



Rand Estate up for sale

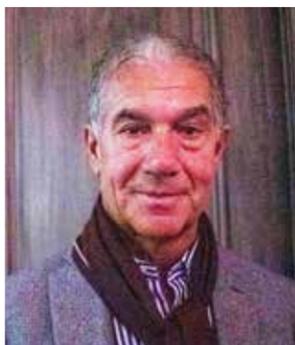
Iconic property listed for \$19M, developer blames town for lack of response to proposals, while resident group questions sincerity of sale



The historic Rand Estate has been put on the market by developer Benny Marotta (pictured below). RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The controversial Rand Estate is for sale again. Developer Benny Marotta has listed two properties of the estate — 144 and 176 John St. — for \$19 million, after years of tension between his companies, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Save Our Rand Estate (SORE), a group of residents who oppose his plans for a hotel on the property. The property has multiple international listings, Marotta said in an interview. The other property of the back half of the estate, 588 Charlotte St., where Marotta plans to build a subdivision, is not for sale. The combined properties



FILE PHOTO

are owned by Two Sisters Resorts Corp. and Solmar 2 Niagara Inc. Marotta has also withdrawn his appeal of the town's heritage designation bylaws to the Conservation Review Board for the two properties, as well as his appeals to Local Planning Appeals Tribunal for his hotel/convention centre.

The future of the property, which is currently in a state of disrepair, is now uncertain. Marotta bought the property in February 2017 for \$7.25 million, real estate records show. Artist Trisha Romance had bought the estate in July 2006 for \$5.025 million, the records indicate. When news emerged late last week that the property is on the market, many NOTL residents took to Facebook to voice their thoughts on its possible sale, with some blaming SORE for opposing the development and saying they hope the group will "put its money where its mouth is." "Well, if it's soooo important to the SORE

people they should buy it and 'do what is right for it' as they are the experts on everything the Old Town 'should be,'" said Facebook user with the handle Linc Canuck. "Don't know what you want to happen to this place but now for sure nothing will. Well done," said Chris Robinson. "Perfect opportunity for SORE ... Let's see whatcha got ... I have every faith in you that you aren't just pains in the arse and you'll do the right thing by buying the property," said Cory Abt. SORE spokesperson Lyle Hall said the group is "skeptical that Mr. Marotta is in fact serious about sell-

Continued on Page 2



RICHARD HARLEY PHOTO

Trick or treat: How to be safe this Halloween

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Halloween will look a bit different this year, but it doesn't mean people can't still celebrate safely, the provincial government says. And NOTL Lord Mayor Betty Disero says people trick-or-treating should do so safely. "The region and all the other municipalities in the region are saying, 'Go ahead, but go ahead in a safe manner,'" Disero said. "And so we're going to direct residents to the regional website, which provides information on how to trick or treat in a safe way." The province has issued the following recommendations for trick-or-treaters in areas of Stage 2 recovery, such as Niagara. Only go out with members of your household. Only trick-or-treat outside.

For people handing out treats, the province says not to leave them in a bucket or bowl for children to grab and to consider using tongs or other similar tools to shell out. The province encourages people to follow public health advice and measures from public health experts, and make good decisions based on your own unique situation. For other Halloween events, the province recommends the following: Avoid gatherings with people outside of your household. Stay home if you are feeling ill, even if you have mild symptoms, or if you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19. Turn off your porch light and don't hand out treats if you are sick, even with mild symptoms, or self-isolating. Stay within your public health unit region.

Both trick-or-treaters and people handing out candy should wear a face covering — a costume mask is not a substitute and should not be worn over a face covering because it may make it difficult to breathe. Do not congregate or linger at doorsteps and remember to line up two metres apart if you are waiting. Avoid high-touch surfaces and objects, such as railings and doorbells. Whether you are collecting or handing out treats, wash your hands often and thoroughly, or use hand sanitizer.

HALLOWEEN AT THE FORT: Fort George is hosting a Halloween event Oct. 31, to help kids safely trick or treat. Families can bring their little goblins and ghouls in their Halloween costumes to the parking lot at Fort George, where volunteers will be handing out Halloween treat bags. The event runs from noon to 2 p.m. There will be a table set up with decorations and Halloween treats, as well as markers out for social distancing. Anyone attending must keep a two-metre distance between themselves and other visitors.

Town approves \$340K more for nursery school expansion

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has approved an additional \$340,000 toward the \$2 million expansion of the Niagara Nursery School. The money is in addition to \$248,889 already promised by the town. Candice Penny, executive director of the school, asked council for the extra money Monday, saying the

request was a "make or break moment" for the expansion project. She said the funds would help the school expand its much-needed child care services. The school now only has room for 39 kids and the average wait time for enrolment is two to three years, Penny said. "With many families

Continued on Page 3



Tanya Tavender, Jessica Lattanzio, Candice Penny and Wendy Kulp, NOTL Nursery School staff with members of the preschool class. FILE/BRITTANY CARTER



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Mobile phone data tracks **thousands** of visitors to NOTL

Bell analytics show majority of tourists are coming from Greater Toronto Area

Richard Harley
The Lake Report



A town ad campaign through Bell Media shows about 135,000 people entered Niagara-on-the-lake during a 30-day period from mid-September until just after Thanksgiving. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

A whole lot of data about who is coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake is now available, thanks to a targeted marketing campaign the town did with Bell Media.

Ashleigh Myers, marketing executive at Bell Media, told council Monday that in 30 days from mid-September to just after Thanksgiving about 90,000 unique Bell devices entered Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Bell mobile phones make up about 30 per cent of all digital devices, she said.

To estimate how many people that actually represents, the number is multiplied by three, she said. "In those past 30 days, you had about 267,000 people entering Niagara-on-the-Lake," Myers said.

About 50 per cent of the Bell devices belonged to people from the Greater Toronto Area, she said.

"So you're looking at approximately 135,000 people were coming into Niagara-on-the-Lake during that 30-day period from the GTA."

Of 90,000 Bell devices, 78,000 came into Old Town, she said. "It gives you an idea of the power of the information that we have available," Myers said.

The Bell campaign was

part of the town's pandemic response in the summer, and was directed at people entering NOTL, to advise visitors of certain COVID restrictions, such as the Queen Street closure, wash-room closures and mask bylaws.

The click-through rate for the advertising campaign, specifically for people entering from the GTA, was extremely high compared to national averages, with about a 3.71 per cent engagement ratio. The national average is about 0.8 per cent, Myers said.

"That is unheard of

within the industry and just goes to show how well done the ads were from your communications team. And they knew how to properly target the people that were coming, what information was important to them."

She said the numbers are based on a daily count, so if someone who works in Niagara-on-the-Lake comes in daily, they would be counted once for each day, though people entering NOTL multiple times in a day were not counted more than once per day.

The numbers include people entering Niagara-on-

the-Lake for a brief period on the QEW.

However, the campaign has the ability to get "very targeted," she said, adding that when the messaging went out to devices, Bell was able to exclude people who didn't get off the highway.

"So any messaging went to people that were specifically entering Niagara-on-the-Lake proper, in order to actually visit the municipality," Myers said.

People entering NOTL from the GTA, from inside the Niagara region and residents were targeted with

different messaging, and anyone entering more than three times per week did not receive any more messaging as they likely worked in the area.

She said the town was "able to pivot messaging on a minute by minute basis, almost, talking to people about safety protocols."

The data will give the town valuable insight when planning its pandemic response plan, Myers said.

"All of this gives you the opportunity to target tourists right now, talk to them about safety mea-

asures," Myers said, adding the town could also target people entering town with its proposed "buy local" campaign.

Coun. Clare Cameron said the data has "tremendous" value, offering "an insight that has long been desired and has been very difficult to piece together."

Myers said the second-highest volume of people was coming from the Niagara region, and many are coming from the London, Kitchener, Cambridge area.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked if there was data on the number of people coming from Quebec.

"We actually did a ranking of the Top 20 cities from which we were finding people were coming from.

And to be honest, Montreal showed up, but it was less than two per cent of the population, I want to say was around 600 people, really not something very significant at the time," Myers said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

said during her monthly Coffee with the Lord Mayor session Tuesday that the town will be keeping a close eye on those numbers to decide whether further COVID precautions are needed, such as an outdoor mask bylaw.

Developer says town didn't respond to site plan submissions

Continued from Front Page

ing" the estate, given that the property is listed for \$11 million more than what was paid for it.

Marotta said he bought the properties for about \$8 million, after factoring in land transfer taxes, HST and legal fees. He said in total, with maintenance of the property, architects, planners, consultants and lawyers the property has cost him "well over \$13 million."

"The attempted sale appears to be a clumsy scheme by Mr. Marotta to make the town and its residents appear to be the bad guys, when it was Mr. Marotta that proposed a grotesque

hotel and convention centre on the Rand Estate where a much smaller and more appropriate project had been proposed by Trisha Romance," Hall said in an emailed statement to The Lake Report.

"The Romance project was narrowly approved by council in 2011 and was the result of a compromise between residents and Romance. The ability to compromise does not appear to be in Mr. Marotta's DNA," Hall said.

SORE is not against "responsible development of the Rand Estate," but does oppose cutting down the protected Dunnington-Grubb designed land-

scape, the six-storey hotel and convention centre Marotta proposed for the site, and a subdivision planned for the other two estate properties, he said.

The Romance proposal was approved for a three-storey hotel.

"Mr. Marotta knew full well what was approved on the Rand Estate at the time he bought it — if that wasn't good enough for him he shouldn't now be blaming the town and its residents for vigorously responding to all the legal challenges he has thrown at us," Hall said.

Hall suspects SORE has "not seen the last of Mr. Marotta's convention centre and hotel proposal."



A rendering of the proposed hotel for the Rand Estate. SUPPLIED

"Ultimately, we are trying to figure out what his game is. He is clearly still trying to pursue his high-density subdivision plan for the back half of the Rand Estate. As a result, we're not persuaded that his listing of 144/176 John St. is sincere."

Marotta said in a media statement Monday that the sale is a result of the town

not responding to site plan applications and to continued opposition by SORE and town council.

"Any other municipality would have welcomed us with open arms," he said.

"Arriving at this decision was very difficult, but it is apparent that there is no path to amicable discussion with either the town or

SORE," Marotta said.

"Our intention was always to preserve the integrity of this heritage property and enhance its already robust landscape for guests and the community to enjoy, while creating a beautiful establishment that would elevate hospitality in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

"It is tragic that the town does not seem to understand that municipalities must protect the interests of all taxpayers and citizens and has to attract investment in order to maintain fiscal stability and provide employment. The end of the Two Sisters proposal is a loss of over \$50 million to the town's economy."



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Poppy campaign blooms despite pandemic

Two-week blitz aims to raise \$20,000 to help area veterans and their families

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

With the precision of a military campaign, the Poppy Committee of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in Niagara-on-the-Lake has planned the pre-Remembrance Day distribution of the ubiquitous red flowers.

The poppies will be available starting this Friday, Oct. 30.

By the end of the two-week campaign, the local branch will have raised close to \$20,000 to support the needs of local combat veterans and their families.

Poppies have been tied to the tragedy of warfare from as far back as the 19th century. But it took a Guelph native, Lt.-Col. John McCrae, in the trenches of the First World War, to pen the ode that would capture the hearts and minds of Canada and the rest of the world.

His "In Flanders Fields," written following the death of a fellow soldier, was published by Punch Magazine in 1915. The poem has become enshrined in the fabric of Canada's military history.

The 2020 poppy campaign will be very different, says committee chair Margaret Boldt.

"We expect only a few canvassers, because of COVID," says Boldt. She has been a NOTL resident since the age of 12 and a member of the Legion for 30 years. She didn't see active service but many of her previous



Margaret Boldt and Stan Harrington, longtime members of the NOTL Legion's Poppy Committee, are ready to assemble over 200 donation boxes for distribution around the town on Oct. 30. All proceeds from the campaign support area veterans and their families. TIM TAYLOR

family generation were active in the military.

"We're leaving canvassing up to the individual volunteers. If they want to do it, we won't say no. But it is a much more complicated process with masks and gloves and so on."

Stan Harrington, another member of the committee, chimes in: "Most of our volunteers are older so I don't think you'll see many canvassers out, really."

Harrington's job is planning and executing the distribution of the poppies. He's been a Legion member for 36 years and in charge of the poppy distribution for 15.

He admits 2020 is a challenging year. "We have 203 poppy box locations across Niagara-on-the-Lake, from the St. Catharines border to Queenston and the Old Town, and everywhere in between."

"Twenty years ago, there were only 45 boxes, but you had more canvassers on the street at high-traffic spots—the LCBO, food stores and

so on."

Harrington talks about his many years as a canvasser in front to the Old Town liquor store. "I got to know everybody," he smiles, remembering the easy relationship he had with his poppy-buyers.

There's a kind of earned seniority with the best canvassing sites.

For Boldt's first canvassing effort, she was told where to go. "The vets allotted the best sites for themselves. You just couldn't sit in their place. They would get mad. It's cute. It's tradition."

Harrington says the best example of site "ownership" was the late Al Derbyshire. "You could never have anybody but Al at the Niagara Bakery. For 30 years. They really took care of him — coffee and so on."

As in recent years, there are two versions of a poppy: the traditional pin-on and the poppy sticker. Each donation box will carry both versions.

As a trial for 2020, there

will also be touchless, tap-enabled donation boxes, in limited supply across Canada, at 250 branches of HSBC Bank Canada.

By far the most popular version is the stick-on, especially for kids. "Or if you have a leather coat," chuckles Harrington.

"The kids always take extra for their school binders and refrigerators. I'm sure there are moms out there that aren't too happy to have them on the windows and the walls."

"But it is great to get the young people so engaged with the history of our veterans."

Both Boldt and Harrington are quick to correct the misconception that the Legion sells the poppies. "We don't sell, we distribute."

None of the money raised in the campaign is used by the branch. All proceeds are directed to local veterans for such things as lift chairs and other equipment.

Harrington and his team start assembling all the elements of the campaign in September, storing the boxes and poppies on almost every flat surface of the Legion hall. He has a group of six volunteer drivers for the one-day distribution blitz on the 30th.

The Royal Canadian Legion has 280,000 members in 1,350 branches across Canada. The organization distributes some 19 million poppies each year, raising over \$15 million to support veterans and their families.



Niagara-on-the-Lake Launches First Phase of Business Directory Initiative

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is thrilled to launch the first phase of a new initiative to build an online business directory, to connect locals and visitors alike to businesses across Niagara-on-the-Lake. An online form is now available for businesses to submit their information to be included in the directory at no charge.

Compiling a complete public business directory is something the Town has long been considering, in order to help promote shopping in Niagara-on-the-Lake, stimulate the local economy and to streamline Town communication with the business community. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, these needs have been magnified.

"Throughout this pandemic, we have relied on the cooperation of the business community to help keep our community safe. Conversely, businesses have relied on us to keep them informed and up to date about the latest Provincial Emergency Orders, regulations, and Public Health recommendations," stated Interim CAO Sheldon Randall. "Streamlining the flow of information between the Town and its businesses, while increasing business visibility and strengthening the #ShopNOTL campaign is truly a win-win."

Town Staff is working with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Virgil Business Association, and Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake to collect business information. Business owners and operators who pay commercial taxes in Niagara-on-the-Lake are also encouraged to visit notl.com/businessdirectory to submit their business name, location, category, contact and website for inclusion.

"With cooler temperatures marking the beginning of the off season for local tourism, it's more important than ever to highlight all the great businesses we have here in Town," stated Lord Mayor Betty Disero. "Niagara-on-the-Lake is home to the best shops, wineries, restaurants, and services in the region; I can find everything I need for myself and my family right within our borders. Help us get the message out to #ShopNOTL and support these great businesses."

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COVID Update

Staff
The Lake Report

Despite COVID numbers continuing to climb in the province, Niagara-on-the-Lake is back to zero active cases.

"COVID numbers in the province have been trending upwards," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said during Monday's council meeting.

However, she said as of last Thursday Niagara's acting chief medical officer

of health Dr. Mustafa Hirji doesn't believe Niagara is heading toward reverting to Stage 2 of recovery.

However, that was "before the province started hitting 900 and 1,000 cases a day," she told NOTL council during her COVID update.

NOTL has had 49 total COVID cases so far. An employee at Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill who tested positive more than a week ago has recovered and the restaurant has fully reopened.

Funding is 'make or break' for nursery school

Continued from Front Page

requiring variable schedules, we can serve between 45 and 52 children throughout the school year," she said.

The wait list is now at about 142 children.

She said this forces many families with more than one child to have them in multiple child care settings, often away from home and work.

The expansion will allow the school to accommodate 69 children.

Penny said that would not eliminate the wait list, but would "drastically reduce" wait times.

"We simply cannot meet the needs of our community as we are now," Penny said, adding that it isn't just an issue for current families, but for NOTL's overall growth plan.

Accessible child care is important for the growth of the community in attracting new families, Penny said.

Niagara Nursery School

has been operating in town for 48 years and has adapted through the years, operating out of various locations.

Paul Staz, treasurer for the nursery school, said the school has been ready to start fundraising since March, but delayed it due to the pandemic.

"We made the decision as a board to delay the launch for fundraising, given the kind of economic impact of COVID on the town. We didn't think it was the right time to go and

reach out."

Staz said if the funding wasn't approved, the school wouldn't be able to move forward with the expansion project.

In addition to money from various levels of government and a \$615,000 debenture, the school is responsible for fundraising \$100,000 on its own.

Town treasurer Kyle Freeborn said the municipality's debenture for the additional funds would cost about \$21,000 annually.

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Contributed by Patty Garriock

"The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen.

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- Rachel Naomi Remen.



Contributed by Norm Arsenault:

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Editorial: What's it like to get a COVID test?

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

It's a strange time we're living in — the smallest cough or runny nose can put us into a state of panic, wondering if we might have contracted COVID-19.

So what does it look like, from start to finish, to get tested for COVID?

Recently my partner and I had a COVID scare. While out for breakfast (in a diner full of older folks, no less) I started to have the uncontrollable urge to cough. I went through a handful of napkins blowing my nose. And I felt exhausted.

Naturally, my mind was screaming at me, "You've got COVID! You're going to infect everyone here! Get out!"

So, we finished up quickly, left the diner and did the responsible thing by cancelling our work and interviews for the next couple of days and calling to schedule a test.

From there, the whole experience took about three days. Day 1, shortly after breakfast, we called to book a test. We were told we would receive a call back within 48 hours — not too reassuring if you're worried about a deadline for work, but a reasonable timeline. After that, we went di-



PIXABAY

rectly home and isolated.

In the meantime, I kept trying to go over everywhere I'd been in case it turned out I did have it and needed to report it for contact tracing.

The next day we received a call in the morning with a same-day appointment. We were instructed to go to the St. Catharines hospital site on Fourth Avenue for our test.

When we arrived, there was no line, which we assumed was the result of changes to testing across the province. A positive (spare the poor choice of words).

We got to the small testing centre at the rear of the hospital and were bombarded with signs warning not to take photos or videos during the process, and we

waited for someone to come out.

We were given swab tests, through the nose. It was a quick process — but it was not the most comfortable thing.

They arrived with a long swab that is essentially a piece of wire with bristles at the end of it, about the same width as a pipe cleaner, and they shove it deep into your nasal cavity — it almost feels like they're touching your brain through your nose, especially when your eyes start to water.

My partner did not find the process quite as traumatic. Her mother, who had a test before, said it helps to breathe in when they insert the swab.

Then came more waiting from home. We were told that our results would

be available within three or four days — though we knew from experience of other family members getting tested it was likely we'd have results the next morning.

Sure enough, by 11 a.m. the next day our results were back — both negative. Phew!

It goes to show a couple of things. Firstly, it isn't such a pain to get tested, minus the nose swab, which is tolerable. And, at least in our case, the whole process worked smoothly and quickly.

So, if you have symptoms, get a test. It could help save a life. Plus, if you're not infected, it provides peace of mind to know so with semi-certainty (the form they give you warns the tests are not 100 per cent accurate and that if you were recently infected it might not show up on the test yet).

It also shows that with the cold and flu season coming on, it's easy to convince yourself you might have COVID. If you find yourself in a similar predicament, do the right thing and get tested.

And yes, we should be listening to our medical experts, not the doctrine of YouTube and social media.

editor@niagaranow.com



Chautauqua's clogged, narrow roads a concern in an emergency

Dear editor:

I'd like to respond to the article "Chautauqua residents want to curb traffic," (Oct. 15).

I am a resident of Chautauqua and am keen that our numerous neighbourhood traffic issues be mitigated and resolved. I am also aware that traffic issues from overtourism are an ongoing challenge and raise concerns across many parts of NOTL. And I understand the fear that squeezing traffic out of one area may "push the problem to another street."

As I see it, the funda-

mental problem is that not all residents of Chautauqua can rely on the responsiveness of our emergency fire and medical services. An overwhelming volume of parking on our streets/lanes is the root cause.

Further, the notion of "curbing" traffic in Chautauqua is something of an oxymoron. Our lanes do not have curbs; they are "about 13 feet or four metres wide" versus the 20 feet or six metres wide requirement of the Ontario Building Code.

Parking is allowed on both sides of practically all of our lanes. When two vehicles

meet they must navigate carefully around each other. If other vehicles are parked on either or both sides of the lane then bottlenecks happen. Adding to this tense situation may often be children, pedestrians and cyclists because we have no sidewalks.

This seems inconvenient and risky, but imagine a real emergency. Suppose a crew rushing one of our town's eight-foot wide fire trucks is responding to a house fire or medical emergency. A single vehicle, let alone a dozen or more, parked on both sides of my street/

lane could easily thwart the attempt. I suppose the driver could attempt to back up and go around the block (and encounter the same blockages) but that requires time (!) and adequate turning radius at our acute intersections.

I'm confident that restricting the parking on our narrow streets and redirecting traffic to that aim means our fundamental safety problem will be resolved. I doubt this would result in pushing our safety concerns to the wider streets of outlying neighbourhoods.

Kevin Collins
 NOTL

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OPINION

A presidential pig, the Chicago 7 and politics today

David Israelson
Special to The Lake Report

There's a new movie called "The Trial of the Chicago 7" on Netflix, written by Aaron Sorkin. It's timely reminder of what happens when Americans nominate a pig for president of the United States.

You're probably thinking the same thing.

But the story runs deeper — pigs running for president have a legacy. There's a bit of a history in America of porcine presidential candidates. And some lessons.

The original pig-for-president nomination took place in 1968, in a park outside the Democratic Convention in Chicago, where there were massive demonstrations against the Vietnam War, racial injustice and many other causes people now associate with youth rebellion of the '60s.

It was guerilla theatre — the pig, named Pigasus, was nominated by the Youth International Party, or Yippies. The Yippie leaders demanded that Pigasus be treated like any other candidate, with Secret Service protection and foreign policy briefings.

The demonstrations got ugly. The Chicago police waded into crowds and cracked people's heads. "The whole world's watching," the protesters chanted. Protest organizers — the Chicago 7 — were put on trial, and Pigasus' nomination came up during the proceedings. No one is sure what happened to the pig.

I watched Sorkin's new "Chicago 7" movie and I really liked it — no mention of Pigasus, though. Yet, watching it, I remember the pig incident yet again.

I can think of several lessons we learned from the pig's story.



A promo shot for Chicago 7 starring Sacha Baron Cohen (right). SOURCED

First, we might want to consider the unintended consequences of the pig-for-president-protest. Many people think fondly of the '60s as the peace-and-love Age of Aquarius, but what about the darker forces that responded?

Many of us who were youngsters in 1968 thought Pigasus was funny. And fun. We got a youthful buzz about the way the whole pig thing enraged other people, particularly older, tightly wound folks.

But rage is a two-way street, isn't it? Check out the twisted anger on the faces at some of those super-spreader MAGA rallies on TV.

The consequences of politics devolving from speeches to gross, World Wrestling-type shouting and screaming has obviously infected the U.S., and indeed, poisoned politics elsewhere. The pig protest certainly didn't start it, but the protest was a catalyst that helped move politics more quickly toward the never-ending, sordid series of insults we live with today.

It was one of the first reality TV shows. At the time, it seemed liberating to be outrageous, to hurl invective

at authority, to say anything so long as it gets attention. Now it's normal.

The difference is that now the ugliness is a feature, not a novelty.

The next lesson we learned was about disillusionment. Earlier that year, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were gunned down. By the time protesters got to Chicago in the summer, many people, particularly the young, felt that the system was rigged. Some people were fed up; others gave up.

As the 1968 election season unfolded, it became apparent that bad people could grasp at and cling to power and then do whatever they wanted, no matter what the people said.

Sound familiar? That's what the bad folks wanted.

The other thing the nomination of a pig achieved was that it really helped lower the bar. If you could get TV time to equate a nominee for the most powerful position on Earth with a pig, how low could you go?

There doesn't seem to be any limit now, does there?

Finally, the pig episode makes us think a lot about something Karl Marx said. Yes, that Karl Marx.

Marx was wrong about a lot of things — how's that whole workers' paradise thing going so far, folks?

But one thing Marx said comes to mind here — he said that history happens twice, first as tragedy, then as farce.

Which happened first here, though? The nomination of Pigasus for president was designed as a farce. But was it laying the groundwork for tragedy today? It's hard even to keep track. Virus-spreading, lying, bullying, mismanaging, covering up, tweeting instead of leading, winking at Nazis and crazed conspiracy theorists, trying to destabilize an election. Tragic? A farce? Both?

I suppose it depends on the outcome of the U.S. election — unless it gets even messier than it is already. Meanwhile, the whole world's watching again and a lot of what we're seeing is worse than what you'd expect from a pig.

And yes, you're probably thinking the same thing too.

David Israelson is a writer and communications consultant and Niagara-on-the-Lake resident. This article appeared in the *Lawyer's Daily* on Oct. 21.

In reality, profit is often put before life

Dear editor:

The exchange of political stereotypes by the two Mikes was entertaining, but also cautionary. (Mike Keenan's Oct. 8 column "Politically confused?")

Here's a primer on left, right and others" and Mike Macdonald's Oct. 15 letter in

response, "Opinion column showed left-wing bias").

One statement by Mr. Macdonald was breathtaking. "However, in my perspective I could not see anyone putting money before life."

That is exactly what happened in the for-profit

long-term care homes in Ontario.

One political party has avowed to end this private ownership, which clearly has put money before lives. Another, it seems, has tabled a bill that would curtail liability of privately-owned long-term care

homes. I like to think of this as the 007 Bill.

Belatedly, tobacco and asbestos companies have been curtailed in their murderous pursuit of profit. Need one mention the arms industry?

David Lailey
NOTL

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OPINION & NEWS



A Ryerson Park sunset. In the summer, the sunset attracts flocks of people, who often park illegally. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

Trouble in paradise: Chautauqua needs strong voice to advocate for change

Victor Tarnoy
Special to The Lake Report

"Most people will agree that Niagara-on-the-Lake is an enviable place to live. Those of us who are lucky to live in Chautauqua, our historic neighbourhood of narrow streets, tall trees and dense residential development, will argue that this is the best place to live in NOTL. The unique radial plan of streets and blocks with building lots as small as 50 x 37 feet encouraged a myriad of house sizes and styles, with each property having its own unique aspects. Giant oaks, maples and black walnut trees shade the streets and properties. The houses, (many circa 19th century) are built cheek-by-jowl, close to the street, promoting a residential lifestyle not equalled elsewhere. Ryerson Park has the best sunsets and a beach that residents have used since 1888 ..."

I wrote this for the St. Catharines Standard in 2005, before the images of our sunsets, our beach and the unique environment of the neighbourhood spread on social media, before we lost 20 per cent of our trees, before the proximity to the Old Town had become a liability as convoys of exotic cars and motorcycles used our streets to parade into and out of town.

Airbnbs have replaced over 10 per cent of family

homes, eclipsing the few legitimate B&Bs (where the owners still live on the property and are part of the neighbourhood). Visitors arrive at Ryerson Park to pitch tents and spend the day playing games and cooking. But since there are no public facilities, the bushes and the lake are used instead.

Every weekend and at every sunset during the summer our streets near the lake become parking lots. Believe me, you can't park many cars on a 13-foot wide street before it's impassable and unsafe.

There has been a growing awareness that we need something more specific than the existing bylaws, as our neighbourhood faces new developmental and tourism pressures.

Fortunately, Chautauqua has what few neighbourhoods have: its own plan designation and a residents association (est. 1952). Representatives of a residents association are able to advocate for their neighbourhood when important issues arise and can lobby the municipality for neighbourhood-specific bylaws and development guidelines.

Residents associations are formed in response to developmental pressures and the failure of local bylaws to address the specific issues that every neighbourhood has. Associations can result in safer and

healthier places to live and visit, bringing neighbours together with shared purpose to enhance the unique characteristics of a place.

There is no doubt that if ever Chautauqua needed an advocate such as the Chautauqua Residents Association (CRA), it was then and it is even moreso now.

However, the incumbent board of directors has been reluctant to advocate for issues affecting the neighbourhood. Traditionally, they organized our wonderful annual neighbourhood social events but maintained a hands-off approach to issues involving development and tourism.

The summer of 2020 pushed us into a crisis situation as the pandemic lockdown relaxed and Ryerson Park was one of the few beaches that was not restricted to locals only. This news quickly spread on social media and visitors and the associated burdens increased exponentially.

It's not surprising that at the recent annual general meeting, the membership expressed an increased interest in the CRA getting involved and advocating for the neighbourhood. Three new directors were added to the board, with full approval and support of the membership. For a brief moment we shared a new optimism for Chautauqua.

Unfortunately, during lengthy and disorganized arguments, including the

attempted dismissal of the new directors, the CRA board ceased to function. The energy to advocate for the neighbourhood had been turned into an embarrassing struggle between neighbours.

As a result, on Oct. 19, the five directors who support an advocacy role for the association resigned. The future path of the CRA is now unclear.

Without a residents association advocating for Chautauqua, future development will be determined by developers and social media. Without the CRA's involvement, it will be next to impossible to introduce limits for homes being converted to seasonal rentals, implement parking restrictions and reduce speed limits on our avenues. Without the CRA working with the town to manage tourism, our neighbourhood will continue to be compromised.

If our residents association remains only a social committee, then development without restrictions will continue to affect the character of the neighbourhood. It is time that all the concerned residents of Chautauqua get involved with their residents association and elect a new board of directors that will advocate for sustainable development in Chautauqua.

When we work together with a common purpose, we can make a difference.

Virtual reality headsets take the edge off flu shot

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Virtual reality headsets, available for those anxious about getting the flu vaccine, have been a "big hit with the kids," says Julie Dyck, of Stone Road Pharmacy.

"I had a five-year-old say, 'I like getting my flu shot,' after using the VR headset. It was his first flu shot in a pharmacy," said Dyck, pharmacist and owner of the Virgil location.

She introduced the headsets last year to help alleviate some of the stress children, and some adults, can experience receiving the shot. This year, there are 20 different "views" that patients can choose from.

"The most popular so far is SpongeBob SquarePants. Scuba diving is a close second," she said. "And for the thrill seeker: the roller coaster."

Dyck said this year, administration of the flu vaccine is taking "a little longer" between appointments because of the extra sanitization needed of the rooms and headsets.

"We're encouraging families to come all together, that way the headset can be used for siblings" as families from the same household will be in the same "social bubble," she said.

Currently, Stone Road Pharmacy is working off a waiting list, calling people in to get their flu shots as the supply becomes available. Dyck said the weekly distribution allocations have changed, which means the pharmacy is capped at ordering a certain quantity of vaccines. Orders need to be made each day for more doses.

"They're capping it at a limited number of doses. I'm expecting that they will change that cap as we go along. But right now, to control hoarding and maintain adequate supply everywhere" restrictions are in effect.

Dyck said the pharmacy will continue to call people in as more doses become available. Most appointments are being scheduled at 15-minute intervals.

And though there is a wait and limit on available vaccines at the moment, she encourages people not to worry.

"Another message that we're encouraging is, as important as it is, (to get the flu shot) we're telling people not to be anxious about it. We will get to them."

"The safety and sanitization is the most important. So, that's why we're spacing out the appointments and doing it in a safe, controlled manner."



Tony Giordano is virtually scuba diving while receiving his flu shot at Stone Road Pharmacy. SUPPLIED



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Bravo Niagara! brings **Voices of Freedom** alive via video

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Voices of Freedom Festival is broadening its reach with a new short film to be released Oct. 30.

“Voices of Freedom: A Musical Short Film” is one of several videos to be released by Bravo Niagara! in lieu of the in-person lineup of acclaimed performers which was cancelled for the 2020/2021 season due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“While unable to bring audiences together for live performances, we remain committed to supporting artists and the creation of new music,” said Alexis Spieldenner, executive director and co-founder of Bravo Niagara!

The reimagined festival will continue to highlight Niagara’s significant Black history as it has been doing for the last five years. The Voices of Freedom Festival has become an important platform for amplifying the voices of underrepresented peoples and histories through the arts, a statement said.

The organization will be producing a series of inspir-



Blackburn Brothers perform “Freedom Train” at Voices of Freedom Park. SUPPLIED

ing and compelling videos to be shared virtually as part of Bravo Niagara! Amplified. Each video will feature the world premiere of original music commissioned by Bravo Niagara! for the Voices of Freedom Festival.

“We feel these videos will be important legacy projects with a far-reaching impact,” Spieldenner said.

“Our first video ‘Voices of Freedom: A Musical Short Film’ highlights the legacy of the Underground Railroad in Niagara and features performances by

the Maple Blues Award-winning Blackburn Brothers, who are descendants of freedom seekers, and special guest Canadian soprano Measha Brueggergosman,” she said.

The original song commissioned by Bravo Niagara!, “Sister Wilma,” honours the late Wilma Morrison.

“The filming of “Sister Wilma” took place at the Nathaniel Dett Memorial Chapel BME Church National Historic Site in Niagara Falls. This original song written by Brooke

Blackburn and commissioned by Bravo Niagara! is a tribute to our late mentor and dear friend Wilma Morrison who inspired us to create the Voices of Freedom Festival in 2015.”

In November, “Voices of Freedom: Sounds of Hope” will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holocaust, bringing new visions of hope for future generations through performances infused with outreach initiatives, the statement said.

“Robi Botos: Romani Experience” showcases the Juno Award-winning instrumentalist and composer on a personal journey through his heritage. The selection will feature instalments from his acclaimed score “A People Uncounted. A new piece” commissioned by Bravo Niagara! will also be debuted.

Bravo’s composer-in-residence, Christos Hatzis, will perform the commissioned piece “Menorah,” which is “a technically demanding composition for violin and piano,” Hatzis said.

Follow Bravo Niagara! on social media and visit bravoniagara.org for premiere dates coming soon.



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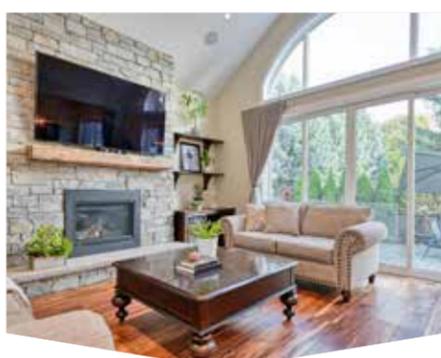
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Image Detail: Lauren Stewart Harris, Study for "In the Ward 1, City Paintings", 1918. Collection of Samuel E. Weir ©RiverBrink Art Museum

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, many events are now virtual. Find a list of NOTL events here week to week.</p> <p>Stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask and distance whenever possible.</p> <p>LEGION FISH FRY EVERY THURSDAY! From 4:30 to 7 p.m. Drive-thru only Cash only</p>			
1	2	3	3
<p>NOTL Ghost Walks - 8:30 p.m. - Ghost Walks Gift Shop</p>	<p>Ask a Tech: One on One Tech Tutoring - All Day - NOTL Public Library Contact creganti@notlpl.org</p> <p>Internet Safety for Seniors - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara's Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp</p>	<p>Heritage Trail Committee - 2 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org</p> <p>Rhyme Time: Virtual Circle Time for Infants and Toddlers - 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p>	<p>Create a Copy! A German Painting - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Coach House</p> <p>German Conversation - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: contact@notlpubliclibrary.org</p> <p>Virtual STEAM Storytime - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p> <p>Nobel Prize: Zoom - 2 p.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p> <p>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>
8	9	10	10
<p>Opening Reception: Eric Ranveau Ontario Landscapes - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Yoga and Macrame Workshop - 10 a.m. - Palatine Hills Estate Winery</p> <p>GOC Bike Nights - 2 p.m. - Club 55</p>	<p>We'll Meet Again: Remembrance Day Program - 7 p.m. - NOTL Museum</p> <p>Committee of the Whole: Planning - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Ask a Tech: One on One Tech Tutoring - All Day - NOTL Public Library Contact creganti@notlpl.org</p> <p>Storytime with Cubetto - 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Niagara's Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp</p>	<p>Municipal Heritage - 6:30 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org</p> <p>Rhyme Time: Virtual Circle Time for Infants and Toddlers - 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p>	<p>Create a Copy! A German Painting - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Coach House</p> <p>German Conversation - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: contact@notlpubliclibrary.org</p> <p>Virtual STEAM Storytime - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p> <p>Nobel Prize: Zoom - 2 p.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.org</p> <p>Hello World: Virtual Conversation - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: register@notlpubliclibrary.org</p> <p>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



The Lake Report

Oct. 29 - Nov. 14

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SAFE, ON-SITE TOURS

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29 Learn to Curl Event - 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Falls Curling Club Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com	30 Halloween Ghost Tours - 8 p.m. - Fort George Comedy Show: Humour and Hops - 8 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery	31 Halloween!! Accessible Trick or Treating - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Halloween Goat Yoga - 1 p.m. - Small Talk Vineyards Halloween at Fort George - 12 p.m. - Fort George Halloween Ghost Tours - 8 p.m. - Fort George
4 Group of Seven - 1:30 p.m. - Use Studio Ion Group - 10 - avocanotl@ tytime - 11 - bliclibrary.org Lecture Series - publiclibrary.	5 Open House NOTL Transportation Master Plan - 2 to 3:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org Environmental Advisory Committee - 6 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Make it with Micro:Bit - 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Sketching Techniques - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	6 The Wild: Explore the Wilds of NOTL - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library UnWINEd Retreat - - The Pillar and Post St. Davids Lions Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club	7 Replacement Animation Workshop with Cristal Buemi - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Virtual: riverbrink.org Book Club: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
11 Group of Seven - 1:30 p.m. - Use Studio ion Group - 10 - avocanotl@ tytime - 11 - bliclibrary.org Lecture Series - publiclibrary.	12 Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com Sketching Techniques - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	13 Rock of 80's - 8 p.m. - Club 55	14 Bacchus Lounge Entertainment - 6 p.m. - Queen's Landing Hotel Static Black - 8 p.m. - Club 55 Book Club: Drawing for Absolute Beginners - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

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Town parks lead hand Dylan Muileboom shows how to plant tulip bulbs. RICHARD HARLEY

Rotary plants red and yellow tulips as part of polio campaign

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Simcoe Park will bloom with new red and yellow tulips next summer, thanks to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club.

Rotarians, along with their spouses, were out planting the bulbs Friday morning, led by Dylan Muileboom, lead hand for the Town of NOTL's parks department.

The tulips, planted near the park entrance, will produce the same colours used

in the club's campaign to eradicate polio, said Jolanta Janny, marketing co-chair for NOTL Rotary.

She said the flowers were planted to commemorate World Polio Day, to bring awareness to the importance of eradicating the life-threatening virus worldwide.

"We are very close in that task. We started about 40 years ago, and it took us so many years, but we are almost polio-free," Janny said.

According to the Rotary club, so far polio cases have

been reduced by 99.9 per cent worldwide.

"There are only two countries in the world that have wild polio virus, and it's Afghanistan and Pakistan," said Janny.

The tulips will be blooming around the end of April or early May and will be a reminder of efforts by Rotarians to make polio a thing of the past.

"We hope that it becomes tradition and we'll be able to do it every year in coordination with the town," Janny said.



NOTL Golf Club pro Billy Simkin and associate pro Ricky Watson. SUPPLIED

NOTL pros honoured by peers

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The two pros at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club have been honoured by their peers for their community work and promotion of the game.

Head pro Billy Simkin and associate pro Ricky Watson were ranked in the top 25 in the inaugural Ontario PGA Professional Recognition Program.

Simkin was tied for second spot while Watson placed 25th in the rankings.

"This year the PGA of Ontario developed its Top 100 list," Simkin told The Lake Report. "Members of the PGA earned points over the course of the

year, in many ways, such as education, participation in seminars, hosting PGA events and also participation by playing in Ontario PGA events."

"This was personally a big year for me as I am now the chapter lead for the Niagara Region for the Ontario PGA," Simkin added.

He also joined the Champions of Champions organizing committee and now is in charge of the Niagara District PGA tour.

"I am very proud of what both Ricky and I do for our Club, members and our community," he said.

Watson noted the program was created due to COVID to try to keep PGA members involved while

courses were closed earlier this year.

"This was a points-driven program based on being active within the industry through various forms of professional development, education, industry contribution (hosting events, contributing to meetings, etc), community involvement (junior programs, school programs) and tournament play," he said.

Watson earned points for organizing and participating in the RBC Scramble at the NOTL club, "for being involved in round table discussions with assistant pros from all over Ontario, and various education/professional development seminars/webinars."

Rand Estate for sale



Randwood Estate re-design submitted to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on January 20, 2020 for consideration and discussion without response. Attempts to collaborate with the Town were ignored.

MEDIA RELEASE: RANDWOOD ESTATE
Niagara-On-The Lake, Ontario, October 26, 2020

Two Sisters Resorts has made the decision to sell the Randwood Estate at 144 and 176 John Street East in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, to allow the market to identify a new owner free to pursue its own development vision for the properties. As a result, Two Sisters has withdrawn zoning and site plan applications at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board) and its objection at the Conservation Review Board to heritage designation for the properties.

The Two Sisters applications protected the heritage of the existing buildings and grounds, introducing a spectacular hotel resort and conference centre which would have generated jobs and taxes for the Town. The final design of the hotel, by noted Canadian Architect William Hicks, was presented to

the Town on January 20, 2020, but even as of today, received no response.

Said Benny Marotta of Two Sisters Resorts: "Our intention was always to preserve the integrity of this heritage property and enhance its already robust landscape for guests and the community to enjoy, while creating a beautiful establishment that would elevate hospitality in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Two Sisters tried constantly to engage the Town in a dialogue to resolve concerns and issues. Unfortunately, the Town refused to talk. As it turned out, the core issue was not design or proper planning, but rather, purely political. Specifically, it became obvious that the Council is entirely driven by a wealthy and powerful group calling itself the "SORE Association", which is determined to prevent any form of development on the properties.

Said Mr. Marotta: "It is tragic that the Town does not seem to under-

stand that municipalities must protect the interests of all tax-payers and citizens and has to attract investment in order to maintain fiscal stability and provide employment. The end of the Two Sisters proposal is a loss of over \$50,000,000 to the Town's economy."

And: "Arriving at this decision was very difficult, but it is apparent that there is no path to amicable discussion with either the Town or SORE."

Two Sisters' principals are active and proud residents of NOTL, and well-known members of its business community.

The Randwood Estate has served the Niagara-on-the-Lake community as a school, conference centre and executive retreat. In 2011, it was purchased by Trisha Romance, her husband Gary Peterson, and a St. Catharines developer, who submitted applications for a hotel development. This sparked a heated debate, but the approvals were ultimately granted.

Rotary totes and outdoor tour of **McArthur estate** highlight holiday season

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

More than 3,000 people may be disappointed this holiday season with the cancellation of the Rotary Holiday House Tours – but the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake won't let the absence of one of its biggest fundraisers slow it down.

This year, the service club is thinking outside the box to plan pandemic-friendly fundraisers in lieu of the much-anticipated holiday events.

Brenda McArthur of the McArthur Estate approached the club with an idea to host guided tours of her garden, said Lorna Penman, chair of the Rotary's Holiday House Tour committee.

The McArthur Estate on John Street, once owned by artist Trisha Romance and depicted in several of her paintings, has been a highlight of the house tours for several years, drawing crowds for a sneak peak into the elegantly-decorated mansion and property.



Brenda McArthur at her estate. RICHARD HARLEY

"This will be the fourth year (the McArthurs) have participated, and they have just been absolutely amazing," Penman said. "(Brenda) approached us and said she felt really bad because we had to cancel the tour, and would we like to have her garden for an evening stroll. Obviously we ran with it."

The Enchanted Wonderland Stroll will take place on Friday, Dec. 4 and Saturday, Dec. 5.

The outdoor event will follow COVID-19 guide-

lines, including keeping family social bubbles together and spacing out tour groups, requiring all visitors to wear masks while on the property and providing masks and hand sanitizer on-site. There are limited quantities of tickets available, which can be purchased at <https://niagaraonthelakerotary.ca/page/holiday-house-tour>.

Penman said the Rotary Club sought and confirmed approval from the town before moving forward with the event.

Tickets include a guided tour of the "exquisitely decorated" garden, with seasonal lights and music, sparkling wine or cider provided by Peller Estates, and gingerbread cookies courtesy of Bosley Real Estate Brokerage of NOTL.

There will be time slots for families, from 5 to 6 p.m., which will include a visit with Santa, a swag bag and a cookie. Adult time slots will be from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Sentinel Carriages will

also be available for rides off-site, not included with ticket purchase.

The NOTL Rotary has also teamed up with several area businesses and organizations to offer the Ho Ho Ho! Holiday House Totes. The tote bags are available for purchase now online until Dec. 3. The totes, an \$80 retail value, sell for the early-bird rate of \$54.99 before Nov. 30, and \$59.99 afterward.

Included in the large, reusable bag are quality items sourced from area businesses, such as a full-sized bottle light with decorative star neck-tag from Regal Florist and Garden Centre, an emerald green cedar from Mori Gardens, large caramel-coated kettle popcorn from Rocky Mountain Chocolate, a holiday house decorated cookie from Willow Cakes & Pastries, a glittery gold maple leaf ornament from Just Christmas and one adult admission to the Bird Kingdom in Niagara Falls.

Penman said one of the best items in the bag will be

the Ho Ho Passport, which will grant carriers special discounts at select area establishments – available only for those who purchase the tote.

Totes can be bought online at niagaraonthelakerotary.ca for pickup at Regal Florist or Mori Gardens.

The Regal Holiday House Tour Silent Auction will take place from Dec. 4 to Dec. 12, at Regal Florist and Garden Centre. (The store is closed Sundays.)

The selection of upscale items, such as ceramic fountains, a cement fountain, ceramic bird feeder, an arbour, a quilt, a handmade needlepoint, a bed & breakfast gift certificate and more will be up for auction.

"There's a lot of items. We're still getting them but there's going to be at least between 30 to 40 items up for auction," Penman said.

All items have been "generously donated," she said. "The community has been stepping up and giving us donations. But more donations would be gratefully received."



RETIREMENT COACH

Should seniors engage in **regular exercise**?

Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report

What do the following professions have in common: mortician aka funeral director, pathologist, gravedigger, mourner-greeter, makeup artist, hospice aide, floral designer, obituary writer, embalmer, crematorium technician, coroner, monument engraver and/or manufacturer, cardiac surgeon, ambulance attendant and stretcher-bearer?

If you guessed that the over-riding theme was exercise, then you are correct. When seniors engage in vigorous exercise, these awful occupations are soon to follow. Let me explain.

In the old days, before 1956, when TV remotes were invented, people didn't have to exercise. Their physical lifestyle was sufficiently demanding. They didn't have to pay annually for a gym membership with complimentary towels.

TV personality Ellen DeGeneres offers a good take on exercise. She says, "My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 now and we don't know where the hell she is."

Astronaut Neil Armstrong chimed in with, "I believe every human has a finite number of heartbeats. I don't intend to waste any of mine running around doing exercises."

Why waste heart beats? I agree. If I was going to waste heart beats, I'd watch a Brigitte Bardot film.

I do not want to sound authoritative, but I should mention that I have a university degree in physical education. I know what I'm talking about. For example, there are two types of exercise – aerobic and anaerobic.

Aerobic exercise is performed while wearing Spandex, sometimes accented by a tasteful sweat band; all

other forms of exercise are anaerobic. Spandex is an anagram for "expands."

This does not auger well for one's appearance, so aerobic exercise should be avoided at all costs. The other danger is that during exercise, chemicals called endorphins invade your blood vessels and tend to build up and cause a beatific look on your face, which makes it seem that you are ready and willing to expire. I could mention other disturbing items like the pooling of lactic acid, but there is no need to flaunt my extensive anatomical and physiological knowledge.

Nike assists athletes by providing exercise footwear and clothing. Its motto is "Just do it." Be forewarned. If you choose to just do it à la Nike, it might set you back \$200 for running shoes and another \$200 for clothing. So, \$400 for just doing it.

An unfortunate conse-

quence of exercise is that it produces perspiration commonly known as sweat. I recommend the "no sweat" approach for seniors. Especially in winter. Sweating will dramatically increase your exercise budget because you will have to add myriad antiperspirants that contain aluminum salts designed to reduce sweat. That alone (aluminum salts) should be enough to discourage exercise.

With exercise, trends emerge like hot yoga or yoga performed with goats or some other strange animals. I tried yoga. It's composed of multiple asanas or poses, which are quite popular among extroverts.

I became proficient posing as a eucalyptus tree, but nevertheless, as a precaution, each day, I arrived at class with a shoehorn and a bottle of extra virgin olive oil. I did not want to get stuck in one of those frightening-looking yoga

pretzel-like postures.

My favourite form of exercise is gardening. I love to till the earth, which is where I'm going to end up, but I guess I should conclude on a more positive note by mentioning that exercise is often linked with good sex.

Nonetheless, I must warn seniors that your partner will not respond well in the bedroom if, before sex, you have to first perform 15 minutes of stretching warmups. Calling it "foreplay" will certainly lead to disastrous results.

The bottom line is that exercise is essentially attitudinal and someone once suggested a very practical approach to exercise: Instead of calling your bathroom the "John" call it the "Jim." That way it sounds far better when you say, "I go to the Jim first thing every morning."

FEEDBACK: Regarding a letter, "Opinion column showed left-wing bias," pub-

lished Oct. 15 in response to my last column, I'd like to say it's invigorating to receive fan mail from Glendale. Under what conditions was it written, I wondered. Could the writer be afflicted with pandemic paranoia? Kidding aside, does he understand analogy and satire? His belief that nobody places money before life is far funnier than anything in my piece given the likes of "Novichok" Vlad and Donnie "Bone-spurs" who rule in the east (left) and west (right).

Mike Keenan belongs to the NOTL Writers' Circle. Follow his podcasts: *The Retirement Coach*: <http://theretirementcoach.libsyn.com> and *Travel*: <http://whattravelwriterssay.libsyn.com>. His book, *Don't Ever Quit: A Journal of Coping with Crisis & Nourishing Spirit*, is available in print & electronic format at Amazon.



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Have some fun

Across

- 1. No-show (8)
- 5. Ring fighter (5)
- 10. Seed providing milk and meat (7)
- 11. Anthropoid (3-4)
- 12. Performs (4)
- 13. Limited (10)
- 14. Island in central Hawaii (4)
- 15. Area of South London (10)
- 19. Senior mail official (10)
- 22. Passport endorsement (4)
- 24. Large city (10)
- 26. Fruit a k a the Chinese gooseberry (4)
- 28. Hearing distance (7)
- 29. Employ excessively (7)
- 30. Stench (5)
- 31. Signal to arise (8)

Down

- 1. Praise vociferously (7)
- 2. Pruning shears (9)
- 3. Not one (4)
- 4. Radical (7)
- 6. Biddable (8)
- 7. Survive (5)
- 8. Chicken of very small size (6)
- 9. Lethal (6)
- 16. Furrow (3)
- 17. Religious (9)
- 18. Flatten out (8)
- 19. Treat with excessive indulgence (6)
- 20. Grunts (6)
- 21. Incident (7)
- 23. City in central Texas (7)
- 25. Fortune-telling cards (5)
- 27. Lake or pond (4)

Crossword Puzzle

Last issue's answers

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HALLOWEEN PHOTO CONTEST

Here are the winners of this year's Halloween challenge. We asked residents to submit their best Halloween photos. Thanks to everyone who participated! There were lots of photos we could not fit on the page, but a full gallery will be online at www.niagaranow.com.



Contest winners Ashley and Thomas Turner as Luigi and Mario.



Two pumpkin heads, who submitted anonymously.



Wizard and witch Tom Lapicco, 63, and Maria Goulart, 60, ride a broomstick.



Robin Griese, 2 years old. This year she is a palaeontologist.



Pepsi the horse and Liz Sauter placed second on Sunday during a Halloween horse show at Red Ribbon Stables hosted by Leslie McCormick.



Nathan Flynn, 7, dresses as the Joker.



Edith Pietruniak, 13 months old, dresses as a ladybug.



Horses Carrots (taco) and Tucker (piñata) with Holden.



Zoe Abraham, 16, is the ghost of the vineyards.

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Rotary raises \$660K for World Polio Day

World Polio Day events by district Rotary clubs raised \$660,000 this year. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, a fundraising bicycle ride ended Saturday morning in Queenston, where Lord Mayor Betty Disero made the proclamation of World Polio Day in town. The fundraiser was a joint effort of multiple Rotary clubs, including across the border in Lewiston, NY. The NOTL club raised \$18,100 Canadian and with matching programs by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, that translates into a contribution of \$66,000 — 10 per cent of the total district's contributions. The day was dedicated to the memory of Ron Mergl, who died from Cancer earlier this year. Ron was passionate about ending polio and took three international vaccination trips. His family was there Saturday to honour his legacy and contributions to the global fight against polio.

Obituary

Scott Aspinall



Scott Aspinall passed away on October 13 at Upper Canada Lodge after many years of declining dementia. The incredible staff at Upper Canada Lodge helped make Scott's last years and final days dignified and comfortable, and his family are grateful for their skills and kindness. We also thank Dr. Karen Berti for her constant and kind care.

Scott was born in Dumfries, Scotland, and came to Canada with his family in 1957. After graduating from The University of British Columbia, he enjoyed a career in banking and finance. Scott and his wife Ruth moved from Toronto to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1991 and opened The Epicurean restaurant. When Scott wasn't working, he loved to spend time travelling and exploring the world with Ruth, skiing, playing squash, reading, sailing and doing anything outdoors. Many people in town will remember Scott biking around, even in winter, often in shorts. He was passionate about both making and sharing a glass (or two) of wine, which he loved to pair with a newly discovered cheese. He will be greatly missed by Ruth, his children, Colin, Blair and Janet, granddaughters Lucy, Ella, Charlotte, Phoebe and Maya — who will always remember his blueberry pancakes and sense of adventure.

Dr. Brown: Popular Nobel Prize series kicks off Nov. 4



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

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

NOTL's annual six-week series of Nobel Prizes starts Nov. 4 and showcases what learned committees in Sweden and Norway consider the best achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine (physiology), economics, literature and the promotion of peace.

The history of the Nobel Prize is best left to another day but like all human endeavours, even the most worthy of selection com-



Alfred Nobel SOURCED

mittees and laureates may spark controversy.

And it started with the fact that Alfred Nobel, the wealthy Swedish industrialist and founder of the prize which bears his name, was a controversial figure. After all, he made his money developing and marketing explosives in peace and war to whomever was willing to pay.

One of the earliest laureates, Marie Curie, won two Nobel Prizes — the first in physics was shared in 1903 with Becquerel and her husband Pierre but the second was a solo win for her in chemistry in 1911.

At the time of the second award some members of the selection committee

were upset by rumours of a scandal to do with Marie Curie circulating in Paris at the time that Curie had had an affair with a married man with four children.

Ever the toughminded and determined woman, Marie wasted no time appealing to a sympathetic member of the committee to whom she made clear that she had won the prize on merit and her personal life was no one else's business — shortly thereafter she was off to collect her Nobel. Good for her.

In recent years most of the controversies surround winners of the peace prize, some of whom were well-known rogues at the time of the award or became so. The literature prize has garnered its

share of controversy because in the early days, so many of the winners were obscure Scandinavian authors or poets unknown to a wider readership. Or in recent times some high-profile writers with their own coterie of vigorous lobbyists, who felt snubbed.

But whatever the controversies, in recent times Canadians should take pride, in that master of the short story, Alice Munro, won the literature prize in 2013. Also, did you know that Winston Churchill won a Nobel in literature in 1953, as much for his speeches (which galvanized and inspired his nation under imminent threat of invasion), as for his post-war six-volume history of the Second World War and later the history of the English-speaking people. Both were written very much from a Churchillian point of view and a visceral feel for the noble English sentence and words.

There's been much less overt controversy with the awards in science, perhaps because the work has usu-

ally been vetted by rigorous peer review in high-quality journals well before. But even here it might come as a surprise to some readers to learn that Albert Einstein won his Nobel Prize for his studies of the quantal nature of light and by extension the rest of the electromagnetic spectrum and energy itself, but not for his far more famous work on relativity, especially the general theory of relativity published in 1915. The fruits of general relativity were visible for all to see in two recent Nobel Prizes.

The first, in 2017, clearly showed that major cosmic events such as the collision of black holes, created ripples in space-time called gravitational waves. And this year Roger Penrose, a theoretical physicist from Oxford University, shared the Nobel Prize in physics for his work in the 1960s.

Penrose shared the Nobel with Andrea Ghez and Reinhard Genzel "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy." The study of

a supermassive black hole at the centre of our Milky Way was as much an engineering triumph as a triumph in physics and was based on revealing how such a massive black hole altered the speeds and trajectories of nearby bright stars.

If this year's crop of laureates were likened to a wine harvest — 2020 is a very good year. Plan to catch the series by Zoom or YouTube, the latter is usually available within a few days of the original broadcast.

The series begins on Nov. 4 with physics, then chemistry, followed by economics, medicine, peace and, finally, the literature prize.

They start at 2 p.m. on successive Wednesdays. You will need to register with the Niagara-on-the-Lake library. This year, as last we're lucky to have David Elkins repeat with the economics and peace prizes, and Valmai Elkins with the literature prize.

To view the health series, register through the library's website, notpubliclibrary.org.



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Audiologist

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Rural Matinee

We all missed the summer season of the Shaw Festival this year. This oil painting by John D. Shawe, titled "Rural Matinee," depicts the Royal George Theatre when it was known as the Brock Theatre. The original theatre was built in 1915 as a vaudeville house to entertain troops training at Niagara Camp during the Great War. It was a movie house until it was purchased in 1980 by the Shaw Festival. Through the generosity of Walter Carson, the inside of the theatre was restored into a little opera house.

ARCHITEXT

The other choice

Brian Marshall
Columnist

Love it or hate it, wallpaper has been the principal alternative to paint since its introduction in the 16th century.

The earliest wallpaper involved scenes and motifs copied from tapestries, embroidery and other textiles and were printed with black ink on small 40 by 50 cm paper sheets.

Given its size and monochrome presentation, it isn't a surprise that wallpaper was used in small rooms and cupboards. In fact, it took about 100 years for the small sheets to be joined into a roll and the development of block printing before wallpaper made it into the grand



William Morris – Pimpernel – V & A Museum Collection. SUPPLIED

rooms of a home.

Block printing was laborious, time-consuming and required significant expertise.

A pattern was broken down by colour, the parts of the pattern corresponding to each colour engraved into separate wooden blocks, then a block was "inked" with paint and a series of impressions made down the length of the paper roll. After allowing the paint to dry, the process was repeated for each colour used in the pattern. A single roll might take four weeks to finish.

By the mid 18th century, technical improvements in block printing allowed the wallpaper industry to flourish. Patterns involving multiple colours in depictions that ranged from florals to architectural to landscapes were being sold to well-heeled people like Thomas Chippendale.

At the same time, flock wallpapers, made by adhering powdered wool on paper in a pattern to imitate cut velvets and silk damasks, were all the rage. In fact, it was reported that in the 1760s "hardly a country house in England did not

have a room so decorated."

In 1839, the first wallpaper printing machine was patented. Adapting the methods used to print calico, the pattern colours could be applied in a single process at a speed and economy that put the cost of wallpaper within the reach of even the most modest householder.

Despite patterns lacking the complexity and vibrancy of block printing, machine-printed wallpaper was hung in virtually every home.

Both design and quality of wallpaper reached an apex during the last half of the 1800s. William Morris' Pimpernel, W. Dennington's Peacock and Walter Crane's Wood Notes, to name but three, are stellar examples and representative of societal taste at the time.

While cheap, mass-produced wallpapers of the later 20th century turned off many folks, today there are many excellent options, including having one printed ... it's not as expensive as you might think.

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Cool Clothes Collective brings first **vintage pop-up** to NOTL

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

It's where garage sale meets flea market meets multiple fashionistas.

Cool Clothes Collective, a group of vintage clothing resellers, brought its first pop-up event to Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday, selling a variety of gently-used women's clothing and apparel.

Rachel Racioppo, one of the founders of the collective, said it's a way for the vendors to meet each other and together have a greater impact.

"We are all very passionate about second-hand, sustainable vintage clothing and this was sort of a way where we could all meet



Summer Shepherd, Natalie Schirmmacher, Tasha Ewasiuk and Xaina Choukeir help host a vintage pop-up sale Saturday. SUPPLIED

each other," she said.

While all the vendors are doing the same thing, they've all got different products available.

"So we just wanted a

space where we could all share what we've got and kind of get to know each other as well," Racioppo said.

She and her business

partner Danielle both lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake as kids.

"We've known each other since we were five and then she moved to the U.K.

when we were kids and she's come back now and so this has sort of burst as a result of her moving back here," Racioppo said.

She said the two have had a lifelong interest in fashion.

"We've always been passionate about fashion, like even as children. We were always wanting to dress like our Groovy Girls and our Barbies, and our Bratz dolls. This is just basically that coming to fruition as adults."

She said the collective acts as umbrella for similar businesses to stay in touch and support each other, adding they hope to be doing the pop-ups more regularly across Niagara.

Racioppo said there was

a good turnout Saturday and anyone who wants to keep up on the next pop-up can check their Instagram account Cool Clothes Collective.

"That's sort of how you can keep up with all of us and where we'll be doing more of these. I hope to do more soon, weather permitting and COVID permitting, of course."

The group also operates a booth at the St. Catharines Factory Outlet Flea Market on Turner Crescent.

"So we're always looking for more people to come there. It's open Sundays to the public from 9 to 4. And there's so much stuff there."

The collective is open to anyone who wants to join and be a vendor.



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