



Kids head back to school | Pages 2-3

Glendale park is a slam dunk

Story on Page 15



Friends Darry Guo, DJ Conway and Franz Magalhaes watch Michael Ivanov slam a dunk at the new basketball court in Glendale. RICHARD HARLEY

Healthy trees removed from heritage trail, residents angry

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Some residents living along the heritage trail are upset after the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake allowed more than two dozen healthy trees to be chopped down along the historic walking path.

While taking their daily walks along the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, neighbours discovered the healthy trees were being removed on the section of the trail between Charlotte Street and East and West Line.

When they started asking questions, they learned that

Niagara-on-the-Lake town staff had hired a company to cut down the trees to prepare to remove one dead tree, which is hanging into a resident's yard.

Julie Clark, who has lived in a house that backs onto the trail for 30 years, was walking her dog Gemma last Wednesday when she saw the crews working.

At first she thought the trees were being cut down as part of the planned redevelopment of the trail by the town's heritage trail committee.

"They were cutting down all kinds of trees on both sides. And I asked them, because I thought it was

to do with the widening of the trail — but it wasn't," Clark said in an interview along the trail Monday.

She said she was told the trail was being widened so a crane could be brought in to remove a hazardous tree.

"They said they just wanted to cut down a dead tree that's gonna possibly fall on somebody's house."

But cutting down healthy trees to remove a single dead one has Clark and fellow neighbours now mourning a loss of canopy on the trail, which they said has already been

Continued on Page 14



Anna O'Brien, Tracey O'Brien-Dim and Julie Clark (and pups Hunter and Gemma) aren't happy with the town for cutting trees down along the heritage trail. RICHARD HARLEY

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Back-to-school **lessons** from retired teachers

Former educators share anticipation and apprehensions for school in the pandemic era

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

To a person, former teachers experience both excitement and anxiety in the days leading up to Labour Day and the start of the new school year. In the era of COVID-19, these often-conflicting feelings seem to explode in their minds.

The Lake Report asked eight retired teachers, all living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, many with years at Parliament Oak, what's running through their minds as our children drift back into the new school year, after almost six months away from their friends and focused learning.

Judy Evans, a veteran of 35 years around Niagara public schools, including several at Parliament Oak, can't help being relieved she's not going back in the classroom this year.

"The start of the school year is trying enough when everything is normal. The teachers don't want to get the virus. They don't want to give the virus. And they don't want to take it home."

Dean Steele, retired after a career including 29 years at Parliament Oak, agrees: "I'm kinda glad I'm a little old and out of the picture. If I was going in, I think I would be scared."

David Lailey is convinced the system must break through these safety



With a mixture of questioning looks, smiles and a few tears, Crossroads Public School opened its doors Tuesday to kindergarten and Grade 1 students for the first time in the pandemic era. TIM TAYLOR

concerns if student learning is not to be hampered in the long term.

Lailey taught history, English and economics over a 31-year secondary school career, mostly in St. Catharines and Grimsby.

"You almost need to make COVID safety a subject, part of the curriculum," says Lailey. "Try to create a situation where the entire class is the caretaker, keeping everyone safe. Once that's done, the class can get on with learning."

According to the former teachers, even if teachers and students can keep safety concerns at bay, many of the required protocols will challenge the learning

process.

Masks are a case in point. While masks are not required for the youngest students when indoors, they are encouraged.

Patti Moore is most concerned about kindergarten children, already so anxious about their first days at school.

Moore taught the youngest students for over 30 years, including her own daughter, in the Parliament Oak classroom where she herself started school.

"I just keep thinking about what a kindergarten class is like," says Moore. "They're coming to school for the first time, the teacher can't even bend down and

give them a reassuring hug.

"With teachers masked, the child won't see the big smile on the teacher's face. Or be able to clearly hear what the teacher's saying. And vice versa."

The constraints of social distancing and masks will also be faced in the higher grades, including secondary school.

Mike Eagen ended his 34-year teaching career with a 15-year stint at the Etobicoke School for the Arts in Toronto. He points to the larger online component planned for the older students, as a cause for concern.

"In high school there is an increasing need for social-

izing," says Eagen. "They need to hang out with their friends. It will be a nightmare for the parents to get the kids to do the work. It's just too easy to slack off."

Eagen is also a believer in group teaching process, getting the students to learn to work together on all manner of challenges. "Class groups are going to be almost impossible to make happen."

Pat Hartman is worried the pandemic may set back today's more advanced teaching methods including activities and interaction.

Hartman taught most elementary grades during her 40-year teaching career around Niagara, including six years at Parliament Oak.

"With the teacher more distanced from the kids, we may end up with the old lecture style."

She believes having fun is all the more important now.

"If I were teaching, I would buy face-shields for all my students and turn our classroom into a spaceship or rocket. We would design special hats. We'd be on a special journey together."

Judy MacLachlan can't imagine teaching now and she is afraid the bubble is about to burst.

After 33 years teaching elementary school in St. Catharines, she still remembers: "Labour Day was a kind of love-hate weekend."

But she has tremendous confidence in today's teachers. "It will take patience, kindness and understanding, on everyone's part."

Moore agrees. "I think teachers are really good at working with whatever they have to. Very creative and resourceful. They'll do a good job."

Maureen Haines spent most of her 30-year teaching career at Parliament Oak. She thinks getting back to school is important.

"I'm not sure it's safe. But I'm also sure students need to be together. They need the camaraderie."

With a combined teaching experience of almost 270 years, these teachers seem to be saying: "Keep calm and carry on."

Virgil arenas **open**, ice is on the rinks

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is beginning to reopen facilities with the Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arena's doors opening this past Tuesday.

Ice time must be booked in advance through the town's website and users must follow all screening processes and adhere to physical distancing measures. A maximum of 50 people is allowed in a rink

at a time, including players, coaches and spectators.

Users are asked to continue wearing face coverings in dressing rooms, lobbies and viewing areas. Those engaged in physical activity while on the ice are not required to wear a mask, but must wear one in all common areas.

New groups who are interested in renting ice time this season are asked to complete an online survey detailing the dates and times of the rentals.

Legion **fish fry** starts again Sept. 17

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's favourite fish fry is starting up again on Sept. 17, but it will be a little different in the COVID era.

The fry will be drive-thru only for now.

The time is still the same, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. every Thursday.

People can order up a one or two-piece meal, which comes with fries and coleslaw.



Lions Club burgers raise **\$10K** for charity

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

There is no end in sight yet for what has become a popular weekend stop for community members to pick-up a burger in support of a local fundraising initiative.

The St. Davids Lions Club has raised \$10,000 since the end of July, when its Lion burger nights resumed.

They're held on Friday evenings from 4 to 7 p.m. "We're going to keep going as long as the weather

holds. If the weather changes, then we will change," said Ted Burrows, St. Davids Lions Club president.

The plan to continue the Friday night drive-thru is motivated by the need to fund many charities the club supports annually, he said. "We have over 28 charities that we support and without our help they're not going to get anywhere."

Read the full story online at www.niagaranow.com/news/phtml/4442




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Wayne Gates MPP Niagara Falls representing Niagara-on-the-Lake & Fort Erie
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Parents traverse school year **cautiously**

School board's decision to reduce class sizes helping to calm anxieties

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Some families may breathe easier with the District School Board of Niagara's announcement to hire more teachers to lower class sizes this year.

On Sept. 1, the school board announced its plan to lower class sizes by allocating funding to hire 60 to 70 more teachers, allowing for smaller class sizes by three or four students per class. Trustees voted to use an additional one per cent of the school board's accumulated surplus for the 2020/2021 budget, amounting to about \$4.5 million.

"Reducing class sizes is a proactive step to further protect the health, safety, and well-being of students and staff in DSBN schools," Warren Hoshizaki, director of education said in the statement.

As schools slowly welcome students back to the fold this week some parents remain concerned with the lack of communication from the school board – but many understand this year is completely new territory.

Shannon Kanters with two children in the virtual learning program at Crossroads Public School said she received an email about the beginning of school, but it didn't include who their teachers would be.

"Their friends who are returning to class were able to excitedly chat about who their teacher is while my children could not. I feel we all (parents and students) would have appreciated knowing that," she said.

Kanters would have expected her children to



Above: Evan in Grade 2 at Crossroads Public School. Below: Jayden in Grade 3. SUPPLIED

virtually meet their teachers online for the first day of school as well, she said. Instead, communication from the District School Board of Niagara instructed students to log into their digital classrooms and complete an activity.

"And teachers would phone each household at some point in the day," she said.

Stephanie Baxter said she made the "tough decision" to send her children back to physical school. They will return to Crossroads Public School.

"At the end of the day we chose in class because my kids not only need an educated teacher to teach them, but they also need it for their mental health," she said.

She said she still has many unanswered questions about one of her children's independent learning plan and his educational assistant, but she understands the school is "still just trying to figure everything out for themselves."

"Hopefully I'll have my questions answered in the

next few weeks," she said.

For the Kanters family, back to school prep looked very different this year. Skipping the back to school shopping ordeal for both supplies and clothes, she said time and money was instead directed toward setting up individual workspaces for each child.

"We discussed a different way of studying/learning. I gave the kids each a notepad for notetaking and their workspaces include a whiteboard/corkboard to display information they use regularly," she said.

Adapting to the new way of approaching her children's education, she said her biggest concern remains to be the amount of communication between the teachers and students.

"How much live teaching time will the children receive, how available is the teacher for answering questions and how will the children ask for and receive assistance," she said.

She said during the last school year she found she needed to read every lesson as she was the one the kids would ask for help.

Emailing the teacher and working from an emailed reply wasn't as effective, she said.

"They are young and need face-to-face contact."

Currently, she said she has no idea how the students will be receiving assistance from the teacher. Via email? Virtual meeting? Phone call? Instant messaging?

"It would have been nice to have these answers to begin the year with so that I could set my own expectations regarding my role in this school year," she said.



Niagara-on-the-Lake Reopens Community Centre and Arenas

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, under the guidance of its Emergency Control Group, is cautiously preparing to reopen the Community Centre for public use.

The Community Centre, along with the Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arenas, were closed on March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arenas reopened on September 8, 2020.

The Community Centre, including Customer Service Desk, track and fitness area, and Sweets and Swirls Café, is set to reopen on September 14, 2020, following the reopening of Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre on September 8, 2020. Community Centre programming and room bookings will be available beginning October 5, 2020. Hours of operation will be Monday to Friday, 6 AM – 9 PM and Saturday and Sunday, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM. More information regarding reopening procedures will be made available on the Town's website (www.notl.com) closer to the reopening date.

Although some Town facilities remain closed to the public, Staff remain dedicated to providing friendly, accommodating, and efficient service online and over the phone. Additional curbside drop-off (via drop box) and pick up accommodations are being made, as required. To make arrangements for these accommodations, please contact the Town Administration Office at 905-468-3266.

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niagara NOW
News that hits home.

NOTL teen charged with **assault with a weapon** in relation to horse carriage protest Aug. 23

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake teenager is facing three counts of assault with a weapon in relation to a protest in Old Town on Aug. 23.

Niagara Regional Police

spokesperson Stephanie Sabourin said Austin Gould, 18, is alleged to have "approached persons in the crowd and sprayed them with a substance."

On Aug. 23, a group of animal rights activists and pro-carriage supporters met in the streets on NOTL to

share their opposing views. Animal rights activist Adam Stirr claimed that day someone had sprayed three activists with what he suspected was urine.

Const. Phil Gavin said police "have some investigative suspicions" as to what was sprayed.

"However samples have been sent to the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto for further testing and positive identification."

Gould was released and is to appear in court in St. Catharines on Nov. 2, police said.

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Contributed by Patty Garriock
 "Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches will only pull you down."
 - Patty Garriock



Contributed by Norm Arsenault:
 Reducing Food Waste: If food waste was a country, it would be the world's 3rd largest emitter of CO2- roughly 1/3 of food produced every year gets lost or wasted. By simply making a list with weekly meals in mind, you can save money and time and eat healthier food. If you buy no more than what you expect to use, you will be more likely to keep it fresh and use it all.

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Editorial: Good luck with school year

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Going back to school is going to be an educational experience for parents, children and teachers alike.

Masks, social distancing, our new "bubbles" — it's all a new challenge to overcome, but as some retired

teachers in Tim Taylor's story this week say, we've got to move along and look toward the future.

That said, it's entirely reasonable for parents who choose to go the online route this year, at least until things become a bit more clear on how the return to classrooms is working.

Nobody wants to be around large crowds right now, children are no exception to that, so do what makes you feel comfortable.

To all students, parents and teachers, we wish you a safe return, and hope there are no problems.

editor@niagaranow.com



NOTL proposal to continue virtual meetings a bad idea

Dear editor:

A Better Niagara is concerned with a proposed Niagara-on-the-Lake bylaw amendment that would not only allow up to seven councillors to continue to meet electronically for council meetings, even after the state of emergency is over, but would also limit delegations to those meetings to virtual only.

We agree with Coun. Gary Burroughs who said: "My basic problem with this whole thing is that

we're moving away from democracy as I know it .."

This is just wrong. Once the COVID-19 crisis has passed and it is safe to hold public meetings again, citizens should be able to attend in person, and make delegations in person, to their elected representatives, if they desire to do so. Council members should also attend in person if at all possible.

Since the lockdown in mid-March, we have all learned that virtual meeting

are possible and can be productive. But they are not the same as meeting in person, where you can perceive the full range of human communication that comes, not just from disembodied heads and voices, but from a person's entire presence.

Allowing virtual delegations has had the advantage of allowing people who found it difficult to have the time, or to travel the distance, to in-person meetings to make presentations

to their councils.

The choice to continue to make delegations that way should certainly be allowed to continue, but to deny those who want to appear in person before their elected officials is just wrong and an affront to democracy.

We hope Niagara-on-the-Lake residents speak up to their council before this proposed bylaw goes to a vote.

Liz Benneian
 A Better Niagara

Protesters are bullies wreaking havoc in our town

Dear editor:

Where is the line drawn on the anti-carriage protests in NOTL?

Like most people in town I am sick and tired of these agitators invading our town each weekend in order to further their own personal agenda.

Their "cause," if there really is one, has got lost in the melee. Right now I really have no idea what their purpose is other than to cause havoc and to bully and browbeat our townsfolk.

I think we can all agree this has escalated far beyond anything anyone can call a "protest." It has become, in fact, bullies trying to take over our town.

My question is: When did their right to freedom of speech override our right to live a peaceful life in our town. Where is the line?

When valiant members of our community took to the streets in support of our wonderful carriages they were termed "counter protesters," a most inaccurate title. They are, in fact, our

freedom fighters.

These freedom fighters are fighting for far more than the carriages, horses and owners. They are fighting to take our town back.

They are the ones standing up for our rights as members of this community. We have worked long and hard for our homes and lives here, and we should not be held hostage by a bunch of outside rabble rousers who invade our community for their own purpose.

As I understand, it they

seem to be "professional protesters" as a number of the Stop Child Abuse protesters the other weekend were, in fact, the same people. Has Niagara-on-the-Lake become Protest Central?

This has to stop. We must find ways for the entire community, and region, if that's what it takes, to get behind our valiant freedom fighters and take back our town and our community.

Sign me up.
 Syme Jago
 NOTL



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Thanks for 3,000 votes!

OPINION

School reopenings **don't** need to be disastrous

Wayne Gates
Special to The Lake Report

Public policy must be driven by evidence-based decision-making and it should be coherent and consistent. Unfortunately, what we're facing regarding school reopenings in the midst of this historic pandemic fails to meet that criteria.

Before Ontario's courts could reopen they were required by the Ontario government to have up-graded air filtration to keep our lawyers and judges safe. Premier Doug Ford and Education Minister Stephen Lecce have yet to say that students are entitled to the same protections of the air they breathe.

Even before this pandemic hit our classrooms were already too crowded.

The plan before this pandemic left more kids in our classrooms and fewer adults in the school. It was ill-advised then, it's downright dangerous now.

As schools began opening in the United States we have seen evidence of approaches that don't work. In Florida alone over 9,000 kids contracted the virus when schools reopened.

Anyone following COVID-19 knows how contagious this virus is and



MPP Wayne Gates. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

how little it cares about best intentions. We need a new plan and a better plan before it's too late.

Firstly, we must ensure distancing is possible in our schools. That means reducing overcrowding and ensuring front-line teaching staff have the supports they need to help keep kids separated – especially the youngest students who don't fully understand the dangers this virus poses to their loved ones.

Ventilation and air filtration systems must be upgraded to ensure air is properly filtered and that systems at least meet the standards that were required of our courts.

This will make sure that if a student is carrying the disease that air flows don't do the deadly work of spreading the virus.

Lastly, we must work with educators to make a learn-from-home plan that is actually successful. Simply telling kids to log on and learn won't work. We need a plan that gives resources to our kids and ensures they're not losing out on education that will put them behind for years to come.

The funding for ventilation upgrades that has trickled down from the minister to our community means that across most boards in Niagara only a handful of schools will receive up-graded ventilation systems.

Even with access to additional surplus funds, our boards do not have the funding to hire enough teachers and education staff to meet the recommendations outlined in the Sick Kids Report.

Fifteen kids per class

should mean 15 kids per class. Ford is failing to meet to these very established guidelines and our boards are left to pick up the pieces of his plans.

This pandemic will already create lasting effects in the lives of our young people and the future leaders of tomorrow. Poor learning structures and closed schools will cost them valuable learning time.

We cannot afford as a community to let our kids fall behind and make it that much harder for them to catch up. This means we need safe schools to prevent community transmissions and we need teachers to make sure they're learning under this incredible stress.

Now is not the time to look the other way – we must solve this before it becomes a bigger problem that shuts down schools and communities.

We have sacrificed too much and come too far to roll the dice on our community's health. This requires quick action and financial support.

Above all, it requires leadership. In such tumultuous times that leadership is desperately required from our premier.

Wayne Gates is New Democrat MPP for the riding of Niagara Falls.

Canadians need to take pandemic **more seriously**

Dear editor:

About eight weeks ago, in early July, we boarded a helicopter at the NOTL airport to cross to the Buffalo airport.

From there we drove and visited family in New York state, then a week of sailing in Maryland, an RV ride to Colorado and eventually a drive back to NOTL.

Throughout this trip we were very impressed with the mask usage and physical distancing in most of the states in the U.S. There were a few concerning moments but, overall, we felt quite safe.

Before returning to Canada we loaded the "Arrive Canada" app and were well-received at the border crossing.

We accepted the 14-day quarantine period and



Along Queen Street, some people wear masks and others don't. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

were very impressed with the vigilance of the Canada Border Service and their telephone calls on a daily basis, especially in the first week. From our perspective, the government has handled the situation superbly.

The reason for my first-

ever letter to any editor is my concern with the frivolous attitude of some people in NOTL.

At midday we started our first morning out of COVID-19 jail with a drive along Queen Street and could not believe the number of people in close

proximity with no masks.

I then went with a mask to purchase a propane refill at one of the local gas stations and was ridiculed by a maskless customer leaving the booth when I refused to go anywhere near him. We were both about the same age (mid-70s).

NOTL, Niagara region, Ontario, Canada, we must start taking this pandemic seriously.

So many of us have been ridiculing the United States for its large number of cases and deaths.

If we do not treat this situation more seriously our second and/or third wave could be devastating and we now have too much debt to overcome the potential calamity.

Simone and Graham Webb NOTL

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Trail needs **preservation**, not renovation

The following letter was sent to Lord Mayor Betty Disero by NOTL resident Julie Clark on July 8.

Dear Betty,
Having seen the “improvements” to the first section of the Heritage Trail between King Street and Paffard Street, I felt compelled to write to you. I am imploring you to stop the second section from Charlotte Street to East and West Line from being altered.

We use the trail daily, often multiple times a day. It is a refuge for us ... a beautiful, natural nature trail that provides shady protection from the sun in the summer and warming protection from the wind and cold in the winter.

There are days like today (extreme heat) when I just would not be able to walk my dog if it weren't for the trail. Similarly, there are days in the winter when

it allows us to get out and enjoy a walk no matter how cold.

Last year I had treatment for cancer and the trail was there for me: a place to take some short, slow walks that enabled me to get out of the house and enjoy nature without having to leave my neighbourhood. Having this trail was priceless to me in a time of extreme crisis.

But it is not just us that benefit from this natural environment. There are all kinds of birds and animals that live there that would be affected if the trail was to be altered.

There has already been a reduction in the amount of wildlife since the Rand Estate was decimated. And the trees... where do I even start? We have lost so many trees from the clear-cutting of the Rand Estate directly adjacent to the trail ... cutting down more to widen the trail to

three metres is unthinkable!

Right now it is only about one metre wide in some areas. A few years ago there was a tree-planting initiative on the section between The Promenade and East and West Line. Those small trees (which are doing very well, by the way) would have to be taken out to accommodate a three-metre wide trail. It breaks my heart to think of the number of trees that would have to come down. This should not happen.

As a resident who has backed on to the trail for the last 30 years, I cannot tell you how much it has already changed just in the last four years... the foot traffic, bicycle traffic and motorized vehicles have increased substantially.

Large groups of wine tour cyclists are leaving all kinds of litter behind and noisy dirt bikes and quads are churning up the

path, leaving large ruts behind. There used to be barricades preventing them from entering the trail, but they have been removed, much to the detriment of the trail.

My father passed away a few years ago. The trail was one of the main reasons my parents bought our house. Some of his ashes are spread on it and one of those new trees, which was planted my me, is dedicated to him.

I have not spoken to a single person who thinks that widening and paving the trail with gravel is a good idea. Three metres is not a trail ... it is a road. Even bike paths are only two metres. Please stop the destruction of a natural space that is one of the few places left in town for local residents to enjoy.

Julie Clark
NOTL
and my mother,
Dorothy Clark



Town **not considering** negatives to heritage trail ‘improvements’

The following letter was sent to Lord Mayor Betty Disero on June 15.

We are writing in regards to the heritage hiking trail.

Over the past few months, we have discussed the current plans for the Upper Canada Heritage Trail with a number of local residents and were not able to find anyone who felt that a wide, gravel surface would add to their enjoyment. While I'm sure that there are those in favour of a surface on the heritage trail, I fear that there has not been sufficient consideration of those who are opposed to it.

NOTL has a path on the Parkway that is paved for all to enjoy as well as other groomed walkways. What is starting to become lacking is trails in their more natural state. Niagara-on-the-Lake should have a variety of trails ... something for everyone.

It should also be pointed out that a significant portion of the heritage trail is surrounded by vineyards. These vineyards are certainly picturesque and part

of the appeal of the trail; however, they can also be hazardous.

The current terrain of the trail is indicative of a use-at-your-own-risk environment. Whereas a groomed surface would imply a place of safety ... perhaps some may even assume right-of-way with a tractor.

There is also the hazard of pesticide use in these areas and those unfamiliar with farm practices may not understand to maintain a safe distance. The town may be risking a level of liability by closely combining agriculture with tourism in a potential hazardous manner.

It should also be considered that many parts of the heritage trail that pass through or adjacent to the vineyards have the elevated risk for measurable damage to the groomed surface from farm equipment. This will make the trail more dangerous to hike, which in turn will become a constant maintenance issue and spoil nature's beauty.

It should also be considered that a good por-



tion of the heritage trail is maintained by two of the adjacent property owners. When approximately 100 trees were chaotically planted along the trail, there was no consultation or even consideration of the impact this would have on the path's maintenance.

Once again, it seems that the town is forging ahead without asking the right questions or considering potentially negative side affects. We feel strongly that additional due diligence is warranted.

Brian and Tracey Dim
NOTL

Destruction of trees was **senseless**

Dear editor:

A Labour Day walk revealed the destruction of the last of the natural trails in Niagara-on-the-Lake: Who is responsible for this atrocity on the Upper Canada Heritage Trail? Who authorized this event of last Friday, where mature healthy trees and natural healthy woodland busy were needlessly destroyed?

No one seems to be stepping up to say.

A huge shock to the senses are the mature healthy trees cut off and laying on the ground. The natural healthy woodland bush and natural flora, cut off at the ground line, laying in heaps here and there. The canopy destroyed. The natural environment replaced by what can only be described as a heartbreaking disruption of beauty.

Where once was an inviting walk with nature, now there is nothing to provide a canopy as a haven for the many species of birds, no rustling sounds of chipmunks, squirrels and rabbits, as you walk by.

Since the result of these so-called improvements



presents itself as more invasive to the natural environment than protective, one has to ponder why this push to remove what is good and replace it with a habitat not conducive for the thriving of flora and fauna.

While there may have been inspirational innocent intentions at the outset of this venture, there has been a neglect of research into the details of each section's environment. Each of the sections has unique qualities and merits to be considered. One size does not fit all! One application is not suitable for every section.

There are many ways to enhance and protect the natural environment. Those

who think they know, should keep their day job, and engage a horticultural group that has proven to be successful enhancing nature's beauty while protecting the natural environment. Isn't that the goal? So, what is the ultimate goal and whom has this project been designed to benefit?

The bungling of this project thus far reminds me of a Joni Mitchell song. “They took all the trees and put them in a tree museum ... Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone. They paved paradise and they put up a parking lot.”

Anna O'Brien
NOTL



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Women dedicate **memorial tree** for Elaine Lavery

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's women's 18 hole league celebrated the life of one of their members last week as a tree was planted in memory of Elaine Lavery.

The women's league feted Lavery, a colourful and fun-loving member who died of cancer in June. Speeches by her husband Bob and some of her friends from the golf club preceded a toast in her honour.

Her memorial tree, with accompanying plaque, was planted along the second hole at the course.

WOMEN'S RESULTS: On Tuesday, the 18-holers completed the final round of their match play compe-



Members of the NOTL Golf Club's 18 hole league surround Bob Lavery at the dedication of a tree in memory of his wife Elaine. JOEY HO PHOTO

tition and Maria Townley won the "green" division, defeating Patty Garriock. In the "blue" division, Margot Richardson was consolation champion, with a win over Ginny Green on the final hole.

MEN'S LEAGUE: Dan Regan, Paul Shelestowsky and Dow Wright shared

first place in Thursday men's league play, with 21 points each in the modified Stableford scoring format.

Brodie Townley, John Wiens and Glenn Young were runners-up with 20 points apiece.

Young and Regan led the pack with sizzling 1-un-

der 35s to take low gross honours.

Tim Taylor was the big net skins winner, taking home \$180 for his four points on #6.

Gross skins, worth \$90 each, went to Stephen Warboys and Jim McMacken for birdies on #1 and #9 respectively.

Annual Chautauqua corn roast goes on **without the corn**

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

A neighbourhood tradition carried on the best it could this year, despite being hindered by COVID-19 and cloudy skies.

The annual Chautauqua Residents Association corn roast saw no corn roasted this year. Instead it turned into a bring-your-own-picnic event, due to safety precautions amid the continuing global pandemic.

Still, the event drew about 50 residents of the neighbourhood to hang out socially distanced and keep the community spirit going.



Buddy Andres had a break from cooking the corn this year at the annual Chautauqua corn roast, which this year turned into the "Pandemic Picnic." RICHARD HARLEY

John Gleddie, president of the residents association, said he was happy with the turnout

and people supporting the organization.

"I think it's a step in the recovery of the COVID-19

crisis that we have. We're all socially distancing and having a good time and we're very pleased with it," he said.

"We're taking all the precautions here — we have hand gel, we're all social distancing, we have our gloves on. And we're just serving soft drinks and ice cream bars," Gleddie said.

"We really miss the corn because Buddy Andres usually does a fabulous job on the corn and it was kind of one of the hallmarks of our corn roast. But hopefully next year we'll be through this and we'll be back on track again."

'Haunted Niagara' to highlight historical **spooky tales**

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara is about to get a little bit spookier.

Filmmaker Val Coles is working on a documentary called "Haunted Niagara," which he says will highlight ghost stories from around the region, including some well-known spots in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The 25-year-old amateur filmmaker said it's his first documentary and he's hoping to release the film Oct. 21.



Val Coles films some b-roll in NOTL. RICHARD HARLEY

The project, he said, isn't one of those "ghost shows" that tries to find ghosts, but more of a historical series to

focus on some of the urban legends around the region, which is filled with history and some dark tales dating

back to the War of 1812.

Coles said he's looking for members of the community who have tales to be told to be involved in the project.

He said he'd like to tell stories that people's "grandparents told them, that their relatives told them ... the dark mysteries that you might not know as a regular tourist or even as a person that lives here as a local."

"It's just a personal little project of mine," Coles said during an interview in Old Town.

THANK YOU

\$13,000 raised!



We would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the overwhelming support we've received since Liz's tragic death. The love, prayers, well wishes, and thoughtfulness that has come our way from family, friends, colleagues, and the community has been profoundly comforting for us. It certainly speaks to the person Liz was, and the impact she had during her life, but it is also a testament to the caring community that surrounds us. Thank you, Niagara-on-the-Lake, for honouring Liz and supporting us through this difficult time. Sincerely, John, Adam, Brianne, Ransom, Whitney, Jay, and Samantha Hawley (and all six grandkids!).



TONY BALDINELLI, MP
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Niagara College distilling program's **first rum** wins bronze in U.S. competition

The Lake Report

Spirits are high at the Niagara College Teaching Distillery after a student-produced rum won bronze at the U.S. Open Whiskey and Spirits Championships.

The accolades for School Spirits Small Batch Rum, produced by the first students to graduate from the artisan distilling program, came in the Dark/Barrel Aged Rum category of the competition, which included entries from throughout Canada and the U.S.

Niagara College was the only teaching distillery to be among the winners in any category.

Two hundred 375-ml

bottles of School Spirits Small Batch Rum were released for sale earlier this summer at the Wine Visitor + Education Centre at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus.

The rum sells for \$26 with proceeds from sales supporting student learning.

"It feels good to win an award like this," said college distiller David Dickson. "It instils a sense of pride that, in such a short time, our students have been able to develop to such a level to create a high quality spirit.

To be able to achieve this in such a short time feels like a real feather in our cap."

The award-winning rum was a year in the making

by students, who saw their handiwork compete against rums aged longer or blended with spirits from elsewhere.

Production of the School Spirits Small Batch Rum started six months into the year-long program when students began fermenting dark brown sugar. All signs pointed to something special in the works after their first distillation using small copper pot stills to capture only the best fraction of the spirit.

The rum was fermented in a two-week process, which is slower than typical production, and led to a more complete attenuation of sugar by the yeast. Students took charge of the



School Spirits rum by Niagara College. SUPPLIED

entire process, Dickson noted, signing their name to the 57-litre bourbon cask in which the spirit was left to age for 12 months, the minimum a Canadian rum must mature in a barrel.

"Then they went off in their careers. It was sort of like a time capsule," Dickson said. "Their finesse was what caused the spirit

to age like it did."

The result was a rum with a surprising golden colour, and a clean and balanced aromatic profile with notes of vanilla and candied fruit. It's dry and light in body compared to rums with added sweeteners. The finish has a pleasing texture with vanilla, caramel and a touch of bourbon spice.

The college's Teaching Distillery is a 2,500-square-foot facility equipped with five stills, four mash tuns and 10 fermenters. The artisan distilling program opened in September 2018. The school also has an award-winning Teaching Winery and Teaching Brewery.

Our first student-crafted rum clearly demonstrates our students' talents and skills when it comes to distillation and fermentation," said Steve Gill, general manager of Niagara College's Learning Enterprises.

"The fact that they so confidently took on the production of rum and then earned such honours alongside spirits produced by more established distilleries elsewhere in North America also speaks to the quality of teaching happening in our artisan distilling program. It shows that the future of craft distilling in Canada is in capable hands."

Niagara wines do **well** in Ontario awards

The Lake Report

This would have been the 26th year for the Ontario Wine Awards but COVID-19 prevented the usual rigorous judging of entries by 24 qualified tasters.

However, the competition organizers were determined to celebrate the quality of Ontario's VQA wines, said awards founder Tony Aspler.

So, Aspler and his team contacted judges who had participated in the last three years of the competition, and asked them to nominate the top three white, red and sparkling wines they had tasted during the year. From their response, the top scoring wines were tabulated.

In addition, the judges were asked to vote on whom they considered should be honoured with

the title Winemaker of the Year.

The results for 2020 are: Allen's Red Wine of the Year Award: Rosehall Run 2018 JCR Pinot Noir, Rosehall Vineyard, Prince Edward County

Quench Magazine White Wine of the Year Award: Charles Baker 2017 Riesling, Picone Vineyard, Vineland

Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara Col-

lege Sparkling Wine of the Year Award: Henry of Pelham, St. Catharines, Family Estate 2014 Cuvée Catharine Carte Blanche Estate Blanc de Blanc

Quench Magazine Winemaker of the Year Award: Philip Dowell, Angels Gate Estate Winery, Beamsville

Due to social distancing protocols, the awards will be presented privately this year, Aspler said.

Team Pillsy event raises **\$23K** for Terry Fox

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Joe Pillitteri is running with his Terry Fox fundraiser again this year, having raised more than \$22,000 during a night of comedy and entertainment at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery on Sept. 1.

Two hundred people sat socially distanced in an outdoor venue for the COVID-era fundraiser. Pillitteri deemed the event a special night under the stars in a social media post thanking the community.

"As friendly faces started rolling in, I took a moment



Joe Pillitteri. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

to recognize how lucky I am to live in a community that I live in and to be surrounded by such love and generosity," he wrote.

This year the Terry Fox run will operate virtually on Sunday, Sept. 20. Participants can sign up online and are encouraged to run

anywhere they are.

"Around your neighbourhood, backyard, down the street, or around the block," the official page states.



Santa for **palliative care**

Local Santa-wannabe, Tim Taylor, is riding 600kms in September in support of the Niagara on the Lake Palliative Care Service. The ride is part of the annual province-wide Healing Cycle initiative. Taylor is a member of the local Pedal Pushers peloton. For more information contact: santaforpalliativecare@gmail.com. SUPPLIED

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Early reviews for **laser** bird control system are positive

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Harvest time in the vineyards in NOTL is a beautiful season, but it's also synonymous with the resounding booms of cannons firing to scare birds away from the ripening grapes.

For years, bird bangers have been a source of tension between Niagara grape growers and residents who complain about the noise, and some question how effective they are.

As this harvest season gets underway though, a handful of growers are trying something new, a laser system designed to keep the birds away.

Wade Stark, vineyard operations manager for Peller Estates Winery, has a unit installed in a vineyard growing Gamay Noir and Cabernet Franc grapes behind the estate, near East and West Line.

"It's a trial," Stark explains. Last year the grapes in that part of the vineyard were netted, but this year "we decided to give it a go without the nets up."

"I've been walking the treeline there every couple of days and I'm not seeing any evidence of bird pressure, though I am seeing it elsewhere," Stark said. "Without any deterrent, there would be bird pressure already."

Stark points to a telephone pole at the edge of the vineyard, where the sma laser unit is mounted at the top.

The automated unit projects a green laser beam, which scares birds away.

"Birds see it differently than humans, we see it as a point of light, but birds see the whole beam. They perceive it as a solid object, like a stick of light, so they feel they're under attack and they leave the area," according to Jeremy Perkins, from Bird Control Group, which sells the units. "It's like a light sabre coming at them and they see it as a threat," Perkins added.

There are two solar panels on the pole, which power the batteries on the ground.

"They never get used to it, because we set multiple different patterns that

constantly change," said Perkins.

There are a few reasons the laser system is appealing to Stark.

"Cannons make a heck of a racket, so this way we can get away from noise pollution and protect the crop without injury to birds, which get caught in the nets sometimes."

The other advantage is financial.

"Netting costs a lot and it's labour intensive. The laser unit does require a short-term capital investment, but if it works we'll save money long-term," Stark said.

"It will take two years to pay back on the investment," he estimated.

The laser machine costs \$10,000 (U.S.) and one unit can cover 20 acres.

Other Niagara growers are giving it a try too, including Curtis Wiley, one of the owners of the family vineyard G & H Winery.

There are overhead wires near parts of his property where birds tend to gather.

"We've cut back on the number of bird bangers we're using, but I can definitely tell

birds are staying away from the laser," he said. "It's not 100 per cent, but I'm pretty pleased so far."

Wiley estimated for him the payback on the cost of the system could take five years, based on the value of lost grapes.

At Malivoire Wine Company in Beamsville, operations manager Lee Kuhn has two units installed. Like the others, he finds initial signs promising, but says it's early days.

"We definitely see birds and bugs scared by the laser, but results are inconclusive in the short period of time we have had them running," he said.

When asked if other growers are curious about the laser system, Stark responds emphatically. "You bet! People are interested because it's new. The most common reaction when I explain it is 'Wow! That's cool!'"

While early results are positive, Stark, Wiley and Kuhn are still evaluating.

According to Stark, "I'm hopeful, but we'll watch it. It's one step at a time."



Top: Vineyard operations manager Wade Stark stands in the vineyard at Peller Estates where the laser system is installed. Bottom left: Damaged Reising grapes in an unprotected vineyard. Bottom right: Healthy Gamay Noir grapes in vineyard protected by laser system. DON REYNOLDS

NOTL wineries making the most of a **difficult** tourist season

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

NOTL wineries lost time early in the tourist season when they were largely shut down, but they've made the most of the opportunities they've had since then.

Wineries large and small have adapted to serve guests safely as the economy gradually reopened during the pandemic, and they're trying to maximize wine sales in this challenging and changing environment.

The story at Queenston Mile Vineyard echoes that of other wineries in many respects, with the added wrinkle of being very new.

Queenston Mile opened in November 2018, so 2020 is just its second summer, and not at all the summer season it expected.

"We're very new, and very small," explained Alison Zalepa, the general manager there. "We closed our doors mid-March, because of the pandemic, and laid off our



A couple enjoys a seated, safely distanced wine tasting at Queenston Mile with Cameron McDougall. JILL TROYER

five team members. We didn't reopen until July 1," she added.

Like other wineries in NOTL, Queenston Mile moved to reservations for seated tastings, with greatly reduced volume to ensure space for physical distancing.

"Tastings are every hour, so we only have one to three groups per hour inside the winery, plus our outdoor

patio space for guests who want to enjoy a glass of wine with a view of the vineyard," said Zalepa.

The lost time from mid-March to July, combined with reduced capacity for the rest of season mean that financial projections for the winery won't be met.

"We did project growth of 20 per cent, as a new winery, but if we stay flat year over year, that's a win, to be

able to pull that off through a pandemic," said Zalepa.

Online sales have been a big factor in helping most NOTL wineries, including Queenston Mile, stay afloat.

"We leapt five years forward with the surge in online sales when the winery had to close. We only had a small database of customers, but they were very engaged in supporting us through that time."

Andrew Peller Ltd. is a much larger and longer-established business. It owns three wineries in NOTL; Peller Estates, Trius Winery and Wayne Gretzky Estates, and it's sales come from several streams.

"We have up elevators and down elevators," said Greg Berti, Peller's vice-president of global markets, industry relations, business development.

On the down elevator "we have our restaurants, exports and wineries, where sales are now down 50 per cent."

On the up elevator, "we have LCBO, grocery stores, and e-commerce. Our e-commerce increase was substantial, many many more times than before. We had systems and processes in place, so we repositioned people into pick, pack and shipping," he said.

Peller also has moved to reservations and seated tastings at its properties. "The wineries are busy, but we can only accommodate so many people at a time," Berti said.

For now, he expects that "by the end of the tourist season, we hope to be just 25 to 30 per cent down for winery sales, if there are no sudden surprises."

That resonates with the overview from Andrea Kaiser, chair of the Wineries of NOTL and director of marketing at Reif Estate Winery.

"Revenue will vary from winery to winery, but it's probably running 25 to 50 per cent off for the season,"

she said.

"Wineries have roughly one-third occupancy compared to the past, or even less, for tastings and tours, in order to maintain social distancing standards. We're all still definitely very cautious and concerned for the safety of our customers and teammates," Kaiser said.

"Customers want to get out, but they also want to feel safe, so when they see the plexiglass, and the space, and the cleaning, they appreciate it," she added.

Reduced capacity means reduced sales, but there's a silver lining for guests.

"Visitors are getting more intimate experiences, they don't have to fight crowds, and they get more one-on-one time with our wine consultants," Kaiser said. "And they're loving it. We see it at the wineries and they're commenting on Tripadvisor, too."

Berti sums up the situation, saying, "We're staying optimistic, and being really, really careful."



Winners @ lakereport.ca/2020-winners

Thanks for 3,000 votes!



RIDDLE ME THIS

I have four legs, one head, and a foot. What am I?

Last week: I start with an E, end with an E, and have a letter in me. What am I?

Answer: Envelope

Answered first by: Susan Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Wade Durling, Margie Enns, Dale Huxtable, Margaret Garaughty, Pat Klotz, Elaine Landray, Brenda Bartley

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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, many events are now virtual. Find a list of NOTL events here week to week.</p> <p>Stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask and distance whenever possible.</p>			
13	14	15	16
<p>Niagara Falls Walk of Hope for Ovarian Cancer Canada - 10:30 a.m. - Virtual: www.ovariancancerwalkofhope.ca</p> <p>Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>MOMS Niagara Yoga + Wine - 10 a.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery</p> <p>Yoga in the Vineyard - 10 a.m. - Palatine Hills Estate Winery</p> <p>Emma Meinrenken: At Home Concert Series - 4 p.m. - Facebook: @MusicNiagaraFestival</p>	<p>Public Meeting - 6 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org</p> <p>Committee of the Whole: Planning - 6 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org/content/livestream-broadcast</p> <p>NOTL Community Centre Fitness Centre Reopens - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Open House - 5 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org</p> <p>Outdoor Acrylic Painting - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p>	<p>Open House - 5 p.m. - notl.org</p> <p>German Conversation - a.m. - Virtual: contact.aol.com</p> <p>Harvest Picking Party - Between the Lines V</p>
20	21	22	23
<p>Scout Brigade of Fort George - Ends at 12 p.m. - Virtual: https://sbfscouter.ca/</p> <p>Yoga in the Vineyards - 10 a.m. - Palatine Hills Estate Winery</p> <p>Gemstone Aromatherapy Bracelet Making - 10 a.m. - Lakeview Wine Co.</p> <p>Ludwig in Vienna: Three Pearls - 4 p.m. - Facebook @MusicNiagaraFestival</p>	<p>Committee of the Whole: General - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p>	<p>Outdoor Acrylic Painting - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Virtual Coffee with the Lord Mayor - 6 p.m. - Virtual: facebook.com/Town.of.NOTL/</p>	<p>German Conversation - a.m. - Virtual: contact.aol.com</p>

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

Lake Report

PIN ME UP!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sept. 10 - Sept. 26

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>10</p> <p>Long Term Care Transitional Self Health - 1:30 p.m. - Virtual: www.alzheimerniagara.ca/online</p> <p>Yoga at RiverBrink - 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club</p> <p>LIVESTream LOVE JAZZ Series: The Neil McVey Duo - 7 p.m. - Virtual: www.instagram.com/neil_mcvey</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p>
<p>16</p> <p>... - Virtual: notl.</p> <p>ion Group - 10 t avocanotl@</p> <p>arty - 5:30 p.m. Winery</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Committee of Adjustment - 6:30 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Lecture Series: All Along the Waterfront - 7:30 p.m. - NOTL Museum</p> <p>Two Part Lecture Series: Portraiture - 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>LearnMORE from Home: Fakes and Forgeries - 10 a.m. - Contact: manager@riverbrink.org</p> <p>Yoga at RiverBrink - 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club</p> <p>Two Part Lecture Series: Portraiture - 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Scout Brigade of Fort George - 7 p.m. - Virtual: https://sbfscouter.ca/</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Scout Brigade of Fort George - All day - Virtual: https://sbfscouter.ca/</p> <p>Watercolour: Let's Get Better at it - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p>
<p>23</p> <p>ion Group - 10 t avocanotl@</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Yoga at RiverBrink - 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum</p> <p>Scenic Nature - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>RiverBrink Reads: Warhol by Blake Gopnik - 7 p.m. - Virtual: riverbrink.org/events</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club</p> <p>Comedy Show: Humour and Hops - 8 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Rock the Roof with Riley Michaels and the Breakfast Club - 5 p.m. - Club 55</p> <p>Fall Fest Evening Market - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - 1126 Line 8 Rd.</p> <p>Watercolour: Let's Get Better at it - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p>

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NOTL **done** with Queen Street COVID experiments

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The streetside patios in downtown NOTL have been a big hit, but efforts to close Queen Street drew decidedly mixed reaction, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake says.

The municipality says it has gathered enough information about the various changes it made on Queen Street this summer and is done with experimenting.

Town staff provided a report about the closure

to council, which outlined some mixed opinions about the practice.

“Overall, the results of the first survey show more respondents to be supportive rather than not supportive of the first trial closure model details,” the report said.

“Generally speaking, more respondents agreed than disagreed that the temporary closure made physical distancing easier, improved pedestrian safety, increased the desire to visit local shops and restaurants, improved

the overall charm and experience of Old Town, made them more likely to return.”

However, of those who identified as living in the area surrounding Queen Street, more respondents said the closure negatively affected their street or neighbourhood.

More people agreed that finding available parking spaces was an issue during the temporary closure.

And the majority agreed outdoor patios improved the overall impression of and

experience on the street.

Of those who identified as a store owner in the heritage district, more respondents said the temporary closure did not help their business.

“Survey respondents were asked to provide additional comments regarding the Queen Street pilot program, should they feel so inclined. Text comments were fairly polarized and revealed passionate opinions on both the supportive and non-supportive side of the spectrum,” the report said.



Cyclists ride down a closed Queen Street in July. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

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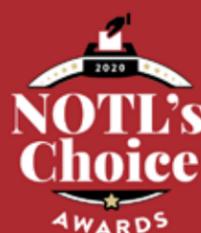
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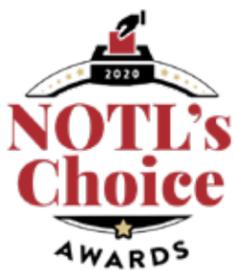


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Left: Tree stumps litter the path. Right: A dead tree is the reason the other healthy trees were cut down. RICHARD HARLEY

Dozens of healthy trees **cut down** to remove one dead one

Continued from Front Page

impacted by the removal of trees on the Rand Estate.

Tracey O'Brien-Dim, who has lived along the trail for seven years (and bought the house from her parents, who had it since 1987) said she was shocked to see the trees cut.

"It's devastating. We walk the trail every day. This is our space. It's nature," she said.

She said she thinks there must be a better way to remove one dead tree and questions if the town did its due diligence in exploring removal options that wouldn't impact the natural area.

"I don't know why they need to take down healthy trees to get to a dead tree. There has to be other ways," O'Brien-Dim said.

"And if they're so against everybody else cutting trees down, I don't know why they'd go ahead and cut good healthy trees down to get one dead tree out."

The town's director of operations, Kevin Turcotte, said the decision to cut the trees was made "as per the town's regular maintenance procedures" and staff worked hard to "ensure the removal of as few trees as possible."

"Staff asked the tree service to provide options and due to the height of the tree, a crane is what was suggested. Despite this

suggestion, staff is investigating alternative options to the crane. However, due to the height of the tree, our options are extremely limited," he said, in response to questions from The Lake Report.

The town is also planning to redevelop the trail and has a committee of council dedicated to the project, but the chair of the committee, Rick Meloen, said his group wasn't made aware of the cutting either. Turcotte said the committee was not notified because it was done "as part of the town's regular maintenance program. Therefore consultation with the committee was not required."

Clark said when she called Coun. Allan Bisback, he did not know about the planned changes either.

"Nobody knew anything about it. And the mayor was even up the trail here on the weekend, checking it out," Clark said.

Meloen, who is tasked with overseeing the committee for the restoration of the trail, said the committee was not consulted or made aware of the town's decision to remove the trees, and had nothing to do with it.

"This is unrelated to the heritage trail committee," Meloen said during a phone interview Tuesday.

"I've also been subtly getting the message that there's some kind of

behind-the-scenes plan going on here, which is totally false," he said, adding he thinks the tree removal is a separate issue from the trail development project.

"If there was no heritage trail committee, no plans for the trail, this tree would still have to come down."

"This is the only natural foot trail left in Niagara-on-the-Lake that's not paved, overcome by bikes and tourists,"

TRACEY O'BRIEN-DIM
NOTL RESIDENT

He said he doesn't feel the town undermined the committee's authority, "because quite frankly we don't have a lot of authority," but he would have liked to have known beforehand.

"It would have been nice to be kept in the loop."

He said he's not in favour of seeing healthy trees cut down on the trail, but that people need to be "pragmatic" about the situation.

"I'm standing by the tree now. It is clearly dead. There's no mistaking that. And it's clearly leaning over private property. So what are town staff supposed to do? What are the options here?" he said.

"Some people told me that 'Oh, well, they can

climb.' But an arborist will not climb a dead tree. No sane, trained tree trimmer or tree removal person will climb a dead tree. It is just unsafe," he said, adding that he's not an expert on tree removal, but has experience.

"It looks to me like a crane is really probably the only option."

He said the committee will be requesting that the town keep members aware of plans for the trail going forward.

"We're working with the town on this and, as I said, it's distressing to see the trees that are needlessly removed, but here's a situation where the town has to do due diligence. In a way the town staff are stuck between a rock and a hard place," Meloen said.

"But I just want to reiterate the trail committee had nothing to do with this. This is not part of some nefarious plan. As people may suspect or think. I'm offended by that."

Part of what residents like Clark and O'Brien-Dim are also angry about is that the town hasn't cleaned up any of the trees that were cut down, leaving wood chips and chopped stumps littered along the trail.

However, Turcotte said all the remaining trees will be removed "within the next couple of weeks."

Neighbours also strongly opposed to heritage trail development

Clark, O'Brien-Dim and other neighbours aren't supportive of any redevelopment of the path and would like to see it left as a natural trail. They're not interested in gravel paths, as has been done between John Street and Paffard. They don't want it widened to three metres.

And with farms bordering the trail they said they have concerns about safety as well as enjoyment of whatever natural trail remains for residents. They also worry about bike tours starting to use the path if it is opened up.

"This is the only natural foot trail left in Niagara-on-the-Lake that's not paved, overcome by bikes and tourists," O'Brien-Dim said.

Meloen said the committee wants to listen to neighbouring residents and so far has no final plans for that section of the trail.

"I personally had a meeting with with a couple residents. We've discussed this and and I'm hoping we can come come to some sort of agreement as to as to how to approach this," he said.

"There is no plan as yet. The town has not drawn up any plans for this stretch yet. So everything is up for discussion right now," he said.

"I've known for decades that the citizens in this town are very concerned about the trees," he added. "And I very much appreciate that and I like

that. Because if people in this town didn't have a passion for the trees (and) the beautiful tree canopy that we have, we would be all the much poorer for that. What kind of town would we be? So I do appreciate the concerns that people have, I really do, but you have to be pragmatic about this as well."

Clark said she just wants the path remain the way it is. "It's a nature trail and it should be staying a nature trail."

"I have pictures when it was just a little one-person trail, wide enough for one person to go out, with lots of trees and beautiful canopy. There used to be deer on here all the time" plus coyotes, rabbits and tons of birds, she said.

"And there was a big owl that lived here. I haven't seen it in the last year at all," Clark said.

"We've lived here for 30 years and you know it's changed dramatically for us."

O'Brien-Dim said Lord Mayor Betty Disero walked the trail Tuesday with the group and told town staff "not to go any further until they look into other ways of removing the dead tree."

The Lake Report received multiple letters urging the mayor to preserve the trail, including one sent on June 14 by O'Brien-Dim and another from Clark on July 8. Read the letters on Page 6.




Thank you so much!

During the months of July and August, Van Noort Flower Studio sold cactus gardens with all proceeds going to Epilepsy Toronto. Our goal was to raise \$10,000 by September. We surpassed that goal, raising \$13,000 for epilepsy research. Our sincere thanks to everybody who helped out.

Van Noort Florists raises \$13,000 for Toronto Epilepsy

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

The goal of raising 10,000 dollars in support of Epilepsy Toronto by Van Noort Florists started at the beginning of July this year.

After exceeding the initial amount she had hoped to collect, Sharon Van Noort said it is amazing that just over 13,000 dollars will be donated to Epilepsy Toronto through their summer events.

“When we decided that we would do a fundraiser for epilepsy research during a pandemic, I was not sure how successful we would be,” she said.

“I cannot tell you how much support we received

over the following months as people from our community come in to help support our fundraiser,” Van Noort said.

Van Noort told the Lake Report that she is thankful for people’s generosity, including people who dropped off donations at the flower studio outside of the events.

“We had community members and business owners give donations of cash, cheques, buying cactus gardens, supporting our garage sale, buying face masks and finally on Sept. 1 we hosted a silent auction,” she said.

As of Sept. 8, \$13,003.47 is the total amount raised by the Van Noort’s and will be donated to sup-

port epilepsy research and social services for those living with epilepsy.

“This whole thing was her idea from the beginning,” Eric Van Noort, Sharon’s son, said.

“She’s a saint, I don’t know what I’d do without her.”

“There are so many people to thank and I’m not even sure where to start, but I will start off with a heartfelt thank you,” Sharon said.

“With all of you, we raised 13,000 dollars for epilepsy,” she said.

“My hope is that with research, more can be done for people living with epilepsy and one day my son and others will be able to get their life back.”



Matt Milner, Meghan Daniels and her mother Lorrie look at items in the silent auction fundraiser at Van Noort Florists Tuesday evening. JESSICA MAXWELL

Neighbourhood park improvements completed

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

The much anticipated, and COVID-19 delayed, park improvement project for the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood has been completed.

Funded from the 2019 town budget, it included replacing the play structure, updating the pergola sitting area, adding a couple of picnic tables, erecting a community bulletin board and installing a full-court basketball pad.

The project kicked off with a public open house in August 2019 where town staff gathered input from residents on their desires for the improvements. That

led to the selection of the new play structure.

The town’s contractor was able to replace the play structure, update the pergola sitting area and lay the asphalt pad for the basketball court before the winter of 2019. It became evident that the basketball pad had some early drainage issues, which were corrected in the spring of 2020.

Then the coronavirus pandemic spread across the world in late winter and put a halt to any additional work. It also resulted in the park being off-limits due to the pandemic and the declared state of emergency.

When the restrictions were lifted in July, the contractor was quick to come

back and fix the drainage issue on the basketball court. This prompted some neighbourhood teens to drag a portable basketball net onto the unfinished court.

It quickly became very popular for teens during the summer. The new play structure also became a popular spot for the children and their parents as evenings in the park became a centre of activity.

The community bulletin board was installed in the late summer at the request of the Glendale Task Force as a means to keep residents up-to-date on regional, town, neighbourhood and college news and events.

Finally, in late August, the contractors returned to put up the basketball hoops and nets, and paint the lines. The project was complete.

In an emailed statement, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said: “I am so pleased that the park improvements in Niagara on the Green are being well used. It is with thoughtful community input and collaboration that the staff were able to provide for this growing neighbourhood. I look forward to ongoing discussion in the future. Niagara on the Green is an important area in our town.”

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for 10 years and is active in many community organizations.

Newark Neighbours thrift store reopens Sept. 14

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Bargain shoppers can once again score deals at Newark Neighbours, which will reopen its thrift store with new restrictions this Monday.

Resuming on Sept. 14, the thrift store at 310 John St. will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To maintain physical

distancing requirements in the small retail location, no more than three shoppers will be allowed in the store at a time and masks must be worn while shopping.

The local organization will again be accepting donation drop-offs of clothing and small, clean household items from Mondays to Fridays. Drop-off boxes will be locked on the weekend.

In an effort to support the organization, a group of Niagara-on-the-Lake

residents have stepped up to host two food drives for Newark Neighbours. The first will be held in the parking lot of Phil’s Valu-Mart in Virgil on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The second, deemed Newark Neighbours Day, will be held Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Cornerstone Community Church at 1570 Niagara Stone Rd. in Virgil from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The organization is

currently collecting items for its Thanksgiving food baskets and general food bank supplies. Go to <https://www.newarkneighbours.ca/> for a full list of items in need.

The Newark Neighbours food bank will continue to operate on its existing schedule with pickup on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clients are asked to call 905-468-3519 to schedule pickup visits.



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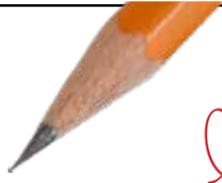
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GAMES



Have some fun

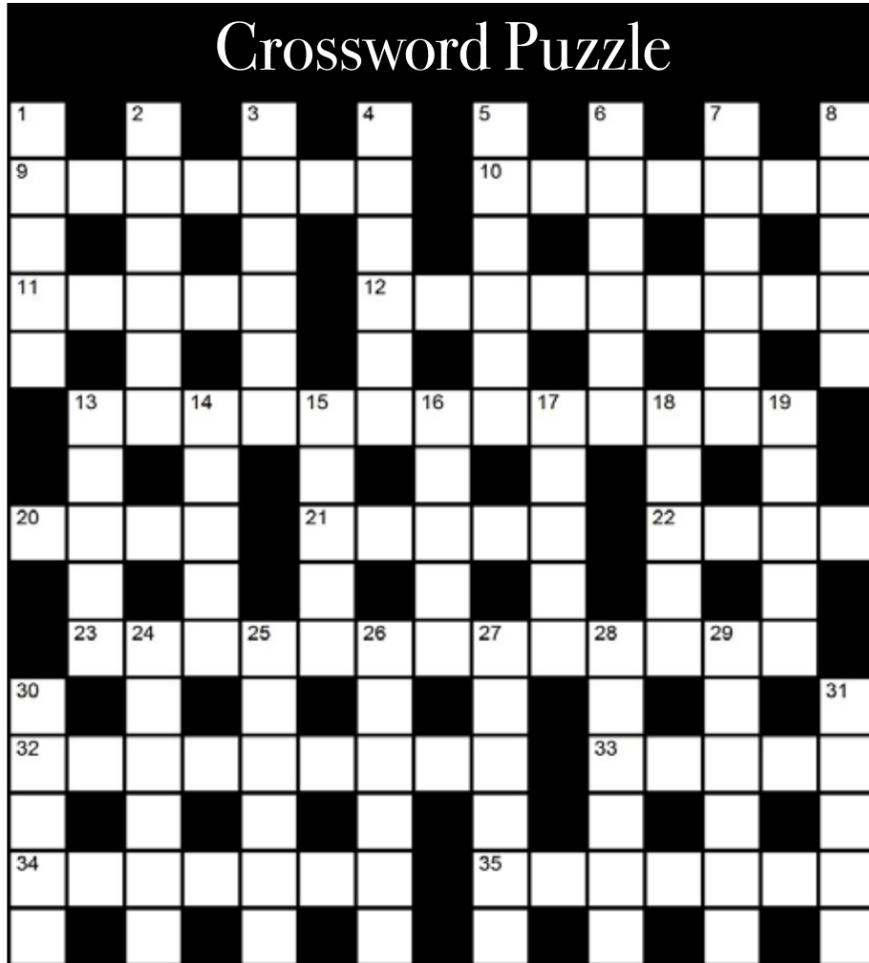
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagararegion.com

Across

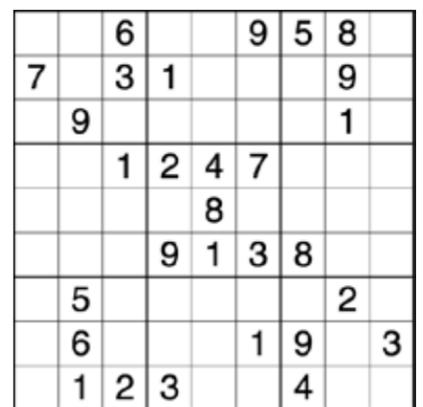
- 9. Photograph taken at very short range (5-2)
- 10. Kind of illusion (7)
- 11. Relating to sound reproduction (5)
- 12. Holy Communion (9)
- 13. Dog with wavy silky hair (6,7)
- 20. Leg joint (4)
- 21. Graded (5)
- 22. Wife of one's uncle (4)
- 23. Reflection (13)
- 32. Doctor (9)
- 33. Cost (5)
-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

Down

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



Last issue's answers



ADD YOUR VOICE TO NIAGARA'S OFFICIAL PLAN

NIAGARA IS GROWING!

The region is forecasted to grow to a minimum of 674,000 people and 272,000 jobs by the year 2051. To guide this growth, Niagara Region is creating a new Official Plan.

The Niagara Official Plan will set out objectives and policies to shape Niagara's physical development, while protecting what's valuable. It will cover topics like: Niagara's natural environment, land needs, growth allocations, housing, transportation, urban design, employment lands, agriculture and more.

YOU'RE INVITED

Attend a series of virtual public information centres to learn more about key directives and core policy information that will inform the Niagara Official Plan. Get informed, ask questions to staff, and provide your input on how Niagara should grow.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, contact the Niagara Region's Accessibility Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

If you are not able to attend, you can provide input or ask questions by emailing makingourmark@niagararegion.ca, or contact **David Heyworth**, Official Plan Policy Consultant at 905-980-6000 ext. 3476

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES

Register for each of the following sessions at niagararegion.ca/official-plan. Video recordings will also be available online following the sessions.

Wednesday, Sept 23 | 6:00 p.m.
Topic: Natural Environment - Natural Heritage System

Thursday, Sept. 24 | 6:00 p.m.
Topic: Natural Environment - Water Resource System

Wednesday, Oct. 7 | 6:00 p.m.
Topic: Growth Management - Growth Allocations, Settlement Area Boundary Review, Regional Structure, Land Needs, Housing

Thursday, Oct. 8 | 6:00 p.m.
Topic: District & Secondary Plans, Urban Design, and Employment Lands

Tuesday, Oct. 20 | 6:00 p.m.
Topic: Rural & Agriculture, Mineral Aggregate Resources, Archaeology & Culture

Wednesday, Oct. 21 | 6:00 p.m.
Topic: Infrastructure, Water and Wastewater, Stormwater, Transportation

Dr. Brown: When the lights go out in the universe



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

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Entropy is hardly a household word. It certainly wasn't one I knew much about until I began to develop this September's library lecture series, "Physics: The Camelot Period 1900-1930."

As prologue for the series, which starts Sept. 16, I needed to look back to the 1800s. Most of us are familiar with the fathers of evolutionary theory, Wallace and Darwin and

much less so with Faraday and Maxwell – pioneers in electromagnetism. But it's a rare person, outside of physicists and engineers, who are familiar with thermodynamics – the science of heat and energy.

Thermodynamics – the study of heat – began in the Industrial Revolution, especially with the development of the steam engine. At the outset thermodynamics was all about the efficiency of steam engines.

But it is the second law of thermodynamics that is important for today's column. This law states that energy comes in two forms, one of which is usable and the other disorderly and, more important, inaccessible, or in the language of thermodynamics, entropic.

Beginning with the Big Bang, moving forward to the present and trillions of years into the future, the fraction of the universe's energy that is unusable has and will continue to increase, although the net sum of the energy, usable + not usable, will remain

the same. (That's what the first law of thermodynamics says: no overall loss of energy; even if as the second law states that the fraction of the universe's energy that is entropic, increases with time.)

Take stars, for example. The intense gravitational forces that form stars in the first place, create enormous pressures and temperatures, which working together in the star's core, are sufficient to fuse trillions and trillions of hydrogen nuclei into helium nuclei per second.

In the process, tiny bits of matter are transformed into enormous amounts of energy (nuclear fusion). The reason? Remember Einstein's most iconic equation – $E(\text{energy}) = m(\text{mass}) \times c^2$ (the speed of light squared).

Most of the latter energy comes in the form of photons of light generated in the star's core from which it eventually reaches the surface of the star and creates the light that bathes surrounding space including in our case, Earth. Without that there would be

no photosynthesis, no plants and no us.

The synthesis of more complex heavier elements continues through to iron for many stars beyond which further synthesis of heavier elements requires the far more intense pressures and temperatures typical of supernovas or other horrendous events such as collisions of neutron stars, for their creation.

So well, nucleosynthesis and the creation of more complex elements reduces entropy somewhat, there's a net loss. Why? Because an enormous amount of that energy released by the sun is dispersed – wasted if you like – and no longer accessible (increase in entropy).

In a like fashion, the creation of life and the increasing complexity of life (analogous to the increasing complexity of atoms through nucleosynthesis), requires a lot of energy, which becomes less accessible with use and increases entropy.

For the very long term – possibly for trillions of

years to come – the energy economy of the universe will continue to provide enough low entropy energy to sustain the formation of stars and thus light and heat to keep the universe and anthropomorphically speaking, life humming.

But eventually the math and probabilities of the second law of thermodynamics will catch up with the universe. With the result that some time in the distant future there won't be enough accessible usable energy to keep stars forming and for those present, all will run down – this time around – with no replacement. That's when the lights go out in the universe.

That is unless there's another cycle of creation – a new Big Bang – a new injection of energy into the system. Perhaps that's what happened when our universe began.

It may have signalled the end of a previous universe or perhaps an infusion of energy might come from other universes with which ours coexists, but which are

out of reach of any tools we have to see them. I used to think the whole idea of multiverses was crazy, but like Einstein, who couldn't accept an expanding universe until the evidence was overwhelming, I might be wrong about multiverses.

Meanwhile, we continue to waste energy, converting more and more energy into inaccessible forms of energy for eternity and spoiling the planet and life in the process. That is where we've been headed for much of our history.

But at least in the early days, there weren't many of us and the damage was minor. Now, with seven billion humans and counting, surrounded by inefficient energy-consuming devices and toys, we really have the tools and numbers to do serious damage to our communities and planet, to say nothing of our fellow creatures, great and small. It looks like a lot more entropy to come.

Something to think about and act on.

Keeping it Green

Turn over a new leaf in the garden this fall



Kyra Simone
Special to The Lake Report

With fall around the corner, it's time to prepare gardens for the oncoming cold. Our first thought is to clear away dead plants, but it's actually better to leave some clean up until spring.

New plants may be added and the last summer bounty

harvested before first frost.

DIY fertilizing mulch: Fallen leaves are important shelter for hibernating insects and amphibians. This way, leaves are also a source of insects for birds during cold months when food is limited.

Now is a good time to add compost and mulch to supplement nutrients and prevent winter damage. Using fallen leaves instead of these products saves money and yields the same benefits.

Doing so is "investing in the future health of your garden," says Niagara College horticulture Prof. Paul Zammit.

After raking, leaves can be mulched with a lawnmower and used in gardens.



Frozen leaves. KYRA SIMONE

Microbes break down organic matter and release nutrients into the soil, for plants to readily access in spring.

Or, forgo raking altogether and mow fallen leaves into the lawn. Small fragments will break down over winter, add nutrients and help prevent weeds in bare areas.

Piling mulched leaves around the base of perennials insulates and prevents root damage from freezing and thawing.

Consider using leaf mulch instead of peat moss, which adds few nutrients. Peat harvesting also hurts important

peatland environments that take greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.

You might even skip cutting back dead grasses and leave plant matter on the garden floor. Cleared soil is vulnerable to erosion and the cold can kill helpful soil critters.

Leaving dead stalks also provides seeds for birds and overwintering habitat for pollinators. The exception: remove diseased material to prevent resurgence.

Adding new life: Trees and shrubs can be planted six weeks before frost.

Water plantings until the ground freezes so roots can

access water during spring thaw.

Spring-flowering bulbs should be planted before late October. Planting hair from a pet or hairbrush with bulbs may deter hungry squirrels.

Cayenne pepper deterrent is painful for pets and pests alike. Garlic or peppermint are other humane alternatives.

Tender bulbs like gladiolus and dahlia should be dug up before frost. They can be saved for next year by cutting off leaves and storing in a cool, dry place.

A final harvest: For herb gardens still bursting with

life, we can preserve fresh flavour for winter cooking. Harvest leaves now but leave roots to regrow in spring.

Bundles of herbs like oregano, thyme and rosemary can dry upside-down in a well-ventilated area.

Basil, parsley and other leafy herbs can be preserved for several months by freezing. Chopped herbs are easily stored in ice cube trays, topped up with water or blended with oil.

In other beds, saving some seeds and spreading the rest provides insurance that plants will regrow, says Zammit. Keep seeds dark and dry, or in the fridge, and check regularly for mold.

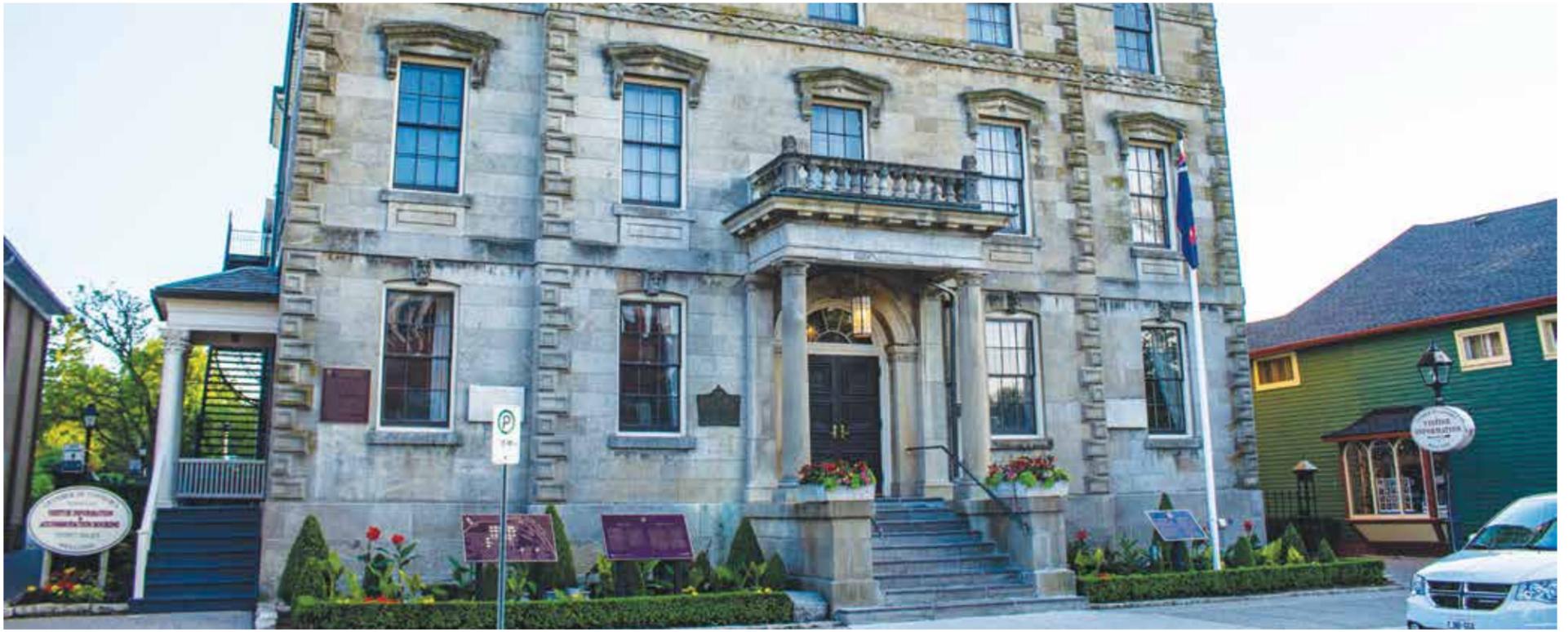
As we buckle down for winter, keeping the garden tidy and healthy can truly go hand in hand.

Kyra Simone is a NOTL-born nature lover with a master's degree in biology. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up garbage, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake courthouse was the site of a riot to protect Solomon Moseby from being sent back into slavery. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

The Niagara Rebellion's **key role** in fight against slavery

Michael Pawlowski
Special to The Lake Report

On Sept. 12, we celebrate the 183rd anniversary of the 1837 Niagara Rebellion. We encourage all residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Niagara Region to contemplate their good fortune and to praise our Afro-Canadian community for its contribution to our history.

Solomon Moseby escaped slavery in Kentucky in May of 1837. His experience with freedom in Niagara Town was brief. Solomon was seized by American bounty hunters who had access to Upper Canada. Lt.- Gov. Francis Bond Head agreed to Moseby's extradition.

Black and white citizens united in their efforts to free the former slave. While being transferred from the jail to the harbour, Moseby escaped. Two rioters died. Others were arrested. After escaping, Moseby fled the province.

In celebrating the contribution of our Afro-Canadian community to our history we are mindful that they were not just the victim, but also the victors, for the Niagara Rebellion was the only revolt in 1837 that succeeded.

Although Upper Canada had taken steps to abolish slavery in 1793 and the British Empire enacted more encompassing legislation in 1834, Upper Canada still

had its Alien Act of 1804 and the Fugitive Offenders Act of 1833.

These two provincial statutes allowed the government to deport any refugee who had committed a capital offence. For the former slaves, this prospect continued to cause some uncertainty. After the Niagara Rebellion, that skepticism in the Black community became fear with the realization that promises of freedom and opportunity were not assurances. After all, Niagara Town was administered only by a sheriff who reported directly to the attorney-general.

The efforts of the plantation owner to regain custody of his slave could truly be called "total racial revenge." He clearly spent more than the value of a slave to achieve his goal.

John Breckenridge was the owner of the original Kentucky plantation. He was also the attorney-general in Thomas Jefferson's cabinet. Those who were demanding Solomon Moseby's extradition were fundamentally the upper echelon of the law in the United States capital and of the militia in western New York.

The temperament of Bond Head is clearly identified in his reply to the former slave's legal counsel. This was the government's final decision.

"It is true, that a slave

in the United States is not a free agent, and that he becomes so the instant he arrives in Upper Canada; but in obtaining freedom, he becomes also responsible for his conduct, like other free men. British law gives him as much freedom as belongs to British subjects, but no more. This land of liberty cannot be made an asylum for the guilty of any colour."

"The individual in question has been proved to have been guilty of recent felony. I believe him to have committed it, and I have reason to believe that you are of that opinion. Under these circumstances, I cannot conscientiously, on account of his colour, refuse to deliver him up to the American authorities."

Clearly, Solomon Moseby's colour influenced that decision.

Consider the anxieties in the Afro-Canadian community after Sept. 12, 1837. They could be charged with sedition if they persisted. The press was no longer overly active in Niagara. Jobs were fleeing the area. Employment could easily be jeopardized. Abolition clearly did not mean equality, security or liberty. For so many factors the events and honour of the Afro-Canadian community became buried.

The written report about the Niagara Rebellion to the

Colonial Office left on the final vessel leaving Quebec City on Sept. 29, 1837. Between October 1 and April 30, vessels between Britain and North America used New York as their destination.

In late October, the Colonial Office sent correspondence to the lieutenant-governor chastising the provincial government for its refusal to defend Moseby's rights as a free man.

Prior to any revolts in St. Denis (Nov. 16), Toronto (Dec. 4) and Ste. Eustache (Dec. 14), the Colonial Office wrote to the governor of Jamaica about conditions affecting the Black community. These letters – to Upper Canada and Jamaica – were sent before any revolts in Upper or Lower Canada. Clearly, the interest of the British government was the welfare of the Black population.

Why then do we consider the Niagara Rebellion to be so important in Canadian history?

The rebellions in Lower Canada and Upper Canada did not cause Lord Durham to become governor-general of British North America.

The announcement of Lord Durham becoming our governor-general took place on Jan. 15, 1838.

On May 27, 1838, Lord Durham arrived in Quebec. Eighteen weeks later, he announced his resigna-

tion. During that time, he spent only two weeks in Upper Canada. Clearly, the situation in Toronto didn't warrant his time.

Durham returned to England via New York on Oct. 9, 1838. He wrote a report in 1839 that each of the provinces soundly rejected.

When considering the importance of the Niagara Rebellion, it's paramount to consider the fourth dimension – time – the time necessary for communication and reaction.

If Lord Durham's appointment was the result of Upper Canada's rebellious events in the first week of December or the revolt in Ste. Eustache in the second week of December, was there enough time to complete a report, transport it by horse and carriage to New York, be fortunate that there was a ship waiting in port, sail it to Liverpool, by train to the Colonial Office in London, consider same and then refer it to the British House of Commons; then to debate and decide in a parliament that rarely achieved any accord; include the two-week Christmas break, and then to communicate with Russia and have Lord Durham recalled from his position as ambassador; and then to have the notice of Lord Durham's appointment announced only eight weeks later?

None of the revolts in St.

Denis, Toronto or Ste. Eustache could have ever made Lord Durham's appointment happen.

But – was there enough time for the Niagara Rebellion – 18 weeks prior to Jan. 15, 1838 – to contribute to the appointment of Lord Durham?

We know that the Colonial Office, after being aware of the Niagara revolt, was concerned about conditions affecting the Black population. A new term surfaced to replace "slavery" – it was "Planter's Severance." Clearly, the Colonial Office was focused on fundamental issues affecting Black people in the Americas.

We remain cognizant of the efforts and commitment of Macdonald, Cartier and Brown during the following three decades in the achievement of Confederation and praise them for their success.

However, we must again ask ourselves: Why has the importance of the Niagara Rebellion been dismissed?

Michael Pawlowski is the author of "Niagara Black Waters Flow Deep," which recounts the events of the Niagara Rebellion. He believes it is important to tell the story of the rebellion and the key role of the riot that prevented former slave Solomon Moseby from being extradited across the river.



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Niagara High School

A class photo outside the Niagara High School, now part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum complex on Castlereagh Street. The school structure was built in 1875 but was closed in the 1940s when it could no longer meet the needs of growing class sizes. The Niagara District Secondary School on Niagara Stone Road was built soon after. Janet Carnochan, former teacher, principal and infamous NOTL historian, is featured in the centre wearing a black floral blouse. Note the two mischievous boys goofing around in the back right of the image. Good luck to all parents sending their kids off to school or homeschooling this month. Don't forget to capture this moment in history with a few photographs.

LOCAL SNAPS

Wildlife at Niagara College By: Lorne Tontegode



Are you a local photographer, or just love taking photos of Niagara-on-the-Lake? Send us your snaps and we might just publish them! Deadline is Sunday every week. Send to editor@niagaranow.com

ARCHITEXT

The 'Everyman's' House

Brian Marshall
Columnist

You see them sprinkled across Niagara-on-the-Lake and, indeed, across Ontario.

Some are one storey, others a storey and a half. There are those with hip roofs, with end gable roofs and with a gable roof that sports a centred gable dormer or peak.

These modest homes typically didn't flow from the pen of an architect or even a designer, but rather the mind of the individual who built them. It was rare to find two homes the same, but in general form these vernacular expressions fall into a group that has been called the Ontario Cottage.



James McFarland House. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL

Now, so we're all on the same page, "cottage" in this context doesn't refer to a vacation home but rather to the definition advocated by A.J. Downing in his 1850 book "The Architecture of Country Houses" where a cottage is a small, simple house.

In 1963, MacRae & Adanson, in their seminal book "The Ancestral Roof," defined the Ontario Cottage as a one-and-a-half storey hipped roof house distinguished from the Regency Cottage when its roof did not extend into a verandah. However, in the years since, that

definition has expanded to include single-storey buildings, and both one- and one-and-a-half storey homes with roofs that may be hipped, gabled or gabled with a centre gable dormer or peak.

Certainly these small houses had a strong Regency flavour with many, perhaps most, presenting a symmetrical three-bay facade, generous windows and prominent front door surround; but since they were vernacular this could and did vary widely. The cottages could be wood-framed clapboard, stucco, brick or stone. In other words,

it came down to whatever appealed most to the owner (and what they could afford).

While you can find Ontario Cottages in Old Town, perhaps the most picturesque example is a short drive into the greenbelt where you'll find the James McFarland House. Lovingly restored by its current owner, it is built of uncoursed rubblestone with contrasting brick quoins and lintels.

Set atop an end gabled roof, the wide dormer extends across all three bays, causing the observer's eye to be centrally focused and continually cycled from ground to peak and again to ground. It's a stellar composition on a vernacular home!

Ontario Cottages were the "everyman's" house, built across the province from the early 1830s. Hitting their peak popularity from 1840 to 1860, they were still being constructed as late as the 1890s. They are certainly worth watching for as a treasured piece of our built heritage.

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Ten bushels of tomatoes and 148 quarts of canned red sauce

The Lake Report

It is that time of year again, the tomato harvest. And with it comes the preserving of all those luscious red tomatoes. Many families are getting together – cautiously – to bring back the custom of home canning, many saying it was the unpredictability of supplies during the past months due to the COVID-19 virus that pushed them to get back to basics.

Denise Ascenzo, Lesley Stewart and Leila Ascenzo-Wakefield were no exception as they set about to can 10 bushels of tomatoes this past weekend. The weather was perfect and the camaraderie of a family get-together made the tiring process fun. Their yield, which they will share among four households, was 148 quarts. Now, Ascenzo says, it's on to the next harvest – red peppers.



PHOTOS BY MARC ASCENZO



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