Chief administrator Holly Dowd opted to retire after rising tensions with members of council

Niagara-on-the-Lake chief administrator Holly Dowd opted to retire in August rather than continue to put up with a group of councillors who spent months actively trying to undermine her as she completed the final year of her employment contract, The Lake Report has learned.

The tipping point appears to have come on June 10 when four councillors – Gary Burroughs, Clare Cameron, Wendy Cheropita and Stuart McCormack – voted against reappointing Dowd to the board of town-owned NOTL Hydro.

In interviews, the four councillors cited a variety of reasons for their individual decisions. However, the vote came after McCormack told the June 10 council meeting that Dowd did not have the qualifications required to continue as a member of the utility’s board. That debate actually ended in a 5-4 vote in favour of Dowd, but the die was cast and it was the last straw for Dowd, who, after 37 years with the town, could have retired last year.

Neither Dowd nor Lord Mayor Betty Disero would comment on her departure, but The Lake Report pieced together events through extensive research and interviews with more than a dozen people.

Dowd, who has fibromyalgia, which she has said can be exacerbated by stress, went on medical leave not long after the June meeting and on Aug. 12 Disero announced the town’s top civil servant was retiring.

Her departure was the culmination of several months of dealing with a few councillors who regularly questioned her suitability as NOTL’s top civil servant and did not want to wait for Dowd to retire after her contract expired on Dec. 31, 2019.

She was appointed CAO by the previous council after her predecessor, Milena Avramovic, left in 2016 after only a brief time in the post.

The town was in a bind at that time, and by accepting the job, Dowd saved the town tens of thousands of dollars in salary costs by serving as municipal clerk and acting CAO for a time after Avramovic departed, one source said. Her permanent appointment also saved the town the cost of conducting an expensive executive search to replace Avramovic.

While Dowd, 56, was eligible to

Continued on Page 2
Hydro vote was tipping point

The Dowd family celebrates mom’s retirement as the town’s CAO. From left, Kevan Dowd, Holly, husband Rob, Bryan Dowd and girlfriend Claire Bates, Heather Dowd and boyfriend Brandon Ducker. Last week’s party was a lively affair, with entertainment by Bryan’s band Sneaker Club. SUPPLIED

Undermined by councillors: Hydro vote was tipping point

Continued from Front Page

Hydro board chair Jim Ryan said that, during her tenure as a director, Dowd “brought a closer perspective as to the operations, longer-term directions and some co-ordination with the town.”

“At my opinion, she did a good job in liaising with the town to both the hydro board and to town staff,” he said in an interview, adding the management of hydro has a close working relationship with the municipality.

However, he emphasized, “the directors all serve at the pleasure of council. So, we don’t have a say in the appointments. The council looks at who is nominated and they solely make the decision.”

When it came to the hydro board vote, Cheropita said the primary reason for her No vote was that she expected Dowd would be retiring soon.

Council had extended Dowd’s contract until the end of this year, “so when we were voting on a board member for hydro, we were voting for the next four years. And so it didn’t make any sense to me to vote (for) Holly when … my understanding when I was running for council was that Holly was going to retire. That was her plan.”

As well, Cheropita said, the majority of the candidates on the list for the hydro board fit the qualifications “absolutely, completely, and completely aligned with the mandate and the requirements and the skillsets that the board was looking for.”

“Holly Dowd was also on that list, but her bio did not line up with the specific skillsets that were being asked for.”

Mc Cormack noted in an August interview, “I think it’s just a question of making sure that the best-qualified people were appointed to the board, since it’s basically a subsidiary of the town.”

He declined to comment further when contacted again last week.

Dowd gave the town many years of service, said Cameron, who, like the others, said she wished her “all the best.”

Regarding Dowd’s reappointment to the hydro board, Cameron said the qualifications for the job didn’t align with Dowd’s qualifications.

Cameron added that traditionally the town appointed its chief administrator to the hydro board and while she voted against Dowd, she had “no issue with council’s decision” to approve her reappointment.

One reason for her No vote was “because I think with the new council it’s important that we look at all the administrative functions in the town, including things that may have been done a certain way in the past, and really have a look at it. There a way we could do things differently and I’m open to doing things differently,” Cameron said.

“I don’t tend to be convinced just because something’s always been a certain way that it has to continue being that way forever,” she said.

Burroughs, who previoulsy was lord mayor for 10 years, said in an interview in August that he believes Dowd was “the best clerk in the whole region” during his tenure.

He said it was “nothing against Holly” when he voted against her hydro board reappointment. He said he wanted a councillor, specifically McCormack, a retired lawyer, to be on the board so reports could be brought to council.

However, with Disero and Wiens already on the board, there would be two council members who could do that.

In a subsequent interview on Sept. 6, Burroughs said he preferred “to have an accountant go on the board, at least that was my preference. I don’t know about anybody else (on council).”

Owning NOTL Hydro “is our biggest investment and so when they’re dealing with how much dividends are to be paid to the town, all of those things, it’s an accounting kind of question that would be useful for me.”

The hydro board vote was “not against Holly, it was having a different representative on the board,” Burroughs said. He added that he thinks, “Holly probably longer than anybody and she’s fabulous. It has nothing to do with not wanting Holly,” Burroughs said.

“I catered her wedding. I’ve known Holly forever, and her parents, and so I have nothing but good things to say about Holly.”

Town employees held a retirement party for Dowd last week at the Virgil fire hall. None of the four councillors who voted against her hydro reappointment were in attendance.
Queenston Mile wins approval as estate winery despite opposition

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Despite loud public opposition, Queenston Mile’s rezoning application to operate as an estate winery was approved by Niagara-on-the-Lake council Monday.

The rezoning application, recommended in a town staff report, was passed after some amendments were proposed by Coun. Clare Cameron.

Cameron told council she would not support the staff report as it was presented.

“To say I’m disappointed with the contents of this report would be an understatement,” she said, noting when council directed staff to consider some recommendations back in July, staff was to work with the applicant on “compromises” and “creative solutions.”

“And what we received back in the report was, ‘Sorry, nothing can be done. Nice ideas, nice try but nope.’” Cameron said, adding the only way she could vote in favour of the report was, by imposing certain conditions.

Council approved two of five amendments proposed by Cameron: that cooking equipment not be installed and that the site plan define the use of square footage for particular purposes including a clearly defined and permanent wine production, processing and storage area, retail space, hospitality area and any other uses.

Maria Mavridis, owner of Corks and Oozes restaurant on Queen Street in Old Town, said the opponents are not against a new winery but “a winery needs to be a winery.”

“I can’t vote yes to this application because wine production is not one of the uses that the rezoning application is designed for,” she said, adding the rezoning application was not the only document council had when they voted to approve the rezoning.

“Over the years, Niagara council has been open to the idea of estate wineries. We need to address the concerns that have been raised and make sure this winery follows the rules of the farm rulebook.”

To say I’m disappointed with the contents of this report would be an understatement.

NOTL TOWN COUNCILLOR CLARE CAMERON

“By approving this application, you’re opening the floodgates to allow every barn out there with 20 acres to be converted into a facility with an on-site restaurant, Mavridis told council, noting the winery won’t be paying commercial taxes while her family pays $80,000 a year in taxes.

At the July’s council meeting, Queenston Mile general manager Allison Zalepa said the company is not asking for a restaurant but for a commercial kitchen.

One of the arguments against the application was in regard to the winery’s septic system. In a septic permit, dated October 2018, Niagara Region granted the winery owners permission to use its new sewage disposal system. But the owners were responsible for completing the remaining work, which included adding seep or sod to prevent erosion and maintaining drainage to direct surface water run-off away from the tank and tile bed area.

In a letter to Queenston Mile, a private sewage system inspector Cailin Wood said, “wine production cannot occur on-site as the sewage system is not designed to accommodate the industrial wastewater.”

At the council meeting Monday, Rick Wilson, the town’s manager of planning, said the Region of Niagara’s septic permit was dated over a year ago. He told councillors the region was “very prised of NOTL residents and business owners who have been opposing the application, will appeal the council’s decision under the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, regardless if the winery owners also appeal the decision.

“We just don’t believe they’re an estate winery,” Harber said their group, comprised of NOTL residents and business owners who have been opposing the application, will appeal the council’s decision under the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, regardless if the winery owners also appeal the decision.

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“Not even within a calendar year of being open ... they haven’t lived by any of the rules of the farm winery. And now they’re wanting even more ability to take advantage of the Niagara-on-the-Lake wine industry,” he added.

Harber said he was disappointed the winery can now operate as an estate winery, but he was also encouraged to see some amendments approved by council.

Queenston Mile Winery DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

Queenston Mile Winery wins approval as estate winery despite opposition
Editorial

Keep NOTL Palliative Care in mind

Richard Harley
Editor

It’s sometimes a tough decision when you’re putting on a fundraiser. Selecting which charity to donate to can be overwhelming, especially when there are so many fantastic initiatives out there to support. There’s Wells of Hope, which held its annual Passion fundraiser last week at Chateau des Charmes. There’s, of course, Red Roof Retreat, which is an extremely popular choice. There’s Newark Neighbours, TD Jazz’s Big Band Fundraiser, the Terry Fox Run, and the list goes on. But one thing I’ve noticed, and perhaps it’s ironic in a town that has an older demographic, is that Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care is often forgotten. It’s arguable, especially in this town, that NOTL PC is one of the most important charities we have. For those who aren’t familiar with it, they provide absolutely free services for people in the ends of their lives, and who are suffering from terminal illness. We would like to remind everyone putting on a charitable event that there are plenty of diverse options to support within the community, and to keep NOTL Palliative Care in mind as the next organization to receive your support. editor@niagaranow.com

Letters to the Editor

We’ve all had it with these ignorant protests

Dear editor:
I am 100 per cent in agreement with Richard Harley’s Sept. 12 editorial, “Enough is enough,” regarding ongoing protests by a Niagara anti-horse carriage group.
I have had it with these fringe groups harassing our town residents, our business operations — and the police unable or unwilling to do anything about it.
Now they’ve been joined by another fringe group of losers from Toronto, the Anonymous for the Voiceless vegans, to try to harass and intimidate the local population, until a possible physical altercation?
Targeting the Royal Canadian Legion’s pig roast … really?!!!
Everyone has about had it with these ignorant protests, which is what they want, of course.
Is not this kind of thing harassment, or blowing a loud megaphone in someone’s face an assault, sticking a sign in a horse’s face hoping to spook the animal, or using their cars as a form of intimidation … dangerous driving, against the criminal code?
Let’s get some legal action going to get a restraining order on this group of fanatics trying to do also?
Regards,
Earle Vance
NOTL

Restricting cannabis growing makes no sense

Dear editor:
I am writing in regarding plans to extend the Niagara-on-the-Lake interim control bylaw for cannabis for another year.
Marijuana is grown for medicinal and recreational use. Grapes in Niagara-on-the-Lake are grown primarily for making wine, which is for recreational use. Both are considered agriculture. Why, then, should the town force marijuana to be grown only in an industrial area? This does not make sense.
Leo Visser
Hillside Greenhouses
NOTL

Clarification

A story printed last week about an animal rights protest at the Legion’s pork roast said an air horn was blown in a man’s ear. In fact, it was a megaphone. In hindsight, the phrasing “in his ear” was misleading. While the megaphone was not held directly to his ear, it was being used to play an extremely loud siren, merely feet away from him while he was trying to perform.
Thieves target Virgil restaurants

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Sono’s Café owner says he is “disheartened” after two restaurants near the corner of Niagara Stone Road and Four Mile Creek Road were targets of break-ins overnight on Thursday.

Mahmoud Sono, owner of Sono’s Café, said he had just returned from a week out of town when the café was hit by a break and enter. He had more cash on hand than he normally would have, he said, because he didn’t have a chance to drop the cash deposits.

“It makes me upset so much, because it only takes 24 hours, if they waited 24 hours I would have taken out the money,” he said. He was planning to deposit the money into the bank in the morning.

On Wednesday morning, Sono still hadn’t heard an update on the break and enter, and he is “still struggling” from the hit.

“I don’t leave any money anymore. We take more money every day to take all the cash floats, we have to take more time,” Sono said. Niagara Regional Police are investigating a break-and-enter at Silks Country Kitchen that occurred just after 4 a.m. Friday, Const. Phil Gavin said in response to an email inquiry from The Lake Report.

Officers also are investigating a break-in at Sono’s Café that happened some time between Thursday at 5 p.m. and Friday at 7:20 a.m. Gavin said an “undisclosed amount of property was stolen” from the cafe. Sono said about $3,700 was taken, plus the cost of damages to the security system which had been torn out and broken during the break-in.

Silks owner Joel Dempsey said his restaurant’s security system was on, including motion sensors, but the suspect managed to avoid them. He said other than money taken from the safe — he would not disclose the amount — a jug of orange juice was the only thing missing.

Security cameras captured images of the suspect, who is described as about six-feet-tall with a slim build, wearing a hooded sweatshirt tied tightly around the face, with black pants, white running shoes and black gloves.

In both cases, Gavin said, the suspect entered by damaging a glass door.

He said investigators will try to determine if there is any connection between the two incidents.

Dempsey said the theft caused Silks to open a bit late Friday morning.

“We normally open at 6:30 a.m., but we had to wait until about 8:30 a.m. this morning before we could allow anyone in.”

Glendale Avenue East to be renamed

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Glendale Avenue East, near Niagara College, will have a new name, Niagara-on-the-Lake council decided Monday.

Town council approved the renaming of the road to help visitors find their way around, once the QEW/Glendale interchange project is completed.

According to the town staff report, the Ministry of Transportation has requested the town council to approve the renaming of the road in order to improve “wayfinding” through the interchange.

A new street name hasn’t been chosen yet and it won’t be required until the interchange construction starts in about a year, the report said. The provincial review showed there are three roads, in close proximity to each other, with a name “Glendale” in it: Glendale Avenue, Glendale Avenue North and Glendale Avenue East, the report said. The first two roads are contiguous while the latter intersects with Glendale Avenue.

“It is important that we help provide the best wayfinding direction to the three million-plus visitors travelling to the town every year, the majority of whom transit the interchange,” town staff said in a report.

“The renaming of Glendale Avenue East to something less confusing will support this goal.”

The QEW/Glendale project between the ministry and the Regional Municipality of Niagara has reached the request for proposal for the design stage. As the traffic congestion and pedestrian safety at the interchange have been an ongoing concern, the ministry has decided to address the issue by proposing a number of solutions, one of which suggests building a diverging diamond interchange.

The unanimous decision to rename the road was passed at the council meeting without any discussion.

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DECORATION DAY
Sunday Sept. 22 | 2 P.M.
Lakeshore Cemetery
Refreshments at Branch 324 to follow

Have an opinion you want heard?
Send a letter to the editor to editor@niagaranow.com
Police need to stop horse protesters’ intimidation tactics

The following letter was sent to Lord Mayor Betty Disero, LauraSentinel (owner of Sentinel Horse Carriages), MPP Wayne Gates, Eduardo Lafforgue (president, NOTL Chamber of Commerce) and Chief Bryan Calloch (Niagara Regional Police). A copy was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.

Dear editor:

My young teenage daughter has her dream first real job as a foalman for Sentinel Horse Carriages in NOTL.

She proudly works for this outstanding employer as it incorporates her love and respect for all that represents horses. On Sept. 8, I went to drop her off at 11 a.m. in front of the Prince of Wales Hotel so that she could work her shift until 7 p.m. The At War For Animals Niagara protesters were out, as they have been numerous times when I have dropped her off, but I must say that this day felt different.

There was a definite feeling of being smothered as I couldn’t even drop her off at the normal spot where the carriages sit at the corner of King and Queen.

The protesters, with their very large signs, had taken up the spot where the carriages normally park. They were also occupying the median to my left as I went to drop her off from King Street onto Queen Street.

As a matter of fact, I couldn’t even turn from the left turn lane because the protesters had one of their sign-plastered cars parked in the left turn lane. This is illegal!

Why on earth were they allowed to do this?

I dropped my daughter off near the角/ If I knew how intrusive and aggressive these protesters were going to get, I would not have left my child in the midst of this.

My daughter contacted me a couple of hours into her shift because she felt overwhelmed and intimidated by the increasing aggressiveness of the protesters.

You do have a daughter, of course, but she is an incredibly tough-minded and resilient person.

I can count on one hand the number of times that she has cried or gotten emotional over a situation that would bother most of us.

But the protesters did elicit an emotional reaction from her to the point that she had to leave her shift. This makes me LIVID.

This situation with these misguided protesters has become unbearable. After many incidents arising from these protests, I understood that there was an agreement formed between the protesters and the Locals for Carriages group stating that neither side was to come within a certain distance of each other nor were any verbal exchanges to take place.

Those terms of mutual respect were totally blown out of the water by the protesters on this day.

They shouted “Shame!” Shame!” at the tourists who were taking carriage rides. If I were a tourist, I would be very annoyed to be dragged into this conflict and would walk away with a very unfavourable impression of NOTL... I certainly would not revisit.

At one point, protesters were intimidatingly coming very close to one of the carriage horses. This can spook a horse, which could result in injury to the horse or people, and damage to cars.

The driver alighted from the carriage to ensure that the horse remained calm.

Because the protesters were in such close proximity, physical contact was unavoidable. The protesters inflamed this into a brouhaha of exaggerated shouts of “Assault! Assault!”

It was at this point that my daughter called her employer to ask if she could leave the scene because she felt unsafe. The protesters even volubly yanked at the horses down King Street with their signs, as the drivers took their horse carriages off-duty for fear they were being targeted.

As they approached the Royal Canadian Legion on King Street, where a fund-raising barbecue was taking place, the protesters shifted their objections to the pig roast with new signage and a megaphone to spread their propaganda.

They clearly came prepared to cause mayhem anywhere they could. Is it not enough that they disregarded our veterans earlier in the summer by projecting their indoctrination right onto the cenotaph in NOTL?

Now they’re taking exception to a legion fundraiser! I scratch my head in disbelief that they are even allowed back in NOTL after their cenotaph affront.

As the protesters stalked the horse carriages down King Street, one of the drivers asked my daughter to ask one of the Niagara Regional Police officers to come down to the spot where the horses were turned in after a shift.

The driver was feeling very uncomfortable and intimidated with the protesters following her and wanted to ensure that there would be no altercations.

My daughter was told by the officer that “We do not have the resources to extend ourselves in that way.”

What a great education my daughter is getting in what she can expect from our law enforcement to (be read with dripping sarcasm). This HAS to stop.

Donna Williams
St. Catharines

More books about history of flying in NOTL

Dear editor:


As the youngest son of Fred Pattison, who was instrumental in obtaining an air-harbour licence in 1929 for windsocks near the Niagara District Airport, I was also very interested in the article by Denise Ascenco, “90 years of flying in NOTL,” published on Sept. 5.

In addition to the two books mentioned in the letter from Mr. Milbery, a member of Canada’s Aviation Hall of Fame, my name was on his manuscript and in them he detailed how it all began, as well as his years as manager of Elementary Flying Training School (99) in Niagara.

As well, in the early 1980s, he organized a small group known as the Niagara Aviation Pioneers. They published Wings over Niagara, written by Jack Williams, and it outlines the history of aviation in Niagara from 1911 to 1944.

Upon my father’s death, we donated his files, too.

The book, Wings over Niagara, can be viewed at The St. Catharines Museum, where it is referenced as the Fred Pattison Aviation Collection 984-170. I am also aware that Brock University and the St. Catharines Library have files, too.

My memoirs, titled “His Story,” (the original handwritten manuscript was 900 pages), and the book, Wings over Niagara, can be viewed at the St. Catharines Museum. Anyone wanting to contact me for more information can reach me at Pattison@bell.net.

Paul Pattison
St. Catharines

NOTLers loved the Snowbirds and Lake Report’s coverage

Dear editor:

I have always been a fan of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds.

As the treasurer of the Niagara Historical Society & Museum, I knew we needed a great event to help with our fundraising in 2019. I built a team of the best organizers with the theme Engaging The Community to inspire our decisions.

The planning started in April 2018. After 3,000 hours of work by committee members, the weather cooperated on Sept. 11 and we had a very successful event.

Local schoolchildren got an up-close and personal view of the Snowbirds and their Tutor jets, VIP pilots enjoyed their incredible moments.

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Paul Pattison
St. Catharines

Thank you to the incredible team of 23 people who were instrumental in making this event successful and memorable.

Thank you also to the 65 volunteers who helped out the day of the show. And a very special thank you to the entire Niagara District Airport staff, led by CEO Dan Pilone and airport manager Cliff Reinhardt, who were the best partners to work with.

Mona T. Babin
Event chair
NOTL Snowbirds
Treasurer
Niagara Historical Society & Museum

As The Lake Report continues to grow, we want to continue to make our paper even better. We’d like to take just a few minutes of your time to ask you a small number of questions about your readership of The Lake Report.

We can assure you your answers will be treated absolutely anonymously. By helping us in this way, you’ll be providing valuable guidance to help us refine and improve the newspaper.

Survey link at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/587CVBW

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is the Front Office Coordinator and a longtime resident of Virgil. Call Julia today to book a complimentary hearing test.
Hardy’s legacy lives on strong

Continued from Front Page

Terry Hardy before his blockage SUPPLIED

his support group, a fund-raiser he initiated, and a bit about journalism.

It was the first time I met him. His mind was as sharp as ever, and he was in good spirits. But the news he gave me was a blow. The IPF was and had taken on him was evident. Photos of Terry from when he was healthy showed a thick, handsome built man. The man I was talking to, was frail, his fingers were swollen (as is often the symptom of the disease), and he was hooked up to an oxygen tank that was pumping air through tubes that were carefully lined throughout the house.

It was as if the hospital had moved in. The medical equipment had taken over his and Sandra’s lives — though his sense of humour wasn’t hindered.

“I keep joking — aside from IPF I’m in pretty good shape,” he said.

But even with weak, scarred lungs causing him to cough as he spoke, Hardy was adamant to be heard, and to fight for people like himself.

“I really want to see something in the paper,” he told me, not shyly, as he showed me information about IPF on his laptop at the kitchen table.

“But when we set up the support group, all of a sudden, the first meeting we had 23 people show up. We all said the same thing. When we walked in we had no idea there was this many people in the Niagara region — and this is just Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines.”

Hardy wanted the support group to teach people something too, so he started invit- ing guest speakers in to talk about some of the key issues of living with IPF. He put the list together himself, with topics like “physical activity, and mind over matter.”

“When I first said the group up, I said it needs to be more than just a social group. And we’re not there to teach anybody, or give any medical advice. You can get that from your doctor. But I wanted there to be an educational component.”

For people living with IPF, knowing what’s available to them, and advocating for things they need together, could mean the difference between life and death.

One fairly obvious suggestion for people with IPF is to get exercise, as Hardy said, but the solution to practically doing that isn’t so easy to figure out, he knew.

“Therein lies the problem,” he said. “Anybody with advanced IPF is on oxygen. I can’t do anything without this. This is 24/7.”

When trying to find out where he was able to exercise, he was surprised to learn that in all of the Niagara region, there was only one place to access workout machines.

And the interesting thing is, when you first get diag- nosed they will tell you it’s a very rare disease — which I don’t know that’s supposed to make you feel better or not, but it really doesn’t. But what it does is it creates the impression that you’re on your own,” Hardy said.

“But when we set up the support group, all of a sudden, the first meeting we had 23 people show up. We all said the same thing. When we walked in we had no idea there was this many people in the Niagara region — and this is just Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines.”

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When trying to find out where he was able to exercise, he was surprised to learn that in all of the Niagara region, there was only one place to access workout machines.

“But at that point he decided he was going to raise money for the hospital.

“I wanted to have a fund-raiser, and to increase the awareness for this disease,” he said.

He contacted Juliet Dunn of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival to see what he could arrange, though shortly after that, he was hit with pneumonia.

“I recovered, fortunately. Because, usually people with IPF, if you get pneu- monia, it’s usually the kiss of death.”

While he was sick with pneumonia, he called Dunn to tell her he wouldn’t be able to continue with the plans for the fundraiser.

“So I said, you know, we’ll have to forget about it. And she said, ‘No we’re not. We won’t. We’ll take it as part of our big band fundraiser’.

The fundraiser takes on a different charity every year. Normally they give 20 per cent of proceeds to a charity. That time they gave 50 per cent, and the money went directly to the St. Catharines hospital.

Sandra talked proudly about Terry, and still does.

“The in the course of one year, he co-ordinated a support group, he initiated a program at the hospital, and is now doing this with the graciousness of Juliet,” Sandra said in 2018, echoing the sentiment in a recent social media post.

The program has come a long way since Hardy died, she said.

As of this September (IPF awareness month) Sandra said the group has about 40 people, and now also meets once a month for lunch now — as more of social gathering.

The actual group continues to have an education sharing focus, she said.

The St. Catharines unit has also been converted into an auxiliary unit so people in Niagara don’t have to travel out of the region for physiotherapy.

Sandra has also been out trying to raise awareness about IPF, bringing pamphlets to doctors and politicians, to try and spread the word and encourage further IPF research.

Sandra says Terry was right when he said IPF is more common than what was once thought.

When I talked with him, he thought so.

“It’s becoming more and more common I think, because the diagnostic techniques are improving, and I think that generally speaking, family physicians are beginning to recognize the symptoms,” he said.

Terry chose to leave the world by means of doctor-assisted death. In his time before the disease became too much to bear, he said he was overwhelmed at the support he received.

“The one thing we’ve both been struck with is the incredible generosity of some people,” he said. “I think people realize that it’s not just going to benefit me, it’s going to benefit all those who come after me.”

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Town looks for organizations celebrating major milestones in 2020

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

If any Niagara-on-the-Lake groups or organizations are having a big milestone in 2020, their anniversary can be celebrated with a flower bed at Mississauga and Queen streets.

Applicants are welcome to submit a letter to the town providing background information about their organization and their contribution to the community and explaining their milestones and how many years they’re going to celebrate next year.

Letters should be sent to the town’s parks and recreation office by Sept. 30.

After the group or organization is chosen, the town’s park and recreation department will meet with the recipient to discuss the design, logo and colour scheme of the flower bed. The plants that the town usually uses in the bed are bloodleaf, yellow bloodleaf, various colours of prelude series fibrous begonias and senator series fibrous begonias. The winning group will also have to pay $1,000 to cover the cost of the memorial that is placed in the middle of the flower bed. All groups, regardless of their anniversaries – whether it is 50, 100 or 250 years – will be considered, said Kevin Turcotte, the town’s manager of parks and recreation.

“It’s nice to recognize groups that have been in the community, that are celebrating significant anniversaries,” Turcotte said. “It’s always exciting to see the submissions and the length of service of some of these organizations that we’ve have given to the community. So, to have two churches that celebrated 225 years is pretty significant for the community, I would say.”

This year, the flower bed celebrated St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church’s 225th anniversary. Last year, it was a tribute to the Act to Limit Slavery. In 2017, the flower bed celebrated St. Mark’s Anglican Church 225th anniversary. Volunteer firefighters were commemorated in 2016, Niagara Camp at the Commons in 2015 and the United Empire Loyalists were commemorated in 2014.

The flower beds usually go in around late May or June and come out around October.

“It adds a nice, attractive feature to the gateway into Old Town,” Turcotte told The Lake Report.

Recycle electronic waste for a cause on Sept. 21

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Recycle electronic waste for Red Roof Retreat on Saturday, Sept. 21.

The Electronics Recycling Event and Barbeque at Simpson’s Pharmacy on Niagara Stone Road will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., to raise money for the organization’s operating and program costs.

Part-time events co-ordinator for Red Roof, Karen Post, said the money raised will help to keep costs down for the families.

Electronics will be processed by the Ontario Electronic Stewardship, which is a not-for-profit organization that operates the regulated recycling program in Ontario. The organization recycles the electronics, paying out per ton for items gathered, and the money goes back to Red Roof.

Operations manager of Simpsons Pharmacy, Catherine Porter, said she’s always happy to support Red Roof Retreat.

“Last year I believe we raised about $2,000 for Red Roof, which was very, very handy. So, we would love for the community to support it as they have done in the past,” Porter said.

“If I would just like to encourage people to come out and support the most wonderful local charity by throwing things away,” she added.

There will be a barbeque throughout the event, with the proceeds also going to the charitable organization.

Post said personal information should be wiped from devices before recycling. Other than digital information, she said there’s no need to dust off the items.

She said she would like to encourage as many people to recycle as she could.

“The more electronics that come in, the more we raise,” Post said.

A list of accepted electronic waste can be found on the Ontario Electronic Stewardship website, and include but are not limited to computers, printers, non-cellular phones, cellular devices, home audio devices.

NOTL cyclists pedal for palliative care

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Twenty NOTL-area cyclists pedaled a peloton in support of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service on Saturday and raised $3,000 by competing the return ride from St. Mark’s Anglican Church in Old Town to St. Savour’s in Queenston.

The ride was an extension of The Healing Cycle, a provincewide fundraising event for palliative care services, held annually in Mississauga. The provincial ride was held Sunday.

The extra ride was the brainstorm of Rev. William Roberts, rector of St. Mark’s Church. “I wanted to ride to support palliative care, but I work on Sundays,” said Roberts. “It was a beautiful day and our small group enjoyed the ride and raising money for a great cause.”

“Next year, we’re hoping to include all in-town churches in the effort.”

The NOTL Community Palliative Care Service has been helping seriously ill residents and their caregivers in our community for over 30 years. About 25 trained visiting volunteers offer emotional support, compassionate listening, companionship and caregiving relief in patient’s homes and area long-term care facilities.

The organization lends crucial equipment, however long the need, and provides bereavement support services for up to a year following the loss of a loved one. All services are offered free of charge.

NOTL’s total support from both the provincial and local rides reached some $17,000, including donations from a record number of Niagara businesses and organizations, said Bonnie Baglino, program manager for the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service.

“That’s amazing,” Baglino said. “This support is so important for our ongoing operation.”

For more information about NOTL palliative care services, go to www.notlpc.com.

As The Lake Report continues to grow, we want to continue to make our paper even better. We’d like to take just a few minutes of your time to ask you a small number of questions about your readership of the The Lake Report.

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Survey link at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/SB7CVBW
Town promises it will attempt to save Butler’s Burial Ground

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The Town of NOTL is establishing a committee to examine ways to preserve Butler’s Burial Ground, a key historic site that has become overgrown and deteriorated.

The move comes after councillors were told last week that if something is not done soon the site will be lost.

Bill Hamilton, who provides ghost tours in Old Town, and Shirley Stark, a shopkeeper at The Ghost Walks, addressed Niagara-on-the-Lake council last week to ask for support in restoring the site.

The cemetery, located at the west end of Butler Street, is a resting place of Lt.-Col. John Butler, one of the founders of Upper Canada.

Butler played a major role in local history and was among 14 other national war heroes who were honoured in 2006 at the Valentia Memorial in Ottawa. Butler’s Rangers also fought for the British in the American Revolution and there are several places in town – from a hotel to a sports bar – that were named after Butler.

The gravestones are sinking into the ground and the property, owned by Parks Canada, needs to be designated as a national historic site in order for restoration work to take place, the residents said. A nomination can be submitted to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the issue is important enough to form a committee, including herself, Coun. Gary Burroughs, Hamilton and Stark as well as acting chief administrative officer Shondon Randall and the town’s manager of parks and recreation, Kevin Turcotte.

They plan to start discussions with different community partners, such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Parks Canada, Willowbank School and the Heritage School of Horticulture, on how to restore and preserve the site.

With the help of a Canada 150 grant, the Town of NOTL built a $76,000 pedestrian bridge to provide safe access to the burial ground in 2017.


The residents appeared before council wondering if the town could build a bridge on the Parks Canada property, then it would be able to help to restore the site, Stark added.

The site is part of Parks Canada’s maintenance schedule but the federal agency doesn’t have any plans for restoring the site, said spokesperson Rae Kingdon.

“Parks Canada conducts routine inspections of the site, and undertakes additional maintenance work when required,” Kingdon said in an email response to The Lake Report. “For example, this spring, a landscaping company was hired to remove overgrown vegetation and poison ivy to improve the safety of the site.”

In 1967, Niagara Parks, which owned the site at the time, created new stones for the graves and installed markers to capture the inscriptions.

Ron Dale of Parks Canada also covered the vault with shale to protect it from vandalism and further deterioration.

Without Butler, there would be no Canada, residents said, so it’s a “no-brainer” the site should be preserved.

When asked to confirm if Parks Canada wasn’t aware of its ownership until after the public consultation, Kingdon said the agency “has been responsible for the administration and active maintenance of the site since 1979.”

If that’s what the owners can do, it’s not enough, Stark said, adding it’s not a witch-hunt and they’re not trying to blame anyone. But “this has to be preserved, so who can do it?”

Stark said she gets “bom- barded” with people coming into the shop and wanting to know more about Butler, his Rangers and where they are buried.

“It’s just amazing, the historical attention (to it),” she said.

At the Sept. 9 meeting, Hamilton and Stark asked for town’s support and endorsement in campaigning for site preservation and also suggested the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and the Niagara Parks Commission’s School of Horticulture look into restoration projects on the site.
As The Lake Report continues to grow, we want to continue to make our paper even better. We’d like to ask just a few minutes of your time to ask you a small number of questions about your readership of The Lake Report.

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Survey link at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/587CVBW

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**COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:**

Legion Fish Fry every Thursday 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.
Breaking a sweat for a cure

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Fourteen-year-old Liam Ainslie was the first to cross the finish line on foot Sunday morning at the Terry Fox Run, and though the event wasn’t competitive or timed, he finished the five-kilometre route in about 20 minutes.

Ainslie, who lives in Buffalo but said his mother has dual citizenship, said he pushed hard to make it to the end of the route first. The Canadian fundraiser brought him to Niagara-on-the-Lake to test his limits.

“I can’t believe I ran it that fast,” he said while waiting for his father to finish a second lap.

“He just flew, I don’t think he even touched the ground,” said one participant in passing.

On Sunday morning about 250 people walked, ran and rode to support cancer fighters and survivors and to remember those who lost their own battles, while raising money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

The run has been happening annually across Canada since 1981 and began in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1991. NOTL’s run picked up momentum in 2007 when Joan King took over organizing the event, and Sunday’s show of support from the community was a testament to what she’s been able to accomplish with the help of the number of volunteers and sponsors.

“It was great to see such a mix of people out on Sunday. There were young kids and community groups and teams all supporting the cause,” King said.

She said it was each participant, team, and group of volunteers that made the event authentic and true to Terry Fox’s vision.

Students of Vineridge Public School’s M2E2We club cheered people on near the finish line. Team Pilly was out in full force with family and friends; June’s Dream Team walked together to remember Donna Seymour’s close friend June Heyck, who died of ovarian cancer; students from Vineridge Academy joined in on the Canadian fundraiser after being inspired by his story; and so many more groups and individuals took to the street to honour and support the cause.

The group of eager participants gathered at the starting line on King Street, and after a few words from King and Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and Juliet Dunn’s rendition of O Canada, they were off just after 10 a.m.

Volunteers donning bright vests succeeded in holding off traffic until the crowd made their way through the start of the route.

Terry Fox’s vision was to inspire a country to step up and raise money for cancer research, and though he didn’t finish his run, his dream has been inspiring Canadians ever since.

And it’s not just born and raised Canadians who have been touched by his story – about 65 international members, including Karen Breivik and Alexis and Avery Smith.

Breivik took part each year he takes part. “This is something,” Smith said, adding that he has been coming out for two years. Her father, Darlene Smith, was a crossing guard for St. David’s Public School and encouraged the family to join in 1999. She took part for one year before she died of anaphylactic asthma attack in 2000, but the family has been taking part every year since.

“My dad had passed away from cancer, and we all know about Terry Fox... It had just sort of become my thing,” Smith said, adding that he donates $100 each year and that he takes part “This would be my 21st year.”

This Sunday he was joined by about eight family members, including Karen Breivik and Alexis and Avery Smith.

A group of women from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club participated for the second year, raising $1,500 among them. Each woman walked for someone in their own lives who has been touched by cancer in some way.

King said about $50,000 was raised by the end of the day Sunday, but donations were still coming in online.

The run saw a mix of ages taking part, and whether they run, walked, or rode bikes along the five-kilometre route, they all reflected the inspiration of one of Canada’s most noted heroes.

Ten-year-old Aine O’Neill, Danielle Smith and Peyton Leigh, both 11, crossed the finish line with big smiles. The Rotary Club 4742 of Lewiston, N.Y., and Niagara-on-the-Lake held a barbecue after the run.

Past-president and current secretary Thomas Gerbasio donned a hot dog bar while he helped serve the hungry participants. The Rotarians, whose club bridges the gap between Canada and the U.S., made jokes about the “weiner with the hat” while cooking for the crowd.

But they take their fundraising seriously, said member John Shaver, who is why all proceeds from the barbecue on Sunday went to the Terry Fox Foundation.
It’s a Wine Thang

Each week, the staff of Ravine Winery share their expertise and offer a brief explanation about an aspect of wine. So, whether you’re an expert oenophile or a newbie just finding your way around wine country, we trust you’ll enjoy. Cheers!

Tartrates

Have you ever opened a bottle of wine and found tiny crystals on the cork or when you finished your wine noticed crystals at the bottom of your glass? It makes you wonder whether the bottle is good or has gone bad.

Well, no worries, the tiny crystals are tartrates and are also known as wine diamonds. The crystals are created by the tartaric acid in your wine. During fermentation malic acid is converted to a more mellow and soft lactic acid; but tartaric acid maintains its chemical consistency.

The tartaric acid helps keep wine from spoiling, is very temperature sensitive and doesn’t always dissolve during the process. The higher quality your wine is, the more likely you are to see tartrates. That is because on the lower end of the wine spectrum, the wine is often cold stabilized in order to filter the tartrates out.

This is done by chilling the wine down to near freezing levels and letting the solidified tartrates drop to the bottom of the tank where the wine is then filtered off. While this process will ensure a wine’s clarity, lowering a wine’s tartrate levels also affects a wine’s flavour and hurts its ability to be aged.

So, if you are finding tartrates in your wine it means that the wine was not over-processed and was well-preserved.
Crossword Puzzle

**Across**
1. Rapid nuclear reactor shut-down (5)
4. Helper (9)
10. Dressing (10)
11. Atop (4)
12. Ministers (9)
13. Bender (5)
15. Sets of equipment (4)
17. Female big cat (10)
19. Herefordshire town (10)
21. Type of heating fuel (4)
22. Reprimand (5)
24. Contented (9)
27. Waist band (4)
28. Volume for preliminary artistic studies (10)
29. Steam locomotive (4,5)
30. One of these means almost cloudless (5)

**Down**
2. Truce (5-4)
3. Isolated (5)
5. Snow vehicle (7)
6. Notion (4)
7. Fabricated (7-2)
8. Hangman’s knot (5)
9. Emphasize (9)
14. Wig (9)
16. Ignorant person (9)
18. Whipping boy (9)
20. Makes journeys (7)
23. Gaiety (5)
25. Legend (5)
26. Capital of Norway (4)

Sudoku (Medium)

Last issue’s answers

Crossword answers:

Across:
1. Rapid nuclear reactor shut-down (5) - Rapid
4. Helper (9) - Help
10. Dressing (10) - Dressing
11. Atop (4) - Atop
12. Ministers (9) - Ministers
13. Bender (5) - Bender
15. Sets of equipment (4) - Sets
17. Female big cat (10) - Tiger
19. Herefordshire town (10) - Hereford
21. Type of heating fuel (4) - Gas
22. Reprimand (5) - Reprimand
24. Contented (9) - Contented
27. Waist band (4) - Belt
28. Volume for preliminary artistic studies (10) - Portfolio
29. Steam locomotive (4,5) - Steam
30. One of these means almost cloudless (5) - Cloud

Down:
2. Truce (5-4) - Truce
3. Isolated (5) - Isolated
5. Snow vehicle (7) - Snowplow
6. Notion (4) - Notion
7. Fabricated (7-2) - Fabricate
8. Hangman’s knot (5) - Knot
9. Emphasize (9) - Emphasize
14. Wig (9) - Wig
16. Ignorant person (9) - Ignorant
18. Whipping boy (9) - Whip
20. Makes journeys (7) - Makes
23. Gaiety (5) - Gaiety
25. Legend (5) - Legend
26. Capital of Norway (4) - Oslo

Have some fun!
Lepp and Cooper: Tennis champs

Left: First place winners Paula Lepp and Brenda Cooper at the NOTL Tennis Club Grape and Wine Invitational Saturday. Right: Second place winners Peter Rider and Estelle Simons for the NOTL Tennis Club Grape and Wine Cup Invitational Saturday. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Wild week on-the-link

The Lake Report

An eagle 3, a fourth lucky lotto win and another 36 by Jim McMacken. It was a wild week at the NOTL Golf Club.

Women’s club champ Louise Robitaille notched an eagle 3 on the tough par-5 third hole in ladies league play on Tuesday.

After a big drive, from about 175 yards out she put her second shot within a couple of feet of the hole for an easy eagle.

Alan Dickson, meanwhile, capped an unprecedented run by winning his fourth 50/50 draw of the season during men’s competition last Thursday. Another cool $145.

And the same day, lefty McMacken shot another even-par round to win low gross while also capturing two gross skins ($15 each, #1, #4) and closest to the pin (#4). Ken Burr won $50 in the 50/50 draw.

Women’s league: Besides Robitaille’s eagle, the women’s Solheim style match play competition Sept. 17 featured birdies from Yolanda Henry (#17) and Sue Gagne (#3). Valerie Chubey celebrated her birthday by winning her match, while Brenda Bell (#4) and Sharron Marlow (#13) won closest to the pin. Chip in: Gagne (#9).

NOTL Couples league draw winners Glen and Cathy Murray, with watercolour painting donated by artist Marilyn Cochrane, right. KEVIN MACLEAN

Couples league: The annual Friday night Couples league wrapped up Sept. 13. The closing scramble, which allowed each team one free “toss” per hole, led to some crazy low scores.


The Lake Report

Your contribution matters

The Lake Report encourages readers to support the businesses that advertise with us. These businesses allow us to operate and keep the paper free and independent.

When you’re looking for a service or product, check The Lake Report and support someone who lives in your hometown. There are plenty of great businesses inside to choose from — don’t forget to mention you saw them in The Lake Report!

The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper. Your donations and contributions help support young, local journalists, as well as student internships, local charities, and so much more.

We encourage all residents to support The Lake Report through an annual voluntary subscription. We suggest just $30/year (just 82¢ per issue) per household. That’s less than most people spend on coffee.

Larger donations are also greatly appreciated. Donations can be made online at www.lakerreport.ca or cheque can be mailed to the NOTL Post Office, L0S1J0, PO Box 724.

Please make cheques to The Lake Report.

- Richard Horley

Eurocleaners

*Having recently moved from Toronto to the Niagara area, I found myself having trouble locating new clients for my residential cleaning business. But with the help of the Lake Report, that all changed: I advertised for a short period of time and now I can’t keep up with the phone calls coming in. I would highly recommend advertising in The Lake Report for any business need.*

- Alina, Eurocleaners

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**Special to The Lake Report**

Near the end of July, my wife Nan and I returned to our recently purchased winter home for a summer visit. It’s located in a visually stunning, wonderfully relaxing village on the Portuguese island of Madeira. The town is nestled at the base of volcanic mountains on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean. Northern breezes bring cool, clean air, while the leaves of the banana plants on the myriad of sculpted terraces at the foot of our villa. The now becalmed sea laps on stone beaches aided by several waterfalls — mere ribbons of misted vapour and streams splashing down the cliff faces.

We disembarked two alfajores from the rental fleet and returned to this idyll Jardim do Mar (garden of the sea) with the wonder and glee of children (garden of the sea) with the wonder and glee of children from our first visit to Disneyworld.

Two days in, we began work in earnest doing some painting, building and deco- rating the new house. Out front, a local resident had cleared a large, run-down Billy goat to an able tree while he sought out the ani- mal’s origins. Billy’s con- stant, sonorous bleating reminded everyone within earshot of its plunder — rope entanglement and water dysfunction, and Nan, after two days of being the goat’s primary care giver, sought out the fellow who was supposed to be responsible for it. She proclaimed that his behavior would be reduced to “Freak Billy” as it were, to the wilds, if he did not rise to the occasion and properly help him. This prompted a de- lightful older man named Davide, his erstwhile cousin Manny, his niece Esterina and his grandson (every- one in town is related) to our door. Refreshments and potatoes were enjoyed while the men groused about a goat they didn’t own, and how they could relieve us of our old sofas (a new one was coming in two days) through our narrow doors and up the cobbled alley- ways.

The women toured the house and spoke of interior design and their mutual grandparents Esterina, 53, asked Nan if she could help her with a couple of rooms she was preparing for rentals in her home. Many things were resolved and we parted ways.

That was Sunday after- noon. Sunday night found us strolling under the moon- light along the Promenade at the water’s edge in search of ice cream and a jug of white wine at “Portinos” — a quayside establishment about a kilometer away. While there, in the qui- etude and peace, a shirtless, single and enraged man straddled onto the scene.

Little did we know that this prompted a de- parture. The women toured the establishment seemed directed at no one, but clearly unsettled everyone, especially the couple with two young children seated beside us. We don’t speak Portuguese, so his ravings were understandable. After about ten minutes, into the dark, he left. Most of the patrons soon followed suit as it was getting late. We wandered back up the hill, through the meander- ing alleys and laneways of the village and slowed at Esterina’s home, pondering the huge disrespect of her en- trance, as she makes ready for her new tourist business. Little did we know that we spoke, inside that very house, our newly met friend, Esterina lay dead, brutally murdered by her deranged husband of one year, on his return this same evening from fishing, ten days at sea.

It was the gentle, always smiling, Uncle Davide who discovered her ruined corpse — throat slashed, eyes cut out and an endear- ment carved across her chest — just a couple of hours later. The village is now reel- ing, not knowing what to do, who to look at, what to say. We are the “newbies.”

Little more informa- tion from the community will likely be coming to us beyond the local news reporting. Needless to say, the entire island is shocked and subdued.

**Madeira Island in Portugal.**

**Sourced Photo.**

His howling insanity on the pavement in front of the establishment seemed directed at no one, but clearly unsettled everyone, especially the couple with two young children seated beside us. We don’t speak Portuguese, so his ravings were understandable. After about ten minutes, into the dark, he left. Most of the patrons soon followed suit as it was getting late. We wandered back up the hill, through the meander- ing alleys and laneways of the village and slowed at Esterina’s home, pondering the huge disrespect of her en- trance, as she makes ready for her new tourist business. Little did we know that we spoke, inside that very house, our newly met friend, Esterina lay dead, brutally murdered by her deranged husband of one year, on his return this same evening from fishing, ten days at sea.

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Không có dữ liệu liên quan đến nội dung được mô tả trên hình ảnh của trang giấy. Để cung cấp thông tin chính xác, xin vui lòng cung cấp nội dung văn bản được gửi kèm trong hình ảnh. Cảm ơn bạn!
Considering your roof again

Brian Marshall
Featured

Managing tax exposure likely started soon after the first taxman was employed in the dawn of human history. I can't think of anyone who enjoys paying taxes and very few who would not exercise a common legal option to reduce their tax burden.

I suspect our ancestors were no different and suggest that a part of the popularity of Second Empire and Dutch Colonial-styled houses can be directly attributed to their respective hallmark roof forms: Mansard and Gambrel.

You see, in both forms, the top floor of the house is actually within the confines of the roof. So, even if it was a fully finished living space, the area was legally considered an attic. And, wait for it, historically an attic was not taxable space.

Normally, an attic is height-constrained by the slope of the roof, but not so under a Mansard or Gambrel form. In both of these roofs, the maximum possible full height attic floor space is created by using a two-slope roof design; the dormer window pierced lower slope is set at an extremely high pitch (in some cases nearly vertical) which is crowned by a low-pitched upper slope.

Named after the early 17th-century French Baroque architect, Francois Mansart, who initially popularized it in his designs, the Mansard roof is actually a highly modified hip roof, which always has two distinct slopes on all four sides. In our backyard, the Mansard roof is most often associated with historical homes of the Second Empire style (1865 to 1880) and the Mansard-styled home, built from 1950 until about 1985.

While no one can say when or who initially designed the first Gambrel roof, it has certainly been in use for many centuries. We do know that there were (and are) Dutch, English, Spanish and Portuguese variants of this two-slope form of the gable roof and the Gambrel was used on some of the earliest colonial homes built in North America.

Niagara’s oldest gambrel roofed residence is the circa 1790 Schram House, but far more common are the Dutch Colonial Revival homes built in the area between 1880 and 1930.
St. Mark’s a pivotal part of community

Denise Ascenzo
Exclusive/The Lake Report

One of the prettiest churches in Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Mark’s Anglican Church, sits nestled in a delightful park-like setting on Byron Street.

The first congregation was formed in 1792, but did not start to build the church until 1804 and it was completed by 1809. The first structure, built of sandstone, was a basic rectangular building, with four windows on each side and a door at one end.

Inside was a simple design of box pews for the congregation to rent or even purchase. The closer to the front, or ones with heat- ers, were the most costly. If a box was purchased, the “real estate” was often passed down through several generations.

The parishioners of St. Mark’s, however, did not have use of their church for long when war broke out in 1812.

British military took over the church building to use it as a field hospital. Then in 1813, when the American forces occupied the town, the church was used as a barracks and commis- sary. Their disregard for the church and graveyard was evident when trenches were dug through the cemetery using headstones as support walls.

Another act of desecra- tion was when a grave marker, that of Charles Morrison, was taken into the church and used as a chopping block for the butchers in the commis- sary. To this day you can still see chopping marks on his stone.

When the Americans retreated from Niagara-on-the-Lake on Dec. 10, 1813, they set fire to the town; St. Mark’s was also set ablaze. The roof and interior were damaged but those sandstone walls remained strong.

By 1822, the parishio- ners were financially able to rebuild the church. The design remained the same. Then in 1842-43 the church was enlarged adding the transepts, gothic revival altar and chancel. A bell was purchased by public subscription to be used not only for a call to worship but to sound the alarm should the Americans de- cide to invade again.

The graveyard was actually in use before the church was built. It was the general graveyard for all denominations. The oldest graveyard in the cemetery is that of Elizabeth Kerr, who died Jan. 21, 1794. She was the daughter of Molly Brant, who was the sister to Chief Joseph Brant, leader of the Mohawks. Kerr had married Dr. Robert Kerr, one of the two doctors when the town was first settled. It was during this time, when the footings were being dug that a grave- stone was unearthed, that of Lenard Planck. He had fought with Butlers Rangers and had been wounded in the battle of Upper Sandusky. He died in 1782 in a military hospital that was located just east of the church. No human remains were found, so a mystery surrounds as to where this young man is actually bur- ied. It was decided to embed his gravestone in an interior wall of the church. It can be seen there to this day.

Further alterations were made in 1892 when the box pews were removed and simple bench seating was installed. The wood from the walls that encased all the boxes was used as wainscoting on the interior walls of the church.

To the keen eye, in older pictures of the church, can be seen pinnacles on the bell tower; they were removed in the 1950s. The bell tower itself has evolved from just one bell to 19! The first bell was replaced with six bells in 1877. Then, in 1917, three more bells were added. By 2007 another nine bells were added to the repertoire. The last bell, Brock’s Bell, was added in 2012 to commemorate the War of 1812.

Over the years, stained glass windows were donat- ed, including the elaborate window above the altar. It is considered the oldest stained glass window in the province, having been installed in 1840.

Rev. Robert Addison was the first clergyman of the church. His service in Upper Canada was from 1792 to 1829. During the occu- pation of the town by the American forces in 1813, Addison was permitted to stay but could not live in the town. He was put under house arrest in his home, which was three miles out of town. He was permitted to conduct services in the general hospital that was located on The Commons. Addison was very particular when it came to record-keeping. If a child was baptized, not only did he record the date and name of the child as well as par- ents, but quite often added extra information such as occupations and other fam- ily members. The Niagara Historical Society & Mu- seum are ever grateful for his detailed records.

Addison died in 1828 and is buried in St. Mark’s by the north transept. There is a lovely memorial plaque in his honour on the side of the church, above where he is buried. Another clergyman who needs to be men- tioned is Rev. William McMurray, third rector of St. Mark’s. He insisted the church provide him with a parsonage. So the beauti- ful home, known as the Tuscan Villa, was built in 1858. The bricks for the home were from Britain. They came here as ship’s ballast and were pur- chased from the estate of the late Samuel Zimmer- man, who had run a steam ship company. The home has been used since by the clergy of St. Mark’s.

Between the church and the parsonage is Addison Hall. Built in 1866, it was pur- posed as a Sunday school, meeting room and library. The library is considered to have some of the oldest books in the province, one dating back to 1548. Rev. Addison brought his collection of over 1,500 books with him from England. On the death of his wife, the family kept some of the books and bequeathed the remaining 1,300 to the church.

In 1966, the wings to Addison Hall were added, which included washrooms, a kitchen, offices and side rooms. Where windows had once been, doorways now led from the main hall into smaller rooms. The hall is now used for Sunday school, meetings, rehearsal hall, lecture hall and a learning centre.

St. Mark’s Anglican Church has been a pivotal part of the community and continues so to this day.

St. Mark’s Anglican Church was built in 1858. The bricks for the home were from Britain. They came here as ship’s ballast and were pur- chased from the estate of the late Samuel Zimmer- man, who had run a steam ship company. The home has been used since by the clergy of St. Mark’s.

The choir has several professional musicians who elevate the other members of the choir to a higher standard. The choir is always a pleasure to listen to and one soon appreciates the amount of time the members put into choir practice.

As well, St. Mark’s regu- larly is used by the Music Niagara and Bravo Ni- agara! festivals. This week, the church is host to David Scott Curry, an internation- ally acclaimed opera singer. Curry recently moved back to Ontario and is pleased to bring his talent to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

St. Mark’s Anglican Church has been the heart of this community for over 200 years. Through wars, economic hardships and the successful years of harvesting, the church has always stood strong.

For more information on the church’s upcoming events, email stmarks@ cogeco.ca or call 905-933-4499.

More Niagara’s History

Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the- Lake are available at: www.niagarunow.com

Correction: Last week’s story by Linda Fritz about the La Gallerie house said the house was completely rebuilt after a fire. In fact, the house was not entirely destroyed by the fire, and some of the original house remains.
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.

RIDDLE ME THIS:
I sound like one letter but I’m written with three. I show you things when you look through me.
What am I?

Last Week: I am a ball that can be rolled, but never bounced or thrown. What am I?
Answer: An eyeball
Answered first by: Margie Enns
Also answered correctly by: Jared Hollemans, Katie Reimer, Cheryl House, Evan Ganski, Britiney Turasz.
Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.

The Golden Plunger
With Betty and Jane
Chateau des Charmes

Sarah Cummins and Nick Mackie accept the Golden Plunger for Chateau des Charmes. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

NOTL resident Chris Allen sent us a unique snap of his dog Ace catching a glimpse of a deer. SUBMITTED/CHRIS ALLEN

A red-tailed hawk keeps a watchful eye on players at the NOTL Golf Club. SUBMITTED/RICHARD COOK

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You will raise your pinkie when you drink from it.
Send answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com. Names of correct responders will be published week to week.

Artifact of the Week
with the Niagara Historical Society & Museum

The Golden Plunger Award, earning 3/5 Plungers.

Chateau des Charmes, with its “palatial” architecture and picturesque setting, is an estate winery on the St. Davids Bench. It is owned and operated by the Bosc family, fifth-generation winemakers from France. Driving to the winery, you feel as though you have been personally summoned to the palace for a “royal tasting” of the latest harvest. Chateau des Charmes offers wine tours, tastings and hosts special events. The grounds are brimming with flowers and lush greenery that speak of nature and sustainable gardening. On our visit to the “toilette,” fresh flower bouquets greeted us as we entered and were displayed on the counters, connecting the outside beauty with the facility inside. The restrooms were well-lit, helping one to check out their “award-winning smiles” and “trendy ‘dos”. Accessibility was no issue here and provided sufficient room for this busy winery. The Chateau “des charmed” its way to a Golden Plunger Award, earning 3/5 Plungers.

Chateau des Charmes

Sarah Cummins and Nick Mackie accept the Golden Plunger for Chateau des Charmes. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

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FACT: The Lake Report is Niagara-on-the-Lake’s only 100% locally-owned newspaper.
FACT: When you support The Lake Report, you support young professional journalists in budding careers.
FACT: The Lake Report is independently owned with no political affiliation.

ETHICAL, INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.
Back here,” Lepp says. We would evaluate them. I would bring the paintings in to Mike and move forward. We would discuss each piece, deciding how to paint the paintings in to show Penner and the two have spent several years building a strong relationship.

“I thought I was a writer, but I became more eccentric in my writing. In writing, that’s a problem but in painting, people seem to like eccentricity. So, I made a quick shift there and started to paint a little bit more, and people seemed to enjoy it.” Lepp said.

He’s been experimenting with different styles of painting for about 10 years but has continued to work with oil on canvas.

Mike Penner, owner of Mikreations, says Lepp wandered into the gallery one day and the two have spent several years building a strong relationship.

“I think Jesse has a really important voice in our community, and I’ve always been very favourable to what he’s been bringing in,” Penner says.

The creation of the current series of paintings on display was very much a collaborative effort, Lepp says. He brought paintings in to show Penner and the two would discuss each piece, deciding how to move forward.

“For this show in particular I would bring the paintings in to Mike and we would evaluate them. I would either take them home and rework them or bring them back here,” Lepp says.

Penner says Lepp’s work always evokes thought and emotion, but this series had a lighter, relatable sense, without losing that dramatic emotion, that he felt would reach a wider audience.

Lepp began this series while reading 100 Artist’s Manifestos: From the Futurists to the Stuckists.

“I was reading a book of manifestos and I was painting based off what I was reading. The more I read, the more the manifestos seemed to be telling a story,” he says. That story was one of modernism. He says he started to realize that the authors were all revolutionaries, but he wasn’t one.

“So, what do I have to say about modern art. How do you bring out the modernism without the revolution?”

With painting, he says it’s simple, “You just want to paint something beautiful.”

“You try to make it as beautiful as the other paintings you’ve seen in your life that are beautiful, you try to make beautiful paintings without lying,” he says.

To do that, he says you can’t be too romantic about the subject. “Try to paint something that admits that there’s a real problematic world.”

With that idea in mind, he creates what he calls thoughtful paintings.

“As Conrad said, ‘To be able to think and unable to express is torture.’ So, it’s important to keep expressing and thinking,” Lepp says.

Inspiration for each of the bright, bold and abstract pieces came from the passages of the manifestos, which he says conveyed a lot of “spirit and life.”

“I had never seen writing with so many exclamation points. And there would be funny stuff in there, like "the horizontal line is dead. Exclamation mark." And then I would go to the paintings, and I would be like, yea, I don’t like horizontal lines anymore, for some reason.”

As he continued making his way through the book, inspiration from the manifestos continued to drive his craft.

“Paintings must be green — With 10 e’s in it, and exclamation mark (greeeeeeneeeen!). So, I would do a green painting, or a red painting. Reds must be red, exclamation mark, and then repeated again. Red’s repeated 10 times each time with an exclamation mark,” Lepp says, adding “It’s funny stuff to read.”

But he managed to capture that lively spirit of the book dramatically and emotionally on canvas.

With much of Lepp’s work, he says he challenges himself to create a certain style, and then he sees where that takes him.

“I put a challenge toward myself. I ask, can you do this? And then I try to do it,” Lepp says.

Who might be interested in Lepp’s paintings?

“Hopefully, people with walls will come in and see something they like,” Lepp says.

Penner chimes in, “People with good taste.”

Mikreations is open Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Monday and Tuesday by chance or appointment.

If you’re looking for something a little different, in art, philosophy, and genuine eccentricity, Jesse Lepp might have what you seek.

The NOTL artist will be displaying his take on modern art at Mikreations Art and Frame Gallery on Niagara Stone Road until Sept. 28.

Lepp, a local artist, self identifies as eccentric, thoughtful and shy, relating what he calls an “unconventional” approach to painting with his way of approaching most things in life — he consumes information and then offers criticism on the subject in his own striking and unique way.

Lepp once considered himself a writer, and though he says he hasn’t given up the craft, he finds people are more receptive of his art than they were of his commentary.

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