



Ship slips past Toronto

One of the great sights on Lake Ontario is watching the canal ships navigate their way up to the St. Lawrence River, or various destinations. This photograph shows the McKeil Spirit, a cement ship on its way to Toronto from Port Weller on Sunday RICHARD HARLEY PHOTO

Going Green: How you can help reduce climate change

Robin Jinchereau
Special to The Lake Report

Most of us are aware that carbon emissions are increasing globally and this results in global climate change.

The International Energy Agency in its 2021 annual report estimates global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions will have their second-largest ever annual increase as Asian countries will increase their coal use by 50 per cent to allow them to produce the goods that we will consume when we eventually exit the pandemic.

If we committed to reusing items that we normally throw away, we could potentially reduce our carbon footprint by 50 per cent.

The Niagara Region waste management authority in its latest waste audit in August



Avid recycler Robin Jinchereau and his wife produce only one small kitchen-size garbage bag every two weeks. GLORIA JINCHEREAU PHOTO

2020 said half of what gets put into a garbage bag could go into the green bin.

In fact, the Ontario government estimates that as a province we produce 3.5 million tonnes of garbage per year – enough to fill the Rogers Centre five times.

Reducing organics in our waste would mean that less methane is produced and

this would lower the rate at which climate change occurs. Most of the stuff that goes into green bins gets composted and reused within our region.

Sweden has one of the lowest waste levels in the world. According to that country's waste management agency, from 1975 to 2019, the Swedes increased

the recycling of their waste to 99 per cent from 38 per cent. This has allowed Sweden to be a net importer of garbage from the European Union.

From each tonne of garbage the Swedes import (and they get paid \$43 USD to import it), they biologically recycle 15.5 per cent, while 33.8 per cent goes to material recycling and 50.2 per cent is used for energy recovery. Their estimate is that for each one tonne of waste recycled, they reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 500 kilograms.

If Ontario adopted Sweden's methodology we could reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 875,000 tonnes annually. This would have a definite impact on slowing climate change. In part this is why the new U.S. President Joe

Biden has embarked on a campaign of trying to drive green energy.

As well, consider buying a battery-operated car. According to Natural Resources Canada, the cost of a Honda Accord 1.5L gas car is about \$26,000. It costs about \$1,500 per year to buy gas to cover 20,000 kilometres, the car emits 214 grams of CO₂ per kilometre driven.

The same car with a battery engine (EV car) is priced at about \$45,000. It costs about \$500 to charge it to drive 20,000 kilometres but the CO₂ emissions are zero.

While the upfront cost of an EV car after subsidies of \$7,500 is about \$11,500 higher, if you take into account lower annual fuel and repair costs, it is estimated that the cost break even point is between eight and

nine years. But you reduce your carbon footprint by 28 tonnes of CO₂.

Over the next few weeks, I will explore how you could reduce your impact on global climate change – and perhaps create a better world for your children and your grandchildren by curbing your waste levels.

We'll look at how to reduce, reuse and recycle with a goal to try to get you to reduce your waste level from two garbage bags every two weeks to one small kitchen bag every garbage day.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Robin Jinchereau has degrees in human biology and business administration. He is retired from a long career in the pharmaceuticals industry and has been fascinated for the last 45 years about how to reduce waste.



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20 YEARS AFTER 9/11 Honouring heroic first responders



NOTL politicians stand in solidarity Saturday while firefighters salute the Canadian and U.S. flags after they were raised from half mast during a memorial ceremony on the 20th anniversary of the terror attacks of 9/11. RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake first responders say they never want to forget the tragedy of 9/11 and will be out on the streets every Sept. 11 to pay respects to those who died that day.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce held a small, solemn memorial ceremony on Saturday, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

About 30 people, plus crews from all five NOTL fire stations, gathered

around the clock tower cenotaph early in the morning, coinciding with the time of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

They paid respects to those who lost their lives during the tragic attack that killed almost 3,000 people, including more than two

dozen Canadians and 350 firefighters.

Louis Prue, a NOTL firefighter for 15 years, said the tragic loss of life affected all first responders.

"It's sort of a tribute to all first responders, but mostly

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Voters wait at the NOTL Community Centre on Monday to cast their ballots ahead of election day. EVAN SAUNDERS

Voters complain of long lines, delays at some advance polls

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The first day of advance polls at the Virgil arena and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre were chaotic and disorganized, resulting in long waits and some people leaving without casting a ballot, some residents say.

Large numbers of NOTL voters flocked to the polls early to cast ballots and that led to some frayed tempers and angry residents, poll workers said.

However, at NOTL's third advance poll location, the Holiday Inn Express in Glendale, no problems were reported.

More voters turned out than ever before for the first

day of advance polls across the country, Elections Canada official Nathalie de Montigny told The Lake Report. And NOTL was no different.

She said that on Friday, 8,093 turned out across the riding, which includes NOTL, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie. In the 2019 federal election, only 5,837 people voted on the first day, she noted.

Across the country, this year more than 1.3 million votes were cast on the first day of advance polling, the organization said in a tweet.

Niagara advance polls were open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday through Monday and by the end of the first three days the riding had 6,000 more votes

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Only 12 of 255 short-term rentals eligible for new accommodation tax

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Only 12 of 255 licensed short-term rentals in Niagara-on-the-Lake would have to collect the town's new accommodation tax, which targets properties with five or more rooms.

Of the 255 licensed short-term rentals in town, only a dozen meet the five-room criteria and they are either villas or country inns, according to research by The Lake Report.

Council passed a motion

on Aug. 30, spearheaded by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, instituting a 2 per cent tax on rental accommodation. The 2 per cent phased-in tax would begin in 2022 and eventually increase to 4 per cent.

Here's how The Lake Report determined the vast majority of registered, legal rental units would be excluded from the new levy.

Under the town bylaw on short-term rentals, bed and breakfasts and cottage rentals cannot legally have more than three rooms.

This means every licensed

establishment of that nature is exempt from the accommodation tax.

The 255 licensed short-term rentals listed on the town's website include 96 classified as B&Bs and 120 as cottage rentals, for a total of 216 exempt from the new tax.

The remaining 39 licensed facilities are villas, country inns or vacation apartments. Of the 22 registered villas, only five advertise having five or more rooms, while seven of the nine country inns advertise five or more rooms.

There are eight vacation apartments registered with the town but none has five bedrooms.

And just like that the list of taxable short-term rentals drops to 12 from 255. The majority of the municipal accommodation tax revenue will thus be coming from visitors who stay in hotels.

There are no details available on how many illegal, unlicensed rentals might qualify for the tax, but in March, Granicus Host Compliance issued a report

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A NOTL vacation rental on Delater Street that's charging \$1,120 per night on Airbnb will not be taxed, under council's accommodation tax plan. SOURCED/AIRBNB



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Left: Mike Werner and his dog Nala look over the ashes and debris left by a fire that destroyed his business and several other businesses at 1238 Townline Rd. on Feb. 9. Right: Various photos of the aftermath. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

RIDDLE ME THIS

I am a five letter word. Take away the first letter and I am a place's name. Take away the first two letters and I become the opposite of the five letter word. What am I?

Last issue: I'm (usually) white and used for cutting and grinding. When I'm damaged, humans usually remove me or fill me. For most animals I am a useful tool. What am I?

Answer: Teeth
Answered first by: Sheelah Young
Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jason "Riddle Master" Baker, Margie Enns, Lori and Mark Petrick, Susan Hamilton, Margaret Garaughty, Susan Pohorly, Sheryl Christensen, Gary Davis, Sue Davies, Mike Drolet, Sheila Meloche, Carol Durling, Ron Bremner, Mary Drost, Sheila Meloche, Pam Dowling, Paulette Kennedy, Taleah Bucci, Lisa Gerrie, Robert Wilms

Email answers, with your name, to editor@niaganow.com for a chance to win a prize. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

Fire aftermath: Burned-out NOTL facility wasn't just a business, it was a 'community'

Continued from Front Page

what used to be a chicken barn, but they were all converted into shops."
While it's clearly devastating to Werner's business, he also sympathizes with what he describes as a "community" of car and racing enthusiasts who had built a home base there, operating several shops and doing custom parts and modifications to mainly racing vehicles.
"It's a particularly big loss for those in Niagara's racing community," he said. "Most of the shops are really part of that racing community. And so it was a really big hit for them."
He said the community was "just a bunch of local guys" from the Niagara region, who often raced at Merrittville Speedway and Humberstone Speedway.
"It was a nice community here where they would have their own separate

shops, where they would come together and swap parts," he said. "It was really cool."
"And then they had Doug and Todd Gordon here, who are pretty big pillars in the racing community. They build a lot of the frames for the race cars and they're both really well-known racers as well. Doug Gordon's in the hall of fame."
Knowing some of the vehicles that were lost to the fire, he thinks the damage is more than the \$2.5 million estimated by Ruller.
"There were some (vehicles) that were pretty pricey in there. There's millions of damage, no doubt."
He said the loss will have a "trickle effect" on the racing community, "because a lot of race teams were here."
"Places like Merrittville and Humberstone, hopefully they'll help out the local racers and get them back on their feet as

much as they can," he said.
He said insurance is likely going to be a challenge for many of the racers, as it is "hard to get insurance" on a racing car.
"That's quite a bit of loss there."
Thankfully some areas were spared by the blaze, Werner said.
"Nothing was really touched in the greenhouses. There's a lot of cars and boats in there that were saved. So that's good. It was mostly the shops and my shop that got the most impacted where they burned to the ground," he said.
Among the items saved from the fire were old military vehicles, boats and some items in storage.
The Niagara Military Vehicle Association was the first shop to open up on the property about 16 or 17 years ago, Werner said.
"Most people don't know how big the property was and (how much stuff was

in the building."
He didn't comment on exactly how many businesses were operating there, but said "it was mostly just people who were working on their cars and hobbyists as well just working on their passion, whether that was racing or (mods)."
As for Werner's business, all that's left now are some large logs he had yet to start working on. But he is maintaining a positive outlook and hopes to reclaim his business from the ashes.
"I know that I can rebuild and come back, so I'm just not gonna think about what happened and just move forward. It'll be a good story once I come back from this, how the whole business was burned to the ground, but I'll rise up and I'll be able to rebuild it. I'm completely confident in that."
He said he's built a "good customer base" and is confident people will con-

tinue to appreciate his work when he's able to build again.
"But, it'll take a little bit of work now. Just a little," he said.
"I've been in the business for five years and was just getting to that point where I could afford to get the (new) machine and double my production."
He said that automated system, called a CNC machine, would have allowed him to do "the really crazy stuff that's been in my head for years."
One project he had been excited to work on was a huge table out of one solid piece of weeping willow.
"This year I was going to make a 21-foot table. I had saved the slab for three years and then I was going to actually contact The Lake Report as well because I was gonna make a huge marketing plan there."
He said he thinks it would have been

the biggest solid wood table in Niagara.
While he estimates his losses alone are around \$1 million, he's focusing on how to rebuild.
"I like to keep a positive attitude and just strategize," he said.
He has set up a GoFundMe to help with the cost of rebuilding the business. It can be found at www.gofundme.com/f/help-rebuild-reclaimed-from-roots.
His is one of several online fundraisers started for victims of the fire. Others include: www.gofundme.com/f/support-allen-gilletta-after-a-devastating-fire, www.gofundme.com/f/lets-make-magic-for-dan-paulin-aka-danny-zzzz, www.gofundme.com/f/help-john-after-mas-sive-fire, www.gofundme.com/f/help-ross-crowe-race-again, www.gofundme.com/f/brendans-turn and www.gofundme.com/f/help-doug-todd-gordon-after-devastating-fire.



A photo from a GoFundMe for fire victims shows an aerial view of the destruction. SOURCED

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Darren Werner has been missing since Sept. 16. FACEBOOK

Disappearance of Darren Werner shrouded in mystery, says investigator

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Det.-Sgt. Richard Gauthier says he has no idea what happened to Darren Werner.

"It's so bizarre, people don't just disappear without a trace like this," Gauthier said in an interview Wednesday.

Werner was last seen on Sept. 16.

Gauthier has been put in charge of Werner's case and he says it has consumed his life.

"I'm losing sleep over this now because it doesn't make any sense," he said.

"It does not make sense, it does not make sense," the detective repeated.

As of now, Niagara Regional Police do not suspect foul play was involved in Werner's disappearance.

"I'd love to be able to say, 'We suspect foul play. Stay tuned,' but I can't," he said.

The void of information police have on the situation is unusual.

"In my 25 years of experience I can honestly say this is a first."

Gauthier said police agencies are on alert across the province for signs of Werner. The detective stressed that Werner is in no legal trouble.

"If someone knows where he is or if he, for that matter, reads this or sees this

Continued on Page 4

Santa cycles for palliative care

NOTL's Tim Taylor virtually rides 1,000 kilometres to Quebec City



Tim Taylor cycles down Niven Road on Monday, shortly after completing his 1,000-kilometre virtual ride. RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

How long does it take to cycle to Quebec City? That depends who you ask.

For Tim Taylor, who just virtually pedalled the 1,000-kilometre journey, it was about 20 days.

Taylor biked every day, about 50 kilometres daily, as part of the Healing Cycle ride to raise funds for pal-

liative care services in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He finished his figurative trip to Quebec City on Monday.

For those who aren't good with calculating distances, that's like travelling to Fort Erie from Niagara-on-the-Lake every day.

Taylor, who has been participating in the fundraiser for nine years, said it was actually nice to be able to do something a little

different. While normally the ride is a one-day event, it was opened up for people to ride all through the month of September at their own pace.

"Frankly, I was getting a little bored with just simply going out and riding around in the same circles that I do all the time so I decided to set myself a goal, and I looked around and I decided that I would virtually ride

to Quebec City," Taylor says from his home, still dressed in his red biking outfit and shirt that says "Santa for Palliative Care."

He mapped out the distance using bike trails on Google.

"It's mostly off-road, not that I've ever seen any of it," he jokes. "But it's a little farther than it would be if

Continued on Page 5

Former hydro executive won't serve jail time for \$425,000 fraud

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A former vice-president of Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro, who stole more than \$425,000 from the utility and then repaid it all, will not spend any time in jail.

Kazi Marouf, who was vice-president of operations, was given a conditional sentence of two years less a day when he appeared via Zoom in a St. Catharines courtroom on Monday.

Under an agreement

reached between the Crown and defence, Judge Deborah Calderwood ordered Marouf to spend one month under strict house arrest and then for the following 11 months must abide by a daily curfew.

Over the next two years, if he violates any of the other sentencing conditions imposed, Calderwood warned that he can be brought back to court and sent to jail.

"I feel very, very bad for this action. It was a momentary lapse of good

judgment," Marouf told the court.

"It is not in my character. I'm sorry to all the people I hurt, especially my wife and family, and obviously the community at large."

The 66-year-old father of three said he is "getting help" and just wants to "live in peace with my wife."

The Fort Erie resident pleaded guilty in September to fraud over \$5,000 and assistant Crown attorney Henry Limheng told the judge Marouf's remorse, his

repayment and plea were factors in recommending he not spend time in jail.

Defence lawyer Richard Corbett noted his client had no prior criminal record, had previously been active with local non-profit organizations, including the United Way, and was otherwise an "upstanding" member of the community.

The judge noted that between March 2019 and July 2020 Marouf committed



NOTL Hydro CEO Tim Curtis, left, and former vice-president Kazi Marouf. FILE PHOTO

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