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Vol. 7, Issue 42

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October 17, 2024

Tribunal sends Rand Estate plan 'back to drawing board'

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Plans for a 172-unit subdivision on the Rand Estate have to be reevaluated, says the Ontario Land Tribunal.

The ruling, issued last Friday, comes after a months-long hearing pitting the developer against the Town of Niagara-onthe-Lake, resident group Save Our Rand Estate and neighbours to the development, Blair and Brenda McArthur.

The developer, Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc., was seeking approval of

alteration and demolition permits to make way for its plan for a subdivision on two properties that comprise the Rand Estate, 200 John St. E. and 588 Charlotte St.

The tribunal sided

mainly with the town and SORE on what it called a long and complex case that "addresses multiple, highly technical and interconnected issues."

The ruling concludes

that "in its present form, Solmar's proposed draft subdivision and its effects on the Rand Estate's cultural heritage value or

Continued on Page 5

Glendale building heights worry residents

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

A proposed amendment to the Glendale Secondary Plan was met with ample questioning and proposed additions from councillors, developers and residents.

The update, presented during a committee of the whole meeting on Tuesday, addressed how development will look and function in Glendale in the coming years.

No decisions were made on the secondary plan during the meeting.

"What does Glendale want to be when development is underway and working toward its ultimate evolution?" planner Ron Palmer with the Planning Partnership said during his presentation.

There are 12 principles for what Glendale wants to be, he said, including promoting compact land development, providing a full range and mix of land uses, supporting mobility options and establishing an integrated pedestrian realm and active transportation network.

Continued on Page 3

A smelly situation

Decades-old fight over NOTL waste disposal site continues



Ron and Charlene Quevillon behind the concrete bunkers that housed waste for the anaerobic digester to use as fuel. RICHARD WRIGHT

Richard Wright | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

A 16-year battle to shut down a waste collection and disposal site at 2021 Four Mile Creek Rd., being waged by a group of neighbouring Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, will return to court in late November.

The law firm representing 17 applicants filed a contempt of court order in July against NOTL bylaw supervisor Erin Montanaro, the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Lukshana (Lucky) Kumarage, president of a company called 250 Ontario. 250 Ontario owns the site,

250 Ontario owns the site, having purchased it in 2016, five years after the previous owners Vandermeer Greenhouses went into receivership.

The court order claims a Nov.

8, 2018 decision by the Normal Farm Practices and Protection Board to shut down an anaerobic digester and waste collection operation at the location

Continued on Page 6

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Council fills empty seat during private meeting

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Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's town council has chosen Andrew Niven to fill the seat left vacant after Nick Ruller's departure.

Councillors and the lord mayor made the decision during an hour-long meeting that was closed to the public Wednesday night, breaking a tradition of selecting the next democratically elected runner-up. That would have been Allan Bisback, who served during the last term of council.

Speaking with Bisback, who says several residents were interested in seeing him assume the position, he says he's as in the dark on the details as others who watched the live video feed of the closed session

"I actually don't have any thoughts, because as I was watching it, the video whether it was by design the video on my end went blank, so I never did see them come back in from in-



Coun. Allan Bisback says he doesn't know why someone else was selected to fill the vacant council seat, when traditionally it would go to the next runner-up. FILE

Niven is the chair of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and a director of marketing at Konzelmann Estate Winery.

He also ran for council in 2018 unsuccessfully.

Council's options for filling the position included a byelection, choosing a candidate from the 2022 election list or council putting out a call for candidates, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told The Lake Report in an interview last week.

Zalepa did not answer several attempts to reach him by phone Wednesday night for comment.

Allan Bisback was the ninth-place finisher in the 2022 council election, behind Maria Mavridis by 66 votes.

In 2020, after former councillor Stuart Mc-Cormack resigned, Coun. Sandra O'Connor — who finished ninth in the polling for eight council positions in the 2018 municipal election — was appointed to fill the vacancy.

"Typically, the practice has been that you go to the next person, but, I mean, that's not required, so I really have no comment until I know the details of how the decision was made and who the individual is," Bisback said.

Bisback said he and Zale-

pa spoke about the vacancy abound a week after Ruller announced his departure.

"We had a good discussion," Bisback said.

"I told him that I certainly was prepared to let my name stand, and that I would endeavor to work as hard as I did the four years I was in before — which is not treating it as a part-time job, but actually full-time."

Some community members were contacted regarding their interest in the vacant position, Zalepa told The Lake Report last week.

When asked the names of those contacted, Zalepa refused to provide them.

Bisback served as a councillor for four years before the 2022 election.

People know, based on his previous four years on council, he tries to be as practical as possible as a part of municipal government, Bisback said.

The decision comes after former councillor Nick Ruller stepped down on Sept. 11 and the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake announced a vacancy, which it was required to fill within 60 days.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

camera," Bisback told The Lake Report Wednesday night.



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MLS 40601103 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

3 BLACKBIRD STREET \$999,000 MLS 40656471 - Patricia Atherton



629 SIMCOE STREET \$1,695,000 MLS 40644850 - Thomas Elltoft



6 TULIP TREE ROAD

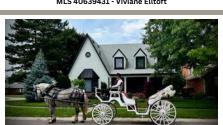
\$1,549,900

MLS 40577915 - Randall Armstrong

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Page 3 October 17, 2024



Happy developers, sad residents: Glendale secondary plan discussed

Continued from Front Page

The plan outlines the future of Glendale until the year 2051, by which time the community is expected to grow by 14,000 people and have 9,200 available jobs.

One of the main questions regarding the presentation was what kind of timeline can be expected.

"We keep hearing the comment 'over time,' and it concerns me," Coun. Gary Burroughs said.

A vague timeline is especially concerning when it comes to schools and community centres, he said.

"I was hearing it could be by 2051— that's a long time off," Burroughs said.

Palmer would give Burroughs his best "nonanswer" before sending his comment to the team for feedback, he said.

"This issue of time is an extremely complicated one," Palmer said.

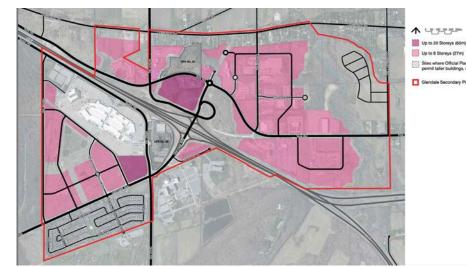
Obviously, the community would want to build schools before everything is built up, he said.

"I'm going to ask the school board to give me some advice on that, " Palmer said.

The town's community development director, Kirsten McCauley, said a recommendation is set to be brought to council in December.

Building height was another major aspect of the updated plan for councillors to address.

An increase in building height for Glendale is dependent on approval from Transport Canada.



A map shows proposed building heights for specific areas of Glendale. SOURCED

With pending approval, planners came up with a map of Glendale that includes an increased building height schedule, including some sections with heights up to eight storeys and other sections with up to 20 storeys.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor questioned Palmer on how these heights were chosen.

"We have been doing a fair bit of work in advance of hearing from Transport Canada," Palmer said.

Height fitting into its surroundings is not a science of compatibility, but instead a conversation about what kind of character is trying to be achieved, he said.

Stephen Bedford, a planner retained by White Oaks, spoke on behalf of LANDx Developments.

The White Oaks highrise development has proposed heights reaching 25 storeys - council rejected a proposal to increase these heights back in June.

Burroughs questioned Bedford on height requirements, asking if it was difficult to get an answer from Transport Canada.

By mid-Nomember, they may not have a final answer, Bedford said.

"We may not have a confirmed final answer but we will certainly have a direction," he said.

LANDx is comfortable with the proposed height of the buildings given the guidelines now in place and expects to be able to proceed with feedback from Transport Canada, Bedford

Planner David Falletta spoke on behalf of three property owners behind the Outlet Collection at Niagara.

Falletta insisted that increased building height should be included in the secondary plan, rather than having planners apply for height amendments.

"It's helpful because there are other safeguards in place, like rezoning," he said.

Falletta addressed other concerns.

There is an excess of parkland included in the plan, beyond what the Planning Act requires, he said.

"We think the schedule should be revised to reduce the amount of parkland on the Niagara-on-the-Green lands," Falletta said.

He is supportive of the transit hub included in the proposed plan revision, but thinks a number of public service facilities are unfair to Niagara on the Green community lands.

"We think spreading them a little bit would be helpful," he said.

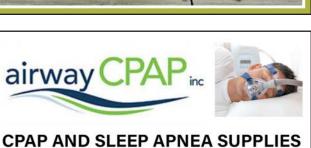
Michael Macdonald, a resident of Niagara on the Green came forward to speak following an open commentary period and was concerned about the proposed higher buildings.

"While developers are all extremely happy and call this 'enhanced,' I and most residents living here would tell you that's not enhanced," he said.

Macdonald is concerned that Glendale will look like the worst part of Toronto, he said.

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Former daycare worker who allegedly choked child released on bail, now faces four assault charges

The Lake Report

A former Niagara-on-the-Lake child care worker who is facing multiple assault charges has been released from custody.

Matthew Maxwell, 26, was charged with one count of aggravated assault in September for allegedly choking a child under the age of five while he was working at Way to Grow Daycare in Niagara Falls.

At that time, police said they had reason to believe there were more victims.

He has since been charged with an additional



Matthew Maxwell.

count of aggravated assault and two counts of assault, for a total of four charges, police told The Lake Report, in an email.

Maxwell was released on bail on Oct. 15.

The details of all the charges are protected by a publication ban.

Maxwell was previously employed at Niagara Nursery School, located beside the community centre in Old Town.

A source told The Lake Report Maxwell was fired for grabbing a child's arm while he worked there.

Police will not answer questions about that, stating the incident is part of an ongoing investigation.

It appears from a review of Ontario Ministry of Education records that Niagara Nursery School may not have reported that incident when it occurred, which is it required to do by law.

Police said that matter

would be "an investigation run by FACS and the Governing Bodies that manages daycares."

Reached in September after the initial charge, Niagara Nursery School executive director Candice Penny said, "We cannot comment at this time."

Police are urging anyone with more information, or who suspects their child may have been a victim, to contact detectives at 905-688-4111, option 3, ext. 1009468. Anonymous tips can be provided to Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-8477.



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Boundary stones to be restored this fall

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Six of Niagara-on-the-Lake's ordnance boundary stones, a collection of wartime geographical artifacts dating back to the 1800s, will be restored this fall.

During a heritage committee meeting on Oct. 2, committee members reviewed updates to the ordnance stones.

The six stones are set to undergo restoration this month with help from the Larocque Group of surveyors.

The stones were used in the 19th century to mark the boundaries of military property.

They are marked with an arrow pointing upward and the initials "BO," which stands for Board of Ordnance, the British Crown's custodian of military property from 1687 to 1855.

Along with Ted Rumble, a member of the Niagara Historical Society, municipal heritage staff will order fences and locates for the

The six stones are located at Simcoe Park, the Charles



An ordnance boundary stone at the entrance of Simcoe Park. FILE

Inn, the corner of Queen and Dorchester streets, the corner of Queen and Nassau streets and the corner of Prideaux and Simcoe streets.

Along with fences, a plaque is to be put up at Simcoe Park, said heritage planner Sumra Zia.

The restoration of the stones themselves, set to begin sometime in October, will involve temporarily removing the stones to be cleaned, and then placing

them in a stabilized hole with a protective barrier around the stone.

"The process, while slow, is proceeding quite nicely," said heritage committee member David Snelgrove.

Council allocated \$7,500 this year to fix to restore the six stones after setting aside \$5,000 for one stone last vear.

Coun. Gary Burroughs estimates the whole project will cost even more than that, he said during

the meeting.

Last year, Rumble and Larocque located ordnance stone one, marking 19 found stones — another 18 remain.

Richard Larocque, a land surveyor at Larocque Group, spoke with The Lake Report after uncovering stone one last year.

Even 200 years later, these stones are still important to understanding the past, he said.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

W walker

Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment South Landfill Phase 2 Environmental Assessment

Walker Environmental Group

Walker Environmental Group (Walker) is beginning an environmental assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act as part of the planning process for the next phase of its South Landfill (Phase 2). The proposed South Landfill Phase 2 will maintain the current annual fill rate of 1.1 million tonnes per year, while increasing the total capacity by approximately 18 million tonnes over the next 20 years. The type of waste accepted would remain unchanged.

South Landfill (Phase 1), an essential component of Walker's integrated Resource Management Campus in Niagara Falls, is nearing its final capacity. Walker is proposing to develop the next phase to continue to provide safe, affordable, and reliable waste disposal services. Phase 2 will supply renewable energy to the community and will sustain over 500 jobs in the Region. As part of the Provincial planning process under the Environmental Assessment Act, Walker has initiated an environmental assessment. This study will assess the potential effects of the proposed landfill continuation on the environment and surrounding community to ensure Phase 2 can be safely developed.

The Process

On September 10, 2024, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks approved the terms of reference for the South Landfill Phase 2 Environmental Assessment.

A copy of the approved terms of reference is available at: www.southlandfillphase2.com

A hard copy of the file can also be found at Walker's office

Walker Environmental Group 2800 Thorold Townline Road Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S4 Phone: 1-866-699-9425 Email: info@southlandfillphase2.com

This study will be carried out according to the approved terms of reference and the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act. Results from this study will be documented in an environmental assessment, which will be submitted to the ministry for review.

At that time, the public, Indigenous communities and other interested persons will be informed when and where the environmental assessment can be reviewed.

Consultation

Members of the public, agencies, Indigenous communities and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the planning of the undertaking by attending consultation opportunities or contacting staff directly with information, comments or questions. Consultation opportunities are planned throughout the planning process and will be advertised in local newspapers, on the project website www.southlandfillphase2.com, by direct mail and/or electronic mail (email).

Call for Applications: Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee for South Landfill Phase 2

Engaging the local community and considering a range of perspectives is an important part of the planning process. Walker is seeking applications from members of the public to establish a South Landfill Phase 2 Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee to gather feedback, ideas, and local perspectives. This committee will play an important role in ensuring the next phase of the South Landfill considers a range of perspectives from



Shown: South Landfill

The South Landfill Phase 2 Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee will be comprised of community members, together with representatives from Walker and government agencies. Approximately six meetings will be held locally and at key project

If you are interested in participating please contact info@southlandfillphase2.com by October 31st, 2024 to receive an application form, additional information about the committee and submission instructions.

If you would like to be added to our project mailing list or have project-related questions, please contact: Darren Fry, Project Director Walker Environmental Group Inc. 2800 Thorold Townline Rd, ON L2E 6S4 Phone: 1-866-699-9425 Email: info@southlandfillphase2.com www.southlandfillphase2.com

All personal information included in a submission - such as name, address, telephone number and property location - is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

October 17, 2024

Solmar must preserve several heritage features

Continued from Front Page

interest do not represent good planning in the public interest."

Solmar has two months to decide if it intends to pursue the studies and revisions to its plan. If Solmar decides not to proceed as directed, the tribunal said it would dismiss the company's appeals completely.

If Solmar does move forward with the subdivision, it must do so in consultation with the town, SORE and the McArthurs.

The decision contains a final order and an interim order:

In the final order, the tribunal approved Solmar's request for an official plan amendment that corrects the location of the urban boundary in conformity with the region's official plan and the Greenbelt Plan.

In its interim decision, the tribunal ordered a number of revisions and further studies, and will require Solmar, which is owned by prominent developer Benny Marotta, to retain, repair and protect several heritage features of the properties and prevent the removal of trees from several areas.

The ruling covers several inter-connected issues, in which the tribunal largely opted in favour of built heritage preservation, or felt either more options or further study were needed for impacts on cultural heritage, environment and infrastructure.

"At a high level, this decision sends Solmar 'back to the drawing board," the decision delivered by vice-chair Scott Tousaw and appointee W. Daniel Best says.

The decision asks Solmar for "substantial revisions to the design of the proposed subdivision related to the tribunal's findings on cultural heritage, vehicular access, tree protection and natural heritage."

The tribunal said it will "keep this file alive" as the town, Solmar and SORE work together to meet the directions of the order.

Heritage and planning

In its 55-page ruling, the tribunal took issue with the current heritage impact assessments for the properties. It found they were "not prepared to assess the impacts of the required stormwater management outlet and the proposed replacement wetland on the Ontario Heritage Act designated property at 144 (John St.)"







Top left: The Whistle Stop. Top Right: The swimming pool and Bath Pavilion. Bottom left: The 200 John St. entrance. Bottom right: The Carriage House. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

It also found there was a "relative absence" of meaningful heritage impact assessments to evaluate the effects on the neighbouring heritage properties that comprise the other half of the Rand Estate — where the developer also plans to build a hotel.

optimize, not maximize' the efficient use of land by balancing housing with cultural and natural heritage."

ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL RIJI ING

Dunington-Grubb

The Rand Estate's lavish gardens were famously designed by renowned landscape architects Howard and Lorrie Dunington-Grubb in 1928.

Solmar asked the tribunal to find that certain landscape features are not "surviving elements of the Dunington-Grubb landscape" and that consent is not required for their alteration or removal, including trees and plantings in several key areas of the estate.

The tribunal found there was a "likelihood of Dunington-Grubb involvement with many of the landscape elements on this site," even if it couldn't be proven.

"With the tribunal's findings on the relevance of

cultural heritage landscapes, it will refuse Solmar's request that certain features are not surviving elements of the Dunington-Grubb landscape, or in the alternative, that certain trees and plantings are permitted for removal."

Pool Garden

Solmar has been instructed to repair and retain the 1928 Pool Garden attribute, comprising a tea pavilion, pool area and gazebo.

"This substantial heritage feature exemplifies all of the heritage attributes articulated by the numerous heritage experts," the ruling reads

It concluded the pool garden is a key element of the Rand Estate, is a destination outdoor room, designed by Dunington-Grubb, and is connected by paths and views to the Bath Pavilion, Mound, and Axial Walkway; and largely intact.

"Its retention and rehabilitation will include substantial repair, rebuilding and replanting to reflect the Dunington-Grubb design, while commemorating the pool by suitable means," the ruling says

Bath Pavillion & Mound Garden

The tribunal says the bath pavilion on the property should be retained and conserved in its original place.

The tribunal agreed with Solmar's plan to retain the mound garden and refurbish it with "suitable planting, pathways and possible seating," noting the garden should reflect its original diameter.

Whistle Stop and Axial Walkway

The tribunal denied Solmar's plans to realign a walkway that was connected to the old railway which is now the Upper Canada Heritage Trail. It argues both the Axial Walkway and Whistle Stop are connected heritage elements, designed to welcome guests when they arrived by train to the property.

Wall and Pillars

The tribunal refused Solmar's request for a wider wall opening at 200 John St., and said the developer must retain and protect the existing wall and pillars.

Carriage House

The tribunal directs that the Carriage House be retained in place, "given its heritage qualities and strong potential for adaptive reuse."

It also directed the house be "accommodated by a suitable lot design for access, views, and commemorative tree/shrub plantings."

Summer House

The tribunal said it will eventually direct the town to allow Solmar to remove the Calvin Rand Summer House, subject to plans for commemoration of the structure. The tribunal said it recognizes the heritage value of the structure, but acknowledges that a large expansion was completed in 1970, the presence of groundwater is problematic and has deteriorated

the floor structure and that it suffered a fire in the late 1990s resulting in alterations. It also acknowledges the structure isn't a landmark since it isn't visible to the public.

Barn/Stables

The tribunal found the barn/stable may be demolished due to several factors including deteriorating condition, additions that aren't heritage, groundwater in the basement and "its odd 'zigzag' shape unrelated to its original purpose for housing farm animals."

Access

The tribunal said primary vehicle access to John street is a "fundamental issue in this case."

It directs Solmar to find alternative vehicle access to the subdivision, instead of through what is referred to as the "panhandle" that abuts the neighbouring McArthur Estate and is found to be too narrow for a proper entrance — referred to several times as being about the size of a lane driveway.

It found the plan to be unsafe for "present and future inhabitants" and ordered Solmar to revise its plan and explore more "comprehensive planning" for alternate access.

Trees and Heritage

The tribunal ruled that, in several instances, trees, sometimes over 100 years old, contribute to the cultural heritage landscape of the property and may not be removed, even for the construction of new roads and paths throughout the estate.

"The tribunal finds that the site's remaining mature trees help define the Rand Estate as a cultural landmark in NOTL and will enhance the landscape and views for the site's future residents. Impacts to those trees, and the cultural heritage outdoor rooms they create or contribute to, should be minimized, including through the assessment of a potential shared access through (the other two properties of the estate)."

The tribunal requires Solmar to implement a tree protection plan to address several areas of the property and ensure the trees are protected.

Wetland

"Wetlands do not follow property boundaries," the ruling says, citing an argument from Erin Bannon, an environmental expert who was a witness for SORE during the hearings.

"The tribunal accepts the opposition parties' evidence that it is highly likely that the wetland removal will negatively affect or alter the remaining wetland on 210 John St. E and in the Greenbelt and the associated survival of trees. The studies have not fully evaluated drainage basin contributions and proposed withdrawals, groundwater connections, the extent and effects on 210, and tree impacts.

Edge of property

Tribunal disagreed with SORE that a trail and fence is necessary to separate the vineyard portion of the property from the back of the residential lots, because such a scenario is common in NOTL.

It found in favour of Solmar's suggesting of a visually permeable fence along the rear lot line.

Density

The tribunal found that the revised plan should include a mix of housing options, as long as more than 50 per cent is low density.

"The tribunal finds considerable flexibility in the town official plan policies to enable a desirable mix of single, semi-detached and townhouse dwellings on this site. The tribunal anticipates approving the revised density, when known, provided that, in accordance with Solmar's intentions, low density uses comprise more than half of all units."

"This site 'should optimize, not maximize' the efficient use of land by balancing housing with cultural and natural heritage."

Infrastructure

The tribunal found there were a range of stormwater management infrastructure issues that warrant further study.

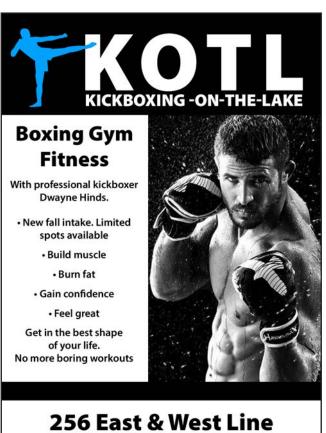
"While it is common and accepted to address final plans through subdivision conditions, the complications of this site warrant more assurance that the inter-connected issues are resolved through the subdivision design. Those issues include heritage conservation, tree protection, stormwater catchment area, wetland retention, water balance, run-off reduction efforts, grading, drainage and receiving stream capacity."

Solmar and the town are to advise the tribunal on progress within 12 months of the issuance of the order.

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Progress in search for new town CAO

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The town of Niagara-onthe-Lake has completed its first round of interviews for the position of chief administrative officer — a role currently held by interim CAO Bruce Zvaniga.

Zvaniga was named CAO by town council last December, replacing Marnie Cluckie, who held the position for three years before leaving to become the city of Hamilton's city manager.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa is part of the CAO hiring committee, along with fellow council members Erwin Wiens, Sandra O'Connor

and Maria Mavridis, and said they received approximately 70 applications for the role.

The town hired Phelps Group, a Toronto executive search firm, to identify qualified candidates.

"They were able to lock it down to about 30 that they went over with a fine-tooth comb and presented us with a list of about 10 or 12," said Zalepa.

"We (the committee) decided to interview a small group of that," he added on Oct. 1, "and decided we would meet with a couple of them again, which we plan to do in the next 10 days or

"I am hoping we come

to some kind of a decision after that."

Zalepa would like to have the winning candidate identified and in place before the end of the year.

"Ideally, if everything goes well it would be nice to have that by year-end, if not sooner," he said.

Zvaniga, who made it clear once taking the job that it would not be permanent, declined to comment on the search or his past 10 months in the role.

Zalepa feels the town was fortunate to have a professional such as Zvaniga steer the ship until a permanent candidate could be found.

"We have been very lucky to have Mr. Zvaniga working for our municipality this past year," he said.

"He has over 40 years municipal experience and leadership at a high level and being that he is a resident of town, he is very tuned in."

"He is an excellent mentor and calming force for our staff and has just been excellent to work with.".

The winning candidate, Zalepa said, will possess "that leadership quality that shows you are both a coach and mentor for staff."

"The role of a CAO, as I see it," he continued, "is to be that encouraging person, giving guidance when needed and giving enough space for people to grow."

wright@niagaranow.com

Legal battle has been going on for years

Continued from Front Page

has never been enforced, though one of the applicants, Charlene Quevillon, a neighbour to the digester, says it hasn't been in operation since 2018.

Quevillon is frustrated with the time it has taken for either level of government to act on the digester's dismantling and is afraid without anyone enforcing the stop order, the property owner will one day start it

An anaerobic digester is a system that converts manure and agri-food byproducts into electrical power.

Neighbours claim that when operational, it is a source of loud noise, vibrations, horrible odours and attracts rodents.

While the contempt charge was filed this year, the case dates back to 2008.

It was at that time the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake passed a bylaw to grant a site plan for the digester system to be built on the location.

The following year, in 2009, the Ontario Ministry of Environment approved a request to have the property converted to a waste disposal site.

This is when neighbouring residents took action.

They say the operation didn't constitute normal farm practices and since it was collecting waste from outside its operations, it should be considered a commercial site and barred from being located on agricultural lands.

Lawyers for the residents say they also believe the town is in contradiction of clauses in the site plan bylaw







Top: The anaerobic digester at 2021 Four Mile Creek Road remains standing. Bottom left: A sign at the entrance to 2021 Four Mile Creek Road appears to advertise the anaerobic digester for current use. Bottom right: Waste appears to remain just outside the concrete bunkers that stored waste for the digester. RICHARD WRIGHT

that go beyond the normal farm practices charge.

"The bylaw contains a provision that requires the owner to shut down and decommission the (anaerobic digester) system if it has not produced power in a year," said Paul Marshall, a lawyer from the firm of Marshall Kirewskie who is representing the residents.

But yet, it remains on-site. In a copy of a bylaw passed June 2, 2008, approving the digester, section 14.2 states, "If the anaerobic digester is not operational within one (1) year from the time it ceased producing power, the owner

agrees, at its own expense, to commence the decommissioning and removal of the digester."

"I haven't had windows open for years because of the smell," she told The Lake Report, adding she is dumbfounded by the disregard shown by the town and provincial officials.

"They're not stepping forward, stepping up to resolve the issue as they've been told to do," she said.

"I feel that they're wasting the court's time and wasting the finances of the citizens of Ontario."

The town of Niagara-onthe-Lake refused to comment on the issue.

"The matter related to 2021 Four Mile Creek Rd. is currently before the courts, and it is an ongoing legal issue," said a statement from town spokesperson Lauren Kruitbosch.

"Therefore, we are unable to provide any comments or conduct an interview at this time."

Kumarage did not respond to requests for comment, and the Ontario Ministry of Environment declined to comment.

The case will be heard in Hamilton at the John Sopinka Courthouse on Nov. 26.





Photographer Cherry Aperocho captured this image of the northern lights above the Queen's Royal Park gazebo.

'Life-changing' northern lights captured over NOTL landscape

Zahraa Hmood The Lake Report

A dazzling sight was on display for all to see last Thursday night, and those in Niagara-on-the-Lake were among thousands across southern Ontario to witness it.

The northern lights were visible in the night sky late Thursday evening, Oct. 10,

into Friday morning, thanks to a geomagnetic storm.

NOTLers captured images of the vibrant lights shining above the town from their vantage points, whether at home or down by the waters of the Niagara River.

Cherry Aperocho, a resident of Shaw's Lane in Old Town, said she looked out her window around midnight on Thursday to see bright flashes of light.

She dressed quickly and went down to the gazebo at Queens Royal Park, where she and several photographers — including Dave van de Laar, with The Lake Report — were snapping many shots of the celestial phenomenon, which she shared with our news team.

"It was a life-changing

experience for me," she wrote in an email. "We all felt so fortunate to be able to be there and watch these amazing northern lights, which are so rare."

This has been a year of gazing up at the skies in wonder and awe: Back in the spring, NOTLers gathered across town to watch the total solar eclipse on April 8.

Legion's poppy campaign starts next Friday



Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Starting next Friday, Oct. 25, NOTLers can get their poppies ready for Remembrance Day.

Members of Legion Branch 124 will be collecting donations in exchange for poppies along

the streets of Niagara-onthe-Lake starting next Friday as part of the annual poppy campaign.

"We will be collecting donations at that time for our poppy fund, which supports veterans and their families," said Legion president Al Howse.

The poppies will also be available at more than 200 businesses around town.

The Legion's annual Remembrance Day ceremony will be held in front of the cenotaph on Nov. 11 at 10:45 am., followed by a second service in Queenston at 1 p.m.

Those wishing to purchase a wreath for the celebration must do so through Branch 124, no later than Nov. 4.

Brampton resident pleads guilty for failing to declare over \$227K USD at Canadian border

The Lake Report

A Brampton resident has pled guilty this fall for failing to declare more than \$227,000 in American currency while crossing the border from the United States via Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Fifty-six-year-old Chandrakant Patel was in court on Sept. 9 and pled guilty to the charge of failing to declare currency

greater than \$10,000 when entering Canada from the U.S. last October, states a release from Niagara Regional Police.

Police say two travellers, when speaking to officers with the Canada Border Services Agency at the Queenston Bridge port of entry, declared they did not have more than \$10,000 cash with them — a second examination found \$227,453 hidden in the vehicle, valued

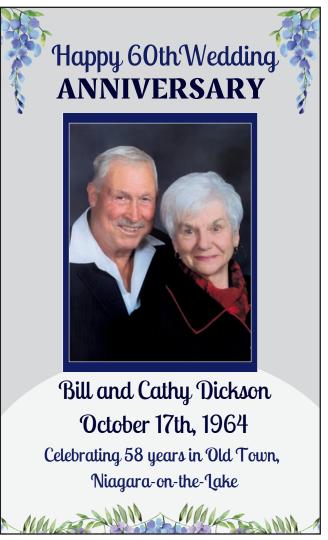
to be more than \$312,200 in Canadian currency.

Border services officers seized these travellers' cash and detained them for suspicion of smuggling under the Customs Act. Police say the RCMP's Niagara-onthe-Lake Border Integrity Unit found, through a criminal investigation, that the cash belonged to the passenger of the car.

"This seizure and investigation demonstrates the

consequences for smugglers, and those perpetuating the cycle of organized crime," said Christine Burocher, border services' regional director general for southern Ontario, in the release.

Under Section 12(1) of the Canadian government's Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act, it is illegal to fail to declare currency greater than \$10,000 when entering the country.





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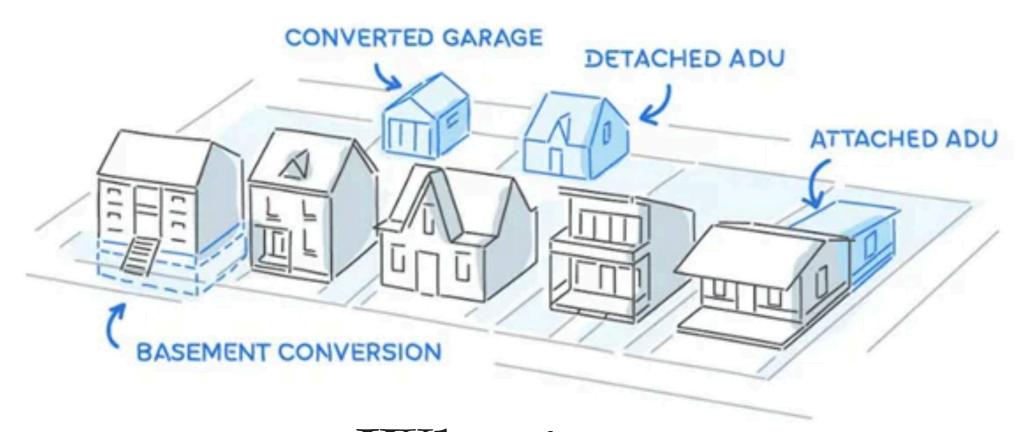
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What is an accessory dwelling unit?

Adding a second dwelling to your home or property? Here are some of the major rules

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

They are referred to by many names: Additional residential units, granny flats and even coach homes, but they all mean the same thing.

One of the most common terms in NOTL is accessory dwelling units. Such dwellings have been allowed on NOTL properties for many years.

New rules this year from the province of Ontario feature exemptions for development charges and an increase in the number of additional units allowable on many properties from one to two.

So, what is, and what is not, allowed in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Within the urban area

Up to two additional units may be located within a detached house, semi-detached house, or townhouse on a parcel of land zoned for urban residential use, provided that the property lies within the urban area boundary.

This means that for the entire property, a total of three units are permitted — one primary unit, and two additional units.

One residential unit may be situated in a building or structure ancillary to a detached house, semi-detached house, or townhouse on a parcel of land zoned for residential use, provided that the property is within the urban area boundary.

One detached unit is permitted, provided there are

only two units in the main dwelling — one primary unit, and one additional unit.

Outside of the urban area (within the rural area)

Lands outside the urban area provide limited opportunities to accommodate additional residential units.

The province's Greenbelt Plan allows for one additional residential unit within an existing single-detached dwelling or an existing accessory structure on the same lot.

However, the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's official plan policies currently do not permit additional residential units outside of the urban area.

The newly released provincial planning statement
— to take effect on Oct.

20 — will contain a policy

that permits an additional residential unit in the agricultural area.

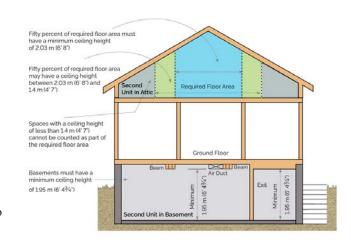
Any additional unit is required to meet the provisions of the town's zoning bylaw as well as the Ontario Building Code.

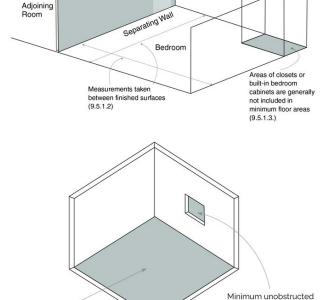
Types and locations of accessory dwellings:

- Second dwelling unit
- Accessory apartment
- In-law suite
- Garden suite
- Basement apartment
- Garage suite/coach

Units can be all on one floor or on multiple levels. Building code rules can vary depending on where the second unit is located in your house.

More info at, www. ontario.ca/page/add-secondunit-your-house



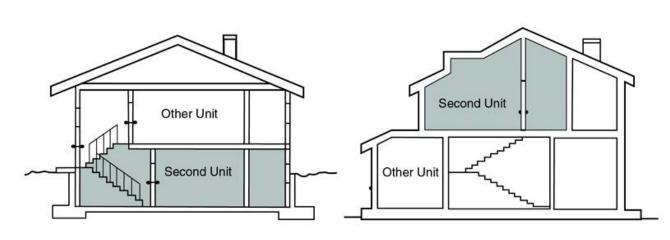


The province has specific requirements for minimum floor areas, ceiling heights and unobstructed windows in secondary dwellings. Though it's not required, the province also recommends having two separate heating units for two dwellings, as one unit could result in shared smells, recreational smoke and other odours, as well as noise. Having one thermostate could also be an issue.

glass area = 5% (1.25 m²/13.45 ft²)

Living Room

(25 m²/269.1 ft²)



SECONDARY UNITS (%)



Accessory dwellings could offset high living costs

Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

So you're thinking of building a secondary unit, or units, on your property or home.

This summer, Bill 23, the province's More Homes Built Faster Act, came into full effect, creating a process for many landowners to double original allowances from one to two additional units of living space on their properties.

This can be done either via attached or detached dwellings.

However, key rules and regulations apply when it comes to building accessory units — such as where, how and for what purpose - before the municipality of Niagara-on-the-Lake will allow them.

"(The act) allows for units within single detached, semi-detached or townhouse," said Kirsten McCauley, director of community and development services for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"So, that could be that you have your primary



Accessory dwelling units can provide a source of income for homeowners.

house and then you could have an additional residential unit within, say, your basement apartment."

"Or you could have at least two units within your primary residence. The other option is the detached accessory or additional residential unit."

Renovating space above a new or existing garage does apply, added McCauley.

Housing crunch

The need for these types of units in Niagara is real.

The region is not immune to the housing crisis being experienced in municipalities across Canada.

The vacancy rate here in Niagara is slim, from 1.1 percent on the low end in areas of Niagara

Falls to just 3.4 percent in Welland-proper at the high end (note: the high ends are good ends when it comes to vacancy rates).

Adam Hawley is vice president of Traditional Neighbourhood Developments in NOTL and believes loosening the rules around adding a second or third unit to private properties is a good start, but doesn't see it as the big solution.

"We've got to build a lot of homes in this in this country, and it's not all going to be done with accessory dwelling units," he said.

"It's not going to solve the problem, but it's a piece."

What these types of dwellings do accomplish, he said, is adding space for people to live without going as far as to take up other valuable land within municipalities with larger structures such as apartment buildings.

"I think a lot of times (an accessory dwelling) can be a very good tool because it sort of brings in gentle density," he said.

Bonus feature of new laws

Bill 23 hangs another attractive feature in front of interested people.

The act eliminates development charges for homeowners, a move that will save thousands of dollars.

This will be very attractive to people looking to supplement their income, or add space for loved ones such as elderly parents or adult children who are unable to buy a home of their own due to high costs associated with home ownership these days.

"It helps because the cost of construction has gone up so drastically," said Hawley.

"Specifically in Niagara the regional development charges have increased significantly in the last four years," he added.

And just announced on Oct. 8 by Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland are additional measures to help create accessory dwellings in Canadian homes.

Those changes are to existing mortgage insurance rules for the construction of accessory dwellings.

"Effective Jan. 15, 2025, the government will allow

mortgage insurance for Canadians who intend to construct additional units not for use as a short-term rental, as long as that borrower already owns their current property and either they or a close relative are occupying a current unit," said a media release from Freeland's office.

Borrowers will now be able to finance up to 90 per cent of the home value, including the value added by the additional unit or units, and to pay the mortgage over a period of up to 30 years.

The plan also states that the existing residential property after the upgrades cannot exceed \$2 million.

Know the rules before beginning to plan

For all of the options and reduction of costs available to interested parties, there are town zoning bylaw requirements that still have to be met.

A homeowner, said McCauley, would have to inquire on their particular property to find out what the existing zoning requirements are, adding that in an established residential zone there are two classifications for zoning, residential 1 or residential 2.

She also notes that on rural properties within the municipality, there are only allowances for one extra unit to be built.

In all cases, she notes residents would "have to meet your lot coverage," the area of a lot the dwelling covers, "your setbacks and you'd also need a building permit."

Setbacks, she added, are the distance between the new dwelling to the property line.

There are front-yard, sideyard and rear-yard setbacks as well as setbacks between dwellings and the primary residence, which are also zoned differently.

"The individual would need to contact the town (or visit online) to find out what their zoning requirements are," said McCauley.

McCauley adds there has been quite a bit of interest in constructing these types of dwellings in NOTL, but is reminding people to get approval for a building permit, the dwelling must not be used as a short-term rental.

wright@niagaranow.com



THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 2024, THE GENEROSITY OF OUR **COMMUNITY TO OUR FOOD BANK HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY SUPPORTIVE. WORDS** CANNOT FULLY EXPRESS OUR DEEP GRATITUDE AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO **OUR MANY DONORS AND SUPPORTERS. THIS SUPPORT MADE IT POSSIBLE TO** PROVIDE A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING TO OUR CLIENTS ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR.

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And the community gardens at NOTL Public Library, Newark Park, Meridian Credit Union and Pleasant Manor

And many, many generous individuals and families throughout our wonderful NOTL community

THANK YOU ALL!



The Lake Report





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Contributed by Patty Garriock

"All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom; justice; honor; duty; mercy; hope." - Winston Churchill

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SPOOKY SEASON

Photographer Dave Van de Laar snapped this photo of an elaborate Halloween display at 27 Annemarie Dr. in Virgil. If you're out trick-or-treating on Oct. 31, stop by and take in the creativity.

Opinion

A housing crisis when 800 are empty?



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner Columnist

They leaned against a white pickup. Cleaning supplies were piled on the front step. One woman had a phone to her ear. The other was good to chat.

"So," I said, "getting ready to list it?"

"That's what the realtor wants," she answered. "But we're not going back in there without hazmat suits. You wouldn't believe the black mould. I can smell it out here."

The Old Town house is quaint and unique. But it hasn't been occupied for years. Now I hear it's an estate sale. On MLS soon.

Given its location — even with mould forcing a total gut (or worse) — the ask may be close to \$2 million.

In other words, more than

enough to justify getting those ladies N95 masks and shapely rubber bodysuits.

It's a weird time in NOTL. The trends mentioned here recently continue. Listings are way up. Sales are staggering.

In the last 90 days, virtually nothing sold for more than \$1.5 million. The average house takes over 100 days to get an offer — and six in ten are conditional on the buyer being able to sell.

There's a year or two of inventory at the top end of the market, nine months on average in NOTL (way less in St. Catharines). Yet, prices are stuck. Sellers won't budge.

Listings in Niagara are up about 60 per cent. Sales are down from long-term trends by a third.

Last month, more folks were trying to sell their house than ever before — 3,294 of them. Only 488 got offers. Just 24 of those are in NOTL. And most of those were below a million.

So what does this tell us? First, we're special. Of course. Price reductions are so, you know ... Milton or Burlington.

No burg with a Lord Mayor, an endless bevy of brides or 48 gelato parlours need stoop to that level. Sniff.

Second, how can there be a housing crisis when we're awash in places for sale?

As veteran broker Patrick Burke reminded me a few days ago, there's a slew of places on the block not only available but, like the icky mould house, empty. Nobody lives there.

"Would you believe 30 per cent of the houses for sale in Niagara are vacant? There are estate sales, rentals not being rented, people who have moved and bought another house — a huge number. That's here ... so what does that look like in K-W, for example? Across the GTA?"

Yes, he says, houses are unaffordable.

"Asking prices are out of whack — there's a busload of them."

People are also waiting for interest rates to drop even more. But there's also a crisis of expectations.

"People go into a house and if it's not shiny and perfect, it's not worth anything to them. Gone are the days when you could leave the bed unmade or dishes in the sink." Third, there's some fear in the air.

Maybe it's Trump. Maybe AI eating jobs. More likely it's that people have pickled themselves in debt, have a small coronary when they hit the grocery checkout and an evil boss announced they must be back in the office two days a week.

Yes, car, gas and daycare. More overhead. Who can afford that?

Lately, the economic indicators have been all green. Inflation down. Rates down. Jobs steady. Markets up. No recession.

Despite that, surveys find 63 per cent of Canadians think we have a poor economy.

"What we've seen is the anger quotient has hit a new record," says my pollster pal Nik Nanos.

He found a scant 11 per cent of people are optimistic. Two-thirds are pissed.

It's a recipe for political change. But not for cheaper houses. Mouldy or otherwise.

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

garth@garth.ca



New! FALL FLIGHTS

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Old hospital should be facility for seniors, not yet another unused 'community hub'

The following letter was sent to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and members of town council. A copy was also sent to The Lake Report for publication.

Dear lord mayor and members of town council,

We are writing to express our dismay with the lack of leadership shown by the present council concerning the NOTL Hospital on Wellington Street. The town purchased it in 2017 for \$3.5 million.

With the move of the Niagara North physicians in early 2022, the Royal Oak Academy leases a portion but the remainder of the 2.7-hectare property sits

Since the council has not suggested any use for it, a private foundation has taken the initiative to

In our two-week absence

from NOTL, there has been

cil was in a rush to quietly

pass as many approvals for

developments by amending

the official plan, rezoning,

the availability of services

etc. among other overlooked

completely ignoring the park-

ing and traffic challenges and

quite a shift in council's focus.

It appeared that town coun-

Dear editor:



propose it become a hub for arts, education, and heritage groups and has hired an Ottawa company to conduct a survey of 300 residents' opinions on this ("Company seeking feedback on plan for old hospital site," The Lake Report, Oct. 6).

This is the same polling firm, Abacus Data, that managed to conclude on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce that a majority of Niagara residents support more tourism without ever directly asking the question in their survey of 1/70th of the

There was also the glaring

omission of public meet-

whose lives would be

greatly affected.

sort this out.

ings to include the residents

It seems council's focus

nary review of our heritage

district expansion in order

to "preserve the rich heri-

tage of NOTL's Old Town."

I am thoroughly con-

fused and require help to

has changed to a prelimi-

town's population.

Do we not already have enough cultural hubs created from local schools that have been closed?

The old Virgil Public School and the Laura Secord School in Queenston provide artists' and pottery studios. The Pumphouse also for many years has served as a vibrant cultural hub.

And the Niagara-onthe-Lake Museum, just two blocks away, offers outstanding exhibitions, stimulating lectures and a variety of clubs for residents interested in history.

Now that Upper Canada Lodge has been closed and will become an extension of the Shaw Festival, the town should be investing in retirement homes and public health facilities.

The old hospital is the

For example, council

modern hotel adjacent to

Hummel's heritage home at

the entrance to our heritage

district, is considering subdi-

viding the Crysler-Burroughs

heritage designated home

to allow a double garage

with living quarters facing

Queen Street, passed a four-

storey condo - rejected by

a previous council because

of location surrounded by

passes the building of a large

perfect place to build a health/retirement/seniors facility that would benefit the aging population of this town.

We suggest the town council set up a committee to actively attract companies that run this kind of facility.

There should be no need for residents seeking it to have to move away from NOTL as so many have

It should be perfectly clear to the town's residents where our priorities lie, without the need for another survey to obfuscate the

Moreover, the town council should begin to take its responsibilities to its residents seriously instead of catering to the tourism industry.

Paul and Elizabeth Masson **NOTL**

single-family homes — and

an oversized hotel on King

Street, also surrounded by

Now, they are hiring a

company to help them with

their review after disbanding

our volunteer urban design

committee whose members

were highly qualified profes-

Luba Fraser

NOTL

What am I missing?

sionals.

single-family homes.



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Lake Report

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- · Historic organizations

Pledge your annual donation at www.lakereport.ca/donate-today

Contact us at editor@niagaranow.com to let us know of endowment plans



Fed up with increasing taxes, shrinking amenities

Something smells fishy with NOTL town council

Dear editor:

necessary issues.

This is an open letter to our elected council members.

In response to an article in the Oct. 10 edition, titled "Annual budget meetings to kick off on Oct. 10" wherein deputy mayor Erwin Wiens expressed concern — and not for the first time — about the legal fees over land development.

I hereby, for the second time via this newspaper, call on our elected officials

to release these expenditures to the public.

My first attempt, like so many requests by the taxpaying community, fell on deaf ears. Silence.

This from a council to a man, and woman, during their re-election stump speeches promised, "We will be transparent in our dealings with the electorate."

To date, this was just another hollow political spin job, like so many others ignored since taking office.

Additionally, the public

would be interested in how much our library is requesting for 2025, to support their woke agenda, plus the attendant percentage impact on our next budget.

In 2024, this figure was close to \$900,000. Are we now looking at \$1 million?

Finally, with respect to raising additional revenues, restaurants within the town that are operating an outside patio should reimburse the town for all or a portion of the lost parking space income.

This additional restaurant outlay is offset by their increased seating capacity In addition, they can charge our tourists an additional fee to enjoy the outside seating and people-watching experience.

The electorate is fed up with our ever-increasing taxes, at a time when we continue to lose critical infrastructure, for example, our high school, hospital, X-ray facilities, etc.

Samuel Young **NOTL**

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An example of considerate architecture



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall Columnist

I have somewhat crazy sleep patterns.

Occasionally, I experience insomnia, which can last for up to three days. Then, there are the nights when I fall asleep at my regular time only to wake up two or three hours later fully convinced that I've had a full night's sleep.

When this occurs, it's my wont to grab a book and read

About a week ago, I had one of those nights and, having just finished a book before falling asleep, at 1:45 in the morning I wandered downstairs to my library to get some reading material.

As I was perusing the shelves, my eye fell upon a small book I'd read back in 2017 when it was first published and I thought it would be just the thing to wile away a couple of nighttime hours.

The book, titled "Architecture Matters," was written by Aaron Betsky, a former architect, critic, curator, museum director and, at the time it was published, the dean of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture.

Contained between the book's covers lies some 46 short essays by the author that explore a wide variety of topics related to architecture.

It is not a deep, scholarly work but rather a fairly light read that focuses on his thoughts and opinions highlighted by the experiences that shaped them.

Almost in the centre of the book are two essays which, during my nocturnal re-read, I bookmarked as something that, taken together, held particular relevance as commentary on the general practice of architecture in North America.

The first of these essays, entitled "What we can still learn from the Greeks," speaks to the remarkable way in which ancient Greek buildings stood in relation to their settings.

He writes, "They command the part of the valley they are in, but also respond to the mountains around or behind them."

And later, goes on to suggest the alignment of adjacent buildings was a deliberate attempt to "create an active space that brought the rhythm of the surrounding landscape down into the field on which the temples stood, while letting them dispose themselves as objects that you experience as such, rather than merely as facades seen from the front or the side."

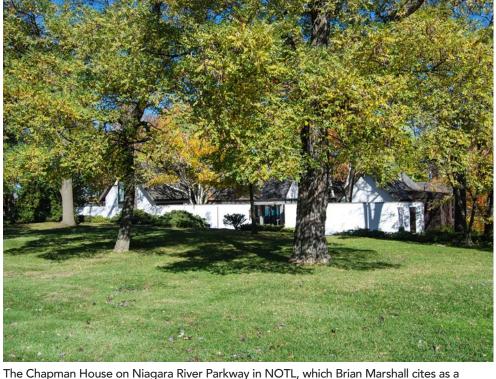
And concludes with the fact this "basic and fundamental architecture" is at the root of the European architecture which followed.

The second essay, "Why we should build with (and not on) the land", Betsky speaks to a number of indigenous architectural expressions which "builds with, rather than on, the land, elaborating the natural setting into the orders and rhythms of human settlement."

And later suggests, "I think we should always remember that the roots of human habitation are in and act as responses to the landscape"... "It is a tracing, tracking, marking, and measuring of the landscape in a manner that connects you directly to that place, but only as a member of a collective culture."

And continues, "That model is so important exactly because Western settlers ignored it so thoroughly."

He explains that the American model of inhabitation of the land evolved as "isolated structures, light and cheap, that turn inward and away from both each other and the landscape around them" — something that is the antithesis of a central tenet of good architecture.



The Chapman House on Niagara River Parkway in NOTL, which Brian Marshall cites as a superb example of building with the land. BRIAN MARSHALL

Moreover, he asserts that "Countless architects have tried to find ways to atone for the original sin of American architecture, which ate the apple of independence and economy, and slithered away from its Edenic setting into isolating and alienating grids that promised the artificial connection of democracy."

over Niagaraon-the-Lake's landscape, the first description which springs to mind is "flat" and presents a vista that emphasizes the horizontal line where the ground and sky meet."

Pretty damning words, but something which I assert is true of development in the 20th century and continues to this very day.

So, what does building "with the land" really

To answer that question, we must begin by looking at and developing an understanding of the landscape.

As one looks out over Niagara-on-the-Lake's landscape, the first description which springs to mind is "flat" and presents a vista that emphasizes the horizontal line where the ground and sky meet.

Indeed, even the Escarpment formation, rising abruptly, almost vertically and at generally a consistent elevation, presents as a wall that can be said to reinforce the horizontal impression of the landscape.

With the small exception of the original pocket of the Queenston settlement area and, arguably, a minor section of the lands close to St. Davids, this horizontal descriptor applies across the town landscapes.

And, this horizontal impression is further accentuated by the waters of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario that bracket the town on two sides.

From this singular understanding of NOTL's landscape, we can state that architecture which reflects in its lines the horizontal nature of the landscape and draws the eye across the building hence unbroken out into that landscape will work with the land.

Whereas, architecture that draws the eye up, absent any relatable natural vertical features (tall hills, mountains, etc.) to the building, will be perceived as being built "on the land," dominate and be divorced from its context.

Interestingly, our 19thcentury ancestors seemed to intuitively grasp the importance of embracing this horizontal relationship and, should you consider the dwellings they built — particularly those dating prior to the 1870s — you'll generally find your eye is drawn horizontally across the building rather than vertically toward the sky.

This is in sharp contrast to many recent infill and subdivision developments wherein each dwelling tends to be relatively narrow and vertical — essentially, a series of isolated "towers."

Furthermore, the proposed design of the White Oaks development in Glendale is a complete repudiation of building with the land.

Not only does the verticality of the four tall towers run contrary to the landscape, the design effectively isolates the development as an island distinctly separate from the landscape and neighbouring communities.

Moving on, let's consider Betsky's observation that the ancient Greeks designed to create "an active space" and that good architecture should underwrite the sense of belonging to a "collective culture."

Modern architecture, designed in accordance with typical 20th and 21st-century development param-

eters, broadly ignores both of these considerations.

"Active space" requires that the relationship of buildings provides for open areas wherein people might gather and interact with the architecture — and each other — to reinforce community.

This is something notably lacking in virtually all new development designs.

Again, should we push back into the 19th century, the importance of respecting and enhancing community connections through the placement and design of "new" buildings — including items such as proximity to the road, usable front porches, green space breaks and so on — were important considerations.

And why?

Simply because it is cheaper and easier for a developer to do the cookiecutter thing, creating a series of isolated dwellings — note even townhouses are commonly rendered isolated through bad design — that do not embrace community but are inwardly focused on the individual occupying family.

Now, could all of these things be addressed and corrected in new developments?

Yep ... and there are technologies which might even increase developer profit margins. But that would require the principals of those companies to let their architects loose with a mandate to respect the landscape, promote community and explore those new technologies.

Do I expect that to happen? Nope ... cause all of the business minds in the development sector are completely focused on repeating the business model of the 20th century.

If it ain't broke, vis-àvis their pocketbook, they claim, there's no need to address it.

But sadly, that leaves our community holding their unfortunate legacy into the foreseeable future.

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



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Tree protection in NOTL is an embarrassment



Sean Parkinson Special to The Lake Report

As an ecologist, certified arborist and homegrown resident of NOTL, I am embarrassed by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's disregard for one of Niagara's most-valued features — healthy, mature trees.

Back on May 2, reporter Evan Loree's story, ("Two homeowners get council approval to chop down problem trees,") described how two residents successfully circumvented NOTL's 2019 private tree protection bylaw, as well as the professional assessments of a certified arborist and the town's bylaw enforcement officer to get two mature, native trees chopped down.

But how could this happen in Niagara? Aren't we internationally renowned for our English gardens, our expansive agricultural landscapes and our oak-laden riverside mansions? Why would we then disregard natural assets that take decades, sometimes centuries, to grow?

The short and long answer is colonialism, according to master naturalist and urban forestry historian Jill Jonnes.

Jonnes explains that the destruction of trees is not a mere consequence of colonialism — it is one of the founding pillars of Indigenous genocide: European colonizers demolished natural landscapes such as forests, in a direct effort to destroy the land, resources and homes of Indigenous Peoples, and by the deeply intertwined nature of their relationships, the Indigenous Peoples themselves.

The bypassing of NOTL's private tree protection bylaw, as permitted by our town council, is demonstrative of a centuries-old colonial attitude that fosters contempt for trees, systemically permitting their elimination by labelling them as nuisances, pests or as obstacles to our absolute



control of the land we call property.

In the past, European colonizers would clear their cities of towering urban trees, much like our current victims, the honey locust and the black walnut, simply because they had become nuisances to upperclass citizens, removing crucial canopy for the rest of the community — because they had an odour, because they bore fruits, and even, because they housed birds. The travesty.

These city giants would then be replaced en masse with the flavour of the week — oftentimes invasive plants (such as the infamous Tree of Heaven) that conveniently offered little appeal to local wildlife. We are still trying to rid them from the landscape in 2024.

John Davey (1846-1923), founder of the Davey Tree Expert Company, is known today as "The Tree Doctor" and the father of modern arboriculture in North America.

He described settler deforestation in both urban and natural spaces as a "senseless waste of trees... (that) were treated almost like an enemy that had to be destroyed." It's a sentiment that chillingly reflects the attitudes of some residents more than a century later.

Adding insult to irony, one resident described the natural shedding of leaves by the mature honey locust in his yard, an organism of natural design, as an "ungodly" inconvenience to his man-made pool, one that is presumably chlorinated to exterminate any life that would otherwise inhabit a natural pool of water.

What might be a discomfort to some for having to

clean their private pool will now lead to a significant communal loss of natural canopy in NOTL, a canopy already recognized by Coun. Sandra O'Connor as well below the regional average.

We need more councillors and residents to speak up like O'Connor has, to defend our precious trees and green spaces.

When we carelessly tear down trees from our neighbourhoods, we lose wildlife habitat, shading, air cooling (by evapotranspiration), natural beauty, biodiversity, protection from disease, soil stabilization, water infiltration, property value, and also our mental/spiritual well-being — all well-documented in research.

As much as we covet every inch of our property, our local ecology does not share such compartmentalized limitations, rather it exists in complex and sensitive interconnected webs, where each change cascades outward in a thousand ways.

And that is not an exaggeration. Mature oak trees boast an ability to support more than 2,300 species of

plants, bacteria, fungi and animals.

If everyone is given permission to remove their mature native trees with such carelessness, then we will continue to see a decline in Niagara's limited canopies.

Instead, I urge the town to make a greater effort to uphold its legislation, respect professional direction, conserve our existing natural features, and promote a concerted effort to reforest and renaturalize our land.

Ignoring the tree bylaw and the assessments of trained professionals renders the whole process a farce and makes NOTL look like it is truly living in the days of the horse and buggy.

That honey locust and that black walnut, both native specimens in this area of southern Ontario, could have lived to more than 125 years and 250 years respectively, and maybe even outlived these colonial relationships with land and nature, had they not fallen victim to them first.

NOTL resident Sean Parkinson is a certified arborist.



St. Davids Roundabout Public Engagement Workshop

Niagara Region has started the detailed design for the reconstruction of York Road (Regional Road 81) and Four Mile Creek Road (Regional Road 100), into a single lane roundabout and is inviting public input into the design features of this new infrastructure.

We want to hear your ideas!

The design of the roundabout and boulevards along York Road will allow for a unique streetscaping opportunity. The landscaping and height elements in the central island will add a focal point for St. Davids, and a way to express the uniqueness of this community.

As part of the design process Niagara Region is inviting the community to provide input into their creative vision for this roundabout as a public space feature for the area. The workshop will involve facilitated discussions to get input from the community on how the following key areas can be incorporated into the project:

- Important Stories: History relative to the area
- Shapes: Meaningful shapes that represent the community
- Materials: Material elements define the community

You're Invited

Join the in-person workshop: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, 5 - 7 p.m.

White Oaks Resort and Spa (Ballroom), 253 Taylor Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake

Email **stdavidsroundabout@niagararegion.ca** to register for the event. Registration is required in order to participate in the workshop. The deadline for registration for the event is **Wednesday November 6**, **2024**. This will be a facilitated workshop and participants should plan to take part for the full duration of the event.

Accessibility

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

For More Information

Visit our project webpage at niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-81-and-100reconstruction/default.aspx

Project Contacts

Stephanie Huppunen, C.E.T., Manager, Capital Projects, Transportation Engineerin, Niagara Region

Mark Mascioli C.E.T., LEL

Manager, Municipal Infrastructure, Associated Engineering Ltd



CODE GREY

"Code Grey" is one in a series of stories in The Lake Report about health care in Niagara Region.

In hospital parlance, "Code Grey" means loss of essential service.

Caregivers struggle to deal with record burnout

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

With a large population of seniors, Niagara-on-the-Lake is naturally home to many community caregivers.

Steven Hall is just one of many residents who has taken care of an older family member, serving as the primary caregiver for his father, Bruce Hall, before his death in May.

His dad had dementia and started showing symptoms after undergoing anesthesia — rapidly accelerating his need for care.

"He went from no needs at all to 100 per cent," Steven Hall told The Lake Report.

He recalled a time when

he and his wife Glenda went away for a weekend and left Bruce with a barbecue chicken in a plastic container

After a phone call from his father, Hall returned home to find the plastic container partly melted in the oven.

"That's when we knew that we couldn't leave him alone unless we went for groceries or wherever and eventually that evaporated, too," he said.

With his brother still working and his wife slowed after surgery a few years ago, most of the burden of being a personal support worker for his dad fell to Hall.

His story is not unlike that of many caregivers across the province. The 2023 Spotlight Report by the Ontario Caregiver Association found that two in five caregivers are looking after their parents or in-laws.

And caregivers are most commonly supporting someone over the age of 65 with a condition related to aging, such as physical and mobility issues, dementia or Alzheimer's and cardiovascular issues.

Amy Coupal, the organization's CEO, said this year's report — which compiled statistics from 2019 to 2023 — looked at how things evolved over the prior five years for caregivers across the province.

"What we saw was pretty striking in terms of burnout," Coupal said in an interview. The report found that an alarming 67 per cent of caregivers said they had reached their breaking point over the previous year but had to keep going.

The majority of caregivers were balancing work and caring as 73 per cent said they worried about being unable to handle all their caregiving responsibilities going forward.

"We've got caregivers feeling pressure from multiple angles," Coupal said.

Hall was retired while caring for his dad, but still encountered feelings of burnout.

Living on a farm about three kilometres west of Penner's Home Hardware, Hall said there was not much to do in terms of selfcare nor the time to plan a project or hobby.

"When you're up at 6:30 and your day isn't done until around 7:30 or 8, you can't get a lot done," he said.

When it comes to mitigating burnout, Hall said understanding when to take a break is key.

He recalled the advice he received years ago when he was a young father taking prenatal training.

"They tell you to take a break when you can, take

a nap when the baby naps. You won't be able to go, go, go. Eventually, you'll break down and you'll stop."

Hall said that he took this lesson with him when he was caring for his dad, though it was extremely hard at times.

"I begrudgingly accepted the fact that it was OK to do one important thing and not do another semi-important job and leave it for later," he said.

Coupal echoed this sentiment when asked what caregivers can do to improve their mental health.

"I think what caregivers of any age want is to be able to balance their caregiving commitments with all of their other priorities, so that has to be their own health as well," she said.

Based on personal experience, as a caregiver for her brother, her mother and her father at different stages of her life, an important lesson was realizing that being a caregiver was part of her personal identity, she said.

"It's an additional role that I play in my life. I have a job, I have kids, I have all of these pieces, but part of my identity is about being a caregiver," she said.

Keeping this in mind, she

was able to reach out for external help and make sure that she had the support she needed.

In a similar vein, Hall began utilizing the NOTL Palliative Care agency toward the end of his father's life and hopes to attend occasional bi-monthly meetings to share experiences with other caregivers.

Executive director Bonnie Bagnulo said when caregivers come to palliative care they're often physically and emotionally exhausted — and need support.

"This is a job they did not sign up for," she said.

"There is no formal training and the only reward known is knowing that at the end of the day, every moment spent caring for their loved one will bring them a thousand sacred moments," she told The Lake Report.

Bagnulo added that the most important thing palliative care can offer caregivers is a place to be heard.

• For additional support, Coupal urged caregivers to check out the Ontario Caregiver Association's 24/7 helpline and other resources available through Ontario-Caregiver.ca.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com



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A happy memory for father and son Bruce and Steven Hall, as they enjoy an ice cream sundae in Cold Lake, Alta. "Part of my identity is about being a caregiver," says Steven.



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Shaw's 'Theatre of Medicine' teaches performing arts to doctors

Susan MacDonald Community Correspondent

A new program created by the Shaw Festival and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is teaching aspiring health-care professionals how to use skills and tools in the performing arts in their day-to-day interactions with patients — to offer better care.

Alexis Milligan, the Shaw Festival's movement director, designed the program, which drew participants from out of town to Niagara-on-the-Lake during the last weekend in September.

"From the moment a doctor's hand goes on the handle of the door to meet a patient, every gesture, every action, every word, every way that they engage can affect how a patient perceives their own sense of well-being," Milligan said.

The 15-hour course had sessions on topics such as shared decision-making,



Shaw movement director and Theatre of Medicine program director Alexis Milligan (back centre) guides an interactive session in whole person communication. KATIE GALVIN

whole-person communication, refections on practice and commitment to action.

The goal is to improve a physician's professional interpersonal skills and communication. The program, called "Theatre of Medicine," is a continued professional development credit program under the Royal College's maintenance of certification requirements.

It has also been approved for accreditation by the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and aligns with its emerging quality improvement guidelines, which go beyond patient simulation and role play — two methods used in training physicians — to offer tools that can make an immediate, practical difference for medical professionals.

Dr. Amanda Webster, a member of the scientific planning committee for Theatre of Medicine, says integrating the arts into medical training can foster empathy, creativity and holistic care.

"The arts are not just a reflection of society but a fundamental force that shapes and heals it," she said.

"Enhancing human connections is at the heart of the program."

Presenters included Milligan from the Shaw, Dr. Michael A.S. Jewett, professor of surgery (urology) at University of Toronto and Dr. Glen Bandiera, executive director of standards and assessment at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Participants were also able to take part in a related

conservation as part of the Shaw Festival's discussion series, "The Art of Ideas," with guest speaker Dr. Penelope Rampersad, cardiologist and assistant professor of medicine at New York University Langone.

Pragna Desai, the Shaw's director of community engagement and outreach, says this program is the culmination of five years of development and planning.

"We believe the training the physicians receive will open new avenues of enhanced communication between the health-care professional and patient," she said.

Organizers were buoyed by the positive feedback from participants at the inaugural "Theatre of Medicine."

Plans are underway to host more sessions in the future at the Shaw.

The second part of "Theatre of Medicine," entitled "Bedside Manner Returns" is scheduled for next September.

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Museum to host book launch of new Indigenous anthology

Barbara Worthy Special to The Lake Report

On Saturday, Oct. 26, from 1-3 p.m., the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum will host a book launch of a seminal anthology, "Landscape of Nations: Beyond the Mist," co-edited by Tim Johnson and Rick Hill.

The launch will include a 45-minute presentation, followed by a book signing with several of the book's contributing authors.

This beautifully illustrated 256-page coffee table book features contributions from 17 authors and scholars, leading Indigenous knowledge holders, numerous photographers, mapmakers and artists and chronicles the history of Indigenous peoples here in Niagara since the end of the ice age.

General editor, Rick Hill

is a renowned educator of Indigenous cultures, histories and arts and currently serves as an Indigenous innovations specialist at Mohawk College.

"It is amazing to think that for some 13,000 years, my ancestors have been living within the beautiful environs of the Niagara Peninsula," said Hill. "And that my relatives continue to call this place our home. The land continues to inspire us and continues to sustain us as Indigenous peoples."

It is the land that provided the conceptual inspiration for the book, according to Tim Johnson, concept and managing editor.

Johnson is the senior adviser for heritage and legacy with the Niagara Parks Commission, senior adviser to Plenty Canada and serves on many boards as an Indigenous cultural adviser.



Thundering Water Niagara Falls 1789 by Robert Griffling.

"The Niagara Escarpment is an unmistakable landmark that has aided human wayfaring and navigation for millennia," said Johnson. "It is one of the grandest environment stages ever created, and upon this stage, the Niagara Falls performs without fail each and every day."

By peering through the

mist and the shrouds of history, their book reveals previously unknown insights and revelations of the Indigenous experience, in particular the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek cultures, and dispelling various versions of "the truth" using a variety of sources, includ-

ing archaeological data and British Indian Department records.

Published by the Niagara Parks Commission, in association with Plenty Canada, Six Nations of the Grand River and the Clench House Foundation, the book will be available for purchase at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, or can be purchased in advance at notlmuseum.ca

Said the editors: "[This book is] in honour of our elders whose commitment to the Seventh Generation provided us with guidance and inspiration, making our lives purposeful and this work possible."

Hear first-hand how military service changed these veteran's lives

Staff
The Lake Report

Ahead of Remembrance Day in less than a month, this November's session of the Learn & Live series from the NOTL Public Library will offer patrons a chance to hear about the work of veterans in the field of military and policing.

Originally scheduled for May, the "Lessons of Service" session was cancelled and has been rescheduled for Monday, Nov. 4 at the NOTL Community Centre's Mori Room.

Speaking at the event will be the following military personnel: Peter J. Warrack, retired from both the M.S.C. British Army and Royal Ulster Constabulary GC, retired lieutenant-general Michel Maisonneuve, and retired

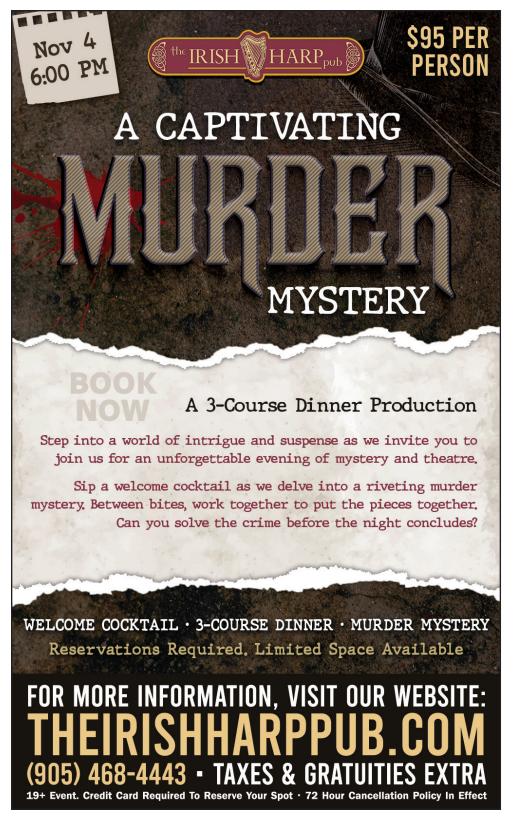
major Barbara Maisonneuve.

The session will be moderated by local journalist Mike Balsom and will run from 1 to 4 p.m.

The goal of the discussion will be for these veterans to share the lessons and values they have learned during their years of service and how they apply these ideas to their lives in retirement.

"The event builds on the remarkable military and police careers of our speakers whose service at home and overseas encompasses conflicts/ peacekeeping in Kosovo, Aleppo, Israel, N. Ireland and elsewhere," states an event summary from the library.

For more information, visit notlpubliclibrary. libnet.info/event/11823705. Refreshments will be provided for attendees.





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TEAM OF THE WEEK

Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe U12



Meet the U12 Olde Towne Candy Shoppe soccer team, The Lake Report's Team of the Week. Front row, left to right: Sam Slootsky, Hansen Guo, Jon Velsnik, Michael Collins, Philip Leanovich, Emmie Cherney, Amelia Epp. Back row, left to right: Wyatt Haynes, Matt Bogusat, Matt Kroeker, Hazel Lachapelle, Quinn Falk, Joseph Giunta, Emily Ferguson, Alexandra Marinis, head coach Emanuele Giunta. Missing from photo: Ladon Munger, Logan Folino, manager Brenda Ferguson. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

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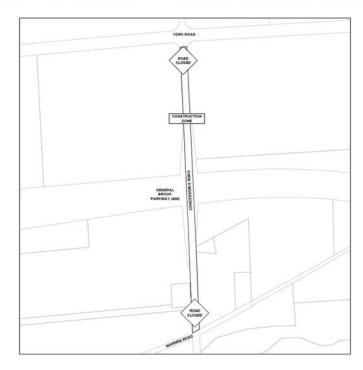


SCAN ME





TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ROAD CLOSURE - CONCESSION 6 ROAD



The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, through its contractor Rankin Construction. will be commencing with the road reconstruction of Concession 6 Road from Warner Road to York Road. The road closure will begin on October 24, 2024 and be in place for 12 weeks.

A detour route will be provided around the site for traffic. This closure is necessary due to the narrow roadway and to facilitate a shorter construction schedule for the road reconstruction.

Emergency Services will be notified of this closure by the contractor before work commences.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Email - mike.komljenovic@notl.com

Phone - 905-468-3061

Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you!



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NOTL Sailing Club earns big honour

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The 2023 Shark World Championships hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club in August of last year has been named winner of Sail Canada's City of Kingston Regatta of the Year Award.

Sail Canada made the announcement Sept. 30.

The award "recognizes a provincial, national or international regatta whereupon all aspects of race management have resulted in an overall organizational success," the governing body said in a press release.

"Key criteria are overall achievement of the event

objectives, the level of community involvement and positive feedback from participants, including sailors, coaches and officials."

The regatta was also named winner of the Chisholm Trophy for excellence in race management.

Sail Canada said the award "recognizes the club or association responsible for the regatta with the best-managed races during the time frame of the award year."

Rod Gardner is a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club's board of directors and served as the tournament chair.

"It was a surprise and an honour to be selected as hosting the best regatta in Canada and adding the best race management in Canada," he told The Lake Report.

"To receive both awards, we are very proud - myself and all the volunteers - of what we achieved."

Gardner saluted the strength and dedication of the entire organizing committee.

"It was a very well organized event," he said.

"I was a competitor as well as the regatta chair and by the time the regatta started, I really had nothing to do."

"I could focus on being a competitor and didn't have to focus on how the event would run."



Rod Gardner, a member of the sailing club's board of directors, was the regatta chair for the 2023 Shark World Championships held in NOTL from Aug. 18 to 25. FILE

NOTL golf leagues hand out the hardware

Kevin MacLean The Lake Report

The season is winding down at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club and some of the leagues have been handing out the hardware to commemorate stellar performances on the links this year.

May Chang and Louise Robitaille were recipients of two of the top honours in the women's 18-hole league.

Chang received the Vera Derbyshire Award as Golfer of the Year, which goes to that player who best achieves quality and all-round performance on a consistent basis in the 18hole division.

Robitaille, the 2024 women's club champ, won the Barbara Ahluwalia Trophy for her overall performance in shooting the lowest gross scores over a series of competitions this year.

As well, Sharron Marlow took two prizes, the Robb Cup and the Holmwood Cup, while league captain Gayle Tanner won the Gilbert Cup.

Yolanda Henry won the Rossall Cup and Suzanne Watson won the Hunter Cup. Martha Cruikshank and Lucy Brookhouser teamed up to capture the Yule Pairs title.

Lisa Allen was the match

play champion.

In the women's ninehole league competitions, Lynette Sanders earned the Captain's Cup and Linda Williams was the Member's Cup champ.

Julie Smethurst won the Joy Nelles Trophy while Penny Green (A flight) and Ellen Smith (B flight) won the Gretchen Ormston Memorial Trophy.

Outgoing women's league president Charlotte Kainola noted that players encountered all kinds of weather challenges this year but didn't let it deter the weekly fun and games.

The men's 18-hole league is holding its finale this

week, but the Tuesday WOOFs league crowned its top performers earlier.

Bill Daly was the Woofers Cup champion, carding the best net score in a nine-hole competition played from the gold tees.

Other WOOFs awards went to Bernard Marlow, named the season's Top Dog, and Gary Wasylow, who won the Golden Dog award, for players over 80.

League organizer Bill Katrynuk said the league, which has been operating for more than 20 years, attracted a big turnout each week and more than 75 players took part in the closing scramble.



May Chang received the Vera Derbyshire Award for Golfer of the Year. YOLANDA HENRY









Left: Bill Katrynuk, left, congratulates WOOFs league Woofer's Cup winner Bill Daly. Middle: Louise Robitaille, left, receives the Barbara Ahluwalia Trophy from the woman after whom it is named. Right: Deborah Williams, centre, presents the Yule Pairs Trophy to Martha Cruikshank and Lucy Brookhouser.

NOTL players compete in Champion of Champions tourney

Kevin MacLean The Lake Report

Players from the Niagaraon-the-Lake Golf Club acquitted themselves well competing in the annual Champion of Champions tournament on Saturday, Oct. 12.

The tourney features some of the Niagara district's top golfers going head-to-head in a one-day competition.

Niagara-on-the-Lake women's club champ Louise Robitaille shot 81 at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club to finish tied with Shelley Lothian of Cardinal

Lakes for second overall.

Susan Thomson of Twenty Valley was first with a 78.

Martha Cruikshank, competing in the senior women's division, was seventh, carding an 88.

In the men's open, James Grigjanis-Meusel represented the NOTL club and

ranked sixth. He carded a 7-over 79.

Joel Martens of Twenty Valley was first at 2-under

In the senior men's competition, NOTL's Patrick Craig, playing the St. Catharines course for the first time, was 12th, with an 83.



James Grigjanis-Meusel represented the NOTL club, ranking sixth with a 7-over 79 card. FILE



So much more than rooms filled with artifacts



This is the sixth part in an ongoing series of stories to draw attention to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum as it embarks on a fundraising campaign for an expansion that would nearly double the size of the current museum on Castlereagh Street.

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara–on-the-Lake Museum is more than a building housing a collection of artifacts.

It's much more, say the people who have helped it become a vital part of the community through outreach events and programs.

"We are a museum and we're dedicated to history, but history is also today. We are tied into current affairs as well," said Barbara Worthy, the museum's community engagement co-ordinator.

"I think that's what makes us so alive and a part of the community ... is that we present things that are not just in the past. We are talking about now and appreciation of your culture around you."

Among the museum's offerings is the popular Kids Curator Program, two-week summer camps that allow children to learn about the town's history through hands-on activities.

As well, there are virtual and in-person speaking events, a documentary club and historic walking tours to name a few.

There are also fundraisers that not only help support the museum, but also raise its profile in the community.

"A couple of years ago, we started Band in the Barn," said Mona Babin, president of the museum's board of directors.

"(We have) a board member who plays the drums and I thought, 'Well I'm going to do a concert to give some money to a museum' and it was successful."

A second event was held last year and attracted 150 people, she said.

"We ramped it up," she said. "It was 100 per cent organized by volunteers with some donations from people in the community. We raised



Programming and events help make the NOTL Museum more visible in the community said Board of Directors President Mona Babin, in front. With Babin is volunteer Dianne Hughes. RICHARD HUTTON

about \$6,000 with that."

The museum is in the midst of its Building History, Strengthening Community fundraising campaign to help finance an 8,000 square-foot expansion — almost doubling the museum's current 10,000 square feet of space — that will add to the facility's storage and exhibition spaces as well as provide space to deliver programs for the community.

Through the campaign, the museum hopes to raise \$5 million to cover half of the \$10-million cost of the project, which will include a two-storey addition to the rear of Memorial Hall and more basement space for storage.

While funds raised through programs and events usually goes toward museum operations, some of the money raised by the biannual Niagara Polo event, which took place Sept. 14 will go toward the expansion campaign.

Held every two years rain or shine at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Commons, Niagara Polo features two four-chukker games with players from the Toronto Polo Club, a traditional divot stomp, entertainment, music, food, wine, beer, artisans, a silent auction, vintage cars, pony rides and more.

One of the most visible events the museum has embarked on is the Poppy Project.

Every November, the museum, the historic courthouse and — starting in 2023 — the Royal Canadian Legion on King Street are draped in hand-knitted poppies in honour of Remembrance Day.

More poppies, crafted by a team of dedicated volunteers, are added annually, said Dianne Hughes, a volunteer with the museum.

"I have a neighbour who makes poppies all year, just for them," Hughes said.

Like Worthy, Hughes said a huge part of the museum's appeal — and one of the reasons why she got involved as a volunteer — is because it's more than a repository of artifacts from the past.

"I like that we talk about the past, but we're also incorporating history that's being made right now, today."

And the programs, she added, are a bonus.

"You can't help but be totally taken by history coming alive," Hughes said. "Because of the personalities and the experts that come into the museum to give the presentations. It's incredible."

It has been a learning experience for her.

"I found that I was interested in history. I discovered Black history," she said. "I had no idea because we didn't check Black history in school."

Hopes are for the expansion to be completed by 2026, which is the 100th anniversary of the death of museum founder Janet Carnochan.

Donations to the campaign can be made in person at the museum, at 43 Castlereagh St., or online at canadahelps.org/en/charities/niagara-historical-society/.

SPONSORED

A new visionary experience: Spectacle Clinic expands to NOTL

SPONSORED
The Lake Report

Spectacle Clinic is excited to announce the opening of its newest location at 1630 Niagara Stone Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake, bringing exceptional optical care and high-quality eyewear to the local community.

This third location continues the family-owned business's mission to provide personalized, top-tier vision care that exceeds expectations.

Founded in 2019 by cousins Aryon and Cameron Nekoui, Spectacle Clinic has quickly become a trusted name in Niagara's optical scene.

Known for their customer-focused service and luxury eyewear, the Nekouis have built a brand centred on care, quality, and community.

"We want every patient who walks through our doors to feel like family," Aryon explains, emphasizing their commitment to fostering lasting relationships with their clients.



Lisa Kenny is the newest member of the Spectacle Clinic team. SUPPLIED

Welcoming Lisa Kenny: A familiar face

As part of this exciting expansion, Spectacle Clinic is proud to welcome Lisa Kenny, an optometric assistant with more than 30 years of experience, to the team.

Lisa is a familiar figure in the Niagara-on-the-Lake community, having spent many years working in the eye care industry in town.

Her warm personality and extensive knowledge make her a valuable addition to Spectacle Clinic.

"Joining Spectacle Clinic felt like the perfect fit," says Lisa. "I've always believed in personalized care, and I'm thrilled to help our patients find the best eyewear and vision solutions."

With Lisa's expertise, patients can expect top-notch care, from eye exams to custom eyewear fittings.

Comprehensive services with a luxurious touch

Spectacle Clinic specializes in offering luxury eyewear and the latest in lens technology. Their highend Essilor Varilux lenses

ensure customers have access to the best in comfort and vision clarity.

The clinic's extensive selection of stylish frames caters to a variety of tastes and needs, blending fashion with function.

In addition to eyewear, Spectacle Clinic offers comprehensive eye exams using cutting-edge technology, including advanced retinal cameras that minimize the need for dilating drops.

These exams, which may be covered by OHIP for certain patients, provide a thorough assessment of vision health, ensuring patients receive the best care possible.

"We're dedicated to using the best tools and techniques to provide exceptional care," says Cameron. "Whether it's a routine eye exam or selecting the perfect pair of glasses, we want our patients to have a seamless and comfortable experience."

Community-focused and Growing With locations in St.

Catharines, Niagara Falls, and now Niagara-on-the-Lake, Spectacle Clinic is growing while staying true to its community-focused

A fourth clinic is set to open in Welland in 2025, further expanding its reach across Niagara.

"We're not just a business; we're part of this community," says Cameron. "We're proud to contribute to the wellbeing of our neighbours and promote eye health through local initiatives."

Visit Spectacle Clinic today

With Lisa Kenny's expertise and Spectacle Clinic's dedication to quality, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents can expect a personalized, high-quality optical experience.

Visit the new location at 1630 Niagara Stone Rd. to explore their luxury eyewear selection or schedule an eye

Spectacle Clinic is here to provide exceptional care and make you feel right at

Chamber seeking nominations for recipient of this year's Candlelight Stroll proceeds

Staff
The Lake Report

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the recipients of this year's Candlelight Stroll proceeds.

The annual celebration, which takes place on the first Friday of December, is set for Friday, Dec. 6. As is tradition, it will take place in Old Town, with locals gathering on Queen Street by the cenotaph before embarking on a candlelit walk through the heritage district.

Every year, the proceeds from this event made through the sale of candles



The Candlelight Stroll is Friday, Dec. 6

and monetary donations are given to a special charitable organization or NOTLers in need of support and generosity for the holiday season. So far, the Chamber of Commerce has only received two nominees, said Emelyn Williams, the chamber's manager of events.

Those wishing to nominate a person or organization have until Wed., Nov. 17 to send in their nominees names to the Chamber of Commerce at events@niagaraonthelake.com.

The only criteria for nominees is that they live or do work within the NOTL area, Williams said.

The recipient will be selected at the chamber's board meeting at the end of November.

Last year, the stroll raised more than \$5,600, which was split in half and given to the chosen recipients, Dylan Dietsch and Maya Webster, two young people in the community whose journeys with unique health challenges — cerebral palsy and Type 1 diabetes, respectively — inspired them to lead fundraising and awareness-raising efforts for those in similar circumstances.

Those interested in attending are advised to follow the chamber and Tourism NOTL on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on further details.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style. Category: PHRASES & IDIOMS

You don't have to be a Marvel hero to have this awareness of danger introduced in a 1962 comic book.

Last issue:

Category: SCIENCE

Clue: Cirriform describes icy these, which have a wispy appearance.

Answer: What are clouds?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by:
Bob Wheatley, Susan Hamilton, Lynda Collet,
Bill Hamilton, Claudia Grimwood, Randie Topps,
Jeff Lake, Sue Heinz, Susan Dewar, Jim Dandy,
Esther VanGorder, Sylvia Wiens, Ted Wiens,
Wade Durling, Margie Enns, Marla Percy,
Hedy Wiebe, Lynda Hosty, Nancy Rocca,
Katie Reimer, Sheila Meloche, Edna Groff,
Daniel Smith, Tuija Johansson, Catherine Clarke

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)

*REMEMBER TO PUT "WHAT IS" FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!

Love games? Join us for fun events every week at the Irish Harp Pub.

Details at www.theirishharppub.com

Lord mayor's holiday card competition is open

The Lake Report

Looking for a fun project to get your kids into the holiday spirit? Have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew or student with a real love for arts and crafts?

The lord mayor is inviting children in NOTL up to 13 years old to take part in his holiday card design contest — three winning designs will be selected and featured on

the town's official holiday greeting cards.

The contest is now open and will run until Wednesday, Nov. 8.

"The arts hold a special place in our town and play an important role in encouraging creativity in youth from all over," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

"I am looking forward to seeing how our youth capture the holiday spirit of Niagara-on-the-Lake through this design contest. Good luck to all participants!"

Three chosen winners will have their artwork printed on the town's official holiday cards and will get to attend a ceremony at council's meeting in December, where they will be presented with their box of cards, a certificate and awarded a complimentary skating pass for the season.

Using any medium of their choice — crayon, paint, markers, construction paper, etc. — participants are asked

to create an original design that is community-themed and reflects the town of NOTL's holiday season.

The design should be horizontal and fit half of an 8.5-by-11-inch piece of paper.

The artist should include their name, age and contact information, then submit their entries to the town, either by email at communication@ notl.com or by dropping them off in person at town hall, located a 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd. in Virgil.





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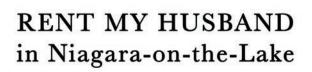
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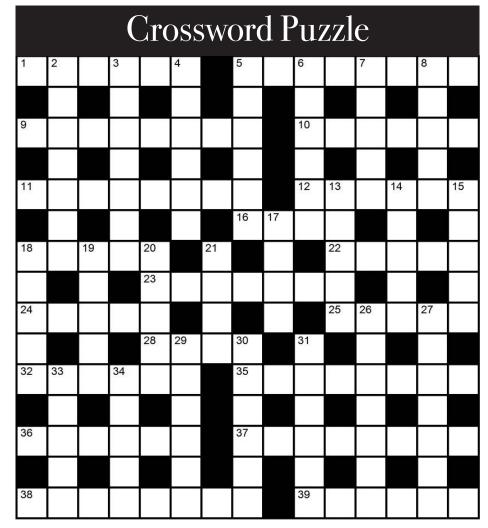
Across

- 1. Gazes fixedly (6)
- 5. Chair (8)
- 9. Preliminary test (5,3)
- 10. Person of no influence (6)
- 11. Inability to sleep (8)
- 12. Soak up (6)
- 16. Easter bloom (4)
- 18. Young horses (5)
- 22. Audacious person (5)
- 23. Bicoloured (3-4)
- 24. Cry of approval (5)
- 25. Inward feeling (5)
- 28. Augury (4)
- 32. Species of goose (6)
- 35. Repair (8) 36. Intrude upon (6)
- 37. Septic (8)
- 38. Tavern (8)
- 39. Hair curler (6)

Down

- 2. Capital of Ontario (7)3. Computer information (4-3)
- 4. Beach (6)5. Instruction book (6)
- 6. Tooth-related (6)
- 7. Garments (5)
- 8. Elizabeth I was the last (5)
- 13. Computer memory units (5)
- 14. Periodical (5)
- 15. Dumb vessel (5)
- 17. Actor-singer --- Novello (4)
- 18. Like zirconia (5)
- 19. Get to know (5)
- 20. Brooked (5)
- 21. Exude slowly (4) 26. Moral (7)
- 27. Sleep (4-3)
- 29. Capital of Lesotho (6)
- 30. Beginner (6)
- 31. Spliff (6)
- 33. Invalidate (5) 34. Embarrass (5)

Have some fun



Last issue's answers



| | | _ | _ | | | _ | | _ |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | | |
| | | | 8 | 9 | | | | 7 |
| | | | | | | | | 6 |
| 1 | | 2 | | | | 7 | 4 | |
| | 9 | 7 | | 2 | | 6 | 3 | |
| | 3 | 6 | | | | 2 | | 8 |
| 6 8 | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | 7 | 6 | | | |
| | | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 | | | 2 |





The physics and chemistry of stars and life: Part 1



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown Columnist

Much of the information we have about the universe comes from ground and space-based telescopes designed to pick up energy signals in various bandwidths associated with the Big Bang, and the formation and life cycles of what's visible in the universe such as stars, galaxies and some massive black holes (because of the energy generated by their coronas).

In other cases, such as the massive black hole that lies at the center of our galaxy, the evidence is more indirect and based on the gravitational effects of the black hole on the trajectories of nearby stars.

Or, in the case of the development of young galaxies, there may not be enough ordinary matter to gravitationally account for their development, hence there must be some other source of mass to make up for the apparent surfeit of mass.

That enigmatic matter

called dark matter, because it doesn't interact with the electromagnetic spectrum, turns out to be six times more common than ordinary matter.

Beyond these discoveries in the last century, there were other triumphs in cosmology: The discovery of gravitational waves in space-time generated by massive events such as the collisions of black holes or neutron stars and discoveries about how all the naturally occurring elements were generated — save hydrogen, helium and a tiny bit of lithium, which were created by the Big Bang.

But beyond the latter three, how were most of the rest of the elements created?

Stars forge heavier, more complex elements from simpler elements under the intense gravitational forces and temperatures in the cores of stars.

The simplest example of this is the fusion of pairs of hydrogen nuclei to create single helium nuclei, in the process losing a tiny bit of mass and releasing an enormous amount of energy.

The reason for such a huge amount of energy stems from the relationship between energy and mass, which was so clearly expressed in 1905 by Albert Einstein's most famous equation, where energy



equals mass multiplied by the square of the speed of light (E = mc2).

Heavier elements are created in a similar fashion by nuclear fusion of successively heavier elements (nuclei) in the cores of stars.

However, as heavier nuclei are created in the core, nucleosynthesis becomes less and less efficient as a source of expansile energy to offset the growing inward gravitational force created by the increasingly massive core in the center of the star.

Finally, gravity wins out over expansion and the outer shell of the star gravitationally collapses and crashes into the now

very dense core, which force is then reflected backward, scattering the elements created by the star in its natural lifetime and yet more massive nuclei created by the even more extreme heat and pressures generated by the implosion-explosion (supernova) — outward into the neighbourhood of the former star.

Finally, the collapse of the now very dense core typically implodes and creates either a neutron star, jampacked with as you might guess, mostly neutrons, or a black hole.

Supernovas mark the end of most medium to largesized stars and light up the

sky for several days or even a few months, providing standard candles for determining the distance to the supernova and spectral analyses, which tell us which elements were created in the

Creation of the heaviest elements, such as gold and tungsten, requires the much higher pressures and temperatures generated by the collision of a pair of neutron stars — what's been called kilonovas.

stars' lifetime and death.

In a nutshell, that's how all the natural elements were and are created except for hydrogen, helium and a tiny bit of lithium nuclei, created shortly after

It all sounds very complex, and it is because the formation of stars, galaxies and the natural elements combines the dominant themes of physics in the first half of the 20th century: General relativity, which relates mass to space-time, and quantum physics, which governs the universe of the atomic universe.

That period between 1900 and 1940 I've likened to the Camelot period in physics - what followed in physics in the latter half of the century into the 21st century, was stunning but more consolidation.

The second Camelot period in science was not in physics but in biology, beginning with the discovery of how DNA codes genetic information and was soon followed by a series of equally fascinating discoveries in molecular biology, recently including a means for precisely editing the genome and a whole other universe of not the atom, but the cell.

Next week, we turn to the more complex matter of the nature of life.

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.

Let's think outside the wrapper about Halloween



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson Columnist

Geoffrey Hinton recently won a Nobel Prize for physics. This British-Canadian computer scientist fought for respect as far back as the 1980s as most people in the field of artificial intelligence said that neural networks would never work.

Got that? Have I got your attention? How does this relate to Halloween in the year 2024?

Out-of-the-box thinkers have to have confidence, patience and thick skin.

People shake their heads

when I try to make changes to Halloween traditions. I don't care — and a recent discussion at Sweets & Swirls encouraged me.

Hardworking Sophie, Erinn and James Cadeau are wise, forward-thinkers and operate a fabulous cafe at the NOTL Community Centre. They also think differently on many subjects. They swim upstream and are not afraid to voice their reasoning.

To that end, I recently asked them if they thought Halloween should be celebrated on Oct. 31 each

I have argued for several years that weeknight Halloween is unduly stressful for parents, grandparents and school teachers. And oh yes, young children and students too.

A little background: Halloween has its roots in the ancient religious festival of Samhain (pronounced Sahwin.) This event welcomed the harvest at the end of



Ross Robinson says Halloween should always be on the last Friday of October, so school doesn't get in the way.

summer when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts and spirits.

In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated Nov. 1 as a time to honour all saints and incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain.

Perhaps importantly, Oct. 31 is the 304th day of the Gregorian calendar.

About 20 years ago, I was in Colorado visiting tour operators on behalf of the award-winning Oh Canada

Eh?! Dinner Show.

On Friday, Oct. 28, I was spending the weekend in Steamboat Springs, and at about 4 p.m., the main street was abuzz with merchants setting out carved pumpkins and candies in front of their storefronts.

Dozens of parents and their costumed children arrived soon after, and for the next few hours, it was a scene to end all scenes. Music, ghosts, goblins, trick-or-treating and general fun and games.

Confused, I asked someone what the heck was going on, and received this response: "About 10 years ago, we decided to move Hallowe'en to the last Friday of October. It's been great, for so many reasons."

I returned a few days later to Niagara-on-the-Lake and met with a few people at town hall.

They thought I was kooky and probably still do, because I raise the issue every year.

Geoffrey Hinton's perseverance has inspired me. He didn't let the majority stifle his thinking.

Allow me to ramble back to a memorable Halloween when my son Scott was about five years old.

My predecessor as president of the Chautauqua Residents Association (then, the Mississauga Beach Association) had asked us to bring Scott to his house on Shakespeare Avenue. We arrived there as darkness arrived, at

about 6 p.m.

Scott, dressed up as something, got out of the car and approached the front door. I was a few steps behind him. He was ready to say "trick or treat."

Suddenly, he screamed, turned around and came running from the door.

I looked, and there was Chuck Leguerrier with some Halloween candy. Also, his right eye was hanging about one inch out of the socket, covered in

Home we went, and that was the end of trick-ortreating for that year.

What was Chuck thinking? I still ask myself that

C'mon NOTLers, let's be daring. Let's be leaders.

In 2025, let's have Halloween on the last Friday of October. To ease the transition, my calendar tells me it will be on Friday.

You see, it was meant to

Stay tuned.



EXPLORING HISTORY WITH NOTL MUSEUM

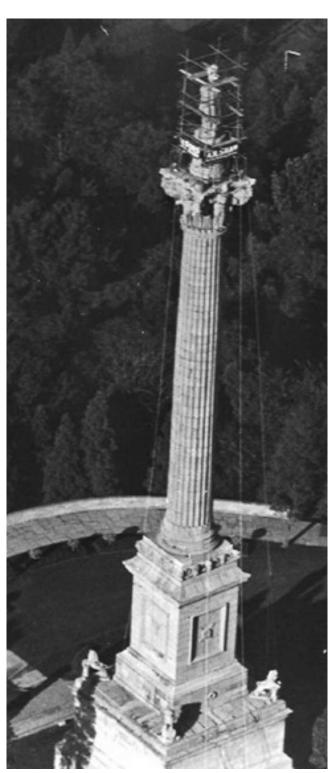


Our Western Home/former courthouse, circa 1920

This black-and-white photograph shows the back and side of a building that was formerly our courthouse as well as the former Our Western Home school. It was the second courthouse that was built after the first was burned in the War of 1812. It was active before the current courthouse on Queen Street was built. This courthouse was where the Moseby riot, which protected an escaped slave in the 1830s, happened.

Maria Rye, a social reformer from London, England arrived in Niagara in October 1869 with a group of 75 girls. She had purchased the abandoned second courthouse and converted it into an institution called Our Western Home. Her aim was to gather British girls, usually aged five to 12, either from workhouses or those abandoned in the streets, transport them to Canada, teach them domestic skills, and then place them with families either as foster children or apprentices. It is believed that 4,000 girls passed through Our Western Home under the tutelage of Miss Rye. However, her program came under criticism as she did not continue to follow the girls after they left the home and some were found to have been placed in adverse situations. Following Miss Rye's retirement in 1896, the home was taken over by the Church of England's Waifs and Strays Society — it continued to operate until 1913. The building no longer exists, but residents can visit the site which is now known as Rye Heritage Park.

The Brock Chronicles: Monumental years



The first repairs to Brock's Monument were called for just 10 years after it opened. In 1912, the memorial saw its first mass gathering since its inauguration in 1859. It was to commemorate the Battle of Queenston Heights. SUPPLIED

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.

Andrew Laliberte Special to The Lake Report

After the inauguration in 1859, Brock's Monument continued to stand the tests of time relatively unscathed.

In the years following the completion of the project, the Province of Canada was divided into two Ontario and Quebec during the process of Confederation in 1867.

As a result, the monument itself and the battlefield site became assets of the new federal government.

During this time, the newly opened memorial began to fall into some disrepair, as did the grounds around the column itself.

Surprisingly, the very first call to restore the monument came only ten years after it opened.

The Ontario Sessional Papers, 1869, included the provincial legislature's assessment of Queenston Heights and the column erected upon it.

In the report from the Department of Public Works, it was found that already a restoration fund of \$1,000 was required to make the necessary repairs.

The reported issues with the site included the stonework needing repointing, new glass placed in the circular openings for interior light, and the addition of a galvanized rope railing inside the stairwell.

Beyond that, the grounds needed attention to help beautify the park itself to encourage visitation.

Painting of the entrance lodge and gates was also called for, along with the planting of over 200 trees and the construction of "a summer house 60 feet by 20 feet, and carriage shed 40 feet by 12 feet would be a great convenience for persons visiting the grounds with carriages."

Kivas Tully, the Canadian architect hired by the Department of Public Works and the first provincial architect and engineer of Ontario, describes his reasons for the restoration of the relatively new monument as follows:

"Should these improvements and repairs be carried out, the monument and grounds would be made more attractive to visitors than they are at present, and a reasonable fee could be collected to keep the grounds in order for the future."

She continued: "The state of repair of the monument, and the condition of the fence and grounds are anything but creditable, and if not attended to will in a

few years cost a considerable sum to place them in proper order."

The care and attention provided by cyclical restoration efforts continued to make Queenston Heights an attractive spot for travellers, locals, veterans and soldiers throughout the years.

Photographs and postcards act as valuable glimpses into the many events that took place in the shadow of Brock and the people who took in the vastness of the column with views down the escarpment.

However, 1912 would be the first mass gathering to take place since the inauguration, commemorating the events at the Battle of Queenston Heights.

Thousands gathered to share speeches, lay wreaths and other contributions to those who had fallen and fought on the grounds a hundred years prior.

Indigenous nations and their leadership, soldiers of the Canadian Militia Regiments, political representatives and community members gathered to recognize the importance of the battle at Queenston and the memory of those involved in their own unique way.

In 1929, a lightning strike damaged the upper section of the 16-foot statue of Brock. The outstretched arm was snapped off, and a repair project was initiated to replace the torso section.

The damaged original sections of the statue have been preserved, with the arm residing

inside the monument itself and the mid-section inside Brock University's Rankin Pavilion.

Brock's Monument atop the heights at Queenston acts as a reminder, not only of the endurance of the structure itself but also of the memory of the people and actions which shaped the outcome of Canadian history.

The site has been a place for many to celebrate and pay tribute to those involved in successfully defending against the invading American army — a story which has been part of the formation of identity and patriotism in Canada following the War of 1812 and beyond.

The story of Sir Isaac
Brock also sheds light on
the many groups of people
upon which the successful
defence of Upper Canada
depended, with the allied
Indigenous nations and
Canadian Militia recognized within the park on
plaques and accompanying memorials.

Today, the site continues to be a regularly visited attraction in Niagara, continuing a tradition which inspired generations of people who witnessed the stirring beauty of the column and the park.

Andrew Laliberte is a Heritage Interpreter at Brock's Monument. He has worked at Brock's Monument for the past three seasons and completed his undergraduate degree in history at Brock University.

Queenston firefighters celebrate 75 years strong

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

Kate Boothman and her kids were happy to join in on the fun on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Queenston fire hall, which was celebrating 75 years of fighting fires and holding up its community.

The Queenston Volunteer Firefighter Association provided its neighbourhood with a weekend full of activities to celebrate this milestone.

The celebration kicked off with a traditional spaghetti dinner at the fire station on Friday, and on Saturday, an open house ran from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., showcasing fire trucks, emergency vehicles and fire prevention presentations, along with a barbecue lunch.

Boothman, who works for Niagara Emergency Medical Services (EMS), said she came on Saturday with her kids to support the firefighters and learn about the services that keep their community safe.

"I work for Niagara EMS, and that's actually how we heard about the celebration," she said.



Firefighter Crispin Bottomley holds a cheque for \$175,000. While it isn't a real cheque or donation, the figure represents how much money the Queenston Volunteer Firefighters Association has given back to the community in its 75 years. PAIGE SEBURN

"The service that they provide is valued, and it's nice that they can be celebrated."

Her kids all collectively agreed the firefighter hose demonstration was the highlight of the day.

Darren Trostenko, deputy fire chief for the NOTL Fire Department, has been with the department for nearly 35 years. He said he's proud of reaching this milestone.

"It's nice to see both the members that have been here in the past, current, and new people," said Trostenko.

He said it helps newcomers understand what they need to know about the tradition and the responsibilities of being part of the department.

It's also encouraging to others to see younger members joining the department. He said some current members weren't even born when he started.

"It kind of puts things in perspective on just how long it is," said Trostenko.

Serving the community for 75 years goes beyond professional duties — funds raised and volunteer efforts for minor sports reflect the commitment of the members to help when the community needs it, said Lord

Mayor Gary Zalepa, who attended the celebration on Saturday.

During the celebration, the Queenston firefighters shared that, after going through the minutes of the association's meetings since its inception, they found they have cumulatively donated more than \$175,000 to support people and organizations in the community.

Zalepa said these contributions distinguish the association, showcasing that the volunteer force consists of dedicated individuals who make these initiatives possible.

"For me, I'm just really pleased I could be here to represent council, and say thank you to them," he said.

Celebrations like this highlight the commitment of firefighters' professional and physical training too, Zalepa said.

He pointed out their families make significant sacrifices in terms of time and rest.

Residents and council must support the families of these volunteers to ensure they receive the necessary care, enabling firefighters

to respond whenever a call comes in, said Zalepa.

"I think it's important to always remind our residents of this," he said.

Secretary-treasurer Crispin Bottomley said it was a successful community celebration with a strong turnout, including retired members and those of various ages.

It also served as an opportunity to share fire prevention messages and engage with community partners such as Niagara Parks police, regional police and Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro, he said.

People passing by on the parkway, who noticed the ladder truck and other emergency vehicles, were also encouraged to stop in and learn more about what the department is all about, Bottomly added.

"It's what we wanted to do here. It represents our community," he said.

The weekend celebration wrapped up with a sold-out trivia night on Sunday. The spaghetti dinner on Friday helped raise more funds to be donated back to the community, said Bottomley.

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Put your evergreens to bed for the winter



GROWING

TOGETHER

Joanne Young Columnist

When it comes to putting your garden to bed for the winter, there are a few things that you can do to help your evergreens make it through the cold weather looking their best.

Make sure you don't prune your evergreens at this time of year. Any pruning should be completed by the beginning of September.

Pruning invigorates new growth and if the new growth has not had enough time to harden off before the cold weather hits, it will be more susceptible to damage during the winter months.

The main thing that can affect your evergreens throughout the cold months is winter desiccation.

This is when the foliage loses more moisture than the roots can replace, which can be the case if planted in an area where there are constant high winds.

The best thing you can do for all your evergreens is to make sure you give them a slow, deep watering just prior to the ground freezing up for the winter. This is especially true for your broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, hollies and boxwoods.

If the soil around the roots is moist going into the winter, then, if we have an early February thaw, the moisture is right there available to the roots.

Do you know that rhododendrons have a built-in system to help protect themselves against cold windy days?



Joanne Young says it's not necessary, nor strongly advised to wrap your evergreens in burlap during the winter.

The pores, out of which they could lose moisture from, are located on the underside of the leaves. So, to protect themselves on cold windy days, they roll their leaves under to reduce the moisture lost.

The tighter their leaves are rolled, the colder the day is.

People often ask if they must wrap their evergreens with burlap for the winter for protection. The quick answer is no.

If plants are properly placed — that is, planted in the right sunlight conditions and the right exposure — they should not need protection for the winter.

Why plant an evergreen to enjoy the foliage colour in the winter and then cover it with burlap?

The only time they would need protection is if they are getting constant strong winds, such as off a lake, or if they are located close to a road where they are getting salt spray.

If this is the case, instead of wrapping the entire shrub, consider putting up a barrier just on the side receiving the heavy winds or salt.

The best way to create a barrier is to put in a couple of stakes and attach either a couple of layers of burlap between them or a piece of plywood.

If you rap burlap just around the plant itself, snow will get caught in the burlap

and can crush foliage or damage branches.

Never cover the top of the plant. It is always best to wrap the burlap around stakes and not the plant itself.

If you have some plants that are marginally hardy (zone 7), they may benefit from the protection of burlap and mulching over the roots with shredded leaves.

Another possible winter hazard for pyramidal evergreens, such as emerald cedars and pyramid junipers, is that they can be damaged by heavy, wet snow, causing the multi-leaders to split apart.

To prevent this from occurring, some people will tie rope around the entire perimeter of the shrub which does detract from its appearance.

Instead, simply tie together some of the main stems from the inside of the shrub with a stretch tie or with something that will not cut into the wood (e.g. wire through an old piece of hose).

By following the tips above, it will make a big difference in how your evergreens come through the winter.

It might take a bit of time and effort, but your evergreens will thank you for it.

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

BKind Grateful With Bradley Hamilton

"Be patient with aging parents, listening to their stories with empathy and without making them feel self-conscious."

About Bradley Hamilton

"My life's motto has always been to be kind and grateful for everything I have, treating everyone with respect and dignity regardless of who they are. As Dr. Wayne Dyer wisely said, 'We are all souls having a human experience.' I've found that many of my colleagues and friends feel uncertain about how to extend kindness beyond immediate family, often defaulting to monetary gestures. With that in mind, here are 100 ways to show kindness and make the world a slightly better place, while creating happiness for yourself."

Obituaries

Rose 'Sally' Read



READ, Rose Marie "Sally"— It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear mother and grandma, Rose Marie "Sally" Read on Oct. 7, 2024, in her 89th year. Beloved wife of the late Donald "Don" (d. 2023) for 66 years, loving mother of Jacquie and the late Calvin (d. 1980), and adored grandma of Daniel and Calvin. Sally will be sadly missed by her beloved dog Jasper, and many friends and family.

In keeping with Sally's wishes, cremation has taken place. The family will receive friends at Caroline Cellars-1010 Line 2 Rd #358, Virgil, ON LOS 1T0, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, between 2 and 5 p.m. for refreshments and a time of fellowship and celebration of Sally's memory.

A private interment to occur at a later date.

As an expression of sympathy, those who wish, in lieu of flowers may make a memorial donation to the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre or to Red Roof Retreat. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

Heidi Smith



SMITH, Heidi (Nee Penner) — Surrounded by her loving family on Oct. 10, 2024, at the St. Catharines General Hospital at the age of 77. Beloved wife of Jim for 58 years. Devoted mother of Jeffery (Angie), Julie (Tim), and Tracy. Adored grandmother of Christopher, Cassandra, Ashley, and Jessie. Loving Great Grandmother of Sebastian, and Brooklyn. Remembered by her cherished siblings in Canada, Otto, Helga, and Wilfred as well as Erika, Hildagard and the late Hans in Germany. Fondly remembered by many relatives and countless friends. In keeping with Heidi's wishes Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Heidi's life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion,

Branch 124, 410 King St., in Niagara-on-the-Lake. As per Heidi's final wishes to always be a free spirit, whenever you see a willow tree remember Heidi waving to you.

As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Beverley B. Garrett



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Beverley Garrett (nee Jones) on Monday, June 3, 2024 in Summerside, PEI. at the age of 88. Beloved wife of the late Lionel Garrett (May 29, 2013). Devoted mother of Ted Garrett (Pam), Jim Garrett (Alice), and Randy Garrett (Cathy). Proud grandmother of Meagan (Ryan), Leah (Nathan), Jeremy (Rachelle), Lindsey (Brant), and Tiffany. Great grandmother to Charlotte, Felicity, Rodney, Brayden, Alden, and Hunter, plus several stepgrandchildren and step-great grand children. Predeceased by her parents Jack and Elsie Jones, grandson Liam Garrett, sister Donna Kucan and brother-in-laws Mike Kucan, Doug Garrett, Richard Hall and sisters-in-law

Marie Hall, Dorothy Garrett and Chris Garrett.

After raising their three sons Beverley and Lionel traveled extensively with their sailboat and Airstream trailer. They spent many winters on the sailboat in the Bahamas and summers in Georgian Bay. With their trailer they traveled throughout Mexico, to Alaska, Newfoundland and everywhere in-between. They made lasting friends where ever they traveled.

Beverley was involved with the Legion Branch 124 Ladies Auxiliary, St. Mark's Anglican Church Alter Guild and Cherry Festival making pies. She supported her husband and children in all they did.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron St., Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 11 a.m. Immediately followed by a Celebration of Life in the Parish Hall. Cremation has taken place. For those who wish, may make a memorial donation to either the Alzheimer Society or Heart & Stroke.

Let us help you share memories of your loved ones. Email megan@niagaranow.com for pricing options.

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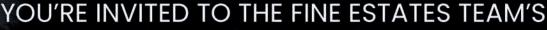












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