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The Lake Report



Tour the tulips | Page 6

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Canada's most-awarded community newspaper

May 1, 2025

Town to close temporary patios at end of 2025

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After a lengthy discussion Tuesday night, Niagara-on-the-Lake council's decision to end the temporary patio program at the end of this year remains solid.

Council unanimously voted to end the program back in March, but the issue was brought up during the April 29 council meeting by Coun. Wendy Cheropita for reconsideration.

During the vote, only Cheropita and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa voted against ending the program.

Cheropita emphasized that she wants to keep the patio program in place simply because council does not have a plan for the existing temporary patios on Queen Street once it ends.

"For me, it's not about temporary or COVID, it's something that all municipalities have turned into a permanent program," she said.

"When we don't have a plan, we might want to consider continuing something

Continued on Page 2

Baldinelli holds riding

Priorities are affordability, fighting wine tax and industrial carbon tax



Tony Baldinelli smiles on election night after being re-elected as Member of Parliament for NOTL and Niagara Falls. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Julia Sacco | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Tony Baldinelli will serve as Member of Parliament for Niagara-on-the-Lake's riding once again.

Taking a lead of just over 2,500 Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser, Baldinelli was named

winner of the Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake riding late Monday night, marking his third consecutive electoral victory.

Speaking with reporters Monday evening at his election party at Delphi Banquet

Hall in Niagara Falls, Baldinelli outlined several concerns, including the need to address the industrial carbon tax on the steel and aluminum industries to protect jobs, to revise the excise tax on duty-free products, and

to eliminate the 2035 electric vehicle mandate.

"I worked (at General Motors) facility in St. Catharines for four summers — it put me through

Continued on Page 3

Council approves rules for municipal accommodations tax spending

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's council has approved new criteria for how revenues from the municipal accom-

modation tax will be spent, with all funding in 2025 and 2026 restricted to town-led tourism infrastructure projects.

The decision, made Tuesday night, follows a staff report with recommenda-

tions from the town's municipal accommodation tax committee, which proposed dividing the revenues into three funding streams.

Under the approved plan, funds will be allocated as follows: 20 per cent for

town infrastructure projects, 20 per cent for a new grant stream for public and town-led projects under \$100,000, and 60 per cent for a grant stream for larger projects over \$100,000.

But grants won't be avail-

able until 2027. Until then, only town infrastructure projects will be eligible.

Staff will report back by July 31 with proposed projects and again by Dec. 31 with what's needed to implement them.

"This allows the (tax) revenues to be used for projects that are important to the town, without being a burden on the local tax base," said Lord Mayor

Continued on Page 3



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Mixed feelings about patios from business owners

Continued from Front Page

that allows patios to exist.”

Gina Angelakopoulos, co-owner of the Epicurean restaurant, pleaded with council to end the program, citing her concerns about compliance, enforcement and public trust.

“The program was implemented during an emergency that is now over. Now, several businesses continue to benefit from public land at no additional cost,” Angelakopoulos said.

“What we’re witnessing isn’t just inequality, it’s favouritism.”

Zalepa interjected, saying comments like hers were unfair and asked Angelakopoulos to continue without such claims.

“This program was supposed to be temporary. It’s time to end it before the damage to public trust becomes permanent,” Angelakopoulos said.

Several other business owners made presentations during the meeting, urging councillors to vote in favour of keeping the program in place.

Kim and Scott Gauld, owners of Sunset Grill, said



Gina Angelakopoulos, owner of the Epicurean restaurant on Queen Street, pleads with council to end the temporary patio program. JULIA SACCO

the vast majority of residents are in favour of the program and outdoor patios.

“Patios add a vibrancy and life to our community,” Scott Gauld said.

Gauld said he is more than willing to pay a fair fee for the use of parking spaces for the patio.

Sheila Wilcox from Bistro Six One said there is no issue of overseating with the temporary patios.

“Our numbers are stagnant; they do not change,” she said.

Wilcox also doesn’t believe the program to be costing the town, she said.

“The patio program has been accused of taking

parking spaces and offsetting the income from the parking spaces to the patio allotment.”

“I do not fully believe that it is costing the town money to have those.”

Adam Brooker, general manager of the Irish Harp, said the European ambience of the patios adds to the town’s charm.

“Temporary patios offer inclusive space for a range of community members. Offering a safe and welcoming environment to individuals with health concerns and creates more (options) for people with pets,” he said.

Coun. Andrew Niven agreed with Cheropita’s claims, saying the town needs a plan for the continuation of the existing temporary patios.

“That’s what I thought we were discussing tonight,” he said.

Niven said Queen Street is the heart of NOTL’s tourism area and a cohesive plan should be enacted.

“My only concern about this is the timing aspect,” he said.

Niven urged staff to move a new plan forward as soon as possible.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor suggested looking at a more widespread solution.

“We should be looking at the seasonal patio program in a more holistic way. In the context of all the Queen Street area,” she said.

“I’ve wanted to have a more thorough review.”

Zalepa said he sensed there is a consensus around wanting to find a fair solution.

Coun. Maria Mavridis made a speech at the beginning of the meeting, stating that she would be voting on the patio program.

“My integrity was recently called into question by a fellow Queen Street business owner regarding my involvement in the temporary patio program. Two separate commissioners have reviewed the matter and independently concluded that I do not have a conflict of interest,” she said.

“Despite these findings, the matter is now being challenged in Superior Court.”

Mavridis voted in favour of concluding the program in December.

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Runner-up Kaiser happy to see Liberals re-elected

Continued from Front Page

university," he said.

"My job now is to ensure that we can keep that facility going," he said.

"What (the Liberals) have tried to do is stoke fear in the community about what's going on in the United States instead of responding to the issues that matter most to the people here," Baldinelli said.

Throughout the campaign, Baldinelli pushed a platform focused on affordability, public safety, and economic development, he said.

Being able to represent the people of NOTL and Niagara Falls is a "tremendous honour," Baldinelli said.

"I can be that voice and that advocate to bring forward their concerns to Ottawa," he said.

In an interview with The Lake Report during election night, Baldinelli said he gained unwavering support from voters by forming strong bonds with residents in his riding — and he plans to continue building these relationships.

"I tell constituents, 'I'm just like you,'" he said.

"I'm blessed that I'm able to represent the people of this riding."

The Lake Report spoke with some of Baldinelli's



Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser was in good spirits after losing the riding to incumbent Conservative opponent Tony Baldinelli. She was happy to see Prime Minister Mark Carney win a federal victory and will return to her role as regional councillor. PAIGE SEBURN

supporters during election night. They emphasized his personability and work ethic.

"Tony is the most hard-working person I know. He's our incumbent. He's the person for the job," Sheila DeLuca said.

Alana Hurov, founder of Jewish Niagara, cited his support of communities like her own.

"Tony is a great example of just how the Conservative Party gets behind the Jewish community and minority groups. That's a big reason why I'm here,

supporting the campaign and the Conservative party," Hurov said.

Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser told The Lake Report that while she may not be walking away with a win in her riding, she's still celebrating a federal victory with Mark Carney and the Liberal party's federal win.

"I am absolutely ecstatic," she said.

Kaiser looks forward to returning to her role of regional councillor, she said.

The Lake Report reached out to Baldinelli for updated comment regarding his

plans for the riding this term, but he was not available to talk before publication deadline.

Baldinelli won the Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake riding with 29,774 votes, followed by Liberal Andrea Kaiser at 27,194 votes, NDP Shannon Mitchel with 2,335 votes, Celia Taylor with the Green Party at 518 votes, PPC candidate Dinah Althorpe with 481 votes, Daniel Shakhmundes with the Libertarian Party at 160 votes and Yawar Anwar with the Centrist Party at 128 votes.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Accommodation tax will fund grants, infrastructure

Continued from Front Page

Gary Zalepa, in an interview with The Lake Report. "That's what the accommodation tax was put in for the first place."

The town will focus on things the committee flagged as immediate priorities — like more public washrooms, better parking, traffic management and improved signage, said Zalepa.

Before tax revenues became available, such projects were funded through NOTL taxpayers.

"Now, with this new revenue from visitors, the town can fund these projects without relying on local tax dollars," he said.

Not all councillors supported the entirety of the motion, which was moved by Coun. Sandra O'Connor.

Couns. Wendy Cheropita and Gary Burroughs opposed one item of the report, which asked council to both approve the recommendations and direct staff to prepare implementation policies by the end of the year.

Burroughs said he supported the rest of the recom-



mendations but disagreed with the structure of the funding streams.

Cheropita said she believes the 20 per cent earmarked for infrastructure should instead be 80 per cent, with the remainder going to discretionary grants.

"When I look at the allocation of funds, it almost strikes me," said Cheropita, who is also on the tourism strategy committee.

O'Connor, who chaired the municipal accommodation tax committee, instead called the proposed split a "good balance of needs for the community."

This item was voted on separately from the rest of the motion, but was carried.

Coun. Maria Mavridis asked whether the \$500,000 committed by the previous council from the accommodation tax in 2023 was the reason for the

temporary prioritization of town projects.

But town treasurer and director of corporate services, Kyle Freeborn, said that was not the deciding factor.

"We really just need time to explore and consider a grant stream," he said.

"We need to think hard about what's possible in terms of who would own and operate those assets, and in the future, how do we guarantee that they're publicly accessible for the foreseeable future."

Zalepa, in an interview, said once 2025 and 2026 projects are prioritized and underway, the town will look at opening up applications to the municipal accommodation tax funds for broader uses. Public communication on how to apply for grants will begin in 2027, Zvaniga said at the meeting.

O'Connor took time at the meeting to recognize the tax committee's work, "because they did so much work towards this," she said, adding that it was not an easy task.

The committee members include John Foreman, Paul MacIntyre, Normand Arseneault, Brian Trnkus, Coun. Tim Balasiuk and Coun. Andrew Niven, who served on the committee until his election to council last October.

Zalepa agreed, in an interview, that the committee, which will now be phased out since the criteria are complete, worked hard and well.

"The mandate of the committee has been met, so there's no further need for the committee," he said, adding that council could create another committee to respond to suggestions that come forward after 2026, if need be.

Zalepa said the criteria for allocating the tax funds will now be integrated into the town's budget process and will help future councils manage the pressures of tourism.

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Region seeks feedback on **two options** for St. Davids roundabout

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara Region has narrowed the future of St. Davids’ business intersection down to two possible designs — and, from May 5 to 16, it’s asking Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to weigh in on which design they prefer.

The proposed St. Davids roundabout, to be located at York and Four Mile Creek roads, is expected to be completed by winter 2027. The region is asking people to vote on which design they want for the intersection, both online and in person.

The first option highlights the history of St. Davids, depicting the Four Mile Creek and the traditional Indigenous trail, incorporating native flowers, colours and a compass as a focal point.

Alternatively, the second option focuses on the village’s agricultural significance, featuring a vertical structure with a vineyard theme and trailing grapevines on a trellis.

“The roundabout gives a significant and unique streetscaping opportunity,”

Option A - Historical/Traditional



NOTL residents have two options for the St. Davids roundabout: historical or contemporary. SOURCED/NIAGARA REGION

states the region’s project webpage. “The landscaping and height elements in the central island would add a focal point for St. Davids.”

The Niagara Region will provide a link for online voting on the project webpage, niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-81-and-100-reconstruction, when voting opens May 5. Each household can vote once.

The region hosted a workshop last fall with 80 participants, from which four design ideas emerged. Region staff reviewed these and developed two final options for residents to vote on.

Residents were encour-

aged to familiarize themselves with the designs in an April 24 public notice from the region.

“And vote for the features you feel represent the ideals and spirit of St. Davids,” the notice states.

Alongside the voting process, starting April 30, all properties and residents in NOTL will receive a newsletter with artist drawings of the designs to help them decide before voting begins. Larger images and more details are also available on the project webpage.

The single-lane roundabout will be designed to accommodate standard, tractor-trailer size vehicles, with a six-metre-wide

Option B - Agricultural/Contemporary



circulatory road and a three-metre-wide mountable truck apron.

The goal is to allow large trucks and farm equipment to navigate the roundabout, while slowing down smaller cars for safety.

The project will replace three large drainage courses under York Road and will include a stormwater management plan that uses low-impact development facilities within the roundabout and at the northeast corner.

It will also feature splitter islands, with curbs, to slow down traffic, provide safe spaces for pedestrians and prevent drivers from going the wrong way. Pedestrian

crossovers will be installed at each leg, where motorists will yield to pedestrians.

An archeological investigation will take place from spring to fall this year. After utilities are moved to the site in 2026, a tender will be issued in spring 2027, pending budget approval, with construction beginning that summer and finishing by winter 2027.

The intersection will remain open during construction, but traffic may be reduced to one lane with traffic-control personnel directing cars at times.

Residents will still be able to access homes and businesses throughout the project.

Building will first take place around the outside of the current intersection. Traffic will keep using the old intersection at first, then shift to the new outer sections once they are ready.

After that, construction will move to the center islands and splitter islands of the roundabout.

The region will post voting results on the project webpage when voting ends May 16.

Town staff will then present the preferred option and its costs to council, which is in charge of approving all landscaping and streetscaping upgrades to the roundabout, for its consideration. The region is only responsible for the road construction part, the notice states.

Voting can be done on the following days and at these locations:

St. Davids Fire Hall:
May 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, or 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NOTL Public Library:
May 7 and 14 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and May 8 and 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., then 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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Paige Seburn
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The committee is a



"That's the first committee I started on," said Lord

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Pick your own tulips at new farm

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is getting a Dutch makeover as TASC Tulip Pick Farm prepares to open doors at its first permanent location. Started five years ago by Frank Boendermaker, TASC's pick farm originated in Fenwick, Ont., and is finally calling NOTL its permanent home. "It really fits well here — with the wine, the tulips, the downtown area, all the beautiful hotels and restaurants. We're thrilled to be here," Boendermaker's wife Jill McCourt told The Lake Report. With an official opening date of April 30, the start of tulip season in Ontario, TASC's new farm, located on Line 3 Road, features 135

different varieties of tulip. "Most people don't realize when they go to a tulip pick farm, they just think of the same ones they see in the grocery store — but we'll have so many more," McCourt said. TASC wasn't always such a large-scale operation. Before planting roots in NOTL for its fifth year, the flower bulb importing company had smaller farms in Fenwick and Ridgeville for prior tulip seasons. Boendermaker immigrated to the U.S. from the Netherlands when he was 19, bringing his knowledge of tulip-growing with him. In 2020, he and his wife began business in Canada with a five-acre farm as a way of getting people outside during the COVID-19 pandemic. "We found how important

it was for people to connect with nature during that time and how much people enjoyed it," McCourt said. With the farm's new permanent location, they will be able to run several events for the community — including a second grow season in August. The late summer season will feature sunflowers, gladiolas, dahlias and more. "We want to show people that there's a lot of other bulbs that they can put in their own gardens to have a burst of colour," McCourt said. Throughout the upcoming season, the farm plans to host several other special events, including paint nights, jazz evenings and wine tastings with NOTL wineries, McCourt said. Since moving to NOTL, the farm has partnered with

companies and people in town, including Juliet Dunn and the TD Niagara Jazz Festival, for Sip, Savour and Sax nights on Wednesdays. TASC is also supporting NOTL businesses with food trucks on site, with vendors including Cheese Secrets, Sweets & Swirls and more. "We also have someone doing some Dutch food," McCourt said. McCourt is excited to welcome a new crowd of people to the farm. "Niagara-on-the-Lake welcomed us with open arms. It's been phenomenal to work with (the town)," she said. TASC's NOTL tulip farm is located at 1173 Line 3 Rd. Tickets for the pick farm are available online at tascllc.com. Parking is free and the farm is accessible by bus. juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Artist captivates with pastels at Queenston Pottery

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake artist Kathy Cullis brought her luminous pastel landscapes to life at Queenston Pottery's "Meet the Artist" event last Saturday, attracting visitors with scenes inspired by the NOTL countryside. Cullis, a pastel artist for over 25 years, showcased vibrant Niagara scenes in her work for the art show, like the parkway and Queenston's tree-lined streets. "I love being out in nature, and it speaks to me," she said.



NOTL artist Kathy Cullis specializes in soft pastels and loves warm autumn colours. ANDREW HAWLITZKY

Her husband, Rick Cullis, who was absent from the event due to illness, specializes in portraiture and landscapes. The couple moved to Niagara 11 years ago after retiring in Burlington.

"I took a workshop in Burlington over 25 years ago and fell in love with pastels. It's like playing," Cullis said. The Cullises will open their home studios June 15 and 16 for NOTL's annual studio tour. "I have a studio behind the garage that's my own, and he paints in a studio in the basement," Cullis said. Queenston Pottery Studio plans to showcase artists from the community in similar events every six weeks, plus a behind-the-scenes studio tour on May 25. andrew@niagaranow.com

Residents association plans open house for May 14

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After more than six months of collaboration and dialogue among community groups, ratepayer associations and concerned citizens, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Residents Association is ready to assert itself as a voice for the people of NOTL.

In a media release on April 17, the association announced its first-ever open house, slotted for May 14 at the community centre. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the meeting will focus on achieving respectful dialogue, informed engagement with local government, and a commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability. “The three major tenets

of this group are to respectfully listen and provide informed input to council and staff; promote integrity, transparency and accountability from council and staff; and to build capacity towards political leadership,” the release said. The release noted participants recognize a need for an “Our Town” approach in Niagara-on-the-Lake and encourages all those inter-

ested to participate. “The outcome of the meeting is to increase engagement towards our shared goal for ‘Our Town,’” the release said. To join group discussions and learn more about the association, visit Niagara-on-the-Lake Residents Association’s Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/1308882030155441. juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Niagara Stone Road to be expanded near new winery

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Crews have begun roadwork on Niagara Stone Road, between Hunter and Niven roads, to widen the road near the newly built Stone Eagle Winery. The project, which started April 22 and is expected to be completed before the end of May, will see the road



widened in that particular section, between Hunter and Niven, as part of the development of the winery at 2080 Niagara Stone Rd., said Marah Minor, the

town’s communications co-ordinator, in an email to The Lake Report. In the meantime, crews are keeping two lanes of traffic open for motor vehicles to pass. While the Niagara Region authorized the project, contractor Rankin Construction is in charge of the roadwork, said Minor. There is no public information available at this time

about who is paying for the road construction. The main access to the winery will be at Niagara Stone Road, while there will also be a driveway from Niven Road for staff parking and the loading dock area, according to a 2023 report from town staff and a 2021 report from NPG Planning Solutions for the town. paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

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NOTL runner finishes 6th London Marathon

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake senior Margot Devlin added her sixth London Marathon to her medal collection on Sunday, racing through the streets of the British capital in the middle of a spring heat wave.

Devlin, competing in the 65 to 69 age group, finished the gruelling 42-kilometre race in a respectable 6:51:33 — a few hours behind the elite racers, but keeping up with them is never her goal.

Slow and steady is her motto and in 22 Celsius heat, with no breeze, her strategy was the right one.

“It was brutal,” she told The Lake Report. “It was hard on a lot of the participants and the medics and ambulances were very busy with heatstroke victims.”

Marathon organizers were so worried about the heat that they sent out repeated emails with advice about running in the heat and to



Margot Devlin, competing in the 65 to 69 age group, ran a 42-kilometre marathon in just under seven hours. SUPPLIED

not waste water at the water stations, she added.

“They thought they might run out,” but fortunately they didn’t.

Runners were cautioned to take it slow and not try to set a personal best mark.

“No worries here, I am slow.”

Sprinklers and hoses were

set up outside fire departments along the route for runners to run through and ice packs were handed out.

Running in such heat “was quite an adjustment when I had been training in minus-10 weather,” Devlin said.

She noted her husband Shaun put in 20,000 steps

meeting her at the 11-, 16- and 21-mile marks and then at the finish.

With a huge turnout, London now is in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest marathon in the world as 56,000 runners participated, she said.

“Getting 56,000 people and their respective supporters home is really something. The Tube was jammed.”

“There were lots of people in crazy costumes who must have really felt the heat — Big Ben, 10 fellows dressed as test tubes running in a container, a teddy bear, four knights, a rhino, a rooster” among them.

Sunday’s race came two weeks after she completed her first Paris Marathon. All told, she has now finished an impressive 20 marathons over the years, including a dozen in New York.

And she’s already signed up to return to London next year to race again.

kevin@niagaranow.com



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The Town is seeking two individuals to join the Committee of Adjustment / Property Standards Order Appeals Committee, which plays a vital role in reviewing applications for minor variances and consents, ensuring that decisions align with the *Planning Act* and community interests.

Applicants must be 18+, a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, and connected to Niagara-on-the-Lake (resident, worker, or business owner).

Help review minor variances, land severances, fence and sign By-laws, and property standards appeals!

Learn more and apply by Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at www.notl.com/committees-council-recruitment.

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CELEBRATORY EVENTS

MOTHER'S DAY TEA

May 11

Indulge in an elegant tea on Mother's Day, in the fabulous Spiegeltent. Add a workshop to make a fascinator and take in *Anything Goes* together!

Tea \$85 + Workshop \$10, theatre ticket extra.

FATHER'S DAY WHISKEY TASTING

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Raise a glass to celebrate Dad with a curated whiskey flight and a performance of *Tons of Money*. Paired with delectable tastings, you'll have no problem proclaiming, "Here's to you, Dad!"

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AL HIRSCHFELD'S BROADWAY

June 20

David Leopold from the Al Hirschfeld Foundation hosts an entertaining presentation of the stories behind the lines of Hirschfeld's greatest theatre work. Followed by a pop-up gallery of signed limited Hirschfeld prints. \$30

BEYOND THE STAGE

HOW TO WATCH A PLAY

May 10

Have you been doing it all wrong? Calling all theatre lovers and aficionados, join Artistic Director Tim Carroll as he tells us, in his own inimitable, witty way, "How to actually watch a play." \$50, \$25 for students.

THE ART OF MURDER

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Yellow Door celebrates 10 years of theatre at community centre

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

A decade of songs, stories and standing ovations filled the NOTL Community Centre last Sunday as Yellow Door Theatre Project toasted its 10 years of youth theatre.

The parents, donors and theatre lovers enjoyed performances by members of Yellow Door with songs from past productions, including “Mother’s Lullaby” from their 2015 production of “Peter Pan” to “Home” from this year’s production of “Beauty and the Beast.”

Yellow Door founder and creative director Andorlie Hillstrom delivered an impromptu speech, tearfully acknowledging the commitment from parents and the community.

“I care deeply about who you become and what you have to give back to the world. This group is so rich and blessed with talent, energy, skill, intelligence and heart,” said Hillstrom.

Hillstrom also expressed gratitude for the parents’ consistent support as their children took part in production after production every year.



Above: Current and alumni Yellow Door performers, including Hannah Evans, delivered a selection of songs from past productions. Left: Yellow Door founder Andorlie Hillstrom supports the mic for Kayla Fraser.
ANDREW HAWLITZKY

“Parents have no idea how much I appreciate every year, every time — driving back and forth to rehearsals, sometimes having to deal with all kinds of conflicts because these people are busy,” said Hillstrom.

One of the most talented performers, Catherine Dubois, who shared vocals on “It Takes Two” from “Into the Woods” (2024), reflected on her significant personal growth through her nearly

ten years performing with Yellow Door. “It gives you skills for life, the confidence to step out of your comfort zone and pursue something even if you’re uncertain,” said Dubois.

Dubois announced she will be pursuing theatre studies in college next year. She credited her decision to follow her passion directly to the encouragement and opportunities provided by Yellow Door.

Jordie Burton, a donor to Yellow Door and representing the James A. Burton Family Foundation, spoke about his own experience as a teenager, uncertain about the future but finding joy and purpose in theatre.

“Being seen matters. Belonging matters. Safe spaces and strong mentors matter. That’s what Yellow Door creates,” said Burton.

Michelle Dubois, Catherine’s mother, emphasized the broader impact of Yellow Door beyond performing arts.

“It’s far more than singing, dancing and acting, our students learn teamwork, public speaking, problem-solving and leadership skills, giving them confidence to achieve their personal goals and dreams,” said Michelle Dubois.

The highlight of the event was the extraordinary talent of Yellow Door’s young performers.

Despite mentioning a sore throat, Hannah Evans delivered a clear, high-energy performance of “What Some Women Say” from “Hansel & Gretel” (2020/21), noticeably leaving audience members stunned.

Avery Kasper and Sebastian Moccio gave a sassy rendition of “It’s All for the Best” from “Godspell” (2022).

Diego Rey and Sophia Palpallatoc charmed with their bohemian flair in “Trash” from “Bremen Rock City” (2019).

Wren Evans, Lucas Romanelli and Zoey Canham demonstrated Broadway-calibre performances in songs from “Newsies” (2023).

Many more young talents were showcased on Sunday, demonstrating the incredible work of Yellow Door.

The event also served as a fundraiser, featuring raffle tickets to support ongoing Yellow Door initiatives.

Local band Feverish Lemons capped off the evening with a lively set of acoustic guitars

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MOVING ROADS FORWARD

Public Notice

From May 5 to 16 tell us what you want in the St. Davids roundabout design

Option A - Historical/Traditional



In the fall of 2024, 80 people attended a Niagara Region workshop to talk about their vision for the St. Davids roundabout. Four designs emerged from the workshop. Region staff found common elements and used them to create two roundabout options. **Now, we are asking you to vote online or in person from May 5 to 16 for your preferred design and features.**

Option A focuses on the history of St. Davids. It depicts the Four Mile Creek passing through the roundabout and the traditional Indigenous trail, and it includes native flowers, colours and a focal compass.

Option B highlights the agricultural importance of the St. Davids area. It includes a vertical structure with a vineyard feel and trailing grapevines on a trellis that tie the design together.

Designs for the intersection of Tanbark Avenue fit with the historical and agricultural roundabout themes while adding their own distinct gateway features.

What's next?

Keep an eye on your mailbox starting April 30. All properties and residents in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will receive an informative newsletter with artist drawings of the designs for you to consider before voting starts. You can also visit the Niagara Region website to look at larger images with more detailed information.

Please consider and familiarize yourself with each design and vote for the features you feel represent the ideals and spirit of St. Davids. After voting closes on May 16, Niagara Region will post the results on the project webpage. Niagara-on-the-Lake staff will present the preferred option, including costs, to the Town Council for consideration at a later date.

Remember, the Council of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is the approval authority for all landscaping and streetscaping upgrades to the roundabout. Niagara Region is only responsible for the road construction portion of this project.

Option B - Agricultural/Contemporary



Voting process

Voting takes place from May 5 to May 16. Voting is limited to one vote per household and there are two ways to vote:

Online Voting:

- Go to niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-81-and-100-reconstruction/default.aspx, or
- Use the QR Code



In-Person Voting:

At St. Davids Fire Hall and Community Center (745 Warner Road, St. Davids) on the following dates/times:

Monday, May 5:	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday, May 7:	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday, May 9	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Monday, May 12:	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday, May 14:	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday, May 16:	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

At Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library (10 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake) on the following dates/times:

Wednesday, May 7:	4 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 8:	10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 14:	4 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 16:	10:30 a.m. - 1p.m and 5 - 7 p.m.

If you have questions about this project, email **Stephanie Huppunen, CET**, Manager, Capital Projects – Transportation Engineering stdavidsroundabout@niagararegion.ca



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BKind Grateful #26: Place post-it notes of kindness on the mirror in the bathroom or in the private stalls telling others how special they are and to have a momentous day.

This tiny column gives tips to help promote kindness in our lives and spread joy and happiness.



Contributed by Patty Garriock

“That is one good thing about this world ... there are always sure to be more springs.”
- L.M. Montgomery

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NOTL in bloom

Tulips burst to life along Queen Street in this cheerful shot by photographer Dave Van de Laar, with the Prince of Wales Hotel looking on. For those who call NOTL home, it’s a familiar sight — and a blooming good sign that spring has truly arrived.



Editorial

Building a stronger Canada, together

Kevin MacLean
Editor Emeritus

The people have spoken and, in our parliamentary democracy, we respect the will of the people.

Monday’s federal election gave voters across the country the chance to “vote for change” or to support a vision that aims to stand up for Canada against the foolish attacks we face from the clown show south of the border.

In electing a minority Liberal government while at the same time handing the Conservatives more seats than they had at dissolution (and more support than many thought they’d receive), electors seemed to be saying they bought what Mark Carney’s Liberal party was selling — but they weren’t completely enamoured of the Grits so they also were angry enough to embrace the Conservatives’ populist mantra of “change.”

Sort of a classic Canadian compromise, depending on your perspective.

The Liberals’ 25-seat cushion isn’t the “razor thin” margin that Tory leader Pierre Poilievre labelled it, but that’s politics. Messaging seems more important than reality.

As readers of The Lake Report might recall, we have not been fans of Poilievre, especially after a visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake last summer where he



Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre lost in his own Carleton riding, but Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake’s incumbent Tory Tony Baldinelli secured another term as Member of Parliament. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

chose to lie, exaggerate and pander simply to fire up his base.

But that is, unfortunately, politics and the way he chose to approach issues.

As the election results show, it served him well in much of Niagara and huge swaths of the country. But that doesn’t make it any more palatable.

Conversely, watching his 11-minute concession speech late Monday, and reading over the transcript afterward, he delivered a much more conciliatory and mature message.

Gone was most of the posturing and politicking, replaced by a much more temperate and measured message.

It was refreshing — and really out of character given what we have heard from him the past three years.

Perhaps the fact he realized was destined to lose his own seat in Parliament inspired some humility and even attempts at building bridges for the good of the country.

Regrettably, given the attack dog personality Poilievre has exhibited up till now, it is impossible to know how much of it was sheer performance for the cameras and how much was genuine.

What we do know is that Carney has his work cut out for him as prime minister. He needs to find ways to work with other parties and provincial leaders in all parts of the country. Governing will be far more complex than simply spouting slogans and rhetoric, as Poilievre did.

Here in the newly created Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake riding, the voters’

message was clear: they again chose incumbent Tory Tony Baldinelli over Liberal challenger Andrea Kaiser.

His plurality was about 2,500, down around 600 votes from 2021 when Fort Erie was still part of the riding.

Now, whether that result is a huge endorsement of Baldinelli the man versus the whole Conservative “change” campaign is anyone’s guess. And it doesn’t really matter. The fact is people have again chosen a Tory to represent their interests.

We’ll look later at the breakdown of how each of NOTL and the Falls voted, but we can say anecdotally at least that we know of many people in town who normally would lean toward the Conservatives but this time rejected the divisive, negative approach that Poilievre and strategist Jenni Byrne adopted.

So, where do we go from here?

As Canadians, we (and our leaders) need to set aside divisions, to fight collectively for what is best for our nation, to work together to help those in our society who need it most — and to build a stronger Canada that can withstand the winds of Trumpian blustering while boosting opportunities and making life safer and more affordable for all.

It’s a tall order.
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How are YOU pushing back against Trump?



Amid on-again, off-again trade tariffs, MAGA disinformation about the Canada-U.S. relationship and threats of annexing our nation as the 51st state, millions of Canadians are pushing back against President Donald Trump's endless stream of craziness.

It's #elbowsup time in the Great White North.

We'd like to know what you are doing here in Niagara-on-the-Lake in response to Trump's threats and actions.

Are you proudly flying the flag at home and displaying your patriotism for all to see? Have your shopping habits changed? What about travel plans?

In what other ways has your "polite Canadian" behaviour changed? Or has it?

Many people find Trump's endless jibes at Canada tiresome and are fed up with his tirades. What is your take and how do you think this all will (or should) play out?

Email us your thoughts, send us your photos and we'll publish them in an upcoming edition of The Lake Report.

Send them to editor@niagaranow.com.

Opinion

Wave the flag, hope for the best



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner
Columnist

On E-day the U.S. president couldn't resist. Canadians should "vote for the man" who will make the nation part of the States, he posted.

The border is "an artificially drawn line from many years ago." Canada, he added in a final flip, "doesn't make sense as a country."

Really?

There sure are a lot of maple leaf flags around town lately. Especially along the river, facing New York. In your face, Donald. We usually suck at patriotism, but this time it's different.

This week's election was all about Trump, as you know. Here in gelato-and-horse-carriage paradise, the America thing is of particular importance.

Of every 10 people swarming Queen Street, filling a winery café or sitting in the Shaw, three are from across the border. Moreover, they bring \$1.40 dollars with them. NOTL and greenbacks have a deep relationship — and now it's being tested.

"Our American friends are typically apologetic for



Columnist Garth Turner says a lot more Canadian flags have sprung up around NOTL this year, including many, like this one, along the Niagara River, sending a strong message to America. GARTH TURNER

what's currently happening," Q124 hotel partner David Jones tells me. "It's important that we are welcoming to all visitors."

Wait times to cross at Buffalo, the Falls or Lewiston have crashed lately. On Monday, for example, they averaged two minutes. Officials say bridge traffic is down by a quarter.

Canadians heading south for more than 30 days must register with American officials. Folks leaving or entering the U.S. are routinely asked to surrender their phones. If you've been dissing the orange guy lately on social media (like me) expect grief.

Our new riding, Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake, is ground zero for tourism, border crossings ... and potential trouble. Falls mayor Jim Diodati, for one, is raising the alarm about a potential wave of migration that could flow north as

Trump's deportation fetish kicks into high gear. (By the way, Diodati was once a MAGA fanboy. No more.)

"It's a big border, and in a lot of places there's no fences, and we're just thinking, how much can one country handle?" he said on the record.

"How much can one city handle? ... You're always waiting for what's next. He's so mercurial, so unpredictable. You never know what's going to come out of his mouth."

All this is just beginning. We're a hundred days into the reign of Trump with over a thousand to go. Unless something dramatic happens — like a massive defeat in the 2026 midterm elections — we should gird for years of tariffs, tight borders and trash-talking Canada.

Suddenly the local Chamber of Commerce's \$1.2 million ad blitz, partially

aimed at bringing in more American visitors doesn't look so wise.

Should that budget be directed instead at a pool of six million people living an hour away, maybe? With no border to cross? Or surly customs guys to deal with? Like the GTA?

These days 43 per cent of the 11 million people that come into Niagara to spend money come from across the river. Before Trump, that was peachy. With Trump, we understand that for too long we've been milking the same cow.

"Yes, we do have an American campaign going on," says local chamber manager Kathy Weiss, "but we're also absolutely focusing on the GTA, Kitchener-Waterloo and Quebec. Most of what we're spending in the U.S. is on social media."

Will the new Carney government bring more stability, if not more folks from across the river?

"I'm hoping so. In that initial conversation Trump treated Carney respectfully, so that bodes well for a little bit of stability. But, as we all know, Trump likes to talk, and do some pretty nasty things, and ensure he's in the middle of our attention. The whole world is looking at the U.S. now with a very different lens."

And looking back at us, what do they see? Yes. The flag.

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

garth@garth.ca



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: A FLORAL CATEGORY

Types of this flower include tiger, stargazer and Easter.

Last issue: THE SUNDAY SCARIES

Clue: "His palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy" — it sounds like Eminem is describing the Sunday scaries in this song.

Answer: What is Lose Yourself?

Answered first by: Bob Wheatley

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mike Gander, Jesse Agnew, Sue Rautenberg, Jim Dandy, Marla Percy, Lynda Collet, Wade Durling, Lynda Hosty, Hedy Wiebe, Katie Reimer, Jane Morris

Email answers to 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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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.

Urban design and planning are not interchangeable



Brian Marshall
Columnist

In what is, I opine, a very slick piece of political smoke and mirrors, Niagara-on-the-Lake's interim chief administrative officer, Bruce Zvaniga, submitted a report to council, dated April 29, entitled "Creation of an Urban Design Review Panel."

This report proposes that the current urban design committee be "sunset" (read, dissolved) and, in the fullness of time, be replaced by an urban design review panel.

As many of my readers may be aware, the town's urban design committee has been "on pause" since last August. This, despite the fact that, even with the resignations of two members and the completely unexplained and unjustified removal of another expert member "by council direction," the committee still maintains membership sufficient to reach quorum.

The elephant in the room can be found in the body of this report, wherein it states that the problem "identified by staff is the confusion and frustration expressed by applicants and/or consultants with the direction of the advice given. Council has expressed concern that the mandate of the committee was not consistently followed, and that the applicability of the advice was not within the parameters of urban design."

A justification that sounds very similar to the developed overture in London, Ont., which resulted in the axing of its urban design review panel in October 2023.

Perhaps at this juncture, it might be advantageous to wrap our arms around what urban design actually is and how it is distinctly different from urban planning.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake employs only urban planning specialists in its planner positions. Urban planning, as a discipline, is focused on city development within the context of and using instruments such as policies, zones, neighbourhoods, infrastructure, standards and building codes. Urban planners operate primarily within technical and political matrixes.

On the other hand, urban



Urban Design professionals develop built environments that maximize a positive human experience.
SIMPSON GRIERSON

design focuses on the creation of city features including public spaces, integration with infrastructure, modes of transportation (foot, bicycle, public transport and vehicular — in that order), landscapes, community facilities and human-centric streetscapes including the relationships between buildings while weaving together different building forms, uses, tenures and densities. Urban design professionals fundamentally operate within design and "user" experience contexts.

Urban planners function on a macro scale, ensuring developments and all the associated infrastructure conform to government policies and codes.

Urban designers function on a micro scale — designing the built environment on a block or multi-block level.

Their university degrees are different and their professional experience after graduation develops in two unique and separate fields of expertise.

It is a fundamental mistake for a municipality to assume that urban planners and urban designers are interchangeable. A city or town must draw upon the expertise of both professions to successfully realize urban development that serves the needs of its residents.

NOTL does not employ an urban design professional on staff.

Returning to the staff report, there is an intimation that the terms of reference (mandate and requirements) of an urban design review panel are substantively and qualitatively different from the terms of reference currently applied to NOTL's urban design committee.

However, after conducting a thorough review of the terms of reference for the panels in the cities of Brampton, Ottawa, Toronto (all four panels) and et al., it is my observation that, except for a few narrow areas, the common terms of reference for an urban design review panel are not appreciably different from, nor better than, the terms of reference for NOTL's urban

design committee.

In other words, in this area, a panel is largely the same as our committee, under a different name.

That said, there are a few items that cities successful in working with input from urban design advisory bodies possess that NOTL does not.

Let's consider Brampton as an example.

First, this city has a robust, detailed and current official plan (and all its appendages) which serves as a basic framework and reference within which its urban design advisory body couches its observations and recommendations on a broad level.

Secondly, Brampton has complemented its official plan with overarching urban design guidelines, augmented by a series of secondary guidelines focused on the design of developments, service centres, drive-through facilities, transit-supportive development and sustainable community development.

All of these urban design documents serve to provide clear context and defined criteria for their urban design advisory body — and indeed those developers who make application to the city — to ensure that development is compatible with the city's vision and its residents.

Finally, the city has one

other related document that serves to ensure that, while their urban design panel focuses on the larger, more impactful development proposals, the smaller (but nonetheless important) developments do not escape beneath the radar — that is, architectural control guidelines for ground-related residential development.

Furthermore, Brampton has urban design professionals on staff to initially review and vet all development applications, make recommendations to their urban design advisory body and guide that body's deliberations effectively and efficiently.

Niagara-on-the-Lake lacks a current, robust official plan, nor does it possess urban design guidelines that address the town at large or employ any in-house urban design expertise (relying instead on reports/recommendations authored by urban planners, whose expertise is not in the field of urban design). And, we certainly don't have architectural controls!

And, I'm out of racetrack ... more on urban design for NOTL next week.

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



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At our local Legion branch, ‘We Will Remember Them’



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

I recently attended the annual general meeting of our local Legion branch, and the evening provided a whole range of emotions and thoughts.

Entering the Branch, we were greeted by Sergeant-at-Arms Rhys Beak. He is a subtle and commanding authority figure, and his presence ensures order and decorum during the meeting. Certainly a good example of Hollywood central casting.

Due to rules about alcohol service on the evening of the meeting, Shannon and Sandra were having a slower-than-normal evening behind the bar. Efficient and ever effervescent, they were ready for the post-meeting

rush at about 8:15 p.m.

From the minute Branch president Al Howse appeared on stage promptly at 7 p.m., sartorially resplendent in his navy blue crested blazer, to the last note of the closing song, there were periodic reminders that “We Will Remember Them.”

The words were spoken on several occasions, but many subtle and unstated hints at the dominant theme really impacted me.

As a relatively new member of Legion Branch 124 here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I am still learning about the traditions and workings of Legion branches across Canada.

Coast to coast, somehow this organization battles the domineering and slow marching curse of demographics, providing leadership as “We Will Remember Them.” Legion members carry out various functions to assist Veterans and others who might need a hand.

Almost all of the work done to maintain the health of Legions from coast to coast is performed on a volunteer basis. Founded in 1925, there are currently some 1,350 branches,



Ross Robinson encourages NOTLers to support the Legion.

with an amazing 270,000 members. The branch with the largest membership is in Maple Ridge, B.C., counting over 2,000 members.

Rambling back now to the meeting here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I was comforted by the strong spirit of “we’re all in this together to ensure our branch stays healthy and vibrant.”

Various reports were filed by hard-working committee leaders, and branch treasurer Rick Cairns assured us that we are in solid shape financially. Confidence was installed as executive volunteers took hold of the microphone.

Each year at the annual general meeting, they are either voted into office or appointed, and without

fanfare, they proceed to get the many jobs done.

The Zone Commander was with us from Beamsville, and he conducted the actual elections in a very professional manner. He volunteers to oversee seven branches, and was totally on top of the rules and regulations and protocols.

When it came time to actually have the ballots counted to determine the members of next year’s branch executive, I hunkered down for a long wait. Somehow, the very efficient counters got their job done quickly, the ballots were destroyed, and voila, the AGM was over.

Now, ramble with me to an olfactory finale. Just before the meeting was

terminated (not adjourned, terminated), a subject was broached that gave me pause. Yes, a chance to reflect on how we have it so easy today when compared to “life in the trenches” during the First World War.

A few questions and comments, including one about a septic odour that can, apparently, be noticed in some areas on the main floor. My pal Rick and I were surprised, as neither of us had ever noticed this scent.

After a minute or two of explanation and discussion, I had to think that we are such a spoiled lot of people today. Darn, a subtle off odour. Perhaps this was a good moment to try to transport ourselves back about a century.

For weeks and months on end, in wet and cold conditions, with awkward and non-existent sleeping arrangements, our allied soldiers somehow managed to keep going. Physically and psychologically.

Our men in the trenches. How did they keep their morale up? Injured, sick and dying comrades, brutal meals and rations, perhaps a shot of whisky once a week.

People snoring and moving around, attempting to get some shut-eye.

I repeat, how did they keep their morale up?

Month after month, with no known finish line.

These days, the Royal Canadian Legion, and legions around the world, live by the motto, “We Will Remember Them.”

As is almost always the case, a few people at our Legion Branch do most of the work. An extremely hard-working member of our local Executive was obvious by her absence at the annual general meeting. Karen Taylor-Jones was away getting a medical upgrade, and rehabbing, unable to attend.

She and her wingers do so much for our branch, with such great attitudes. Let us mere members remember them, and occasionally remind them we appreciate their efforts.

All together now, as was repeated both verbally and subtly at numerous times during our 2025 annual general meeting, “We Will Remember Them.”

May I encourage NOTLers to support our local Legion.



MAGA: Make America go away

Dear editor:

I was ticked off by Trump’s 51st State baloney that I swiped this wording from a Greenland guy and had eight hats made for my family and friends. When my daughter Elaine got hers, the reaction of her friends was such that she asked me to order 10 more for her.

Jim Dandy
Niagara Falls

Keep up the good work – it benefits all Niagara

Dear editor:

I know that The Lake Report asks for letters to the editor on a number of topics, and occasionally I have sent a couple in. The Lake Report is certainly the best news media outlet for me in all of Niagara. I subscribe to many other local media to round out my understanding of the Niagara Peninsula in which we all live. I am so proud of the many awards

The Lake Report has won. For one of the award winners, my husband and I even drove to photographer Dave Van De Laar’s home to buy our 2025 calendar.

I particularly like Brian Marshall’s heritage column, that of Garth Turner, and so many more. I follow anything the wonderful NOTL museum has to offer and, of course, the Shaw Festival theatres.

And I am from away, St.

Catharines, not NOTL at all. Yet NOTL’s old-town ambience, now threatened by developers and developer-friendly councillors, concerns me deeply.

As a long-standing history/heritage advocate here, I appreciate every effort not to have the special history of NOTL disappear at the whim of millionaire developers.

I am also appreciative of the many letters to the edi-

tor you print, however long or short they are, however often citizens write in. I read them all, whatever partisanship they may display.

Please do keep up the investigative reporting, the charming local (even sometimes eccentric) articles, the stress to keep your unique heritage. It is all good for Niagara at large.

Gail Benjafield
St. Catharines

Trump’s sovereignty threats spark difficult questions

Dear editor:

What if Donald Trump were to try to implement his big aim, to annex Canada? Suppose, frustrated when he found that his trade embargoes had failed, that he now felt that Canada was weak and could be simply taken over.

He might think it would only take a few troops to march on Toronto, just as U.S. president James Madison thought in 1812. If he occupied Toronto, he would be holding a strong card with which to negotiate a deal.

As it turned out, we taught Madison a decisive lesson at the Battle of Queenston Heights. The militias whom Madison had recruited had

not signed on for a fight. They had been told it would just be a simple matter of marching, but with the help of the British Army, who turned up just in time, few of the Americans even reached further than the steep sides of the Niagara gorge.

The Spanish philosopher George Santayana said, “Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it.” Unfortunately, it is more than probable that the current president of the United States never learned his history, and if he had been taught about 1812, the story would have been skewed to show that the American side won.

Furthermore, on more than one occasion, Mr. Trump has stated his view that a large percentage of Canadians want their country to be part of the United States.

If he were to act on his delusion, and considering that Trump is very close to being a full-fledged dictator, this could become very dangerous.

So then, what if he were to summon the National Guard, or a U.S. Army regiment, pick a thinly occupied area along the border and see how it went?

Or perhaps choose a flash occupancy of a Canadian town or city at the border, like Emerson or Lethbridge?

That would give him hostages to play with.

Or Windsor? His excuse there could be that it was an emergency and he was protecting the automobile industry.

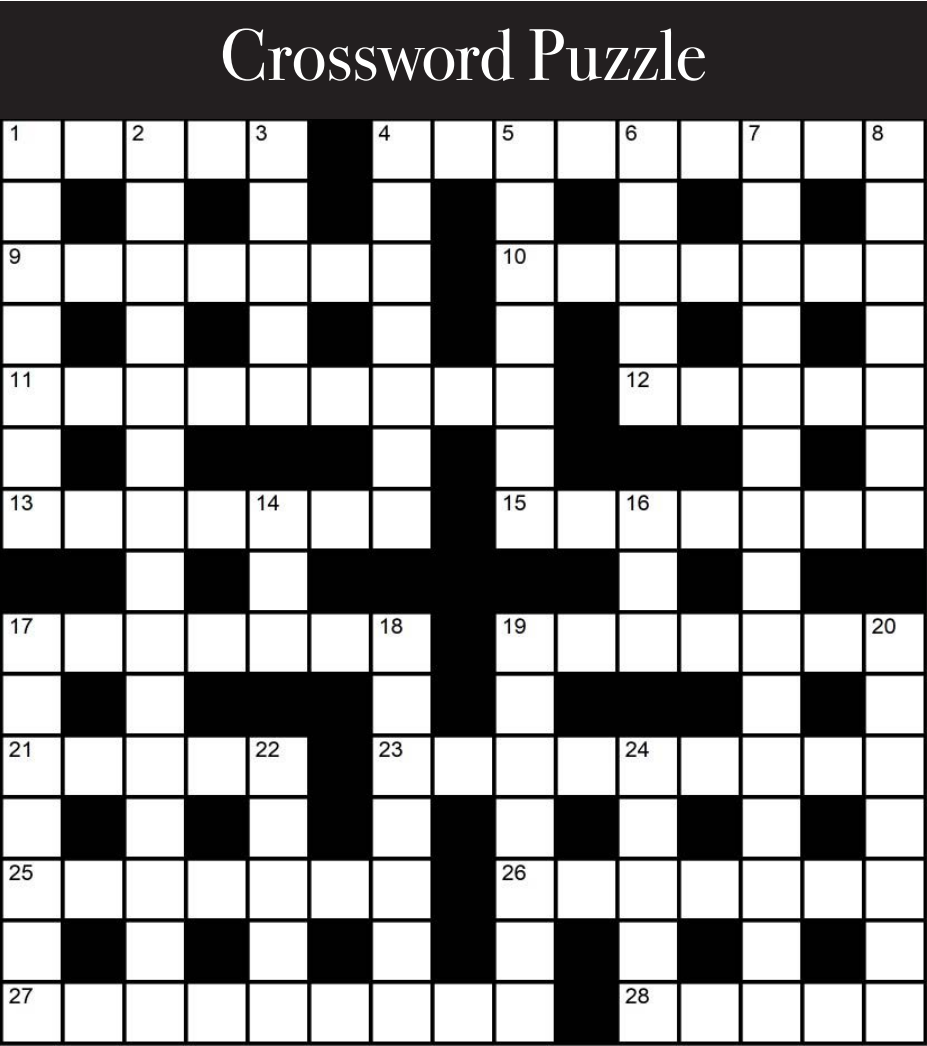
Would we try to hold them back at the border? Are we ready for that now? Would we be prepared to fight? Are we ready to shoot Americans? Would we aim for their legs, to send the message that we really didn’t want to kill them?

Do you think I am dreaming here, or telling some elaborate joke? I’m not. I’m deadly serious. Think about it.

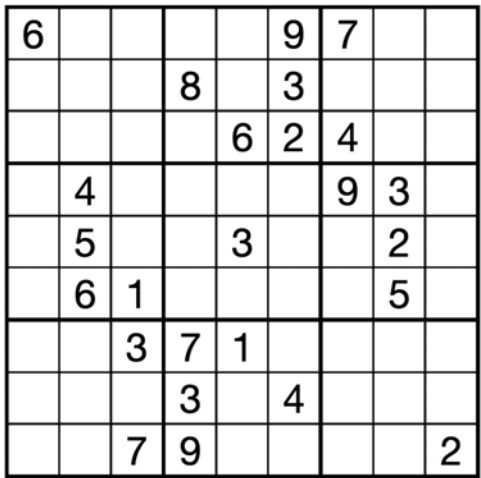
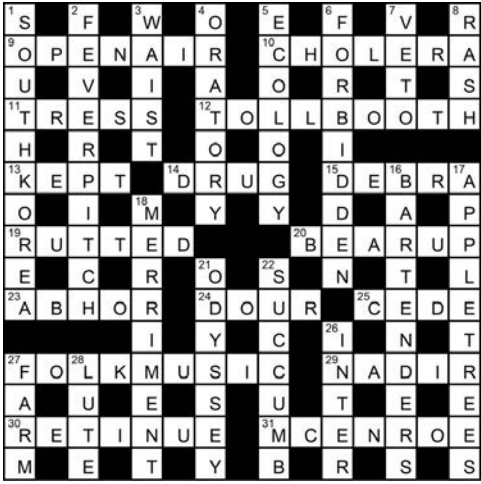
Andrew Henwood
Old Town

- Across**
- 1. Insurers cover them (5)
 - 4. Avert scam, abusing studio kit (2,7)
 - 9. Manic-depressive (7)
 - 10. River mouth (7)
 - 11. Die (5,4)
 - 12. Food poisoning bacteria (1,4)
 - 13. Recast (7)
 - 15. Fortification sounds like a horn, maybe (7)
 - 17. Vigorous (7)
 - 19. Distended (7)
 - 21. Instruct (5)
 - 23. Lifted out (7,2)
 - 25. Hackneyed (7)
 - 26. Provocations (7)
 - 27. Ayrshire golf course owned by Donald Trump (9)
 - 28. Book preceding Philemon (5)
- Down**
- 1. Only Hitchcock film to get a Best Picture Oscar (7)
 - 2. Not a leading player (10,5)
 - 3. Top briefs (5)
 - 4. Prospered (7)
 - 5. Less cloudy (7)
 - 6. Corner joint (5)
 - 7. Grounds for acquittal (10,5)
 - 8. Top cutter? (7)
 - 14. Deck speed measure (1,1,1)
 - 16. Long March leader (3)
 - 17. Motown (7)
 - 18. "Waterworld" star (7)
 - 19. Drops in (5,2)
 - 20. They're often changed on little ones (7)
 - 22. Big banger? (1-4)
 - 24. "--- Your Wagon", Frederick Loewe musical (5)

Have some fun



Last issue's answers



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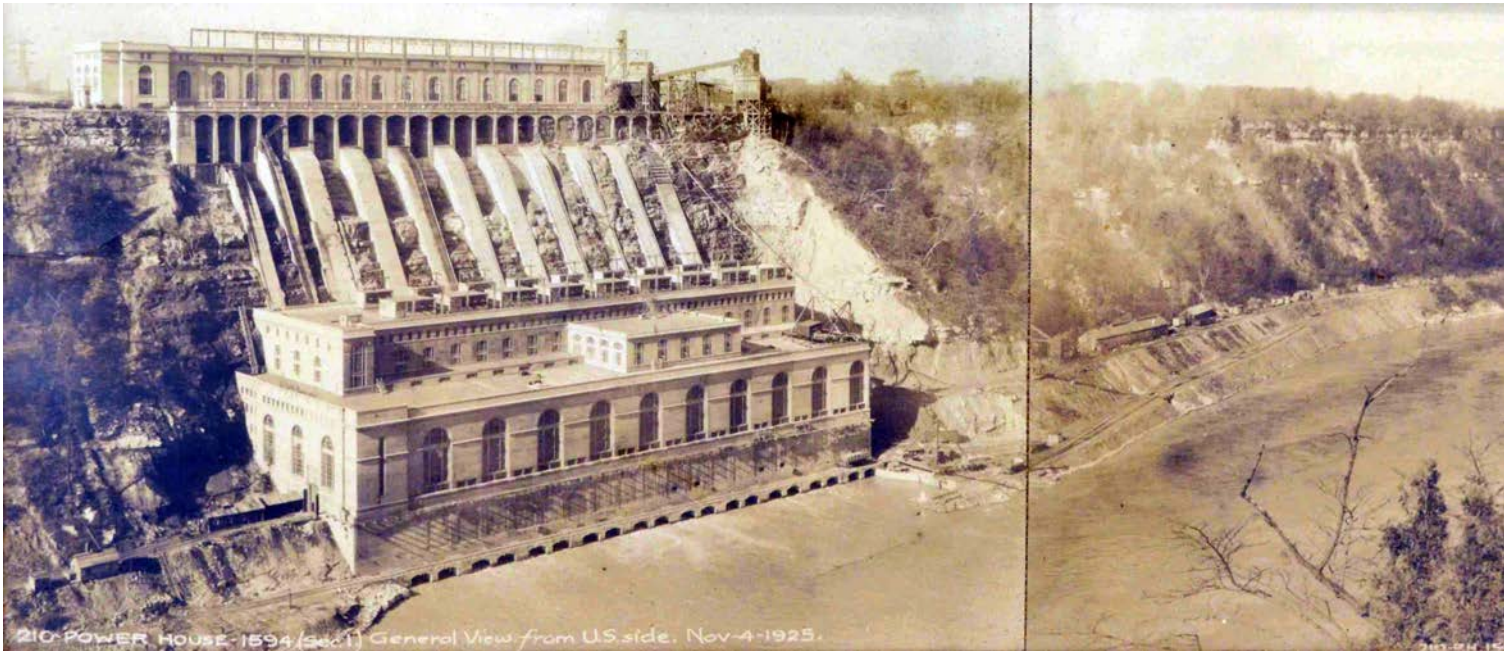
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*Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2023.
**Source: Google Trends and Google Reviews †Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Team Residential, 2024. ††Source: REDATUM Agents by units - listing and selling combined performance in TRREB Jan 1 - June 30, 2024. RE/MAX Escarpment Golf Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.

EXPLORING HISTORY
WITH NOTL MUSEUM

Sir Adam Beck I Generating Station, 1925

Due to an increase in industrial and urban demands for more electric power in Toronto and southwestern Ontario, the generating station, initially known as the Queenston-Chippawa Hydro-Electric Plant, opened in 1921 by Sir Adam Beck. It was the first true mega hydroelectric project and the largest hydroelectric power station of its kind in the world. In 1950, the station was renamed for Sir Adam Beck and by 1990, the station was designated as a National Historic Site. Here is the Sir Adam Beck I generating station, as viewed from the American side on Nov. 4, 1925.



HOMETOWN TRAVELLER

From chasing Minotaurs to awash in rosé

Judy McLeod
Special to The Lake Report

Last year, Peter and I planned a wonderful winter trip to discover Crete — an island with ancient ruins, beautiful beaches and wonderful Cretan food. From there, we would then spend a few weeks in our favourite part of France, Provence. Then, Trump and the 51st state threat happened ... As his “sabre rattling” picked up speed and the Canadian landscape turned murky, we wondered if it was a wise time to travel. But armed with our Canadian flag and maple leaf jacket pins, we threw caution to the wind and off we went.

First, a bit about Crete, which has been part of Greece since 1913. If you like ruins, they have them. It’s the birthplace of Minoan civilization from 3,000 BC. The natural caves at Matala, where Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan and Cat Stevens hung out in the late ‘60s, was a fun day exploring hippie history. And the food (Cretans are quick to say that their food is unique), with an emphasis on the use of wild greens, local cheeses and some of the very best bread we’ve tasted outside of France. And of course, the seafood was fabulous. The weather in Crete was sunny and English is widely spoken. We were greeted warmly and there was some recognition of our Canadian



Avid travellers Judy McLeod and Peter Howe, armed with Canadian flags and maple leaf pins, say Americans abroad were apologetic to them about President Donald Trump during their winter Euro trip. As things continued to get worse in the U.S., Howe rebranded his morning coffee from Americano to Canadiano, with resounding success. SUPPLIED

challenges with Trump and the 51st state rhetoric. As the news continued to deliver some of the most egregious losses of democratic process, Peter decided to rebrand his morning Americano. The “Canadiano” was accepted everywhere with great success. On to France, where our challenges with Trump were widely recognized and acknowledged. We were cheered, hugged and apologized to by travelling Americans, and in the old port of Marseille had a rendition of “O Canada” sung to us by a Corsican gentle-

man after learning where we were from. As we travelled through the Provence cities of Antibes, St. Tropez and Aix-en-Provence, we were greeted by sunny blue skies, warm French hospitality and the iconic umbrella pines. We visited with one of Peter’s friends from his law school days at McGill — a 52-year friendship with a wonderful French couple. We had lunch with them at the oldest sailing club in France — the Marseille Sailing Club. Another day, we drove to their country home outside

Cuers for a typical French picnic in their vineyard. What a special treat. Our favourite activities when travelling are food and fish markets, walking, some churches and historical sights, and a good cemetery or two. But nothing can compete with the Provence markets — our afternoon tarte au citron and cappuccino became a necessary fortification before checking the latest American news. I’ve always felt safe and proud to travel as a Canadian. I love our wonderful democratic and civil country. Vive le Canada libre.

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Before and after edging. A bit of effort adds to the overall appearance of your garden.

The art of garden edging



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

I am often asked, “What is one way that I can improve or make my garden look better?”

My first answer is always the same and it is one that can be done quite quickly and for very little money.

The answer is by edging your gardens. Sounds too simple? How can edging your garden make such a difference?

Nothing sets off a garden more than a well-edged garden. We all want our gardens to stand out, to be the one that everyone who lives around you stops to admire.

While colourful, healthy plants capture a person’s first impression, a well-kept edge silently adds to the overall appearance of your garden. I guess you could say that it is the unsung hero of landscaping (I know ... I need to get out more).

Edging provides a clean and polished appearance to your garden. It creates visual separation between grass and planting areas, which enhances the overall design.

This neat division makes each section of your garden stand out, giving your landscape a more intentional and professional look.

Beyond aesthetics, edging also serves several practical purposes. It helps keep grass from invading flower beds, reducing the need for constant trimming and weeding.

It also prevents mulch, soil, and decorative stones from spilling into the lawn, maintaining the integrity of both areas. In short, edging helps you maintain a tidy, low-maintenance garden.

There are several ways to give your gardens that leading “edge.” Here are a few of them.

Plastic edging
This is the most affordable edging that you can put in.

The edging is very flexible, making it easy to install especially for curved beds.

Make sure that you purchase a more professional quality that is heavier in quality and at least four to six inches deep.

The heavier quality edging will usually come with stakes that will help to anchor the edging into the ground.

The cheaper brands of plastic edging, less than four inches deep and without stakes, is easily heaved out of the ground by frost.

Aluminum edging
Aluminum provides a more modern look and is extremely durable.

It is more expensive than the plastic edging, but it is also very durable and less likely to be pushed out of the ground by frost.

It is also very flexible and works well for both curved beds and geometric-shaped beds.

It is very easy for the homeowner to install it themselves. Most aluminum edging comes with stakes to anchor it into the soil.

Stone or brick edging
For a classic look, stone and brick edging is a clean and attractive look.

These materials offer a timeless feel and are perfect for traditional and contemporary gardens.

When installed flush with the lawn, it still allows for the lawn mower to cleanly cut the grass.

Brick edging can be a

great way to continue on with the lines of a walkway, driveway or patio out into the landscape.

The brick or stone edging can be a long-term edge with little maintenance. It can be installed by the homeowner, with a bit more work involved, but you may want to hire a professional to put it in.

Hand-cut edge
The quickest and easiest way to edge your gardens is to do so by hand. There is also no cost to do so.

Simply use a flat spade or edger and cut straight down along the edge of the sod. Go down as deep as the edger (at least three to four inches), then slope the soil back into the bed area.

Always cut straight down at edge of sod and not on an angle. This is the best way to stop the grassroots from spreading into the bed area.

This is also true with any of the other types of edging — always put them in as vertically as possible.

Garden edging may seem like a small detail, but it can have a big impact on the beauty and organization of your landscape.

Whether you’re creating sharp lines for a contemporary feel or soft curves for a more natural look, a well-edged garden shows attention to detail and care.

With the right materials and a bit of effort, edging can be the finishing touch that makes your garden truly stand out.

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society is hosting a series of Saturday morning gardening classes, available to the public. They will be facilitated by Joanne Young and will run until May 31. For all the details and to pre-register for the classes, visit notlhortsociety.com/classes.

Obituary

Douglas ‘Doug’ Bruce



BRUCE, Douglas “Doug” – Passed away peacefully at St. Catharines General Hospital on Saturday April 19, 2025 at the age of 83. Beloved husband of the late Fran Bruce (2015). Loving father of James (Azza) Bruce, Michael (the late Christine-2022) Bruce, Darren (Krista) Bruce and Melanie (James) Bergman. Caring grandfather of Liam, Olivia, Malcolm, Ethan, Lauren, Madeline, Ian, Genevieve, Calvin, Sally, and Nigel. Doug was born in Toronto and graduated from Etobicoke Collegiate Institute before attending Western University, where he proudly played varsity football. He was the beloved husband of Fran for 47 years. Together, they built a life filled with love and adventure, living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, then Huntsville, before eventually retiring in the Niagara region they both held dear. In his later years, Doug made his home at Heatherwood, where he found great joy in connecting with his half-siblings and in meeting Connie Clements, the apple of his eye. The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the residents and staff at Heatherwood, as well as the dedicated teams at Hotel Dieu Shaver and St. Catharines General Hospital, for their compassionate care and support. Cremation has taken place. Friends and family are invited to Niagara-on-the-Lake District 1 Fire Hall, 2 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 8, 2025 any time between 1 to 4 pm. Arrangements entrusted to Morse & Son Funeral Home, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Walker Family Cancer Centre. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morseandson.com



Margot Kirsipuu



KIRSIPUU, Margot – Passed away peacefully at home with her loving family and friends by her side on Wednesday April 23, 2025 at the age of 103. Beloved wife of the late Martin Kirsipuu (1988). Loving mother of Vikki Beswick. Caring grandmother of Martin (Elena) Beswick, Christine Beswick and Kate (Brent) Elliott. Great grandmother of Austin, Paige, Madison, and Caitlyn. Margot was born in Estonia and as a teenager moved to Sweden, where she lived for five years before ultimately moving to Canada. For over 70 years she lived on a farm in Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, a place she was so proud to call home. She first tended to it with her husband and then continued for another 40 years on her own. Loved by all, she was known for her love of gardening and animals, as well as an unwavering commitment to her family. Everyone who knew her knew what a full and remarkable life she lived. She will be greatly missed by all. A private family graveside service has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St. Niagara-on-the-Lake. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to War Amps Canada, Canadian Cancer Society or Niagara SPCA & Humane Society (Welland Humane Society). Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Brian John Timmins



TIMMINS, Brian John — January 17, 1943 to April 18, 2025

Peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on Friday, April 18, 2025 in his 83rd year. Beloved husband of Patricia (nee Ward) for 58 years. Devoted father of Glen and Jodi (nee Coultas) and the late Kimberlee. Grandpa of Kyle, Taylor and the late Jacqueline. Brother to Peter (Angela) and Barry. Predeceased by parents, Roy and Eva (nee Rolphe). Brian had an adventurous childhood living aboard and travelling extensively on The Black Moth, the family’s homebuilt sailboat and worked in the steel industry for many years before an early retirement. After retirement, Brian devoted himself to many personal projects. He enjoyed boating, golfing and meeting new people. He was a longtime member of the Fenwick Lions Club.

In honouring Brian’s wishes private family arrangements have been arranged. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to the Alzheimer Society of Canada or D.H. Rapelje Lodge, Welland. Arrangements entrusted to Considerate Cremation & Burial Services, 26 Nihan Dr., St. Catharines (between Lake Street and Scott Street), 289-362-1144. Online condolences may be made at CCBSCares.ca



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**293 FOUR MILE CREEK
ST. DAVIDS**

\$1,989,900
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CRYSTAL SIMONS



**13 KENMIR DRIVE
ST. DAVIDS**

\$2,900,000
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & MARIA MUIA



**368 CANBORO ROAD
RIDGEVILLE**

\$1,150,000
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CRYSTAL SIMONS



**34 RAIANA DR
VIRGIL**

COMING SOON
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CRYSTAL SIMONS



PORT COLBORNE

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LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE
LOT 34 CONCESSION 2 ROAD



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\$1,449,000
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ST. DAVIDS**

\$999,000
LISTED BY: ALEKSANDRA ZDJELAR



**9349 MADISON CRES
NIAGARA FALLS**

\$3,499,000
LISTED BY: TEAM MAC
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- Large social media presence and extensive unique marketing techniques
- Your property will be globally listed gaining world wide exposure and will be seen on all real estate boards in Ontario
- Home renovation experience
- **<experienced>**
- Help Elderly Relocate
- Passionate to be of service
- We offer a 24/7 open line of communication
- Several testimonials and 5 star reviews
- Exceptional sales record
- Respected by colleagues and community
- Long term presence in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Local Right at Home Realty Team Office in NOTL (Over 6000 in GTA, #1 independent brokerage in the GTA for 10 years**)
- Angelika previously owned a highly successful marketing/media business in Toronto for over 20 years. Built relationships with Fortune 500, big banks, CTV, Global, Olympics, Film Festival. Over 10 years of real estate business.
- Abundance of knowledge in all aspects of real properties (waterfront, residential, agricultural, commercial and leases)
- Up to date on Mortgage trends and state of economy, strategy to sell
- Contribution to charities
- Lead sponsor in Chamber of Commerce NOTL Golf Tournament 2023
- Wealth of knowledge
- Your property is seen on all 23 Real Estate boards in Ontario plus globally listed in over 200 countries

 7 SANDALWOOD CRES \$2,599,000	 318 CONCESSION 3 RD \$1,050,000	 501 LINE 7 ROAD \$2,800,000	 26 PARK COURT \$1,699,000	 306 CENTRE STREET \$1,249,000	 235 VICTORIA STREET \$825,000	 38 COLE CRESCENT \$799,000
 507 MISSISSAUGA ST \$1,779,000	 5 LOWER CANADA \$1,448,888	 368 QUEEN STREET \$2,975,000	 611 SIMCOE STREET \$1,995,450	 15 ANDRES STREET \$1,099,000	 43 WINDSOR CIRCLE \$1,069,000	 6 CIRCLE STREET \$848,500

RECENT **SOLD** LISTINGS

 698 RYE STREET	 26 LORETTA DRIVE	 43 HOMESTEAD DRIVE	 23-608 SIMCOE STREET	 625 CHARLOTTE ST
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*Based on closed transactions in the Burlington / Niagara Right At Home Realty Office, 2022, 2023, 2024 **TRREB Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2022, combined units sold.