



The Lake Report

VOL. 2, ISSUE 38

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

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Forced designation likely to spark 'a legal battle'



Thomas Elltoft's house on 31 Prideaux St. is one of the properties to be designated under Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

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. I think it's inappropriate timing, just my opinion," she said. "It's going to be a legal battle."

Continued on Page 2

"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

SURVEY

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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The Lake Report

British Home Children commemorating 150 years



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

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake will shine a light on a Rye Park tree and plaque this Saturday at dusk to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first British Home Children who were brought to Canada.

Sept. 28 will mark 150 years since 100,000 children

were sent to Canada from England from 1869, many of whom stayed at the home which Maria Rye dubbed "Our Western Home."

She was one of the most prominent organizers of British child emigration and had converted the old jail that once stood at Rye Park into a home for

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Council wants to force designate a property at 27 Prideaux Street. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

‘It’s going to be a legal battle’

Continued from Front Page

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 to speak.

“Lord Mayor, this matter was not on the agenda. We checked the agenda very carefully. It’s being 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 Elltoft, 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, councillors 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.

Election profiles

Tony Baldinelli Conservative Party

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Conservative candidate for the Niagara Falls riding Tony Baldinelli says he knows political experience is essential to properly represent the public – he says he has that experience in spades.

Fiscal conservatism drew him in to the Conservative’s values in the beginning and he says it’s what has kept him loyal to the party ever since.

“We’re responsible in a sense that you can’t spend more than you’re taking in. If a person at home isn’t going to organize their affairs like that, why should the government?”

Baldinelli’s interest in politics began as early as sixth grade and he’s been building on that momentum ever since.

“My mother bought me a little black and white television when I was in grade six because I always wanted to watch the news. I took that interest all the way from high school into university,” he says.

Born and raised in Niagara, Baldinelli says, having worked on behalf of the residents in the Niagara riding for six years with Rob Nicholson, former MP for Niagara Falls, he understands the local issues and knows what it will take to properly address those concerns.

“Experience matters. I have over 30 years in politics that can assist me. I know what the pressures are. Ultimately, I’m in this because I want to help people. It’s about building



Niagara Falls riding Conservative candidate Tony Baldinelli at the headquarters on Montrose Road. BRITTANY CARTER

a better community for my children and everyone else’s community,” he says.

He worked at the Niagara Parks for the last 18 years but is currently on a leave of absence from his position as senior manager of communications and stakeholder relations to pursue his political aspirations as the local conservative candidate.

Baldinelli lists some of the policies the Conservative’s plan to push this year: eliminating the Carbon Tax is one of the measures conservatives promise to work toward; reinstating the Children’s Fitness and Arts Tax Credit; offering more support for small businesses; pledging \$1.5 million for new MRI and CAT Scan machines; and announcing a new housing plan, among many others.

“It’s not an environmental policy, it’s a tax policy. If it was going to be an environmental policy the tax would be so high that it would prevent anyone from actually wanting to drive. So, we’re going to go after the polluters,” he says.

An emphasis will be put

on large industrial emitters, he added.

“If you’re going to exceed these limits, which we’re going to put lower than the current lowest, you’re going to pay into a green technology fund.”

While affordability and fiscal responsibility rank high on Baldinelli’s priorities, he says ensuring health care is readily accessible and properly funded is “incredibly important” to him.

“I had twin boys born at 25 weeks, 15 weeks too early. Unfortunately, I lost one of my boys after three days. We were then sent on an incredible 136-day journey up at McMaster Children’s hospital,” he says.

The experience heightened his understanding of certain aspects of the public health system, he says.

“It’s a huge important aspect of our platform. We’re going to guarantee health and social service transfers and grow them each term by three per cent,” he added.

“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.”



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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



Lord Mayor Betty Disero chairs council meeting Monday, Sept. 23. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

said he's pleased council is moving ahead with the process.

"I 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 trail through the golf course to photograph the fort in its many moods on the shoreline. I loved the time at sunset when the red bricks were seemingly set on fire by the setting sun.

But the last 205 years have been hard on the structure. Now we're very pleased to



Fort Mississauga. SUPPLIED

see the old fort tower being rehabilitated by Parks Canada. One of the first steps in this rehabilitation is the need for a new roof. Scaffolding has surrounded the fort for months but is soon due to be removed once the top layers of brick are rebuilt and the new roof can be installed. In fact, the deterioration under

the old roof caused by leaking water, has necessitated the removal of the top layers of bricks and the rebuilding of the four corners at the top.

The Friends of 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 of 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 fight and disturbance. Gavin confirmed the same individuals were involved in both cases.

Wentworth Desmond Jones, 18, of Toronto, was

located in the area of the Prince of Wales at about 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.

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A scene from the Heritage Trail. Read about efforts to restore the trail on Page 8.

BRITTANY CARTER

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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.

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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.



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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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



It's Old Town, **not the QEW**

Dear Editor:

The collision pictured above was not on the QEW, but in the heart of the Old Town. There are too many entitled visiting drivers not paying attention and driving too fast on unfamiliar streets, looking left and right for non-existent parking spaces — attempting to circumvent the horror of our Disney-esque Queen Street.

Imagine this scene, had there been someone walking within striking distance of the airborne vehicle.

But let's continue to slavishly market the town to as many visitors as we can cram within its borders — what could possibly go wrong?

Michael Howe
 NOTL

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!

Jer Houghton
 NOTL

Editor's note: It's been a pleasure to work with Jeremy during 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 lies 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.



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The case for **good** management

Brian Marshall
 OPINION

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 Prideaux 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 verbally 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 a very similar 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 truly inspired architectural one-offs have been found acceptable in the normal course of town business. Modernist designs have been set within traditional neighbourhoods, and in

some cases adjacent to historical homes. When you add a host of apparent inconsistencies across the town, is it surprising that the "people of this community" are confused?

The absence of any written well-defined architectural controls and historical protection guidelines creates an environment in which it appears to be reasonable for a property owner and/or a purchaser of a non-designated property to assume that their vision of its future iteration will be the primary (and perhaps only) consideration.

To allow this chaotic 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 designs, and the author of The Lake Report's weekly "Arch-i-text" 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



Police have dismantled illegal marijuana grow-op on Concession 4 Road in Virgil. DARIYA BAIGUZHIIYEVA

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.

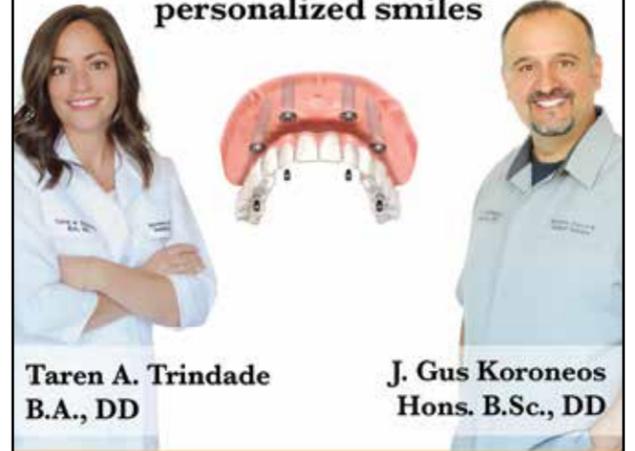
He was later released from custody and no charges have been laid yet.

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

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- Alina, Eurocleaners

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MORE LETTERS

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 cheering on the participants on run day.

Many people come together to take registrations, marshal 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, Hendrik’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 survivor Sharon Burns. Celebrations were lead by Juliet Dunn singing the national anthem, followed by an announcement 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 coverage 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

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. SUBMITTED/KATHRYN CHANEY

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 Snowbirds 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

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 minister. 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. Amazingly, intelligent people can’t seem to have a civil conversation about issues. Politics have become polarized, 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 out assuming everyone is of 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 not talk 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 determine free speech by what the majority finds acceptable, 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 irreverent, 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 belief is very powerful. The stronger the belief 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 political 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 sharing 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 name calling by comparing the first writer to be “similar to the behaviour of far-right hate mongers and U.S. President Donald Trump.” Not even sure why that was necessary in the second article!

Instead of the vitriol, may I suggest we listen, question and ... go learn things!

Patricia Nicholls-Papernick
St. Davids

Trudeau only sorry because he got caught

Dear editor:

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

He has called others racist, homophobic, Islamophobic etc., without proof.

He would not take it easy if it was a Conservative that used blackface dress up.

Can you imagine if Donald Trump had done this type of racial act? We would never have heard the end of it but it didn’t take long for the Liberals to try to cover

up and move on.

Trudeau is a fraud and a liar. He is sorry not for what he did but because he got caught.

And don’t forget about when he lied about the SNC-Lavalin cover-up.

I wish we had more honest people in government, like Jody Wilson-Raybould.

Trudeau is an embarrassment to all Canadians and must resign.

George Warkentin
Virgil

Have an opinion you want heard?

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



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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 Rye.

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 have pieced together and old photographs that have been dug up from the archives.

They were promised better lives, but many worked in harsh conditions and slept in even worse environments, said Tina Muller, granddaughter of Gladys Jesse Simm, who was moved to Canada in 1920.

"Hers was mild in comparison to a lot of the other kids. They were used as farm labourers. Some of their stories are heart wrenching; there's just a handful of them that were put into good homes," she said.

Though she said her grandmother was one of the

few lucky children placed in a good home, there were still aspects about her childhood she never spoke of.

Muller was close with her grandmother and she said she is heartbroken at the thought of her coming overseas in that way. Met with a mix of sadness and curiosity she said she has been discovering more and more about her grandmother's life, and the family she never met who may still be out there.

"I had nobody to talk to about it. My dad had passed away, and if he knew about it he certainly didn't say anything. We have a whole half a family out there and I'm looking for them," Muller said.

Nancy Martin is the granddaughter of Stephen Thwaites, brother of Reginald Thwaites who purchased farmland in 1925, which is now Thwaites Farm on townline Road. She said her grandfather never spoke of his experience.

"My grandfather's situation was sad, but he got in with a good family. He never said that's how he came over. It was always just "We came over."

He was separated and then reunited with his brothers, she said, but she didn't hear any of that from him. It was through researching the past that she discovered some of the harsh realities of how he came to Canada.

"I'm looking through all the names, and all of the ages are written beside the names, and I realized – this is a ship of children. The oldest one appears to be 15," Martin said.

After spending more time looking into the ship's manifest, she said she 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 kid's face's 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.

Bernhard Mattern
Portfolio Manager,
Mandeville Private Client Inc.

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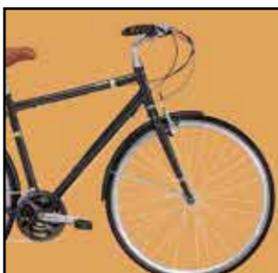
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Late, but still a promising start to grape harvest, say local farmers



Grapes on vines along the Heritage Trail. BRITTANY CARTER

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Grape growers and winemakers alike are grateful for the sunny days and cool nights of the last couple of weeks, as they carefully monitor the delayed start of the harvest season.

“We came out of winter with no damage, but then Spring was two weeks late,” said Alex Kolundzic, head winemaker for Pillitteri Estates Winery. Despite the delay, he says things are looking positive.

“The last two weeks have been amazing, the warm sunny days and cooler nights are ideal conditions for grape growing. My take is we’re going to catch up and have a good crop.”

The first grapes to be picked are chardonnay and pinot noir grapes destined for sparkling wine, he said.

“Harvest is coming late, it’s a slow start, but picking grapes for sparkling has started, especially in the south end, said Mattias Oppenlaender, chair of Ontario Grape Growers. “It will be later by the lake because it’s cooler there,” he added.

A lot of local winemakers, like Niagara College’s Gavin Robertson, are waiting a bit longer to take the grapes off the vines.

“It’s always tough to call (when to harvest),” he said.

“The season was delayed, and now we have a good healthy crop, but we’re wait-

ing for it to ripen, waiting on sugars to go up and acids to come down,” he explains.

The waiting game isn’t a passive one for growers and winemakers, says Oppenlaender, noting there’s still lots to be done.

“Growers are using different management processes. Some have trimmed leaves to expose the grapes to the sun to help the grapes ripen and mature, there are still adjustments going on,” said Oppenlaender.

In the Pillitteri vineyards, “berries are bigger than average,” said Kolundzic.

“So we’re managing that by thinning the crop to ensure quality,” he said.

“As a winemaker, I’m going to hang the fruit on the vines longer than usual, to let the grapes get riper.”

Robertson is of the same opinion, saying “especially for the cabernets, and merlot, we want to let those grapes hang as long as possible. Another month of this weather would be perfect.” And in the meantime, Robertson is “thinning the reds so the crop isn’t too heavy to ripen.”

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

Trail tours to talk history of **railroad**

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 and 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 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 has 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.”



Geoff Senson plays some tunes during the tour. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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.



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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-



Logan Fieguth is walking to raise money for Gillian's Place for the seventh year. BRITTANY CARTER



way at 1881 Concession 4 Road, which will be out for people to drop off bottles until the drive on Oct. 5.

"I'm always collecting bottles. I'm constantly making runs to the beer store to drop off bottles. That's always a steady stream. I ride my bike to a lot of restaurants and wineries in Niagara to get larger loads

of bottles donated," he said.

The walk is the 14th annual "symbolic march" that gives men and the community the opportunity to stand up for women. On Oct. 19 at the Pen Centre at 11 a.m., men will walk to raise money for Gillian's Place. There will be entertainment and breakfast for participants. Registration is

at 9:30 a.m.

"It shows people that those of a younger age like me are willing to be out there. This is a societal issue. We all need to take a stand against it, and we need to work together to overcome it," Fieguth said.

Those looking to donate can sponsor Fieguth online at canadahelps.org.

NOTL musician to host monthly open mic at the Legion

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

On the first Sunday of each month beginning Oct. 6, Randy Busbridge will be hosting an 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 says he 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 would 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



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

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."

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<p>Theatrical Cemetery Tour - 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society and Museum</p> <p>Family Friendly Drop-in Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Teen Literary Alliance - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Ukulele Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Niagara Regional Native Centre Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre, 382 Airport Rd.</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month</p> 	<p>German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre</p>
6	7	8	
<p>Open Mic with Buzz Hummer - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124</p> <p>Ukulele Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Babies and Books - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre, 382 Airport Rd.</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Committee of the Whole - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>A Kirk, A Kilt & A Strawberry - 2 p.m. - St. Andrews Presbyterian Church</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Municipal Heritage - 7 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Transportation Committee - 2 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Glendale Task Force - Council Chambers</p> <p>German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre</p>

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	26 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 Public Library Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	27 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	28 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., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society and Museum 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
2 Senior Group - 10 a.m. - NOTL	3 Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Exaltation: Intangible Journeys of the Human Spirit - Opening Reception - 7 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Agricultural Committee - 4:30 p.m. - Council Chambers Walking Tour of the Heritage Trail - 5 p.m. - Heritage Trail at King and John streets	4 Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Queenston Volunteer Firefighters - Spaghetti Dinner - 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Queenston Firehall Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Walking Tour of the Heritage Trail - 5 p.m. - Heritage Trail at King and John streets	5 Saturday Morning Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village
9 Senior Group - 10 a.m. - NOTL	10 Customer Experience and Technology Committee - 3 p.m. - Council Chambers Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Therapy Tails with Jasper - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	11 Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	12 Saturday DJ Nights at Wayne Gretzky Estates - 6:30 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 7 p.m. - Fort George

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The Farmer's Market at the Village will be open for its last day of the year on Oct 5. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Farmer's Market **wrapping up** for the year

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Farmer's Market at the Village will come to a seasonal end on Oct. 5, and though the weekly market had a cold, wet start, it will be closing out on a high note, said market co-ordinator Sharon Brinsmead-Taylor.

The weekly gathering at the Village brought locals together early Saturday mornings all summer to shop the 100 per cent local produce and hand-made artisans and vendors. But the market was about more than just shopping, she said.

"A lot of people have developed good friendships

with the vendors. They support them off season by going directly to them to purchase their products. It's just become that place for the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake to feel comfortable and to belong," she said.

On Sept. 28, the second to last market will see more than 70 vendors with Etsy: Made in Canada, Niagara Etsy Artisans, joining the 20 regular weekly vendors. The Etsy market will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but the farmer's market will maintain its regular schedule from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Brinsmead-Taylor said many of the regular weekly vendors will stick it out

until the end of the artisan market at 5 p.m.

Though the farmer's market has two more dates, the Supper Market at the Village, also organized by Brinsmead-Taylor, concluded its last event of the summer on Sept. 18.

Both weekly markets brought the community together in an organic and positive way, she said, but they were "very different animals."

"The farmer's market is kind of a laid back, easy Saturday morning ... A lot of the customers and the vendors have become good friends of mine because I've gotten to know them over the years," she said

She said the Supper

Market, while bringing out a lot of the same crowd as Saturday mornings, had an entirely different vibe.

"The Supper Market is busy, there isn't a lot of time for me to do much of anything but work and get through it," she said, adding that Wednesday nights were always lively.

The Market at the Village is a not-for-profit which has been hosting the farmer's market since 2007. The Supper Market began in 2012, and Brinsmead-Taylor came on board in 2013.

Rose Bartel of Bartel Farms said she's been vending at the farmer's market since its inception in 2007.

She's only missed one day over the last 12 years due to a wedding, but other than that she's been loyally coming to the market.

Though she said she's thrilled to take part each week, she's happy to be finishing for the season.

"Because we've been there so long we have a good clientele and the rest of the vendors are very friendly, and Sharon's a really good marketing manager. It's a good place to go on a Saturday morning," Bartel said.

Brinsmead-Taylor credits the sponsors for making the markets possible.

"If we didn't have our sponsors then we definitely

couldn't do the market every year," she said.

Sponsors include John & Liz Hawley, The Shaw Festival, Meridian Credit Union, Virgil, Allstate Insurance of St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty, Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake, DF Design Build, and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

During the last market on Oct. 5, ballots will be given out by each vendor with every purchase for a grand prize gift basket, which will be drawn for at the end of the market.

Both markets will start back up next season after the May long weekend, she said.

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

Ontario Electronic Stewardship — a not-for-profit organization that runs a recycling program in Ontario, and pays per tonne for items — and the money raised will also go to Red Roof.

By noon Saturday, residents had already brought in eight tonnes of electronic waste, said Vikas Mann, director of operations at ATL Adventure Services, which provided e-waste collection services during the event.

Post said information about the total amount of waste and what was collected won't be available for a couple of weeks.

NOTL resident Rudy Hollemans arrived at the

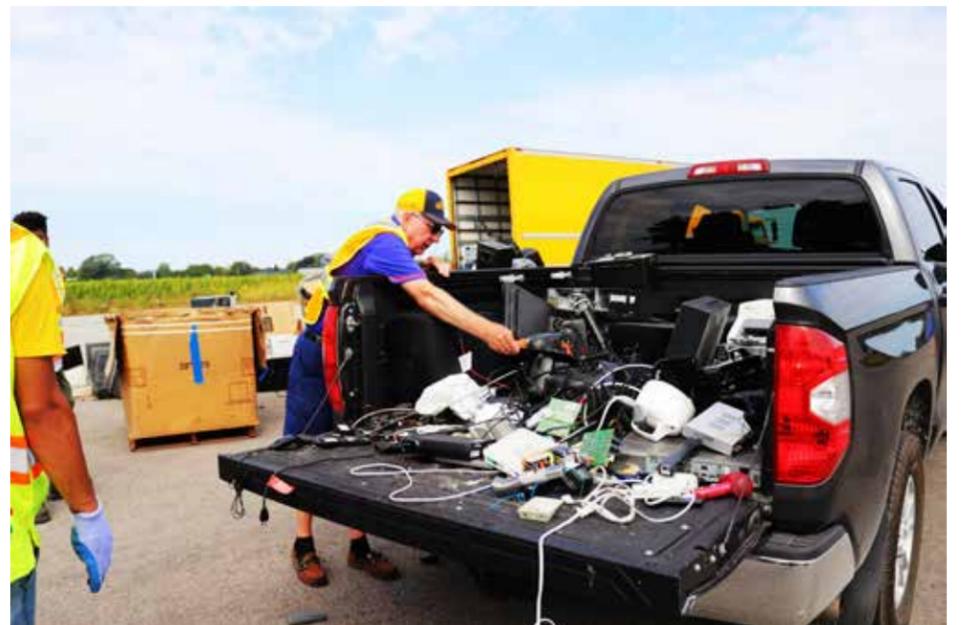
pharmacy in a truck, with a trunk full of electronics.

Hollemans said Seaway Mall, where he works, recycles electronics from its tenants but instead of throwing the waste away, he decided to bring everything to the event "to try to help."

"It's for a good cause," he told The Lake Report. "We try to help Red Roof as much as we can."

Maggie Griffiths also brought electronics, such as a TV and a printer, to the event. She said it was a "fabulous event" and a "great idea."

Niagara Now will follow up on how much was raised.



Rudy Hollemans' truck full of electronic waste. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



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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 Neufelds 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 Lakeshore 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



Helen and Cornie Neufeld got married in 1949. Seventy years later, they say their love is still strong.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Hunter Road to living in a cottage in Huntsville, the couple has moved nine times during their life. The Neufelds 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 Neufelds 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 Neufelds 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 down, Cornie says.

"I wouldn't do anything differently," he says. "It was meant to be."

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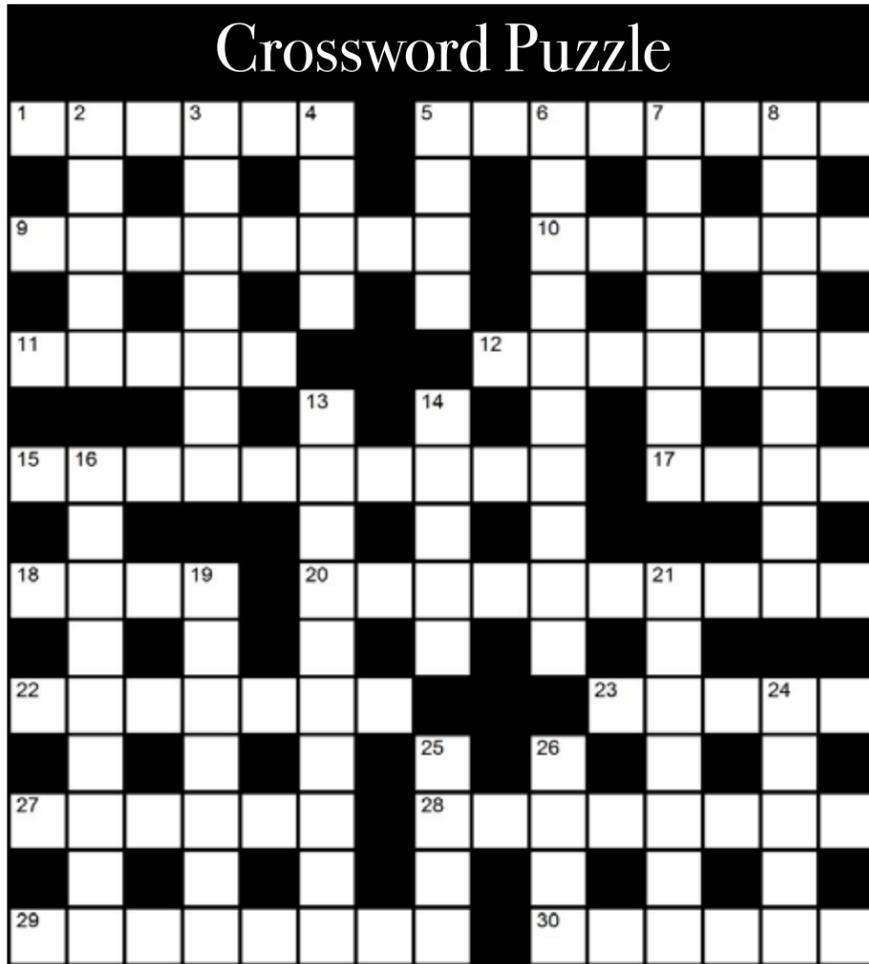
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Have some fun

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

- Across**
- Gossamer (6)
 - Like many Sherpas (8)
 - Affliction of cats and other fur-lickers (8)
 - Skin condition sought by beachgoers (6)
 - Science of logic, quantity, shape and arrangement (Abbr.) (5)
 - Tacit (7)
 - Owner of a business (10)
 - Inert gaseous element (4)
 - Sour (4)
 - Place for American children in the holidays (6,4)
 - Galilee native (7)
 - Spread out (5)
 - Small restaurant (6)
 - Elongate (8)
 - South American boa (8)
 - Person in the petroleum industry (6)
- Down**
- D-Day beach (5)
 - Navy vessel (7)
 - Spoiled child (4)
 - World's longest river (4)
 - Autopsy (4-6)
 - Wool fat (7)
 - Private room on a passenger ship (9)
 - Hollywood (10)
 - Stub (5)
 - Economic decline (9)
 - Severe (7)
 - Uppercase (7)
 - Cub leader (5)
 - Entreaty (4)
 - Keen on (4)



Last issue's answers





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Members of local walking group and Niagara Pulmonary Fibrosis support group blow bubbles Monday morning at Queen's Royal Park. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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 gazebo, 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 Pulmo-

nary Fibrosis Foundation bracelets.

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-laet who attended Monday's event.

NOTL resident Terry Hardy, 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 over as chair 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. 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.

"It's a Niagara district trophy, awarded at our

annual women's tournament, to the top team from any district golf club who have at least four players in the tournament," said team representative Martha Cruikshank.

"The club's four low net scores are taken to declare the winner of the trophy."

The trophy was donated in 1966 by Anne Wood, of the Wood Manufacturing company in St. Catharines.

NOTL's competitors this year were Barbara Ahluwalia, Lisa Allen, Sue Gagne,



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 Ahluwalia, 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

Patty Garriock, Ginny Green, Yolanda Henry, Marg Ketcheson, Sharron Marlow, Margot Richardson and Cruikshank.

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 Lake Report

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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.

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- Richard Harley

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Writers' Circle: The Gift – My resolution

Hermine Steinberg
NOTL Writers' Circle

In the previous instalments of The Gift, I shared a story about my friends and I encountering 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. This is the final chapter.

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 whirl of his drill.

Since retiring last year, he spent most of his time working on his 1967 MGB convertible. 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 were 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 travelled 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 as I sat in our "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 paled in comparison to the feelings that were 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 become 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



Sourced photo. KAOS IN THE KITCHEN

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 loss was undeniable.

In the past I didn't want to rock the boat with what I believed was some immature longing. 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 patted 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 grief, and our future. 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." He looked at me 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."

After dipping the spoon

into the bowl and slowly licking it clean, I took a deep breath. "I never really considered that we both were feeling the same sense of loss." I looked up at Frank. When our eyes met, I clearly saw his anguish.

"Frank, I need to tell you what happened to me earlier this evening," I began slowly. "I need you to believe me, no matter how crazy it sounds. I want to get back to that place where we really trusted and were open with each other, connected so deeply that our hearts, minds and bodies seemed to be in sync."

Frank leaned back in his chair. "I remember feeling that way." He sighed, shaking his head. "We might be chasing a dream." He then reached across the table and took my hand. "Didn't we always used to say that we needed to fight for our dreams. So, let's start with you telling me what happened today."

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 in July and on Saturday she was 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



Sharon Frayne. SUPPLIED

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 several 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 marathon was a once in a lifetime experience for Frayne, she is no stranger to writing, 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'm a Niagara native, returned to my roots after retirement with my husband Bill French and exuberant yellow Labrador, Bala," she said.

Now, she has picked up her passion for art and writing with gusto.

This summer she was also named the first-place winner for the South Simcoe Arts Festival in July for her short story Moonlight with Tom Thomson.

It also won the 2019 Phyllis Smallman Award for Great Storytelling and was first shared in St. Catharines at the Canadian Author's

Association's Painters, Prose and Poets event.

The short story is set to be published in an upcoming issue of The Lake Report as a Writers' Circle contribution. It written in accompaniment of a painting she created. The story and the painting are to be experienced side by side, she said.

"I have painted a moonlight scene in 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.

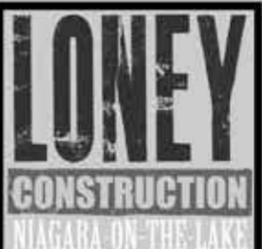
It's important for the

members of the group to be able to share their stories 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 NOTL between 1817 and 1923.

"It tells 10 suspenseful tales of various inmates and prisoners who were held 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.



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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



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

ARCHITEXT

Design with historic houses

Brian Marshall
Featured



A sympathetic addition to a Georgian. 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 archi-

tect do when faced with an 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 facade of a house can be returned to its former glory.

Now, on the question of whether to conform to a particular historic architectural style, after 40 years of following both arguments I remain firmly with a foot in both camps.

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 reproduction 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!

The Lake Report

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Please make cheques to The Lake Report.

- Richard Harley

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ETHICAL, INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.

Willowbank



Linda Fritz
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 Clencairn and Alexander at Willowbank.

It should be noted that Queenston's Alexander Hamilton was never involved in a duel, nor 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 Hannah Hamilton. Born in 1797, Hannah was Alexander's wife. She 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 Hannah peering back at you.

The Willowbank Estate has had six owners since the Hamilton family years. From 1888 to 1932 it belonged to Alfred Boulton, Alexander's great-nephew.

John Bright, a descendant of the founder of Brights 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 also the designer Greystone and the Laura Secord School. In the winter, if you stand on Princess Street and look at the front of the former school, now Willowbank's lower campus, you can see how Nicholson used the same themes in the two facades. (In summer, the trees block the view of Willowbank from the school.) Nicholson's drawings for Willowbank survive. They show that some of the renovations requested by the Brights were not carried out. Unfortunately, according to some villagers, Bright destroyed many letters and other documents he found in the house.

In 1966, Willowbank was sold by the Bright family to the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of Christian Charity. The estate was



Willowbank, a house built in 1834 for Alexander Hamilton. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

renamed Holy Trinity Monastery, and the nuns used it as a residence for themselves and for women with mental handicaps. In 1982, the estate changed hands once again, and became the Appleton Boys School. The school, founded in 1976, provided special education for boys with learning disabilities. It occupied the site for only three years.

In 1985, the estate passed to its third owner in less than twenty years. J. 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 2001, 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 Technology'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 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 masonry arch. It held over 600 pounds and was the only one constructed of natural materials.

Sarah Bulman 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 masonry 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



COMMUNITY



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



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



NOTL resident Donald O'Connor and his dog Ace sent in a photo of an ice boom that went over Niagara Falls in last winter and ended up in NOTL. They've now found a second one, O'Connor says. SUBMITTED/DON O'CONNOR



NOTL resident Sonny D'Mello was lucky to discover this "bevy of beauties" at the Tim Hortons in Old Town. They were on their annual Canada wide tour through NOTL. One of them was in the movie Cinderella Story. SUBMITTED/SONNY D'MELLO



The Golden Plunger
With Betty and Jane
Fournos Family Restaurant



Tom Stavropoulos accepts the golden plunger for Fournos Family Restaurant. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER



Andrea Kaiser, Liberal candidate for the riding of Niagara Falls, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at Portage Bakery in Niagara Falls on Monday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Town Councillor Norm Arsenault, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, HearingLife Director of Operations Laurie Van Wyk, Clinic Staff Elena Vani and Doctor of Audiology Vanessa Vani. SUBMITTED/LYNN VELD

The word "OPA" is a Greek word used as an expression of celebration and if you hear this cheer while wandering in Niagara-On-The-Lake you may be at "Fournos" a Greek restaurant! Fournos boasts authentic Greek food made fresh daily, and in the summer it is served on an outdoor patio, or downstairs in the dining room. In a cozy atmosphere enjoy a glass of wine with a Greek appetizer that comes with its own "fireworks" called saganaki. Be sure to leave room for some yummy, homemade baklava. Thanks to Jamie Stradeski for being an attentive server. The lavatory complements the restaurant and maintains that close, intimate setting. The taps provide plenty of warm soapy water for the sticky honey clean-up. With an automatic hand dryer you will be on your way in a jiffy! Opa!

3.5/5 Gold Plungers



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.



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 Pever

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

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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

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 was an English professor and administrator, rising to become president and vice-chancellor.

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

Conolly 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 all 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 adviser 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 communion 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



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

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 America. He hated capitalism. But it was a cash cow. He was never embarrassed by that."

Conolly claims he is not a theorist. Or a critic.

He compares his academ-

ic role to coal mining at the face of the seam. Coal mining was his grandfather's career, until he died from breathing coal dust. "At the face, you chip away at the coal to create pieces that will be used by others."

"The work I do is the academic equivalent. Finding the original 'stuff,' digging it out and making it available for constructive use."

He speaks with a sense of wonder about how his career has opened up travel experiences to the four corners of the Earth. As example, he cites his presidency of the World University Service of Canada in the 1990s. During his tenure, he visited projects led by Canadian university faculty providing

infrastructure services to developing countries around the world.

Conolly admits he is never far away from thinking about his life's work. Even in relaxation his favourite pastime is reading a good novel or seeing a play.

"Oh, and I really enjoy chess. 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.



News that

Hits home

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