



Blood moon rising

The night sky put on a spectacular show on March 13 and 14, as a total lunar eclipse cast its mesmerizing glow over Niagara-on-the-Lake. Often called a “blood moon” due to the deep reddish hue the moon takes on during totality, the celestial event was captured by The Lake Report’s award-winning photographer Dave Van de Laar — from the unique vantage point of his own driveway. The eclipse unfolded over several hours, beginning just before midnight on Thursday, March 13. The penumbral phase started at approximately 11:57 p.m. EDT, followed by the partial eclipse at 1:09 a.m. on Friday, March 14. The total eclipse, when the moon was fully immersed in Earth’s shadow, began at 2:26 a.m., reaching its peak at 2:58 a.m. Totality lasted until 3:31 a.m., with the partial eclipse ending at 4:47 a.m. and the final penumbral phase concluding around 6 a.m. A total lunar eclipse occurs when Earth aligns directly between the sun and the moon, casting its shadow across the lunar surface. The deep red or orange tint of a blood moon results from sunlight filtering through Earth’s atmosphere — similar to the way sunsets appear vibrant. Interestingly, March’s full moon is traditionally known as the “worm moon,” signalling the arrival of spring. This year, the rare combination of events led some to call it the “blood worm moon.” The final image produced by Van de Laar is not a single shot but rather a composite of several images taken at various stages of the eclipse, from the initial faint dimming as the moon entered Earth’s penumbra to the dramatic red glow during totality and the subsequent phases as it emerged back into full sunlight. These individual photographs were then combined into a final image. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Monday’s Learn and Live session tackles seniors housing

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A group advocating for housing options for seniors has found that many of NOTL’s seniors don’t want to leave Niagara-on-the-Lake, and they want more housing options so they can stay in the community where they live. During the next public library Learn & Live session on March 24, Cindy Grant, one of the group’s leading members, will update residents on the ongoing discussions and latest survey findings. Late last year, Grant hosted



Cindy Grant will give a breakdown on what her seniors housing group has learned and what the next steps are at Monday’s Learn and Live session. ed a series of sessions to discuss the group’s housing options survey conducted earlier in the year and take

in more NOTLer feedback — the Learn & Live session will expand on that. The presentation will start with a summary of the survey results and continue with who the group has been talking to and working with since then, ending with an open discussion sharing what living options residents in town currently have and new choices they’d like to see in the future. “It’ll be a chance to get some ideas from other people in terms of what they would like to see as options,” Grant told The Lake Report. The next step is presenting these finds to town

council, Grant said. “This presentation will be a dress rehearsal for it,” she said. The group is also hoping to contact developers who are building retirement residences to get them interested in NOTL, Grant said — living options from independent homes with full supports in place to full-blown long-term care homes. Spots are filling up fast for Grant’s Learn & Live session, “Senior Housing Options in NOTL.” To register online and receive your spot, visit notl-publiclibrary.org. juliasacco@niagaranow.com



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