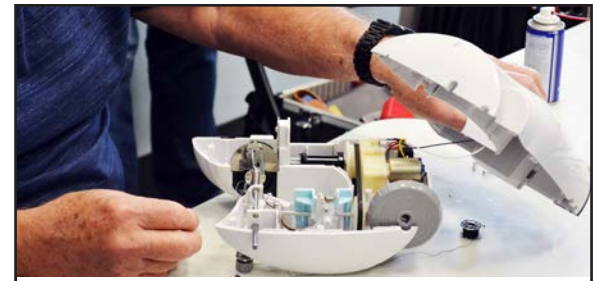


The Lake Report

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



Quick fixes at Repair Cafe | Page 13

Vol. 5, Issue 40

Serving all five communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake

October 6, 2022



Austin Kirkby was 'a force' for NOTL

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Former town councillor Austin Kirkby was a tireless advocate for Niagara's agriculture community and a hard-working farmer and public servant.

Kirkby died of cancer Monday at the age of 79.

The fierce and fiery former Niagara-on-the-Lake farmer is survived by three

Continued on Page 15



NOTL air cadets launch recruiting drive

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

From Daniel Couroux's perspective, "Cadets Canada is Canada's best-kept secret."

Couroux, a lieutenant in the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is a leader with the program, which focuses on developing good citizens through leadership training, fitness, teamwork and teaching life

Continued on Page 14

\$3.5M NOTL home implicated in international drug bust

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A \$3.5-million, 5,000-square-foot home on the Niagara Parkway in Niagara-on-the-Lake has been "placed under criminal restraint" as part of a massive seizure of methamphet-

amine and cocaine unveiled in Alberta last week.

More than \$55 million in meth and cocaine was seized and \$7 million worth of assets, including luxury homes and high-end SUVs and sports cars were confiscated or placed under criminal restraint, police said.

The NOTL home, at 14757 Niagara Parkway, near Line 7 Road near Queenston, is owned by Ricco King, of Bedford, N.S.

Investigators allege that "Mr. King was the top



This house on Niagara Parkway in NOTL is the subject of a criminal restraint order in the Project Cobra investigation.

Continued on Page 2

Bikes For Farmworkers bosses retire



Mark Gaudet and Terry Weiner are looking to pass the handlebars of their bike repair service to someone who can fill their shoes — or at least a bike tire. They founded the charitable group in 2016 and have been operating it up to now. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Story on Page 12

Every Child Matters flag at half-mast for Truth and Reconciliation

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Every Child Matters flag was raised to half-mast in Niagara-on-the-Lake Friday morning.

Each Sept. 30 is now a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, but for

the people touched most by residential schools the day is an opportunity to reflect on that violent era in Canadian history.

"Ever since the first uncovering, I thought instantly, what a horrible secret for Mother Earth to keep for all those years," said Sabrina Shawana of

the Anishnaabe Eagle Clan and co-founder of Niagara's Strong Water Singers.

Shawana was at town hall with two other singers to honour the victims of residential schools.

When ceremonial flags are raised at town hall, they normally fly at full-mast. Not this day.

On Friday, a crowd of about 30 people gathered under the half-raised flag for a solemn ceremony.

Shawana remembers her father had a lot of emotional trauma to work through when she was young and it wasn't until she had her



Continued on Page 5



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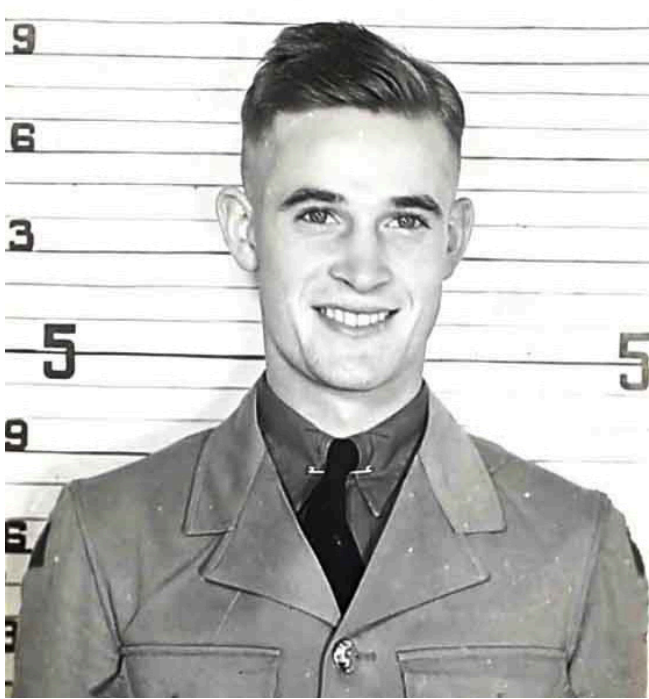
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Left: Niagara-on-the-Lake's George Murray Grier enlisted in the RCAF in 1942, eager to become a pilot. VETERANS AFFAIRS
 Right: Harvard aircraft similar to what George Murray Grier flew when he was killed. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA



Officers display some of the drugs, guns and other goods seized in the Project Cobra investigation. SUPPLIED

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Flight training accident claimed life of young pilot

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph. In recognition of the cenotaph's century of service through two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on it. This is one in a series of stories to document and remember the sacrifices these combatants made. Future instalments will commemorate those named on the Queen Street cenotaph and on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale
 Special to The Lake Report

One of Canada's greatest contributions to achieving victory in the Second World War was the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

The plan, proposed by Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, was to build facilities in Canada for the training of pilots and aircrew for the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Air Force and the air forces of other Commonwealth countries.

It began on April 29, 1940, with 221 recruits as students and by 1945 Canada operated 107

schools across the country. These included schools for basic ground school, and trained pilots, navigators, bomb aimers, air gunners, wireless operators, and flight engineers.

By the end of the war, 131,553 personnel were trained in Canada. This included 49,808 pilots and 81,745 air crew.

Separate training facilities were established as part of the program for training the groundcrew who maintained the aircraft.

Canada made considerable contributions to the air war. The RCAF eventually supported 47 squadrons of fighters, bombers and transport planes overseas and contributed 27,104 men to fly them.

It came with a heavy cost. A total of 13,589 Canadian airmen were killed and 1,889 reported as missing in action, with no known grave.

Not all deaths were due to enemy action. Through the air training plan, thousands upon thousands of hours were spent flying and more than 6,000 accidents were reported, resulting in 856 student fatalities.

George "Murray" Grier was born in Niagara-on-the-Lake on July 7, 1922, son of William and Martha Grier.

He attended Niagara-on-the-Lake's public school and high school. After graduation in 1940 he was able to find employment at the English Electric Company in St Catharines.

On June 10, 1942, Grier enlisted in the RCAF, stating that he was interested in becoming a fighter pilot. His ambition was to become a commercial pilot after the war was over.

From the time of his enlistment, Grier's training followed the typical path for pilot training under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan scheme.

He reported to the Manning Depot in Toronto, where he was issued his uniform and underwent military training. Recruits learned everything from marching and military discipline to the proper way to make a bed.

This initial training period also gave his superior officers a chance to assess his abilities, attitude and intelligence and recommend further training as a pilot, aircrew or ground crew.

Grier's basic flight training lasted until Jan. 23, 1943, after which he spent the next 12 weeks learning navigation and all the technicalities a pilot would need to understand prior

to starting actual flight training.

He next reported to Number 7 Elementary Flying Training School in Windsor on April 18, 1943. Here he took his first actual flights with a civilian trainer contracted to the RCAF.

This school flew the Fleet Finch biplane and the Fairchild Cornell, a monoplane. Both were manufactured in Fort Erie.

Grier graduated from Elementary Flying with good marks on June 12, on his way to training as a fighter pilot. The next day he reported to Number 14 Service Flying Training School in Aylmer, Ont.

This 16-week course was operated by the RCAF. Student pilots flew the North American Harvard aircraft, which handled to a great extent like the fighters on the front lines of combat.

Tragedy struck and Grier was killed in a training accident on July 28, 1943.

The Harvard he was flying, "broke up and crashed near Norwich, when overstressed trying to recover from a spin during an instrument training flight," according to the official report.

George Murray Grier's remains were sent home and he is buried in the St. Andrew's churchyard.

NOTL home part of massive drug bust

Continued from Front Page

figure in this criminal organization," Alberta police spokesperson Michael Tucker told The Lake Report.

"When a home is placed under criminal restraint it means that they cannot sell or make major changes to the property," Tucker said. "Essentially, it's frozen."

This past weekend private vehicles were seen parked in the large driveway and it appeared people were inside the home.

Real estate records show that King bought the 1.13-acre riverside property for \$3.575 million in August 2020. It had been listed at \$3.75 million, the records show.

The sales listing says the "stunning" five-bedroom home, with a gourmet kitchen, sits "on one of the most private lots on the banks of the Niagara River."

With five bedrooms, it "boasts a grand foyer and stairway at the main entrance that leads to a formal dining room and living room," the listing says.

There is a granny flat over the three-car garage, a large covered patio and barbecue area, and a saltwater pool overlooking the river.

Nicknamed Project Cobra, the cross-country and cross-

border investigation was conducted by the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT), RCMP organized crime investigators and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

"As the result of enforcement initiatives on both sides of the border, 928 kilograms of methamphetamine and six kilograms of cocaine were intercepted," investigators said last week in a news release.

Police said Project Cobra was a nearly three-year organized crime investigation into transnational drug importation, drug trafficking and money laundering.

Fifteen people and one business were charged with 80 criminal offences ranging from participation in a criminal organization, to importation of a controlled substance, to laundering proceeds of crime, to drug trafficking.

Nineteen firearms also were seized, including handguns, rifles, submachine-guns and suppressors.

Among the \$7 million worth of property, bank accounts, luxury vehicles and other suspected proceeds of crime seized or placed under criminal restraint were two Lamborghinis, a Porsche, classic cars and \$200,000 in cash.

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Campaign Walkabout

Incumbent mayor goes door-to-door in Virgil

Journalists from The Lake Report are accompanying Niagara-on-the-Lake's mayoral candidates as they spend a day campaigning and knocking on doors. The stories will be published in the order in which candidates appear on the ballot: this week Betty Disero, next week Vaughn Goettler and, on Oct. 20, Gary Zalepa.

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Lord Mayor Betty Disero has been going door-to-door in Chautauqua, Virgil and other parts of town. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Bike lanes, inclusivity and sidewalks are some of the things voters wanted to talk to incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero about Tuesday as she campaigned in Virgil.

"I feel like (Niagara-on-the-Lake) it's a little too homogeneous" and it took "way too long" to finally get a Pride crosswalk approved, said Debra Simpson.

Simpson just got back from a trip out east and commented how positive and inclusive it was there.

"(There's) nothing like that around here," she said.

Disero began her campaign walkabouts just after Labour Day weekend. Going door-to-door with her campaign team, she introduces herself and answers any questions residents may have.

"What do you think are your biggest challenges coming up?" asked Simpson.

The town's budgets, full implementation of the municipal accommodation tax, finalizing the official plan and looking at the town's tourism strategy are some of the things Disero said are on her list.

Plus "resolving issues like 30- to 40-year-old issues like parking, traffic and accountable accommodation," Disero added.

"But we've got to do it this term and it has to be done," she said.

Another resident had a few concerns, including a neighbour's pool that was built with no fence around it.

She told The Lake Report

that she's worried about development and would like more police enforcement in the area. And wider sidewalks in Virgil.

"I think the council has done much better in the last few years. And I think they've accomplished a great deal. And I'd like to see that continue," she said.

Though many people were supportive of Disero, some were still on the fence on who to vote for. Some outright said they wouldn't vote for Disero.

"She screwed up pickleball. She didn't know what was going on in her own household with the neigh-

bours and I never liked that tree bylaw," said one resident.

He said he doesn't vote for anybody from Toronto because they "haven't been here long enough."

Bill Cowie, who ran for council in 2014 when Disero was first elected as a councillor, said he wasn't voting for her.

"For some reason we've always tried to get along but haven't been able to get along," said Disero.

"Personally we probably can, but politically maybe not," said Cowie.

Another resident asked about the current status of the streetscape project in Virgil.

It will be done in 2023, said Disero.

"They went out to do it for this last summer and because of inflation the cost was \$3 million over budget," she said.

The price came down by a million and a half, she said, so the work will be started next spring.

The streetscape project is really going to enhance Virgil, she told the resident.

Disero continued her campaign on Loretta Drive and parts of Concession Road 4, and Line 1 early into the afternoon.

Other Virgil residents had questions about early voting, or simply wished Disero good luck in the Oct. 24 vote.

ELECTION '22

Sign snafu on The Promenade fixed quickly

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Oops.

New town street signs on The Promenade popped up with the wrong spelling Monday before quickly being taken down and corrected.

Pictures of the signs reading "Promanade" were first posted to the Facebook group NOTL 4 All.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has a proofing system for signs to help prevent mistakes but the error was missed.



The Town of NOTL put up signs with the wrong spelling of the street name on Monday. FACEBOOK

The signs were removed, corrected and replaced the next day by town staff.

The work was done in-house and the changeover cost the town next to nothing, spokesperson Lauren

Kruitbosch said.

The town may also need to change the spelling on signs for Delater Street. Or should it be Delatre, which is how the family spelled it? Town communications

co-ordinator Marah Minor told The Lake Report the municipality has been spelling it "Delater" in its bylaws and street signs for years.

"Town staff notes the inconsistencies between the spelling and the historical records found on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's online database," Minor said in an email.

The town is researching the spelling of Delater Street before determining a course of action.

And for anyone wondering about Mississauga vs. Mississagua Street? The latter spelling is correct.

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From left, Alistair (AJ) Harlond, Tim Balasiuk and Gary Burroughs speak during the debate. Below: Maria Mavridis supports a heritage tax credit for Old Town. EVAN LOREE

Traffic, development, tourism highlight chamber election debate

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Traffic congestion, affordable housing, short-term rentals, heritage protection and tourism management were the hot topics at a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored candidates debate last week.

With the rapid long-term expansion of the Glendale neighbourhood, the 13 candidates for councillor discussed the growing concern about providing jobs, houses and roads for the influx of residents.

“Glendale for me is the gateway to Niagara-on-the-Lake. It’s our front door,” Tim Balasiuk told the crowd Wednesday night at the Royal George Theatre.

The neighbourhood is projected to be home to 15,000 people and about 7,500 jobs after it is completed in 2041.

That building boom is expected to increase the need for infrastructure development, but Balasiuk is optimistic.

“With the right zoning in place we’re able to do this really, really well.”

As Glendale continues to grow, so do the town’s traffic problems.

John McCallum suggested a park-and-ride program to shuttle people into Old Town could help.

A town study done 12 years ago examined the issue, he said, but noted council did nothing since then to start a shuttle service.

“I am absolutely in favour of a park-and-ride and I will be pressing council if I’m

elected to get this up and going,” he added.

Candidates had two minutes apiece for opening statements and another two for questions.

Each person was also allowed to respond one time throughout the question period and was permitted to make a short closing statement. Regional council candidates were not included in the debate.

In response to a question about affordable housing options, Adriana Cater Vizari said, “I think that we have to look at if the benefit outweighs the cost.”

As well, the town would need to look to the region and province for help with affordable housing, she said.

“I don’t think our town in itself can necessarily support that,” she said.

Wendy Cheropita and Nick Ruller both spoke about how short-term rentals affect the availability of long-term rentals.

Cheropita said she knows of one NOTL renter who has been evicted multiple times by landlords under the pretense of turning the rentals into family homes.

Most of them were turned into short-term rentals, she added.

“There are unintended consequences of not having a good mixture of available rental housing,” Ruller said.

And if the town doesn’t “get a handle” on the available housing and short-term rentals, it will affect the “sustainability of the various industries we’re trying to support here,” he said.

Cheropita pointed out that the current council has

worked with a group of bed and breakfast owners and short-term rental operators to pass a bylaw that helps the town go after licence violators.



“When that bylaw is in place, you will find that it’s got some teeth to it,” she said.

Some candidates on the panel felt short-term rentals have been unfairly criticized.

“When it comes to short-term rentals in our town, there’s a huge problem with demonizing the problem rather than trying to seek a viable solution,” Richard Mell said.

He suggested the town might be able to limit the number of short-term rental licences or restrict them by district and neighbourhood.

Mell was not the only one calling for level heads on the issue.

“I actually think that they improve the experience in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” Allan Bisback said.

He was concerned that hosted bed and breakfasts, which have not been a problem, might be lumped in

with short-term rentals.

With “tight inspections,” Bisback said he was confident the town could stay abreast of the issue.

An August staff report to council shows the town has made progress on policing rentals.

Short-term rentals were part of a larger discussion on the role of tourism in the town.

Most of the candidates who spoke about tourism agreed that it plays an essential role in the community.

Katherine Reid was concerned about the competitiveness of small businesses, especially in the wine-growing community.

“I think sometimes those little guys are sort of left off the map,” she said.

She also suggested that while communication between the tourists and residents can get complicated they are “usually pretty co-operative.”

Ruller conceded there was tension between residents and the tourism industry as well.

“It’s no secret that throughout the community, we’ve got complaints on a regular basis about special events.”

Gary Burroughs also spoke about special events and the noise they can produce.

“Our noise bylaw currently needs to be updated,” he said.

“We all enjoy going to some of these events, but we have to get a handle on it,” he added.

Erwin Wiens emphasized that “tourism is an asset to

the taxpayer” when he was asked if tourism was an asset or a detriment to the town.

“The whole town revolves around tourism and the beauty behind it is based on tourism,” he said.

Protections for heritage buildings was another big issue.

Maria Mavridis was asked if she would support a heritage tax credit for owners of heritage buildings in Old Town.

“There are a lot of buildings on Queen Street that do need a little bit of maintenance. And we would all benefit from it,” she said.

Some of the questions submitted to the candidates were about parking in the heritage district.

Sandra O’Connor, much like McCallum, suggested a hop-on, hop-off system, with parking lots and parkades built outside the heritage district.

She and Lord Mayor Betty Disero both brought up the Hoverlink Ontario plan to run hovercraft daily between Niagara and Toronto.

They were optimistic that the plan will alleviate a lot of the traffic congestion in town.

Balasiuk warned that no one knows “whether or not this Hoverlink is going to happen” and that “it would be really unfortunate” if the town overspent on parking that it didn’t end up needing.

The town’s litigation expenses lit a few sparks when mayoral challenger Vaughn Goettler was asked about the necessity of the expense.

He described winding up

in litigation as “a failure of communication.”

“We have to fight for things that we believe in. But we need to make sure that everybody has the rules clear at the beginning,” he said.

Disero rebutted by arguing that most of the litigation expenses have gone to fighting a developer who threatened the Randwood heritage areas.

“It’s not that we can negotiate it,” she said, adding, “We had to defend our town.”

Mayoral candidate Gary Zalepa was not satisfied with Disero’s response.

While he agreed the town has an obligation to protect its heritage, he said it had failed to write those protections into policy.

He described Disero’s comment as “a line.”

“I really think that the town has abdicated the responsibility to set really clear growth policies,” he said.

Alistair Harlond was asked how he would handle the commercial and residential taxes for the town if elected.

“I probably don’t have all the information to give you a credible answer,” he said but stressed the need for council members to work collaboratively on the issue.

McCallum took the question as an opportunity to bring up the amount of taxes residents pay to the region.

NOTL residents are the “third-largest payer of taxes to the region. We need to get more services for what we pay,” he said.



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Community and schools take time to reflect on legacy of Canada's residential schools

Continued from Front Page

first child that he began to change.

"We're so thankful that our family took those steps to heal, because a lot of families don't," she said.

The drumming helps, she said.

"I almost feel like I have an out-of-body experience," she said, adding it feels like a connection to the creator.

The first song the group sang was called the Elements Honour Song, which Shawana said pays homage to "those roles that we all play and those responsibilities that we carry."

The second was taught to the drummers by women of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. Shawana called it a "snake medicine song."

"What this song is actually teaching us is that snakes come across our path for a reason," she said.

People assume snakes are bad, but she said they lead us to the medicine that was meant for us.

When Shawana looks around she said she does not see truth and reconciliation happening.

"The communities (in Niagara Region) that we're in now are making a lot of efforts and strides," she said, but in the general community, Shawana said there's not much acceptance.

She said there's a misconception that her community is treated favourably through things like tax exemption status.

Shawana is a single mother and it's important to her that her children grow up proud of their heritage.

In her household, "how you live every day and how you carry yourself out with your teachings" is paramount.

She does not see those values reflected in the school system.

One singer, Emely Velasquez, described the breakdown of Indigenous languages as "heartbreaking."

Velasquez had a friend in school who was Indigenous and said she witnessed first-hand the bullying she endured.

"She was trying to show



Shyann Jenkins, Emely Velasquez and Sabrina Shawana sing and drum at the town hall flag raising as a form of healing. EVAN LOREE

how proud she was," Velasquez remembered.

It was hard to watch and it made her want to "stick up" and fight for her Indigenous friends, she said.

"Today I will be wearing my orange shirt. For my great-grandfather," singer Shyann Jenkins said.

"He was taken when he was four years old and didn't leave the mush hole (Mohawk Institute) until he was allowed to at 18."

Her great-grandfather went into the old Mohawk Institute Residential School (nicknamed the mush hole for the food it served) speaking his native tongue, Cayuga, but came out speaking only English.

"He survived the school but did not survive life afterwards," Jenkins said.

Prior to the arrival of the Strong Water Singers, the people who gathered took a short walk through the neighbourhood and reflected on the history of residential schools.

Richard Mell, who sits on the town's diversity, equity and inclusion committee, wants to do more to support Indigenous education in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It is a challenge, though, as the committee doesn't have an Indigenous member.

Mell wondered if it's even possible to represent a community without having an Indigenous member.

"We need to recruit people who have that knowledge and expertise."

Next term, Mell hopes the town can form subcommittees to help address issues faced by different minority groups.

The diversity committee has made "great strides with regional organizations," including the Niagara Regional Native Centre, he said.

Truth was heard and reconciled on Friday in NOTL's schools as well, by teachers and students alike who were learning the hard truth of Canada's cultural genocide together.

"Today we focused on Gord Downie's book ("Secret Path"), the Chanie Wenjack story," said Julie Scaletta, a teacher at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School.

Wenjack died in 1966 after fleeing the Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School in Kenora, Ontario.

His body was found near train tracks, 600 kilometres from the residential school.

The Downie Wenjack Fund has shared his story with schools across Canada in an effort to reconcile with the truth of stories like Wenjack's.

The foundation provides subscribing schools with learning resources to help teach the history of residential schools in an age-appropriate way.

"One of the challenges is that they don't see it in their community," said Scaletta.

It can be difficult to teach children about residential schools because they may not know anyone who has that experience.

Scaletta was impressed with how her students were engaging with the content, though.

"The children are so receptive," she said.

At Crossroads Public School, the students spent the day learning about clean drinking water on reserves.

According to the federal government's webpage on long-term water advisories, 135 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted since 2015.

Now, 32 advisories remain in effect.

Like other schools in town, St. Davids is working with members of the Indigenous community to better integrate Indigenous education into the curriculum.

At St. Davids Public School, students spent the day learning about the history of residential schools while cutting out orange hands from cardboard paper.

At the end of the day, on the hands the students wrote something about what they learned before attaching them to the school's Every Child Matters tree.

Brian Kon, the leader of Indigenous education for the Niagara Catholic District School Board, says it can be hard to teach kids about Indigenous culture and history in a sensitive way, especially since teachers didn't learn it in school themselves.

There are over 600 different Indigenous communities in Canada, speaking over 50 different languages among them.

"When we're getting into the intricacies of each of the nations, then that nation needs to be recognized," Kon said, adding that he, too, makes mistakes in educating people about Indigenous communities.

"You've just got to make sure that whoever is speaking to our children in the schools is recognized by the community," he said.

The common refrain across town was that truth and reconciliation does not happen in a day.

The whole truth is not yet told and it cannot be wholly reconciled until that happens.

Read about The Niagara Regional Native Centre's eighth annual "Nurturing Our Roots" powwow online at niagaranow.com



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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 52
Region active cases: 735
Region deaths: 616
Region total cases: 46,400

**Oct. 5 data per Niagara Region Public Health.*

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."
 - Mother Teresa.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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Have a lead on a story?

Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

A grape time to harvest



Janice White captured this photo of a grape bushel hanging on a vine post during the harvest at Peller Estates Winery.

Editorial

Niagara's shiny new diamond

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Mayhem, there's gonna be head-on collisions, an accident waiting to happen ... those were just some of the sentiments people expressed in recent weeks as the new diverging diamond interchange moved closer to reality.

The truth is that Ontario's newest traffic innovation – the diverging diamond interchange at Glendale Avenue and the QEW – is a smooth and simple bit of road technology.

And it's right at the tourist gateway to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It's not perfect and there's still some construction happening on a couple of the ramps, but it is not the driving boondoggle that a lot of people in NOTL feared it would be.

It's no revelation that the people of NOTL can be a bit change-averse. But on this one everyone can rest easy.

As our story and accompanying video on NiagaraNow.com show, navigating the lanes is pretty simple and just require that drivers pay attention. As we're always supposed to.

Having driven the existing diverging diamond roadway in Calgary several times, we can say that if you're focused on the signs and lane markings, you might not even notice you're crossing over to the "other" side as you roll over the diamond.

All that said, NOTL's interchange could use more signage. We expect things will be much clearer when the large green directional signs, now covered, are some day unveiled.

But there are a few spots where more signs or directional markings on the pavement would be helpful.

There's a notable anomaly northbound on Glendale as you approach one of the sets of traffic lights.

Mammoth overhead signs remained covered and, almost directly below them, what appears to be a large expansion joint is visible. About 50 feet beyond that point is the stop line for the traffic light.

We have watched several drivers hesitate, then stop and wait at the expansion joint instead of proceeding all the way up to the stop line.

The visual cues of the overhead signs and that bridge joint seem to naturally inspire drivers to pull up early. (Hanging back also seems to affect the timing of the traffic lights.)

Maybe it's because it's new, and we'll all adjust.

But if anyone wishes to complain about the diverging diamond, we suggest they focus not on its function but its \$54-million pricetag.

That's a lot of money and we've heard all the safety reasoning behind it – but we're still unclear what problem it is meant to solve. Was there a problem?

We suspect this new innovation (Hey, NOTL, it even includes a roundabout!) will become a showpiece for Ontario's transportation ministry to sell other regions on adopting a diverging diamond to solve their apparent traffic problems.

We'll see. But in the meantime, drive with care and enjoy Niagara's shiny new diamond.

editor@niagaranow.com

Have an opinion you want heard?

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.



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Refusal to allow candidate meetings at community centre is **misguided**

Dear editor:

The misguided decision by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake chief administrator, Marnie Cluckie, and the acting town clerk to not rent the community centre auditorium to FocusNOTL was shown in full force at last Tuesday night's mayoral Meet & Greet.

Due to capacity limits at the NOTL Legion, we had to turn many people away at the door. They were not happy.

And a woman with mobility issues was unable to come because she could not navigate the stairs to the second-floor Legion hall.

We could not live stream the event because the Legion does not have the broadband capacity that the community centre does. And, lastly, a reporter was not allowed to enter because we were already at capacity.



Crowds packed the Legion for the first meeting. SUPPLIED

As a result, the Town of NOTL staff have done a great disservice to the residents they profess to serve.

Because even though we said we would comply with the requirement to have all candidates attend, the town insisted that we have all 20 candidates representing three different candidate

groups, be at a single event.

The stock answer from the town is: "That's the rule. No political events at the community centre."

But they allowed it in 2018 for the Chamber of Commerce.

This year I was first told "no" by the then-town clerk, before he resigned.

Then, the acting town clerk said I could rent the community centre but only if I had all the candidates there at the same time.

When I said we would comply with the all-candidates condition, but attendance would be spread over five nights, all would be treated equally and each session's questions would be put to all candidates, I got no response.

I explained the benefit of giving candidates up to 25 minutes of air time versus having all 20 candidates at one meeting where they would be lucky to get three or four minutes.

When we followed the FocusNOTL format in 2018, all candidates received 10 minutes to present their platform and answered five questions each.

In many of the all-candidate meetings put

on by other entities, some candidates didn't even get a chance to speak.

I think some councillors advocated for my approach, but also were told, "That's the rule."

My point in all this is that there was plenty of time for councillors to change the rule, if indeed it needed changing. Staff continues to run the policy show at council.

Instead, councillors did what they normally do when confronted by staff – just accept and move on.

I believe we need staff that can think outside the box and put residents' interests first before enacting policy and we need councillors who will stand up to staff and tell them, "We are the elected officials and we make policy."

On the bright side, at our first meeting at the Legion,

we were able to record the session and post it on YouTube. On the first afternoon the recording was available more than 600 people viewed it.

The interest in our format meant a full house, standing room only. I'm happy that our little group is making a difference by giving all candidates an unfiltered opportunity to get their message to voters.

The Legion gave us a favourable rental rate and we encouraged people to make a donation to the Legion in recognition of their civic contribution. We collected \$347.

I am very proud of my fellow NOTLers for their generosity. I asked for contributions of loonies and toonies and we got mostly folding money.

Joe Accardo
FocusNOTL

Who are the people behind **WeLuvNOTL.com**?

Dear editor:

I was aghast at the advertisements posted by the newly formed community group, WeLuvNOTL.com.

A thorough check on their website spoke little of who the people are that have

formed this committee.

They encourage the public to vote for those who follow their very NIMBY anti-tourists stance.

I'd certainly like to know who has formed and is running this group and just who

they feel the candidates are that support them.

It seems they'd like to lure the reader down into their rabbit hole before being transparent and candid.

I hope you will consider using your investigating

journalism skills for this one.

I'd love to know the candidates who are supporting this group (or whom this group is supporting) so that I can be sure not to vote for them.

Claudette Young
NOTL



Participants line up for the Terry Fox Run. EVAN LOREE

NOTL **pulled together** for Terry Fox Run

Dear editor:

Terry Fox was not a quitter and neither was NOTL, again this year.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, after two years of not gathering as a community, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Terry Fox Run took place at Simcoe Park.

Terry Fox turned misfortune into a journey that brought us all together to honour our Canadian hero and to continue his dream of one day finding a cure for cancer.

The community of NOTL showed tremendous support and generosity for this worthwhile fundraiser.

Thanks go out to all of those who participated and or volunteered with the 42nd annual run.

While pledges are still being processed we have more than \$155,000 this year for Terry Fox-funded cancer research.

This amount owes a lot to the efforts of Joe Pillitteri and his team Pillsy – and to the chair of the Terry Fox Foundation, Bill Pristanski, who chose to do his 42nd Terry Fox Run in NOTL.

We were honoured to have jazz singer Juliet Dunn share her heartfelt story and lead us in our national anthem.

Each and every one of you have made your own personal contribution to Terry's legacy.

His self-sacrifice and courage benefitted all living beings. He inspired community with his strength, hope and determination.

Thank you NOTL for continuing to keep his dream alive. We hope to see you at next year's run, on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023.

Joan King, co-ordinator
Terry Fox Run
NOTL

Goettler's approach preferred to mayor's **combative style**

Dear editor:

The burst of anger from Lord Mayor Betty Disero was telling and was by far the most dramatic performance at the Royal George Theatre during last week's Chamber of Commerce election debate.

It came humorously close to qualifying for an Academy Award.

Disero literally growled back at opponent Vaughn Goettler who was promoting the idea of governance that would be more collaborative and less combative.

She howled about how the town was forced to litigate to protect the citizens. But nothing could be further from the truth.

The combination of an amenable and business-like approach to dealing with top priority issues affecting NOTL, including develop-

ment, the new official plan (which has not been approved by the region under Disero's watch), the Glendale secondary plan, and the St. Davids roundabout, was clearly not the mayor's style of governance.

Similar to dropping the ball in the pickleball fiasco and her husband's embarrassing next-door neighbour dispute, Disero wants to go bare-knuckle fighting with unfairly labelled bad guys like Rainer Hummel and Benny Marotta.

Instead, Goettler simply wants peace with the understanding that we all need to work together for the long-term benefit of NOTL.

He also was critical of the associated costs of what has now become a case of chronic litigation.

From my personal experience in the sometimes

highly contentious world of government authority disputes, Goettler's approach would by far be the most effective philosophy for good governance and transparency for NOTL going forward.

Disero seems to have dragged her past Toronto bully tactics into the boardroom of a classy little town.

The problem with this sort of blind passion leadership is twofold. Firstly, it takes the issues to an in-camera setting, depriving the citizens of full transparency. This is not good for democracy and can lead to great expense.

Secondly, it puts the people like Hummel and Marotta, who are really not bad guys, into a bad mood. That is not fair to them nor is it fair to the business affairs of the town.

Goettler on the other hand would have a better opportunity to establish a good foundation for a more constructive and positive environment for the future evolution of NOTL.

I have no association with Goettler or his campaign, but he has my vote because we need to work together and with his approach, NOTL will have a better chance to get things done in an open, transparent, accountable and respectful manner.

You will see how the bad guys will turn into good guys again without all the growling and uncontrolled, adverse effects caused by the chronic litigation as promoted by Disero.

Now is the time to get rid of the old school anger-fuelled style of leadership.

Peter Rusin
St. Davids

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VOTE 2022 CANDIDATES FOR THE 2022 MUNICIPAL & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

For more information visit www.notl.com or call 905-468-3266

Election Day: Monday, October 24, 2022

Lord Mayor

One (1) to be elected at large

Betty DISERO
Vaughn GOETTLER
Gary ZALEPA

Town Councillor

Eight (8) to be elected at large

Tim BALASIUK
Allan BISBACK
Gary BURROUGHS
Adriana CATER (VIZZARI)
Wendy CHEROPITA
Alistair (AJ) HARLOND
Maria MAVRIDIS
John William MCCALLUM
Richard MELL
Sandra O'CONNOR
Katherine REID
Nick RULLER
Erwin WIENS

Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir Trustee

Melinda CHARTRAND
(ACCLAIMED)

DSBN School Board Trustee

Four (4) to be elected at large

Kate BAGGOTT
Alex BRADNAM
Mike BROUSSEAU
Lora CAMPBELL
Jonathan FAST
Rhona LINDO-KELLY
Donald MACDOUGALL
Kris VRCEK

Regional Councillor

One (1) to be elected at large

Pat DARTE
Andrea KAISER
Paolo MIELE
William A. ROBERTS
Barbara WORTHY

NCDSB School Board Trustee

Two (2) to be elected at large

Natalia BENOIT
Larry HUIBERS
Jolanta PAWLAK

Voting Methods

Proxy Voting & Voting by Mail

If you are unable to vote during Advance Polls or Election Day, alternative options are available for qualified electors. For more information about how to vote by proxy or by mail, please visit www.notl.com/council-government/elections

Voter Notification Cards

Voter Notification Cards were mailed out in late September. All voters are required to present valid identification at the Advance Polls and on Election Day.

- Victoria Steele, Town Clerk

Where & When to Vote

Election Day

(10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre
(14 Anderson Lane)

Laura Secord Homestead
(29 Queenston Street)

Crossroads Public School
(1350 Niagara Stone Road)

St. Davids Public School
(1344 York Street)

Holiday Inn Express
(524 York Road)

Advance Polls

(10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

Saturday, October 8

St. Davids Public School
(1344 York Road)

Wednesday, October 12

Municipal Offices
(1593 Four Mile Creek Road)

Saturday, October 15

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre
(14 Anderson Lane)

Wednesday, October 19

Municipal Offices
(1593 Four Mile Creek Road)

Qualified electors are welcome to vote at any Niagara-on-the-Lake polling location

Celebrating McNab's hidden gems



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist



The Bogardus-Laughton House is a singular, as-built, second Empire NOTL house. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL.

The hamlet of McNab out Lakeshore Road toward St. Catharines has a long history within the warp and weave of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Named McNab after its founders, John and his younger brother Colin McNab, it's on the property line separating their respective 950-acre land grants.

After 1799, the brothers sold off portions of their grants to interested settlers and by 1820, their respective holdings had shrunk to 750 acres apiece and homes were built on the newly severed lots.

One of these houses, known today as the Bogardus-Laughton House, sits about 1,000 feet back from Lakeshore Road.

Believed to have been constructed to include the original two room circa 1820 house on the property, the larger new rectangular home was built in its current Second Empire style by Cornelius Bogardus circa 1866.

I find that exciting since all other NOTL buildings with Second Empire elements were remodelled to this style and in the Bogardus-Laughton House we have an original Second Empire design.

In any case, the mansard room displays a typical two-part pitch and the lower portion is set with the stylistic de rigueur dormers.

A gorgeous bell-cast roofed verandah extends the full width of the house facade, displaying decorative elements of the period with trefoil cutouts, ornate scroll brackets under the eaves and fan brackets between turned posts and span supports.

The original french door openings flank each side of the main entry and the bays

are ranked. The house is clad in white pebble-dash stucco and notwithstanding the fact this would not have been its original finish (pebbledash being an early to mid 20th-century treatment), it adds to the total appearance of the home.

All-in-all the Bogardus-Laughton House is a terrific example of a 19th-century picturesque presentation that fits the land and landscape beautifully and has been lovingly cared for by two generations of the Laughton family.

Now, if you turn toward the lake from Lakeshore Road onto McNab and follow it down to near the end, at 1399 you will find what is known in the hamlet as the Ferguson House.

This is an excellent example of what was built, how it was changed over the decades and now, how it has returned to its original form.

So, what you will see now, is a classic Ontario Gothic cottage form, a storey-and-a-half house with three bays on the first floor and a centred front facing gable with window ranked directly above the main entry.

And, this would have been what you saw should you have looked at it as-built. However, at some time in the building's history, the decision was made to build out from the front gable to add a room above the front porch.

In that configuration the hamlet's residents referred to it as the "Big House." Then, at some point in the 20th century, it was restored

to its original presentation.

Take a look at David Hemming's book "Country Air - A Portrait of McNab," available at the library, to see the build-out version of the Ferguson House.

Just a short distance away, at the corner of McNab Road and Church, is a rambling coursed rubblestone home perched on the brow of a hill.

Standing in front and looking at the right end of the building one can see the original modest two-room home built in the 1850s by Edward Hiscott (eldest son of Richard Hiscott, after whom the Hiscott House on Prideaux Street in Old Town is named).

Interestingly, it was Edward Hiscott and James Servos who took out mortgages on their farms in order to build the Anglican Christ Church, which still graces the corner of Lakeshore and McNab.

In the 1940s, Edward's grandson James extended the original stone house to create a U-shaped footprint with a centre portion glassed in for plants.

In total, at least six generations of the Hiscott family called this their home. Its current configuration and presentation is the result of an incredibly sympathetic renovation performed to the home in this century.

I would recommend anyone interested in the town's history read the books written by Hemmings.

Some are available at the NOTL Museum and others at the library, but all serve as outstanding guideposts to our shared heritage.



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Driving the new diverging diamond interchange: **It's simple**

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The long-awaited diverging diamond interchange is finally open and it's not nearly as complicated as many people feared.

The third diamond interchange built in Canada, with others in Calgary and Regina, it is designed to increase safety, reduce traffic speed and have fewer conflict points – spots where crashes might happen.

It's also supposed to be easy to navigate for both pedestrians and drivers.

"It's supposed to be safer because you're basically eliminating the chance of somebody making a left turn," Andrew Bernard of Brennan Paving said at an information session for the project in September.

Cars are meant to seamlessly enter the interchange, and get on and off the highway without hassle, or be able to easily cross over to and from York Road.

A reporter from The Lake Report drove the new road several times over the past week and found that, as promised, traffic on Glen-



Cars drive through the new diverging diamond interchange in Glendale. Currently the off-ramp from Toronto is closed, as is the Toronto-bound on-ramp. SOMER SLOBODIAN

dale Avenue easily diverges to the left side of the road through two crossover intersections.

Right now, the QEW's Niagara-bound off-ramp is closed at Glendale for construction, with traffic being diverted via Mountain Road – or Stanley Avenue off

Hwy. 405.

The QEW's Toronto-bound on-ramp also is closed, with a temporary on-ramp operating from Airport Road, south of York Road. These closures will last for about 60 days.

A good tip: if you're driving to NOTL from Toronto,

take the Niagara Street exit, follow the service road and cross the Homer Bridge on Queenston Street.

Other bridges, like Lakeshore or Carlton, are good options if heading to Old Town or Virgil, respectively.

If you're coming from Niagara Falls and want

to head to St. Davids or Virgil, the Mountain Road exit might be your best choice for now.

Many people have taken to Facebook groups, like NOTL 4 All, to remark about the signage, or lack of it.

It's important to keep an

eye out for the signs, both on the QEW and on the diverging diamond. And follow the line markings on the road.

Something else drivers should be aware of: we discovered while driving the interchange that if the lead vehicle stops too far before the traffic lights and not close to the stop line, the light might not change readily.

Cars were seen waiting extended periods because apparently they hadn't pulled up close enough for the sensors to be activated.

The \$54-million interchange looks daunting while still under construction, but it should be fully operational in both directions by November.

Once road work is completed, construction of a single-lane roundabout at Glendale and York Road will begin. Construction will start this winter and be completed by spring.

By summer of 2023, the roundabout landscaping and site cleanup should all be done.

Watch a video drive-through at <https://youtu.be/wNSE-jtpAcc>

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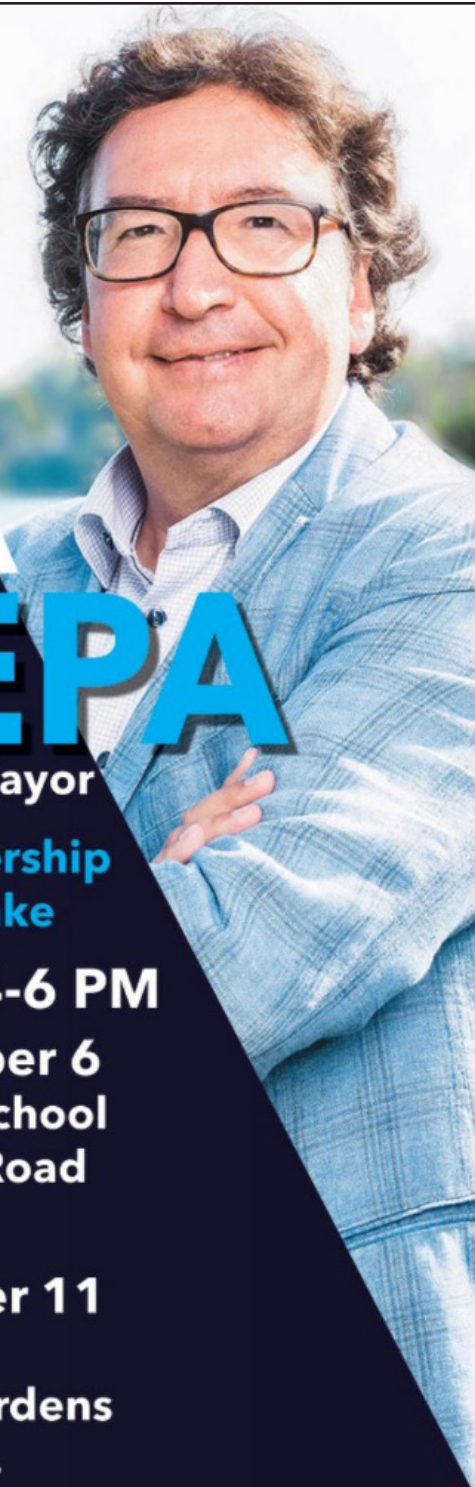
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and

Tuesday, October 11
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The Barn at the Gardens
48 John St W.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Resident parking permits and dog licenses are now available for purchase/pick up from the Town Municipal Offices at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil. Please fill out the appropriate application form from our website www.notl.com and drop off the completed form with your payment at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road in one of our drop boxes.

Resident Parking Permits

Parking Permits are available exclusively to residents of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and entitles the holder to one hour of free parking at any parking machine in the Heritage District. Please note a valid piece of identification must be shown as proof of address in order to obtain a permit. Permits are valid for the vehicle identified, by licence plate number shown on the face of the permit only and are non-transferable.

Permits issued are valid from January 1 to December 31 of any given year. Residents must therefore renew the permit each year.

The current resident parking permit fee is \$21.00, this fee is subject to change effective January 1, 2023.

Dog Licenses

All dogs must be licensed by **January 1, 2023**. If you purchase a dog license before **December 23, 2022**, you will receive a \$10 discount off the annual licensing fee. Save an additional \$10 by providing proof that your dog has been spayed or neutered. **You must provide proof of current rabies vaccination at time of purchase to obtain a license.**

The current annual licensing fees are \$23.00 for an altered dog or \$33.00 for an unaltered dog, these fees are subject to change effective January 1, 2023.

Please note Town offices will be closed for the holiday season as of Friday, December 23, 2022, at 4:30 p.m and will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Bits of NOTL inspire Pisano's 'Finding Camelot' exhibition at Ironwood

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Artist Filomena Pisano is showcasing her love and admiration for Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday at the opening of a month-long solo art show entitled "Finding Camelot."

Named after what she has lovingly nicknamed the town, the show at Ironwood Cider House highlights a special piece of Niagara-on-the-Lake in every piece, literally and figuratively.

Hanging to the right of the staircase entrance, a painting titled "Sophia" welcomed guests to the gallery. Appearing to be a portrait of a beautiful woman, the piece has quite the backstory.

Featuring mosaic pieces from Turkish Bazaar on Queen Street and broken plate pieces from Pie'za on Victoria Street surrounding the woman's face, the work speaks to the communal spirit of the town.

The artist, who uses the name Pisano Artista professionally, also reached out to Sherkston Shores glass and metal artist Robert Buick for some broken pieces to add to the painting.

"He picked up a bust and said, 'I hate these colours, but I know you'll love them,' and he smashed it!" recalled Pisano.

Glass from that bust was included in the piece alongside other contributions, making "Sophia" a real community effort.

Other pieces in the collection cite pieces of town in their creation.

"Joan of Arc," an interpretation of the patron saint of France, was painted years after Pisano saw a Shaw play about the historical figure in town.

Pisano was inspired by the figure's story, combining it with elements of her own life.

"She's wearing a helmet because I started painting after I hit my head," said Pisano. "A canoe hit me, a



Artist Filomena Pisano is pictured with the piece "When Beauty Comes," the "Queen of Camelot," at her art show "Finding Camelot," showcased at Ironwood Cider House. JULIA SACCO

blue canoe at Blue Mountain. Two weeks later, I started painting."

Sitting on an opposite wall in the gallery were the pieces "Summer in the Vineyard," "Spring in Camelot" and "Where the Flowers Bloom," all pieces inspired by nature and the four seasons in Niagara-

on-the-Lake.

"Where the Flowers Bloom" was painted during quarantine in 2020.

Pisano was inspired by the \$10 hydrangeas being sold by VanNoort Flower Studio at the time.

"Just a bouquet of flowers was so important back then," said Pisano.

The piece speaks to how the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake came together to bring some light into dark times, she said.

Ironwood, on Lakeshore Road, has a gallery space upstairs.

Marketing manager Robyn Brown said while the facility has only fea-

tured exhibits for artists whose work is displayed on Ironwood's cans thus far, in the new year, the plan is to host galleries for even more area artists.

Brown said that amid the traditional wineries in the area, "having such a modern facility is a great addition."



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Bikes for Farmworkers founders ride off into retirement

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

What started out as a fluke encounter for Terry Weiner and Mark Gaudet turned into several years of friendship, partnership and giving back to the community through the Bikes for Farmworkers program.

But now, Gaudet and Weiner have decided to take a step back and pass the handles over to someone else.

Bikes for Farmworkers started seven years ago and provides repaired bikes to migrant workers across Niagara for the low cost of \$20.

Throughout those seven years, the program has sold more than 2,300 bikes and repaired more than 1,600.

The duo met in February 2015.

Weiner was walking with his wife Lynn on the Commons near Butler's Barracks. Gaudet and his wife Monica happened to be cross-country skiing across the Commons at the same time.

Gaudet, who grew up in Montreal, stopped to talk to Weiner and his wife when he noticed her French-Canadian accent.

"We just had a random conversation and I picked up her accent and then that was it. We just kind of gelled from there," Gaudet said with a laugh.

The guys have dealt with many challenges throughout their partnership, one of the hardest being the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each year they receive an average of about 500 donated bikes. During COVID, that dropped down to about 250.



Terry Weiner and Mark Gaudet are looking for someone who can fill their shoes — or rather, tires. SOMER SLOBODIAN

And, "the two years of COVID were tough because the workers couldn't get out," said Weiner.

This year, they're back up to more than 400 donated bikes.

Both Gaudet and Weiner moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake to retire. Gaudet came to NOTL from the Toronto area, where he worked in the fine paper business.

Weiner, on the other hand, moved from Los Angeles where he was a consultant in aerospace and defence. NOTL was a place he often visited with his wife, since he had family here and loved the town.

When he moved to NOTL, he wanted to volunteer his time and do some good for the community.

"I initially got in contact with Jane Andres, and she

kind of stirred me towards the migrant community. That's where I got involved with that for the first time," said Weiner.

Gaudet has always been a cyclist and when he moved here he did a lot of cycle tourism.

When he saw an advertisement posted by the Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group looking for someone to help repair bikes for farmworkers, he jumped at the opportunity.

"They were looking for someone to repair bikes that were donated to that group, but that were going to be given away to the farmworkers at the town's safety fair," said Gaudet.

Forty bikes were dropped off at his house to be fixed up. He told Weiner about the bikes and got him interested in helping.

At the fair, they noticed how many workers showed up riding unsafe bikes.

"And that's how we kind of said, 'You know what, there's something that can be done here,'" said Gaudet.

They also learned of a similar operation run by Mike Hahn in Beamsville. After reaching out to him, he showed them some of the ropes.

For a few years, all operations happened out of their garages.

"I think at one point in time Terry had parked his two cars outside because he had 70 bikes in the garage and no room to move around," said Gaudet.

With help from Positive Living Niagara, they received a start-up grant from the Niagara Community Foundation to help them continue their work.

Eventually, they met Lloyd Redekopp, who owns the old Virgil public school site.

He let them use an area in the basement as their workshop. That allows them to have four work stations and plenty of space to store and repair bikes.

They now have eight volunteers who help out weekly.

Now that it's been seven years, the guys are ready to take a step back from the forefront of the organization. However, they don't want to leave it completely.

"I don't intend to be totally divorced from Bikes for Farmworkers," said Weiner.

"I may not be picking up a wrench and fixing bikes, but you know, I'll be around just to help out, to help them administratively if they need it," he added.

Gaudet, the head mechanic who has relationships with

suppliers and knows the prices of parts and where to get them, will be staying a little longer. However, he wants to take a more behind-the-scenes role.

He wants to be able to help out the guys in the shop and pass on his knowledge of bike repair.

He has a few projects in mind that he wants to work on, like getting back into cycle tourism, but he still wants to keep one foot in the door at Bikes for Farmworkers.

Weiner has gotten into genealogy and wants to spend more time exploring that hobby.

"I think what sticks out with me was how it absolutely just took off. You know, we never anticipated that it would become what it has become," said Weiner.

"To really understand the phenomenon. You have to come into the shop on a Thursday night during the early summer ... it's almost like a carnival, it's wonderful," he added.

Most of the bikes purchased by workers go back to their home countries with them at the end of the season.

There, they become transportation for their families, he said.

Going forward the pair will be working with Gateway Community Church to find a new leadership team. Bikes for Farmworkers has worked in partnership with Gateway since 2019.

"Anybody that does have the impetus to become involved in volunteer work and would like to take over a leadership position, we can teach them what they need to know about bicycles," said Weiner.


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Repair Café brings **new life** to household items

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Esther Battista stopped by the library last week in hopes of getting some advice on where to find a repair person to fix her sewing machine, only to find out that the Repair Café was taking place a few days later.

Battista purchased the mini-machine at the Mission Thrift Store in St. Catharines in hopes of giving it a new life but soon found out that it was missing a vital piece.

With the help of volunteer fixers and Maker Space facilitator Megan Honsberger, she was able to get the machine repaired – for free.

“Our fixer took everything apart. They thought it was going to be a belt repair, but when they took a lot at it, he saw that the gear was cracked, and I said, ‘Well, we have a 3D printer, so why don’t we see what we can do?’” said Honsberger.

“I found a similar piece on Thingiverse and I used our 3D modelling program to change it to our measurements.”

Battista watched anxiously as the part was created.

“We are 3D printing a gear for the sewing machine that otherwise I don’t know that we would’ve been able to find because it seems like a very specific type of piece,” said Battista.

“This is probably my best shot at getting it fixed!”

Honsberger said other repairs of the day included a mini wine fridge, a laminating machine and an air filter.

Library service associate Sarah Bowers encourages residents to come



Top: Walter Weaver tends to a sewing machine during Saturday’s Repair Café. Bottom: lelecin Naderi and Esther Battista watch patiently as a new gear for Battista’s sewing machine 3D prints during library Repair Cafe on Saturday. JULIA SACCO

down to the library for the next Repair Café planned in the spring and take advantage of the library’s Makery Space.

“We’ve gotten some amazing grants that have allowed us to really bump up

the space,” said Bowers.

“The amount of things that people can learn from bringing their stuff into this space is amazing.”

The NOTL Public Library offers a variety of services aside from the Repair Cafe

that patrons can access at any time, including a tool lending service, which allows guests to borrow tools for one-week periods.

People can also access tools that can be used within the library.



This week’s riddle is “Jeopardy!” style.
Category: Money idioms

Dropping one of these on another person means you’re informing on their criminal activities.

Last issue: When talking about dates, B.C.E. stands for this.

Answer: What is before common era?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margie Enns, Claudia Grimwood, Maria Janeiro, Bob Wheatley, Pam Dowling, Wade Durling, Bert Dandy, Daniel Smith, Gordon Yanow, Sheila Meloche, John Crawley, Jessica Willis, KC King,

*REMEMBER TO PUT “WHAT IS” FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!

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‘Canada’s best-kept secret’: NOTL air cadets launch recruiting drive

Continued from Front Page

skills to help prepare young adults for the future.

The first week of October officially marks Cadet Week in Ontario and the NOTL squadron is celebrating – and looking for new recruits with an open house planned for Oct. 12.

Flight Sgt. Shay Vidal is 17 and just received his pilot’s licence.

Since he was young, he knew he wanted to be a pilot. When he heard about air cadets and the opportunity to get his licence for free, he didn’t hesitate to join.

The last six years have been some of the best experiences of his life.

“The one thing I always like telling new cadets is, if you want to be a pilot, this is the place to be,” he said.

And it’s a place to have fun, he said.

“Yes, your goal is to learn and to advance. But sometimes that can take a backseat and just have fun,” he said with a smile.

There is no obligation to become a pilot. Many cadets go through the program just enjoying other aspects of the program like the sur-



Flight Sgt. Shay Vidal trains with the other cadets every week at the Croatian National Centre. SOMER SLOBODIAN

vival skills they learn.

Squadron Warrant Officer Emily Abt has been in cadets since she was 12 and is now the highest-ranked cadet in the squadron.

While flying isn’t her top interest, she loved learning survival and leadership skills.

“The best part about it, in my position, is seeing the cadets have fun,” she said.

Becoming a cadet opens many doors for young adults that they otherwise may not have had.

“I have learned how to be more confident, especially when talking to new people,” said Abt.

Now that she’s in charge, she knows how to be around people and how to teach people. Not only that, but she knows how to be a follower, too, she said.

She’s learned how to successfully complete an interview and how to effectively speak in front of large crowds, skills many young adults struggle with.

“There’s a lot of things going through life that you don’t realize cadets taught you. I can go into many situations and feel much more confident,” she said.

“I could go into any job interview now,” said Vidal.

The higher-ranked cadets,

like Abt and Vidal, are the ones teaching the younger cadets.

Couroux is there to help and guide them and make sure things run smoothly, but for the most part it’s cadets teaching cadets.

From day one, the cadets are trained to eventually be the leaders.

Couroux hopes to see more young adults join the program, which is open to anyone aged 12 to 18.

“We have 17 cadets registered, which is a little lighter than what we would like,” he said.

About 30 is the goal. And the more cadets who join, the more the program can offer them. It also helps the current cadets work on their leadership and teaching skills.

During COVID, cadets had to do a lot of virtual training, which was hard especially for such a hands-on, physical program.

“But, all in all, we didn’t have a high turnover in our unit,” though many units did, Couroux said.

“And I think I can attest that to the leadership of the older cadets and guiding the younger cadets through

because that was a really hard phase,” he added.

The program is free to all cadets. That includes summer camps as well and if cadets are at the camp for a certain amount of time, they get paid.

“There’s a bit of adventure in there that a typical teenager doesn’t get to see,” he said.

For instance, some cadets go off to become range marksmanship instructors, he said.

And air cadets have the chance to obtain their pilot’s licence, like Vidal did.

Anyone who decides to join army cadets has the chance to go on a paratrooper course, which teaches cadets how to parachute from an airplane. Or those enrolled in sea cadets have the chance to get their CANSail qualifications.

“There’s a lot of things that you can do as a cadet that just screams adventure,” said Couroux.

Recently, as a pilot project, all of the air, sea and army units in the Niagara Region got together to experience each other’s training exercises for a weekend.

“Honestly, it was the best

thing I’ve ever done,” Abt said with a laugh.

Air cadets participated in activities like canoeing and wearing face camouflage, while the other units got to try things like survival tactics.

It was a great way for the cadets to meet people from other units and experience different training exercises all while having fun.

Cadet Week is meant to recognize the program and the cadets who make it happen.

Couroux hopes to host something next year in honour of Cadet Week.

Any parents whose children are interested in air cadets are encouraged to attend an open house on Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Croatian National Centre on Line 3 Road.

There, parents and kids will get to learn what the program is all about. There will also be a commanding officer parade that night.

“We really want to see more participation from the youth in the area,” said Couroux.

“There’s a lot that we can offer to them that I think they’ll get out of this,” he added.

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Ex-councillor, agriculture advocate, Austin Kirkby was ‘a force’ for NOTL

Continued from Front Page

daughters, her husband, six grandchildren and three great-granddaughters.

“She was a force,” said Kirkby’s 54-year-old daughter Katie Overstrom.

She remembers how busy her mother was, describing a woman who worked on the farm all day and worked at town council all night.

Yet she always had time to watch her kids participate in extracurriculars.

“She was the mom that showed up for every sporting event,” recalled her daughter Becky Arnold, 43.

Austin and John Kirkby met in high school, fell in love and married in 1963.

They worked on their farm together until eventually moving into a small condo after Austin was diagnosed with cancer in 2019.

John Kirkby said there were hard times, but he’s “not ashamed to say how much I did love her.”

When Austin was in her 50s, she was diagnosed with breast cancer.



Austin Kirkby with her daughters Susan, Katie and Becky. SUPPLIED

True to her fighting spirit, Kirkby survived that scare.

It came back in an unexpected way, though.

“She, out of the blue, broke her collarbone and the diagnosis was cancer,” Overstrom said.

It was a shock to the family to go in for a broken

collarbone and come out with cancer.

Kirkby was as fearless in the face of cancer as she was in the face of council.

“There was no political baloney when she talked. It was all from the heart,” her husband said.

John Kirkby remembers his wife was the type of

person to know “the answers before she asked her question.”

Coun. Gary Burroughs remembers something similar, describing her as one who “really did her homework.”

She joined council in 1991, acting as chair of the agricultural committee for much of her time on council. In 2006, she stepped down.

Burroughs recalled how he once went to Kirkby’s home and saw a massive kitchen absolutely covered with papers as she prepared for council.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she’s really going to miss the former councillor.

Kirkby was on council before Disero got into NOTL politics, but the lord mayor said she learned a lot from her.

“She knew every piece of farmland and Niagara-on-the-Lake inside and out,” Disero said.

“She really was a mentor for me in terms of agriculture in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” she added.

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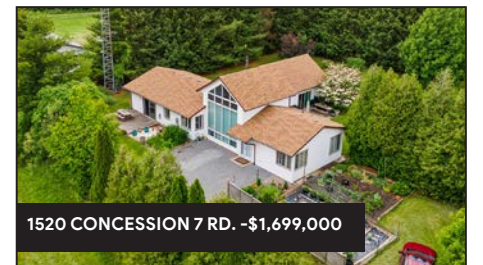
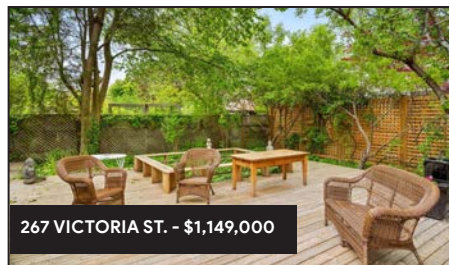
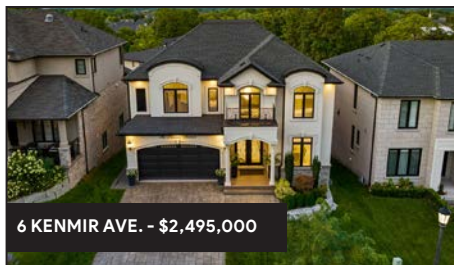
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COMMENT

Using hockey stars to promote gambling is **offensive**



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

Am I the only one, or is the sight of Wayne Gretzky, Auston Matthews and other hockey celebrities encouraging me to gamble on professional sports games offensive?

In our lifetimes, will Niagara IceDogs star skaters encourage us to come to the Meridian Centre to bet against the North Bay Battalion? (By the way, where do they get these team names?)

The Great One walks casually into our television screens, sartorially splendid in a bespoke suit, mentioning that gambling on pro sports can add big excitement to my life, and that by using our personal

computers while wearing our pyjamas at home, we can be "part of the action."

Matthews, the NHL MVP last year – from Arizona – tenaciously growing a moustache, graces Niagara-area billboards, inviting us to be part of the action by gambling on individual NHL games.

Ontario's betting Big Brother, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., is shrewdly named to trick us. When we bet our money on games or risk our money at one of the many provincial casinos, we are not playing a game and gaming. We are gambling, pure and simple.

Many of us grew up hearing stories of the pro sports gambling heartache caused by the "Chicago Black Sox" baseball team in 1921. Eight players were banned for life by commissioner Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis for gambling on their team's games.

The whole episode stank and caused baseball fans to question the integrity of the game. It was an existential crisis. Since then rules prohibiting gambling



Ross Robinson says it's not appropriate for hockey stars to endorse gambling.

by MLB personnel were developed, enforced and easy to understand.

Not that long ago, Cincinnati Reds superstar Pete Rose, a.k.a. Charlie Hustle, a genuine superstar batter and fielder (and definitely a "man's man"), was banned

from baseball for life for betting on the team that he was managing.

Despite having Hall of Fame-worthy statistics, and then some, he is still not enshrined in Cooperstown. Each summer he shows up to sign autographs for

a modest fee, but he may never be voted into the MLB Hall of Fame.

The integrity of professional sports leagues must be protected, and the rule is very clear: "Don't gamble."

Am I cynical or paranoid, or do I just not "get

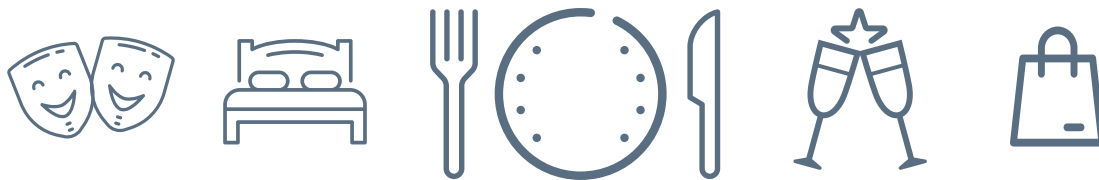
it?" Have the NHL and its players association sunk to a new low, desperately scraping at any available barrel in the search for new sources of revenue?

It is clear to me that a huge mistake has been made. Any link between gambling and people who can influence the outcomes of games is nasty. How can NHL executives, team owners, player agents and superstar moms and dads not see the problem here?

A missed pass, a fluffed breakaway, a missed check, a surprise goal through the five-hole, can all instantly change the result of a game. How about a subtle intentional offside, which could trick even the video replay experts in the booths in Toronto and New York?

I don't mean to be sanctimonious or holier-than-thou, or seem to be preaching, but having current NHL personnel, not to mention the accepted greatest player ever, promoting gambling, and being well-paid to encourage hockey fans to gamble, just seems wrong.

Wrong. Wrong.



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NOTL Wolves scrimmage

The U9 Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves played a 3-on-3 scrimmage Saturday. Middle: Harrison Pohorly shows off his fancy footwork. Bottom: Russell Palmer takes a shot at goalie Michael Duc. JULIA SACCO

Two very different wins for Jr. A Predators

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

Two wins but two very different games for the Jr. A Niagara Predators last weekend.

It all started Friday night at home with a 6-5 win over the Windsor Aces in their third game of the 2022-23 Greater Metro Hockey League season.

The close win came as a shock to fans who saw the Predators up five goals after 40 minutes of play.

"I was basically like 'You've made it a game now.' It should not be this way," said Predators head coach Kevin Taylor.

"It was a cakewalk. We were up 6-1, had full control of the game and now we have to start playing hockey again," he said, recalling a third-period timeout pep talk to his team.

He said he told his team: "You've made them realize they have a chance to win."

Niagara's Guy Manco started off the scoring just shy of 12 minutes into the game, with Windsor tying things up a couple minutes later.

From there it was all Ni-



The Predators score a goal. KEVAN DOWD

agara with Predators Tyler Gearing and Wais Ayubi each scoring in the last three minutes of the first.

Anthony Tropea netted another four and a half minutes into the second, and Gearing and Manco each had a second by the period's halfway mark.

An early goal in the third by Windsor brought the score to 6-2 but a five-minute major for boarding to Niagara's Riley Ellis early in the period would prove his team's undoing.

With Windsor netting three tallies before Ellis was out the box, it was a one-goal game for the last 10 minutes.

"He's playing hard – which is nice – and he's a big body but it has to be more controlled," said Taylor of the 6 foot 1, 202-pound Ellis. "At the end of the day, we still won

the game."

Things fared better for Niagara during their Sunday afternoon road game against the St. George Ravens.

Playing St. George for the second time in four games, Niagara skated to a 4-1 victory, redemption for a 2-1 loss that started their season.

Taylor chalked the win up to his team following the game plan and their defence playing as part of the offence.

"I thought we were skating better, the guys were calmer, they weren't rushing anything, and they took their time and controlled the puck," he said. "You could see they've been working hard and listening."

Outshooting and scoring the Ravens, Niagara's Gearing and Leo Savin netted the only two goals of the first period for an early lead.

Niagara veteran Reese Bisci and newcomer Jaroslav Dohnal widened the gap to 4-0 after 40 minutes, with the lone Raven's goal coming six minutes into the third.

The Predators return to the ice in Virgil this Friday night against the currently undefeated – and defending division champs – Durham Roadrunners.

Having entered double digits in all four of their games this season and winning three by a difference of 10 goals – the closest game being 10-6 over the Tottenham Thunder – Taylor is expecting a tough game.

But he remains optimistic. "Tottenham gave them a good go and the other three teams are short players or in a rebuild," the coach said.

"I think realistically we're the first opposition they have other than Tottenham, so it'll be a good test for us to see where we are."

Game time Friday is 7:30 p.m. at the Meridian Credit Union Arena and will include a food drive for Newark Neighbours, so attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items if they can.



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Rotarians walk, bike to raise \$13K for polio

Sarah Laughton
The Lake Report

A group of Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotarians pedalled and walked their way to raising \$13,000 last week to help eradicate polio worldwide.

NOTL Rotarians, including Martin Quick, Ken Schander, Cosmos Condina, Bill French, Carol Lipsett, Fran Boot, Barb Babij and Lorna Penman, joined together in the Participate for Polio campaign on Friday, Sept. 30.

Bikers rode to Queenston and back, a 23-kilometre trek, and walkers hiked 30 minutes along the Upper Canada Heritage Trail and back, said French.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero officially proclaimed Oct. 1 as World Polio Day in NOTL.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years and “our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever,” French said.

“As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we’ve reduced polio cases by 99.9 per cent since our first project to



With the help of generous donors, NOTL Rotarians raised over \$13,000 for polio. Pictured with Lord Mayor Betty Disero, centre, are Martin Quick, Ken Schander, Cosmos Condina, Bill French, Carol Lipsett, Fran Boot, Barb Babij and Lorna Penman. SUPPLIED

vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.”

Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease.

The group’s advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort, he added.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“But it’s crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.”



The town is ready to start Phase 2 of the trail upgrades.

\$60,000 grant helps phase two of heritage trail rebuilding effort

Staff
The Lake Report

Just days after members of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee held a successful fundraising run and dog walk, they received more good news: a grant to help pay for phase two of the trail’s reconstruction.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake received \$60,400 for the trail work from the Healthy Communities Initiative.

“Many residents enjoy the Heritage Trail, and with this funding, I hope that more residents and visitors will have an opportunity to explore and enjoy the beauty and the accessibility of the trail,” Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in announcing

the grant.

The first phase of the project, reconstructing 1.5 kilometres of the trail from John Street to East and West Line, was completed in the fall of 2021.

Phase two will continue from East and West Line to Line 1 Road.

Formed in 2019, the committee works to preserve and rehabilitate the heritage trail, which runs along the old Erie and Ontario Railroad line and parallel to Concession 1 to York Road.

The railroad, one of the first in the province, was in service for more than 100 years.

Anyone interested in contributing to the heritage trail can do so by donating online at heritagetrail.ca.

Right time. Right choice for Niagara-on-the-Lake.



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My Three Key Priorities

- Save NOTL from amalgamation and becoming a suburb of Niagara Falls.
- Tourism Strategy addressing traffic, parking and related issues; promoting Agriculture and safe bicycle tourism.
- Community development including amenities for Seniors and Youth, housing and local school solutions.

www.vaughngoettler.com

Harvest Country Fair spotlights **small businesses**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Whether you were up for some line-dancing lessons or in need of some authentic Jamaican baked goods, last Saturday's Harvest Country Fair was the place to be.

People gathered at Joseph's Estate Winery to ring in the autumn season by enjoying what area small businesses had to offer.

Ash Smith and Dave Bagarozza, also known as Funghi & Girl, were excited to be sharing their handmade products with the community.

The Port Colborne duo said the fair was only their fourth or fifth event, but given the popularity of their unique selection of planters and dog feeders, there are many more to come.

"It all started as part of supporting my rescue dog. We found that it was way too expensive actually to purchase one of these, so we made them ourselves," said Smith.

"Yeah and then all of our friends started taking them," Bagarozza added. "We figured if people are



Jessica Simms, left, and Krist-Ann Watson of Butter and Crème Desserts and Regen Designs run their booth together at Saturday's Harvest Country Fair. JULIA SACCO

taking them, then people must want them, so let's sell them."

The Harvest Country Fair was also one of the first events for mother-daughter duo Nicole Eslinger and Rita Van Anel of Cole's Crochet.

"My mom taught me everything and it started off with just me selling it and she recently joined in selling some of her stuff, too," said Eslinger. "We just started doing markets. This is just our second."

"It's been so much fun, we love it!"

Some more seasoned vendors were there as well, like partners Samantha Simms and Kristi-Ann Watson, who came all the way from Caledonia.

Simms sells cakes and pastries at her business, Butter & Crème Desserts and Watson creates handmade wooden goods at Regen Designs.

"We're originally from Jamaica, so a lot of Jamaican flavours are in my

cakes and desserts," said Simms.

"We do a lot of weddings and catering and (Kristi-Ann) does provide stands and custom designs for weddings as well, so that's where we come together."

Aside from visiting these independent vendors, guests could grab some food from Niagara Falls food truck Tropical Fiesta for fresh, homemade Latin food or take a line-dancing lesson from Social Ease Dance Studio.

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24 CIRCLE STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,450,000



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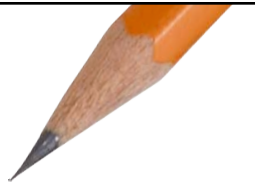
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Have some fun



Across

- 1. Without exception (2,1,3)
- 5. Crossword with no clues (8)
- 9. Good for you (10)
- 10. Chancel wear (4)
- 11. Geological faults (5)
- 12. Impressive array (7)
- 15. Vulnerable (3,2,1,4)
- 16. Free from bias (4)
- 18. Corporate big wheels (1,1,2)
- 20. Stage illuminators (10)
- 22. Country on Lake Tanganyika (7)
- 24. Edge of a precipice (5)
- 27. Angler's decoy (4)
- 28. Firm which makes Up! (10)
- 29. Arrogant, presumptuous people (8)
- 30. Overnight flight (3-3)

Down

- 2. Hold on ... (3,6)
- 3. Good conductor, perhaps (7)
- 4. Diamond songwriter (4)
- 5. Flake (4)
- 6. Common currency in New York, for example (6,4)
- 7. Disappear slowly (4,3)
- 8. Insurgent (5)
- 13. Disregarded for promotion (6,4)
- 14. Largest of the Lesser Sunda Islands (5)
- 17. With great concentration (9)
- 19. Used TNT to blow up a scholar (7)
- 21. Floral wreath (7)
- 23. Wrongfully appropriate (5)
- 25. Looked up to in Switzerland (4)
- 26. Nicholas II was the last (4)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9							10		
11					12				
				13	14				
15							16	17	
18		19		20				21	
22	23						24		
					25	26			
27				28					
29							30		

Last issue's answers

1	G	R	I	M	A	C	E	D	6	I	N	W	A	R	D
2	E	I	A	E	N	E	E								
9	M	E	R	G	E	R	10	S	P	R	I	N	K	L	E
	L	H	A	I	I	T	A								
11	L	E	F	T	O	V	E	R	S	12	S	T	A	Y	S
	C	A	E	A	O										
14	S	T	R	O	N	G	16	D	E	C	I	B	E	L	S
	E	R	G												
18	O	D	D	I	T	I	E	S	19	I	N	D	I	C	T
	G	O	T	O											
21	A	W	A	I	T	23	T	U	R	N	E	D	O	F	F
	H	N	D	C	A	R	I								
26	T	O	M	A	H	A	W	K	27	B	O	O	K	E	D
	O	T	S	U	L	L	L								
28	S	P	E	E	C	H	29	P	R	E	C	L	U	D	E

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



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Long COVID's cause and treatment **remain confusing**



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Despite hundreds of studies, no one knows what causes long COVID.

The symptoms are real enough, debilitating fatigue, loss of energy, headaches, difficulties concentrating and focusing (what's been called "brain fog"), trouble sleeping and a host of other symptoms similar in nature, if not cause, to chronic fatigue syndrome.

The incidence varies widely from as low as five per cent to as high as 30 per cent of COVID cases – the spread perhaps a reflection of differing criteria for the diagnosis and uncertainty about the underlying causes and pathology.

Recent evidence suggests that persistence of COVID viral particles, especially

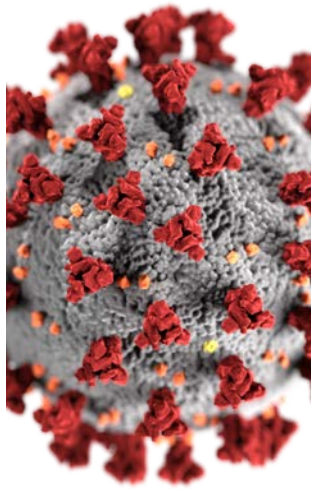
the spike protein or the whole virus, may play roles for continuing inflammatory immune responses and possibly continuing mutations in the host's COVID virus.

Gaining traction is the notion highlighted in the Aug. 25 edition of "Nature," that "tiny blood clots might explain some of the long COVID's puzzling array of symptoms."

From the outset of the pandemic, life-threatening cases of COVID were sometimes associated with large blood clots plugging major arteries such as those supplying the heart, brain, lungs, kidneys and bowel.

Understandably, anticoagulants were frequently used to reduce the risk of strokes, heart attacks and other serious complications of large thrombi. Blockages in tiny arterioles and capillaries were also common, which added further justification for the anticoagulant therapy.

However, in the case of long COVID, it's not the large blood clots sometimes seen in acute COVID that are the problem. Rather, it is the finding of tiny clots in the circulation and tissues



in cases of long COVID that has prompted some scientists to suggest those tiny clots might be the cause at least some of the symptoms in long COVID.

Going further, some scientists and patients suggest anticoagulants and filtering the blood might make sense for treating long COVID.

The trouble is that similar tiny blood clots have been found in other diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes.

Moreover, tiny clots have not been found by all investigators including one recent large study at the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

The questions that surround the role for tiny clots in the pathogenesis of long COVID and possible treatment with anticoagulants and filters reminds me of an earlier conflict between patients desperate for an effective treatment and cautious scientists holding out for more studies.

The example involved a radical new vascular hypothesis for multiple sclerosis and therapy that involved opening up plugged draining veins from the brain and spinal cord and was first proposed by an Italian vascular surgeon named Zamboni.

The treatment was heralded and highly promoted by the media in Canada and created a storm of misunderstanding between patients who wanted the treatment and the MS Society and MS physicians who felt Zamboni's claims were not supported by the evidence.

Many patients angry with what they saw as stalling by the MS establishment went to other countries for the treatment

and some returned claiming they were much better.

In the end, no evidence for such clogged veins was found and the dust settled, although many patients from that era remain wary of the establishment.

There are other examples of disconnects between experts and the patients they serve, including the recent badly fumbled fiasco over the approval of a new drug for Alzheimer's.

The expert advisory panel for the National Institutes of Health reviewed the evidence of the clinical trials and determined that from a medical perspective, the evidence did not support approval of the drug.

However, patients and their families have been desperate for many years for an effective treatment and the earlier phase two trials suggested this one might work. In the final phase three trials the drug failed to slow the clinical course of the disease.

The NIH then overruled the opinion of the expert advisory committee and approved the drug, only to retract that approval after a

storm of protest from committee members and outside experts. Everyone lost in this one: patients and the NIH. Recently two similar drugs (based also on monoclonal antibodies) failed in Parkinson's disease.

Its tricky finding effective treatments for diseases, especially neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS and MS, where treatments help but the benefits are modest at best.

High expectations are often fed by the media and those promoting the drugs, and when treatments fail to deliver, or the effectiveness is iffy and accompanied by significant side effects, it's very hard on families and patients.

Sometimes doctors and scientists aren't as sensitive as they should be. That's what seems to be happening with long COVID these days and the reason for this column.

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.



Let's talk facts about Niagara-on-the-Lake!

Infrastructure:

We are not a business. We are a community. Our commitment to all who live and work in NOTL is an improved lifestyle and enhanced opportunities in the Tourism, Agriculture and Business sectors in order to grow and maintain a thriving economy.

Better Life for Citizens

1. To help young families working/living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we participated in building a new, expanded nursery school at the NOTL Community Centre and a 24-hour daycare and recreation space for youth at the new Central Community Church. **TO DO Next term:** Acquire funding from upper tier governments for the St. Davids Pool.

2. Worked with other community partners by completing parks/park improvements in all areas of NOTL; completed Heritage Trail Phase One; installed Niven Park community garden; encouraged Parks Canada to open the off-leash area. **TO DO Next term:** Create more diverse activities for children. Start the Recreation Master Plan.

Transportation Infrastructure

1. Completed the Transportation Master Plan and received community input. **TO DO Next term:** Revise the Transportation Master Plan to better suit our community needs; ensure we exhaust all alternative solutions to the St. Davids roundabout.

2. Hwy 55 in Virgil WILL be re-constructed in 2023 for better traffic flow and a more pedestrian village feel including buried hydro lines, wider sidewalks, trees and parkettes.

3. We approved joining Niagara Region Transit. Thanks to the hard work of our CAO, we have a fair formula for funding. **TO DO Next term:** Roll out the new transit system.

Supporting Tourism and Business

1. Effectively worked with all sectors through the perils of the Covid-19 pandemic by quickly establishing outdoor patios to help keep restaurants open; creating the ShopNOTL and Town Ambassador Program to promote and sustain local businesses.

2. To encourage a diversity of businesses, Council approved deferring development charges for industrial development; approved the Municipal Accommodation Tax to fund improvements to our Tourism infrastructure. **TO DO Next term:** Complete Tourism Master Plan.

I have enjoyed personally working and supporting community residents to create a high school student hub; researched senior assisted living locations; supported Hoverlink, an environmentally friendly water link to Toronto.

Some final thoughts to consider:

Every area in Niagara-on-the-Lake has a unique and rich history.

1. Our **Agricultural Areas** have become our largest economy. It is our identity. We continue to work hard to maintain the integrity of the greenbelt and provide resources to the farming community and resolve issues like watershed mapping. This term we also approved our Irrigation Master Plan. **TO DO next term:** obtain upper tier grants to maintain and expand our irrigation system.

2. In **Queenston**, one of the most relevant historical events is the Laura Ingersoll Second walk warning the British at Beaverdams. Council approved and built the Queenston Common, a beautiful central park that residents use and bring their families to. **TO DO next term:** continue to work with residents to preserve the integrity of the Secondary Plan and stop overdevelopment.

3. Did you know in 1813, Four Mile Creek Road in the Heart of **Virgil** was the boundary separating the Americans and the British? It was pushed back to the River by 1814. It has always been the hub for farming and is becoming the commercial centre of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Hwy 55 will be re-constructed in 2023 for better traffic flow and a more pedestrian village feel including buried hydro lines, wider sidewalks, trees and parkettes. **TO DO next term:** We are also looking at a more expanded parks and trails network for Virgil and ways to celebrate its history.

4. **Glendale** is the home of the UNESCO Biosphere - a significant natural area. The Glendale District Plan preserves the areas of Natural Heritage and spaces for parks and public amenities first. **TO DO next term:** complete the Glendale Secondary Plan, to include a main street with cafes, shops and bike paths. We will collaborate with the Region to ensure it is not over developed.

5. In **St. Davids**, long before the War of 1812, Indigenous people lived throughout the village. The intersection was a dirt path used as a crossroads. This term, Council listed multiple heritage properties in the village and created the link between the Cannery Development and York Road through Lions Park. **TO DO next term:** work on a gathering place, pool and other amenities for the residents of St. Davids. The main village intersection must be user-friendly and safe, with additional community spaces and shops. Look at alternatives that will reduce vehicle and truck traffic through the village.

6. **Old Town** is the home of Fort George, The Commons, Fort Mississauga and many other historical firsts. This Council has fought hard to protect the natural and built form heritage from overdevelopment. **TO DO next term:** The village centre - Queen Street needs a refresher. One that maintains parking and two-way traffic, but gets the patios off the road. Assist our cultural community to grow.

Together we are on a good path. Continue on this journey with me. I am asking for your support on October 24th. I will continue to be your full-time Lord Mayor!



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EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Virgil from above, in 1947

Here's a great aerial shot of Virgil in 1947. The village of Virgil grew rapidly after the First and Second World Wars. During the 1950s and 1960s the community had five churches, four grocery stores, a department store, six service stations, woodworking shops and many more establishments to cater to the growing population.

This photo shows Niagara Stone Road along the bottom and Field Road is the diagonal line running from the top to the right. Virgil Public School on Four Mile Creek Road can be seen in the top left corner.

The current (2022) buildings on the west side of Stone Road, from the right, would be: Niagara Orchard and Vineyard Corp, Fix Auto Niagara-on-the-Lake, Simba's Salon/Diamond Nails, the former Lincoln Interiors & Furniture Gallery, Virgil Variety and the Niagara Motors auto lot. The last building in the photo has been removed to enlarge the Niagara Motors lot.

The current buildings on the east side, from right, would be: the first house has been removed and the LCBO and Independent Grocer now stand in its place, Forum Antiques, and Niagara Motors. The last two buildings were removed to enlarge the auto lot.

Tennis singles champions crowned



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

Winners were crowned Saturday in the men's and women's singles tournament at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club. Mark Waier defeated Sebastian Miele to win the men's A final and Milla Matsko, pictured above with her daughter Maggie Pukhkalov, won the women's A division over Ann Davies (right). In the men's B final, Harry Schlange beat Cu Van Ha, while Paula Lepp won the women's B title over Erin Hull. SONJA SCHINDELER

Looking to the Stars

Full moon could mean tension in some relationships

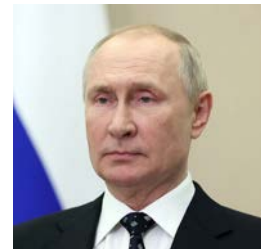
Thursday, Oct. 6: Today may feel a bit like Monday, thanks to the moon in Pisces and Mercury connecting with Pluto, there are thoughts and conversations that include psychology and sexuality wrapped in spiritual awakenings. On Oct. 6, 1917, Canadian troops captured the town of Passchendaele during the First World War.

Friday, Oct. 7: Tension and past hurts open the opportunity to spiritual growth, if we can relax and tell ourselves the truth. Vladimir Putin turns 70 today. Born on Oct. 7, 1952, in Leningrad, he is a restless, adventure-seeking Libran, thanks to Mars in Sagittarius. His moon in Gemini connects to virtually nothing, making him cold as ice. His moon is loosely opposed by Mars, giving him the added trait of total selfishness. All this is wrapped up by Venus in Scorpio, a secretive and sexy projection he makes work for him.

Sunday, Oct. 9: OOOw- www, it's a full moon in Aries with both Venus and the sun opposite the moon., meaning all relationships fraught with tension. Try to relax and work on something that will last. On Oct. 9, of the year 1000, Leif Ericson landed in Newfoundland and started the colony we call L'Anse aux Meadows.

Monday, Oct. 10: Mercury went direct on Oct. 2 at 24 degrees of Virgo. Today Mercury leaves the discriminating sign of the virgin and enters thoughtful Libra, where it will be until the end of the month. That means three weeks of planning social events and very clever communications. It was Oct. 10, 1969, that the soundtrack album to "Jesus Christ Superstar" was released by composers Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

Tuesday, Oct. 11: The sun and Uranus connect with a wonderful opportunity that also brings stress. This can be overcome by steady application to the ultimate goal and with the help of someone in authority. On Oct. 11, 1975, that famous announcer, Don Pardo, first uttered the words: "Live, from New York, it's Saturday Night."



Saturday, Oct. 8: Pluto has been retrograde since April. Today, Pluto turns to direct motion in nearly the same place as it was in April. And so begins the outward manifestation of all the insights into our inner selves that we have experienced in the past six or seven months. These revelations will continue into the spring of 2023. Hard-working actor Sigourney Weaver turns 73 today and has four films set to open by Christmas, including the second "Avatar," with Canadian-born director James Cameron.

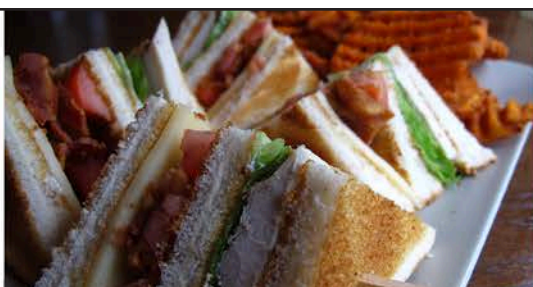


Wednesday, Oct. 12: Thanks to a difficult relationship between Mars and Neptune, we all feel a strong desire to escape. A similar tension between Mercury and Jupiter adds to that appeal with the additional draw of faraway travel. For most of us, a movie, book or some great music will have to do, like anything by the late Luciano Pavarotti, born Oct. 12, 1937.

Check out the weekly podcast, researched, written and recorded by Bill Auchterlonie at www.lutts.ca.



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It's best to plan out your lawn during the fall for a healthy landscape next year. JOANNE YOUNG

Fall means it's time to think about **lawn care**



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

Can you believe that Thanksgiving is just a few days away?

I love autumn and watching the last of the flowers showing off in the garden. Mums, bluebeard, anemones, sedums and even some of the annuals, such as dahlias and zinnias are giving all they got.

We are just starting to see the leaves turn to those brilliant leaf colours as well. If only fall would last a few weeks longer (or maybe the whole winter).

Many have been asking me what chores need to get done now and what can be left until spring. Over the next couple of weeks, I will answer those questions.

This week, let's look at fall lawn care.

One of the things we usually consider a spring

task is dethatching your lawn.

This is something that lawn care companies will do for you, but you could do it yourself, with a little muscle.

Thatch is the layer of slowly decomposing grass stems, dead roots and debris that accumulates above the soil and below the grass blades.

It becomes a problem if it is thicker than one-quarter inch. A thick layer of thatch will hang on to the moisture and prevent nutrients from getting down to the roots.

Thatch is usually more of a problem in acidic soils or where high-nitrogen fertilizers have been used too frequently.

Dethatching should be done just before vigorous growth, either early fall or spring.

Unless your thatch layer is more than a quarter inch thick, you do not have to do dethatch regularly.

Having little or no thatch means the sun will dry out the soil quicker, stressing your lawn.

To check if you have a thatch problem, cut out a one-foot square section of lawn and lift it by sliding a spade just under the roots and examine that corky, brown layer in between the roots and grass blades.

To dethatch your lawn yourself, purchase a dethatching rake. It has stiff, diamond-shaped teeth.

Or use a garden rake (but not a fan rake).

As you pull it through the lawn it will pull out the brown, decomposing material. You can also hire a lawn care company to do this for you.

Another chore to consider is aerating, a process where small cores of soil are removed from the lawn to allow more oxygen to reach the roots.

Aeration is most beneficial if you have compacted, heavy clay soil. Usually, it is done in the spring, but you can do it in the fall, especially if it has been a very dry summer.

Taking out cores of soil in the fall allows rain or melting snow during the winter to penetrate the soil better. Aerating also lets more oxygen into the soil to enhance root growth.

Now is also a great time to reseed your lawn. Making your lawn as dense as possible is the best way to curb weed growth.

Grass seed germinates best when the air temperature is around 15C. Make sure you choose a type of grass seed that is right for your light conditions.

You will usually see

grass seed sold as a mix of different types of grass. For a sunny area, you want a higher percentage of Kentucky blue grass.

For a shadier location, you want to buy a mix with a higher percentage of fescue grass.

The first step in reseeding is to mow the lawn. Next, topdress it by spreading a thin layer of topsoil or triple mix over the area. This will provide a loose medium for the seed to start rooting in to.

Sow the seed and keep the soil moist until the seed has begun to germinate, which usually takes 10 to 14 days.

Once the leaves have fallen from the trees, make sure you clean up all debris on the lawn to reduce fungus problems in the spring. You can be putting your final application of fertilizer down in October. Choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen (the first number).

When cutting your lawn for the last time in fall, trim the grass a bit shorter than you normally do.

Doing these few chores will leave your lawn in great shape for spring. Get outside and enjoy the beauty of autumn.

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

Obituary

Lanny James



James, Lanny
Surrounded by family, Lanny passed away peacefully at home on September 30th in his 84th year. Loving husband of June for 61 years. Devoted father to Karen and Sandra (Dan) Phillips, and grandfather to Andrew and Matthew Phillips. Brother of Paul (Aurel) James. Lanny was a strong advocate of service to the

community and was involved in numerous organizations over the years, including the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Christ Church McNab, Meals on Wheels, and the Niagara Falls Soup Kitchen. In 2009, he was a recipient of the Order of Niagara, to honour his long-standing ministry as a lay person in the Anglican Diocese of Niagara. One of his passions was motorcycle riding, a hobby which he continued to enjoy until a few weeks before his passing. "Well done, good and faithful servant." Arrangements have been entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. In keeping with Lanny's wishes, cremation has taken place and a private service will be held at a later date. If desired, donations in honour of Lanny's memory can be made to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service, www.notlpc.com. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com




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