



GRATEFUL PLATEFULS

Restaurants sell out of turkey



Shelley Baldwin says Thanksgiving dinner at the Farmhouse Cafe is the best you can get next to cooking yourself. Nine members of the Baldwin family gathered Monday afternoon at the cafe at Caroline Cellars. EVAN SAUNDERS

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

NOTL restaurants were practically running out of turkey by the time Monday rolled around on Thanksgiving weekend.

At Treadwell Cuisine, that's exactly what happened.

Manager April Kilpatrick said the restaurant served nearly 200 boxes of

prepackaged turkey dinners between Sunday and Monday and were completely sold out.

More people were calling in to order but, unfortunately, there was just no turkey left, Kilpatrick said.

"So we promised people we would have some boxes ready for them for Christmas," she said.

"They're crazy popular, which has been awesome," server Kirsten Clark said.

NOTL resident Susan MacDonald was one of the lucky 200 who ordered before the restaurant's turkey supply was gobbled up.

"It's just two of us so I figured this is the best way for us to have a nice turkey dinner," she said.

MacDonald said she would probably make way too much food for her and her husband if she decided to cook the feast herself.

Treadwell offered pack-

aged dinners for two or five people.

The dinners weren't just reserved for paying customers. Some of its hardworking staff members were able to order them to take home as well.

"I got the order for five people and I had 10 people over last night and we still have leftovers," Clark said.

Kilpatrick had a box set

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The Rand Estate has been owned by Two Sisters Resorts Corp. since 2017. SUPPLIED

Committee delays most Rand Estate repairs until May

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Most of the town-ordered repairs to the historic Rand Estate have been deferred till spring, but developer Benny Marotta has been told to ensure the buildings are protected from trespassers by the original January deadline.

Some of the repair items, such as the weatherproofing of doors and windows and mould remediation of the interiors, will be dealt with at a special committee of adjustment meeting on Nov. 23.

Other items, such as the removal of fallen trees and maintenance to the roof on the sheet house, are already under way and Ma-

rotta's Two Sisters Resorts Corp. has committed to having the work done by Jan. 25, 2022.

Of the 20 repair items originally ordered by the town, 12 have been delayed until May 31, 2022, three will be decided on Nov. 23, and the remaining five must be done by Jan. 25.

In late August, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake issued a repair order to Marotta's company because conditions on the site were deemed in violation of the town's property standards.

Two Sisters appealed the order and Tuesday requested a number of the repairs be delayed until May 2022 in order to obtain the appropriate permits, potential in-

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Analysis: Saturday power outage could cost NOTL residents over \$80K

Tim Curtis
NOTL Hydro President
Special to The Lake Report



Tim Curtis. SUPPLIED

Saturday's unexpected power outage will cost Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro's customers a lot more than just being without power in the early hours of the morning.

Due to the methodology the Ontario Energy Board allows transmitters to bill for their service, NOTL Hydro estimates it will have to pay over \$80,000 more than it otherwise would have been

billed for the month of October.

And this money will go to Hydro One, the transmit-

ter responsible for the lines that went out.

Included in the delivery charge on every customer's bill is an amount for the cost of transmitting the power to NOTL by Hydro One.

Under rules set by the Ontario Energy Board, NOTL Hydro is charged for transmission based on the peak hourly loads at each of our two transmission stations, in NOTL and on York Road.

Because NOTL Hydro is charged based on each station's load rather than the total load, NOTL Hydro is

exposed to potential double billing if the sum of each station's peak is higher than the total peak.

Hydro usage is monitored continuously and if peak usage at any point during a month is say, 40 MW, we try to ensure the sum of the peak usage by each NOTL station does not exceed 40 MW. If the peak usage of both stations adds up to, say, 45 MW, then NOTL Hydro is billed for that larger amount.

In a normal month, NOTL Hydro manages its

power so that the two stations' peaks are as close as possible to the total peak.

Earlier this year, NOTL Hydro was advised by Hydro One that due to work being done on the transmission line, on one day in October no power would be delivered over the line that serves the NOTL station. All the power to serve NOTL would have to be from the York station that day.

To prevent the double billing scenario, NOTL Hydro shut down the NOTL station for the full month of Octo-

ber. Otherwise, we would have a full peak load on the York station and a regular load on the NOTL station during the month, leading to the double billing. NOTL Hydro planned to use the NOTL station down time for some maintenance work.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, Oct. 9, power on the transmission line serving the York station was disrupted, meaning the entire Town of NOTL was without power. (This was not the line

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Overnight parking **banned** at parks

Councillors were concerned with RVs staying overnight near Simcoe Park

Evan Saunders
The Lake Report

It is now against the law to park adjacent to or in a town park overnight in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Council unanimously passed a new bylaw on Sept. 27 despite narrowly advancing as a motion a week earlier in a 5-4 vote.

The bylaw makes it illegal to park on the side of the street adjacent to a municipal park for more than eight hours overnight. It is also illegal to park in any park overnight for any period of time, such as in the lot at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil.

Parking anytime along

Turntable Way near Balls Beach is now restricted to the east side only. And drivers can no longer park on the west side of King Street for a 55-metre stretch south from Front Street, according to the bylaw.

The Lake Report reached out to bylaw officials regarding what times constitute "overnight." As of late Wednesday, they were unable to provide a clear answer.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she believes the timeframe would be between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., but that is not mentioned in the bylaw document. Signs posted near Simcoe Park also vaguely refer to "overnight"

but provide no actual hours.

Coun. Erwin Wiens said the original motion considered safety to be at the core of the bylaw. He asked director of operations Sheldon Randall what safety issues had been observed regarding overnight parking.

"To date, staff have not identified any safety concerns," Randall said.

Originally Wiens said he wouldn't support the bylaw and raised a safety concern it could create if passed.

"After a sporting event somebody (could have) a drink or two, or maybe a drink or two too many, and so they'll be asked, 'Hey pal, leave your car

here and we'll give you a ride home.'" Wiens told councillors.

Wiens said he was concerned the illegality of leaving a car near a park or in a park parking lot overnight could prompt more people to drive home after drinking alcohol.

"I don't condone it but it's certainly a reality that happens in our society," he said.

"We're gonna have unintended consequences in some of these places that maybe we haven't thought about."

Burroughs was concerned with motor homes parking along Byron Street next to Simcoe Park.

"In the past few weeks



Signs are up warning of a ban on overnight parking near town parks. EVAN SAUNDERS

after Labour Day there were seven RVs parked on the church side of Byron Street. And that's fine, because right now there are no rules," Burroughs said.

Wiens agreed that there was a parking problem

on Byron and said if the bylaw targeted Byron Street instead of every park in the municipality he might support it.

In the end, Wiens voted with everyone else in favour of the bylaw.

Some Rand Estate repairs will **wait** for warmer weather, committee decides

Continued from Front Page

clement weather delays and difficulty finding specialized labour.

Mark Shoalts, a heritage restoration specialist with over 40 years of experience, spoke about the restoration work taking place at the estate.

"We're not disputing that the work needs to be done, we're not disputing the property needs to be protected and properly restored. We just want to do it right," Shoalts said during the meeting.

Two Sisters argued more time is needed to do the work properly.

Shoalts said masonry and mortar repairs to the walls of the estate could not be done during the winter.

Committee member Eric Lehtinen disputed that claim.

"Masonry work can be done in this kind of weather. In my 32 years of experience in new subdivision construction development it happens all year long," Lehtinen said.

He said buildings are often covered in tarp and heated to allow work to occur during the winter months.

Shoalts agreed that the work could be done but stressed the level of delicacy



An entrance on the heritage trail offers unfettered access to the Rand Estate. SUPPLIED

needed when handling heritage properties.

"I have yet to see a job, a masonry job, in my 40 years of experience, done under tarps and with heaters that in any way compares to one that was done in October. It just can't be done," Shoalts said.

He said there is over a kilometre of wall to be studied and he is still putting together designs and repair plans for how the job can best be approached.

This problem is compounded by the need to acquire heritage permits.

In order for heritage permits to be obtained, detailed designs and plans have to be in place. Shoalts said the developer just isn't that far into the process yet.

"I'm still getting a handle on just how big the project is," he said.

Craig Larmour, the town's director of development, confirmed that designs are needed to apply

for heritage permits and supported the deferral of some of the work. He also said the developer has been co-operating with town staff.

Shoalts was also concerned about hiring specialized contractors who are equipped to deal with heritage projects such as the Rand Estate.

"The people you have doing this kind of work are not every Tom, Dick and Harry with a pickup truck. They are specialized people," he said.

He noted the construction trades are very busy now.

"The good guys, sometimes you've got to beg them to show up right now," he said.

Michael McClelland, a NOTL resident and heritage architect, expressed concerns about the property's condition but said he was pleased to see Shoalts involved as a heritage restoration specialist.

McClelland said his chief concern about the property is the need to secure the buildings.

Save Our Rand Estate was represented by Kate Lyons, a lawyer with Goodmans LLP. She submitted a document that included links to three YouTube videos created by Freaktography's Abandoned Exploring.

The videos appear to have been taken by someone who trespassed onto the estate and filmed more than an hour of video exploring the vacant property.

On the videos, "they say they didn't have to break in. They walked in through the front door," McClelland pointed out.

"I work all across Ontario and other provinces. We secure buildings very carefully once they are vacant."

"The chief threat to a heritage building is an empty heritage building. Frankly, sir, they burn down. That's my greatest fear for this site, that kids are going to get in there and they are going to burn it down."

He said securing the doors and windows with plywood is a great deterrent to trespassers.

McClelland was frustrated that windows on the estate have not been secured, as some are broken and exposing the interiors to the elements.

He said if someone had a broken window on their own house they would never delay the repair until the next year. "It shows a neglect for the buildings and it shows a lack of interest in the buildings," he said.

McClelland agreed with Lyons in saying the devel-

oper needs to have their feet put to the fire "to actually make a legitimate recognition of the importance of these buildings."

Lyons said there is an open entrance to the Rand property from the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, which shows the developer's claims of securing the building are hyperbole.

She said the estate has been owned by Two Sisters for nearly five years and it has taken too long to properly secure the buildings.

Giuseppe Paolicelli, general manager of Solmar Development Corp., said the group had no plans to secure that entrance.

"If we did close it up you could continue walking along the heritage trail and walk around from the vineyard next door and (enter the property)," Paolicelli said.

Lyons thought this argument only strengthened the need to secure the property.

"To me, that is clear evidence that fencing, at a minimum, of these houses is required," Lyons said.

The committee agreed and ordered that fencing of the buildings be done by Jan. 25. Everything else is either to be determined on Nov. 23 or has been pushed back to May 31.



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Saga of how conservation land was **illegally paved** by developer

Inspectors are busy and town trusts developers to follow rules, mayor says

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



A car drives through environmental conservation lands that were paved over by Vrancor Inc. when building the Holiday Inn Express on York Road. EVAN SAUNDERS

Vrancor Development managed to pave over a conservation area near the Holiday Inn Express in Glendale because town staff are simply too busy to inspect every project regularly, Lord Mayor Betty Disero says.

The town also has to trust that developers and builders will not break the rules, she said.

“Staff aren’t in a position to inspect everything constantly and make sure people are (following town directives),” Disero said in an interview Monday.

She said the illegal construction at 524 York Rd. occurred between inspections by town officials.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor shared the mayor’s view.

“Staff is very busy and it’s very hard to follow up on every single development all of the time,” O’Connor said.

Coun. Allan Bisback looked for accountability during a public meeting on Sept. 13, asking town planner Rick Wilson who was responsible for approving the as-built plan.

Wilson said the project had not been approved after discovery of the illegal construction.

“How did this get overlooked? That still needs to be discussed,” Bisback said in an interview late September.

He said he expects the issue to return to council once a staff report on the situation is finished.

Sometime after 2017, Vrancor Development built a parking lot and connecting road on top of protected environmental land north of York Road.

“It could happen any number of ways,” Disero said.

“People don’t follow their site plan or they get the town to sign off and then do unapproved additions.”

While the inability of staff to inspect every development daily and the trust

placed in the developer can lead to this kind of situation, the problem was compounded by the site’s location and the fact that the town traditionally works “on a complaint basis,” Disero said.

Bisback added: “You would never know unless you were going to stay at one of those hotels. I don’t think a lot of residents know the conservation overlap on approved lands.”

Disero was unsure who noticed the problem first and chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie was unable to comment on the situation as of Tuesday.

“I’m not really 100 per cent sure whether there was a complaint brought in about this or whether the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority noticed it and reported it,” Disero said.

She said the town was alerted to the illegal paving a while ago but couldn’t say exactly when.

“It’s not that (staff) just found out last week. It would have been something that they’ve been trying to work towards compliance — which means the zoning change and pre-consultation meetings and applications,” Disero said.

Now that the illegal construction has been identified, Disero said there

are only two options for council to take: either re-zone the area so the road is no longer in a conservation area or order the developer to tear up the road and re-plant the land.

The latter option has a precedent, she said.

“That’s happened before in Niagara-on-the-Lake, although it was in respect to woodlots,” Disero said.

“There have been a couple of farmers that have actually had to reforest areas at the requirement of the conservation authority,” she said.

But Disero was frank in saying she was unsure what recommendation the conservation authority would make in this instance and that the agency’s determination could affect council’s final decision.

“In some occasions they are very lax and in some occasions they are very strict.”

The region is now looking after the conservation land in question and reviewing an ecological impact study supplied by the developer.

Either way, some councillors were not shy in expressing their disapproval of the developer’s actions.

“It is disappointing that we’re at this juncture,” Bisback said.

“You grant approval to build a development and then you find out later that it wasn’t built correctly.”

Coun. Norm Arsenault did not hold back during the September public meeting.

“It just makes me crazy when I see developers taking over conservation areas like this without asking permission,” Arsenault said.

O’Connor sought assurance from Wilson that the work had in fact been done illegally. “I was quite surprised about that,” she said.

“That’s why I had to reinforce it and say, ‘Are you saying that they paved (the conservation lands) illegally?’”

Wilson repeatedly affirmed that the work had been done without the town’s approval.

O’Connor took issue with the environmental impact study by Myler Ecological Consulting.

“(Myler) was saying because of the emerald ash borer and the demise of the ash trees the lot didn’t have the same value to the environment,” she said.

That narrow view didn’t consider the long-term growth potential of the area, she said.

“In the long run, we won’t just have buckthorn brush there. We will have tall oak trees. It takes time. That woodlot does have value, but that’s just my view,” she said.



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Caught in the middle: Confusion over whether single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine is acceptable

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

With proof of vaccine requirements rolled out across the province, there has been some confusion among restaurant employees on just how to enforce the order – and how to determine which vaccine receipts are acceptable.

Glenn Muir, a bartender and manager at the Sandtrap Pub & Grill, was trying to do his best by enforcing the mandate as he understood it when an American customer came in for dinner.

The American, Wade Davis, who lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, had been vaccinated in the United States with the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. However, provincial guidelines for restaurants say a person must have two valid doses of vaccine to be allowed inside to dine.

While further into the guidelines the province does clarify in a footnote that restaurants are supposed to accept Johnson & Johnson vaccine receipts as valid, for Muir, who doesn't get paid to enforce government policies, it's something that simply got overlooked.

"A gentleman came into the restaurant and the waitress went over to him to do the vaccine passport and ID check. He had a single shot, J&J, from the States. She came to me and said, 'I don't know what to do.'"

Muir spoke to Davis and informed him that, based on the Ontario directive, customers had to have two shots.

The situation escalated, with Davis ending up leaving.

"He called me a f--- sheep and stormed out the door," Muir said.

Later, Davis got in touch with Muir through his wife's Facebook account



Glenn Muir says there should be a national, consistent system for vaccine receipts to avoid problems in enforcing the government's policies RICHARD HARLEY

and shared messages he received from Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Niagara's chief medical officer, Dr. Mustafa Hirji, which confirmed that Johnson & Johnson should be accepted.

"Businesses should be accepting one dose of the J&J/Janssen vaccine. Unfortunately, businesses are still learning the new certification rules and there was an error made to this gentleman here," Hirji wrote in response to Davis and Disero.

Hirji pointed to the province's guidance for businesses, where on page 8 in a footnote it outlines that one dose of Johnson & Johnson qualifies a person as fully vaccinated.

But Muir takes issue with that, asking how in reality employees are supposed to be familiar with every bit of the regulation — especially an obscure footnote buried on page 8.

"Hirji said I should have known and I did the gentlemen a disservice, which I don't see how I did when he hasn't really explained to us what we need to do."

Reached by The Lake Report, Davis, a retired dentist, was apologetic for his reaction. However, he said it was frustrating and was the first time he'd had any issues.

"I've been going there every week since I moved to Canada four-plus years ago, as I live only 600 metres away in Chautauqua. Until this episode, I had not had a problem going to any restaurant," Davis said.

"I knew what they did was wrong, and me being an American did cross my mind. I tried to explain why they were wrong, but there was no one in charge except the bartender. He kept saying over and over that no matter what he thought, he couldn't allow me in or it would cost him \$1,000."

"I thought the whole thing was bizarre. I lost my cool, I'm afraid, and called him a sheep. I then left, wondering what had just happened. It's not like me to blow up like that. If I see the bartender again, I will apologize profusely for my reaction."

Davis's email from Hirji clarified the situation and Davis said he was told to

bring the regulations and the email with him in the future in case other restaurants run into the same confusion.

That confusion, Muir said, is partly the result of a lack of firm guidance from public health departments. He added Niagara Region public health has also not provided firm guidance as far as he's aware on how to enforce the vaccination requirements.

Added to his daily work obligations, it's become a confusing mess. Not only are there Ontario receipts and guidelines, he's also dealing with American receipts, European receipts, receipts from different provinces, and various levels of government.

"There's three different levels of government that I'm trying to deal with here and actually I'm trying to do more than that, because I had a handwritten B.C. one yesterday, handwritten by his doctor," Muir said.

"I have American passports, a gentleman from France yesterday. How am I supposed to differentiate between these and what's

real and what's fake?"

Muir said he's heard reports that even border agents don't know how to properly tell real receipts from fake ones.

"So, it's come down to they've put it on the hospitality industry people," Muir said, adding it's not that they can't handle it, but when there's a risk of a large fine to his employers, he's going to be strict to ensure that doesn't happen.

He said the situation could have been rolled out a lot better.

"They're just not giving us the proper guidelines and they seem to be passing the buck. And the buck seems to land on the industry. It has been this way since the start of COVID," Muir said. "It becomes tiring to say the least."

He said there should have been a national mandate with a secure card or QR code given to all Canadians, "so that it's standardized across the board — not Ontario, Alberta, Quebec."

"Quebec's rules are very different than ours. And so what do I accept from them? It starts to drive you crazy after a while," he said.

"Our jobs have become more and more loaded up with work just because of that. I mean at 11 o'clock at night I have no waitresses there and I have to check every single person that comes in the door."

During a busy night, servers and managers can't be expected to drop everything and read regulations, he said. Because of that, it's sort of like picking poison berries — if a server or manager is uncertain whether it's safe, it's easier to just say no.

Muir said it's not just a hassle for him, but all service industry workers. And it isn't realistic, especially

during down times, for restaurants to hire someone to check the door.

"I'm just glad it was me and not somebody else because I've got thicker skin than most people," he said.

Muir said it could be solved if all levels of government could get together and make a unified set of rules to stop the confusion and potential for fake receipts.

Or, he said, everyone could just get the vaccine. "But that's not going to happen."

"There's got to be a way" to have a simple system so servers can simply scan a QR code at the door.

"But that costs money and Dougie Ford doesn't want to spend any money," he said.

"I understand the severity of the disease. But what I don't understand is why they couldn't have come up with a better way of doing things, so that the onus is not on somebody who's making \$12.25 an hour."

Muir said he's happy his employers have his back.

"I got theirs, they got mine. They take care of me. And I know there's a lot of places out there that don't, so I'm (grateful)."

In general, checking for vaccine receipts hasn't caused many problems, he said.

"It just slows everything down, slows the entire industry down, because you can't get them in fast enough and seated, and now you got 10 people at the door that you've got to check. Well, there's nine of them waiting while you're checking the 10th one," he said.

"You can only go as fast as the slowest part of your machinery. And that's a choke point and slows the whole machine down."



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Rotary launches polio education

Renowned polio fighter speaks virtually to 60 district clubs

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

When Syme Jago spoke to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club last year about her decades-long personal fight against post-polio syndrome, the 76 local members vowed to build an education campaign to help others understand the insidious disease.

“I told my story and my journey,” says Jago. “That seemed to be the catalyst for the club to say: ‘We need to move this to a broader level of understanding.’”

So it was, that Jago, a community partner in the club’s polio campaign, invited Dr. Richard Bruno, one of the world’s acknowledged authorities on post-polio syndrome to speak to not only the NOTL club, but through video conferencing, 60 other clubs in the cross-border district of the organization.

On Tuesday, Oct. 19, Bruno will address the combined audience during the regular Rotary lunch-time meeting. The public is welcome to join the video conference. To connect to the meeting, contact: info@niagaraonthelakerotary.ca. The presentation will also be posted later to the club website.

The event will launch the Rotary’s post-polio education initiative.

Barb Babij, chair of the polio education subcommittee of the NOTL Rotary club, says, “We wanted to make World Polio Day more than a single day. We wanted people to become aware more generally. We need to educate younger members, the medical community — the whole community.”

Jago is a polio survivor



Dr. Richard Bruno, left, will speak about post-polio syndrome, which Syme Jago suffers from.

but lives with post-polio syndrome.

There are more than a million people like her in North America and many millions more around the world. She is aware of at least eight other people with post-polio syndrome in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

She contracted polio as a young girl. With the help of a determined mother, she fought off the disease to become an accomplished child actor and internationally recognized event producer.

But in her early thirties, she began to notice things were not quite right. She experienced extreme fatigue, debilitating headaches, difficulty swallowing and breathing, foginess and inability to control her muscles.

These are the same symptoms experienced by as many as 75 per cent of polio survivors, typically 35 or 40 years after the poliovirus attack.

She fought on, building her career, constantly searching for someone, anyone, who could explain

her symptoms and ease the constant awareness that her body was betraying her.

She found Dr. Richard Bruno.

Over the past 30 years Bruno, has become the foremost authority on post-polio syndrome in the world, a leader in the international development of diagnosis and mitigation. He has studied and treated over 7,000 polio survivors. He is the founder and director of the International Centre for Polio Education.

Although Jago has never met Bruno in person, they regularly communicate by email and through online support groups with fellow survivors.

In a telephone interview with The Lake Report, Bruno expressed the irony of the moment: that a current viral epidemic is preventing him from coming to Canada to speak about a viral epidemic 70 years ago.

He sees his role as education: “Education for polio survivors. Education for the medical community. Education and advocating for governments.”

There is no cure for post-polio syndrome, he notes. “It is not a disease. It is the response of the damages caused by the polio and what the healthy body had to do to keep up.”

On Oct. 19, Bruno will direct his comments, “COVID-19 — Polio déjà vu,” to a comparison between polio and COVID.

“What are the messages that we can glean from these two conditions. What does polio teach us about COVID?”

Babij hopes Bruno will also help with the next steps of the club’s education campaign, engaging the medical community. “We need to connect with doctors, physiotherapists, chiropractors, nurse practitioners — and beyond.”

Since 1988, Rotary International has been at the forefront of the campaign to eradicate polio everywhere, raising over \$1 billion to vaccinate two billion children worldwide.

The End Polio Now campaign continues that fight with Rotary fundraising projects around the world.



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Driver fined for doing 161 km/h in 80 zone

Staff
The Lake Report

A St. Catharines man has been convicted of travelling 161 km/h in an 80 km/h zone in Niagara-on-the-Lake in May.

A lawyer for Anthony Dellavecchia entered a guilty plea on the charge on Tuesday, Oct. 5, in a Welland courtroom.

Court heard that on May 25, 2021, a police officer was operating

radar on Stewart Road near Carlton Street and saw Dellavecchia driving a blue 2015 Ford Focus hatchback at the excessive speed.

Dellavecchia was charged with speeding

and stunt driving at the time.

Stunt driving charges against Dellavecchia were withdrawn with the guilty plea and he was fined \$789.75 plus surcharges.



FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND 

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



NOTL active cases: 4
Region active cases: 181
Region deaths: 434
Region total cases: 17,868
Region resolved cases: 17,253

*Oct. 13 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock
 “What’s the fun of an adventure if you can’t share it with a friend?”
 - Pam Brown.

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Editorials

Plenty for which to be thankful

Kevin MacLean
 Richard Harley
 Editors

At the risk of repeating ourselves, with Thanksgiving Day officially in the rear-view mirror, let’s reflect a bit on a few of the things for which Niagara-on-the-Lake can be thankful.

To the NOTL Rotary Club, which has its fingers in so many pies. Thanks for some of your latest projects, like the Holiday House Tour and your commitment to eradicate polio worldwide.

To Newark Neighbours, for always being there for those in need, no matter what. And to the volunteers who make it happen.

To the restaurants of NOTL, which offer great dining options 52 weeks of the year and have weathered

a pandemic that still is hitting them hard: many of our eateries this past weekend offered timely Thanksgiving options that were so popular some restos ran out of turkey. Well done.

To the keepers of our history, including but not limited to, the NOTL Museum, Friends of Fort George, the volunteers at the historical society and the NOTL Legion, Scott Finlay and his alter-ego Maj.-Gen. Isaac Brock. You all make sure we will not forget our past.

To the Queenston Residents Association, RiverBrink Art Museum, Willowbank Estate and Willowbank Studio, who teamed up to plan a walk-about and chance for people to literally Explore Queenston this Saturday. We urge everyone to visit.

To the Niagara Regional Native Centre, which in this era of truth and reconciliation, is working to keep Indigenous issues front and centre in Niagara. And people like Elder Albert Choken, profiled here last week, who works with Indigenous youth and men, and also keeps important customs alive.

To all the schools of NOTL, for making sure the first-ever National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was marked and that our children will grow up knowing about the atrocities of the past.

One of the most remarkable commemorations was at Crossroads Public School in Virgil, where students all contributed to a display containing thousands of orange cutout hands represent-

ing Indigenous children lost during their time in Canada’s residential school system.

These aren’t easy topics to tackle, especially with young children.

The history of abuse, death, cultural genocide and the overlooking of all those things by Canadian institutions, churches, government, media and more is a difficult subject, but an important one for our children to learn as they grow. It’s something that should have happened long ago.

We commend principal Kate Fish and everyone at Crossroads for their efforts to educate students and foster an environment where this isn’t just one day of learning, but continuous teaching about our darkest times..

editor@niagaranow.com

Council focused on trivial issues, not real problems

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

The sheer silliness of some of town council’s decisions is again in evidence as councillors have unanimously passed a bylaw banning all parking near or in Niagara-on-the-Lake parks.

The bylaw was put in place to address concerns about RVs parked near Simcoe Park on Byron Street.

But as Coun. Erwin Wiens pointed out, this could have obvious consequences for people who legitimately need to leave their car.

As he suggested, imagine someone has too many

drinks and for safety needs to leave their car. Now, thanks to NOTL council, they will receive a fine for doing the responsible thing.

Lovely. Head’s up councillors — you could have specifically limited RV parking, or even vehicles longer than X feet — similar to the bylaw

that prevents people from storing large vehicles in driveways.

Here’s an idea: Instead of the busy work you’re doing, try focusing on the serious problem this town is facing with short-term rentals.

Or literally any other important issue.

Correction

A headline last week on a story about the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s sign bylaw suggested that lawyer Ron Fritz feels the bylaw is unconstitutional. In fact, that is not the case. The bylaw’s wording only applies to commercial signs, so if the town uses the power of the bylaw to punish or force people to remove protest or any other type of private signs then the municipality would be infringing on people’s Charter rights.

Another contradiction from Solmar and Marotta

Dear editor:

One does not have to look very far to unveil what appears to be yet another contradiction in Benny Marotta’s development ambitions for the Rand Estate.

As The Lake Report has indicated in the Oct. 7 edition, Mr. Marotta is now appealing the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s order to carry out necessary repair and restoration work on the Rand Estate by a

specific date in order to meet the relevant property standards bylaw.

However, in The Lake Report dated July 11, 2019, the property owner (Solmar) denies any allegations of neglect that were voiced by local activists (NOTL residents) and which could ultimately cause deterioration to buildings beyond their repair.

Instead, lawyer Thomas Richardson of Sullivan Mahoney, legal represen-

tative for Mr. Marotta, claims his clients have maintained the property as required by the Ontario Heritage Act.

Given the nature of the NOTL order and the extensive amount of repair work that is now called for, this seems to me to be a long way from the truth.

While I do not profess to be familiar with the maintenance requirements specified in the Ontario Heritage Act and which

may vary, I think it is fair to assume that, as a minimum, they are required to preserve any heritage attributes that exist.

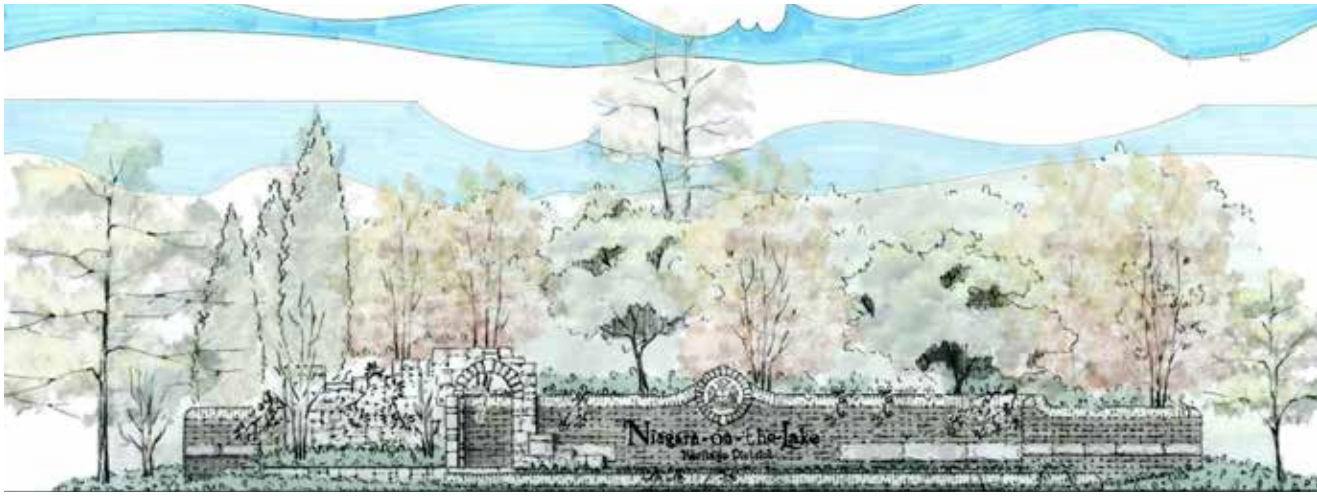
Again, Mr. Marotta as a self-interested developer, demonstrates his growing lack of credibility and blatant disregard for the concerns of the local NOTL community with his constant and outrageous lawsuits and appeals.

Derek Collins
 NOTL

HEY NOTL! WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DINNER?

← **Italian Pizza Pasta** or Spanish Tapas →

NAPLES-ON-THE-LAKE OR CATALONIA-ON-THE-LAKE



Gateway wall is a potential **hazard** for drivers

Dear editor:

Evan Saunders' article in The Lake Report of Sept. 30, ("Council approves new-look for Old Town gateway"), outlines the negative response to the first design.

Back to the drawing board, councillors were given three choices and opted for number 2 – the redesigned gateway.

The new design roughly is going to be 24 metres long on Queen Street with about 25 metres of landscaped area and a height of two to three metres.

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors have chosen to build a wall. Since 1989, walls have been coming

down in every part of the world.

As designed, the "bump out" area will some day get knocked down by a motorist, much the same as those small posts on the inside curves of a roundabout.

The golf course property near the gateway, specifically near the second hole, is low and fills up terribly during heavy rains. If the area is levelled for the wall, where will the water be diverted?

Or will it cause water problems on the second green. In the same fashion, will the nearby eighth green be flooded as the 24-metre wall becomes a reality?

I also read something of

an "enlarged plaza, gathering space on the southeast corner. That would allow some congregation to view the sign across the road and take pictures ..."

That is a concern at one of only two main entrances to Old Town.

But more importantly we need to be concerned about accidents – and there will be accidents, rest assured.

I do not have statistics but one can certainly research data. Check with either Niagara Parks Police or Niagara Regional Police as to how many cars ran through the traffic lights in the wee hours at Victoria Avenue and Niagara River Parkway in Niagara Falls,

striking the retaining wall.

Or any street along the Parkway in Niagara Falls that also ends into the retaining wall. It's not a "traffic calming measure that would allow people to stop and enjoy the feature ..."

Certainly a better design, if really necessary, could be realized.

At present, the backdrop of trees on the course, along with the marvellous work done by NOTL parks staff in floral design, fits the eye perfectly.

It makes a beautiful picture of what the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake represents. Start there.

Jim Panetta
Niagara Falls

Residents' concerns **ignored** in tourism debate

Dear editor:

The third instalment in your series of editorials on short-term rentals is 100 per cent on point, both in the analysis of residents' concerns and proposed corrective recommendations, ("Realistic solutions to an undeniable fiasco," The Lake Report, Sept. 30).

Unfortunately the owners, their agents, the hospitality industry in general and our town council are unconcerned and unresponsive to the wishes of the taxpayer. This council marches to its own drummer.

For example, the audacity with which Bob Jackson, the chief executive of Lais Hotel Properties, in your Sept. 2 news story ("Town passes controversial hotel tax – again,") presumes to know exactly what is best for the residents of our community.

He lectures, threatens and attempts to intimidate us by proclaiming that NOTL will die without tourism –

furthermore your \$2 million home's price will fall by 50 per cent. This individual does not speak for me and, I suspect, the majority of the community.

Sadly the above parties ignore the well-published backlash, on critical issues of taxpayer importance, which are negatively impacting our town culture and preservation of our quality of life.

Both are deteriorating at an alarming rate and as a result we have become a very fractured and divided community.

Residents are frustrated and exasperated with the tone and tenor surrounding many of the key unresolved disputes. For example, the gateway project, one which the majority do not want, and in spite of the public outcry the final decision to proceed was obvious from day one.

Our council took the bait and bowed to this individual

whose goal was to buy a legacy in his name. Gerald Kowalchuk will leave a legacy alright – one that divided our community even more. He clearly has no empathy for his fellow taxpayers and I challenge him to publicly refuse to have his name on any commemorative plaque at the completed project site.

This was not a community- or council-driven project, one that will enhance our quality of life. It is one where Mr. Kowalchuk said jump and council placated his demands by saying, "How high?"

Add to the foregoing rental problems, the gateway project, the LBTQ crosswalk, the carriage protests, Tour de France cycle crowds on the weekends, and so forth, on top of our overtourism issues (such as parking) and we are now experiencing the collateral damage.

Namely, an exodus of

residents from NOTL.

Yes, in this hot market, people are selling and leaving town. They are not relocating within the community – as the saying goes, they are getting out of Dodge.

To Mr. Jackson and those whose self-interests come first, we are witnessing the early stages of the "Vienna Syndrome." The residents, long term and newer arrivals, see our backward slide in process. The Heritage District is becoming the Clifton Hill of NOTL.

Overtourism, not lack of tourism, is killing NOTL as we know it.

Have our councillors become overwhelmed and lost control, retreating to addressing secondary ones of no importance, such as the gateway project?

They should refocus. Their re-election is drawing near.

Samuel Young
NOTL

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B&B president **suggests** how to govern short-term rentals

John Foreman
Special to The Lake Report

Term rentals are governed by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's short-term rentals by-law. B&Bs have required licences in NOTL for decades, however, it wasn't until 2013 that a bylaw was introduced that covered the entire rental spectrum, including B&Bs, cottage rentals, villas, country inns and vacation apartments.

The bylaw lays out a great many requirements that short-term rentals must comply with in order to obtain a licence, including fire safety, building code compliance, property maintenance, liability insurance, parking spaces, signage and much more. It also covers how the rules will be enforced and specifies penalties for non-compliance. It is quite thorough.

Bylaw enforcement, however, has been a challenge. Noise violations in particu-

lar have been difficult to deal with as bylaw enforcement officers are typically off-duty when the noise infractions occur.

People calling the town with noise complaints would quickly become frustrated with the lack of action and vent their anger at the entire short-term rental community even though the actual number of offenders was small. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that there are a significant number of unlicensed short-term rentals in NOTL that are, in effect, underground.

The town has taken a number of actions, including making revisions to the bylaw and hiring Granicus Host Compliance to assist with enforcement (the cost of which is recouped from rental licences, not municipal taxes).

Last fall several proposed revisions to the bylaw came before council and largely focused on

curbing "bad behaviour" from guests. The changes included many terms that would have been very punitive for rental owners, including the requirement that only a "principal residence" could be licensed as a short-term rental. This would have virtually eliminated the entire cottage rental segment (or at least the licensed portion of that segment), as such properties are generally vacation homes, not principal residences.

These proposals caused great dismay among rental owners, who felt they were unnecessarily severe for the goal they were trying to achieve. At the suggestion of the B&B Association, council created a temporary short-term rentals committee, including councillors, tourism industry representatives and NOTL citizens.

The committee was to investigate the issues, thoroughly and objectively,

and propose solutions to council that would serve the needs of all. After several months of weekly meetings, the committee reported to council in August. It contained detailed recommendations on how to address the areas of concern while respecting the rights of all parties.

The recommendations have been turned over to town staff and a revised bylaw is to be presented to Council before the end of the year. The committee is on hold for now, having fulfilled its purpose, pending processing of its recommendations.

As well, the town has expanded enforcement, hiring Granicus Host Compliance. It is early days, but it looks like progress is being made. I believe that last month 12 properties were fined for operating without a licence. Granicus will also be active in triggering the local rental contacts to address noise and other

complaints.

The B&B Association believes the revisions proposed by the short-term rentals committee on behalf of the community will lead to a more fair, easier-to-enforce and effective bylaw. We also believe the committee itself provides a model for addressing future tourism-related issues. The overall positive experience of the committee has shown that bringing together knowledgeable, committed and results-driven members of our community for objective and focused discussions ensures good decision-making and win-win outcomes.

We may not have to wait long for an opportunity to test this proposition. Council has voted to implement a municipal accommodation tax in NOTL. There are some very vocal individuals in town who support this direction but many in the tourism industry are concerned about the

potential impact.

The B&B Association believes the best option is to again officially involve members of council, the tourism industry and the community in the process, as was done with the rental bylaw. This should ensure that decisions are made in a spirit of collaboration and respect, with the best interests of NOTL's future in mind. The association would welcome the opportunity to participate in such an activity.

The governance of rentals in NOTL has evolved as our community has evolved, although often lagging a little behind. The B&B Association believes that the best results are achieved when key representatives from all parties are involved in the process, as was demonstrated in the case of the short-term rentals committee.

John Foreman is president of the NOTL B&B Association.

Hydro outage could **cost town** big

Continued from Front Page

that Hydro One was doing repair work on.)

To minimize the potential length of the outage, the decision was immediately made to bring the NOTL station back on line as soon as possible to bring power back to the town.

In making this decision, we knew there would be a cost. What we could not know with any certainty was how long the power would be out and, more importantly, what was the value of this electric-

ity to the businesses and residents of NOTL during this time.

NOTL Hydro estimates the incremental costs of this decision, due to the double billing described above, will be more than \$80,000 – about the amount our utility would have incurred if it had kept both stations operating for the full month of October and been double billed as a result.

Eventually, that amount will be passed on to the 10,000 customers of NOTL Hydro, meaning it

will cost the average user about \$8.

NOTL Hydro customers will not see this cost until 2023 and it will be spread over the full year in line with energy board regulations.

In the meantime, the energy board has promised a hearing in 2022 that will include looking at this double-billing issue. NOTL Hydro will be participating in the hearing to try to get these rules corrected so that situations like the expense from this outage no longer occur.

Seniors have become **bargaining chips** for optometrists in talks with province

Dear editor:

I was surprised to have my eye exam cancelled with no future option to rebook.

On investigation I learned I am, along with other seniors, a bargaining chip in current talks between optometrists and the Ontario government.

The Ontario Association of Optometrists and the Ford government are locked in negotiations over the funding of eye exams for seniors and children under 19.

These talks have broken down, so the withdrawal of such services by the optometrists is their response and has caused hundreds of cancelled appointments.

The current offer, according to the association, still leaves them having to cover much of this cost themselves.

COVID has already caused incredibly long delays for exams. This further disruption in scheduling means more months of waiting.



Presumably an outside accountant has checked the actual costs to OHIP for annual eye exams so it seems the government needs to decide quickly whether it is going to fund this service or not.

*Ann Handels
NOTL*

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Mike Shatkosky
Owner

NOTL restaurants **run out** of turkey



Pictured from top: Chef J.P. Konik puts the finishing touches on a turkey platter at the Firehall Flame. Roger Campeau and Caroline Lidpone enjoy a quaint turkey lunch at The Irish Harp. April Kilpatrick and Kirsten Clark smile during a moment of respite after selling 200 pre-packaged turkey dinners at Treadwell Cuisine. Bottom: Susan MacDonald brings home a turkey dinner for two. She said if she cooked herself she would make too much food. EVAN SAUNDERS

Continued from Front Page

aside for herself to enjoy later that evening.

“Who wants to cook, right?” she said.

The situation was the same for other restaurants around NOTL.

The Farmhouse Cafe at Caroline Cellars in Virgil also ran out of turkey by Monday afternoon.

They served their last available bird around 2 p.m. Luckily, the Baldwin family arrived just in time to receive the last batch.

“This is our Thanksgiving,” Shelley Baldwin said as she was seated with eight of her family members on the Farmhouse patio.

The restaurant was serving turkey replete with beet salad, a hot bun, stuffing, potatoes and gravy.

The Baldwins were marking year number two of Thanksgiving dinners at the Farmhouse.

“We came down here last year and it was awesome,” Ayla Baldwin said.

She said Farmhouse is as close to a home-cooked turkey you can get and not have to slave away in the kitchen yourself.

“Fresh food to table and you get a little bit of everything in one place,” Shelley said.

The family travelled from Wainfleet to enjoy NOTL together on the holiday, Ayla said.

And they were far from the only people who weren't too interested in spending their holiday Monday in the kitchen.

After a weekend of entertaining friends and family, Roger Campeau and Caroline Lidpone drove down from Niagara Falls.

The couple try to come to NOTL every two months or so, Campeau said.

They took advantage of the holiday to spend time with each other and grab some beer and food at the Irish Harp.

The Harp was packed on Monday afternoon, so Campeau and Lidpone opted to sit on the patio to avoid the busy interior.

Campeau is a retired technician from General Motors and Lidpone works in administration at Brock University.

“We had a turkey dinner last night. It was amazing,” Lidpone said.

In spite of that, Campeau was ready for another serving of turkey at the Harp.

Being busy is nothing but a good thing for NOTL's restaurants, said Firehall Flame chef J.P. Konik.

“It's been pretty steady today. This whole weekend was actually really, really good for us, so, I can't complain about that,” he said.

Konik was busy serving a myriad of dishes over the weekend, including the Flame's turkey dinner with roasted vegetables, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and gravy.

The Flame does a turkey dinner every year but this year's was a little different.

“This is the first year that we've done smoked turkey. We smoke a lot of our meat at the Firehall here so we decided to do the turkey this year as well.”

But the chef couldn't be serving turkey dinners all day long. The restaurant closed early Monday and Konik was heading over to his daughter's house for a Thanksgiving dinner with his own family.

RIDDLE ME THIS

**I am an odd number.
Take away a letter
and I become even.
What number am I?**

Last issue: If you're running in a race and you pass the person in second place, what place are you in?

Answer: Second place

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Terry Nord, Kevin Etherington, Frances Sorrenti, Becky Creager, Dietlind Winter, Jim Baird, Mike Drolet, Laura Hollemans, Robert Wilms, Janice Hall, Eva Rasciauskas, Maria Janeiro, Sheila Meloche, Gail Martin, Mary Drost, Gary Davis, Elaine Landray, Greeba-Ann Birch, Brenda Bartley, Doug Bruce

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



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LCBO helps Niagara College with **bursary** for BIPOC women

Staff
The Lake Report

The Liquor Control Board of Ontario is helping Niagara College to establish a bursary to help underrepresented women in the beverage alcohol industry.

The LCBO has donated more than \$60,000 to the college to offer funding to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of colour) students who identify as females from a diverse background.

Called the Spirit of Inclusion Initiative Bursary, it will fund four Niagara College students, one from each of the college's alcohol production programs.

"It is our responsibility to use our influence and resources to increase diverse representation and foster inclusion within the beverage alcohol industry," LCBO president George Soleas said in a news release.

"The Spirit of Inclusion Initiative is a holistic, long-term commitment to support diverse women looking



Craig Youdale, dean of Niagara College's Canadian Food and Wine Institute. SUPPLIED

to begin or advance their careers in the winery, brewery, and distillery fields. Its success relies on the strength of our incredible community and trade partners, and I am excited for the impact we will achieve together."

Marc Nantel, Niagara College's vice-president of research and external relations, said the donation is a "generous gift which will make it possible for many under-represented students in our beverage programs to achieve their dreams."

Craig Youdale, dean of the college's Canadian Food and Wine Institute, said the grant will help to cre-

ate more equity, diversity and inclusion in the beverage industry.

"We look forward to seeing the results of our collective impact and more opportunities for more diverse women to enter our beverage alcohol program, thanks to the support from the LCBO."

This first of the bursaries will be awarded to four students this fall. The balance of the funds will be awarded to students during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Those looking to apply for the grant can find more information at niagaracollege.ca/fees-finances/financial-aid/.



Left: A plaque on the bench. Right: Jaena Thompson. SOURCED

GoFundMe campaign helps support memorial bench for **Jaena Thompson**

Staff
The Lake Report

The family of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Jaena Thompson has dedicated a bench at Sunset Beach in her memory.

They also have started a GoFundMe to help raise funds to go toward the cost of the bench.

"The loss of Jaena has been devastating and overwhelming for us. This memorial bench is a symbol of unity amongst us, her beloved family, her extended family, and dear friends. We want you all to

visit this bench and reflect and honour Jaena's life. We are asking our dear friends and family for donations towards the cost of this bench," says the GoFundMe post, signed by Wilma, Iain, Holly and Julia.

As of Wednesday the campaign had raised \$1,990.

Jaena died of a fentanyl overdose in 2016. She was 19.

Her mother Wilma Thompson said they often would watch sunsets together at Niagara Shores Park and the bench is a place to watch the sunset now in Jaena's memory.

She said while the bench was something she couldn't really afford, she decided to do it anyway and reach out to the community for help.

"For all her friends, it would be nice for them to sit and reflect and talk to her somewhere," Wilma said.

Originally she said she wanted to dedicate a tree at Ryerson Park to Jaena, but the Town of NOTL said no and suggested she plant one at the library instead.

Donations can be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jaenas-memorial-park-bench>



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Dr. Brown: Will mRNA vaccines someday win a Nobel Prize?

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report



In 1953, a Nobel Prize was awarded to James Watson and Francis Crick for their model of DNA whose double-stranded helical structure hinted at how genes might be faithfully passed on from one generation to the next.

In what was little more than a one-page article in the journal *Nature* incorporating a single, simple illustration of the double-helix model for DNA, Watson and Crick provided the structural underpinnings for heredity and evolution – and launched the whole field of molecular biology.

Single-stranded RNA probably appeared well before DNA in the evolutionary record because RNA offered a simpler, albeit more error prone, tool for coding genetic information. In that role, RNA remains the sole tool for coding information in some viruses such as the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID.

But for more complex life-forms, RNA was usurped by DNA as the primary tool for coding genetic information

in genes. Genes have many functions of which the manufacture of thousands of different proteins is among the most important because they provide the building blocks for the cell's internal skeleton, transport systems, communications systems and several organelles in the cell.

The steps between DNA and proteins form the central dogma of molecular biology. In the first step, called transcription, a single-stranded copy of the sequence of bases in the gene is made, called messenger RNA or mRNA, for short.

In the last step, the base sequence in the mRNA is read by the cell's ribosomes in the cytoplasm where the code is translated into a series of specific amino acids to create the precise protein specified by each gene.

It's more complicated than that but the essential point is to grasp the messenger-boy-like role played

by mRNA in transcribing and translating specific genes into matching specific proteins.

That is the key to understanding the new science of employing mRNA to create tailor-made proteins, including designer drugs for cancer and most recently, copies of the spike proteins of the COVID virus to provoke immune responses by the novel mRNA vaccines created and manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

Fortunately, hurdles to mRNA technologies, which would have stymied the development of mRNA vaccines, had been overcome almost two decades ago by Drew Weissman and Katalin Kariko. They devised clever ways to modify mRNA to circumvent the body's immune system, and within the cell, to thwart processes, which would otherwise shut down instructions from the inserted mRNA to make proteins.

But there was another challenge with mRNA – how to protect the mRNA from enzymes that would normally destroy it soon after it is injected into the

host's body. The solution was to hide the mRNA in a lipid shell to protect it from circulating enzymes in transit between injection and insertion inside the host's cells.

Once inside, the mRNA co-opts the cell's ribosomes to create the desired proteins. Mission accomplished, the mRNA is destroyed by the cell's own enzymes, leaving nothing behind to be incorporated into the cell's own genetic material.

The latter is an important point because some anti-vaccine proponents claim that the mRNA or DNA in some vaccines becomes incorporated within the host's genetic material. Not so!

The technology to create mRNA vaccines and protect them in nanoparticle-sized shells had been on the shelf of high-tech companies such as BioNTech for several years where bio-engineered mRNA, for example, was explored as a possible tool for creating novel drugs to treat cancer.

When BioNTech's leaders, the husband-and-wife team of Özlem Türeci and her husband Ugur Sahin,

learned about the pandemic in China in January 2020, they launched what they called, Project Lightspeed to harness mRNA technology to quickly develop a vaccine.

Looking ahead to manufacturing the vaccine on a large scale, they partnered early on with Pfizer, a large pharmaceutical company in the United States.

Moderna, another American company, partnered with the U.S. National Institutes of Health to develop a similar mRNA vaccine, both of which proved to be very effective in preventing symptomatic COVID in this pandemic.

Given the uniqueness and effectiveness of mRNA vaccines, and the potential of mRNA technologies to revolutionize drug development, it would not surprise me if the Nobel nominating committee choose to award a Nobel prize to Weissman and Kariko sometime in the future for their pioneering roles in developing mRNA technologies. For their efforts, the two recently won the 2021 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award.

Other possible candidates for a future Nobel include BioNTech's team of Türeci and Sahin, and perhaps even the pharmaceutical companies directly involved, for their rapid response and leadership during this pandemic.

So many people played important roles in the development of mRNA technology and these vaccines specifically, that the Nobel committee will need the wisdom of Solomon with this award. In the past, they've often waited to let the dust settle before awarding prizes like this. That's what may happen here.

Our fifth annual review of the Nobel prizes begins on Monday, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. and continues for the following five weeks. Like last year, each session will use Zoom and be recorded on YouTube. If interested, please sign up with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. I look forward to seeing you on Nov. 8.

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



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GAMES



Have some fun

- Across**
- Rapid nuclear reactor shut-down (5)
 - Helper (9)
 - Dressing (10)
 - Atop (4)
 - Ministers (9)
 - Bender (5)
 - Sets of equipment (4)
 - Female big cat (10)
 - Herefordshire town (10)
 - Type of heating fuel (4)
 - Reprimand (5)
 - Contented (9)
 - Waist band (4)
 - Volume for preliminary artistic studies (10)
 - Steam locomotive (4,5)
 - One of these means almost cloudless (5)
- Down**
- Truce (5-4)
 - Isolated (5)
 - Snow vehicle (7)
 - Notion (4)
 - Fabricated (7-2)
 - Hangman's knot (5)
 - Emphasize (9)
 - Wig (9)
 - Ignorant person (9)
 - Whipping boy (9)
 - Makes journeys (7)
 - Gaiety (5)
 - Legend (5)
 - Capital of Norway (4)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

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Jr. A Predators net pair of Thanksgiving victories

Kevan Dowd
Special to The Lake Report

The Jr. A Niagara Predators had plenty to be thankful for this past weekend, earning back-to-back wins against the Tottenham Thunder in Greater Metro Hockey League action.

And there's more to be thankful for as the team, which has been short players all season, expects some new additions in time for this weekend's games.

The Predators started things rolling Friday night at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena when they shut out the Thunder 5-0 to notch their second home win in a row. The run continued the following evening when they added a 6-2 win in Tottenham.

Niagara's goaltenders were the first stars in both games, with Oskar Spinners-Nordin turning aside all 61 shots he faced Friday and William Fagemo stopping 53 shots on Saturday.

Captain Mario Zitella led the way again Saturday with two goals, while Dante



Niagara sniper Jesper Eriksson's shot beats Tottenham goalie Jack Boudreau in the first period. KEVAN DOWD

Massi added a goal and two assists. Alex Insulander, Jesper Eriksson and Emil Eriksson rounded out the scoring.

On Friday night in Virgil, the Predators started out strong, with 32 shots on goal resulting in a three-goal lead by the end of the first period for Niagara.

Defenceman Brett Lee kicked things off with an unassisted goal after just six minutes of play, with forwards Jesper Eriksson and Gino Carter-Squire adding the second and third markers less than two minutes apart.

The second period saw Alex Insulander netting the

Predators' fourth goal of the game followed by Massi putting one past Tottenham starting goaltender Jack Boudreau for the fifth and final tally.

Tottenham managed to keep the puck out of their net for the rest of the second and entire third period but was unable to get on the scoreboard.

"Other than we were outshot two of the three periods, I think we were doing the right things," said Predators head coach Andrew Whalen.

The players were "over passing at times," he noted. "We just have to create some of those tendencies for

some of the stronger teams. Other than that, I thought it was a good evening out for the boys."

While Saturday night's game may not have produced a shutout, Whalen was still very pleased with his team's performance.

"We're really excited," he said. "Getting four points over the weekend is obviously great anytime and what a great start to the season."

The first period started off well, but it was in the second period that things really picked up, with four goals for the Predators.

"Honestly, I thought the second period was the best hockey we've played all year," said Whalen. "Things just started to click and come together and I hope we can keep that momentum up and just keep going."

The Predators, now 3-1 on the season, have a rematch this Friday night with the St. George Ravens, the only team to beat them so far. But Whalen is feeling optimistic.

"We're going to keep

working on what we've been doing over the past week," said Whalen. "Just tighten some things up but I think we can have some real success this upcoming weekend."

Also likely to help the Predators this weekend is the probable addition of at least one new player, Georgy Kholmovsky from St. Petersburg, Russia, said general manager Johan Eriksson.

Another hopeful, Constant Nison of France, was signed to the team last week but was turned away after attempting to make the move due to international COVID restrictions. Eriksson said the team is still working at adding him to the roster, ideally as early as next weekend.

A short bench has been an issue for Niagara since the start of the season, something Eriksson attributes to obstacles created by COVID and travel logistics.

He said his team is also looking at some local players and is open to Niagara natives throwing their hats in the ring if they are inter-

ested in joining the team, saying they are looking for as many as five or six players.

"We hope to have four to five new players next weekend," Eriksson said in an interview. "So this weekend we just had to survive and play on a short bench but they do awesome, they really do."

While he feels his team is doing well, he thinks the additional players will be the clincher.

"We know how they are as a player. It will give some slack to the guys we have who are right now double-shifting because we don't have enough bodies, and give them some rest," he said.

"If we get injuries, we need them in. It'll only help, it'll only be positive and they all bring something unique."

"I think they'll fit right in. I'm excited to watch them this week."

The Predators face the St. George Ravens this Friday at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

That's a wrap – NOTL Golf Club men's league ends with shootout

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Super senior Warren Tutton schooled some of his fellow members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club last week, winning two of the closest-to-the-pin shootouts as the Thursday men's league wrapped up its season.

Eying flags placed at 60, 70 and 80 yards, players had up to three chances to hit a ball close to the hole – and the prospect of sharing a pot worth several hundred dollars.

The smooth-swinging Tutton, now in his early 80s, managed to plunk down two of his three shots

tighter than anyone else. He was closest to the 70- and 80-yard pins and took home 80 per cent of the pot, more than \$600.

Ken Willms was closest to the 60-yard pin and won \$155.

The shootout is an annual affair MC'd by club pro Billy Simkin and culminates a day of light-hearted competition and a reverse draw for a chance at a table laden with golf prizes.

Earlier the men played a nine-hole alternate shot scramble with teams of 10 competing. Two groups managed to shoot 4-under 32 and won a bag of tees for their efforts.

Simkin also announced that Norm Kerr was the overall men's league champion, based on modified Stableford points scoring. Greg Keldson and Martin Vagners were runners-up.

The winners of the season-long match play competitions were also unveiled.

Winners were: President's Cup – Joe Doria; Carmichael Cup – Dow Wright; Jim Brown Cup – Jon Taylor; Wettlaufer Cup – Mike Henry; and Goldup Pairs – Jon Taylor & John Sobil.

See more photos at niagaranow.com



Jon Taylor and John Sobil, Goldup Pairs champions. RICKY WATSON PHOTO



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Battle of Queenston Heights

October 13 is the 209th anniversary of the War of 1812's Battle of Queenston Heights. This 1871 photograph shows war veterans, with young family members, posed in front of Brock's Monument at their annual picnic to commemorate their successes, the death of Maj.-Gen. Isaac Brock as well as their comrades who died in battle. At 4 o'clock in the morning on Oct. 13, a soldier of Captain Hatt's company of the 5th Lincoln militia was on sentry duty overlooking the Niagara River near Queenston Heights when he caught a glimpse of enemy boats heading toward the shore. Immediately he sound the alarm to warn about the American attack. The infamous battle was the first major engagement of the war to take place in Niagara. With the help of First Nations warriors, the British and Canadian troops were able to defend the heights and managed to take 925 Americans prisoner. Sadly, their leader, Brock, for whom the monument was created, was also killed. Take the opportunity to visit the monument as well as the Landscape of Nations memorial this week and reflect on those who defended Canada and helped shape our country in its infancy.



Looking to the Stars



A chance to get it right and find our purpose

This week, we see both Jupiter and Mercury turn from retrograde to direct motion and we get a full moon in Aries as well.

Thursday, Oct. 14: If Scrooge had a birthday, it might be today. Getting anything going is not easy even though feelings and ideas are in harmony. Because Mercury is still retrograde, a fair bit of what goes on is internal. Happy birthday to the famous Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park, formally founded on Oct. 14, 1855, even though it had been around since the early 12th century.

Friday, Oct. 15: Perfect harmony between the sun in Libra and the moon in Aquarius makes for a well-balanced and quiet end to the work week. It was Oct. 15, 1994, that Wayne Gretzky scored his 1,851st goal – breaking the record of 1,850 set by Gordie Howe.

Saturday, Oct. 16: Mars in Libra is stressed by powerful Neptune in his home sign of Pisces, which may indicate a mysterious health issue being resolved, but not without making a change (even if just a change in a long-held belief). Or a change in shoes! Happy birthday #24 to controversial tennis hero Naomi Osaka, still ranked #1 in the world.

Sunday, Oct. 17: With the moon in Pisces, feelings of inadequacy may try to get the better of many. Believe in the best you and be happier. It was Oct. 17, 1868, that Canadian War of 1812 heroine Laura Secord died at age 93.

Monday, Oct. 18: Good news. Today Jupiter goes direct. Jupiter will be spending a few more months in Aquarius, before moving (for good) into Pisces. This is our chance to "get it right" and find the driving purpose behind the

area of our life (house) where Aquarius sits in our chart. And the other good news: Mercury goes direct today as well. Both Mercury and Jupiter rule our thinking processes – and having both turning direct on the same day is quite something – so you can definitely expect clarity and answers. A veil will be lifted and it will become clear where we stand. Canada's 15th and 17th Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, was born Oct. 18, 1919.

Tuesday, Oct. 19: Speedy Venus in Sagittarius is where it's at today. First with a positive bump from the moon in Aries, which makes for hot romantic times, and then with an opportunity to bring our dreams closer to reality later this evening. On Oct. 19, 1957, Maurice Richard became the first player in the NHL to score 500 goals.

Wednesday, Oct. 20: Continuing the theme of action initiated by the new moon in Libra, our October full moon in Aries is as fiery and as cardinal as it can be. The full moon in Aries is opposite Mars and square to Pluto, so it's an explosive one for sure. Whatever has been brewing in the first two weeks of the lunar cycle will reach a climax. This full moon will shake us to the core – and (especially if you have planets in the last decan of cardinal signs) you want to be very mindful of what you do with what emerges from this. Happy birthday to U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris, who is today 58 years old.

Next week it's the sun and Mars moving into Scorpio. **Please check out the new website www.lutts.ca as in Looking Up to the Stars. And you can get my free horoscope with interpretation emailed to you.**

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



Another casualty?

Brian Marshall
Columnist

My original intent for this week's column was to continue the "walk-around series" I had begun with Virgil, shifting it over to the village of Queenston.

In fact, on the weekend, I drove to the village, walked the streets and catalogued the homes that were going to be referenced. Once that was done, I jumped back in the car and decided to return home along Niagara River Parkway.

I had not gone far before seeing something that caused me to pull over. On the river side of the road was a construction site surrounded by screened fencing behind which rose new substantial structures.

Now, these days in Niagara-on-the-Lake this sight is more common than not. Of late it seems that one cannot



Another example of why NOTL needs design oversight. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL

go a kilometre in any direction without seeing evidence of contractors at work. So, why would this particular site draw my attention?

In short, I was curious because I knew that on this particular property was a sprawling 19th-century structural stone dwelling, a classic of its period, form and type. Due to the size of the new massings, I wondered how each related to the old house and, since I am taller than their fence, taking a look from the sidewalk gave me the answer.

The new "additions" not

only dwarf the stone house, but it appears the intent is to completely subsume it within the finished structure.

Before I go on, allow me to unequivocally state that I am not making any judgment on the quality of the design. The finished building may well turn out to be brilliant ... at this point in construction there is no way of knowing and therein lies the rub.

To lose a gracious part of NOTL's built-heritage (even if parts of the structure remain within the new finished design, it is truly lost since the original facade

has been irrevocably altered) without any form of design oversight whatsoever seems irresponsible and certainly not in keeping with public sentiment regarding the protection of our shared history.

Once again we have another example that raises the issue of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's apparent resistance to formalizing a design review approval process supported by thorough and detailed design guidelines.

There is, insofar as I am aware, no actual impediment to doing it (even the little town of Wolfville, N.S., with a population of 4,195 has enacted guidelines), but it appears there is a lack of will.

I do not have an issue with an owner of a 4,000-square-foot historic house who chooses to double or triple its size. Nor, despite my personal design philosophy, do I wish to impose arbitrary rules on design expression.

However, to lose a finely designed historic building to this type of endeavour without any recourse (shy of a forced heritage designation), is bad management and simply wrong.



Fall Virtual Lecture Series

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Farmers' market winds down for season



Top left: Emma LeBlanc operates the Cheese Secrets booth. Top right: Sweets & Swirls Cafe sells freshly baked goods. Bottom left: Kim McQuhae sells her award-winning preserves. Bottom right: Jason Van Veghel-Wood and Clare Cameron with Cameron's NOTL township T-shirts. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

Archeologist hosts presentation on Queenston battle

Staff
The Lake Report

The Friends of Fort George will hosts a special Zoom presentation Oct. 15 on the archeology of the Redan Battery and the Battle of Queenston Heights.

Led by archeologist Suzanne Plousos, the lecture will examine the work of Elizabeth Snow, an archeologist who excavated the site in 1975 to record the structural layout for restoration of the gun emplacement.

"Review of her artifact collection in 2012, 200 years after the battle, yielded unanticipated evidence of that fateful day, Oct. 13, 1812," Friends of Fort George executive director Amanda Gamble said in a news release.

"The Battle of Queenston Heights holds great significance in Canadian military lore. This major victory early in the War of 1812 cemented Niagara Loyalists' sympathy for the British cause and inspired many to stand against American invasion of Upper Canada," Gamble added.

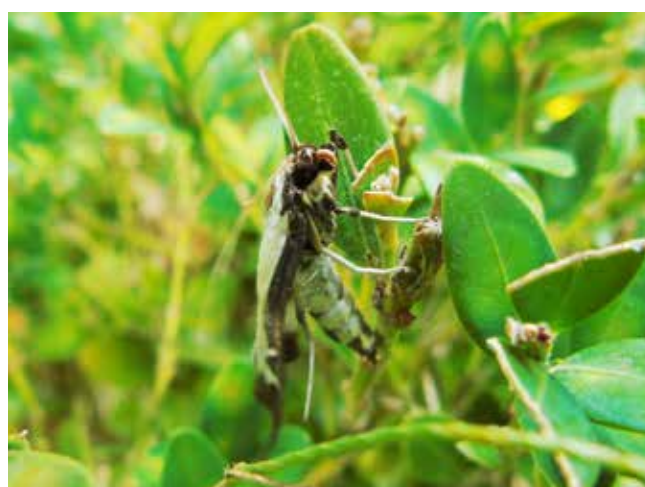
"Maj.-Gen. Isaac Brock's demise while leading a frontal attack to retake the Redan Battery gave loyalists their exemplary hero. Throughout this engagement the Redan Battery played a pivotal role and would later become a stopping point for visitors to the battlefield."

The event is free for members of the Friends of Fort George and is \$5 for non-members. Email admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca to reserve a spot.

Growing Together: Moth infestations may be targeting your boxwood shrubs



Joanne Young
Garden Columnist



Box tree moths present a threat to boxwoods. SUPPLIED

Well, there is a new pest in town and we are just starting to see the damage that it is capable of causing.

Let me introduce you to the box tree moth (*Cydalisma perspectalis*).

As the name indicates, it is primarily found on all species and cultivars of boxwood plants, although there have been reports of them on pachysandra as well.

The box tree moth is native to eastern Asia – Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Far East Russian and India. It was first reported in Europe in 2007 and made its Canadian debut in 2018 with the first report of it in the Etobicoke area.

Last summer came the initial report of the moth being in the Niagara-on-

the-Lake area. This summer it is becoming more apparent, by the damage that we are seeing, that the box tree moth numbers are quickly increasing in Niagara.

Just last week, I was asked to visit a home in town to check on some boxwoods that were browning and came upon the moth itself – which confirmed that what we were seeing was, indeed, damage caused by the box tree moth.

So, what does the moth look like? The adult moth is medium in size, with a

wingspan of about 4 centimetres.

It has white wings with thick, dark brown borders around the entire wing. The body of the moth is also white, with a few dark brown specks on it.

The larva form is a caterpillar that can reach up to 4 centimetres in length. When the larvae first hatch, they are greenish/yellow in colour with a shiny black head. As the larvae mature, they become more green in colour with thick black and thin white stripes along the

length of the caterpillar.

The larvae is what causes the damage on the boxwoods.

So, what is the life cycle of the box tree moth?

Here in Canada, there can be two or three generations per year. The adult moth only lives for about two weeks, but before they die, they lay eggs on the underside of the boxwood leaves in clusters of 10 to 12.

The eggs hatch in three days and the young larvae feed on the underside of the boxwood leaves and start to form webs between the leaves.

As the larvae mature, they become skeletonizers leaving just the midribs of the leaf. If there is a heavy infestation it can cause the entire boxwood to brown up in a short time.

It takes about 14 days for the larvae to mature and pupate. Pupae live about 14 days before becoming adults. The box tree moth overwinters in the larval stage, by spinning a silky cocoon between the leaves.

How can you protect your boxwoods?

Routinely examine your boxwoods for signs of chewed leaves, caterpillars, webbing and frass (fancy term for caterpillar poop). The best times to check for larvae are: May 15 to June 15, July 15 to Aug. 15 and Sept. 1 to 20.

If you have the pest, there is a biological control spray called BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*). The active ingredient of the spray is safe to humans and pets and is sold at most retail garden centres.

BTK application is most effective when used two or three times a year during the time frames listed above. Recheck your plants five to seven days after spraying to see if the mixture has worked.

If you are still seeing caterpillars feeding, repeat the application of BTK. You can also hire a professional to spray for you.

Please note that even though high populations of

box tree moth caterpillars may defoliate boxwood plants, and in some cases, result in plant dieback, as long as the outer stems are green, there is a possibility that the shrub can push out new leaves.

In severe cases, though, it may be necessary to remove or trim the infested shrub. Effective removal and disposal of infested plants is crucial to slowing the spread of box tree moth.

Place all cuttings into a black plastic bag, tie it tightly and place in the full sun for 48 hours. This should be enough to kill off the caterpillars. If handpicking the caterpillars, drop them into a bucket of soapy water.

All findings of box tree moth should be reported to officials who are tracking the pest.

Contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.



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