

# The Lake Report

Virgil Avondale robbed by  
machete-wielding man  
Page 12

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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



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

October 24, 2019

## Niagara Falls riding stays blue for Baldinelli

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Niagara will continue to see blue with an “elated” Tony Baldinelli taking the win Monday night for the Niagara Falls riding. And though Liberals may take a minority government federally, Baldinelli said the party platform of affordability “really resonated with people” locally.

“From day one we spoke about the need for making life more affordable for everyday hard-working Canadians, and I will take that pledge with me to Ottawa,” Baldinelli said.

He was endorsed by former Niagara Falls MP Rob Nicholson who said supporting Baldinelli was “an easy decision.”

“I’ve known Tony since before he got out of university. I hired him to work in my Ottawa office and he did an outstanding job. He had integrity, he had nothing

but the best interest of the people of Niagara at heart,” Nicholson said.

Baldinelli fought back tears as he addressed the crowd of supporters, volunteers and family members in his campaign office, thanking them for their support and vowing to be a voice for the community.

“I stand here humbled by the decision and trust that you’ve placed in me. For a young man who’s always dreamed this day could one day be possible,” he said after results of his win rolled in.

Baldinelli inspired several local teens who took politics to heart this election, and though they are not yet old enough to vote they volunteered their time to help make his campaign a success.

Seventeen-year-old Arrah Patel spent her birthday volunteering for the campaign

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Newly elected Conservative MP Tony Baldinelli smiles as the results come in Monday night. BRITTANY CARTER



Christmas carollers during the Candlelight Stroll in 2018. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

## NOTL goes Victorian for winter season

Story on Page 7

## Garbage pick-up to be twice a month

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Starting next October, garbage across Niagara will be picked up every second week.

Niagara regional council has approved changing the current weekly garbage collection to alternate weeks, while continuing to pick up recycling and green bin organic waste weekly.

The decision was made at a special council meeting Thursday in a 19-8 vote. Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa voted in favour of the change.

A major goal of the change is to get more Niagara residents to use their

green bins to recycle organics, like food leftovers.

The average garbage container put out to the curb across the region every week contains 50 per cent organic material, 14 per cent recyclable items and 36 per cent garbage, Niagara’s acting director of waste management services told councillors.

Catherine Habermehl said biweekly collection shouldn’t be seen as a reduction in services.

The volume of collected garbage will remain the same, she said, but the frequency of collection will change. Residents will be able to put out two garbage bags or containers every other week and buy addi-



Niagara Region has approved changing weekly garbage collection to every other week, starting next October. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

tional garbage tags.

Switching to biweekly garbage collection would encourage Niagara residents to use their green bins properly and the region needs a policy change to hit its tar-

get goal of diverting 65 per cent of waste from landfills, Habermehl said.

In 2018, the diversion rate was 56 per cent.

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# Tories take Niagara Falls

Continued from Front Page

and waiting out the election results at the campaign office, which she said was the "highlight of her day."

She said it was her birthday wish for the Conservatives to win, and though they didn't garner enough support federally, she said she was happy to see the local riding remain blue.

"It doesn't look great (federally) by the numbers right now," Patel said as the results came in. "But I'm just glad that Tony won keeping Conservative in Niagara Falls, that's always good," Patel said.

She said she's had an interest in politics since she began understanding the importance of government, in about grade 9 or 10, and she's always been a Conservative supporter.

"My parents are very political, and that just sparked an interest in me, and it hasn't died out," Patel said, adding that she has faith in

Baldinelli's leadership. "I think he's a strong leader. Whatever he does I can trust that he'll do what's best for us."

Lucas Heaslip, 15-year-old Conservative supporter not only took an interest in politics himself, he encouraged his family to take more of an active role in this year's campaign.

"This election matters to me because we've had four years of scandals and incompetence and I just can't stand to see all of the controversy that's been online," Heaslip said.

He said he had been at the campaign office since 10 a.m. and he intended to stay until the results were in. The overall vibe for the afternoon was "hopeful and positive," he said.

Across the Falls, the other candidates celebrated their campaigns with their teams. At the Old Stone Inn Boutique Hotel in Niagara Falls, Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser, who came

in second place, thanked her campaign team, volunteers, mentors and family members.

"Looking at the polls, we did so well," Kaiser told the crowd of supporters gathered at Old Stone Inn Boutique Hotel in Niagara Falls. "While we didn't get the result we've wanted, we have re-energized Liberals across the riding."

NDP candidate Brian Barker and his team gathered at D'Vinci's Pizza, and had an attitude of perseverance as the results became clear.

"I think we laid the groundwork to do some really cool stuff," Barker told his team. "I want to thank some people up here for their support — the volunteers who came in and helped out, whether it was one hour or for 200 hours, your support is equally helpful."

He also thanked MPP Wayne Gates for his support during his campaign.



The support of the Baldinelli family is evident as they join together to celebrate the Conservative win Monday. BRITTANY CARTER

# Runner-up Kaiser says she'll continue to try to flip riding red

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Although Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser finished second to Conservative candidate Tony Baldinelli, she says she will continue chasing her goal of "flipping this riding red."

With 238 out of 240 polls in the Niagara Falls riding reported, Kaiser received 22,079 votes or 32.4 per cent of the vote, according to Elections Canada. The riding has been Tory since 2004.

Liberal supporters, volunteers and Kaiser's family members gathered for a party at the Old Stone Inn Boutique Hotel in Niagara Falls Monday night.

As the polls closed at

9:30 p.m., Liberal supporters watched live results on two TVs at the hotel's bar. Whenever Kaiser's name appeared on the screen showing she was initially leading the race, people cheered loudly.

Fort Erie Coun. Don Lubberts said he's been a Liberal for more than 20 years and said it was time for the riding to turn Liberal.

Niagara Falls resident Aaron Wagner said he was undecided about who he would support right up until the election day.

"Andrea knocked on thousands of doors. That's not just her, (that's) including her team. Anyone who can do that much legwork, that's something to look at," Wagner said. "How much

Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser. DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

do you want the job? If you want anything that bad, would you be willing to knock down thousands of doors to get the job?"

By 11 p.m., when preliminary results showed Baldinelli started leading by hundreds of votes, the atmosphere at the bar grew quieter as all attention was turned to the screens.

Some people still kept their hopes high realizing that a lot of polls still had to report results.

For Jamie Slingerland, director of viticulture at Pillitteri Estates Winery, in politics, no one is "necessarily defeated."

"Politics is a big learning

curve," Slingerland said. "Whether you win or lose, tomorrow is another day. And I think with Andrea's determination and her spirit that she's shown, she has cabinet potential."

Kaiser was greeted with loud cheers and applause and her supporters started chanting her name after she arrived at the party close to midnight. She offered a wide smile while hugging Niagara Falls Liberal Association Riding chair Janet Kilty.

She hugged her family before starting her concession speech by saying she feels like she "let everyone down."

The crowd interrupted her and loudly protested, then started clapping and chanting "Andrea" again.

Kaiser thanked her campaign team, volunteers, mentors and family members, saying she was "truly proud" of what they managed to accomplish since her nomination in August.

"Looking at the polls, we did so well," Kaiser told the crowd. "While we didn't get the result we wanted, we have re-energized Liberals across the riding ... Although we didn't win this riding tonight, I'm thrilled Canada has re-elected a Liberal government for four more years."

Kaiser said she's committed to continuing working hard to get ready for the next campaign and to chase the goal of turning the riding Liberal.

"Until then, I want to congratulate Tony Baldinelli on his victory tonight and I wish him well as he transitions into his new role as MP," Kaiser said. "I also want to thank all the other candidates for a hard-fought campaign."

Kaiser's daughter, Madi-

son Lepp, whom Kaiser often credited for motivation to fight climate change, said she was inspired by her mother.

"Even though it was a loss tonight, it was a great start and just seeing all us Liberals getting together and starting our campaign in the riding that's not usually red, it's been a truly amazing experience," Lepp told The Lake Report.

Volunteer Heidi Schneiderman said Kaiser is the right person to be in Parliament thanks to her more than a decade of experience in municipal politics.

"I would have hoped Canada would have learned from November 2016 (U.S. elections) and Ontario would have learned from Doug Ford," she said.

Campaign volunteer Linda Beyer said Kaiser "worked so hard. She deserved to win."

"Just sad it didn't work out better for Andrea. She's new on the federal stage so she's got a lot of potential to win if she'd like to run again," Beyer said, adding she's happy "the Liberals are still going to be ruling."



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# Barker campaign celebrates progress and perseverance

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The mood was all about perseverance, as NDP candidate Brian Barker and close supporters gathered to watch the election results come in Monday night.

As the results became more clear, Barker addressed his campaign team and family to thank them for their support, and say how proud he is of the work they did in a short time.

The first-time candidate took 12,264 votes in the Niagara Falls riding, the third-highest of all candidates, with 238 of 240 polls reporting.

"If you're going to do this, you have to go all in, and I did go all in. I gave it everything I have," said Barker. "We laid the groundwork to do some really cool stuff."

The team celebrated with pizza, wings and some cold drinks at D'Vinci's Pizza in Niagara Falls.

New Democrat

MPP Wayne Gates (Niagara Falls) was on hand and said he was proud of what Barker accomplished for the party in his first time running.

"Don't forget, I ran seven times, and lost seven times," he said of his own history before being elected as MPP. "It's about perseverance."

Campaign manager Quinton Ascah arrived at the event just before Barker, after some last-minute campaigning.

He said the day was busy, with the group out trying to spread their message to as many people as possible before the polls closed.

"As soon as the polls opened we went out and knocked on doors," Barker said.

"We've had a lot of momentum over the last three weeks, and I think it's a testament to how Jagmeet Singh has conducted himself on the national stage. He's someone who leads,



NDP candidate Brian Barker arrives in a jacket with the party's signature colour. RICHARD HARLEY

he's smart, compassionate, I think he's really down to earth and understands people."

Gates' assistant Ryan Donnelly said it's always tough to predict the Niagara Falls riding, with each municipality — Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, and Fort Erie — being so different from one another, and even more diversity within the towns and cities.

All in attendance were in high spirits. As the results became clear that Tony Baldinelli won for the Conservatives, Barker left briefly to congratulate his opponent.

Barker said he "thinks he'll run again."

In the meantime, he's looking forward to spending more time with his kids, now that the business of the campaign is over.

# Garbage pickup to switch to every other week

Continued from Front Page

Disero said she's always been in favour of biweekly collection and acknowledged it will take some time for residents to adjust to the change.

There will be a few growing pains, she said.

"Every time a truck goes by your house, it costs money, it pollutes. There are a bunch of reasons, not just financial. Although, we'll see over the course of many years, that the savings will become more and more significant."

"Her only concern with the new collection is the disposal of diapers, she said, adding she hopes the regional staff "will be able to come up with something to deal with diapers."

Niagara Region only accepts diapers in garbage containers while in Toronto residents can put diapers in their green bin.

When planning its green bin program in 2002, the City of Toronto considered the "yuck factor" associated with organics, said Nadine Kerr, the city's manager of resource recovery and solid waste management services.

Toronto uses two organics processing facilities, Disco Road and Dufferin.

"The technology used at the Disco Organics Processing Facility shreds the diapers, separating non-organic from organic materials," Kerr said in an email response to The Lake Report. "It is the non-organic fraction of the diapers that are skimmed off and sent to landfill."

Getting new technology is expensive and the region doesn't produce enough waste to support it, Habermehl told regional councillors.

"To go and set up new technology in Niagara would be costly and I don't

believe we have the tonnage, just within Niagara, to support technology or the new system. And depending on technology, we may need to import waste into Niagara" to make it economically feasible, she said.

Zalepa said Toronto has the capacity to accept and process diapers through its green bin program but the capital investment is "a stumbling block."

"It might be a step. From a local point of view, if there's an ability to take a look at integrating something like that, I think it's something we should look at," Zalepa said in a phone interview.

Two contractors will be hired for two collection areas across the region. The first one will include Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet and West Lincoln.

The second collection area will include Fort Erie,

Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Welland.

Contract costs could rise due to wages and more households as well as fuel, vehicle and technology costs, acting manager of waste collection and diversion Sherri Tait told the region's special council meeting Thursday.

Financial issues were discussed in-camera as the region is in the process of negotiating a new waste management contract, according to a staff report.

The report noted some of the benefits of a biweekly collection include extended landfill capacity, cost reduction and increased waste diversion.

Regional councillors Pat Chiochchio, Bob Gale, Brian Heit, Tom Insinna, Peter Nicholson, Tim Whalen, Jim Diodati and Leanna Villella voted against the bi-weekly collection proposal.

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A cat walks the grounds during the Fall Fest at Red Roof Retreat on Saturday.

DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

**Editor-In-Chief:** Richard Harley  
**Managing Editor:** Kevin MacLean  
**Publisher:** Niagara Now  
**Design & Layout:** Richard Harley  
**Advertising:** Rob Lamond  
**Staff:** Brittany Carter, Dariya Baiguzhiyeva, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Eunice Tang  
**Contributors:** Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Ross Robinson, NOTL Writers' Circle, Brian Marshall, Tim Carroll, Jim Smith, Susan Des Islets, Jaclyn Wilms, Collin Gooddine, and many more members of the local community

### Green Tip of the Week

#### Contributed by Norm Arsenault:

Reduce your home energy consumption by following these simple tips. Turn off unused lights or add dimmers. Turn down your hot water heater from standard 140 degrees to a more reasonable 120 degrees. Take shorter showers. Use cold water for washes. Most new soaps work better with cold water and your clothes will come out just as clean.

#### Positive Power + with Patty Garriock



"The world, I believe, is far too serious, and being far too serious, it has need of a wise and merry philosophy." - Writer Lin Yutang.

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## Editorial

### Voter turnout **needs a boost**

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

Congratulations to all seven people who opted to run as candidates in the riding of Niagara Falls.

Choosing to put yourself out there for all to see – and, ultimately, for the voters to judge – requires courage, not to mention the toll it takes on the individual and their families.

So kudos to Tony Baldinelli, our riding's new Conservative member of Parliament, Brian Barker (NDP), Andrea Kaiser (Liberal), Sandra O'Connor (Green), Tricia O'Connor (Christian Heritage), Mike Strange (independent) and Alexander Taylor (People's Party).

The Greens doubled both their vote and their share of the popular vote (almost 5 per cent). And Strange, a popular Niagara Falls councillor, might have been the difference-maker in this riding, scooping almost 5,000 votes and 7.2 per cent of the total. Who knows where those votes might have gone otherwise?

Looking ahead, for those not from Niagara Falls or not directly involved with the Conservative party, which our new MP has been active with for many years, Baldinelli might be a bit of an unknown quantity. He's young and energetic and we look forward to what he will do for our riding.

We trust that in his capacity as the new MP for Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls, he will make every effort to get to know the people in all three municipalities. Maybe we even will see a part-time satellite constituency office established in NOTL.

Congratulations, also, to the 60 per cent of electors who took the time to cast ballots and have their say in the ultimate democratic process.

As for the other 40 per cent who did not vote, we really have to wonder, why not? This was one of the most contentious and polarizing federal elections in recent memory and it was disappointing to see that voter turnout in our riding actually dropped.

In 2015, 63 per cent of electors went

to the polls. This year, with almost 10,000 more eligible voters, only 60 per cent of people cast ballots.

Perhaps electoral reform is in order. Not some kind of the complex, hard to fathom, weighted ballot system of proportional representation, but mandatory voting by all those eligible. As is done in Belgium and Australia, for example. There, it's the law.

Mandatory voting is not a new concept. Those two countries have forced people to vote for decades.

The penalties for not showing up at the polls are not onerous, but the idea that you are expected to participate in the democratic process is embraced by the people of those two nations. In Australia, of course, an election is an excuse for a big party.

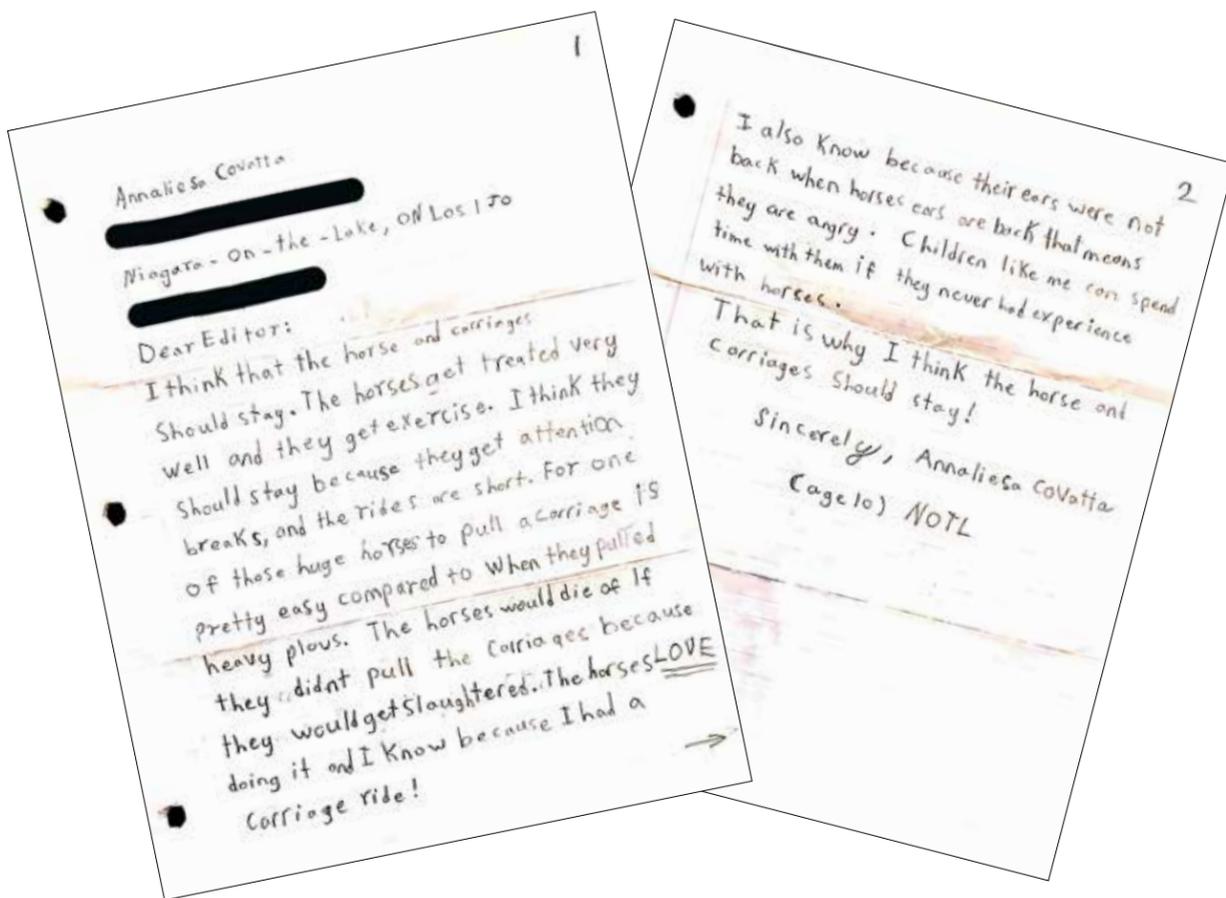
Imagine what our own democracy would look like if we had more than 90 per cent of voters turn out, as happens in Australia. That's the type of participatory democracy we could vote for.

[editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Carriages should **stay**





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# NEWS

## Strange 'deflated' but proud

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Mike Strange says he's "a little deflated" after Monday's election.

The independent candidate and current Niagara Falls councillor was out pounding the pavement to spread his message as people came to the polls to vote.

He said it's a bit tougher running as an independent. Nonetheless, Strange's campaign pulled in almost 5,000 votes.

"We knew it was going to be tough running as an independent. We don't have the budget of some of the big parties and stuff like that. It's trying to make people understand that you're trying to bring interest to your riding, not your party," Strange said.

"Unfortunately, we lost but we put in a good fight. Congratulations to Tony (Baldinelli) and to Justin Trudeau."

Strange said regardless of the results, he's proud of

how he did.

"It was good. We were crushing with signs, I had a great team and we stuck together. We're very very proud of just going out in our yellow, gold and black shirts on."

The campaign colours are the same as Strange's charity KO for Kids, which hosts boxing matches to raise money for children with cancer.

"We really pounded on doors and listened to the local issues. That's the difference, you know, the parties already have their policies and platforms made up, whereas we were going I was learning the issues."

Strange, a former Canadian Olympic boxer, said it was interesting to see "Americanized" party politics playing such a big part in the election.

"It was such a flip of a coin who was going to win ultimately (federally). We knew it was going to be a minority government and it's just trying to make people understand, being an



Independent Mike Strange placed fourth in the running for Niagara Falls riding MP. BRITTANY CARTER

independent you can hold that balance of power.

Being a Falls city councillor, if Strange won federally, his seat on city council would have gone to the person with the next highest votes in the last municipal election, Joyce Morocco.

Strange said he has "no

idea" if he'll run federally again in the future.

"We don't know when the next election will be — it could be two years, it could be four years. I'm just going to concentrate on Niagara Falls and getting things done for our city and our council."

## Greens to keep fighting for climate

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Sandra O'Connor says she will continue fighting against the climate crisis even though the Green party didn't win a seat for the Niagara Falls riding in the federal election.

She's proud of three seats the Green party garnered across Canada, though, and said the result only strengthens the Greens' voice in Parliament.

"I'm thrilled. I think that the more we have the more we can do in Parliament. We're a collaborative party so we want to work with the government, with Parliament moving forward with their agenda," O'Connor said in the aftermath of her fifth-place finish, earning almost 5 per cent of the vote.

She held a small election party at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where about 15 volunteers eagerly

watched the results roll in, she said.

And though the numbers were lower than other parties, like Tony Baldinelli of the Conservatives who won the seat for Niagara Falls with about 35 per cent of the vote, O'Connor said the room was positive and the volunteers were in good spirits all night.

"It's really quite interesting because when we started to see the numbers, if we saw one or two or three, we'd all be ecstatic about it — as opposed to the big numbers of the other parties," she said.

"We were very glad to see what we accomplished. We had hoped there would be more, yes, but we were happy going forward having more than before," O'Connor added.

And although she said she was disappointed in the loss, she isn't going to quit fighting for the causes that



Green Party candidate Sandra O'Connor. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

matter to her and many of the people of this riding.

"I think that the people who did vote Green are dedicated people ... I think there is a distinct following that's not going to erode, that's only going to grow."

O'Connor said she's always been involved in

the community and that's not something she plans to change.

"I will be working toward making sure that the politicians on every level, whether municipal, regional, provincial or federal, take into consideration how things impact our climate."

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## MORE LETTERS

### Election process at polling station was an impressive, **organized effort**

Dear editor:

I had the privilege (yes, privilege) to be involved with this year's federal election.

My curiosity motivated my intentions regarding the electoral process in this country and how it functioned.

We are all too often critical of government services (many times justified), but the experience on Monday was both impressive and gratifying.

Consider the enormous task of pulling off a federal election voting process.

From advance polling to Oct. 21, more than 20,000 staff and volunteers working on behalf of Elections Canada, 18 million votes counted and finalized in one day, even for the best public companies, a logistical giant!

My one-day, 15-hour experience was rewarding in so many ways.

The staff assigned to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre polling station were well-prepared for the day and the leadership team (supervisors) were both well-informed and supportive.

Elections Canada materials were effective and efficient, and provided a road map to ensure a successful and "easy" process for voters.

I was so impressed with the overwhelming enthusiasm of the voters and their appreciation for the efforts to make their experience a very positive one. The reactions were without exception excellent.

Many voters made a point of telling staff how easy and enjoyable the process was. I have no doubt there might have been some issues across the country, but in our town, Election 2019 was a big success, regardless who you voted for.

Congratulations NOTL!

*Glenn Young  
NOTL*



### There must be a better solution than gunshots to **disperse** birds

Dear editor:

I have to think that in 2019 there's a more appropriate way of disbursing birds than an air cannon that goes off hundreds of times a day, ("Residents and growers at an impasse on bird banger noise," Oct 17).

Nets, streamers, lights are all options that a considerate individual would look at.

Besides residents like myself on York Road, there are scores of surrounding homes that can hear the noise.

Being woken up to gunshots 30 minutes before sunrise may give you an early start to the day, but as the area increases its tax base with new residents an air cannon isn't a long-term solution.

*Dave Green  
NOTL*

### Justin Trudeau has not accomplished his **promises**

Dear editor:

By the time you receive this response to the ludicrous letter to the editor from Elizabeth Oliver-Malone ("Attacks on Trudeau are more Conservative misinformation," Oct. 17) the election will be over, but nonetheless a response is required.

Opposing opinions should always be welcomed, but this letter writer displays a blind bias and denial of fact.

I have no idea why Pierre Trudeau's alleged accomplishments or Justin Trudeau's mother's academic accomplishments have anything to do with whether Justin Trudeau has been a successful prime minister deserving of re-election.

To state that Justin Trudeau has accomplished "most of his promises" is hardly a ringing endorsement of his tenure in office.

What prompted me to write this, however, was the writer's statement that the CBC is "non-partisan."

It is, of course, the Liberals who shovel more than \$1 billion annually to support the "non-partisan CBC" and, by the way, all Canadians of every political stripe wish for peace and prosperity, not just Justin Trudeau and the Liberals.

*Allan Papernick  
NOTL*

### Ear-piercing **explosions** don't make for a pleasant Niagara-on-the-Lake

Dear editor:

I have been staying on York Road toward Queenston in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the last two weeks and have had a most unpleasant experience which more people should know about.

On a daily basis, I was subjected to clusters of five or more ear-piercing explosions one after the other. And these clusters were repeated frequently, often after only minutes.

This went on from before dawn and continued all day.

Aside from the explosions, these sounds reverberated off the wall of the escarpment and prolonged the effects of the blasts. You can almost feel the physical impact.

I have subsequently learned that they are from propane-fueled cannons. Cannons they are indeed and appropriately named to describe the effect they produce.

They are used by farmers to scare birds away. You can imagine what the combined effect is when there are several fields in your vicinity all using the same deterrent.

I cannot tell you how incredibly alarming, deafening and intrusive these sudden, recurring detonations are. At times, even speech was interrupted.

What an absolute blight this practice is on this beautiful and otherwise peaceful landscape of residential homes and farms.

I don't believe even an industrial/commercial zoned area would tolerate this level of persistent and unsafe noise. I can compare it to a shooting range, the only difference being that ear protectors would most certainly be worn.

This wonderful area, which is a natural resource in itself, is diminished considerably by the excessive noise, which makes day-to-day life challenging.

The vineyards and wineries add to the charm of this region, but I feel those growers who use these extremely hostile and antisocial deterrents to scare birds, when successful alternatives are surely available, are callous and selfish.

Surely they are aware of the difficulties they cause in the vicinity. What's the pleasure in your business when you know your activities cause great distress on a continual basis. Where's the pride in that?

I feel the growers have robbed me of my right to enjoy at least a benign environment and inflicted misery and distress on me by the incessant unnecessary blasts.

To anyone thinking of visiting this area, I would strongly recommend against it. It's like living in a war zone.

How very sad and unfortunate, to spoil so unnecessarily a previously wonderful place to live.

*Diana Westwood  
England*

## Have an **opinion** you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to  
[editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)



## We welcome your letters

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

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

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

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

Send your letters to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

*The Lake Report*



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# Victorian winter comes to NOTL

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

'Tis the season, almost – and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is gearing up for the festive time with a number of planned winter activities and celebrations.

This year NOTL will have an authentic Victorian Christmas village theme, and residents and businesses are encouraged to participate..

A committee comprised of residents and representatives from the town, NOTL Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL has been meeting since the spring to come up with ideas on how to “celebrate the season,” the town and the chamber said in a statement.

Residents are encouraged to use natural boughs or green garlands, burgundy ribbons and soft white lights when decorating their homes to tie in with the season’s theme. Businesses are invited to place garlands, ribbons and battery-operated candles at the front store windows.

Wineries are also asked to install garlands and ribbons on their front signage

to “help connect our rural areas to our settlement areas,” according to the media release.

There will also be a contest from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15 for the best-dressed homes run by the town’s Communities in Bloom committee. Nominations can be submitted through the Join The Conversation page after Nov. 15.

In previous years, festive decor was spearheaded by the chamber but the organization wanted to “have a broader participation” this year, said president Eduardo Lafforgue.

“The most important thing for this year’s decoration is we’re putting a lot of emphasis on the human scale. Instead of putting the lights on top of the buildings, which is very nice when you look from abroad, but it’s very important when people walk the street, they can see the light,” Lafforgue told The Lake Report.

Decoration Day will be Nov. 15. In preparation for the season, the town will put up snowflakes and traditional decorations.

Simcoe Park and the gazebo at Queen’s Royal Park will also be decorated.



This year NOTL will have an authentic Victorian Christmas village theme. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

The Christmas Tree will be put up near the cenotaph on Queen Street. The official lighting of the tree will be on Sunday, Nov. 24.

The festive season in NOTL will also kick off with the classic plays “A Christmas Carol” and “Holiday Inn” presented by the Shaw Festival, starting Nov. 13.

The chamber’s fine dining event, Fabulicious, will return to participating NOTL restaurants on Nov. 18 and will run until Nov. 24.

The Candlelight Stroll will take place on Dec. 6, and the Rotary Holiday House Tour is Dec. 6 and 7.

Santa Claus returns to town when the much-an-

icipated NOTL Christmas Parade hits the streets at 11 a.m. on Dec. 14.

Parks Canada and the Friends of Fort George will hold the annual Fort George Garrison Christmas on Dec. 14-15. Buildings inside the fort will be decorated with traditional greenery and there will be hot beverages and historic treats offered in the Officers’ Kitchen.

Ice skating will also be available at Fort George during the winter.

The Ice Wine Festival will run on Jan. 17-19, and on Jan. 24-26. The Days of Wine and Chocolate will also return to NOTL wineries on weekends in February.

# Legion announces Nov. 11 plans

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Royal Canadian Legion is once again distributing red poppies for Remembrance Day.

Volunteers will be out for the poppy campaign from Friday, Oct. 25 to Monday, Nov. 11.

“Our poppy flag will once again fly over the town municipal offices to signal its time to wear a poppy,” said former Legion president Al Howse, in a press release.

“We will begin our annual campaign of distributing poppies to allow everyone to show their respect and remembrance of our fallen comrades. We thank all those who serve to protect our rights and freedoms from those who would want to impose their will on us.”

Poppies will be available at the Legion, or from one of the many businesses who have agreed to help, House said.

All donations go towards supporting veterans and promote remembrance.

As well, the Legion Branch 124 in NOTL will host its Veteran’s Dinner on Saturday Nov. 2 at 6 p.m.

All veterans are invited to attend the dinner, free of charge. A free dinner will also be offered to a caregiver for those who need help. There is no need to be a legion member.

Dinner will be held in the Edward Boldt hall (upstairs at the branch).

Anyone else wishing to attend can purchase a ticket for \$25 ticket by October 31.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in Niagara-



A ceremony will be held at the clock tower cenotaph in Old Town for Remembrance Day. FILE PHOTO

on-the-Lake has announced the dates and times for local Remembrance Day services.

On Friday Nov. 8, Legion members will hold remembrance services at each of the town’s three seniors homes for those unable to attend the November 11 service.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to check with the individual homes for ceremony times.

On November 11, services will be held at 10:45 a.m. at the clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street, with a parade.

For the Queenston service, the parade will begin at 1 p.m., starting at Riverbank Art Museum to the township cenotaph across the street on the Niagara Parkway. The service will begin immediately after arrival at the cenotaph.

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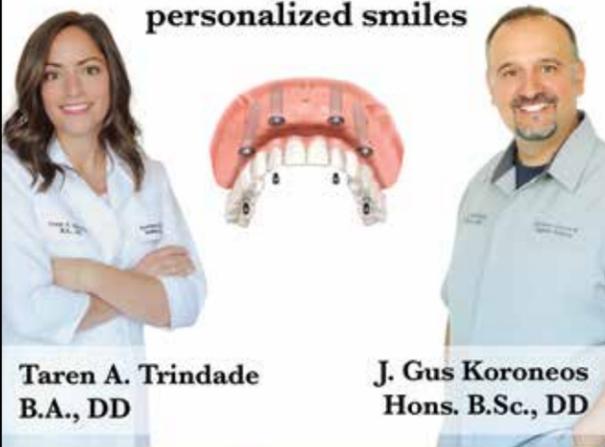
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## The Lake Report FACTS

SOURCE: TLR Readership Survey; October 2019

**The Lake Report recently conducted a readership survey, and sent information on how to participate to every farm, residence and apartment in Niagara-on-the-Lake.**

**82% of readers surveyed chose The Lake Report as their preferred choice for local news and information.**



Grade 8 students Hazel Norris and Molly Shara held a climate strike outside NOTL town hall Friday morning. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

## Two St. Michael students ask NOTL to declare climate emergency

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

As Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg was rallying in Edmonton Friday, two Niagara-on-the-Lake students held their own strike outside the town hall asking the municipality to declare a climate emergency.

The strike was part of the Fridays for Future global climate change movement in which children and youth hold strikes to draw attention to the climate crisis.

Equipped with two cups of tea to stay warm on a chilly Friday morning, the two Grade 8 St. Michael Catholic Elementary School students, Hazel Norris and Molly Shara, sat outside the town hall with two handmade signs, which read "Climate justice" and "Climate emergency."

"It's not only our generation that has made this Earth polluted but we're the ones who have to deal with it," Shara said. "If we all work together, we can."

Both of them also attended and spoke at the St. Catharines' climate strike in September.

In October, Toronto council voted in favour of declaring a climate emergency. The students said they want NOTL to follow Toronto's lead and do the same.

Declaring emergency would make people more aware and believe in climate change if the "government says so," Norris said, adding she hopes the town bans single-use plastics in the near future.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Coun. Norm Arsenault stopped by to offer support, although Disero said she's not "prepared" to

declare climate emergency at this point.

"It's a topic that's coming up around the world and many municipalities. I just want to find out more on what basis and how they're doing it before I make a commitment," Disero told The Lake Report.

Asked what they would say to people who claim such strikes don't matter and climate change isn't real, the students said there's science backing up what environmental activists are saying.

"It's just what science's been proving for a long time and we just have to pay attention to it because it's our future," Shara said.

"Look around. There are crazy storms, water's rising. It's pretty obvious something's wrong," Norris added.

The girls said they've always been environmentally conscious and credited their parents for teaching and raising them to be eco-friendly. They also thanked St. Michael school for participating in environmental initiatives.

"We have eco-team, we have causes we do at our school. We're glad our school can support us and can support climate change behind it," Shara told The Lake Report.

For people wanting to change their way of living, the students recommended starting with small actions, such as reducing the use of plastic, using reusable mugs and cutting down on production.

"It scares me because some people don't pay attention to science because in the future if it gets worse, are you still going to ignore science and things that have been proven?" Shara said.

## Rotary fashion show raises \$6,500 to fight polio

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The Fall Fashion Show, organized by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, raised \$6,500 Sunday to help eradicate polio worldwide.

The show was held at the Gate House with all the proceeds going to support the Rotary International campaign "End Polio Now."

Thanks to the Rotary International and its partners, the cases of polio around the world have been reduced by 99.9 per cent, said Pamela Wilson, a polio survivor and NOTL Rotary member.

There were 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries in 1988.

In 2018, the number fell to just 33 polio cases. Only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, continue to report cases of the wild poliovirus.

"Enjoy your afternoon

with the knowledge that your donations today will help save and protect children, and remember your donation is tripled," Wilson told the crowd of 114 guests.

All money raised will be matched by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation, so a total of \$19,500 will be donated to charity.

The fashion show featured a number of raffled prizes donated by local businesses and a three-course meal by chef Stephen Treadwell.

Guests were also entertained by a young virtuoso, 14-year-old violinist David Duan.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was master of ceremonies.

For Bella Grace Boutique owner, Joy Kassai-Molon, it was her 11th year arranging the event.

"A lot of us are volunteering but we are all here for a good cause," Kassai-Molon said, noting she purposely dressed models from



Bella Grace Boutique manager Dakota Stevenson and owner Joy Kassai-Molon. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

sizes two to 16-18 to show that beautiful women "come in every shape and size."

"I want people to know that no matter what size, what age, you can come in and get a beautiful outfit."

There were five models showcasing six different sets of outfits and each set had a specific theme, Kassai-Molon said.

BeauChapeau Hat Shop provided hats for the show, and all clothes and shoes were made by Canadian or international designers.

Models walked around the tables, allowing guests to have a closer look at the outfits or touch the material.

The first set of outfits revolved around the colour red. The second set was yellow and the third was about a leopard theme. The fourth set had a classic black and white theme. For the fifth set, models showcased outerwear and the show concluded with evening wear.

The audience also got a special sneak preview of two outfits from Canadian designer Joseph Ribkoff's 2020 spring collection.

"It was a lovely event, worth a lot more than we paid for," said show attendee Deborah Hugh, adding the clothes were "beautiful."

## Horse protesters take to town hall

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

NOTL's horse carriage protesters say they have a new "political" strategy to reach out to area residents – attending council meetings across Niagara region.

Fewer than a dozen At War For Animals Niagara protesters gathered outside Niagara-on-the-Lake's town hall Monday night.

Adam Stirr said the group's plan is eventually to approach other councils that might have a say in banning horse carriages and switching to electric carriages instead.

"With a pending amalgamation, we don't know what the political landscape is going to look like. So, we're going to be talking to everyone," Stirr told The Lake Report. "As far as we know, the council as it exists here might not exist in a year from now."

"We want to make sure we cover all our bases this way and we're going to be approaching councils with a presentation, weighing the pros and cons of making the transition to electric carriages," Stirr said.

Protesters held signs and gave out small brochures, which urged banning horse carriages in NOTL, mentioned Montreal's prohibition of horse carriages starting in 2020, and listed benefits of using electric carriages.

One woman, who was heading to the council meeting, declined to take a brochure but expressed her support to protesters.

Stirr said transitioning to electric carriages would benefit not only the carriage owners but also the town, tourists and the public.

"Going forward, it's not always going to be the same," Stirr said about



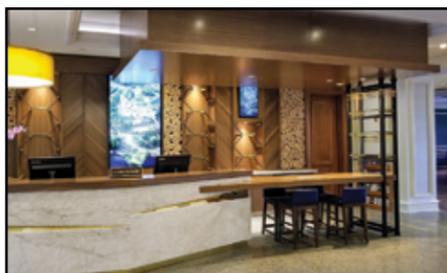
At War For Animals Niagara protester Adam Stirr stands outside town hall Monday night. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

their demonstrations. "Different things for different meetings. Just to engage with people as they come, capture their interest."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said there is no public safety issue in regard to protests being held outside

the town hall.

"They feel they have things they want to teach people," Disero said in an interview. "I'd rather have them here than out in the middle of traffic. So, I think it's probably a safer place for them."



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# Rotary youth conference kicks off

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

For high school student Victoria Sawicki, a Rotary Youth Exchange program that allowed her to study in France for a year was “life-changing.”

“I’m definitely not the same person I was when I left. I’ve changed a lot,” she said.

“Before, I could never public speak. And now, you learn that you can do public speaking in a foreign language and you can do pretty much anything, anywhere.”

The first annual District 7090 Rotary Youth Conference, held at the NOTL Community Centre Saturday, brought more than 150 young people together.

The conference was organized by Rotary District 7090, which is comprised of about 80 Rotary and Rotaract clubs, stretching from southern Ontario to western New York state.

Niagara-on-the-Lake was

chosen to host the conference because of its central location in the district.

The conference featured presentations about various youth programs, with keynote speaker Jeff Bagel talking about fundraising and special event planning.

For Shark Tank presentations, four teams pitched ideas on how Rotary’s global grant scholarships would be used for their projects.

“The friendships you form through Rotary and through volunteering, you just meet so many nice people,” Sheila Nguetti said about what she liked most about being a part of Rotary.

“Knowing that I’m making a difference in my community is really nice,” another student Adelina Metz added.

Among a wide variety of youth programs, the Rotary Youth Exchange program provides students aged 15-

19 with a unique opportunity to live in a foreign country for a full academic year.

Exchange students are hosted by three or four local families throughout the year while attending local high schools. All costs are covered except airfare, health insurance, visa application and out-of-pocket expenses.

Anna Lechner, a 16-year-old student from Croatia, was one of the 18 inbound exchange students attending the conference. She said the exchange program was amazing and the conference was “a lot of fun.”

“(I liked) meeting a lot of people who have the same interest as me and spending time with my friends I haven’t seen in a month,” Lechner said.

Another exchange student from the Netherlands, Nikita Lammers, who came to Canada in August, said she’s getting used to living here.



Governor Simcoe Secondary School student Victoria Sawicki studied in France last year as part of the rotary youth exchange program. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

“It’s a different vibe to it. It feels like home but you’re not. It’s really weird but I actually enjoy it,” she said about her experience living in Waterdown, adding she also loves “Timmies.”

“We only have Starbucks and it’s also very expensive. And Timmies is such a good option and I love it,” Lammers said.

Thanks to the program, another inbound exchange student from Sweden, Frida Nielsen, was able to participate at the Rotary Fall Fashion Show last Sunday.

Exchange programs al-

low young people to be out of their comfort zone and provide them with unique opportunities like the one Nielsen had, said Patricia Murenbeeld, youth committee chair of the Rotary Club of NOTL.

Rotary clubs are also always looking for families willing to host exchange students.

“Being a year away, in another part of the world, and learning another culture, and getting pushed out of your comfort zone and coming back at the end of it and realizing you’ve

survived – you have this strength you can conquer anything in life and it’s just spectacular,” Murenbeeld said.

Jill Norton, chair of Youth Exchange for District 7090, said the conference was “tremendous” and she’s pleased with the feedback.

“Everyone seems to be really overwhelmed with all the great information they’re getting and they seem to be really excited to go back to their clubs and share so it’s been great,” Norton told The Lake Report.

## Choral Mystics

Friday, October 25th at 7:30pm

■ Basilica of Our Lady in Guelph

&

Sunday, October 27th at 4:00pm

■ The Concert Hall at The Carlu in Toronto

&

Monday, October 28th at 7:30pm

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Sunday, April 5th

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>24</b> <b>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Adam Shoalts in Celebration of Library Week</b> - 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Parents and Tots Play Group</b> - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church	<b>25</b> <b>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George</b> - 7 p.m. - Fort George <b>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Knit a Bit</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Inclusivity Committee Meeting</b> - 10 a.m. - Council Chambers <b>Author Reading: Stephen Bushnik</b> - 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Fall Yoga Series</b> - 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Coach House Studio	<b>26</b> <b>Library Mouse Story Time</b> - 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George</b> - 7 p.m. - Fort George <b>Red Roof Retreat Fall Fest</b> - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Red Roof Retreat Ranch <b>Dye Day at Laura Secord Homestead</b> - 10 a.m. - Laura Secord Homestead <b>Harvest Party</b> - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Moving Sale</b> - 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. - 166 Queen St.
<b>30</b> <b>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Tumble Tots</b> - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>St. Davids Firehall Halloween Party</b> - 7 p.m. - St. Davids Firehall <b>Queenston Firefighter's Association Halloween Party</b> - 7 p.m. - Queenston Firehall <b>Happy Halloween! Look for our SPECIAL HALLOWEEN ISSUE OF THE LAKE REPORT!</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Yoga with Jenny</b> - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>St. Davids Fish Fry</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall <b>Knit a Bit</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Fall Yoga Series</b> - 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Coach House Studio	<b>1</b> <b>Saturday DJ Nights at Wayne Gretzky Estates</b> - 6:30 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery	<b>2</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Tumble Tots</b> - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Therapy Tails with Jasper</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Under African Skies Film Screening</b> - 7:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Parents and Tots Play Group</b> - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - GateWay Community Church	<b>7</b> <b>Fall Yoga Series</b> - 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Coach House Studio <b>Yoga with Jenny</b> - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Knit a Bit</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>8</b> <b>Saturday DJ Nights at Wayne Gretzky Estates</b> - 6:30 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery <b>Borscht Lunch &amp; Bazaar</b> - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Bethany Mennonite Church <b>Yard Sale: Antiques, old tools, collectibles</b> - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Yard Sale at 174 Hunter Road <b>Bravo Niagara! Presents Artists as Activists</b> - 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum	<b>9</b>

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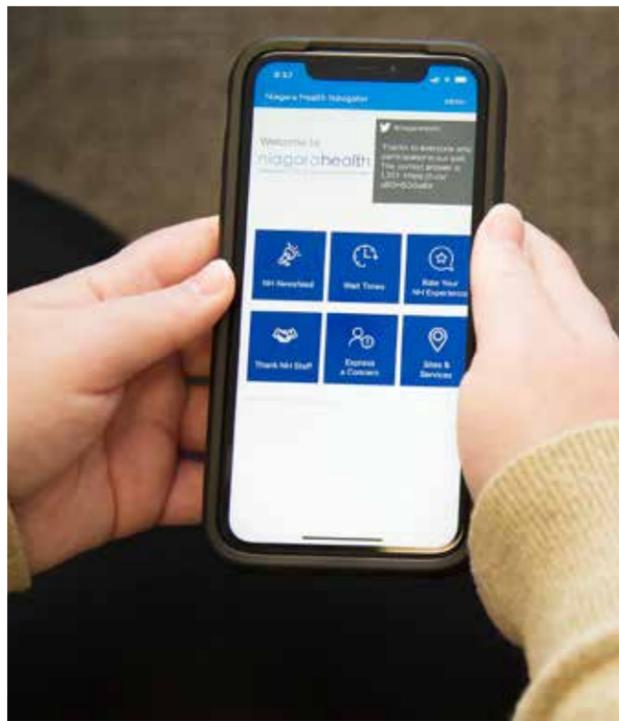
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Niagara Health Navigator can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. SUPPLIED PHOTO

## Niagara Health's mobile app could be 'game-changer,' hospital says

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Niagara Health has released an innovative app to help connect patients to their care providers and provide access to health information.

The Niagara Health Navigator can be downloaded free from the App Store or Google Play.

The app displays wait times in emergency departments and urgent care centres. Users can rate their experience, express a concern or thank the Niagara Health staff. The app also shows sites and services, and Niagara Health's news and Twitter feeds.

In the future, the app developed in partnership with Identos Inc. and nCipher, could do a lot more.

"Niagara Health Navigator provides us with a unique opportunity to support patients and families to more easily access their health information, navigate the health care system and connect with their team of providers," Sime Pavlovic,

Niagara Health's chief information officer, said in a statement.

"The Navigator will do all of this and more, and it will be easily accessible on mobile devices using a single sign-on, while maintaining the highest security and privacy standards."

Users are asked to provide feedback on the app's content to help prepare for future releases and make the app "user-friendly and effective."

Future features could also include appointment notifications and checking test results, according to the media release.

"Using mobile technology to its fullest potential is a game-changer for health care," Niagara Health's interim president Angela Zangari said in a statement.

"Niagara Health Navigator's impact on our patients' experiences will put Niagara Health at the cutting edge of a connected healthcare system. We appreciate our community's feedback which will help us to improve the patient experience."

## Police seeking machete-wielding man who robbed Avondale store in Virgil

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Police are continuing the investigation of the armed robbery of an Avondale convenience store in Virgil last Wednesday night by a machete-wielding man.

The robbery was a scary situation, but the 19-year-old clerk who dealt with the suspect did an excellent job and "thought on her feet," said the store's manager.

"To me, it's a coward," manager Kathy Brown said about the suspect. "Picking on a little – she's just a little wee thing – and picking on a little girl" who was minding the store.

The young woman, who returned to work two days after the robbery, declined to comment on the incident.

When the suspect entered the store around 9:30 p.m. and first walked past the clerk, Brown said the young woman told her she felt "spooky."

She picked up the phone because she felt something was off but the suspect told her to put the phone down, Brown said.

The man then came up to the counter and pulled out a machete. He told the



The Avondale store in Virgil was the target of an armed robbery Wednesday evening. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

woman he wanted money and then he came around the counter and stood next to her, Brown said.

The man wanted a specific brand of cigarettes, Brown said. After taking a few packs of Belmont cigarettes and a few hundred dollars, he left the store.

The whole incident lasted about four minutes.

After the man left, the clerk locked the door and pushed the panic button. Police arrived at the store within four minutes.

"She's shook up, she's just a tiny little thing," Brown said. "It's just wrong, just wrong."

Brown said she received a call from the alarm company and by the time the clerk had called her,

Brown was already on her way to the store.

"A lot" of police officers responded to the emergency call, Brown said, and they were out looking for the suspect. Two officers stayed with the clerk in the store and they asked the manager to pull out the video footage from the store's security cameras.

Niagara Regional Police described the suspect as a black male, with a medium build, and about 5 foot 5 inches tall. He was wearing a black balaclava, dark grey sweater, black pants and white running shoes.

Based on what the clerk said, the suspect sounded like he was in his 20s, Brown said.

Nothing like this has ever happened since Brown

started working at Avondale three years ago, she said.

In September, two restaurants near Avondale on Niagara Stone Road, Sono's Café and Silks Country Kitchen, were the targets of overnight break-ins.

Brown said she doesn't know if the suspect was a local but said she has noticed a change in people and customers over the past three years.

"The demeanour, there's more aggression ... The town is growing and it's not local. Just unfortunately when you grow, you don't get all good people. The bad people come, too."

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to contact the Niagara police detective office at (905)-688-4111 ext. 9546.

## Kyle Freeborn named director of corporate services

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Kyle Freeborn is the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's new director of corporate services and treasurer.

Freeborn had been working as acting director of corporate services since June 2018.

"Kyle is a wonderful asset to the organization and I look forward to him joining the senior management team in an official capacity," interim chief administrative officer Sheldon Randall said in a statement.

"Kyle has proven to be an effective leader in the finance department and I am confident he will continue to successfully lead the corporate services department."

Freeborn started working for the town as an accountant in January 2012 and was promoted to deputy treasurer 10 months later.

Since 2011, the town has received the annual Canadian Award for Financial

reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of Canada. Freeborn has made big contributions to receiving these awards, the town said in a statement.



Kyle Freeborn has been acting director of corporate services since June 2018. SUPPLIED PHOTO

With an honours degree in Bachelor of Commerce

from the University of Ontario, Freeborn also has a certified management accountant certification.

"I think that's a great opportunity," Freeborn told The Lake Report. "I love working for the town. I'm happy I'm in position."

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# Cooking with Collin

## Local Summer Squash Fritters

Collin Goodine  
Special to The Lake Report

The last few weeks of October are here and so is the last of the local zucchini and summer squash being plucked from most gardens. This marks the end of the softer fruits and vegetables, making room for the tougher fleshed, harder root vegetables that we love to enjoy though the winter months.

The recipe below will allow you to enjoy a warm appetizer before dinner or a snack at the next family gathering.



### Ingredients:

- 3 cups All-purpose flour
- 2 cups Cornmeal
- 1 cup Masa corn flour
- 3 tsp. Baking powder
- 2 tsp. Salt (kosher sea salt)
- 1 tbsp. Chili flakes
- 1 litre Buttermilk
- 2 1/2 cups grated Zucchini or summer squash, local if available (squeezed)
- 1 tbsp. Chopped herbs (thyme, parsley and chives)
- 1 tsp. Garlic puree
- 2 litres Canola oil (for frying)

### Directions:

Add all dry ingredients together in a bowl. Add buttermilk, mix well with a wooden spoon or thick wired whisk. Fold in squash (grated), herbs and garlic. Note: Thin out with water if necessary.

Heat oil to 350F (use candy thermometer). Carefully scoop or spoon teaspoon-size portions of batter into the oil. Fry until middle is cooked and outside is golden (about 3-4 minutes ). Remove and place on paper towels to drain any excess oil.

Serve with your favourite dipping sauce.

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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 encourages 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.**

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Donations can be made online at [www.lakereport.ca](http://www.lakereport.ca), or cheques can be mailed to the NOTL Post Office, L0S1J0, PO Box 724.

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- Richard Harley

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The Lake Report's printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.

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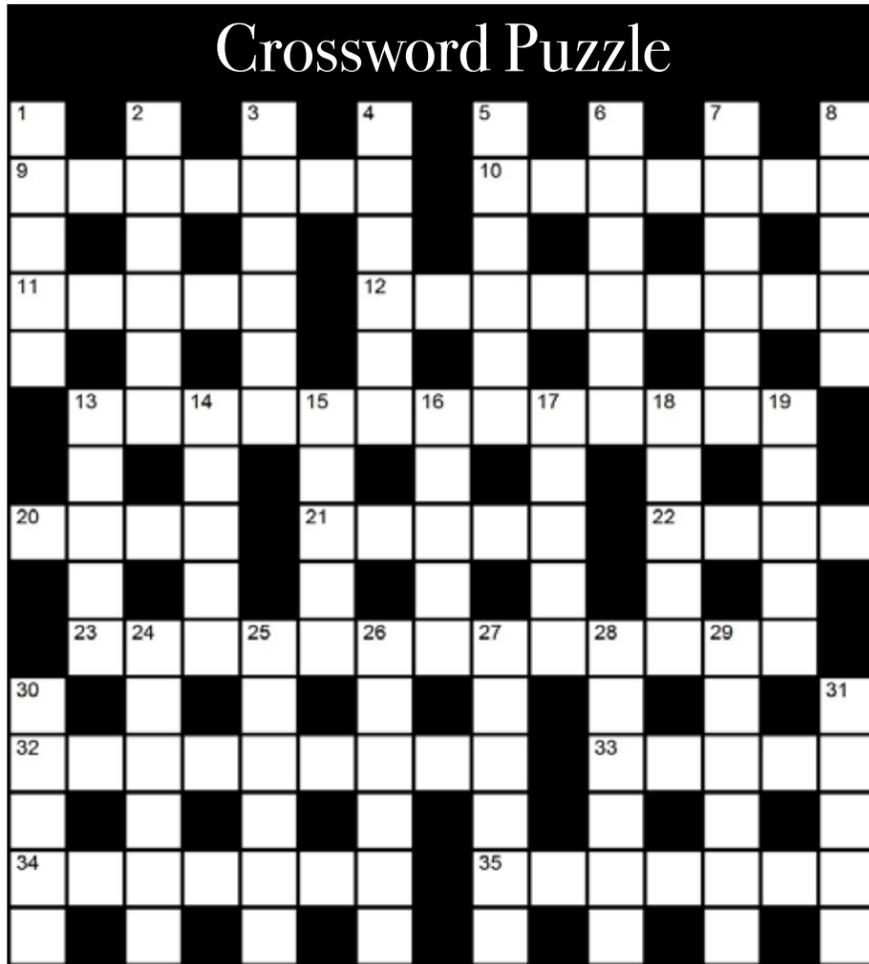
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

**Across**

- 9. Photograph taken at very short range (5-2)
- 10. Kind of illusion (7)
- 11. Relating to sound reproduction (5)
- 12. Holy Communion (9)
- 13. Dog with wavy silky hair (6,7)
- 20. Leg joint (4)
- 21. Graded (5)
- 22. Wife of one's uncle (4)
- 23. Reflection (13)
- 32. Doctor (9)
- 33. Cost (5)
- 34. Typical (7)
- 35. Petite (3-4)

**Down**

- 1. Fragment (5)
- 2. Black magic (6)
- 3. Make over (6)
- 4. Become visible (6)
- 5. Steel boot reinforcement (6)
- 6. Filter (6)
- 7. Operational (6)
- 8. Vigorous attack (5)
- 13. Sarcastic doubter of sincerity and merit (5)
- 14. Unsoiled (5)
- 15. Strange and mysterious (5)
- 16. Organization (3-2)
- 17. Per --- ad astra (R A F motto) (5)
- 18. Resident of e.g. Basra (5)
- 19. Russian revolutionary leader (5)
- 24. One-fifth of the atmosphere (6)
- 25. Ethnic (6)
- 26. Posted (6)
- 27. Yearner (6)
- 28. Warning (3-3)
- 29. Source (6)
- 30. Atomize (5)
- 31. Conical tent (5)



**Last issue's answers**



**Sudoku**

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



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## Wine Country with Victoria Gilbert

# Harvest is in the air



Rosewood Estates winemaker Ryan Corrigan chats with writer Victoria Gilbert. SUPPLIED

Victoria Gilbert  
Special to The Lake Report

The air is crisp and the sky a solid blue swath above plump grapes, soaking up the last of the fall warmth before their time outside will come to a close.

Those delicate orbs are dancing in the sunlight right now, tucked in nicely between the rows of vines along the Beamsville Bench.

Harvest is in the air and the clusters hanging between reddening vine leaves, as pretty as a painting, are beckoning you to pluck and taste. Winemaker Ryan Corrigan, of Rosewood Estates Winery and Meadery, is doing just that as he slips a juicy Sauvignon Blanc grape into his mouth.

“We pick on what we call skin ripeness rather than just sugar,” he says of the harvest. “This is something you learn from the old guys in France. They just look at when those skins are perfectly ripe.”

Like seemingly every-

thing in life, a balance of acidity and sweetness is what winemakers like Corrigan are waiting to achieve; tasting and walking the vineyards, watching the weather pensively, hoping for as many clear sunny days as possible before making the commitment to harvest their grapes.

The Sauvignon Blanc is being harvested this week and like an attentive lover, Corrigan shows a lot of affection to these grapes from the vineyard to the barrels.

“Understanding the geographic similarities to one of my favourite wine regions in the world, being the Loire Valley, knowing the complexities that Sauvignon Blanc can offer from Sancerre, it really spurred me to want to understand how to make that wine here in Niagara,” says Corrigan.

Wines made from the pretty bright green Sauvignon Blanc grape were born in France’s Loire Valley. Once turned into wine, Sauvignon Blanc is fresh in your mouth with crisp acidity and beau-

tiful minerality.

Rosewood takes a “low-intervention” approach to making wines, which means many things depending on the artist creating the wine, but the winemaker is not manipulating the taste of the wine by adding to it. There is a solid argument to be made that low intervention, sometimes called “natural wines,” taste markedly different.

“Using new technologies with old world traditions, we ferment the Sauvignon Blanc in a very oxidative way. That means we are not adding sulphur to the juice. We are allowing the wild yeast to ferment the juice in very old oak barrels and then it ages in the barrel for about 18 months. This is different from most of the new world-style of Sauvignon Blanc, which is fermented in stainless steel with selected yeasts and at colder temperatures.”

Corrigan is exactly the type of winemaker you hope is overseeing those lovely grapes before you. As you bask in the Niagara

sun along with the grapes, you may wish the harvesters would leave them just where they are.

This is one of the great privileges of a winemaker, to call the moment in time when those heavy clusters are shaken off forever. That call may be made today, maybe tomorrow. And this decision will result in the final taste in your mouth when you open a bottle and pay homage to the grapes of now.

“These wines, without getting too esoteric about it, are much bigger than us. They outlive us in many cases, so every year tells a story in Niagara and if I can be a vector this goes through, then this is not a waste of life in my opinion,” says Corrigan, with all the seriousness of an artist who is about to begin a painting he hopes will delight the viewer, or in this case, the taster.

*NOTL resident Victoria Gilbert has been telling the stories of wine people in Canada and abroad through print and video for 15 years.*



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## Last chance for Writing Contest submissions

The Lake Report

As of the date of this paper, there is only one week left to send in submissions for the NOTL Writers’ Circle Rising Spirits Writing Contest. Winners are eligible for prizes, as well as publication in a Writers’ Circle anthology.

The awards celebration will take place Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020 at the Old Winery restaurant on Niagara Stone Road, featuring contest winners, live music, food and drink.

## It's a Wine Thang

### What is VQA?

*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!*

All countries that produce wines have strict quality assurance systems that define their best grape-growing regions and set standards for the grapes grown in these regions.

In Canada that designation is VQA which stands for Vintners Quality Alliance.

If you see VQA Ontario on a bottle, it means the wine is made from 100 per cent Ontario-grown grapes, which have been approved through the strict VQA quality-assurance program.

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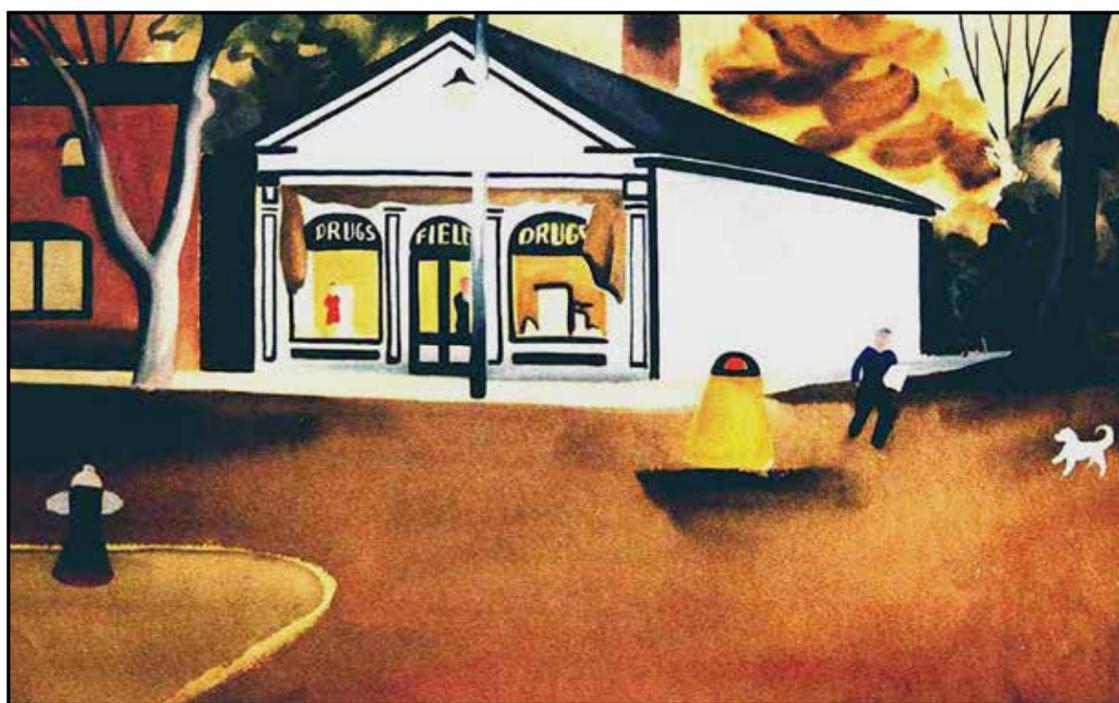
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# Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to *The Lake Report*



## The Niagara Apothecary

Up to 1964 we had two pharmacies on Queen Street – Bates Rexall Pharmacy and Fields Drug Store, which is now the Niagara Apothecary. This 1940s painting of Fields also shows the concrete dumb policeman painted yellow with a flashing red light on top. It was badly scarred from many running into it. The building next to Fields, which is now the Exchange Brewery, was at the time of this painting the real Bell Telephone exchange. A few women from town worked there answering callers and making mechanical connections to the party they wished to talk to.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



### Yes, it's a Regency design

Brian Marshall  
Featured



St. Mark's Rectory is an example of Regency design.  
BRIAN MARSHALL

From last week's visit with one of the earliest Regency houses in NOTL, let's jump to a couple of the last interpretations of this style.

Regency designers had always drawn their inspiration from medieval country houses, but for John Nash (architect to King George IV) there was something special about rural Italian or Tuscan country homes and villas.

His inclination to creatively combine aspects of the Neo-classical with elements drawn from Tuscan houses established a thread within the Regency school that eventually developed

into a distinct sub-style.

Possibly the most well-known Canadian example of the Tuscan Regency is Bellevue, the home of Sir John A. Macdonald in Kingston.

Built in 1838, this L-shaped asymmetrical design is anchored around a tower which (sans its ornamentation) could easily be mistaken for a medieval Italian watchtower. In fact, Bellevue can be described as a portrait of the Regency picturesque, which would very comfortably fit in the rural Tuscan landscape.

Twenty years later,

Niagara-on-the-Lake got its own Tuscan villa in St. Mark's Rectory.

Retaining the same L-shaped form, this home reflects two decades of design evolution from the days of Bellevue's build. Brick had replaced stucco as the cladding of choice and all horizontal elements were downplayed in order to emphasize and draw the eye up the vertical lines.

It was proportionally taller with a soaring tower and chimneys. The form's early simplicity had been replaced by more ornate decoration heralding the in-

fant Italianate style (paired semi-circular windows, round-headed French doors on the Juliet balconies, etc.) which can be seen even on this somewhat modestly embellished case.

During the same two decades, Regency architects had taken the eight-sided structure found in many period gardens and transformed it into a house design.

Spurred by O.S. Fowler's 1849 publication "A Home for All," the octagon form enjoyed popularity among avant-garde and open-minded buyers between 1850 and 1880.

While it is true the octagon form provides more actual square footage than a square house of the same dimensions, the challenge of interior design precluded broad acceptance, making it a rare Regency form.

Today, most have been lost through the passage of time. However, our backyard is fortunate to have a nearly pristine survivor.

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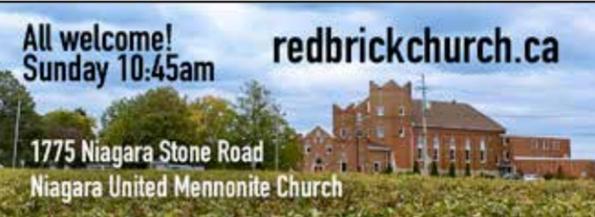
### The Lake Report FACTS

The Lake Report recently conducted a readership survey, and sent information on how to participate to every farm, residence and apartment in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

82% of readers surveyed chose The Lake Report as their preferred choice for local news and information.

SOURCE: TLR Readership Survey, October 2019

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# A history of Randwood

## The beginnings

*This story is one in a series about the history of the Rand Estate, about 35 acres of land lying behind the stone wall on John and Charlotte streets, along the Heritage Trail and whose eastern boundary is a hedge between the properties at 176 and 210 John St.*



This image of Woodlawn, the home built at 176 John St. by Robert Dickson in 1822, is from a 1905 booklet titled "Illustrated Niagara-on-on-the-Lake, Canada," published by John S. Clarke. Courtesy Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Betsy Masson  
Exclusive/The Lake Report

No other estate in Niagara-on-the-Lake has been owned by so many famous personages as that of Randwood on John Street.

The land upon which today's Rand Estate sits was originally part of a 160-acre tract granted to Peter Russell in 1796. Russell was receiver general and a member of the executive council of Upper Canada.

He and his half-sister Elizabeth built a comfortable house on a small farm. That house is believed to be the foundation of the hospital attached to Fort George, which one can see on the Commons today.

Russell, forced to move to York when Simcoe decided it would take the place of Niagara as the capital of Upper Canada, sold his Crown grant in August 1798 to William Dickson.

Dickson, from Dumfries, Scotland had been recruited by his cousin Robert Hamilton, the founder of Queenston, to join him in his business ventures in Canada. Dickson's first house at King and Prideaux streets was the first one in the province to be made of brick. Dickson, who became one of Upper Canada's first lawyers, married Charlotte Adlam, who had come to Niagara as governess to another member of the executive council, William Jarvis.

In 1811, on the part of Russell's Crown grant which is now John Street, Dickson then built a large house with a library holding 1,000 books. In May of 1813, the invading Americans took him prisoner and along with a number of other prominent Niagarans, he was sent to East Greenbush, N.Y., near Albany.

On Dec. 10, 1813, when the town of Niagara was

burned by the retreating Americans, Dickson's house is said to have been the first one torched. It was burned, not by the regular American army soldiers, but by the Canadian Volunteers, under the command of Joseph Willcocks.

Willcocks was a distant relative of Peter Russell and had stayed with Russell and his sister (to whom he made "amorous advances") when he first moved to Niagara from Ireland.

The targeted burning was because Dickson had fought a duel and killed a friend of Willcocks' in New York state in 1806; duelling was illegal in Upper Canada then. The duel occurred near Fort Niagara at 7 a.m.

The two men counted off 10 paces, turned and fired almost simultaneously. His opponent, a Mr. Weekes, missed but Dickson's ball went through Weekes's body and he died the next day.

Dickson's wife Charlotte was ill at the time the town was burned and was carried outside in her bed where she watched the house burn down on a bitterly cold December night. Charlotte Street is named after her.

Following the War of 1812, Dickson gave a portion of his land to the town to build a courthouse on what is now Rye Street, sold off other sections, and then divided the remainder between his two oldest sons, giving each about 500 feet of frontage on John Street.

William Dickson then moved to Galt (now Cambridge) and developed his land holdings there. He returned to Niagara in 1836 to live out the "remnant" of his life.

Of interest is the fact that Langdon Hall, the Relais & Chateaux property in Cambridge, Ont., was built by William Dickson's great-granddaughter and the

great-grandson of John Jacob Astor.

The eastern portion of Dickson's John Street property went to son William who in turn sold it to Capt. Robert Melville, president of the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company. Melville built Brunswick Place, which stands today at 210 John St. Son Robert Dickson built the present brick house at 176 John St. in 1822 on the foundation of his father's house; he named it Woodlawn.

In 1873, William Dickson's youngest son Walter sold Woodlawn for \$18,000 to American Civil War Gen. Henry Lansing; he was at that time, the secretary-treasurer of the Buffalo and Erie Railroad. Lansing added the third floor, the mansard roof, and an enclosed tower which the Rands later opened up.

While Lansing visited Niagara only in the sum-

mer, his sons Livingston and Watts, settled permanently in town and both were buried at St. Mark's.

Watts Lansing built three houses in town, two of which are still standing: one opposite the Charles Inn on Queen Street is currently owned by developer Rainer Hummel. The other, opposite the golf course at 284 Queen St., was lived in by his daughter Sara who died in 1974 at age 87.

In 1905, the Lansings sold their property on John Street to George Rand, who was a self-made millionaire and the chair of Marine Trust Co. of Buffalo.

*Elizabeth Masson has been a research volunteer at the Niagara Historical Society & Museum for the past 15 years.*

*More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: [www.niagaranow.com](http://www.niagaranow.com)*

Niagara Historical  
SOCIETY MUSEUM



43 Castlereagh St.  
Niagara-on-the-Lake  
905-468-3912



# COMMUNITY



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



## A terrific fall view



NOTL resident Sonja Schindeler captured this fall picture of the Niagara River this week. The colours of the leaves are starting to change along the entire bank of the river.



The Golden Plunger  
With Betty and Jane

Marynissen Estates Winery



Nick Pappas, one of Marynissen's winemakers, accepts the Golden Plunger. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

Tucked in the Four Mile Creek sub-appellation, you will enjoy this small oasis known as the Marynissen Estates Winery. It is hidden from the bustling town of NOTL and known for the oldest planting of Cabernet Sauvignon grapes in Canada. The atmosphere here is casual but modern and has many renowned wines for you to sample, both white and red, which are not available at the local LCBO. Knowledgeable staff will assist you and find the perfect wine to match your discerning palate. The lavatories are spacious and inviting for a small winery and accessible to everyone. The unique "bowl sink" and wooden cabinetry combo will not disappoint with plenty of warm water for your use. The oval mirror lets you have a quick glance before leaving this quiet space to finish your tour. Kudos to Marynissen for giving its restrooms more than a passing thought and receiving a 3.5/5 Gold Plunger Award.

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 an 1827 brass pendant with a pencil drawn portrait of Charles William McCormick. Charles and his younger brother, Samuel Jarvis McCormick, were members of the 1860-1861 expedition to the open Polar Sea. Led by Dr. Isaac Israel Hayes, the expedition was meant to explore the north coasts of Greenland, Grinnell Land and, if possible, to reach the North Pole. Charles served as seaman and his brother served as the sailing master. The McCormick family were early settlers of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This week's clue: When flames appear unexpectedly and they need to be put out, I'm not just a "fly on the wall."

Send answers, with your name, to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com).



## RIDDLE ME THIS:

You throw away my outside, eat my inside, and throw away my inside.  
What am I?

Last Week: I have two hands but I cannot clap.  
What am I?

Answer: A clock

Answered first by: Dinorah Centeno

Also answered correctly by: Margie Enns, Lynne Stewart, Cheryl House, Lida Kowal, Marion Briston, Quinn Tiller, Susan Pohorly, Jacob Willms, Britiney Turasz, Hedy Wiebe, Natalie Early, Rachel deBoer, Pat Braun, Sadie Willms, Jeff Weir, Norm Arsenault, Wendy Bosela, Roger Marcos, Greeba-Ann Birch, Katie Reimer, Rick Hrga, Bob Grossman, Hilda Kroeker

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) for a chance to win a prize.



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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

## Fall Fest at Red Roof Retreat



Top left: Kids were playing with the cat during the event. Top right: Pumpkins for carving were provided by Red Roof Retreat. Mid-left: Shadamehr Swift roasts marshmallows. Mid-right: Lennon Ferri helps make a scarecrow. Bottom: Kids spent time with animals at the Ranch. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

A wide variety of seasonal activities were offered at the Fall Fest held at the Red Roof Retreat last Saturday.

Organizers wanted to invite community members to visit the Ranch on Concession 6 Road and engage them in seasonal activities, said Red Roof's special events co-ordinator Karen Post.

"It's just a nice way to thank the community for their support and invite them to our home and see what we do," Post said.

Red Roof provided frames for scarecrow making and pumpkins for carving. Families could also go on wagon rides and roast marshmallows in a fire pit.



News that



Hits home

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