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Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 61 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.



Contributed by Patty Garriock

“Adopt the pace of nature.
Her secret is patience.”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Go tell it on the Parkway



A crowd gathers every year at the Living Waters Wayside Chapel on the Niagara Parkway for an Easter sunrise service. This year about 50 people were in attendance. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



Editorial

Accessibility for all in downtown NOTL

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

When you're able-bodied, whether young or older, almost nothing can stand in your way. Literally.

However, not everyone is so lucky and that doesn't mean they effectively should be shut out of places, destinations, businesses, attractions that everyone else has ready access to.

In fact, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (commonly referred to as AODA) seeks to make sure that we all have equal access to our communities.

Whether you use a cane, a walker, a scooter, a wheelchair, have mobility challenges or other concerns, you should be able to get where you want to go.

And that is why when Pamela TurnerSmith spoke

to us about the problems she has documented accessing stores and buildings in downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake – in the heart of the tourist and historical district – we featured the story prominently on our front page on March 30.

TurnerSmith summarized the situation succinctly and in just seven words: “A single step is a closed door.” The reality behind that statement should be an embarrassment to us all.

If you have never given this issue a thought previously, please stop and think about those seven words. And the fact that one little step, only a few inches high, can shut out a large sector of our population.

This is something that should concern us all as NOTL residents, as business people, as human beings.

It's just not right.

Obviously in a historic town like ours, with many buildings that date back more than a century, accessibility is bound to be a problem.

Fortunately, the Town of NOTL, our elected community leaders, the Chamber of Commerce and individual businesses all recognize and agree that the situation is untenable and needs to be addressed.

Kudos to TurnerSmith for coming forward and advocating on behalf of herself and many others – but not just complaining about it, as so many of us often do, but offering a reasonable, affordable and readily available solution.

And it's portable.

The StopGap Foundation's ramps have been immensely successful elsewhere – notably in Toronto

– and it seems there is no reason they could not work in most inaccessible spots in NOTL.

The cost is estimated to be about \$15,000 – and even if it works out to be double or triple that, it is still an affordable alternative.

So, where do we go from here?

Everyone seems to agree that “something” needs to be done. That's a good start. But we, as a society will be, and should be, judged by how we look after the more vulnerable among us.

To the town, the Chamber, businesses in Old Town (and elsewhere across NOTL), we say: Let's get this done. Now. Fix it. Without delay.

Because it is the right thing to do.
editor@niagaranow.com

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The Lake Report

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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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 "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."
 - Mother Teresa

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American Robin's nest



Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar captured these robins nesting outside his kitchen window on Line 1 Road on Sunday. They've been there for about 14 days. One flew away Wednesday and he expects the rest will follow suit soon.

Editorial

NOTL the real winner at pickleball tourney

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

It was a Niagara-on-the-Lake sports event for the history books — another notch in our town's belt after last year's Canada Games.

The NOTL Pickleball Club held the first-ever NOTL Classic pickleball tournament on the weekend, attracting more than 300 players, about 150 of whom were from out of town — and even some international talent.

The growing sport and the professional presentation attracted hundreds of spectators.

A congratulation is in order for everyone who helped put it together.

From the opening reception at NOTL! Bar and Lounge at 124 on Queen, to the actual exhibition matches, to a community dinner and dance party, this was a masterfully planned event and everyone involved should be proud to have been a part of it.

It was all exceptionally organized, well promoted



Players were in good spirits during the first-ever NOTL Classic pickleball tournament. It took more than 100 volunteers to put the event together. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

and impossible not to notice the hard work done by more than 100 volunteers (and we're told that number is not an exaggeration).

While we can't name all of those people in one editorial, there are a few people who deserve special mention, including tourna-

ment co-chairs John Hindle and Ian Lagden, operations co-ordinator Vince Serratore, sponsor liaison Joy Sanguedolce, social events co-ordinator Maggie Babcock and facilities and supplies co-ordinator Bob Denton.

And Steve Ferley, who

dedicated hours of time to ensuring the public would find out about the events in this newspaper.

And of course, the players — who gave us a great show over the weekend.

Congratulations to all. We can't wait to see what's in store for next year.

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Kamran and Davies crowned singles tennis champs

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Blue skies and low humidity made for perfect tennis weather and an exciting finish to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club's season on Saturday.

An enthusiastic crowd at Memorial Park cheered on the competitors as they battled it out in the annual singles tournament finale.

Many matches were closely fought and some took more than two hours to complete.

Early rounds of the tourney took place during the week, with the semifinals and finals played on Saturday.

Three separate events were scheduled – the men's A and B competition and the women's tourney. Consolation matches also were played.

Mohsin Kamran was crowned men's A champ, defeating Gerry McIlhone 7-6 (10) and 6-0.

Women's singles winner

Fran Doran beat Ann Davies in a very tight match, winning 6-4, 7-5.

In a battle that went to a tie-breaker, Sean Hilliker edged Harry Schlange 6-4, 5-7, 10-8 to become men's B champ.

In the men's A consolation match, Mike Symanski defeated Victor Zilinskis 6-2, 6-1, while Bill Devolin won the men's B consolation 6-2, 6-3 over Alex Papidimitriou.

Natasha Early and Rhind needed a tie-breaker to decide the women's consolation final. Early prevailed 7-5, 1-6, 10-8.

It was the closing tournament of the season in what was a very active year for the club and its more than 350 members, club spokesperson Hugh Dow said.

"There have been many upgrades for the club and the participation from so many volunteers has made the Memorial Park courts what many consider to be the best tennis facility in the Niagara region," he said.



Left: Men's A division champion Mohsin Kamran has his eye right on the ball during the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club's season finale on Saturday. Right: Fran Doran won the women's singles championship. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Friday night league honours the season's Couple of Year

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's Friday night Couples League capped off its season last week by naming Joe and Victoria Interisano as Couple of the Year.

The award is a reflection of the winners' dedication, positive attitude and ongoing participation, said Cal Cochrane, one of the league's organizers.

Special recognition also was paid to Janice and Jim McMacken, whose stellar play found them in the winners circle for a remarkable nine of their 15 appearances this year.

The season-ending nine-hole scramble featured some excellent scoring as well. Todd and Suzanne Watson teamed with May Chang and Kevin MacLean to shoot 2-under 34 and take first place.

In second by retrogression also with 34 were Shelly and Brock Sansom, Deborah and Grant Williams.

Lenore and Rick Janes, Bonnie Lamourie and Ron Newman were third with 36, followed by Susan and Gord Horne, Carroll and Ted Baker, also 36.

Closest to the pin on #4 were Grant Williams and Patty Garriock, while Larry



Joe and Victoria Interisano were presented with the Couple of the Year trophy by Cal Cochrane, right. KEVIN MACLEAN

Blight and Suzanne Rate sank the longest putts on #8.

Club champ James Grigjanis-Meusel and Jim Rye both shot 2-over 38 to win low gross in Thursday's men's league. Stephen Levy and Dave Gagne were tops in Stableford scoring with 24 points.

Other winners: John Reynolds (long drive #1), Rye (closest to pin #2), Patrick Craig (closest to pin #4), Randy McCartney (long putt #6) and Doug Dineley (closest to pin #9).

Gross skins went to Mark Derbyshire (#1), Grigjanis-Meusel (#5) and Glen Murray (#7). Net skins: Rye (#3), Rai Lauge (#4), Kurt Hamm

(#5) and Don Stewart (#9). Ross Smith made a 12-footer to win \$70 in the putting contest.

The women's 18-holers wrapped up league play Tuesday with a cumulative score game. The team of Cathy Murray, Marie Ellison and Cathy Taylor won with a total of 137. Carolyn Porter was closest to the pin on #9.

In the Tuesday WOOFs league, Don Allen was top dog again, with an even-par 36. Low net went to Russ Phipps (32) and John Reynolds won the hidden hole with a birdie on #6. Todd Watson was closest to the pin on #4.

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Melissa & Robert



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