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Some letter writers seem to feel a speed camera isn’t warranted near Crossroads school. ALPEREN ALBAYRAK

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Contributed by Patty Garriock
“We must overcome the notion that we must be regular ... it robs you of the chance to be extraordinary and leads you to the mediocre.”
- Uta Hagen

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Editorial

Rallying to the aid of NOTL landmark

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

There are many memorable sights and landmarks around Niagara-on-the-Lake. In an area with so numerous links to important historical events, we are fortunate to have many monuments and reminders of that past. But there is none more iconic, probably none more photographed and, given the names immortalized upon it, possibly none more significant than the clock tower cenotaph built a little over a century ago in the middle of Queen Street. Take the cenotaph out of downtown Old Town and we have a very ordinary stretch of road.

But more than just a visitor-friendly landmark that makes an impressive backdrop for photographs, the cenotaph is a testament to NOTL’s history and the roles played by dozens of soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars. As was so well-documented by history expert Ron Dale in his 53-part Monuments Men series in The Lake Report, this memorial keeps alive the stories of the men whose names are engraved upon it. With the cenotaph rising high above our town’s main street, it is the perfect setting for memorializing the deeds of those young men who gave their lives. It also is the centrepiece for Old Town’s annual

Remembrance Day tribute, where large crowds gather every year, rain or shine, to honour the fallen, past and present. For all those reasons, and more, it has been gratifying – though not at all surprising – that after the Royal Canadian Legion branch 124 announced the need to raise at least \$80,000 to do some essential repairs to the structure, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and businesses rallied to raise the money over the past year. After looming tall over Queen Street all these years, Niagara-on-the-Lake’s landmark clock tower cenotaph is in desperate need of internal repairs. While it looks great from the outside, that part is

literally a facade. The inner workings need fixing. As well, elements such as cement pointing and windows have been desperately in need of restoration since at least last spring. So, it is significant that at this time of year – Thanksgiving – we each tend to express our thanks to those who have made a difference in our lives or, in some cases, have been purveyors of good deeds in the community. We are grateful for the communal generosity that has helped the cenotaph’s revitalization reach this pivotal point. Good on ye, NOTL, for once again coming through in aid of your community. editor@niagaranow.com



Developer’s criticism of columnist was unmerited

Dear editor:
It seems that the favourite recourse of developers when their plans meet with less than an enthusiastic response is one of personal abuse. First there was a prominent Niagara-on-the-Lake developer’s vindictive rant against Lord Mayor Betty Disero following her defeat in the last municipal election.

Now we have a bizarre diatribe by Rainer Hummel against Brian Marshall, a regular columnist for The Lake Report, who dared to voice concerns about the latest iteration of Mr. Hummel’s plans for the Phillips estate. According to Mr. Hummel, your columnist “has no current professional qualification” but has “a made up label”, “creating his own

qualifications” and writes “fabricated nonsense” with no “expertise beyond a layman’s awareness.” I find these personal attacks disturbing when they are directed at prominent citizens of NOTL who – unlike developers – have no financial skin in the game, but are simply expressing their views on how the town should grow for the benefit of all and without eyesores

or white elephants. Mr. Hummel’s last line is a gem: “Opinions are the least valuable form of human knowledge; they require no accountability or genuine understanding.” I hope Mr. Marshall will take some comfort from this statement when he ponders Mr. Hummel’s opinion of him. Richard James NOTL



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