



Truck takes a dive | Page 3



St. Davids Distillery plans to open this fall

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

When John Sobot bought property on Queenston Road in 2012, it was an overgrown, dilapidated and weed-strewn mess of forgotten grape vines.

But he rolled up his sleeves and spent years landscaping nearly every inch of it. Now it is a veritable meadow of tall trees and

Continued on Page 18



Adding nurse practitioner first step in solving doctor shortage

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

While far from having the highest rate, Canada boasts one of the better medical doctor-to-patient ratios in the world.

But Niagara-on-the-Lake isn't keeping up.

According to the World Bank, Canada has an average rate of 2.4 doctors for every 1,000 citizens.

NOTL's ratio falls less than one-quarter of the

Continued on Page 9

Two men on disabled Sea-Doo rescued after hours in Lake Ontario

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

The sun was setting on Saturday evening as Dylan Rumsey clung to a green buoy at the mouth of the Niagara River.

The water was getting cold

and boats passed without a second glance, oblivious to his emergency.

He'd already been in the water for hours and wasn't sure what would happen next.

Around 2 o'clock the afternoon of July 23, Rumsey and his friend Dan Langtang had

launched into the Niagara River in a "supercharged Sea-Doo. The thing went pretty fast," said Rumsey.

The young men, Rumsey in his 20s and Langtang in his 30s, then rode the borrowed watercraft over to Municipal Beach in St. Catharines with

gas still in the tank.

After spending a couple of hours at Municipal beach, they decided to head back to the NOTL boat launch around 5 p.m., Rumsey said.

But when they reached the



Continued on Page 5

NOTL businesses face labour shortages

'I don't know what I'm going to do,' says shop manager, as lack of staff forces early closures

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Kathy Brown isn't sure what to do next.

The manager of the Avondale convenience store in Virgil simply can't find enough staff. And she's not alone.

Pandemic-era labour shortages have been afflicting businesses across Canada for months. And in Niagara-on-the-Lake, businesses are being hit harder than ever.

Many retailers and services in NOTL are struggling to hire workers and some are on the verge of panic.

"I don't know what I'm doing to do in two weeks. I won't have staff," said Brown.

She's worked for Avondale for 18 years and has been at the Virgil location for six. But has never experienced anything quite like this.

Currently, she has four staff but two are leaving for school



Kathy Brown, like other managers in town, is looking for staff to fill shortages. MOLLY BROWN

in a few weeks.

She's had only one job applicant in the past few weeks and is worried she'll have to work 17-hour days or shut the store

down early. Some days she's already had to do just that.

And since Brown is putting in extra hours, there's no work-life balance – and she hardly gets to

see her grandchildren.

According to Statistics Canada, a shortage of labour

Continued on Page 4

Help when dementia robs seniors of memories and mobility

DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

It can't be easy caring for residents in long-term care facilities, especially for those who have major cognitive and mobility problems.

Some lose their memo-

ries of families and friends and even how to care for themselves. For diseases like Alzheimer's, frontotemporal and other degenerative dementing disorders, there's little hope of stopping, never mind slowing, the progression of their failing brains and mobility.

That's what makes caring for residents with dementia such a huge challenge for

their families and caregivers.

Left to their own devices, residents pace the corridors or pedal their wheelchairs about with their feet, sometimes bumping into others with barely a nod, or sit staring blankly or often fall asleep until someone or something stirs their interest.

Continued on Page 25



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