

The Lake Report

Photographer of the Year

Our nominee: Dave Van de Laar

Dear Judges:

Dave Van de Laar started working with The Lake Report after a feature story we wrote about him. We had seen his images on community social media sites and were impressed by his ability.

The work he posted online was so good it received scores of likes, so we knew we wanted to work with him.

Since then Dave has proven a valuable addition to our newspaper, using his keen eye to capture incredibly framed images of events, scenery and community happenings of all sorts across town.

As a freelancer dedicated to helping The Lake Report, Dave shows his love for the Niagara-on-the-Lake community and his dedication to journalism by documenting these events as a volunteer for our publication.

He is constantly out and about, prowling the community, looking for the perfect shot.

Dave is also a part of an ambitious photo project launched this year by The Lake Report.

It's called "A Year in the Life of NOTL" and Dave finds noteworthy NOTL scenes and slices of life regularly and documents them for the project.

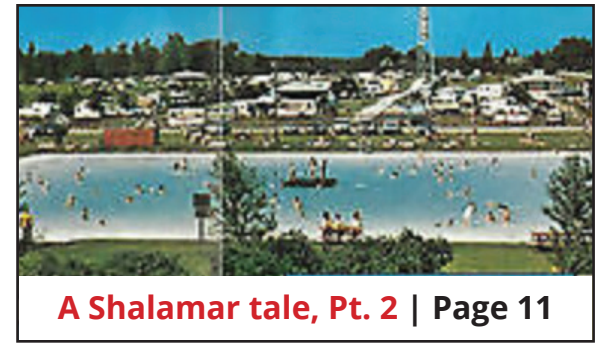
With the four submissions we have included with his nomination, Dave not only shows his diversity in shooting — from a community shot of a youngster racing for Easter candy at an Easter egg hunt, to an exhausted swimmer emerging from Lake Ontario as part of the Terry Fox Run — but he also shows his ability to get spot-on focus, clarity and excellent framing in any photo project assigned to him.

Whether it's sports, community, feature photos or news photos, Dave has earned the title of Photographer of the Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Harley

Managing Editor



Taylor's Bakery to reopen as a Dairy Queen franchise

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Taylor's Bakery on Queen Street will soon be home to the newest big name franchise in the historic district — Dairy Queen.

The bakery, which has operated since the 1970s, has been outcompeted by big brand companies such as Starbucks and COWS which have opened on

Continued on Page 3



Packed Easter at NOTL wineries a hopeful sign of busy summer

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Guests are once again flowing into Niagara-on-the-Lake wineries for tastings and tours, turning a corner after two years of restrictions, limited capacities and extensive COVID-19 protocols.

Traffic was brisk at NOTL wineries over the Easter long weekend. In some cases, the volume of visitors topped pre-COVID num-

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Saturday's egg-cellent adventure

Bunny Trail and egg hunt were a huge hit, as parents and kids celebrated Easter | Page 4



A child excitedly runs as the Kinsmen kick off the popular egg hunt at the community centre on Saturday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Pickleball noise sparks legal challenge from neighbour



Barron Walker plays pickleball. FILE/BRITTANY CARTER

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Move over Hells Angels, there's a new breed of troublemaker in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

And they're fanatics about pickleball.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball club is at the centre of a legal dispute between the town and resident Oana Scafesi, who is claiming the noise from the pickleball courts at the Centennial Sports Park in Virgil has made her NOTL existence unbearable.

Scafesi has filed charges against the town and the club in provincial offences court

for violation of the town's own noise bylaw, specifically section three, which states:

"No person shall make, cause or permit sound or vibration at any time, which is likely to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants of the town."

"For the last three years I have been tortured by a high noise produced by the pickleball players," Scafesi testified during a trial on the matter Wednesday morning in Welland court.

"This affected my health, affected my work performance and affected, altogether, my life."

Scafesi said her goal with the case is to "have my life

back" and said she believes the town should move the courts or relocate them.

Justice of the Peace Mary Shelley reserved judgment and said she will make her ruling in the case on June 15.

Scafesi said she moved to her home in Lambert's Walk, a townhouse community directly adjacent to the sports park, in 2012 so she could "have a peaceful and quiet life, as any resident deserves and as any hard-working person deserves."

The park had long been home to tennis courts which in 2019 were transitioned into pickleball courts.

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The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 98

Region active cases: 2,658

Region deaths: 492

Region total cases: 31,664

Region resolved cases: 28,514

**Feb. 3 data per Niagara Region Public Health.*

Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown below are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution."



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting."

- Paul Coelho

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Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

Running on water

NOTL photographer Dave Van de Laar captured this photo of a Canadian goose "running" on the water near the Jetboat launch in Queenston.

Calling all NOTL photographers: send us some of your interesting, evocative, quirky images of life around town and we'll consider them for this space on our editorial page. Email images (1 MB or more) to editor@niagaranow.com.



Editorial

Coun. Zalepa and the St. Davids roundabout

Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief

Niagara-on-the-Lake regional Coun. Gary Zalepa seems to have made up his mind that a roundabout is the best thing for the main intersection in St. Davids.

But NOTL residents, whom he was elected to represent, overwhelmingly disagree.

So far, there's been almost nothing but opposition to the idea, from nearby business owners who fear it will hurt their enterprises, to residents who fear it will simply destroy the character of the village's historic

"Four Corners."

And while we do understand the region's push toward roundabouts — we feel this is not the place for one.

Aside from it being too small an intersection for an effective roundabout without disturbing the character of the entire neighbourhood, we also question whether any traffic problem exists there.

We pass through that area regularly. Every week we deliver our paper to St. Davids. Not once have we experienced any significant or noteworthy traffic congestion at the intersection.

There may be a brief stop from time to time, but certainly nothing to merit destroying the character of an already vulnerable neighbourhood.

And even if there is a minor traffic issue, Zalepa should remember that residents chose him to represent and fight for their interests, not to let projects move forward that could hurt our town's character — even if the region's planners and consultants are in favour of it.

Just because it looks good on paper, doesn't mean it's the right course of action. And based on the input

of residents and businesses, and our own observations, this roundabout is a solution in search of a problem.

While we recognize Mr. Zalepa's right to cast his vote as he sees fit, what's good for the Region of Niagara, isn't necessarily good for NOTL.

With a municipal election on the horizon, our councillor has made a choice that could prove unpopular with the electorate. We respect that but strongly disagree with his position.

The region needs to scrap this roundabout idea ... yesterday.

editor@niagaranow.com



Mixing truckers, vaccinations and politics

Dear editor:

What probably 99 per cent of the "truckers" demonstrating for their "rights" in Ottawa are ignoring is that they have all been vaccinated and that is why they are alive and healthy in a healthy society with one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world.

The Canadian public has to assume therefore that their motives for "demonstrating" are other than the need for vaccination to protect themselves and others.

Surely they are not so crass and ignorant that they would endanger family,



Protesters at the NOTL Husky on York Road Jan 27. RICHARD HARLEY

friends, co-workers and the public by not being vaccinated, by not wearing a mask?

Hence we, Canadians at large, are forced to conclude that these truckers are the tools of various political entities — and

prominent among those, all so-called conservative and extreme right-wing racist white supremacist hate groups masquerading as political parties.

This is Canadians literally aping American attitudes and behaviours.

That Canadian truckers are allowing themselves to be so manipulated and used is shameful.

It all reminds me of the Monty Python skit with the "Lumberjack" song.

Kaspar Pold
NOTL

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Canada The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 71
Region active cases: 681
Region deaths: 609
Region total cases: 45,830

**Sept. 21 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



Contributed by Patty Garriock
 "Always be a little kinder than necessary."
 - James M. Barrie.

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Swimming for a cure



Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar was on scene as Sean Wright emerged from his swim for the Terry Fox Run.

Editorial

Help Newark Neighbours help others

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

As summer officially slides into fall, it's not too early to be thinking about Thanksgiving or, more importantly, the dire shortage at the Newark Neighbours Food Bank.

In fact, it's crucial that the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake come together, immediately, to pitch in and help restock the empty shelves at the town's food bank.

This is essential so that Newark Neighbours can assemble the Thanksgiving food hampers it will distribute to 80 or more families around town on Thursday, Oct. 6.

How's that possible, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, you

might wonder? Welcome to the reality that clients of Newark Neighbours' clients live with daily.

It seems wrong to be talking about people in Niagara-on-the-Lake needing help to put food on the table for themselves and their children.

In a town blessed with so much, with such wealth and prosperity, how is this possible?

We don't know the full answer to that, though with inflation soaring, hard times as the COVID pandemic winds down and some people simply down on their luck, we can tell you it is not a problem that is going to fade anytime soon.

After all, Newark Neighbours has existed for more

than 50 years and continues to fill a growing void in the community.

This Saturday, the hard-working members of the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake and other volunteers will be busy collecting donations from residents.

The Porch Pick-up Food Drive is Newark Neighbours' first such campaign so far this year but it comes at a critical time.

There are just a few days to get donations ready for pick-up – though, if you miss it, you also can drop off non-perishables at Newark Neighbours' location on John Street near Peller Estates Winery.

Meanwhile, do some shopping for Newark Neighbours and check

your own pantry shelves for non-perishables to donate. See the list of needed items in our news story on page 1 and in the food bank's ad elsewhere in the paper.

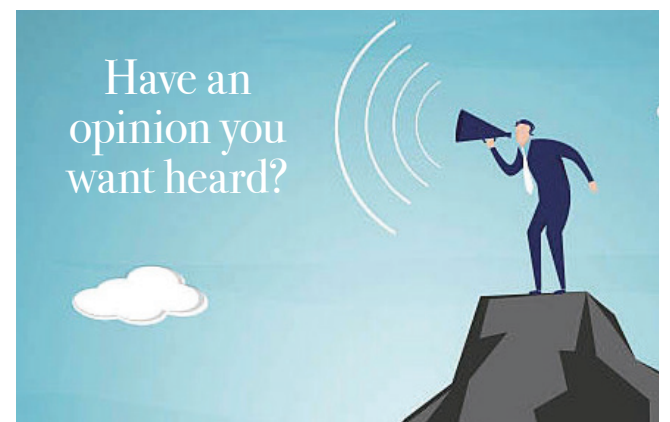
Contact the food bank to arrange for a porch pick-up on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and as a community let's ensure that others are able to have the sort of Thanksgiving holiday most of us take for granted.

Here's how you can help: Register for the Porch Pick-up Food Drive by calling 905-468-7498 or emailing newarkneighbours1@gmail.com. And see the agency's website, newarkneighbours.ca, for full details.

editor@niagaranow.com

We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.



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U22 Thunderhawks **undefeated** in Brampton lacrosse tourney

Andy Boldt
Special to The Lake Report

The U22 Niagara Thunderhawks went undefeated in round-robin play at a weekend lacrosse tournament in Brampton and capped it off with a resounding win in the championship game.

Niagara faced the Cambridge Highlanders for the gold medal and left the floor with a convincing 11-1 victory in the John "Gus" McCauley Memorial Tournament.

Tensions were high and so were the tempers, however, the Thunderhawks were able to ignore the taunting, name-calling and cheap shots to open the scoring in Sunday's final.

The Highlanders, whom Niagara edged 3-1 in their round-robin game, matched the first marker with their own goal, but that would be their only one for the rest of the game.

The Thunderhawks' stellar defence was able to smother their opponents' fleeting attempts at generating scoring chances, while their own offence got down



A Niagara Thunderhawks player scores one of the team's 12 goals against Simcoe last Thursday at the Meridian Credit Union arena in Virgil. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

to business and picked Cambridge's goalie apart, resulting in the lopsided score.

Jack Parker (3), Keaton Boldt (2), Hunter Ostromecki (2), Jordan Wiens, Aedan O'Gorman, Liam Dietsch and the oldest rookie on the team, Sam VanderZalm, scored for the Thunderhawks.

In a warm-up to the tourney, they hosted the Simcoe Timberwolves at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil last Thursday.

Tanyan Davis started the

game between the wickets, blanking the Timberwolves, before Jack Muraca stayed the course, leading to a 12-0 win for the home side.

The last goal of the game by Boldt was a reflection of how the game was going for the Timberwolves. While being checked, Boldt's shot was deflected well over the net, bounced off the glass, then off the goalie's back and into the net.

The next day the Thunderhawks headed up the QEW to Brampton, where they started their tourney

competition with a known foe, the Hamilton Bengals.

The first period began with the Thunderhawks' Aedan O'Gorman scoring his first of two tallies just four minutes into the game. Hunter Ostromecki followed two minutes later to give the Thunderhawks a two-goal lead before the Bengals buried one of their own.

In the end, the Thunderhawks were able to collect seven goals. Aedan O'Gorman (2), Hunter Ostromecki, Jordan Wiens (2), Jack

Parker and Joe Fragnito were the scorers. The Thunderhawks net was protected by Tanyan Davis, who limited the Bengals to only two goals for the 7-2 win.

In their second game, Niagara faced Cambridge, a team larger in stature and with more talent than the Thunderhawks had come up against previously.

The Highlanders' high-intensity defence put a lot of pressure on the Thunderhawks' offence before Nolan Price was able to twist the twine for a 1-0 lead.

The aggression throughout the game was high from both teams, landing players in the box for multiple infractions. Goalie Jack Muraca was able to hold the Highlanders to only one goal after a barrage of heavy outside shots.

Aedan O'Gorman buried the game-winning goal after a beautiful feed from Nolan Price at the start of the second period and Joe Fragnito finished the scoring in the third to give the Thunderhawks a 3-1 win.

In the final round-robin game, the Thunderhawks faced the host Brampton

Excelsiors. Although less aggressive than the Highlanders, they provided excellent competition for the second game of the day.

The Thunderhawks dominated the defensive end to only allow the Excelsiors to score two, while tallying nine of their own.

Nolan Price (2), Joe Fragnito (2), Keaton Boldt, Jack Parker, Trent Hunter, Jordan Wiens and Hunter Ostromecki scored for the Thunderhawks.

Crushing defence from players such as Liam Dietsch, Noah Ostromecki, Christian Blaylock and the rest of the Thunderhawks' defence prevented many scoring opportunities. And any opportunities the Excelsiors did get were turned back by goalie Tanyan Davis.

UPCOMING: The Thunderhawks travel to Guelph next Tuesday for an exhibition game before returning home June 28 to host the Bengals. The Thunderhawks look forward to seeing a packed house for that homecoming game.

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Thunderhawks.

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