiography "On Common Ground" etc. His father PM Pierre Trudeau brought French and English Canada together, continued the United Nations work of PM Lester Pearson and taught his own children "how to be a good person."

His mother Margaret graduated in political science and her father was an MP from British Columbia. Justin Trudeau's resume includes a BA (literature) McGill (Montreal) and a bachelor of education UBC (Vancouver). He taught mathematics and French etc. at a private Vancouver school.

Back in Montreal, he studied engineering and environmental geography briefly before being persuaded to enter politics. He starred in a CBC-TV mini series "The Great War," portraying his distant cousin Maj. Talbot Papineau, who was killed in 1917. He advocated for winter sports safety after his brother died in an avalanche, chaired the Katimavik volunteer youth program and started the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict studies at the University of Toronto.

By contrast, Conservative leader Andrew Scheer worked a short time as an insurance agent before entering political life.

Mr. Warkentin also wonders about the long-term social effects of legalizing marijuana. Maybe marijuana's toxic effects will be less than alcohol, but it is hard to prevent and treat any addiction if cuts are made or services privatized by regressive governments.

Our unemployment rate is the lowest in decades, mostly full-time jobs. The Conservatives wish to cut infrastructure jobs and clean energy subsidies, foreign aid and United Nations participation, and funding for the nonpartisan CBC while not taxing foreign media as Canadian firms are taxed.

Across our riding over the weekend, hundreds of lawn signs for Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser were stolen. Dirty tricks by someone; we don't know whom. I vote for positive politics, not personal attacks like the Conservatives have used.

The Liberals have accomplished most of their promises from 2015 – but must do more. I trust PM Trudeau and his team, and hope they will be allowed to continue to fight for democracy, wages, justice, interprovincial and world co-operation, for peace and prosperity, including cleaner energy, air, water, earth.

Elizabeth Oliver-Malone
NOTL

Setting the record straight about **signs**

Dear editor:

I am reaching out today to set the record straight in regards to an unfortunate perception that I have shown a lack of interest in some communities within the riding of Niagara Falls due to the number of visible Liberal signs as compared with other candidates.

This perception could not be further from the truth. I am a dedicated individual knocking on doors across the riding three times a day, one who plans to work hard for Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie if elected as your member

of Parliament.

The visible difference in the number of Liberal signs is due to the choice I made to follow local bylaws restricting the erection of election signs on public property or on private property without permission.

My team of volunteers have been instructed to follow these bylaws. I am deeply saddened that this choice has led some residents to feel that I do not care about their community – this is definitely not the case.

I will continue to reach out to local bylaw officers to request illegal signs erected

by other candidates' campaigns be removed as soon as possible to provide for a fair and equitable environment for all candidates.

I have also reached out to a fellow candidate to please ask that their team not re-install their signs on my husband's farm property.

I would also like to express my deep disappointment in having hundreds of my supporters wake up on the Thanksgiving weekend to see that their election signs were removed from their lawns.

In one instance a video was recorded showing an individual drive up and quickly remove a large Liberal sign and place it in their car. It was located in between two other election signs, each of differ-

ent candidates, which both remained untouched. These actions demonstrate to me that this was not a random act of vandalism, but rather a targeted operation that was planned in advance. We are working to hand over this footage to local authorities.

One of the reasons I decided to return to politics was to set a positive example for the community and for future generations.

It is unfortunate that I have become a target of those in the community who wish to resort to destructive illegal tactics. I did hope we could have a democratic process allowing everyone to be respected in voicing their opinions.

Andrea Kaiser
Liberal candidate
Niagara Falls riding

Horse protesters and Sentineal supporters negotiate **new rules** for demonstrations

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A new agreement between horse carriage supporters and protesters has been established.

Niagara Regional Police as well as support group Locals for Carriages, protesters At War For Animals Niagara and the owners of Sentineal Carriages negotiated the new deal, which sets out rules and protocols for protests and counter-protests.

This is the second time a good-faith agreement was put in place between protesters and carriage supporters. The first agreement was created in August 2018.

Sentineal Carriages' co-

owner Laura Sentineal said her company won't be doing anything different because it has never done anything wrong in the first place.

"We're doing what we've always done," she said in a phone interview, adding it is "unfortunate" protesters didn't invest time and money into "actually helping animals" because "if they did, I'd be right with them," she said.

Sentineal, along with Jennifer Jones-Butski, who represented a support group Locals for Carriages, verbally agreed to the new protocol but didn't sign it.

Adam Stirr, a member of the protest group, said the only time protesters didn't

follow the previous agreement was on Sunday, Sept. 8, when after their demonstration on Queen Street, they moved to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 on King Street where a pig roast was taking place.

Demonstrators did it to show other parties what their protests would look like without an agreement in place, Stirr said.

"That is what is considered a normal protest in any other city," he told The Lake Report.

Stirr said he hopes the new agreement will let animal rights activists continue doing what they've been doing for the past two years, such as standing in their



Members of At War for Animals Niagara protested in town last weekend while being dressed up in old time costumes. SOURCED FACEBOOK

usual spot on the corner and talking to people in a "nice peaceful manner."

Jones-Butski said coming into the meeting about the new protocol, she was told not to discuss the Legion protest, which she said she was told was "an anomaly" and would never happen again if an agreement was negotiated.

"We didn't really have an option other than (come to) an agreement just for the safety of drivers, the horses and the town," Jones-Butski told The Lake Report, noting the support group's legal team advised them not to

sign the agreement.

The new protocol states all parties agree to stay 10 feet or three metres away from each other, and 14 feet or four metres away from the horses.

Protesters will have no more than three people on the end of each of the flower beds on the corners of King and Queen streets.

All parties agreed to avoid speaking to each other and initiating contact with other businesses about their personal beliefs. Protesters also agreed not to engage with carriage drivers and

customers.

Everyone agreed not to use megaphones and tripods within the protest area, and both the protesters and the supporters will keep their personal belongings, such as backpacks and signs, off the sidewalks.

According to the protocol, as long as conditions are met, the protesters will not follow the carriages by foot or vehicle.

All activities will be held in public places and all concerns should be reported to protest liaison officers from Niagara Regional Police.

Niagara Falls **Writer's Festival** gets help from some NOTLers

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Andrew Porteus has been publishing found poems online for almost 20 years and now he is helping to organize the Niagara Falls Writer's Festival which takes place on Oct. 19 at three Niagara Falls library branches.

Porteus was initially involved with organizing a poetry contest during the festival, but due to limited submissions the contest was scrapped.

He will, however, publish submissions on his website, Niagarapoetry.ca, where he showcases more than 250 found poems centred around Niagara's history.

This will be the first year for the festival running in this format, which was planned as a way to connect

the local writing community in Niagara and to offer workshops and discussions on various aspects of literary interest.

The festival runs from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at the Victoria Avenue library branch, the Stamford branch and at the McBain Community Centre. Topics include a memoir workshop, poetry readings, tips on getting published, writing collaboratively, and building a writer's platform.

The Niagara Falls Public Library held an event with a similar focus last year on Independent Authors Day.

This year's festival started out as a continuation of that initial event but grew into its own, said Erik Upper, public relations co-ordinator for the festival.

With the help of a Niagara Falls Arts and Culture grant of \$2,500, the festival was

able to arrange for more workshop presenters, he said.

Porteus connected with friend and two-time best-selling memoir author Kathy Dobson and arranged for her to lead the memoir writing workshop at the Victoria Avenue branch.

"They can gain an understanding of how to write a memoir. Hers is very raw ... instead of being a more sanitized, dispassionate look at it. It's her first-person take, very intimate," he said.

Dobson's first book, *With a Closed Fist: Growing up in Canada's Toughest Neighbourhood*, was released in 2011 and her second, *Punching and Kicking: Leaving Canada's Toughest Neighbourhood*, was published in 2018.

Both memoirs touch on her own experiences growing up and leaving the Point

St. Charles area of Montreal, "an industrial slum," which was once deemed Canada's most dangerous neighbourhood.

Dobson has worked as a journalist for the CBC and contributed to the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *Ottawa Citizen* and many more media outlets.

Currently pursuing a PhD at Carleton University in the School of Journalism and Communication, she has made a name for herself through her writing, her research into poverty issues, and by speaking about and hosting similar workshops.

Sharon Frayne of the NOTL Writers' Circle will also be bringing her literary passion to the festival by reading her short story, *Moonlight with Tom Thomson*, at the Stamford branch.

The story was recently published in two parts in



Andrew Porteus at the Niagara Falls Literary Arts Festival in 2016. SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Lake Report, accompanied by an image of an oil on canvas piece Frayne painted, which was the inspiration for the story. She said she will have the painting on display during her reading as well.

She also said she has a few other short stories and poems prepared for reading, if time permits.

Many writers participating and presenting during the event will have their published books available

for purchase at the festival's Book Fair, which will be held in the foyer of the Victoria Avenue branch.

After the festival, attendees will be invited to connect at Third Space Café on Queen Street in Niagara Falls for an open mic, where they can discuss the workshops. Porteus says they will meet at the café from about 4 to 6:30 p.m.

A full list of workshops and locations can be found at nfwritersfestival.com.



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Library will trade fines for Humane Society donations during Library Week

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library will trade fines for donations to the Humane Society during Ontario Public Library Week, which runs from Oct. 20 to 26.

Through the Fines for Furry Friends program, the library will forgive \$5 worth of fines in exchange for an item donation for the Humane Society. A list of accepted donations can be found online at notpubliclibrary.org.

Chief librarian Cathy Simpson said the Humane Society seemed like an appropriate charity to support.

“This is a real dog town. People love their dogs here; they love their pets. We do allow dogs here in the library. This is of course a worthy cause and charity but it’s also something that the people really connect



Jasper, a Therapy Tails dog in the library this summer. The library chose the Humane Society for the Fines for Furry Friends program. BRITTANY CARTER

with,” Simpson said.

Ontario Public Library Week is a project of the Ontario Library Association to acknowledge and celebrate the valuable role libraries play in the community. As well as forgiving fines, the library will host free author visits, a customer appreciation day, and will have children’s programming scheduled throughout the

week.

“It’s a chance for us to make awareness basically about what we have to offer,” Simpson said.

For the kids, the library will host Library Mouse Storytime on Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m. and Oct. 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Customer appreciation day is Monday, Oct. 21, and the library will offer

free coffee and goodies all morning.

On Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m., Canadian author and explorer Adam Shoalts will launch his latest book, *Beyond the Trees*. He will also show a multimedia presentation alongside his storytelling, which the event page labels “as entertaining as it is awe-inspiring.”

On Oct. 25 at 5 p.m., local children’s book author Stephen Bushnik will read his book *Troll and Fairy*, along with a few other titles which are now available for loan at the NOTL library. Bushnik writes books about acceptance, standing up to bullies, and loving yourself as you are.

And in the spirit of Halloween the library is having a Monster Party on Oct. 27 at 1 p.m.

Drop-in literacy events will be held all week in the children’s section of the library.

Edison Singers bring inaugural three-concert season to NOTL

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is to be one of three musical hubs for The Edison Singers, Canada’s newest professional choral ensemble, according to founding artistic director and conductor Noel Edison.

“We’re focusing on three communities that have demonstrated a tremendous appreciation for fine choral music — Toronto, Wellington County and Niagara-on-the-Lake,” says Edison, a 40-year veteran of choral conducting at an international level.

The new choir’s first local performance is Monday, Oct. 28, at the Court House Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

The Niagara concert series is sponsored by the family of well-known arts supporter Peter Partridge, to honour his tremendous

generosity and his respect and admiration for Edison’s lifetime choral achievements. Partridge died a year ago, in October 2018.

Edison is excited about starting fresh after gaining worldwide acclaim conducting and directing both the Elora Singers and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir for more than 20 years.

“It’s so refreshing to start from scratch again, something I’ve not done in 40 years,” he says. “Our inaugural year includes some of my favourite works. I know our audiences will enjoy the music.”

The Oct. 28 concert — Choral Mystics — will showcase music “the choir loves to sing, and audiences love to hear,” from medieval chant to an Orlando Gibbons work to modern works by Pärt, Ešenvalds and others. The program will be topped off with familiar



Noel Edison, founder and artistic director of The Edison Singers, rehearsing the choir in preparation for their first Niagara-on-the-Lake concert at The Courthouse, Monday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. SUPPLIED PHOTO

folksongs in new arrangements.

Jim Bourne, music director at St. Mark’s Anglican Church and member of the fledging Edison Singers, is excited by what’s ahead for the group. “We’re singing wonderful music for one of Canada’s most accomplished choral conductors and we’re loving it,” says Bourne.

The 2019-2020 season will include two additional concerts in Niagara. In the Bleak Midwinter, a celebration of holiday music, will be performed Monday, Dec. 9, also at the Court

House Theatre.

On Sunday, April 5, at a venue to be announced, the Edison Singers will present Ancient and Modern Reflections, including Palestrina’s *Missa Papae Marcella* and Byrd’s *Mass for Four Voices*, both 16th-century works, and a modern Requiem by Herbert Howells.

“We’ve had our auditions,” says Edison. “We’ve had our musical bootcamp. We’re ready and we’re excited.”

For ticket information and additional details, go to www.theedisonsingers.com or call 226-384-3100.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Ontario Public Library Week Oct. 20 to Oct. 26			
<p>20</p> <p>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 7 p.m. - Fort George</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club Fall Fashion Show - 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Gate House Hotel</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre, 382 Airport Rd.</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Babies and Books - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Council - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Public meeting on cannabis production - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Sunlife Financial Seminar - 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre MORI Room</p> <p>NOTL Horticultural Society October Meeting - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Heritage Trail Committee - 2 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre</p> <p>STEAM Story Time - 11:45 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Monster Party - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>St. Davids Harvest Breakfast - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall</p> <p>Family Friendly Drop-in Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Teen Literary Alliance - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre, 382 Airport Rd.</p> <p>Free Community Day - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p> <p>Babies and Books - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre</p> <p>STEAM Story Time - 11:45 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 7 p.m. - Fort George</p>

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to www.niagara.on.ca

art

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>17</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Committee of Adjustment - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 7 p.m. - Fort George</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>St. Davids Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Library Mouse Story Time - 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Saturday DJ Nights at Wayne Gretzky Estates - 6:30 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery</p> <p>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 7 p.m. - Fort George</p> <p>Red Roof Retreat Fall Fest - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Red Roof Retreat Ranch</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Adam Shoalts in Celebration of Library Week - 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Adam Shoalts in Celebration of Library Week - 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 7 p.m. - Fort George</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Inclusivity Committee Meeting - 10 a.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Author Reading: Stephen Bushnik - 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Library Mouse Story Time - 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Repair Cafe - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 7 p.m. - Fort George</p> <p>Red Roof Retreat Fall Fest - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Red Roof Retreat Ranch</p> <p>Dye Day at Laura Secord Homestead - 10 a.m. - Laura Secord Homestead</p> <p>Harvest Party - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Happy Halloween!</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Happy Halloween!</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>St. Davids Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Saturday DJ Nights at Wayne Gretzky Estates - 6:30 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery</p>

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NOTL gets a rainbow crosswalk

Niagara College demonstrates its commitment to inclusion and acceptance

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara College students in the LGBTQ2+ community formed a new social club called Loving Out Loud to spread a message of acceptance, and many members of the club celebrated the painting of the new rainbow crosswalk at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus on Friday.

Students, college staff and the Student Administrative Council gathered around marked lines and rainbow balloons on the road across from the Wine Visitor and Information Centre to help paint the colourful crosswalk.

Felipe Reis, president of Loving Out Loud, said the crosswalk signifies Niagara College's commitment to offering a safe and inclusive space for everyone in the LGBTQ2+ community.

"The goal (of the club) is to receive anyone from the community, but not just from the community, straight people as well are welcome. It (the crosswalk) really shows how Niagara College is open to receive any part of the community," Reis said.

He said he feels the college will actually do what it says it will in terms of providing a safe and accepting environment for everyone.

The crosswalk at the NOTL campus is the second one for the college. It was delayed until the completion of a road realignment and paving project on the campus. The first crosswalk was unveiled at the Welland campus in June.

Niagara College committed to installing the crosswalks at both campuses, thanks to a student-led initiative championed by the Student Administrative Council after collaborating with many members of the school's LGBTQ2+ community.



Felipe Reis president and Dalton Bird, vice-president of Loving Out Loud. Below: Kevin Do waves his rainbow flag. BRITTANY CARTER

Vice-president of the club, Dalton Bird, said his organization will provide a new opportunity for the college to grow and to learn more about what they stand for.

"We want to create this bridge between the community and the students from Niagara College. We want to show them that Niagara College is a safe environment for everyone," Bird said.

"The rainbow crosswalks signify (the student council's) resolute support for not only the LGBTQ2+ community on campus, but all communities and students at Niagara College," student council president Tom Price said in a media release.

"They also signify the respectful partnership and collaboration between (the student council), Niagara College, and the student body to ensure Niagara College is a safe, diverse, and inclusive space for all."

Enzo DeDivitiis, chair of Pride Niagara, said the group values acknowledge-

ment and accountability. Though many organizations will acknowledge the community, they aren't always held accountable to their words.

"It's not something that's tangible a lot of the times. So, this is something that's a visual, tangible point of interest that shows to everyone that they are actually standing behind their words," he said.

"That's huge. It means so much for so many people ... This is a dream come true for so many people. Knowing that they can have that, that they have a safe space. Knowing that what they're a part of stands behind them, that's huge," DeDivitiis said.

A more appropriate day couldn't have been planned for the unveiling, Price said. Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day. College president Dan Patterson thanked the almost 50 people in attendance for being a part of the occasion before handing the paint rollers over to the crowd.



Student council president Tom Price, Niagara College president Dan Patterson and chair of Pride Niagara Enzo DeDivitiis. BRITTANY CARTER

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Lake Report's free local discount program is now open

Richard Harley
Editor

The Lake Report is proud to announce we've officially launched our brand new local discount "Press Pass Program."

By signing up, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents will receive a Lake Report card which will get them discounts at a list of participating businesses.

All businesses will be listed at www.lakereport.ca.

The main goal of the program is to offer a way for our community businesses to easily and affordably offer a local discount during the fall/winter season, to help increase local business.

With our streamlined approach, participating businesses can, without hassle, benefit from more local business in the slower season.

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Anyone participating in the program will receive a PRESS PASS card that verifies their membership in the program. Remember to bring photo ID so we know you're local.

The card is valid for an entire household, for one year from the time of signing up (or the time you paid your subscription). Only one card will be provided. Additional or replacement cards are \$5.

Simply present your card at local participating businesses, and enjoy great

deals at a long list of shops in town.

How it Works for businesses:

Simply call us at 905-359-2270 and register with the paper to be listed as a participating business.

Participating businesses can choose their own discount or promotion, which will be listed online at LakeReport.ca. A link to participating businesses will also be advertised in print twice per month. Businesses must agree to offer a local discount to Press Pass Program card holders, and place a "press pass program" sticker on their storefront.

Discounts can be changed during the season for a \$10 fee, but we encourage retailers to maintain the discount all season.

The Lake Report will verify the addresses of participants before they receive a press pass card. The fee is just \$50, and every dollar of that supports local journalism and community news.

The Lake Report

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The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper. **Your donations and contributions help support young, local journalists, as well as student interns, local charities, and so much more.**

We encourage all residents to support The Lake Report through an annual "voluntary" subscription. We suggest just \$50/year (less than \$1 per issue) per household. **That's less than most people spend on coffee.**

Larger donations are also greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made online at www.lakereport.ca, or cheques can be mailed to the NOTL Post Office, L0S1J0, PO Box 724.

Please make cheques to The Lake Report.

- Richard Harley

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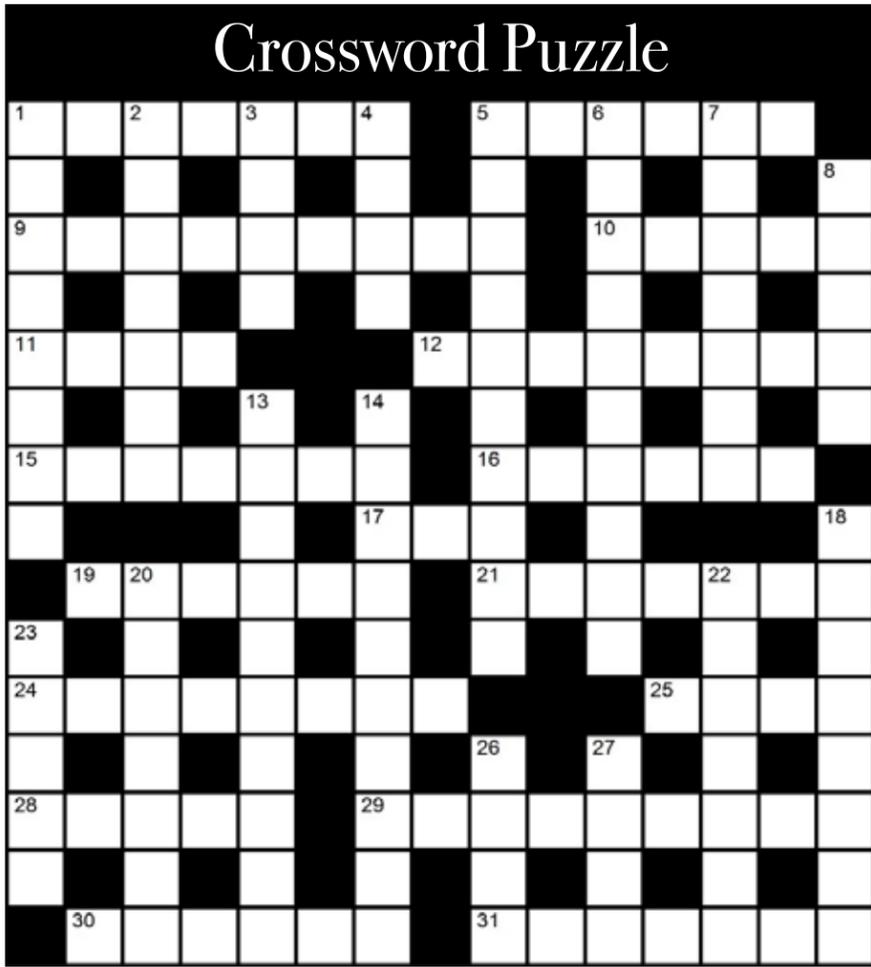
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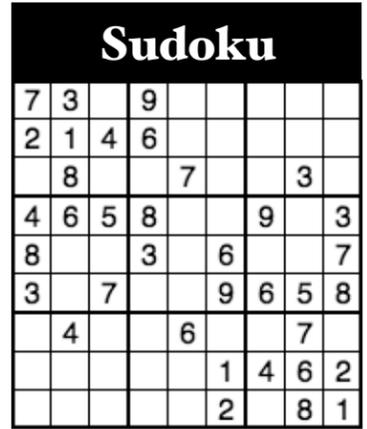
Have some fun

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

- Across**
- Clap (7)
 - Priest (6)
 - Benefit (9)
 - Unwarranted (5)
 - Floor coverings (4)
 - Rounded mass of steamed dough (8)
 - Seedless raisin (7)
 - East Mediterranean democracy (6)
 - Involuntary muscular contraction (3)
 - Dusky (6)
 - Least difficult (7)
 - Knockout punch (8)
 - Sicilian volcano (4)
 - Compel (5)
 - Dutch master (9)
 - Work over (4,2)
 - Soon (7)
- Down**
- Scaremonger (8)
 - Crucial (7)
 - "Black Beauty" author --- Sewell (4)
 - Faculty head (4)
 - Biased (10)
 - Statue-maker (10)
 - Bygone (3-4)
 - Prevail (5)
 - Legislative assembly (10)
 - Rickety vehicle (10)
 - Furtive (8)
 - Edge of the road (7)
 - Permanently inactive (7)
 - Fly-by-night (5)
 - Yuletide (4)
 - Group of three (4)



Last issue's answers



SPORTS 

NOTL women's leagues wrap up season *in style*

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The NOTL Golf Club's 9 and 18 hole women's leagues wrapped up their season with a great luncheon – and they handed out a ton of trophies to competitors.

Nine hole league: Members Cup (July 16): Suzanne Rate, runners-up Sharon Allen, Susan McCann. Joy Nelles Trophy (July 23): Maureen Taylor, runners-up Penny Bannister, Charlotte Kainola. June handicap: Suzanne Rate, runner-up Susan Sherk. Carmichael Cup

(Aug. 13): Cathy Saytar, runner-up Lyn Sanders. Captains Cup (Aug. 20): Lyn Sanders, runners-up Carolyn Greenfield, Maureen Taylor.

"B" Cup (Sept. 3 and 10): Maureen Taylor, runner-up Bonnie Lamourie. Gretchen Ormston Memorial Trophy (Sept. 3 and 10): Chris Walker, runner-up Suzanne Rate. Pi Round: Suzanne Rate, runner-up Lyn Sanders. Ringer board: Maureen Dickson, runner-up Suzanne Rate. Fewest putts: Therese Rothwell-Downes. Most chip-ins: Sharon Allen. 18 hole league: Barbara



The winners of the NOTL Golf Club nine hole women's league season-ending scramble were Suzanne Rate, Sharron Marlow, Wilca Lay and Chris Walker. MAUREEN TAYLOR/SUBMITTED

Ahluwalia Cup (low gross score over 10 games): Martha Cruikshank, runner-up Lisa Allen. Vera Derbyshire Award: Barbara Ahluwalia, runner-up Sharron Marlow. The Vera Derbyshire award was established to commemorate Derbyshire's 50th year as a member of the NOTL club and it recognizes par-

icipation, low scores, putts and other stats tracked throughout the season. Hunter Cup 18: Martha Cruikshank, runner-up Yolanda Henry. Roslyn Cup: Barbara Ahluwalia, runner-up Lorraine Busbridge. Hunter Cup 9/18: Yolanda Henry, runner-up Maureen Dickson. Margaret Berry Trophy: Lisa

Allen, runner-up Sharron Marlow. Match play (June handicap): Ginny Green, runner-up Margot Richardson. Yule pairs: Marg Ketcheson & Sharon Allen, runners-up Martha Cruikshank & Maureen Taylor. Other season highlights: Club champion Louise Robitaille had an eagle

3 on the long par-5 third hole, Cathy Murray broke 90, the club's Solheim team won their division, the NOTL ladies won the Wood Trophy for the fifth straight year, Barbara Ahluwalia won the Beat the Pro competition, and Marg Ketcheson won the award for the golfer with the most spirit.



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MEMORIAM

John Hinchley, 81, coach, teacher, raconteur

When you play golf, you generally strike the ball from either the left or the right side.

When you're putting, you usually follow suit. While a few righties putt left-handed, and vice versa, very few putt from both sides.

John Hinchley did. And he had one of the most reliable putting strokes around.

With his 1960s-era Acushnet Bullseye bronze flatstick, he sank many a putt from either side of the ball. Long, short and in between.

It's unclear exactly why or how he came to putt both ways, though he once said, "It depends on the putt and how it breaks. Sometimes I'll hit it left, sometimes right."

John Davidson Hinchley died suddenly on Sept. 23 and with him the NOTL Golf Club lost one of the good ones.

A popular member of the club, who enjoyed a good political debate and still enjoyed reading several newspapers regularly, Hinchley, 81, and his wife Diane were regulars at the course for many years.

He is survived by Diane (nee Lowry), daughter Kathryn (Paul), son Jim (Joanne), grandchildren Jack, Tyler, Evan and Ryan, sister



Elizabeth (Don) and brother Edward (Jan).

Hinchley was a high school teacher, sports coach, golfer, amateur gambler, wine drinker and storyteller. He grew up in Owen Sound, attended Western and McMaster universities, and had a long career as a high school teacher and hockey coach in Oshawa and Scarborough.

As a horse racing enthusiast, he spent many great years betting the ponies in Saratoga and every Saturday with his friends in St. Catharines.

He and Diane, who were married for 55 years, retired to Niagara-on-the-Lake. But NOTL was always close to their hearts.

They met while teaching high school in the early 1960s at the old Niagara District Secondary School and after several years in NOTL moved to Oshawa to raise a family.

Over the years, Hinchley actively participated in the NOTL Golf Club's men's and WOOFs leagues, and with Diane in the Friday night Couples league.

Ever competitive, "he was his own worst critic and in recent years frequently threatened to quit the game as his consistency and distance were not what they once were," said his daughter Kathryn. "But his sharp short game and, most importantly, the camaraderie with his many golfing friends kept him coming back year after year."

Over the years, he was a member at Owen Sound Golf & CC, Oshawa Golf & CC and the NOTL club. He played junior golf in Owen Sound and won five club championships there.

Rarely in life does a golfer experience the thrill of a hole-in-one. Hinchley had six. Though some say seven. That no doubt will be fodder for a few stories when friends and family celebrate his life with a reception at the NOTL Golf Club on Oct. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Long lines for advanced polling

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Lines were long at the NOTL Community Centre Friday morning when the advance voting polls opened, and though Margaret Walker waited more than half an hour to cast her vote, she said it was well worth the delay.

"We have to wait, but we're very privileged to get to vote," she said while standing in line.

Early voting took place from Friday to Monday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., to give people ample opportunity to cast ballots in this year's federal election.

Elections Canada media relations officer Nathalie de Montigny said this was the first year advance polls were open for 12 hours, four days in a row.

During the four days of advanced polls this year, she said approximately 4.7 million Canadians voted

across the country. Those preliminary numbers don't include electors who voted in local offices, on campus, in additional service points, or by special ballot.

"This increase shows that more and more Canadians are taking advantage of early voting opportunities to cast their ballots," de Montigny said in an email.

In 2011, advanced polls saw about 2.1 million voters and in 2015 about 3.65 million, both for all four days.

While there was only one voting booth at each of the three NOTL voting stations this year which caused long wait times, de Montigny said there were more voting stations overall. In the Niagara Falls riding the number of stations increased to 22 from 16 during the previous election.

She also said the advanced voting process was made easier.

"We are seeing a trend that

more and more Canadians are voting early," she said.

Whereas in previous elections there was an added step of signing a document before voting during the advanced polling, this year the process was identical to a regular election day.

"For us it's a good story, because people are going out to vote. At the same time, we cannot control when they go vote. Sometimes it does happen, unfortunately, that there could be more people showing up to the polls at the same time," de Montigny said.

While Walker was content waiting to exercise her right to vote, some residents in line thought there should have been more voting stations set up to expedite the process.

John Thornburg said that there should have been more, especially because this is a federal election.

"It doesn't make any sense there's only one station," he said.

He said he would continue to wait, though, because he said he would be out of town on Oct. 21 during the official vote.

And though many were unhappy but still decided to stay and wait, others decided to leave the line and try again another day.

Donna Ricardo was bringing her grandson to the library and decided to swing over to vote at the same time. But after discovering she would need to spend almost 45 minutes waiting in line, she said she would come back another time.

"I'm not waiting in line that long today, we'll just come back," she said.

Though lines were long for the first few hours on Friday morning, they did tend to ease up into the evening. On Sunday at 6 p.m., there were only two people waiting to vote and they were in and out within 10 minutes.



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FACT: The Lake Report is NOTL's first independent newspaper, started by a local.

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FEATURED

Writers' Circle: Daredevil William 'Red' Hill Sr.

Bill Hamilton
NOTL Writers' Circle

Back in 1948, the family business of the famed river man, Red Hill Sr. came under hard times and was subjected to seizure and sheriff's sale. My grandmother, Rose Shields, purchased the estate and through passage in our family, it now belongs to me.

Growing up with the history of this unique group of people, we call "Daredevils," I gained the greatest respect for the Niagara River and the Hill family.

As a young boy I always looked forward to trips with my dad to visit the display. I loved to read the stories about these bold and daring individuals. I was always mesmerized looking at these large barrels and what they represented.

The collection consists of the Hills' "Red Barrel," "The Silver Streak" and the famous "Stathakis Death Barrel."

The Red Barrel, constructed of steel, weighing 620 pounds, saw father and son take it through the deadly Level 6 rapids of the Niagara River.

Imagine getting inside this steel drum, confined in darkness, cramped, with little room to move, the smell of steel and the thought this might be your last ride. Then in darkness, alone, anticipating a tumultuous ride through the most dangerous level of cascades, tossed, turned and upended time after time until you reach your destination.

On May 30, 1930, William Red Hill Sr. rode the barrel successfully through these treacherous rapids and the vortex of the Niagara River's whirlpool.

He challenged the rapids again on Memorial Day 1931, only this time he chose the large wooden barrel of Stathakis for his daring trip. He ran into difficulty, getting trapped in the whirlpool, but his son, Red Jr., swam out to free his dad from a potentially deadly situation.

Once again, on July 8, 1945, the Red Barrel rode through the narrow gorge, but this time the occupant was Red Hill Jr.

He rode the dangerous waves like his dad, tossing and turning for about four and a half hours. He successfully ended this journey

at the docks in Queenston, exiting the barrel bruised and battered.

The steel Silver Streak barrel rode the perilous rapids on Sept. 6, 1948, with Red Jr. as its passenger.

This barrel had a little different design, resembling a bullet and weighed 1,000 pounds.

Once again he hung on for dear life on this familiar course, confined for hours, being pounded against the steel surrounding him. He eventually reached his destination at the Queenston docks. With this latest success, he felt it was now time for a bigger challenge.

Red Jr. would learn the power of Niagara in 1951.

He followed through on a pledge to his family, to conquer the fury of Niagara Falls in a contraption of large inner tubes that he concocted.

He secured them by wrapping them in canvas and heavy netting. He called his creation "The Thing." On Aug. 5, he launched his device into the swells of the upper rapids near Chippewa.

Approaching the falls, the netting somehow started breaking apart. Hill was



Daredevil William "Red" Hill Sr. SUPPLIED

swept over the 165-foot cataracts, unprotected, to his death. His mother cried out from shore looking for a son whose body would not be recovered until the next day.

Probably the most famous of the three vessels is the Stathakis Death Barrel.

George Stathakis was a Greek chef of slight build and short stature. He felt by going over the falls, he could make enough money to translate a book he had written from Greek to English and have it published.

He had a large, 2,000-pound wooden barrel built by amateurs. On July 5, 1930, the barrel was outfitted with a three-hour supply of oxygen and he was accompanied with his pet turtle "Sonny Boy."

The barrel was towed out and released close to Chippewa. Twenty thousand onlookers watched. The wooden barrel quickly

reached the precipice of the falls and plunged over the cataracts to an untimely fate.

The barrel was caught in a backflow keeping it behind the veil of the falls. Stathakis was trapped for many hours and suffocated, but his trusty shelled companion lived.

I learned some additional facts about William Red Hill Sr. that gave me a greater insight into this notable Canadian.

In 1896, he rescued his young sister from a fire in their family home. He was nine years old at the time.

He rescued Bobby Leach from his steel barrel in 1910.

On Feb. 4, 1912, he was able to lead more than 20 people to safety off the ice bridge that had formed below the falls. He felt a tremor and knew the ice was breaking.

A couple from Toronto and two teenagers from Cleveland were standing on the

breaking ice. The teenagers heeded Hill's direction to the Canadian shore but the couple headed toward the American shore.

The gap widened and they were trapped. The man struggled to aid his wife as they headed back toward Hill.

One of the teenagers still on the floe turned and ran to help. The other teen was pulled from the water to safety. Those trapped on the ice floe were doomed as the section of ice broke away, carrying them down to the deadly rapids and their tragic death.

William Sr. was a soldier in the First World War, during which he was gassed four times in combat.

His most notable rescue was in 1918 when two men were trapped in a runaway scow that had broken away up river and lodged in the upper rapids above the falls.

He crawled across on a breaches buoy, clearing the roaring rapids and risking his life in order to complete the rescue.

He recovered 177 bodies from the river and saved 28 lives. At the time he was the only man in the world to have earned four life-saving medals.

William "Red" Hill Sr. died in 1942 at the age of 54.

Videos of his adventures can be found on YouTube.



Wine and Words

Niagara-on-the-Lake author Debi Goodwin speaks about her memoir, *A Victory Garden for Trying Times*, at the NOTL library's first Wine and Words presentation of the season at Southbrook Organic Vineyards on Oct. 9. The next author in the series is Terry Fallis, on Nov. 13 at Palatine Hills Estate Winery, but his appearance is already sold out. Go to notpubliclibrary.org for more information on the series. SUBMITTED/ARUN KAPUR

It's a Wine Thang



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

The difference between Syrah and Shiraz illustrates how a grape's environment and the way in which it is processed can influence the resulting wine. Genetically, there is no difference between Syrah and Shiraz.

The French refer to the grape and the varietal wine they make from it as Syrah. In other notable regions such as South America, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, the grape and the wine is usually referred to as Shiraz. But

there is something more than just a difference in name, there is a difference in style and character as well. While both are very assertive red wines, a Syrah tends to be a little more elegant and complex. It usually has more of a smokey, earthy character with flavours of plum and spicy pepper. A Shiraz, on the other hand, is more crisp and fruity, less layered with slight, jammy flavours of berry.

While the grape remains the same, in each wine there is so much else that is different. The soil, the climate, the cultivation and the fermentation all play roles in determining whether a wine is a Syrah or a Shiraz. The French vineyards are heavy in limestone, which can hold moisture better and deeper than most soils. This forces the

vines to get more of their nutrients from deeper soils. The result is a wine with more layered, complex flavours. The Syrah is also grown in France's cooler climate. This lends to the plum-like, smokey character of this wine. Shiraz is grown in warmer climates, which makes the wine more jammy and berry-like. Even the rate of fermentation plays some role in the flavour development of the wine. A Syrah is fermented more slowly so as to increase the time the pulp can stay with the skins. A Shiraz is fermented faster, which helps to make the wine, in general, fruitier. While a wine's character always begins with the grape, the terroir and fermentation process determine if the end product is a Syrah or a Shiraz.

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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



The Niagara Marina

Dr. Bruce Rigg's collection of old Niagara paintings was handed down to his daughter Sarah, who very kindly allowed me to photograph the many pictures in the collection. In this 1940s painting, the Niagara marina can be seen as it was up to the late 1960s. In the foreground is Mr. Ansley feeding chickens in his backyard. In the background, the many boat houses that lined the slip, as it was called, can be seen. The lighthouse, which is still there today, is visible behind the boat houses. The little black building beside the lighthouse was the customs office where American boats had to report before coming to Canada.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



The Regency

Brian Marshall
Featured

It's 1810 and King George III's escalating battles with mental and physical maladies have combined to force the creation of a regency with his eldest son serving as Prince Regent.

The son was a very different man than his father. Where King George was known for his thrift and focus on mundane common matters rather than pomp and politics, the Prince Regent (future King George IV) lived life large in every way. A self-styled patron of the arts and architecture, his money and sponsorship within the context of the evolving Industrial Revolution would set the stage for the creative



Early Regency in NOTL. BRIAN MARSHALL

architectural kaleidoscope of the 19th century.

One of the earliest architectural results of this socio-political shift has since been termed the Regency style. Unlike the slightly earlier and comparatively short-lived Neo-classical style, the Regency criteria allowed architects much more freedom to express their creativity. The result was a design style which spanned over 50 years and made an indelible mark here in Niagara.

The basis of Regency design can be summed up

by describing it as anchored in the landscape with clean, simple, elegant lines. This school of architects was aligned with the Romantic movement, which celebrated emotion and individualism over the Industrial Revolution's stern dictates of logic and rationality. Romantics sought a connection to nature and pushed back against growing urbanization by seeking expressions of "simpler medieval times."

In our backyard, the earliest Regency houses borrowed from the Georgian its

five-bay facade (a centred entry door with two windows set to either side), but the footprint was roughly square rather than rectangular. This was capped with a hip roof and tall, proportionally massive chimneys.

To accentuate connection to the landscape, the home was set only one or two steps above grade while the horizontal lines were emphasized with strong drip moulds above each window and, occasionally, brickwork banding on the chimneys. The main entry was pronounced, often including a surround with sidelights and simplified classically inspired pilasters that rose to a tall, unadorned entablature.

Somewhat common in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the circa 1817 Regency cottage shown here was moved from Mississauga Street in the late 20th century and set on a much taller foundation at its new location. Still, it remains a stellar example of early Regency design.



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Jessica Keller, Omry Abed Alhay and Miranda Parrel. SUPPLIED

Expanding horizons and **building relationships**

Offering housing to international students at Vineridge Academy opens eyes to the world

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

When Georgina Keller started taking in international students from Vineridge Academy as part of the Homestay program, she had no idea some would become a part of her family.

In the four years the private school has been open on Niagara Stone Road, Keller has housed students for three. She says she took in six long-term kids during that period and a few of them built lasting relationships with the family.

Miranda Parrel from Mexico blended with the family seamlessly, she says, and continues to remain in close contact even after returning home.

Vineridge opened in 2016, at the same time her daughter was entering her final year of high school.

Keller says her daughter asked to attend Vineridge so she could go to school closer to home.

"My youngest daughter Jessica was going into her last year of high school and she's kind of like, 'Hey, the new school is coming here. It would be nice to go to school in my own community.'"

Jessica and Parrel are close in age and became fast friends, she says.

"They were like sisters and they've travelled quite a bit together," Keller says. "It was nice to have them around. They're chatting and doing homework together. Just to be able to help them and show them Canada was nice."

Vineridge offered tuition assistance to students of host families, which was one incentive for opening her home, though Keller says it certainly wasn't the only reason she

started.

"The way they originally put it in the newspaper was that your student can go for free because you'll be getting paid to house students. The school pays us a Homestay fee – room and board basically, and I just used that to pay her tuition," she says.

Keller works with international students as an ESL teacher at Brock University and she says the opportunity to take in students from Vineridge just made sense for the family.

Not only was she able to help the students learn English faster than they would have by living in residence, the family also guided them in becoming more connected to the community.

One student she took in, Omry Abed Alhay, she met through the youth group at her church. She says he

wasn't happy at his original Homestay so it was decided he would stay with her as well.

At that time, she had Parrel and Alhay also.

"Jessica and Miranda were upstairs and Omry had the room in the basement. They all spent a lot of time together," she says. And she has kept contact with both their parents as well, she says.

Above helping the students adapt to Canadian life, she says she has learned a lot from them.

She says the experience of housing kids from all over the world has really opened her eyes to other cultures in a way that visiting a resort or taking a tour through another country while on vacation never could.

"It's an interesting way to meet people and learn about other cultures.

It gives you a different perspective that there are other things happening outside of Canada," she says.

"Miranda would tell us firsthand the things that were happening in Mexico, and the things that weren't great. And then the things that were great, too."

The experience made the world a littler smaller, Keller says, and it inspired her daughter to explore the world.

"It has made her more interested in travelling. January to April she went to Australia, Thailand, South Korea and Japan. I think it put that interest in travel in her," she says.

Those contacts she made at school opened doors for her travelling as well.

"When she went to Thailand, she just messaged one of the boys from school that she knew, who

invited her to stay with him and his family. So, she met with a friend and stayed with his family for a week."

But more than increasing their interest in seeing the world, Keller said it was "really nice when they fit well with the family."

"Around Christmas if we were doing something big and my family was here, we would all be together. For the one year Miranda was here for Christmas, if I was going to my family's house she would come with us," she says.

She says she learned to be more patient.

Though she doesn't have any students this year, she says she would definitely do it again.

"I'm not ready to be an empty nester yet," she says. "If you want to be a part of a family then Homestay is perfect."

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COMMUNITY



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



Nyanyas' African-inspired dinner returns

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

You can get a taste of Africa while raising money for a good cause at the African Dinner to be held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club on Thursday, Oct. 24.

The fundraiser starts at 6 p.m. and will feature a three-course meal with African-inspired dishes. A vegetarian option will also be available.

"The chefs have researched African food and it's always been delicious," said Terry Mactaggart, a member of the steering committee for the Nyanyas of Niagara, which is organizing the event. "It's all African recipes."

The Nyanyas of Niagara group is supporting the Grandmothers campaign, which was launched by the Stephen Lewis Foundation to help African grandmothers take care of children



The campaign's senior adviser, Ida Mukuka Nambeya, will be a guest speaker at the dinner. SOURCED

who have been orphaned by HIV or AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Nyanya means grandmother in Swahili.

The campaign's senior adviser, Ida Mukuka Nambeya, will be a guest speaker, and entertainment at the dinner will be provided by singer/guitarist Sawyer Dundas.

Since 2007, the Nyanyas of Niagara have sent more than \$100,000 to the Grand-

mothers to Grandmothers campaign, Mactaggart said.

There are also more than 240 groups of grandmothers and "grandothers" across Canada which have raised more than \$33 million for the campaign. There also are groups in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Nyanyas of Niagara group holds a variety of fundraising events

throughout the year in support of the program. It's been six years since the African dinner was held, Mactaggart told The Lake Report, but it's back due to popular demand.

"People kept on asking us, 'When are you going to have the African dinner?'" Mactaggart said.

Since the last one, "so many new people have come into town and haven't experienced that."

There will also be door prizes and a silent auction with about 25 "incredible items" such as an overnight stay at Langdon Hall Country House Hotel and Spa in Cambridge, Ont., a gift certificate from Upper Canada Travel Service, an hour assessment from a personal trainer as well as art objects and jewelry, Mactaggart said.

Tickets cost \$75 per person. To buy tickets, contact Mactaggart at 905-468-2438 or Linda Carleton at 905-327-1354.



The Golden Plunger

With Betty and Jane

Grill on King



Jim Davies accepts the Golden Plunger for the Grill on King. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

Strolling along King Street, the sunny day beckoned us to visit the Grill on King for a light lunch on the patio. The menu boasts a casual Mediterranean experience from steak and pasta to perhaps a sumptuous sandwich. Expect a royal treat for sure and what's good enough on "King" is good enough for us! The waiter was well-spoken and when asked about the Grill on King he wanted us to mention the "handsome server" in our Plunger Review. Consider it done! The bathrooms are located at the rear and offered two private stalls, an ample flush, and plenty of warm water to freshen up with and perhaps even linger for an extra splash or two. We enjoyed our lunch and we encourage you to visit this eatery and let us know if you are able to identify our mystery "handsome waiter." Tip: Jim Davies, in our picture, is a dashing gent, but he was not our server. We certainly can't write and tell! The Grill on King handsomely received 3\5 Golden Plungers.

3.5/5 Golden Plungers



Artifact of the Week

with the Niagara Historical Society & Museum

Exclusive to The Lake Report

Last week's artifact was a waffle iron dating to ca. 1800 and was placed over a hearth or stone oven to heat and cook the liquid mixture. The concept of the waffle iron originated in about the 14th century, (although some food historians would date it to the time of the ancient Greeks), when two hinged elaborately patterned plates with wooden handles would bake over a fire. Cooks would have to be careful using the early model seen here, as hot liquid could escape while cooking, leading to painful burns. On August 24, 1869, Cornelius Swarthout of Troy, N.Y., patented the first stove-top waffle iron, making the baking process safer.

This week's clue: Before cameras, my counterpart and I were the only way to record an individual's appearance.

Send answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com.

Last week's correct: Susan Pohorly, Sheryl Christensen



RIDDLE ME THIS:

I have two hands but I cannot clap.
What am I?

Last Week: When does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?

Answer: In the dictionary

Answered first by: Lynne Stewart

Also answered correctly by: Natalie Early, Dinorah Centeno, Julia Klassen, Cheryl House, Katie Reimer, Marion Briston, Mark Turasz, Margie Enns, Randy LeGallais, Evan Ganski

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

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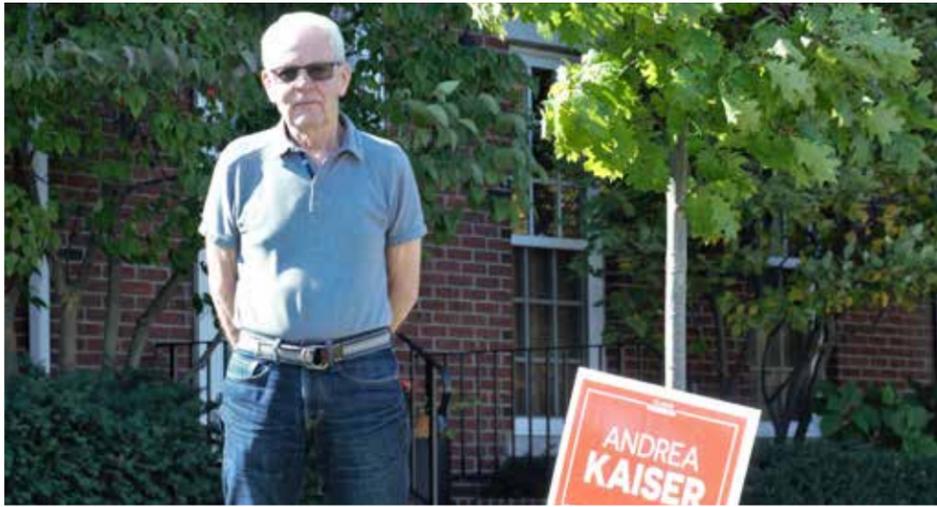
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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

NOTL residents catching election fever



Top left: Liberal supporter David Smith stands with his sign out front of his house. Top right: Green party sign. Bottom left: Peter Douglas displays a large NDP sign in front of his house. Bottom right: Jordan Meyer stands with a Conservative party sign on his front lawn. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The 2019 federal election is less than a week away and Niagara-on-the-Lake residents are in the election spirit by showing partisan support with campaign signs on their front yards.

On a drive through neighbourhoods in town, one can see a variety of red, blue, orange, green and yellow campaign signs. A range of support is evident for each party.

And while some residents are broadcasting their political preference to let the community know who they think should win the election this year, like Conservative supporter Jordan Meyer, others are simply trying to get the message out there that it's

important to vote no matter what.

Jeff Stewart proudly displayed a red sign for Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser and a yellow sign for independent Mike Strange, side-by-side on his front lawn. He would display all the candidates' signs if he was asked, he said.

"I would have all the parties out there if they asked. I just want people to go out and vote," Stewart said.

He said there are four eligible voters in his house and each one will likely cast a different vote on Monday.

"It doesn't matter who I support or who you support, just get out there and vote," Stewart said.

Meyer said he's not a very political person, but he has always voted Conservative.

"My dad brought me the

"It doesn't matter who I support or who you support, just get out there and vote."

JEFF STUART
GARRISON VILLAGE RESIDENT

sign over ... My neighbour had the Liberal sign, and he said you can't let the only person on the street be Liberal," Meyer said.

"I'm a roofer, carpenter. I work with my hands and like the outdoors, I'm a member of gun clubs. I've never been arrested, I've never been in jail, I've never had any criminal affiliations. And yet the Liberals are saying they're going to take the guns away from us, but nothing about the actual criminals," Meyer said.

He respects Conservative candidate Tony Baldinelli's

support for gun rights and he appreciates his charisma, he said.

"Tony Baldinelli, he comes to the gun shows and shows his support for us gun rights advocates. He's an educated man and he's got a hell of a smile," he said.

On the same street, New Democratic Party supporters Maria and Peter Douglas said they want people to know there's more than just the two options. The large orange sign out front of their house signifies their dedication to the party.

"The NDP are the only

ones with any real solution to the matters at hand," Peter Douglas said.

"The media portrays the two parties as the only options, but the NDP are a viable choice," he added.

With a bright red sign out front of his house, David Smith said he's always been a Liberal supporter. Though he said he doesn't know Kaiser personally, he supports the Liberal government and Trudeau's economic and environmental policies.

"Mr. Trudeau, for a long time, was the most outspoken supporter for policy to deal with climate, long before anyone else talked about it. And I think the government deserves some kind of credit for that," Smith said.

Julia Buxton-Cox has a Green party sign out front of her house – she said she's

voted Green for years.

"We only have two more federal elections before we need to meet climate targets of 2030. My focus is on climate and we need to make a big change," she said.

She said she can respect the Green party and what it stands for.

"I really like Elizabeth (May's) platform. I like how bold she is. I like that she lives the lifestyle," she added.

But Buxton-Cox's main message was just to get out and vote, she said.

Many residents said they already made their way to the polls during advanced voting last weekend.

Those who didn't said they have made up their mind about who they are going to vote for and would be sure to get to the polls on Monday.

News that



Hits home

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