



Ceremony honours Queen | Page 18



## Glendale closed all weekend for construction

Steve Hardaker  
Community Correspondent

Drivers should avoid Glendale Avenue at the QEW this weekend as construction work will shut down Glendale from Friday through Monday.

And on Monday night, the entire QEW will be closed for 12 hours at Glendale.

The first step is a three-day closure of a portion of Glendale.

*Continued on Page 3*



## Tempered optimism greets plans for cross-lake hovercraft

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

A hovercraft is the latest in a long line of fixes for traversing the distance between Toronto and Niagara, but some Niagara-on-the-Lake residents are skeptical it's the fix its maker hopes it will be.

The new hovercraft service was announced last Wednesday by Hoverlink Ontario Inc. which plans to launch the service next summer.

*Continued on Page 4*

# Cupboards **bare** at Newark Neighbours

### NOTL food bank desperately seeking donations to fill Thanksgiving hampers

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and the shelves at the Newark Neigh-

bours Food Bank are empty. "Our need is high. Our shelves are literally bare," says Cindy Grant, the chair of the board of Newark Neighbours.

Thanksgiving hampers will be distributed Thursday, Oct. 6, "so time is marching on. It's only a couple of weeks away."

The food bank has teamed

up again this year with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club for its Porch Pick-up Food Drive this Saturday.

But Newark desperately needs donations from the

community for those pickups.

On Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., teams of

*Continued on Page 10*

# Insect could **devastate** vineyards

### Invasive **spotted lanternfly** already has been spotted just across the U.S. border



Farmers are worried the spotted lanternfly could devastate grape and stone fruit crops across Niagara if, or rather when, they make their way into Canada. They've already been spotted across the border in Buffalo. INVASIVE SPECIES CENTRE

By Somer Slobodian | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Already expecting one of the smallest grape crops in years, Niagara winemakers are worried about a new potential problem – an infestation by the spotted lanternfly, an insect

that can wreak havoc on crops. "In Ontario, we already have enough issues. We've lost 70 per cent of our crop this year because of a few cold days in January," said Bill Redelmeier,

the owner of Southbrook Organic Vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Now, the lanternfly, a highly invasive insect, is on the horizon.

With over 100 sightings in Buffalo and infestations as close as Erie County, N.Y., and Oakland County, Mich., it's

*Continued on Page 14*

# Mayor supporting candidates is **'partisan, divisive,'** opponent says

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

## **ELECTION '22**

By publicly supporting and backing certain candidates for council, the incumbent lord mayor is being "divisive" and bringing a form of "partisan politics" to the race, one of her opponents says.

Vaughn Goettler says the message he takes from

Lord Mayor Betty Disero showing whom she supports is that the mayor "is not looking to heal the problems we had in the past council."

One councillor, Stuart McCormack, quit part way through his first term, three others chose not to

run and "infighting" was a problem among members of council over the past four years, Goettler said in an interview.

A story in The Lake Report last week highlighted the fact Disero has erected



Mayoral candidates Vaughn Goettler, left, and Gary Zalepa both say the new town council needs to work as a team.

*Continued on Page 5*



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# WORLD NEWS DAY

## SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

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Here's some of what Niagara-on-the-Lake would miss:

- The marketing and advertising messages of the nearly 50 NOTL businesses, mainly small, independent, community operators, who trust us every single week to bring those messages to you, our loyal readers.
- And the nearly 40 news, feature and opinion pieces we publish for the NOTL community every week.

Here are just a few of the important, timely, relevant stories just from the past two weeks that no other media published. If The Lake Report wasn't serving NOTL, the community would not know about:

- The council candidates Lord Mayor Betty Disero is supporting
  - Solmar and Two Sisters claim that town charges violate the Charter of Rights
  - A NOTL resident wants to connect Niagara and Toronto with a hovercraft service
  - The Monuments Men series profiling all the NOTL soldiers honoured on the town's cenotaphs
    - The saga of the St. Davids bicycle bollards "experiment"
    - Niagara sailors compete in the Shark World Championships in Austria
    - Police stage a back-to-school safety blitz as kids return to class
  - Drivers are worried about how the QEW's new diverging diamond interchange at Glendale will function
    - A NOTL developer is matching the public's donations to palliative care agency
      - Tales of trauma and triumph at the Rainbow Warriors talk
- Plus dozens more news, feature and commentary pieces**



World News Day is a global project to draw public attention to the role that journalists play in providing trustworthy news and information that serves citizens and democracy. World News Day takes place annually on Sept. 28 and is presented by the Canadian Journalism Foundation and the World Editors Forum – with support from the Google News Initiative.

# The Lake Report





*Angelika Zammit - Local Expert*  
**Niagara-on-the-Lake Luxury Realty Team**  
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Construction workers continue to put the finishing touches on the QEW/Glendale Avenue diverging diamond interchange, with an opening planned for Monday, Sept. 26. STEVE HARDAKER

## Glendale closed all weekend for construction

*Continued from Front Page*

With the opening of the new QEW/Glendale Avenue diverging diamond interchange planned for Monday, Sept. 26, Glendale will be closed in both directions between Taylor and York roads.

Glendale will not be passable from 10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23 until 5 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 26 to migrate traffic onto the new overpass.

As well, all on- and off-ramps for the QEW will be closed.

When it reopens Monday, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians will be using the diverging diamond overpass.

However, for about two months, only the QEW's Toronto-bound exit ramp at Glendale and the Niagara-bound on-ramps from Glendale will be operational when the overpass opens.

Drivers will be able to use the QEW/Mountain Road interchange to access the Toronto-bound QEW or to exit the Niagara-bound QEW until new ramps are completed.

The next step in the massive \$53.8-million project is to dismantle the old Glendale Avenue interchange.

That will be done Monday night, Sept. 26, when rapid demolition techniques will be used to break up and take down the old bridge.

The highway is scheduled to be closed from 7:30 p.m. Monday to 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. In case of weather or other problems, Tuesday night is a back-up.

At one of the public education sessions for the new interchange, Andrew Bernard, project manager with Brennan Paving & Construction Ltd. and lead contracting firm for the project, described the rapid demolition technique.

A thick layer of sand will be placed on the QEW below the old overpass.

Then heavy-duty excavators, hydraulic hammers and other equipment will be used to break up the old road and drop it in pieces onto the QEW.

All the debris must be cleared away overnight before the highway can reopen.

Work remaining on the project includes construction of a new carpool lot and the Airport Road loop ramp under Glendale Avenue. All that work should be completed by the end of October.

Between then and June 2023, rehabilitation work will commence on the existing QEW pavement.

The project will end next June with the construction of a roundabout at Glendale Avenue and York Road.

*Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for 12 years and is active in several community organizations.*

## NOTL Santa Claus parade returns Dec. 10



The Santa Claus parade is back in-person for the first time in two years. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

Staff  
 The Lake Report

Santa's back. The traditional Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Parade returns to Old Town this year after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

The parade is set for Saturday, Dec. 10, starting at 11 a.m., the Town of NOTL and the Christmas Parade Committee announced Tuesday.

The route will start at King and Centre streets and travel along Castlereagh,

Wellington, Byron/Prideaux, Simcoe and Queen streets.

"We are thrilled to have Jolly Saint Nick return this year for our traditional parade," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

"This community event spreads holiday joy to all those who attend and participate and is a great way to kick off the holiday season."

This year's honorary parade marshal is the Grape Growers of Ontario, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

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Left: After his training as a bomb aimer, George Scott arrived in England on Sept. 1, 1943. The family of Flying Officer George Scott of Niagara-on-the-Lake received conflicting reports after his plane was shot down. CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL



A planned hovercraft service will connect Niagara to Toronto starting in 2023. HOVERLINK ONTARIO INC.

## Mayor confident in plan, but some aren't sold on viability of hovercraft

Continued from Front Page

Hoverlink plans to run two hovercrafts up to 24 times a day each way from Port Weller in St. Catharines to near Ontario Place. Tickets will cost travellers roughly \$25 to \$30.

The project is headed by NOTL resident Chris Morgan, who has a background in marketing and motorsport racing.

Coun. Gary Burroughs remembers the failure of many previous Toronto-to-Niagara ferry services but is optimistic about this one.

"This one took their time to get it right," he said.

It's an early announcement, though, with the launch nearly a year away and the operators haven't figured everything out yet, Burroughs said.

He noted that "350 people on buses coming down Lakeshore Road might be a challenge," a reference to plans for buses to shuttle travellers between NOTL and Port Weller.

Other buses would take people to St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

While Lord Mayor Betty Disero is "very excited" about the project, calling it "a real game changer" for Niagara transportation and traffic, resident Cindy Grant is not so sure.

"I have no faith whatsoever," Grant told The Lake Report. "There isn't the business case for it."

Grant estimated that she's seen four or five attempts to provide commuters and tourists with quick transportation to Toronto from Niagara.

To date, none of them have worked.

Grant was not the only one who was skeptical.



Ken Rive said he has no need for a hovercraft service to Toronto.

Residents Terry Mactaggart and his wife, also named Terry, remember previous services that offered people a cheap and quick way to get back and forth from Toronto, but they all "sunk or went out of business."

But they agree the hovercraft proposal, if successful, could help with a lot of problems in NOTL, including traffic congestion.

"Traffic has become really horrendous," Mactaggart said in an interview.

The Mactaggarts agreed that they would use the service to get back and forth to Toronto if they needed to make a trip.

Resident Ken Rive was on the fence, though.

"Whether I would use it or not, I'm not sure," he said in an interview.

Rive said he doesn't like Toronto and would need a "specific reason to go there."

Coun. Sandra O Connor said she thinks "it's great from the environmental perspective. It will really help get cars off the QEW."

Doing that would decrease the need to widen the highway, which would help to prevent developments from encroaching onto farm land, she said.

# THE MONUMENTS MEN

### 'Regret to Advise,' three words families dreaded

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph. In recognition of the cenotaph's century of service through two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on it. This is one in a series of stories to document and remember the sacrifices these combatants made. Future instalments will commemorate those named on the Queen Street cenotaph and on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale  
Special to The Lake Report

During the Second World War, when a plane failed to return from a mission and there was no report of it making an emergency landing at another airfield, the crew was listed as "missing."

The squadron waited for further word from the Germans through the Red Cross to learn if a crew member was a PoW or identified as killed in the crash.

If no such notification was received, the status of the crew was changed to "missing believed killed."

A significant number of men were marked as "believed killed" when they actually had parachuted to

safety, evaded the enemy and eventually returned to Britain. Unless an airman had been reported as killed or captured there was always a slight hope that he was still alive.

Back in Canada, the next-of-kin of soldiers, airmen or sailors lived through the war in continuous anxiety, ever fearful of receiving a telegram from the government informing them of the death of a loved one.

Florence Scott of Niagara-on-the-Lake, wife of Flying Officer George Scott of the RCAF, was put on an emotional roller coaster by the Canadian government.

Florence was a nurse at the Niagara-on-the-Lake hospital, living with her parents while George was overseas.

On Aug. 21, 1944, she received a telegram and a terse message: "REGRET TO ADVISE THAT YOUR HUSBAND FLYING OFFICER GEORGE SCOTT IS REPORTED MISSING AFTER AIR OPERATIONS OVERSEAS AUGUST SEVENTEENTH [STOP] LETTER FOLLOWS."

She then had to agonize over whether George had been killed or captured.

George Scott was born in Scotland on Feb. 28, 1912, before his father moved the family to Whitby, Ont.

After attending school there and taking a course

in bookkeeping, he was able to find work with the Ontario Hospital in Whitby before being hired as a clerk at the Ontario Hospital in Toronto.

At some point he met Florence Gobert, a nurse from Niagara-on-the-Lake. The couple married at St Mark's Church in Niagara on Sept. 4, 1937, and moved to Toronto.

The war was only four months old when George decided to enlist in the RCAF in January 1940. His application was not accepted until April 12, 1941.

After basic training he attended a radio mechanics course and then was slated for pilot training at the St. Catharines Airport (Niagara-on-the-Lake.)

That did not work out well. After two weeks of ground school followed by a few flights in a Fleet Finch trainer, he withdrew from the course, lacking confidence in his ability to fly.

From here, he was sent to a bombing school and qualified as an aerial bomb aimer. He sailed to England in late August, arriving on Sept. 1, 1943.

After further training as aircrew over the next several months he was finally assigned on April 24, 1944, to RCAF 433 Squadron flying Halifax bombers.

During the next four months Scott flew several

missions before his last flight on Aug. 17, 1944. His crew had been sent to lay anti-ship mines in Kiel Bay on the Baltic Sea.

His plane was shot down, crashing into the Baltic waters. All seven crew members were lost.

This led to the RCAF reporting the crew as "missing." At that time German efficiency was starting to crumble.

There was some sort of mix-up and the Red Cross reported Scott as a PoW. It was a brief relief for family back home, but this report was soon corrected.

Now he was listed as "missing presumed killed." What was not reported was that his body washed up on shore a week after he was shot down.

His burial place was noted by the Germans but for some reason not reported to the Red Cross at that time. Scott was finally listed as dead on June 2, 1945.

This period must have been a torment for his wife Florence who was informed that her husband was missing, then that he was a PoW, and later that he was considered missing, believed killed, and finally confirmed as dead.

Flying Officer George Scott was buried in the Aabenraa Cemetery in the Faroe Islands, Denmark.



## FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND



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# Chamber will broadcast **debate** on Facebook

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

## **ELECTION '22**



NOTL Chamber of Commerce debate night is Sept. 28.

Seating is limited for a Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce debate for town council and mayoral candidates next week at the Royal George Theatre on Queen Street.

However, the business group will be broadcasting the debate live on its Facebook page, president Minerva Ward said in announcing the meeting.

The debate runs from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

All council and mayoral candidates are planning to attend, Ward said. The four candidates for regional council are not part of the debate.

Seating is not reserved and the theatre has a capacity of 300.

Doors open at 5:30 and Ward will outline the format and procedures for the evening at 6 p.m.

Starting at 6:15, each candidate will be allotted two minutes to introduce themselves.

A question period moder-

ated by chamber board chair Andrew Niven will begin at 7 p.m. Final statements, limited to one minute each, will start at 8:30.

Chamber members have been invited to submit questions for the debate.

The chamber announcement noted each candidate will be asked one question drawn at random and have two minutes to answer.

Once their two minutes are up, one other candidate will be invited to give a one-minute rebuttal.

The rebuttal candidate will be identified as the first one to raise their hand.

Each candidate can only have one rebuttal.

A timekeeper will be sitting in the front row, keeping an eye on the clock.

When the total time allotted for the question period has expired, no other questions will be asked, the chamber's rules say.

After the question period, each candidate will have one minute for a final sum-up statement.

"Respect and consideration must be given to all persons while they are speaking. Distracting behaviour such as comments, gestures or excessive noises

will not be tolerated," the chamber said.

Besides the chamber debate, residents group FocusNOTL has planned a series of candidate meetings at the NOTL Legion hall.

Those sessions, all at the Royal Canadian Legion hall, 410 King St., will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on several dates.

The schedule for those meetings is as follows:

Mayoral debate  
Tuesday, Sept 27: Betty Disero, Vaughn Goettler, Gary Zalepa

Councillors  
Session 1 – Wednesday, Oct. 5 – Gary Burroughs, Maria Mavridis, Richard Mell, Nick Ruller

Session 2 – Tuesday, Oct. 11 – John McCallum, Sandra O'Connor, Katherine Reid, Erwin Wiens

Session 3 – Wednesday, Oct. 12 – Tim Balasiuk, Allan Bisback, Wendy Cheropita, Adriana Cater (Vizzari), Alistair Harlond

Regional Councillor  
Tuesday, Oct. 18 – Pat Darte, Andrea Kaiser, Paolo Miele, William Roberts

# Goettler says he wants to end **council infighting**

Continued from Front Page

several signs outside her home for council candidates whom she is supporting.

Two incumbent councillors are among them, but others seeking re-election are not.

Disero did not announce or promote her support for the candidates whose signs she put up. A reporter noticed the signs and asked her about them.

"I just think it's important for me to show support" for candidates whose platforms and ideas she thinks will benefit the town, Disero said. She did the same during the 2018 campaign.

Goettler, a retired business owner running for mayor for the first time, said it is wrong for Disero to single out certain candidates.

"I think that it furthers the divisiveness that is already existing. Because if the constituents want to

elect Candidate A, it's not for me to say that candidate is somebody who I'm going to support or not support," he said.

"My job is to work with that candidate and all the candidates equally to build a team."

"I'm not a consummate politician here," he added, but municipal politics isn't like provincial or federal politics, where people align themselves with a candidate and a party.

"I don't care if a councillor is Liberal, NDP, Conservative or anything else. My goal is to build a council that gets things done" and avoids infighting.

As well, "if I'm one of the people on the out because I wasn't mentioned, the first thing that says to me is if the current lord mayor is re-elected, we're not going to work together because number one, she clearly doesn't support me or my thinking," he said.

"And so, how do you heal and move forward?"

As the mayor, "I just think there should be a higher standard. I want to work with anybody who is successful in running."

Disero's other opponent, regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, said he won't be endorsing any council candidates.

"I believe the decision to select council members is best left to our residents," he told The Lake Report.

"Municipal councils work best when various opinions engage with the focus on making the best decision for the community. My entire focus for running is to re-establish the role of the mayor as the team leader for council and you weaken the ability to accomplish that by leaving people off a 'chosen' roster."

Zalepa said the candidates Disero is supporting "are all good people with good ideas. The candidates that have not been identified are also good people with good ideas."

If elected, Zalepa said he wants "to bring the council together via a strategic plan with clear goals and activities. Creating decisions beforehand is problematic."

On a different note, Goettler said whether he wins or not, he wants the town to establish a sort of "independent watchdog" who would monitor what the mayor and council said they would do and report back on "how they're progressing toward that."

"Because, right now, things fall into black holes and years go by. I think a watchdog is important and would also improve information flow and transparency."

He emphasized council members need to work together.

"To me, teamwork is extraordinarily important and it will improve cost control and improve time to get things done a lot quicker. And eliminate the discord that exists."

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**Canada** The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

### COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 71**  
**Region active cases: 681**  
**Region deaths: 609**  
**Region total cases: 45,830**

*\*Sept. 21 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "Always be a little kinder than necessary."  
 - James M. Barrie.

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## Swimming for a cure



Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar was on scene as Sean Wright emerged from his swim for the Terry Fox Run.

### Editorial

## Help Newark Neighbours help others

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

As summer officially slides into fall, it's not too early to be thinking about Thanksgiving or, more importantly, the dire shortage at the Newark Neighbours Food Bank.

In fact, it's crucial that the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake come together, immediately, to pitch in and help restock the empty shelves at the town's food bank.

This is essential so that Newark Neighbours can assemble the Thanksgiving food hampers it will distribute to 80 or more families around town on Thursday, Oct. 6.

How's that possible, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, you

might wonder? Welcome to the reality that clients of Newark Neighbours' clients live with daily.

It seems wrong to be talking about people in Niagara-on-the-Lake needing help to put food on the table for themselves and their children.

In a town blessed with so much, with such wealth and prosperity, how is this possible?

We don't know the full answer to that, though with inflation soaring, hard times as the COVID pandemic winds down and some people simply down on their luck, we can tell you it is not a problem that is going to fade anytime soon.

After all, Newark Neighbours has existed for more

than 50 years and continues to fill a growing void in the community.

This Saturday, the hard-working members of the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake and other volunteers will be busy collecting donations from residents.

The Porch Pick-up Food Drive is Newark Neighbours' first such campaign so far this year but it comes at a critical time.

There are just a few days to get donations ready for pick-up – though, if you miss it, you also can drop off non-perishables at Newark Neighbours' location on John Street near Peller Estates Winery.

Meanwhile, do some shopping for Newark Neighbours and check

your own pantry shelves for non-perishables to donate. See the list of needed items in our news story on page 1 and in the food bank's ad elsewhere in the paper.

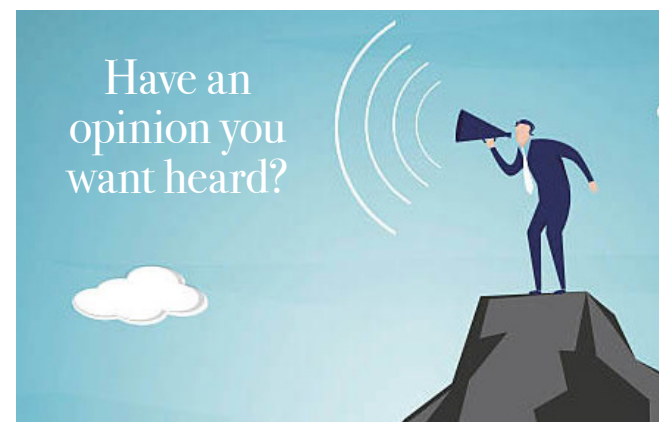
Contact the food bank to arrange for a porch pick-up on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and as a community let's ensure that others are able to have the sort of Thanksgiving holiday most of us take for granted.

Here's how you can help: Register for the Porch Pick-up Food Drive by calling 905-468-7498 or emailing newarkneighbours1@gmail.com. And see the agency's website, newarkneighbours.ca, for full details.

editor@niagaranow.com

### We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.



**BARBEA**  **HAPPY HOUR**  
 4-6PM DAILY  
 289-272-1242 





## Town leaders **give in** to SORE tactics

Dear editor:

The group SORE has initiated a worrisome precedent in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

SORE stands for Save Our Rand Estate. When has this group taken legal ownership of the Rand Estate?

This means they can declare themselves owners of any property in our community and proceed to bully any of us with the blessings and support of the mayor and council if we do not follow their agenda.

For years we taxpayers have been paying for the town's expensive legal battle with the Marotta family, with no end insight.

I have worked as a consultant for the Marottas

and I find SORE's tactics terrifying.

When the Rand was purchased by the Marottas, SORE organized a protest at the community centre resembling a lynch mob.

People were worked up to a disturbing frenzy, screaming hateful insults at the family who were present. So much for being a welcoming community of inclusion and acceptance.

SORE supporters claim to be protective of "their" Rand Estate but are asking there to be a road entrance cut straight into the middle of the estate to access the development at the rear of the property.

The development has its own access of 66 feet

from John Street between the Rand Estate and the McArthur property (previous residence of Trisha Romance).

So much for caring about the trees or damage to the grounds. Their hypocrisy is pathetic.

I say, enough!

This has been an orchestrated political ploy and grandstanding from the beginning. Our town is plagued with so many problems and within the last four years few have been addressed or settled.

It feels like a battlefield at times and disagreements are mounting. The lord mayor and council have been too busy appeasing a select group at our expense.

It's time for a change, time we elect a leader who is not in over their head, who keeps deflecting and giving us mundane political platitudes.

We need someone who cares about everyone's needs, who promotes harmony peace and prosperity for our beloved beautiful town.

Those complaining should have done their homework before buying in the area. If they had they would have known one day they would have new neighbours.

Maybe the real problem is they just don't like new people in town very much.

**Sil Ranucci**  
NOTL



## Group invites public to **submit questions** for election debate

Dear editor:

I'd like to remind your readers to send their questions for FocusNOTL's all-candidate Meet & Greet sessions to [notelection2022@cogeco.ca](mailto:notelection2022@cogeco.ca).

This is a great opportunity for all residents to directly ask candidates about important issues affecting them and our town.

Submitting questions is open to everyone, unlike, for example, the Chamber

of Commerce's debate, which is only inviting chamber members to submit questions.

Your questions are meant to address residents' concerns and not those of the special interests and their financial backers.

Please submit your questions by end of day on Thursday, Sept. 22.

**Joe Accardo**  
FocusNOTL

## Enduring **affection and respect** for Elizabeth II

Dear editor:

I join with others in mourning the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Over a century ago, Bahá'u'lláh, in clear and unmistakable language, wrote to the monarchs and rulers of the world, to its religious leaders and to

mankind in general that the long-promised age of world peace and brotherhood had at last dawned.

And he provided the spiritual principles required to achieve these lofty goals.

Among those receiving his message was Queen Victoria.

He recognized and praised Queen Victoria for having forbidden "the trading of slaves, both men and women" and for entrusting "the reins of counsel into the hands of the representatives of the people".

Queen Elizabeth II further advanced the ac-

ceptance of others as part of one human family and provided seven decades of selfless service to the people of her realms.

She earned over those decades an enduring respect and affection.

**Lawrence Clarke**  
Virgil

## Current council has **failed to deliver** on many issues

Dear editor:

Absent among most of our current elected officials are the following traits: strong leadership, decision-making, achievers and problem-solving.

From my viewpoint and my engineering and business experience, I view them as disjointed, lacking in teamwork, rowing in different directions and exhibiting way too much political posturing.

As a consequence, decisions made tend to be "kicked down the road."

For example, there is general agreement that parking in Old Town is worsening every year. Back in 1976 it was first highlighted by John Drope, founder of the Pillar and Post.

Today our lord mayor and councillor cannot agree on a consensus solution to this decades-old problem. Some councillors

are absolutely frustrated with the lack of action.

More residential parking meters is not the solution. The old high school, with a shuttle via the East and West Line with a drop-off near the old hospital was an obvious choice and we blew it.

Are we heading in the same direction with redevelopment of the hospital site? Numerous proposals were solicited and presented to the town but all were rejected.

It reminds me of the consummate critics, who, when challenged, never have optional solutions or ideas of their own.

Our council is a politically opportunistic reactive group responding to low-hanging fruit issues, proposed by self-interested lobby groups – primarily all things tourism. There is too much infighting and politicking at our town hall.

Sadly our town and officials fail to capitalize on the enormous sources of the interdisciplinary, critical-thinking talents and professional skills of residents of our community. Their counsel, when presented, is often dismissed or falls on deaf ears.

Over the last four years, I would grade council's performance a failure.

Nothing has been added to improve the image of our town or the quality of life for the taxpayer. Not the extra ice cream shops, the multiple bicycle rental shops and the resultant weekend "Tour de France" on our roads and residential streets.

Not the new Dairy Queen or continuing hollowing out of our neighbourhoods. The former culture of the Old Town and heritage district is on a slippery slope toward

becoming the Clifton Hill of NOTL.

Without a paradigm shift in direction, I fear for what's ahead in the next four years. Voters, please vet your next elected officials carefully.

And to the newcomers whom some biased locals label "The Toronto crowd who are ruining our town," I say, welcome all. You are the future of our community.

Get out and vote. You can have a major impact this time around. Get involved and advocate strongly for a ward system. The community is crying out for equal representation.

NOTL should be more than just a tourism trap. This intoxication ignores the community's aspirations as a whole. We have been let down. Pray for a change going forward.

**Samuel Young**  
NOTL



## Unsightly bike bollards wouldn't be allowed in Old Town

Dear editor:

We went from absurd to flat-out parking control terrorism in one week.

If solving a non-existent problem by carpet bombing Four Mile Creek Road with no parking signs wasn't enough for the parking control bureaucrats, the arrival of an eyesore obstacle course of posts hammered into both sides of the roadway must be absolute parking control heaven.

Who is behind this Region of Niagara project – and why is this escalation necessary – and why does the Old Town-centric NOTL council sit idly

by allowing this parking absurdity to escalate?

It is clear to anyone living in St. Davids that this eyesore parking terrorism could never happen in Old Town.

As James Webber wisely stated in an excellent recent letter to the editor on a similar topic, this would never have happened "if the residents of St. Davids had proper representation on council."

Adriana Cater Vizzari, a resident of St. Davids, is running in next month's election. Webber said she has his vote.

And she'll have mine, too.  
**Robert Troutbeck**  
St. Davids



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# Breaking a development paradigm

We need to trade ‘developer models’ for community designs that worked in past





Brian Marshall  
Columnist

A few days ago I received an email from SORE (Save Our Rand Estate) that outlined questions they had posed to the candidates running in this year’s municipal election.

Since I am supportive of SORE’s efforts to protect the heritage assets of the Rand Estate while ensuring the proposed development is contextually and functionally compatible with the established surrounding neighbourhoods, I took the time to read through the questions.

When considered from the perspective of SORE’s *raison d’être*, the questions were both thoughtful and probing. I congratulate the authors.

That said, the first question reads:

“Do you agree with the statement that intensive residential development should be directed to Glendale and those areas of Old Town, Virgil, St Davids and Queenston that do not compete with or require compromising the town’s cultural heritage assets?”

That implies “intensive residential development” will, perforce, “compete with or require compromising” of “the town’s cultural heritage assets.” And this underlying implication is not necessarily true.

I would submit that it is not densification (a high concentration of the number of dwellings per acre) that is the issue.

Rather, it is the standard developers’ model of densification, a model that has become generally accepted and adopted by government regulatory bodies. That is the crux of the problem.

So, as a reference point,



An example of a terrace on Queen Street. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL.

take a walk along Queen Street and look at the surviving original 18th-century buildings. Almost invariably these buildings were designed with a ground floor devoted to commercial applications with two storeys above configured into residential dwelling spaces.

Now, these buildings were no more than three units wide and it was typical during this period that shared or butted end walls were generally acceptable but, each builder would vary setbacks and stylistic elements in a fashion that would contextually work with the existing buildings while still distinguishing their work.

Our ancestors understood all members of society needed a roof over their heads and they provided for that in a fashion that built a viable community.

Unfortunately, in the last 50 years or so this inclusiveness has been lost and displaced by a class-segmented housing ideology generally engendered by the public relations campaigns of the tract subdivision developers. This philosophy suggested success was measured by the ability to acquire a single-family home in a neighbourhood of equally successful families.

Not only did this fuel the creation of the vast suburban deserts that now surround our cities and towns, as the cost of single-family dwellings rose, a new iteration of the same ideology spawned the vertical condo tower expression.

Further, it effectively marginalized housing for those who were not able (or not inclined) to buy into this artificially created “success” model.

These “developer models” are further compromised by the insistent use of closed-loop, limited-access street layouts (as opposed to an open-grid pattern).

This concentrates vehicular traffic onto one, two or possibly three interchanges with existing streets, while inhibiting the integration of the new subdivision into the existing community.

Of course, limited (or non-existent) parkland/open spaces combined with minimized pedestrian options discourages the growth of community even within the new neighbourhood.

Today, it is the commonly held impression that, when it comes to densification, our choices are limited to enclosed “pods” holding street after street of tightly packed townhouses whose lack of

individually distinguishing characteristics make them appear to be products of a photocopier.

The only other choice, we often believe, is to build up in the form of a multi-storey condo or apartment building.

It is time to break this paradigm by returning to what has worked in the past: streets laid out in a grid pattern, two- to three-storey terrace houses of no more than three units per design block with each “house” containing one flat per floor, wide walkways joining integrated green spaces, and so on.

To ensure that the development had an organic “built-over-time” ambience and be intuitively attractive, design review guidelines would be used to ensure each design block conforms to an architectural style compatible with the town’s (and neighbourhood’s) character and that no two design blocks in the development were duplicates.

Further, the facades would present varying setbacks and detailing that would produce visual interest and a pleasing streetscape.

It can be done, and since some level of densification appears to be inevitable, it must be done.

# Ubiquitous NOTL signs are dumbing down our lives



**Ross’s Ramblings**

Ross Robinson  
The Lake Report

Is it just me, or has there been a recent proliferation of signs here in our pretty and horticulturally rich wee town, and in our beautiful Niagara region? Some are helpful, but others seem to assume that we lack common sense and basic intelligence.

Were we poorly raised by our parents? I am offended by some of the signs.

At the magnificent Memorial Park tennis courts, the long and explicit and detailed list of rules includes “No profanity.”

Must ladies and gentlemen be told not to cuss and yell expletives when on occasion they miss an impossible-to-miss volley? Perhaps we flub easy shots because of the hundreds of hours of practice we don’t do.

Some signs point out such obvious warnings that I sometimes suspect our Town sign bosses and sign makers must be getting paid by the letter.

Down by Ball’s Beach, walking or cycling from the direction of Queen’s Royal Park, the Town of NOTL staff have spent time and money to create and install an “in yer face” sign that blares “Fall hazard ahead. Stay on the path.”

Trust me, I pass that way regularly, and have never been aware of a dangerous change of elevation or tree root or other danger. Is this just another example of our paranoid world being overly concerned with liability and legal costs? Sheesh... Duty of care, and all that.

To avoid almost all risk, why not erect a few exculpatory clause signs at the entrances to town that read, “Warning. You must be overly cautious while in NOTL. Minimal dangers exist if you walk around with your eyes closed. Pay attention, dear folks. Be

reasonably alert and aware of what is going on around you. To be really safe, park your car and stay in it. Or, at the least, sit down on the first bench you see”

Under the Fall Hazard Ahead sign, attached to the same post, is another verbose sign reading, “Dog excrement must be removed by dog owners and all dogs must be on a leash.” Perhaps, “Pick up yer leashed dog’s doggy do.”

In the midst of a municipal election campaign now, our pretty town is less pretty, with brightly coloured “Vote for” signs bringing forward candidate names. And sometimes, brief and clever slogans.

A few years back, Virgil Pizza and Sub mogul Martin Mazza had a slogan worthy of the Canadian Lawn Sign Hall of Fame slogan. It read: “Elect Martin Mazza. He Delivers.”

I personally would love yet another town bylaw that states, in a proper and wordy way, “No election signs until two weeks, or 14 days, or a fortnight, whichever date comes sooner, may be installed here in our town.”

Realtors don’t like election campaigns, because their for sale signs get lost in the pervasive, omnipresent jumble of candidate signs.

It is worth remembering that longtime public servant Harold Clement, who ran in numerous campaigns, had a “No Lawn Sign” policy. Not even on his lawn! My goodness, did he ever get elected? Every time he ran, and he was very effective.

Rambling to a merciful and welcome conclusion, I ask that the Town of NOTL give a thought to the first impression visitors get when arriving in NOTL. Even the first two letters of NOTL are “N” and “O.”

No Parking. No Through Traffic. No barbecues. No this. No that.

Let’s be kinder and more welcoming to each other, and to visitors. Not that long ago, COVID-19 masks were hiding our friendly smiles. Let’s double down now on smile frequency.

And, on a completely different subject, let’s all exhort, “Long live the King!”

  
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# Fighters, **not quitters**, at annual NOTL Terry Fox Run

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

People at the Terry Fox Run were united by the man's inspirational character when they came to Simcoe Park Sunday morning.

"It's very inspirational to see everybody coming out and supporting such a worthy cause," run organizer Joan King said in an interview.

The slogan for this year's run was "I'm not a quitter" and there were no quitters among the Niagara-on-the-Lake crowd.

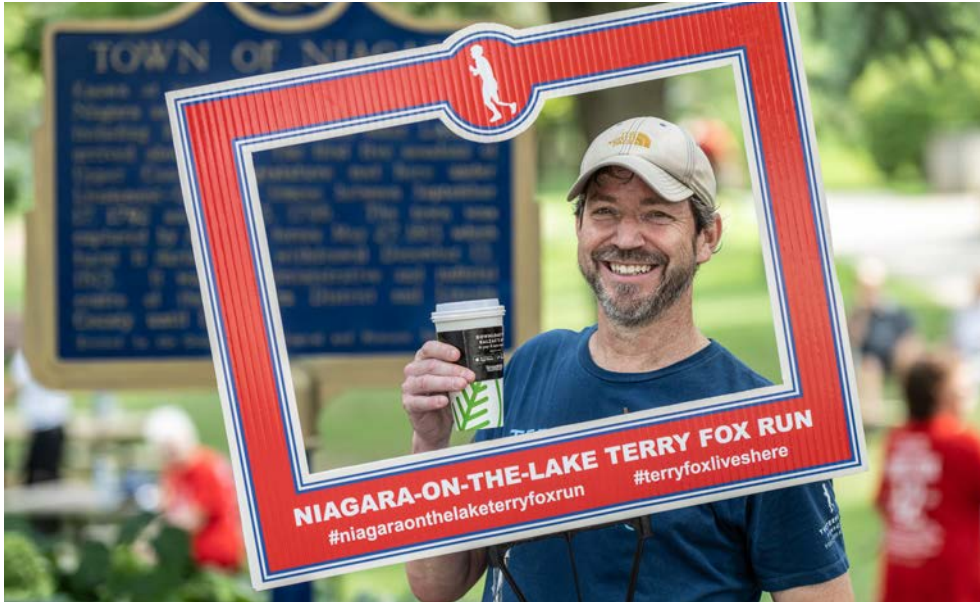
The NOTL run was a huge success, raising \$145,574 so far, almost double its \$80,000 goal.

Hopeful as they were, many participants came to the run with harrowing survival stories.

Stephanie Fast was there with her two children, one of whom is a survivor of kidney cancer.

Her daughter Evabeth was in kindergarten when she was first diagnosed. That was in 2017.

Evabeth completed chemotherapy just before the pandemic began.



Runners were enthusiastic about raising funds to fight cancer. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

"It basically feels like we've been in lockdown since her diagnosis," Fast said in an interview.

She described the experience as "scary and terrifying."

She learned there was little research being done on child cancers and her doctors were short of answers when Evabeth started treatment.

"At one point they told us it was bad luck," she said.

Fast saw the Terry Fox monument in Thunder Bay

during a family trip the same year her daughter was diagnosed.

She describes the sight as so powerful that it moved her to tears.

"And then that fall she was diagnosed," Fast said.

Musician Juliet Dunn, co-founder of the Niagara Jazz Festival, was on hand to sing "O Canada."

She shared an emotional hug with King.

Dunn was still mourning the death of her husband Peter Shea, who died of

prostate cancer in August.

She was visibly shaken during her performance of the anthem as the crowd joined in.

A crowd of orange-clad students from Crossroads Public School was there as well to cheer on runners and bikers like Fast and her family.

After the bicyclists took off, it was time for the runners to catch their stride.

Bill Pristanski, former chair of the Terry Fox Foundation, took his place at the

head of the herd with comedian and fundraiser Joe Pillitteri as they stretched out their legs for the run.

Pillitteri usually runs, but this year he decided to walk the five kilometres with his family.

"I remember when running this thing as fast as I could felt like what I was supposed to be doing and this year I was just kind of like, look at me not sore," Pillitteri told The Lake Report.

He has been participating for years and estimated he will raise between \$80,000 and \$90,000 this year once all his Team Pillsy fundraisers wrap up.

Pillitteri enjoyed the walk but thinks he will run next year.

"Every time I think a 5k run is hard I think about Terry Fox running a marathon every day with an artificial leg," he said.

Over the past 42 years, Pristanski has run all over Canada to raise money for cancer research and to date has raised almost \$1 million for cancer research.

This year alone, Pristanski has raised over \$40,000

so far and expects he will top \$1 million next year.

He runs for his mom, who died of cancer in 1983.

Volunteer Carol Dyck is a survivor of colon cancer and has been volunteering for the run for 11 years.

While she doesn't run, she's there every year to help people register.

She gets teary-eyed when she talks about her bout with cancer.

"It's tough when you first get diagnosed with cancer," Dyck said in an interview.

"All you think about is oh my God, I'm gonna die."

Dyck had 12 chemo treatments and had part of her large intestine removed.

She was also treated for lung cancer after her doctors found the cancer had spread.

But now, she is happy to say she has been cancer-free since December 2021.

The first runners finished the course in about 30 minutes.

Volunteers handed out bottles of water to the participants as they sat back to take a breather and stripped off sweaters in the rising temperature.

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# VOTE AGAINST DOUBLING TOURISM IN NOTL

On October 24, 2022, vote for candidates who represent your needs. Demand residents control the 2023 Tourism Strategy and that the designated Tourism Marketing Agency is responsible to the Town and its residents. Expect no less from your town councillors vote wisely.



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## The cupboards are bare at NOTL food bank

Continued from Front Page

volunteers will visit homes all over NOTL to collect donations of non-perishable food – “basically, we need everything,” Grant said in an interview Monday.

“Literally, if you go to the grocery store and walk the aisles, it’s just about one of everything. We need everything at this point.”

For the 80 or more Thanksgiving hampers, the food bank needs items like stuffing mix, canned corn, cranberry sauce, canned items like green beans, corn, gravy, fruit and peas and more.

As well, “we provide clients with a choice of a turkey or ham, a bag each of potatoes, carrots and onions and a freshly made pie,” Grant said.

“These are either donated or we purchase them from local providers.”

On its website, [newarkneighbours.ca](http://newarkneighbours.ca), there is a full list of all the Thanksgiving and everyday items



Shelves are either empty or half full at Newark Neighbours food bank. SOMER SLOBODIAN

required. That list also appears in an advertisement in The Lake Report this week.

With the shortage of donations and stock dwindling, Newark has leaned on its volunteers and Rotary Club members over the past week to try to boost collections, and that is helping.

But more is needed. “Our demand is growing,” Grant said.

“We’re up to 80 registered

clients now, 80 families, which represents over 150 people, 40 of which are children” – and all residents of NOTL.

In affluent Niagara-on-the-Lake, that level of need shocks a lot of people.

“People are continually surprised to learn there’s that many families that are in need. But there are.”

And she suspects there are more.

“I don’t know this explicitly, but my gut says there’s more. There’s more families out there that need our help and they just haven’t come to us yet,” she said.

“We don’t go out looking for clients. We wait for them to come to us.”

With one to two new clients added every week, she is convinced there are others who need Newark’s help but just haven’t approached the agency yet.

Last Christmas the food bank was “literally overwhelmed” with an avalanche of food donations, and since then there has not been a need for a food drive.

Now, “we’re really counting on the community once again to help us out with donations,” Grant said.

How to help: To register for the Porch Pick-up Food Drive, call 905-468-7498 or email the agency at [newarkneighbours1@gmail.com](mailto:newarkneighbours1@gmail.com). And see the website, [newarkneighbours.ca](http://newarkneighbours.ca), for full details.

## Newark Neighbours still searching for new home

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Newark Neighbours’ nearly year-long search for a new home has yet to turn up a suitable location.

The thrift store and food bank on John Street East, near Peller Estates Winery, has seriously outgrown its location – and within 12 to 18 months Peller will need the land for the planned redevelopment of its Riverbend Winery property.

“Our preferred option would be to find a piece of land, serviced ideally, but if not, we’ll get it serviced, that we could put a prefab modular building on,” said Newark Neighbours board chair Cindy Grant.

The agency would like to lease one-quarter to one-third of an acre that is “relatively centrally located and easily accessible.”

Newark hopes to be able to put up a building that’s about 2,000 to 2,500

square feet in area.

“We’re just trying to spread the word and ask people if they have any ideas about a building or some alternative location that we could use,” she said.

So far, the organization has struck out, despite some proposals that came forward, she said.

Peller has been “exceptionally generous and terrific to work with,” Grant said.

And the winery’s impending need for the land on which Newark Neighbours now sits “has really been a blessing in disguise.”

“We are out of space. Our building is 30 years old and it’s showing its age. We just need to find a new location that better suits our needs,” she said.

Anyone who can help can contact Grant by email at [newarkneighbours1@gmail.com](mailto:newarkneighbours1@gmail.com) or by phone at 905-468-3519.

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\* + Running Room credit card fee

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After Sept. 21, registration will be in person on Run Day, Sept. 24 at 7:00 a.m. for \$60 cash only

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Dog Walk check-in 8:00 a.m. Start time 9:00 a.m.

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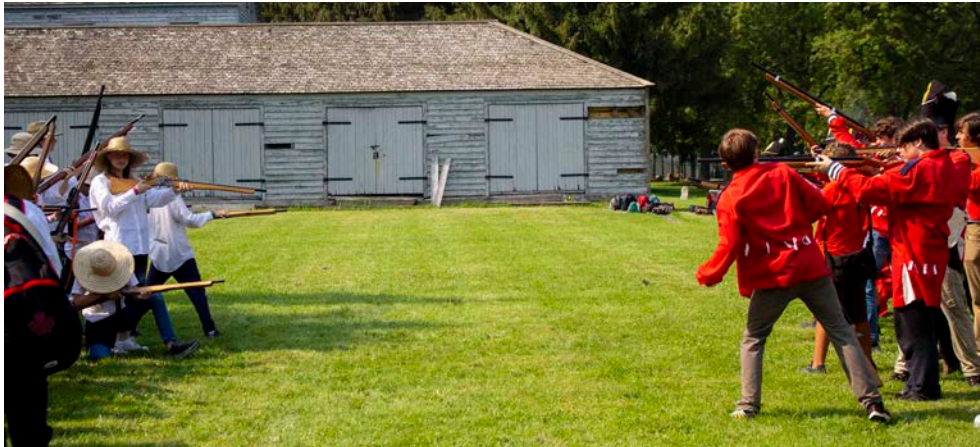
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# Shots fired on Commons during annual Scouts Brigade

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Scouts face off in a mock battle with cap guns instead of muskets. EVAN LOREE

The Scouts Brigade was back in Niagara-on-the-Lake this past weekend for its 39th annual campaign at Fort George.

The three-day gathering is a historically themed camp run by Scouts Canada and hosted by Fort George.

This year, it brought together over 600 scouts and volunteers from all across Canada, as far away as British Columbia.

The campers got to participate in playful battle re-enactments and marches while also learning about the unique history of the War of 1812.

“We’ve had up to 3,000 (scouts) camp here on the site,” said former camp chief and field marshal Patricia Baker.

Previous campaigns have included scouts from the United States, but due to travelling restrictions, only

Canadian scouts were on hand this year.

Still, 600 participants is greater than what the volunteers were expecting for this year’s campaign.

“We thought we would get 450,” said camp chief Dizzy Castle.

Instead they got about 550 campers and another 100 volunteers.

The camp is run entirely by volunteers, who commit about four hours a week to the program.

Castle said organizer

started planning this year’s event in January.

“We make our own uniforms. We build all the muskets from scratch. It’s a lot of time commitment,” she said.

Castle estimates that it took her 50 hours to make her white dress and another 170 to make her red officer’s coat.

On Saturday morning a few groups of Cubs (scouts aged eight to 10) from Aurora Bracebridge and Scarborough were compet-

ing in a cannon run.

They had to break down and carry a mock cannon over rocks, rivers and other obstacles.

Other Cubs were off learning about the lives of soldiers and first aid, and the older scouts were at Fort George watching real musket demonstrations.

After lunch, the scouts came back from their tour of Fort George and experienced a fun battle re-enactment on the fields of the Commons.

It was pure chaos, as higher-ranking officers barked orders at their troops, instructing them to load and fire their cap-gun muskets.

Christopher Rowan, a Rover (a scout aged 18 to 26) and camp volunteer from Guelph, was there to help lead and organize the event

“I love the act of mentoring. And I love teaching. And this camp is just one of the most beautiful things for that,” Rowan said.

He was concerned interest in scouting was declining in Canada since the start of COVID-19.

“A lot of groups, my group included back home actually, have folded because we don’t have any leaders any more,” he said.

But Rowan keeps coming back. He said he is endlessly impressed “seeing the youth step up” to assume positions of leadership.

Scouts Canada places a lot of emphasis on youth leadership.

Many of the volunteers at the camp rose to positions of leadership by participating in the program and rising up through the ranks.

One such youth is Matt Dunn, a camp lieutenant and Rover from Bolton, Ont., who has been coming for 11 years.

“There isn’t a single other camp that is anything like this,” Dunn said.

He is a former theatre student who, like Rowan, is particularly interested in history.

For Dunn the Scout Brigade is an opportunity for him to mentor youth and perform in costume.

He recalled the first time he led a shooting drill.

He’d been going to camp for three years, he had risen to the rank of sergeant and he was put in a position of authority.

“Something about running them through the firing sequence for the very first time. I felt like I had accomplished something incredible,” he said.



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# ENVIRONMENT

## On the mend: Reimagined fashion can be trendy and sustainable



### Keeping it Green

Kyra Simone  
Special to The Lake Report

The relentless manufacturing of clothing contributes to water shortages, pollution and climate change.

Luckily, sustainable trends like visible mending, buying second-hand and textile recycling are gaining momentum in the world of fashion.

Whether at thrift stores or curated vintage boutiques, shopping for “pre-owned” clothes has become extremely popular.

As well as being an environmentally conscious choice, second-hand clothing provides an immense variety of pieces at affordable prices.

This comes as a stark

contrast to “fast fashion,” which reinforces social pressure on shoppers to follow the latest trends and avoid repeating outfits. Fast fashion brands like H&M, Zara and Shein rose to popularity by providing cheap, quick versions of the newest styles.

Fast fashion pieces typically use low-quality materials like polyester or fake leather, which can degrade after just a few uses. Handmade, vintage or second-hand items will often be much more durable and last many years, compared to poorly crafted, trendy pieces.

To produce the sheer volume of new clothing hitting the shelves, the fashion industry uses and pollutes enormous quantities of water. A single cotton T-shirt can require 2,700 litres of water to manufacture.

Overseas manufacturing by fast fashion brands may rely on factory workers subject to unsafe or unethical working conditions, including the use of toxic dyes.

When shoppers are pressured to rapidly buy new trendy outfits, that clothing also contributes to climate



Find creative ways to use organic fabrics like cotton, linen or wool, to keep them out of landfills. KYRA SIMONE

warming. Synthetic fabrics are derived from fossil fuels and delivery from online retailers produces carbon emissions, especially with rush shipping.

Shoppers can still keep it interesting with second-hand clothes by “rotating” their closet without producing nearly as much waste. It’s simple to wear items until they no longer suit your taste, then donate them to be reused again.

Inevitably, some clothing becomes too damaged or stained to wear. Canadians throw out about 1 million tonnes of textiles every year, which makes up five to 10 per cent of all garbage in landfills, according to 2019 research by The Salvation Army’s National Recycling Operations.

Unfortunately, it’s estimated that 95 per cent of textile waste could be recycled.

In landfills, organic fabrics like cotton, linen or wool decompose to produce methane, a strong greenhouse gas that causes more warming in the atmosphere than CO2. Synthetic fabrics produce plastic fragments that take hundreds of years to break down.

Many repairs, like sewing on a button, can be done at home with just a needle and thread. Other fixes or adjustments to fit can be carried out by a local tailor.

Pieces that no longer serve their original purpose can still be used in creative and stylish ways: ripped pants can become shorts, or bright patches and visible mending techniques can fill large gaps. Fabric scraps can be made into puppets, decorative banners or flags, napkins or wallets.

At the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, the Makery offers many tools for reusing textiles. The button maker can press patterns from old shirts into pins to put on jackets or bags, or the Cricut maker cuts fabric scraps for small projects.

The library’s embroidery machine can apply patterns onto existing fabric,

including designs uploaded via USB, to cover prominent stains or patches. At the library’s upcoming Repair Café on Oct. 1, volunteers will also be available to fix clothing and other household items.

When repair or donation isn’t possible, textile waste can be recycled locally: clothing, footwear, accessories (purses, luggage, belts, hats), linens, pillows, stuffed toys and any other fabric or rubber scraps. Bags clearly labelled “Fabric recycling” can be placed in Diabetes Canada donation bins.

After getting a sewing book at a garage sale, I combined two pieces of textile “waste” into a new, upcycled piece that I love. I found that sustainable fashion choices can be straightforward, and even cute as a button, if you’re willing to get creative.

*Kyra Simone is a PhD student in environmental science, with master’s degrees in biology and science communication. When not researching climate change, she advocates for a sustainable future, picks up litter and makes recycled jewelry.*



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# Short-term rentals are destroying communities.

And NOTL council is not only allowing it, but encouraging it.

**This election, choose candidates that support limitations on short-term rentals such as a **primary residence requirement**, making rental owners **pay their fair share**, increasing licencing fees, implementing temporary zoning with **strict laws on noise to protect the enjoyment of our town.****

## WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

**Hollows out** communities by attracting **investors instead of neighbours.**

**Ruins enjoyment** of neighbouring properties for residents who actually live in our community by **attracting visitors who have no reason to act respectfully. Just a short drive away in Fort Erie this led to the murder of two young women at an unsupervised party house.**

**Takes legitimate long-term rentals off the market.**

**Not legally zoned for business**, setting a **dangerous precedent for any business to operate out of a home. We can't continue to allow the accommodation industry — or any other industry — to invade our residential streets.**

**Unfair competition with hotels**, as rentals **do not pay commercial taxes and are not legally zoned for a commercial operation in the first place.**

**Drives young families away**, causing a ripple effect of **school closures and a lack of amenities.**

**Destroys a town's character** by **forcing locals out, resulting in a lack of life and business in the community.**

**Artificially increases housing prices**, meaning locals **can't afford to buy in town.**

**Not subject to same inspection standards** as legitimate hotels and accommodations, **creating potential health hazards within the community.**

**AND MORE**

## How much is too much?

**Imagine having no neighbours. Imagine being constantly harassed in your home by unwanted noise and people having parties next door.** That's the future NOTL is headed towards. Already some NOTL residents no longer have neighbours due to short-term rentals being bought up as commercial investments.

Email your local politicians today and demand they do something to protect Niagara-on-the-Lake from the short-term rental industry. Other communities across the world have recognized the problem and are standing up to these **unwanted businesses** disguised as your neighbours. Why isn't NOTL recognizing the issue and setting a leading example for other communities? It's time to demand action.

You can help protect NOTL by requesting a new short-term rental committee, this time not stacked with industry stakeholders, and for council to ban short-term rentals in residentially zoned communities entirely before it is too late. Let them know there is **no** appropriate amount of business to be operating where our homes should be.

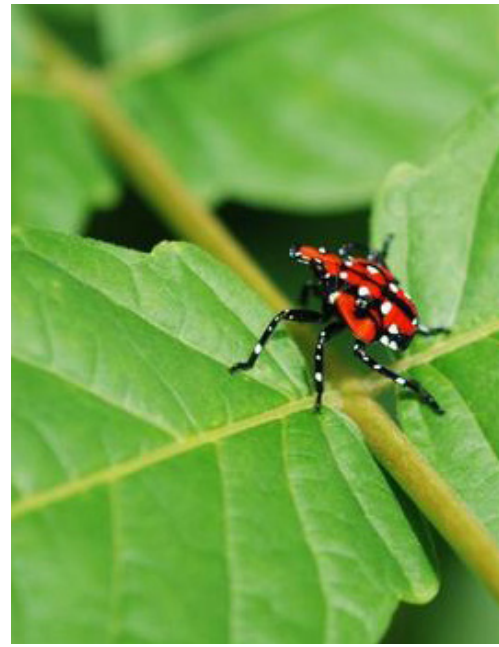
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## What's the solution?

While it appears the short-term rental industry is now not going anywhere, despite it being technically an illegal commercial operation on a residential property (ie. council has let this illegal business slide too long to actually make common sense decisions on it without fear of litigation by companies like Airbnb), there **MUST** be a solution to ensure short-term rentals are held to a higher standard than our regular homes. The solution is a **TEMPORARY REZONING** of any homes that are to operate as commercial businesses. With the temporary zoning change should come strict rules. I.e. Noise enforcement at 9 p.m. instead of the regular 11 p.m. in residential areas, property standard inspections that hotels must complete, paying commercial taxes, paying the town's accommodation tax. Plus a hefty administrative fee for the work required to rezone the property.





From left: A spotted lanternfly. Stage 2 of the spotted lanternfly life cycle. In the early nymph stages, it is black with bright white dots. In Stage 3 of the spotted lanternfly life cycle the insect

# Spotted lanternfly could be next **big th**

*Continued from Front Page*

probably not a question of if the pest will arrive in Ontario, but when.

While Redelmeier hopes the insect won't be a huge issue, he's well aware of the damage it could cause, especially if it doesn't quickly develop any natural predators.

Still, he's hoping the longer it takes to get here, the more likely it is it will have developed a natural predator.

"It might not be as bad the farther you get away from the epicentre," he said.

Though pretty to look at, the lanternfly has the potential to be cause serious damage to the wine industry not just in Niagara-on-the-Lake, but in all of Niagara. The insect can wipe out entire vineyards.

"If I don't have any grapes, I can't make any wine," said Redelmeier.

He noted the Ontario wine industry is incredibly important and that if any part of the industry is hurting, it causes him pain, too.

The Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, a non-profit agency that works to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Canada, is keeping an eye on the lanternfly.

"Once you get an infestation, an entire vineyard can go under, unfortunately," said Emily Posteraro, the program development

co-ordinator for the centre.

Redelmeier worries about how an infestation could affect small grape growers.

"So, as a winery today I've got 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 on the shelf," he said.

Not many small grape growers can say that and many wineries don't have the option to fall back on past vintages.

The spotted lanternfly has been on Canada's radar since first it was first spotted in Pennsylvania's Berks County in 2014.

The insects, about three centimetres long, are from southwestern Asia and love to feast on more than 70 different species of plants. Its preferred choice of host is the tree of heaven, an invasive plant, and black walnut trees.

This is a huge concern, especially since both trees are typically found close to vineyards.

"Basically the spotted lanternfly tends to swarm on plants and (it) feeds on the sugars in the plant so that (it) significantly weakens plants," said Posteraro.

The only exception to this would be grape vines. The pest not only weakens them, but it can destroy them.

A 2019 study by Pennsylvania State University estimated that if the spotted lanternfly spread throughout all of Pennsylvania, total losses to the agricultural sector would be \$324.9 million annually and cost 2,810 jobs.

"We should be very concerned and thinking that if this establishes here, we could see similar economic impacts," said Diana Mooji, an invasive species expert with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

"We've seen reports from areas in Pennsylvania where this pest is established, that in some extreme cases where spotted lanternfly infestations were very dense, entire vineyards were lost," said Mooji.

There's reason to believe the spotted lanternfly could cause some serious damage in Niagara, which has more than 120 wineries, about one-third of them in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Ontario is the leading grape producer in Canada and accounts for 60 to 70 per cent of the country's production, a fact sheet from the Grape Growers of Ontario says.

The province's wine industry generated more than \$5 billion in total economic activity across the province in 2019, according to a study by Wine Growers Ontario. That was up from about \$4.3 billion in 2015.

It's uncertain if the lanternfly could survive our winters. However, in recent years, Niagara winters have been milder,

summers have lasted longer and overall temperatures are warmer due to climate change.

"These are all things that can influence the establishment of the species," said Liette Vasseur, a professor of biological sciences at Brock University.

So far, the insect has been spotted in 14 states and is under quarantine in 45 counties in Pennsylvania.

This means that anything that can transport the pest cannot be moved without taking proper steps to prevent the spread.

Businesses, municipalities and government agencies must have a permit if leaving the state with any of the materials that lanternflies could be on, including vehicles, plants and landscape equipment.

In a quarantine zone, to ensure vehicles are thoroughly checked, residents must complete a checklist before leaving the state.

While they don't fly long distances, the insects are known to be stellar hitchhikers. They can travel long distances on cars, boats, trucks and even planes, said Debbie

Zimmerman

of Ontario and Canada on what she said.

"We've seen reports from the states under quarantine," she said.

It's also your vehicle masses.

The life cycle. The 30 to 60 days to reach maturity are easy to miss, said Vasseur.

"It's important to cause them to be caught," she said.

Getting them coming in.

wash at the stage, vehicle stages.

The life cycle. Early small vintages. When as the and is

**“In some extreme cases where spotted lanternfly infestations were very dense, entire vineyards were lost,”**

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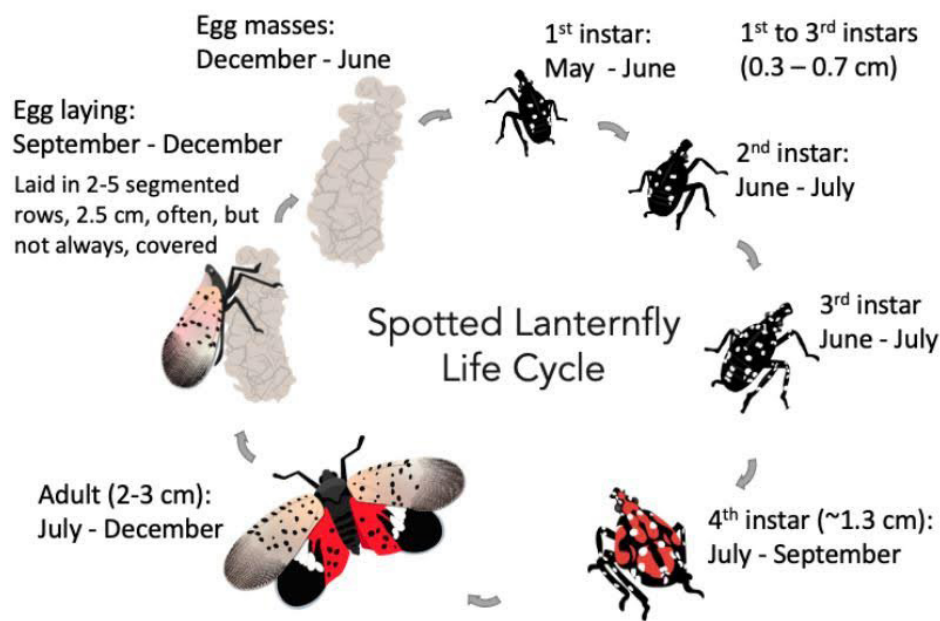
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is black and red with bright white dots. SUPPLIED PHOTOS/ PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# reat to Niagara's farmers

erman, the CEO of Grape Growers ario.  
travel picking up between the U.S. nada, it's important to keep an eye t might be catching a ride back, she  
re saying to people, if you're coming e U.S., (it's) probably best to check our car if you've been camping," she  
also important to check the surface of hicle and around your tires for egg , said Posteraro.  
antennfly has four stages of its life he egg mass is the first stage, where 0 eggs will emerge. At this stage it's transport them without knowing, sseur.  
going to be really important be- hey can look like a smear of mud," d.  
ng a car wash is a good idea when ack into Canada, because it can way the egg masses.  
hatched, they enter the nymph hich has about four developmental called instars.  
ife cycle of a spotted lanternfly. y in its development, the insect is with black and bright white spots. it enters its late stage, also known fourth instar, it changes colour much larger. At this point, it will

be tan, red and black with black spots. It can't fly yet, but it can jump.  
The adult lanternfly is able to fly, but it is not known to be a graceful flyer. While resting, its wings are a tan colour with black spots. In flight, it has a bright combination of red, black and white with black spots.  
The adult insect can cause serious damage to crops as it uses razor-sharp teeth to drill into trees and access the sugary sap.  
Once done with the sap, it produces what is known as honeydew, which is undigested sugars.  
When the honeydew builds up over time, it creates sooty mould at the bottom of the plant. Over time, that mould can kill the plants.  
A national advisory committee has been put together to come up with ways to educate and prepare people for the arrival of the pest.  
The committee includes organizations like the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ontario's agriculture ministry, Agricultural and Agri-Food Canada, the Invasive Species Centre, and the Grape Growers of Ontario.  
Through workshops, word of mouth and awareness the committee hopes to better prepare the public.  
"We know they're coming. It's just we've got to find a way to deal with them," Zimmerman said.

In the meantime, it's important for farmers to keep a close eye on their crops.  
"If they were seeing large amounts of weeping sap coming from trees, that might be something that we want to check out and have another look to see," said Mooij.  
It could be a sign the lanternfly is around.  
If spotted, Vasseur advises people to call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency immediately and keep the insect in a bottle and let it die gradually.  
"If you see it, step on it," said Zimmerman.  
No matter what, it's important to call in the sighting and take a photo of the insect.  
"It's also hopefully a great wake-up call to say we've got to be careful about moving pests from one place to another," said Redelmeier.  
Canadians are urged to report any sightings to [invasivespeciescentre.ca](http://invasivespeciescentre.ca), or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at [inspection.gc.ca/pests](http://inspection.gc.ca/pests).  
The Invasive Species Centre hosted an educational workshop about the insect this week and will hold another on Oct. 5.  
The workshop will be at the Lincoln Pelham Public Library's Rittenhouse branch in Vineland from 6 to 8 p.m.  
Register at [invasivespeciescentre.ca/upcoming-event-spotted-lanternfly-information-workshop/](http://invasivespeciescentre.ca/upcoming-event-spotted-lanternfly-information-workshop/).



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: Air travel

**This happens to you figuratively when you lose your seat on an overbooked plane or literally when the drink cart hits your elbow.**

Last issue: 1966's "The Silencers" was the first movie with a scene after these, a teaser for the next Matt Helm spy adventure.

Answer: What are the credits?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Howard Jones, Steve Siansky

**\*REMEMBER TO PUT "WHAT IS" FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS! IF ALEX TREBEK WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT, WE WON'T EITHER!**

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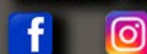


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# Cottage Hospital baby turns 100

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Inez MacKenzie didn't expect to be back in Niagara-on-the-Lake for her 100th birthday.

But on Friday she found herself sitting in the kitchen at the Flynn House B&B on Johnson Street, wearing a black dress with white pearls around her neck, waiting for her 100th birthday party to start.

On Sept. 16, 1922, MacKenzie was born at the old Niagara Cottage Hospital. The daughter of Edith and Franklin Currie, she grew up on Gate Street in NOTL.

The Cottage Hospital was in service between 1920 and 1951. Residents raised money in 1919 to buy a house on Queen Street, that later became the Cottage Hospital in 1920.

During the Second World War, she trained at the Mack School of Nursing in St. Catharines, the oldest training school in Canada. She graduated in 1945.

"Sometimes in my young years when I first started



Inez MacKenzie celebrates her 100th birthday with her family in NOTL. She was born at the old Cottage Hospital in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1922. SOMER SLOBODIAN

(as a nurse), I was getting a little bit balled out because I used to make the patients laugh," said MacKenzie with a laugh.

"In those days, they thought that would hurt the patient," she added.

She loved the people, but hated seeing them sick.

While there, she met Arthur MacKenzie, who would later become her husband.

Arthur was from Nova Scotia and served in the

Second World War. He was stationed in Europe as a motorcycle escort for munitions convoys. He met MacKenzie while he was at training camp in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"He was stationed across from Fort George on the Commons," said her daughter, Anna MacDonald.

While Arthur was away, they would write letters to each other.

"It was very wonder-

ful (back) then to know that you're getting letters," MacKenzie said.

They got married in October 1946 at Grace United Church in NOTL and afterward they made their home in Nova Scotia.

MacKenzie was always involved in the community. She was the director of nursing at the Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital in Sheet Harbour, N.S., was also the president of the Eastern Shore New Horizons Club.

Though MacKenzie was working full-time as the director of nursing, she and Arthur spent many summers in NOTL on Gate Street visiting friends and family, said MacDonald.

On Friday, as the clock struck 2 at the Flynn House, family members gathered in the kitchen to celebrate.

Her son and his wife, Scott and Debbie MacKenzie, and MacDonald's husband, Stuart, sat around the table as she reminisced.

"I never expected to be (here) but I'm so overjoyed because the family brought me here for a week," MacKenzie said as a smile spread across her lips.



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# ‘My whole life, she’s just been there’: Legion ceremony honours Elizabeth II

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

In true English fashion, rain drenched Niagara-on-the-Lake not long before memorial service for the Queen on Monday.

As 11 a.m. neared, people gathered around the cenotaph on Queen Street to honour Queen Elizabeth II, who died on Sept. 8 after a 70-year reign.

Queen Street was quiet as the crowd stood in silence for two minutes.

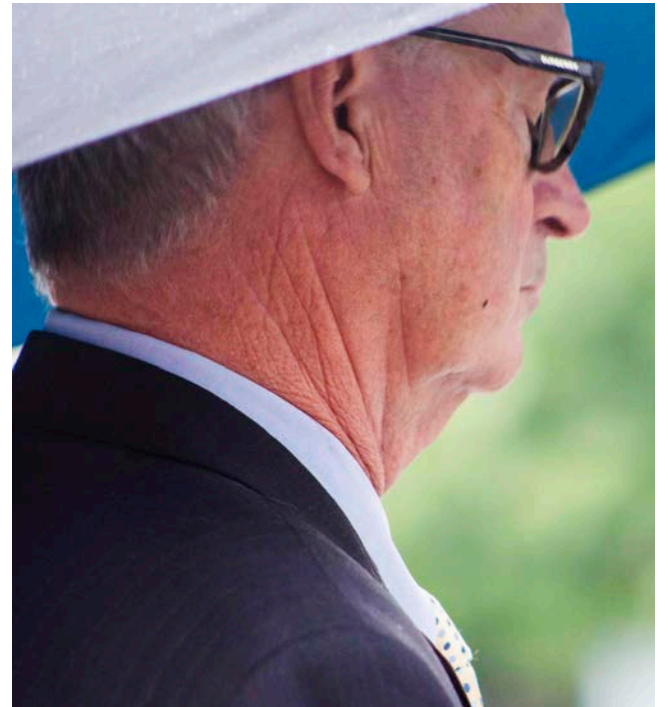
One couple stood in the crowd holding the British flag as they watched the proceedings, organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

“My whole life, she’s just been there,” Kent Needham said afterward. “It really is like the loss of a grandparent.”

Needham, though he lives in NOTL now, grew up in Halifax, England. He recalled being seven years old when the Queen came to his hometown for the opening of a bank.



Left: Lord Mayor Betty Disero shares condolences for Queen Elizabeth II during a ceremony on Monday. Right: Coun. Allan Bisback has a solemn moment under his umbrella during the ceremony. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS



About one-third of people in the U.K. have seen or met the Queen, said Katy Lloyd-Cowden, who was visiting from England.

As a little girl, Lloyd-Cowden remembers waiting hours to see the monarch.

When the Queen finally arrived, she caught only a quick glimpse of her before she got in a car and left.

“My first time seeing her was at the Ritz-Carlton in Montreal,” said Elisabeth Buffey-Needham.

“My mom and I went because we knew that she

was (going to) be there with Prince Philip in her finery going in for an evening. I’m sure she had a lovely little crown (with) silver, but it was very glamorous,” she added.

The Queen was someone they simply grew up with in England.

“My husband said yesterday that she was like a blanket that kept everybody warm,” said Lloyd-Cowden.

“She’s always mentioned and she’s always talked about and she’s always in the school assemblies. And

when you’re a Guide, and when you’re in Brownies, you swear an oath to her,” she said.

The Queen’s death touched many people. For Needham, it was “much, much deeper,” he said.

A lot of people in the U.K. are very emotional about her death, said Lloyd-Cowden.

“Nobody expected to react in the way that they have,” she said.

It was a shock, she said. One day the Queen was meeting Britain’s new

prime minister and two days later she was gone.

The NOTL service included a wreath-laying, prayers by Legion padre Sheldon Kofsky, and speeches by Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Al Howse, president of the NOTL Legion branch.

Howse remembers being a teenager in 1973, when the Queen visited Niagara-on-the-Lake for the opening of the Shaw’s Festival Theatre.

“My father was the parade marshal and so many members of the community

wanted to be in the parade out to Fort George,” Howse told The Lake Report after the memorial service.

“He had to use the entire soccer field to organize and marshal everyone,” he added.

His father also got to attend a performance for the Queen at the Shaw and then was invited to the royal dinner with other dignitaries.

Howse was pleased with the turnout despite the inclement weather.

“And I hope that it meant as much to the community as it did to me,” he said.



## REST EASY

Based on a recent survey, the top 3 issues NOTL residents want the town to prioritize are:

- Improve Parking • Reduce Traffic Congestion • Road Repair and Infrastructure

Tourist spending helps fund infrastructure improvements like these.

Scan the code below to view the complete survey results or visit [www.chambernotl.com/researchandresources](http://www.chambernotl.com/researchandresources)



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# REMEMBERING THE QUEEN

## When the royals visited my Manitoba hometown

Miranda Krause-Chivers  
Special to The Lake Report

During the Royal Family's visit to my hometown of Portage la Prairie, Man., on July 13, 1970, I met Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne during a walkabout on Island Park, where there was a racetrack and lots of horse barns.

I didn't shake any hands, but I did get to say hello and I took a photo of the group. Sadly, this was long before the internet and that picture is either the victim of time or hiding somewhere in my many boxes.

On the day the royals arrived, my teenaged friends and I elbowed our way through the small crowd to get up to the roped-off area.

The Queen was kindly making the rounds like she always did, greeting folks with a handshake, her brilliant smile and kind words. Prince Philip hung back a few steps behind and was less intimate with the public.

Princess Anne seemed totally bored. If I remember correctly, she wore a very conservative yellow dress and hat. She hung back on a rocky ledge under a tree

branch and didn't interact with anyone.

I remember seeing her grimace and look toward the horse barns as though she couldn't get there fast enough.

The person we were most interested in was the tall, slender Prince Charles with the oversized ears, long arms and big hands.

He kept those hands mostly behind his back, but when he greeted someone, his arms dangled awkwardly by his side as if they were some peculiar appendage. He didn't quite know what to do with them, nor with us.

When we screamed and begged him to come over and talk to us, he blushed, looked down at the ground and smiled with that sexy, boyish grin.

At 22, he was just beginning to learn his royal role and seemed somewhat uncomfortable with all the female attention.

Keep in mind this was before the internet and social media. The news cameras were much more civil and the royal protocol more formal than now.

The security team wasn't too impressed with this gaggle of giggling teenaged girls trying to jump the



This image of King George and the Queen Mother driving through the streets of Winnipeg in 1939 was saved by Miranda Krause-Chivers' late mother.

ropes and they eventually asked us to leave.

Although we enjoyed seeing all the royals, we were infatuated with the prince. Months later, I was still

dreaming of marrying him.

I suppose that's when my love for regal romance stories was born. Ah, a girl can always dream. Books make it possible.

On a lesser royal note, I also saw the Duke and Duchess of York (Prince Andrew and his then-wife Princess Sarah Ferguson) in Mississauga on July 18, 1987.

According to news reports, they met with the crowds for a mere 20 minutes. Their visit was so short I barely remember it. Barely.

## I almost bumped into her, and other close encounters

Mike Henry  
Special to The Lake Report

Having lived in the U.K. for a several years, my wife Yolanda and I have a few memories of the Queen.

At the old Royal Ascot, I nearly bumped into her as she was heading to a special presentation at the track.

Quite a surprise to be that close to her.

Then there was the famous annual summer garden tea party in the grounds behind Buckingham Palace.

The Queen hosted a select group of attendees from across the U.K. Yolanda and I were lucky enough to be invited.

We almost got to be introduced to the Queen but when asked where we were from by the gentlemen screening the crowd he said, "Not more bloody Canadians."

On this particular day, there was a young lad whose brother dared him to streak naked on the path toward the Queen.

Needless to say a few Yeomen tackled him and carried him off before the Queen could see him.

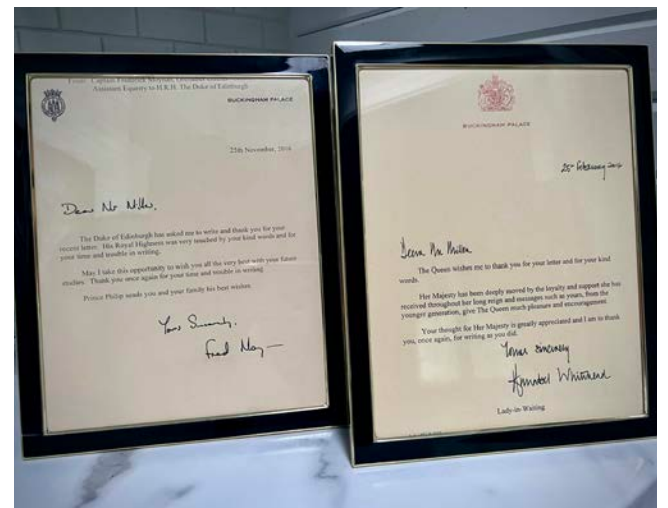


Mike Henry has framed his 2005 invitation to a reception with the Queen and Prince Philip. SUPPLIED

Finally, and most memorable, was being invited "by Order of Her Majesty" to attend a reception at Buckingham Palace in 2005.

I was introduced to the Queen and Prince Philip upon entering the reception hall and later she stopped by a small group of us to have a chat.

## Two letters from the palace



While he was in university, NOTL resident Weston Miller received these two letters from the palace. "I think they demonstrate the kindness and dedication of the Queen and her staff to everyone in the Commonwealth," Miller said, in an email to The Lake Report. SUPPLIED



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# Police seeking suspect in cases of **mysterious yellow liquid** bottles

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Residents across Niagara are again finding water bottles on their properties filled with a mysterious, yellow substance.

The same concerns were reported in April, May, June and July, but now police have some leads.

“Detectives have identified a suspect and a suspect vehicle,” Const. Barry Ravenek said in an email to The Lake Report.

Niagara Regional Police described the suspect as a white male in his 20s, about

five feet 10 inches tall, with a thin to medium build.

Investigators believe the suspect is driving a four-door Honda Civic.

Many properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake have been targeted.

And NOTL residents have been posting pictures and concerns on social media to warn people.

The bottles have been placed on porches, in backyards and on other parts of properties.

Police have taken the bottles and had forensic tests done on the contents, said Ravenek, a media relations officer with Niagara police.

The tests showed the fluid is not an explosive, but it is still important that people minimize physical contact with the bottle, he said.

“Police encourage homeowners to frequently check their properties and if they are going on vacation to have a trusted person do it for them,” said Ravenek.

Police also encourage residents to use motion lighting and surveillance cameras on their properties.

Anyone who finds a bottle of yellow fluid on their property is asked to call the department’s non-emergency number at 905-688-4111.



Top: Jane Morris of St. Catharines with her work “Courage and Sacrifice.” Left: Philip Wormwell of NOTL with his work “D-Day” (top in photo). Right: Nancy Wardle of NOTL with her work “Fire at Will” (bottom in photo). SUPPLIED

## Newark Neighbours

# PORCH PICK-UP FOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, Sept. 24, teams are available to pick up your food donations anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you wish to donate, please call 905-468-7498 or email us at [newarkneighbours1@gmail.com](mailto:newarkneighbours1@gmail.com) **before Sept. 23** to register your address for pick-up. We appreciate your support!

### ITEMS REQUIRED

#### FOR THANKSGIVING HAMPERS:

Stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned gravy or mix (turkey or chicken), cranberry and/or apple juice, apple sauce, canned fruit and vegetables (corn, pineapple, green beans, peas)

#### ITEMS REQUIRED ON AN ONGOING BASIS:

Tomato paste, pasta sauce, beans (kidney, chick-peas, lentils, black, white, dried pea, other), Canned items (tomatoes, tuna, ham, corned beef or Spam, salmon, vegetables, chili, spaghetti or ravioli, Habitant soups, beef or chicken stew, baked beans, Chunky soups, Campbell’s soups - any kind), Kraft Dinner, Soda (soup) crackers, rice, Sidekicks & ramen noodle packets, snack crackers - any kind, bottled juice or juice boxes - any kind, cookies - any kind, granola bars, cereal - any kind, oatmeal, peanut butter, jams - any flavour, cake mixes (any kind), Jello - any flavour, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, relish, coffee, tea, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, paper towels, Kleenex

# Three artists chosen for latest hydro box beautification project

Sarah Laughton  
The Lake Report

Three Niagara artists have been named winners in this year’s hydro box beautification competition.

This year’s theme was honouring Canada’s military history and the submissions by Niagara-on-the-Lake residents Nancy Wardle, with her painting “Fire at Will,” and Philip Wormwell’s “D-Day” were chosen winners by a jury. Jane Morris of St.

Catharines won the People’s Choice Award for “Courage and Sacrifice.”

The People’s Choice was selected by gallery visitors who submitted ballots to vote for their favourite pieces. They were displayed at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

For their efforts, all winners receive a \$500 honorarium, courtesy of Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro.

The competition was open to artists across Niagara.

This is the fourth year the

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Communities in Bloom committee, NOTL Hydro and the Pumphouse have held a contest to adorn hydro boxes with art.

Utility boxes at Fort George, Fort Mississauga and the Legion on King Street will be decorated with the winning artwork later this fall.

This year’s competition pieces are available for viewing in the Walker Room Gallery of the arts centre until Oct. 22.

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# Notice of Public Information Centre Queenston – St. Davids Wastewater Servicing Strategy (RR81)

## Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

### The Study

Niagara Region is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study to assess alternatives for the wastewater servicing strategy in the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant service area. The existing wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1989 and has since undergone equipment replacements and various maintenance activities while continuing to service the village of Queenston. Further upgrades are necessary if the plant is to continue operating efficiently.

This study examined two servicing options:

- Upgrade the existing Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Decommission the existing wastewater treatment plant and redirect flows through a new sewage pumping station and forcemain to either of the sewage pumping stations in St. Davids

After a detailed evaluation of the two options, the most feasible solution is to upgrade the existing plant at the current location. No capacity increases, new facilities or land are required for this solution. The work involves rehabilitating existing facilities to effectively treat flows up to the wastewater treatment plant's current average rated capacity of 0.5 megalitres per day and improving site access.

### The Process

Although the recommended solution is categorized as a Schedule "A+" project in accordance with the approved Municipal Engineers Association Class Environmental Assessment process, the Region is continuing to follow the process for Schedule "B" projects. This includes the completion of phase 1 and 2 for this process. As such, the study provides a definition of the problem(s) / opportunities associated with the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant and Queenston - St. Davids wastewater systems, develops and evaluates alternative solutions, determines the most feasible solutions and identifies methods to avoid or minimize impacts to the community and natural environment.

### Get Involved

Niagara Region encourages the public and stakeholders to actively participate in this planning process. Information about the project will be available on Niagara Region's website as part of Public Information Centre #1. You can learn about how this project will contribute to Niagara's overall growth plan, key servicing issues being considered, and how you can have your voice heard.

### Public Information Centre #1 Details

A presentation and information regarding the study will be made available on the project website (access using web address below) beginning Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022. This will be followed by a two-week period to submit Public Information Centre #1 related comments to the project team. Responses to all comments will be provided on the project website following the two-week review period.

[niagararegion.ca/projects/queenston-st-davids](http://niagararegion.ca/projects/queenston-st-davids)

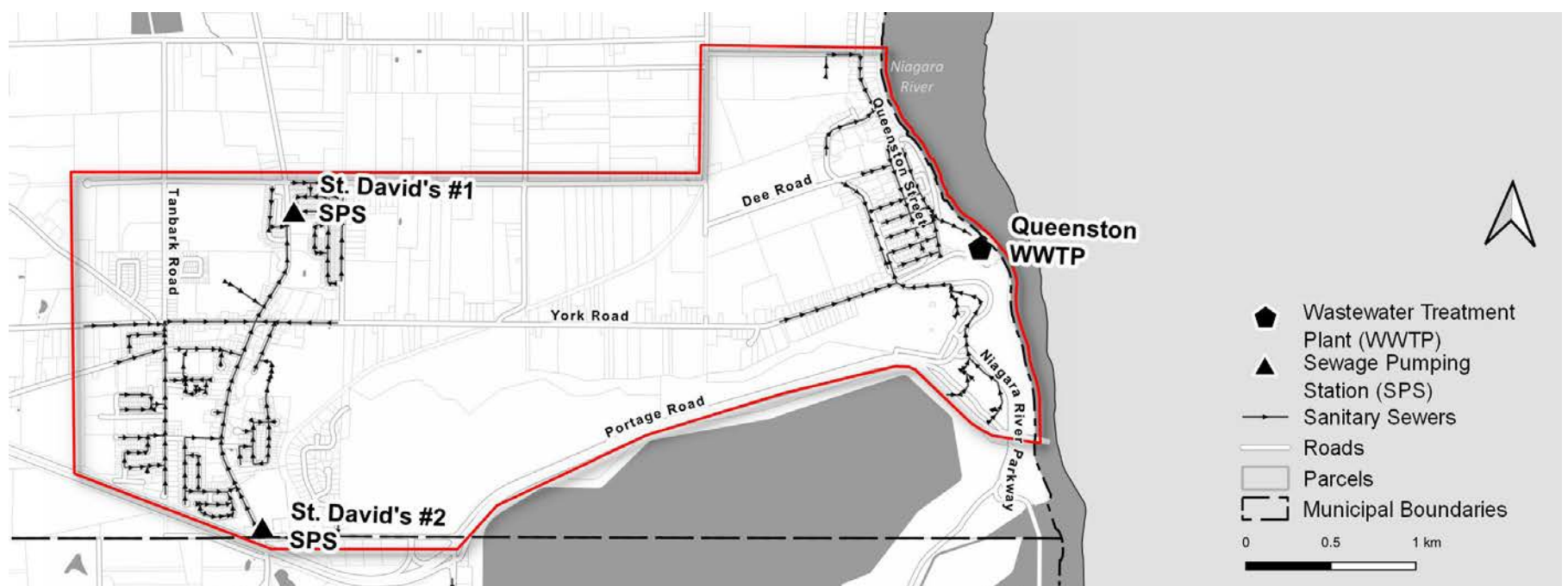
Upon completion of the study, a Project File Report documenting the study process will be prepared and made available for public review and comment. Anyone who wishes to comment on or to be involved in this study should indicate their interest, preferably in writing to the project team.

**Robert Stret, P.Eng., PMP©**  
**Project Manager**  
 Water-Wastewater Engineering  
 Niagara Region  
 3501 Schmon Pkwy., PO Box 1042  
 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7  
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Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or [FOI@niagararegion.ca](mailto:FOI@niagararegion.ca).

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or [accessibility@niagararegion.ca](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca).





# Shelly caps a stellar golf season with **more honours**

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

It's been a career year for Gerry Shelly on the links at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

The amiable octogenarian has been a regular winner all season in the Thursday men's league, taking long drive, closest to the pin and scoring prizes regularly.

On Friday night, he and his wife Peggy Larder were named Couple of the Year at the wrap-up gathering of the Couples league.

And on Tuesday he shared top honours with Peter Falconer in the WOOFer's Cup competition, a net score tournament for participants in the Tuesday WOOFs league.

The Couples league honoured Shelly and Larder in recognition of their active support of the weekly "Nine and Dine" league, said Cal Cochrane, one of the co-ordinators of the league.

Each week couples play a



Left: WOOFs league co-ordinator Bill Katrynyuk is flanked by WOOFer's Cup winners Gerry Shelly, left, and Peter Falconer. Right: The NOTL Golf Club's Couple of the Year were honoured Friday night by the Couples League. Co-ordinators Cal Cochrane, left, and his wife Marilyn, right, and Susan Gagne, far right, present the award to Peggy Larder and Gerry Shelly. KEVIN MACLEAN/SUPPLIED

friendly nine-hole game, followed by dinner at the club.

"They are a couple who displayed great camaraderie on the course as everyone enjoyed being paired with them," Cochrane said.

"And in turn they were more than delighted to be paired with several of the many new members of NOTL Couples and helping those new members to con-

nect with others, which is one of the main benefits of joining our league."

The winning didn't end there for Shelly. Last Thursday he scooped the most Stableford points in men's league play and also won a net skin on the fifth hole.

Quite a run for the retired Toronto car dealer.

Other Thursday winners were: Low gross, James



Grigjanis-Meusel (37); longest putt, Ricky Watson (#2); longest drive, A.J. Harland (#3); closest to the pin, Joe Doria (#4), Dan Regan (#9); closest to the 150 marker, John Thomson (#8). Noel Morris won a net skin on #6 and gross skins went to Watson (#2), Jim Meszaros (#6) and John Reynolds (#8).

Reynolds also was tops in

WOOFs play this Tuesday, shooting a one-over 37. Don Allen had low net (35) and Meszaros was closest to the pin on #4. Bill Farnell won the hidden hole with a birdie on #3.

In nine-hole women's league competition for the Gretchen Ormston Memorial Trophy, Cathy Saytar won the A flight with a two-day total of 96. Bonnie

Lamourie took the B flight with a score of 115.

Top scores this week were: low gross: Saytar (51), Trish Anthony, Marlene Sibbald and Ruth Dowsett (54), and Suzanne Rate (55). Net scores: Candace MacLean and Lamourie (37), Penny Bannister and Saytar (39), Linda Williams and Sibbald (40).

Jill Planche had the longest putt and Barb Werner hit the longest drive. Werner also chipped in on #6 and MacLean chipped in on #7.

The Tuesday nine and 18-hole women's leagues are wrapping up their seasons next week with a joint celebration.

Deborah Williams noted the nine-holers competed for six trophies this season and "as we wind down, Tuesday, Sept. 20, was simply a fun game of golf."

"We look forward to the camaraderie next Tuesday playing with the 18-hole ladies in our closing scramble and returning next season."



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**2022 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE**

**FINAL SECOND INSTALLMENT DUE FRIDAY, SEPT. 30, 2022**

**Tax Rates as per Final By-Law No. 5421-22**

Payment may be made by **mail** or by drop off at the **Town Municipal Offices** at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road (PO Box 100, Virgil ON L0S 1T0). A 24-hour mail slot is located at the front (accessible drop box) and side entrances of the Town office for your convenience. Post-dated cheques are accepted. **Payment can also be made electronically from your bank account using the 19-digit roll number.**

If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, your account will be credited only **after** the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow **ten (10)** working days for payment processing. A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, **payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date. Penalties may not be waived.**

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. **If you have not received your tax notice, please contact the Finance division at 905-468-3266 to ensure that your correct mailing address, including PO Box, is on file.**

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For information on payment options or to sign up for eSend, visit the Town's website at [www.notl.com](http://www.notl.com) or contact our Finance division directly at 905-468-3266 ext. 230.



# NOTL sailors **place third** at Shark World Championships

## Crews used loaner boats, battled fierce Austrian weather, but camaraderie is real takeaway victory

Evan Loree  
The Lake Report

Two sailors from Niagara-on-the-Lake placed third at the Shark World Championships last weekend in Bregenz, Austria, despite some wicked weather.

Racers Rod Gardner and David Deboy sailed their way to the podium late last week with crewmate John Brunt.

“You’re dealing with Mother Nature when you’re racing,” Gardner said in an interview.

“We had four seasons in a day,” he added.

On the final day of races the sailors were hit with a swell of wind as they neared the finish line.

“There was a lot of chaos going on,” Gardner said adding that many of the boats behind theirs were wiped out by the wind.

NOTL Sailing Club mem-

ber Rob Vanderperk and his team placed a close fourth behind Gardner’s crew.

“We lost one point on the very final race,” Vanderperk told The Lake Report, adding they hadn’t expected to do as well as they did.

Jinnie and Laurel Gordon were also there sailing with their friend Eileen Quigley and finished 20th out of 42 teams.

Gordon has been competing in these championships for almost 20 years with an all-female team.

“My team being a lighter-weight crew and being all women, we often struggle with heavier conditions,” Gordon said.

They were pleased with their performance and happy they weren’t wiped out in the wind like many of their competitors were, she said.

Adapting to the adverse conditions of foreign waters

is no easy feat but the sailors agreed that it’s made easier by the ties of camaraderie.

“Starts with a friendship,” Gardner said, adding that he’s been sailing with Deboy for six or seven years.

Gardner described sailing as “a family sport that I do with my children (and) my partner.”

After a lifetime on the water, Gardner said he is still sailing with the friends he started with at age 10.

For the world championships, the Canadians were not able to use their own craft and were loaned boats for the races.

Gardner estimates it would have cost about \$24,000 to get one boat there and back again.

European Sharks are slightly different from those at the NOTL Sailing Club and that can present challenges for sailors.



Rob Vanderperk (yellow hat) crews a loaner boat with his teammates at the Shark World Championships in Austria last weekend. EDGAR JENNY/SUPPLIED

“You’re having to adapt how you do things because of the way that the boat is laid out,” Gardner said.

The water, land, and weather conditions are different at every race, and adapting to them is a crucial part of a sailor’s success, he said.

“The more Mother Nature

throws at me the bigger the rush I get.”

For Gardner, sailing is like chess on water, adding that you get better with age.

In sailing, “you can win a world championship in your 80s,” Gardner said.

It just takes strategy and experience, he added.

Gardner is 54 now and

still aspires to win a world championship.

Peter Van Rossum of the Kingston Yacht Club led a crew to second place this year and Olympic sailor Christian Binder led a team from Austria to first.

Gardner described the top placing crews as being in a “league of their own.”

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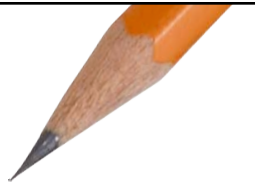
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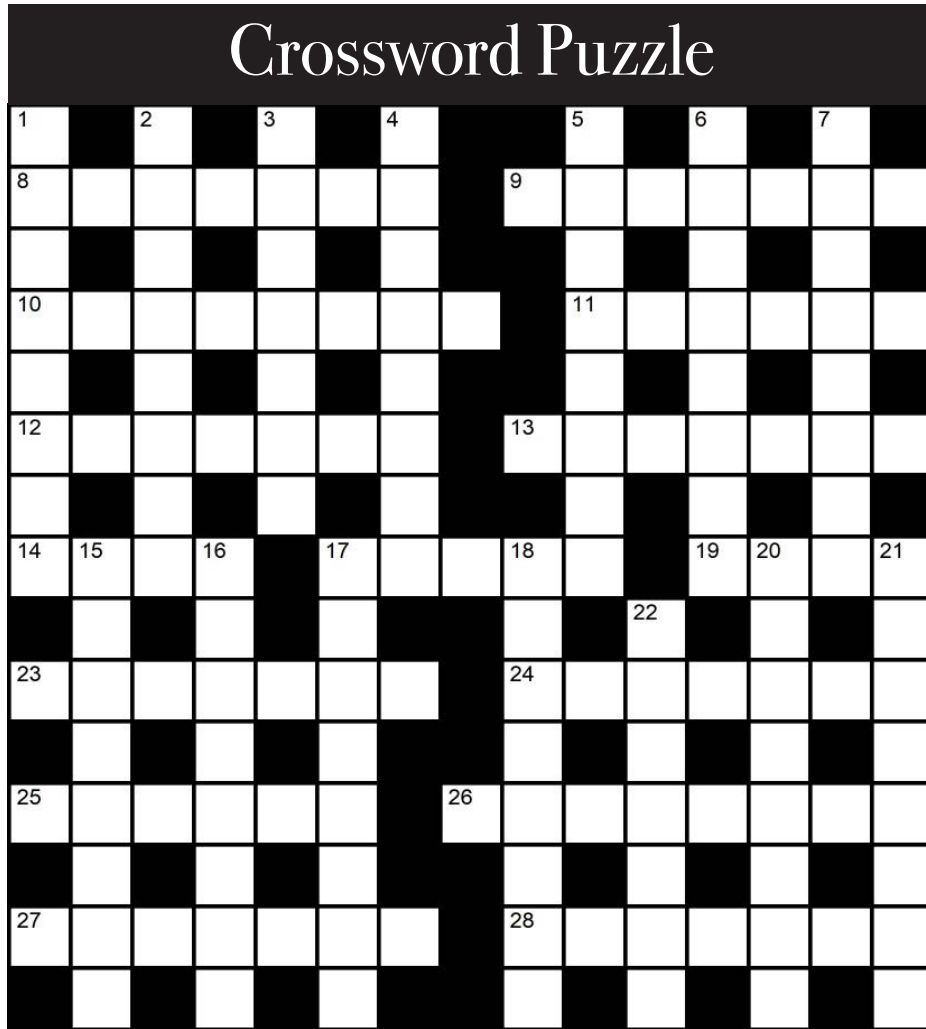


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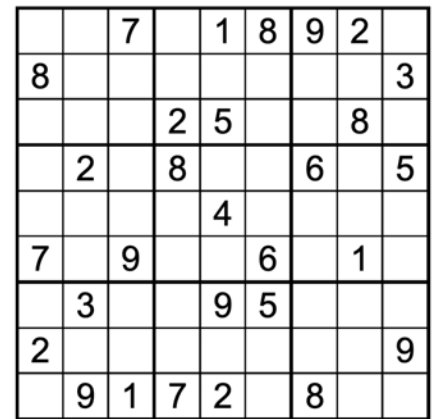
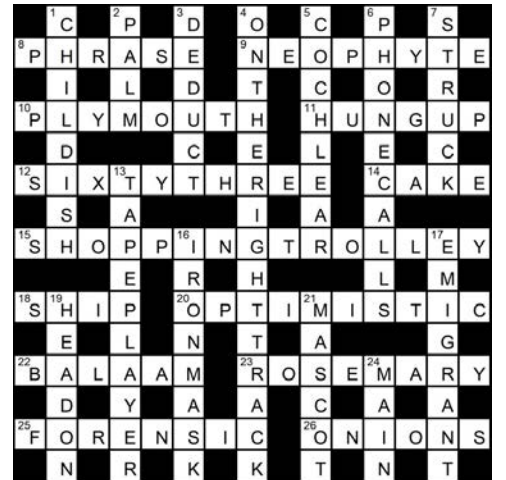
- 8. Track performer, perhaps (7)
- 9. Spock-like (7)
- 10. Squirmed (8)
- 11. Power source (6)
- 12. One responding to a stimulus (7)
- 13. More often than not (7)
- 14. Twitcher's cover (4)
- 17. Split or indentation (5)
- 19. Bridge section (4)
- 23. Vets (7)
- 24. Piccadilly hotel (3,4)
- 25. Drawn to end the game (6)
- 26. Spherical (8)
- 27. Missing a piece (7)
- 28. Passage (7)

**Down**

- 1. Large pig (8)
- 2. Had Latin corrected in the Far East (8)
- 3. Agree it got made over in Surrey (7)
- 4. Recommendation (8)
- 5. Duke whose family name is Seymour (8)
- 6. Explanatory drawings (8)
- 7. Flowering garden tree (8)
- 15. Fomenting (8)
- 16. In perpetuity (8)
- 17. Ammunition case (8)
- 18. Road accident statistic (8)
- 20. Easy (8)
- 21. Jesus's childhood home (8)
- 22. Balkan native (7)



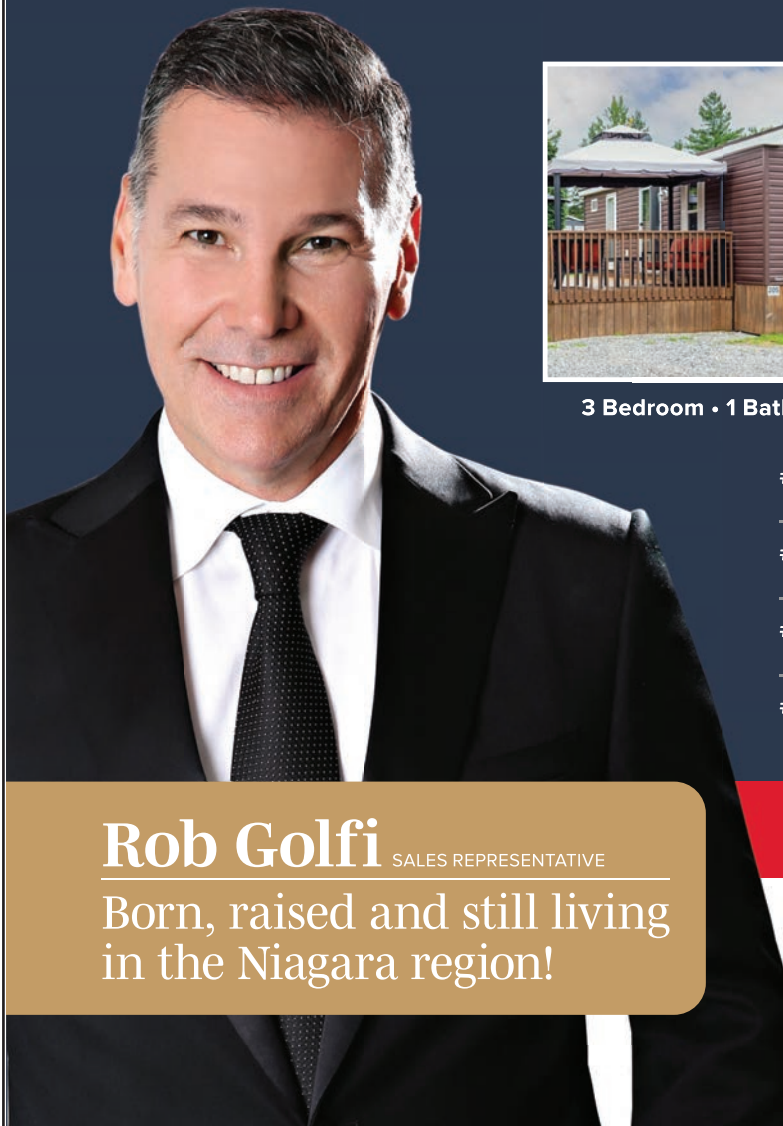
Last issue's answers



MEDIUM

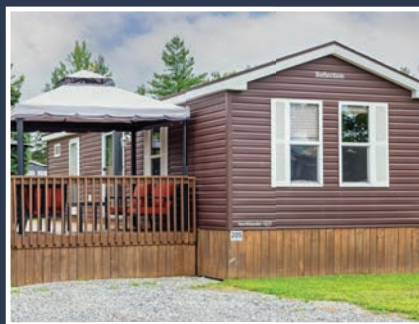
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# Scratching that itch? Here's the science behind it all



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

There isn't much I remember about the church of my childhood except stuffy, will-they-ever-end church services, my Sunday school teacher, who preferred talking about baseball and those uncomfortable itchy wool pants my parents made me wear on Sundays, even on steamy hot summer's days.

Since then, I haven't given much attention to itching, except to avoid wearing similar pants whenever I can.

That was until a recent article in the journal "Nature" tweaked my interest in the physiological and molecular basis of itching.

Last year the Nobel prize in medicine/physiology was awarded to David Julius and Arden Patapoutian for

their studies of light touch, temperature and pain sensations.

In independent but complementary studies, Julius and Patapoutian were able to link specific qualities and sensitivities of sensation to specific genes in nerve cells and the receptor proteins at the sensing tips of the related nerve fibres.

Their work was elegant but left one question unanswered: Which nerve cells and receptor proteins mediate itching sensation?

Mechanoreceptors that respond to deforming stimuli such as touch, pressure or stretch, are ubiquitous in the skin and many of the body's systems and organs.

For example, mechanoreceptors and their related nerve cells and sensory connections provide important information about distension and pressure within the urinary tract from the kidneys through to the urethra, the digestive system from mouth to anus, blood pressure in blood vessels, tension and stretch in muscles, and touch and stretch stimuli applied to the skin.



The human sensory system in complex. PEXELS

And provided everything is working as it should, we're barely aware of most of that information.

Itch stimuli on the other hand, are hard to ignore – they are irritating, annoying and might even be painful. They force us to pay attention, sometimes prompting us to rub or scratch the affected region of the skin, often making the itch worse. The "Nature" study

strongly suggests the nerve cells that mediate itch sensation differ from other sensory nerve cells.

Some cells and their related receptor protein respond to chemicals such as histamine, which is typically released in response to insect bites and more so by scratching the site of the bite.

Histamine is also released in allergic disorders af-

fecting the skin – hence the itch and scratching so often associated with such problems.

Other sensory nerve cells and their related receptor proteins respond to mechanical stimuli, not unlike other low threshold mechanosensitive receptors and neurons described earlier by Patapoutian and colleagues. But with a difference.

In the case of itch sensitive mechanoreceptors, the nerve cells and their receptors become sensitized to the stimulus, creating a prolonged and even lower threshold response to touch, hence the itch.

For me, the result of this latest study was a reminder of just how complex the sensory system is.

There are many types of sensory nerve cells each with their own unique genes, differing receptor proteins and different functions, implying much more complexity in the spinal cord, brainstem and higher components of the sensory system.

To do what we do, requires a lot on information, 99 per cent or more of

which we're thankfully unaware. We are aware of the external and internal worlds on a need-to-know basis and itch is one of those need-to-knows – that alerts us to an insect bite or possibly allergic or inflammatory condition in our skin.

But there's more to the story. The work that earned Julius and Patapoutian a Nobel revealed the underlying genetics of the peripheral sensory system and raised the possibility that some sensory disorders might be genetically transmitted and hence possibly treated using gene editing.

Their studies and those of others, also raise the possibility of developing drugs for treating different sensory disorders, by targeting specific receptor proteins.

Those would be big advances, but probably not any time soon, given the complexity of the sensory system.

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

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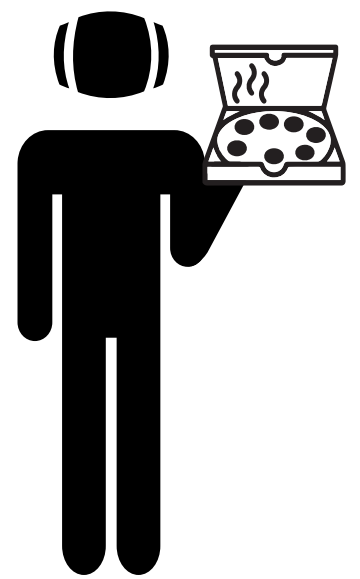
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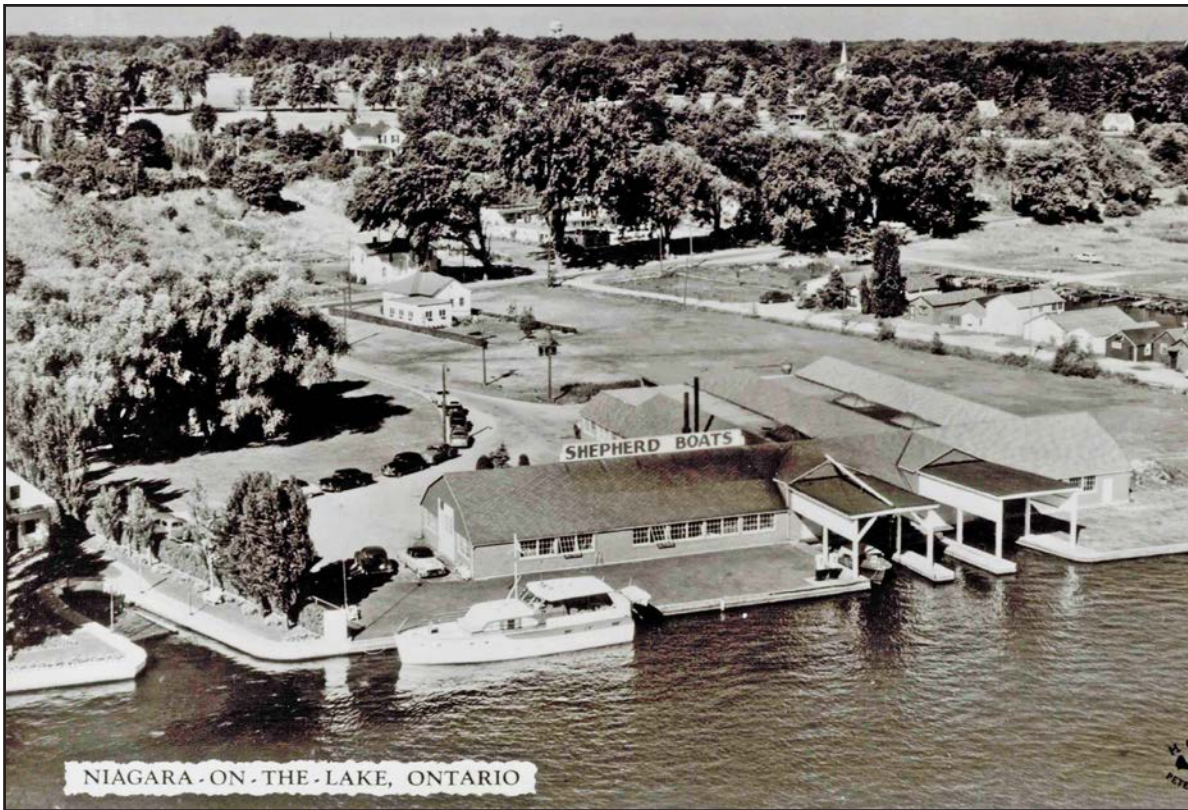
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## Shepherd Boats circa 1950

Here is a circa 1950s aerial photograph of Shepherd Boats along the Niagara River. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club basin is located along the left side where the row of boathouses is located. Today you would find the King's Point condominium complex here. Shepherd Boats, founded by Lloyd H. Shepherd and his son Howard, moved its plant to NOTL from St. Catharines in 1940. The custom boat building company created quality mahogany boats that became popular in North America during the 1950s. Becoming a leader in the manufacture and sale of pleasure boats, the company saw a major boom in production during the 1950s. Construction time took from two to 12 weeks, depending on the boat model. The last Shepherd boat built here was a 54-foot yacht called the Ozark Star. Shepherd Boats brought significant economic activity and employment to our small, quiet town. To learn more about NOTL's boatbuilding industry, visit the museum's "All Along the Waterfront" exhibition.



## New King of the vineyard

Ben Froese of Willow Lake Ventures Inc. on Line 6 in Niagara-on-the-Lake is the 2022 Grape King. The Grape Growers of Ontario, marking their 75th anniversary this year, crowned Froese in a ceremony last week. The Grape King is selected based on vineyard management and knowledge of the industry. As king, Froese will serve as a representative for Ontario's grape and wine industry at events across the country.. DENIS CAHILL

## Looking to the Stars

### Summer officially ends as autumn equinox arrives

**Thursday, Sept. 22:** At 9:03 tonight, the sun enters Libra, which means we have the autumn equinox in the northern hemisphere and the spring equinox in the southern hemisphere. No matter where you live on Earth, the day is equal to the night. Equality is a key Libra word. We can find equality, balance and peace (Libra's highest goals) when we open up to others. We need to see others not as a means of personal gratification, not as a reflection of ourselves – but as individuals in their own right. It was 28 years ago today that the sitcom "Friends" debuted on NBC. The date was Sept. 22, 1994.



**Friday, Sept. 23:** Today, retrograde Mercury is conjunct the sun at zero degrees of Libra. When Mercury retrograde is conjunct the sun, a new Mercury cycle begins. This particular Mercury cycle is extra powerful since it happens at one of the four cardinal degrees. The four cardinal degrees (0 degrees for Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn) are the most potent degrees of the zodiac. Things are much more likely to come to fruition when we have a cycle starting at a cardinal degree. Happy birthday to "the Boss" – Bruce Springsteen turns 73 today.

**Saturday, Sept. 24:** With Venus in Virgo opposite Neptune in Pisces, today is not a time for changing things. We are likely too impressionable. Imagine but do not act. Canadian tragic comedian Phil Hartman was born in Brantford, Ont., on Sept. 24, 1949. He was part of the cast of "Saturday Night Live" and contributed several voices for "The Simpsons." He was murdered in 1998.

**Sunday, Sept. 25:** Today we have a new moon at two degrees of Libra. The new moon

is opposite Jupiter, giving us an appetite for risk-taking. The new moon ruler, Venus, is conjunct Mercury retrograde. The combined Mercury and Jupiter influence will help us weigh the details against the big picture, helping us produce a plan. On Sept. 25, 1894, Canada's eighth prime minister, Robert Borden, wed Laura Bond. As PM during the First World War, he led many important changes in Canada.

**Monday, Sept. 26:** Mercury retrograde is conjunct Venus in Virgo today. This is a great transit for communication and social activities: Venus will make our communication (Mercury) more persuasive, while our relationships (Venus) will benefit from Mercury's clarity and insight. Happy 41st birthday to Serena Williams.

**Tuesday, Sept. 27:** Mercury retrograde conjuncts Pluto, also retrograde driving intense talk of sexuality and psychology. This happens again when both planets are direct in October. Happy birthday to Avril Lavigne who turns 38 today.



**Wednesday, Sept. 28:** Mars in Gemini is in perfect harmony with Saturn in Aquarius, making for a day where health and work benefit from stable and well-designed discipline. It was Sept. 28, 2000, that many Canadians mourned the passing of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who twice served as Canada's prime minister.



Check out the podcast at [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca) for more of Bill Auchterlonie's astrological insights.

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# In with the old: Garden rooms are a popular idea, but not new



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

You can hardly pick up a gardening magazine any more without reading something about creating garden rooms.

We now have outdoor kitchens' outdoor TV areas, outdoor living spaces and outdoor meditation areas.

Even though garden rooms sound like a new concept, one of the first gardens to popularize this idea was at Sissinghurst Castle, which was established in 1938.

Rooms, whether in homes or in gardens, are spaces separated by some type of wall. In the garden, this can be accomplished with hedges, trees and shrubs, vines, or fences and other structures.

Although, traditionally, these walls were formed

with geometric hedging, they don't have to be formal and sheared looking. They just have to give a sense of separation, to give you a defined space to design and use.

You could use this overall concept in a more casual way as well. Instead of a clipped hedge, you could create your walls with a row of lilacs, tall grasses or with the use of screens. Creating "walls" in between room areas helps to create both a sense of enclosure and a sense of discovery.

### Why garden rooms?

Aesthetically, garden rooms can make your landscape appear larger. When the entire yard is open, your eyes take in the whole space with one sweeping glance.

When the view is obstructed, your perspective becomes more focused and you observe your garden in much smaller chunks.

Secondly, creating garden rooms also allows gardeners to have different colour schemes or styles without creating chaos. You can have a bright, hot, tropical space by a pool and a calming pastel cottage garden in the back corner without having the plants compete for attention.

You can always unify the different areas by repeating



Garden rooms can add an extra layer to both your home and garden. FILE PHOTO

the hardscaping or a certain colour of flower.

Thirdly, garden rooms can be used to create spaces for different functions, such as a dining area, a play area, a place for contemplation or an edible garden. Think of your outdoor space like the layout of a house with all its different functions.

### Before you begin

First, decide what you want to do in each room. What is its intended purpose?

Think about that mood that you are wanting to cre-

ate there – a quiet, contemplative, restful area, or a lively entertaining area?

What will be the focal point for that room? What will draw you or your guests into that room?

Next, think about what will link the different rooms together. Will pathways help to guide visitors from one area to another? You don't want to obstruct the main entry, but you do want to divert travellers so that they have to go around a corner to discover the room.

Consider the views from

within the room and of the room.

Will placing a "wall" in a particular location block a view from in the house or create intrigue? Would placing the wall there block sunlight from getting into the room?

Also consider your view from inside your house. Do you get a glimpse into the different rooms, at least enough to give it a sense of mystery?

Next, it is time to start adding the main structure to your rooms. Will the

division between rooms be more of a formal hedge or maybe a grouping of taller grasses?

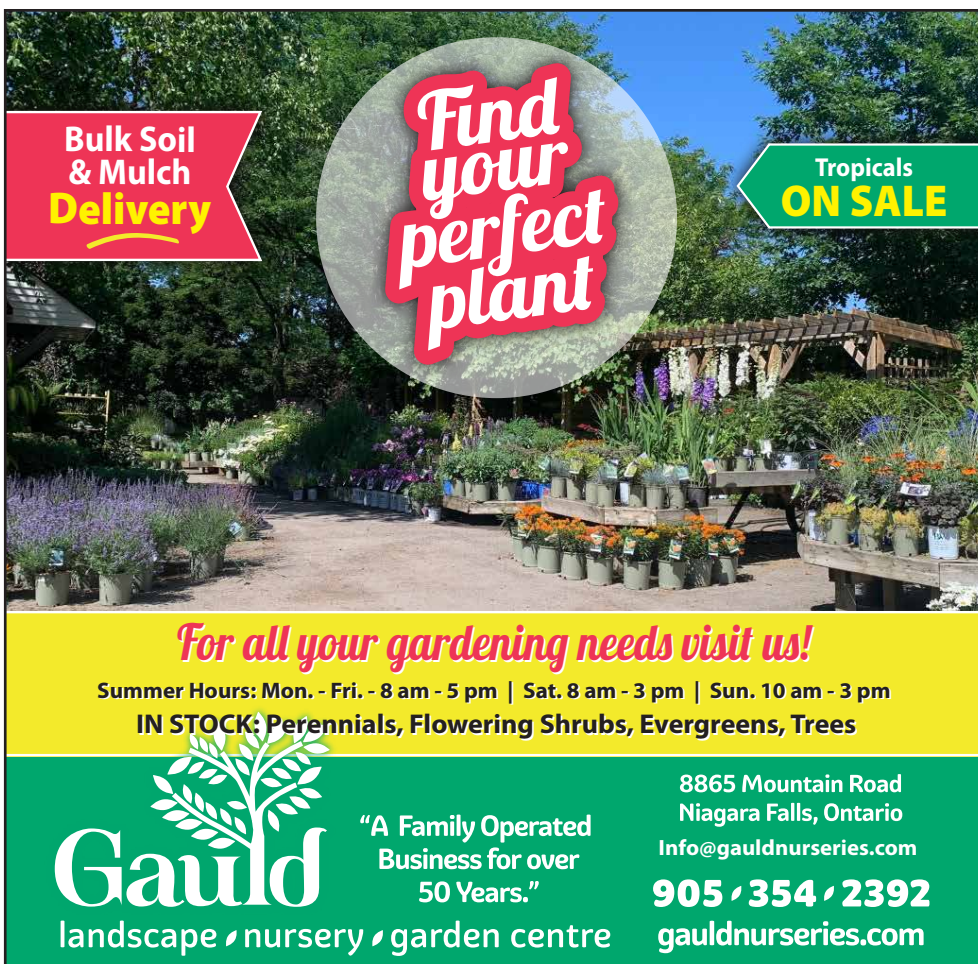
Always keep in mind the look and feeling you are wanting to create, maybe with some taller shrubs such as viburnum or serviceberry. Once the main structure is done, make sure you have a focal point for that room, whether it is a fire pit, a special water feature or a collection of plants like a rose garden.

After the walls' locations are planned and the focal points has been decided, then the real fun starts. You get to "furnish" the rooms. The options are limitless.

When choosing colours to use, remember that cool colours (whites, pinks, purples) will help create a calm, relaxing atmosphere, while warm colours (reds, oranges, golds) create a more vibrant, exciting mood.

Creating rooms in your garden helps to give your space more interest and intrigue – and at the same time it allows you to explore different looks, styles and moods that fit your lifestyle.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at [joanneyoung.ca](http://joanneyoung.ca).



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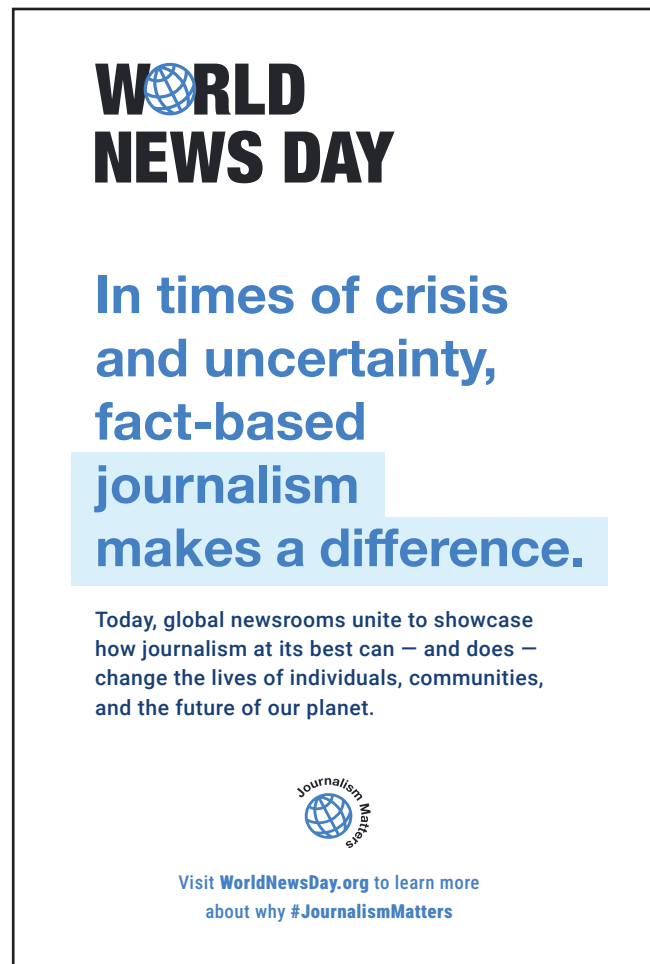
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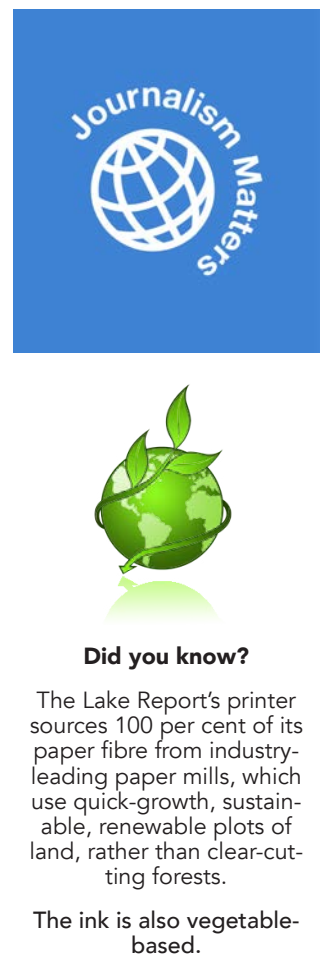
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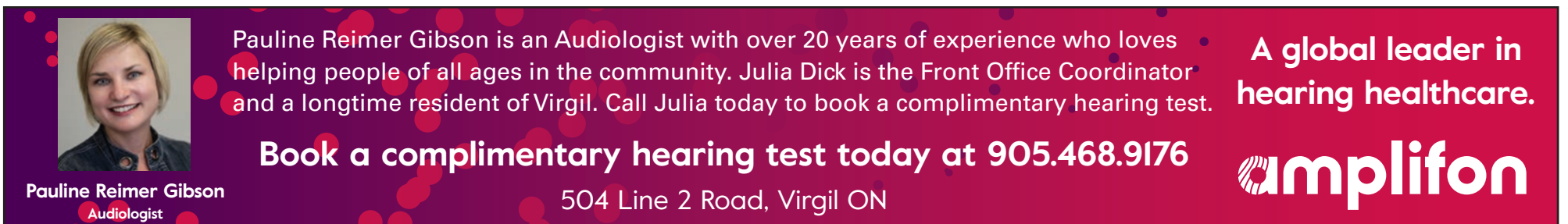
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