



NOTL filmmaker's movie is a love letter to cinema | Page 13

## NOTL, Niagara Falls sell internet business to Cogeco

Richard Hutton  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is getting out of the broadband internet business, announcing it has sold the

network company it partially owned for two decades.

In a joint statement on Monday, Energy Services Niagara and the Niagara Falls Hydro Holding Commission announced the sale of the Niagara Regional

Broadband Network to cable operator Cogeco Connexion.

The sale price has not yet been disclosed but in 2015-16, the company was valued at \$36 million.

Before the sale, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake,

through Energy Services Niagara, held a minority stake – 25 per cent – in the internet, telephone and television provider company since it was formed in 2004.

The other 75 per cent was owned by the Falls holding

commission.

With the sale, Energy Services Niagara and the Niagara Falls Hydro Holding Commission will retain a minority stake in the



Continued on Page 4 Tim Curtis.



Jimmy Lai.

## NOTL hotelier Jimmy Lai nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

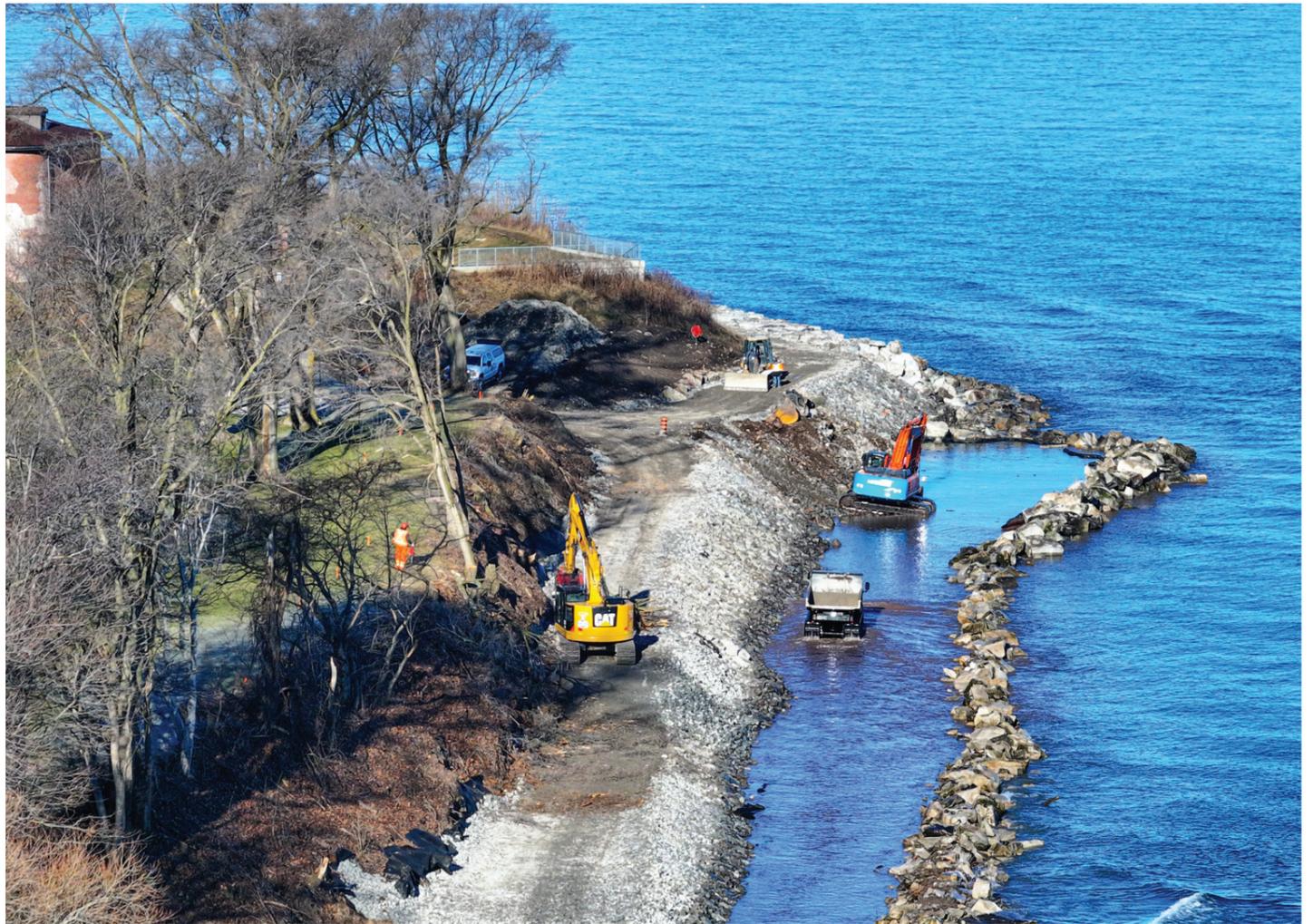
As hotelier Jimmy Lai languishes in a Hong Kong jail cell, on trial for supporting democratic reforms, his family here in Niagara-on-the-Lake last week had no idea he was about to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for a second time.

Despite that, on Thursday week when two U.S. politicians put forward Lai's nomination for the prestigious honour, his family members weren't surprised, says his niece, Erica Lepp.

It simply seemed just and right.

Continued on Page 4

## Building the breakwall



Workers and heavy equipment are busy building part of a 500-metre breakwall and walkway near Fort Mississauga and along the northern perimeter of the NOTL Golf Club. The multi-million-dollar Parks Canada project started in December and will last about two years. This drone photo offers a bird's-eye view from about 100 feet overhead. **MORE PHOTOS on Page 7.** JOHN DELORENZI

## Community rallies to help after family's home destroyed by fire

On a dark, cold Friday night in December, the Fish family lost almost every material thing in their lives. And their beloved family pet, Mabel, a five-year-old bernedoodle.

Just before 10 p.m. on Dec.

15, a fire broke out in the family room of their modest but newly renovated back-split home in Niagara Falls.

Claire, 14, and Evelyn, 12, and a friend were in their home. Their parents, Kate and Stephen, were down the

street having dessert with friends.

Within seconds the house filled with smoke and toxic fumes. Startled by the cacophony of smoke alarms, the girls called 911 and immediately followed their

well-rehearsed fire escape plan, smashing the screen of a second-storey bedroom, climbing out the window to safety.

Kate, 47, is principal of Crossroads Public School in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The

Lake Report asked her to tell our readers how the disastrous fire has affected them, their feelings just weeks after the devastation and how the family is rebuilding their lives. **Read their story on Page 6.**



Kate Fish.



Peninsula  
Flooring Ltd.

13 Henegan Road | Virgil Business Park (905)-468-2135

Proudly Supplying and Installing

ANTRIM HIBERNIA  
HAND-LOOMED CARPETS & RUGS WOOLEN MILLS  
Crescent STANTON Rosecore  
DISTINCTIVE CARPET | CUSTOM RUGS CARPET • CUSTOM RUGS • RUNNERS LUXURIOUS CARPET & CUSTOM RUGS