

94 CENTS  
+ GST

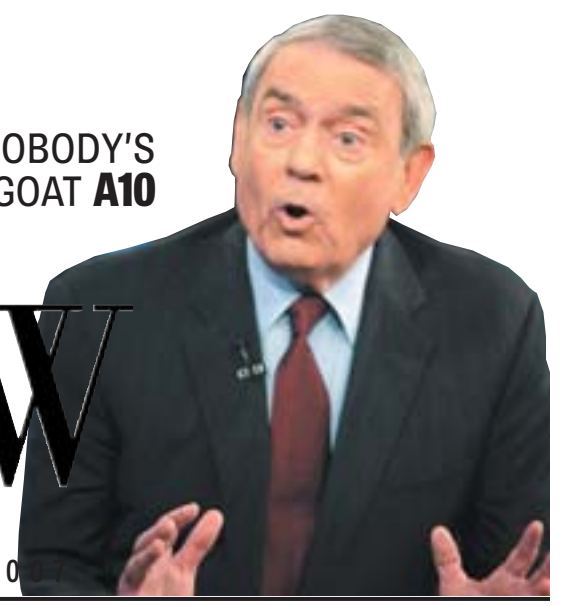


PREVIEWING THE  
OHL SEASON **B1**

SINCE 1879



NOBODY'S  
SCAPEGOAT **A10**



# THE REVIEW

www.niagarafallsreview.ca

NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

## FIRE CONSUMES HOUSE, PETS – AND 51 YEARS OF MEMORIES



Mike DiBattista, The Review

Sisters Noreen and June Watchorn comfort each other outside their parents' home, which was destroyed by fire Tuesday. In addition to all their belongings and the house itself, six family pets also perished in the afternoon blaze. To view more local photos, please visit our gallery at [www.niagarafallsreview.ca](http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca)

# Blaze devastates family

BY ALISON LANGLEY  
Review Staff Writer

William and Lorna Watchorn returned from a brief shopping trip Tuesday afternoon to find fire trucks blocking the road leading to their rural Bossert Road home.

Held back by firefighters, the couple soon realized the home they had shared for 51 years was a blazing inferno.

They could only watch as the two-storey wood frame building where they raised five children and nine grandchildren crumbled into a heap. All that remains is a

charred skeleton of wood, soot and debris.

"There's nothing left," said daughter June Watchorn. "She has her purse on her arm and he has his wallet in his pants, the clothes on their backs and that's it."

The couple's two beloved Chihuahuas and four five-day-old puppies died in the blaze.

"I loved them so much, I called them my hairy kids," Lorna said, managing a weak smile.

Bodies of the adult dogs were recovered by firefighters but the puppies have not been found.

William, who celebrates his 77th birthday today, and Lorna returned to their home Wednesday to survey the damage.

All the family photographs are gone, as is the congratulatory letter the couple received from the prime minister last year in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

"It doesn't matter how old any of us children get, it's so hard to see your family home burn to the ground. All your childhood memories are gone," June said through tears.

Her sister, Noreen, agreed.

"All our memories have gone up in smoke. But we're a strong family, we're tough," she said.

Volunteer firefighters from the Crowland and Willoughby fire stations responded to the call around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday. Battling the fire proved difficult as water had to be trucked to the rural location.

Damage is pegged at \$200,000 said Brian Dickson, an inspector with the Niagara Falls Fire Department. The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

The couple is staying for now with another daughter

for the time being, but they don't know what will happen after that.

A trust fund has been set up at the TD Canada Trust branch on Dorchester Road. Donations can be made to the Watchorn Fire Relief Trust.

The siblings plan to collect unwanted gently-used household items soon to help their parents get back on their feet. Several neighbours in the close-knit rural area stopped by throughout the day, offering support and food to the devastated family.

alangley@nreview.com

## Debate could hinge on a knockout – or gaffe

BY PATRICK MALONEY  
Sun Media

TORONTO – Get ready for a rumble

After nearly two weeks of long-distance campaign jabs, the Big Three leaders in Ontario's Oct. 10 election go toe-to-toe in a televised debate tonight that promises plenty of sparring and, as always, the spectre of a knockout punch.

Premier Dalton McGuinty, Conservative Leader John Tory and New Democrat Leader Howard Hampton have done plenty of training to avoid any fatal blows.

But once the bell rings, anything can happen – and often,

warn experts on such debates, the most serious damage is self-inflicted.

"The thing I ask people to look for is not the scripted repetition," said Richard O'Dor, a U.S. expert on debate strategy, "but really look at how the candidates present themselves in what people call gaffes."

"There's rarely knockout blows when you win arguments. The gaffes bring much more attention to who won and lost," he said.



Hampton



McGuinty



Tory

Hampton, a southpaw fighting out of the NDP-orange corner, has often come off as the best debater in such contests.

But the NDP doesn't have

the base needed to turn that into a winning campaign.

Which leaves McGuinty, the Liberal leader, and Tory, as tonight's main event in a campaign already marked by some nasty attacks.

But on TV, observers say, such brute force doesn't play well – and viewers shouldn't expect a campaign some have called "boring" to be shaken up too much, not even with the McGuinty-Tory grudge.

"The premier will play it

safe and we can expect Tory to do the same," said Jonathan Rose, who teaches political communication at Queen's University.

"John Tory will have to straddle both being on the attack and also looking like an heir apparent."

The biggest benefit to viewers, Rose said, isn't how each takes a punch, but how they deliver them.

"(Attacks) offer insight into the strategy," he said. "We can see what the leaders are thinking about, where their own perceived strengths and weaknesses are."

See DEBATE on Page A6

## TEXTING COULD BE NEW TOOL IN SCHOOL SAFETY

BY MELISSA CHURLY  
Review Staff Writer

Universities and colleges across Canada hope text messages will help save lives in an emergency.

Incidents like the shootings at Dawson College in Montreal that claimed one life, or Virginia Tech in the United States where 32 people died – even last week's gun scare at Niagara College, in which the school was evacuated – have caused many schools to re-examine their emergency response plans.

Schools have relied on mass e-mails, website alerts and recorded messages to communicate during an emergency. Instant texting could be the newest tool to keep the community informed.

Niagara College and Brock University are looking at implementing text alerts in their emergency response plans.

That way, messages could be sent immediately to students' cellphones.

"We have been considering text messaging as part of a whole list of potential protocols that could be implemented," said Gord Hunchak, director of communications at Niagara College.

College staff recently met to discuss its emergency plan.

See TEXT on Page A2

## INDEX

Local News .....	A1-5
Births/Deaths .....	A2
Opinion .....	A4
Ontario Election .....	A6, B12
Home & Garden .....	A7
Business .....	A8
Canada .....	A9
Entertainment, TV Listings	A10
World .....	A11,12
Sports .....	B1-5
Golf .....	B5
Lifestyles .....	B6,7
Comics .....	B8
Classified .....	B9-11

For home delivery  
please call 905-358-5711

@ REVIEW ONLINE  
[www.niagarafallsreview.ca](http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca)

- News alerts all day • Beach report
- Blogs • Local Music Scene
- Reader feedback • Photo gallery
- Discussion groups • Sports
- Advertising • What's On In Niagara

OSPREY  
MEDIA LP



# www.electronicssupermarket.net

## Niagara's Best Choice in Electronics Now Online

esm<sup>®</sup>  
electronic supermarket

Where its all about you... guaranteed!

28 Dunkirk Rd.  
St. Catharines

905-684-2388

www.electronicssupermarket.net