Proceedings over tree removal on Solmar property halted

Benny Marotta has not won in court based on the merits of the case initiated by the town against the developer for clear-cutting trees on the Randwood Estate — he has had the charges stayed so they will not be heard in court.

The decision announced by a Justice of the Peace last Wednesday to stay the charges laid by the town is related to the Charter right to be tried within a reasonable time, said town CAO Marnie Cluckie.

“This decision means that the case will not be heard on its merits, and the trial will not proceed as initially scheduled.”

Cluckie said the town is appealing that decision — because of the timing coinciding with an election campaign, she has the delegated authority to make the call — and the new council will have the opportunity to decide whether they wish to continue or withdraw the appeal.

“There are time limits in place” to appeal, says Cluckie. “Therefore, if we were to wait for the next council to decide, we would lose the opportunity to appeal.”

The Supreme Court of Canada set out a framework for establishing deadlines by which those accused need to be tried: 18 months for provincial court trials and 30 months for Superior Court trials.

In this circumstance, there were several factors contributing to the time delay, Cluckie said in an email to The Local. The COVID-19 pandemic was “an exceptional circumstance that significantly impacted the timing. The courts were effectively closed during this time.”

Court closures necessitated by COVID resulted in extensive trial delays, with implications for the Charter right to be tried within a reasonable time. “The JOP for this matter also cited delays related to the prosecution.”

There has been talk on social media of the town losing to Marotta on four counts. Cluckie explained the JOP ruled only on the charge of the delay in going to trial, but there were four properties involved, one charge for each, thus the four charges.

The second argument advanced by Two Sisters and Solmar, said Cluckie, was an attempt “to exclude certain evidence from the trial. However, the court did not make a decision on that argument, because the charges were stayed.”

The town had filed charges regarding the removal of trees on the Rand Estate in November 2018, just after the last municipal election, but before the new

Continued on page 2
Tourism strategy tops list of council priorities

Continued from page 1

A tourism strategy also made the top three list for both Burroughs and Ruller. The current councillor added that council also needed to get a handle on development by getting its zoning bylaws in place. He also posited that the five distinct villages of NOTL need “a common enemy,” which he suggested could be the region, and should not be determined what we want in our community.

Ruller added a review of the recommendations from the short-term rental (STR) committee needs to be done, and action needs to be taken to ensure the town isn’t overrun with absentee homeowners renting their properties as Airbnbs. He also pointed to planning and incorporating contextual zoning into the town’s bylaws as something that needs to be completed in the next term.

The candidates were then asked whether or not the town should continue giving municipal grants to organizations such as the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and the Shaw Guild.

“I think we need to assess them (the grants),” Mell said, “and see if they’re where they should be, or see if there are other funding methods that can replace some of the discretionary tax. The two organizations you mentioned are tourism-related. I think that’s where the (MAT) comes in.”

“The town stopped doing discretionary grants this term,” Burroughs said.

“We have lots of volunteer organizations in town. This is not huge money that these groups are getting. They are worth it. They are part of the fabric of our town. We had matching grants in the past, between us and the region. I’m in favour of having another strong look at supporting our culture.”

Similarly, Ruller said these groups contribute greatly to the broader community.

“That is important,” Ruller opined. “That being said, the region see an opportunity to review the municipal grants and to look at processes based on thresholds. We need to ensure municipal grants are contributing across the community, where the benefit is received by a wide range of community members.”

“Many not-for-profits and charities in NOTL are deserving of our support,” said Mavridis. “We need to take a broad look at those that do apply and maybe restructure our format. I don’t agree with giving discretionary funds to organizations as these recommendations have been made in the past. The funds that come out of residents’ taxes should go to residential associations. All others will be able to pull from the (MAT).”

The candidates were then asked to propose two strategies they would apply to increase community engagement.

Burroughs warned that many of the surveys posted on the town’s website are not professionally done. He also pointed out that not everybody is savvy on the computer, and that it’s important to talk directly with residents without forcing them to use the website first.

Ruller agreed that online surveys don’t work for everybody, and compared the questions on some of these to bumpers guiding the ball down a bowling alley. He suggested timely, general communication with the public is needed to avoid frustration when roads are closed, and various mechanisms need to be used to get word out.

Mavridis lamented the loss of the sign on Queen Street at Mississauga Street, the one that used to outline upcoming events. She also called for improvements to Join the Conversation, on the town website, and the town website itself.

Mell said the town gets more response on decisions it makes after tools such as Join the Conversation close, defeating the purpose. He would like to see a weekly list of town information in local newspapers. A proposed noise bylaw capping sound at 50 to 55 decibels that was rejected by council in 2020 was the next topic up for discussion.

Creation of a new bylaw won’t solve anything unless we address enforceability,” Ruller said. “We need to be proactive and not reactive. When we put a residential development beside a hotel or winery, there are implications. We have to get it right the first time, from a planning perspective.”

“The problem is much deeper than simply noise,”

Continued on page 2

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Burroughs said. “This is not a new issue. Right now there is a lot of work going on with the environmental committee on noise. Currently, enforcement people won’t go out at night without a police escort, and police will not respond to a noise complaint.”

“Had council passed bylaw at 50 to 55 decibels,” Mavridis asked the audience, “what would it have done to, never mind the wineries, but the bike tours? A sneeze is 90 dB. This conversation we’re having right now is 60 dB. I’m glad it wasn’t passed, but it needs to be revisited as part of the tourism strategy.”

“Whenever I think of noise bylaws, pickleball comes to mind,” said Mell, eliciting a chuckle from the audience. “A bylaw should not just restrict certain things we don’t like in town. Let’s not look at a bylaw that engrosses the whole town just to address certain issues that can quite reasonably come to an understanding with the stakeholders.”

The final question dealt with the existence of short-term rentals as commercial operations within environmentally zoned areas. Ruller said he is concerned that when houses are used as STRs the town ends up not having people contributing to the fabric of the town, and called for strong action to manage STRs effectively so they are not operated on the backs of the town’s citizens.

Mavridis insisted that zoning for STRs needs to remain residential, and the town has to begin collecting the MAT from homeowners who operate Airbnbs. She also argued for an increase in licensing fees and a cap on the number of STRs in town.

Mell said not everybody wants to or can afford to stay at one of the Vintage Hotels. Bylaw officers need to be working afternoon or evening shifts, he added, and he favours a limit on the number of licenses and a neighborhood density cap.

Burroughs said the “unhosted” aspect of STRs is something of great concern. He would like to get rid of unhosted rentals, grandfathering those in that currently exist.

About 40 residents turned up at the Legion Tuesday evening for the second of three council candidate meet and greets hosted by the political action group FocusNOTL. Challengers John McCallum and Katherine Reid along with incumbents Sandra O’Connor and Erwin Weins were given a chance to introduce themselves, then faced five questions posed by moderator John Thompson.

“Planning, development, transparency, tourism, the environment and the town’s agricultural contingent took much of the focus over an hour and a half of debate. The candidates were asked under what circumstances they felt it was appropriate to recuse themselves from voting on issues that arise on the council agenda. Wiens was the first to respond.”

“We’re a small community, and people get elected for their specific talents and knowledge,” he said. “I’m a farmer, and I sit on the irrigation and agricultural committees. I have a vested interest, but I also bring a special knowledge and a special relationship to the table. Some might say that’s a conflict, but I’ve been elected to represent the people around me, especially the farmers.”

“Pecuniary interest means you are getting money directly from whatever the issue is,” said O’Connor, outlining specific examples. “To me that is a straightforward conflict. But if you are in the industry and can bring value-added information to the discussion to help other councillors decide, you should. It’s not always straightforward, but they can always go to the ethics commissioner for guidance.”

McCallum agreed on that point.

“I would expect when council forms, that the legal department would talk to all the councillors and identify what constitutes a conflict of interest,” he said. “It’s an opportunity for people like myself who have never been a councillor to ask questions and find out. I think there are relatively few situations where there is a conflict of interest.”

Reid said when she sat as a citizen on the town’s agricultural committee during a previous term she was working at a local winery.

“I asked if I was allowed to vote and I was told I could,” she said. “If councillors are going to gain from it, then it would be a conflict of interest. But every councillor has to decide for themselves.”

The short-term rental (STR) issue also came up during this session. Candidates were asked for their position and how they would address the need to revisit, revise and rethink the rules that govern them.

O’Connor said she is looking forward to the recommendations by the town’s STR committee coming to council for discussion soon. She opined that the town needs more bylaw enforcement officers on the ground to enforce the rules, and called for a hike in the fees for STRs, not a change in zoning.

McCallum said he is not a fan of STRs, adding that residents want to live next to people, not investments. He said council must talk to the town’s legal department about how to enforce regulations, and charge property owners for visits to their rentals. As well, the accountant said the Canada Revenue Agency needs to be informed of their status as STRs.

Reid suggested that since most complaints regarding STRs involve noise and come during the evening, bylaw officers need to be working during those hours.

Wiens promised that the 33 recommendations made by the STR committee in July, 2021, will make everybody happy. He looked back at the growing pains during the rise of bed and breakfast operations, and pointed to how these operations are now part of the charm of NOTL. Compliance and education, not conviction, is the way to go, he said, as the vast majority of tourists behave in a respectful manner.

Next, candidates were asked how they would work toward sustainable and contextual development that is responsible to climate change, infill needs and the unique character of NOTL’s neighbourhoods.

“The starting point is to complete the official plan,” said McCallum. “Out of that needs to come details around contextual zoning, and whether the heritage area needs to be expanded. Height and setback need to be looked at. The tools should work the same way in the five settlement areas. Coun-

Continued from page 2

Maria Mavridis

Continued on page 3

Richard Mell

John McCallum

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October 12, 2022 3
Zoning, environment, bike safety addressed

Continued from page 3

cil needs to move on this very quickly.”
“T’m concerned about contextual zoning as well,” said Reid. “I’m on the Queenston Residents’ Association, and I’m amazed at how many times zoning issues go against what’s in the secondary plan. We have to follow the rules that are in the plan.”
“I’m not a fan of contextual zoning,” Wiens said. “I contacted our planners, a regional planner, and a private planner. We hire professionals. True collaboration is trying to understand where we land, where the province lands, where the region lands. We need to review our zoning bylaws with an understanding of what all those planners at each level are talking about.”
O’Connor was the only candidate who directly addressed the environmental part of the query.
“The region’s official plan did a major overhaul on their environment section,” she told the audience. “Our climate change adaptation plan has been developed with Brock University. We have to implement these ideas, and many of them deal with development and climate change. Low impact development, natural stormwater management, permeable pavers and keeping our trees will all help with the environment.”
Bike safety on both rural and urban roads was the next topic of discussion.
Reid, a past member of the town’s safety committee, said education is key, and pointed to the successes of that committee in working with seasonal farm employees via bike rodeos and other educational sessions.
Wiens warned that rural roads are not being kept up, especially at the shoulders. Besides education, he called for better upkeep and funding to ensure shoulders are in tip-top shape and that water is not allowed to freeze, causing the pavement to break up during the thaw.
O’Connor pointed to the reconstruction of Line 3, and asked why bike lanes were not installed. She suggested she would push for a policy to ensure that all future road reconstruction would include an allowance for bike lanes. She also said the region should have considered this when they resurfaced Lakeshore Road.
McCullum also asked for regional involvement on this issue, saying the stretch of Concession 6 to York Road is particularly scary and dangerous. He urged the next council to compile a list of all roads, both municipal and regional, that need bike lanes, and added that council needs to bring that list to the region.
On the subject of transparency, Wiens insisted that he has always been transparent during the current term, and that he has repeatedly spoken his mind and been vocal, and promised to continue to do so.
O’Connor also insisted that she has been transparent as a councillor. She added that some closed sessions are necessary to deal with certain items, such as staffing decisions, but said council has to be clear about why some issues have to be dealt with in-camera.
McCullum interpreted transparency as simply a matter of speaking clearly and sticking to what a councillor thinks is right. He suggested that all candidates for council want to make NOTL a better place, and to that end, meetings have to be collaborative, civil and polite, giving all councillors an opportunity to state their views and listen to the opinions of others.
Reid said the number of in-camera sessions is one of her major concerns. She added that in previous years, when she applied to sit on town committees, there was a clear process. During the current term, however, she received nothing other than a rejection letter, and was given no further information as to why her applications were turned down, making it hard for her to trust the current sitting council.
Candidates mingled with the attendees following the question period, addressing their concerns one-on-one.

VOTER CARDS HAVE ARRIVED
Qualified electors for the 2022 municipal and school board trustees election should have received their voter cards in the mail. If you didn’t receive yours or if it has an error, go to an advance poll or on election day with a government-issued piece of ID and proof of your local address. Additions, deletions, and changes to the voters’ list can be made on the spot at any poll.

ADVANCE POLLS
10 A.M. - 8 P.M.
Wednesday, Oct. 12
Municipal Offices
1593 Four Mile Creek Road

Saturday, Oct. 15
NOTL Community Centre,
14 Anderson Lane

Wednesday, Oct. 19
Municipal Offices
1593 Four Mile Creek Road

VOTING DAY MONDAY,
OCT. 24, 10 A.M. - 8 P.M.
Holiday Inn Express
524 York Road

Laura Secord Homestead
29 Queenston Street.

Crossroads Public School
1350 Niagara Stone Road.

St. Davids Public School
1344 York Road.

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Bravo Niagara! Concerts Live On Stage in 2022/23
Concert Season Opens October 23 with Classical Guitar Superstar MILOŠ

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents Christine Mori and Alexis Spieldenner, mother-daughter team and co-founders of Bravo Niagara, are thrilled to launch the 2022/23 concert season, bringing a must-see lineup of artists to the Niagara region. The upcoming concerts feature some of their favourite Canadian and international artists this fall and a not-to-be-missed big band extravaganza for the holiday season.

The season opens on October 23 with a rare Canadian appearance by Miloš Karadaglić, simply known as MILOŠ, named by BBC Music Magazine as one of the six greatest classical guitarists of the last century alongside guitar legend Andrés Segovia. Born in Montenegro, MILOŠ is one of the world’s most celebrated classical guitarists. His career began its meteoric rise in 2011, with the release of his international best-selling Deutsche Grammophon debut album Mediterraneo. He has appeared as a soloist with some of the world’s great orchestras, and his sold-out solo recital in the round of the Royal Albert Hall was lauded by the critics and caused a worldwide sensation.

On November 5, internationally acclaimed soprano Measha Brueggergosman-Lee will present an evening of classical and jazz, including music from her newest album Measha JAZZ featuring repertoire from the Black songstresses of the mid-20th century such as Nina Simone and Sarah Vaughan. Measha has presented innovative programs at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, Washington’s Kennedy Center, London’s Wigmore Hall, and other great halls around the world. Her classical recordings have earned her a Juno Award win and a Grammy Award nomination. Legendary 5-time Grammy Award-winning South African bassist, composer, and vocalist, Bakithi Kumalo is world-renowned for his fretless bass playing with Paul Simon for over 30 years. On the Graceland album, it’s Kumalo’s bass run we hear on “You Can Call me Al”. He has also played with Herbie Hancock, Josh Groban, Gloria Estefan, and many more. For the Canadian debut of his ‘Graceland Experience’ concert on November 19, Kumalo and his band will perform music from the iconic Graceland album.

Sure to be one of the highlights of the 2022 holiday season, The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra, winner of 19 Grammy Awards, performs “A Very Swingin’ Basie Christmas” with special guest vocalist Carmen Brad- ford on December 18. The Count Basie Orchestra, today directed by Scotty Barnhart, has won every respected jazz poll in the world at least once, performed for Kings, Queens, and other world Royalty, appeared in several movies, and at every major jazz festival and concert hall in the world.

Bravo Niagara’s upcoming concerts will take place at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines, including the intimate Recital Hall, where MILOŠ and Measha Brueggergosman-Lee will perform, and Partridge Hall, where The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra will appear. New this year, Bravo Niagara will present Bakithi Kumalo’s Graceland Experience concert at the Mandeville Theatre, recently updated with a state-of-the-art sound system, at Ridley College in St. Catharines.

Stay tuned for Bravo Niagara’s spring 2023 concerts to be announced later this year. More information and tickets are at www.bravoniagara.org.
This year is the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week. The theme is Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape. Fire prevention Week highlights the importance of being prepared to prevent and survive a fire in your home or workplace.

During Fire Prevention Week, we all encourage to complete a fire safety inspection in our homes and with our families, looking at potential dangers, and developing and practicing a fire escape plan to help us react correctly if a fire strikes.

Today’s homes burn faster than ever. We know from watching the news how devastating the results can be. We may have as little as two minutes or less to escape a fire once our smoke alarms alert us—those alarms and advance planning with family members can save lives. That’s a message we should all heed.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the firefighters who risk their lives to save ours are volunteers—well-trained, certainly, but doing a very challenging job as a way to give back to their community.

They’ve been summoned to try and save the lives of a friend or neighbour. To make their job easier, if you see a car with a flashing green light, that’s a signal to a volunteer firefighter is on the way to an emergency. Pull over if you can do so safely.

This town is very fortunate indeed to have such a dedicated group of volunteers, willing to leave the warmth and safety of their homes and their families, to save taxpayers the expense of a professional department.

So let’s take this opportunity to say thank you to them for being willing to put themselves at harm’s way, for all of us and for the good of our community.

Penny Coles  
The Local

Let’s give thanks to our firefighters

Having lived in Old Town for only a bit over three years, I know I have yet earned the right to complain. On the other hand, I hope an opinion is acceptable. I find it rather intriguing that I should accidentally read one of the local papers from three years ago instead of one from yesterday. Nothing much has changed…same problems. Developers being used, parking and traffic problems, ill-fits and all other projects, problems being injected, the old hospital site and lack of decisions, the Parliament Oak School site, Rainbow crosswalk on and off (I think that finally stopped) and on and on. Nothing much has been resolved, and life goes on in its merry old way.

Canada has been my home for over 50 years, my formative years up to 21 having been over 50 years, my formative years up to 21 having been resolved. Loneliness and wanting to have a friend and to feel wanted. The old hospital site and lack of decisions, the Parliament Oak School site, Rainbow crosswalk on and off (I think that finally stopped) and on and on. Nothing much has been resolved, and life goes on in its merry old way.

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Letters we want letters! The Local has printed letters about the election in our Oct. 12 edition, but will not in the Oct 19th edition before the election.

If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.

Don’t know what ya got 'til it’s gone

We are headed into the last weeks of the municipal election campaign, and we think it is important to reflect on the significant influence of the Lord Mayor Betty Disero. Our experience with Betty Disero for the last seven years that we have lived here in NOTL, including her four-year term as Lord Mayor and previous four years as a councillor, is that whenever we raise a concern with her, she responded to us if not that same day, then always within 24 hours. And it was not a pat answer, like we will look into it and get back to you, it was an ‘I’ve taken concrete action’ answer. That’s what you get by re-electing Betty. I cannot see this degree of dedication, experience, sincere interest and just pure accessibility being possible by any of the other candidates for lord mayor, either because they would be a part-time mayor or they already have a full-time job supporting a development industry, or they have no previous municipal government experience, or they have winter homes outside of Canada. A lord mayor of a uniquely historic, small town like Niagara-on-the-Lake takes a special mixture of dedication, knowledge, experience and most of all, heart, and we feel Betty has demonstrated that over the last eight years. Betty has always been the first line of defence in protecting our natural beauty and heritage assets against Brampton-style development. She has shown no fear in going up against these developments.

In addition, NOTL is so fortunate to have someone with the extraordinary wealth of political and government experience that she has brought to our town from having earned her stripes in similar situations in Toronto. She has proven through her service that she has the residents’ interest at heart but still makes decisions that benefit all sections of our local economy.

We all win by re-electing Betty Disero for our lord mayor.

Anna Proctor
NOTL

Impressed with lord mayor and council

My husband and I arrived in NOTL seven years ago and have found the town so well coming. Part of this welcome is, I believe, modelled by Lord Mayor Betty Disero and the councillors. They have steered us through challenging times, taking every step possible to make sure we have been protected through the pandemic. During this demanding time they have also been confront- ed by major developmental and economic hurdles and have avoided making rash decisions, choosing to involve the community in the decision making.

I am impressed by the de- cency and commitment of our Lord Mayor as she attends num-

Robert Hagan
NOTL

Letters

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The photographers enjoyed our outdoor commentary, and the casts and crews are prepared to handle the contractual and non-copyright issues that may arise.
Molson tasked with bringing Queen St. library ‘into modern age’

Cathy Simpson
Chief Librarian & CEO
NOTL Public Library

October is Canadian Library Month and no one has done more for libraries in Niagara-on-the-Lake than Gerda Molson, chief librarian at the NOTL Public Library for 35 years, from 1969 until her retirement in 2004.

Gerda passed away this year on Aug. 26 at the age of 83. She led the library through many changes and challenges including its move from the downtown courthouse to our current location and always worked hard to provide high-quality library service to the community.

Gerda’s many contributions to library and community are preserved in our heritage portal, specifically in the Gerda Molson Collection; vitacollections.ca/notlheritage. A few years ago, she donated her collection of newspaper and magazine articles about the library and we scanned and uploaded them to the heritage portal to make them available to all.

These clippings paint a vivid picture of the library’s history during her tenure.

Upon her retirement in 2004, the St. Catharines Standard published an article with some interesting details about Gerda’s life and work. She was born in Washington state and emigrated to B.C. with her family when she was 13.

After marrying in 1961, she moved with her husband Hugh to Niagara. Hugh eventually became the chief librarian at the Pelham Public Library while Gerda worked at the St. Catharines Public Library.

In 1969, after seven years rising through the ranks in St. Catharines, Gerda was asked by Les Fowley, director of the Niagara Regional Library System, to “pull the NOTL Public Library into the modern age.” At that time, the library was located in the Court House where it had been expanded and moved around since 1855. It was only open 10 hours per week, had no phone and operated on an annual budget of $3,600. The collection was out of date, featuring how-to books from the 1940s and travel books from the early 1900s.

“Our first step into technology was getting a telephone. Then we did an absolute massive weeding of titles,” she said in the article. Many of the weeded books were sold to a Toronto old-and-rare-books dealer. “Well, it sure was interesting,” she continued with a laugh. “It presented an enormous challenge.”

Under Gerda’s leadership, community use of the library increased, and by the early 1970s, more room for members, the collection and programs, was needed. In 1973, Gerda worked with designer Paul Johns to expand the library into the courthouse jail cells, indoor rifle range and former waterworks department. By the late 1990s, it was apparent the Court House location could not continue to serve the growing community or meet accessibility standards. A new library, after much discussion and not without strong opposition, was opened at 10 Anderson Lane, along with the new Fire Hall in November 2000, during the library’s bicentennial year.

Gerda was always up for a challenge. In addition to her work as chief librarian in NOTL, she was also president of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) during the 1986-87 term.

In a 1986 Niagara Advance article she reflected on her election to the OLA president’s position saying, “I love a challenge.” She also loved her work, and said as much in the 2004 Standard article: “I have always felt that I was amazed people paid me to do this. I’ve loved doing what I do and it has continued to be always challenging and changing.”

We’re planting a tree in Gerda’s memory and putting together a community memory book. She touched many lives during her 35 years at the library and we would love to include your memories and photos in the book. Please contact me at csimpson@notlp.org to share your memories.

Happy Library Month!

Gerda Molson, photographed in her office the last day the library was open at the Court House, Oct. 17, 2000. (Photo supplied)
Town appealing, hoping case will be heard on merits

Continued from page 1

The JOP gave an oral decision in provincial court — the written decision will be obtained as part of the appeal, Claudia said.

SORE, a community group with a mission to support reasonable development on the Randwood Estate property, was not a party to these proceedings, although it has been for several other legal cases over Randwood between the town and Solmar/Two Sisters, including an appeal by the Marotta group on its proposed Rand Estate subdivision, which is not expected to be heard until 2024.

Lyle Hall, spokesperson for SORE, says the decision to stay the charges on the tree-cutting comes just before the trial on the merits of the charges was set to begin — there were four days set aside for the hearing, beginning Oct. 17.

But on Sept. 12 the Marotta group’s challenge, based on the delay of the hearing, was heard, and the decision to stay the charges was released last week.

“Naturally, we are disappointed that the Marotta group continues to take evasive legal action by bringing a stay application based on delay, rather than having the charges dealt with on their merits. The decision is from a Justice of the Peace and can be appealed to a judge. Justice of the Peace decisions are not infrequently reversed by judges,” Hall says.

“The Marotta group should not be allowed to dodge their day of reckoning in the courts.”

If an appeal of the stay is unsuccessful then “this case is not based on whether he (Marotta) did or didn’t do the right thing, and nobody wins,” says Hall, calling it an “unsustainable outcome for anyone who cares about the Rand Estate.”

Giuseppe Paolicelli, general manager of Solmar Development Corp., said in a press release issued Tuesday that Solmar and Two Sisters “are very happy with the court’s decision to no longer continue the case of the charges brought by the town under the Ontario Heritage Act on the basis that the delay in bringing the matter to trial is a breach of Solmar’s and Two Sister’s constitutional rights to be tried within a reasonable time.”

Solmar and Two Sisters “have consistently maintained that we did not breach the Ontario Heritage Act through the tree removal project in 2018,” says the press release.

“On any objective review of the facts of this case it is clear that there was no breach of the act, and the tree felling had no effect on any of the property’s heritage attributes,” says Paolicelli.

Solmar has maintained throughout the process that the town “had no reasonable or probable ground to institute the prosecution and that the prosecution was politically motivated and undertaken without merit,” says Paolicelli.

“The court’s decision to end the prosecution has avoided an unnecessary and costly trial and has saved us and the town and its taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in unnecessary expenses.”

“We look forward to working cooperatively with the town in moving the Rand subdivision application at 200 John Street east and 588 Charlotte Street forward.”

Newark Neighbours helps out at Thanksgiving

Newark Neighbours provided holiday meals to 56 clients and their families — everyone was grateful and very pleased, says manager Cindy Grant, who was sorting food in the days leading up to the delivery with volunteer Genevieve Lawrence. Newark Neighbours needs more space, as is obvious in the photographs — if anyone has a location (parcel of land or existing building) that may be suitable for their needs, email Newarkneighbours1@gmail.com or call 905-468-3519.

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Chamber explains plan to balance tourism, needs of residents

Penny Coles
The Local

With the focus on balancing tourism and the needs of residents — one of the top issues of the upcoming municipal election, Minerva Ward decided it was time to address where the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce stands on attracting visitors to town.

And it is not about doubling tourism, says the president and CEO of the chamber — that is not on the chamber’s agenda, or anyone’s agenda.

The chamber and its subsidiary, Tourism NOTL, the destination marketing arm, are dedicated to attracting “high-yield tourism,” the visitors who will come to stay for several days and spend money across all sectors, including accommodations, restaurants, wineries, shopping, the Shaw Festival, Fort George, and other attractions.

Ward says the chamber is working on marketing with Cinnamon Toast, an agency that helps with branding and data-driven advertising campaigns, to develop a five-year plan for Tourism NOTL.

With the municipal accommodation tax in place, the 50 per cent the chamber receives will fund the marketing plan and help decide “exactly how we attract those high-yield visitors, those who are higher spending but have less of an impact staying on town infrastructure,” says Ward.

The chamber will target MCIT tourism — business meetings and conferences, as well as incentive travel — attracting corporate business people and those who are rewarded for high-performance sales.

Currently, about 40 per cent of Vintage Hotel bookings come from those types of visitors, and the rest from leisure travel, such as couples on romantic holidays or honeymooners, while White Oaks Conference, Spa and Resort gets 90 per cent of its bookings from the corporate sector.

“White Oaks is doing that well,” she says, “driving revenue to all of our businesses mid-week and off-peak. Those visitors also tend to travel with their spouse or partner, who spend more time on leisure activities, such as shopping. And there is less of a parking and congestion issue.”

The wedding market is another one to pursue, with guests most often staying at bed and breakfasts rather than hotels. “They’re not people who are creating congestion on the street.”

Visitors who come to see Shaw Festival plays are also high-yield, staying four to five days and buying on average 10 tickets per household. Hotels and B&Bs benefit, as do restaurants.

Shaw patrons tend to enjoy the wineries in between plays, and do some shopping while they’re here.

Another market the chamber is pursuing is the “millennial, high-income” multi-day visitors who come to town for romantic getaways.

“The day trippers will come, the bus loads will come and spend a little time in town, but that’s not the market we’re pursuing. If we did nothing, that market will come.”

Instead, the chamber is looking for “a balance between carrying capacity and economic value,” says Ward.

Carrying capacity, she explains, can be physical or psychological. It refers to how many people a space can hold without seeming congested. Physically, “we definitely haven’t been here this year”, with the number of U.S. and Asian tourists not returning to pre-pandemic levels.

“Psychologically, we’ll be there when residents and businesses look at the number of people on Queen Street and say it’s too much,” Ward says. “Psychologically, we’ll be there when residents and businesses look at the number of people on Queen Street and say it’s too much.”

Tourists are necessary to keep the businesses and amenities open that residents also enjoy, says Ward.

“During the pandemic, when residents were encouraged to support local businesses, it became obvious that was not enough.”

“THERE ARE 19,000 RESIDENTS IN NOTL, AND THE BUSINESSES ARE IMPORTANT TO THEM TOO, BUT THAT IS NOT SUFICIENT TO KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN AND LIGHTS ON. IF YOU WANT TO ENJOY THESE AMENITIES WE NEED TO BRING HIGH-SPENDING TOURISTS TO TOWN. WE KNOW RESIDENTS ENJOY OUR RESTAURANTS, OUR WINERIES, AND NOT JUST THOSE FROM OLD TOWN BUT FROM ALL AREAS OF TOWN.”

The chamber believes that decisions about marketing should involve both the voices of the business community and residents, says Ward.

“As their marketing plan is created, residents will have an opportunity for input through a survey on the chamber website.

“It’s important to have residents involved, to have them be advocates for our community. One way of doing that is through our Ambassador’s Program,” which just finished its second season.

Ward mentions a survey taken in the spring that showed 85 per cent of respondents believe Niagara-on-the-Lake can be both a place that attracts tourism and a great place to live.

“Accusab Data, a highly respected market research firm in Ottawa used by corporations, advocacy groups and politicians, handled the survey, led by Dr. David Coletta, one of the founding partners and the CEO of Accusab.

“We often hear the loudest voices are not the majority,” says Ward. “Based on the loudest voices, we were surprised by how strongly positive that survey was. It seems the silent majority does understand and enjoy the benefits of tourism.”

“The reality, she adds, “is those who live the closest (to Queen Street)”

Continued on page 11
Marketing plan, tourism strategy both need residents’ input

Continued from page 10

are impacted the most. So let’s look at those issues that impact them, such as parking and traffic.”

Ward is not in favour of parking outside the heritage district and relying on shuttles — it would serve local businesses better to have underground parking close by.

“I’m not sure where that could be, but it won’t work if it’s not within walking distance.”

A tourism strategy to be developed by the town has also been much discussed as a priority for the next term of council, “and it is the opportunity to find solutions to the problems and issues we have, including parking,” she says.

While Tourism NOTL will receive 50 per cent of the municipal accommodation tax for marketing tourism, the town can use its portion to fund solutions, Ward says, adding “tourism businesses are also ratepayers. Tourism funds tourism.”

High residents’ engagement in the tourism strategy is important. “Residents and the business community will decide the kind of tourism and the size of tourism that is desired, and it’s also how we will find solutions to our problems. We need the funding to implement those solutions, and one source of revenue will be the MAT. The tourism strategy will decide how we spend the town’s portion of the MAT, and our marketing plan will decide how we spend our portion. Residents and the business community have to be involved in the development of both. Residents and the business community can and should co-exist, and in a respectful way.”

Minerva Ward says the chamber and the town, residents and the business community all have a role to play in balancing the needs of residents and the business community. (Photo supplied)
The battle was the first major engagement of the War of 1812, and was the first time a special re-enactment weekend to commemorate the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights.

Re-enactors will be at Queenston Heights from Thursday to Sunday with tours and special events commemorating the Battle of Queenston Heights. (Photo supplied)

On Thursday, Oct. 13, costumed interpreters will be offering commemorative tours of the battle site at 10 a.m., followed by a tour of the Landscape of Nations.

Tickets for the commemorative tours can be purchased in advance at https://friendsoffortgeorge.ca/special-event-tickets.

On Friday, Oct. 14, the NOTL Museum will join the Friends, Parks Canada, and the NPC to host a special educational day, with tours of the battle site and Landscape of Nations Memorial. Brock's Monument will be open, and the Tiny Museum will be on-site.

The cost is $4 for students and $5 for adults. Call the Friends of Fort George 905-468-6621 or email admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca for more information or to book a time.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, there will be activities taking place at Queenston Heights and Brock's Monument. Re-enactors will be making the historic march from Fort George to Queenston Heights along the Niagara Parkway in the morning, and will be recreating the Battle of the Queenston Heights in the afternoon. Brock's Monument will be open for visiting the museum and climbing the stairs. Heritage interpreters will also have an exterior display set up, and guided tours will be available.

Tickets for climbing the tower and for the tours must be booked in advance at https://friendsoffortgeorge.ca. Space is limited.

Schedule for Saturday, Oct. 15:
- 10 a.m. – Brock's Monument open to the public
- 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. – Guided tours of the battle site and Landscape of Nations
- 2 p.m. – Battle of Queenston Heights re-enactment
- 5 p.m. – Brock's Monument closes

Sunday marks the 210th anniversary of the funeral procession of Brock and his aide-de-campe, Lt.-Col. John Macdonnel.

In 1812, more than 5,000 military personnel and inhabitants travelled to Niagara to witness what was considered the grandest funeral ever seen. The streets were lined with mourners, as the caskets of Brock and Macdonnel travelled from Government House to Fort George, where they were laid to rest in what is now known as Brock's Bastion.

On Sunday, the focus will shift to Fort George National Historic Site where the death of Brock and Macdonnel will be commemorated.

Schedule for Sunday, Oct. 16:
- 10 a.m. – Fort George opens to the public
- 11 a.m. – Re-enactment of the funeral procession of Brock and Macdonnel at Fort George and commemorative service at Brock's Bastion inside Fort George.
- 2 p.m. – Battle re-enactment
- 5 p.m. – Fort George closes to the public

These times are tentative, and any changes will be reflected on the Friends' website at www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca.

For more information call the Friends of Fort George, 905-468-6621, email admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca, www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca.
Royal Wood to launch fall series at Ravine

Mike Balsom
The Local

Toronto-based singer-songwriter Royal Wood kicks off a series of five concerts at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery next Wednesday, Oct. 19. The series includes performances by Great Lake Swimmers, Rose Cousins, Tom Wilson and Chad Taylor & Raine Maida.

Royal Wood’s St. Davids shows shot from 10 on his fall tour that will culminate in concerts at Ottawa’s National Arts Centre and the prestigious Massey Hall in Toronto at the end of the month.

Wood (his full name is John Royal Wood Nicholson, the middle names coming from his grandfa- ther) is a 20-year veteran of the Canadian music scene. Since his first EP Milkweed, a collection of five folky tunes, he has been a fixture in the jazz clubs in Mon- treal while sporadically attending classes at McGill University. He has released nine albums, the most re- cent a 2011 live recording called 2018 at that same venerable Toronto institution.

Wood hasn’t set foot in Massey Hall since it underwent a major renovation, so the Oct. 30 gig there will be a highlight for him.

“I feel pretty special to be part of a generation that released records that actually went into record stores, and that I got to be a part of the legacy of the old Massey,” he tells The Local. “They even sent me a gal- lery seat as a present and a scholarship, and that I got to be a part of something and it comes with the Farewell or something and it comes with the Farewell or whatever, but it’s not as much that it’s biographical all the time, he explains. ‘It’s more about channelling an emotional truth. From that truth, as an artist, you get to expand it. And it starts from something real, but really goes somewhere else. There are ways to expand it, to do it in a way that al- lows you to be genuine but express yourself as an artist who casts a wide net.’

His 10th album, What Tomorrow Brings, will be introduced to the world in late November. His recent EP, One of You, showcases three of the songs from that upcoming collection, featuring co-writes and production help from songwriters Linda Perry (Adele, Alicia Keys) and Jamie Scott (Ed Sheeran, Justin Bieber).

‘She’s superhuman,’ he says of Perry. ‘She’s very quick, animated and di- rect. It’s like lightning in a bottle, she just channels something and it comes out. I’m grateful to have worked with her, and with Jamie Scott. He is so brave. Unashamedly brave. He’s the real deal. It’s a coup for me to work with them.’

With the recent loss of his father, who had a fairly normal marriage to Allison and the birth of their two boys Henry and George (both under three years old), it was inevitable that this new album would be co-produced by those experienc- es. He says the songs are the most carefully crafted of his career, with the pan- demic giving him ample time to perfect them.

“It was a staggered, stop-and-start sequence,” he tells The Local. “The re- cord was ready, but I had time to reexamine and re-listen. I went back, re- wrote lyrics, started some new songs over, redid produc- tion, and started some new songs. It morphed into a far more refined statement than it would have been. It was enjoyable, artistically.”

Though he’ll have a full band for the Ottawa and Toronto stops, the Ravine show next Wednesday is a duo performance, with Royal on piano, voice and ukelele, accompanied by bass player Steve Zitari.

They are sure to play a few of the new songs as well as many of his classics. Tickets for the show are $55.20 (including HST and fees), and a season pass for all five Ravine shows can be purchased for $269.50. They are available at ra- vinevineyard.com/Events/ Concert-Series.
Alex Bradnam
DSBN Trustee Candidate

During my last 40-plus years in education, I have been involved in all aspects of the education field as a teacher, principal, federation president, health and safety representative, and now as the public school trustee for Niagara-on-the-Lake and the City of St. Catharines. I have spent countless hours advocating for students with special needs and workplace health and safety issues, and am a member of the diversity, equity and inclusion, and strategic planning committees. I have taken part in writing curriculums, published letters and been a community representative for the parents’ involvement committee. I see three top issues in this campaign. The first is providing learning recovery supports to catch up our students from COVID learning losses. It’s been an honour serving the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake. In March 2022 I was the only trustee to vote against preserving the status quo in electoral boundaries. “We have parents of students in Niagara-on-the-Lake who attend high school in Niagara Falls, and that has often raised the issue that they don’t get to select their representative,” I said at the board meeting. “I’m not sure protecting the status quo is very comfortable.” My first concern is always students. I advocate for complete compliance with the Safe Schools Act to work against sexual violence in schools and support those who have experienced it. I uphold, promote and defend the Ontario Human Rights Code.

First and foremost, I am a passionate parent who has raised her children (now 18 and 20) to play fair, work hard and think critically. I believe their generation, and their younger counterparts, are fundamentally different people because they respect others and let them be themselves. In a country where adults have failed to correct profound threats to our young people’s environment, to their food system, and their very future, educational policies that respect and encourage fairness, equality and safety are the very least we can provide for them. Public education is a right. Trustees must protect it.

Kate Baggott
DSBN Trustee Candidate

My name is Kate Baggott and I’m one of four DSBN trustees currently representing the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the city of St. Catharines. My great-grandfather A.J. Coyne was one of the pharmacists who practised in what is now the Apothecary Museum on Queen Street in NOTL. He was the beloved son of a privileged family. It’s been a great privilege of my life to see the opportunities for education he had, become more accessible. We can and should open education’s opportunities to even more people. It’s an honour serving the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake. In March 2022 I was the only trustee to vote against preserving the status quo in electoral boundaries. “We have parents of students in Niagara-on-the-Lake who attend high school in Niagara Falls, and that has often raised the issue that they don’t get to select their representative,” I said at the board meeting. “I’m not sure protecting the status quo is very comfortable.” My first concern is always students. I advocate for complete compliance with the Safe Schools Act to work against sexual violence in schools and support those who have experienced it. I uphold, promote and defend the Ontario Human Rights Code.

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Mike Brousseau
DSBN Trustee Candidate

My name is Mike Brousseau and I’m running to represent the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the City of St. Catharines as a public school board trustee at the District School Board of Niagara. I was born and raised in the Niagara Region and have been an educator at Brock University for nearly two decades. During my time in education, I’ve been building, implementing and teaching about innovative classroom practices, educational technologies, accessibility, equity and digital privacy. Our young people deserve a school board that is as energetic and enthusiastic as they are and I’m confident I can deliver.

Together, the town and the city elect four trustees to represent them at the DSBN and I’d be honoured to be elected to one of these four positions. While I commend the work our existing board has done over the past several difficult years, I strongly believe there is more to do.

The five big priorities for my campaign are as follows: Fighting hate and keeping students safe; increasing funding for science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM); increasing transpacity between the school board and the community; working together to build equitable and inclusive communities; and championing 21st century skills for students.

I’d welcome you to explore more about me and my campaign on my website at: https://michaelbrousseau.ca/vote, or to send me an email at vote@mikebrousseau.ca, or give me a call at 905-401-9825.
Campbell: 30 years experience with evolving education

Lora Campbell
DSBN Trustee Candidate

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as a trustee for over 30 years. I am a parent, and a grandparent of future DSBN graduates. I work hard in the development of a strong curriculum in which all students and staff of Niagara schools can be proud.

Education is always evolving. Our students continue to face many challenges in our changing world (i.e. technology, new government policies). I will continue to remain current on legislative changes, encourage innovative approaches to education, and support staff and students to achieve success.

I sit as a member on the supervised alternative learning committee, finance committee and trustee adhoc governance committee.

I support Summer HEAT, a program committed to enhancing student achievement by providing engaging, science-based activities that build literacy and numeracy skills, opportunities for meaningful parent engagement, and focusing on healthy lifestyle choices.

I support mentoring of student trustees, providing students with a voice and an important connection between board policies and student life.

Key issues in the next term include collective agreement bargaining for staff and teachers and declining enrolment and school closures.

I support funding projects that include physical education equipment for synthetic turf fields, because building strong students goes beyond the classroom; funding for outdoor learning spaces and playground equipment, because active bodies equals active minds; Specialist High Skills Majors, which allow students to gain credits toward their Ontario Secondary Diploma and focus learning on a specific economic sector at the same time (sports, health and wellness, construction, culinary, auto-motive etc.); and teacher professional development.

Re-elect Lora Campbell for St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake public school board trustee. lcampbell@vaxxine.com

Lindo-Kelly: Passion is youth education and development

Rhona Lindo-Kelly
DSBN Trustee Candidate

My name is Rhona Lindo-Kelly. I am a Jamaican-Canadian, who has more than 20 years serving in GTA communities. Currently I’m working as a children’s program coordinator for Roots Community Services in Brampton. I recently moved to the Niagara Region from Peel Region. I was interested in giving back to the community, and having a passion for children and youth learning and development, what better way to serve than running for school board trustee.

My message is simple. If elected I will do the work of a school board trustee to the best of my abilities. I will have the courage to speak the truth and to hear the truth. I will conduct myself with grace and love. rhona.lindokelly@gmail.com

I sit as a member on the supervised alternative learning committee, finance committee and trustee adhoc governance committee.

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Re-elect Lora Campbell for St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake public school board trustee. lcampbell@vaxxine.com
Don MacDougall: Change needed in negative culture at DSBN

My name is Don MacDougall and I am a candidate for the position of trustee for the District School Board of Niagara. I am a life-long resident of NOTL and was employed by three different school boards to teach history at Niagara District Secondary School. I also coached extensively at Niagara District. I coached basketball, golf and slo-pitch. I have calculated that over the course of 30 years I have taught and coached over 1,000 students. I know this town and the people who live here better than any other candidate running for trustee in the DSBN.

If I am elected I intend to reach out to the other five trustees who may have experienced flawed decisions by the DSBN.

When the province forced the Lincoln Board and Niagara South Board together they basically guaranteed that the four St. Catharines trustees had the power to make the final decisions for students across the entire Niagara Peninsula.

At the elementary level schools have been closed that were in locations of historically significant to residents of NOTL and replaced by a mega school in the worst possible location in our town.

At the secondary level, the census results show that over the past three decades NOTL has been an area of population growth and will continue to be so. We have over 850 teenagers today and projections indicate we will have over 1,000 by the next census. And yet there has been no indication whatsoever that the DSBN cares.

The DSBN continues to fail Niagra students. It is okay for NOTL students to ride buses so St. Catharines students can enjoy all the benefits of a local school. I am elected I intend to try to change this negative culture of the DSBN towards NOTL. The DSBN must treat all students and taxpayers of outplaying communities with the respect they deserve.

dmacpatdon@gmail.com

Kris Vrcek: Will represent all voices, particularly disadvantaged

With my leadership, I’ll ensure equity across our school board so that every student, regardless of ethnicity, identity, or personal circumstances has the opportunity to succeed.

My responsibility as a school board trustee is to represent all voices, particularly those of disadvantaged groups.

I’ll play an important role in defining policies, what should happen, and how services should be provided inside the school board. I’ll assist with creating a well-written policy that explains what parents, the public, and board workers can expect.

With me on the board of trustees, I will maintain that the director of education is responsible for carrying out the policies of the board. I will balance the needs of the community with the responsibilities of the Ministry of Education.

In accordance with any rules, the board must consult with parents, students, and supporters over its multi-year plan and address the issues raised by these groups.

I’ll accept the challenge, exercise committed leadership, be willing to look for innovative solutions, and have the courage to implement such solutions into practice.

me@krisvrcek.com

Natalia Benoit: Wants to ensure Catholic teachings upheld

I hope to make sure our schools live out these four marks of the church which is that it’s holy, which means we live out what Christ’s church teaches on how to be holy: It is Catholic, which means universal, that it is a church spread all over the world for all people of every ethnicity. It is Apostolic which comes from the word Apostle. The bishops of the church are the successors of the Apostles. They teach what the Apostles taught. It is church which Jesus called His Church “one sheep-fold.” Christ established the Catholic Church Himself.

He said in John 10:14-16 “I am the Good Shepherd, and I know Mine, and Mine know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father, and I lay down My life for My sheep. And other sheep I have that are not of this fold. Them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one fold and one Shepherd.”

Here is where I base my motivation in running, to ensure these teachings are upheld and that God Who is Love itself is Loved.

nataliathetrustee@gmail.com

Larry Huibers: Quarterbacked strategic planning activities

I am seeking re-election for Catholic trustee. During my last term many actions for board paved the way forward for the successes currently being realized by the system, specifically the students. As chair of the policy committee, we initiated a review of policies versus operational procedures and realigned the policy responsibilities of the trustees and direction setting activities of the board to align with community, school, and legislative needs. This allowed senior administration to focus on the work based on clear direction from the board. We initiated live streaming of board meetings, thereby increasing transparency and accountability of the board and staff. We dealt with COVID 19 using the pillars of what was best for students and staff based on the science of the public health units, both local and provincial.

As a trustee I have advocated for better measures of success using the metrics available. An example of this was greater details in reports to the board.

Looking at class sizes, it is not just the system average of class size but the cohorts of class size and the number of classes with 25 students and above. Then we have the data to make informed actions that meet students’ and staff best needs and reduce class sizes.

As board chair, I quarterbacked the comprehensive strategic planning activities which resulted in the adoption for the new strategic plan. This plan has clear measures and is a working document that guides the direction of the NCDSB. A key component of the plan is how to be respectful through inclusion while remaining aligned with Catholic values. Supporting students is a cornerstone of how the NCDSB will go forward, giving its student and staff the very best in a Christ-centred academic environment that will serve them and our community today and in the future.

I am proud of what has been accomplished in the past term, and ask for your support for the next term.

larryhuiberstrustee@gmail.com

Each trustee candidate was asked to submit 300 words telling readers a bit about themselves, their priorities and their message to voters, at no charge. Jonathan Fast, DSBN trustee candidate, declined to participate, saying he is putting his efforts into creating a great environment for students.

The Local was not able to reach Jolanta Pawlak, a candidate for NDCSB trustee, as she doesn’t list any contact information.

Natalia Benoit

Kris Vrcek

Larry Huibers

Don MacDougall

October 24, 2022

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE VOTES

October 12, 2022

NotLocal.com
We are proud of our VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Thank you to the Volunteer Firefighters of Niagara-on-the-Lake

From the Lord Mayor, Members of Council and Town Staff
A Message from the Deputy Chiefs

Fire Prevention Week this year is from October 9th to the 15th. This year’s theme is Fire Won’t Wait, Plan Your Escape. The concept of planning your escape and knowing two ways out is a message fire departments broadcast often, and is important. With newer construction methods, open concept layouts, and interior furnishing continually being made with more synthetic materials, a small fire in a house can reach a level known as flashover, which is not survivable by humans, in roughly 3 minutes. The NOTL Fire & Emergency Services encourages everyone to have a plan. When minutes count, coming up with a strategy on the spot wastes valuable seconds.

The NOTL Local has been a great partner in ensuring that our community’s citizens are aware of Fire Prevention Week and its critical messages. Additionally, their continued support for ensuring the community is aware of who their local firefighters are, and the vital work they do, is appreciated. Many of our newest community members are moving here to enjoy the best years of their life after working hard in larger municipalities. Once established here, our members hear over and over again how the Town’s newest citizens are shocked to learn that our firefighters are volunteers. Preserving the volunteer model is and will always be the goal for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. But maintaining this cost-effective approach to fire and emergency services can not be done alone. The Fire Department needs help from all community members.

Test and maintain your smoke alarms; this includes reading the instructions. This simple task can help you understand what your alarm sounds like, so when the batteries expire, you will know what it means. Receiving an emergency call for assistance that turns out to be a homeowner not knowing the sounds of an alarm is a common incident volunteer firefighters respond to. Do not leave candles unattended. Charge electrical devices on hard surfaces. Ensure electrical cords are not frayed or damaged. Like ensuring your seatbelt is on when you drive a car, engraining these easy concepts in our daily lives ensures we all remain fire-safe.

Firefighters save more than homes. They save hearts, memories and dreams. Thank you for always coming to the rescue!

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
Full Event Listings & Tickets
www.anchorniagara.com

Fire Protection Services of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Thank you for your dedication and hard work

Tony Baldinelli
MP
Niagara Falls
Tony@baldinelli.com
283-491-2882

P.O. Box 439, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0
notlocal.com | facebook.com/notlocal | instagram.com/thenotlocal | @thenotlocal

We all know how fortunate we are to have such dedicated and skilled volunteers looking after our community!

Thank you!
Thank you to our amazing Firefighters!

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Oakville - Ontario - L6J 1H8
nancy.bailey@engelvolkers.com
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Thank you to our Volunteer Firefighters!
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905.468.7731

Niagara on the Lake Realty
www.notlrealty.com
Thank you to our Volunteer Firefighters!

From Our Families To Yours...

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING US SAFE

75 Queen Street, NOTL
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WATCH FOR FLASHING GREEN LIGHT
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Thank You
Thank you to all of our courageous Volunteer Firefighters for your dedication to our community!
Thank you for keeping our area safer and the wonderful work you do.
- Katherine Reid, Town Council Candidate

Thank you volunteers for your tireless efforts!

Open daily from 11 am to 1 am
View our menu at sandtrappub.com

Thank you to our amazing Volunteer Firefighters

Thank you to our wonderful Volunteer Firefighters!
Keep your loved ones safe with our carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment!

Thank you for your commitment to our community

Thank you much for all you do for us!

Thank you for keeping our area safer and the wonderful work you do.

Thank you to everyone for keeping our area safe and for your wonderful work!

Thank you for all you do for us!

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and dedication!

Thank you for keeping our community safe!

Thank you for your commitment to our community.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment!

Thank you for your tireless efforts!
Thank You DISTRICT 5 Glendale

Cameron DeGrow
District Chief

Leo Visser
Assistant District Chief

Sean Ferguson
Captain

Scott Maxwell
Lieutenant

Alistair Harlond
Firefighter

Kevin Hnatiw
Firefighter

Armond Istamboilian
Firefighter

Brenda Lowes
Firefighter

Lorenzo Mazzuca
Firefighter

Kevin McClelland
Firefighter

Lyle Renaud
Firefighter

Jayne Stewart
Firefighter

Rebecca van der Zalm
Firefighter

Bob van der Zalm
Firefighter

Gerald Van Egmond
Firefighter

Chris Zerwes
Firefighter

ONLY WORKING SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

ALWAYS CHARGE ELECTRONIC DEVICES ON A HARD SURFACE

SEAWAY FARMS

A special Thank You to all of our Volunteer Firefighters!

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905-934-5066
www.seawayfarms.ca

THE NOTL Local
October 12, 2022
Deralyn MacKenzie has been called a trailblazer, but she doesn’t see herself that way.

“The thought of myself as a firefighter, who didn’t receive the level of medical training then that they do now,” she says.

Deralyn MacKenzie was the first female to join the department, but always thought of herself as “just a firefighter.”

“Both are very fulfilling ways to do that, but it was 100 per cent worth it. I never enjoy every moment at the job as a firefighter, but it was a joy to work.”

“Deralyn Mackenzie was the first female to join the department, but always thought of herself as “just a firefighter.”

“Both are very fulfilling ways to support your community.”
Maria attended Niagara District and did her post secondary in Business Marketing. She lives in Virgil and her daughter Hope who attends Crossroads school. Maria has been on a number of boards and committees over the years; Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Niagara Nursery School, Mentor on the Lord Mayors Youth Advisory Council, Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum and Niagara Jazz Festival. Maria owns and operates an organization that raises money for local charities – Anchor Niagara and was the recipient in 2021 of the GNCC – Women in Business Community Impact and Leadership Award.

www.Mariamavridis.com
Beauty and creativity: Splendour in Niagara

Maria Klassen  
Special to The Local

Nestled among the vineyards in Niagara, is an art gallery owned and operated by 13th Street Winery. Currently featured in the art gallery are the works of artist Ronald Boaks, who lives and creates in his studio in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Boaks works with many different materials and doesn’t hesitate to combine several art forms on the same canvas. From metal pieces used in his sculptures, both acrylic and oil paintings, prints, collages and still life photography — all showcase Boaks’ creativity.

Boaks has an understanding for dualities: light set against dark, confinement versus expansion, rich colours and monochromatic ones, above and below, vitality versus inertia. This has been featured in many of his recent works of art.

The current exhibit at the winery includes works from 1985 onward, in which Boaks uses his highly inventive painting processes. Included in this showing are a number of his sculptures.

The display is on exhibit until Oct. 22 at 13th Street Winery.

Suite Cabana 2006: This painting was inspired by the music of Bebo Valdes.

Duo LXII 2022: A still life photograph is combined with an oil painting on rice paper. For Boaks this is a symbiotic relationship enhanced by a split background. (Photos by Maria Klassen, of artwork on display at the 13 Gallery)

Duo LIV (Nympheas) 2022: A balance of black, white and grey in the top half is in contrast to similar shapes in the bottom half, finding a commonality with what appears to be opposites.

In-home Personal Training by Mullsy  
705-948-2686    Mullsy27@yahoo.ca

The Provincial Service Officer will be visiting the Thorold Legion, Branch 17, on November 2, 3, and 4

Any Veteran wishing an appointment with the Provincial Service Officer, should contact Branch 124, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Legion Office at (905) 468-2353.
Aquanisma: The Wonder of Water opens Saturday
Artist Ron Clavier’s show at Niagara Artists Centre

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake visual artist Ron Clavier’s work is returning to the Niagara Artists Center (NAC) in downtown St. Catharines this weekend.

"Water is the essential thing for our life," Clavier says. "People have told stories about water forever. Some of my paintings are looking through water from a surface to the bed, whether it be a river, a creek or an ocean. The human eye is not able to focus on the surface and the bottom simultaneously."

"Water flows over earth," he explains. "Earth, being rock and mud, will try to divert the flow of the water, or even prevent it through dams. But water always prevails. In doing so, it smooths out the earth below, giving us these smooth, flat pebbles."

He continues. "It’s an allegorical story about men and women. Men try to prevent women from going where they want. They try to have power and control. In the end, women tend to prevail, to go where they want. It's doing so, they soften us men."

The former advisory board member of the Steinbeck Society has also taken that legendary author’s short novel, The Pearl, as an inspiration for this exhibit. The novella follows the journey of Kino, a poor California fisherman who finds an enormous pearl, only to be beset by thieves who covet its value, and envied by his neighbours who resent his luck. While driving away the thieves, tragedy strikes Kino’s family, and the fisherman throws the pearl back into the ocean rather than suffer any further troubles.

"The paintings in this show reflect that message are a little different," Clavier says. "When we wade through shallow water, we see wonderful, shiny jewels that look like diamonds, sapphires, rubies and emeralds. If we reach down and pull them out, though, they turn into bits of broken sea shells and Coca-Cola bottles, and they very quickly dry and become dull!"

These works deliver the message, Clavier explains, that we should admire the beauty of nature but leave it where it is.

"If we try to possess it," he warns, "it loses its value immediately."

Viewing the collection in full, one is struck by the complexity of Clavier’s brush strokes. Low Tide Sechelt and A Pleasan Little Stream are two of the works that show the juxtaposition of the water with the earth below, giving us a glimpse of the hidden gems.

"It uses the very same technology, " says Clavier, "though they can’t project it on the walls at the NAC. It will be on a big screen instead, and play as a seven-minute loop. The works are animated from blank canvas to finished paintings, so they look like a stream of water flowing over the screen and laying itself down as paint on the canvas."

Clavier says he tends to be didactic in his art. Unlike many artists, he wants people to know the meaning behind his work. He reminisces of talks he had with his friend Eduardo Lafforgue, the former president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce.

"I hate it when people leave a gallery wondering what the exhibit was all about," says Clavier. "Eduardo talked about cultural accessibility. He said it’s like an elevator in a building where people with handicaps can’t access the top floor. People will go to a gallery and there’s no elevator for them to access the meaning of the exhibit."

Giving access to the meaning is important to this artist.

"What they do with it is up to them," Clavier says. "Of course, I want them to like it. But if they don’t, that's their right. But at least they will know something about it."
Disc golf course well-received by locals

Penny Coles
The Local

There is no doubt disc golf is a quickly-growing, some say exploding, sport.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the response to the new course at the community centre has been “overwhelming.” “It’s been amazingly well-received,” says Andrea Michaud, who admits to being “healthily addicted” to the sport. She plays the NOTL Rotary Disc Golf course often, and says she’s never been there when there haven’t been others playing, including after dark, with glow discs.

She loves disc golf, has been playing for years, and wants others to love it as much as she does, to the point where she is offering free introductory instruction at the community centre course to anyone who is interested.

Michaud, a co-founder of the St. Catharines Women’s Disc Golf Club, was called on by Paul Lalonde of the NOTL Rotary Club to get involved and help out, once the town was ready to go ahead with the course. She has set up a Facebook page — NOTL Rotary Disc Golf Club — to attract those interested in playing, with lots of photos, tips, and an offer to help.

Although lessons are not necessary, and instructions can be found online, “five minutes with a disc in your hand and somebody showing you how it’s done is worth 1000 words,” she says.

And experienced players, she adds, “love helping people.” So far, Michaud has held 11 introductory sessions in NOTL, for couples and families.

There is a skill to “tipping the disc” in the right direction, and someone watching can offer advice that will help get it going the way the player wants it to go, she explains.

In addition to certain throws that are used in different situations, there are also different weights of discs. The community centre has a variety to lend out, but all you need is a driver, one that’s mid-range, and a putter, Michaud says.

“There are 1,000s of discs to choose from. One of the nice things at the community centre is you can look at the disc and see what it’s called,” That gives novice players a chance to test out discs and become accustomed to them before investing in what they think they might need.

When the course in NOTL opened, Michaud papered posters on businesses in town advertising it, and offering help. “I’d ask business owners if they wanted an introductory lesson for their staff, as a team building exercise. I did that in St. Catharines, and staff would then come out and bring their clients.”

Disc golf was already catching on before the pandemic, but during COVID, became even more popular, she says. It was safe to play outdoors in public parks, with players keeping a distance between each other, wearing a mask, and sanitizing their discs.

People who had never played before started as a way to get out, spend time with friends, make new friends, get some exercise and have fun.

For the uninitiated, the sport involves a course of nine or 18 baskets with chains, tee boxes, rules and pars similar to golf, and players aiming discs that look like a Frisbee at the baskets.

In NOTL, she explains, “there is no water, no forest, no obstacles nearby, no place to lose your disc — that’s key for beginners.” And the distances between the nine baskets are relatively short, making it a good course to learn on, and one that can be played fairly quickly, even for a novice.

She took her 70-year-old father out for the first time, and it took him about 40 minutes — once around the nine holes would take her half that. “I bring beginners from the St. Catharines club to NOTL, because it’s so accessible.”

It can be played in doubles or singles, best shot or worst shot, and with all ages. “If you can throw a tennis ball, you can throw a disc,” says Michaud. “We have one member in St. Catharines who is 81 and she almost out-drives me.”

She tells the story of a youngster in Peterborough who now plays in tournaments, wins championships, is sponsored by one of the largest disc golf companies in the world — and is just nine years old. He started playing when he was two.

Reached by phone on Thanksgiving Day, Michaud was playing disc golf on a course in Kawartha Lakes, one founded by her family. The leaves have changed, the temperature was warmer than usual for this time of year and sheil been on the course for more than four hours with a group of friends, enjoying the day.

She plays year round, she explains, including at Christmas, in the snow, and at night. Coloured or glow ribbons are attached to the discs so they’re visible in the snow or after dark, and the baskets can be lit up, or have glow paint or tape on them to be easily seen.

Michaud is working on holding an evening Haloween event in NOTL that would include a scavenger hunt and treat bags for kids, but hasn’t yet received the permit she needs from the town — she didn’t realize it could take 30 days to get it.

She has high praise for the town and the Rotary Club for “choosing a great sport” for the community centre property.

And in NOTL, “it’s 100 per cent free. You can borrow the discs for free, play the course for free, and even get lessons for free. It’s good for mental and physical health, and it’s a great opportunity for making social contacts. What more could you ask for?”

David Cox was at The Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Disc Golf Club with friends, including Greg Warde, and found it an easy course for newcomers, which they are. Their group of six took just under an hour to play. “Lots of fun, great to be outside and active,” says Julia Buxton Cox, thanking the Rotary Club. Julia and Dave had one introductory lesson from their son, and found it very helpful.

Like golf, there is etiquette to follow, and that’s as important as learning how to play, she says. (Photos supplied)
At a recent tournament at the tennis club, the mens A final runner-up Sebastian Miele, with club President Hugh Dow, congratulates winner Mark Waler. The womens A final winner was Milla Matsko, pictured with her greatest fan, her daughter Maggie Pukhkalo, and runner-up Ann Davies. (Photos by Sonja Schindeler)
Mike Balsom
The Local

After rolling out three wins in a row after a loss in their Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) opener, the Niagara Predators had a turkey of a weekend this Thanksgiving, dropping two decisions.

Facing their toughest opponent yet in the Durham Roadrunners Friday, they came out flat and were seriously outplayed by the 2021-2022 North Division champs over two periods in Virgil.

From the moment the Zamboni doors closed and the black-clad Durham squad beat the home team onto the ice, things went the Roadrunners way. Just 1:10 after Santini beat Niagara goalie Ryan Czyzewski to open the scoring, the Preds outplayed by two tough teams with 16 seconds remaining in the opening period.

“We had the lead,” Taylor said Monday. “Their fourth goal was really a lucky goal. They dumped it in and it bounced the right way for them. It was a good, entertaining game. We played them into, and we should have won. They got the bounces, and they worked a little harder.”

That was the theme for both games last weekend, their opponents working a bit harder than the Predators. Taylor said it’s been tough to solidify systematic play with a young team that is still coming together with all the pieces.

There are other challenges as well. “I’ve had players late for practice, or showing up late for games,” Taylor lamented. “It’s a bit of a disruption. As much as I’m coaching hockey, I’m just trying to become decent human beings. Showing up for a 3 p.m. game at 2:45, there’s not a lot of that. And a couple of guys missed all last week’s practices.”

With a .500 record six games into the season, Taylor isn’t pushing the panic button. But their next two games bring against the undated North York Renegades Friday at home, and a Monday rematch with the Roadrunners in Durham. The Renegades handed the Roadrunners their only loss so far this season, 4-1 this past Saturday.

“North York will be a tough game,” admitted Taylor. “They handled them pretty good. For the Durham game, it will be interesting to see how the boys respond to how they acted Friday night at our arena. We’ll focus on North York first, and then I’ll bring that back up. It should be a little bit of fuel for the fire for them.”

Friday’s game is a 7:30 p.m. start at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. The Predators’ food drive for Newark Neighbours continues, so fans are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to the arena.
Across:
1 Opposite of neither
5 Protect
10 "Four and twenty blackbirds baked in..."
14 On the ocean
15 Rubben
16 Route
17 Vlo
18 Service
20 Cotton Club setting
22 Jamaicore
23 Up
25 Intelligence agency
26 Not traded on a stock exchange
28 Top guns
30 Ethnic
31 Adherence
32 State animal of Maine
33 The Sultan of Swat
34 Talent seeker
35 Shuttle operator
36 Behaved
36 Wished
46 Beat
49 Accidental dive
51 Fable
52 Same tag Government heads

Down:
1 Tub
2 Workplace regulation agency
4 Pulps
5 Unglazed brownish-red earthenware
8 Inclines
9 Test
10 First to die in the Bible
11 Route
14 Publish
15 Blackbird
16 Bacteria
18 Opposite of neither
19 Worst signal
21 Touchdown forecasts
23 Astir
24 German state
25 O founder
26 Temporary peace
27 Single-masted sailboat
28 Electrically charged particle
29 Maritime refugees
30 Tea-growing Indian state
31 Kindness
32 Southern hemisphere constellation
33 "He'd make a lovely copper" (Dickens: "Martin Chuzzlewit")
34 1,000%
35 Kind of car
35 Ion
36 Single-masted sailboat
37 "What's in it for me?"
38 Feather
39 Artifically-colored
40 Walk on the lam
41 Frightened
42 "Let's make the world end!"
43 Projecting part of the brain
45 "Mayberry"
46 "I'm your friend!"
47 "I'm with you!"
48 "I'm your friend!"
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74 "I'm your friend!"

Sudoku solution from Opposite of neither

October 5, 2022

KIRKBY, AUSTIN ANN (RICHARDSON)
April 13, 1943 – October 3, 2022
On the morning of October 3, 2022, Austin Kirkby passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family.

Beloved wife and lifelong partner to John for 59 years. Much loved mother to Susan (Allen) Janzen, Katie (Kevin) Overstrom, Becky (Tim) Arnold. Wonderfully proud grandmother to Kaila (Aldasair) Dow, Dean (Katie) Janzen, Chelsea and Cooper Overstrom, and Declan and Avyld Arnold. Loving GG to Zoe Dow, and Madison and Emily Janzen. Dear sister of Jeanne Thomson and her family.

Austin was born in 1943 in Toronto to James and Dorothea Richardson. The family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in the 1950’s. Austin worked alongside the creative team of her mother and sister at the family floral shop, Dorothy Richardson Florists, on the main street in NOTL. In 1963, she married her high school sweetheart, John. They moved to his family farm and settled into the large family home that was shared by two generations of John’s family. Austin and John ran Arrowhead Farms together for over 40 years.

In 1991, Austin began a 15-year tenure as Councillor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. During this time, she served on over 20 advisory committees. Austin helped to establish the new Library, Community Centre, and funding for the new Virgil arena. She was a tireless advocate for both the Niagara community and the agricultural industry. Following her years on council, Austin continued to Chair the Agricultural Irrigation Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

In 2018, she was humbled to receive Citizen of the Year for Niagara-on-the-Lake for all her years of hard work and volunteerism.

In 2019, following a difficult cancer diagnosis, John and Austin retired to Vineland to be closest to their youngest grandchildren. During these 3 years, Austin faced her illness with the utmost courage, strength, and her well known tenacious spirit.

Words cannot truly express the gratitude that we feel for the Walker Family Cancer Clinic. A debt of gratitude to Dr. Wasserman, Dr. Tatzel, and Dr. Ishkian.

A special thanks to Dr. Woodland of Beamsville, and Julie and Kate at Stone Road Pharmacy. Those who wish may make a memorial contribution to The Walker Family Cancer Centre.

Please join us for A Celebration of Austin’s Life, Sunday, October 16, 2022. Tribute to begin at 1:30 pm. Reception to follow 2:00 – 4:30 PM. The Pillar and Post, Upper Canada Hall.

TOMKIEWICZ, NATALIE—It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Natalie Tomkiewicz, peacefully in her sleep on Thursday October 6, 2022, in her 98th year.

Predeceased by her loving husband Felix of 28 years. She welcomed death as an old friend and left this world for the next reuniting with all those she’d loved and lost over her many years.

Natalie and Felix landed on the shores of Canada in 1949, with dreams of a better life after enduring the hardships of WWII. Natalie was an avid churchgoer, and an active participant in the Polish community. Natalie enjoyed the simple pleasures in life, her small tender fruit farm, gardening, collecting walnuts in the crisp autumn air and chamomile on warm summer mornings. Her love for the outdoors called to her until the very end. Natalie’s skill as an artist was surpassed only by her skill to sew and to knit slippers. She took loving care of Michelle who she insisted she hated for over 19 years.

Natalie is survived by her three children, Walter (Ursula), Edith Baker (Doug) and Raymond (Kate). Her eight grandchildren Mark, Leana, Christopher, Michael, Kristian, Jason, Elisha, and Laura. Her 13 great-grandchildren Atticus, Thorsten, and Rudy-Rae. The kindness and love she imprinted upon her family will never be forgotten. Natalie will forever be remembered as safe harbour during the storm; for so many who took shelter beneath her roof through the years. She welcomed all with open arms, and the selflessness she displayed sowed the seeds of happiness for all those that called her mother and Babcia.

The family will receive friends at George Darte Funeral Home, 585 Carlton Street, St.Catharines, Tuesday, October 11th from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm. Funeral Liturgy for Natalie will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, 73 Picton Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Wednesday, October 12th, at 11 a.m. with Internment at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. If so desired, donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society in Natalie’s memory would be appreciated by the family. Online guestbook: georgedartefuneralhome.com
OUR HERITAGE IS AN ELECTION ISSUE

From Old Town to St. Davids and Virgil, from Queenston to Glendale and everywhere in between, the heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake is at risk.

The Niagara Foundation posed several questions to the candidates for Lord Mayor, Town Councillor and Regional Councillor to get their views on heritage, planning and development matters. Here’s how the mayoral candidates responded to one of the Foundation’s questions:

Many residents are angry and frustrated over the type of building that has been going on recently. How do you view the issue of contextual architecture, and do you think the Town should adopt and enforce policies around it?

BETTY DISERO
“I know this is an issue that is very important to the town. I support contextual zoning. It was in place until 2009 and then removed. Since then, we have seen homes being built that are out of context with our heritage environment. It is starting to escalate and we must return to contextual zoning.”

VAUGHN GOETTLER
“I absolutely support contextual architecture, respect for sufficient lot size, protection of our urban forest and wildlife corridors, with cautious and wise development programs moving forward. I totally share our residents’ anger with inappropriate architectural designs and over building.”

GARY ZALEPA
“In principle contextual architecture and related policies appear to be a good process for managing the concerns mentioned. Having seen the use of such policies not be effective in the past causes me to wish to investigate how the previous issues can be resolved so that a contextual framework can be successful.”

In the upcoming election, be informed. Find all the candidates’ answers to other questions we asked on our website: theniagarafoundation.com

info@theniagarafoundation.com