



Chautauqua corn roast | Page 12



Questions persist over cleanup of pollutant

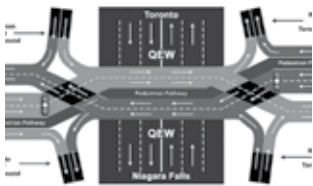
Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's been almost three weeks since an apparent pollution "spill" was discovered in rural Niagara-on-the-Lake and many people have more questions than answers at this point.

Here are some of the things we know – and don't know – about the situation:

By Aug. 22, five days

Continued on Page 5



Drivers worried about safety of new QEW interchange

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Some call it dangerous, confusing and an accident waiting to happen, but Ontario's first diverging diamond interchange will open to drivers later this month – and be a safer alternative for drivers, one of its proponents says.

St. Davids resident Mike Cooper isn't sold on the idea.

"That is going to be the (most) dangerous thing ever," he said at an information session Wednesday afternoon about the new

Continued on Page 4

Back in class

Kids in seats and cops in streets for first day of school



Harrison and Roza Wasilewicz were excited to be back at St. Davids Public School on Tuesday. EVAN LOREE

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Kids all over Niagara-on-the-Lake traded in their sunglasses and beach towels for backpacks and lunch pails as they headed back to school Tuesday.

It was a chaotic and exciting

first day back as children and parents arrived at Crossroads Public School in Virgil.

Some were a bit anxious after school buses arrived late for pickup.

Vice-principal Melora Brewster was busy directing parents and students to the rear-yard playground to find their classes

while she waited for the big yellow buses to arrive.

"Organizing for first day back is exciting," Brewster said while greeting students and their parents.

"I love school, right. So I've never left school," she added.

It was also Niagara Regional Police's 22nd annual back-to-

school traffic safety and awareness day.

Officers were set up down the street from Crossroads enforcing speed limits.

"It's about traffic safety today," Deputy Chief Brett Flynn said in an interview.

Continued on Page 16

NOTL to face off in court with Marotta companies – again

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is poised to once again face off with developer Benny Marotta's companies in court in September and October.

This time the legal battle is over the clear-cutting of trees on the Rand Estate on Nov. 6, 2018.

But the first case, set for Sept. 12 at the courthouse in Welland, is a Charter of Rights challenge by Marotta's lawyers who are questioning the town's right to prosecute the companies for cutting down the trees.

In an email to group followers, Save Our Rand Estate, a vocal resident group that has opposed Marotta's plans for the Rand

Estate at just about every step, said the constitutional challenge is "to the surprise of no one who has followed the Marotta legal tactics on the Rand Estate."

Lyle Hall, a spokesperson for SORE, said the group hasn't seen any materials filed with the court with respect to the Charter

Continued on Page 3



Trucks haul away trees that were cut down on the Rand Estate in November 2018. SUPPLIED/JOY JANZEN

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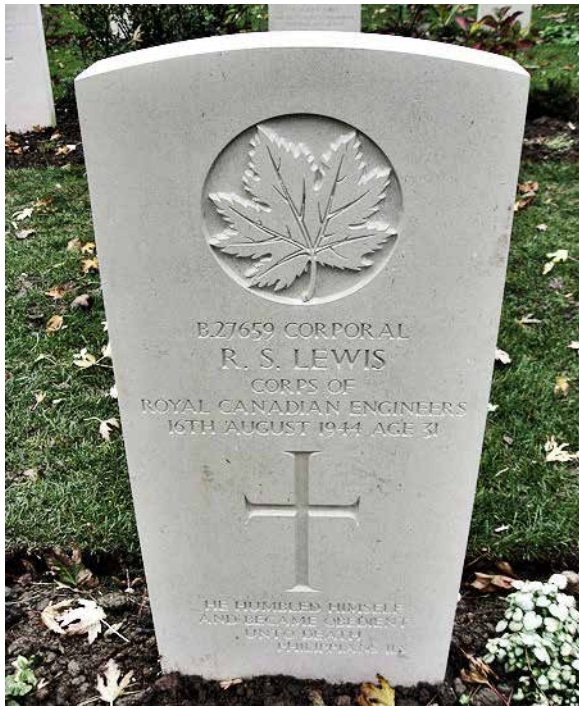
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The former pickleball courts in Virgil. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

Left: The gravestone for NOTL's Richard Lewis at Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery in northern France. Right: A Canadian soldier tackles the dangerous task of disarming a land mine. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Town still in a pickle over outdoor pickleball alternatives

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The town is struggling to find a new outdoor home for Niagara-on-the-Lake's Pickleball Club.

"Right now we don't have a home for outdoor pickleball until we do some more diligence on where we might locate that in the future," acting director of operations Kevin Turcotte told council on Aug. 29.

In June, a justice of the peace banned pickleball from the outdoor courts at Centennial Sports Park for two years after finding the club had violated the town's noise bylaw.

Town staff have been investigating solutions ever since.

They examined the Croatian Hall, NOTL Community Centre, Old

Virgil School and Vineridge Academy but none proved suitable for outdoor pickleball.

The town also looked into building an acoustic barrier at Centennial Sports Park to keep the noise down.

"Even with the noise attenuation (acoustic barrier), we still would not prevent the acceptable noise levels," Turcotte said.

He estimated the noise barrier would cost the town up to \$75,000.

As for the courts at Centennial Sports Park, the town is investigating a few alternative activities that could fit the space, including ball hockey, lacrosse and street soccer.

Before the town can commit to any of those options, it needs to study the potential noise they would cause.

Council voted to continue looking for solutions.

THE MONUMENTS MEN

A son's death left an impoverished family

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.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

More than 45,000 Canadian men died in service during the Second World War.

When a member of Canada's armed forces died in service there were often consequences beyond grief for the survivors. We often fail to think of the economic impact on some families brought on by the death.

Without a social safety net, the death of husband supporting a young family or a son who contributed to family finances could reduce his surviving family to poverty.

This was the situation that his parents found themselves in when Richard Selwyn Lewis was killed in action in 1944.

Richard was born in Wales in 1913 and emigrat-

ed to Niagara-on-the-Lake with his parents Henry and Ellen, and sister Beryl, in 1929.

His father found work as a gardener and caretaker but the pay for such work was low.

Richard left school to work at odd jobs in town to help his family.

For a little over a year, he was a chauffeur and then left this job to work as a stoker for Canada Steamship Lines. After eight months on the lakes, he landed a job as a miner in Timmins.

Then the war intervened.

He joined the Algonquin Regiment as a part-time militiaman on March 10, 1941, and while training at Camp Niagara he enlisted in the Canadian Active Service Force on July 2.

As a sapper of the 8th Field Company of the Royal Canadian Engineers, he was sent to Toronto, St. Hyacinthe, Que., and Camp Petawawa in Ontario for training.

In June 1942, Sapper Lewis was shipped to the United Kingdom where his training continued. He received extra pay when he was promoted to lance corporal on Dec. 1, 1943, and corporal on March 20, 1944.

In the meantime, his parents in Niagara-on-the-

Lake were in dire circumstances. Henry was unable to earn enough gardening. He joined the Veterans Guard, a unit that provided security on the Welland Canal, but the pay for this was poor.

The family was forced to leave Niagara and move to Wellington, Ont., living with their daughter Beryl and son-in-law Ronald Way.

Way was the historian who provided the research for the reconstruction of Fort George, Fort Erie, Fort Henry and other historic sites.

In England, Richard's training became more intense as the invasion of Normandy approached.

On June 18, 1944, Corporal Lewis and his company landed in France and began to move toward Caen.

Their role was to clear German mines, repair roads build bridges and perform other tasks to clear the way for the Allied advance

On Aug. 16, 1944, Lewis's company was busy clearing the roadways through the heavily bombed city of Caen.

From a distance, the Germans lobbed artillery shells into the area where the men were working. Lewis was mortally wounded.

Initially listed as missing, he was found lying in

the rubble of the destroyed town. He died later that day.

Richard left his mother his estate of \$264.81. His mother was also informed that she would receive his War Service Gratuity of \$592.75.

However, the government has always moved slowly and the money was not immediately sent to his grieving mother. She desperately needed that money.

On June 16, 1945, she wrote an appeal to the government:

"It is now over ten months since my son who in his civilian life contributed heavily towards his home, gave his life voluntarily for this country of yours ...

At present & for months past I am in dire need of this money, having had a very serious illness & have no means whatsoever, only the charity of a son-in-law who can ill afford to keep me.

Canada did not hesitate to take our son's life blood, but it cares very little what becomes of the ones dependent on those gallant sons."

Within two months the cheque was sent.

Richard Lewis is buried in the Canadian Military Cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer in Calvados, France.

Barbara Worthy withdraws from regional council race

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The only "non-political person" in the race for Niagara-on-the-Lake's lone seat on regional council has withdrawn her candidacy.

Barbara Worthy, an independent creative arts producer, actress, writer and former CBC Radio producer, announced Tuesday that she is ending her bid for the regional seat.

"This has been an incredibly hard decision," she said in a statement.

"I felt encouraged, challenged and inspired by the potential of becoming the next regional councillor."

"However, the field is quite crowded, which is a good

thing. It shows we have some strong, civic-minded citizens," said Worthy.

As well, she said, this is the first time she knows of that any women were contesting the regional seat – Andrea Kaiser is also a candidate.

"And our platforms are very similar – honouring heritage, the arts, our agricultural base and careful, intelligent stewardship of our communities as they grow," said Worthy, who is the NOTL Museum's community engagement coordinator.

Her withdrawal leaves four people – Kaiser, former lord mayor Pat Darte, ex-councillor Paolo Miele and William Roberts – vying for the regional post.



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Developer pledges to **match donations** for NOTL Palliative Care's Healing Cycle

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

NOTL Community Palliative Care is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Healing Cycle fundraising ride – but this year there's an extra incentive to donate.

Every dollar donated up to \$25,000 will be matched by Niagara-on-the-Lake developer Rainer Hummel.

Palliative Care executive director Bonnie Bagnulo said it's a perfect fit for the 10th year of the ride.

"Holy smokes, I can't believe it," she said in an interview.

Because of the generous pledge, she said she's trying to make sure she hits at least the \$25,000 target.

All of the money goes directly toward helping people in NOTL who require end-of-life care – something Hummel says many of us



NOTL Palliative Care executive director Bonnie Bagnulo, left, and board chair Patricia Whitwell. SUPPLIED

will need.

"At the end of the day, we're all going to die. Many of us may die in less-than-ideal circumstances where we need assistance," he said in an interview.

He has supported the organization's fundraisers every year, he said, but after his girlfriend's mother had a severe head injury, he said NOTL Palliative Care was there to help.

"(NOTL) Palliative Care has supplied her with a

wheelchair and have been very helpful to the family," he said.

"Basically, when you have a situation like that, there's very few agencies that you can depend on or lean on and they were the first to come to the table to offer assistance."

Another big reason he supports the organization is that his own family doctor in NOTL is on the board of directors, along with some others from town.

"I think that speaks volumes for the quality of what that organization is and what it provides the community," he said.

"This type of care within our own community, created by members of our community, has far more value than far-reaching provincial programs that are either inaccessible or are stretched to the absolute limits," he said.

"By providing it within our community, it serves our community."

He'd like to see more people recognize the value of the service NOTL Palliative Care provides and hopes others will help the run reach its target.

"When it is a service that virtually every one of us will either use ourselves or a close family member will use, why are we not supporting it more?"

First court date set for **Sept. 12** in Welland

Continued from Front Page

challenge, "so we have no position on the merits of the challenge."

"It does, however, continue a predictable and unfortunate pattern for the Marotta companies, of exploiting the legal system to the fullest possible extent rather than dealing with the merits of the case," Hall said in an emailed response to questions from The Lake Report.

"Just look at the town's designation of the Rand Estate under the Heritage Act in 2018," he said.

"The Marotta group both appealed the designation to the Conservation Review Board as well as challenged the legality of the designations in Superior Court – for almost three years – then abandoned both proceedings."

In past legal battles between Marotta and the town, SORE has had third-party status in the cases.

This time SORE members are not involved in the legal proceedings except as observers.

Marotta did not respond

to attempts to reach him for comment before deadline.

In 2018, Marotta, owner of the four Rand Estate properties, said the trees were only removed from 200 John St. and that he believed he was within his legal rights to clear the land.

He said the clearing of the trees was permitted under the town's bylaws and by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

He said he was unsure exactly how many trees were taken down.

"We didn't count them but whatever we feel needs to go down, we'll take it down," Marotta told The Lake Report at the time.

Hall said SORE believes the ideal outcome is for Marotta to be forced to restore the heritage aspects he removed from the property.

"The Heritage Act provides for restoration of any illegally destroyed/damaged heritage attributes, at the owner's expense, in the event of a conviction under the act," Hall said.

"It is SORE's understanding and our expectation

that the town will pursue such restoration, 100 per cent of the costs of which will be the responsibility of the Marotta companies, in the event (the town) is successful."

The clear-cutting of the trees was "senseless environmental destruction," Hall said.

Aside from that, he said SORE members believe Marotta intentionally cut the trees in a rush after the 2018 municipal election, before the new council came into power, headed by Lord Mayor Betty Disero – who largely ran on a position of heritage protection, with an emphasis on protecting the Rand Estate.

"What is obvious ... is the Marotta group's use of heavy machinery to deliberately clear-cut what he believed was protected heritage landscape. These cultural heritage attributes of the Rand Estate, including the extensive Dunnington-Grubb designed landscape design, apparently were not given so much as a second thought," Hall said.

"These attributes were

legally protected as of August 2018 when the previous council approved the notices of intent to designate Randwood under the new mayor and council. And before that council took office, Marotta commenced the clear cut."

"Extensive expert advice" was submitted by the town and SORE for the Conservation Review Board proceedings about the nature and extent of the Dunnington-Grubb landscape features, Hall said.

As with any legal matter, a defendant is "entitled to bring whatever court challenge they wish. That doesn't mean it has any merit," he said.

"The Marotta challenges to the legality of the town's heritage designation bylaws of the Rand Estate were found by the Superior Court to be completely without merit," he added.

"Following that decision, the Marotta companies paid significant costs to both the town and SORE as a consequence."

The trial dates for prosecution are set for Oct. 17, 18, 24 and 25.

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Battle of Queenston Heights re-enacted on 210th anniversary

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Soldiers will step back in time next month as they march from Fort George to Queenston Heights to re-enact the Battle of Queenston Heights on its 210th anniversary.

The bloody and deadly battle re-enactment will play out on the weekend of Oct. 15 and 16.

The Battle of Queenston Heights was the first major skirmish of the War of 1812. The battle also is famous because it led to the death of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock.

He was killed on Oct. 13, 1812, after leading 200 men from Fort George to Queenston Heights to battle the invading Americans.

"It's really significant, because it's the first time that you see British soldiers alongside Canadian marshman, (Runchey's) Coloured Core, as well as Indigenous warriors, fighting shoulder to shoulder to defend what was Upper Canada," says Amanda Gamble, the

executive director of the Friends of Fort George.

"And if they had not been successful here, I think it would have changed the outcome of the whole war," she added.

During a promotional presentation at Brock's Monument at Queenston Heights last Friday, Gamble, along with a few others from the Friends' board and Queenston Heights staff, explained how the re-enactment weekend will play out.

The presentations will highlight all of the groups involved in the war.

Many people aren't aware of how deeply involved the First Nations were, said Peter Martin, special events co-ordinator with Parks Canada.

"One of the reasons why we do this is to talk about the different stories," he said.

The Queenston Heights bicentennial battle re-enactment on Oct. 12, 2012, was the last re-enactment staged at Queenston Heights – and more than 15,000 people turned out.



From left, Amanda Gamble, Aiden Lord, Nick Coyne, Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Nehring and Andrew Leliberte. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Though this year's re-enactment isn't expected to draw as many people, organizers are hoping to see a great turnout since it's such a unique piece of Canadian history.

"The War of 1812 was a very formative time in all of North America, not only for the Americans, but for the Canadians and for the Brits, who were running things here," said Lt.-Col. Bernard Nehring, who has been on

the board of the Friends of Fort George for about 35 years.

An estimated 500 re-enactors will take part in the presentations.

Gamble said some Fort George staff will be participating, but a lot of the re-enactors are volunteers who do it as a hobby.

"It's their passion," added Martin. "They do this all because they love it, so it's pretty amazing," he said.

On the morning of Saturday, Oct. 15, soldiers will start at Fort George and make the more than 10-kilometre trek up to Queenston Heights, where Brock's Monument stands.

"We like to talk to people, or show people, to highlight that specific time because it was a part of Canadian history," said Martin.

On the Saturday, there will be guided tours of the battle site and the Landscape of Nations memorial to Indigenous allies.

At 2 p.m., after the soldiers finish their march to Queenston, the battle re-enactment will start.

Brock's Monument will be open for visitors to climb or to visit the museum.

Sunday's activities will be centred on Fort George to mark the anniversary of Sir Isaac Brock's funeral.

In 1812, thousands of people came to Niagara to witness what some called the grandest funeral ever.

"We're going to do a smaller re-enactment of the funeral procession through Fort George and then have

a commemorative service at the Brock Bastion, which is where he was originally buried in October of 1812," said Gamble.

"That will be to commemorate Brock as well as John Macdonell, who was his aide-de-camp that died at the Battle of Queenston Heights as well, and to commemorate all those that have fallen," she added.

The Friends of Fort George, Parks Canada and the Niagara Parks Commission are working together to make the weekend happen.

The Friends of Fort George also received a grant from the province to help fund the event.

"The whole thing (is to) make sure that people in our area understand how important Brock was (and) how important it is to honour him and those who fought with him and fought against him," said Nehring.

To view the full schedule of the weekend, visit friendsoffortgeorge.ca. Anyone interested in climbing the monument or participating in the tours must sign up online.

\$54 million QEW interchange is supposed to increase safety

Continued from Front Page

QEW interchange for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

His wife, Karen Cooper, had her concerns, too. But people need to keep up with the times, she said.

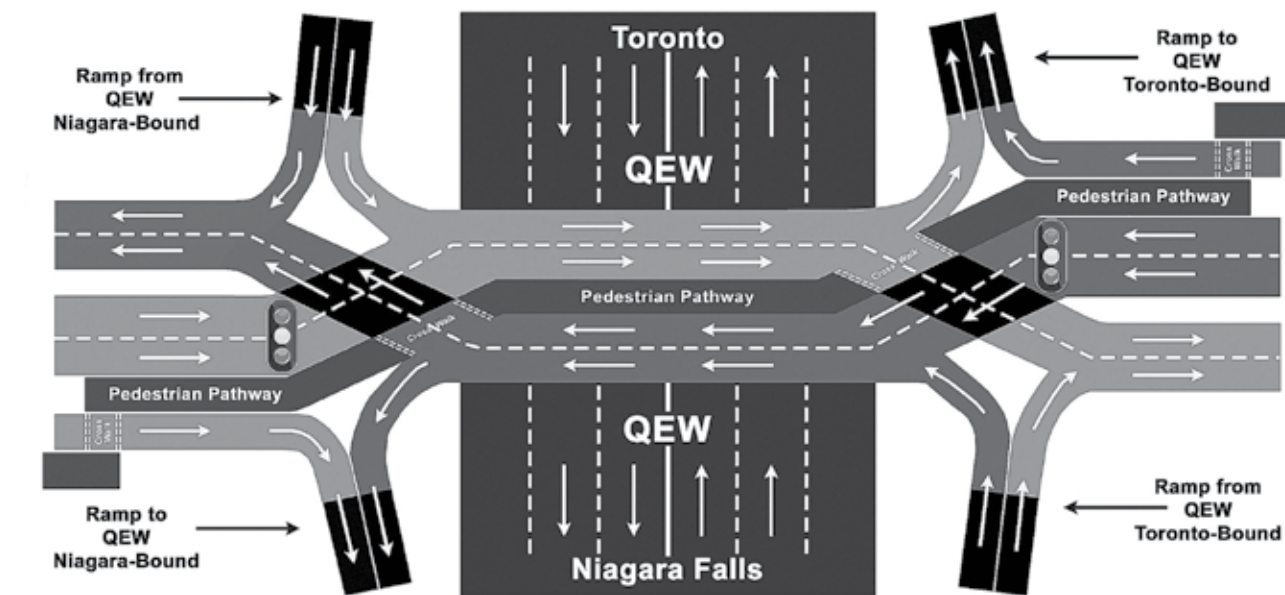
The new Glendale exit will be the third diverging diamond interchange in Canada, along with ones in Calgary and Regina.

The interchange is supposed to increase safety with fewer conflict points – potential crash sites – and increase efficiency with fewer traffic signals.

It's also supposed to reduce traffic speed, enhance mobility for both pedestrians and vehicles and be easy to navigate.

The project cost almost \$54 million, said Andrew Bernard, who works for Brennan Paving, the company responsible for overall project management and construction.

"It's supposed to be safer because you're basically



The new diamond interchange is supposed to have less potential crash sites. SUPPLIED

eliminating the chance of somebody making a left turn," he said at the session held at the Hilton Garden Inn on York Road.

Darlene Huybers is worried about accidentally going the wrong way. However, the information session helped answer some of her questions, she said.

At the session, signage featured diagrams and information to help people better understand the new interchange.

There was also a video playing, with first-person point-of-view so people could get a better feel for how the new road will work.

One of the viewers was more than a little concerned as she watched the video.

"It's very confusing," said Anne Cruse, who lives right down the street from the new interchange.

"There's going to be a lot of accidents," she said.

There have been a lot of meetings regarding signage,

lighting and street lights, one of Brennan's employees said at the session.

The interchange will partially open on Sept. 26 and be fully operational in November.

Later this fall, to enable construction, the QEW's Niagara-bound off ramp at Glendale will be closed for

60 days. Traffic will exit at Mountain Road or take alternate routes.

Installation of a roundabout at York Road, landscaping, final paving and site cleanup won't be done until spring 2023. By next summer, construction should be completed.

"Once it's up and running, and you drive it, we're gonna have the lane markings, the signage, (and) the lights," said Jason Lee, a contract services administrator for the Ministry of Transportation.

"It's going to operate like any other interchange. You follow the lanes, you follow the signs," he added.

With the new interchange, traffic on Glendale Avenue will diverge to the left side of the road through two crossover intersections, the Region of Niagara says on its website.

This enables left-turning traffic to access the QEW without waiting for signals or crossing other traffic.



FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND



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Questions persist about pollution cleanup

Continued from Front Page

after the pollutant was reported, the town had been billed more than \$650,000 to remove the substance, which the town said was an “organic pollutant.”

About \$53,000 went to an environmental consultant from GHD Engineering, while the rest was spent on pumping out and disposing of the pollutant.

The expensive removal process started before test results came back to determine if it was dangerous to people or the environment.

The test results were received Aug. 26, nine days into the situation, chief administrator Marnie Cluckie said Wednesday.

An environment ministry official visited the scene on Aug. 17, hours after the pollutant was discovered, and “directed” the town to begin cleaning it up, she said.

Under provincial law, the town must comply, she said.

A NOTL resident who has a PhD in water and environmental management, questioned the rush to dispose of the pollutant.

“How did anybody get to commit this amount of money without somebody saying, ‘Is this what you need to do?’” said Keith Kennedy.

He wondered why the town committed to spending so much money on cleaning it up, before even knowing what it was. He also asked why the town needed to hire an environmental consultant.

With this magnitude of a problem, the ministry requires the town to have a qualified expert, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

“And also that you follow their direction. And that’s exactly what we’ve been doing,” she said.

Kennedy also argued that sampling analyses usually have a quick turnaround and the amount of the contaminants and its characteristics should be known within 12 hours in this type of situation.

“Whether it’s biological oxygen demand or chemical oxygen demand analysis, those are done in the field now,” he added.

If the substance was thought to be an imminent threat to human health and the environment, there



Containment tanks placed along Concession 5 between Line 6 and Line 7 Roads. The tanks allowed the vacuum trucks to quickly dispose of the substance. SOMER SLOBODIAN

should have been a 24-hour turnaround at the most, said Kennedy.

While awaiting results, the town brought in Accu-worx, which was paid about \$100,000 a day to vacuum out the substance.

As of Sept. 1 that work was done and earth berms were removed and the ditch, known as the Cole municipal drain, is being moni-

“This was a \$1 million mistake made by senior operations staff and we’re too small a town to absorb a financial hit like this.”

RON SIMKUS
RETIRED ENGINEER
NOTL RESIDENT

tored, Cluckie said.

More than 1 million litres of the pollutant were removed.

The question of whether it’s even a spill have been raised by some people.

NOTL resident Ron Simkus is a retired engineer who worked in the mining industry for 45 years, with large-scale water management his area of expertise.

He said he is baffled by the town’s response and doesn’t believe it was a spill.

“Did anybody consider this might be a natural-occurring stream of subterranean swamp water coming to the surface?” he wrote in an email last week.

Cluckie said Wednesday that “sediment testing is underway and anticipated the week of Sept. 12. Further information related to this testing will be provided to council once complete.”

Those tests could help determine the source of the

pollutant, she said.

However, she added, “Lab results, without an accompanying professional analysis and report, qualify under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act legislation and are not documents available to the public.”

It’s not known if a professional analysis of the results is being done.

Originally, the waste was being trucked to Mor’s Refining Systems Inc. in Beamsville but as of last week, it was going to the Port Weller wastewater treatment plant, Cluckie said.

Coun. Erwin Wiens, a grape farmer, said he is frustrated him that he can’t provide answers to the public.

The questions are simple, he said. What is it? Where did it come from?

At the last council meeting on Aug. 29, acting director of operations Kevin Turcotte said releasing the results would be inconsequential.

Cluckie compared the test data to receiving blood test results.

“When you get your blood tests, you get all of these items. So it’s not named as anything other than blood,” Cluckie said in an interview with The Lake Report last week.

“In this case, it’s not named as anything other than surface water with high content of organic material,” she added.

While that may be the case, Wiens argued the public is still entitled to the details.

“Well, that’s why they give it to a doctor and the doctor tells you you’ve got high cholesterol, or you’ve got low blood pressure,” he said.

Wiens argued that the same can be done in this situation. The results can be taken to an expert to fully

break them down for people to understand.

“So, the more they don’t answer any questions, or the more they refuse to answer questions” leads to more questions and “people start thinking there’s something wrong,” said Wiens.

“How is this transparent and open dialogue?” he added.

With the cost no doubt escalated since the \$650,000 figure was released, a big concern is whether insurance will cover it or if NOTL taxpayers will foot the bill.

With no word from the insurance company yet, it’s important for members of council to be accurate in their comments and not say anything that could lead the insurance company to refuse a claim, said Disero.

When asked if the environment ministry would compensate the town for the cleanup, spokesperson Lindsay Davidson said, “The Environmental Protection Act allows the town to recover costs from the party identified as the source of the material, if a source is identified.”

Simkus speculates some wrong decisions were made. “This was a \$1 million mistake made by senior operations staff and we’re too small a town to absorb a financial hit like this,” he said.

Cluckie said an update on the costs will be provided to town council at the next committee of the whole meeting.

Wiens said, like everyone else, he is waiting for more information and has been told to direct all inquiries to Cluckie.

“You have no idea how frustrating it is,” he said.

While no mistakes should have been made by town staff, Wiens said he can understand if some wrong decisions occurred.

“Where it gets frustrating, (is that) we’re three weeks into this thing and nobody knows what’s going on,” he said.

Wiens said a command centre should have been established to oversee the situation. It’s not known if that occurred.

Kennedy, meanwhile, said, “It doesn’t sound like anybody really understood what they needed to do.”



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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 75
Region active cases: 922
Region deaths: 606
Region total cases: 45,350

**Sept. 7 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
 "Live and work but do not forget to play, to have fun in life and really enjoy it."
 - Eileen Caddy

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Work on the 'other' fort



Sailboats pass by Fort Niagara on the American side of the Niagara River. Work is being done on the building, evidenced by scaffolding around the structure. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Editorial

The public deserves answers

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

We live in the so-called Information Age, where information is knowledge, is currency, is power.

Our political and other leaders also like to tell us we live in an era of transparency, when it is important that information affecting the lives of the public be readily revealed to "the public."

And, unfortunately, we also live at a time when misinformation (and often disinformation) are widely spread, often to fill the gaps when the powers that be withhold details or refuse to reveal information on subjects of importance to the public.

Information and transparency don't always go hand-in-hand.

Which brings us to the environmental "crisis" that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has been dealing with for more than three weeks now.

Answers to fundamental questions have not been forthcoming. Like it or not, the public deserves to be informed about what is going on in a large

drainage ditch in a rural area just south of Virgil and east of the Niagara District Airport.

The delays in timely answers from the town, Region of Niagara and provincial environment ministry are just not acceptable. A communication fail.

Even members of council are acknowledging that they cannot get straight answers. And it's been three weeks now.

Is it really an environmental crisis? We don't know because no one in authority is trusting the public with the answers. It certainly could end up being a financial crisis for the town, costing the treasury \$1 million or more. But we're not sure of that either, because details are not forthcoming.

What happened, what is the pollutant, where did it come from, what did testing find, were crisis management procedures followed, how much has been spent to date ...?

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Sept. 7, town chief administrator Marnie Cluckie noted the test results "qualify under the Municipal Freedom of In-

formation and Protection of Privacy Act legislation and are not documents available to the public."

But she added that The Lake Report could file a formal freedom of information request to the town to try to obtain the test results. So, it's not public information but maybe if we jump through the access to information hoops, some of it might become publicly available. Eventually.

Questions abound and answers are few and far between. Plus answers that are offered tend to be carefully crafted attempts at public relations, protecting the image of the municipality and ensuring that the words are "on message."

This is what it has come to in Niagara-on-the-Lake – and in government and corporate entities everywhere. By all means, embrace professional communication practices. But then communicate openly and clearly.

The public, it seems, is not to be trusted with information about what is happening. And we don't just mean in this instance. This is the new normal.

Several months ago, the new administration of the

town made it clear that only designated employees of the corporation could speak publicly about issues.

Fine, but usually that means sending written questions to the communications folks and waiting hours, sometimes days or more for answers. Occasionally answers never come.

In most cases no information beyond bare-bones answers to direct questions is offered. So, sometimes that leads to a lot of back and forth with more questions – a time-consuming process for both the media and the town staff.

We acknowledge town staff have had their hands full dealing with the crisis since it began and trust they have been doing the best they can to ensure a positive outcome.

But, respectfully, to have so little information available three weeks later – even the \$650,000 cost estimate is from Aug. 22 – is just not good enough.

The public, who is probably on the hook for that massive bill, deserves a lot more information and transparency.

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Peach festival visitors paid for parking and then got ticketed. **Twice**

Dear editor:
It felt like an old friend had just stabbed us in the back.
After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, you would think that Niagara-on-the-Lake would want to greet its visitors with open arms, not levy a fine on those people who had to park on the grass in order to come and spend their money at the Peach Celebration.

We are a family from Ajax, Ont., who have attended the NOTL Peach Celebration for many years. And yes, we still visited NOTL in 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic period, even though the festival was on hold.

On Saturday, Aug. 13, the day of this year's Peach Celebration, we arrived in Niagara-on-the-Lake at about 12:30 p.m.

While overall parking was scarce, we were pleased to find space at the old hospital lot (at Byron Street).

I immediately went to the



Left: Letter writer Robert de Savoye of Ajax, Ont., received two parking tickets during the NOTL Peach Celebration. Above: Savoye says signs in the parking lot simply say to find parking and don't mention anything about not parking on the grass — where other vehicles were parked. SUPPLIED

meter assigned to the lot and used the "contactless payment" method and obtained my receipt by email.

While I found the \$24 fee a bit onerous, as we had to park on the grass field (there were no clear indications as to where not to

park), we were nevertheless glad that we could now go and enjoy the festival.

A few hours later, to our surprise, as we came back to our car to deliver a load of peaches and other purchases, there was a "Penalty Notice" (a parking ticket for

\$30) under the windshield wiper.

(We actually received two tickets, about 2.5 hours apart, but the town cancelled the second one.)

Both tickets stated we were not parked within a "designated space."

The parking lot signage clearly indicates "find parking space" and we found a parking space within the area available. There were no chains, concrete barriers or otherwise clear restrictions barring parking on the grass area.

However, in reality, the bigger issue is much more than the fact a fine was levied on law-abiding visitors. Most people will simply pay the \$30 ticket and be done with it.

I really do feel like an old friend stabbed us in the back. And, as such, I am certainly inclined to go and spend my money somewhere else next year.

From the expressions and comments of the many others who received similar tickets on that Saturday, I expect I am not alone in feeling that way.

This is where a municipality needs to work with its merchants and its Chamber of Commerce in order to ensure its visitors feel treated fairly and want to come back.

While I appealed the ticket, unsuccessfully, I have now paid the \$30 fine. But this family will now travel and discover more welcoming Ontario towns next year.

Robert de Savoye
Ajax, Ont.

We need a **reasoned discussion** about ward system

Dear editor:
Let's park the strong adjectives and adverbs about the emerging discussion about ward systems, (Letter, Sept. 1, "A ward system is an absurd proposal for NOTL").

Let's try a reasoned response with a look at how to organize ourselves for good municipal government in the future.

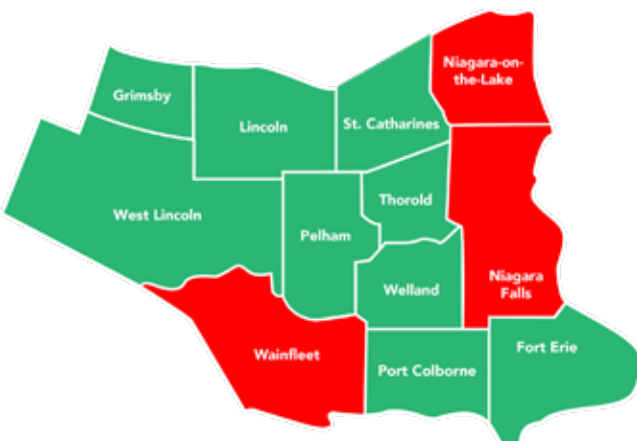
First, I think that we can agree that the six urban areas and the rural area that make up Niagara-on-the-Lake each have different priority issues.

Vacation rentals, municipal accommodation taxes, hollowing out of the heritage district are important in Old Town, but not on the radar elsewhere.

College student behaviour and housing, on-street parking are issues specific to Glendale.

Drainage, other vegetation issues and "commercial" signs are at issue in the rural areas. And so on.

It seems to make sense to have voices from all the communities on town council. But that hasn't happened in my experience.



NOTL, Niagara Falls and Wainfleet are the only Niagara municipalities that don't use a ward system.

Anecdotally, in my 20 years of observation (that's elections in 2003, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018), Glendale has never had a resident elected to council, St. Davids has had one (former lord mayor Pat Darte), Queenston has had two or three, the rural area has had two.

In my recollection the remainder have been from Old Town or Virgil.

But things are starting to change and the population locus of Niagara-on-the-Lake is moving.

Your contributor may have missed it, but St. Da-

vids has grown from 700 to about 3,000 residents in the past decade and once the Queenston Quarry is built out could have as many as 5,000 residents.

In a recent media article, Steve Hardaker from Glendale noted that the population of Glendale could be as high as 15,000 in a decade or two. We need to prepare for that.

It's clear the town's at-large electoral system has been good for some but not others.

Case in point is St. Davids. We have no parks, only parkettes, no splash

pads, no two-pads, no recreation centre, no library, no meeting place, no designated dog walk area.

That could soon be the recreation inventory for 5,000 people.

Our pool was a gift to the town from the Lions Club that the town's recreation department deliberately under-maintained. The tennis courts belong to the Lions Club.

Finding a "champion" for St. Davids on council has been frustrating.

And the biggie? Niagara Falls' decision to revert to an at-large model for its council in 2002 didn't exactly start a stampede here in the region.

And unless the alleged extra administrative burden on town staff is described, I don't share that concern.

I for one think a conversation about a ward system beginning in 2024 is worth having.

Want to hear my thoughts on how many councillors we might need in a ward system?

Kenn Moody
St. Davids

Anti-ward argument shows why NOTL **needs wards**

Your correspondent John Buchanan's Sept. 1 diatribe against the "absurd" proposal to implement a ward system for NOTL council elections is useful, but not in the way he intended.

He has in fact demonstrated precisely why such a system is long overdue for our town.

Mr. Buchanan suggests a ward system is impractical because St. Davids and Queenston have "small populations" compared to other areas on NOTL.

I am tempted to ask how long it has been since he actually visited St. Davids. In the 10 years I have lived in NOTL, the population of St. Davids has exploded.

The last vestiges of its small village feel have been almost totally blotted out.

NOTL council has seen fit to direct all manner of development there so as to, how shall I put this, avoid controversies in Old Town.

It's hard to imagine this would have happened if the residents of St. Davids had had proper representation



on council, which a ward system would provide.

Mr. Buchanan argues that the present system allows a candidate from those areas to put their name forward for election. Indeed it does.

But what chance does a candidate focusing on St. Davids issues have of being elected, given the preponderance of Old Town voters in the electorate?

Well, we may be about to find out. I see that a woman from St. Davids will be running in next month's election, with a focus on that area's needs.

She will have my vote — and I don't even live in St. Davids.

James Webber
Virgil

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Variations on a theme. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL.

Good design underwrites the future

Council candidates need to take a stand on imposing design guidelines for NOTL



Brian Marshall
Columnist

In past columns I have often referred to and described the attributes of a particular building in identifying its architectural style. But what is an architectural style?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as: “A definite type of architecture distinguished by special characteristics of structure and ornament.”

In practical terms, we can identify the style of a particular house by comparing the building, its elements and ornamentation, against an internationally recognized set of criteria and parameters.

This can be accomplished even when the expression of the style may vary somewhat from place to place due to the inherent commonality with the stylistic criteria.

Now, an architectural historian might like to add that this “definite type of architecture” should be placed within a particular culture during a defined period of time.

However, this limitation speaks only to the introduction and mass popularity of

a style within a particular geography while ignoring any ongoing architectural tradition (school) based on that style.

Consider the venerable Georgian.

Here in Upper Canada, the local expression of this style began with the early founding of our colony and remained a primary go-to of the house-building public until 1860.

That said, home designs in the Georgian style continue to be developed and built today. Quite simply, Georgian architecture continues to reflect the socio-political-economic values of a demographic segment of our 21st-century society and hence it “lives” on.

In reality, some styles were purely an expression of their place and time, hence having no relevance after that period (e.g. Italianate) while others, like the Georgian school, carry on.

Over the last 220 years, 23 distinct architectural styles and the Eclectics (a group of revival expressions) have put their mark on the province.

Niagara-on-the-Lake was no exception and examples of homes designed in most of these styles can be found across the town.

Added to this mix were the vernacular or “folk” houses. These relatively simple, often owner-built houses were functional and meant to provide basic shelter.

Ornamentation and decorative elements were typically minimal or absent. The building form followed function with consideration to local climatic conditions and little attention was paid to being fashionable.

Over two centuries of correct stylistic designs augmented by vernacular builds, created up until the last couple of decades, contextually appropriate streetscapes.

This variety of architectural expression resulted in organic communities across NOTL that are visually pleasing and intuitively interesting.

Then, during the last 20 years, both infill and subdivision development in town has escalated at an unprecedented rate. Sadly, a significant percentage of this development fails to qualify as good architectural design.

In St. Davids, Virgil, Glendale and Old Town multi-unit and subdivision developments have and are being built whose presentations are virtual duplicates of those in the GTA’s urban sprawl.

Rows of cookie-cutter houses, whether detached, semi-detached or towns, display no particular architectural style while often failing to observe even the most fundamental precepts of the architect’s discipline.

And, while this falls outside my expertise, I have been informed by those

who are top-ranked urban planners, that the limited access, closed-loop design of these developments have been proven to inhibit broader community integration while not adequately addressing emergency, personal vehicular or pedestrian requirements.

Where does this lead us? By every indication from both provincial and regional levels (witness the “required” changes necessary to NOTL’s 2019 official plan), the town will be forced to support the current rate of development into the foreseeable future.

And should the town not address its existing approval processes with a vision of the future, these milquetoast developments will certainly destroy what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake a go-to for both residents and visitors.

Bluntly, we can protect the Old Town heritage district “until the cows come home” but, if that is encased in barricades of GTA-style suburbia, who is going to want to breach those walls to visit or live here?

The only practical and enforceable address to this issue is to adopt town-wide codified and properly supported design guidelines.

So, I call upon all declared candidates for the position of lord mayor and town councillor to unequivocally state their position on the institution of these guidelines and let the voters decide the fate of our town.



Site for candidate debates is not easily accessible

Dear editor:

I am writing regarding your Sept. 1 news story, “NOTL group plans series of candidate debates.”

While I appreciate the effort put in by this group to arrange candidate debates, I am disappointed that all the sessions will be held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Unless things have changed, the large meeting room that is on the second

floor, up a long flight of stairs is inaccessible.

In today’s world, where inclusivity is one of our operative words, I find this really unacceptable, particularly when other options like the NOTL Community Centre exist.

I suspect a large number of people will be left out of important discussions that will ultimately affect the way they live.

Leslie Moulson
Virgil

At least town is not starting official plan from scratch

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to Derek Insley’s Sept. 1 letter to the editor, “Mayor and would-be mayor both failed to deliver.”

That’s a pretty wide brush Mr. Insley used to paint our current municipal politicians as bungling and inept.

With respect to the new official plan promised by Betty Disero and the previous three lord mayors, it was actually created in the first year of Disero’s leadership, was passed by council in October 2019 and was submitted to the Region of Niagara early in 2020.

I was concerned enough to chase the staff and politicians at both levels for a year to find out what the hold up was.

The region had been working on its own official plan for years and the province changed the ground rules in August 2020 by

extending the future scope from 2041 to 2051.

True, the region could have supplied all of the requirements in mid-2020 to negotiate with the town to bring our new official plan into conformity with the old regional plan and then go through exactly the same process once again this year – as will all municipalities in Niagara.

But at least we have a leg up because we’re not starting from scratch.

It appears Mr. Insley didn’t read the article on proposals for the hospital site (“Council rejects all 9 proposals for old hospital site”); none were found suitable enough to go further with the process and I noticed the Shaw Festival did not submit a proposal.

Maybe because the Shaw is not interested?

Bob Bader
NOTL



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.



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Will new diverging diamond road 'improve' confusion at Glendale?



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

It was surely a slow news weekend, despite the 50th anniversary stories reminding us of the society-altering 1972 Munich Olympic tragedy and the Canada-altering rough and tumble, hooliganistic hockey win over Russia. The banner headline in Saturday's daily papers, a few days after The Lake Report had already spread the news, was, "New interchange a first for Ontario."

The new diverging diamond reminds us that we must sometimes put our faith in the highly paid experts who design our driving futures. And the Ontario transportation ministry is organizing public education sessions to help us learn to drive the complex new road-

way. Hmm.

Graham Robb, an Oxford educated scholar with a focus on French literature, said, in English, "It is a sad adventure that starts with no hope of getting lost." My American pal Bob Potter provided this thought-provoking quotation, after he recently got lost in France while blindly trusting GPS instructions.

Yes, driving in the Glendale area has been a bit nerve-racking for many years. Wrong turns and near-misses were regular events.

In road transportation jargon from the ministry, we learn that "the diverging diamond will provide improved traffic performance compared to the existing interchange design by reducing the number of vehicle conflict points." Sheesh.

The MTO's preferred option for "improving" congestion will see drivers on Glendale Avenue cross the QEW overpass on the left side of the road." Wouldn't it be easier to comprehend if they told us it would "reduce" or "decrease" congestion? Just askin'.

Traffic movement is a quickly changing world.



The new diverging diamond interchange in Glendale is confusing. FILE/EVAN LOREE

Back in 1958, my dad drove our family all the way from Winnipeg to Grimsby Beach and back in our 1951 Monarch, to visit my granny and granddad for a 10-day vacation by Lake Ontario.

Hot, with no air-conditioning at the push of a button. The "No Draft" (aka vent) window thing created air circulation in the car.

Only 64 years ago and Highway 401 was amazing, with two lanes in each direction east and west, just above what was then Toronto. Just north of Eglinton Avenue, often through farmland.

He explained how cloverleafs worked, in a sort of figure-eight pattern at major intersections. One cloverleaf near Hamilton was so complicated, with four roads all meeting, that it was nicknamed "spaghetti junction."

Dad somehow got us to the Stoney Creek traffic circle, where a sign overhead directed us to Niagara Falls.

I asked him how he knew that road would take us to Grimsby Beach. He replied, "I looked at the map and it showed me what road to take."

In my mind, that made him about the smartest and most savvy man in the world.

On our side trips along the Queen Elizabeth to the Stoney Creek Dairy and to Niagara Falls, we stopped and started at red lights for intersections at Ontario Street in St. Catharines and Victoria Avenue in Jordan.

We marvelled as huge ships in the Welland Canal sailed past the Homer lift bridge on their way to Lake Erie from Lake Ontario, or vice versa. Friendly sailors waved to us from the decks.

About six years later, when I was 16 and we were living in St. Catharines, my parents dropped me off at the Ontario Street red light on the QEW and I hitchhiked to my summer job as a cook at Pioneer camp just south of Huntsville.

After three or four rides along the QEW, the 427, the 401 and Highway 11, a truck driver dropped me off at the Texaco station in Port Sydney. I put a quarter in the pay phone (or was it a dime?) and phoned my parents to tell them I had made it.

Yes, my friends, times were sure different. And not that long ago, eh?

Let me ramble to a conclusion, back to the diverging diamond intersection.

Will the MTO provide training sessions for the good people we trust at configuring our GPS?

From Topeka or Moncton or wherever they are located, how are they going to figure out this driving quagmire, with diverging diamonds and cars driving over the QEW on the wrong side of the road?

We must put our faith in the transportation experts. Yikes!



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A plea for sensitive and **sensible development** of the Rand Estate



Chrys Kaloudis
Special to The Lake Report

I recently returned to Niagara-on-the-Lake after decades of life in various regions throughout southern Ontario.

I grew up in Niagara Falls and, like so many, worked in tourism. After spending days listening to visitors express how they loved the Falls but found the city disappointing, I looked forward to riding my bike along the Parkway to this idyllic town.

Words like “tacky” and “unsophisticated” became the norm when people described Niagara Falls.

Feeling bad that visitors might be left with a less-than-stellar impression of my home town, I would direct them to NOTL. Invariably people would return, thanking me for the introduction to such beauty and the opportunity to learn more about Canadian history.

Years later I would be telling people in the international diplomatic corps to make sure to see NOTL while they were in Ontario.

By this time, everyone knew it was the place to visit. It was making the top

of “Most beautiful towns in North America” lists and the place where one could literally walk through Canadian history.

I was proud to brag that NOTL had been designated as a provincial heritage conservation site and a national historic site of Canada.

It’s easy for a Niagara native to be dismissed as romantic and sentimental, or to be accused of NIMBY biases.

While I do have resident-oriented concerns, my opposition to the Solmar proposal for the development of the Rand Estate lands is based on very pragmatic, far-reaching, long-term implications.

To make the wrong kind of changes to Old Town NOTL is to clear the way for the degradation of this unique region. It is provenance and beauty that has defined and continues to define NOTL.

And it is for this reason that I am putting my opposition to the proposed Solmar subdivision in writing. My concerns about the developer’s proposal include:

- The overall plan puts profit over context and disregards the established community.
- High density: defies the designation of land for low-density development and sets a dangerous precedent.
- Unattractive row-housing design erodes what NOTL stands for and what residents, investors and



An entrance to the Randwood Estate off Charlotte Street. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

international visitors value.

- Lack of likelihood that such housing would retain value – and that reconstruction/redevelopment will take place.
- Evokes a sense that the historic part of town is simply a construct for tourists, not an organic community.
- Disrespect for a nationally designated historic region.
- Poor house design with awkward features, no evocation of existing historical sensibilities, unattractive garage-front row-house plans, cheap looking, building code minimum at best.
- Poor landscape design with almost no side yards (resulting in no glazing to sides of houses) and no breathing space. Imparts an unfriendly feeling to the neighbourhood.
- Narrow streets with a tight turning radius are questionable for emergency vehicles, bicycles, etc.
- Environmental impact on surrounding agricultural land.

- Strain on infrastructure such as hydro, sewage, drainage, overhead wiring, education, health care and other services.
 - Damage to existing roads through construction period and beyond – costs to the municipality.
 - Unresolved issue with clear-cutting and gutting of interior of Randwood Estate.
 - Paucity of open space and landscaping.
 - Visibility of unattractive row housing from busy wineries.
 - Long-term impact on tourism and commerce as visitors will be left with a negative impression.
- Having lived in the GTA, I have seen first-hand what poorly considered, hasty development has done throughout the region – from the strain on infrastructure to fostering a level of disrespect for the built environment.
- I am not opposed to development, I simply believe that it can be done far more

responsibly, sensitively and creatively.

For these reasons, I am also in support of the SORE proposal that includes:

- All built heritage attributes on the site are saved.
 - No significant grade changes
 - Number of residential units reduced to 70.
 - Most of the remaining designed cultural heritage landscape and mature trees are retained.
 - Public pedestrian access to view the heritage attributes of Randwood is provided at 200 John St. E. and 588 Charlotte St.
 - The “Whistle Stop” on the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, including the “memorial garden” that was a central feature of the designed landscape at Randwood, is “preserved and enhanced for public and resident enjoyment.”
 - Primary access to the site is provided using a historic access route between 144 and 176 John St.
- I would also propose consideration of the following:
- Complete restoration of the Randwood estate’s interior, exterior and landscaping. The building could then be opened up again as a museum, think tank, event centre, etc.
 - Boulevards instead of narrow streets.
 - Consideration of access through the Two Sisters property.
 - A 50- to 70-unit subdivision with no two houses

- Consider the work done on Garrison Village Drive: unique, mixed-style homes respectful of historic architecture featuring large front yards and garages located out of visible sight.
 - Consider the architectural style of experts such as Robert Stern and the sensibilities of well-planned communities such as Seaside.
 - Work with Willowbank staff and students to ensure a respect of the historic nature of this part of town.
- Niagara-on-the-Lake is not a subdivision that happens to be on historic land. NOTL is a historic region that has some room for new residents willing to recognize both the restrictions and the benefits of settling here.
- The Rand property presents an exciting opportunity to showcase thoughtful, creative development and to welcome new residents to this very special part of Canada. Let’s demand a design that reflects it.
- Chrys Kaloudis is an interior designer who has worked for developers, design-build and architectural firms. The NOTL resident also has taught technological design and architecture for the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. This commentary was sent to members of NOTL council and a copy was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.*

Reader has **plenty of questions** about NOTL chamber’s tourism survey

Dear editor:
The Sept. 1 edition of The Lake Report contains the latest in a series of advertisements paid for by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce about its survey of residents done by Abacus Data in Ottawa at the end of February. It provides this link to the survey: www.chambernotl.com/researchandresources. I clicked on the link and found a website that jumped from one screen to another every eight seconds, making it impossible to read all the information provided. Apparently, 300 residents

were phoned and 500 were surveyed by email. Where Abacus Data obtained the phone numbers and email addresses wasn’t stated. From information that the town provided or the chamber itself? If the latter, that means the survey’s results were biased from the start. I’ve lived in NOTL for 18 years and know a fair number of its residents but I do not know anyone who participated in this survey. And who is Abacus Data? A “boutique firm” in Ottawa. See abacusdata.ca. I wonder why the chamber, which wants residents


“to shop locally,” used a company in Ottawa, not one in the Niagara region. The conclusion of the chamber’s survey includes the following points: Tourism is seen as essential to the character and quality of life in the town. Without tourism, life in NOTL would not be what it is – a great place to live. Residents believe that tourism is essential to both the economic and social life of the town and region. Almost all residents believe that Niagara-on-the-Lake is a great place to live. They believe this is so BECAUSE of tourism.

These results were presented at a meeting in the Prince of Wales Hotel in May. I don’t think residents of the town should believe them until the CEO of the chamber answers the following questions:
1. Why did the chamber wait more than three months before taking out an advertisement in local papers providing a link to the survey?
2. Why does the screen move every eight seconds?
3. Why was Abacus Data in Ottawa hired and not a Niagara polling firm?
4. How much was Abacus Data paid? This is a le-

gitimate question since the Town provides a large grant to the chamber. And therefore, it was NOTL taxpayers who helped underwrite this survey.
5) How were the 300 telephone respondents and 500 email respondents chosen? By neighbourhood or by demographics?
6) Who provided the telephone numbers and email addresses to Abacus Data?
7) Why was the survey done in the winter when many residents are away?
8) The survey respondents were not actually asked whether they thought an increase or a decrease in


tourism would improve or worsen their enjoyment of the town. This conclusion was drawn for them by the chamber. Why were they not asked the question?
9) The survey question: “Did your life worsen as a result of tourism?” is strongly influenced by the decline in tourism as a result of the pandemic. Obviously, a worsening of the quality of life could have resulted from increased tourism. I hope answers to these questions will be forthcoming soon.

*Elizabeth Masson
NOTL*



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Tales of trauma and triumph at Rainbow Warriors talk

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Surviving at the intersection of queer and Indigenous is no small feat.

For Lyndon George, as a gender divergent Indigenous person who grew up in the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, it all starts with a name.

Speaking at the Niagara Regional Native Centre's Rainbow Warriors talk last Wednesday evening, George, a two-spirit Indigenous rights activist, said much is lost in the English version of his name.

In fact, the name Lyndon George holds little meaning to him.

In Anishinaabe, he is Nawalka Geeshy Meegwun, the closest translation of which is "Longfeather."

And like all Indigenous names it tells a story.

George says his community saw in him a child "with great big feathers for arms, always wanting to protect our people."

So the name tells the story of this great, feather-armed child with a drive to protect people.

And that became a part of George's role in the community.

Today, George is the Indigenous justice co-ordinator at the Hamilton legal clinic and regrets that he can't make it to Niagara-on-the-Lake more often.

George is often too busy



Members and friends of the Niagara Regional Native Centre joined Lyndon George last Wednesday for the centre's first-ever Rainbow Warrior talk. It explored issues and struggles for queer Indigenous people. EVAN LOREE

helping Indigenous people navigate a legal system he says was "built that we should never exist here in 2022."

Rin Simon, the language revitalization program co-ordinator at the native centre, described the talk as a "gathering space for two-spirit and LGBTQ people."

Like George, Simon is two-spirit and identifies with neither masculine nor feminine pronouns.

What two-spirit means is deeply personal to Simon but they said there are still some "hard and fast rules" to its meaning.

Basically it is a gender identity that intersects with Indigenous identities, Simon said.

"I'm not saying that I

have two spirits. I have one spirit, but it has many elements to it," they said in an interview.

Simon said we all have a masculine and feminine side, but two-spirit folk blend them together more than others.

A diverse crowd including children, parents and seniors came out for coffee, pizza and good company for the Wednesday night talk.

While there, they had an honest discussion of the issues affecting Indigenous and 2S LGBTQ+ people.

"We had no concept traditionally in our communities of homophobia," George explained in an interview.

Homophobia was passed from colonial settlers to Indigenous communi-

ties through systems like residential schools, George added.

"The biggest challenge with homophobia came the ability to access and to reclaim traditional two-spirit ceremonies."

Cultural ceremonies and community roles are an integral part of the two-spirit identity for George.

He describes being excluded from them as "devastating."

On the topic of pronouns, George described himself as a bit controversial.

"Pronouns haven't been a part of Indigenous history ever," he said.

Simon agreed, saying the lack of pronouns is because "gender does not exist" within Anishinaabe and

therefore, "does not exist in (their) culture."

George was clear. He is not against people using pronouns but for George, "pronouns just don't work."

They were part of a language forced on George by a foreign culture.

"Many of our communities have anywhere from 15 to 17 different terms to help us identify the different genders," George said.

He counted out 11 different genders identified in the LGBTQ+ acronym, or as he fondly called, "the gay alphabet."

"You guys are just catching up," George said amid laughter from the listeners.

The group spoke about the loss of their mother tongue at length.

Simon, now 24, says they are still learning their own language.

One of the explicit purposes of the residential school system was to stamp out Indigenous languages.

That experience has become an intergenerational trauma in Indigenous communities and has cut many people off from their mother tongues.

Simon is part of an effort to revitalize Indigenous languages at the native centre.

George and his listeners were quick to laugh, despite the weight of the discussion.

As George shared his ceremonial regalia, he explained that traditionally men would wear "a ribbon shirt" and that traditional ribbon skirts would have a

"small floral pattern."

"I'm not a small floral pattern kind of guy," George said, calling attention to the long train on his ribbon skirt.

This drew some laughs and smiles from the crowd.

"Humour is what we employ as Indigenous groups, regardless where you come from, to get through those difficult and traumatic times," George said in an interview outside the centre.

The group parted ways after sharing a traditional gift with George.

Several of the children in attendance played hopscotch on the floor tiles on their way back outside, where the sun had been replaced by a cloudy night sky.

Landscape makeover proposed for heritage district side streets

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Businesses on Queen Street benefit most from the foot traffic in the heritage district, but their neighbours along the side streets aren't so lucky, and they pay similar commercial taxes.

So, a potential solution is to improve the landscaping on some of the side streets to make them look as attractive to visitors as Queen Street.

"One of the benefits of the boulevard landscape

is it defines the business district," Coun. Wendy Cheropita told council last week.

Expanding the landscaping will help unify the business district and draw pedestrians to the side streets to visit the businesses located there, she said.

The proposal to expand the landscaping on Queen Street to the side streets has come before council before but was deferred because of budgetary constraints.

Cheropita reintroduced the idea at council on Aug. 29, suggesting the project

be considered for the 2023 budget.

The cost of the project could be covered by revenue from the town's new municipal accommodation tax, a staff report said.

Coun. Norm Arsenaault objected to the proposal on the grounds that the town had already instructed staff to determine which projects would be covered by the accommodation tax.

He convinced council to ask staff to come up with a new plan for the side streets that does not commit to a specific revenue source for the project.



Flowers along the Queen Street boulevard might soon expand out onto the side streets of Old Town's heritage district. EVAN LOREE



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Top left: People have hot dogs and corn cobs at Chautauqua Park. Top right: Nicole Simon and son Peter play on the swings during the corn roast. Bottom: Neighbourhood kids take part in a game of tug-of-war before trying their hand at balancing eggs on spoons. EVAN LOREE PHOTOS

Friends **old and new** enjoy Chautauqua corn roast

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Newcomers and long haulers, old timers and whippersnappers alike showed up to chow down on hot dogs and fresh corn under the late day sun at the Chautauqua corn roast Tuesday evening.

The annual barbecue put

on by the Chautauqua Residents Association, which is celebrating its 70th year, was delayed a day after rain left the park grass slick and slippery Monday afternoon.

When the sun came out, so too did the smiles.

As longtime friends bonded over a shared love for their community, new friends bonded over egg races and tug-of-war.

The whole time, the smell of hot dogs and corn wafted over the air.

One of the event organizers, Wendy Cadman, said they wanted to “step it up this year,” after having a smaller barbecue last year amid concerns about COVID-19.

“We had a bit of a scare on Friday,” event chair Derek Cadman said.

When they went to the grocery store for corn, there was a shortage, he said.

Chautauqua resident Jessie Jones came out for the people, not just the food.

At 21, Jones has been a resident of Chautauqua her whole life and has been coming to Chautauqua Park as long as she can remember.

She recalls fondly how

she and her dad used to go to the park and play catch.

“I’d say they’re pretty much my family,” she said looking around at some of the familiar faces at the park.

Nicole Simon moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake about a year ago with her husband to raise their family and get away from the hustle and bustle of Toronto.

She was joined by her mother Diane and her children Maggie and Peter.

“We were living in a two-bedroom apartment above people,” she said.

“It just wasn’t ideal,” Simon added.

Simon was happy her kids had space to run around outside and play safely on the grass of Chautauqua Park.


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Museum's Poppy Project expands to old Court House

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Remembrance Day poppies will be popping up on the old Court House and elsewhere in town this year as the NOTL Museum expands its commemorative Poppy Project.

Last year, volunteers strung together several thousand hand-knit poppies and hung them off the bell tower at the old high school building that houses the museum.

"The high school building is where many of the local boys who died during the First and Second World War would have went to high school," Sarah Kaufman, the museum's managing director, told council last week.



The NOTL Museum is taking its commemorative Poppy Project to the old Court House on Queen Street this November. FILE PHOTO/EVAN SAUNDERS

It took 40 volunteers and 1,000 hours to create more than 3,000 poppies for the project possible last year.

This year, they want to up the ante with even more poppies, and they're

planning to hang them at the old court building's entrance.

"It'll be a curtain of poppies falling from just above the archway," Kaufman said.

The museum also intends to hang poppies on street lamps along King Street and on wreaths at select downtown businesses.

The poppies will go up Nov. 1.

Yellow Door introduces new theatre, screen programs

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Yellow Door Theatre Project is now accepting registration for its expanded fall "reCREATIONal" programs.

The classes offer children between the ages of five and 17 weekly skill training in musical theatre, monologue and scene study, and introductory dance.

All classes are 30 minutes to one hour long, depending on the age group, and are taught by experienced theatre professionals.

The Virgil theatre company's programs are open to students who have no experience, as well as those with experience who want to continue to



Performers from the Yellow Door Theatre Project. SUPPLIED

develop their skills, said artistic director Andorlie Hillstrom.

In addition to regular studio classes in musical theatre, tap, jazz, etc., Yellow Door has added new classes in acting for the camera and the YDTP Tour Group, she said.

Acting for the camera teaches students scene and monologue techniques, as well as how to do commercial and TV/film auditions, Hillstrom said.

"The YDTP Tour Group, on the other hand, is for those who love to sing and dance in front of a live

audience," she said.

"Students will learn vocals and choreography for the purpose of touring and representing Yellow Door Theatre Project throughout the Niagara region."

More information is available online at yellowdoortheatre.com.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: Let's booze it up

This cocktail is vodka & Kahlua, without the light cream that would change its color & name

Last issue: An object found in groups at certain alleys, or a brooch.

Answer: What is a pin?

Answered first by: Beverley Easthope

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Howard Jones, Dave Servos, Gary Davis, Sheila Meloche, David Steele, Carol Durling, Hedy Wiebe, Bert Dandy, Sylvia Wiens, Kay Waller, Margie Enns, Doug Bruce, Joan Busbridge

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

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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Town forces tour buses to park at fort, reinstates shuttle service

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The town has decided an old solution is the best way to address a new problem.

Tour buses idling on King Street have been producing noise and air pollution that upsets residents, Coun. Gary Burroughs told fellow councillors at a committee of the whole meeting on Aug. 22.

"It took probably five years to get buses off King

Street and suddenly they appear," he said.

Before the pandemic, the town forced tour buses to park near Fort George and a shuttle bus brought people into downtown.

That service was suspended after the tourism industry was hit by COVID lockdowns and travel restrictions, but now the town has decided to bring it back.

Burroughs said residents put up quite a fight to get them out.

"People used to lay down on the road blocking buses," he said.

Residents are not just riled up over pollution, though.

"It's not just the fumes for me, there is also a potential safety issue there," Coun. Allan Bisback said.

The town is losing money on the buses as well.

When tour buses parked at Fort George the town could collect \$52 per parking space.

Now, they sit in parking spaces on King Street, some

of them idling to keep the air-conditioning pumping.

Burroughs also pointed out that they were parking at metered spots, which would otherwise generate parking revenue for the town.

Kyle Freeborn, the town's treasurer, estimated the town is losing about \$3,000 a week by using the metered spots on King Street as a bus stop.

While drivers are encouraged to park at Fort George, Burroughs suggested some will cruise around

town to avoid paying the parking fee.

"Sometimes there's nothing that we can hold them to, to make them go there," said acting director of operations Kevin Turcotte.

He brought some potential solutions to council on Monday, Aug. 29, after council instructed town staff to make solving the bus problem a priority.

One option was to enforce the town's anti-idling policy more strictly, the other was to use the shuttle

service to carry tourists from the fort to Old Town, which council approved unanimously.

Turcotte estimated it will cost the town about \$64,500 to run a two-bus shuttle service for eight hours a day from now until Oct. 9.

He also reported that 41 per cent of bus riders use the shuttle for round trips.

"That suggests that the rest are either walking both ways, or walking one way, or just staying at the fort," he added.

Johnson zoning change OK'd despite vocal pushback

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Town council has approved a zoning change request for a heritage home in Old Town, despite vocal opposition from neighbours.

The town received a request to rezone 129 Johnson St. two years ago to turn the space over the garage into a secondary dwelling.

Last Monday, councillors approved the change, formalizing a recommendation from committee of the whole a week earlier.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake received 15 letters of concern over the zoning amendment from 13 different residents since the application was submitted.

Four of them spoke to council on Monday, Aug. 22, to voice those concerns.

"If these are going to be short-term problems, it's just going to exacerbate the problem that already exists," said Brodie Townley, a resident of 123 Johnson St.

Townley was also concerned by the "commercial creep into the neighbourhood," by the hotel behind 129 Johnson St.

David Jones, the owner of 129 Johnson St., is also a part-owner of the 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa, which backs onto the Johnson property.

Townley told council the Johnson property was previously used as a vacation rental and was maintained by the hotel staff.

"Most people are OK with it being a long-term rental,"



Council allowed a rezoning of 129 Johnson St. for a secondary dwelling unit. FILE

he said.

"What we don't want is suitcases coming in and out of there, parties, etc.," he added.

According to a town staff report, existing bylaws would not permit the new unit to be used as a short-term rental, but that it could be used as a bed and breakfast if it met all the necessary regulations.

Under the original residential zoning, the proposed unit could only be used for long-term rentals.

Some of the speakers at the meeting expressed concern that rezoning the property to help meet the town's density targets would set a dangerous precedent for other heritage properties in NOTL.

"A very low bar will be set for intensification within established residential areas in the Old Town," said Gracia Janes, president of the NOTL Conservancy.

If the zoning amendment passed, it would be "next to

impossible" to protect other heritage sites from "further erosion," she said.

The town's report said the proposed modifications to the property will have no effect on any surrounding heritage sites, or the outward appearance of the property itself.

Janes said the town should wait until the official plan is finalized because it contains protections for heritage sites and design guidelines for secondary dwellings.

She also argued that the town has met its target density until 2032, and that Glendale has been identified as a better alternative for increased density.

"If the answer is just, 'Oh, stick it in Glendale,' you're gonna have to come up with something better than that, I think," said Coun. Clare Cameron.

Several speakers at the meeting wondered about the recently paved driveway at 129 Johnson, which stretches all the way to the

property line.

Andrew Taylor, a resident of 135 Johnson St., suggested the driveway was illegally constructed.

He also said an extra vehicle so close to the property line would contribute to additional noise and air pollution.

Normally this type of construction would be illegal because existing bylaws mandate that driveways be set back one metre from adjoining property lines.

However, Rick Wilson, the town's planning manager, said the construction of the driveway predates those bylaws.

Aerial photos of the old driveway are inconclusive but Google street view shows there was driveway material up to the property line before it was repaved in 2021, Wilson said.

Taylor said the driveway was not built this way when he moved in and he provided photos to council as evidence of his claim.

"The driveway did not exist when we bought the house just before the millennium. There was just a very small parking pad at the front," he said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs was frustrated over the disparity between the reports from neighbours and town staff.

"I still find that a little frustrating, if the neighbours say it was there – it doesn't mean they're always right – but at least we need to do more on that issue," he said.

There were additional concerns over the property's limited space and the effect it would have on the neighbours' privacy.

"The garage directly overlooks the yard of 240 Gate St.," Taylor said.

"There is really insufficient amenity space at the back. Grossly insufficient," he added.

The town's report found that the amenity space was compliant with all relevant municipal and regional policies.

Taylor also said he was concerned by the air pollution that might be caused by an additional car.

However, there is no assurance there will be a car, as the proximity of the secondary unit to Old Town encourages residents to walk, Wilson said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero defended council's decision, saying it "helps us meet our intensification (density) numbers for the province" and has the "least impact" on the development of the surrounding area.

NOTL riders set record in June for NRT OnDemand

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara's regional on-demand transit system recorded its busiest month ever in Niagara-on-the-Lake in June, providing 1,511 rides to transit users.

This brings the total uses to 10,504 since the on-demand system was first implemented in November 2020.

Over 95 per cent of riders give the service a five out of five rating, according to a Town of NOTL staff report.

"I'm just hearing nothing but fabulous results from our transit system," Coun. Gary Burroughs told council's committee of the whole meeting on Aug. 22.

Riders can request a trip with the NRT OnDemand system using the service's mobile app or by calling a dedicated number, 289-302-2172.

With it, you can book a minivan to take you around town or to other parts of the Niagara region.

Trips within NOTL are \$3 each way and if a rider wants to connect to an NRT bus and leave NOTL, it's \$6.

Service wait times averaged 12.21 minutes in June, about half as long as in neighbouring municipalities across the region, said chief administrator Marnie Cluckie.

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VOTE 2022 CANDIDATES FOR THE 2022 MUNICIPAL & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

For more information visit www.notl.com or call 905-468-3266

Election Day: Monday, October 24, 2022

Lord Mayor

One (1) to be elected at large

Betty DISERO
Vaughn GOETTLER
Gary ZALEPA

Town Councillor

Eight (8) to be elected at large

Tim BALASIUK
Allan BISBACK
Gary BURROUGHS
Adriana CATER (VIZZARI)
Wendy CHEROPITA
Alistair (AJ) HARLOND
Maria MAVRIDIS
John William MCCALLUM
Richard MELL
Sandra O'CONNOR
Katherine REID
Nick RULLER
Erwin WIENS

Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir Trustee

Melinda CHARTRAND (ACCLAIMED)

DSBN School Board Trustee

Four (4) to be elected at large

Kate BAGGOTT
Alex BRADNAM
Mike BROUSSEAU
Lora CAMPBELL
Jonathan FAST
Rhona LINDO-KELLY
Donald MACDOUGALL
Kris VRECK

Regional Councillor

One (1) to be elected at large

Pat DARTE
Andrea KAISER
Paolo MIELE
William A. ROBERTS
Barbara WORTHY

NCDSB School Board Trustee

Two (2) to be elected at large

Natalia BENOIT
Larry HUIBERS
Jolanta PAWLAK

Voting Methods

Proxy Voting & Voting by Mail

If you are unable to vote during Advance Polls or Election Day, alternative options are available for qualified electors. For more information about how to vote by proxy or by mail, please visit www.notl.com/council-government/elections

Voter Notification Cards

Voter Notification Cards will be mailed out late September. All voters are required to present valid identification at the Advance Polls and on Election Day.

- Victoria Steele, Town Clerk

Where & When to Vote

Election Day

(10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre (14 Anderson Lane)

Laura Secord Homestead (29 Queenston Street)

Crossroads Public School (1350 Niagara Stone Road)

St. Davids Public School (1344 York Street)

Holiday Inn Express (524 York Road)

Advance Polls

(10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

Saturday, October 8

St. Davids Public School (1344 York Road)

Wednesday, October 12

Municipal Offices (1593 Four Mile Creek Road)

Saturday, October 15

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre (14 Anderson Lane)

Wednesday, October 19

Municipal Offices (1593 Four Mile Creek Road)

Qualified electors are welcome to vote at any Niagara-on-the-Lake polling location



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com



Top: Kids are ushered into Crossroads Public School after the buses ran late. Bottom: Police were on the lookout for speeders Tuesday for the first day of school. EVAN LOREE

Back-to-school safety blitz hands out 97 tickets across Niagara region

Continued from Front Page

Niagara police run several safety blitzes every year on the first day back to remind drivers and parents alike to be safe, he said.

"We're in a school zone. So there's certainly some reduced speeds around here," he added.

The police set up speed traps near Crossroads, St. Davids Public School and St. Michael Catholic Elementary School throughout the day.

Officers issued 97 tickets and warnings to drivers across the region over the course of the day.

"One death is too many on our roads," Flynn said.

As a father of four daughters and grandfather to five, Flynn said traffic safety is an especially important issue.

Many on his team expressed similar sentiments.

"I've seen young people, people of all ages, lose their lives. And for something that could have been prevented," Insp. Darrin Forbes said in an interview.

There are many things people can't control in life but "traffic collisions and fatalities are preventable," he said.

The officers exchanged occasional high fives with the kids as they monitored traffic.

Meanwhile, Adam Martin was dropping off his sons

Emeric and Winslow for the first day of school.

Winslow was starting junior kindergarten and Emeric was entering Grade 1.

There were a few masks in the crowd at Crossroads Tuesday morning but families expressed little concern.

"With kids this young, I must be honest, our concerns are not very high," Martin said.

The government continues to recommend masks to protect against COVID-19, but they remain optional for students.

Martin said his concerns were "negligible at this point," but he acknowledged that kids with compromised immune systems might still be worried.

Martin's sentiments were shared by another parent, who stayed behind to watch the students go in at the morning bell.

"We're not afraid of COVID," Sandra Bigford said in an interview.

Bigford, who has two kids at Crossroads, in grades 7 and 8, was happy to see her kids back in school where they can get the support they need from their teachers.

"I'm not a teacher. We all have different professions. They're teachers for a reason," said Bigford, a sous chef.

Just down the road at St. Michael, the kids got to

spend their 11:30 recess with the police.

Det.-Const. Karina Ferretti was entertaining some kindergartners through the fence.

"It's a good day," she said. Ferretti was telling the curious children that police were there to "keep them safe and tell people to slow down."

After a mostly cloudy day, the sun came out to shine on the final bell of the day.

Police spent the last hour of the school day at St. Davids Public School, patrolling crosswalks and enforcing speed limits along a busy York Road.

When the bell rang at the end of the day, kids came the back door, running headlong into the open arms of parents waiting to meet them.

Loretta Valstar was there to pick up her boys, Caleb and Owen.

She gripped her sons in a playful hug before sharing their silliest faces with The Lake Report.

Ashley and Matt Wasilewicz were also there for the post-class pick up.

Their daughter Roza was sporting an oversized pink backpack and a slight pout.

Her brother Harrison came out with a big smile and a big hug for his mom, then headed home.

As the buses left, the playground calmed and the teachers turned inside to get ready for day two.

Ukraine solidarity pins aid relief effort

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake visual artist has donated \$2,000 to Ukrainian relief by making and selling what he refers to as “Solidarity Pins.”

Old Town resident Mel Hughes is an engineer and visual artist who works mainly with glass.

He started making small glass Ukrainian flags earlier this year as a show of solidarity with Ukraine.

“When this thing started I was so horrified, as was everybody,” he said in an interview.

“We don’t get involved politically any more, I have my ideas and I’m very opinionated but I don’t confront it too much. But this was too much. This was, for me, just one step too far,” he said of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

“And I just felt I had to do something to show solidarity with these people.”



Mel Hughes with his solidarity pins. EVAN SAUNDERS

“So, I thought I’d make a little pin, like a brooch. You can wear these pins showing your support for the people who are fighting these atrocities.”

He hopes the pins can act as a show of solidarity and a reminder that Ukrainian people still need international help.

“This is falling off the radar as the atrocities continue,” he said.

He is selling the pins for \$10 each and covers all material costs out-of-pocket. Every dollar made from selling a pin goes directly

to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

His initial run was only to make a few for some of his friends. One of them, a former CBC employee, started showing them to friends and sending Hughes orders.

All in, he sold 200 through word of mouth and was able to donate \$2,000 to the foundation.

“It’s not about the money or any of that, it’s about showing solidarity. That was the whole point of me making them. And I thought, ‘Well, I’m making them – I should sell them.’”

Hughes said he never intended to make a lot of them and was caught off-guard with the demand. He looks forward to making a final batch — for a good reason.

“I wish I could make the final batch because that would mean everything is over with. The sad part is (the war continues) and they still need a lot of humanitarian aid.”

Hughes has been an artist almost his whole life as well as a professional engineer. He drew extensively as a youth and his skill with a pen was developed during drafting for his career.

He started working with glass more than two decades ago and it is now his main medium for his artistic endeavours.

He creates pieces by cutting and layering sheets of glass together before fusing them in a kiln.

If you would like a handmade Ukrainian glass pin, email him at mshughes@vaxxine.com to place an order.



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Saturday Sept. 24 2022

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5K Fun Run or Walk: \$45*
2K Dog Walk: \$45*
Family (up to 2 adults/2 children): \$100*
* + Running Room credit card fee

Giveaways include: backpack, participation medal, water bottle, and refreshments.

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

Start location:
Memorial Park Pavilion (John St. & Veterans Way)

Limited to 150 runners/walkers & 50 dog walkers (limit of 2 dogs per human)

Fun Run/Walk check-in 7:00 a.m. Start time 8:00 a.m.
Dog Walk check-in 8:00 a.m. Start time 9:00 a.m.

Ask friends & family to support the Trail with a donation. Details at: heritagetrail.ca. Prize to participant who brings in top donation total!

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The Niagara IceDogs play the Erie Otters in Virgil on Friday.

OHL teams face-off in fundraiser for NOTL hockey

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake sports fans will get the chance to see some high-flying, high-intensity major junior hockey this Friday when the Erie Otters play the Niagara IceDogs in a fundraising exhibition game in Virgil.

Holding the OHL pre-season game in NOTL was the brainchild of Otters general manager Dave Brown, who lives in Virgil, and wanted to help raise money for the NOTL Minor Hockey Association – and give local fans the chance to see top-level hockey up close.

Peter Flynn, president of NOTL minor hockey, was

ecstatic about the idea and has been looking forward to Friday night's game for months.

He lauded Brown for "giving back" and offering to help out children's hockey in NOTL.

As it turns out, Erie is scheduled to be the "home" team, even though the game is in the IceDogs' backyard.

The two teams tangle again on Saturday night, at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines.

The puck drops in Virgil at 7 p.m. Friday and tickets at \$10 each are available from Phil's Independent Grocer.

Cash-only tickets will be available at the Meridian Credit Union Arena on game day.

Tie-breakers settle close-fought tennis tourney

Staff
The Lake Report

Hot on the heels of the top-tier tennis played at the Canada Summer Games the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club held its annual men's and women's tournament.

"I think it is safe to say that our club has never seen such a spectacular month of tennis," said Hugh Dow, president of the club.

"With the new courts recently resurfaced the players seemed inspired with three of the final matches going down to the wire with third-set tie-breakers determining the winners."

Many members turned out to cheer on the players and then stayed to enjoy a catered dinner under the club's pavilion.

And the winners were:

Womens "A" doubles Champions: Nicole Marsh-Burke and Michelle Marsh.

Finalists: Barb Kavanagh and Mary Lou Turner. Score: 6-4, 6-2.

Womens "B" doubles Champions: Natalie Early and Karen Rhind.

Finalists: Amanda



The NOTL Tennis Club's annual me's and women's tournament saw close matches and tie-breakers to determine the winners for this year. SONJA SCHINDELER PHOTO

Thackray and Sylvia Allen. Score: 6-3, 4-6, 10-8.

Mens "A" doubles Champions: Chris and George Bandak.

Finalists: John Pilling and Scott Lewis. Score: 6-1, 5-7, 10-4.

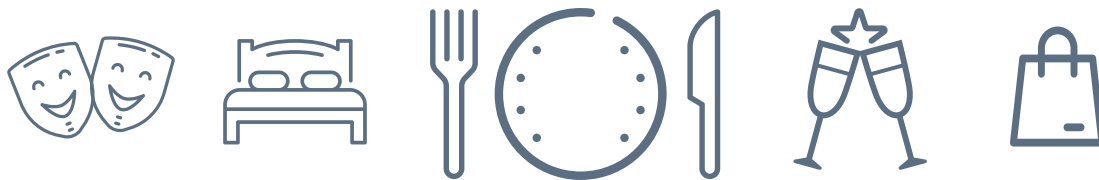
Mens "B" doubles

Champions: Jim O'Gorman and Bill Devolin. **Finalists:** Jim Thackray and Glen Salzman. Score: 8-4.

Mens "A" consolation Champions: Roman Korda and Gerry McIlhone. **Finalists:** Jean Lalonde

and Shawn Parker. Score: 8-4.

Mens "B" consolation Champions: Les McFarland and Terry Ratkovsky. **Finalists:** Ross Robinson and Richard Berti. Score: 10-4, tiebreak after 7-7.



BON APPÉTIT!

When Niagara-on-the-Lake residents were asked to identify tourism's impact on town life the positive connections were crystal clear:

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- 89% said tourism creates jobs and is good for the economy
- 89% said tourism creates things to do in our town
- 84% said tourism contributes to the quality of our town's infrastructure

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NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
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NOTL men **edge women** in Friday's Pro's Cup competition

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A ball wrapped in the roots of a tree, some wild shots by the men's team and a hard-charging performance by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's women's Solheim squad made for stiff competition in the annual Pro's Cup tourney Friday.

Ultimately, the men's Senior Ryder Cup team squeaked out a narrow victory, 23-19, their second in a row.

The 10th annual match pitting some of the club's top male and female golfers against one another was much closer than the 41-1 shellacking the women delivered in 2018 or their 35-13 victory in 2020.

Points were first accumulated in nine holes of alternative shot play as 14 players competed on each side in match play.

The back nine was a better-ball format, in which each twosome's best score on every hole was counted.

The tournament format takes official golf handicaps into consideration so both men and women were



Harry Huizer hoists the Pro's Cup, while Martha Cruikshank and pro Keith Vant look on. SUPPLIED

eligible for strokes to help their scoring.

Each nine was worth two points but the overall 18-hole match also was worth two points, meaning six points were up for grabs in each match.

Men's captain Harry Huizer noted the weather was warm and beautiful – but admitted the women's early performances had him worried, starting with the first group.

"There was again great excitement and anticipation in the air and the men knew they were in for a stiff battle when Val Chubey hit a booming long drive to begin the 'friendly' competition," Huizer said.

While the men were in

awe at the women's opening drives, they "were not intimidated as they knew more than a super tee shot is needed to win a match," Huizer said.

"The ladies obviously had quite a pep talk from their captain, Martha Cruikshank, as they darted out to an early lead. But the men didn't flinch," he added.

After nine holes the match was tied 7-7 and the real battle began.

The women had the men on the ropes when the team of Ginny Green and Robin Foster took all six points from the strong team of Jim Panetta and Ted Wiens.

The third ladies team added four more points and

there was a sense that the women were marching to victory, Huizer said.

"Suddenly the tide turned on the next three matches and maybe a little 'lady luck' had something to do with it," he said.

After an earlier encounter when his partner Mike Eagen's tee shot nestled into a tree root, Huizer found himself again in tree trouble late in the match.

He somehow hit a shot on the 17th hole that not only went through a tree but shot forward off a branch and miraculously ended up on the green.

That shocked both Huizer and his opponents – and turned a sure lost hole into a winner. hole. Without this turn of fate the result would have been quite different, the men's captain admitted.

The tide seemed to be turning in the men's favour, but the women never gave up, even after they lost a heartbreaking sixth match by one hole, giving the men five points.

Margot Richardson and May Chang dominated the seventh and final match 5-1, but it was a little too late.

"The women deserved a better fate as they won as many holes as the men but a one-hole win at the right time in a few of the matches gave the men the victory and the Pro's Cup," Huizer said.

Afterward players ate lunch on the first tee and watched club pro Keith Vant present the Pro's Cup to Huizer, while the women vowed to storm back to the winner's circle next year.

OTHER RESULTS: Ginny Green led all players in the 18-hole women's league on Tuesday, with low gross (85), low net (66) and fewest putts (24). Other winners: Closest to the pin: Cathy Murray (#4), Sue Sherk (#18).

Runners-up behind Green's stellar round were: low gross: Lisa Allen (93), May Chang (96), Sherk (97), Margot Richardson (99); low net: Sharron Marlow and Chang (71), Sherk (74), Gayle Tanner and Allen (75); fewest putts: Allen (29), Chang (32).

The nine-hole women's league played the first of two days of competition this week for the Gretchen Ormston Memorial Trophy.

Prize winners on the day were Kathy Taylor (longest putt #2) and Deborah Williams (closest to the pin #9).

Sandie Boyer earned a special prize for chipping in twice, on #3 and #6.

In the men's WOOFs league on Tuesday, Don Allen, Rick Janes and Jim Meszaros all shot 40 for low gross honours. Bernard Marlow won low net (34). Ken Burr's birdie on #7 won the hidden hole and Nino Ferrantelli was closest to the pin on #4.

Weather last week played havoc with some regular competitions, but the Thursday men's league was not deterred.

Mark Derbyshire's 1-over 37 won low gross and Steve Levy was tops in Stableford scoring. Longest putt: Arthur Wosinski (#2), Paul Dickson (#5). Longest drive: Darryl Fry (#3). Closest to the 150 marker: Gerry Shelly (#8). Closest to the pin: Ricky Watson (#4), James Grigjanis-Meusel (#9).

Net skins winners: Mike Eagen (#1), Darryl McCrossan (#4), Terry Catney (#8). Gross skins: Eagen (#1), Watson (#4), Dickson (#5), A.J. Harlund (#8).



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GAMES

- Across**
- Very evil (7)
 - Feeling of guilt (6)
 - Norway's "Tiger City" (4)
 - Statute (3)
 - Like a shirt or guitar (8)
 - A long way off (4)
 - Save a bit (3,4)
 - Rectify sin so as to expose a former President's wife (7)
 - Outs partner (3)
 - American ornithologist and artist (7)
 - Spicy Spanish banger (7)
 - Civil aeronautics overseer (1,1,1)
 - Unsettled (2,5)
 - Governments in power (7)
 - World-beating writer who was also a WW2 fighter pilot (4)
 - Old records (8)
 - Type of raid (3)
 - Neck and neck (4)
 - Calculate (6)
 - Indignity (7)
- Down**
- Global women's empowerment organization (1,1,1,1)
 - How some suspects are released (2,4)
 - Refuses to admit (6)
 - Financial wherewithal (5)
 - Military partnership (1,1,1,1)
 - Fizzy drink (4)
 - Napoleon escaped from here (4)
 - All over the shop (9)
 - Totalitarian type of government (7)
 - Presses on in chaos to get answers (9)
 - Pudding sounds like a way to start something (4)
 - European Jewish vernacular (7)
 - Because (5)
 - Richard's "Sound of Music" collaborator (5)
 - Defeat (4)
 - An accompanist, perhaps? (6)
 - Foolishness (6)
 - Cuban dance (5)
 - Ugandan despot (4)
 - "--- and the Swan" (Greek mythology) (4)
 - Faculty senior, in short (4)
 - Cupid (4)

Have some fun




Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
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			10				
11					12	13	14
				15			
16	17			18	19		
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37						38	
		39					

Last issue's answers

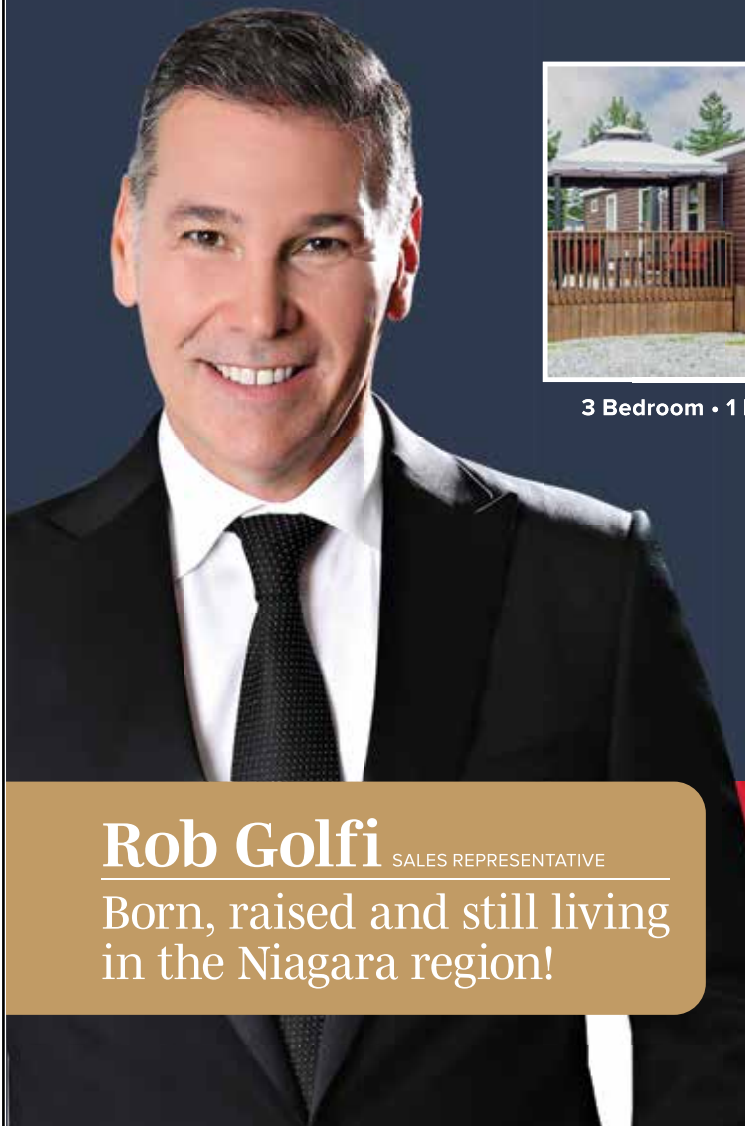
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5	N	I	T	L	T	V	N								
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9	N	R	O	R	E	T	A	C							
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11	T	M	A	L	A	V	S								
12	S	E	E	S	17	P	18	D	I	S	L	O	D	G	E
13	A	A	L	E	E	K	L	L	E						
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15	S	K	T	T	D	E	E								

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6	5	2		3		1		

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Tribalism, violence and humans' long **history of inhumanity**



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

In highly social species such as chimpanzees, understanding who's in charge, who has influence, who's in, who's out, and shifting alliances between others, often make big differences when it comes to finding a mate, dependable, trustworthy friends, securing food – and ensuring your status and safety within a troop.

As Frans De Waal humorously put in his first best-selling 1982 book, "Chimpanzee Politics," the behaviour of members of the House of Representatives in the United States, then led by Newt Gingrich, when they tried to impeach Bill Clinton, differed little from that of the chimpanzees whose behaviour De Waal had studied for many years.

Robin Dunbar, an Oxford evolutionary psychologist, posits that social complexity, more than tool-making, drove the evolution of the brain's neocortex in apes such as chimpanzees, our hominin ancestors, archaic humans such as neanderthals and, most recently, modern humans.

Dunbar correlated group size with brain and neocortical size and showed that, for example, chimpanzee troops are typically comprised of 30 to 50 members, bands of neanderthals numbered on average 120 and for modern human hunter-gatherers, the average number is 150, although overnight groups are often smaller at 30 to 50 members.

Within those groups, members were recognized as fitting in, and their social status granted them a place and therefore a share of the resources and protection.

But outside the chimp band, outsiders were often greeted with wariness, suspicion, even hostility – and sometimes warning vocalizations and gestures, which if ignored, might prompt an attack.



It's possible that social-political complexities may have contributed to the brain's evolution more than tool-making. SUPPLIED

So also with humans. Strangers, especially those who look, dress or behave differently compared to prevailing norms, all too often prompt threatening gestures and language and even murder in the case of African Americans, Asians or others perceived as threats to accepted order.

Skin colour and some cultural dress norms make easy targets, especially when law enforcement and the courts support deeply prejudiced world views.

Antisemitism in Europe

had been a common feature of societies from Russia to western Europe for centuries and it didn't take much stirring by Hitler to stoke the fires of prejudice toward not only Jews, but Slavic peoples, as conniving sub-humans and fair targets for murder on a planned industrial scale.

As a species, humans have much to answer for.

One look at the record of colonialism in the Americas, Africa and Asia should remind us that for many centuries, humans not only

colonized many peoples but enslaved some, especially Africans.

It's a record that has left a legacy of distrust and continuing racial prejudice. It all was done, in the case of western European countries, with the support of governments and often the church of the day, which, as recently as the 19th century, tolerated slavery and for much of the time supported colonialism.

The same governments and churches often sent children of Aboriginal peoples to residential schools where physical, sexual and mental abuse were common.

Equivalent intolerance is tolerated to this day in other lands in countries such as Afghanistan and some parts of the Middle East where religious and cultural differences fuel animosity – and worse.

The above and the firebombing of Dresden and Japanese cities, to say nothing of dropping of two atom bombs, notorious prison camps, the systematic murder of millions of Jews, Russians, and dissidents, illustrate how nasty humans can be.

I could go on – but the point is made.

Humans may be the cleverest species, but by far we are the nastiest. Our cleverness makes that nastiness much worse because our weapons no longer are axes, spears and arrows but bunker-busting bombs and lots of them.

The ongoing war in Ukraine reminds us that some members of the human family see nothing wrong with flattening cities, targeting schools, hospitals and residential neighbourhoods, and repeatedly threatening far worse – such as gas or nuclear weapons.

It's not a record to be proud of whether it's war we're talking about or failing to meet minimum climate goals – which if exceeded will bring far worse weather, crop losses and starvation on a record scale before this century is out.

This time around, we can't say we weren't warned.

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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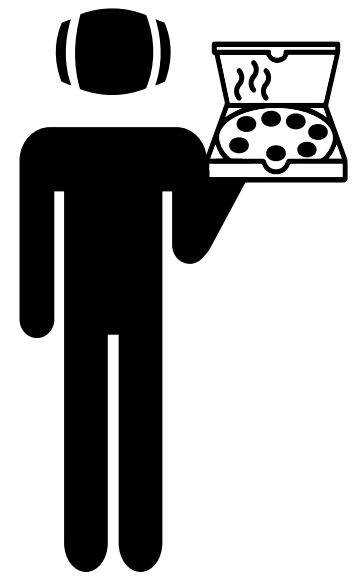
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Polo on Commons with the 1st King's Dragoons

If you ever wondered what the historical connection of hosting polo matches on the Commons in Niagara-on-the-Lake might be, all you have to do is look at the Dragoons who trained at the military camp here over the years. The 1st King's Dragoon Guards were stationed in Niagara from 1828 to 1842 and while training on their horses, the men would often play polo to help build their skills of riding while carrying something at the same time. This ornate helmet belonged to Sgt.-Maj. Adam Flanigan of the 1st King's Dragoon Guards. Originally from Northern Ireland, Flanigan ended up marrying a local woman and living on Johnson Street. Although the players won't be dressed in this fancy helmet, you can witness them playing, and their magnificent horses in action, at the museum's Niagara Polo match is this Saturday, Sept. 10. General admission tickets are still available. See you there.

Looking to the Stars

Retrograde Mercury may affect relationships and partnerships

Thursday, Sept. 8: Thanks to the moon and Saturn at the same place in the sky in Aquarius – and the sun in perfect harmony with the north node of the moon, today is a great day for new projects and/or for new directions for existing projects. The future gets closer. And better. On Sept. 8, 1966, we saw the premiere of "Star Trek" starring Canada's William Shatner.



Friday, Sept. 9: Today Mercury goes retrograde until Oct. 3, when the planet turns direct. Mercury is in the sign of Libra so this change may affect communications, especially those to do with relationships and partnerships. If you want a change, that's good. If not, hang in. The final word will not be heard until after Oct. 3. Were he still with us, Nova Scotia-born bassist Bruce Palmer of The Buffalo Springfield would be 76.



Saturday, Sept. 10: The full moon in Pisces happens at 5:58 this morning and this may be the most Piscean full moon ever because it occurs in the same spot in the sky as where Neptune (ruler of Pisces) happens to be at this moment. Dreams take on a powerful believability and imagination is driven by powerful emotions. Today would have been the 65th wedding anniversary for Canada's 20th prime minister, Jean Chretien and his wife Aline Chaine, who died Sept. 12, 2020.

Sunday, Sept. 11: In spite of there being a mixed bag of both positive and frustrating

influences today, it is a time when the moon opposes a retrograde Mercury in Libra but also is in the same place as Jupiter, setting the stage for showing optimism and reaping rewards. It was Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, that hijacked planes crashed into both towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

Monday, Sept. 12: With the moon conjunct Chiron, this is a day of spiritual awakening where paying attention is not necessarily quick, but sustains itself all day, thanks to Saturn. He set out to find the northwest passage. He ended with a mutiny that cost him his life and with a river, a bay, countless towns and a giant merchandising empire all named for him. Henry Hudson was born Sept. 12, 1575.



Tuesday, Sept. 13: The moon moves from Aries into Taurus where it meets Mercury retrograde in what is called a quincunx. This 150-degree separation holds promise but it is not easy. Because Mercury is retrograde, it may be a good time to rethink things. Toronto-born TV producer Lorne Michaels wed model Susan Forrestal on Sept. 13, 1981.

Wednesday, Sept. 14: With the moon still in Taurus, it conjuncts the north node and then is given a surprise opportunity from Uranus. It's a day for big practical change. On Sept. 14, 1752, all of Britain, including the colonies, dropped the Julian calendar of 365 days and replaced it with the Gregorian calendar of 365 days, 48 minutes and 45 seconds. We got the "Leap Year" and a week in September disappeared.

Give a listen to my podcast Looking up to the Stars at www.lutts.ca. It's full of information and fun.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.

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Now is an ideal time to **plant a new tree**



Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist



Left: A ginkgo tree. Right: A white oak. JOANNE YOUNG

They say that the best time to plant a tree is 50 years ago, the next best time to plant a tree is now.

After going through another hot summer, the importance of planting trees is even greater – because trees are not just pretty to look at.

They improve soil and water conservation, store carbon, moderate local climate by providing shade, regulate temperature extremes, increase wildlife habitat and improve the land's capacity to adapt to climate change.

Did you know trees can help lower your energy bills? During those chilly winter months, trees do us a great service by blocking strong winds from reaching our home, leading to reduced heating costs to the tune of 25 per cent.

And in the summertime, they offer shade that keeps your house cool. Properly placed trees also add value to your property. It is well proven that spending time near trees will reduce your stress levels and improve your overall health.

I don't think anyone could argue with the benefits of having trees on your property or surrounding you. A properly placed tree is the key – choosing the appropriate tree for your space. Here are some considerations when choosing the best tree for your garden.

Consider a native variety: Native trees are well-suited to our climate and soil types and, once established, require much less water and fertilizer than non-native species.

Native species of trees also play a vital role in attracting pollinators and

songbirds. Some larger growing native trees include red oak, pin oak, white oak, sugar maple, red maple, black gum, Kentucky coffee tree and tulip tree.

Smaller-growing native species include sassafras, pawpaw, pagoda dogwood, blue beech, serviceberry and striped maple.

What's your goal for the tree?: Do you want a tree for ornamental reasons such as providing flowers, fruit or beautiful fall colour? Do you want one that will provide shade?

If so, make sure you think about the tree's placement ahead of time. If morning shade is your goal, you need to have space to plant the tree on the east to south/east side of a sitting area.

If you are wanting the tree to provide afternoon shade to a sitting area, you need to plant it on the south to west side of that same area.

Maybe you want trees to offer privacy from neighbours or unwanted views? How close to the fence do you want the tree? Keep in mind that some trees can have at least a 20-foot spread.

Planting a wide-growing tree too close to the fence would mean a large part of the canopy will be growing over the fence into your neighbour's yard.

In that case, you may want to consider planting a narrow columnar-type such as pyramidal English oak, Dawyck beech, Armstrong red maple, or slender silhouette sweetgum.

What space do you have?: Some of the most

common issues I come across have to do with not choosing the appropriate tree for your space.

Most of the time, the overall height of the tree is not too much of an issue, but the width of the mature tree is.

If I had a dollar for every time I heard someone say, "Well, it won't get that size in my lifetime," I would be well taken care of.

The truth is that they will grow faster than you think. So, do a little research prior to purchasing your tree. If possible, look at more mature trees to get an idea of the canopy size and shape, or look at pictures online to give you a better visual of what they will grow to be.

Your local garden centre should be able to help narrow down your choices. Just because a tree may be more columnar in form does not mean that you can plant it three to four feet out from the house.

By taking some time to do your homework, you will be better informed when you are ready to make your purchase and end up with a tree that will be able to live in its new home for many years to come

Fall is a great time to be planting new trees in your garden. With the soil still warm from the summer heat and the air temperatures cooling, these are the best conditions for optimal root growth.

Happy tree shopping.
Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.

Obituaries

Alfred Robert Mouget

May 7, 1930 - Sept 1, 2022



Alfred Mouget died on September 8, 2022, with Nancy, his wife of 37 years, by his side. He was 92. Just days before he died Alfred said, "I have no illusions. I know my days are numbered. But I can't complain. I've had a beautiful life".

A bon vivant, architect and engineer, he was a man of relentless optimism and courage who could never tell a joke without laughing his way through the punchline. Born in the Saarland region of Germany, he and his young bride Kriemhild emigrated to Canada and settled in Montreal, where they lived happily together until her death in 1980 and where their beloved son, Yves, continues to live with wife Marie and children Thierry and Mia.

On a cruise in 1983 he met Nancy and they married soon after. Alfred's work as an engineer on the St. Lawrence Seaway brought them to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where they found a vibrant and welcoming community, centered around the Shaw Festival Theatre, and made a home of laughter and hospitality, deep friendships and civic engagement.

A lover of poetry and ideas, Alfred could also make things with his hands: he designed and built elaborate gingerbread houses, entirely edible and ever popular at local charity auctions. In retirement he returned to an early love of painting with support from the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. His watercolours capture both the landscapes of his youth and the farms around Niagara.

A man of strong religious belief, he had faith in an afterlife. He believed in reincarnation. Alfred hoped that when he came back he would be Ambassador to France. Salut, Your Excellency!

Friends are invited to gather and share memories on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 4 p.m. at 15226 Niagara River Parkway, service road 66 at Line 3.

Those wishing to honor Alfred with financial contributions are encouraged to donate to the Shaw Festival or the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

Lena Neeltje Byl



BYL, Lena Neeltje – nee Barendregt. Passed away peacefully surrounded by family in her 90th year at St. Catharines General Hospital on Saturday September 3, 2022. Special thanks to the doctors and nurses who cared for our mother at both the Greater Niagara General and the St. Catharines General Hospitals.

Beloved wife of Leendert (Len) who cherished her for 73 years and who still resides at Chapel Heights Retirement Home. Loving mother of Lane (Margaret) Byl, Casey (Valerie) Byl, May (Alan) Simpson, Richard (Linda) Byl and Marinus (Beverley) Byl.

Caring 'Oma' of Marlena, Jason, Sarah, Melissa, Derek, Cassandra, Lane, Christopher, and Whitney. She was also known as 'Oma B.' to 12 great grandchildren. Dear sister of Cok Vanderlinden and Dingena Vanfeleius in the Netherlands. Predeceased by her grandson Corey and her siblings Dirk, Hugo, Neeltje and Cor. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

She was a founding member of the Niagara Bridge Center and a twenty year president of the Niagara Bridge Association. She and Len became Silver Life Masters and were recognizable at bridge events around the world.

Lena was a member and past president of the Virgil Women's Institute. She was also active in The Ontario Federation of Agriculture where she was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

With a few of growers' wives they created the Grape Growers' Action Committee where she was instrumental in promoting the Ontario Grape & Wine industry during a crucial period of transition. She met and lobbied many of the Premiers and Prime Ministers of this country she loved so much. Lena was shameless in her promotion of Ontario grapes and wine as she travelled. She and her husband Len travelled the globe extensively, to such exotic places as New Zealand, Australia, Tunisia, Moscow, Antarctica and everywhere in between.

She was the backbone of the successful family grape farm she shared with her husband Len and their five children. Relying on her hard work, Len was named Grape King in 1986. They were both active in the Port Weller Sailing Club where they raced their sailboat, 'Vintage' for many years

The family will receive friends at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Thursday Sept. 8, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. A funeral service to celebrate the life of Lena will take place at the St. Davids Lions Hall, 1462 York Rd., St. Davids, on Friday Sept. 9, 2022 at 1 p.m. Interment will follow at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to may make a memorial donation may do so to the Niagara Health Foundation and the Erland Lee Museum Home of the Women's' Institute.

Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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