



Coun. Sandra O'Connor.

## CODE GREY

### NOTL is still short two doctors

"Code Grey" is one in a series of stories about health care in Niagara Region. In hospital parlance, "Code Grey" means loss of essential service.

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The latest numbers from Niagara Region find Niagara-on-the-Lake to have a good number of doctors compared to other municipalities, but given some unique challenges present with the town's patient pool, this number might not be enough, says Coun. Sandra O'Connor.

During Tuesday's council meeting, physician recruitment and retention specialist Jill Croteau gave an update on doctor recruitment in Niagara-on-the-Lake on behalf of Niagara Region Public Health.

Currently, there are 13 family doctors operating in the town, up from 11 after two new physicians, Dr. Anne Wilson and Dr.

*Continued on Page 2*

## HEARTBEAT of the HARVEST

# Niagara College harvest teaches new generation of winemakers



Niagara College alumni and winemaker Allison Findlay guides grapes out of the bin and into the winery. DON REYNOLDS

Jill Troyer | The Lake Report

It's a breezy Monday morning with cotton puff clouds scudding across the sky and the sounds of easy banter in the air.

A group of twenty Niagara College students is in school, but with clippers in their hands instead of pens, their professor standing in the vineyard instead of at the front of a classroom.

It's not a one-time field trip, it's where they are every Monday during harvest season, for a full

dose of hands-on learning. Black netting that had been protecting the grapes from hungry birds has been lifted off, and all hands are at work, clipping golden green bunches of Vidal grapes into pink plastic bins on the ground.

"They're learning while they're here, and then they have to go back to the other classes," explains Gavin Robertson, professor of winemaking at the college's Teaching Winery.

"Most of the work will be done right here, in the 20 acres of vineyards on campus, because we have a diverse enough estate vineyard that we can pick pretty steadily. But we also partner with some of our graduates who now work at other wineries," Robertson says.

"We'll show up as a picking crew and pick two or three tonnes for them, and then follow the intake, so the students get ac-

cess to other winemakers' brains and other technology and crush pad operations," he adds.

"It's fun," says first year student Caitlyn Ensinger, adding "It's a little hard on the knees but it's good. We get the hands-on work and then the classroom work to go along with it. So we get to apply what we learn in the classroom. So it's nice."

*Continued on Page 5*

## Queenston firefighters celebrate 75 years of service

Paige Seburn  
The Lake Report

This October, the Queenston Volunteer Firefighters Association is celebrating a milestone — 75 years of dedicated

service to the community.

For secretary-treasurer Crispin Bottomley, this anniversary marks more than just another year of service.

"If we go back 75 years, we were a village that had protection provided by the

greater township of Niagara out of St. Davids, and it was felt that there was a need to have a fire station within the village," he said.

Today, after decades of evolution since its foundation in 1949, the volunteer

firefighters group still operates in the village, providing life-saving emergency fire services for the people of Queenston.

The association is hosting anniversary festivities next weekend, taking place over

two days at 5 Dumfries St., will highlight the deep-rooted bond between the firefighters and the residents they protect.

The celebration kicks off

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## Despite progress, there's more to do: O'Connor

Continued from Front Page

Michael Grasic, joined the Niagara Medical Centre in Virgil last fall.

According to the target ratio of one doctor for every 1,380 patients in the Niagara region, this means NOTL is only two doctors short.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is in more of a healthy position right now," Croteau said.

This ratio is based on significant changes to Niagara's population in the last two years, with around 47,000 new people coming in, bringing the total to 525,000.

In total, physicians in the region currently enroll around 339,000 patients and using a one-to-1,380 ratio, the region has 274 family physicians, Croteau explained.

This puts the region at about 106 doctors short of its target of 380.

Other municipalities in the region have larger gaps to fill compared to NOTL, according to the region's numbers: Niagara Falls requires 36 doctors, St. Catharines needs 16, Welland, 13,

Even with two new doctors at the Village Medical Centre, the town is still two doctors behind the target ratio. FILE

and Fort Erie, 10.

"We have made great strides in our recruitment, but with our current growth rate, we're still struggling to keep up with our primary care," Croteau said.

During responses to the presentation on Tuesday, O'Connor said NOTL's aging population creates special circumstances when considering the number of doctors needed.

She expressed concern around Croteau's use of the term "healthy position."

"By any measurement you want to take, Niagara-on-the-Lake has one of the highest percentages of seniors, not only in Niagara but probably in Ontario as well," O'Connor said.

"When you have that

der Niagara Health's "Find A Doctor Page."

When it comes to welcoming in new doctors, Croteau said many are coming in from overseas, with 14 of the 26 physicians welcomed this year being from the U.K.

"Financial support and support in general is imperative for them," she said, noting urban centre are now also offering incentives for new recruits — a symptom of the wider health-care crisis in Ontario — adding heat to the competition for smaller communities looking to recruit.

Coun. Gary Burroughs expressed interest in how this funding is formulated.

It depends on the municipality, Croteau said, but in most cases it does not become a public request.

Burroughs asked staff to let council know if there is anything they can do that they have yet to take action on.

Coun. Erwin Wiens noted that Ashleigh Meyers, the town's economic development officer, was listening in and taking notes.

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A group of about 20 dancers joined the flash mob at Simcoe Park on Tuesday afternoon to bring awareness about climate change. Here, Edda Buck from Niagara-on-the-Lake leads the pack with her standout moves. JULIA SACCO

## Seniors for Climate targets NOTL issues

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

On Tuesday, 70 Seniors for Climate groups met across Canada as part of Seniors Day for Climate Action.

The Niagara group met in Niagara-on-the-Lake's Simcoe Park for a flash mob and chance for attendees to sign petitions and take a stand.

Coinciding with National Seniors Day, the message was that seniors care for the climate, too, and recognizing the contributions aging people bring to society.

Although it is a nationwide cause, organizer Frances Stocker said climate awareness is especially relevant in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

There was a petition addressed to the provincial government regarding climate action, along with a message to political parties in Ontario telling them what

the group would like to see on their platforms for the next election.

Organizers also included a petition to NOTL town council, demanding storm water management to be sorted out and to be more proactive about climate change by implementing the climate change policy, Stocker said.

The message of the day was "later is too late," Stocker said.

"Do it now. Stop subsidizing fossil fuels, take that money and put it into something like transit and industries that help solve the problem," she said.

In NOTL specifically, these include stormwater management, tree cover and public transportation, Stocker said.

Stocker supports the concept of adjusting Niagara-on-the-Lake to a community that cares about sustainable transport and active transport such as

walking and cycling.

"Get the shuttle bus put in at Glendale, make it undesirable to bring your car here," she said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs dropped in to show his support and Coun. Sandra O'Connor was also supportive, although she was not at the presentation, Stocker said.

"I'm here because the town is trying to do the climate change adaptation plan and we haven't met in months — so I'm frustrated," Burroughs said.

He added that he and O'Connor have been excited about the idea of Seniors for Climate.

"It's terrific to see a group of seniors so keen," Burroughs said.

He added that he hopes the action will bring attention to issues regarding climate in town.

"In our little community, storm water is absolutely critical. It's flooding every

time it thinks of raining and we don't have the infrastructure in place that we need," Burroughs said.

The next step is getting the environmental committee to meet again. It is not clear why they haven't been able to, Burroughs said.

"It's the same with the urban design committee, it can't meet. The short-term rental committee can't meet," he said.

He isn't sure if the committee has met since the new council was elected at the end of 2022, Burroughs said.

The climate change adaptation plan is a great report, approved by the last council and committee, he said.

"It's important and while it's not what today is about — it is," Burroughs said.

Anyone who wishes to get involved with Seniors for Climate and their future regional efforts can contact organizer Lidija Biro at [lbirro@mac.com](mailto:lbirro@mac.com).

## NOTL launches strategic plan dashboard

Staff  
The Lake Report

Residents have a new way to stay updated with the town's strategic plan.

A new discovery page found on the plan's dashboard offers residents an "accessible and high-level

view" of the plan's progress.

In a media release Wednesday, town CAO Bruce Zvaniga said the feature gives residents a streamlined view plan updates.

"It's an opportunity for everyone to stay informed and witness the positive

steps Town Council and Staff are taking toward our shared goals," he said.

Along with statistics, the dashboard shares the ongoing story of the town's progress, highlighting specific achievements, challenges and future priorities, the release said.

The new summary page reveals that the plan is currently on track, with 58 per cent of initiatives completed, meeting or exceeding targets by March 2024.

To access the summary page, visit <https://notl.clearpointstrategy.com/summary>.

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# Ziraldo wants to see a VQA Canada

Richard Wright  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Donald Ziraldo, the NOTL co-founder of In-niskillin Winery, is back on the trail of putting together a national standard for Canadian wines — a VQA Canada.

The idea is to ensure consumers know exactly what they are getting when buying Canadian wine, both at home and abroad, and to also help make ensure Canadian grapes are purchased by Canadians first.

Barriers on interprovincial trade are currently prohibiting Niagara grapes from reaching British Columbia wineries — which are suffering a grape shortage this year thanks to a disastrously cold winter in that province.

“The reason that we’re doing VQA Canada is rather than just telling our friends in B.C. that we want to help, but to get this right across retail,” he added.

“I’ve spoken to the LCBO about it, both the chairman and the CEO and they’re supportive.”

Ziraldo first threw out the idea of a national standard in the early 1990s, not long after helping create VQA Ontario and VQA B.C.

It’s been on his agenda ever since.

“I want to finish what I started,” he said.

Currently, if you go into any LCBO location to find local wines, the aisle for those wines from this province simply reads “Ontario,” Ziraldo said.

This doesn’t mean their



Donald Ziraldo, a long-time player in Niagara’s wine industry, says both the chairman and CEO of the LCBO support the idea of a national VQA standard. RICHARD HUTTON/FILE

ingredients are 100 per cent from Ontario: many Ontario bottles contain imported wines, a practice Ziraldo noted is perfectly legal.

VQA Ontario certification means that grapes used in those wines are 100 per cent from Ontario.

With alcohol sales now available in grocery and corner stores in Ontario, the retail opportunities for VQA wines has exponentially increased.

What Ziraldo wants to see is a legislated system that would allow retailers to tell the consumer the wine they are buying is 100 per cent Canadian.

He resurrected the crusade that started in the ’90s in June this year by calling together a meeting with himself, members of the federal government, including Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacCauley and Dan Paszkowski, president and CEO of Wine Growers Canada.

He has asked Vancouver member of parliament Joyce Murray, also at the

June meeting, to bring the issue in front of government during its next sitting, which began Monday, Sept. 16.

“I thought it’d be appropriate to have a B.C. person, as opposed to an Ontario person, table a motion in Parliament,” said Ziraldo, hoping the move will paint a better picture of B.C.’s need for Ontario grapes.

A VQA Canada would motivate B.C. wineries to buy surpluses from Ontario instead of buying from non-Canadian jurisdictions such as Washington, which is what is happening this year thanks to the interprovincial trade barriers.

Ziraldo believes Ontario’s surpluses this year will be anywhere between 10,000 and 20,000 tonnes, a number that Debbie Zimmerman of The Grape Growers of Ontario believes is too high an estimate.

“He (Ziraldo) may have heard that but it is not 20,000,” she said.

Still, Ziraldo isn’t stopping there in his efforts to have legislation intro-

duced that will put an end to inter-provincial trade barriers.

“I’ve also spoken to the chairman of the standing committee in agriculture that is going to investigate this whole thing,” he said, “because you have to put standards together underneath all of these appellations, and then you gotta figure out how to fix the interprovincial barrier.”

The big picture of the VQA Canada quest would be an allowance to partner with provinces such as B.C., Quebec and Nova Scotia to ensure national cooperation amongst grape growers, but to also create an identifiable national appellation to enhance Canada’s global wine-making savvy, like the Appellation d’origine contrôlée in France and the Denominazione di origine controllata in Italy.

“Everyone knows wines from Italy and France,” said Ziraldo. “Not many people know Canada makes wine.”

[wright@niagaranow.com](mailto:wright@niagaranow.com)

# Chamber to host inaugural Harvest Festival

Richard Wright  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Signs of the new season will be all around us soon — the brisk, fall smells in the air, the crunch of leaves beneath your feet, flavours like apple, cinnamon and maple popping up on café menus, and the sight of fall produce like pumpkins and squash for sale at farm stands on rural roads across town.

With autumn finally here, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce wants to celebrate by hosting its first-ever Harvest Festival — which will also serve as an opportunity to support the businesses, particularly farmers, operating in the community.

It’ll be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 behind the old Court House on Market Street in Old Town.

Typically, the chamber of commerce is focused on attracting people from out of town into the community to support the town’s businesses, including its farmers.

“A lot of our events are more kind of tourism-focused,” said Bri VanSickle of the chamber’s marketing team.

The Harvest Festival, however, is geared to the people who live, work and do business in NOTL.

“This event is supposed to be moreso for the community and to highlight those fall themes of things going on in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” VanSickle said.

The festival will include a farmers’ market with food and drink vendors, local craft beer, cider and wine for sale, plus live music and family-friendly activities.

“You’ll be able to sit and enjoy a drink and you can eat the food from the vendors.”

The chamber sees this festival is an opportunity to help local businesses, entrepreneurs, farmers and growers over the long run and not just during the one-day event.

“I see it being beneficial just because people are going to be coming from Niagara-on-the-Lake,” said VanSickle.

“(Vendors) can promote their products to the people

that actually live here — to people who want to know more about what these businesses are doing in Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

VanSickle said local distilleries may be at the market offering samples of their brews, plus potential clothing vendors, so attendees can do some shopping.

To register as a vendor for the farmers’ market, contact the chamber’s events co-ordinator, Emelyn Williams, at [emelyn@niagaraonthelake.com](mailto:emelyn@niagaraonthelake.com).

The festival will start at 11 a.m. on Oct. 26 and run until 6 p.m.

Applications for vendors opened this week and will continue until Oct. 11.

[wright@niagaranow.com](mailto:wright@niagaranow.com)



# Food bank seeks Thanksgiving supplies

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

After Saturday’s Porch Pickup, local food bank Newark Neighbours is still short on food for annual Thanksgiving Hampers. “We’re still in need of everything: Cranberry sauce, pineapple, apple sauce, canned veg, apple juice, cranberry juice, anything,” volunteer Cindy Grant said. Porch pickup, which involves volunteers driving to homes across Niagara-on-the-Lake to pick up donations, usually gathers around 100 to 120 volunteers, Grant said. “We only had 50 this time.” The food drive, which was scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., was wrapped



Rotary exchange student Emil Maack, from Germany, helped collect donations for the Newark Neighbours food drive on Saturday. JULIA SACCO

up within two hours. The donations gathered will be put to use for Thanksgiving hampers, which the organization sends out to clients in need on October 10. This year, 110 hampers will be sent out. “We need everything ready by the eighth or ninth,” Grant said. Newark Neighbours is in huge need of donations for the hampers and Grant encourages those who can help to drop off donations to their foodbank location at 1534 Niagara Stone Rd. Find a list of items needed at [newarkneighbours.ca](http://newarkneighbours.ca).

# Picking grapes is just one part of education

Continued from Front Page

Fellow student Cameron Loughed agrees the work takes physical effort. “It’s a little hard squatting down for most of the day but as long as you enjoy it, especially with the people you’re with, the time flies, and you’re very focused on the grapes themselves, and what’s good and what’s bad.” Loughed used to work indoors. Now, “waking up, seeing something as beautiful as this is a good change for the better,” he says. “I’m definitely mostly interested in the viticulture side, but learning the winery cellar-hand stuff is amazing. I think this whole program does a great job in showing you every aspect of winery work.”

Winemaker Allison Findlay says range is important. “We cover the vineyard, the winery, as well as sales, marketing and sensory analysis,” she says. “You don’t really know what direction you want to go until you’re in it. For example, I wanted to be a sommelier, I wanted to wear cute dresses and work at fancy restaurants. And now I live in the cellar, and I love it, and I couldn’t be happier, but I didn’t know that was an option for me until I learned what the cellar is all about.”

The students load the bins laden with fruit into a utility vehicle that takes it to the crush pad, where the grapes go into a one tonne bin, onto a forklift, and into the winery for pressing.



Niagara College winemaking students experience the laborious process of grape harvesting first-hand, with professor Gavin Robertson’s guidance. DON REYNOLDS

Staff and students work together. Findlay helps guide the grape clusters out of the big bin on their way to the press. She says the hands-on work “is very important, because the students have constant exposure to it, in the vineyard and the winery, and it really helps them learn faster.” All of the staff working at the Teaching Winery are alumni of the program, as is Findlay herself, and its graduates are woven into the fabric of the broader industry in Niagara and beyond. “I did a very quick survey of wine country in Ontario and we definitely had grads in winemaker, assistant winemaker or vineyard management positions at 60 or 65 of the roughly 100 wineries in the province,” Robertson says with some pride. “And that doesn’t include cellar hands. Right now, there’s probably an NC grad in just about every winery doing harvest,” he adds. Robertson rattles off the names of just some of the many Niagara College grads who are at wineries big and small. They include winemakers Nicholas Gizuk at Inniskillin, Dean Stoyka at Stratus, Ryan Gibson and Ben Minaker at Peller in Grimsby, Alex Baines at Hidden Bench, Greg Ye-

men at Organised Crime, Vincenzo De Simone, who is both winemaker and owner of De Simone Vineyards, and Jessica Otting at Tawse, where NC alumni Augusta Vanmuyen is the vineyard manager. They and many others started where these students are today, and chances are these first-year students will end up in various roles in the industry too. For now, you’ll see them out in the vineyard at the college every Monday, until “the grapes are gone,” says Robertson. Heartbeat of the Harvest will return in late October, as the season approaches its close.

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# Company seeking feedback on plan for old hospital site

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The James. A. Burton Family Foundation is taking another step forward with its interest in development at the site of Niagara-on-the-Lake's old hospital at 176 Wellington St.

The possible multimillion-dollar project to turn the old building into a hub for a handful arts, education, culture and heritage groups — led by resident James A. Burton and his family's foundation — is in its beginning stages.

The Niagara Gateway Project has been in the works for the past year with the foundation working with community groups to recognize needs in town.

To confirm NOTL's need for the Gateway, the James A. Burton Family Foundation is partner-

ing with Abacus Data to conduct a resident survey, launching Monday.

"This survey will provide an unbiased evaluation of how residents perceive the proposed centre and its potential to enhance the quality of life in the area," the foundation said in a media release.

Abacus Data's other surveys, including one on tourism in NOTL, attracted the foundation to their company, James Burton said.

"We knew they were highly respected as a credible third-party group," he told The Lake Report.

Knowledge of the area played into their decision to choose Abacus as well, foundation CEO Susan St. Amand said.

The survey will sample 300 adult residents through a combination of live telephone interviews and online panels over the next

three to four weeks.

"The survey is a really important part of this work, following a year of what we feel is a gathering of subjective, qualitative data," communications representative Kathryn Hendrick said.

According to interviews with organizations and elected officials, NOTL is in need of a space where people of all ages can come and get involved in beneficial activities, she said.

The James A. Burton Foundation is not a developer, but rather a family wishing to give back to the community, Burton said.

"We don't have an axe to grind and we don't intend to make this a profit centre for us. We're a family," he said.

The hope for 176 Wellington St. is to create a space for accessible programs, like an acting class given by Shaw performers or learning about sur-



Jordie and James Burton say their plan for a "Niagara Gateway" will be a great space for community gathering and education, at the old hospital property. SUPPLIED

rounding Indigenous trails, Hendrick said.

"It's not in the hub in the sense of a community centre, it's something much bigger," she said. "It's the bridge between Fort George and the Shaw campus and the whole region of the Niagara Parks Commission and all of the trails."

One space that inspired the foundation when coming up with the gateway's functionality was C Space

in Calgary, James' son Jordie Burton said.

The old school has been used as a space for both Montessori students and seniors.

"It's become this beautiful example of adaptive reuse," he said.

Following results of the survey, the foundation will make a presentation to town council regarding next steps.

"We're presently in conversations with the mayor

and council, keeping the apprised on what we're doing and seeking their feedback along the way," Jordie Burton said.

Final results will be shown to council along with all stakeholders, James Burton said.

"We will hopefully present to the town and they will have elections with their process of what we need to do next," he said.

[juliasacco@niagaranow.com](mailto:juliasacco@niagaranow.com)



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**Contributed by Patty Garriock**

“It is a great privilege to be able to enjoy the bread-and-cheese of life – the simple pleasures, of which there are many. Charles Edward Jerningham

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## Filming for Scotsman



Photographer Dave Van de Laar captured this image of filming being done for a commercial for the Scotsman Hotel in NOTL.

### Opinion

## How we’re seduced into more debt



**THE TURNER REPORT**

Garth Turner  
Columnist

Graham and the doodle moved from godless Etobicoke to Virgil three years ago.

You remember 2021: It was nuts.

Mortgages were handed out at two per cent or less. COVID was still a thing. Urban refugees swarmed the countryside, startling the locals and paying stupid prices for their houses.

“A mortgage of, like, a million wasn’t too scary when we took the loan,” he tells me. “Now we have to renew and it terrifies me. I should have gone with a five-year mortgage. Or borrowed less. And now a recession’s coming. Are we screwed?”

Simple questions. What should they do? Is the economy pooched?

Lots of news lately regarding personal finances,

debts, houses, loans and investing. The Trudeau feds are spooked about the polls, while the central bank is seized with employment and how to (maybe) weather a Trump win.

All this brings changes which touch on the things Graham worries about.

First, the cost of money is plunging, and will continue. Rates here have plopped three times with two more to come on Oct. 23 and Dec. 11. One may be a hefty half-point.

Meanwhile the U.S. Federal Reserve System started cutting, too, also by a half — surprising and arousing the stock market.

After telling us for two years we had to pay more on mortgages, rents, loans and credit cards to get inflation down, the bankers can’t cut fast enough.

Turns out 23-year highs were way too much. Real estate went comatose, layoffs happened, the jobless rate jumped uncomfortably and folks like Graham panicked.

So, down she goes.

And look what’s happened to mortgages. Wow. The biggest stuff since Stephen Harper blew up real estate with zero per cent down payments (that was a disaster).

In a few weeks all first-time buyers can get 30-year amortizations. Yes, they pay a lot more interest but the monthly is less.

People will also have mortgage insurance on homes worth up to \$1.5 million. That means a 20 per cent down payment is no longer needed above \$1 million.

Thus, a \$1.3 million home in Virgil can be financed with a down of \$105,000, as opposed to \$260,000. Buy with less money and more (shudder) debt.

The government can’t shrink prices. So folks are seduced into bigger loans.

That mortgage of almost \$1.2 million at today’s rates costs about \$6,700 a month (plus property tax, utilities, insurance and enough weed to stay calm).

Income required: About \$250,000 for first-time buyers with no equity. And guess how many of those are around?

Meanwhile, the inflation rate’s back to the two per cent level, stocks have hit a series of record highs, wealth inequality is worse and Pierre Poilievre will have a cow if there’s no election soon.

The public mood is sour. Houses are crazy. High rates didn’t bring lower prices.

There are still 8,000 people in NOTL without a family doctor. And now there’s employment anxiety.

So are things bad enough for Graham to consider selling and tenting beside the QEW when the giant mortgage comes due?

Nope. First, nobody should be selling anything until the spring. Rates will be lower, the U.S. election over, and pent-up buyer demand higher.

Second, mortgage renewals over the next few months are looking better, now that interest levels have fallen and the feds decided borrowers can shop around among lenders without having to pass a stress test to prove affordability. Best to go variable.

Third, recession’s unlikely. Yes, unemployment will swell more. The GTA condo market will be a swamp. People will still hate Galen Weston when they buy food. But the economy won’t collapse.

It’s the big borrowers we need to worry about.

Did you ever think seven-figure debt would be normal? This may not end well.

Garth Turner is a NOTL resident, journalist, author, wealth manager and former federal MP and minister.

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## LETTER OF THE WEEK

# Niagara-on-the-Lake needs a new, comprehensive heritage district plan

The following letter to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and members of NOTL council was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.

Having recently retired after 45 years of practicing law, specializing in land use planning and development, I have read with interest the various submissions to council and letters to the editor with respect to heritage matters in the Old Town.

It should be understood by everyone that any development application must be evaluated on the basis of the policies in force and effect at the time that the application is made.

This fundamental principle of fairness has been reiterated in many Ontario Municipal Board, Ontario Land Tribunal and court decisions.

If that were not the case, it would otherwise be unfair for an applicant, in response to the submission of an application, to have to meet new restrictive policies which could be enacted by a council in response to an application that is opposed by the surrounding residents.

Therefore, in order to better protect the Old Town, council should use the powers that it has under the Ontario Heritage Act to formulate and specify what the rules are with respect to heritage buildings and heritage cultural landscapes.

It is my understanding that some work in this regard has begun, but I think that council should prioritize this process.

Much of the "protection" previously provided by the Ontario Heritage Act, was



An aerial photo of Old Town. FILE/RENE BERTSCHI

in the form of bylaws designating individual buildings under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The problem is that many of these designating bylaws were passed a number of years ago, without the current legal requirements for designating bylaws to be specific as to the heritage attributes of the building or the landscape.

In a recent matter that I observed, those in opposition to an application relied upon a designating bylaw to protect not only the features of the building, but also the outdoor, landscape space on the property.

They attempted to rely upon a designating bylaw passed some years ago, which was very specific on the heritage attributes of the building, but was silent on any heritage attributes of the outdoor landscaped space.

Rather than just passing designating bylaws on a property by property basis under Part IV of the act, Part V of the act provides for a detailed process resulting in a comprehensive

heritage plan for an area, called a heritage conservation district plan.

From my experience in Toronto, a few years ago, city council prepared a list (based upon input from planning staff) of some 150 areas of the city that could be considered to be designated under Part V of the act.

To date, approximately 40 of those areas now have approved heritage conservation district plans in place.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, we do not need to prepare such a list. Rather, we need to focus on our priority heritage area, which is the Old Town.

As I understand it, the town does have a dated heritage conservation district plan, but it only covers part of the Old Town and it was adopted long before the current Part V rules were in place.

In a case involving heritage matters in Port Dalhousie, the residents opposed to a development application proposed for the Main Street, tried to use a heritage conservation dis-

trict plan adopted a number of years ago to oppose the development.

The Ontario Municipal Board held that because that plan was not enacted pursuant to the more recent procedures mandated under the act for Part V for studies, plans and public meetings, it could be given no weight in making its decision on the application.

So, in order to give the town and its residents the full protection of the Ontario Heritage Act, all efforts should be made to follow the process under the Ontario Heritage Act to adopt a new, comprehensive heritage conservation district plan for the Old Town.

In doing this, the town will not only have the strongest means available to protect the town's heritage buildings and cultural heritage landscapes, but it will also provide an applicant with the information needed to evaluate what heritage features must be taken into consideration before submitting a development application.

Patrick Devine  
NOTL

## The town's bylaw enforcement is flawed

Dear editor:

At the Sept. 24 council meeting, council members seemed to be undisturbed about the non-enforcement of town bylaws.

Why is the bylaw enforce-

ment department not enforcing its own bylaws?

Why are residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake having to sue the town for non-enforcement of its own bylaws?

The "supervisor of the

supervisor" of the bylaw department, the acting CAO, and the deputy lord mayor were all present as were members of council.

The "supervisor of the supervisor" was not asked

any questions about the non-enforcement of town bylaws by any of the aforementioned town officials.

Why not?

John Morley  
NOTL

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# Architectural legacy of the Hamiltons



Brian Marshall  
Columnist

The Hamilton family left an indelible stamp on Niagara and Upper Canada during the late 18th century and continued well into the 19th century.

Born in Scotland, the family's patriarch, Robert Hamilton, arrived in Montreal during 1779 and immediately commenced building a business centred on trading around the Great Lakes.

Leveraging relationships he had formed during the American Revolutionary War, his company controlled the movement of goods around Niagara Falls, was a principal supplier of the British army garrisons and established a network of retail supply points providing general merchandizing within the growing settlements of Upper Canada.

Further, he drew on the profits of his various enterprises to engage in land speculation.

By the time of his death in 1809, Robert Hamilton was one of the richest men in Upper Canada and considered to be the principal land speculator in the colony.

Unfortunately, Robert's sons lacked his incredible level of business acumen and his two eldest sons, Alexander and George, experienced much more modest levels of financial success and various failures.

However, they were extraordinarily well connected within the higher echelons of Upper Canada society — a fact which, on a number of occasions, saved them from financial ruin — and these ties were strengthened by terms served in the House of Assembly.

In 1816, on 257 acres he owned, George established

a town site that would eventually grow into the city of Hamilton.

After the failure of his business in 1821, which cost him most of his inheritance, Alexander focused his career attention on patronage appointments.

Aided by his brother-in-law, Samuel Peters Jarvis and Rev. (eventually Bishop) John Strachan — both highly influential individuals in government circles — he regularly applied for and gained appointments as a justice of the peace, postmaster and deputy collector of customs at Queenston, surrogate court judge, and sheriff of the Niagara District.

These positions were complemented by acting as chairman of the Erie and Ontario Railroad Company and commissioner of the Niagara River Suspension Bridge Company.

By 1833, Alexander had recouped sufficient wealth to commence construction of a mansion in Queenston, the Willowbank Estate, designed by the same architect his brother John had used.

Unlike his older brothers, the youngest of Robert's sons seems to have inherited his father's shrewd business sense.

When he finally received his share of his father's estate — a relative pittance when compared to that of his elder brothers — in 1824, he used the money to partner with his step-brother, Robert, in establishing the Queenston Steamboat Company.

While his brother left the business in the latter part of the 1820s, John continued on and regularly invested in new steamboat technology to provide him an edge in the financially hazardous and extremely competitive inland shipping sector of the day.

Rather than expanding his company-owned fleet of two or three ships, he chose to lease the others, an approach that allowed him to keep his overhead costs down and react more quickly than many of his competitors to sharp fluctuations in the economy.



Glencairn, the 192-year-old Queenston estate overlooking the Niagara River, is an irreplaceable part of Canadian history and heritage — and should be recognized as a national historic site, writes Brian Marshall.

Early in the 1830s, John's fortunes were such that he commissioned the American architect John Latshaw to design a mansion in the Greek Revival style and, by 1832, the grand home was completed.

Overlooking the Niagara River on a waterfront property near Queenston, the two-storey building rose atop a raised full-height basement and presented its principal facade to the river. And, what a facade it was.

The colonnade on the main level was comprised of six Doric columns supporting an elegantly simple entablature from which rose a second floor colonnade sporting six Ionic columns, carrying a classically clean entablature decorated only by a dentil band moulding set in the frieze with the roof's edge presenting as the cornice.

Four tall brick chimneys — each one anchoring a respective corner of the building's square footprint — punctuated and accentuated the building's massing while simultaneously lightening its grandeur.

Clad in white clapboard, the building's walls are pierced by ranked generously sized openings placed in a balanced relationship to the centred entries on the front and rear facades.

The home was a classic of the American Greek Revival style expression and meant to impress, specifically as viewed from the river whereupon John's competitors plied their trade every day.

Interestingly, John Hamilton only occupied the house for about a decade. Largely due to the reckless and cutthroat operations of his major competitors, he decided to temporarily withdraw from the Lake Ontario theatre and concentrate his attention on the St. Lawrence trade.

To that end, he moved both his business and residence to Kingston where he remained until his death in 1882.

But, rather than detailing the other accomplishments of John's life, let us return to the home and estate he built and fast-forward to the year 1900.

This year, it was acquired by the wealthy American industrialist John D. Larkin and his wife, Hannah, as their weekend retreat and a home base from which he expanded his holdings in Niagara-on-the-Lake — holdings which, at the peak, reached 1,900 acres of prime-producing agricultural land in proximity to what is now the Niagara River Parkway.

Circa 1905, a wing had been added to the south side of the original house. This addition, its exterior and dimensions carefully designed to be subservient to and sympathetic with the Greek Revival original, increased the living space by approximately 60 per cent.

Further, Larkin caused both a coach house and tea house to be constructed on the property while improving the landscaping.

In 1923, Larkin sold the property to his daughter and her husband and it continued to be used by his family until the 1950s.

Once more we are going to jump forward in time to the year 2003, when the property was purchased by Reginald and Jean Porter.

The house they acquired was sad, tired and the worse for wear.

Over the next decade and a half, the Porters scrupulously restored the exterior of the original house and Larkin's 1905 addition.

They addressed the original surviving interior elements restoring where possible, reproducing where necessary and renovating where such work did not impact the original character.

In recognition of their work, they received the 2019 Peter J. Stokes Award for Restoration from the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Earlier this year, Reginald Porter passed away. Last weekend, an estate sale was held at the property to sell all the contents.

And now, the future of this glorious piece of Canadian history and heritage is placed in question.

Having survived the highs and lows of nearly 200 years, what will happen to it next year?

It is a treasure of not only local and provincial but also national importance.

Its sister, Willowbank, built by Alexander Hamilton — whose impact on Canadian history was purely local — is a national historic site.

Should not Glencairn, built by John Hamilton — a man whose influence and impact positively affected the institutions (e.g. co-founder of Queen's University), businesses, political systems (served 51 years in the legislature and, after Confederation, in the senate) and the development of Canada's transportation network (both shipping and rail) — and designed by the same architect be accorded equal status?

I certainly believe that Glencairn is worthy of being recognized as a national historic site and moreover, all the protection the law can allow.

*Brian Marshall is a NOTL realtor, author and expert consultant on architectural design, restoration and heritage.*



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# Trump’s political debut – on Magna Carta’s anniversary



Keith McNenly  
Special to The Lake Report

When Donald John Trump descended his golden escalator on June 15, 2015 to announce his run for the presidency of the United States, I don’t remember anyone connecting that date with a prior historic event involving a much earlier famous John — King John of England.

Exactly 800 years earlier, on June 15, 1215, the tyrannical King John was compelled to accept the Magna Carta (Great Charter), thus placing himself and all future English monarchs under the rule of law, quelling rule by tyranny and grafting, by threat of criminal prosecution.

King John is regarded by historians as one of the most tyrannical English kings, reviled as a coward,

tyrant, grifter and usurper of the throne.

His reign is dramatized through the tales of fictional characters Robin Hood and his merry men of Sherwood Forest.

Actually, their theatrical depiction of King John’s character is flattering compared to historic reality.

I find it an eerie irony exactly 800 years to the day later, another future King John would emerge, and even more remarkable he would ultimately become the first president/king of the United States, due to a decision of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of the United States, dominated by a Republican majority, three of whom were appointed by Trump, granted Trump his request for legal immunity for alleged crimes committed in office as president.

The three Democratic justices opposed the majority Republican opinion. In their dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor penned that the Republican justices “invented an atextual, ahistorical, and unjustifiable immunity that puts the



MIDJOURNEY/  
RICHARD HARLEY

president above the law,” and “In every use of official power, the president is now a king above the law.”

The decision of the Republican justices abrogates in the U.S. the pre-eminent *raison d’être* promulgated by the English Magna Carta, “no man is above the law,” including a king, or centuries later in the U.S., a president.

The protections established in England by the Magna Carta influenced the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and many U.S. state constitutions.

Stated David Carpenter, professor of medieval history at King’s College London in the U.K., “Magna Carta was important for the founding fathers of the American Constitution, both the state constitutions and the federal ... they echo Magna Carta.”

Further and of significant consequence, if re-elected, he will be free to ignore laws every other American must adhere to.

By virtue of his office as president, he would be immune from prosecution. Granting a person legal immunity to perpetrate crimes is two-edged: it imposes on the rest of us the complete inability to avoid being victims of their crimes.

The curious convergence of consequential moments in history with the current era heightens the imagination.

Had Donald John Trump not descended on his golden escalator on June 15, 2015

and launched his presidential campaign, he would not have become president.

He would not have appointed the three republican justices of the Supreme Court, and just like all English kings since King John and the Magna Carta, American presidents would still be subject to the full consequence of law and a jury of their peers.

Having opposite outcomes, the Magna Carta reigned in the power of kings, while 800 years later, the Supreme Court enabled a president to reign as a king.

Canadians would be especially vulnerable to a Trump presidency according to former U.S. ambassador to Canada Bruce Herman (2014-2017).

In an interview on Sept. 9, he said:

“Donald Trump has already threatened NATO. He’s threatened Ukraine. He’s really threatened the multilateral approach that the U.S. has had since World War II ... and I have gone out on a limb here with the Canadians in saying this is your tsunami warning.

If Donald Trump’s elected, you’re going to be under great threat specifically.”

If democracy is defeated in the United States by election of an authoritarian as president, the free democratic world could re-enter a pre-Magna Carta era, a time of unprecedented presidential power not constrained by rule of law.

Unlike kings 800 years ago, the president of the United States has the most powerful military in the history of the planet, including a vast nuclear arsenal.

The U.S. is the only democratic nuclear superpower and if it falls to authoritarianism, all three world superpowers will be authoritarian.

In modern times, Robin Hood and his merry men would not find a Sherwood Forest or any other place so remote as to provide succour against a significant, modern military devoid the backstop of a democratic superpower.

*Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Keith McNenly was the chief administrator of the Town of Mono for 41 years.*

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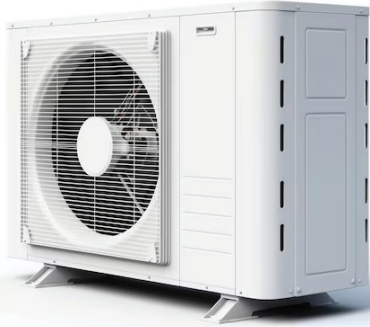
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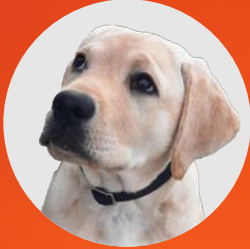


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# Rotary Club to host charity fashion show

Paige Seburn  
The Lake Report

An evening of fashion, food, and philanthropy awaits at the Royal Cambridge Ballroom in the Prince of Wales Hotel, where the community will come together for a special fashion show this fall.

This show, to be held Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m., aims to raise funds and awareness for Nanyas of Niagara, a group supporting grandmothers in need across sub-Saharan Africa.

The evening will blend culinary excellence with style, as models from Tango Boutique will weave between tables, showcasing the boutiques latest fashion trends, said Nancy Bailey, chair of events for the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Guests will be welcomed with a complimentary glass of sparkling wine, donated by Konzelmann Winery, a longtime supporter of community initiatives, then



The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake will host a fashion show on Oct. 15. In 2019 the group hosted a fall fashion show to help eradicate polio. FILE

indulge in a three-course dinner provided by the hotel.

Nanyas of Niagara is part of the Grandmothers-to-Grandmothers Campaign, which raises funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Since its inception, Bailey

said the campaign has helped grandmothers and their grandchildren affected by AIDS in 15 sub-Saharan African countries, raising over \$21 million for essential needs like food, housing and school fees.

Half of the proceeds will support Nanyas of Niagara, while the other half will contribute to Rotary International projects, said Bailey.

Tickets for the fashion show are priced at \$150, including a \$50 tax receipt.

The fundraiser is particularly significant for Bailey, a grandmother herself, who feels a deep personal connection to the mission.

"I have a two-year-old grandson, Felix. He's the little love of my life. It's a different love than you even have for your children," she said. "To have your grandchildren outlive your children would be terrible."

"Although we're at an age where raising children would not be the easiest thing to do — you would do

it, because of your heart full of love," said Bailey.

The evening will also include brief speeches from representatives of Nanyas of Niagara and the Rotary Club, who will share insights about the causes being supported.

Both men and women are welcome to join in the celebration, Bailey added.

She said she is optimistic about raising approximately \$5,000 to benefit those in need.

For those interested in further involvement, Bailey said the Rotary Club is always looking for volunteers for their various initiatives, including the upcoming Holiday House Tour on Dec. 6 and 7.

To purchase tickets for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club Fashion Show or to learn more, visit [niagaratix.evvnt.events](http://niagaratix.evvnt.events) and find "Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club Fashion Show" under Upcoming Events, or contact Bailey at [nancy.bailey@evrealestate.com](mailto:nancy.bailey@evrealestate.com).

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# Flag raised for Truth and Reconciliation

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

For the 11th anniversary of Orange Shirt Day, now known across Canada at the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, NOTLers and town staff took time to reflect on the past of their country and educate themselves more on Indigenous culture and history.

During a ceremony Friday afternoon, Sept. 27, town staff raised and lowered an orange flag outside of town hall to usher in remembrance and reflection for the holiday on Sept. 30.

The flag, which bears the Orange Shirt Day slogan "Every Child Matters," was at half-mast until Oct. 1.

The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is a day of remembrance in recognition of the impact caused by the Canadian Indian residential school system.

Also known as Orange Shirt Day, which was estab-



Niagara's Strong Water Singers perform before the flag raising on Friday. JULIA SACCO

lished in 2013, it became a statutory holiday for federal employees and workers in federally-regulated workplaces in 2021 — though, it is not a holiday for all workers in Ontario.

The ceremony also featured a performance from the Strong Water Singers, an award-winning collective of Indigenous drummers from Niagara.

MP Wayne Gates spoke following Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa to encourage staff

and residents to put effort into their education on Monday.

"We still have Six Nations people who have gone 18 years with a water advisory, they can't drink the water, we have children up north and young women being raped and murdered still in this country," Gates said.

"We fix it by coming together and becoming one to say, 'This is wrong in this country, this is wrong in this province,'" he said.

Gates spent Sept. 30 on a walk from Fort Erie to the Niagara Regional Native Centre where he chatted with people at the centre about Indigenous art and culture.

Zalepa, meanwhile, decided to take in some literature he's been reading over the past little while.

"I started reading John Norton's memoirs, so I'm going to try and finish it. I find them really eye-opening," he said.

The Mohawk chief stood shoulder-to-shoulder with pillars of the NOTL community like the Butlers, Zalepa said.

He became a military leader of Iroquois warriors in the War of 1812 against the United States.

Zalepa added that council is hard at work strengthening the town's relationship with the Niagara Regional Native Centre.

"We are working along with them on several exciting opportunities," Zalepa said.

Zalepa refused to say what those opportunities are.

Several reflective and educational experiences were available to NOTLers on Sept. 30 — and continue to be available for those who want to continue their learning and reflection beyond the annual holiday.

Niagara Parks encourages people to plan a visit to the Landscape of Nations Memorial within Queenston Heights Park.

The living memorial affirms the place of Indigenous peoples at the forefront of both Niagara and Canada's history, including those who took part in the War of 1812.

Over at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, “Landscape of Nations: Beyond the Mist” is a new anthology published by Niagara Parks and Plenty Canada available for purchase.

It explores Indigenous life along the Niagara River corridor, chronicling 13,000 years of Indigenous presence in Niagara, available for purchase — a group of 17 authors, who are leading scholars and Indigenous knowledge-keepers with expertise on Indigenous history and culture, contributed to the book.

For those looking for a comprehensive guide of resources to learn from and share with others, the NOTL Public Library has compiled a guide of educational materials, reports and calls to action, available [here](#).

***juliasacco@niagaranow.com***

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# Native Centre board members reinstated

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Four board members of the Niagara Regional Native Centre have been reinstated by an Ontario Superior Court Justice following their replacement last year.

In February 2023, Lacey Lewis, Wanda Griffin, Bobbi Jones Japp and Wendy Wilson were removed from the centre's board following allegations by former staff they had abused their powers.

During a raucous special members meeting on Feb. 8 last year, interim head of staff Dawn Moughtin described the dynamic between the staff and directors as an "abusive relationship."

"As soon as those doors close, they attack us. They threaten us with our jobs," she said.

The four members were accused of name-calling and threatening behaviour.

Members were replaced by respondents Roxanne Buck, Fallon Farinacci, Audrey Clark, Elaina Jones, Brian MacAulay and Doug Paget during the meeting.

Sean Vanderklis was



The Niagara Regional Native Centre. FILE

made director during this meeting and will remain in that position until the next meeting of the members, scheduled for December.

Vanderklis could not be reached for comment by deadline.

In a written statement, Justice Leanne Standryk, from the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, said the removal and replacement on Feb. 8, 2023 was invalid due to several "governance irregularities."

"The cumulative impact of the irregularities is of such a magnitude to strike at the electoral process of the (Native Centre) and dampen fundamental elements of good governance," Standryk said.

Memberships were reinstated with immediate effect and the four individuals are to be installed to their board positions in a meeting of the members, to be held

no later than Dec. 19.

Until then, the current board — elected at an annual general meeting on Oct. 12 last year — will remain in place.

Lewis, one of the reinstated members, said she is pleased with the outcome.

"The time that it took for the court process to happen is reflected within the ruling. It's done very diligently and I'm happy with how it is written and how it is explained," she told The Lake Report.

Part of good governance and fair process is being transparent and open, so the four members are happy with the outcome and how thoughtful Standryk was in her decision-making, Lewis said.

Their official reinstatement was liberating, Jones Japp said.

"Now that it's finalized and now that there is a ruling, I think it's a lot easier

to have process, to understand," she said.

With heightened emotions in the community, it's hard to balance personal life and commitments with a legal battle, Jones Japp said.

"As Indigenous people, we have to learn within ourselves how to react and how not to react," she said. "Those are all things that we have to learn how to do, based on intergenerational trauma."

Having process and policy to back her story was "validating and vindicating," she said.

Despite the positive feelings, Lewis added that the outcome of the situation is that nobody comes out as a "winner."

"It didn't give us any pleasure to do this, but we didn't want to have a rogue-style governance," she said.

Other orders issued with the cases' conclusion include having the centre use independent third parties to conduct a bylaw review and governance training for the board and create an onboarding orientation package for new directors, no later than June 30 next year

[juliasacco@niagaranow.com](mailto:juliasacco@niagaranow.com)

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## Progress at Parliament Oak

It appears work has begun at the former Parliament Oak school property. A blue fence has blocked off access to the property with "no trespassing" signs. The site will be the future location of a "luxury" hotel according to the developer. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



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# Queenston firefighters celebrate 75 years

Continued from Front Page

on Friday, Oct. 11 with the traditional fall spaghetti dinner from 5 to 7 p.m., bringing the community together for a night of food and fellowship at the fire station.

The dinner, open to the public and priced at \$14 for adults and \$6 for children, will offer takeout options as well. Proceeds go to support local organizations and charities.

The festivities continue on Saturday with an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring fire trucks, emergency vehicles, and presentations on fire prevention, alongside a barbecue lunch available for purchase.

On Sunday there's a trivia night, which has already sold out.

Back in the late 1940s, people in Queenston expressed to the governing municipality at the time the need for a fire service based in the village, including local fire trucks, to ensure firefighters could respond to emergencies faster and more effectively, Bottomley said.

He has been a member of the fire service for 25 years.

"I came just around the 50th anniversary," he said. "I've been able to recognize the 50th, 60th and now the 75th — and as a child of a firefighter, I was able to



In Queenston, the local volunteer firefighters association does more than put out fires - it works to support and connect with community in a number of ways, like with its annual fundraiser spaghetti dinner, held since 1996. SOMER SLOBODIAN-FILE

experience what it was like to see the 40th."

The Queenston Volunteer Firefighters Association has not only provided emergency services but has also become an integral part of the local community through various fundraising and charitable efforts, said Bottomley.

From supporting local youth programs and sports teams to contributing to capital campaigns for community facilities, the asso-

ciation works to gives back to Queenston and Niagara-on-the-Lake, contributing around \$5,000 annually.

"This anniversary is not just a marker of time — it's a testament to the courage, sacrifice, and camaraderie that have defined what it means to be a firefighter in Queenston," said NOTL fire chief Jay Plato in an emailed statement.

"Each training session and each response to an emergency tell a story of

selflessness and commitment to the community and each other. Great dedication ensures that when our neighbours are in need, we are here to help," he wrote.

It's also important, Plato said, to honour the firefighters who served the community before the current roster, including the founders of the volunteers association.

"Their legacy lives on, inspiring new generations to join the department."



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: IN YOUR ELEMENT

Most of what we call this elemental foil  
is actually made with aluminum.

Last issue:

Category: POP CULTURE

Clue: Carroll Spinney was the original puppeteer for both Oscar the Grouch and this feathered resident of "Sesame Street."

Answer: What is Big Bird?

Answered first by: Bill Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by:  
Jane Morris, Claudia Grimwood, Susan Hamilton, Margie Enns, Bob Wheatley, Jeff Lake, Lynda Collet, Becky Creager, Susan Dewar, Katie Reimer, Ron Reimer, Jim Dandy, Howard Jones, Esther VanGorder, Jesse Agnew, Mike Gander, Kathy Humphries, Nancy Rocca, Sue Rautenberg, Marjory Walker-Barone, Hedy Wiebe, Marla Percy, Catherine Clarke, Lynda Hosty, Patricia Fraser, Margaret Garaughty, Sheila Meloche, Elaine Landray


Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com), with your name, for a chance to win a \$25 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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- Across**
- 1. Tasks (4)
  - 3. Thin layer (4)
  - 6. Expiry (5)
  - 10. Repentant (9)
  - 11. Tooth top (5)
  - 12. Possible cause of skin cancer (7)
  - 13. Glitter (7)
  - 14. Excess of expenditure over income (4)
  - 16. Ignominious failure (6)
  - 18. Conditions that are possible but uncertain (3)
  - 21. Silent (3)
  - 22. Long narrow excavation (6)
  - 23. Version still being developed (4)
  - 25. Slackens (7)
  - 27. Animate (7)
  - 29. Serious wrongdoing (5)
  - 30. Icy pellet (9)
  - 31. Snake (5)
  - 32. Entertain in a public place (4)
  - 33. Lugs (4)
- Down**
- 1. Capital of Israel (9)
  - 2. Started (5)
  - 4. Childish (9)
  - 5. Thaws (5)
  - 6. E.g. Mussolini (8)
  - 7. Adjoining (9)
  - 8. Pivot (5)
  - 9. Fix a computer program (5)
  - 15. Use of metaphors (9)
  - 17. Organizations (9)
  - 19. Rust-resistant (9)
  - 20. And so forth (2,6)
  - 24. Sudden burst of light (5)
  - 25. Doctor's replacement (5)
  - 26. Indian form of address (5)
  - 28. Violin's bigger sister (5)

Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle

1		2			3	4		5		6		7		8
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Last issue's answers

1	E	B	I	L	I	S	F	S
9	R	A	I	N	S	T	O	R
10	U	E	C	B	P	R	L	E
11	P	E	R	H	A	P	S	
12	T							
13	A	R	R	I	V	E		
14	S							
15	S							
16	S							
17	A	E	O		R	O	P	E
18	U	P	S	E	T	P	E	
19	S	I						
20	S	A	G	A	S			
21	B	O	I	L	U	E	S	
22	T	E	S	T				
23	T							
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25	R	T	O					
26	A	M	A	L	G	A		
27	M							
28	O	N	A	D	A	T	E	
29	L	N	U	O	U	K	T	C
30	I	N	C	U	R	P	E	N
31	A	E	T	E	D	D	M	S

9	3							
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	1		2	8	6			
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# Before the Nobel Prize, let's discuss — Who's lord of the cell?



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Columnist

Who's lord of the cell?

For the latter half of the 20th century, the central dogma of biology was straight forward. DNA was the crown jewel of the cell and blue print for everything that was in the cell or so it was claimed.

Next, the sequence of bases in the DNA for selected protein encoding genes was transcribed (copied) into matching single-stranded molecules called messenger RNA (mRNA for short), which literally carried the "message" from the nucleus into the cytoplasm.

In the cytoplasm the message in the mRNA was then decoded in structures called ribosomes in a process aptly called translation, into a specific sequence of amino acids to form a specific protein.

Finally, the sequence of amino acids dictated the form and hence the function of the protein. It all sounds very simple, and in outline, it is.

Unravelling that sequence took a lot of work and recently garnered two Nobel Prizes — one in 2018 shared by Frances Arnold, George Smith and Gregory Winter and the other in 2022 by Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless.

Toward the end of the 20th century, it almost seemed as if the central challenges of biology had been solved.

Indeed, once the human genome and those of many animals had been mapped, much fruitful work followed matching specific genes with specific functions in cells and correlating mutant single genes with a growing list of hereditary diseases caused by mutant versions of genes malfunctioning or failing to function at all.

These findings lead to much optimism that many genetic diseases could be fixed by editing single pathological genes by knocking them out in part, or whole, or replacing them with normal versions of the mutant gene.

Here, the pioneering work of Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, provided a novel beguilingly simple technique for editing genes based on what bacteria had been doing for destroying invading viruses for billions of years.



But there was a huge central question left undressed.

Beginning with the first cell following fertilization, how do successive generations of cells differentiate into thousands of cell types, yet all those differentiated cells contain the same genes?

They haven't lost any genes or gained others. How then was differentiation possible?

Differentiated cells look so different from one another and serve very different purposes.

There had to be some process in cells that, for example, in the case of columnar epithelial cells lining the intestine, select those genes, which made those epithelial cells possible, while silencing other genes required to make different cells — say liver, brain or heart cells.

It's not that the latter genes have been lost because, as Nobel Prize winners John Gurdon and Shinya Yamanaka clearly showed, cells continue to hold onto all the genes be-

queathed to them from the original first cell, whatever their adult role might turn out to be.

Proof of that latent potential was that certain transcription factors added to mature well differentiated cells were capable of restoring function to all those genes silenced during the differentiation process, and even in some instances, creating a whole animal from what were a few mature, well-differentiated cells, such as fibroblasts from the adult skin.

In short, the process of differentiation can be reversed and even redirected under the right conditions to form specific tissues such as minibrains, skin, heart muscle and other tissues.

But how are genes silenced or activated?

In what is now a growing field in biology, it's become clear that genes can be silenced by tagging single genes or suites of related genes with methyl groups or transcription factors, some of which are proteins and others RNAs.

On the other hand, other proteins RNAs as well as histone proteins can activate genes — again single ones or whole suites of related genes.

This puts DNA in a different light — DNA behaves like a blueprint of sorts, but is subject to selective activa-

tion or silencing by other molecules.

What seemed like a clear hierarchical system with DNA at the top looks more like a cooperative, where it's hard to tell, at any one time, who's in charge of what.

The whole process of differentiation and development is so exquisitely choreographed and timed that at least at this time in biology it's obvious we're a long way from solving how the whole process works from step to step.

With some exceptions, progress in science is usually incremental and biology, especially biochemistry, is perhaps the most challenging of all the sciences, because there are so many moving parts and variables — certainly far more challenging than stars.

The upcoming annual review of this year's Nobel Prizes begins on Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

This will be the eighth year of this highly successful program. So, please register with Debbie Krause because space will be limited.

*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.*

# How can Ford's political advisors be so utterly out of touch?



**Ross's Ramblings**

Ross Robinson  
Columnist

Here in our wonderful country, how many more wild and ridiculous ideas will politicians announce before we citizens scream, "Enough!"

Or, let's all scream together, "Too much! You're fired!"

Not to sound jaded or cynical, but it is not the politicians that worry me. Can we agree they are just the mouthpieces?

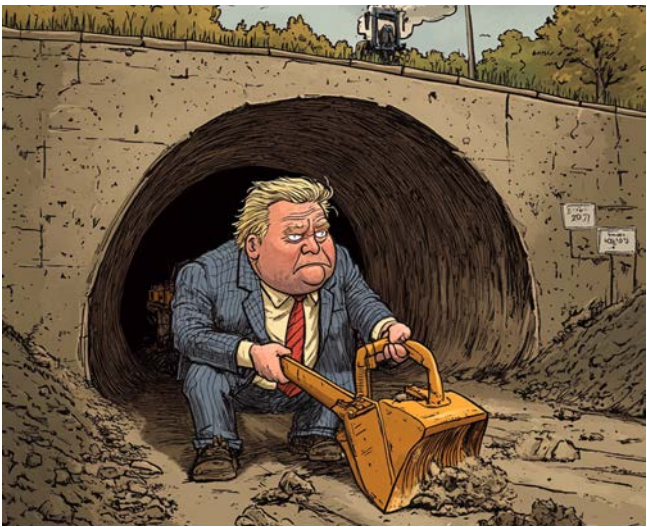
The reality is they take advice and wise counsel from their trusted advisors, theoretically the best and

the brightest minds in Canada. These highly educated and well-traveled and well-paid sharpies sit around the tables of power and develop strategies that will allow our political leaders to make prime time announcements sure to attract votes.

They have paid professional pollsters and have been part of focus groups and caucus meetings, all to determine what policies will tickle the fancies of voters across our great land. After all, it's not a matter of doing good or helping the people.

The first thought most politicians have the morning after being elected is, "What can I do now to win the next election?"

The grand daddy of all bizarre ideas has to be Premier Ford's big tunnel, stretching under the ever-widening Highway 401 from Mississauga past Scarborough. I started to read this story in the Toronto papers, but even my open mind couldn't get past the



third paragraph. It is almost impossible to believe that this concept was verbalized by our democratically elected provincial premier.

What worries me is not that Premier Ford threw this cockamamie idea out to the press and the people. I find it frightening that his most trusted and wise advisors would come up with such garbage. The costs, the traffic mayhem, the absolute guarantee of multi-billion dollar cost overruns.

Has the pride of Ford Nation in Etobicoke lost his marbles?

It wasn't too long ago that Toronto establishment sharpie John Tory was nearing the end of an election campaign against the political whiz kid from up the Niagara River in Fort Erie. This was a campaign that establishment darling Tory simply could not lose.

I sat having ginger tea at the venerable Stagecoach on Queen Street, when I read

the headline in the Toronto Star: "Tory announces full funding for all religious schools in Ontario."

Nobody was listening to me, but I incredulously blurted out, "He has just found a way to lose this election."

What were his clever and shrewd buddies in Toronto thinking? He was just acting as the mouthpiece. The best and brightest Tories in Ontario had thought this strategy through — and this Toronto establishment darling had just cut his own throat. He lost. Big.

Now don't think we have a corner on bad political advice scene up here in Canada.

It was only back in 2008 at the Republican National Convention that Sarah Palin was announced as the candidate for vice-president by then presumptive presidential candidate John McCain. Up here in Canada, in lovely Niagara-on-the-Lake, I was aghast and unable to speak.

My telephone rang a moment later and the call display indicated my fraternity brother Bob Potter was calling from State College, Pennsylvania. His unequivocal words were, "That's it. He's lost it."

Potter was right. The best and the brightest Republican Party advisors and strategists in the United States were wrong.

Once again, I was flummoxed. How can such smart and dedicated and shrewd political operatives blow it so badly? Are they too close to people reinforcing their faulty thinking?

How can they be so wrong and divorced from reality?

My rambling conclusion, as I hurry to meet my weekly deadline, is that our political best and brightest are really not that bright. Are they the best we have in Niagara, Ontario and Canada.

I worry for my children and grandchildren.



EXPLORING HISTORY  
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



House where Brock died,  
17 Queenston St.

In a request for compensation from the British government following the War of 1812, this Queenston Road home was identified as the place where Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock’s body was concealed after he fell at the Battle of Queenston Heights. The home, occupied by Peter McCabe at the time, was also the temporary hospital of Dr. Muirhead during the war. Brock’s body was later taken back to the Town of Niagara where he lay in state at the Government House on Queen Street. On Oct. 16, 1812, Brock was honoured with a prominent funeral procession and was buried in one of the bastions at Fort George. The Americans at Fort Niagara fired a cannon salute and blank charges to honour Brock and his aide-de-camp, John Macdonell. The anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights on Oct. 13.

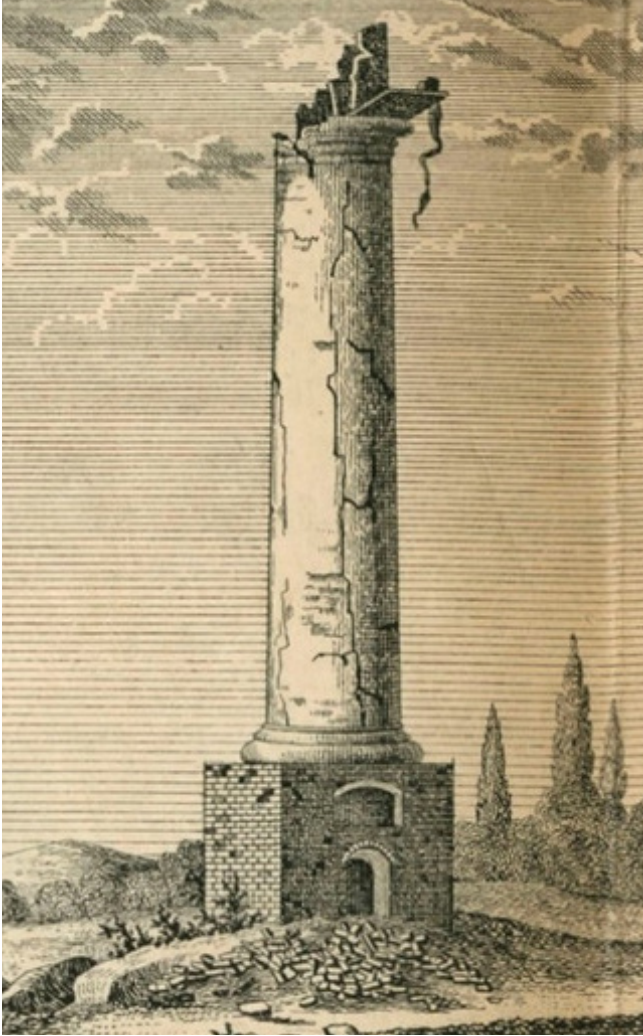
The Brock Chronicles:  
The destruction of Brock’s first monument

One of those most revered names from the War of 1812 is that of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock. Referred to as the “Saviour of Upper Canada,” Brock has roads, churches, universities and towns named after him — but why? Through this chronicle, we are going to delve into who Brock was and why he was so beloved in both life and death.

Amanda Gamble  
Special to The Lake Report

Following the Battle of Queenston Heights, the Upper Canadian Legislature passed a bill to erect a Monument to Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock. Over the following decade, the government solicited donations from the public, and held a competition for the design, which was awarded to Francis Hall for his Tuscan-style commemorative monument. In August 1824, a local newspaper noted an accident had occurred at Brock’s Monument, when a Scottish stonemason named Donald Keith was hoisted to the top of the monument by a pulley “for motives of curiosity.” About four feet from the top, the pulley broke, and

Keith fell to his death, and two others were wounded. This was the only accident associated with the construction of Brock’s Monument. On Oct. 13, 1824, Brock and Macdonell’s bodies were removed from their first burial, in the bastion at Fort George and a military procession carried the bodies from Fort George to Queenston Heights. Over 8,000 people came to witness the second funeral procession, including the brothers of John Macdonell and John Brant. In 1827, the monument was completed and opened to the public and became a popular picnic spot for visitors coming on steamships, locals, and veterans. Over the next 13 years, the monument was open and one could visit the whisky bar, climb the steps to the top and step outside for a panoramic view of the area. However, on April 17, 1840 (Good Friday), residents of Niagara were woken by a loud explosion, and smoke coming from the heights. A man named Benjamin Lett, an Irish sympathizer, had placed a bomb at the base of the steps of the monument, destroying the



Brock’s Monument only enjoyed 13 years of peace after its opening in 1827, before it was the target of a deliberate explosion, which caused serious damage and public outcry. BROCK UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

wooden stairs inside, and causing serious damage to the column. There was great public outcry over the news of the

destruction of Brock’s Monument, and on July 30, 1840, a large outdoor meeting was held at Queenston Heights to discuss what to do.

There was so much interest in the meeting that July 30 was declared a national holiday in Toronto and Niagara. It was estimated that over 8,000 people attended the meeting, including the lieutenant-governor, with some camping for several days on the heights. John Beverly Robinson, a veteran who fought at the Battle of Queenston Heights, and the chief justice of Upper Canada, spoke at the event, and noted the following: “Among the many who are assembled here from all parts of this Province, I know there are some who saw as I did, with grief, the body of the lamented general borne from the field on which he fell ... They can never, I am sure, forget the countenances of that gallant regiment which he had long commanded, when they saw deposited in the earth, the lamented officer, who had been for many years their pride. If it were intended by those who committed this shameful outrage, that the injury should be irreparable, the scene which is now before us, on these interesting heights, shows that they little understood the feelings

of veneration for the memory of Brock, which still dwells in the hearts of the people of Upper Canada.” Francis Hall, the architect of the original monument was at the meeting, and after assessing the damage, noted that the monument could be fixed. But those in attendance felt that just fixing the monument didn’t pay proper tribute to Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock, and so it was determined that a bigger and better monument to Brock should be erected on the heights. Thus, plans for a second monument began. A committee was set-up to oversee the construction of the second monument. Over the next 13 years, money was raised through public donations. Of particular note was the money donated by Indigenous allies, who contributed more per person than any other segment of the population of Upper Canada. Amanda Gamble is the executive director of the Friends of Fort George, a non-profit, charitable organization that supports Parks Canada for the protection, preservation and interpretation of Niagara’s national historic sites.



# Youth group returns to St. Davids church

Steve Hardaker  
Community Correspondent

After a summer break, the Safe Haven Youth Group will return to St. Davids-Queenston United Church this Friday, Oct. 4.

Established in early 2023, the youth group welcomes youth between the ages of 12 and 17 to participate in activities on the first and third Friday of the month.

The church provides a safe, warm and welcoming space for youth to come play and hang out — a safe haven.

When Rev. YongSeok Baek became the new Minister at St. Davids-Queenston in the late summer of 2021, a priority he had was to start a youth group at the church where teens could hang out.

He, along with a core group of volunteers, have been organizing bimonthly activities since the launch last year.

The meetings are very informal. Set up in the church's Christian Education Hall at 1453 York Rd. in St. Davids, there are musical instruments, tablet



Youth enjoy a rousing game of Bingo during a Safe Haven gathering. REV. YONGSEOK BAEK

computers, board and video games, boxing equipment, a ping-pong table, an air hockey game and a foosball table.

There is also a quiet area where the kids can just sit and talk or do homework in comfortable furniture.

In a written statement concerning the start of this year's program, Baek explained: "We would like to provide more outdoor activities this new season as we received a grant from the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

"I hope Safe Haven is the place where any youth feels free to join and be accepted which is a core message of Jesus' ministry. All are welcome, come and see!"

Occasionally, the group will meet in the community for bowling or to go to a movie.

Snacks are provided by members of the church and a core group of volunteers assist Baek during the youth group meetings.

Friday's youth group will be from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Following this Fri-

day's youth group, the next meeting will be on Oct. 18, then the first and third Friday of each month until next May.

The Safe Haven youth group is to provide a place and program for youths from St. Davids, the rest of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

*Steve Hardaker has lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake for over 14 years and is active in St. Davids-Queenston United Church and in several other community organizations.*



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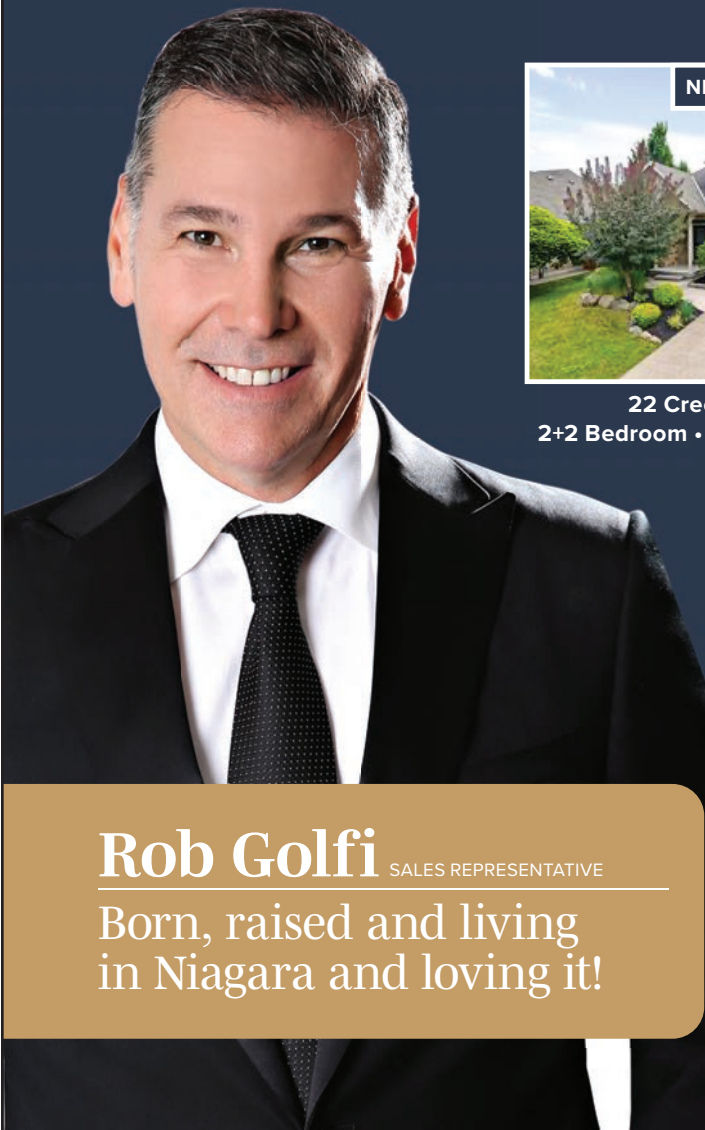
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# Time to **divide** your perennials



Joanne Young  
Columnist

Fall is a great time to be dividing some of your clumps of perennials in the garden, especially during the month of October.

Rooting best takes place when the soil temperature is greater than the outdoor air temperatures.

Because of the summer sun warming up the soil all summer, it is still warm enough for root growth to happen.

How do you know, though, which ones can be divided to this time? Which ones should be divided? And what is the best way to divide them?

Here are some tips to help you out.

One of the reasons for dividing perennials is to rejuvenate older plants. As some perennials age, you may see the clumps will have started to die out in the middle with only new growth appearing on the outer edges of the clump.

Or, you may have noticed the plant may not be blooming as heavily as it used to and the leaves may appear stunted.

These are all signs the plant is losing its vigor and needs to be dug up and divided in order to thrive again.

Unfortunately, there is no set formula as different types of plants require dividing at different times.

For some, they may need it every three to four years and for others, it may be longer.



Dividing your perennials is an easy and inexpensive way to increase the number of plants in your garden, says gardening expert Joanne Young.

The key is to examine them early spring to see if they are thinning in the middle.

If you have ever grown black-eyed Susans before, you know some perennials will just spread wildly year after year and you need to control the size of the plant before it takes over the entire garden.

Some perennials grow much more aggressively than others. By dividing the clump into smaller sizes, you can keep the plant size under control.

The third reason to divide your perennials is to propagate more plants.

Dividing perennials is an easy and inexpensive way to increase the number of plants in your garden especially new areas. It is also a great way to share plants with friends, family or neighbours.

Now that we know why we need to divide perennials, the next question is: when is the proper time to divide?

The general rule of thumb of when to divide is:

Divide spring and summer flowering perennials in late summer or fall, e.g. irises, salvia;

Divide late summer and

fall blooming perennials in early spring, e.g. sedums, coneflowers and mums.

Here are the steps to follow when dividing your perennials:

If you can plan to divide your perennials on an overcast day with showers in the forecast, it will greatly help the plant recover from the roots being damaged. It would also be helpful to thoroughly water the plants a day prior to dividing.

When dividing in the spring, wait until new shoots are about one inch tall.

Using a spade or garden fork, dig into the soil about six to 12 inches beyond where the shoots emerge.

Dig all around the clump then pry up on root ball. Dig up the entire clump entirely before dividing and sit it on top of the ground or on a tarp.

When you just stick the shovel in the ground and pull up on a portion of the root ball without seeing the entire thing, you have no way of knowing how much root you will get and could be wasting parts of the plant.

Using a sharp spade or knife, gently cut through the roots, dividing clump into

as many pieces as desired. Each division should have at least three to five vigorous shoots and a healthy supply of roots.

If the centre of the plant has died out, divide the living, outer portions into smaller clumps and throw out the dead, centre portion.

To help get the new clump of to a good start, enrich the soil in the new planting areas with compost, composted manure or triple mix before planting the new divisions.

Fertilize new plantings by scattering a handful of bone meal in the bottom of the planting hole. Bone meal is high in phosphorus, which will help stimulate root growth.

Fill in around the plant roots with triple mix or compost. Make sure that the plant is in the soil at the same depth it was previously, then water well.

Keep your garden flourishing by dividing your perennials when needed. Remember, it is only in gardening that you can multiply by dividing.

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

## Obituaries

### Joan Draper



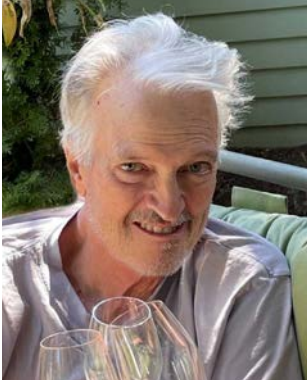
DRAPER, Joan — Died the morning of Sept. 14 at Niagara Long Term Care Residence in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She is survived by cousins in the Toronto area and many friends in Niagara-on-the-Lake and in England. Joan was grateful to Murray Weaver for his support and aid. For many months Joan resided at Niagara Long Term Care

where she was lovingly cared for by her long time friend Heidi Barrett and by the attentive staff.

Joan was born and raised in North Toronto where she attended school. As an only child she quickly learned the necessity of entertaining herself and thus began her deep interest in reading and books. As an adolescent she discovered Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group. For the rest of her life she was passionate about their writing and art, but perhaps more importantly about the effect they had on the twentieth century literary world. She travelled frequently to London and to Sussex in England to attend lectures and conferences where she made many friends and enriched her knowledge of the group. To share what she had discovered with a larger group Joan conducted series of lectures and discussions here in Niagara-on-the-Lake and became something of an authority on the Bloomsbury Group. For many years she operated a book shop that bought and sold antique and rare volumes. She assembled an impressive collection of first editions and art created by the Group which will become part of the permanent collection of McMaster University.

Joan leaves many friends both in Niagara and in England to mourn her death. A service of committal of Joan's cremated remains will take place in St. Mark's Memorial Garden on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 11 a.m. A reception at St. Mark's Addison Hall will follow where friends may meet to celebrate Joan's life and her achievements.

### John MacBeth



MACBETH, John Stevens — Passed away peacefully after a short courageous battle with cancer at St. Catharines General Hospital on Saturday September 28, 2024 in his 78th year. Beloved husband of Roxanne of over 15 years. Father of Chloe Py-MacBeth and Maya MacBeth. Caring grandfather of Elyse

Drennan. Loving brother of Wendy MacBeth and the late Nancy MacBeth. Fondly remembered by many friends in Toronto and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

After a long career as an investment advisor in Toronto, John and Roxanne retired to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2010 where he became a member of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124, and Niagara Masonic Lodge No.2. He was also an active member of Albany Club in Toronto, Penn Club in New York, Columbia University Alumni Association and numerous stamps collectors clubs.

A funeral service to celebrate John's life will take place at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday October 12, 2024 at 11 a.m. Cremation will follow with a private family interment at Parkdale Cemetery in Toronto at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to St. Mark's Church Music Fund. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)



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