



Lanternfly traps set | Page 11



Tire tracks and spray paint defaced the crosswalk.

Crosswalk vandalism cleaned up quickly

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake has cleaned up a third act of vandalism of the town's Pride crosswalk – which

also included damage to a newly-installed security camera facing the crosswalk.

This time, the crosswalk was defaced with deep, black tire skid marks and spray paint, with the words

“F--- you” written across one section.

It is the third time the crosswalk has been vandalized since it was installed on May 30.

Town staff cleaned up the mess Tuesday afternoon and

Niagara Regional Police appealed for help from witnesses.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told The Lake Report he was “shocked” and

Continued on Page 3

NIAGARA-IN-THE-LAKE

Low-lying areas flood after relentless rains, residents offer helping hands



Saturday's stormy weather hit Niagara-on-the-Lake hard. Almost two inches of rain fell in a short period. Roads like Ricardo Street were flooded in sections, the golf course was swamped and some people's homes were flooded. **Read about one Good Samaritan who offered to help people with their water-filled basements, on Page 2.** DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Honk if you have parking meter problems

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

It's been nearly six months since Old Town's parking meters exchanged the old-school cash and card system for online payments.

For some, it's been a tricky thing to get a hang of.

The majority of the machines accept coins or payments made through the Honk Mobile application, but the option to pay with bills or a credit card have

been eliminated on most terminals.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, Sunay Nur spent several minutes struggling to use a parking meter at the intersection of Queen and Victoria streets.

The Mississauga resident told The Lake Report that with most parking meters, he could just “put the money in, and off I go.”

Frustrated, Nur had to



Continued on Page 5 A confused group forms at a parking meter. JULIA SACCO



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Left: Blair Cribb said his goal in helping people with flooding problems is to spread kindness and make NOTL an even better community in which to live. JULIA SACCO Right: Normally the only water to be found on the NOTL Golf Club's first hole is Lake Ontario along the north edge. Saturday this huge lake appeared in the middle of the first fairway. KEN PORTER

Good Samaritans **step up** to help during heavy flooding

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

For many Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, the stormy weather last weekend was more than a mild annoyance: streets, parks, the golf course and many homes faced serious flooding problems.

It was the second consecutive weekend of heavy rain, but good neighbours were at the ready to help out.

Yu Cao, who lives in Garrison Village, was one of those who had a water crisis: she went down to her basement on Saturday morning and discovered water pouring in.

"I panicked. I didn't know what to do. There were two inches of water on the floor and more water kept coming in," Cao told The Lake Report.

Luckily for her, and some other residents in need, some Good Samaritans helped save the day.

Blair Cribb moved to NOTL from a small town outside Ottawa two years ago and brought both his rural hospitality and a water pump with him.

He never expected he would actually have to use the pump, but it came in handy during the final weekend of July as he was able to help clear water from Cao's basement.

During the first weekend of heavy rainfall on July 23, Cribb posted on the "NOTL 4 All" Facebook page and offered to pump out base-

ments and yards for anyone in need.

"I saw how much water was coming into our sump pump from the rain and I thought my pump was able to keep up, but I figured there were other residents who were not in as good a situation as I was," Cribb said.

But it wasn't until the second rainfall this past weekend that he was "flooded" with responses: four people contacted him on Saturday, including Cao's friend Jing Nolan, who reached out on Cao's behalf.

"I just threw the pump and the hose in the back of my pickup truck and just drove to this first house," he said.

Cao said Cribb stopped by the house while she contacted her insurance company.

"Blair and his wonderful pump came to my home and pumped the water out to stop further damage. He was a great help," she said.

Cao said by the time she went back inside, Cribb was gone and she didn't get a proper chance to thank him – "from the bottom of my heart," she said.

Cribb connected with the three other people who reached out for help, but said they were able to clear the water out of their homes in time.

Crystal Nicholls was one of them, who received some help from another pair of good neighbours while she was overseas on vacation in Prague.

She said she checked the cameras monitoring her



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

Top: A Jeep splashes through a deep puddle on Ricardo Street. DAVE VAN DE LAAR Middle: Simcoe Park was a swimming pool. JULIA SACCO Bottom: Cars make their way through Ricardo Street where some homes flooded due to the deluge of rain. DINA KALNS



property and saw the flooding happening in real-time.

Nicholls was able to get into contact with some farmworkers who work

behind her home and often cut the grass for her.

"They went in and helped me out and were able to get the sump pump working

again," she said.

If another storm with heavy rainfall happens to blow into town again, Cribb said NOTLers can reach out

to him for help on Facebook.

"Generally I'm at home and willing to help out," he said.



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Council **rejects** Parliament Oak input from advisory committee

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake town council appears to be at odds with one of its voluntary advisory commit-

tees over what the group's role is. Council has rebuffed the urban design committee for getting "off track" in a discussion about a development proposal from Two Sisters Resorts Corp. to replace the

old Parliament Oak school with a hotel. During its last meeting, council decided to ignore the committee after it suggested the town outright reject Two Sisters' plans. The move has sparked a

conversation about the primary function the advisory committee serves, what falls inside and outside of its jurisdictions and if this is the way it should operate. The urban design committee is a subcommittee of

council made up of volunteer residents who provide expert input on development applications. The town requires the members have expertise in architecture, urban design or planning.

When selecting new members, the town prioritizes applicants that are members of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, the Ontario Association of

Continued on Page 2

Sharks in the water

World championship kicks off at NOTL Sailing Club



The Shark World Championships are on in NOTL this week. Above: A flotilla of Shark sailboats race on Lake Ontario. Left: Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa races with his crew aboard the Watershape. DAVE VAN DE LAAR/SOMER SLOBODIAN

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's no easy feat to sail a 24-foot racing sailboat – but for the competitors taking place in this year's Shark World Championships, the challenge is only outweighed by the fun.

Resident Paul Kocsis took his boat out on the lake to watch the competition on Tuesday morning at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club. "It's a riot (and) it's a workout," he said. The participants who are part of the Shark racing world – meaning they race

using a Shark sailboat – are called "sharkers" or "sharkies." The sharkies were off to the races on Aug. 18 and will be going head-to-head – or bow-to-bow until this Friday. The Shark sailboat was first built in NOTL in 1959 by George Hinterhoeller.

His son, Richard Hinterhoeller, is the race director for this week's competition. There are 48 boats with competitors from across North America and Europe participating in multiple races throughout the week, including as many as 10

Continued on Page 12

Wine industry's vision to **speed up economic growth** gains momentum

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Key Niagara wine advocates are optimistic that the provincial government is finally getting the message that the industry is on the

culsp of greatly expanding its economic influence in Ontario, but needs help to make it a reality. That was the message from industry leaders during a NOTL Chamber of Commerce forum last week,

the most recent in a series of presentations outlining the economic benefits of growing Niagara's wine sector – and the crucial support needed to make it happen. The gathering was attended by a mix of local

and regional politicians and leaders from business, tourism, theatre and wineries. There's a concerted campaign underway to champion the idea of creating a premium wine industry to drive dramatic economic

development with benefits to related sectors including culture, food, hospitality, and tourism. Industry leaders have made a series of presentations and speeches, released two major reports, and met

repeatedly with government leaders to build momentum. And they think it's working. Greg Berti, Andrew Peller Ltd.'s vice-president of

Continued on Page 7



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Left: Mark Shantz from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club guides his Shark, Amicus, out to the starting line. The boat placed first in the long race on Tuesday. Right: Jennie Gordon from NOTL with her crew on the Red Dwarf. Below: Rob Vanderperk, Cameron Smith and Chris Russell sail their Shark Toga Party! to the start line. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Sharks hit the water for world championships races

Continued from Front Page

course races and a long-distance race.

Tuesday's long-distance race required sailors to travel 20 kilometres from start to finish.

Though the end destination was the same for everyone, the boats looked like they were going in all different directions.

This is because, when out on the water, sailors have to look for "clean air," said Kocsis.

"If there's a boat ahead of you, that wind is being interfered with by their sails and when it hits your sails you're not going as fast," he said.

"Boats are constantly looking for clean air. You never want to be sailing behind someone," he added.

Many sailing competitions across North America use a Performance Handicap Racing Fleet rating system, which allows different classes of boats to race

against each other.

They race on time, said Kocsis, so even if a boat crosses the line first, it could still lose the race.

Sharks, however, race boat to boat — whoever finishes first is first.

"They call it a one-design fleet, so it's all the same design. They don't do time, it's all about first, second, third," said Kocsis.

Emily Chan and Bryan Milne, first-time world competitors from Kincardine and Hamilton, respectively, said Monday's three races were very tough.

"First race was really intense, then the wind kind of dropped a little bit for the second and third races, but the mark roundings were really chaotic," said Chan.

Milne said there were "major pileups" at the mark during the second and third races, with some boats getting hooked on the mark.

"It was a very interesting day," said Josh Wiwcharyk, one of the organizers and



competitors from the NOTL Sailing Club.

He's competing with Chris Clarke and Alex Letchford on the boat Crunch.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Crunch was sitting in second place overall in the

world championship, ahead of Niagara-on-the-Lake brothers Levi, Jacob and Malcolm Harper who were in third place.

"We're just so happy that there's wind – it looks like – for most of the week," said Wiwcharyk.

"You never know at this time of year you could get shut down," he added.

In addition to the races, the NOTL Sailing Club held a Caribbean-themed night on Monday and will continue to do fun social activities in the evenings for

the competitors.

Friday is the last day for races and the day will end with dinner that requires competitors to dress up in the era their Shark boat was made.

The competitions start every day around 10 a.m.


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Remembering sacrifice | Pages 10-13



Ceto Reid.

Investigation: A confusing hodge-podge of laundry rules for farmworkers

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Some NOTL farmers unknowingly might not be living up to federal contracts with their seasonal workers thanks to confusing rules over something most Canadians take for granted – doing the laundry.

Guidelines from federal and provincial governments differ regarding laundry facilities and, in turn, Niagara's regional public health department is the agency that handles inspections. And it follows Ontario's rules.

An investigation by The Lake Report into farmworkers' laundry facilities was prompted after Niagara-on-the-Lake seasonal worker Ceto Reid was badly injured while riding his bike in St. Catharines.

He was returning from a laundromat, toting his laundry, when he was struck by a car on Oct. 6.

Migrant workers come to Niagara-on-the-Lake every

Continued on Page 4

Orange is the new white

Southbrook steps back in time to create one of its most popular wines



Jorge Fragosa and Emily Lacey start production of orange wine by stomping grapes at Southbrook Organic Vineyards. DON REYNOLDS

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Everything old is new again when it comes to producing one of the most popular white wines at Southbrook Organic Vineyards.

The wine industry in Niagara is high-tech in many ways, but

come harvest time at Southbrook, you'll find cellar master Emily Lacey and farm worker Jorge Fragosa literally stepping back in time.

Once the handpicked Vidal grapes come in from the vineyard, Lacey and Fragosa dump the yellow picking boxes into big blue quarter-ton totes, don their

rubber boots and clamber in.

Not for the fun of it, because it's hard on the legs by all accounts. They stomp the grapes as part of the time-honoured process of making skin-fermented white wine.

Today, it's known as orange wine. "Orange wine is new, but it is made in the oldest way,"

explains Southbrook proprietor Bill Redelmeier.

After the grapes are stomped, to squeeze out just enough juice to allow fermentation to start, the grapes are dumped into enormous, seven-ton open tank fermenters, made of either neutral

Continued on Page 14

By the numbers: How Zalepa scored a dominant election victory

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Dave Eke, Patrick Dart and now Betty Disero – one term and done as lord mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In the Oct. 24 vote, NOTL extended its recent history of ousting the sitting lord

Analysis

mayor after just four years in office.

Why and how remains to be seen and we'll leave that to the political pundits and campaign insiders to debate.

The last lord mayor to

string together consecutive wins was Gary Burroughs (re-elected as a councillor again this year).

He used to dominate the mayoral races, victorious three times, including once by acclamation. He won in 2000, 2003 and 2006.

Since then, it's been a revolving door: Eke winning in 2010, Dart in 2014, Disero in 2018, Gary Zalepa in 2022.

While confidential poll numbers from one of the campaigns (and popular wisdom) had Disero and Zalepa running neck and

neck this time, with only a percentage point or two between them, when the rubber hit the proverbial road on election day, it wasn't even close.

Change ruled again. Those survey sample



Continued on Page 8 Gary Zalepa.



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Lest We Forget



Top left: Emily Lacey dumps grapes into bin. Top middle: Jorges Fragosa climbs into bin to stomp grapes. Top right: Bill Redelmeier, proprietor of Southbrook Organic Winery with his orange wine in hand. Bottom left: Grapes being stomped for orange wine. Bottom middle: Lacey moves bins to the fermenter. Middle right: Grapes in the open-top fermenter DON REYNOLDS PHOTOS

From field to fermentation, Southbrook steps back in time to produce its organic orange wine

Continued from Front Page

oak or stainless steel. Spontaneous fermentation begins with just the wild yeast already present in the air and on the grapes. No sulphites or preservatives are used and it's bottled cloudy and unfiltered, so there is some sediment left in the finished wine. "In 2012, we started experimenting with small batches of orange wine," Redelmeier said.

"In 2014 we launched our first batch for sale. We only made 50 cases, so we thought, 'If no one buys it, we can drink it ourselves,'" he recalled. "Last year, we made 4,000 cases. It's a major part of our business today."

Orange wine was unknown in Ontario when Southbrook became the first winery in the province to make it 10 years ago. Redelmeier had to travel to find others to learn from. "My eyes were opened when I went

to the Raw Wine Fair in London in 2015. It was all organic wine, made with natural skin contact," he said. There were 400 to 500 different wines, "so that helped give a sense of direction. In Ontario there were so few, it was hard to know what we were aiming for," he added. When the Niagara-on-the-Lake winery first launched its orange wine, "new VQA (Vintners Quality Alliance) regulations had to be written, to codify skin-fermented white

wines. At the time, white wine had to be clear, with no sediment and classic flavours," said Redelmeier. Southbrook executive winemaker Ann Sperling penned proposed new regulations for VQA approval and the rules were changed in 2017. "Those regulations were the first written for skin-fermented white wine in the world," explained Redelmeier with pride. For those unfamiliar with orange wine, he describes the flavour characteristics as "confusingly orange, citric, some tangerine or seville, tastes of Earl Grey tea, and it can be funky."

"It's a wonderful wine. Open it with half a dozen friends and try it together, slightly chilled."

One of his favourite experiences pairing orange wine with food was at "a Spanish restaurant in Toronto, with foods that had lots of bright flavours, but they weren't overpowering, or dominating, and the orange

wine just fit in with everything." According to Redelmeier, "one-third of Southbrook's customers come from Quebec and many of them are fans of our orange wine, having discovered it through the SAQ (the provincial liquor retailer in Quebec)." "We sold 4,700 cases to the SAQ in the last three years, compared to just 100 cases to the LCBO in the same timeframe. We get huge support from the SAQ in Quebec."

Southbrook is so popular among Quebecois, "we were number 1 on Google last summer, in French," exclaimed Redelmeier. Orange wine is still unusual, but no longer rare. "It's becoming more common now and people are jumping the bandwagon," he said. "Niagara is a hotbed for orange wine now," he noted. The Wine Marketing Association of Ontario reports the production of orange wine has grown significantly

since the VQA regulations were adopted in 2017. As of last year, 22 wineries in Ontario were producing 30 different orange wines. It's an important part of Southbrook's wine portfolio, so expect to see staff there pulling on rubber boots and stomping the grapes the old-fashioned way when harvest time rolls around again and the yellow picking boxes come in from the vineyard.

THE IRISH HARP PUB
RIDDLE ME THIS

This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: MOVIE TAGLINES

1985:
"He's the only kid ever to get into trouble before he was born."

Last issue: An engineer named Robert Moog developed this instrument in the 1960s.
Answer: What is a synthesizer?
Answered first by: Bob Wheatley
Also answered correctly (in order) by: Susan Hamilton, Maria Janeiro, Daniel Smith, Jane Morris, Wade Durling, Bert Dandy, Pam Dowling, Gordon Yanow, Gary Davis, Sheila Meloche, Yvonne Des, Margie Enns, Carl Nickel, KC King

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