

The Chautauquan

A Newsletter for and about our neighbourhood in Niagara-on-the-Lake
Published by the Executive of the Chautauqua Residents Association



President's Message– Winter 2023. . .

Even in winter, it's great to stroll through Chautauqua each morning as I walk our dog (or rather he walks me) and meet so many of you. We might not be able to call each other by name, but the greetings are sincere and the hellos are cheery. While on my neighbourhood jaunts, I can't help but notice an increase in the number of people who appear to be moving in — so welcome to those of you who have recently moved into Chautauqua. Also, it's great to see the kids line up to board the school buses: a sign that many families have chosen our neighbourhood as their home.

Volunteers make a neighbourhood a community. Where would we be without these largely unsung heroes? Chautauquans are among those involved in both our small community and also Town clubs, activities and initiatives.

These include: those responsible for the planting of trees (80 oak trees on Shakespeare this past year alone); those who want to protect the treasured Chautauqua tree canopy; those who belong to the Shaw Guild, Farm Workers Hub, Newark Neighbours, the Newark Community Garden, Janes Walk, the Rotary Club...the list is endless.



Brian Crow

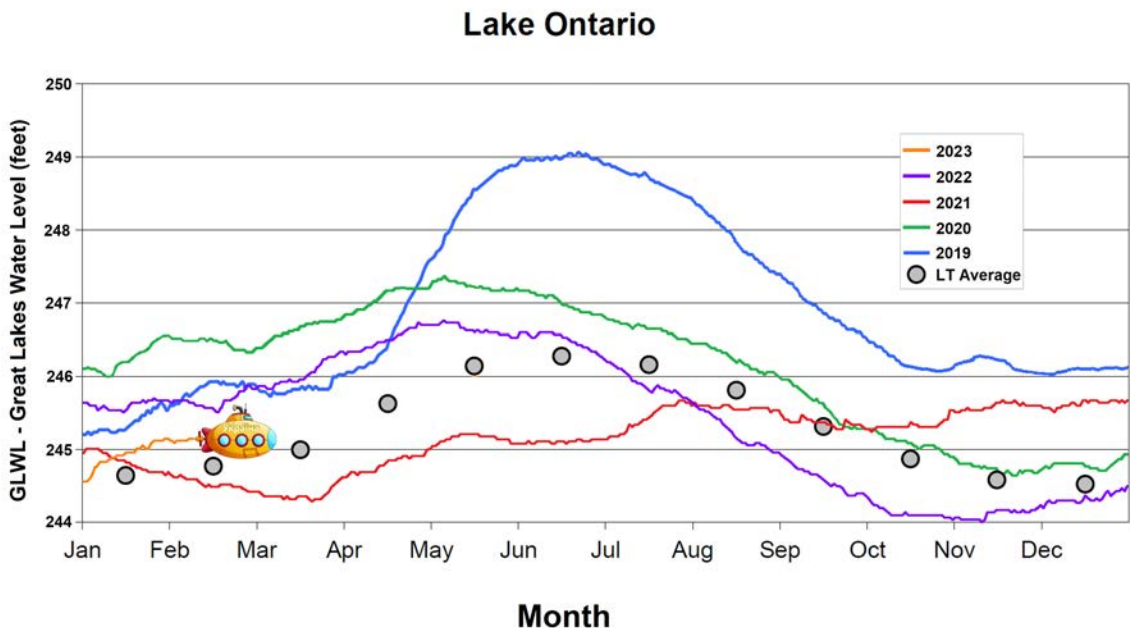
One volunteer who comes to mind is Margot Devlin—the ‘Volunteer of Volunteers’. Margot sets up the Shaw Guild on-line volunteer programs for them (340), in addition she does the same for Niagara-on-the Lake’s Ambassador program (44) and the Rotary House Tour (190). As many of you know, she is also a director of the CRA and is responsible for putting together this newsletter. Thank you for your efforts Margot—they are invaluable to our community!

It only takes a moment of listening to or reading the news to realize that we are so very fortunate to live in Canada and especially NOTL. Please plan to attend the CRA annual general meeting (which will be held in May—date, time and location still to be determined) to have your say in the issues that are important to our community. Many in the world don’t have that opportunity, please plan to make your voice heard by joining us at the AGM. As soon as details are firmed up, we will send them to you.

The days are getting longer, the sun is beginning to move further to the North-west at the end of each day, and soon we’ll be meeting in Ryerson Park to watch the beautiful sunsets! Spring will be here before you know it...

Neighbourhood notes:

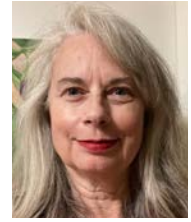
Lake Level update (February 10, 2023) from Ron Simkus (NOTL Resident)



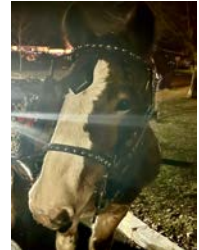
Past Event: A Successful Carolling in the Park

On December 9, 2022, the CRA held its second annual Carolling in the Park Event in Chautauqua Park. Kate Sullivan practised her exceptional management skills so everything ran smoothly. Friends and neighbours warbled along to the jaunty musical accompaniment of *Live at the Library*. Hot chocolate, cookies, and neighbourly good cheer were in great supply.

To the delight of all, Santa Claus arrived and took children on a ride in his horse-drawn sleigh. The weather cooperated with crisp clear skies and all agreed how lovely it was to join together in Christmas song. Donations were collected for Newark Neighbours. About 75 people attended the event, and the festive atmosphere truly lifted all our hearts and spirits.



**Kate Sullivan
Team Lead on
Carols in the Park**



Many thanks go out to:

- Terry MacDonald for providing the electricity
- Kurt Hamm who has special access to Santa
- Lee Chan for setting up and helping Santa
- Ruth Denyer for troubleshooting
- Shaun Devlin for collecting food for Newark Neighbours
- Carolyn Weiss for handing out lyrics

Message from the CAO of NOTL, Marnie Cluckie

Information concerning the removal of a Sugar Maple at 6A Circle:

A site visit by Arbor Heights Tree Care on January 5, 2023, indicated that the condition of this tree was poor. Observations included:

- Advanced decay in root buttress and trunk
- Lack of wound wood on old injuries, pruning cuts, and cavities indicative of low energy reserves and poor health
- Multiple cavities and hollow areas throughout the tree at various heights, and animal activity observed around cavity entrances
- Multiple detached dead hanging branches in the crown
- Large lateral branch growing towards the road at approximately 8 meters height weakly attached at the location of hollow area and cavity
- Crown above the cavity appears to be completely dead and structurally compromised
- Possible targets if the tree fails include people, existing and new homes, cars in the driveway and travelling on the road

Therefore, due to the outcome of the report, as outlined above, the Town engaged Arbour Heights Tree Care to remove the tree, pursuant to **Public Tree By-law 4571-12**, Sections 2 (1) and 3 (d).

Meet your neighbours

Kerri Sant

My daughters have very fond memories of their summers in NOTL since 1997, our first cottage was on Vincent and 3 years later we bought on Shakespeare where we still are. We would drive from Florida for the summer and later on we moved to England but continued to spend our summers in Canada.

My daughters spent their time at the library camp, sailing camp, biking and visiting family while I did a lot of cottage renovation and some golfing. I have made some good friends and love the various summer events, the history, wildlife, music and theatre that happens here in NOTL.

NOTL has had many changes over the years since I started visiting, I hope it doesn't lose its charm that it has held for my family and me and hoping my new grandson can be a part of the next generation to enjoy his summers in NOTL too.



Dr. Mary Kilmer-Tchalekian

Chautauqua has been my home for the past 11 years. I have lived in NOTL for 37 years, first in a century home on Wellington Street, now in a modest bungalow on Addison Avenue where I can be found working in my garden, tending to an array of irises and other perennials. The garden and natural surroundings were what drew me to this area. When I first moved here, I was welcomed by neighbours and at once felt comfortable. Since then I have increasingly come to value the history, wildlife, and neighbourliness of this community.

Within a year of moving to CHQ I retired from Niagara College where during the final 10 years of my work there I was Manager of International Projects, Latin America, a role I achieved through my fluency in Spanish. My work involved organizing and facilitating workshops for postsecondary educators to help them improve teaching techniques and strategies aimed at producing workplace competencies in graduates. Totally rewarding work, it was the pinnacle of my professional life.

Wade Davis, my late-life love (and a long ago high school classmate), has lived with me the past five years. My son Antranik Tchalekian and his family live in Toronto.

Few people know that for the past three years, largely as an anti-pandemic ploy, I have reinvented myself as a self-styled singer-songwriter (more the latter than the former). I have some 21 songs on YouTube, three of them in Spanish, the remainder all originals.

I am confident that the SOS group will focus attention of CHQ residents and others who can learn from our publications and contribute to sustaining our streetscapes and built and natural environments.



A Resident's experience with Downsizing

1. Renovation

Because of a recent decision to renovate our current 1200 square foot home, we had to move out to a rental. This rental is 529 square feet. We don't need a lot of space, says I. Why are we adding a story to our home, says he. Less house means less housework, says I. He seems unconvinced. I swung it with the fact that so much really, really close togetherness will make our renovated home seem like a palace. Fine, says he. Still the prospect of leaving our home for a year and living in 529 square feet sent shivers down our spines.



2. Spare nothing

One delightful effect of the move to smaller quarters meant that he had to cull the years of hoarded items that he had accumulated. That sweatshirt from high school which would fit him again “one day” was finally donated to Goodwill.

The many files of phone bills dating back to 1991 could finally be shredded. The delightful golden (flaking) pelican statue from his Aunt Martha that we received as a wedding gift more than 30 years ago was donated to the dump.

3. Gifting

No one could visit without being gifted with a valued possession. He gave an old printer to one of the fellows working on our house – it is only 10 years old and he was sure that it still worked!

One of our friends stopped by and left with a box of vinyl records but no record player. They praised us as thoughtful but I am not sure they really appreciated the value of those vinyls – Walter Ostanek, the Polka King just doesn’t make records any more!

As for cherished items, visit any of our relatives and you will see a framed photo of himself at Bear Lake, candlesticks made from playdoh and a handshaped ashtray. Thank goodness family heritage is preserved in other homes.

4. Moving Day

We made several piles – take, take to the dump and take to Goodwill. Moves are exhausting but when combined with downsizing, they are emotionally draining. He was crippled for days from lifting and heaving. I required an infusion of Pinot Grigio to recover.

5. Finally

It is wonderful to declutter but as I float to the top of my wine glass, I realize I really didn’t need any of that stuff but will probably have to go shopping to replace that beloved golden pelican statue! ☺

Celebrations!

The Shaw Shivaree is back! I am happy to be returning to the planning committee this year again, and promise you all that this is a party you won’t want to miss - Saturday, April 15th! Dance the night away with the wonderful George St. Kitts and his band! Enjoy the open bar and numerous food offerings from some of Niagara’s top restaurants. Have fun bidding in our famous silent auction, with a wide array of items, memorabilia, and exclusive experiences that are not offered to the public! Only 150 tickets are available – call the Shaw! All monies go to support the Shaw Festival.



Weston Miller

Chautauqua Residents' Association?

If you know of a neighbour that is not yet a member, encourage them to join. There is strength in numbers. Any questions on membership contact Margot Devlin at chautauquaresidents2021@gmail.com.

You can now e-transfer the \$10 membership fee to Chautauquaresidents2021@gmail.com or drop off your dues at 22 Wilberforce (remember to include your name, address and email address—please and thank you!). We'd love to hear what you have to say about the issues you feel are important in our neighbourhood—we need our local community to tell us what works and what is needed. To that end, please consider providing us with your email address so we can continue to connect with you.