

Dry stone wall expert explains his work at gateway project

Mike Balsom
The Local

Sharp shards of limestone fly from the edge of Menno Braam's chisel behind the black-screened fence at the Mississauga Road and Queen Street intersection. He has just shaped the next stone to be placed onto the new gateway project welcoming visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

After about three weeks of solitary work under the hot summer sun, the new structure is beginning to take shape. Though much work has been completed, Braam maintains there is still much left to go.

The Toronto-area resident and proprietor of Whistling Dwarf Stonework has been chipping away stone by stone through a 40-tonne shipment of limestone sourced from a Buckhorn-area quarry by Upper Canada Stone, a business owned by NOTL resident Perry Hartwick. Each piece is carefully chosen for its size, shape and colour quality.

"As soon as the stone was dropped on site I was scanning for the largest stones, which go on the bottom of the wall," Braam explains. "I also look for stones with solid 90-degree shapes. I hold them for the corners. It helps me to establish each corner, to make it strong and sturdy."

The founding board member of the non-profit organization Dry Stone Canada has been practising the trade for 20 years, and working on his own for the last 15.

His expertise as a certified professional member and instructor with the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain has seen him involved in projects such as the Legacy dry stone bridge in Perth, Ontario, the Northumberland Hospital entranceway wall

in Cobourg, Ontario, and the Dry Stone Amphitheater at Hart House Farm for the University of Toronto.

Locally, Braam also worked with Dean McLellan on a dry stone wall blacksmith building at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts.

It was his reputation that led to Braam's selection to complete the NOTL project, funded by the Gerald Kowalchuk Family Foundation.

"The town decided last summer to pre-qualify three general contractors who were capable of doing this," Kowalchuk says of the design created by Brad Smith of Burlington's Seferian Design Group. "All three contractors who went to tender chose Menno to build it. From our point of view, that was a feeling of great comfort."

Working with Smith's design has gone quite smoothly for Braam.

"I had to make sure that they understood the dimensions of the thickness of the wall," he explains. "The thickness changes the taller the wall gets. That wasn't accounted for in the original drawing. The 'batter' of the wall, how it leans into itself on both sides, requires it to be thicker at the bottom than it is at the top for structural reasons."

That design creates a centre of gravity, so the wall doesn't lean one way or the other. That's important, of course, as there is no mortar holding the stones together.

"It just wants to settle and strengthen over time," continues Braam. "That wasn't accounted for in the design. Only a dry stone waller would account for that. Overall, it's been great working with their design, to see it come to life."

Braam may be a whistler, but he's hardly a dwarf. On the contrary, at about 6'2" tall and 260 pounds, he

is about the size one would expect from someone who will be moving tonnes and tonnes of stone over about an eight-week period.

When requested, he holds up his large hands. Not surprisingly, they are covered in limestone dust and calloused from years of chiseling away at his trade.

Besides the stone on site, there's not much else there, not a power tool in the vicinity. Braam shows The Local his brick hammer, fitted with carbide on its impact zone. He also has a hammer and a chisel, and a wheelbarrow that he uses to ease the pressure on his back while he moves the larger stones. And he has a marquee tent that he can move over the wall to block the sun.

"I don't wear a hat," he says. "I find I sweat a lot more when I do."

When he arrived on location, the first step for Braam was to paint lines to mark the footprint of the structure. Then, he erected wooden frames at each end and corner, attached to each other via string to help him to keep each row level from end to end.

In his initial scanning of the 40-tonne delivery Braam also searched for longer stones to use as 'through stones.'

"If you think of this as two walls leaning against each other," he says, "the through stones go from front to back, acting like a stitch. I have two rows of those laid down already."

From there, he adds, it's working from biggest to smallest as he builds his way up. There's about a tonne of stone in every linear foot.

"There's structural reasoning for a lot of the stylistic choices," says Braam. "I don't like to use anything smaller than two inches (high), because anything less than that won't be strong enough to last. For



Menno Braam demonstrates how he shapes a piece of limestone. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Menno Braam lays a cut stone carefully onto the east corner of the gateway wall.

this project, the bottom layer is three inches, and I'll go to about two-and-a-half at the top."

Looking from above at the most recently completed row, there are smaller bits of stone sitting between the larger pieces. Braam explains that those pieces are not just rubble that he picked up but actually pieces that he cut to fit into those crevices.

"It's all fitted, and wedged in," he explains. "They help to lock it all together, but not as rigidly as mortar would do. Think of all of these joints as expansion joints, which allow these walls to breathe and move with our frost. It's referred to as 'harding'."

Menno picks up a stone and demonstrates how he trims a piece to fit correctly on the wall.

"It really comes down to practice," he says of getting

the clean cut on each piece. "It's all about the angle that you use to cut. You can anticipate where the stone will break and control it."

As he gets closer to the top of the wall, where he will begin to create the gateway arch and the circular section that will hold the town crest, he expects the job to get more intricate and time-consuming. There may be the need for another delivery from Upper Canada Stone.

"I work with Perry's stone more than anyone else's," says Braam. "The workability is just fantastic. I also really just enjoy the look of it. And Perry has been a great force in the dry stone walling world. He's helped out on a lot of things."

With the screened-out fence hiding Braam's work, passersby would hardly think anything is going on

there. But the 46-year-old craftsman is there every day for about seven hours, adamant as he is that he takes on only one job at a time, working it from start to finish before moving on to his next project. After NOTL, he's off to Halifax.

"I'll be working with the association to help restore a dry stone wall at a little church in Halifax," he says. "The wall was first built in the 1850s. Last year we rebuilt half of it, and this year we're going back to finish it in two stages."

Until then, though, he'll continue to work in solitude, practising a craft that he refers to as somewhat romantic, while he creates a lasting impression for local residents and future visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Braam expects the gateway to be ready for its unveiling in about four or five week's time.

Needed for Clients Ready to Downsize

- Newer townhouse with main level primary bed/ensuite
- Approx. 1400 – 1600 sq/ft
- 2-3 beds in total, minimum 2-3 baths
- Walking distance to Mary St/ or / in "The Village" Dev.
- Flexible closing

JO-ANN CUDMORE
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Office 905-468-4214
Cell 905-321-8126

jucudmore@royallepage.ca www.cudmorehomes.com



ROYAL LEPAGE
NRC Realty, Brokerage, Independently Owned & Operated



Warehouse of Hope couldn't help others without the help of volunteers
page 14



The Pride crosswalk was defaced again Friday morning with words of hate and profanity — this photo has been edited. (Mike Balsom)

A large gathering of residents was organized Thursday to be held Friday afternoon, to rally support and unity, but when they arrived, they learned the fourth and worst act of vandalism had occurred in time to greet them. (Mike Balsom)

Residents stand strong against hatred Pride Niagara warns hate crimes likely to escalate

Mike Balsom
The Local

About 100 people gathered at Niagara-on-the-Lake's rainbow crosswalk Friday morning to stand in solidarity against the repeated displays of hate at the site.

When they arrived at the corner of Anderson Lane and Mississagua Street, however, they were greeted by yet another act of vandalism to the important symbol of inclusivity. And this fourth time, the hate messages painted on the crosswalk earlier that day were broader and more direct, including death threats and a reference to the Black community via the "BLM" abbreviation.

Old Town resident Suzin

Schiff-Malins mobilized to organize the rally Thursday, after the third incident of vandalism occurred early Sunday morning. That incident followed two prior ones that occurred just days after the installation of the crosswalk in late May.

Town staff mobilized quickly to clean up that damage, and the crosswalk was returned to its original state on Tuesday afternoon.

But Schiff-Malins felt she couldn't just stand by and do nothing. She contacted friends and connections via emails, phone calls and text messages two days later.

"This affects me viscerally," Schiff-Malins told The Local. "It affects my heart, and it

affects my humanity. Watching it continually happen, and just waiting for someone to clean it up, to me that's almost participating in the acceptance of the inevitability of such an act, and I don't want to accept that."

Schiff-Malins and others were impressed with the turnout for the gathering, which was supported by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"Suzin reached out," said Marah Minor, the town's community engagement and communications coordinator. "She expressed that she and the others wanted to show their support and stand strong together. So we arranged this on quick notice, posted about it on our social

media, and we've had a very good turnout."

The gathering included people of all ages and backgrounds. Many members of the 2SLGBTQAI+ community were there as well as their family members and friends.

George Webber strolled over from his home in the neighbourhood to show his support. "I am blown away by the turnout," said Webber. "This is just from circulating an email. This just shows that there's way more good here than there is bad."

Webber was shocked at the latest defacing of the crosswalk, and that it included a reference to the Black

Continued on page 2

Mike Balsom
The Local

Pride Niagara Chair Enzo De Divitis is pleased that the Niagara Regional Police Services are treating the latest vandalism to Niagara-on-the-Lake's rainbow crosswalk as a hate crime.

But to De Divitis, it shouldn't have taken four incidents for that to happen.

"In my mind it definitely was a hate crime from the start," says De Divitis. "If you're not a part of a marginalized community, you

don't see the things that we do. I've seen the body language, heard the comments throughout my life. Others think that kind of stuff doesn't happen here in Niagara. Well, it does."

When the crosswalk at Anderson Lane and Mississagua Street was first vandalized in early June, just days after its installation, De Divitis told The Local that he wasn't at all surprised by the act. On the contrary, he and other members of

Continued on page 3



Quality Service with Proven Results
Since 1978

Lamont Leone



THE MARKET
— REAL ESTATE INC. —



Direct: 905-330-0968 ★ Toll Free: 1-888-268-0847 ★ LamontLeone@sympatico.ca

Helping my clients find the Right Solutions to all their Real Estate needs since 1978

Gathering shows support and unity for Pride community

Continued from page 1

Lives Matter movement.

"I don't understand what is motivating this kind of behaviour," he said. "I can't dig into this kind of hatred and vandalism. It's too deep and too dark for me. We all believe that we live in a society that is loving and caring. People just want to lead a life that they're comfortable and happy with. And then this non-

sense comes along."

For Old Town resident Ken Chan, the feeling of disappointment at seeing the latest hate message on the crosswalk was trumped by seeing his friends, neighbours and allies show their support Friday morning.

"It reinforces the strength of this community," insisted Chan. "When we are faced with hate, we are countering that with love and support for

one another. We all recognize that Niagara-on-the-Lake is an inclusive community. We cannot let these kinds of acts deter us from who we are as a community."

Chan said he believes the timing of the latest vandalism attack is symbolic of the escalation of hatred. He is certain that the perpetrator knew very well that the community would be coming together onsite Friday.

"As a former police officer," he added, "I can say that this is now definitely a hate crime. We've seen it happen before where it starts with words and it escalates to physical violence. It is now time for the police to step up and send the message to the community that they are here for us all."

As residents gathered at the intersection, town staff erected pylons and barriers to

block cars from turning onto Anderson Lane.

"Anybody who has a family member who is queer," Schiff-Malins said to the group, "friends who are queer, or co-workers who are queer, which is everybody, should all stand together. Otherwise the message we're giving is that whatever is expected is accepted, and it can't be. And now they've included another group, with BLM on there. So who's next?"

Coun. Maria Mavridis then expressed her pleasure at how many people showed up on such short notice.

"We are one community, and we need to stand together in solidarity," said Mavridis. "What happened this morning is really disheartening. We need to be louder with our message versus this one."

Schiff-Malins then organized the group for a photo along the span of the crosswalk. Some of the supporters opted to lay down on top of the vandalism to signify that they won't stand for such hateful messages.

Speaking to *The Local* later, Mavridis also addressed the inclusion of the BLM reference in the vandal's recent attack.

"When I saw that I thought, 'really?' So you just have hate for everybody?" she remarked. "In my heart, I really don't think it's someone who lives in this town. I don't want to believe it, I really don't."

In an email to *The Local*, town CAO Marnie Cluckie said though these acts hurt, "the town will stand in solidarity against this hatefulness and show that Niagara-on-the-Lake will continue to fight for acceptance, respect

and inclusivity for all people."

She added that seeing the number of people coming together Friday morning was a powerful reminder of the strength of community and NOTL's commitment to respect, acceptance and understanding.

Cluckie said the incident happened sometime before 4 a.m. Friday, and that the Niagara Regional Police Service has been alerted.

An Aug. 4 press release from the NRPS confirms that this latest incident is being investigated as a potential hate-based crime. The legal criteria for a charge under the Hate Propaganda sections of the Criminal Code are specific in scope and done in consultation with the Ministry of the Attorney General. Once the NRPS investigation has concluded, investigators can prepare a report with the consent of the Niagara Crown's Office for submission to the Attorney General of Ontario.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the lead detective at 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1007730. Anyone who wishes to provide information anonymously is urged to contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or at 1-800-222-8477.

Cluckie added that in light of a nearby security camera being blacked out with paint prior to last Sunday's vandalism, the town is exploring other options to protect the community's rainbow crosswalk.

As far as Schiff-Malins is concerned, if another act of vandalism occurs, she and others will be right there, standing in support.

"The only thing we can do is respond to it, to stand together," she added. "We are acting to a bias that is full of hate and discrimination. Can you change people's hearts or minds? Maybe not, but can we at least show support when these things happen? Yes we can. I will do this every single time if I have to."



Suzin Schiff-Malins mobilized Thursday to hold a rally Friday afternoon. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Coun. Maria Mavridis speaks of her disappointment and her hope that those who are creating such hate messages are not locals.



The Pride crosswalk was defaced again Friday morning with words of hate, and included the Black Lives Matter group.



Town staff clean the crosswalk Tuesday, only to have it vandalized again Friday. (Supplied)



Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen

23rd Annual Show and Shine

In partnership with Parks Canada




SUNDAY, August 13, 2023

9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

KINSMEN SCOUT HALL


(corner of King St. and Mary St., Niagara-on-the-Lake)

***** Plaque for first 300 Cars and \$300.00 in cash prizes*****

Gates open for Car Registration: 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.


Admission: \$10.00 per car. \$5:00 for Spectators (Kids under 12 Free)

For more information call Harold at 905-262-4175
Proceeds to Kinsmen Community Projects and CF



Beat the discomfort with our dry eye tips: blink frequently, use a humidifier, stay hydrated, and consider artificial tears.

If dry eye symptoms persist or worsen, don't hesitate to schedule an appointment with our experienced optometrists. We're here to provide personalized solutions for your dry eye concerns. Beat the discomfort with our dry eye tips: blink frequently, use a humidifier, stay hydrated, and consider artificial tears. Visit our clinic for personalized dry eye solutions.



DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES OPTOMETRY


— Sight for Life —

Care for all ages, infants to adults

358 Mary St., Unit 7, NOTL | 905.468.8002
 8 Secord Dr., St. Catharines | 905.682.9119

www.theeyedoc.ca

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE DENTAL



Dr. Kevin Clark and Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark
 Dentists
 and their registered Dental Hygiene Team

369 MARY STREET
 NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
www.niagaradental.ca

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
 EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE
905-468-3009



'Heaven has gained a superhero'
page 10



Go Fish

Crossroads Public School's Grades 1 to 3 offered an entertaining presentation that involved most students in some capacity and delighted audience members. A few of the main characters included Daisha Necakof-Waller as an octopus, Kayla Thwaites as an angel fish, Taylor Jonah as a zebra fish, Holly Neuhof as a tiger shark, and Elliott Chard as a tuna fish. (Supplied)

Police investigation concludes, Integrity Commissioner may begin his inquiry

Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara Regional Police have finished investigating an incident that occurred between a Niagara-on-the-Lake councillor and a local developer, and will not be laying charges.

Detectives with the criminal investigations branch have concluded their investigation, Const. Philip Gavin told The Local, "and do not have reasonable grounds to lay charges under the criminal code."

"The matter is being deferred back to town staff as well as the Integrity Commissioner for further review," he said.

Neither police nor the town name developer Ben-

ny Marotta as the person the town refers to as "the third party" or Coun. Gary Burroughs as the council member in the investigation, which was looking into what occurred when Marotta handed over an envelope with \$10,000 in cash to Burroughs after inviting the councillor to meet with him at his Two Sisters Winery restaurant.

CAO Marnie Cluckie told The Local recently that the town's Integrity Commissioner, Ted McDermott, could not investigate while it was a police matter, but that she reached out to him last week once the police said the investigation was concluded.

"I advised the Integrity Commissioner that the po-

Continued on page 2

Large crowd applause draws ire of deputy lord mayor

Demolition permits denied for proposed subdivision site

Mike Balsom
The Local

To the roar of applause from an audience that numbered between 400 and 500 onlookers, Niagara-on-the-Lake's town council voted 4-3 and 7-0 to reject heritage permit applications related to the Rand Estate at a special council meeting Monday night.

The vote effectively put a halt on any plans Benny Marotta's Solmar and Two Sisters Resorts have for demolition or relocation of any of the structures on the properties at 200 John Street East and 588 Charlotte Street. That includes the Calvin Rand summer house, the main stables and barn and the carriage house, some of which Denise Horne, the town's heritage

planner, recommended that council approve for demolition with conditions.

By 4:30 p.m., at least 60 people had already gathered inside the Anderson Lane community centre, hoping to secure a good seat for the 5 p.m. start time. When auditorium doors opened at 4:40 p.m., it was clear town staff seriously underestimated the expected attendance. The portable wall had been pulled almost fully closed to divide the auditorium in half, and fewer than 100 chairs had been set up.

As residents continued to

roll in, staff opened the portable wall and distributed more than 200 more chairs, but still it was standing room only by the time the meeting began.

To the surprise of those in attendance, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa opened the proceedings by declaring a non-pecuniary conflict of interest as defined by the town's code of conduct.

"It's due to the proximity of my primary residences to the subject properties," he told council. "So, in an abundance of caution, after consultation with the town's integrity commissioner and my own inde-

pendent legal counsel, I am declaring this conflict of interest."

Before walking out of the meeting, Zalepa handed the chair to Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens.

Wiens' first order of business was to remind those attending that according to the town's bylaws, as chair, he had the right to expel or exclude anyone who displayed improper conduct.

"This is a large room with a lot of people," said Wiens. "This isn't a sporting event, where somebody can cheer for the side they want to win or

lose. The chamber is supposed to be a solemn place where order and democracy takes place. If the meeting gets out of hand we will take a break and move out to an anteroom until our bylaw officers bring the room back to order."

Wiens would end up making good on his warning later during the four-hour session.

Horne was first to speak, outlining the estate's historical significance as well as the importance of the Dunnington-Grubb-designed gardens lo-

Continued on page 3

Join us in celebrating our 10th Anniversary!

In-store specials

Roasted Garlic Extra Virgin Olive Oil
50% off April 22nd - April 28th
(limit 2 per customer)

Bergamot Lemon Dark Balsamic
50% off April 29th - May 5th
(limit 2 per customer)



Free Tastings Daily
SHOP IN-STORE OR ONLINE | Monday - Sunday: 10 - 5
118 Queen St., NOTL | 289.868.8898 | olivniagara.com



Crowd applauds denial of demolition permits

Continued from page 1

cated at 176 and 200 John Street East, both parts of the estate.

“These are rare and unique designed landscapes by pioneering landscape architects Howard and Lorrie Dunnington-Grubb,” said Horne. “They were known to design landscapes as a series of outdoor rooms and nodes, each distinct with its own character.”

Horne added that the Rand Estate represents a cultural heritage landscape with a high level of integrity, a measure of how well a property’s heritage attributes continue to represent its heritage value. Horne recommended preservation of the landscape and most of the built heritage on site as the overall approach.

At the same time, Horne recommended that council approve demolition of the summer house and the main residence, including the stable and barn, as a last resort due to the substantial alterations of the buildings over time, which have diminished their relationship to their earliest state.

Of the 28 items in the Solmar application, Horne’s heritage report recommended that council refuse 15 of them. Those refusals included a number of applications for the removal of trees and shrubs as well as for the removal of the boundary wall and brick pillars at the 200 John Street East entrance, and a proposal to construct a roadway through what is known as the panhandle into the planned 171-home subdivision.

There were eight items in the application that Horne’s report recommended for approval under some conditions, including the demolition of the summer house and the main residence, the stable and barn.

Sarah Premi, a lawyer from St. Catharines firm Sullivan Mahoney representing Solmar, was next to the podium.

Referencing the citizen organization Save Our Rand Estate (SORE), Premi claimed that despite the animosity between the two groups since 2018, there actually is a lot of common ground.

It was clear from her presentation, as well as from her colleague David Reilly’s, that one of the major differences between Solmar and SORE is Solmar’s insistence on adapting the existing panhandle as the entrance into the subdivision. To complete the work would require removing a number of trees and destroying much of the Dunnington-Grubb pool garden, which Reilly said would be commemorated, though didn’t fully explain how.

Reilly stressed often how many of the original features of the estate would be reconstructed, including an axial walkway which would be built in a different area than it originally sat.



Couns. Sandra O’Connor, Nick Ruller and Maria Mavridis, the town’s director of community and development services Kirsten McCauley, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa before he left the meeting, Victoria Steele acting as town clerk, and Couns. Wendy Cheropita, Gary Burroughs, Erwin Wiens and Tim Balasiuk. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



He also pointed out the developer’s intention to make these features open to public access in a way that would honour the site’s heritage.

Premi concluded by saying that the Solmar group supports all of the recommendations made by Horne in her staff report, with the road into the subdivision the only point of contention.

Wiens questioned Reilly about who would be responsible for the upkeep of some of the structures that would stay on site, and expressed some concern that a condo corporation could remove some of those features some time in the distant future if they saw fit.

Kate Lyons, a representative from Goodmans LLP, then began the SORE presentation, during which she refuted Premi’s assertion that the two sides were closer than they thought.

“In the SORE concept,” Lyons pointed out, “access is proposed not by obliterating all of the designed heritage landscape and the panhandle, but between 144 and 176 John Street East where it can be consolidated with access to the hotel, which we assume Mr. Marotta will one day be returning to.”

“Solmar’s representatives say the access road proposed by SORE is not feasible because it’s on a property owned by a different owner,” she continued. “We know that it’s proposed by them to use 144 and 176 John for a wetland relocation and stormwater management pond. When it’s convenient for Mr. Marotta’s purposes, all four properties on the Rand Estate are available for his use.”

That assertion drew loud cheers from the audience, and a warning and reprimand from Wiens to the crowd.

Heritage architect Michael McClelland spoke on SORE’s behalf about the importance of the Rand Estate to the town’s history, and former owner Calvin Rand’s involvement in the development of the Shaw Festival.

“It’s not just bricks and mortar,” said McClelland, “it’s the whole cultural importance of this estate to your town and to the province generally. Calvin Rand founded the Niagara Institute for International Studies there, and he intended to give these buildings over.”

Landscape architect Brendan Stewart then spoke with more detail on the pool gardens, before turning the mic back to Lyons to wrap up the SORE presentation.

“They’re asking for permits today, but you will find out later what the mitigation looks like and which trees will be saved,” said Lyons. “The only way those two things can be heard together is if you deny the heritage permits sought by the company. Your decision will then be appealed to the OLT (Ontario Land Tribunal) and joined with the planning act applications. They will have all the expert testimony.”

She suggested that if council accepted Horne’s recommendations item by item, Marotta would appeal the town’s refusals related to his heritage application. And she warned that if they accepted Horne’s recommendations in full, Solmar would “probably demolish the Rand house, the barn and stable complex and the pool garden tomorrow.”

That again drew more applause from the spectators, again prompting an admonishment from Wiens to the crowd.

Wiens and other councillors had questions about the added cost that would be involved for the heritage applications to be heard at next year’s OLT hearings. Lyons insisted that the costs would be minimal.

The meeting moved on to the public delegation portion, with former NOTL resident Alan Wojcik as the first speaker, focusing on the property’s uniqueness in the country. After a short break, he was followed by Nancy Macri, who didn’t have a presentation, but used her podium time to question Wiens about the heavy-handedness of his warnings.

Macri’s challenge to the deputy lord mayor once again drew applause, and Wiens again admonished the crowd, pointing to one person in particular and asking town staff to remove him. NOTL Fire Chief Jay Plato and a colleague then walked down the aisle to speak to the resident while council took another short break. When they returned, a good portion of the crowd had left, but the gentleman who had been asked to leave was still there.

Next up was Ted Baker of Ricardo Street, Lyle Hall rep-

resenting the Niagara Foundation, Bruce Gitelman and conservation activist Gracia Jane, via video conferencing, all spoke out against the Solmar application.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor put forth a motion that council consider all 25 points of part one and all five points of part two of Solmar’s heritage permit applications as two separate votes.

On the first vote, refusing each part of the application related to 588 Charlotte Street, including demolition of some of the buildings, Couns. Tim Balasiuk, Gary Burroughs, Maria Mavridis and O’Connor overruled Wiens, Wendy Cheropita and Nick Ruller 4-3 (Coun. Adriana Vizzari was absent from the meeting).

The second motion to deny the removal and widening of the boundary wall

opening and the pillars at 588 Charlotte Street and to remove healthy trees along the boundary wall was passed unanimously.

Both decisions were met with applause from the crowd.

Following adjournment,

Lyons expressed her satisfaction about the outcome to The Local.

“This matter was going to go to OLT anyway,” said Lyons. “Without some kind of access, they can’t really develop a site. They would have appealed that anyway.”



Although a large crowd arrived early for the meeting, there were still people left standing at the special council meeting, which was held in the community centre to accommodate a crowd.



Churchill LOUNGE

Drunken Sailor

1/2 Price Crispy Beer Battered Fish & Chips*

At Prince of Wales
Mondays, after 4 p.m. | 6 Picton St.



BACCHUS LOUNGE

Taco Tuesdays

2 Tacos for \$10* + \$10 Margaritas

At Queen’s Landing
Tuesdays, 12-8 p.m. | 155 Byron St.



Churchill LOUNGE

\$5 Burger & Fries*

8 oz. Ground Chuck Smash Burger with Fries

At Prince of Wales
Wednesdays, after 4 p.m. | 6 Picton St.



BACCHUS LOUNGE

Pasta Fridays

Delicious Pasta starting at just \$10*

At Queen’s Landing
Fridays, 12-8 p.m. | 155 Byron St.

Plus taxes. *With beverage purchase. Food specials may not be exactly as shown in the photos.


 1.888.669.5566 | vintage-hotels.com | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON