



Take Steve's
lead: plan a
skate for
Alzheimer's
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notllocal.com JANUARY 4, 2023 Volume 5 • Issue 1



MPP Wayne Gates, Coun. Gary Burroughs, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, MP Tony Baldinelli and former legion president Victor Packard toast the King and country at the Royal Canadian Legion New Year's Levee. (Mike Balsom)

Recognizing new members, new year at legion levee

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in Niagara-on-the-Lake welcomed 12 new members at its first New Year's Levee since 2020 this week.

In front of a crowd that approached 50 on New Year's Day, Branch president Al Howse led the new members through the organization's oath, as they declared their loyalty to their sovereign and country with family members and friends bearing witness.

Having not been able to gather safely during the pandemic, the event was a chance to hold the ceremony for all members who joined the local branch over

the past three years. As Howse explained, at least 36 new recruits were invited to take their oaths but two-thirds of them were unable to attend Sunday.

"There were some members who left and rejoined, so we didn't include those members in the invitation," said Howse. "We're pretty much the only branch in our zone that has had an increase in membership even through the COVID restrictions. We're quite proud of that. We're over 260 members right now."

Howse explained the three levels of membership at the Legion. Ordinary members are those who have served in the military

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Residents with COVID in Pleasant Manor, Upper Canada Lodge

Penny Coles
The Local

All three long-term care homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake had residents with COVID-19 leading up to Christmas.

Niagara Long Term Care's outbreak began Dec. 12 and included more than 30 people, but no longer has cases of COVID in the facility, and instead is dealing with an outbreak of other respiratory illnesses.

Radiant Care Pleasant Manor's COVID outbreak began Dec. 22, with two residents having recovered and four

still-active cases as of Tuesday.

Tim Siemens, CEO for the Virgil long-term care facility, told The Local symptoms of residents who have tested positive have been mild, and fortunately no one had to be hospitalized.

"Thanks to Niagara Public Health for providing great guidance in the protocols we followed during the outbreak," he said in an email.

Dining room services have been suspended during the outbreak, with residents eating meals in their rooms. Essential caregivers were and continue to

be allowed in, although general visitations have been suspended.

Despite the outbreak, "our residents had a great Christmas," said Siemens.

"We are very grateful for the support extended to our home by our local community. Our residents and tenants were blessed with a Christmas Tractor Processional (thanks Erwin and Dorothy Soo-Wiens and all participants), and our long-term care residents were each blessed on Christmas Day with individual Christmas stockings lovingly provided by Joan King and the

volunteers who filled them."

Henriette Koning, director of seniors services for Upper Canada Lodge, told The Local Tuesday there are currently 22 residents at the Wellington Street regional long-term care facility who have tested positive for COVID-19.

"Each impacted resident is presenting with mild symptoms and no one has required a transfer to hospital," said Koning. "Staff at the home have implemented all the necessary infection prevention and control measures, including PPE use, frequent hand hygiene, testing

and decreasing the number of visitors. To ensure consistent implementation of infection prevention and control measures, the home has enhanced staffing throughout the outbreak."

Koning said that despite the outbreak and the holiday storm in Niagara, "the residents at Upper Canada Lodge were able to enjoy their Christmas, particularly the generously donated Christmas stockings that were delivered to all the residents in the home."

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Niagara Region's chief medical officer

of health, confirmed Tuesday that outbreaks in long-term care and retirement homes have increased to 19, up from residents in 15 homes with COVID a week ago.

There are six additional homes with outbreaks of other viruses, including RSV and influenza, he said.

"Unfortunately, with limited testing, we don't have a very precise sense of what is happening in the community. However, we have seen an increase in COVID-19 in

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Pharmacists now have ability to write prescriptions

Legislation change covers 13 common conditions

Penny Coles
The Local

It may take a few weeks to iron out potential glitches, but Sean Simpson of Simpson's Pharmacy is thrilled to be able to offer a service he and other Ontario pharmacists have been proposing to the province for years.

Pharmacists now have the power to prescribe treatments for 13 common conditions, at no cost to the patient — all they need is their health card.

Simpson says pharmacists have become accustomed to

giving immunizations, and have been able to prescribe Paxlovid for COVID-19, so this isn't a stretch. Expanding their services "is something we began preparing for a long time ago, and it's something that's been proven pharmacists are capable of."

It's a move that has been anticipated for some time, and yet it came suddenly — the details of the program weren't announced until a few weeks ago, says Simpson, including the fact that it will be fully funded by the province.

The major issue for pharmacists will be handling the docu-

mentation necessary for funding, he adds. Three of the five pharmacists at Simpson's have had that training and the other two will soon. "That's the biggest source of trepidation, that we get the documentation right."

The process of assessing patients and prescribing medication might take some time to figure out without having any idea of the workload, he says, but he expects it will need to be by appointment. "As much as we would like to see people able to show up for assessment, that might be the exception rather than the norm, and appointments might be necessary."

Assessing certain conditions and prescribing medication "takes the ability to treat people to our fullest scope," he says, and is similar to what they have already been doing — it's not unusual for people to go to their pharmacist for advice on treating an ailment.

"We've treated and assessed these types of conditions, and while we might want to treat them with prescriptions, we've had to default to over-the-counter solutions," he says. If a prescriptive medication was preferred, a doctor's appointment would be necessary.

It will be an adjustment to workflow for the pharmacists, he says. And although there are consultation rooms in the pharmacy, they can also do consultations by phone or video.

When customers come in looking for an assessment and prescription, names and details will be taken. "If we can't handle the assessment on the spot, we'll get back to them. We hope people can be patient with it."

While a consultation for an over-the-counter solution would take two to three minutes, prescribing consultations might take 10 to 20 minutes or longer, he says.

"There will be a learning curve, more from the administration side than anything."

But despite there being details that need to be worked out, Simpson says, "this is awesome. It will fill in some of the gaps, particularly in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We're really excited to be able to offer this service, and do what we've been trained to do. It will be beneficial to many. We're eager to get going, work out the kinks and see where it goes."

Giving pharmacists the ability to prescribe for some common problems "is a great way to increase capacity in the health care system," Simpson says, adding it should be especially helpful in NOTL, where walk-in and urgent care clinics are not readily available.

Residents rostered with the Niagara North Family Health Team have good access to doctors when needed, he explains, but many are not, "and for them

there is a lack of resources to access. This will provide a good alternative for them, and for tourists who present with one of the conditions pharmacists can now manage."

Pharmacists will be able to offer prescriptions for

- hay fever
- oral thrush
- pink eye
- dermatitis
- menstrual cramps
- acid reflux
- hemorrhoids
- cold sores
- impetigo
- insect bites and hives
- tick bites
- sprains and strains
- urinary tract infections.



Simpson's Virgil pharmacy manager Vicky Banka and pharmacist Will Bastien are available to discuss assessments for prescriptions, but owner Sean Simpson recommends calling for an appointment. (Supplied)

'Typical pattern' of spread

Continued from page 1

both wastewater testing and hospitalizations of patients with COVID-19," leading to the conclusion there is an increase in the community.

"This is the typical pattern we see: if there are more infections spreading in the community, when staff, visitors or residents are out in the community, they are more likely to pick up infection and bring it back to the facility. When we control COVID-19 in the community, long-term care homes and retirement homes become safer."

Influenza and RSV cases are declining in the community, which is reflected in fewer outbreaks of those viruses, Hirji said. "While it is possible we are past the peak of influenza season, the peak just means we're at the midway, not that the season is over," and influenza remains a risk in long-term

care and retirement homes.

"January is likely to be a time of increasing risk for COVID-19. Holiday gatherings with dense social interaction have allowed infections to spread through friends and families. As these individuals return to work and school, these infections will now spread to new groups."

As well, there are increases in the XBB.1.5 variant, he said, which is "immune evasive — it is able to circumvent the immunity we have from vaccination or past infection. This will lead to an increase in COVID-19 as well."

"Worrisomely," he added, that means residents in long-term care and retirement homes "will likely suffer more severe illness due to their vaccines not protecting them as well against this variant. We don't yet have a sense of how much worse this will be."

Hirji reminded the public to make sure they are up to date with COVID and flu vaccinations, including booster doses for ages 12 and up, and a bivalent booster for those aged five to 11, six months after their second dose.

Children aged six months to four years are recommended to get an initial two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and everyone six months of age and older should get the influenza vaccine, he said.

He also recommended wearing a mask indoors and in crowds outdoors, staying home when sick, "and using freely available rapid tests to confirm we are free of infection before we leave isolation."

Governments also have a responsibility, he added, by having promotion, incentives or policies that increase vaccination and masking.

In addition, government should invest in improving HVAC systems so indoor air is disinfected, making everyone safer, and address inequities in society, ensuring everyone has access to paid sick days "so that no one has to choose between making their ends meet and going to work when they might infect others."



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Legion proud of increasing membership through COVID

Continued from page 1

or worked as police officers or firefighters. Associate membership can be attained if a family member is an ordinary member. And affiliate membership applies to anyone with no link to military, police or firefighting occupations.

Two couples were taking the oath together Sunday. William and Sheryl Christensen and Mike and Anne Morgan were looking forward to the social aspect of being members.

Jim Willett is a new affiliate member whose grandfather and uncle both fought in the Second World War. They were both members at Branch 124 in the 1950s.

"My uncle had a regimental band over there," said Jim. "He played trombone, he was the band leader. He had the band at Queenston Heights for years after, Fred Willett and his concert band."

For Willett, joining the Legion is a way of following a family tradition.

"And my friend is a member here as well," he



New members to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 repeat their oath. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

added. "I've been here a few times. I've played in their golf tournament. I grew up in Niagara Falls but every summer I stayed in Niagara-on-the-Lake with my aunt and uncle until I was about 15. It was like a hometown for me."

Andre Boland's father was a retired police officer. He's a relative newcomer to NOTL and joined the Le-

gion just before COVID hit. "I was introduced to the Legion by some friends and neighbours in St. Davids," Boland told The Local. "I thought joining would be a good opportunity to become involved more on a volunteer basis, and to learn a little more about people who gave their lives for this country."

Paul Dolby also joined

before the pandemic. His father was a Branch 124 member and he recalled visiting the King Street hall with him as a child.

"I've been helping out with the fish and chips and the barbecues," Dolby said of his involvement so far. "A lot of the members here are people I went to school with at both Parliament Oak and Niagara District, too."

Howse pointed out that a lot of the branch's members are, like Dolby, multi-generational, but generally there is a good mix of those with others who have no ties to previous members.

"We look for our members to come to meetings

and put their own two cents in," Howse said of membership expectations. "We look for volunteers for things like the poppy campaign, events such as Canada Day, our ham and turkey rolls, and of course our fish fry. Our membership really helps with that, and the fish fry is what really keeps us afloat here."

Howse explained how the Legion gives back to the community, citing a recent fish fry that raised funds to support the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. He also mentioned plans to finally install an elevator at the branch. The fundraising drive for that project will be

a major focus over the next few months.

Following the swearing in, each new member was presented with their Legion badge. Then at mid-afternoon, everybody gathered together for the traditional levee ceremony.

That included the playing and singing of *God Save the King* and *O Canada*, as well as speeches by MP Tony Baldinelli, MPP Wayne Gates and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. Then glasses were raised to toast King Charles, the country of Canada, fallen comrades and visiting friends, before belting out a couple of verses of *Auld Lang Syne*.



David Monks receives his legion badge, new member Sheryl Christensen looks on.



New members Andre Boland, George McCormack, Jim Willett and Pierre Anthony recite their oath.

Cadet bottle drive Saturday

Penny Coles
The Local

The 809 Newark Air Cadets will hold their annual January bottle drive Saturday, again at three locations: The St. Davids Lions Club on York Road, the Royal Canadian Legion Hall on King Street, and Cornerstone Community Church on Niagara Stone Road.

They promise a "drive up

and we will remove bottles from your trunk" service from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all locations.

All refundable liquor, wine and beer bottles, as well as beer cans, will be accepted.

Cory Abt, chair of the 809 Squadron and father of a cadet, says the drive will go to cadet programs, but will also fulfill a wish for funds to build two flight simulators.

Rent is also high at the Croatian National Centre

location on Line 3 — most cadet squadrons are able to make their home base in a school or armoury, which is much cheaper, he says.

The squadron was hoping to have the flight simulators in place last spring, but is now aiming for February or March, says Abt, and the cadets are pretty excited to see them built. Once completed, he adds, they could be made available to the public.



Beer, wine and liquor bottles can be dropped off at all three locations, plus beer cans. (Supplied)

Maxwell 'gob-smacked' with Order of Canada appointment

Former artistic director spent 14 years at Shaw Festival

Mike Balsom
The Local

When she moved on from her 14-year tenure as Shaw Festival's artistic director in 2016, Jackie Maxwell had recently been appointed to the Order of Ontario.

When she returns to Niagara-on-the-Lake to direct J.M. Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World* in May, she can add Order of Canada to her name.

Maxwell is one of 99 new appointees for the prestigious title for 2022, along with the likes of hockey legend Sydney Crosby, music producer Bob Ezrin and author and historian Ted Barris. The announcement was made Dec. 29 by Governor General Mary Simon.

"I was absolutely gob-smacked," says the Belfast-born Maxwell on the phone from her Toronto home. "I found out just a few weeks before the announcement. It wasn't something I had been expecting or thinking about. It came out of nowhere."

Like a theatre-goer might while watching one of the many plays she has directed over the years, Maxwell says she went through a range of emotions.

"At first I was surprised," she explains, "then I was very moved. And then I felt proud. It means a lot."

The press release from the Governor General's office says she earned the honour for "her contributions to Canadian theatre as an artistic director, director, dramaturge and teacher, and for her advocacy of women in the field."

Maxwell began her tenure as Shaw artistic director in November 2002,

following Christopher Newton, who had retired from the role following that season. Prior to Shaw she had been the head of new play development at the Charlottetown Festival and had staged plays for Mirvish Productions, Tarragon Theatre, Opera Ontario, Centaur Theatre, Factory Theatre, the Canadian Stage Company and others.

Maxwell made waves immediately in her first year as artistic director. That 2003 season included Quebecois playwright Michel Marc Bouchard's play *The Coronation Voyage*, performed on the festival's main stage. It marked the first time in Shaw's history that a living playwright's work was presented at the festival.

Much of what is expected today from current Shaw playbills began under Maxwell. Today's festival audiences expect to see big-budget musicals, newly commissioned works and contemporary plays that echo Shaw's ideals. As well, it was under Maxwell that Shaw began to integrate female, Canadian and diverse voices into the festival's programming and casting.

The Shaw Festival website says, "During Ms. Maxwell's tenure she began producing works by modern writers who embody the spirit of the Festival's namesake — writers whose work continues to question the status quo in new and different ways."

"In any position of responsibility," Maxwell says, "it's your job to encourage and bring on people in different situations, to bring them along with you. I've always believed that from my first days in Canada



Jackie Maxwell has been given one of the country's top honours for her many contributions to Canadian theatre. (David Cooper, Shaw Festival)

when I was working at the National Arts Centre."

Maxwell knows her work with the Shaw went a long way to her recognition from the government of Canada.

"I was very clear when I was at the Shaw," she adds, "that I wanted to encourage female artists, directors and playwrights, and to look at work by women in the past that had been buried."

When she returns this spring to direct Synge's play she'll be doing so at the stu-

dio theatre that has borne her name since 2017.

Maxwell arrived at Shaw when the campaign to build the Donald and Elaine Triggs Production Centre was already underway.

The facility was originally slated to include three rehearsal-only spaces. It was Maxwell who suggested that the largest of the three would be ideal to host some of those off-the-beaten-path productions.

"That's a big memory for me, the idea of creating that theatre," she says. "I thought we could develop a new kind of programming there, bring in more contemporary pieces of work that have a Shavian nature. T.C. (current artistic director Tim Carroll) has continued to do wonderful work out of that space."

Maxwell was back this summer to see both *Everybody* and *Gem of the Ocean* in the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre, two plays that worked perfectly in the smaller space.

"My dream was always that you could bring in a younger, more contemporary audience base," she adds.

"I thought, who knows? You might be able to get them across the courtyard to come and see something else."

Since moving on from Shaw in 2016, Maxwell has continued to direct and to mentor playwrights. In 2019, she helmed the world premiere of Ken Ludwig's Second World War romantic drama *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. And she is on the playwright faculty at Montreal's National The-

atre School of Canada.

"I absolutely love teaching there," she says. "I keep in contact with students. I have great conversations with wonderful students. I see them later in different theatres. That whole generational contact is something I really love."

She was supposed to helm *The Playboy of the Western World*, a story set in a pub in her native Ireland, in 2020. In fact, she was two weeks into preparations for the production when COVID-19 shut down live performances.

So Maxwell was overjoyed when Carroll reached out to tell her it was time to get back at it.

"I've always loved Synge," she says. "He did such a lot of research and developed a language that is really authentic. He so beautifully played with the language. It's poetic, it's funny, it's dark. It's really something to dive into."

"It means a lot to me to get in there and do something in that space," she adds about directing the play in the eponymous theatre.

"And I'm looking forward to getting back to my walks in the common and visiting all the vegetable stands at the farmer's market."



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Waterfront birding adventure with grandkids

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

With Christmas festivities complete and the grandchildren off school for another two weeks, we thought about what to do to help keep them occupied during that period. We invited our two grandkids from Hamilton to come for a sleepover, and they were joined the next morning by one of their cousins from St. Davids. Considering the amount of time they spend on their iPads these days, Grandma wanted to ensure they had some time outdoors for fresh air and exercise. With this in mind, I offered to take the kids birding along the town waterfront.

This activity can be especially interesting during the winter months. A number of species of migratory waterfowl make the mouth of the Niagara River either their winter home or a temporary stopping-off spot before they head further south. These winter visitors can be seen offshore either singly, in pairs, or rafting together in larger groups. Prior to the big storm last week, the numbers had been quite low. The high winds and colder temperatures during that three-day storm event, however, seemed to have a significant effect. Thus, I was quite pleased to see a number of different species had finally arrived and I had been able to

scope out where they might be seen from various vantage points along our Old Town waterfront.

The day was sunny and considerably warmer, so it was a good day to get the kids out and about. We started at the small park at the far end of the golf course where the cairn commemorates the Battle of Fort George. Walking down the path to the left, below the row of benches, allowed us to see our first series of diving bufflehead ducks. These are a smaller species and the white and black markings of the male are quite distinctive from a distance.

There were about a dozen, male and female, spread out and taking turns to dive for food. The binoculars we brought helped the kids see them from a distance.

Next, we drove to the parking lot at Queen's Royal Park. Climbing the steps to the hill overlooking Lake Ontario, I was disappointed to see only large numbers of Canada geese along the shoreline.

Elise expressed a concern about being attacked by the Canada geese. We assured her they were too far away to be a problem. I had to chuckle when Bella commented that yes, they can be quite vicious, but you're not really a Canadian unless you've been chased by a Canada goose.

Next, we decided to walk down Delatre Street to the path leading to Balls Beach. There, we walked out on the rock groyne, a breakwater built to reduce erosion, and sat down overlooking the water. The kids noticed the water was very brown, and I explained that it was due to the high winds that had stirred up Lake Erie during

the storm and that the stirred-up water was now flowing downriver to Lake Ontario.

As we sat, we noticed, farther out in the river, a raft of about two dozen long-tailed ducks. This is one species that overwinter each year. Their call is quite distinctive and can often be heard in the night and early morning. As we watched,

the entire group dove together. I suggested that we time how long they stay underwater and it turned out to be just under a minute — 52 to 53 seconds.

Lastly, we continued walking along Riverbeach Drive to the dock beside the old Custom Dock at the foot of Lockhart Street. There, I was able to point out a lone merganser heading

out further into the river. This particular one seems to have been in the area for quite some time and will also, most likely, overwinter here.

By that time, the grandchildren were getting a bit tired and hungry so we walked back to the car left at Queen's Royal Park and headed home. A good outing on a pleasant winter day.



Lachlan, Elise and Bella Gilchrist were able to see a lone merganser on the Niagara River. (Photos by David Gilchrist)



Bufflehead ducks viewed from the waterfront below the Battle of Fort George plaque are a smaller species.



Long-tailed ducks, seen from Balls Beach, overwinter in the area.



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EDITORIAL

This year starting off much the same as last

Last year's Local headlines in the first week of January included the news that community out-breaks were putting long-term care residents at risk.

Another headline based on information from the province and the region said COVID cases likely were much higher than reported.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, our chief medical officer of health, predicted that first week of 2022 would see rising cases, and again made the same prediction this Decem-

ber. He hasn't been wrong yet, and won't likely be in 2023. He is asking for the usual precautions so it isn't any worse than expected.

Last year at this time, restaurants were closed to indoor dining, and after the school holiday break classes resumed virtually.

Fortunately there are no similar restrictions on the horizon we can see — just recommendations to make sure we have every vaccination possible, including for flu, and wear masks when it makes sense to do so — indoors and out-

side in crowded settings.

Even a year ago, although there was lots of grumbling about the need for vaccinations — remember how the protest in Ottawa started, and what it led to? — residents getting COVID, whether in long-term care homes or in the community, were mostly experiencing mild cold-like symptoms. That, whether you like the idea of vaccinations or not, has to be attributed to the number of people who said yes to the needle, whether it was for the second, third, or by

the spring, fourth shot.

We might not like Public Health recommendations — who wants any level of government telling us what to do — but in hindsight, can we see that the recommendations worked? Hard not to. Can we admit it? For some, that's a little harder.

But nobody's mind will change. Some will continue with the vaccination regime offered, others who never got started never will, and COVID will not disappear. Scientists are saying that much-talked

about and hoped-for herd immunity is probably impossible to reach, but at least the vaccinated help protect those who aren't.

This may be the best we can hope for — cyclical increases in cases, regular reminders of the importance of vaccinations, and mild symptoms if we do get sick.

So we get on with life, look forward to spending time with family and friends, feel fortunate our businesses and schools are open and events are being held, and for the most part, travel free-

ly — if we trust the airlines to get us home.

And if that doesn't seem enough, listen to international news and the horror of what is going on in some corners of the world, and be reminded, as we enter this new year, of the many reasons we have to feel grateful, how blessed we are to be in this particular corner of the world. And maybe choose to give back in some way for all we are given.

Penny Coles
The Local

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

The spate of notable deaths the last few days of December made it difficult to avoid reflecting on those who were lost in 2022.

The new year always brings with it a look back on the previous 12 months, reminiscing about some of the famous and infamous who enriched our lives for many years. These days it seems celebrity deaths have been happening more frequently.

Dec. 29 was a particularly tough day to take. It began with the news of the passing of Ian Tyson at 89 years old. Tyson was one of the most influential singers and songwriters in Canadian music, a mainstay of Toronto's early 1960s Yorkville folk scene with his then-wife, Sylvia.

His song *Four Strong Winds*, from Ian and Sylvia's 1963 album of the same name, topped the charts in Canada and was covered by the likes of Bob Dylan, Judy Collins, Waylon Jennings and Neil Young. The Canadian standard's melody and lyrics about cold, lonely winds and flying snow imprint-

ed themselves on the national psyche. It continues to find its way into lists of the top Canadian songs of all time to this day.

In the late 1980s I was working at CHOW radio in Dain City. It's not a city at all, just a rural stop between Welland and Port Colborne. Unlike most disc jockeys today, I chose the music I played during my shifts. Though *Four Strong Winds* was known more as a folk song, I would give the Jennings version a spin frequently. Hearing it today brings me back to those lonely nights in the middle of nowhere, Tyson's words keeping me company between phone calls from even lonelier listeners.

By then, Ian and Sylvia were no longer a couple and Tyson had retired from the limelight in favour of life on a horse and cattle ranch in Calgary.

But he continued to write and record great songs. He released a stretch of four albums from 1983 to 1989 that expertly documented modern cowboy life, most notably 1986's *Cowboyography*, featuring modern classics such as *Navajo Rug*, *Summer Wages* and *Fifty Years Ago*. These

records are worth giving a listen.

Though those songs would never reach the heights of his most well-known numbers, they influenced the likes of new generations of country artists, including Corb Lund, Paul Brandt and Tom Russell, whose 2022 release was called *Play One More: The Songs of Ian and Sylvia*.

As Dec. 29 progressed, the news kept getting worse. Just weeks after the conclusion of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, we lost one of the biggest all-time legends of the sport, Pele, at 82 years old.

The three-time World Cup winner representing Brazil had been battling colon cancer since 2021. He was the face of the game for decades and the ambassador for the 2014 World Cup hosted by his beloved country.

He burst onto soccer's world scene at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden. At only 17 years old, Pele, born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, became the youngest player ever at the tournament. Twelve years later he was the face of Brazil's World Cup victory in Mexico, scoring off a leaping header in the final and setting up Carlos Alberto with a

nonchalant pass for the last goal in the 4-1 victory over Italy.

I remember hearing about him joining the New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League (NASL) in 1975. Though he was past his prime, his decision to play the beautiful game in the U.S. was the first step in increasing the sport's profile in North America. I also recall the fuss he created when he visited Toronto that summer for a game at Varsity Stadium.

In the old VHF/UHF days of TV I didn't have a lot of opportunities to actually see him play the game. It was later, as an adult, when I was able to understand his role and his prominence in the overall pantheon of sport, and when I could admire him for his humanitarian efforts as much as his athletic abilities.

Finally that same day the world lost an original in the 81-year-old Vivienne Westwood.

Those of us who came of age in the mid- to late-1970s had to endure the disco years, but we also experienced the earth-shattering noise of the original wave of punk music. Westwood and her partner Malcolm McLaren

ran a clothing store in London that became the jumping off point for Johnny Rotten and Sid Vicious and their band the Sex Pistols.

The leather jackets, bondage gear and safety-pin earrings that became popular around 1977 were all part of Westwood's aesthetic, and perhaps as big a factor as the music in the noise that such bands created at that time. What most people think of as 'punk' fashion today can all be traced back to her creations.

The very next day we lost legendary broadcaster Barbara Walters, who blazed a trail for women in the news industry with her million dollar yearly salary in 1976. Another sad day.

As the calendar got closer to flipping into 2023, I looked back on earlier celebrity deaths, and the list for 2022 was long.

Actors Sidney Poitier, Howard Hesseman, Sally Kellerman, William Hurt, James Caan, Kirstie Alley and Ray Liotta. Comedians Bob Saget, Louie Armstrong and Gilbert Gottfried. Directors Peter Bogdanovich and Ivan Reitman. Athletes Bill Russell, Franco Harris, Maury Wills, Bruce Sutter, Kathy Whitworth

and Guy Lafleur. Musicians Meat Loaf, Bobby Rydell, Jerry Doucette, Naomi Judd, Ronnie Hawkins and Olivia Newton-John.

And of course, Queen Elizabeth II.

We grew up with these people as part of our lives, though for most of us we never had the opportunity to actually meet them. But the music and the movies they made, the joy their championships may have brought to us, the impact they've had on some of the pivotal memories in our lives is real.

Will future generations realize the impact of Ronnie Hawkins on Canada's music industry? Will they understand how important Sidney Poitier was as a trailblazer for actors of colour? Will they know how Franco Harris impacted the city of Pittsburgh as more than just a football player and four-time Super Bowl champion?

When they pass we feel real pain, and we reflect on our own mortality and our own place in the world.

And sometimes it makes us wonder, how will we be remembered?

Federal government must do better in 2023



MP Tony Baldinelli
Special to The Local

As we enter the New Year, I wish to thank many of you for your continued support, and the trust you have placed in

me, to be your voice in Ottawa.

The fall session of Parliament dealt with many issues of importance to the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie. As your federal representative, I worked hard to ensure the mandatory use of the dysfunctional ArriveCAN app was ended.

I have repeatedly pushed this government to announce their intention on whether

they will continue supporting our vital grape and wine sector moving into the future.

I am also pleased with our Conservative caucus work to protect the interests of hard-working Canadians by ensuring their pensions will be protected with the passage of my friend (MP for Sarnia-Lambton) Marilyn Gladu's Private Member's Bill C-228, The Pension Protection Act.

My Conservative colleagues and I have worked hard to hold this government accountable for its out-of-control spending. We exposed the \$54 million which was wasted to develop ArriveCAN, and the Auditor General has identified at least \$32 billion in COVID-relief overpayments and suspicious payments made by this government, including to deceased Canadians. These wasteful spending errors are serious and require further investigation.

As identified by the Auditor General, the lack of controls put in place by the Liberal government has undoubtedly contributed to the cost-of-living crisis and fiscal mess that all taxpayers will be forced to pay

for through higher taxes and higher inflation on everyday goods, products and services.

Looking ahead, a key priority in 2023 will be to get the reckless spending by this Liberal government under control.

Life is more expensive today because of their reckless and wasteful spending. Conservatives will continue fighting to make life more affordable by saying 'no' to the tripling of the carbon tax and the tax on food and home heating. Higher taxes will only make life harder for Canadians in the future.

Furthermore, Canadians are getting less value for the government's spending. Forecasts show that this government will spend almost as much to ser-

vice our national debt each year as they give to the provinces for our healthcare. By next year, the Trudeau Liberals will be spending more on paying down the debt than they will on our national defence budget. This is unacceptable.

Instead of coming up with a credible plan to fight inflation, the Liberals are determined to continue their failed approach and Canadians are paying the price through higher taxes and higher costs of living. It is hard to imagine in a country such as Canada that one in five Canadians are cutting meals because they could not afford the price of groceries. Or that 1.5 million Canadians needed to visit a food bank in a single month. All this financial hardship is caused by the inflation crisis brought about by this government's reckless and wasteful spending policies.

Again, thank you for the trust you have placed in me to be your representative in Ottawa. In 2023, I will continue to stand up for the interests of the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0

Editor:
Penny Coles
penny@notllocal.com
905-246-5878

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Village Media Regional Publisher (online sales)
John Hammill
John@villagemedia.ca
905-988-5599 ext 1157

notllocal.com facebook.com/notllocal instagram.com/thenotllocal @thenotllocal

Advertising Sales:
Julia Coles
julia@notllocal.com
905-934-1040

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

News Tips: news@notllocal.com

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COMMENT

Local LETTERS Community gave generously to Angel's Rest

Thank you, thank you to our community: Maintenance by the Yard would like to express our sincere thanks to our amazing community for all the donations that came pouring in after the Niagara-on-the-Lake Santa Claus Parade.

We sponsored Angel's Rest Dog Sanctuary and Hospice with a float in our local parade to help get the word out about this amazing place and the work that they do there. Our community stepped up and helped us help them. We had

a truck filled to the brim with both wet and dry dog food, pee pads, even a doggie stroller, not to mention the generous cash donations!

None of us expected this outcome. To say we are blown away by the generosity and support of this community is an understatement. We could not have done this without the support of family, friends and many volunteers — to them, thank you for making a difference.

Also to Penny Coles who

ran a piece in this paper; The NOTL Local, about Angel's Rest prior to the parade, getting the word out about our mission.

Christine and Nick, who run Angel's Rest are overwhelmed with gratitude. They have never started a new year like this, ever! There were many happy tears. These donations will help with the many vet bills and medications for these senior pups. Please remember that Angel's Rest is a sanctuary and hospice that has 20 dogs and operates all year long. Your

support and donations are welcome and very much appreciated throughout the year also.

Once again on behalf of Mike and Sheena at Maintenance by the Yard and Christine and Nick at Angel's Rest Dog Sanctuary and Hospice we cannot thank you enough! We will definitely see you all next year in the NOTL Santa Claus Parade.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year!

**Sheena Staff & Mike Navarro
NOTL**



Sheena Staff and Mike Navarro delivered two carloads of goods, along with cash, donated during or after the Christmas Parade to Angel's Rest Dog Sanctuary. (Sheena Staff)

Lighting the way: Reflecting on years of helping farmworkers

**Jane Andres
The Local**

Last week's storm was one for the books. Thanks to howling wind and plummeting temperatures, my memories of it will be frozen as solid as the water buckets in my chicken coop.

Christmas preparations were well in hand when the wind picked up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, so I decided to start a task I had delayed for far too long — sorting boxes of papers and files buried in my office. Much to my delight I found CDs and flash drives loaded with photos, stories and documents from 2005 to 2010, my first five years of involvement with our neighbours on the farms.

I was soon awash in memories of treasured friendships, many of which I am still connected with 17 years later. Although I had grown up in Niagara, with relatives and friends who owned farms, I knew very little about the men and women who were the backbone of agriculture in our community.

Daily notebooks were a reminder of this, full of scribbled messages revealing a steep learning curve those first few years. I was also reminded of how seemingly insignificant interactions with neighbouring migrant farmworkers provided pieces that fit into a larger puzzle years down the road. Simple acts of driving them to an appointment, a backyard barbecue, a trip to Niagara Falls or music rehearsals for church were opportunities for moments of illumination as they shared their experiences of their family life

back home or of daily life on the farm.

When I began planning a bold new direction with a 2010 Welcome Concert, I relied on information from these conversations to light the way. The initial concert was a daunting event to plan, with plenty of risks and no funding in place, but there were enough little sparks of light to illuminate the path, one step at a time.

In the years that followed, more locals became involved as the caring community and the capacity for gratitude grew.

After 2016, finding a local venue that could seat 800 or more people attending the Welcome Concerts required a change in plans, and the event evolved into the Peach Pickers Picnic the following three years. Expressing appreciation was something our community thrived on. More than 1,000 meals were served at the 2019 picnic, set to the live music of Mexican and Jamaican bands comprised of both locals and farmworkers.

Time seemed to blur during the first two years of COVID, with some very dark moments that marked certain passages. Despite this, there were a growing number of lights that flickered during those dark times, as locals who respected and believed in the dignity of migrant farmworkers stepped up to contribute food and warm clothing as they arrived for the season.

The ways we continue to create a warm and welcoming community have proven to be unlimited, thanks to the immense creativity and generosity of all those involved.

This year sadly marked the passing of men who contributed so much to our community over the decades — Headley Vassel, employed by John Rozitis, Harvill Maye at MacSween Farms, and Devon McKenzie at Stratus Winery.

Harvill's memorial service at the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project on Father's Day was a tender memory of shared loss, grief and comfort. Scott MacSween's words of appreciation, offered straight from the heart, were a healing balm to the many who attended.

The previous week, Harvill's coworkers had hosted a traditional Jamaican candlelight service at the farm. Locals contributed giant pots for the traditional soup to be shared with guests and relatives. Another contributed candles, someone printed the photos of Harvill to display, another dropped off strings of little lights to brighten up the night. The tantalizing aroma of jerk chicken wafted throughout the yard as two coworkers, Kenroy and Shaun, displayed their DJ skills, warming up a sound system with Caribbean gospel.

When they began playing the popular song *The Goodness of God*, men appeared in the doorways of their bunkhouses to sing along. It was a powerful moment to hear their voices lifted in song despite the loss of their dear friend and the challenges of the harvest season yet to come.

The glow of candlelight illuminated the warmth of the close-knit crew that night as they shared memories and stories of how they had been

touched by Harvill's life.

A few months later, Stratus also hosted a memorial service for much-loved, long-time employee Devon 'Rocky' McKenzie. Family and friends listened as the tributes poured in at the gathering on the patio behind the winery. Messages, songs and photos from family members in Jamaica were streamed on a large screen in a common outpouring of grief and appreciation.

The service ended as Devon's little nephews from Toronto were driven off through the fields in his favourite tractor, a fitting end and tribute to their favourite uncle. It was easy to imagine Devon was there in spirit, laughing along at their excitement.

In ways I could never have imagined in those early years, the lights of 2022 have grown exponentially in warmth and brightness. Ceto Reid, injured when he was hit by a car while riding his bicycle in St. Catharines on his way back to NOTL, and scheduled to go home to Jamaica the next day, would add his 'amen' to that. He remains in NOTL, unable to travel and receiving physiotherapy following surgery for a damaged hip, and will be here for about six more weeks at least. In the meantime, many volunteers are reaching out to help him.

The beauty of thousands of flickering candles at the December's Candlelight Stroll, which raised money for Reid and for The Farmworker Hub, which helps local farmworkers with their needs, will continue to illuminate the path for us as a community.

The memories that stand out this year are those of candlelight — small, consistent flickers of light that continue to illuminate. Just enough to see ahead one step ahead at a time. One step at a time.

The message of the song Harvill's coworkers sang in his memory still strikes a chord in my heart as I play it at the close of the year.

"You have led me through

the fire

In the darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the
goodness of God

And all my life You have
been faithful

And all my life You have
been so good

I will sing of the goodness
of God."



Harville Maye in photos displayed at his memorial service, with a tray of strawberries he had just picked, and with his wife at home in Jamaica. (Photos by Jane Andres)



Devon McKenzie's two nephews pose beside Devon's favourite tractor at his memorial service this summer.

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Sheila Hirsch-Kalm remembered as a ‘gardening hero’

Penny Coles
The Local

Sheila Hirsch-Kalm, best known locally for her gardening expertise and participation in many gardening initiatives in town, has died.

She passed away at home Dec. 18. Her funeral is being held Saturday, Jan. 7.

Her long-time friend Shirley Madsen, who shared an interest in gardening, says she was in touch by text up to two days before Sheila died. Shirley was hoping to see her, but Sheila had said she wasn't feeling up to company, and then her son Mark Hirsch, who was with her, responded, also saying she was not well enough for visitors.

Madsen says she heard from Sheila on Dec. 10, and that she had been to the hospital in Niagara Falls to have a gash in her leg stitched up. She was still driving, although she had been fighting a rare form of cancer for decades that had caused problems with mobility. She was proud of her first-in-Canada, ultra-sophisticated titanium wheelchair, and was driving with the aid of what she described as a robotic-arm device that helped move her wheelchair as she got in and out of her van.

Her husband, Michael, passed away suddenly in October, and at first Sheila had been busy getting affairs in order, but once finished was finding it difficult, says Shirley. She had just bought a new van that made the robotic arm equipment easier for her to manage, and easier to get out on her own, but she'd had it less than a week when she texted Madsen that "her leg had an argument with her wheelchair" when she was trying to get into the vehicle. She called for paramedics, and told Madsen one was the same who had come to Michael's aid when he collapsed and died suddenly outside Sobey's in Ni-

agara Falls.

Once she was stitched up at the hospital, "she said she was handed a gown — they expected her to stay overnight — and she handed it right back to them," says Madsen.

In the following days, Sheila's texts indicated her leg was swollen, and she was in a lot of pain, but her son was coming to help, and Madsen says she was under the impression Sheila had nurses and PSWs coming to the house.

On Dec. 18, Madsen received a call from Mark, saying Sheila had died that morning.

Sheila passed away one day shy of her 87th birthday. In her obituary one of her grandkids was quoted as saying "it is as though she could not bear even one birthday without her beloved husband, Michael."

Sheila had lost her husband, partner, friend and sailing partner, as she wrote in his obituary. She spoke of spending "countless happy years sailing" on lakes and oceans, and at one point choosing to live aboard their yacht, "shunning the traditional brick and mortar home for the unconventional and challenging life of living onboard," which she said brought them adventure and happiness.

Most of those who got to know Sheila in Niagara-on-the-Lake would likely have met her in connection with her passion for gardening, although she volunteered on a long list of committees, including representing the town on a regional accessibility committee — she left because she felt frustrated that not enough was being accomplished.

She had been a member of the NOTL Horticultural Society, had left the fold at one point but returned when Madsen became president, and Sheila was made a life-



In August, Sheila Hirsch-Kalm welcomed visitors on the NOTL Horticultural Society Garden Tour. She wanted to share the ease of transitioning to gardening in containers for those with mobility limitations. (Penny Coles)

time member.

Along with former hort society member Jean Cochrane, she was instrumental in planting Gardens of Hope with daffodil bulbs to promote cancer awareness. The first such garden was planted in Simcoe Park in 2005, and since then, eight more have been scattered around NOTL, their distinctive yellow blooms a symbol of hope each spring for those battling cancer.

Madsen describes her friend as feisty, spirited, a woman who knew her own mind and spoke it, knew what and who she liked and didn't like, and not only kept busy, but would "boss around other people and keep them busy too," she jokes.

She and Michael enjoyed good food and having com-

pany — Michael was the cook and loved to shop for unusual food items — and Madsen and her husband Finn had many great meals and conversations with the couple at their York Road home.

Despite her mobility limitations, Sheila couldn't miss being on last summer's NOTL Horticultural Society's garden tour. In fact, that was part of the reason she wanted to be on the tour, greeting visitors to her back garden from her wheelchair, her walker not far away.

She said she was "transitioning" the gardens on the large property to containers, to reduce maintenance and make it easier for her to care for the multitude of plants herself.

She explained she was able to keep her containers

healthy, weed- and bug-free, and filled with a wide variety of plants that presented interesting colours and textures. Against the house was a large worktable where she could plant the containers to be placed around the garden.

"I can sit in my chair, hose in one hand and a glass of wine in the other, and water them," she told The Local last August, her arm sweeping across a stunning expanse of plants in containers.

"If I can transition, I can teach other people to as well. I hope I can help others to keep going as long as I have."

She suggested people who are caring for older family members might consider doing the same, to give them the opportunity to continue gardening.

Days like that, when people came to see her and her garden, were her greatest pleasure, she said, mentioning the many associations that would bring members for a tour and a chat. She was expecting another three groups in the coming weeks, including the Toronto branch of the Rhododendron Association.

She was also on the town's Communities in Bloom committee, and helped out with the St. David's Garden Group, a "subgroup of Communities in Bloom," responsible for the beautiful pollinator garden behind the old Bank of Montreal building on the corner of the main intersection in the village, says Susan Pearson, a member of both.

She explains that even after Sheila was unable to help physically, she opened her home and gardens for many meetings, and was always respected for the guidance she could offer. "She was there to advise; we did the planting."

When the town won the international Communities in Bloom competition, "it was Sheila's garden the judges visited."

Pearson recalls that on the day the group gathered to decorate the Christmas tree at the corner of York Road and Four Mile Creek Road, Sheila parked across the street and crossed to join them in time for a photo at the tree, walking with the help of hydraulic crutches, so as not to miss out.

She was chosen one of the town's 2022 Year of the Garden heroes, says Pearson, an honour given to a group of people who had demonstrated leadership, made outstanding contributions and played an important role in the garden culture of NOTL.

Although all the heroes honoured in August by the town at the community centre were well deserving of the recognition, over the years, Pearson says, "I think Sheila had done the most."

Madsen recalls visiting Sheila and Michael last fall when she was anxious to have 700 tulip bulbs planted in containers in the front of the house, so she could see them bloom in the spring.

"I don't know how many containers there were, but that's a lot of tulip bulbs," says Madsen.

Sheila had two men from Jamaica who had originally come to town as farmworkers help her in her gardens, and one of them was planting the tulip bulbs.

Since Sheila won't see them flower, Madsen says she would love to see the containers donated and moved somewhere so those who knew Sheila can appreciate their beauty when they bloom.

Madsen would also like to see Sheila's gardens opened to members of the gardening organizations she belonged to, with permission to help themselves to some of the plants. She thinks Sheila would love the idea of her plants in the gardens of people who shared her passion, "and it would be a way to keep Sheila's memory alive in the community."

Madsen was relieved to hear Sheila's much-loved cat, OG, will be cared for by a woman who knew Sheila and OG well from time spent in her home.

Sheila is survived by her sons Keith and his wife Dora and Mark and his wife Irene, along with her two grandchildren, Joshua and Megan.

Friends and family will be received at Morse & Son Funeral Home, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls on Saturday Jan. 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. A funeral service to celebrate the life of Sheila will follow at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Canadian Cancer Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morseandson.com.



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Skate fundraisers encouraged to support Alzheimer Society

Penny Coles
The Local

For more than 10 years, Steve McNeil, an Etobicoke mail carrier, has been skating at rinks across Canada, including in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He is usually alone, often far from home, with exactly 19 hours and 26 minutes of skating stretching ahead of him — he does it to pay tribute to his mother, who was born in 1926.

He skates to raise funds in support of the Alzheimer Society. His mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in her early 60s, when her family noticed her confusion. She lived with it for more than two decades, much of that time with McNeil as her caregiver. His skates also honour all the caregivers who continue to care for loved ones with Alzheimer's or dementia, he says.

Previously, McNeil has skated up to 10 fundraising events in a year, including in NOTL at Gretzky's Estate Winery in December 2020 and February 2022.

Typically, he steps on the ice at 12:01 a.m. and skates until 7:26 p.m., the first few hours in the dark, alone, often joined by others during the day.

In the early years, McNeil's fundraising skates were mostly in Toronto, at

Nathan Phillips Square, but he decided in 2018 to travel across Canada, skating in all the large cities. Then in 2020, his plan for an 11-city tour was cancelled due to COVID-19.

This year he will be doing just one skate on Jan. 14 in Kingston and is asking Canadians from coast to coast to join in and hold their own fundraising 1926 Skate Challenges on that day.

Neighbourhoods across Niagara are also encouraged to host their own 1926 skates to raise awareness and funds for the Niagara Alzheimer Society.

"Steve has skated in outdoor rinks across Canada in -34 C weather. I encourage everyone to show their support here in Niagara for those living with dementia on National Skate Day," says Teena Kindt, CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region.

In 2020, McNeil, a recreational hockey referee, told The Local he feels blessed to be able to do something that comes so easily to him, and that can help raise money for something so important to him.

The question he's asked most often when he comes off the ice after his marathon skate is "how do you feel," he says. "The answer is, 'I feel great.' If I could raise more money, I'd go back out

and do it again, even though the weather is extreme, and sometimes I've been skating in a blizzard at -40 degrees."

McNeil is hoping his 1926 Skate Challenges will take place in communities on Jan. 14 across the country, and can happen anywhere: in a backyard rink, community rink or even at

a local hockey game or team practice. Skaters can donate \$19.26 to the Alzheimer Society — money raised from skates that occur in the Niagara Region will go to the Niagara branch.

Participants are encouraged to post pictures of their skating parties to social media using the hashtag

#1926Challenge.

There are 11,099 people living with dementia in Niagara. The Alzheimer Society's mission is to advocate for and with people with dementia and their care partners, and provide access to a diverse range of appropriate resources and supports.

By providing education,

personalized in-home support services and wellness programs, families can better understand dementia, navigate the healthcare system and access the resources they need, when they need them, says McNeil's news release encouraging community members to get involved.



Steve McNeil skated with Bones, the Ice Dogs mascot, at The Gretzky Estate Winery in 2022 to raise money for the Niagara Region Alzheimer's Society. (Mike Balsom)



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The buzz on pollinators: Keystones create biodiversity



Fallen leaves are best left on the ground for caterpillars to form a pupa or chrysalis, and emerge as adult butterflies or moths in the spring. (Sandra Ozkur)

Sandra Ozkur
Special to The Local

We know the importance of native plants to the survival of our native pollinators, but within the native plant category there are superior species called keystone plants that are the best for supporting native pollinators through their entire life cycle.

Simply put, pollinators facilitate the transference of pollen from the male part of the flower to the female part, which fertilizes the plant so it will produce fruit, seeds and young plants. This transfer of pollen can happen by the wind, or on the fur of an animal, but the most effective pollination is done by insects. When an insect visits a flower in search of nectar, the pollen sticks to the hairs on its body as it moves from flower to flower, causing pollination.

Native bees, bumblebees and honeybees are the best pollinators. Their buzzing shakes the pollen loose and sticks to their hair. Butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, flies and bats are less effective because they have smoother bodies. Nearly

one-third of human food production and 75 per cent of flowering plants require insect pollination. It is critical that we provide proper habitat for these creatures to thrive.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, native plants have tight relationships with all wildlife. This symbiotic relationship has formed over many thousands of years, providing natural sources of food, and protection to raise their young. Approximately 95 per cent of our terrestrial birds rely on the insects supported by these plants, so without healthy native plant habitat, birds and wildlife cannot survive. The federation divides North America into ecological regions. Every ecoregion hosts unique native plant communities. Southern Ontario is located in the Eastern Temperate Forests zone.

Niagara's location is even more unique because it is also part of the Carolinian zone, which makes Niagara one of the most biodiverse areas in Canada. Biodiversity means that we have a greater variety of flora and fauna than most

other regions. Unfortunately, southern Ontario has high human population competing for land in this small area. We as landowners must share the land in a responsible way.

Professor Doug Tallamy, an American entomologist, ecologist and conservationist, stresses the importance of including keystone plants in your pollinator garden. Keystone plants are critical to the food web because they provide all the necessary components for each stage of the pollinator's life cycle. There are a handful of native keystone plant varieties that are superior performers when it comes to the volume of beneficial insects they can support.

Biodiversity is very important, and choosing keystone trees, shrubs and flowers is an easy way to provide habitat for numerous species of pollinators. One of the best keystone plants is the oak tree, which is indigenous to Ontario and thrives in Niagara. Native oak trees support more than 430 caterpillar species. Other top performers are the sugar maple, eastern cottonwood and hickory

tree. Prior to colonization, there were abundant forests of white oak, sugar maple, pine, ash, hickory and walnut trees throughout Niagara. Fine examples of these centurion trees can still be seen in the oak grove next to the commons and throughout the Chautauqua neighbourhood in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Even if you don't have space to plant a keystone tree, there may be one already growing nearby that you can nurture. In NOTL, a group called 'My Chautauqua' has put an enormous effort into counting, mapping and preserving the oak and other keystone trees in their historic neighbourhood. There is an ongoing effort to protect the old growth while continuing to replant new young progeny from the acorns that have been sprouted and reared by Niagara College's School of Horticulture.

Just like a keystone holds an arch together, these trees and shrubs have the main components that hold the whole ecosystem together. For

Continued on page 11

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Think of your garden as a complete community

Continued from page 10

example, the oak tree provides branches and leaves and pollen for insects and birds plus acorns that feed deer, squirrels, jays, mice, badgers, wild turkeys and mice, which in turn feed hawks, owls, foxes and coyotes. Oak acorns are considered a foundation in their food chain.

Insect larvae is the main source of food for baby birds that cannot eat seeds. According to a study from

the University of Delaware, a nest of chickadees can require up to 9,000 caterpillars to raise a single clutch.

A Lepidoptera (butterfly or moth) lifecycle begins as it lays thousands of eggs on the leaves of the host plant. When the caterpillars hatch, they eat the leaves of the host plant and grow fat, and at this stage they become prime food for birds. Many caterpillars still survive, and form a pupa or chrysalis that they attach to the underside of a branch or amongst

the fallen leaves to overwinter. In the spring they emerge as adult butterflies or moths to start the cycle again. Certain species such as monarch and spicebush swallowtail butterflies can only feed upon specific plants, so be sure to include the right plants if you want to attract them.

Think of your garden as a community, with each member having a task to do. Keystone trees provide shade, leaves, food and nesting sites for birds and pollinators. Their roots

protect soil from erosion, and the fallen leaves serve as a home to many insects and micro-organisms that break down the leaves into compost. Keystone shrubs provide protection from predators and the woody stems are used for bee and insect nests. Northern highbush blueberry and prairie willow support over 250 species of wildlife that feed upon their leaves, flower nectar, pollen, berries and seeds. Native sunflowers, milkweed, black-eyed Susan, green-headed

coneflower and goldenrod are prolific pollen providers and support upward of 100 insect species and 50 varieties of bees.

In comparison, imported flowers like day lilies and hostas support zero native pollinators. Use a variety of colourful keystone flowers to bring beauty to your garden and have something blooming throughout the entire growing season for a continuous nectar supply.

Start thinking of your garden as a complete eco-

system where plants and wildlife are interdependent. Becoming a more conscientious gardener will add to the biodiversity of this very special ecozone, and preserve its beauty for future generations.

To learn more about the efforts of Chautauqua tree preservation visit www.mychautauqua.ca.

For more information about keystone plants by ecoregion visit www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion.

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Golfers out in St. Davids on balmy New Year's Day

Mike Balsom
The Local

The morning rain and a temperature of 6.5 C at noon might not be usual conditions for a round of golf on New Year's Day, but no one was complaining at St. Davids Golf Club Sunday.

Owner Debbie Goring told The Local that tee times were booked solid from 8:50 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. New Year's Day.

Cheerful golfers were unloading their clubs and stretching their limbs to loosen up before teeing off for either nine or 18 holes. And when the sun peeked through the clouds at about 12:40 p.m., many were anticipating shedding layers once into their round.

Mike Choma of St. Catharines had just finished playing nine holes and was waiting to connect with Brian and Shirley Dimitroff of Niagara Falls for his back nine.

Choma is a member at St. Davids and Queenston Golf Clubs. He usually plays Queenston on New Year's Day but the recent rain meant that conditions on St. Davids, protected a bit more by the escarpment, were more favourable than



Brian Dimitroff starts off 2023 with a round of golf in St. Davids. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

those at the sister course.

"It's not too bad out today," Choma said, pointing to the duck boots he was wearing to ensure his feet stayed dry. "I don't wear my golf shoes when it's like this. In the winter, you have to think a bit more about your game, choose different clubs than you would in the summer. And I use a different golf ball, too, one with a bit less compression."

Choma went on to acknowledge that there would be less roll on his drives on

this particular soggy Sunday, while often on New Year's Day icy conditions might put a few extra yards onto his length from the tee boxes.

Parker Moran drove down from Stoney Creek to play St. Davids Sunday. Like Choma, the 26-year-old usually plays Queenston but chose St. Davids on Jan. 1 for the same reason. The HVAC technician's winter rounds are not limited to New Year's Day — the avid golfer tries to book a round



Brian and Shirley Dimitroff with Mike Choma ready to tee off at St. Davids Golf Club.

at least once every month of the year at one of the two courses.

The group of Mark and Drew Timlock and Robbie Denham were putting out on the fourth green as Moran followed his down-the-middle tee shot. Denham missed his first putt by just a few millimetres.

For the second straight year, Bob Hewer of Thorold had arranged an informal tournament of sorts. The 20 or so in his group were all arriving between noon

Hewer matches each golfer with another as a 'blind partner.' They all ante up \$20 into a pot at the start of the round, and the top five twosomes take home all the cash. Apres golf they were all heading to The Northern Flame on Lake Street in St. Catharines.

Most of the golfers in Hewer's group hailed from St. Catharines, though there was one foursome who all drove down from Burlington.

"This is one of the few golf courses in Niagara that is open year round," Hewer said. "And it's a perfect way to ring in the new year. Here we are today, we're golfing, and it's great weather."

When The Local suggested that the morning's rainy conditions were threatening to return and potentially put a damper on the afternoon, Hewer responded, "It doesn't rain on the golf course."

Brian Dimitroff was all smiles as he and his wife Shirley readied for their nine holes with Choma. When someone wished him a good round after his tee-off, he summed up the feeling of each and every one of the golfers present.

"Even a bad round is a good round today."

thank you



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Niagara native, former Predator playing in Sweden

Mike Balsom
The Local

Former Niagara Predator and Niagara Falls native Dante Massi spent Christmas Day away from his family for the first time in his life. Instead, he was in Sweden playing a pickup game with current and former members of the Division 3 Falkoping Riders hockey club.

His potential loneliness was softened on Boxing Day, though, when his parents arrived from Niagara Falls for a visit. They brought his Christmas presents with them, of course, went sightseeing in Stockholm and took him out for dinner, where he tried venison for the first time.

Massi has been in Europe since October, when his visa finally was approved, allowing him to cross the pond to pursue his professional hockey dream. He credits his 2021-2022 season playing for the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's (GMHL) Predators for giving him the opportunity.

"With COVID, I was kind of done with hockey," says the former Greater Ontario Junior B Hockey League (GOJHL) player. "That GMHL season kind of saved my career, in a sense. It kept me going."

Prior to joining the Predators, Massi had spent time with the Thorold Blackhawks, Welland Junior Canadiens and Fort Erie Meteors of the GOJHL's Golden Horseshoe Junior B League. He also spent a season with the Junior C Chippawa Riverhawks.

Massi was one of the first signings by Johan Eriksson, the Predators general manager when the team moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Toronto. Though Massi had a bit of a slow start to his season, he ended up leading the team in points

(74) and assists (59) in 32 regular season games. He also tied for the lead with three goals and six points through the Preds' six playoff games.

The 5'7", 170-pound forward quickly became a fan favourite at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. His gritty style of play found him frequently taking on much larger opponents in the corners and usually coming out with the puck to set up one of his teammates. He became a leader both on and off the ice.

"He goes in there and comes out with the puck more often than not," says Predators owner and president Robert Turnbull, who coached the team most of last year. "And around the net, his hand-eye coordination is great. He tipped in a lot of pucks that made everyone say 'wow' last year. But how he matured, and to see him grow as a young man, that's every bit as important in getting him to where he is right now."

The 2021-2022 Predators included Swedish players such as Jesper Eriksson, Emil Eriksson, Alexander Insulander, Pontus Madsen and goalie Oscar Spinnars Nordin. Massi says playing with them and getting to know them gave him the idea to look into playing there this season after his final year of GMHL eligibility.

"My friend Devin Sanders from Niagara Falls was playing for Hagfors," explains Massi. "I connected with him, and a bunch of other people playing over there, to get feedback from them. I started reaching out to teams and it all worked out."

"He told me he wanted to go to Sweden," says Johann Eriksson, who is now a player agent and advisor with Avenue Sports Management. "I connected him with Duane Smith, a Niagara local (who played with Hagfors

from 1988 to 1994). I pretty much just gave him the contacts he needed and he basically had the drive to make it happen. That was his end goal."

Eriksson explains that it is difficult for Canadian players to get clearance to play in Sweden. It is common for visa requests to take as long as four months to come through. And the rules have changed in recent years. Eriksson helped Massi begin the application for the holiday work visa he needed last summer.

While he was waiting, Massi trained with the Plattsville Lakers of the Western Ontario Super Hockey League, a senior semi-professional loop, but didn't get any game experience during that time. He had some catching up to do once he made it overseas.

The 22-year-old began his Swedish journey with the Division 3 Hagfors Viking Hockey Club, where he scored his first European goal. He quickly realized how different the European game is to what he was used to back home.

"It's been a huge adjustment," Massi tells The Local. "Everybody here is so fast. There's a lot more east-west puck movement, and it's less physical. Sometimes you'll get the puck and you'll have more time than you think. And every single player here is a great skater."

The bigger ice surface has also required an adjustment — when the scrappy St. Paul Catholic High School graduate heads into the corners, he tends to find more space than he did in the GMHL.

"I've been trying to play a little more skilled and offensive game, and a bit less gritty," he adds. "They don't like to go into the corners here. There's less battling. I have to read the play more, intercept passes and take their sticks away. I've had to



Dante Massi has put on a Swedish uniform for the remainder of the season. (Supplied)

learn to have more poise with the puck, to be a bit more tactical."

After a couple of months with Hagfors, Massi opted to take a transfer to his current team in Falkoping, about four hours by car southwest of Stockholm.

"Hagfors was starting to struggle a bit, and I wasn't getting the opportunities that I felt I deserved," he says. "So I put in for a transfer. I've only played two games for them before our break. But it seems a lot better here, the team is winning more, and I'm getting the opportunity to play more."

Massi says most people in Sweden speak English, as they study it as a second language in school. He is currently living in an apartment with two teammates, fellow Canadian Brodie Conlon, who helped him move all of his gear from Hagfors to Falkoping, and a player from Ukraine.

The league is on a short break until Jan. 4 when the Riders will take on the team from Tibro.

Though Massi had heard from his teammates last year how popular the sport is in Sweden, he's still amazed by it.

"The amount of hockey here is crazy," he says. "Hockey is a huge tradition in Falkoping and they're very passionate about their team here. The community really supports us. After the games the kids from the younger teams come in and do a celebration chant. It's pretty cool."

When the season ends in April, Massi plans to return to his family home in Niagara Falls. He'll go back to his job at the Hilton there and also help out at Dave Cullen's Hockey School. And he'll take a few spring and summer courses to continue on his psychology degree at Brock University. Then he's hoping to return to Europe for a second season.

"They're changing the import rules again next year," Eriksson says. "Next year he will need an actual full work visa. That means he would have to get a salary that is at an elite level. To get that kind of salary

in Sweden you usually have to come from four strong years in a (U.S. College) Division 1 program. But there are so many other countries in Europe he can play for"

"It's been a great experience," says Massi of his Swedish sojourn so far, "and it's helped me out with life skills, too. I'm hoping I can stay in Sweden and move up to Division 2 or even Division 1. But other countries like Germany and Denmark have some good leagues, too."

Says Turnbull, who through the years has seen many of his players move on to Europe, the American Hockey League and even the NHL, "I'm very proud of him. He has worked his butt off. I'm incredibly proud of what he has achieved. He's earned this, and I know he'll do very well."

"He's a high-level playmaker," adds Eriksson. "I've had weekly contact with him, so I know he is putting in the work. He's a really good skater, and he can play at a high level. He can play in Europe for a long, long time."

Preds hope to improve record during second half

Mike Balsom
The Local

The holiday break is as good a time as any for Niagara Predators coach Kevin Taylor to assess his first season behind the bench with the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL).

Just past the half-way point of the season, the Preds are in sixth place in the GMHL's South Division with a record of 10-12-3, and 17 games remaining in their 42-game schedule.

"The goal all year has been third or fourth place," Taylor told The Local. "When you consider the games we've played, there are two losses that I'm still bothered by. Take those away and we'd be at .500 at the Christmas break."

The two losses to which Taylor is referring are most

likely two of their three overtime losses — the 6-5 loss on Nov. 11 to the first-place North York Renegades and the 5-4 loss Nov. 25 to the fifth-place St. George Ravens.

The loss to the Renegades was a hard-fought, physical back-and-forth affair that saw Niagara give up the lead three times. The Renegades potted the winning goal two minutes into the overtime period. Taylor was happy to come out with the single point, but after having lost 9-0 in their previous match against the Renegades, it was frustrating to be so close to victory and watch it slip away.

Newcomer Cameron Savoie tallied a hat trick in the loss to the Ravens, but St. George forced the overtime with the Preds shorthanded. Niagara later squandered a power play opportunity that

carried into the extra period by taking a penalty of their own. The Ravens sealed the victory just moments after Niagara's Riley Ellis skated to the penalty box.

Taylor acknowledged that the team is still working on improvements to both their power play and penalty kill strategies, something that has been lacking for the first 25 games of the season. And he's hoping within the first two weeks of 2023 that they can sign another defenceman to shore up the blue line in those situations.

In the meantime, two new additions to the front ranks should be ready to take to the ice at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union arena for this Friday's game against the third-place Bradford Bulls.

Left winger Askar Aimanbetov from Kazakhstan is

expected to be at Tuesday evening's practice, as is new signing Andras Kehl. The 19-year-old Kehl is originally from Budapest, Hungary, but played his last five seasons of junior hockey at various levels in England. This season the forward has exhibited a hot hand in 10 games for the GMHL's Northern Division's Mackenzie Mountaineers, scoring 25 goals and 24 assists.

"We're really deep," Taylor said about the roster moving forward. "This team is easy to coach, everyone gets along. The new guys may not be on the top lines right away, and all the way to our fourth lines we will be strong. The guys are looking forward to the second half. There's a real buzz and we don't want to disrupt that."

Looking at the first 25 games, Taylor said the biggest

surprise player-wise has been the performance of 16-year-old forward Nolan Wyers, who has been named to the GMHL's Under-18 All Star Game scheduled for Jan. 17 in Bancroft, Ont. Wyers has amassed eight goals and 10 assists in 24 games for the Predators.

"Our goaltending is another surprise," said Taylor. "I didn't think we'd have the level of goaltending we have. And we picked up (Declan) Fogarty and (Cameron) Savoie late in the season, and you can see they're really buying into the whole thing. They're willing to do what they have to do to make the whole team better."

After hosting Bradford Friday, the Predators travel the next day to Tottenham to take on the fourth-place Thunder. Those are two important games for the team to begin its

climb up the Northern Division standings.

In their two previous meetings this season with the Bulls, the Predators came out on the short end of 8-1 and 6-1 decisions.

"Friday will be tough, but we're going to have a different lineup than we've had all season," Taylor predicted. "It will be interesting to see how it goes. The second-half schedule doesn't see us playing the top couple of teams as much as we did the first half, so I think we have a real chance to make it into third or fourth place."

The following week will be a busy one, with a trip to Bradford on Jan. 11, a home game against Tottenham Jan. 13 and a Sunday road game against the eighth-place Streetsville Flyers.

Game time Friday is 7:30 p.m.

LocalSPORTS

Memorial tournament a success with players and fans

Mike Balsom
The Local

Though he was never a hockey player, Niagara-on-the-Lake's James Berg was a huge contributor to the town's minor hockey organization. And exactly a year to the date of his sudden death on Dec. 23, 2021, a tournament in his name is helping out once again.

Organized by family members, the James Berg Memorial Hockey Tournament in Vigil raised \$5,500 two days before Christmas for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves Minor Hockey Club.

Despite the blowing snow and hazardous road conditions that day, eight teams squared off in the

day-long tournament that also included a raffle, a barbecue and a great day of surprisingly high-level action on the ice.

"The stands were packed," Berg's 21-year-old daughter Madison tells The Local. "The snow was crazy, but the whole community really came out. There were people all over the arena. It was so amazing to see how busy it was."

The idea for the tournament originated in the mind of Madison's cousin, Matt Friesen.

"My uncle was a great guy," Friesen says. "I'm really close with his kids, though I'm a bit older than all three of them. I wanted to do something to honour

him on the anniversary, and a hockey tournament was the first thing that came to mind."

Friesen told Madison and her brothers Mackenzie, 23 and Mitch, 18, about his idea last summer, and they quickly got to work putting things together.

"Matt contacted the town to ask about ice time," explains Madison, "and once we had a date we threw it out there on Facebook. We thought we might be able to get four teams to make a perfect little tournament, but the response was overwhelming. We ended up with 10 teams interested, but had to cut it back to eight due to the ice time."

For the most part those teams were all assembled specifically for the tournament. Friends and relatives of the Berg children were on the ice as well as a number of former Wolves players from the decade-plus during which James was involved as a coach, trainer and member of the organization's executive board.

Kyle Pauls organized the team that ended up winning the tournament, and he says he was surprised by the level of hockey that was being



The Berg family, Mitch, Madison, Carolyn and Mackenzie at the James Berg Memorial Hockey Tournament.

played that day.

"I didn't anticipate that much talent," Pauls says. "It was a welcome surprise."

His own team included former Quebec Major Junior Hockey League player Matt Thorpe of Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake's Charlie Izaguirre, who played four years of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III hockey at Lake Forest College in Illinois.

But according to multiple sources, all eight teams were similar in make-up.

Brothers Mackenzie and Mitch Berg played against each other on teams they organized for the tournament, as well.

The games were all officiated by accredited referees who donated their time, including local residents Rob Alexander, Fred Teichgraf and Chris Weier.

"One of the other refs couldn't make it because of the weather," says Friesen. "Those three stayed all day long. We were a bit nervous because of the competitiveness of the play, as we only

had one ref per game. But it worked out really well."

The weather kept current Wolves president Pete Flynn away from the arena that Friday but he was impressed with how well it was run and with the funds it raised. Flynn worked alongside Berg for many years on the Wolves executive.

"What we'd like to do with the donation," Flynn tells The Local, "is to create a James Berg Memorial Scholarship. We'll talk to the family about it. But we'd like to use the proceeds to establish a scholarship fund, perhaps to help kids who have played in our local hockey club as they move into college or university."

Pauls' winning team received T-shirts commemorating the beloved hockey booster, and Madison says if the tournament returns next year she hopes they can get a trophy made to present to the winner.

"Dad would have loved the tournament," she says. "He would have been here, and he would have enjoyed the day so much. He would have been really happy."

The family hasn't yet decided if the James Berg Memorial Hockey Tournament will be an annual event, but they are getting pressure from many who were there that Friday.

"I need to talk to Madi to see what she thinks," Friesen says, "but I 100 per cent want to do it again. It's a great way to honour my uncle James. I'd like to keep it going every year. I know the players want it to come back."

"I worked the night shift the night before," Pauls adds, "but there was no way I was going to miss the tournament, even with the weather. I made sure I got up early to get there and beat the storm. The consensus from everyone on my team is we absolutely want this tournament to come back next year."



Henry Berg and Mackenzie Berg at the arena. (Photos supplied)



Kyle Pauls' winning team included Matt Thorpe of Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake's Charlie Izaguirre.

LocalHAPPENINGS

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Message: Kevin Bayne
The King's Herald
Matthew 3:1-12
www.ccchurch.ca

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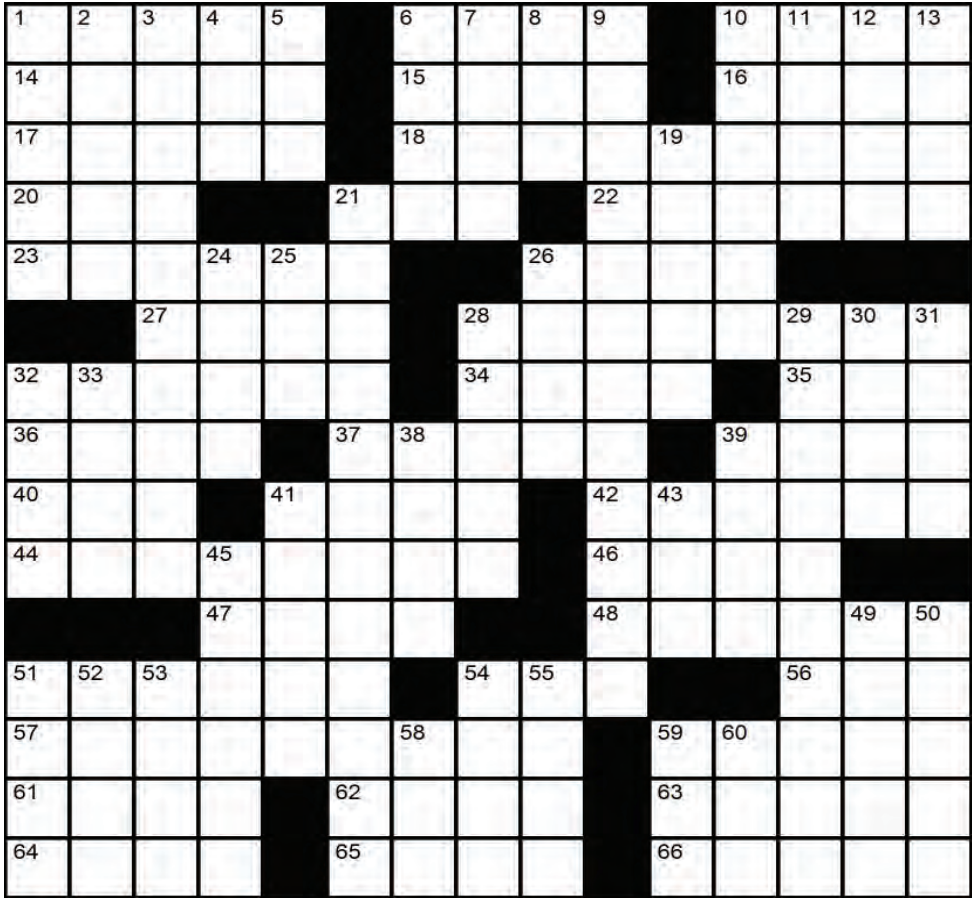
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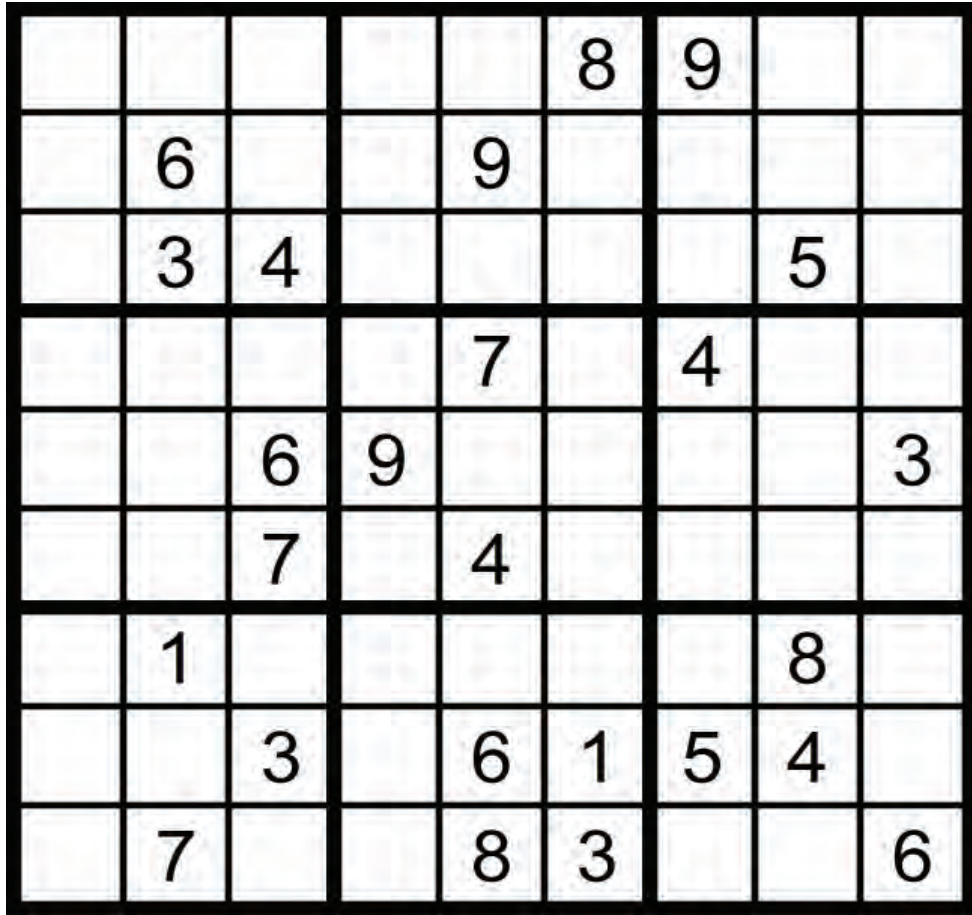


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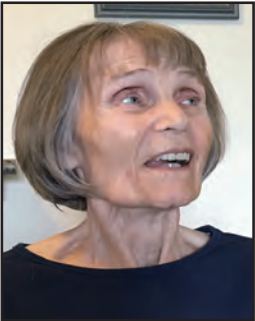
CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



- Across:
1 Cagney's partner
6 Poker variant
10 Nipper
14 Got up
15 W L A N
16 "I'm --- here!"
17 Identifies
18 Papal
20 Slow-witted
21 The Tiffany network
22 --- quarters: precedes Taps
23 Symbol of disgrace
26 Earth
27 Drawn tight
28 "Idylls of the King" writer
32 The blink of an eye
34 Harangue
35 Computer brain
36 Ice skating jump
37 Put back into service
39 St. Paul's Cathedral designer
40 Follows why, by the sound of it
41 Iridescent gem
42 Scrubs
44 Mental illness
46 Waterproofed canvas (Abbr.)
- 47 Measure of sound intensity
48 Swellings
51 Music for voices
54 It means "central"
56 Globally calamitous happening
57 Home to Everest
59 Release
61 First lady's partner
62 Wander about
63 Understand
64 Lairs
65 Simple arithmetic
66 Terminates
- Down:
1 Comes ashore
2 Anticipate
3 Advisory or decision-making groups
4 Scrape
5 Agreeable response
6 Wad of cleaning cloth
7 Gratuities
8 Mysterious radar image of it
9 Fragmented
10 Nervelessly
11 Brief let-up
12 On the job
13 Texas siege city
- 19 Sully
21 Butterfly larvae
24 Winner of three Olympic golds, --- Devers
25 Perform in a pantomime
26 Large bodies of salt water partially enclosed by land
28 Sincerely
29 Can be recycled?
30 Exposed
31 Convent inmates
32 E.g. Speer, Himmler
33 Draft cattle
38 Dines
39 Used to be
41 Oscar winner Tatum ---
43 Youth
45 Tank type
49 Top celebrities
50 Percolates
51 Large African lake
52 Conceal
53 Persian Gulf monarchy
54 Courteous address to a lady
55 Sets of beliefs
58 Not me
59 Expression of disgust
60 Gun owners' grp.



OBITUARY



EPP, IRENE—It is with immense sadness, but grateful hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Irene Louise Epp (nee Fast), on December 27, 2022, at the age of 84. Devoted wife of Henry W. Epp, (63 years), loving mother of Gary (Cindy) Epp. Joanne (Michel) Gagne and Kathy Epp. Awesome grandmother of Alex, Nicholas, Forrest, Faith, Sandy and Amy. Sister of Werner (& the late Marlene) Fast, John (Liz) Fast, Arnold (Elena) Fast (Germany), sister-in-law of Abe Epp. She is predeceased by her mother Margaret Fast, father, Johann Fast, brothers Viktor and Edward Fast (Germany). Mom is also survived by many nieces, nephews and several cousins.

Irene was a dedicated employee of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for many years, devoted member of the Niagara United Mennonite Church, White Oaks and Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

Many thanks to the dedicated staff at Upper Canada Lodge where she spent her last year. Visitation will be Monday, Jan. 2, 2023 from 6-8:00 p.m at the Niagara United Mennonite Church, 1775 Niagara Stone Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake. A celebration of life will take place on Tuesday Jan. 3, 2023, 11:00 a.m., Niagara United Mennonite Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to MCC Canada or Alzheimer Society of Canada. Funeral arrangements by Tallman Funeral Home.

Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca



HIRSCH-KALM, SHEILA—We are heartbroken to announce the death of our mother, Sheila Hirsch-Kalm on Sunday December 18, 2022. She is survived by her sons Keith and his wife Dora and Mark and his wife Irene along with her two grandchildren, Joshua, and Megan. She had recently lost her brother Scotty and her beloved husband Michael. The days had become much tougher and it was taking its toll till she relented and passed over to join her much-loved husband in the next life. Sheila passed away one day shy of her 86th at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. As one of her grandkids said, it is thought she could not bear even one birthday without her beloved husband, Michael. She lived an incredibly full life visiting places and doing things she had always dreamed of. She is most known for her work in the NOTL community, fundraising for the Cancer Society and advocating for the handicapped. She will be missed by many.

We do not remember days, we remember moments.....

Sheila's family will receive friends and family at MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls on Saturday January 7, 2023 from 1 to 3 pm. A funeral service to celebrate the life of Sheila will follow at 3 pm. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Canadian Cancer Society. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morseandson.com



NOTICES

To place an Obituary or
In Memoriam in our Classifieds,
please contact Julia at:
julia@notllocal.com or
905.934.1040
Deadline is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from
December 28, 2022

6	4	1	8	7	2	5	9	3
5	8	9	1	6	3	7	4	2
2	3	7	5	9	4	8	6	1
1	9	6	7	2	5	3	8	4
7	5	8	3	4	6	1	2	9
4	2	3	9	1	8	6	7	5
3	6	5	2	8	9	4	1	7
9	7	4	6	3	1	2	5	8
8	1	2	4	5	7	9	3	6

Across: 1 Lacey, 6 Stud, 10 Claw, 14 Awake, 15 Wi-fi, 16 Outa, 17 Names, 18 Apostolic, 20 Dim, 21 C B S, 22 Call to, 23 Stigma, 26 Soil, 27 Taut, 28 Tennyson, 32 No time, 34 Rant, 35 C P U, 36 Axel, 37 Reuse, 39 Wren, 40 Zee, 41 Opal, 42 Cleans, 44 Insanity, 46 Tarp, 47 Bels, 48 Edemas, 51 Choral, 54 Mild, 56 E-L-E, 57 Himalayas, 59 Unite, 61 Adam, 62 Roam, 63 Grasp, 64 Dens, 65 Sums, 66 Halts.
Down: 1 Lands, 2 Await, 3 Committees, 4 Eke, 5 Yes, 6 Swab, 7 Tips, 8 U F O, 9 Disconnected, 10 Coolly, 11 Lull, 12 At it, 13 Waco, 19 Taint, 21 Caterpillars, 24 Gall, 25 Murn, 26 Seas, 28 Truly, 29 Scrap metal, 30 Open, 31 Nuns, 32 Nazi, 33 Oxen, 38 Eats, 39 Wren, 41 O'Neal, 43 Lad, 45 Abrams, 49 A-list, 50 Seeps, 51 Chad, 52 Hide, 53 Oman, 54 Ma'am, 55 Isms, 58 You, 59 Ugh, 60 N R A.

Happy
New
Year

20
23

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Your support has been the key to our success. This New Year, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our clients, suppliers, friends and families.

May this year bring each of you happiness, good health, new adventures, and good fortune.



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