

# The Lake Report

Lakereport.ca / Niagaranow.com  
Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



Bus stops cause concern | Page 11

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## Quest for a cure: Young diabetic leads charity walk

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Except for the white patch on her arm, there's nothing to suggest 11-year-old Greta Sobol's problems are any

different from those of other kids her age.

But in April last year, Greta was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, an autoimmune disorder that destroys the body's ability to produce insulin.

Insulin is a naturally produced hormone that helps people convert sugar into energy – but Greta's body can't make it.

Instead, the Niagara-on-the-Lake youngster has to give herself manufactured

insulin with an injection device.

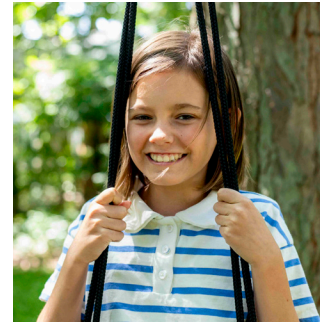
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The diagnosis happened on a Monday night, a few days before Easter weekend 2022.

Earlier in the day, Greta

has some blood work done after several weeks of feeling unwell.

At around midnight, the family received a call: Get Greta to the hospital



Continued on Page 7 Greta Sobol.

## New varieties are bringing an early start to Niagara's peach season

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

New types of peaches are allowing farmers to start the peach season earlier, get more fruit into more homes faster and give people new produce to sink their teeth into.

Thanks to new varieties such as early blush and rising sun, Kai Wiens, a Niagara-on-the-Lake tender fruit farmer, was among those who harvested tasty peaches as early as July 5 this year — his earliest harvest ever.

"With new, earlier varieties now on stream, we are supplying the Ontario market sooner than before," Wiens told The Lake Report via a social media message

Sarah Marshall, board chair of Ontario Tender Fruit, said July 5 is even earlier than when the golden plums are ready, "which is typically thought to be the first thing that really gets harvested."

Continued on Page 3

## Students celebrate first day back

A few tears and lots of excitement as kids start a new school year



Julie Saggars with eight-year-old daughter Lennon McTaggart on her first day back at Crossroads Public School. EVAN LOREE

Evan Loree | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Here today and gone tomorrow.

The first day back to school in Niagara-on-the-Lake was a whirlwind of activity for parents, teachers and kids alike.

As students disembarked from cars and buses at the busy drop off at Crossroads Public School in Virgil they were met by teachers and support staff, many in highlighter-yellow vests, who

herded them into the school.

Parents Joe Finlayson and Sydney Bellows watched from the parking lot as their twin four-year-olds, Rio and Emme Finlayson, were escorted into the

kindergarten playground for their very first day of school.

Daughter Emme was not so happy to say goodbye, as she

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## NOTL tourism sector bouncing back from COVID doldrums

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Despite some bumps in the road, this year's tourist season has exceeded expectations in Niagara-on-

the-Lake, industry representatives say.

The travel sector was one of the hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic and some businesses continue to deal with staffing shortages, supply issues and the

slow return of international travellers.

Still, "it's been a strong year" for the historic town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, said Minerva Ward, president of Tourism NOTL and the Niagara-on-the-Lake

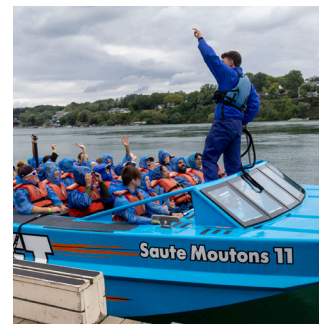
Chamber of Commerce.

This year's success comes off of a strong 2022 season, she said, adding that last year was one of the best ever for Vintage Hotels.

Kelly Exelby, general manager of the Prince of

Wales hotel, said she believes it has to do with Niagara-on-the-Lake being a quiet, calming destination.

That makes it an ideal spot for those who may be



Continued on Page 2 Whirlpool jet boat.



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Clockwise from top left: At Crossroads Public School, Amanda Marquardt with her two daughters, Danica (left) and Gwen. Gwen is three and going to school for the first time. From left, Georgia Leigh and Vanessa Rezza (Grade 8,) Mila Treanor (Grade 3), Tomas Nolan (Grade 7), Christopher and Sophia Treanor (Grade 2), with Niagara Regional Police officers Mark Fortuna and Rusty Engelen. Const. Mark Fortuna teaches some St. Michael Catholic Elementary School students a little about traffic safety. Students get off the bus for their first day back. From left, Jackson Iannacchino, 3, mother Trish Taylor and Logan Iannacchino, 8, after pick-up time at St. Davids Public School. EVAN LOREE

# First day of school makes parents and children a bit nervous

*Continued from Front Page*

stood at the fence, crying. Son Rio, on the other hand, was off mingling with the other kids. “She’s just not having it,” dad Joe said. He admitted it was emotional to see his kids enter “the next stage of independence.” Meanwhile, three-year-old Gwen Marquardt was also experiencing her first day of school. Mother Amanda Marquardt told The Lake Report her shy daughter had been looking forward to her first day. Her daughter has been “playing a lot of school” with her dolls at home. Marquardt said she and

her husband, both teachers, had been talking up Gwen’s first day of school at home. Like Finlayson, the mother of three said she was a little nervous knowing that Gwen would be exercising some independence. Trish Taylor, parent of two St. Davids boys, said it can be difficult – for her or any parent – to cope with knowing that her kids are at school missing her. “You can’t really prepare for it, to be honest,” she said. Taylor’s son Jackson is three and attending junior kindergarten at the St. Davids school. After dropping him off “he was a little bit sad” but had a great teacher to support him, Taylor said.

The consensus among kids across town was that the best part of being back is getting to see old friends. Even after spending her summer swimming and cottaging with mom Julie Sagers, eight-year-old Lennon McTaggart said she’s was glad to be back with her friends. Lennon said her favourite subject is math and that she likes “learning new things.” At St. Michael Catholic Elementary School, a few students got to hang out with regional police officers and learn about traffic safety. Constables Mark Fortuna and Rusty Engelen set up a speed trap near the school to catch motorists going over the limit.

The two officers took a few minutes to chat to some of the school kids about the importance of traffic safety. Six-year-old Christopher Treanor, among the students who got to meet the officers, lit up when he saw Fortuna show off his handcuffs. Though there were no aspiring police officers among the kids, there were a few young writers. “I’m writing a book,” said 13-year-old Vanessa Rezza. She described it as a murder-mystery. Her 12-year-old peer, Tomas Nolan, said he had written a book about a historic playoff run by the Boston Bruins. But when asked for his favourite sport, he listed hockey second to soccer.

Georgia Leigh, 13, is in her last year at St. Michael and said she was a little nervous to be moving onto high school next year. But like the other students, she was “excited” to be back with her school friends. It was a hot day to be back in the classroom, though, and not all schools are air conditioned. St. Davids Public School is only partially air conditioned. Principal Carl Glauser told The Lake Report they make do with what they have on a day like this and allow students to step into cooler areas, such as the library and portables, when they need a break from the heat.

A lot of work goes into making the first day of school possible for St Davids’ 420 students, Glauser said. “If you were to walk into every teacher’s classroom, you can tell that they’ve been in ahead of time,” he said. For him, the first day back is all about ensuring kids have a classroom ready and enough supervision to keep them safe. Glauser said he also has a lot of “personal connections” to make on the first day back, especially with the parents of new students. He said it’s important to make sure both students and teachers have a “great first day.”

  
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