Forced designation likely to spark ‘a legal battle’

Niagara-on-the-Lake council has approved a notice of intention to designate three properties on Prideaux Street under Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

During a meeting of council Sept. 16, Coun. Clare Cameron made a motion to move forward with the designation of three separate properties on 21, 27 and 31 Prideaux Street. She said a compromise couldn’t be reached after discussions with the owner of 27 Prideaux took place.

“I see no other option that we can be able to preserve, in any way, components of the streetscape that are very unique for all of our country, aside from going forward with this,” she said. “I see no alternative. I see no signs of willingness to work together with this council and to acknowledge the special character of this town.”

The Heritage Act says municipalities may opt to designate properties that may have both interior and exterior heritage elements. According to a staff report, all three properties on Prideaux Street are listed on the town’s municipal register of properties of cultural heritage value or interest. Being on the register provides interim protection from demolition as the owners have to provide a 60-day notice to a municipal council stating their intent to demolish or remove the structure.

In July, the 27 Prideaux Street homeowners, Colin and Sandy Black, notified council of their desire to demolish several structures on their site, including a detached garage and a small shed. One of the proposed suggestions also included bringing a garage to the front of the house, which raised concerns with the municipal heritage committee members.

On July 30, there was a meeting between the committee members, the homeowners and a neighbour living on 31 Prideaux Street, according to a staff report. Some concerns, such as in regard to the length of the garage, loss of “deep setback” of the three houses, the loss of vegetation and impediment of the view from the neighbour’s land, were raised at the meeting.

A staff report indicated there has been a concern regarding garages as they’re “visually dominating the streetscape on residential streets.”

At the municipal heritage committee meeting on Sept. 10, committee chair Janice Johnston said she thinks there will be “a legal battle” in regard to the 27 Prideaux property.

“Strictly my opinion, I think it’s inappropriate to do a potential forced designation on a property which has requested renovation at 27 Prideaux.”

NOTL HERITAGE COMMITTEE CHAIR JANICE JOHNSTON

Sept. 28 marks 150 years since 100,000 kids known as the British Home Children were brought to Canada. SUPPLIED

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. 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/NOTLsurvey
According to the staff report presented to the heritage committee, there is a cultural heritage value in the “early age and the Regency style” of the house on 21 Prideaux Street. The “Servos-Jones House” on 31 Prideaux Street may also contain cultural heritage value in regard to people, such as James Aikins and Mary Ball Servos, who are significant to the community, the report said.

However, the Town doesn’t have a lot of information on the significance of the 27 Prideaux Street property, according to the report, but the architectural style “supports the character” of NOTL Historic District. Lawyer Brian Duxbury, who was present at last Monday’s council meeting along with his client Black, tried to address the council but was denied the floor.

“Lord Mayor, this matter has been brought forward without notice. It’s not fair to my clients,” Duxbury said before the microphone at the podium was turned off.

“My clients are protesting this,” he added. When asked by Coun. Erwin Wiens why the lawyer couldn’t speak, Disero said both the lawyer and his client didn’t come forward as delegates, therefore, they couldn’t address the council. At this point, Duxbury and Black loudly expressed their opposition, saying “it wasn’t on the agenda.”

When contacted by The Lake Report this week, Duxbury declined to comment if his client was still opposing the decision. 31 Prideaux resident, Thomas Elliot, said the biggest issue is preserving the streetscape on a historic street. He said it was the proposed garage going in front of the house that concerned him.

“I don’t know what they (the Blacks) will do,” he said. “Hopefully, they just come up with a new concept that preserves the front a little more but it’s their decision, it’s their house, I understand that. It’s more (about) that streetscape and the community and why we all bought into the historic streets.”

At the council meeting last week, Coun. Gary Burroughs said he would prefer to see the whole Prideaux Street designated. In the Sept. 17 interview with The Lake Report, Disero echoed Burroughs’ comments, saying it seems to her a lot of homes on Prideaux Street are heritage homes. “It seems to me that we, at least, need to do the background work to determine what the heritage value is so that’s why we gave notice of intention to designate,” Disero said.

“I don’t really want to spoil that area until we’ve determined whether or not there’s heritage significance. So let’s take a look, let’s do it as quickly as we can and protect what we need to protect,” she said. “I cannot understand why people would be opposed to the protection of heritage in a historical location. It’s beyond me.”

After a marathon council session on Sept. 16, councilors continued the meeting this week, Monday, Sept. 23. They approved Cameron’s motion to send a notice of intention to designate to all property owners. If the homeowners don’t come forward opposing the decision in the next 30 days, town council will pass three separate bylaws, designating each of the property.

The campaign to us is all about affordability. It’s about ensuring that people have enough money in their pocket to make sure they have a comfortable future.
Town council to be directly involved in hiring process for new CAO

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake council is moving forward with finding a new chief administrative officer.

At the council meeting Sept. 23, councillors directed town staff to start the process of recruiting a new CAO and engage a recruitment firm to help with the process.

Former CAO Holly Dowd, who was with the town for 37 years, retired in August.

Coun. Clare Cameron asked for a recruitment firm to have a meeting with council members to review the existing CAO job description, and that council be engaged in the recruitment process.

“I’m not interested in getting the cheapest option here,” Cameron told councillors. “I’m interested in getting the best option,” she said about the recruitment process.

Interim CAO Sheldon Randall said town staff will consult with three or four firms with experience in recruiting CAOs for municipalities, and town will use a two-envelope system when choosing which firm to use. In a two-envelope bid system, a financial proposal is submitted in a separate envelope to ensure fairness during the process.

Coun. Gary Burroughs said he’s pleased council is moving ahead with the process.

“We think we need to understand fully what it is we’re looking for in this new person. I’m very supportive of the process moving along,” he said.

Cameron’s motion was approved and town staff is now expected to come back to council with a recommendation report.

Chisholm: An update on Fort Mississauga

Tony Chisholm
Special to The Lake Report

I’ve always been fascinated with Fort Mississauga, long before I moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. It fired my imagination to see the original structure almost in ruins, never fully restored, lying in decaying majesty on its own original embankments — in the middle of a golf course.

Long after I moved to town, I enjoyed walking the train-trough golf course to photograph the fort in its many moods on the shoreline. I loved the time at sunset when the red bricks of brick are rebuilt and the rebuilding of the four corners at the top.

Fort Mississauga. SUPPLIED

The non-profit organization Fort George recently had an update from Parks Canada and we can report now that as of August, a lot of the work has been completed and the new roof should be installed by late October. This roof will have dormers and will look like the roof that was on 100 years ago. As well, the new roof will have solar panels that will generate enough power to provide site lighting to improve security.

Several years ago, you may remember, the Friends hosted an event at Fort Mississauga one fall evening. That event raised some funds that we’ve been holding for the restoration and that we now wish to pass over to Parks Canada for a new, secure front door to the tower. So, we are planning another event in the spring of 2020 to help show off the work that has been done to the fort and the new secure front door. We are hoping then that the interior will be open again to the public for that event.

The Friends of Fort George will have more information on the Fort Mississauga event soon.

Tony Chisholm is the president of the Friends of Fort George.

The non-profit organization works in partnership with Parks Canada to preserve, promote and protect the heritage of Niagara National Historic Sites.

Toronto man, 18, charged with mischief in Old Town

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

A scene of chaos broke out in Old Town Sept. 14, resulting in thousands of dollars of damage to a local pub and two Toronto men being charged.

Between 11 p.m. and midnight, three young men allegedly went into a storage room at the Irish Harp Pub and caused about $2,000 of damage, said Niagara Regional Police Cost. Phil Gavin in response to inquiries from The Lake Report.

One of the males, a 20-year-old from Toronto, was arrested at the scene of Irish Harp, and “charged and released under the Trespass to Property Act, Liquor Licence Act,” Gavin said.

Police were called again not long after, this time to the Prince of Wales hotel to investigate a light and disturbance. Gavin confirmed the same individuals were involved in both cases.

 Wentworth-Dundas Jones, 18, of Toronto, was located in the area of the Prince of Wales at around 1 a.m. Sept. 15. He was arrested and charged with mischief under $5,000.

Gavin said Jones was provided a court and fingerprint date and released on a promise to appear.

The third male was never located or identified, Gavin said.
Editorial

Please take five minutes

Richard Harley
Editor

People who work in newsrooms know as well as anyone that things can get busy quick. Sometimes it’s hard just to find a minute to collect your thoughts before you’re on to the next task life requires of you. But if we could pry you away for just five minutes to lend us a hand this week, we’d really appreciate it.

The Lake Report is doing a survey to find out how people are enjoying the paper, and bit about what they like and don’t, and how we can continue to improve.

We want you to help us give you the most relevant news possible.

So, if you do find the time, head on over to our survey. It only takes about five minutes, and at the end you can enter to win a three-course dinner for two at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, Yum. You can find the survey at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/NOTLsurvey

If you’ve already taken it, thank you!

editor@niagaranow.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Green Tip of the Week

Contributed by Norm Arsenault:
Use hard plastic containers for your garbage instead of plastic bags. Dark plastics bags are not recyclable and always end up in the landfill. Do the same in your kitchen for food storage instead of plastic bags.

Positive Power +

with Patty Garriock

In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers.

- Television host Fred “Mr.” Rogers.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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To new things:
Good luck, Jer

Dear editor:
Thank you for such an amazing year! It’s been a pleasure getting to know you personally and professionally. I have so much respect and appreciation for everything you do, and I’m grateful for everything you’ve taught me along the way, so thank you.

Seeing the growth and development of Niagara Now and TLR has been very special and fascinating to me, and it’s incredible to see how far it’s come in such little time. It’s an impressive and remarkable story, and there are so many more successes to come!

We are a dynamic bunch amped with so much talent! Thank you for having me a part of the team – I am going to miss distracting you on press day!

Jeremy Houghton
NOTL

Editor’s note: It’s been a pleasure to work with Jer on the past year and a half since launching The Lake Report. While we’ll miss Jer as he heads off to school to further himself and his career goals, we wish him the best of luck in all that he’s ahead. He won’t need that luck though. Through the paper’s challenges and successes, Jer has proven himself to be loyal, hardworking, and trustworthy. These honourable qualities will take him far.

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION RESIDENTIAL RENOVATIONS
Pillar & Post Sauna completed July 2019
905-651-4803 | office@oldetownebuildingcompany.com
The case for good management

Brian Marshall

In the Sept. 16 meeting of town council, Coun. Clare Cameron made an impassioned statement concerning the importance of protecting our town’s heritage assets during the introduction of a motion to force designate three properties on Prideside Street.

“I don’t know what we have to do as a council to keep getting it across to people in this community that this is something we care about,” she deliberated.

Her sense of frustration is one experienced by many managers and executives, in both private and public organizations. They believe that their very well-expressed direction is clear and unequivocal, but unfortunately what they think they’ve said, and what people understood, were two completely different things, resulting in a mess.

Forty years ago, I recall expressing the same sentiment to the president of the company I worked for. In response, he provided me with some invaluable advice. He said, “The spoken word is a slippery thing. I suggest you write what you expect and then expect what you write. Be detailed, be descriptive, be proscriptive and ensure to include a method for handling any unforeseen circumstances. Do it right, and generally you’ll find the results are in-line with your expectations.”

So, with all due respect to both the councillor and all the members of town council, I pass on his sage wisdom. Bite the bullet and get your house in order:

“Write what you expect and expect what you write.” And I suggest you do it sooner rather than later!

The current state-of-affairs on both architectural and heritage fronts places our town firmly into the category of the “Wild West.” Anything from “ticky-tacky” developer builds to anything from “ticky-tacky” developer builds to the category of the “Wild West.”

In such a situation to continue is to put at risk the qualities which make Niagara-on-the-Lake a special place to live. We require a clearly articulated and detailed plan which establishes a level playing field that both protects and fosters the town’s built environment to support happy and productive neighbourhoods.

Naturally, there would be some expense attached to this undertaking. However, unless the politicians and bureaucrats run amok in the mistaken belief that they must re-invent the wheel, the cost could be pretty reasonable. Particularly if measured against the rising risk/cost of current and future litigation together with being a wise investment in protecting our future.

In reality, our current situation is not unique. There are many other towns and cities who have pioneered the methods to deal with this challenge. Over the past fifty years, there have been a bevy of “design review guidelines” (including detailed addresses for heritage/historic asset protection) which have been developed and tested. At this point, given the wealth of proven guideline documents, it is really a matter of selecting amongst the proven best practices and inserting the details appropriate to Niagara-on-the-Lake’s existing built environment.

Brian Marshall is an architect, expert on heritage design, and the author of The Lake Report’s weekly “Arch-tect” column.

Police bust illegal grow-op in Virgil

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva

The Lake Report

Niagara Regional Police are continuing their investigation into a large illegal marijuana grow-op on Concession 4 Road.

Last Thursday, police seized 1,031 marijuana plants and dismantled the growing operation. The seized marijuana plants have a street value of more than $1 million, police said.

“The grow operation was not licensed for cannabis growth and production under current legislation,” said Const. Phil Gavin in an email response to The Lake Report. “It was operating covertly.”

The property belongs to Mori Nurseries, owned by Leno Mori. In a phone interview Wednesday morning, Mori said police made a mistake busting the operation.

“They’re wrong and I think they’re going to be in trouble. I mean, the police,” Mori said. “We’ll see what’s going to happen.”

When contacted again, Mori said he only rented the greenhouse and declined to comment any further.

The company head office is located on Niagara Stone Road. About 100 acres of prime land, including the greenhouse, is also listed for sale.

For the past month, residents have complained about odour and suspicious behaviour, police said.

As a result of their complaints, an investigation was launched.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the Town learned about the grow-op over a month ago. She said once she learned about it, she reported it to the town’s building services department which, in its turn, reported it to police.

“Police have asked us to let them do their thing and that’s exactly what we did,” Disero told The Lake Report.

“At that point, it was in the police’s hands. For me, to do my own investigation, separate from the police, would be the wrong thing to do. I don’t want to interfere with what they’re doing,” she said.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita said the greenhouse has been empty for a long time and she thinks the grow-op “popped up very quickly.”

“We have a process internally and it’s important people follow the internal process,” she said.

Police searched the property Thursday, Sept. 19, and arrested the only man there. The man was tending to marijuana plants, police said.

He was later released from custody and no charges have been laid yet.

“This investigation is continuing and police may proceed with charges in the near future,” police said in a statement.

GUS KORONEOS
DENTURE & IMPLANT SOLUTIONS

Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to editor@niagaratoday.com
Thanks to the NOTL community for support of Terry Fox Run

Dear Editor: Terry Fox brought out the best in us — compassion, togetherness and generosity. This was evident as we gathered together on Sept. 15 at Simcoe Park to celebrate and honour our Canadian hero. Over 250 participants took part, with the same vision to raise money for cancer research. While pledges are still being processed, we should raise more than $100,000 for Terry Fox funded research.

To all the students from the local schools who did their part collecting donations on the Saturday before the run, thank you. And to the “Me to We” group from Crossroads school, thank you for celebrating on the participants on run day.

Many people come together to take registrations, marshall the route, hand out certificates and ribbons, and sell shirts. I’m so thankful for all the volunteers.

There are many companies who support the run without expecting any recognition, such as Tim Hortons, Walker’s Country Market, Phil’s Valu Mart, Sandtrap Pub & Grill, Cows, Sunset Grill, Stage Coach Family Restaurant, Grape Escape Wine Tours, the Queenston and St. Davids golf courses. Special thanks to the Lewiston-Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club for providing a barbecue following the run donating all the proceeds to the foundation.

A huge thanks to the NOTL Kinsmen, who did a bike and wine tour to pay tribute to Terry Fox, and raise funds for cancer research.

The event was very inspiring and emotional, as we listened to a heartwarming message from cancer survi- vor Sherry Burns. Celebrations were lead by Juliet Dunn playing the national anthem, followed by an announce- ment from Joe Pilliteri of his “Team Pillsy” goal of raising $100,000. His dedication and commitment to honour Terry Fox’s legacy is truly remarkable. Thanks also to Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who brought greetings from the town.

Thanks also to The Lake Report. The meaningful cover- age of events by reporters Brittany and Dariya helped promote this worthwhile fundraiser.

Thank you to each and everyone of you for being a part of Terry’s dream this year. See you Sunday Sept. 20, 2020! With much gratitude,

Joan King
Run organizer

What happened to the scientific method?

Dear Editor: In the last two issues of The Lake Report, I read two dissenting articles regarding our prime min- ister. As a public figure, elected into office, Prime Minister Trudeau is subject to scrutiny by Canadians, both on the job he’s doing for us, and how he’s seen on the world stage, whether favourably or otherwise. All public figures know this, most even encourage the discourse.

Political events effect us all, probably more today than ever before. Amaz- ingly, intelligent people can’t seem to have a civil conversation about issues. Politics have become polar- ized, heated and divisive.

Most people seem to seek out others with like ideas who offer support and validation so, in groups, it’s not uncommon for one person to speak over everyone else to the same mind and will endorse their view. Some don’t. Others stay silent. Those who do speak out, become suspect, their motives questioned. Instead of listening, sharing informed dialogue, even asking questions, the topic is taboo, unless all in the group agree. If there is one dissenter, that person may be dismissed, shunned, shut out or the subject is simply changed, so no one learns anything from each other. Growing up, we were taught to talk not about religion, sex or politics. They were deemed unsavoury. I’m not suggesting we return to those days, it’s in our own self-interest to be informed. I wonder though, what happened to civility? When did we stop listening to, and appreciating another point of view to maybe learn something new or different. Today, the first impulse seems to be to put up barriers and fiercely defend those beliefs.

Universities today deter- mine free speech by what the majority finds accept- able, and rush to offer safe spaces where sensitive students retreat, rather than learning from differing opinions through free and open debates.

In the cult movie Dogma, though irreligious, some parts even repugnant, I found a few meaningful and redeeming passages that have stuck with me over the years. An apostle explains, in essence, that a believer is very powerful. The stronger the believer is held, the more convinced and rigid a person becomes in that belief; dogma. Ideas however change and grow, opening to other ideas and new possibilities.

It’s sad when politi- cal events that affect us all can’t be part of friendly discourse, but rather result in mud slinging — which brings me back to the two Lake Report articles. One was upfront about shar- ing his thoughts and ideas about our prime minister, the other seemed angry, and accused the first writer of propaganda (but by whose measure?) and resorted to generalising (but by whose measure?) and resorted to propaganda (but by whose measure?) and resorted to.

I’m happy to say that after a few minutes he was on his feet and after he checked out the Canadian Forces Snow- birds photo he went off to meet up with his family. By the way, I really enjoy your paper and appreciate the many stories of interest for those of us who are blessed to live in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area.

Kathryn Chance
Virgil

Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to editor@niagarareview.com

Little bird checks out Snowbirds article

A ruby crowned kinglet landed on a reader’s copy of The Lake Report, joining the Snowbirds on the front page.

Dear editor: This photo shows the beautiful, tiny bird that flew into my window and landed on his back on my copy of The Lake Report.

I’m happy to say that after a few minutes he was on his feet and after he checked out the Canadian Forces Snow- birds photo he went off to meet up with his family.

By the way, I really enjoy your paper and appreciate the many stories of interest for those of us who are blessed to live in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area.

Kathryn Chaney
Virgil

Trudeau only sorry because he got caught

Dear editor: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau must be judged by his own standards.

He has called others rac- ist, homophobic, Islamopho- bic etc., without proof. He would not take it easy if it was a Conservative that did this.

I wish we had more hon- est people in government, like Jody Wilson-Raybould. Trudeau is an embarrass- ment to all Canadians and must resign.

George Warkentin
Virgil

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.

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/NOTLsurvey

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.
British Home Children commemorating 150 years

Tina Muller, holds a photo of her grandmother, a British Home Child named Gladys Jesse Simm. BRITTANY CARTER

Continued from Front Page

young orphaned British girls, before they were ideally adopted by Canadian families. While many of the girls were taken in by families, many were not and remained in the care of Rys.

NOTL will join municipalities across Canada shining red, white and blue lights on buildings and landmarks to mark the anniversary; Niagara Falls will illuminate the falls at 10 p.m. for 15 minutes. The Town of NOTL will also raise a flag on Friday Sept. 27 for the anniversary.

Many British Home Children are remembered only through the stories they told their grandchildren, family trees their relatives told their grandchildren, only through the stories they learned that this group of children were a part of Dr. Bernardo’s party. “I had vaguely heard about Dr. Bernardo and how he had brought orphans to Canada. Supposedly for a better life,” she said. Martin said there were other British Home Children in the family as well. Her maternal great grandmother came to Canada in the same way, years before her grandfather. “I sometimes wonder what kind of conversations they must have had when no one else was around, about their experiences and what they went through coming abroad,” Martin said. Though she said they were brought over without consent, the idea was to provide a better life for them and to get them off the streets. Many of the 100,000 that were brought over were living in homes for orphaned kids or trying to survive on the streets of England.

“Dr. Bernardo was trying to get these kids off the streets. The depression was in full swing and they were sent for a better life,” Martin said.

That was the idea behind bringing them across the ocean, Muller said, but the vacant looks on the kids’ faces in the photographs told a different story. It told the story of fear and unknowing.

“They had no idea what was happening,” she said.

Descendants of the British Home Children, like Martin and Muller, have been trying to piece together their history through ship manifests and correspondence between the people like Dr. Bernardo, who arranged for the children to come to Canada, and the families they were placed with once they arrived. Old photographs serve as pieces of an intricate historical puzzle.

Though each of the family members have their own reasons for researching their history and stumbling onto their ties to the British Home Children, and each of them is at a loss when it comes to the lack of information surrounding the children. “No one talks about it. I couldn’t get my family to open up about it, I had to find out on my own,” Muller said.

Martin said it’s important to make that history known and to make people aware of the experiences of the children; commemorating the 150th anniversary is a start, she said.

Thank you to all of our Niagara-on-the-Lake neighbours for your bicycle donations to Bikes For Farmworkers NOTL. With your help, we were able to distribute more than 500 refurbished, roadworthy bicycles to our local migrant workers this year.

- Bikes For Farmworkers NOTL
Late, but still a promising start to grape harvest, say local farmers

Grapes on vines along the Heritage Trail. BRITTANY CARTER

The consensus seems to be “so far so good” for the current harvest season, but there are several weeks left, so winemakers like Robertson have their fingers crossed for fine weather still to come. Robertson sums it up this way, “the weather in late September and October will define the vintage.”

Chair of the Heritage Trail Committee Rick Meloen will lead guided tours of the trail on Oct. 3 and 4. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Rick Meloen is laying the stones for the new and improved Upper Canada Heritage Trail. Meloen, chair of the town’s heritage trail committee, will be offering guided tours along the 1.5-kilometre trail on Oct. 3 and 4, at 5 p.m.

The tours are a way to “keep the momentum going for interest in the trail,” Meloen said.

“(The idea) came out of the neighbourhood walks that the museum was doing. … Someone suggested doing one of the Heritage Trail,” he said.

The tour will focus on the history of the trains and the railroad that once ran through town, and some of the challenges the trail committee is currently facing.

For $10, walkers will trek from the entrance at the corner of John and King streets toward East and West Line, and back.

Proceeds will go toward the cost of revitalizing the trail, and making it safer and more accessible.

Meloen is no stranger to guided walking tours. He has been guiding Historical Walking Tours for the Niagara Historical Society & Museum for about seven or eight years. When the decision was made to hold tours of the trail, he said he volunteered to head them up.

Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather, wear running shoes and bring a bottle of water, he said.

The tour is made possible with support from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Meloen said each tour can accommodate up to 25 people.

“It gets very unwieldy if there’s more than that,” he said.

Registration before hand is required. Anyone interested in participating can contact the museum at 905-468-3912.

History comes alive with theatrical cemetery tours at St. Andrew’s Church

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Theatrical cemetery tours held at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church are bringing the unsung heroes of Niagara-on-the-Lake to life.

Presented by Niagara Historical Society & Museum, the theatrical cemetery tour has returned to St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church for the second year in a row. In previous years, tours were held at St. Mark’s Anglican Church.

The tour was written and directed by Barbara “Babs” Worthy. Each performance is about an hour long and features several vignettes describing the life and accomplishments of local people, all who are buried at the cemetery.

“These people lived and walked and talked,” Worthy said. “And if they’re often the unsung heroes of a community, people you’ve never heard before but they were the nuts and bolts of this community. That’s what gave this community life.”

Most of the historic events, shown at the tour, are factually correct although some storylines, such as one about Rachel Rutherford — who came to America fleeing Ireland’s Great Famine — had a “dramatic license” added to them.

“What was it like for a young Irish girl to come over? I made up her story based on what we know … and what it must’ve been like for her,” Worthy said.

She praised the team of volunteer actors who have spent weeks rehearsing, as well as a team of production assistants who have been helping with lighting and costumes.

“Very willing, wonderful people to work with, all have a sense of humour,” Worthy said. “And who love bringing these people alive.”

When it comes to incorporating humour into the vignettes, Worthy said it’s really important as it helps the audience to have a good laugh and walk away from the tour remembering the stories.

Actor Geoff Senson, who played Willie Blain, whose grave at the cemetery was robbed, said he always gets nervous before the performance. But, “it’s a lot of fun,” he added.

“A lot of effort but worth one,” he told The Lake Report.

Next tour will take place Friday, Sept. 27 and Saturday, Sept. 28. Tickets cost $12 with performances starting at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Teen sports pink pumps for Walk a Mile in HER Shoes

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

A local teen is doubling his total fundraising efforts this year for Walk a Mile in HER Shoes 2019.

Sixteen-year-old Logan Fieguth aims to raise $5,000 for Gillian's Place in his seventh year taking part in the fundraiser. Fieguth has raised about $4,000 since he started with the charity, he said, but this time around he thinks he can do more.

“We’re doing a lot more than we have in previous years. I think we can get a lot more this year,” he said.

He is holding a bottle drive on Oct. 5 at Phil’s Valu Mart in Virgil from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. He has also been collecting bottles from local wineries and restaurants, which is how he’s raised most of the money so far.

Even more, he also has bins at the end of his drive on Oct. 5 at Phil’s Valu Mart in Virgil from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. He has also been collecting bottles from local wineries and restaurants, which is how he’s raised most of the money so far.

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Fieguth, who says Niagara-on-the-Lake is full of talented musicians, Busbridge was looking for something to do for his Legion support our veterans, that’s important.”

Busbridge says.

He'll host once a month open mic at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124. From 2 to 6 p.m., amateurs and experienced musicians will be welcome to wander into the King Street location for an afternoon of music in support of the Legion.

Busbridge, who will be hosting the shows under his stage name Buzz Hummer, wanted to organize the monthly event so he could continue playing music locally, to support the legion, and to encourage more people from town to get together over a shared interest in performing.

The open mic isn’t limited to musicians, Busbridge said comedians are also encouraged to take a stand at the mic.

“I’m a musician, I like to play. I’m getting a bit long in the teeth to be packing up from a bar at 2 a.m. and driving home, so I was just looking for something to do locally. The legion seemed like a good idea,” Busbridge says.

He’ll host once a month for now, but said he hopes the event will gain momentum, in which case he will discuss holding more frequent dates. Either way, he said he’s happy to be able to support the Legion and wants to encourage more people to come out and do the same.

“One of the reasons I approached the Legion was to try and help them. The Legion helps our veterans and they’re always looking for funds, so anything that helps the Legion support our veterans, that’s important.”

Busbridge says.

He says Niagara-on-the-Lake is full of talented musicians that he’d love to see come out.

“My main message is: I know you’re out there. Come out and share your talents. You’re among friends.”

Logan Fieguth is walking to raise money for Gillian’s Place for the seventh year.

BRITTANY CARTER

Logan Fieguth is walking to raise money for Gillian’s Place for the seventh year.

Randy Busbridge, AKA Buzz Hummer, will be hosting an open mic at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 on the first Sunday of each month, from Oct. 6.

SUPPLIED

Advertising inquiries?
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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.

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:
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The Lake Report

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Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Theatrical Cemetery Tour</td>
<td>6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Niagara Regional Native Centre Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Friendly Drop-in</td>
<td>Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Niagara Regional Native Centre, 382 Airport Rd.</td>
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<td>Teen Literacy Alliance</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>NOTL Public Library</td>
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<td>Ukulele Workshop</td>
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<td>Niagra Regional Native Centre Community Drummimg Night</td>
<td>6 p.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Fun Duplicate Bridge</td>
<td>9 a.m. to noon</td>
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<td>Notl Rotary Club</td>
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<td>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned)</td>
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<td>October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month</td>
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### Wednesday
- **NOTL Community Wellness Committee Public Forum** - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- **Therapy Tails with Jasper** - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- **Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge** - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre

### Thursday
- **NOTL Community Wellness Committee Public Forum** - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- **Therapy Tails with Jasper** - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- **Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge** - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre

### Friday
- **Knit a Bit** - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned)** - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- **Yoga with Jenny** - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library

### Saturday
- **Culture Days: Fay and Fluffy’s Drag Queen Story Time** - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **Theatrical Cemetery Tour** - 6 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **St. Davids Fall Fair** - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. Davids Public School
- **Etsy Made in Canada Niagara** - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - The Village
- **Farmer’s Market** - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village

### October 6 - 12
- **Pin Me Up!**
- **MORI GARDENS | OCTOBER 6 | 10 - 4 PM**

### 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.
Residents recycle electronic waste for Red Roof Retreat

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Old phones, TVs, vacuum cleaners and printers—Niagara-on-the-Lake residents brought all kinds of electronic waste to Simpson's Pharmacy last Saturday to help raise money for a good cause.

The pharmacy's electronics recycling event and barbecue raised funds for Red Roof Retreat, with the barbecue portion of the event alone drumming up $632, said event co-ordinator Karen Post.

As well as the barbecue funds, collected electronics have been sent to the pharmacy in a truck, with a trunk full of electronics.

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
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NOTL couple celebrates 70 years of being in love

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

When Cornie and Helen Neufeld were getting married in 1949, they were told their marriage wouldn’t last too long. But that was hogwash. Last weekend, the Neufeldds celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

“That’s what they all said, ‘You wouldn’t make it’,” Helen says.

Helen, born and raised in Saskatchewan, first came to NOTL when she was 15 years old. She met Cornie the next year when she came back to town to visit her aunt and uncle. It was at her birthday party held at her cousin’s place, and Cornie, who lived across the street on Wall Road, jokes he “crashed the party” with his brother John.

Helen says Cornie was the cute one. He says Helen “struck him.”

Cornie called her the next week to go out – and the rest is history. They would go out walking “for miles” along Lake-shore Road, says Cornie. Two years later, the couple got married in Helen’s hometown of Glenbush, Sask. Both came from big families and both were 18 years old at the time.

“My parents didn’t say ‘no’ when I brought him. He was OK,” Helen jokes. “My parents were very pleased. We both knew what we were getting into.”

Having come back to Ontario, Helen says she blended in quite well. Their first child Beth was born nine months after the wedding. Helen worked as a babysitter and also provided domestic work, cleaning homes. Cornie, who started working when he was 15, worked at the GM plant in St. Catharines all his life before retiring at the age of 55. He says he’s been retired for more years than he’s worked.

From owning a farm on Hunter Road to living in a cottage in Huntsville, the couple has moved nine times during their life. The Neufeldds now live in Pleasant Manor in Virgil.

“We didn’t stay for too long in one place,” Cornie says. “We bought and sold, bought and sold. We never lost money, we always gained something.”

Their 10-acre farm on Hunter Road was their favourite place to live in, they say, because it was quiet and had lots of space. The Neufeldds say it takes hard work to preserve a marriage, and their faith helped them carry their love throughout the years.

“We care for each other,” Cornie says. “We get along quite fine.”

They say they would have little spats once in a while but, otherwise, life would be “boring” without them. Cornie says they would never keep their arguments unresolved overnight. Their second son Gary adds that growing up, he never saw spats between his parents.

“Never once,” he told The Lake Report. “Never raised a voice, never an unkind word, ever.”

“That’s what the children grew up with,” adds the couple’s sister-in-law Kathy Neufeld. “So if they had their spats, they had them between the two of them. The kids didn’t know.”

The Neufeldds now have five children, 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, living all across Canada. All five children and several grandchildren were in town last weekend to celebrate the anniversary.

Marriage has its ups and downs, Cornie says.

“I wouldn’t do anything differently,” he says. “It was meant to be.”
Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Gossamer (6)
5. Like many Sherpas (8)
9. Affliction of cats and other fur-lickers (8)
10. Skin condition sought by beachgoers (6)
11. Science of logic, quantity, shape and arrangement (Abbr.) (5)
12. Tacit (7)
15. Owner of a business (10)
17. Inert gaseous element (4)
18. Sour (4)
20. Place for American children in the holidays (6,4)
22. Galilee native (7)
23. Spread out (5)
27. Small restaurant (6)
28. Ellongate (8)
29. South American boa (8)
30. Person in the petroleum industry (6)

Down
2. D-Day beach (5)
3. Navy vessel (7)
4. Spoiled child (4)
5. World’s longest river (4)
6. Autopsy (4-6)
7. Wool fat (7)
8. Private room on a passenger ship (9)
13. Hollywood (10)
14. Stud (5)
16. Economic decline (9)
19. Severe (7)
21. Uppercase (7)
22. Galilee native (7)
23. Spread out (5)
27. Small restaurant (6)
28. Elongate (8)
29. South American boa (8)
30. Person in the petroleum industry (6)

Last issue’s answers

Sudoku

Reynolds Regier Homes

Michelle Reynolds Broker
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226-228 REGENT STREET - 1812 COTTAGES - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,300,000
386 EAST WEST LINE - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $449,000
60 NAZARIA ROAD - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $689,000
39 HENRY STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $875,000
4 RAMPART STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,285,000
99 UPPER CANADA DRIVE - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,495,000
330 GATE STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,450,000
502 LAKESHORE ROAD - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,100,000
60 NIAGARA STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,689,000
720 KING STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,650,000
8 UPPER CANADA DRIVE - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,200,000
352 SORRENSON COURT - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $895,000
586 EAST WEST LINE - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,652,000
439 REGENT STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,480,000
485 REGENT STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,550,000
308 REGENT STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,465,000
390 REGENT STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,482,000
465 REGENT STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,477,000
632 LAKEWOOD ROAD - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,295,000
9 EAST WEST LINE - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,345,000
155 RAMPART STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,325,000
101 REGENT STREET - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,365,000
206-208 REGENT STREET - 1812 COTTAGES - NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - $1,300,000

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
NOTL residents blow bubbles of support

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

It was a symbolic breath of fresh air, as a group of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents gathered to show a gesture of kindness for people who have trouble breathing.

The group gathered early Monday morning at the Queen’s Royal Park, to blow bubbles in support of people with pulmonary fibrosis.

More than a dozen people showed up at the event, equipped with bubble wands and wearing blue Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation bracelet.

Members of a local walking group organized the event to honour a friend who suffers from pulmonary fibrosis, and were joined by the members of the Niagara Pulmonary Fibrosis support group.

As September is Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month, a wide range of activities, from blowing bubbles to holding education sessions, are being held across the country to raise awareness and show support to the Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation. The awareness month is also marked in the U.S. and Europe.

People with the disease have troubles breathing, so blowing bubbles is one of the fun ways people are encouraged to show support. “I just hope more attention is drawn to this disease and shows support of the community,” said Ruth De Laut who attended Monday’s event.

NOTL resident Terry Harddy, who founded the Niagara PF support group, died in December 2018 after battling idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Terry’s wife, Sandra, was at the event blowing bubbles, too.

“It’s wonderful to spread the awareness,” Sandra said. “I’d like to thank The Lake Report because they’ve been so responsive to us, as well as the town council and Lord Mayor Betty Disero for spreading words about IPF.”

Since January 2019, Jack Rapattoni has taken charge of the group. Members meet every third Thursday at 11 a.m. at NOTL community centre. The group is also holding a fundraising “casino night” event on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at St. John’s Anglican Church in Thorold. Tickets cost $15 and everyone is welcome to attend.

Women capture Wood Trophy for fifth year

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The women of Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club are making a habit of winning the prestigious Wood Trophy, an annual district-wide competition.

The 10-member team was victorious again last week, beating teams from four other clubs in the tournament played at the Port Colborne Golf Club last week. Back row: Barbara Ahtluwalia, Lisa Allen, Marg Ketcheson, Margot Richardson, Sue Gagne and Patty Garriock. Front row: Sharron Marlow, Yolanda Henry, Ginny Green and Martha Cruikshank. SUPPLIED/SHELLY SAUER

Marlow, enabling the team to retain the title. The Niagara-on-the-Lake women dominated the leaderboard as Henry won A flight low net, Cruikshank was second A flight low net, Green took B flight low net and Marlow won C flight low net.

Women from the NOTL Golf Club won the prestigious Wood Trophy in a competition at the Port Colborne Golf Club last week. Back row: Barbara Ahtluwalia, Lisa Allen, Marg Ketcheson, Margot Richardson, Sue Gagne and Patty Garriock. Front row: Sharron Marlow, Yolanda Henry, Ginny Green and Martha Cruikshank. SUPPLIED/SHELLY SAUER

The best net scores from NOTL were by Cruikshank, Green, Henry and Marlow, enabling the team to retain the title. The Niagara-on-the-Lake women dominated the leaderboard as Henry won A flight low net, Cruikshank was second A flight low net, Green took B flight low net and Marlow won C flight low net.

The women of Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club were by Crui - shank, Green, Yolanda Henry, Patty Garriock, Ginny Green and Martha Cruikshank. SUPPLIED/SHELLY SAUER

Did you know?

The Lake Report’s printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of forests, rather than clear-cutting.

The ink is also vegetable-based.

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Writers’ Circle: The Gift – My resolution

Hermine Steinberg
NOLT Writers’ Circle

In the previous instalments of The Gift, I shared a story about my friends and our counteracting a magical spirit. She gave us an enchanted tea that could transform us to the idealized version of ourselves at half our age. We were given three days to decide whether we would accept the gift.

It was no surprise that Frank was in his workshop when I got home Friday evening after my astounding experience in The Commons. I could hear the whine of his lathe.

Since retiring last year, he spent most of his time working in his 1907 MG, veritable. His older brother had given it to him in 1971 when he was drafted. A few months later, his brother came back from Vietnam in a body bag.

When Frank went off to university the following year, he proudly drove his gleaming red car to Toronto. His decision to leave the United States and ultimately work for Doctors Without Borders was ways to honour his brother and give purpose to his senseless death.

I met Frank in second year of university at a peace rally. It was love at first sight. We were soulmates, determined to make a difference in the world and live a life filled with adventure, passion and meaning. We planned to take the MGB on the greatest road trip of all time, discovering incredible places that lay off the beaten path across the continent. We got married under a covered bridge on a farm just outside the city.

I entered the Foreign Service and Frank became a pediatric surgeon. The car was put in storage and for a few years we traveled the world, together and separately. But we eventually became disillusioned, beaten down by bureaucracy and the very real harshness of life in the regions where we were trying to provide aid.

We returned to Toronto, had two beautiful children, busy schedules, and enjoyed our lives. Our focus shifted to routines, obligations, and away from each other. Our passions were redirected to our children and jobs. Now I saw him in “dream home” in the place we both believed would be the perfect spot to spend the rest of our days. I wondered why I was so excited by this magical gift. Was it because I wanted to look younger or feel more energetic? Did I just want a do-over? Although those things did have some appeal, they were not the change in feelings that I evoked by my memory of me and Frank.

The profound intimacy that once was the foundation of our relationship had faded over the years. Although we remained good friends, nothing could replace it. As time went on, just like a black hole in space, my void became incredibly dense with such strong gravitational pull that even light couldn’t escape its grasp.

Loving moments shared by us were drained of their joy, feeling empty and superficial in comparison to the deep and powerful connection we once had. Everything I read and heard confirmed that this was the normal evolution of any long-term relationship. I knew I was fortunate in so many ways. I should be happy. And I often was, but my love was undone.

In the past I didn’t want to rock the boat with what I believed was some immaturity. But now it occurred to me that maybe the magical gift was intended to make me realize how important it was to regain the intimacy Frank and I had lost, and the enchanted tea couldn’t accomplish that. Only Frank and I could.

When I walked into the workshop, Frank was cleaning up his tools. He looked up and smiled, his eyes twinkling in a way I hadn’t seen in years. “Well, what do you think?”

“It looks amazing!” I moved closer to inspect the vehicle. “Does that mean it’s finally done?”

He putted the hood of the car. “This baby is ready to go. Time to celebrate.”

I worried whether this would be the best time to bring up the tea, my secret gift, and our future. I knew I didn’t want to destroy this moment for him.

Frank led me back to the kitchen where he opened the freezer. “Pick your poison. Jamoca Almond Fudge or Rocky Road?”

“So, are you planning to take her out this summer?” I grabbed a couple of bowls from the cupboard.

He sat down at the table and handed me a spoon. “No, I want to go on a road trip. Leave next month.”

I looked at him expectantly. “We’ve put it off way too long. … let time and feelings get away from us.”

He sounded hesitant. “That’s why I’ve been so focused on getting the car ready.”

I sat glued to my chair, speechless as he waited … and waited. Frank finally put a large spoon full of ice cream in his mouth and swallowed the whole thing.

“I’m sorry. I thought you were probably feeling the same way as I was.”

Frank leaned back in his chair. “I really feel like that says we are going to be in sync.”

And I did. The next day we started preparing for our road trip. We didn’t know when or if we’d be coming back. I texted the girls to let them know I was leaving and that I decided to turn down the gift.

But then I realized that the gift may have not actually been the tea, nor only intended for us. After all, isn’t magic really about transformation?

Writers’ Circle’s Sharon Frayne wins 72-hour competition

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Writers’ Circle and The Lake Report contributor Sharon Frayne ferociously turned out a novel in 72 hours for the Muskoka Novel Marathon on June 2. And on Saturday she informed her novel won first place in the Young Adult category.

Each year 40 writers sit down to turn out their best writing, quickly. This year the marathon was held at the Active Living Centre in Huntsville. The writing event serves as a fundraiser for the YMCA Literacy Program; Frayne raised $1,200 for the organization.

Each author tests their limits and mental stamina as they battle exhaustion to complete a novel on the spot, equipped with just one page of notes. Frayne said she wrote fiercely between cat naps on the cot provided.

In those three days, Frayne wrote 180 pages of emotional content that resulted in the young adult novel A Chain of Broken Hearts, which will be presented to Candian publishers for consideration by a literary agent as the winning title in the genre. She said she now has about six weeks to revise and polish the novel before moving forward.

Frayne said she spent seven months leading up to the event developing the plot and characters, though when it came time to write she dove in and fully immersed herself in telling the story.

“It was an incredible experience - exhausting and exhilarating,” she added.

Though the novel marathoning was a once in a lifetime experience for Frayne, she said she was not going to write, or to winning awards for her work.

She taught English and visual arts as a high school teacher for the Halton District School Board until she retired five years ago and moved back Niagara-on-the-Lake. “I have painted a moonlight scene on the style of the Group of Seven that accompanies it,” Frayne said. She is a member of the Writers’ Circle and has taken on the role of communications for the group.

“I manage the website and newsletter for the Writers’ Circle and encourage our members to contribute to The Lake Report,” she said. It’s important for the members of the group to be able to share their stories and with each other, she added. The group provides feedback and inspiration in each other’s writing.

“It helps celebrate the talent that is in this town,” she said.

Frayne has also published another novel, Caught Between the Walls which is set in NOLT between 1817 and 1923.

“It tells 10 suspenseful tales of various inmates and prisoners in a reform school in the old jail, and includes a story about Maria Rye and the British Home Children who were trained there. One of the chapters in this novel won Best Short Story at the Eden Mills Writers’ Fringe Festival in 2018,” she said.
Design with historic houses

Brian Marshall

When designing an addition for a historic house there are two diametrically opposed schools of thought regarding the appropriate approach. The main point of contention is whether the new design should conform to the architectural style of the original house. Initially, let’s touch on some commonly held precepts for the design of additions on a historic home. First, the addition should be visibly subordinate to the original house; easily identifiable as a space of secondary importance with respect to the primary facade. Second, the addition should, where possible, not displace, alter or obscure the identified heritage elements of the house. Third, the addition should be attached to the house via a “link” designed to create a visibly distinct separation between the new construction and original structure. Clearly, each of these items (and others not mentioned) is founded on the basic premise of featuring and celebrating the original architecture. So, what does the architect do when faced with a historical house on which the original heritage elements have been lost? The answer is restore. With the expertise of architectural historians, heritage consultants and skilled restoration craftsmen, the façade of a house can be returned to its former glory.

On one hand, it requires a talented and specialized architect (usually of the New Traditional school) to create a modern rendition of a historical style; that is, a design that can be recognized as modern but is seamlessly sympathetic to the original and conforms to all the design criteria of the style. On the other hand, one small mistake in the design can cascade into either a completely faithful reproduction that blurs the line between historic and new, or worse, a cheap looking repo knock-off. For me, the risk must always be weighed against the streetscape. If variety will not detract from the neighbourhood composition (particularly adjacent homes), I’d opt for the lower risk, non-conformist option. However, maintaining neighbourhood integrity must always have the final and deciding say. If required, hire that specialist!

Jack Greene

Everyone in town once knew Jack Greene, who ran the riding horse stable on King Street. Jack had eighteen saddle horses that he would rent out for $1.50 an hour. The trail the horses would ride from King Street to the end of Platoff Street, and then head across the commons. The picture shows Jack with one of his horses in the entrance to his stable. After he passed away, the stable became a fire hall. Today it is a restaurant called the Grill on King.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report

ARCHITECT

Design with historic houses

Brian Marshall

A sympathetic addition to a Georgian. BRIAN MARSHALL

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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 interns, local charities, and so much more.

We encourage all residents to support The Lake Report through an annual "voluntary" subscription. We suggest just $50/year (less than $1 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, L0S 1J0, PO Box 724.

Please mail cheques to The Lake Report.
- Richard Herley

“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.”

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Willowbank, a house built in 1834 for Alexander Hamilton.

LINDA FIRTZ
Exclusive/The Lake Report

Overlooking the village of Queenston stands Willowbank, a house built in 1834 for Alexander Hamilton. The man responsible for it, Alexander Hamilton (1790-1839) was the son of Robert Hamilton (1753-1809), a businessman, politician and judge who, along with his partner Richard Cartwright opened the Great Lakes for shipping private goods.

They became extremely wealthy men. With their inheritances, two of Robert’s sons built grand houses on the Niagara River, John at Cheltenham and Alexander at Willowbank.

It should be noted that Queenston’s Alexander Hamilton was never involved in a duel, as does he have any place in American musical theatre. Although Alexander, his brothers and half-brothers inherited Robert’s businesses, none of them possessed his acumen, and unfortunately ended up in debt.

Alexander fought at the Battle of Queenston Heights. Afterward, he received a number of patronage appointments, including justice of the peace, post office official, judge, and sheriff. He was actively involved in building the Erie and Ontario Railway, as well as the Niagara Suspension Bridge, enterprises that were meant to compete with the Welland Canal. By 1833, Alexander was in a position to be able to build Willowbank, a beautiful American classical revival house.

Willowbank was designed and built by John Latshaw, an architect who was born in Niagara Falls. Hamilton worked closely with Latshaw. As the building progressed, he would add new touches. Construction began in 1834 and took two years to complete. The building’s importance and style is indicated by the cost of the first insurance policy bought for it. In 1835, Hamilton paid five hundred pounds. Many villagers believe that Willowbank is haunted by the ghost of Hamilton. Born in 1797, Hamilton was Alexander’s wife and survived him by almost fifty years. When a visitor walks by the big stone house and glances up at the windows, he or she may catch a fleeting glimpse of Hamilton peer back at you.

Willowbank Estate has had six owners since the Hamilton family years. From 1880 to 1932 it belonged to Alfred Boulbee, Alexander’s great-nephew. John Bright, a descendant of the founder of Bright Wines and who later built Greystone, yet another imposing building on the riverbank in Queenston, purchased Willowbank in 1932, nearly a century after the house was built. At the time of the property transfer from the Hamilton family to Bright, Queenston was undergoing a transition. With the advent of the automobile, and the increase in tourism, the Niagara River corridor was becoming a modern tourist destination, a good place for a country home.

The Brights employed noted architect A. E. Nicholson to modify and modernize Willowbank. Nicholson was the designer of Greystone and the Greythorn School. In the winter, if you stand on Princess Street and look at the front of the former school, now Willowbank’s lower wing, you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer the trees block the view you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer the trees block the view you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer the trees block the view you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer the trees block the view you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer the trees block the view you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer the trees block the view you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer the trees block the view you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer the trees block the view you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades.

In 1835, the estate passed to its third owner in less than twenty years. L. Anthony Doyle was a developer who set out to restore the house to its 19th century elegance. He looked at a number of potential end uses for the property, including a winery, an inn, and a conference centre. He finally proposed a residential subdivision for the western half of the estate. The future of the property was threatened when Doyle applied for a demolition permit in 2003, in part to force a decision on the land. The Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake at the time, along with an American couple attempted to buy the estate in order to restore it. Once restored, they hoped to donate it to Brock University in St. Catharines.

Eventually the mansion was saved by a group of local residents and other concerned people. The Friends of Willowbank were led by the late Niagara-on-the-Lake heritage crusader Laura Dodson. With the help of the American Friends of Canada, an organization established by the late Bluma and Bram Appel, an anonymous American donor came through with more than one million dollars. Dodson and her husband Jim contributed $300,000 of their personal savings. It was Dodson’s vision that Willowbank become a school to teach restoration arts. It took her more than four years to bring the school to a reality. She said that the idea began at a Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy meeting. The intent was to bring students in to learn the art of restoration by working under experienced instructors who would allow the students to apply their craft while restoring local edifices.

The school’s first students graduated in April 2009. In 2014, the Prince of Wales agreed to be the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts royal patron. By 2016, it had received a royal stamp of approval. Former leader of the school, Julian Smith was honoured for his work in promoting the school with his appointment to the Order of Canada in the 2017 honours list.

The students at Willowbank come from all over and some board in homes in the village. They have assisted in the restoration work going on in Ottawa at Parliament Hill and at Massey Hall in Toronto. Among the skills being taught are blacksmithing, stained glass restoration and dry stone wall building.

The students have entered international competitions including the Association for Preservation Technol- ogy’s Heritage Structure Design-Build Competition. The competition is open to engineering students across North America. The Willowbank students who participate are in second year. They compete against those attending universities such as Nebraska and Texas as well as another Canadian competitor, Carleton University in Ottawa. The competition varies in that one year that will see students building arches and in another, bridges.

In 2018 the Willowbank students won third prize in the competition that was held in Buffalo, with their masquer arch. It held over 600 pounds and was the only one constructed of natural materials.

Sarah Bultman and Aly Bousfield are two of the students who participated in the 2019 competition. They won first prize with their Douglas fir suspension bridge. It, too, held over 600 pounds. The Willowbank students have proven to be the only ones who can actually answer questions about preservation. It seems that most of the others have never actually built anything other than models in plastic and spray foam.

This year’s competition will take place in Miami, Florida in mid-November. The students, who will be building a masory arch pay their own way to the competition, so any donations to help them to defend Willowbank’s title would be welcome. Please contact the school at willowbank@willowbank.ca

The grounds at Willowbank are open for the public to enjoy. Indeed, the hill running from the house down to Queenston Street remains a grand place for sledding on cold snowy days. The screams of the younger Queenston citizens and their friends seem to help them to be brave as they fly down the slope. This has been a village tradition for years. Willowbank, whose history and inhabitants has inspired many writers has a grand past. There’s no question that its future will be just as exciting.

Willowbank is listed under the Ontario Heritage Act as a National Historic Site. It is also recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as a site of National Historic Significance.

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

NIAGARA'S HISTORY UNVEILED September 26, 2019

Page 18

Willowbank

 Niagara Historical SOCIETY MUSEUM

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905-468-3912
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: David’s father has three sons: Snap, Crackle and ___?

Answer: An eye.

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly by: Dinorah Centeno, Alayna Hollemans, Marion Briston, Jacob Willms, Roger Marcos, Cheryl House, Evan Ganski, Jake Redecop, Katie Reimer, Julie Paul, Britiney Turasz, Diane Pewer

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

**The Golden Plunger**

With Betty and Jane

Fournos Family Restaurant

Tom Stavropoulos accepts the golden plunger for Fournos Family Restaurant.

THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

Throwback Thursday: One year ago this Sept. 28, The Lake Report celebrated its official launch party at Mori Gardens.

**NOTL for SONO**

The Lake Report is championing a GoFundMe campaign for Sono's Cafe, which was victim of a break-in not long ago. The goal is to raise back the $3,700 that was stolen and help a small business owner by showing our NOTL spirit.

To make a donation, please visit: www.gofundme.com/share/contacts/notl-for-sono

Thanks for your support.

**Artifact of the Week**

with the Niagara Historical Society & Museum

This week’s clue:
I attach to the wall and make a room bright with light.

Last week’s answer:
A teacup and saucer

Send answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com. Names of correct responders will be published week to week.

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Leonard Conolly:
A passionate expert on all things Shaw

NOTL academic mines Shaw’s contribution to English Literature

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

After a career in academia, it’s not surprising Leonard Conolly looks a little like a rumpled professor, albeit in an easy-going summer kind of way.

Conolly is a scholar, a thoughtful man, consumed by English literature in general and Bernard Shaw, in particular.

Some might call him a Shaw-whisperer. When he speaks and writes about Shaw, people around the world take notice. He is the Shaw Festival’s resident scholar.

Conolly and Barbara, his wife of 55 years, moved to town in 2012, after he retired from Trent University. During his tenure, he visited the four universities around the world he holds degrees from in academia, inspired by his work.

He has also held teaching and administrative roles at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Guelph. He holds degrees from five universities around the world and his writings include some 60 articles and reviews and 20 books.

He smiles easily. He’s easy to talk to. He has a comfortable self-deprecating kind of humour that draws you into the conversation, even though some of it moves faster than your mind can follow. You want to take notes.

Niagara-on-the-Lake wasn’t new to the couple, they had been venturing to town annually since 1976 to get their fill of the Shaw Festival productions. Over the years they attended most of the productions each year, usually staying at the Moffatt Inn.

Conolly admits that his love of Shaw’s works began at the relatively young age of 17 in Birmingham, England, his birthplace.

“I read the set text of ‘St. Joan.’ And I got it. I got that notion about nationalism, protestism.”

His passion for the playwright has woven throughout his career. Today, as resident scholar of the Shaw Festival company, he prepares and edits essays for festival programs and leads seminar discussions for the hundreds of Shavian aficionados who hunger for a deeper understanding of the playwright.

His book, Shaw Festival: The First Fifty Years, was published by Oxford University Press in 2011. He is also literary advisor of the estate of Bernard Shaw.

If writing and research is Conolly’s world, Barbara’s world revolves around healthy activity. She swims at Ryerson Park beach and can be found running along almost every local byway. She is also a community assistant at St. Mark’s Anglican Church. The couple’s five grandchildren are regular visitors.

Conolly chuckles when he thinks how Shaw might view the worldwide scholarly attention to his work: “He would be slightly amused, but pleased. He didn’t like the notion of his plays being studied in schools. He said that would turn schoolchildren off his work forever. He would say: ‘Don’t study the life out of the plays. Let them speak for themselves.’”

Man and Superman was Conolly’s favourite Shaw production this year. “The language is amazingly provocative, engaging and illuminating. And the issues are so creatively presented one can’t help but get involved in it. The performance by Gray Powell is one of the most astonishing performances I’ve seen here.”

Conolly believes Chautauqua was an inspired choice as a place for them to live in Niagara. “The Shaw company actors are all around us. On the street. Over the fence. Everywhere. We love it.”

He thinks it is a special treat to have the Shaw’s actors living among us. “It adds a lot to our community.”

He smiles when he recalls a post-show conversation between an audience member and an actor: “When you are performing two different shows on the same day, how do you make that transition between roles,” the patron asked, hoping to be let into a deep theatrical secret. “I go home, do the laundry, feed the kids, and then get on my bike and come back to work,” was the answer.

Conolly describes the book he is currently writing as his “grand finale.” It will be called Bernard Shaw and America, a study of Shaw’s relationship with the United States, an important feature in his life, As a Communist, he had great disdain for America. But he earned 10 per cent of gross box office receipts from his plays. “Disdainful is not a strong enough word for his view of the US.”

He holds degrees from universities around the world and his writings include some 60 articles and reviews and 20 books. He enjoys playing with his children. Have done since it was a compulsory extra-curricular in school. Now I enjoy playing with my grandchildren.”

He is without a doubt an active, engaged, intelligent, almost-80-year-old academic, inspired by his work. Conolly brings his subject to life in a way that makes you want to go directly to the Shaw box office to buy tickets.

FEATURED LOCAL STORY

Top: Leonard Conolly, surrounded by his life’s work, cocooned in his home office in Chautauqua. TIM TAYLOR
Bottom: Leonard and Barbara Conolly as childhood sweethearts in the late 1950s, long before they embarked on their 55 years of marriage. SUPPLIED