

The Lake Report

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



VOL. 2, ISSUE 36

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE'S MOST RESPECTED NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 12, 2019



Soaring with Snowbirds

The Snowbirds perform over the Niagara District Airport on Wednesday afternoon. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Canadian Forces Snowbirds invited excited kids and inquisitive chaperones to learn more about the planes, what it takes to be a pilot, and everything else involved in flying a Canadair CT-114 Tutor aircraft on Wednesday morning.

Local schools were welcomed to the Niagara District Airport for an exclusive meetup before the fundraising event later that evening.

Ruby Brunton, along with many of her classmates from Crossroads Public School, were encouraged to look into the cockpit of the Canadair CT-114 Tutor.

Snowbirds technician Triston "Pope" Popescu was swarmed by eager students while answering questions and explaining the ins and outs of handling the fleet. After teaching about the technical side of handling the aircraft, Popescu asked questions and handed stickers out to the first students to answer; he was met with

overwhelming responses and more excited students.

More than 70 volunteers and a host of community sponsors helped make this year's Canadian Forces Snowbirds show a success on Wednesday, with a sold-out VIP area and almost 1,000 people in the general admission space by 4 p.m.

The event was presented

by the Niagara Historical Society and Museum and serves as the organization's largest fundraiser.

Cheryl Morris, marketing lead of the NOTL Snowbirds committee, said a lot was learned from the event held two years ago.

"We have a lot more volunteers this year, and have a better handle on the park-

ing," she said.

By 5 p.m., Morris said she didn't have an accurate tally of the amount raised for the organization, but it was likely around \$30,000 before expenses, she said.

Morris did say she was "very happy" with the turnout, though, and deemed the

Continued on Page 2

Canopy Growth challenges town cannabis bylaw

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's cannabis bylaw is being challenged by Canopy Growth Corp.

The town received a notice of appeal last Fri-

day from Canopy Growth, one of the country's largest cannabis producers, Lord Mayor Betty Disero told council's committee of the whole meeting Monday.

Canopy Growth owns Tweed Farms on Concession 5 Road where its one-

million-square-foot facility grows medical marijuana. The company also purchased Coyote's Run winery for \$10 million in May.

In an email response to The Lake Report, Jordan Sinclair, vice-president of communications for Can-

opy Growth, confirmed the company has some concerns with an interim control bylaw passed in June, but wouldn't disclose any more details.

"We enjoy a positive

Continued on Page 13



A Canopy Growth employee bags trimmed cannabis leaves at Tweed Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake. RICHARD HARLEY



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Photo: DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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Top, and middle: Kids enjoy the morning learning about the Snowbirds and checking out their planes. Left: Snowbirds in flight. Right: Snowbirds prepare to take flight for an aerobatics display. Bottom: A parachute team jumps from the sky during the show. PHOTOS BY BRITTANY CARTER AND DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Spending the day with the Snowbirds

Continued from Page 5

event a success.

It couldn't have been done without all of the community sponsors and volunteers, she added.

The Town of Niagara-on-

the-Lake, Allied Aviation, the Niagara District Airport, Engel and Volkers, Ravine Vineyard, the Exchange Brewery, Konzelmann Estate Winery and PigOut Catering were some of the sponsors to note, she said, though they

certainly weren't all of them.

The event brought the community together to watch the expert flying of Canadian Forces pilots.

Niagara locals, Teresa and Lyndon Palmer, bought themselves tickets to the VIP

area for Wednesday's show to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

They said they wanted to support the Niagara Historical Society and Museum and wanted to do something local.



Terry Fox, in a portrait by photographer John O'Callaghan, when the Marathon of Hope passed through the Toronto area. JOHN O'CALLAGHAN PHOTO

Terry Fox Run **this weekend**

The annual Terry Fox Run takes place this Saturday. The run takes participants through a five-kilometre stretch starting at Simcoe Park, travelling up King Street to John Street, then following Ricardo Street to King, and back to Simcoe Park. A video outlining the route can be found on the town's website at notl.org.

Participants can walk, run, bike or rollerblade, and are asked to donate whatever they can. Donations of \$20 or more will be issued a tax-receipt. King said all she asks for is \$1 a person.

"That was Terry's vision, wasn't it? Just one dollar from each person in Canada. Terry only wanted one dollar, we have a population of about 15,000 and I think we got to \$10,000 (in 2007). Now we're at \$113,000," she said.

Registration is at 9 a.m., and the run kicks off at 10 a.m., with a barbecue to follow.

Last year, King said \$113,538.43 was raised through the community run with 250 participants, and another \$3,865.05 was raised through school events.



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Protesters target Legion pork roast, blast air horn in older man's ears

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The annual pig roast at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 didn't go exactly as planned Sunday.

About 15 members of the At War for Animals Niagara animal rights group showed up at the NOTL legion. They stood on King Street, waving flags and holding signs. One of the protesters occasionally turned on a megaphone with a siren, disrupting music at the event.

Protester Adam Stirr said the demonstration was a "furthering of our beliefs" and a "way to get attention". For months, his group has been protesting Sentineal Carriages' use of horses to pull carriages around Old Town.

"It's not just about the horse carriages. It's about any use of animals, including raising them, killing them and eating them," he said.

Three Niagara Regional Police cars, parked along King Street, were on scene to maintain peace.

Police officers only intervened when the pig's head was placed on a stick in front of the protesters.

The protesters started their usual protest in Old Town.

Jade McLauchlan, a Sentineal Carriages driver, said the activists started their protests Sunday at the corner of King and Queen streets but then filled the sidewalk near the Prince of Wales Hotel, where people get on and off the carriages.

She said they also followed the carriage drivers around, blocked one of the horses with a car plastered with signs. One of the protesters held a sign in front of the horse, which made the horse uncomfortable.

"They were on and off the sidewalk, on the roads with their signs. They were hollering at our customers today," McLauchlan told The Lake Report. "I was really anxious being out there and driving because you don't know how extreme they're going to go."



DJ Mike Moose tells protesters he's had enough of an air horn being blown mere feet away from him, as he tried to perform. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Andrew Ball gives the thumbs up as members of the legion carve up the freshly roasted pig. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Dan Reid stands in front of a pig roast in an anti-vegan T-shirt. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

McLauchlan said she didn't charge her customers for the ride because they didn't get an "enjoyable experience" with protesters following them around.

"We shouldn't have to work in an environment like that. They (protesters) keep on saying they have rights and freedom to protest. But I have a right to have a safe work environment and have the customers have a safe and enjoyable ride when they're with me," McLauchlan said.

Stirr, who said he is vegan, said people are welcome to protest any of his group's gatherings because that's the "beauty of democracy."

One police officer told The Lake Report he suggested protesters turn their megaphone off because there could be veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder present at the pig roast. He said he told one of the protesters to "judge accordingly."

The officer also said he

suggested legion members remove the pig's head as it might "incite" the protesters.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was at the event, too.

"What is confounding to me is that a group of 15 people would protest a barbecue of 60 people," she told The Lake Report.

"You would think they would go to bigger venues in larger cities. So much energy and time wasted. And why the police would not move a protester along, when a rider tells him she feels threatened and afraid is also a concern to me."

The town and the police, as well as the activists and Locals for Carriages members, a support group, met on Monday morning to discuss a revised protocol agreement that sets the ground rules for protests and counter-protests.

Details of the meeting's outcome haven't been disclosed yet.



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Snowbirds fly on Wednesday. BRITTANY CARTER

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

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email
Letters: editor@niagaranow.com
Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com
Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com
 Phone
Newsroom: 905-359-2270
Advertising Department: 905-246-4671
 Office Address
496 Mississauga St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.
 Mailing Address
PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0

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Green Tip of the Week

Contributed by Norm Arsenault:
 When offered a plastic straw or stir stick, just say "No thanks!"
 Fifty-seven millions straws are sold in Canada each day. Most end up in landfills where they will stay forever. Approximately 20,000 are used in Niagara-on-the-Lake every day. Most end in the landfill!

Positive Power +

with Patty Garriock
 "The holy passion of friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last a lifetime." - Mark Twain.



Editorial

Enough is enough

Richard Harley
 Editor

NOTL's not-so-friendly neighbourhood protesters decided to attack the country's veterans again this weekend, protesting outside a pig roast fundraiser at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124.

It now seems clear the people demonstrating just like hanging out in NOTL.

But here's the thing: Nobody wants you here. Nobody is listening to you.

I know I enjoyed my pork sandwich all the more thanks to the audience of

predictable protesters who think they can shove their views down people's throats.

The irony was not lost on me, that I was enjoying the sandwich on land representing real heroes, who fought for my right to eat whatever I want — and coincidentally for the ignorant protesters' ability to protest.

As I sat and watched, one of the protesters decided to blow an air horn into an older man's ear. This is where police should have stepped in. It was clear, intentional harassment, and police only gave a warning, yet again.

Niagara Regional Police — where are you?

Members of this community are starting to lose faith in you as protectors of peace and safety.

While there is some understanding that you must be afraid to step on people's constitutional rights, there is no constitutional right to harassment. The police department's inability to properly enforce the difference between the two is appalling. Business owners, residents and tourists alike are suffering because you will not enforce the law.

Perhaps the horse people

need to consider getting restraining orders for every single member of the protest group. Then police would have to act.

Pushing back physically against these animal rights protesters is not an option, no matter how frustrating and odious their actions and name-calling are.

But with no action by the police, it appears that some sort of legal remedy might be the only route left so that businesses, tourists and area residents can have a respite from these endless protests. editor@niagaranow.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Excellent story on history of flying in NOTL

Dear editor:

Congratulations to Denise Ascenzo for her excellent report, ("90 years of flying in NOTL," The Lake Report, Sept. 5), about the history of aviation in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It contained lots of good, worthwhile detail and was nicely researched. Keep up this level of reporting.

If you or your readers have time, see if you can get these two books from the public library: Air Transport in Canada and Aviation in Canada: The Formative Years.

There you can use the indexes to find quite a few other Niagara Region aviation events.

For example, did you know that Max Ward (founder of Ward Air) instructed during the war at the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan flying school near St. Catharines? Regards,

Larry Milberry
 Member,

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame
 Publisher, CANAV Books

Special report on lake erosion highlights importance of shoreline lands

Dear editor:

We at Harmony Residents Group wish to congratulate The Lake Report for its special report, "Falling Into the Lake," (Aug. 29).

Not only did your special report raise the issues of the eroding shoreline, it reminded everyone in town that the area of the former Department of National Defence rifle range and the Niagara Shores Park are a valuable natural part of our heritage and worthy of the care and cost needed to preserve those lands.

For 12 years, Harmony (harmonyresidents.org) has advocated for the lands to be managed as a conservation area and for all levels of government to be partners in creating a park to be used by everyone.

Thank you for bringing attention to those lands.

Debi Goodwin
 Board member
 Harmony Residents Group



We welcome your letters

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

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

Please include your full name, street address and a daytime

telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated.

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

Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

The Lake Report

Correction

A photo caption accompanying a news story last week wrongly referred to Tim Jennings as artistic director of the Shaw Festival.

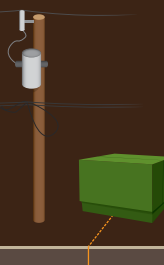
As the story correctly stated, Jennings is the executive director of the festival. Tim Carroll is artistic director.

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Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro is hosting an Open House to talk about the underground conversion planned for the Olde Town...and anything else you'd like to talk about.
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NEWS

MEMORIAM

In memory of Rex

On August 20 we lost our good friend Rex Williams. He had struggled with health issues in recent years, overcoming the many challenges, surgeries and rehabilitation that each entailed. He always remained upbeat and pleasant even when faced with his many health challenges. We all got to know and appreciate his wit, optimism and wisdom over the years as an integral member and leader of our Wednesday duplicate bridge group. His tongue-in-cheek summaries of weekly play, sometimes in the form of poetry, made everyone look forward to his weekly missives. He is sorely missed by one and all, both in our small group of bridge players and friends, but the entire bridge and golf community in NOTL.

A few weeks before his passing, during one of our Wednesday afternoon sessions, the topic of Heaven came up during a break in the action. Rex opined that maybe we are in Heaven now. Subsequently, he wrote this poem:

Heaven

by Rex Williams

Life surely can be very good, spouse, family, and friends
Lots of love with fun and laughter.
But what awaits when this long journey ends?
Will there be life hereafter?
And if allowed through Heaven's door
Will we be with parents kin and cousins,
Meet again those we've known before?
Friends and Relatives by the dozens.
In Heaven will we get to eat?
Perhaps drink, a hearty ale,
Guinness would be quite hard to beat.
Prefer a beer that's not too pale,
And is the game I love played there?
If I could then I would pick it,
Do referees make sure it's fair,
What would it cost me for a ticket?
Are there hills and streams all to enjoy?
Are we able to go fishing?
Many things I loved as a little boy.
Or is this just wishful thinking?

Are there mountains, woods, beautiful terrain?
Will we be able to ride a bike?
Is it always sunny or does it rain?
Can we swim or take a hike?
Is there music, singing, funny jokes?
Are we able to go dancing?
Can we get together with friendly blokes?
One's pleasure thus enhancing.
As I contemplate this path unknown
A future all must accept,
With no value to things that we now own,
Now really what did we expect?
Enjoy the woods, streams, the babes in arms,
Pause and take pleasure in this life that's certain,
The woods, the streams, the babes in arms,
They've yet to drop that final curtain.
Perhaps there is a Heaven very near
And we need to wake and smell the roses,
It could be with us right here,
Beneath our very noses.

We will long remember what a privilege it has been to know Rex. *Wednesday Bridge Group*: Ron Ashenhurst, Tom Letson, Bob Olley, John Christie, Keith Grimble, Chris Gosling, Verne Chant, Dale Daniels, John Long, John McCallum, Mike Henry, Dan Taylor, Patrick MacNeill, Doug Newman, Bill McEachern, John Sitch, Robert McGrath, Paul McHoull, Herman Fontyn, Bob Goodwin, Ivan Eaton, Alfred Mouget, Andy Fisher *"There are no goodbyes. Wherever you will be, you will be in our hearts."* Gandhi

Garrison Village residents want on-street parking

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Garrison Village needs on-street parking, residents told Niagara-on-the-Lake council at the committee of the whole meeting Monday.

Two Village residents, Jane Chapell and George Scott, said they were concerned with the recent hike in ticketing in the neighbourhood and that parking was never an issue in the area.

The Village, which has a "new urbanism" design

features, has smaller lots with rear garages accessed via laneways, minimal front yards and narrower streets aimed to calm traffic. The design was approved by the town council and residents bought their homes thinking they were allowed to park on streets, Chapell said.

"We're opposed to ... ticketing for the sake of ticketing," she said. "We need a solution that will work for everyone."

The current bylaw prohibits overnight parking from

2 a.m. to 6 a.m. and limits street parking to a maximum of 12 hours.

She also said many garages are undersized and can't accommodate larger cars. One resident has a mobility issue and has difficulty getting in or out in a small garage, she said. One neighbour has an adult son starting school at Willowbank so now it's a "three-car family." Another neighbour left on a trip, leaving cars in their garage, so their pet sitter has to park on the

street, she said.

"Many residents are feeling stressed and harassed by nightly patrols," Chapell told council.

She suggested removing the overnight parking prohibition, extending a 12-hour parking limit to 48 or 72 hours and using discretion in issuing a ticket.

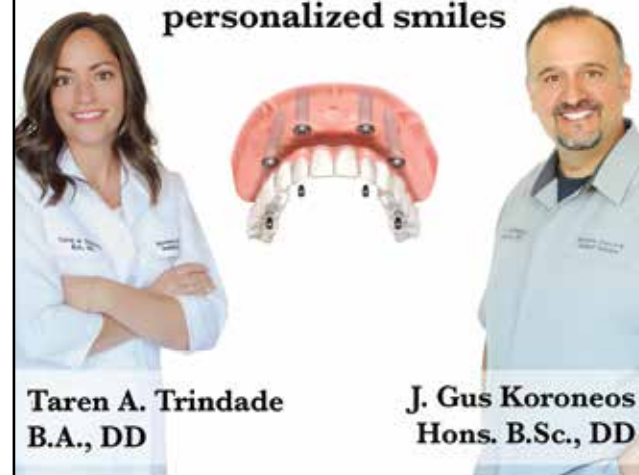
Coun. Wendy Cheropita, who lives in Garrison Village, said there are only a couple of cars parked on the

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MORE LETTERS

Town, region letting us down of road and cycling infrastructure

Dear editor:

There have been many useful and interesting letters of late about cycling in our town. I am encouraged that the level of discourse has been high from both sides of the coin.

Having said that, there is an ever-increasing problem in town with the interaction of cyclists, pedestrians and, oh, motorized vehicles. Sidewalks used as bikeways, pedestrians with nowhere to walk, and drivers frustrated by bikes seemly everywhere, and "in the way" all the time.

Now, I'm not going to pretend that any one of these three groups are always fully law-abiding and respectful of each other, but neither can one group be painted any worse than the other.

It is true that tensions are rising and education on road use by and for all is a good start. The letters here have helped at least to move forward the discussion. One letter last week struck a particular chord for me ("Town, region need to implement more safety measures for cyclists"). It mentioned a section of Mississauga at Anderson Lane. I thought, actually, the entirety of Mississauga/ Stone Road / 55, and particularly the sections in Old Town from Virgil to Queen Street, are very unfriendly to both cyclists and pedestrians and, indeed, motorists alike.

In the past few years this corridor has become home to three cycling companies,

a new public school and soon a major new medical centre. As well as what is, for Niagara-on-the-Lake, explosive growth in the Virgil business district.

What has not happened is the town and the region have not kept up with appropriate infrastructure for all street users.

I focus on the Mary Street to Queen Street sections as an example of the neglect all users have experienced. There are almost no sidewalks except for the short section from Mary to Centre Street on the east side (and a little stub down by Queen). It ends unceremoniously in a ditch and a poorly maintained drain, with cracked and heaved pavement and frequent mud puddles, as the crossing on Mississauga.

I called the town to have this cleaned up in our muddy wet spring. They cleared the drain and ignored the sidewalk. I cleaned and edged the sidewalk myself, as I was told by a town functionary that since the school closed they were actively discouraging people from using this as a crossing. That's true – they attempted to erase the crossing marks on the road and took down the crossing signs.

I asked him how I was supposed to walk from my house on Centre Street, west side of Mississauga to the Avondale plaza. I asked him this three times. He could not answer – except to say, "We plan on more side-

walks." Oh really! In whose lifetime, as no date was provided?

I am reminded that near this intersection a few weeks back a pedestrian was mowed down and seriously injured. Poor street lighting and trees obstructing the few streetlights probably did not help the already bad situation here.

The road, of course, has no bike lanes and the very narrow shoulders are neither pedestrian- nor bike-friendly (those ditches again).

The short stretch of sidewalk that does exist has become a bike expressway and connects to the Mary Street sidewalk, also now a bike expressway itself.

Mary Street has bike lanes but they just fade out before the King and Mississauga intersections. Who thought that was a good idea? It's astonishing that at the busy Avondale plaza cyclists lose their lanes and are forced to fend for themselves, by merging into traffic unprotected by any cycling infrastructure whatsoever. It's no wonder so many choose the one sidewalk instead, then cross mid-block to get back to the bike rental shop.

The town and the region have failed all of us. They are not providing the modern amenities of Complete Streets, (yes, that's a thing), which provide safe areas for all users.

They need to urgently build bike lanes on Mississauga/ Stone Road / 55. They need to complete

existing bike lanes on Mary. They need to install sidewalks on both sides of Mary and on all of Mississauga/ Stone Road / 55, from Queen to at least Anderson Lane. They need to improve and maintain the street lighting.

They need to install bike boxes (yes, that's a thing, too), or bike through/ turning lanes and cycling priority lights, at the Mary and Mississauga and King and Mary intersections. They need to build more vehicle turning lanes on 55 along with slower and consistent speeds and synchronize the traffic lights in Virgil. They need to build more on-road bike lanes on all of 55. As a minimum, signage and "sharrows" (shared-lane arrows on the pavement), to improve cycling safety and awareness for the short term.

There is much to be done and some of this is new and all is expensive to implement. But until the town and region can adopt a Complete Streets plan. The safety and sanity of all road users will be compromised in these very busy corridors. No amount of good discourse will keep us safe and content on our streets, until those streets provide the modern amenities we need today.

It's your turn now, lord mayor. Many of your citizens have spoken out but you have been a bit too Stone Road quiet.

Bill Talbot
NOTL

Trudeau critique was full of propaganda

Dear editor:

George Warkentin's letter to the editor, "Not a fan of Justin Trudeau," (Sept. 5), was full of propaganda against the prime minister and included a combination of selective excerpts and misrepresentations. This is similar to the behaviour of far-right hate mongers and U.S. President Donald Trump when he tweets.

I have a few rebuttals:

1. Balancing the budget: Our federal deficit to GDP ratio is medium compared to other OECD countries.
2. Aga Khan and SNC Lavalin: No broken laws. I trust Trudeau lobbied Aga Khan's peaceful, Canadian Ismaili Shia Muslims to increase their pressure against genocidal Shia Syrians and Shia-Sunni wars.
3. New justice minister bowed to pressure and ordered guilty (2001-2011) SNC Lavalin to trial. Multi millions in fines, same for DPA as trial, but the company can't bid on government contracts – so it could leave Canada .
4. \$10.5 million to Omar Khadr: Our independent judiciary ordered compensation for the unlawful U.S. jailing and torture of the Canadian teen soldier during the Afghan War.
5. Trudeau owned up to the mistake inviting Canadian Sikh found guilty of attempted murder to dinner in India and costuming error.
6. Many Muslims, Hai-

tians and other "illegals" rushed our border because Trump persecuted them. It is now better controlled.

7. Planned Parenthood services have been rationed by Trump under pressure from hateful, un-Christian "evangelicals."

8. Dictatorship is not desirable but it can be more efficient. Communists and fascists are increasing around the world. It is difficult to negotiate between our two largest trading partners – USA and China. Both are pursuing 5C capitalism i.e. conservative, competitive, capitalistic commerce, at all cost. Beijing is worse – increasingly sadistic, ignoring the UN, and Canadian and international law – and fighting the USA to see who can buy up Canada. I think Trudeau and MPs and cabinet ministers (especially women like Freeland, McKenna, Bennett etc.) are doing a good job fighting for democracy and fairness for all with kindness.

I hope our new government will reverse the increased wage gap due to 5C and work to prevent and treat global warming.

Elizabeth Oliver-Malone
NOTL



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

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The Lake Report



Pauline Reimer Gibson
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New fire chief Nick Ruller is one busy guy

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

With four children from six to nine years old, Nick Ruller jokes that he doesn't have a lot of down time.

Coupled with his new job as the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's fire chief, he probably will have even less.

The town announced last Thursday morning that Ruller was promoted to fire chief and community emergency management coordinator, effective immediately. When fire chief Rob Grimwood left the position this summer, Ruller, his deputy, was named acting fire chief.

Ruller says he is excited about his new role.

"To have the support of council and the support of town staff and our firefighters to continue in the same direction is encouraging," he told The Lake Report.

Ruller grew up in NOTL after his family had immigrated to Canada from New Zealand. Being the youngest child in the family, he says he's a "people's person at a core" and a social individual who has always enjoyed helping others.

He first started with NOTL Fire & Emergency Services as a volunteer firefighter in Old Town in 1999.

In 2001, he was hired by the Toronto Fire Service and was a full-time fire-

fighter there while continuing to volunteer in NOTL and commuting to Toronto for work. He eventually moved to live in Toronto with his family.

Being a career firefighter in a bigger city comes with a higher call volume, Ruller says, and the wide range of situations he had to deal with provided him with "good experience in a short amount of time."

One of the biggest and most dangerous incidents he recalls is working at the scene of a massive explosion at Sunrise Propane in Downsview in 2008. The blast was heard 10 kilometres away and firefighters from all over the city were called to the scene.

"We actually attended all the way from the downtown core to Downsview for that, which was a major incident," he says.

Ruller returned to NOTL in 2013. A year later, he joined NOTL fire department again, serving as a volunteer firefighter and a lieutenant from 2014 to 2017.

He became deputy fire chief in 2017.

Having known Grimwood for 20 years, Ruller says it was a great opportunity to learn from his predecessor.

The NOTL fire department has made a lot of progress over the past two and a half years, he says, and there aren't many specific



Nick Ruller is the new fire chief at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

challenges the service is facing right now.

Being in highly emotional and tense situations where he must make informed decisions with little information is the most challenging part of the job, Ruller says. In addition, working in a local community, where his family and friends live, can also be tough.

One situation that stands out came in 2017 when a NOTL volunteer firefighter was involved in a car crash. Trapped in his vehicle, he wasn't discovered until the next morning.

"It's challenging for everybody. You talk about difficult calls and you really don't know what you're walking into day-to-day," Ruller says. "We were blessed by the fact that someone had heard him and was able to call for help."

But the most rewarding part of his job is helping people in need, he says.

With 110 firefighters and six staff – including two fire prevention officers, a fire training officer, an administrative assistant – and 15 pieces of heavy fire appara-

tus operating from five stations, all under his control, Ruller admits he feels a bit of pressure. But he says he's lucky to have so many experienced, quality volunteers and staff to rely on.

"It's very unique to work in an organization that is driven by something other than financial reward," he says. "It's encouraging."

He says he enjoys taking academic programs, noting he'd like to pursue another graduate program in the future.

Ruller graduated from a public administration and governance program at Ryerson University and has a master's degree in leadership from the University of Guelph.

In addition to several National Fire Protection Association certifications, he also has a graduate certificate in community preparedness and disaster management from the University of North Carolina.

The town will also be looking to fill the deputy fire chief position in the upcoming months, he says.

Parking was never an issue before, residents say

Continued from Page 5

street and not all cars get ticketed.

"It doesn't appear to be a parking issue in the Village at all. It seems to be more specifically a neighbour problem," she told council. "I would hate to see us jump to killing a mosquito with a nuclear bomb when it may be a real simple solution."

Coun. Norm Arsenault made a motion to ask staff to bring back any reports and data related to the Village from 2016-2017 and come back with a holistic approach on how to solve the parking issue.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said there are no "preconceived notions."

"This has been a long time coming but I want us

to make a thoughtful, educated decision," she said.

In January 2017, following concerns from Garrison Village residents in regard to an overnight parking prohibition in their neighbourhood, the previous council approved a staff recommendation to conduct a parking survey in the Village.

Staff then came back with the survey results in

April 2017 recommending amending the parking bylaw and removing the overnight parking prohibition.

"It should be noted that the 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. parking prohibition has been rendered obsolete, as in keeping with the town's noise bylaw, routine maintenance is no longer conducted at night," the staff report said.

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Linda Anderson-Kozik, Sandy Sullivan, Judy Mantle and Dawn Jacot enjoy the Moonlight Picnic at the Pumphouse Arts Centre. PAUL JACOT/SUBMITTED

Pumphouse's Moonlight Picnic a sell-out success

Paul Jacot
Special to The Lake Report

The third annual Moonlight Picnic fundraiser for the Niagara Pump-house Arts Centre sold out early again this year as more than 400 people attended the popular event held last Friday at the Pumphouse.

Lise Andreana, chair of the Pumphouse board of directors and co-ordinator of the event, said the night is so popular because it is unique – people bring their

own food to tables outside the arts centre for the picnic.

She added that the evening really appeals to locals because it's like an old-fashioned gathering of friends and neighbours. "Our board members and many volunteers worked hard to put it all together," she said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake band Back in the Daze brought the picnickers to their feet dancing to the Eagles, Bruce Springsteen, the Beatles and other hits from the '60s and '70s.

Community helps farm worker send soccer balls to Jamaican schools

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Prophet Elisha Steele has kicked community support into action and is sending 23 soccer balls to schools back home to Jamaica.

The soccer balls were purchased with excess money raised for roll down cricket matting for the migrant workers' cricket team to play and practise on.

Fundraising for the mat was initiated by Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen owner Aziz Anjum, who offered to donate \$500 of the almost \$2,000 needed to purchase the mat, if the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project and the players could raise the rest.

The organization raised \$2,600 in total, with support from Bikes for Farmworkers, Jamaica National Money Services, the Hawley family, and farm workers and volunteer supporters who attend Sunday night services at Grace United Church.

The 23 soccer balls were



Ken Eden, of Bikes for Farmworkers, Jamaican farm worker Prophet Elisha Steele, Dave Pritchard and Carol Miller, Caribbean Workers Outreach Project board members, with the 23 soccer balls that will be sent to Jamaican schools. BRITTANY CARTER

presented to Steele on Monday afternoon at Gaio Farm on Concession 1 where he has been working seasonally for more than 20 years. He said he has been sending soccer balls back to Jamaica for about as long as he has been coming to NOTL to work.

He is passionate about helping the kids back home,

he said, and has always been eager to support them any way he can.

"This endeavour is remarkable to me because it demonstrates how two organizations and the workers themselves co-operate to not only benefit themselves but to share it with kids in Jamaica," said Nancy King, a longtime member of the

Caribbean Workers Outreach Project.

Steele said he will cover the cost of sending the balls to Jamaica. He will be returning home before the end of the month and said he's looking forward to seeing friends and family again for a few months before likely coming back for another season.

Investigation of drive-by shooting in St. Davids continues, police say

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara Regional Police are continuing their investigation into a targeted drive-by shooting in a quiet St. Davids neighbourhood.

Investigators are seeking at least two men after four shots were fired at a house on 31 Kenmir Ave. No one was home at a time of the shooting and only the exterior of the house was damaged, police said.

The property was owned by Francesca Pasco as of 2015, public records from the Ontario land registry office show.

The house was sold for \$1.3 million on Aug. 28 to a couple who had not yet moved in at the time of the shooting.

Police said the shooter was a rear passenger in an older,



The exterior of a house on 31 Kenmir Avenue, which was targeted in drive-by shooting last Sunday, was damaged. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

possibly early 2000s, four-door silver Volkswagen Golf. The car had a light blue patch on the front passenger door and the front silver rims are different than the rear silver rims, police said.

The car was seen in the neighbourhood several hours before the shooting, the investigators said.

"While there were no in-

juries, detectives believe this was a targeted event," police said in a statement.

No reason or motive for the shooting is known and police are not releasing any details.

Anyone with information is asked to contact detectives at 905-688-4111, dial option 3, badge #9361.

- with files from Kevin MacLean

NOTL Hydro holds open house on project to bury power lines

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro has launched a 14-year project to bury overhead lines underground and town residents are invited to an open house to learn more about the project.

A presentation about the plan will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 3 p.m. in the Mori Room at the NOTL Community Centre.

NOTL Hydro has been doing conversion projects in some parts of the town, like Queenston and Chautauqua, since the late 1980s. Old Town is the last area to be done, said hydro president Tim Curtis.

The 14-year conversion project will start on John-



NOTL Hydro president Tim Curtis. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

son Street this fall. Next year, it will move to Gate Street. Each section takes about a month to complete. The project will cost about \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year.

The voltage in the overhead lines in Old Town will increase to 27,600 volts from the current voltage of 4,000 volts.

"There's always a bit of a mess," Curtis commented on the project's impact on residents. "Some people are bit fussed by that, so that's understandable."

Instead of overhead lines, there will be transformer boxes which make the street look "nicer, cleaner," he said.

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Palliative Care **gearing up** for Healing Cycle ride at St. Mark's church

Bonnie Bagnulo
Special to The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative care is gearing up to participate in this year's Healing Cycle ride fundraiser Sept. 15.

During the Healing Cycle Ride, the funds raised by palliative care teams like NOTL Palliative Care are directed back to their own specific organizations. These funds allow our organization to provide all five communities of NOTL — Old Town, Queenston, Virgil, St. Davids and Glendale — with free services, including: trained visiting volunteers who provide companionship and respite; equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs, and commodes. We also have bereavement services, and multitudes of resources for seriously ill people.

One ride will take place in Mississauga, on Sunday, Sept. 15. This will be our seventh year our team of five riders will participate in the ride.

For the first year ever, a ride will also take place in NOTL, from St. Marks

church in Old Town to St. Saviour's church in Queenston, and back. The ride starts at 9 a.m.

Thanks to the generous donations from people in this community we hope to reach our goal of \$15,000.

As we prepare, it's not too late to add your donation.

To donate, visit www.thehealingcycle.ca; find the "Donate to a Rider" button (top right of page), or find a friend who is riding and fill out a donation form. All cash and cheque donations will be collected and presented directly to the Niagara on the Lake Palliative Care Service. Donations of \$25 or more will receive a tax receipt.

Anyone who needs help finding a rider to support can contact Tim Taylor at 905-468-2536, or by email at timothyntaylor1949@gmail.com. If you would like to participate, but don't have a bicycle, Vino Velo in Virgil will lend you one. Just ask Taylor to arrange it.

For information about local palliative care services, you can call 905-468-4433 or visit www.notlpc.com



Rachel DeBon rode for four hours and Terri Ulley joined in to raise money for Palliative Care on Thursday.
BRITTANY CARTER

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Wells of Hope fundraiser supports people in Guatemala

Scott Maxwell
Anneliese Huizinga
Special to The Lake Report

For anyone who doesn't know about Wells of Hope, it is a Niagara-based charity that drills water wells and builds schools and other infrastructure in Guatemala, so that people in small towns and villages have access to clean drinking water.

This season's projects continued in the Santa Maria mountains of Jalapa, Guatemala, with the goal of drilling two wells. We're happy to say we've doubled that goal this season, successfully drilling four wells. In the last 15 years, Wells of Hope has

drilled 28 wells, which have benefitted more than 80,000 people in Jalapa.

Wells of Hope is able to achieve all its goals, and then some, thanks to the continuous support of its grassroots in the Niagara Region and throughout Canada. One of our major fundraisers is our annual Passion event, which takes place this Friday, Sept. 13, from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Chateau des Charmes in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Tickets are \$75, and all proceeds of the event go towards Wells of Hope projects.

Attendees — in addition to finding out more



Volunteers move adobe blocks for building houses.
SUPPLIED PHOTO

about what Wells of Hope has accomplished in the last year — will be able to savour food from different local restaurants, including the Prince of Wales, Queen's Landing and Pillar and Post Hotels, Canyon Creek, PigOut, Con Gusto Artisan Bakery, Grounds for Hope Café, and Il Gelato di Carlotta.

Those in attendance can also sip Chateau des Charmes wines, Oast beer

and Niagara College beer and cider, while being entertained by the acclaimed Ron Dewberry.

There will also be a silent auction.

Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.niagarapassion.com. Any questions can be answered by calling 1-866-392-3530 or emailing us at water@wells-of-hope.com.

Scott Maxwell is the board chair of Wells of Hope.

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2019 Rising Spirits Creative Writing Contest

The NOTL Writers' Circle is happy to announce the 2019/20 Rising Spirits Creative Writing contest is now open. The competition invites Ontario residents to submit their short stories (fiction and non-fiction) and poetry.

Winners will have their work published in our annual anthology and be presented with awards and prizes at the Awards Celebration which will be held on Sunday, February 23rd at The Old Winery in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We are excited to announce that our judge for this year's contest is Brian Henry, celebrated book editor, writer, creative writing instructor, and publisher of Canada's most popular blog for writers - Quick Brown Fox. Mr. Henry will also provide feedback for the pieces submitted by the winners.

Cash prizes for 4 Writing Categories (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, and Youth)

- 1st Place - \$250
- 2nd Place - \$100
- 3rd Place - \$50

Over the past seven years, The Rising Spirits Awards Celebration has grown into an extraordinary community event with storytelling, music, wine, and special guest speakers.

Contest details and entry forms are available at: www.notlwriterscircle.com

Deadline for submissions is October 31st, 2019.

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<p>15</p> <p>Terry Fox Run - 9 a.m. - Simcoe Park</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Beer and Books: Educated - 7 p.m. - Old Winery Restaurant</p> <p>Council Meeting - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Tumble Tots - 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Theatrical Cemetery Tour - 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society and Museum</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre, 382 Airport Rd. -</p>	<p>24</p> <p>NOTL Horticultural Society Sept. Meeting - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - 12 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:00 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>NOTL Toastmasters House - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - College NOTL Campus</p> <p>German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<p>12</p> <p>NOTL Golf Classic Tournament - 10:30 a.m. - Royal Niagara Golf Club</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>The White Effect Dinner - 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Queenston Heights</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Niagara Grape & Wine Festival - All Day -</p> <p>Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>Mori Gardens Fall Garden Seminar Series: The Magic of Bulbs - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens</p> <p>Mori Gardens Fall Garden Seminar Series: Create your own garden design - 1 p.m. - Mori Gardens</p> <p>Icewine Martini Party - 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - 9 Weatherstone Ct.</p>	
1 p.m.	<p>18</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Theatrical Cemetery Tour - 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society and Museum</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>Theatrical Cemetery Tour - 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society and Museum</p> <p>Lino Block Printing: Wearable Art Workshop - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p>	
1 p.m.	<p>25</p> <p>Special Open - Niagara</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>26</p> <p>NOTL Community Wellness Committee Public Forum - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Culture Days: Fay and Fluffy's Drag Queen Story Time - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Theatrical Cemetery Tour - 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society and Museum</p> <p>St. Davids Fall Fair - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. Davids Public School</p>

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‘Without lights, I didn’t feel safe’

Lights for Bikes project brightens the way for farm workers

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A Virgil company’s generous plan to outfit the bikes of migrant farm workers with safety lights has turned into a community event.

Dubbed Lights for Bikes, the project has seen more than 250 bikes equipped with front and rear lights following the hit-and-run death of a migrant worker who was struck by a truck while walking along a rural road at night.

The project, at Phil’s Valu-Mart for the past two Thursdays, was organized by Richard Mell, Ian Mell and Diane Shaw, co-owners of Grape Escape Wine Tours, with the help of family members and volunteers.

“All three of us are just really, really proud this seems to be going so well and there’s a lot of support from the community,” Mell told The Lake Report. “Everybody thinks it’s a positive thing ... It’s starting to take off bigger than we expected initially.”



Andrew Abrams and Terry Constantini of the Silks Raiders baseball team install lights at the second Lights for Bikes event last Thursday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

And Mell hasn’t stopped there. Because there were a lot of farm workers who didn’t have their bikes with them at a time of the event, Mell said his team plans to visit various farms this week to install more lights. Mell said the company

spent about \$2,000 on 500 lights for 250 bikes.

Coun. Norm Arsenaunt, who is also a member of the town’s safety committee, was on hand helping to install lights. He said bike safety is an issue he’ll be bringing up at the next com-

mittee meeting.

The committee has previously developed a bike map and an app, and it also organizes an annual Bike Safety Rodeo in collaboration with the Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group.

Ruper Rhoden, a farm

worker who had lights installed on his bike, said he now feels safer riding at night.

“Without lights, I didn’t feel safe,” he said. “Now, it’s much better.”

Some members from the Silks Raiders baseball team,

who play in Virgil, came out to show their support to the community — and to Grape Escape, which sponsors the team, said team’s captain Trevor Legault.

“We play baseball around the corner so we’re pretty closely tied to the Virgil area,”

Several NOTL residents also stopped by to have lights installed on their bikes.

Grape Escape tour guide Graham Chaytor said the event was organized to promote bike safety to everybody.

“And making sure these folks (farm workers) at the end of their season can go home to their families and not end up at the hospitals or worse,” Chaytor said.

“Because we’ve all encountered them on the road and they’re hard to see. And anything to make them a little bit easier to spot is the right thing to do.”

Mell and the folks at Grape Escape will be back at Phil’s Valu-Mart this Thursday, Sept. 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to install more lights.



A wreath at the 9/11 memorial service Wednesday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

9/11 memorial service held at Old Town cenotaph

A memorial service was held near the clock tower on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake Wednesday to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks and pay tribute to those who lost their lives or were affected by the tragedy. Several officials, including Lord Mayor Betty Disero, NOTL chamber of commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue, Niagara Falls MP Rob Nicholson and Shannon Mitchell representing Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates, made speeches at the ceremony. Members of the NOTL Fire & Emergency fire department, Niagara Regional Police and Niagara Emergency Medical Services were on hand, too. “To remember this day is important to us, as first responders and as a country, a nation, a world,” Kevin Smith, Niagara EMS chief, told The Lake Report. Royal Oak Community School students, from senior kindergarten to Grade 8, attended the service. Joe Mangiacasale, the school’s primary teacher, said they’ve been bringing children to this event for five years now. “(We) want to make sure the next generation has an appreciation for what happened,” he said.



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Canopy Growth appealing town cannabis bylaw

Continued from Front Page

working relationship with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake,” Sinclair said. “This appeal is our way of officially communicating concerns we have with the interim control bylaw to the town. We look forward to continuing a collegial dialogue on those matters.”

In June, council extended the existing interim control bylaw for one more year. It prohibits new cannabis operations and expansions anywhere in town.

In the meantime, the town’s cannabis committee, comprised of councillors Wendy Cheropita, Stuart McCormack and Erwin Wiens, has been working on creating a draft bylaw, which was presented to council Monday.

The draft bylaw states any cannabis facility should only operate in an industrial-designated zone and have an odour prevention protocol to mitigate any smells. Any visible lighting should be restricted during night hours. The

facility must be set back at least 250 metres from neighbouring properties, residential or commercial development zones, public or private schools, day nursery, places of worship, designated heritage building or district.

According to the staff report, the only industrial lands in NOTL are located in the Glendale Community Zoning District.

Town staff recommended council adopt official plan and zoning bylaw amendments to regulate cannabis cultivation and send the report to the town’s legal counsel for review.

Disero said she would support the staff report and urged councillors to adopt the new bylaw.

“If we lose the interim control bylaw, we have nothing in place,” Disero said, noting council would waste time sending the report to its lawyer and arguing over what should be done instead of adopting the bylaw.

“The only thing that protects us at this moment is

the interim control bylaw. If it’s challenged, if we lose that challenge, then we have nothing in its background in effect that would replace it automatically,” she said.

Restricting the location of cannabis operations also can be challenged to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, the staff report said.

When explaining the rationale behind limiting cannabis cultivation to industrial zones only, Cheropita said it was to protect the “tender fruit, food and grape and wine industry.”

“Cannabis doesn’t require good soil,” Cheropita told councillors. “Cannabis is considered part of agriculture but it’s treated differently because it does require legal approvals ... It was all about protecting food sources and our agricultural crops.”

If the bylaw is approved by council, prohibiting cannabis cultivation in all agricultural areas can be challenged as non-consistent with provincial

policy and as not conforming with the Greenbelt Plan, according to the report.

Health Canada issues licences to producers selling cannabis for medical purposes. For producers wishing to open a retail store and sell cannabis for recreational purposes, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario issues the licence.

In addition, the Farming and Food Production Protection Act states no bylaw can restrict a normal farm practice carried on as part of an agricultural operation.

“If you’re trying to regulate cannabis or any particular crop, you’re exposing yourself to some risk of having the bylaw struck down,” Craig Larmour, the town’s director of community and development service, told the council.

The committee of the whole deferred making a decision on the draft bylaw to the next council meeting on Monday, Sept. 16.

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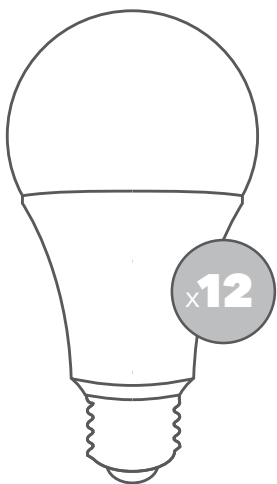
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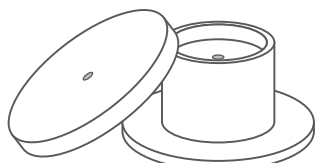
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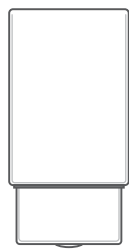
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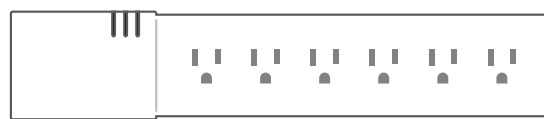
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Have some fun

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@niagaranow.com

- Across**
 9 Hair cleaner (7)
 10 German measles (7)
 11 Chatter (7)
 12 Anxious (7)
 13 Emphasize (9)
 15 Astonish (5)
 16 Decent (11)
 20 First prime minister of India (5)
 22 Chinese revolutionary leader (3,3-3)
 24 Type of chair (7)
 26 Poorly matched (7)
 27 Demolish (7)
 28 Cooking vessel (7)
- Down**
 1 Sterile (7)
 2 Largest desert (6)
 3 On an upper floor (8)
 4 Depression from lack of company (10)
 5 Make beer or ale (4)
 6 Spain and Portugal (6)
 7 Last (8)
 8 Walked like a duck (7)
 14 Put out (10)
 16 Practise (8)
 17 Wrist band (8)
 18 Indefinite person (7)
 19 Fishermen (7)
 21 Yet to arrive (6)
 23 Squalid (6)
 25 Supporting ropes (4)

Crossword Puzzle

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


Last issue's answers

I	S	L	E	S	N	T	R	A	S	H		
T	V	S	P	E	L	L	E	A				
T	R	O	I	K	A	E	A	R	M	O	U	R
E	C	L	Y	R	I	C	I	N				
M	A	R	T	H	A	K	E	N	Y	A	N	
M	D	R	A	M	A	I						
C	L	A	W	E	D	D	E	S	I	G	N	
E	A	R	U	M	B	A	C	E	R			
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G	O	I	O	N	I	C	L	Y				
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O	T	T	E	R	N	T	E	N	D	S		

Sudoku

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


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Fry sizzles with 2-under 34

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Daryl Fry's hot streak on the links continued as he shot a 2-under 34 on Sept. 3 to win low gross honours in WOOFs league play at the NOTL Golf Club. A week earlier Fry rolled to an even-par 36 to also win low gross.

Hidden hole winner was John Hinchley and Glen

Murray was closest to the pin on #4. Peter Danakas won the 50/50 draw (\$58).

Men's league: Mark Derbyshire dominated play on Sept. 5, with a 3-under 33. He also won two gross skins (#1, #9, \$25 each), and closest to the pin (#1). Other winners: Gross skin: Sean Simpson (#5). Closest to pin: Ron Newman (#4), Paul Jacot (#7), Brian McKillop (#9). Long drive: Jeff



Golfers at the NOTL Golf Club. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Jacques (#3), Ted Carmichael (#8). A flight winner: Paul Shelestowsky (24 points). 50/50: Glen McKillop (25 points). B



The Shaw's cricket team came home victorious after its annual match vs. Stratford. KERRY ANN DOHERTY

Steve Ferley
Special to The Lake Report

The Shaw Festival's cricket team notched a comprehensive win in its annual fixture with the team from the Stratford Festival.

Batting first, Shaw posted 189 for 3 off their 40 overs.

Artistic director and opening bat Tim Carroll also directed the Shaw's cricket performance with 54 from the full 40 overs.

Ryan de Souza contributed a further 71 not out.

Stratford was dismissed for only 81 with Andre Sills taking four wickets and de Souza another three.



John Duffy plays hickory golf at NOTL Golf Club last Saturday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Club president Ted Vanderkoy presents awards as the NOTL Rangers soccer season wraps up. JAYME CAMPBELL/SUBMITTED

The Lake Report

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When you're looking for a service or product, check the paper and try someone local first. There are a variety of great businesses inside to choose from – don't forget to mention you saw them in the paper!

The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper, whether through our donate button online or by mailing us a cheque. The paper encourages all residents to support the paper through a "voluntary subscription" annually.

For those interested in supporting us, we suggest \$1 per issue, per household, at 52 issues per year, which we strive to get to. That's only \$52 – less than most people spend on pizza and wings – and will help us grow to a weekly edition and ensure all households receive a copy.

Larger donations are also accepted and greatly appreciated. Donations of more than \$1,000 will receive a special thank you (it's top secret) and an exclusive limited edition Lake Report mug, as well as a copy of the first edition of the paper signed by Editor-in-Chief Richard Harley. (Limit of 100 special mugs)

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Vogue in the Vineyard will help charities, fashionably

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Fashion and wine will converge again this month for an annual charity event that's growing more and more popular each year.

Vogue in the Vineyard on Sept. 18 will be held at the McArthur estate at 210 John St., and is organized by Dorothy Olsthoorn, Linda Ridgway, Wilma Bald and Brenda McArthur.

The charitable fashion show started as a way for the four women to bring their passion for fashion to life while also giving back to the

community, Olsthoorn said. Four years ago, Vogue in the Vineyard was launched in the form of a small, 80-person showcase held inside the McArthur house, the former estate of artist Trisha Romance.

"Always fun to do something where women can collectively get together and have a lot of fun, but then at the same time it's a great way to support causes. Every year we're getting bigger and better, and obviously the dollars are bigger and better," Olsthoorn said of the money raised for charity.

As the event has grown to

attract people from all over, not just the Niagara Region, the fashion show was moved outdoors on the property last year. This year, Olsthoorn said she expects to reach the available capacity of 200 people.

Tickets are \$125, and \$100 from each ticket will go directly to the supported charities. This year the women are supporting Community Care and the Westview Centre 4 Women in St. Catharines.

The group is also asking people to bring their used clothes to donate to Women 4 Women.

"It's great to have a high-

level really curated display of fall fashion, in a larger sense. This is a big scale fashion show, which really doesn't happen too much any more. And it's a great way to have wine and lunch with friends," she said.

The event is sponsored by Trius Winery and real estate broker John Bald. Fashions will be provided by Queen's Fashion, Halley's Fashion for Men and Biba Boutique.

For tickets, contact Olsthoorn at queenfashion-musthaves@gmail.com or by stopping into Queen Fashion on Fourth Avenue in St. Catharines.



The McArthur House. BRITTANY CARTER

Writers' Circle: *The Gift* – Beth's betrayal

Hermine Steinberg
NOTL Writers' Circle

In the previous installments of The Gift, I shared the story of five friends who encountered a magical spirit. She gave them an enchanted tea that could transform the women to the idealized version of themselves at half their age. They were given three days to decide whether they would accept the gift. This is Beth's story.

It was 4 p.m. on Monday. The sun would fade into the horizon in less than an hour and with it, Beth's opportunity to transform. But she had no interest in starting her life over, again.

Beth had been hiding so many secrets, she was exhausted from trying to keep all the stories straight. She desperately wanted to tell Jack about the most recent and incredible one of all, but knew that would lead to their whole life unravelling, as one thread would slowly but surely pull apart the entire fabric of their lives.

Moving to this town had been the perfect opportunity to start over. She loved being Beth Vernon for the past three years. Riding the newcomer wave made it easy to fit in. Retirees wanting a simpler life in a picturesque setting, rich in culture, came from all over the world.

She met Jack a few months

after moving into her quaint cottage with a lake view. He was kind, attentive, and full of energy. Beth told him the story she had polished for all her new friends. She was a widow from Toronto who worked in the hospital industry. Her parents had passed and she never had the good fortune to have any children. Her husband had planned wisely, leaving her well provided for, which enabled her to retire early and travel the world.

Everyone saw Beth as an attractive, worldly and charming woman. No one would ever suspect that Beth had actually grown up on the streets of Vancouver where she sold drugs and sex to survive. After a short but successful career as a porn star by the name of Crystal Flare, she established a lucrative escort service targeting executives visiting the west coast. At one point, she had over 40 "companions" working for her and a client list that numbered in the thousands. That is, until she was arrested and served almost seven years in prison.

Crystal had been wise enough to build a nest egg that she hid in a Swiss bank account. Five million dollars was waiting for her. Crystal left the country and believed she had left her old life behind as well. Until Roger, one of her old clients, walked into



the Michelin three-star restaurant in the south of France that she now owned with her husband of five years. Roger threatened to destroy her new life and humiliate her husband. Instead she lured him to a seedy hotel near the port where she drugged him and then dropped his limp body into the sea. He was found weeks later by a fisherman but Crystal, who was then known as Gisele, was never suspected.

When Gisele's husband suddenly died from a heart attack, the entire community rallied around her. Everyone except their 25 years old maitre'd whom Gisele caught in the kitchen supply room with her husband, pants around his ankles. She could have forgiven him if it was

only sex. But they were in love.

Not being able to continue the business without her partner, she sold the restaurant for an unprecedented price. Gisele also sold their country house and apartment in Paris after she collected on his life insurance. All she wanted now was to find a place where she could lead a quiet life.

The memory triggered by her enchanted tea was the day she married Jack. As Beth, she finally felt content, safe and couldn't imagine giving up her carefully designed life for anything in the world.

When the crimson sun melted into the horizon, Beth pulled out the crystal decanter of Remy Martin Louis XIII Cognac. The \$40,000

bottle was filched from the wine vault of the restaurant before she handed over the keys to the new owners. Beth brought it with her to celebrate when she finally found her safe harbour.

She then went to her bedroom dresser where she had hidden the velvet pouch of tea. Beth opened the drawer and reached into the back corner. But it was gone. She frantically threw the entire contents on her bed. Out dropped an envelope with her name boldly printed in red on the front.

It was from Jack. "Don't bother trying to find me," was the first line. Jack had targeted her from the beginning. Beth was the perfect mark ... obviously hiding something. His friend was able to trace

her entire history with just her fingerprints and photo. People in her past lives were all too willing to talk.

And Jack's expertise as a hacker allowed him to track her every move, read every text and email, hear almost every conversation through her phone and computer. He not only knew all her aliases, bank accounts and passwords, but all about the enchanted tea, which he wrote, "was an unexpected and astonishing bonus."

The shock of Jack's betrayal left Beth catatonic. She sat motionless on the edge of her bed until her housekeeper found her days later. The ink on the letter had disappeared the night she read it. When the ambulance arrived, she was taken directly to the local psychiatric hospital.

A young man who claimed to be Jack's son arrived a few weeks later to sell the house. He told people his father had moved in with him. The proceeds would be put into a trust to take care of Beth. After grabbing the bottle of cognac from Beth's desk, he climbed into his cobalt blue Porche Speedster.

Jack looked into the mirror and smiled. "Hey, Peter Pan, build faith, extract trust, add a little pixie dust...and dreams can come true." He laughed out loud and drove away.c.

To be continued ...



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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



Simcoe Park bathrooms

Simcoe Park was once a different sort of place for town kids and adults to find entertainment in the summer and winter. For us kids there were large swings, a huge wooden slide and a heavy-duty wooden teeter totter. The dance hall, seen in this 1957 picture had live entertainment for dancers on Saturday nights through out the summer. On Sundays there was an outdoor bandstand with a piano, at which local crooners would entertain the towns people who brought their own chairs. In the winter, we had the best skating rink and slay ride hill's you could ask for.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



Considering the roof

Brian Marshall
Featured

I received a question from a reader who was curious about what kind of roof crowned his house, which he said had "almost a gable but sort of a hip." His question led me to realize that we have never explored roof forms; an oversight we'll remedy over the next couple of weeks.

Before we get to the forms, let's define roof pitch. In short, this refers to the angle or slope of a roof. In North America, this is most commonly expressed as a ratio of the number of inches a roof rises over a 12-inch horizontal run (distance).

So, if a roof rises more than eight inches over every



A clipped gable, clipped hip or jerkinhead roof. BRIAN MARSHALL

12 inches of horizontal run, it is considered a "high-pitch." A "medium-pitch" would be less than 8:12 but more than four inches of rise for every 12 inches of run, while a "low pitch" would be less than 4:12 but greater than two inches of rise for every 12 inches of run. And a flat roof (which properly built is not flat at all) has a slight slope of less than 2:12.

While most folks would readily recognize a gable roof, which has two sloping sides that come together at

the ridge to leave triangular extensions atop the end walls, and with equal ease identify the four slopes that rise to the ridge (or peak) of a hip roof, there are many other roof forms that have been used over the centuries.

Among the rarer roof styles happens to be on the house of our reader which, depending on where in North America you live, is called a Clipped Gable, Clipped Hip, English Hipped or (oddly) Jerkinhead.

Generally this form is only

found in Niagara on Arts & Crafts and Craftsman designs. Essentially it is a gabled roof on which a triangular section is introduced at right angles to the ridge at the apex of the gables; essentially 'clipping' the top of the gable.

In appearance it resembles an abbreviated hip which, I suppose, led to the Clipped Hip and English Hipped labels.

Next week we'll look at Gambrel, Mansard and other forms.



Yum - recipes

Local recipe book planned for 2019

The Lake Report is calling on all cooks, chefs, bakers and food enthusiasts in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We want your favourite family recipes, and the stories that go with them, to share with the community. Whether it's a special stew, soup, or salad; the best bread or muffins; or a decadent dessert, we'd like to hear from you!

We'd love it if you could include pictures of the food where possible, and of the family member who might have passed the recipe down. If there is any family folklore associated with the recipe, we'd love to hear that too. Maybe there's a certain occasion when it's always made, perhaps there's a funny or sad story to tell that relates to that particular recipe, or certain traditions that accompany it.

We will publish selected recipes regularly, and at the end of the year we'll compile all the recipes together as a book of NOTL family favourites. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to a local charity.

Please send your recipes, pictures and stories to: recipes@niagaranow.com

The top recipes will be published in an annual paperback book which will be available (in limited supply) to residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake at The Lake Report office. This year's book (title uncertain!) will be released in the coming months!

"Great responses from the article. We have been approached at least five times with 'hey, you're that guy in the paper.' One thing's for sure, everyone in town reads your paper front to back! Great use of our marketing funds and great article."

**- James Green
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John D. Larkin's Niagara legacy



Linda Fritz
Exclusive/The Lake Report

A drive in the rural area of Niagara-on-the-Lake may take you to Larkin Road. It is only one rural block long, and is located between Concessions 1 and 2. Line 4 is to the north and Line 5 to the south. A bed and breakfast and an organic winery, as well as private homes are situated there.

The road was named for John Durrant Larkin, a Buffalo businessman, who played an important part in the 20th-century building of the area around Queenston. There are a few legends surrounding Larkin's presence in the area, including references to iconic American architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

John Larkin, with his brother-in-law Elbert Hubbard, founded the Larkin Company, the manufacturer of Plain and Fancy Soaps. As their business grew, they expanded into mail order, one of the first American companies to do so.

At first, Larkin controlled the administration of his business himself; however, he reached a point where he needed help. He hired Darwin Martin, who streamlined his accounting and record-keeping system. Martin eventually became corporate secretary for the Larkin Company.

Tourists visiting Buffalo are often attracted to Darwin Martin's house, which is an American national historic landmark. Martin's brother had settled in Chicago and became acquainted with Frank Lloyd Wright. Martin liked Wright's work and had his home designed by the architect. It was built in the prairie style between 1903 and 1905. Later, Martin commissioned Wright to design his Lake Erie cottage, Greycliff.



A La Gallarie at 14902 Niagara Parkway. BRITTANY CARTER

With his company growing, Larkin decided that he needed a much larger office building. He turned to Martin for advice and Wright was hired to design his first major public work, the Larkin Administration Building. Built between 1904 and 1906, the building had many state-of-the-art features, including air-conditioning and built-in furniture. Unfortunately, it can only be seen in photographs today because it was demolished in 1950.

John D. Larkin's mother was Canadian. Larkin visited her family regularly and fell in love with the area on the western side of the Niagara River north of the falls. In 1900, he and his wife Hannah bought the riverside property Glencairn.

Located about a mile north of Queenston, Glencairn was built in 1832 for John Hamilton, the brother of Alexander, who was building Willowbank in the village at about the same time. The house faces the river, which was the main transportation artery at the time. Later in the decade

Hamilton built a school house on the property for his estate workers. Some believe that his 10 children also attended the school, which can still be seen on the property today.

By 1905, Larkin had added bathrooms and a wing containing a dining room. He also built a coach house and improved the grounds, where he added a tea house for Hannah's use. The garden was so attractive that Chicago writer Blanche Elizabeth Wade based her best-selling book "Garden in Pink" on it.

The house served mainly as a weekend retreat. Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the many visitors. He first came to stay in 1905.

In 1915, Larkin allowed the Canadian military to use Glencairn as a border post after two German spies were caught in the area. Larkin sold Glencairn to his daughter Ruth L. Robb and her husband in 1923, three years before his death. Members of the family continued to use it until the 1950s.

Behind the drystone wall

surrounding the property are three other houses. They include what was the caretaker's house and a large carriage house. Because it was known that Larkin was acquainted with Frank Lloyd Wright, some people believe he was involved in the design of these houses; however, a stamp on the carriage house names James A. Calvert as the builder.

Glencairn wasn't Larkin's only interest in Niagara. By 1901, he was expanding his Canadian business holdings. He bought three large farms consisting of 1,900 acres in total along what is now the Niagara River Parkway. They produced both fruit and vegetables as well as livestock.

In 1957, Ontario Hydro (today, Ontario Power Generation) opened the Sir Adam Beck II Generating Station, along with its reservoir at the top of the Niagara Escarpment. Under the reservoir are the 900 acres of Larkin's Mountain Farm. This farm had been managed by Queenston native Frank Digweed in the early part of

the 20th century. Digweed and his family lived in a house provided by Larkin.

A second farm just north of Queenston on the west side of the Parkway is now run as A la Gallarie bed and breakfast. Originally 200 acres, it was managed by a Mr. Ramsey. A two-storey farmhouse was provided for him. (The original house burned down in 2002. What you see today is a replica.) The farm's barns and concrete silos are original and can still be seen from the Niagara Parkway.

Although fruits and vegetables were always grown in the area, this farm also produced a herd of merino sheep. Larkin was apparently fond of suits made from the wool of the breed. Although the land has since been subdivided, the area is still used as farmland.

As people travel along the Niagara Parkway toward Old Town, they are sure to notice three almost square single-storey houses. These were built by Larkin for farm workers with families.

Besides the houses on the

Parkway, there are four more on Line 6. The 35-by-38-foot buildings had three bedrooms, three clothes presses (closets), a dining room, kitchen, living room, front and back porches, a full cellar and two barrel cisterns. Each also had its own garden plot. There were originally 24 such houses on the farms.

The buildings were constructed from concrete, in some cases, manufactured at the Queenston Quarry. Harold Usher, another well-known Queenstonian, ran the plant at the quarry for some years in the late 19th and early 20th century. Concrete was an important building material for Larkin because it was believed to be fireproof.

Again, because of Frank Lloyd Wright's connection to Larkin, there are people who think that these houses were in fact designed by Wright. They base their claim on a statement made by Wright's third wife and widow Olivianna Milanoff in her biography of her husband. In the index, she wrote that Wright designed "workman's cottages and row houses." While this may be true, they are not the concrete houses in Niagara. As with the carriage house near Glencairn, the more likely candidate is James A. Calvert. There is some evidence that he designed them as well.

John Durrant Larkin is a name most often associated with the heyday of Buffalo at the beginning of the 20th century. In spite of his business achievements, today, he is often thought of as a sidebar in the Darwin Martin/Frank Lloyd Wright story.

His presence in Niagara is also important. His progressive take on the welfare of his employees, as evidenced in his buildings and farms, speaks for itself. Although the farms no longer exist, so high was the quality of his workers' homes and agricultural buildings, they still stand today.

More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: www.niagaranow.com



COMMUNITY



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



Mani Singh, Lori Paterson, Heidi Howell-Guerin, Karen Post and Andrew Paterson decorate smile cookies for this year's campaign, which runs from Sept 16 to 22. BRITTANY CARTER

Tim's Smile Cookie campaign supports Red Roof Retreat

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Tim Hortons' Smile Cookie campaign is about to kick off and Red Roof Retreat will reap the benefits this year.

From Monday, Sept. 16 through Sunday, Sept. 22, all of the proceeds from the sale of each \$1 Smile Cookie will go to the Niaga-

ra-on-the-Lake charity.

Both Tim Hortons franchise locations owned by Lori and Andrew Paterson in Niagara-on-the-Lake, at 443 Mississagua St. and 1561 Niagara Stone Rd., are taking part. Cookies can be pre-ordered from either location by filling out an order form, which can be found online at timhortons.com.

Karen Post, part-time spe-

cial events co-ordinator for Red Roof, helped symbolically kick off the start of the campaign last Thursday morning at the Virgil Tim Hortons. Post drew pink smiles on cookies while team leader Heidi Howell-Guerin dotted the eyes.

"I used to own a bakery, so this is old-hat for me," Post said while adding the final touches to the cookies.

Paterson said she liked the idea of supporting Red Roof this year because she wanted to give back a little more locally.

"People like to see their money go back into the community," she added.

Tim Hortons franchises across Canada are participating in the Smile Cookie campaign.



The Golden Plunger With Betty and Jane NOTL Community Centre

The NOTL Community Centre is one of our favourite bathroom venues. It has it all. It's completely accessible, is a great match for the Sweets and Swirls Cafe, has no capacity problems and can handle large numbers. The bathrooms are family-friendly and on an extremely busy day when we visited, they were clean. Spotless, really. Niagara-On-The-Lake has some of the best-designed accessible bathrooms. However, many of these award-winning bathrooms' commitment to accessibility stops at the design level. We can't tell you how many wineries and restaurants meet all the design requirements of accessibility only to have someone decide a table or chair should be placed in the space needed to make it accessible. Or that a ramp is a good place to store chairs or that the accessible bathroom is in fact locked and used as staff locker space. It has been one of the great disappointments in our endeavours. We understand that in heritage buildings there is an argument to preserve and not change features that might compromise the integrity of the original architecture. However, when one of these buildings seeks permits to do a \$100,000 renovation, is it not reasonable to insist a percentage goes toward accessibility? New wineries pop up with kitchens and an abundance of tasting rooms and but sometimes their bathrooms are far from, and in a few cases there is not even an expectation to make the building accessible. The community centre bathrooms make us proud, not only with how they were built but with how they are managed. Kudos to Dan Makesuk for not only providing top-of-the-line Golden Plunge-calibre bathroom facilities for everyone, but for also making sure his staff were acknowledged for the effort. So, thanks to Craig Currie for making our community centre's washrooms an award-winning experience.

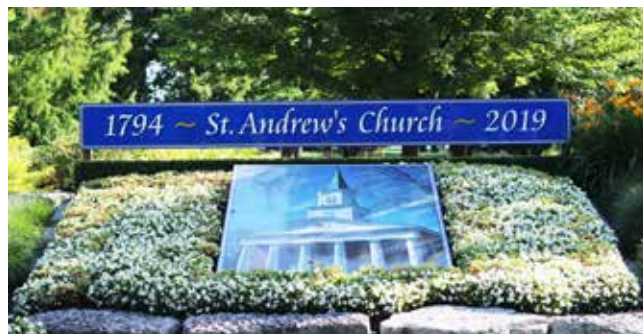
4/5 Gold Plungers



Pratima Bhatt, Special Olympics district developer, Andrea Bartal, athlete, and Nancy Bailey of Engel and Volkers NOTL. BRITTANY CARTER

Engel and Volkers celebrates grand opening in NOTL

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church celebrates 225 years



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church will celebrate 225 years serving the community from its Simcoe Street location, with an anniversary Sunday service this weekend. On Sept. 15, a guest preacher and local dignitaries will lead the 11 a.m. service in the newly refurbished sanctuary. St. Andrew's has been celebrating its anniversary throughout the year, alone and in partnership with the Niagara Historical Society and Museum and many other local organizations, a media release said.

RIDDLE ME THIS:

I am a ball that can be rolled,
but never bounced or thrown.
What am I?

I'm always in front of you but you can never see me. What am I?

Answer: The future

Answered first by: Cheryl House

Also answered correctly by: Christine Baxter, Richard Mell, Carol Watson, Julia Klassen, Marion Briston, Cheryl House, Evan Ganski, Jacob Willms, Rod Falk, Katie Reimer.

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



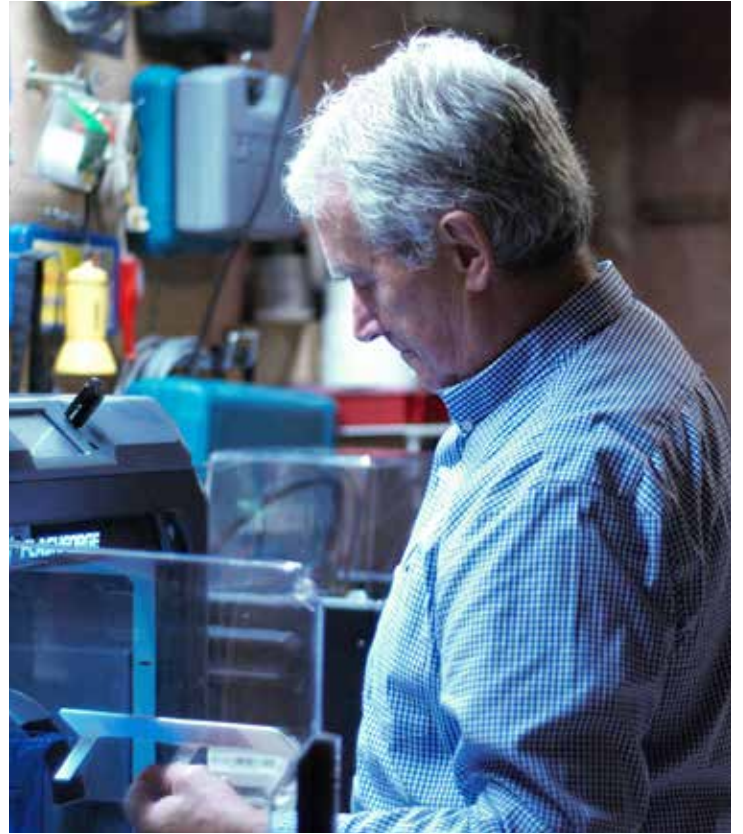
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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

Rene Bertschi seamlessly blends **engineering** and **art**



Left: Rene Bertschi flies a drone at Niagara Shores Park, filming for the Lake Report's shoreline documentary. RICHARD HARLEY Right: Bertschi pulls out recently finished Lake Report stands from his 3D printer. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

There's an art to engineering and Rene Bertschi has been exhibiting that art for years.

Local certified drone pilot and aerial photographer, and retired engineer and 3D printing aficionado, Bertschi demonstrates how engineering, photography and art can blend seamlessly together.

Bertschi, originally from Switzerland, says he has always been interested in bringing his designs to life. He spent most of his career as an engineer for a vacuum manufacturing company, where he says he derived pleasure from seeing a product take shape, from concept to design to a final finished product.

He eventually ran his own manufacturing company, Gammaflux Europe, which he sold off his shares for in 2012 when he retired and decided to move to NOTL.

Throughout his years in manufacturing he witnessed first-hand the change from metal moulding to

plastic in the industry, he says.

"I was the first when they switched from metal to plastic. That's how I got into plastic," Bertschi says.

So, it was only fitting he would fall into the 3D printing world when he discovered what could be done with the technology. He says he loved that he could create simple and complex items by taking his designs and adapting them for creation.

He first got a taste for 3D printing through the NOTL Public Library when a demonstration was held. After that he says he was hooked. He bought his own used machine so he could experiment more from home.

"The fun is in watching the design come to life."

Now, Bertschi says he enjoys showing the magic of 3D printing to his grandson, Griffin, who he says lights up at the idea of creating toys and objects in his basement.

"He just loves it. He wants to draw things, and he wants to create things, and then we print it for him.

So it's an education in two ways – a senior man and a young upcoming maybe engineer," Bertschi says.

Aside from creating anything he can dream up from scratch through 3D printing, he also takes his engineering skills and artistic eye to the sky. As a licensed drone pilot, Bertschi has started an aerial photography business, Skyview Arts. It's just one more way he blends his engineering background with art for a rewarding and fulfilling hobby, he says.

He called the company Skyview Arts, because he says there's an art to the images he captures.

"To see things from above, it's not looking into people's backyards. But it's looking at a different view. It's art, it's photography. To see things on street level, it's always the same, everyone can take a picture of that. But to see things from above – it gives it that three-dimensional look," he says.

That's what attracted him to aerial photography. He also just really liked playing with the drones, he says.

"I started flying drones even before I left Germany with the first little prototypes and things like that. And then progressed to bigger and bigger and bigger drones," he says.

Now, he flies his own high-end drone and captures stunning images for himself, for local businesses and as a volunteer for the many organizations in town he's involved with.

Bertschi says he started volunteering when he moved to town in 2012.

"I joined the board of the Friends of Fort George for a few years. That was a start. Then we went to the Shaw. I volunteered with the Shaw guild, taking photos. They needed volunteers for the Communities in Bloom, I volunteered for the Canada 150. Volunteered for the tall ships," Bertschi says.

He finds a sense of satisfaction bringing his own expertise and experiences to town, he says, adding that it's one of the incredible things about residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"There's an exceptional amount of professionalism: lawyers, doctors, physicists, you name it. Engineers, bankers. And they've all travelled, and that's what's interesting. They all come out and they all volunteer. They all have something to contribute to this area," he says.

He says he wouldn't have met many of the people he has since moving to town if he wasn't out volunteering.

"Getting to know people. You meet a lot of people when you go out and volunteer," he says.

He's not just willing, he's eager to assist whoever he can through his vast experience and knowledge. Bertschi has printed small newspaper stands for The Lake Report, designing and redesigning prototypes until he settled on a perfect model. Above and beyond that, he assisted with the Falling into the Lake project and documentary, providing aerial footage and images of Niagara Shores Park and much of the erosion along the shore.



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