



Province waters down drought fears with \$41M for irrigation

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's decades-old irrigation system is in line for major upgrades after the province committed \$41 million to Niagara Region for irrigation pipelines — funding local farmers and officials say is critical, as dry conditions strain crops.

This week, Ontario announced it's investing \$135 million in water and irrigation projects in Niagara and Leamington, Ont., with \$94 million set aside for Niagara — \$53 million for water system projects to support housing growth and \$41 million for irrigation infrastructure.

To share the news and talk about the irrigation portion of the funding, local and provincial officials, along with farmers from across Niagara, gathered at St. David's Hydroponics on Monday morning.

The town also sent out a media release.

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Meet George II

Shaw Festival unveils new plan for Royal George Theatre based on feedback



The Shaw Festival says its revised, scaled-down proposal for the Royal George Theatre pays homage to the existing building, softens the impact on the surrounding Victoria Street neighbourhood and still meets modern accessibility standards. SUPPLIED

Dan Smeenk | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

They spoke, and the Shaw heard — now, the theatre festival company is unveiling several changes to its plans to re-design the Royal George Theatre. The updates were presented to the Town of Niagara-on-the-

Lake on Friday. One of the most significant changes is that the new plan keeps the look of the theatre closer to what's already there. The new design would keep the theatre's current face on Queen Street while constructing

an entirely new building behind it, what executive director Tim Jennings called a "ghost façade." This change comes after weeks of feedback from NOTL residents who said they're worried the Shaw's plans to construct a significantly larger new theatre

on Queen Street will ruin the small-town feel of Old Town's most prominent road. According to a news release from Monday, the original front of the Royal George Theatre will

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Broken chandeliers and splintered doors: What's left of Glencairn Hall

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Chimney bricks, fragments of a blue porcelain chandelier, a few pieces of basement doors and win-

dows, a fireplace surround and mantel, a wooden side door and Greek-style columns. Those are some of the few things left of the 213-year-old Glencairn Hall, the historic building destroyed

by a fire this spring, the remnants of which are set to be demolished. The town salvaged these pieces of the property for their heritage significance and, as part of ongoing talks to officially remember the

home and its legacy, wants to use them in a commemorative display. Talks have been happening among Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage community since the fire was deemed a total loss for Glencairn

Hall, with ideas like a plaque, a digital exhibit through the NOTL Museum, school tours and an annual day to commemorate lost heritage sites. During the municipal heritage committee's last

meeting, heritage planner Sumra Zia confirmed the owner has allowed the town to recover historical materials from what's left of the site.

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NOTL **awaits details** on share of \$41M Niagara irrigation funding

Continued from Front Page

"This is a game-changer," said Coun. Erwin Wiens, who's also a farmer.

While those involved don't know what the town's share of the \$41 million will be, the funding will allow long-planned upgrades to its user-paid municipal irrigation system to go ahead, he said.

"We have a master plan in place and we have an irrigation committee (that) meets every month, so we have infrastructure ready to go," he said.

The timing of the provincial funding is also unknown, but said the funding will be distributed through Niagara Region's irrigation committee, of which the town is a partner.

"We want the money this year. We have to see how it unfolds."

It will be shared between NOTL — the only municipality in Ontario with an Irrigation Act — the Town of Lincoln and the City of St. Catharines.

The aim is to expand and modernize Niagara's irrigation systems.

The \$41 million is separate from an earlier \$1.8 million investment, said Wiens, who has been on the town's irrigation committee for more than a decade.

"The \$1.8 (million) was between the province, the Greenbelt Foundation, the region, the town ... a basket of people," he said, adding that it was used for feasibility studies.

"This is a separate \$41 million — just from the province."

The new money will go toward getting "shovels in the ground," said Wiens, which the town is ready to do, he said.

"Farmers are starving for water," he said, with the idea of this upgraded system



Coun. Erwin Wiens stands beside a section of the irrigation system at St. David's Hydroponics, which he says was installed using past infrastructure funding and exemplifies the kind of investment Niagara-on-the-Lake is seeking to support again. PAIGE SEBURN

to get more water in different directions of their crops more efficiently.

Grape Growers of Ontario chair Matthias Oppenlaender said the funding comes at a critical time, with climate change driving an ever-growing demand for irrigation and heading into "one of the driest seasons we've had," he said.

"The need is getting bigger, bigger and bigger," Oppenlaender said.

With Niagara surrounded by lakes and bordered by the Welland Canal and the Niagara River, he added, "we should be having the water that we need."

For farmer and fellow long-time irrigation committee member Kevin Buis, a strong NOTL irrigation system, first built in 1988, is critical to fruit quality, crop size and economic viability.

Buis said fruit that grows to only two inches — which can happen with reduced irrigation — is "less salable" than two-and-a-half-inch fruit, even though about twice as many of the smaller size are normally produced, he said.

That loss in size can affect crop tonnage, he said: "Then, your bills are almost

the same, but you just have less money to pay for it."

"It's big dollars," he said. Healthy plants also produce better-quality fruit and are more likely to survive Ontario's winters, Buis added.

At St. David's Hydroponics, vice-president Toine van der Knaap said his greenhouse wouldn't operate without the municipal water supply.

"I'm drinking a lot of water myself with the warm weather, so the plants do the same," he said.

The greenhouse can store about three-and-a-half weeks of water in its pond but still depends on the irrigation system to keep it full, said Van der Knaap.

Part of the irrigation system at that greenhouse is "an example of infrastructure money that was used," said Wiens, adding that the goal with the funding is to see more irrigation parts like that in NOTL.

But once the system "is up and running," he said, "the farmers pay for it."

Coun. Wendy Cheropita called the announcement "very, very exciting" for the town's farming community.

"This is something that our farming community

and Erwin Wiens and (Lord Mayor) Gary Zalepa have been working long and hard on," said Cheropita.

"To make sure that the province sees irrigation as infrastructure."

The funding follows years of lobbying to have irrigation recognized as essential infrastructure, Wiens said.

"We started this 15 years ago."

Reclassifying irrigation as infrastructure by the province was the first step in making this kind of investment possible, he said.

Debbie Zimmerman, chief executive officer of Grape Growers of Ontario, stressed its importance to the country's largest grape and wine region.

"It's absolutely critical," she said. "The government of Ontario has poured a lot of money into the grape and wine industry for its success."

Zalepa told the crowd that irrigation is "top of the list" in the town's strategic plan and said the funding will allow NOTL to move ahead with system upgrades as soon as it gets the green light.

"We're ready to go," he said.

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NOTL council **rejects** tulip farm’s fall festival permit request

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake council has denied TASC Tulip Pick Farm’s request for a special event permit to revive its late summer tulip festival.

Councillors who opposed the permit cited concerns about the farm’s previous festival event in the spring, issues with the current proposal and asked whether a permit was necessary at all.

Following council’s rejection of the special events permit, the tulip farm’s co-founder Frank Boendermaker told The Lake Report he’s working with the town and that it wouldn’t be “appropriate” to assume what the future of the fall festival will be.

TASC director of operations Jon Martin said in council the proposed festival was intended to “test the waters” before planning a larger event similar to the one held in the spring.

That event, which ran from late April to early May, faced several issues, including traffic congestion and heavy rain that turned



The 55-acre farm on Line 3 Road is home to a field of more than three million tulips. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

the fields muddy, prompting complaints from nearby residents.

In June, Boendermaker apologized to council. He and his wife, Jill McCourt, own the 55-acre farm, which grows more than three million tulips.

Martin said the fall event, which they proposed to run from Aug. 22 to Oct. 2,

would include changes to avoid the problems seen in the spring.

Food trucks would be eliminated and attendance capped at 3,000 people — down from the 10,000 initially targeted.

“We’re making sure the parking lot can handle the traffic,” he said, noting the site has 100 parking spots.

Council was divided on the issue. A motion by Coun. Erwin Wiens to grant the permit with conditions was defeated in a 5–3 vote.

Coun. Maria Mavridis voted against the permit, but said if it were approved, ticket sales should be limited to 100 per hour, aligning with the number of available parking spaces.

“I don’t want to see vehicles parked on the side streets,” she said.

Mavridis also questioned the need for a special event permit if attendees were only picking flowers.

“Why is this an event that’s five weeks long vs. this is your business?” she asked. She later confirmed with Martin that no alcohol, food or drinks would be sold.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor also voted no, expressing concern about the festival’s length and the precedent it could set.

“Have we ever issued a permit for six weeks?” she asked.

She also questioned whether the spring event was held under a special event permit. Martin confirmed it was. She then

asked why council was being consulted this time, since such permits are usually approved by town staff.

“Last time, council did not know about our special event permit,” Martin said. “We’re just trying to be above board.”

Kirsten McCauley, the town’s director of community and development services, said the event qualifies as a commercial operation and requires a special event permit because tickets are being sold.

Coun. Andrew Niven, who also voted no, said he supports the idea of a tulip festival, but remains concerned about the scale and its potential impact on neighbours.

“It’s a great festival,” he said. “But my focus is the neighbours.”

Couns. Tim Balasiuk and Gary Burroughs also voted against the permit.

However, some councillors supported the proposal, calling the business a positive addition to the community.

Coun. Adriana Vizzari and Coun. Wendy Cheropita voted in favour. Cheropita

praised Boendermaker’s apology to council in June.

Wiens also voted in favour, saying the motion simply asked council to consider the event based on staff input. He said the farm has been co-operative and responsible.

“They’ve been good corporate citizens,” he said.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa did not attend the meeting.

According to the town’s website, a special event permit is required for events involving street closures, fireworks, live entertainment, temporary structures, food or alcohol service, large volumes of traffic, or gatherings of more than 50 people.

The application requires a \$100 fee and must be submitted at least six weeks before the event.

TASC submitted its application one week before Martin appeared before council, said chief administrative officer Nick Ruller.

The farm was established in Niagara-on-the-Lake last October. TASC operates in Canada, the U.S. and the Netherlands and also runs a tulip farm in Fenwick, Ont.

daniel@niagaranow.com



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Cool cars roll at Kinsmen show



Vroom, vroom: Classic cars and hot rods line up to enter Kinsmen Scout Hall, just a few of the 381 vehicles that were on display at the Kinsmen Club’s 25th annual car show on Sunday, Aug. 10. The Show and Shine event raises money for local organizations, such as the Girl Guides unit that meets in Kinsmen Hall. “We’re thrilled with the support we get from the community and people,” said Kinsmen Club director Ken Slingerland. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Developer hopes to merge part of Glencairn property

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Prominent local developer Benny Marotta is looking to merge part of Glencairn Hall’s land with property that he owns right next door to the burned-down home on the Niagara River Parkway. According to a notice posted on the town’s site, Marotta wants to combine a 2,247-square-metre section of the Glencairn Hall property with a 9,876-square-metre lot of land just south of Glencairn. Niagara-on-the-Lake’s committee of adjustment is going to consider this proposal at its upcoming meeting on Thursday, Aug. 21.

Natalie Thompson of NPG Planning Solutions, representing Marotta, states in a letter to the town that the lot addition wouldn’t be on land that the former Glencairn Hall building occupied. It would start 12 metres from the building’s location. She also said her firm held a pre-consultation meeting with the town on this proposal in February. “We also understand that a fire recently damaged the main building at 14795 Niagara River Pkwy., the Glencairn Hall, in April,” she said. “The location of the Glencairn Hall ... is setback over 12 metres from the proposed lot line created by the boundary adjustment.”

“The retained lands ... will comply with zoning requirements,” she added. Glencairn Hall, a 213-year-old, was destroyed in an early-morning fire on April 16. Council voted in July to demolish the remains. Police have deemed the fire to be the result of criminal arson and haven’t publicly released any new information in the investigation since June. Both 14795 Niagara River Pkwy., Glencairn Hall’s land, and 14785 Niagara River Pkwy., Marotta’s land, are designated heritage properties under the Ontario Heritage Act. Thompson acknowledged that a heritage permit would be required for the lot at

#14785, which currently does not have one. “We are aware that the legal description of the properties in their respective designation bylaws will need to be corrected to reflect the boundary adjustment,” Thompson said. “Town planning staff have indicated this can be addressed as part of an active heritage permit for 14785 Niagara River Parkway, which includes the condition that the designation bylaw be updated.” Property records indicate the Glencairn Hall land at 14795 Niagara River Pkwy. is owned by Scott Corbett, whose registered address is in Etobicoke. daniel@niagaranow.com

Heritage committee takes stock of Glencairn remains

Continued from Front Page

Alanna Wilson, the town’s heritage planning intern and a student at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, shared details about the recovered pieces of history from the property and what could be done with them. During the Aug. 6 meeting, she shared the list of items that the town has salvaged from the ruins, saying they are “some of the most impactful things from that site.” She suggested incorporating the salvaged artifacts into the commemoration, although certain components — such as foundation stones — can’t be recovered

if the property owner reuses them. Wilson said the town is in talks with several conservation and heritage organizations, including the NOTL Museum, the Niagara Foundation, Niagara College Canada and Willowbank. All have expressed interest in supporting the project, including fundraising. “There’s nothing that’s been finalized,” Wilson said, including where the commemorative spot would be located. Proposed locations for the commemoration include the Glencairn Hall site on Niagara River Parkway, the Willowbank school area and the NOTL Museum,

which could house a digital archive and display salvaged items. Those involved in rescuing the items haven’t ruled on the condition of everything they’ve found. While they’ve determined the Doric columns may need reconstruction, they’re not sure of the condition of some others, including a black porcelain chandelier, Ionic columns, elements of the west entryway and another fireplace surround and mantel. Wilson said fundraising could involve selling some of the recovered artifacts. However, she emphasized the priority is to “salvage as much as they can.”

Committee member Alexander Topps suggested gathering community stories and photos related to Glencairn Hall. “We would like to reach out to the community through the media to search out stories through Glencairn,” he said. “Personal stories, with photographs, anything to feature that might be appropriate for that digital presentation.” Glencairn Hall, a classical Greco-Roman style residence, was designed by John Latshaw and built for John Hamilton in 1832. It was destroyed in a fire on April 16. daniel@niagaranow.com

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What happened to that speed camera?

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Despite being vandalized and removed, the Niagara Stone Road speed camera is still on this season's enforcement schedule and expected back before the program ends later this month, the Niagara Region says.

Both the region and Niagara Regional Police would not say where the automated speed enforcement camera is now, who removed it, or how much repeated vandalism at the site has cost.

They confirmed the eight cameras in the program cost about \$245,000 this year and that ticketed fines have, so far, covered all expenses.

Scott Fraser, the region's associate director of transportation planning, confirmed the unit was damaged but said it's still going to be used for the May-to-August program cycle.

The camera is meant to be stationed in front of Crossroads Public School in



All that remains of the speed camera on Niagara Stone Road after its fifth act of vandalism. The device has been removed, but the region says it still plans to include this Niagara-on-the-Lake location in its regular rotation. PAIGE SEBURN

Virgil until late this month.

He said the region is working with the vendor, Reflex Traffic Systems (Canada) Limited, to repair it and return it to service.

"The camera has not been relocated, or the rotation

ended early, in response to vandalism," Fraser said in an email.

Details "specific to the acts of vandalism, such as the individuals involved, or the potential charges and related penalties," he said, are part of a regional police investigation.

Police declined to answer questions and referred inquiries back to the region.

The region also would not disclose how many tickets the camera issued, how long it was active during this rotation, how often it was vandalized or replaced, whether relocation is being considered, or how much fine revenue it generated this season.

Fraser said the region will present information on the "safety benefits" the automated speed enforcement program saw this year to regional council next year.

The camera is one of eight supplied under an annual contract with the vendor, which Fraser said includes the cost of repairing or replacing units damaged or vandalized.

He said all program costs, including signage and ticket processing, are covered by fines.

"Net fines collected are then shared between the region and local area municipalities and are reinvested into road safety improvements," said Fraser.

While some drivers have questioned whether the program puts revenue ahead of safety, Fraser, speaking more broadly, pointed to 2024 results showing average speeds dropped by nine kilometres per hour where cameras were used and violations fell 86 per cent at locations where cameras returned a second time.

"And speeds remained low — even after the cameras were removed," he said.

Fraser said "moderate changes in speed make a big difference in safety" and that changing speed is key to reducing serious collisions, injuries and fatalities.

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SCAN

Two NOTL peach festivals blend flavour and fun

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

The sweet aroma of peaches filled the air in Niagara-on-the-Lake last week, as two popular peach festivals marked the summer fruit's harvest season.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce and the St. Vincent de Paul Parish each hosted their annual events celebrating the fruit and the peak of Niagara's peach-growing season.

The Chamber's festival ran Aug. 8 and 9 with two main components — shopping and the newly added Peach Pit party.

The Peach Pit in Simcoe Park featured live music, kids' activities and a calmer spot to enjoy peach treats. Shopping was on Queen Street, where vendors showcased peach-themed products.

"We sell our peach jam, our peach marmalade and our peach chutney. And of course, peach jam is always



Over at the peach pie contest on the weekend, chef and judge Catherine O'Donnell cuts one of the other judges, MPP Wayne Gates, a healthy slice of peach pie to taste. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

at the top of the list," said Angela Redekopp, vice-president of Greaves Jams and Marmalades.

Greaves took its products outside for the festival, with staff wearing peach headbands.

"Everybody loves a nice festival where they can walk around the street and have something to eat or drink or taste, and we kind of fit the

bill," Redekopp said. "We're sort of the perfect fit for the peach festival, so we know we need to be a part of it."

Among the most popular foods was the peach grilled cheese, with peach jam spread on bread before adding cheese.

Friends Dianne Brown and Terra Unger of St. Catharines said it was the highlight of their visit.

"NOTL is known for its fruit, so it's fun to celebrate that," Brown said.

Peach popsicles and slushies were also in demand. Nine-year-old Gabi from Welland enjoyed a peach slushie, but her favourite part was getting an axolotl balloon and a sparkly peach painted on her face.

Her family sampled grilled cheese, cheesecake

and slushies. "The cold slushies were a perfect end to the day," said her mother, Isabelle Chartrand.

The St. Vincent de Paul festival featured peach pies and other treats.

NOTL resident Christine Secco-Hoffacker attends every year, buying multiple pies to serve guests. This year she bought four.

"It's four nights of incredible peach pie," she said.

Her daughter, Muriel Wixson, makes the drive from Boston annually.

"Everyone is so kind, and the peaches are obviously delicious," she said.

The parish festival also runs a thrift-style sale and sells peaches donated by local farmers.

"100 per cent of the proceeds go to the upkeep of the cemetery and the church hall," said co-chair Sharyn Choules.

This year, the parish partnered with the Chamber to add a recycling drive.

"We wanted to be more

stewards of the Earth, so the Chamber of Commerce helped us out with that this year by providing us with bins," Choules said.

Returning traditions included musician John Libera, back for his third year, playing Elvis Presley songs and kids' tunes.

The Peach Pit hosted eight musical acts, including Quell The Swell Celtic Band from Hamilton, Ont.

"We do East Coast, sort of Irish fiddle and mandolin ... You feel like you want to dance and jig," said band member Tom Gaasebeek.



"It's family-oriented, fun music."

Before performing, the band made sure to eat some peaches.

"(The festival has) been here for years, and it gets better and better," Gaasebeek said. "We'll be back and we'll eat even more peaches."

Both festivals drew large crowds, filling the air with music, excitement and the scent of ripe peaches.

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Clockwise from top left: The NOTL Golf Club is commemorating its 150th year and to help celebrate, longtime member Barbara Ahluwalia, 92, presented the trophy to women’s champion Louise Robitaille. James Grigjanis-Meusel sinks the winning putt on the second playoff hole to win the club championship over reigning champ Ricky Watson on Sunday evening at NOTL Golf Club. Lucas Roberts-Ramos captured the junior boys title, shooting 77-90 over the two-day tourney. Junior competitors play the 10th hole. Rick Janes finishes his Sunday round with a crowd looking on from the sidelines. PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Joy and heartbreak as NOTL golf champions crowned

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

For golfer Louise Robitaille, victory came after the mental reset of drawing a black line on her scorecard after a blow-up hole left her down three shots with only four holes to play.

For James Grigjanis-Meusel, admittedly nervous, “my hands shaking,” it arrived after a clutch chip from about 25 yards out on the 18th hole forced a playoff.

The women’s and men’s winners in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club’s annual club championship tournament took different routes to victory Sunday, but both showed quiet resilience in the face of adversity.

Again this year the tourney offered up drama, joy and just a little bit of heartbreak.

After two days of intense play in blistering heat and humidity, the marquee competitions for the men’s and women’s overall championships came down to the wire — and then some for the gents.

As the sun was sinking in the west just after 8 p.m. on Sunday, defending champion Ricky Watson (78-77-155) and his golf buddy Grigjanis-Meusel (77-78-155) needed two holes of a sudden-death playoff before Grigjanis-Meusel salvaged victory with a four-foot par putt.

“Obviously, I am disappointed to lose,” Watson told The Lake Report afterward, “but it was a great battle.”

“Two years in a row it’s come down to the last hole between the two of us,” he added.

“We both don’t really play any tournaments anymore, so it’s always fun to get nervous and see how our games shape up. Tournament golf certainly exposes my weaknesses,” said Watson, who was crowned A flight champion.

Grigjanis-Meusel, who works as a greenskeeper at the club, says he looks forward to more duels with Watson.

“It’s always a good, friendly competition.”

Shortly before that, Robitaille arrived on the 18th tee with a tenuous one-shot lead over Carroll Baker — but getting there was no easy feat.

Baker, who started the final round one shot behind Robitaille, battled back and was ahead by one as the women made the turn for their final nine.

She stretched that to three shots with four holes remaining after Robitaille made an uncharacteristic triple-bogey 8 on #14.

That’s when she drew a black line on the card and told her daughter Chantal, who was caddying for her, “We’re starting over again.”

It worked. She finished par, par, bogey, par. That first par got her one shot closer to Baker.

Then a triple-bogey 7 by Baker on the tricky dog-leg 16th turned things completely around as Robitaille made a long putt for par to go back up one shot.

That led to the final hole showdown after they both made bogeys on the 17th.

“When I’m in trouble, I like to buckle down and focus more.”

LOUISE ROBITAILLE
GOLFER

Robitaille took her fifth women’s title since 2018 with a par putt on the closing hole for a three-shot margin of victory when Baker carded a double-bogey 5.

One shot behind Baker, who won the senior women’s crown for her effort, was Yolanda Henry, a three-time club champ. She earned the A flight title.

It was a hard-fought win, and on Sunday, any of the players in her group could have won, Robitaille said in an interview.

“I kind of like to come from behind a bit. When I’m in trouble, I like to buckle down and focus more,” she said.

“I do better under stress than I do if there’s no stress at all.”

But it was so close that anyone in the group could have won at that stage, she said.

“I didn’t think I was going to win it, to be honest, by the time I got to the 15th hole. I had my 8, and that was huge. Being down three with four (holes) to go is not easy.”

She’s happy with her performance and ball-striking, but noted she had some trouble gauging distances, thanks mainly to using a new set of clubs. They’ll take some getting used to.

In the day’s final group, four of the club’s top male golfers also duelled back and forth.

Grigjanis-Meusel’s 77 on Saturday gave him a single-shot lead over Watson, Joe Doria and Stephen Warboys starting the final round.

After nine holes, Grigjanis-Meusel had stretched his margin to three shots over Doria and Warboys thanks to a 1-over 37.

Watson had a tough start and was five shots off the pace.

But he flipped the script on the back nine, shooting even-par 36 while Grigjanis-Meusel had 41, with double-bogeys on 13 and 16. Doria (78-80-158) and Warboys (78-83-161) also ran into some trouble over the closing holes.

On the 18th, playing at about 230 yards for the men, Watson hit his tee shot to within 20 feet while Grigjanis-Meusel was about 25 yards short of the green in the light rough.

He made a spectacular chip to about four feet.

“My hands were shaking on that shot. I was expecting (Watson) to make the putt,” the 31-year-old said in an interview afterward.

Despite the nerves, “I did exactly what I was trying to do” but it left the door open for Watson to win the title with a birdie.

He missed, leaving his uphill putt short. Grigjanis-Meusel made his and they were deadlocked after 36 holes.

Following matching pars on the first playoff hole, Watson had another birdie chance, this time from the fringe near the left bunker on #2.

He “didn’t judge the first putt from the fringe well and left myself seven-ish feet for par, which unfortunately lipped out. James made his five-footer for par after another great chip,” Watson said.

An associate pro at the NOTL club until 2022, Watson regained his amateur status and won the men’s title that year and in 2024.

The pair have dominated the past six championship tournaments, with Grigjanis-Meusel winning in 2020,

2021, 2023 and now 2025.

“But, since Ricky has been competing, neither of us has been able to win two in a row,” he remarked.

However, there could be some up-and-coming players waiting to challenge them.

More than 100 golfers competed in several divisions, including about a dozen talented teenagers and several young guns in their early 20s.

Tops among them was 21-year-old Jaden Patterson, an elite lacrosse player and talented golfer who won club titles as a teen.

He shot 80-81-161 and finished just six shots behind the top men’s duo, an impressive result during a tough weekend of golf.

Other women’s champions were: Super seniors: Judy Mantle (98-102-200); B flight: Ginny Green (96-96-192); C flight: Susan Gagne (97-95-192); D flight: Carolyn Cochrane (108-112-220); Junior girls: Keira Dexter (112).

Other men’s champions were: Super seniors: Ted Carmichael (76-78-154); B flight: Rob Reimer (81-83-164); C flight: Jim Garrett (86-91-177); D flight: David Gagne (97-96-193); Junior boys: Lucas Roberts-Ramos (77-90-167); Bantam boys: Steven Pillitteri-Smith (88-103-191).

In ‘Major Barbara,’ women confront class, power and morality

MAJOR BARBARA

(out of five)

Festival Theatre, 2 hours 55 minutes, one intermission, ends Oct. 5. By Bernard Shaw. Directed by Peter Hinton.

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

There was a time when the sounds of the Salvation Army drum and brass bands rang out across Canadian street corners, especially on a Sunday morning.

How many of us knew then of the reach of the “Sally Ann” as it provided spiritual, religious and social care to so many in need?

Did we know that the Christmas red kettle campaign for donations originated with a Canadian, Capt. Joseph McFee, who placed a pot at a wharf in San Francisco in 1891? Or that the “Keep the pot boiling” motto reminds us to continue to provide those needed services?

The Salvation Army was founded in 1865 as the East London Christian Mission

by a sometime Methodist minister William Booth and his wife, Catherine.

George Bernard Shaw was one of the few male writers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries eager to address the “woman question” and to be an advocate for women’s rights.

In “Major Barbara” of the Salvation Army, we hear the voices of Victorian women aspiring to liberation, to work, to earn money and have the right to social, political, legal and gender equality.

Shaw’s female characters are unconventional, diverse, unique. They may come from different backgrounds of class, wealth and education, but they hold and express feminist ideas in challenging circumstances. Social status, be it ascribed or achieved, is identified by capability, dress and moral attitudes.

Barbara’s mother, Lady Britomart Undershaft, played with convincing hauteur by Fiona Byrne, is an aristocratic daughter of an Earl, “careless in her dress,” well-bred but “reckless,” well-mannered but “appallingly outspoken” and



Gabriella Sundar Singh as Barbara Undershaft and André Morin as Adolphus Cusins in “Major Barbara.” DAVID COOPER

“amiable” though brusque. She is a single mother with strong upper-class expectations of her children.

She separated from her wealthy husband, Andrew Undershaft, decades earlier, as he refused to allow his son to inherit his business. He insisted that it pass to a “foundling,” as he was and tradition dictated, in order that it remain innovative

and successful.

Her two daughters must marry soon due to economic necessity, and she demands that her reluctant, entitled son, played well by Taurian Teelucksingh, at least take over the responsibility of managing the family. Money is needed, so she sends for her estranged husband.

Daughter Sarah (Lind-

say Wu) is conventional, well-dressed and only wishes to marry the “Oh, I say,” twit Charles Lomax (Sepher Reybod). He has the requisite social status but lacks smarts and financial means until he comes into his future trust funds.

Barbara (Gabriella Sundar Singh) is the unconventional daughter, the “New Woman.” She is a hard-working, uniform-wearing, money-earning major in the Salvation Army.

She must be compassionate yet authoritative, confident to stand up to bullies and control male abusive behaviour. To be a member of the Salvation Army was to be a military soldier in a right cause of God’s values.

She becomes engaged to a scholar, Adolphus Cusins (André Morin), who, being penniless, lacks the necessary social status but is considered an acceptable gentleman and prospect given his classical Greek education.

Barbara’s mission is to nourish and save souls. Ms. Singh does not convey adequately the depth, maturity and nuances of spirituality, strength and sorrow required for this role.

Patrick Galligan is outstanding as the long-absent husband and father running his “immoral” munitions manufacturing business. He is tough-minded and ruthless.

His mission is not to save souls but to improve methods of destruction of life and property for wars and killing fields that will continue to occur.

Andrew Underschaft’s rationale and capitalist solutions for eradicating poverty are other than offering a bowl of soup and a piece of bread. To him, money is power. Money gets things done. How will he and Barbara convince one another of the “right” moral means to salvation?

“Major Barbara” was first performed in 1905 at the Royal Court Theatre in London. A hundred and twenty years later, director Peter Hinton has shaken the pot for this sixth production at the Shaw Festival. Its themes continue to be relevant.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an arts and culture historian, writer and lecturer living in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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BKind Grateful
With Bradley Hamilton

#40: If you are able, considering donating blood at your local Red Cross. It is gift of life and you never know who you might be helping.

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock
“You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”
- Andre Gide

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Shades of Summer

Twilight hour over Queen Street in front of the clock tower cenotaph on Sunday evening, where partygoers see life through rose-coloured glasses. The annual Shades of Summer rosé party gathers wine enthusiasts, friends, family members, co-workers and acquaintances together for a picnic-style dinner in downtown Old Town to enjoy a pink-themed party, with rosé and other preordered alcoholic drinks provided by local businesses.

DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Opinion

How many is too many? Maybe 231



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner
Columnist

First, familiar vehicles disappeared. Then it was a coupe from New York. After that a black pickup from Florida.

“They’ve got a condo in Toronto now,” the next door neighbour offered. “So they’ve decided to rent out the house — hired a company to do that for them. Not happy about it.”

Sure enough, that address is a new line in NOTL’s registry of short-term rentals. The list has 385 entries on it, the bulk of which are located in Old Town.

And there’s serious money, here. The weensy, dodgy old green cottage down the street from the newest rental collects \$400 a night from guests. A block away, on the water, the fee is over seven hundred. Just the other side of Queen, the town’s most uppity B&B is asking \$1,500 per diem.

No wonder the Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind our short-term rental cartel and supports the Shaw sucking residential housing into its new commercial mega-

theatre on Victoria Street. Money talks. Tucking in those tourists — as many as possible — pays big.

The latest news with short-term rentals (STRs) is that council will probably approve the permanent freeze on licences for unhosted cottage and villa rentals, of which there are 231. As those properties are sold off, the licences will expire. That could take forever.

“The industry keeps going on about how eliminating unhosted properties would be detrimental to tourism,” says Norm Arsenault, who sat on an advisory committee.

“However, that is hyperbole at best since unhosted STRs will be around for years if not decades because that is how long some of the current operators have been in business.”

True. Nor does the proposed slate of changes remove short-term rentals with pools or hot tubs, which have been flashpoints of irritation for neighbours tired of hearing shrieking, cavorting, moist visitors.

Unhosted short-term rentals are a bad idea. Period. Most municipalities in Canada have banned them. Having an Airbnb unit in your house is far different from buying a property and operating a ghost hotel with nobody living there full-time.

It displaces long-term tenants. It hollows out ‘hoods. It blows off neighbours.



A wall of vacation units at the new Clayfield Hotel in Garrison Village. They join hundreds of existing short-term rentals. GARTH TURNER

It commercializes spaces intended for living.

Worse, the NOTL tax system ends up penalizing residents by favouring the short-term rental czars. Locals pay heavily to live in an expensive place like this while the rental operators profit from the income while also being spared commercial property tax rates. That may make the Chamber of Commerce giddy, but it’s dumb policy.

Of course, the short-term rentals also compete with hotels — which pay oodles of tax. (By the way, have you seen the 40 new vacay rentals erected as part of the Garrison Village Airport Hotel? OMG.)

Oh well. Maybe this is just the price to pay for living in a place that has horses with giant hairy hooves, acres and acres of grapes instead of town-houses and more gelato than Italy. Is there another town

anywhere so perfect it’s in danger of being loved to death? Doubtful.

But wait. We also have drama.

Last week letter-writer Kate Morris took exception to my recent reference to Robin Ridesic, who approached me (on my front lawn) as a Shaw director to straighten me out regarding the Royal George Theatre rebuild.

You may recall I said this about her: “Part of the charm offensive is Robin Ridesic, who lectured me in person about the righteousness of the Shaw proposal. She’s a festival director (and is charming).”

That lit Kate. She went ad hominem.

“To trivialize her contribution with patronizing commentary says more about the author. It’s especially rich coming from someone who was best known for weighing in on real estate speculation and finance in Toronto, holding himself up as the voice of the locals despite only having lived here for a couple of years.”

For the record, far worse things have been said about me by very accomplished people. Including at least one sitting prime minister.

But Kate caused my picture to be in the paper twice. Seemed like a win.

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

garth@garth.ca



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Preserving history takes time and effort

Dear editor:
I happen to have been born in Rome. You may not know it, but in Rome whenever a new building project is approved and the excavation phase begins more often than not, everything comes to a halt.
Why? You may ask. Because in the excavation process ancient artifacts and buildings are discovered. Archeologists and historians are called in to qualify the discovery.

Many times building plans are cancelled and in the most favorable conditions they are delayed. In all cases the building process in Rome is long and painful. Romans have a surplus of ancient artifacts and buildings, yet they continue to treat every new discovery with great care.
In Canada, on the other hand, we have a limited number of heritage locations, and Niagara-on-the-Lake is one of them.
One would think that, given the scarcity of historical sites, we would take extra care of our Historic Town. My observation leads me to believe that we are not good stewards of our heritage.
There have been countless efforts to push the envelope, stretch the necessary boundaries of common sense to diminish the historic atmosphere of this town.
We are all in awe when



Letter writer Lydia Madonia says heritage preservation is hard work — but that's no excuse not to do it. She points to cities like Rome that prioritize history, regardless if it makes development projects more difficult.

we walk down historic cities or villages in Europe, yet we are totally oblivious to the effort it has taken local communities and administrations to protect what they have.
Evidence of our ineptitude is glaringly apparent when no building limitations are enforced, and at the edge of town, one finds himself staring at a project that has utilized every inch square available with a mix of building styles, commercial purposes and structures.
What to say about architectural harmony and building proportions gone awry?
Yet that building project had to be viewed, reviewed and approved by a group of elected officials, would it not?

Fast forward to an upcoming project placed in the centre of the Historic Town. If you were in Rome, Avignon or Stratford, UK, elected officials and historical experts would go to great lengths to ensure that the scale, the style and the impact of the project would in the end enhance and showcase its surroundings as well as the new building.
If the Shaw needs a bigger theatre, there is plenty of space in the vicinities of the Festival Theatre where a new theatre or an expanded Festival Theatre can be planned and built away from the hustle and bustle of Queen Street.
In the final analysis, an anachronistic structure is only part of the problem. A significantly larger the-

atre will impact the influx of automotive and pedestrian traffic beyond current capacity.
There are businesses on Queen Street that gleefully welcome large crowds. Yet I can assure you many of them are barely managing to deliver in goods and service when traffic peaks.
The Royal George Theatre should remain a "boutique theatre" — a special place for special and limited events.
The building should be restored and preserved. As an aside most Shaw's plays were originally performed in small theatres or dinner clubs.
The price ticket for the expansion should take the restoration of an old building in mind. A new state-of-the-art building or a renewed and much larger Festival Theatre can be planned and built without too many restrictions.
If I think about the illustrious George Bernard Shaw, a man known for wanting to cause no harm to animals and a strong proponent of human rights as well as nature preservation, I believe he would be appalled that we have to plead with the powers that be on preserving the spirit and use of the Royal George Theatre to its originally intended purpose.
Lydia Madonia
NOTL

Council can demand rethink of Royal George

Dear editor:
Hats off to town Coun. Gary Burroughs for saying what I believe many Niagara-on-the-Lake residents feel about the Shaw Festival's plans to demolish and rebuild the Royal George theatre ("Sorry, boss: Theatre design still sucks," Aug. 7).
But expressing angst about the recently presented designs for the proposed new theatre and the negative impacts of the planned build on both Queen and Victoria streets isn't enough.
Nor is calling on people "to keep complaining" until those designs are changed.
Council can and should insist that the Shaw Festival change course and use

the tools at its disposal to ensure that happens.
And at this point in the Royal George rebuild project, council should be holding all the cards it needs to win the game and the day.
For starters, it can refuse to issue a permit for the demolition of the two historic homes on Victoria Street that the festival now owns and wants razed to create an easy access route to the Royal George construction site.
Second, council can refuse to rezone the land on which those houses stand from residential to commercial.
It's hard to see the Ontario Land Tribunal overturning those decisions,

given that they would result in two existing houses being preserved.
I'm not suggesting that council permanently block the planned reconstruction of the Royal George, only that it require the festival to bring forward revised designs and proposals that take the concerns of residents and the historic characteristics of Niagara-on-the-Lake into account.
(My preference would be for the existing theatre to be saved, if that's still possible, to preserve an important part of our town's built heritage.)
But I fear that town may have already thrown its cards down on the table and conceded the game, if council's

February decision to exempt the Royal George and the Victoria Street houses from the Queen-Picton heritage conservation district study area is any indication ("Royal George Theatre given OK-go for post-closure rebuild," March 6).
Not granting the exemption would have prevented the festival from significantly altering the theatre and houses for a year.
Time enough for the festival to develop a design and rebuilding plan for the George that NOTL residents, businesses and visitors could embrace, and that reflects the historic nature of our community.
Terry Davis
Old Town



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: ALSO A FISHING TERM

Just scoop ice cream on root beer for this type of beverage.

Last issue category: A WORD FROM YOUR DOCTOR
Clue: When I ask if you have this kind of pain, I mean is it sharp or sudden, not from an angle of less than 90 degrees.
Answer: What is acute?

Answered first by: Terry Nord
Also answered correctly (in order) by: Sue Heinz, Bob Wheatley, Margie Enns, Lynda Collet, Jane Morris, Jim Dandy, Jeff Lake, Wade Durling, Esther VanGorder, Randie Topps, Howard Jones, Gordon Yanow, Kim Amaral, Catherine Clarke, Sylvia Wiens, Edna Groff, Gary Davis, Sheila Meloche, David Spencer, Margaret Garaughty

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$25 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)
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Examining the town’s new official plan draft



Brian Marshall
Columnist

I’m sure most of us are aware of the town’s overture for Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to read and comment on the first draft of the proposed official plan (a broad-scope revision of the 2019 version that was kicked back by Niagara Region).

But, just in case it missed your notice, the draft can be found at jointheconversationnotl.org/officialplan, under “Comment on the redlined draft official plan.”

And note, there is a Sept. 19 deadline which — if you’re so inclined to wade through the document — should provide adequate time to read, consider and provide your valuable input to town staff.

So, despite the loss of the town’s manager of policy and heritage planning after nine short months in the job

(incidentally, has anyone considered hiring an expert human resources consultant to determine why there is a revolving door with the ridiculous level of staff turnover in town hall?), it is the stated intention to submit the “finished” (the process does allow for additions after submission) official plan to the region by this February.

This undertaking will involve producing at least one more draft document for review before authoring the finished version.

As a result, the more public input that is provided at this juncture, the more likely it is that staff — principally Fiona Main, senior policy planner — will be able to meet their published timeline.

To that end, I would encourage everyone to consider contributing at this juncture.

Now, while we will visit, in far greater detail, the scope, inherent authority and limitations of an official plan in an upcoming column, for now let’s get on common ground by using the definition published by open council (open-council.ca/municipal-official-plans-ontario), which reads:

“An official plan is a long-term planning blueprint that



The future of development in Niagara-on-the-Lake will be guided by the town’s newest official plan. Brian Marshall lays out how the province dictates what official plans need to have — and what choices are optional. FILE

guides how all land within a municipality can be used and developed over the next 20 to 30 years.”

“It sets out the vision, principles, goals, objectives and policies to direct the growth, physical change and design of the municipality as a whole.”

“It also sets standards for the review and approval of future development applications to balance the interests of: Developers and neighbourhood residents; province, municipality and the community; social, economic and built and natural environments impacts.”

“Everything a municipality does related to land use must follow the official plan, including: Local council and municipal officials; New services such as sewer or water mains; prerequisite for community improvement plans; provides a basis for the zoning bylaw and related bylaws; provisions relating to the use of the holding symbol.”

In defining the required content of an official plan, Section 16 of Ontario’s Planning Act says an official plan “shall contain” the following: “goals, objectives and policies established primarily to manage and

direct physical change and the effects on the social, economic, built and natural environment of the municipality or part of it, or an area that is without municipal organization.”

Those goals, objectives and policies are to be “practicable to ensure the adequate provision of affordable housing.”

Also, it will have “a description of the measures and procedures for informing and obtaining the views of the public in respect of” the following: “proposed amendments to the official plan or proposed revisions of the plan,” “proposed zoning bylaws,” “proposed plans of subdivision,” “proposed consents under section 53,” and “such other matters as may be prescribed.”

The Planning Act goes on to define the optional content, saying an official plan “may contain” the following: “a description of the measures and procedures proposed to attain the objectives of the plan”; “a description of the measures and procedures for informing and obtaining the views of the public in respect of planning matters not mentioned in clause (1) (b);” and “such other matters as may be prescribed.”

From this, you will note that, odd as it might seem, unlike the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timebound) plan format used in business, the “required inclusions” of an official plan tend to allow for broad motherhood statements related to goals, objectives and policies.

Only in the Planning Act’s official plan “optional inclusions” can one find any suggestion of measurable specifics and, since there is no requirement, they are rarely seen in a municipality’s official plan.

Further, inclusion of time or deadline considerations is almost completely absent.

Certainly, this explains why terms like “may,” “endeavour to” and “encourage to” are liberally sprinkled throughout the draft plan, while words like “will,” “must” and “required” are much less frequent.

Within its terms of reference and legislated requirements, it’s a pretty good first draft.

That said, stay with me over the next few weeks while we drill down further into the document.

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



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How our investment income is taxed



BOTTOM LINE

Steve McGuinness
Columnist

In a recent column (“Reducing tax on your savings and investments,” July 31), we discussed the importance of using a registered retirement savings plan, or RRSP, and a tax-free savings account contributions to maximize after-tax investment returns.

This week, we review the tax implications of holding deposits or securities outside of these tax plans.

Interest earned on deposits and bonds is fully taxed, like ordinary income, at marginal tax rates. This makes them the least tax-advantaged investment income sources.

The taxation of shares issued by listed Canadian corporations differs from

interest. The implications of holding foreign property (including shares) and private issues will be discussed in future columns.

A dividend is a distribution of a corporation’s after-tax income. So dividends paid to shareholders from earnings have previously been taxed on a corporate return as business income.

There is, however, a residual tax owed by the shareholder when dividends are paid.

The tax policy goal is to match the total tax paid on distributed corporate profits to what would otherwise be paid if the same business was operated by an individual outside a corporation.

Our tax-on-dividends rules initially include the dividends in the shareholders’ taxable income — at 138 per cent of the amount paid — and then allow an offsetting dividend tax credit to reduce the net tax amount owed.

Tax credits are more valuable than deductions because they directly reduce taxes whereas deductions just reduce taxable income before tax is calculated.

Since a tax credit reduces tax by a constant amount, ignoring the recipient’s tax bracket, it has a greater effective value to lower-income shareholders than to higher-rate taxpayers.

To illustrate by example: in Ontario, a shareholder earning between \$57,375 and \$93,132 would pay an effective 6.39 per cent tax rate on a dividend far below the 29.65 per cent they would pay on other income.

However, at the higher end of the rate card, an Ontario taxpayer earning over \$253,414 would pay 47.47 per cent on dividends compared to a 53.53 per cent general tax rate.

So while both will pay lower tax on a dividend than on other income, the lower-income shareholder pays much less tax.

Alternatively, investors can also earn income on assets held within an investment trust. Real estate investment trusts, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds and resource properties are commonly organized as trusts.

Income produced by their investments is not taxed within the trust. Instead, the

distributions from a trust flow out to beneficiaries annually and retain their underlying character.

So, for example, if a mutual fund trust holds shares, its unitholders as beneficiaries would be taxed exactly the same on the shares’ dividends as by holding the shares directly.

In addition to earning dividend income, investors may also realize capital gains when they sell — the difference between proceeds received on sale and the cost paid to originally buy the investment. We’ll discuss the tax implications of realizing capital gains in a future column.

By understanding how income on different investments gets taxed, you can enhance your after-tax yields by holding the more tax-advantaged investments outside of your RRSP and tax-free savings account.

Steve McGuinness was a senior adviser to major financial institutions during his Bay Street career and is now retired in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Send your personal finance questions to him at smcgfinplan@gmail.com.



Governments everywhere seem keen on suppressing opposition, says Doug Mepham — it’s a good thing when even those we disagree with can share their views publicly.

Despite disagreeing with Turner Report, appreciate its existence

Dear editor:
Everyone regrets a missed opportunity, so perhaps we can assume that Garth Turner regrets not acknowledging the latitude he gets from The Lake Report in his Aug. 7 column, “Sorry, boss: Theatre design still sucks.”

After all, he begins with mock surprise at being allowed space for his contrary views and spends the next three paragraphs whining about the publication’s position on the proposed re-imagining of the Shaw Festival’s Royal George theatre — all without acknowledging that the paper offers him remark-

able latitude to take the opposing position.

In an age of extreme polarization, hosting opposing views is becoming a lost art.

Governments everywhere seem keen on suppressing opposition; media outlets, where they still have the ability to express unpopular views, are disappearing.

I, for one, appreciate that The Lake Report gives Garth a prime-position soapbox even though I thoroughly disagree with his assessment and conclusions.

Expressing that support is an opportunity I don’t want to miss.

Doug Mepham
NOTL



Notice of Open House and Public Meeting

Regarding:

Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) Policies
Town File Nos. OPA-08-2025 & ZBA-16-2025

What:

Notice of Open House and Public Meeting for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment (under Sections 21 and 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended) to permit Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs) on residential parcels across the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On July 22, 2025, Council endorsed the initiation of Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments for ADUs to bring the Town’s Official Plan and Zoning By-laws into conformity with provincial legislation and policies.

The proposed Amendments would provide a policy framework in the Town Official Plan and Zoning By-law 4316-09 (as amended) and Zoning By-law 500A-74 (as amended), to allow for ADUs on urban residential parcels and rural parcels that permit residential uses.

A copy of the draft Amendments may be obtained on the Town’s website at <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notice>, or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall.

When:

Open House: Monday, August 25, 2025 at 5:00 pm
Public Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Where:

Open House: Electronically only via Microsoft Teams
Public Meeting: In-person at Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, or electronically via Microsoft Teams

How to participate:

If you wish to participate electronically at the **Open House**, you must register in advance by contacting Town Staff noted below:

• Victoria Nikoltcheva (victoria.nikoltcheva@notl.com or 905-468-6451)

(register as soon as possible but prior to 12 noon on Monday, August 25, 2025)

If you wish to participate electronically at the **Public Meeting**, you must register in advance by contacting Town Staff noted below:

• Clerks Department (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266)

(register as soon as possible but prior to 12 noon on Monday, September 8, 2025)

If you wish to attend the Public Meeting in-person, registration with the Clerk is appreciated.

Written comments on the application are encouraged and must be submitted to the Town Clerk, at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 or via email at clerks@notl.com referencing the above file number. Unless indicated otherwise, all submissions, including personal information, will become part of the public record.

Who to contact for more information:

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, please contact Victoria Nikoltcheva, Senior Planner, at 905-468-6451 or via email at victoria.nikoltcheva@notl.com, and Town Clerks Staff at 905-468-3266 or via email at Clerks@notl.com.

If you wish to be notified of the future decision with respect to the Amendments, you must submit a written request to the Town Clerk, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0, or Clerks@notl.com.

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Where Chautauqua needs improvement — and where it **should be preserved**

Dear editor:
After learning of the change in wording in the latest version of the town's official plan regarding the creation of a secondary plan for Chautauqua, I would invite council, the lord mayor and town staff to reconsider and reinstate the original 2019 draft official plan wording — in essence, that the town "will" create a secondary plan for our neighbourhood ("Chautauqua neighbourhood group accuses town of dropping key planning promise," July 31).

As a long-time resident and former member of the executive of the Chautauqua Residents Association, I can attest to the neighbourhood's desire for the creation of secondary plan.

In 2014, a document was created entitled "Chautauqua: A Place Apart" (later renamed Neighbourhood Designation Report — it is available on the Chautauqua Residents' Association website chautauquaresidents.ca).

At that time, residents were surveyed about what, if anything, was putting the community at risk of losing its identity. Respondents identified several factors placing the community at risk.

These included: losing the cottage feel in our neighbourhood through inappropriate builds (ie too big and/or too tall builds on lots that were too small), the loss of our valued tree canopy, and the threat of too many houses becoming commercial entities such as short-term rentals.

The solution was to approach the town and ask for a secondary plan for Chautauqua, which we did. In 2014, our residents identified the threats; in 2025, the issues persist.

While the Chautauqua Oaks Project, a resident-driven initiative, rejuvenated the streets with newly planted oaks, there are still too many oversized homes being built on tiny lots, necessitating the removal of mature canopy trees and,



Chautauqua resident Ruth Denyer says council should reinstate its promise of a secondary plan for the area.

often times, resulting in the clear-cutting of a lot.

Combine this with the destruction of the emerald ash borer, and the impact on the streetscape is significant.

Pictures exist of our streets 20 years ago, and the same streets in 2016 — they tell a sad story. I invite you to look at the website for the Chautauqua Oaks Project, MyChautauqua.ca, to see the evidence for yourself.

In addition, approximately 10 per cent of our housing stock in the community now comprises short-term rentals.

While recognizing there will be no more short-term rental licenses granted, we are left with far too many houses dedicated to Airbnbs with no guarantee they will ever be changed back to long-term rentals or residential homes — and 10 per cent is just too many short-term rentals in one neighbourhood.

Chautauqua was always the place where first-time owners bought their first house, usually a small cottage. Our streets rang with the sounds of children playing ... alas, no more, as short-term rentals gobbled up the smaller, cheaper housing.

And as a reminder, Airbnb owners and their renters do not work tirelessly to organize community events such as the Chautauqua corn roast and barbecue, golf tournament, garden and art show and carolling in the park event.

They do not join the Chautauqua Residents' Association board, write the neighbourhood newsletter,

create or update the community website, or advocate for our neighbourhood.

And they don't do it for greater NOTL either — they don't donate to town initiatives, they don't volunteer for town events and I would posit that our town is poorer for it.

Our neighbourhood just becomes a place to make money — to add insult to injury, short-term rentals are not even taxed at commercial rates.

I recently attended a committee of adjustment hearing regarding a small addition to a cottage here in Chautauqua. Committee members seemed flummoxed as to how to deal with Chautauqua.

One stated something to the effect of, "It's Chautauqua, don't know how they all live on such small lots. Oh well ... good luck to them."

I'm glad this member made this "throwaway" statement, because a secondary plan would provide the committee, in addition to town planners, with guidance on what should and should not be allowed in Chautauqua, and would set out guidelines for both property developers and new owners regarding new builds.

I don't see any downside to this.

As to the question of how we live together on such small lots? We know each other, we are engaged, and we show up. We greet each other as we walk dogs, water our gardens, attend neighbourhood events and meetings, wave hello from

front porches, or promenade to Ryerson Park to watch the gorgeous sunsets.

The mature canopy trees and shrubs create the illusion of living in a forest and provide both privacy and the relief of green space — and in a neighbourhood with a resident density that surpasses any other in NOTL, and with such a diversity of styles and sizes of housing, the trees and greenery become the common architectural feature.

It is a way of life — it is what we wish to save with the creation of a secondary plan for the community.

And, dear reader, before you typify our community as one of those "stuck in the past," who can't handle change, I would counter by stating that change will indeed occur, it is inevitable — but aren't there some types of change that are within one's control?

And is it not the job of our elected representatives and town staff to curate the elements of change we wish to see (or not see) through the official and secondary plans?

When I was a kid and asked for ice cream and my parents said they'd consider it, I knew there was a good chance I probably wouldn't get ice cream.

But if they said "yes, we will have ice cream", I knew I was going to get ice cream.

If, as the lord mayor stated in the article, there is a commitment on the town's part for a secondary plan for Chautauqua, then there should be no issue with changing the language in the current draft official plan to affirm this — so that essentially, the town "will" develop a secondary plan, not "consider" doing so.

Chautauqua is one jewel in several diverse neighbourhoods in NOTL — surely as a "place apart," it is deserving of protection in the official plan with language that clearly states this fact.

**Ruth Denyer
Old Town**

We welcome your letters

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





Cellphone tower **doesn't belong** at Nelson Park

Dear editor:
I am writing to ensure you are aware of an upcoming public meeting on Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. in the NOTL Community Centre auditorium, and hope that you will consider having a reporter in attendance.
The company placed a notice in your Lake Report, July 24 issue, on page 8, so you may already have been planning to monitor this story as it unfolds.
To address a well-recognized problem with cellular service coverage in the Ricardo Street area, a private company, Signum Wireless, is proposing to erect a 60-foot cell tower at the entrance to Nelson Park — the park beside the

river between the NOTL Sailing Club and King's Point condo.
At the ground level, around the tower, will be an eight-foot-high fence surrounding a large "compound" that houses the equipment, with a chain link fence.
The company has admitted that its community notification pamphlet provided an inaccurate depiction of what the structure would look like and has said that the corrected materials will be presented at the public meeting.
Many owners (and taxpayers) of King's Point, as well as the Greystones townhouses on the other side of Ricardo Street, are

expressing strong concerns about the inappropriate location of this tower.
The site is immediately beside the densest residential area in the Old Town and in a beautiful park, which has a steady stream of walking and biking visitors. Even wedding groups coming to take photos by the river.
Furthermore, we have become aware that the company had been in serious discussions with the sailing club about locating the tower within the club's property, near the entrance gate on Melville Street — but that the company walked away from the table because they were unable to reach an agreement

(possibly about revenue-sharing).
So the company is now proposing to put the tower on town property, specifically Nelson Park. Other possible locations on public land within the area have not been seriously explored.
Many residents of King's Point and the Greystones plan to attend the public meeting on Aug. 13, and many intend to submit written comments by the deadline of Aug. 25.
A number have already done so. The lord mayor and town councillors are receiving copies, and they would be available to you.
*Catherine Cornell
Old Town*

Cell tower planned for Nelson Park **should go elsewhere**

Dear editor:
Recently, it was announced by Signum Wireless that an 18-metre telecommunication tower is planned for the entrance to Nelson Park on Riccardo Street

There will be a public information meeting on Aug. 13 between 6 and 8 p.m. at the NOTL Community Centre in the full auditorium.
I have a few questions related to this proposal:

Why have they picked the most densely populated area in Old Town? There are some 130 residents nearby.
Why have they picked the entrance to Nelson Park, where visitors, locals and

wedding parties come for riverside views and pictures?
Why not locate the tower by the public boat dock near Navy Hall?
*Mike Henry
NOTL*



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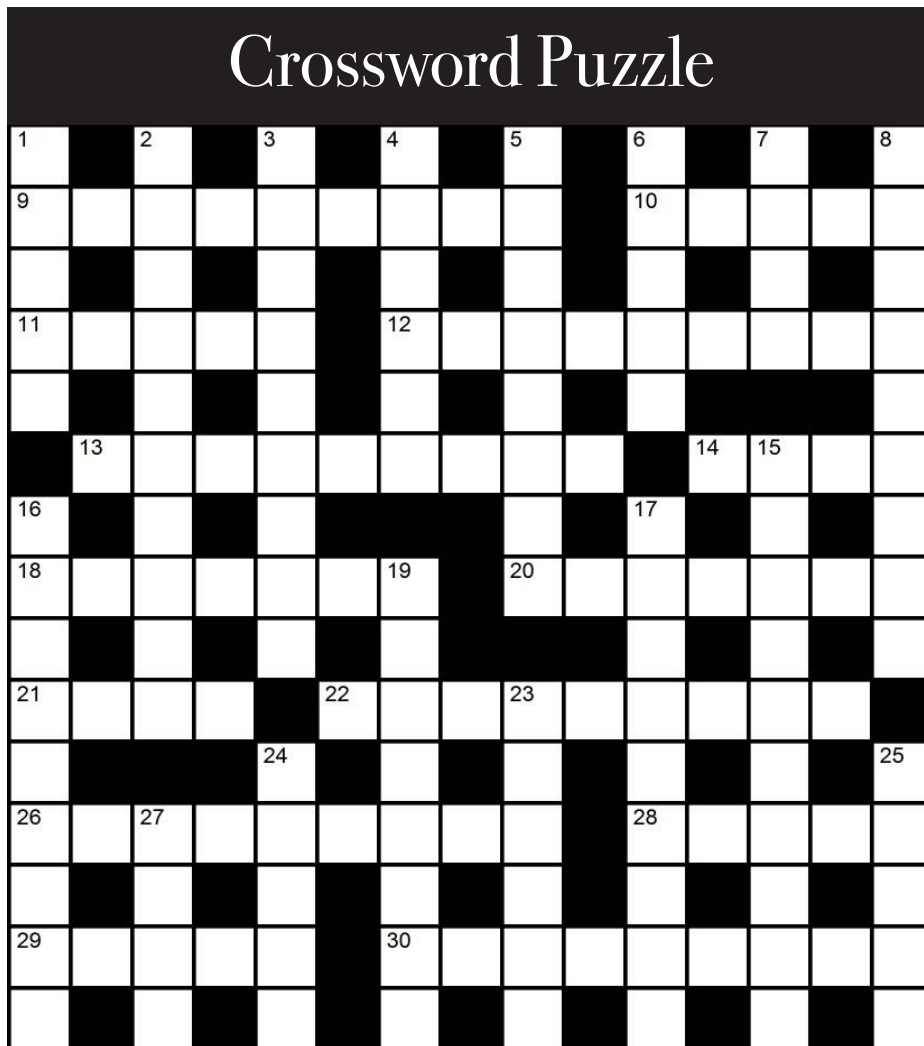


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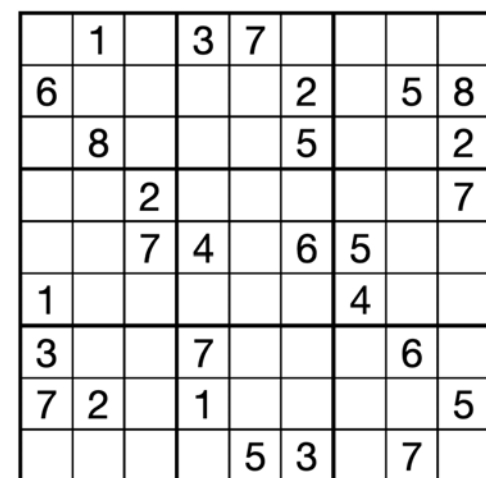
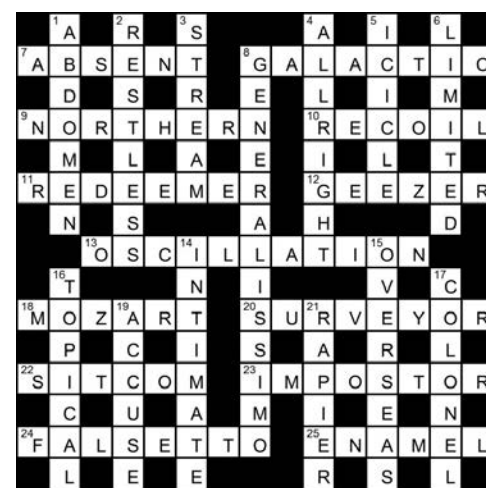
9. Cliff face (9)
10. South American ruminant (5)
11. One who shapes metal (5)
12. Rhizome (9)
13. Telegraph messages (9)
14. Government supremo in a specified policy area (4)
18. See (7)
20. Uproarious (7)
21. Vex (4)
22. Caused by overexposure on a hot day (9)
26. Musical note (5)
28. Inexpensive (5)
29. Type of male (5)
30. Cut off (9)

1. Sudden convulsion (5)
2. Type of military flag (10)
3. Made more restrictive (9)
4. Reflecting surface (6)
5. Progressive (8)
6. Utter joy (5)
7. Western pact (1,1,1,1)
8. Cold weather personified (4,5)
15. Retailer (10)
16. Fencer (9)
17. Eighty (9)
19. Memento (8)
23. Perspiring (6)
24. German submarine (1-4)
25. Malice (5)
27. Charts (4)

Crossword Puzzle

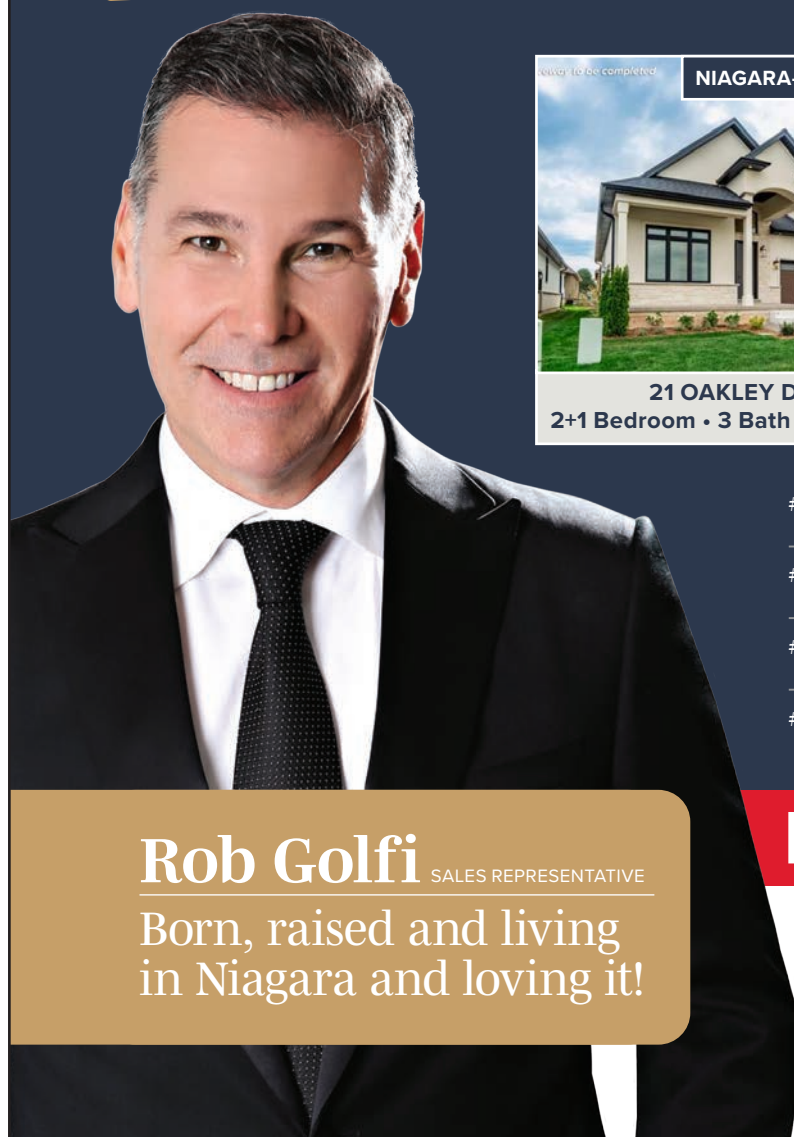


Last issue's answers



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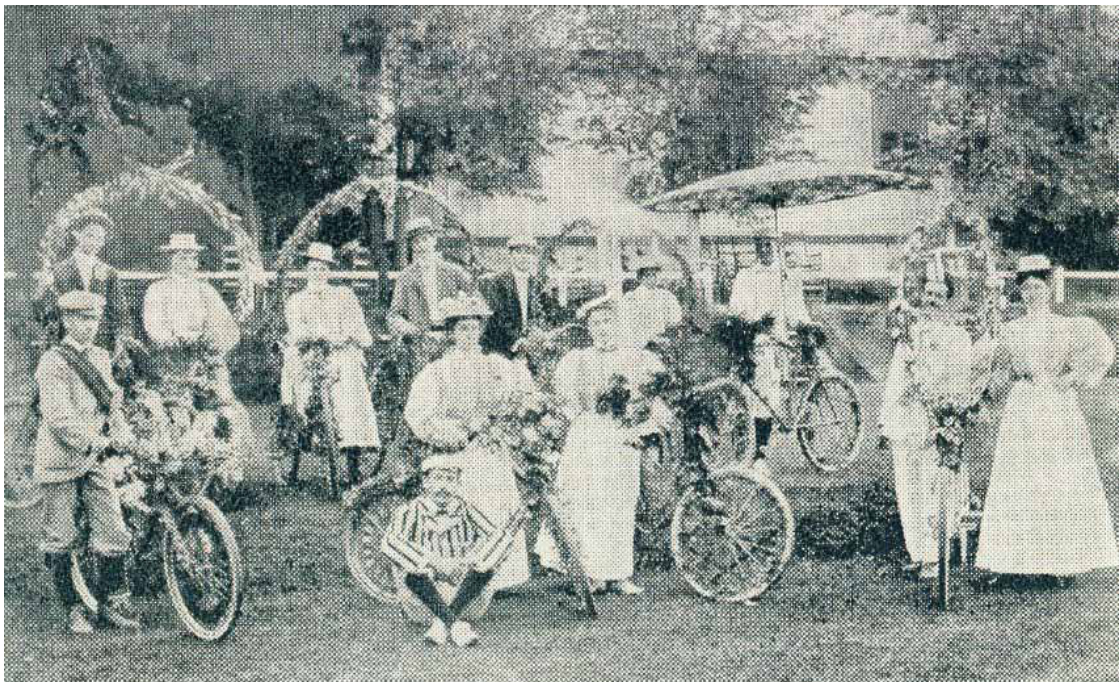


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EXPLORING HISTORY
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Bicycle Gymkhana in NOTL

Held annually in the early 1900s in August, the Gymkhana welcomed cyclists from all parts of America for some fun competition. The first day usually featured a grand parade at the Queen’s Royal Hotel (formerly located at Queen’s Royal Park) with decorated bicycles, followed by races for boys and girls. On the second day, the real competitions began with many interesting races during the tournament. The maiden’s scurry was for girls under age 16, who needed to start, turn, and go over an obstacle 18 inches high — over which the wheel must be lifted — and finish. To win the obstacle race, one was required to start, ride ten yards, dismount, lift the wheel over an obstacle, ride thirty yards, pick up a handkerchief without dismounting, ride 20 yards, go over a hurdle and finish. There was also the tortoise race, where the winner was the last person to cover the 50-yard course without falling off his or her bicycle. This photograph shows some of the prize winners c. 1900. If there’s an event to bring back for NOTL’s Heritage Fair, this might be it.



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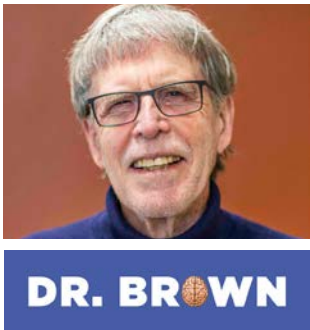
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A new telescope to solve old mysteries in the universe



Dr. William Brown
Columnist

What would you say if I told you that the part of the universe we’re familiar with — such as asteroids, planets, stars, galaxies, enormous gaseous clouds, star dust and black holes — together make up but five per cent of the universe; the rest by enigmatic dark matter for 27 per cent, and dark energy, 68 per cent of the total?

That’s a lot to be uncertain about, and reason enough to target the nature of dark matter and dark energy in the universe with the recent inauguration of the new Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile, capable of scanning the southern sky in enormous detail every three to four nights for at least the next 10 years.

Observation that the trajectories and speeds

of stars were altered by a gargantuan gravitational sinkhole provided the crucial evidence for the presence of a giant black hole at the centre of the Milky Way and led to the award of the 2020 Nobel Prize in physics to experimental physicists Andrea Ghez and Reinhard Genzel, and the theoretical physicist and master mathematician Roger Penrose.

But sometimes, observations of the courses and speeds of stars, and even whole galaxies, seem to be at odds with the amount of observable mass. This apparent surfeit of mass led to the notion that there must be more matter than the stuff that we can see — such as stars and galaxies — to account for the observations.

As early as the 1930s, Fritz Zwicky suggested that there had to be more mass in the universe than could be accounted for by visible stars or galaxies.

In the 1970s, Vera Rubin and her colleague Ken Ford confirmed that there was indeed a surfeit of gravitationally active mass, without which, for example, spiral galaxies like our Milky Way would spin out



The new Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile, capable of scanning the sky in enormous detail, has released its first images of the universe this summer. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

of control, unable to hold on to their stars.

Given that there isn’t enough “visible” matter to do the job, the inference is that there must be several times more matter that we can’t see — hence dark — which provides the gravitational glue needed to keep spiralling stars in galaxies together.

Recently, unambiguous evidence of dark matter was revealed using the Deep Synoptic Array radio telescope that collects data from 110 dishes arrayed in the Owens Valley in California. To the scientists’ surprise, 76 per cent of

dark matter was found in warm intergalactic clouds, and only 15 per cent in gas in and around galaxies.

A quandary remains with dark energy, an expansive force in the universe whose rate of expansion appears to be accelerating, based on the rates with which faraway supernovae acting as “standard candles” are receding.

In the case of the Vera Rubin Telescope, one of the major goals is to repeatedly map the southern hemisphere in incredible detail, measure the speeds and courses of stellar bodies from stars to galaxies, and

match those observations with their apparent mass, with the object of mapping the distribution of dark matter and studying the expansion of the universe.

Given the high-tech nature of this telescope and wide window on the universe the Rubin telescope provides, we should get answers to many puzzling questions within the decade — provided the U.S. Congress continues to fund the project.

Like so many women in her generation, Vera Rubin faced obstacles making her way in science.

From discouraging mentors, exclusions from university courses and programs, refusals to admit her to “the boys’ club” who controlled access to precious resources such as telescope time, and repeated pettiness, she was determined to get ahead.

And she succeeded to the point when some in the science community felt she should have been awarded a Nobel Prize for her work on dark matter.

Here, it’s helpful to look at another example. In 2020, the Nobel Prize in physics was awarded for work on black holes,

to which Stephen Hawking made many important contributions.

However, the Nobel committee refused to recognize work on black holes until one was actually photographed in 2019, and then they acted the next year. By that time, Hawking was long dead, and there are no posthumous Nobel Prizes.

Recent confirmation of the presence and distribution of dark matter came too late for Rubin. She died in 2016, and just as Hawking was left out, so too will Rubin for a Nobel Prize sure to come for dark matter in a year or so.

Fortunately, this important new telescope was named after Vera Rubin. To me, that’s more important than a Nobel Prize. No Nobel Prize was awarded to James Webb or Edwin Hubble for their considerable contributions to astronomy, yet their names will last long, given the importance of the telescopes named after them.

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.



Give tired annuals a mid-summer boost



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

By mid-to-late summer, many annuals start to look worn out after blooming steadily for weeks. Whether planted in garden beds or containers, they can lose energy and appear tired or leggy — especially during hot, dry weather.

Reviving them now can give your garden a second wind. Here's how:

Deadhead aggressively
Deadheading — removing spent flowers — keeps annuals blooming all season. Once a plant produces seed, it thinks its work is done and stops flowering. Cutting off blooms shortly after they fade encourages the plant to grow new ones.

Remove the flower stalk along with the bloom, not just the petals, to prevent unsightly brown stems.

Cut back leggy growth
Plants such as petunias, calibrachoa, cosmos and lobelia can become stretched and thin, often from a lack of sunlight. Cut back up to



With temperatures in the 30s this summer, deep watering is crucial. JOANNE YOUNG

one-third — or more — of the plant to encourage fuller regrowth.

After cutting back, feed with a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10.

Water deeply and consistently
With temperatures in the 30s this summer, deep watering is key. Avoid light sprinkling — water until it drains from the bottom of containers.

Water needs vary depending on plant type, sun exposure and whether they're in the ground or pots. Let the soil surface dry slightly between waterings, and aim to water early in the morning to reduce stress during the day.

Feed regularly
Heavy bloomers are heavy feeders. Fertilize annuals about every two weeks.
Granular organic fertilizers, such as bone meal, dissolve slowly and provide

long-lasting nutrition. Fish emulsion is an organic liquid option that works more quickly. Chemical fertilizers are often available in liquid form and are absorbed rapidly.

Choose a balanced formula, such as 10-10-10, or one higher in phosphorus (the middle number) to promote blooms and roots.

Check for stress, pests and disease

Spider mites, aphids and powdery mildew are common in mid-summer. Monitor plants closely for leaf discoloration, sticky residue or curling. Early detection makes problems easier to fix. In some cases, removing a few affected leaves is enough to control the issue.

Watch container plants
Container annuals can become root-bound, causing soil to shrink away from the pot and water to run through quickly. If that

happens, add potting soil between the pot and the root ball so it can retain moisture.

Following these simple steps can keep your annuals blooming until frost.

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society will host a series of public Saturday morning gardening classes with Young at the NOTL Community Centre from Sept. 6 to 27. All classes start at 10 a.m.

Sept. 6: Fall and Winter Plant Show-Offs

Sept. 13: Starting From the Ground Up

Sept. 20: The World of Bulbs

Sept. 27: Putting Your Garden to Bed

For details and to pre-register, visit notlhortociety.com/classes.

Obituary

Joan Morgan



MORGAN, Joan Bernadette (née Whelan) — Nov. 23, 1922 - Aug. 4, 2025, at St. Catharines' Marotta Family Hospital, of complications following a fall at her home.
Born in Port Clarence, County Durham, England, Joan was the eighth of nine children of Mary Cassidy Whelan and John Whelan.

She is predeceased by her parents, her husband Francis (Frank) Morgan, her children Jonathan Kieran Morgan and Barbara Frances Stewart, and her granddaughter Maire Morgan. Joan is survived by her son Jeremy (Eleanor Cardoza); daughter Cecilia Morgan (Paul Jenkins); son Brendan (Patricia Borrowman); and daughter Felicity Morgan (Craig Oswald); her grandchildren Aidan Morgan (Elan); Dominic Morgan; Christoph Mehrlein; Riona Morgan (Nick Botero); Ciaran Morgan; Connor Oswald (Sarah Wilson); Caitlin Oswald; Siobhan Oswald; and her great-grandchildren Oscar Francis Wilson-Oswald and Bobby Kimberley Wilson-Oswald.

Joan grew up in northeastern England in the heart of a large extended Irish Catholic family and community. She was a member of the Women's Land Army during the Second World War, an experience that gave her a love of the countryside and of gardening. On Oct. 11, 1943, she married Francis Morgan; his career in the Royal Air Force took them around England and, after the War's end, to Germany where Frank worked on postwar reconstruction. On April 22, 1957, Joan, her three oldest children, and her mother and sister Elizabeth emigrated to Canada, following Frank, living first in Sarnia and then on a farm near Watford in Lambton County. She and Frank became members of their local NDP riding association and travelled around Canada and to Britain, Cuba, the Soviet Union, and Kazakhstan. After Frank's death in 1990, in 1994 Joan fulfilled their dream of moving from the farm to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where she created an English country garden at her Chautauqua home, volunteered at the local hospital from 1996 until its closure in 2015, cycled around town, swam regularly at the Prince of Wales, and was a regular attendee at the Shaw Festival. Joan had a gift for friendship and made many friends in her new home. She continued to visit family and friends in Britain and made several trips to Cuba with family. Joan also loved opera: one of her most memorable opera-going experiences was a trip to New York City's Metropolitan Opera with Brendan and Patti, to see Puccini's La Boheme, a particular favourite of Joan's.

Joan was an outgoing and gregarious person, who loved to hear about peoples' lives and share her own experiences. She was proud of her Irish heritage and was a devout Catholic, who believed strongly that the church must be committed to social justice and compassion for the vulnerable. Joan also was devoted to her family and delighted in their company.

Joan's family would like to thank the following for their care and support of Joan: Dr. Iran Ahmed; the staff at the Marotta Family Hospital, Orthopedic Unit; her long-term neighbours David Cole and Andrew Counsell; good friends Marjorie and Larry Clarke and Victoria Heart. Catherina Brown and Jean Foster provided unstinting care of and devotion to Joan over the last few years. In lieu of flowers, Joan's family suggest a donation to either Covenant House, one of Joan and Frank's favourite organizations which works with vulnerable youth, or Doctors Without Borders, or any charity that focuses on social justice. Prayers for Joan were held at 16 Wyckliffe Ave., Niagara-on-the-Lake, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10. Her funeral mass was held Monday, Aug. 11, at 1 p.m., at St. Vincent de Paul's Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a reception that followed at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre. Internment at Our Lady Help of Christians' parish cemetery, Watford took place on Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



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So many wonderful Canadian women athletes



ROSS'S RAMBLINGS

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Only 71 years ago, on Sept. 8, 1954, Toronto teenager Marilyn Bell captured the hearts of Canadians by swimming across Lake Ontario. Our family had just moved east from Winnipeg to Toronto, so we had been thrust into the centre of Canadian sports action.

She swam the 51 kilometres in just under 21 hours, while the ten male swimmers had dropped out one by one. Her prize was \$10,000, plus a car and some furniture. Them were the days.

And last week, we were treated to Summer McIntosh's assault on the world record books, as she won four gold medals at the World Swimming

Championships in Singapore.

Don't think I am jaded or cynical, but I don't spend much time watching the major professional sports. Or hockey.

My interest in hockey has been declining for years. "Canada's sport" may have lost me for good, after I was force-fed news of the disgusting activity a few years ago in London by five members of our Team Canada Men's Junior team.

Four months of almost daily media coverage. Legal or illegal, what happened was just plain wrong. Wrong.

Now let's get back to the recent fun of watching Canadian teenage swimmers and tennis players. With an easy focus on the women.

In our troubled and complicated world, wasn't it wonderful to see such well-spoken, enthusiastic young Canadians rising to the very top of their chosen sports?

To think that a well-mannered and enthusiastic teenager from just across the lake in Etobicoke could take on the best swimmers in the world. Not only take them on, but dominate them.



Victoria Mboko, 18, is bringing pride to Canadians across the nation after coming out on top in the women's singles at the National Bank Open in Montreal. TENNIS CANADA

And our Summer is not alone, with Penny Oleksiak and other Canadian National Team members also in the upper echelon of their chosen sport.

I made a big effort last week to watch Burlington's Victoria Mboko (pronounced "Embukoe") as she made her way through the draw at the National Bank Open in Montreal.

Incidentally, shouldn't that tennis tournament be called the Canadian Open?

Like the Australian Open, the U.S. Open and the Italian Open.

Yes, the tournament was presented by Rogers, and various other sponsors got into the confusing act.

Only by gritty determination was I able to find out when her matches were scheduled to start. Finally, I phoned a few tennis-loving friends to confirm Victoria's game times. Allez, Vicky, the crowd cheered.

I totally climbed aboard

the Mboko bandwagon, cheering for this wonderful tennis player with a positive on-court personality.

No hot-dogging after a big point, and no whining after flubbing an easy shot. She moves on to the next point, and what happens happens. No arguing with the umpire.

We Canadians have claimed her as one of our own, and the smarties at Tennis Canada are fully behind her. Yes, our tax dollars doing good work.

I watched and I learned. Instead of ballboys, we now have ballkids helping out. Makes sense to me.

Vicky, whose family is originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was born in Charlotte, N.C., followed by much tennis time in Belgium. Yes, a great Canadian story.

The spectators in Sobeys Stadium revved up the decibel level, and this became yet another great moment in our national sports story.

Let me ramble to a sporting conclusion with a brief shout-out to Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. From Hamilton, just down the QEW. Two months ago, I

hardly knew his long name, but lately he has won just about every award there is to win in the rarified world of professional basketball.

MVP of the regular season and the playoffs, and leading his team from Oklahoma City to the league title.

Now, a very wealthy young man, but still humble and a graceful sportsman. Another high-achieving and very likable ambassador for Canada.

My sports watching experience has experienced a real upper, with Summer McIntosh, Victoria Mboko and now "SGA." That's his clever sobriquet.

This whole sports story is all so good, on so many levels. Vicky Mboko is so well spoken, so appreciative and her interviews are so much more than pithy cliches. Her parents and siblings were there to cheer for her and love her.

Her picture and story were on the front pages of national papers across Canada.

Let's marvel at our young athletes, as they provide good news for our great and mostly humble nation.

Canada. What a country.

Share moments, not measles.

Measles is a contagious virus and it's spreading.

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