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## Laurie Harley named 2023 Citizen of the Year

Staff  
The Lake Report

Laurie Harley, one of the founders and leaders of Niagara-on-the-Lake's innovative Ambassadors program, is the town's Citizen of the Year.

Harley was among several residents honoured Tuesday night at a gala dinner as the Chamber of Commerce's NOTL Spirit Awards were handed out at Ravine Winery.

The Ambassadors program grew out of the CO-

VID pandemic and for the past few summers, clad in blue vests adorned with big "Ask Me" buttons, its volunteers have roamed Queen Street in Old Town offering advice and answering questions from the thousands of tourists who visit NOTL

every week.

In prepared remarks, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said Harley also "has devoted countless hours" to volunteering at the Shaw Festival and NOTL Museum.

Zalepa could not attend due to a council meeting,

but he noted the Ambassadors "take immense pride in contributing their time to promote tourism in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

**For photos and details about the other winners from the Spirit Awards gala, see Page 6 and 8.**



Laurie Harley.



Donald Ziraldo.

## Time for national VQA standard: Ziraldo

Richard Hutton  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Two members involved in Niagara's wine industry feel that creating a national standard will help promote Canadian vintages internationally and help winemakers and grape growers deal with crop failures – such as one vintners are experiencing right now in British Columbia.

Both Donald Ziraldo, who helped create what became the Vintners Quality Alli-

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## Preds ousted in first round of playoffs



It was an emotional end to the season as the Niagara Predators were eliminated from the Greater Metro Hockey League playoffs Friday. Tyler Gearing consoled all-star goalie Zane Clausen after their shootout loss. **Full story, Page 16.** DAVE VAN DE LAAR

## Legion bringing home flag that flew at Normandy's Juno Beach Centre

Richard Hutton  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion will be flying a flag with a special origin to honour our veterans past and present.

The Royal Canadian Legion branch 124 has purchased a Canadian flag that flew over the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France.

The centre is a museum that opened in 2003, an

effort by volunteers and veterans to create a permanent memorial to Canadians who served in the Second World War and preserve this legacy for future generations through education and remembrance.

As a fundraiser to continue its work, the centre is offering Canadian flags that have flown over the centre for \$500.

Each flag will come with a certificate of authenticity indicating the flag was

flown at Juno Beach.

"The goal is to have a tangible item that we can refer to when talking about (the Second World War) and as a displayed item," said branch president Al Howse. "It can draw attention to veterans."

By purchasing the flag, the Legion will be helping the centre with financial support and its continuing mission to highlight through online history lessons and

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