



**Marijuana  
toxic to  
dogs,  
especially  
small ones**  
**page 9**



### Perfect night for harvest

Pillitteri Estates Winery received a helping hand from mother nature Monday evening, with -15 degrees Celsius temperatures Monday evening, allowing grapes to be harvested for icewine. Leading the harvest for Pillitteri, Jamie Slingerland said some years are cooler than others, “but this year was a bitterly cold one.” The harvest continued for 16 hours, through to morning. It was a smaller harvest than other years, due to the lack of international tourism, the main market for icewine. (Ron Planche)

## Volunteers needed to supervise rink

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

The outdoor skating rink in the Virgil Sports Park has been frozen since late last week, but not officially open.

With the season for outside skating already short due to the weather, and kids heading back to school virtually, precious time for families and kids to enjoy the rink is being lost, said Paolo Miele, who asked and received support from town council for installing it on municipal property.

A few skaters have already tested out the rink, said Miele. But although the ice is remaining solid, the fence around it is supposed to be locked, until he has ironed out an issue town staff has raised.

Miele first said the hold-up was the need for information to be recorded for contact tracing, which the town had set as a condition of opening.

The boards and plastic were installed for the 40-foot by 80-foot rink before the end of the year, by a professional company, funded through volunteer donations. Fire Chief Nick Ruller asked and got a positive response from some firefighters who agreed to flood it, but by the time the temperature dropped and the ice froze, the province and town had stepped up restrictions to curb the growing number of COVID cases spurred on by the omicron variant, said Miele.

He maintained the skating rink was an outdoor amenity, like the playground and skatepark, and doesn't require such measures, although the town was considering it a facility, which would require a name and phone number for contact tracing.

By Tuesday morning, the town had agreed that it was an outdoor amenity

**Continued on page 3**

# Strong opposition continues over Parliament Oak project

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Residents who feared a virtual meeting about the Parliament Oak development proposal might not get their message across needn't have worried.

Not all of the 30-plus members who signed up to speak at Monday's public meeting did so. But after about four hours of impassioned pleas against the development, with no supporters other than the proponents

of the project, councillors were left in no doubt about what is expected of them when it comes time to make a decision.

In the face of such strong opposition that councillors have been asked why staff would even entertain the application for an inappropriate development on the historic Old Town property, CAO Marnie Cluckie opened the meeting by explaining staff cannot turn away an application — they have to review it completely, and then make a recommendation

for council to make a decision. Staff, Cluckie said, are still in the process of reviewing the revised application received in early December, with an open house and two public meetings, including the one held Monday, to provide comments to staff, who do not take a position at those meetings. She also explained there would be no decision made Monday — that would come later, after staff have completed their report and recommendations.

The meeting opened with

Paul DeMello representing Liberty Sites, the developer of the property, explaining the revisions to the original proposal, which now includes retaining the front portion of the school, a three-storey 71-unit apartment, five single detached homes and four semi-detached, with a parkette, a medium density of 22 units per acre, and a maximum height of 12.4 metres. The apartment has been lowered to two storeys at its edges, he said, the heritage walkway with public access is

still part of the project, and the driveway has been lowered for more private access.

He spoke to three main concerns of residents: intensification, density and height. Policies regarding intensification, he said, were amended in the Official Plan when Parliament Oak was still operating as a school, “and not on the radar of the municipality in terms of potential intensification.” He suggested if the school had been closed at that time, the site “would have met the character-

istics for appropriate infilling intensification,” an opinion refuted by others later in the virtual meeting.

He spoke of the medium density, that is acceptable under the Official Plan because it would have little impact on surrounding neighbourhoods — also refuted vehemently by residents — and a height of 12.4 metres, just 1.4 metres above the 11 metres deemed acceptable in the Official Plan.

**Continued on page 2**



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# Residents passionate and eloquent in opposition

Continued from page 1

He referred to the apartment as low-rise, with the third storey “minimally visible from Gage and Centre Streets.”

In terms of architectural details, he said at the wrap-up of the meeting, when questioned about the institutional look of the project — some residents referred to it as resembling a high school—that details such as brick and facade can still be worked out at the site plan stage to present “a softer look.”

Residents who spoke were asked not to repeat information already presented, due to the expectation it would be a lengthy meeting, but most focused on the same three issues as DeMello: density, height, and intensification, a provincial policy typically used to ensure densities of development and redevelopment provide sufficient housing to allow for pop-

ulation growth.

Aberdeen Lane resident Judy Gardner was one of many who said any development on the property, bordered by homes on King, Regent, Gate and Centre Streets, should be low density, and that the proposal “is not in keeping with local architecture, character and atmosphere in the Old Town.”

All three residents who created POST, Preserve Our Special Town, spoke in opposition to the project, and said their movement has gained huge traction in the short time since their website was created.

The group formed by Alan Gordon, Marilyn Bartlett and Connie Tintinalli was mentioned by several speakers, who agreed with what they are trying to accomplish. Bartlett said in the short time since they put up their website, they have had 550 people sign a petition objecting to the proposal, many letters of concern, and



a momentum of community opposition “that’s far different” than what was described by the planning department, which received 20 letters in opposition that were included in its information package, and about a “handful” received more recently.

Bartlett also attacked the density issue, citing the OP that says infilling must be compatible and consistent with surrounding land uses, including heritage, character, density, height, massing and scale. “The surrounding blocks have an average density of 3.47 units per acre,” she said. “What the developer is proposing is something so far beyond that, it is absurd.”

The height, she said, is the equivalent of a four-storey apartment at well over 40 feet, and that doesn’t include the mechanical penthouse.

She called the building “an affront to the surrounding streetscape,” an eyesore to those who have to look at it, and a blow to the charm and character of the Old Town, “in gross violation of the Official Plan.”

Bartlett also spoke to the “egregious” issue of access, with all traffic leaving from and accessing the development through a local street,

again contrary to the Official Plan. With all the services such as Skip the Dishes and UberEats it will be a very busy residential street, with all the attendant safety problems and diminished quality of life, she warned.

Gordon also spoke of the groundswell of opposition to the project and support for POST, and read a letter from neighbouring residents on the POST website, who said life as they have known it will end — a strong sentiment others repeated. He also said a precedent will be set “if this calamitous development is allowed to proceed. Trust me, many more will follow. An application of this scope, importance and impact on the town requires much more study and input from the community than the limited scope of these meetings so far.”

Janice Thomson, speaking as president of the Niagara Foundation, asked councillors to adhere to the Official Plan.

“Residents of NOTL share a common pride, and find joy in the attributes of the town. Its beautiful natural setting, with pockets of agricultural and heritage aspects, makes it one-of-a-kind. Its unique neighbourhoods are an important part of

the landscape that, taken together, form the town’s special character,” she said.

“Residents elect councillors to develop Official Plan principles and enact bylaws to uphold the key integral strengths of the town, as identified through a multitude of public input sessions, charettes and consulting contracts. You have done that, and continue to do so.”

Residents rely on the strength of “carefully and thoughtfully prepared” Official Plan documents and zoning bylaws to provide councillors the tools required to ensure the town’s development is managed within the established limits, she said.

“As guardians of the rules, council is now in the position of having to consider an application that does not meet the terms of what is considered possible on decommissioned open space and community facilities lands. If a proposed use does not fall within this list of potential uses, as stated in the Official Plan and as known to any property purchaser, the Niagara Foundation believes it should not be supported,” she said, requesting that councillors “fulfill their duty of care to the residents by upholding the limitations clearly expressed in the

Official Plan.”

Lyle Hall, a board member of the Niagara Foundation and also a representative of SORE (Save Our Randwood Estate), was brief, simply asking why. “Why would you let this happen? Why would you step so far away from the Official Plan? And why would you allow something this big to happen in such an established residential area?”

Caroline Polgrabia, a policy advisor who went to Parliament Oak School, said the development should hang on to its green space while offering a housing mix. She suggested something quite different than what is being proposed, including the possibilities of a wellness centre, therapy, mindfulness and even music therapy rooms, spas and saunas, and maybe even a community radio station, off-leash dog park and community garden, all accomplished with a more compact footprint for the residential component.

Although all residents spoke with passion and commitment, several mentioned the eloquence of Jim Reynolds, one speaker calling him “Shakespearean.”

This was his submission:

Continued on page 3

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John Bald Team Leader



# All anxious to have rink officially open

Continued from page 1

and contact tracing was not required. But there was another hiccup.

Miele said he is fine with asking for mask-wearing, although not mandated outdoors, and a reduced capacity on the ice, with only 30 skaters on it at one time, but he doesn't have volunteers for the rink to be supervised during the hours it is open.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the town was saying it has to be supervised, for the safety of the skaters. Although hockey is not allowed, if nobody is enforcing that, someone could be injured, and the insurance has been arranged through the town.

The proposal Miele gave to staff before the town agreed to allow the rink on town property indicated volunteers would be supervising, and there have already

been kids playing hockey.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she thought the rink was a great idea, and was pleased to see it approved. "I hope, fingers crossed, we'll get the ice rink going. It's outdoors, it's a great activity, and a great initiative for the community," she says.

But supervision of a rink on town property is necessary, she added. The town can't afford to provide staff and Miele had said when he went to council with his request for a rink on town property that he had volunteer support.

The town is committed to the rink, Disero says, as it is to keeping the walking path shovelled. "We want the rink open and used, but it has to be supervised."

Miele says he has volunteers to provide maintenance, such as flooding if necessary, and snow clear-

ing. He has a resident who has offered to provide a "homezoni," a small tractor with a 50-gallon water tank converted to spray water on the ice. Other than that, he expected the adults skating with families to look after

each other and ensure rules are being enforced.

"We'll be maintaining it, not supervising. We can't do that 12 hours a day," he said Monday.

Late Tuesday, he was looking for volunteers and

hoping to have the rink open for use soon.

Disero suggested the hours might have to be reduced — Miele was hoping for 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with lights on during the evening — and the town will open the con-

cession stand so volunteers can keep warm and have access to the washrooms.

"Volunteers were expected to be part of the plan to supervise the activity. We can't just let people go in and out," she said.



People have begun using the rink, but its opening hasn't been cleared by the town.

## 'We're confronting the very future of town'

Continued from page 2

"The issues we face here tonight are not simply those of zoning or building heights or density or architectural harmony. What we are confronting here is the very future of our town and its priceless heritage. The building proposed for this historic site is not subtle; it is not quietly insidious; it is not a gentle invasion of a neighbourhood. On the contrary, it shouts and proclaims its presence with a brutality and a ruthlessness not seen before in the history of this historic place. The developers bandy about words like "heritage" and "streetscape" and "neighbourhood," but these are all hollow buzz words with no connection to the reality of what they are truly proposing: the wholesale destruction of the geographic centre of the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. When the District School Board of Niagara wantonly refused to sell this property to our town and favoured a developer out of concern that a school might somehow reappear there, we all feared the worst.

"The worst is what we have before us now. It is as if an alien species has descend-

ed to infect our town with a malignancy so profound that we can only recoil in horror and dismay. There will be no cure for this disease should we allow it to take root. And like all malignant tumours, it will metastasize and spread. The word "precedent" sounds innocuous enough, but it is profoundly powerful. Once a tradition is shattered or a rule is massaged or bent, the deviation becomes the new normal. How do we deny the next developer permission to wreck another neighbourhood? I live in the Dock Area across from the remains of the old American/George III Hotel. There is already a proposal in the works for a gigantic condo block on this site which would dwarf the surrounding homes and destroy our community. I am sure that the developers and their planners are listening in tonight, taking notes, biding their time and watching just how this first assault on our town plays out. Any neighbourhood could be next.

"Two hundred and eight years ago, on Dec. 10, 1813, Niagara-on-the-Lake was burned to the ground by retreating American forces, encouraged and abetted by turncoat Canadian Joseph Willcocks and his

henchmen. Every house was torched and what remained was a smoking ruin of foundations and chimneys. Our town was rebuilt and many of those new homes still stand today as a testimony to the resilience and determination of our ancestors. These historic houses are one of the main reasons we have millions of visitors every year to this area. We now stand and face another invader but one who pretends that his actions are benign and will enhance our precious town. Nothing could be further from the truth. If this development is approved it will stand for a century as a monument to folly, short-sightedness and greed, which will leave visitors and residents shaking their heads in bewilderment and disgust.

"We are on the brink of an existential moment which goes far beyond land use planning. I predict that the Old Town will live or die by the outcome of this one proposal. We must ask ourselves what kind of a town we want to have for the next hundred years. If it includes this development, then we already have our answer.

"My wife, Patricia Hartman, a former teacher at Parliament Oak School, sees this proposal as the antithesis to

what this town really needs: housing that will attract young families. A town with no children is fated to die of old age. This development might attract Airbnb investors or retirees but there would be no place here for families. The old school lies at the heart of the town with green space to benefit all. If we have learned nothing else from the pandemic, we know how vital green space, open skies and nature are to our mental and emotional health.

"This will have to be a political decision and should it be made in the developer's favour, a plaque can be erected to proclaim the epitaph of Niagara-on-the-Lake with the date of its demise in the first quarter of the 21st century. Here is an opportunity during these dark pandemic days to give those who love NOTL a reason to hope for a brighter future. Our town council may have been powerless in the face of the DSBN's adamant refusal to sell us back our own property, which it had acquired at no cost, but our elected officials are not helpless now. The scope of this disgraceful proposal is such a flagrant abuse of our by-laws and planning principles and requires so many concessions and variances that the

developer does not have a leg to stand on. It is vital that our planning staff, our committees and our politicians not provide that leg. For the sake of future generations they have no choice but to say no."

After the public meeting had wrapped up, in an unusual move, Lord Mayor asked to speak about the Parliament Oak project, promising not to express an opinion — Monday was not the time for that, without a staff report and recommendation.

She did however ask that town staff be directed to carefully consider some particular aspects of the proposal.

"We are at a cusp," she said. "This could possibly take us down one of a number of roads. This site is very important to the future of our town."

Disero made it clear, without judging the proposal, that the outcome will set a precedent in town. "The planners will say every property and every application is decided on its own merit," but the issue of compatibility is part of every application, she said, and developers will point to other properties and say "it's compatible with this."

If developers and possibly planning staff determine an

application is acceptable, and "you look and judge things with what is acceptable, you end up with something mediocre at best. I think NOTL is more remarkable than mediocre."

"All these things have been eating away at me," Disero continued, and in her position as the head of council and CEO of the town, "I think it's important that I continue, or try at least in every way possible, to promote our purposes and our vision for this town."

She said she had certain requests of town planners to consider when reviewing the Parliament Oak project, and made a motion that councillors ask staff to look at how much green space will be required "to acknowledge, recognize and reflect on the history of the site;" that they consider the long-term impact of the introduction of medium density to the whole area; and also consider the impact to the cultural landscape of the area while doing their analysis looking not only at provincial guidelines but at NOTL as a whole.

Disero received unanimous support for her motion, which, she explained, "it's more about where we're going, and where we're planning to go."



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# Local family happy to have schools reopen Monday

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Brenda Ferguson is one mother who will be happy to see her kids head back to school Monday.

Her three children attending St. Michael Catholic School will also be happy that the decision of the Ontario government announced Monday evening is to reopen for in-person learning on Monday, Jan. 17, sources with knowledge of the decision say.

And in a “fun turn of events,” her girls, who were not interested in online

learning, made the decision to try to log on to school Tuesday morning.

“I think with the news that they are going back to in-class next week, they got excited,” she says.

Hearing school was resuming in-person Monday, Ferguson said, “Good news all around . . . let’s hope it stays this way.”

Last week, with surging COVID-19 cases fuelled by the omicron variant, Ontario Premier Doug Ford moved all public and private schools to remote learning. Since the return to school after the holidays in Niagara was to

start Monday, Jan. 10, local students knew they would have at least one week of virtual learning before resuming classes, but until Monday night, weren’t sure if that would stretch longer.

Ferguson and her children were hoping for a decision to reopen Monday, so was pleased to hear the news.

She works full-time, with her husband able to work from home, but it has been difficult for her children, in Grades 3, 5 and 6. They’re smart kids, but they don’t like online working, she says, and she told their teachers she wasn’t going

to force the issue.

The teachers have been great, she said, doing their best to keep students learning and engaged online, but it just wasn’t working for her family.

“When we heard school wasn’t going to resume this week, there was a ‘bit of a moment’ at home. The girls have their first vaccination, we’re all vaccinated, and when it comes to school, they need to be in class, with their teachers and peers. If everybody respects the screening and protocols, and I feel for the most part people do respect them, I feel it’s safe.

And if kids get sick, we need to be smart and keep them at home.”

Ferguson said she was feeling privileged to be able to work full-time, and have her husband work at home while their kids were there, but realized it’s not easy for all parents, especially single mothers who have to work.

“This is a time in the world when mental health is a problem. I feel we’re living in luxury being able to make the choices we make.”

The province has also said public school students will only be eligible

for free PCR COVID-19 testing if they develop symptoms while at school, and kits will no longer be offered to children exposed to a symptomatic classmate, even if that classmate is confirmed to have COVID-19. Dismissing groups of students or notifying families when a child has been exposed to COVID in class will now no longer happen.

Ferguson says she’s not sure what to think of that.

“I guess we will just have to continue to be diligent about washing hands and wearing masks, and if anyone is sick, stay home.”



The Ferguson sisters, Peyton, 11, Olivia, 10, and Emily, 8, are anxious to go back to school Monday, and with all of them vaccinated, and everyone following protocols, their mother Brenda Ferguson feels it will be safe. (Photos supplied)

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JUST LISTED

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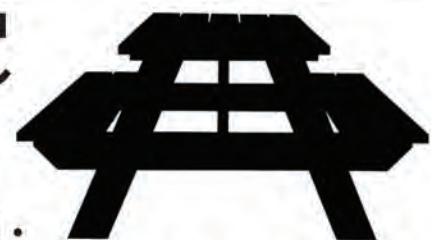
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# EDITORIAL

## Rainbow crosswalk shows town's diversity, inclusivity

In case there is any confusion over a discussion that is sure to continue to elicit strong reactions from residents, The Local has and will continue to support a Pride crosswalk in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Its installation has been included in the town budget, although it has not been made clear when or where, and it is likely we will hear more about it early this year, as those decisions are made by council.

What is becoming very unsettling is the divide it seems to be creating in the community, as evidenced by the reaction from residents who have contacted their local paper on both sides of the issue, through letters, some intended for publication, others not, and by phone calls — one from a very angry resident about 6 p.m. Christmas Eve.

The Local has been accused of being anti-gay due to printing letters in opposition to a

rainbow crosswalk, and by another letter writer that we must all be gay and therefore have a conflict of interest for supporting a rainbow crosswalk. That was really not a pleasant mis-sive.

Let's be clear — we support the efforts of the town to do something that indicates it is inclusive, that says all residents and visitors are welcome. And an editorial is the appropriate place to state that support.

A rainbow crosswalk is not about attracting tourism dollars, although there is some thought it could do just that; it's about telling the LGBTQ2 community, especially its youth, who have higher rates of depression, bullying, and suicide, that they are accepted, respected, and valued.

When the people with power to make decisions about the community support a rainbow crosswalk, what they are saying to their young people,

vulnerable people, residents and visitors, is significant. NOTLers should take pride in joining many others across the province and the country in sending a message of inclusivity through the installation of a rainbow crosswalk.

It may seem like just a symbol to some, but it's much more — it's a very visible public declaration to those of the LGBTQ2 community that they are valued and welcome in this community.

Those opposed to it cite many reasons for their view, including that the majority of people in town are not in favour, thus it's not something to be pursued. Some have suggested a survey, or a vote, before the town proceeds to spend up to \$15,000, to install a crosswalk. However history shows us the majority opinion is not always the best indicator of what is right, and in fact has often been proven wrong.

To residents who say we should do more to include other marginalized groups, we suggest other communities have installed rainbow crosswalks that include not only LGBTQ2 colours, but added some to also recognize Black, Indigenous and all people of colour.

Another objection often mentioned is that council is considering the main intersection in town, at King and Queen Streets, for the placement of the rainbow crosswalk, and that it is not appropriate in the heritage district.

When the town's Municipal Heritage Committee was asked to prepare a report on Pride crosswalks, it did not present a recommendation or offer advice — the report simply explained what has been done elsewhere in Ontario, including Ottawa, Arnprior, Cobourg and Cambridge, all of which have installed rainbow crosswalks in their heritage districts.

The committee report cited the town's Queen-Picton Heritage Conservation District Plan, which discusses objectives and policies concerning the business district streetscape, with an important goal being to enhance NOTL's heritage district by giving it "a special and inviting individuality."

It explains when Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage district plan was written in 1986, it did not consider the possibility of installations such as a rainbow crosswalk, but "does advocate for well-designed and special and inviting individuality reflecting the town and district."

It would seem the concern of residents in opposition goes much deeper than a \$15,000 expenditure of tax dollars seems to warrant. That they don't feel it's necessary just might indicate that people who don't face discrimination because of their sexuality, gender, or race, don't always understand the reality of

people who do, and don't believe it exists in this community. That can be unintentionally hurtful, especially in a small community, where those speaking out in opposition may be friends and neighbours of those who would welcome a sign of acceptance.

With all due respect to those who wish to weigh in, whether in favour or against a rainbow crosswalk, we welcome letters, but we ask that they be respectful to others. And a show of kindness and compassion for those who struggle with issues most of us have never faced would be welcome.

After all, this entire discussion is based on a wish to show NOTL is a town of diversity and inclusivity. This seems like such a small gesture, one not intended to create division or conflict, but just the opposite — to bring society together. Let's try to focus on that.

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

## Big victories for healthcare in 2021, but more to be done



**Wayne Gates, MPP**  
Special to The Local

I don't think anyone would disagree we are frustrated to see that the beginning of 2022 looks more like the beginning of 2021 than we hoped. With that said, working together, we've won some big victories

this year on behalf of Niagara-on-the-Lake. While this is a critical moment in the fight against COVID-19, our hope is that this wave will ebb quicker than the ones before it and finally put an end to this nightmare.

While it seems like a lifetime ago, 2021 began with its unique set of problems. During that time we had discovered Premier Doug Ford had diverted life-saving vaccines from Niagara and

offered no explanation as to where they were sent. As a community, we stood together and said this was unacceptable. Together, we made a commitment to get Niagara's fair share of vaccines and we proudly delivered on that commitment.

Within weeks, Niagara's vaccines would be made readily accessible to seniors in our community and finally to all residents wanting protection against this persistent virus.

I must admit, my frustration was not well-hidden when I saw the same issues in the vaccine rollout present themselves in December as we did in those early months. Simply put, after two years of this pandemic, every level of government should have a plan in place to rapidly distribute the excess vaccines and tests we have available in the provinces. Every day these vital tools go unused is a day one of our loved ones is at-risk. We ensured that Niagara got its fair share of vaccines and we'll do so again.

Unfortunately, as so many saw, vaccines were not the only area of our healthcare system that lagged behind residents' needs. A perennial issue we've faced here in Niagara has been availability of MRI scans. Imagine — residents are told an MRI scan could be the difference between a benign issue or a life-altering diagnosis. After they receive that information they are then told they won't know which it is for another 12 months. The province sets a bench mark for a reason, and that bench mark must be met. In 2017, I was proud to work with every single party

in the Legislature and get legislation pass unanimously to clear Niagara's MRI backlog and provide more funding for diagnostic services. In 2021, I discovered that our list had once again grown out of control. With help from the residents of the town we once again ushered the support of Ontario's political parties and raised this issue in the Legislature. Once again, we used our voice together and secured a commitment for more funding. I will be watching this issue closely to ensure that list is cleared.

I am so proud to say we've successfully advocated for provincial funding to support one of our hardest-hit sectors — arts and culture. Without visitors or audiences, sources of revenue dried up for this sector which has brought our town so much fame. Proudly we stood beside cultural institutions such as the Shaw Festival and our galleries to ensure they received the funding they need to stay afloat until we can welcome back their visitors. We successfully pushed for support to our trails and natural spaces that preserve our green spaces for generations to come.

Of course, there are issues we are still pushing for. Once again, we saw the Ford cabinet use its powers to rip up greenbelt spaces. So far, we've saved Niagara-on-the-Lake's greenbelt from this and we continue to watch the situation closely. We cannot lose the town's cultural and historic spaces. What we love about this town must be preserved and that means ending the unaccountable process used by this government to build on greenspaces.

The collective fight for safer classrooms continues. I think we can all agree that the best place for our kids is in classrooms. Since September, we've been pushing for a safer schools plan. This would've meant smaller classrooms, resources for schools and ready access to rapid tests for students, teachers and families. Unfortunately, that advice was not taken by Premier Ford, but my message to him is that it's not too late. Actions can and must be taken now to get kids safely back in school. I believe there's a common sense plan to make that commitment and we remain committed to seeing that through.

As you know, I am willing to work with anyone of any party. If a policy benefits the town, I'll support it and if it hurts the town we'll raise our voice. Doing this we've won some big victories and overcome some hardships over the last year.

While this virus has dampened our hopes for the early days of 2022, I believe better days are ahead very soon. I think if we work together and listen to one another, we can get there even quicker.



### View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

After watching *Tick, Tick ... Boom* (Netflix, 2021) I needed to sit quietly and contemplate the wonder of what I had just seen. It is

in every way brilliant and life-affirming, and impossible for me to even try to explain what just must be experienced. I urge you to see *Tick, Tick ... Boom*.

*Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who*

*loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.*

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

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# COMMENT

## Cautious optimism as we move into the year ahead



**Tony Baldinelli, MP**  
Niagara Falls riding

If only moving on from the COVID pandemic were as easy as flipping the calendar to a new year.

But just days after we celebrated the arrival of 2022, we were all reminded that COVID and the Omicron variant still exists as a major risk to our health and well-being, and it's unlikely to go away anytime soon.

As a result, we need to continue to be vigilant and responsible for ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities, as we go about our daily lives. For those of you, who have already received your two vaccine shots, I encourage you to get your booster, as soon as possible. I received mine, last Friday.

Looking forward to the year ahead, as your Member of Parliament, I realize it is critical that our local businesses, particularly those in the travel, tourism and hospitality sectors, continue to have access to needed emergency federal support programs, to get them through this latest lockdown.

Our friends and neighbours who work for these local businesses, also need access to continued emergency federal programs during this lockdown. Again, workers most impacted in seasonal sectors like our local tourism industry, continue to face challenges unique to this sector.

You have my pledge that I promise to continue supporting these local businesses and workers by raising their issues and concerns over the weeks ahead in Ottawa.

Our local wine sec-

tor also continues to seek certainty from the federal government through the implementation of a more permanent excise tax exemption replacement program. While the federal government has made a short-term commitment to assist our wine sector, what we need is the certainty and longevity created by a standalone full-time replacement program. Doing so, will allow our industry to invest and grow as it did under the previous excise tax exemption program, which was introduced by the previous Conservative government.

I also want employers to know that applications for the popular Canada Summer Jobs program, are now open, for those who are looking to hire students this summer. Applications close on January 25. You can learn more and apply to this important employment program by visiting the Canada Summer Jobs website.

And speaking of summer, Niagara will be able to showcase itself to the country, when we play host to the Canada Summer Games. If you are interested in volunteering at this incredible event, you can visit their website and apply.

In November, I was pleased and honoured to get appointed to the Conservative Shadow Cabinet by Leader Erin O'Toole, in the role as Shadow Minister for Manufacturing and Export Promotion. I look forward to this new challenge, and have already reached out to local and national stakeholder groups to hear from them on the issues and opportunities impacting the sector. We need to make Canada and Niagara once again a place to invest, to grow one's business, and to support good paying jobs.

Another priority upon returning to Parliament,

will be continuing to hold this federal government accountable for their inadequate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two years into this pandemic, and it is all too clear that the Trudeau Liberals have failed to ensure we have the tools necessary to not only respond to, but more importantly live with COVID-19, so Canadians can get on with their lives. Continued sweeping lockdowns will not fix the underlying problem of a lack of surge resources in Canada's healthcare system.

While it's easy and convenient to blame provincial governments for healthcare issues and lockdowns, the reality is that we are in this situation because the federal government has failed to give enough support to the provinces. That is why in the last election, the federal Conservative Party promised a more collaborative approach to working with our provincial partners, in order to build greater healthcare capacity, by pledging a historic \$60 billion increase to healthcare transfers.

For months, healthcare advocates and Canada's premiers, including Premier Ford, have been calling on the federal government to increase healthcare funding. The federal government continues to ignore these pleas from those battling on the front lines. Instead, the Trudeau Liberals continue their focus on the politics of division, rather than working to unite Canadians and overcome this pandemic, once and for all.

I want to thank the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie, for continuing to place their trust in me to represent them in Ottawa. I look forward to continuing my work to advocate for you, and on local Niagara issues impacting us all.

## Thanks to generous community

The spirit of giving and the kindness and generosity of the NOTL community has been overwhelming. A simple request to put together a Christmas stocking for the residents in long-term care was truly heartwarming.

It took over 200 volunteers to make this initiative a success. Each and every one of you who took the time to contribute can be happy to know you have helped to bring joy to a senior in long-term care at this very unsettling and lonely time due to COVID.

All the items were carefully selected for each stocking

by the members of the NOTL community, and the cuddly teddy bears so generously donated were a real comfort.

A sincere thank you to Penny Coles and her husband Wayne who kindly made the delivery of the 222 stockings to Niagara Long Term Care, Pleasant Manor and Upper Canada Lodge.

Chelsea Bilton, therapeutic recreation supervisor at Pleasant Manor, said the stockings were great, and the staff handing them out Christmas Day said it was a highlight of the holiday season.

Kristin Mechelse, program manager at Upper Canada Lodge was thrilled with the community support and thanks everyone who made this happen ... it truly warmed her heart.

Cody Cowbrough, program and support service manager at Niagara Long Term Care, thanks everyone for this kind and generous donation.

Wishing everyone a meaningful and fulfilling New Year.

With much gratitude,  
Joan King

## Local LETTERS

### Where will recognition end?

Having read with interest recent debates in the local press concerning the possibility of installing a rainbow crosswalk in town, I am compelled to present a view why any such recognition must be nipped in the bud.

NOTL is already a community where gays are welcome and prospering. There is absolutely no need to further this particular segment, at the expense and avoidance of recognizing other communities existing within our borders.

Take for instance the historic aspect of the Underground Railroad, where hundreds/thousands of people sought refuge in NOTL on the way to freedom some two centuries ago. Why the Black community is still maligned in certain locales; resulting in the creation of the BLM group. Surely NOTL ought to consider a crosswalk that honours our Black history and community?

Early in 2021, Canadians discovered the unmarked graves of thousands of aboriginal children across the country. This black mark in our history books sent a signal to each of us that our First Nations peoples were not engaged in decisions and in fact were dealt with in

an inappropriate manner by our forefathers. Now, over a century later, surely NOTL ought to consider a crosswalk honouring our proud First Nations peoples?

Some 200 years ago, the horse was the go-to beast of burden in Canada. Horses ploughed our fields and sowed our crops – they effectively sustained our farms, which nourished and built this country. Yet today, we have seen fringe groups utilize extreme interpretations of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to further their agenda of eliminating our horse and carriage industry. Surely it is time for NOTL to finally recognize the importance of the horse in the history of Canada, and now in the local tourism industry, with a crosswalk honouring the horse and carriage in our fair community?

In our local press this past year, much was made of the abuse received by our Asian community. Why even a family member of a councillor reported in the press on their particular experience. In fact, the Asian community participates extensively in the commercial and tourism aspect of NOTL. Surely NOTL ought to honour our Asian commu-

nity with a crosswalk?

A little further thought would identify additional groups meriting the honour of a crosswalk. Queen Street would be awash with colour and images. The problem is – where will this recognition end? Who will decide what groups or segments ought to be recognized? This indeed would be a very slippery slope that NOTL will be embarking upon.

No, NOTL must not honour any one group, to the detriment of other groups.

We already have inclusivity in NOTL and no further identification should be considered of any one particular segment of society.

What the town is considering is virtual-signalling. This unfortunate device has been a trigger for divisiveness in many communities. Let us not access it in NOTL; we already have an inclusive society without having to introduce identity politics.

In closing, I would like to thank all councillors for their tireless work this past year, and wish all of you and your families a healthy and prosperous 2022!

John Buchanan  
NOTL

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# Councillors reach agreement to help Central church

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

With the Central Community Church under construction in Niagara-on-the-Lake two years behind schedule, and as much as \$2 million over budget, selling off six and a half acres of land at the back of its York Road property is essential in order to complete the 80,000 square foot building.

There have been unexpected construction delays due to COVID, and large additional expenses to accommodate town requirements and get a building permit, such as a left-hand turn lane on York Road, and increasing the size of a dry pond (temporarily storing collected stormwater runoff), explains Grant McArthur, church member and project manager for the facility. The cost of the building, originally estimated at \$12 to \$13 million, has increased by between 12 and 18 per cent.

“Whatever could go wrong, has gone wrong,” he told councillors at Monday night’s planning committee meeting.

The property at the back, bordering Westwood Court off Townline Road, was purchased six years ago, at the same time as the York Road site. McArthur says at the time it was thought the extra

acreage could either provide some income for the church, or be sold to help finance the church and community centre project. With cost overages, now is the time to sell, and he has interested buyers.

Both the serviced Westwood Court property and the 21 acres at 680 York Road are zoned for light industrial development, and to pave the way for the “triple A” purchasers, McArthur was hoping to have a tree “conundrum” cleared up.

There are about 280 trees on the Westwood Court lots, some or all of which might need to be removed to allow development to proceed, and he was asking for permission to replant three trees for each one removed, rather than pay a cash-in-lieu price for each tree.

“This is a positive to us,” he said of the potential sale, to help to finish all that is planned for the York Road community centre, including a day care, recreational facilities, and space for concerts and speakers. “COVID is going to pass, we are going to get somewhat back to normal, and we’re going to want to do these things,” he said.

Although councillors had some questions about the project, and were careful not to give the impression they



The church, when completed, will have an outdoor playground. (Photos supplied)



**Continued on page 10** Inside, there will be a large gym area, which will be converted Saturday evenings to an auditorium for church services.



## Comment on the Region’s Proposed Draft Consolidated Niagara Official Plan

### NIAGARA IS GROWING!

The region is forecasted to grow to a minimum of 694,000 people and 272,000 jobs by the year 2051. This represents an increase of over 200,000 people and 85,000 jobs compared to 2021. To guide this growth, Niagara Region has prepared a new draft consolidated Niagara Official Plan for consultation.

The draft consolidated Niagara Official Plan sets out objectives and policies to shape Niagara’s physical development, protect what’s valuable, and balance the interests of current and future residents. Niagara is facing many growth management challenges, including; housing affordability, protecting the natural environment, minimizing impacts from a changing climate, and increasing economic prosperity. The draft Niagara Official Plan proposes a made-in-Niagara solution to address these challenges.

### THE DRAFT NIAGARA OFFICIAL PLAN

Consultation has taken place on background work to inform the Official Plan as well as many individual draft policy sections. Now a proposed draft consolidated Niagara Official Plan is available for comment. The proposed draft Niagara Official Plan is available at [niagararegion.ca/official-plan](https://niagararegion.ca/official-plan)

We welcome your comments and feedback by March 4, 2022. Comments should be sent to: [makingourmark@niagararegion.ca](mailto:makingourmark@niagararegion.ca)

Register for the sessions at [niagararegion.ca/official-plan](https://niagararegion.ca/official-plan). Video recordings will also be available online following the sessions. If you are not able to attend, you can provide input or ask questions by emailing [makingourmark@niagararegion.ca](mailto:makingourmark@niagararegion.ca) or contact David Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant at 905-980-6000 ext. 3476.

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES

Attend a series of virtual public information centres to learn more about the proposed draft consolidated Niagara Official Plan, ask questions to the project team and provide your input.

Wednesday, Jan. 26 | 6:30 p.m.  
Topic: Settlement area boundary expansions

Thursday, Feb. 10 | 6:30 p.m.  
Topic: Natural environment system

Tuesday, Feb. 24 | 6:30 p.m.  
Topic: Draft consolidated Niagara Official Plan

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000 ext. 3779 or [FOI@niagararegion.ca](mailto:FOI@niagararegion.ca).

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905- 980-6000 ext. 3252 or [accessibility@niagararegion.ca](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca).



# Lesson learned: marijuana is harmful to dogs

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

How many dog owners realize the danger of their family pet ingesting a marijuana cigarette butt while out for a walk?

It happens more often than you might think, and can be harmful, as one local recently learned.

Virgil resident Helen Arsenault is babysitting Inferno, her grandpuppy, while her daughter is out of town. Inferno is a wee little thing, a six to seven pound Pomeranian, about 18 months old.

Arsenault walks daily on the path in the Virgil sports park, and watches Inferno like a hawk. On Sunday, after a long walk, Inferno became lethargic, and wasn't interested in eating her breakfast. Arsenault says she had smelled marijuana on the walk, but didn't see Inferno eat anything off the ground. When the pup settled down for what turned into an unusually long nap, Arsenault at first thought she was just tired from all the exercise. However when it went on for too long, she tried to wake her up, but couldn't, and that's when she began to panic.

"She couldn't open her eyes. I picked her up and she was completely limp. She couldn't even lift her head. I thought she was dying."

After asking friends for advice about an animal hos-

pital that would be open on a Sunday, and not having any luck getting the help she was looking for from those she called, she finally found the Niagara Veterinary Emergency Clinic on Merrittville Highway, and as requested, sent them videos of Inferno.

"They said she was comatose, and to bring her in," says Arsenault. "They did all kinds of tests, including bloodwork."

They kept her for several hours, monitoring her, and gave her water, but from the outset, her symptoms indicated she had ingested marijuana. Arsenault was told the clinic sees 12 to 15 cases a week, and depending on the size of the dog, and other factors, it can be very serious, and even fatal.

Inferno was fortunate — with some rest, over time the effects wore off, and she's fine, although she has an appointment Thursday at the Virgil Animal Hospital to be sure she's okay.

Janet Hemphill has a similar story about her five-pound Yorkie, Nevaeh Grace. Hemphill was digging in her garden at the Creekside Seniors Estate in St. Davids, Nevaeh was sleeping on the ground beside Janet's husband, who was sitting on a bench close by. Then she started whining, she was going a little crazy, racing around. "She just wanted to run. I took her inside, and she got very wobbly. She

could hardly stand up. Hemphill reached the same emergency clinic as Arsenault, and took Neveah in, where she was diagnosed with ingesting marijuana.

"It hit her hard. I was really scared for her."

Hemphill took her home that night, and she was better the next day, "but she wasn't herself for a while. It took her a while to really come around."

Dr. Derek Nichols, veterinarian and new owner of the Niagara Stone Road clinic, says there should be no repercussions for Inferno, but he will check her out.

The circumstances Arsenault described are becoming increasingly common, he says.

Nichols began working at the hospital about a year and a half ago, after working for a St. Catharines veterinary practice for about 10 years. He and his family live in Virgil, and he is enjoying working in the community, close to home.

Although he has never seen a dog die from ingesting marijuana, it can happen, depending on several factors, including the amount ingested and the size of the dog.

The smaller the dog, the bigger the problem, he explains.

"Dogs seem to like the taste of it, and can be drawn to it, whether in the form of edibles in the house, or outside. Dogs will eat anything,



Eighteen-month old Inferno has recovered from a scary situation of ingesting marijuana. (Photo supplied)

of course, but they will eat that for sure."

The good news, he says, "is if it's a small dose, the effects will wear off."

Typically the symptoms are enough for a diagnosis — if a dog appears drunk, if they're wobbly on their feet, tired, or leaking urine, unable to control their bladder,

it's pretty clear the cause is ingestion of marijuana.

If they can't walk or won't wake up, then a visit to the vet is required, he says.

Nichols suggests that if you notice any symptoms at all, call your veterinarian to discuss what you're seeing. They may ask for a video, and they'll tell you what to

look for, how to monitor your pet, and whether a visit is necessary.

More serious symptoms can include high or low heart rate, low blood pressure, and even seizures and death with a high dose, he says, "but in general the prognosis is quite

Continued on page 10



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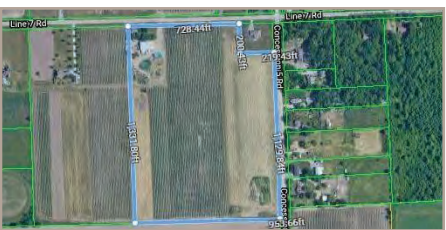
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# Please stop littering, protect innocent pets

Continued from page 9

good. They tend to sleep it off in a day. It's rare for it to be fatal — I've never seen that myself, but it's always better to be safe than sorry."

If a visit to the hospital is necessary, they will monitor the dog, and if it's soon enough after ingestion, induce vomiting. An IV could

be required to ensure fluid volumes are maintained.

His advice? Whether at home or outside, try to keep marijuana away from your dog.

Arsenault adds to that: if you are smoking marijuana outside, in public places, pick up your garbage. Don't leave butts lying on the ground. Remember, it can poison

someone's pet.

Hemphill agrees. "Leaving a butt on the ground may be convenient, but it's not worth the danger it poses to furbabies. I really thought I was losing her. This is much more common now that marijuana is legal. It's really important people realize how dangerous it can be."



This is a photo of Nevaeh when she was ill from ingesting a marijuana butt. (Photo supplied)

## Church will have day care, recreational facilities

Continued from page 8

were giving carte blanche to having all the trees removed, they voted to approve a motion by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who had taken a tour of the church and community centre building and was impressed by what she saw.

Councillors agreed that when a development application is submitted and approved for Westwood Court, the replacement of

any removed trees at a ratio supported by the tree bylaw would be accepted instead of cash-in-lieu.

Although it was an unusual process, CAO Marnie Cluckie assured councillors it would serve the intent of the tree bylaw.

The York Road facility will replace the church's building on Scott Street in St. Catharines, which has been sold to help finance the new church, which has been designed to

also operate as a day care service and community centre, with basketball and volleyball courts, a spectator area, and indoor soccer. McArthur says he has even been in touch with the NOTL Pickleball Club to see if they want court space.

On Saturday evenings, part of the facility will be converted to accommodate 1,800 people at two Sunday services — the church has more than 3,000 members, about 2,000 people attending weekly.



### Celebrate Seniors

# Golden Years Guide

## 3 tips to stay sharp and make the most of retirement

Being retired has a lot of benefits — more time with family, not having to go to a job every day and getting more opportunities to do what you really want. But we may want to make some adjustments to our daily routine to help keep

our minds and bodies healthy and strong in the years ahead.

Here are some ideas with surprising benefits for your body and your mind. Following these tips can help boost physical activity while reducing the risk of depression and

social isolation — which all can contribute to reducing the risk of dementia.

### 1. Be social

Your social network can change when you stop going to work every day. Retirement may present an opportunity to renew or rebuild your social connections. Whether you join a new group activity or make extra efforts to keep up old friendships, being social is an important part of being happy and healthy — even if you have to do it virtually.

### 2. Keep learning

Stay engaged in the world around you. Find a new hobby or take a class on something completely new to you. Regularly challenging your brain

with new things to think about can keep you entertained and help prevent depression.

### 3. Get active

Even if you've never been a fan of exercise, it's never too late to find an activity that keeps you moving. Make regular physical activity part of your new retirement routine, especially if you have more free time or a flexible schedule.

From a simple daily walk or yoga, to dancing in your living room or taking a virtual exercise class, there are plenty of ways to get active in ways you will enjoy whatever your level of ability. What is most important is to move as often



as you can. It will help ease the transition to your new life chapter, boost your mood, keep you engaged with the world, and keep your mind

and body in shape. Find more information about dementia at [canada.ca/dementia](http://canada.ca/dementia). [www.newscanada.com](http://www.newscanada.com)

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# Two Order of Canada recipients have ties to Shaw

**Mike Balsom**  
Special to The Local

Lifetimes of philanthropic efforts have resulted in two women with ties to the Shaw Festival Board being appointed Members of the Order of Canada.

Nona Macdonald Heaslip and Janice O’Born were among 135 citizens named to the Order of Canada in an announcement by Governor General Mary Simon on Dec. 29, 2021. Macdonald Heaslip is a current member of Shaw’s board of governors, while O’Born is an alumnus of the board.

They join Shaw board alumnus Harriet Stairs and her fellow Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Duff Roman as members, both of whom were featured in The NOTL Local last week.

Nona Macdonald Heaslip graduated from St. Michael’s College at the University of Toronto and worked in media and broadcasting at CBC Radio and Television, and later with Time Inc. in New York City. She returned to Canada to become her alma mater’s first manager of public relations.

Through the William and Nona Heaslip Foundation, created with her late husband, who was also a Member of the Order of Canada, Nona has earned the honour for her ongoing support of various arts, culture and educational initiatives over the years.

“I felt thrilled,” Nona said about receiving the news. “I look at some of these people (the 135 new appointees) who have spent their lives doing noble work, and I had to look back on all my activities. When I saw the ump-teen files I had on different charities, I thought ‘maybe I am in the right place.’”

Macdonald Heaslip pointed to her time helping both Shaw and Stratford Festivals make inroads through outreach activities geared toward American audiences in the 1990s as a gratifying time in her life.

When theatre representatives travelled to Florida on special event trips, Macdonald Heaslip recalls, “I entertained them and introduced them to many Americans.”

Toronto educational institutions have benefitted greatly from her largesse. At the University of Toronto, both the Nona Macdonald Visitors Centre and the Macdonald Heaslip Walkway at Hart House Theatre carry her name. Ryerson University has the Heaslip House for Continuing Education, while Sheridan College’s theatre program performs out of the 225-seat Macdonald Heaslip Theatre in Oakville. She is also responsible for numerous academic scholarships at various universities and col-



Janice O’Born (Photos supplied)



Nona Macdonald Heaslip

leges across the country.

The foundation has also bestowed significant gifts to Shaw, Soulepper Theatre, Toronto Symphony, the Canadian Opera Company, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Banff Centre for the Arts.

When asked about her commitment to philanthropy, Macdonald Heaslip says, “It probably made me feel useful. I enjoyed every minute of working with every charity and organization. They were like my family, as I didn’t have children or relatives here.”

For Janice O’Born, giving back was something she learned at the hand of her grandmother Kate.

“She would cross the road to put money into the Salvation Army kettle,” O’Born remembers. “She had such a positive influence on my life. There’s nothing that can beat kindness. If you can be

kind, it comes back to you ten-fold.”

In her efforts to live by her grandmother’s example, O’Born estimates that she has raised as much as \$70 million for charities by hosting events, with all of that money going into the community to help others. Much of it has come from larger corporations.

“I’ve pleaded and begged and borrowed from the large corporations, and guilted them into helping, because we’ve wanted to help those who are less fortunate.”

It was Elaine Triggs who invited Janice to get involved with the Shaw Festival.

“She said to me one day ‘you should be on this board,’ and I loved it immediately,” says O’Born. “I loved it so much that I would bring groups of friends down for the weekend, put them up in rooms, treat them to a show and dinner, because I wanted to spread the word. And it often resulted in a donation to the Shaw Festival.”

O’Born came to Canada in 1979, marrying Earle O’Born, the chairman and founder of The Printing House (TPH). She began the TPH Charitable Office in 1985 in an effort to create opportunities for employees to participate in meaningful

causes, promoting volunteerism and good citizenship in the communities where the company operates.

The proud Canadian says she is overwhelmed to be named a Member of the Order of Canada.

“It’s a humbling experience to think that I’ve been given this award,” an incredulous O’Born admits. “It’s baffling, mind-boggling that I have been rewarded for something that has already given me so much, and that’s the satisfaction of helping others.”

Over the years The Hospital for Sick Kids, The Canadian Centre for Diversity,

CanFAR, True Patriot Love and The Duke of Edinburgh have been just a few of the organizations to which she has contributed.

O’Born, who calls Ottawa home these days, is currently the chair of the National Arts Centre Foundation and sits on the board of the Sinai Health Foundation.

“The satisfaction and gratification that charitable work has given me,” says O’Born, “is beyond words. I realize that there are still people hungry all over the world. But I realized I can help one person at a time, and I’ve done that many times over the years.”

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# LCHS to provide animal control services

## Penny Coles

### The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents who see a stray dog or need any kind of animal control service are now asked to call the Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS).

Last fall the town put out a joint request for proposals to provide a full range of services, partnering with the town of Grimsby.

The contract went to the LCHS, beginning Jan. 1.

After 22 years having local resident Ken Reid provide canine control, the town decided a much wider range of services was required, and should be tendered according to its procurement process.

The new contract provides for all services requested, says town communications coordinator Mara Minor.

It includes animal control for all domestic animals, livestock, and wildlife; provisions for impoundment, quarantine, and humane services — the request for proposals called for euthanizing or

otherwise disposing of animals which are found to be at large, injured, in immediate danger of injury or death, or pose a risk to the public.

It also involves patrolling of streets and parks while performing other calls.

The LCHS will be expected to commence proceedings under the Provincial Offences Act and the newly implemented AMPS penalty system under the animal care and control and noise bylaw, with included fines for animal care and control bylaw infractions; a lost or found pet; off-leash or stray animals; injured animals; responding to dog bites or aggressive dog concerns; and reporting dead animals on public property.

The cost to the town, says Minor, will be about \$37,700, with a one per cent increase each year up to 2025. The town will save about 42 per cent over what was spent in 2020 and about 38 per cent over what was spent in 2021.

"If animal care and control services beyond the contract's scope of services are required, there may be

additional fees, but these are not anticipated," she adds.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero says the town had to follow its procurement process for animal control services, and will be saving money with the new con-

tract for a much broader range of services. "However there was a yearly hometown feeling when Mr. Reid was with us, and that will be lost. He served the community for many years, but we need so many additional services. People

liked him, and trusted him. I wish there was something he had done to team up with the Lincoln County team. That would have been great," said Disero.

"We'll have to see how it goes in 2022."

Residents can call

the Lincoln County Humane Society at 905-682-0767 or 1-800-263-2469 (after hours, press one for emergencies).

These numbers are available 24 hours a day. Residents can also email [contact@lchs.ca](mailto:contact@lchs.ca).

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# Torquil Campbell: songwriter for hire

**Mike Balsom**  
**Special to The Local**

It was a bit of a panic attack that led former Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, musician Torquil Campbell, to his latest creative venture.

The singer and leader of Montreal-based rock group Stars has hung out his shingle, so to speak, as a songwriter for hire, accepting commissions from anybody to create an original song for them at \$1,000 a pop.

“Things were closing down, it looked like there weren’t going to be any gigs,” Campbell reflects, “I was lying there thinking about how I was going to pay the bills and put food on the table. I just tweeted this sentence out, not thinking that anybody would take me up on it. Boy, was I wrong!”

That tweet was on Dec. 30, 2021, and his offer soon became part of an international news broadcast. Since then, he’s agreed to 50 commissions, representing a full year of work for the talented multi-instrumentalist, who now lives in Vancouver with his wife, Shaw Festival actor Moya O’Connell and their 12-year-old daughter Ellington.

Though Campbell’s mother and sister, Shaw Festival stage manager Beatrice, still live in NOTL, he and O’Connell left the town for Vancouver in 2018. O’Connell is currently studying for her Masters of Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia and taking on directing projects when she can.

“It’s people who have listened to Stars for a long time, supporters and audience members through the years,” he says of those 50 commissions. “I have mothers who want a birthday present for their child. There are people who want songs about themselves, about their brothers, sisters, lovers. It kind of runs the gamut.”

The promise to each taker

is that once the song is written, it belongs to them. Campbell kicks off the creative process with a virtual meeting with each client, discussing ideas and themes to guide the writing and recording processes.

“The raw material is truly them, it’s their life,” explains Campbell. “That’s the cool, exciting thing for both me and the listener. Everyone’s story is incredible, everyone’s life is a movie. I think that we’ve forgotten that music can be a private, personal experience. This is like a musical tattoo, allowing people to have a different relationship with music, something that will really resonate for them.”

Campbell points to a song titled “Juliet, His Love”, written for a man to present as an anniversary gift to his wife. Another commission is a song for a child with special needs. Another is for a person whose sibling has committed a terrible crime, and wanted a song to help in their healing process.

When the composition is completed, he records his version of it and sends the client a digital audio file, along with a postcard verifying the ownership of the rights to the song. Unless the client decides to share the song, it could very well only be heard by the songwriter and the client. Ever.

It’s a unique idea, but not totally out of the ordinary. After all, musicians have created music for specific purposes for years, whether it be for television or radio commercials or theme songs for programs. And visual artists often work on commission.

“Artists are for hire,” he agrees. “We all want to work for money. I think art has been put in a kind of ivory tower where people think it isn’t accessible to them. They will buy a \$4,000 couch but the idea of buying a \$4,000 painting is anathema to them. People have a right to spend their discretionary money on pieces that make them feel beautiful,



Torquil Campbell (Richmond Lam)

or special, or speak to them about their lives.”

In a follow-up tweet this past weekend, Campbell pointed out that for him to make \$1,000 via the popular streaming service Spotify, a song would have to stream 400,000 times. It highlights the inequity between the intrinsic and financial values the average listener or fan places on music.

“We have to be less precious with our art and share more,” he explains. “We have to be more democratic about it, and not resent ourselves for making something exclusive. We give something value by making it rare. With streaming, songs have become too common, and maybe we have to go back and rethink that.”

Campbell says the bespoke songwriting venture is kind of a perfect gig for him, as he’s never considered himself a confessional songwriter.

“This isn’t for everyone,” says Campbell. “A lot of people have to write from personal experience. Art, for them, is a kind of exorcism of their own stuff. I’m much more interested in art being a way to tell other people’s stories, finding empathy and understanding because you are looking outward at other people and how they can relate to your own life.”

The 49-year-old doesn’t ask for money up front from his clients. That eases the pressure on him to deliver within a strict timeline. It also allows him to spend some time on his many other projects, including a new record with Stars, scheduled to be released this May, their first since 2017’s *There is No Love In Fluorescent Light*.

Campbell is also one of the owners, along with Jim Cuddy of Blue Rodeo and Our Lady Peace singer Raine Maida, of

cannabis company LOOP/POOL, which funnels five per cent of its proceeds into a new philanthropic effort for struggling musicians called POOL/FUND.

In addition, he hosts a weekly podcast about art, culture and politics called *Soft Revolution* with fellow Canadian actor Ali Momen, and is currently doing sound design and music for a production of playwright Ellen Close’s *Cipher* at Calgary’s Vertigo Theatre.

He comes by his tireless work ethic honestly.

“My father (the late Canadian actor Douglas Campbell) taught me to hustle in this game,” Campbell laughs. I never want to feel like I’m waiting for someone else to make my destiny for me. You have to be your own creator, your own engine, as daunting and exhausting as that may be sometimes. At the end of the day

the institutions won’t be there for you, you have to be there for yourself.”

With the way the idea took off so quickly, Campbell says this is something he can see himself continuing to do once the arts world, hit so hard by the pandemic, gets back to normal, providing he can fit it into his hectic schedule.

And he doesn’t rule out the idea of a collection of his commissioned compositions one day seeing the light of day as an official release. Campbell would have to ask permission from his clients to make the music public, of course. But a brief look at his Twitter account would give one the idea that many of them would be happy to share their stories via Campbell’s songs.

Stars fans would surely be interested in hearing the results of his labours.



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# Migratory birds arrive on the river

**David Gilchrist**  
Special to The Local

For the local Niagara birding community, the annual winter migration brings a wide variety of birds to the area. The Niagara River becomes very active with many migratory species wintering on its waters. Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake we can witness this natural event easily.

About a week and a half ago, I spotted the first of the incoming waterfowl as a sole long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) cruised the waters of the Lower Niagara. On Friday, Christmas Eve, there seemed to be hundreds of them. A lone merganser (*Mergus merganser*) was also spotted one afternoon. Many more of these will be arriving in the area in the coming weeks.

Three other species have been also spotted and these have had the birding community in quite a flutter as they are definitely rare to sight in this area. The first one I became aware of was what I first thought was just an immature common loon (*Gavia immer*). However, after I posted a photo on a local birding Facebook page, I was informed by a member that no, it was a red-throated loon (*Gavia stellata*). These are quite beautiful when in their breeding colours, but don't show the bright red throat during winter (that's what fooled me).

They are the smallest loon species, with silvery-grey colouration predominant, and a white throat. They are very sleek and actively feed on fish. One put on quite a show for me off the Navy Hall dock one afternoon. It repeatedly surfaced and dived, moving great distances over many seconds upriver against the cur-

rent. It remained on the surface each time for between eight to 12 seconds, allowing me some quick photographs before diving underwater again. It became a bit of a game to try to estimate where it would pop up. It is not too often that they are found in our area during winter, and at least two have been spotted so far along the waterfront. It, like most of the diving ducks coming to the area, seems to find the abundant numbers of round gobies a reliable food source.

The bird that has been most exciting to see, however is a sole king eider (*Somateria spectabilis*). These are typically an eastern seaboard and Arctic sea duck. A sharp-eyed member of the birding group spotted it and posted a video showing it. Since then, many excellent photographers have come to town to catch a glimpse and a photograph of this particular duck.

After several days of observations, I have been able to get used to where I

might find it. It usually is in amongst the long-tailed ducks and accompanies them up and down the river for periods of time in the morning. This makes it a little harder to distinguish. I brought a pair of binoculars on the first day and was able to note that it was definitely more robust than the long-tails. Its red and orange beak is the giveaway, but sometimes, when it is resting on the water, it has its beak tucked away making it less obvious. The only way I could then distinguish it was its wider body and more pronounced breast. In the afternoon, it often seems to be by itself much further out in the river, and too far away for me to photograph.

The question arises as to why this lone king eider has found its way here, quite a distance from where it would usually winter. I'm wondering if high winds may have contributed to sending it off-course. It also could have just got caught up with the migrat-

ing long-tails and ended up as one of the crowd. Whatever actually happened, it saved many of us a trip out east to observe this 'lifer'!

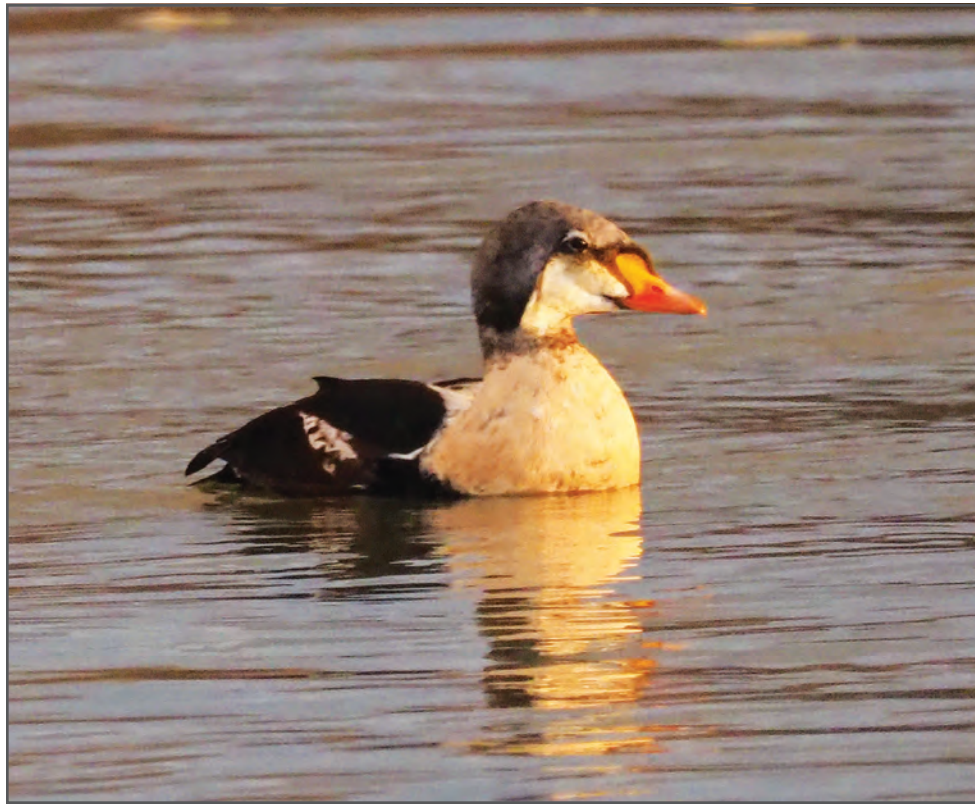
Another stranger to the area has been a razerbill duck (*Alca torda*) which

has been spotted by several birders. This is an auk only found in the North Atlantic, so definitely another out of place bird. Interestingly, according to Audubon, it is a species that is the closest living relative of

the extinct great auk. Unfortunately, I have not seen it after several days of looking. It may have moved on, but definitely another one for me to keep a look out for this season along our waterfront.



The red-throated loon doesn't show its bright colours in the winter. (David Gilchrist)



A lone king eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) is a large seaduck.



Round-headed gobies, an invasive species, is providing a good food source for migrating ducks.



A king eider with long-tail ducks — by Christmas Eve there were hundreds of them on the river.



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# Local hiking trails are getting bigger — literally

Owen Bjorgan  
Special to The Local

There is a fascinating and noteworthy trend about the hiking trails in Niagara Region. The theme has really come into the forefront over the past couple of months for me, given the snow, mud, and absence of vegetation.

Trails are physically widening, and smaller trails are growing in both size and popularity.

It's like a dirt road that eventually becomes paved. The paved road then upgrades to multiple lanes. A popular road may then graduate to highway status. With increased usage comes a literal increase in size.

With the onslaught of lockdowns beginning in early 2020, we saw record numbers of locals and residents from across the province flocking to the Niagara Gorge, Queenston Heights, Short Hills Provincial Park, and other popular trails. During this internal migration of humans, though, smaller and more discreet trails were also at the mercy of increased foot traffic.

I have gone into great detail in previous articles about the benefits and consequences of having so many people enjoying nature at once. In this article though, I'd like to focus on the actual hiking trails themselves.

Due to my work and spare time endeavours, I have the privilege of never missing a beat, and not only regarding seasonal change, but ongoing change over years. These observations are not exclusive to how the ecosystem itself changes its characteristics, but also how humans interact with certain trails and protected areas over time.

A quiet, meandering mountain bike trail near Queenston had a patch of poison ivy sprayed off the face of the earth last year. It was a sizeable cluster, right at the beginning of this unmarked and unassuming trailhead. Someone might be reading this and ask themselves, well, isn't that a good thing? For our immediate and selfish convenience, maybe. However, poison ivy is as much of a native species as a hickory tree or a trillium. I'm



A tent setup used after an evening of exploring local trails last week, when Owen Bjorgan was able to see how they have changed over the past couple of years. (Owen Bjorgan)

not entirely sure who sprayed these plants, or with what, but it created an ugly scar on the forest floor.

To me, this is a sneaky and profound reminder of humanity's quiet, yet arguably instinctive egocentric attitude towards nature. Perhaps it was done with the best intentions, but coupled with the poison ivy ousting, the trail was then marked and recognized as an official Bruce Trail side trail in late 2021. What used to be narrow and almost exclusively enjoyed by bikers is now a properly widened trail. I would be the last person to be upset about a new hiking trail, but we must collectively move forward with caution on how or where these trails take form.

I was recently out on a New Years Eve-eve winter campout on top of the Niagara Escarpment with my friend. Although I am up there more frequently, my good buddy is also very familiar with the trails up top. He was quick to notice how even since last year, the Bruce Trail widened significantly, maybe by a foot or two in some areas.

This doesn't sound like a big deal, but imagine the cumulative ecological impact of this when the Bruce Trail is the longest marked hiking path in the province. The amount of natural vegetation and previously undisturbed soil becomes mathematically compromised pretty quickly. I saw this on the Bruce Trail up near Lions Head and Tobermory last year, too.

Deer make routine paths through the bush that sometimes last for multiple years. The route is so safe and so

convenient with their hooved counterparts, that a gradual depression in the vegetation begins to take form. It is safe to say that I have seen deer trails in on our NOTL section of the escarpment, Short Hills Provincial Park, and other locales where they have attracted curious hikers and mountain bikers to follow them. The wear and tear increases, until it becomes more inviting for the average woodland walker. Just like that, it becomes a true hiking trail which infiltrates previously wilder spots.

Some of these deer trails have been walked by a small crowd of NOTL locals over the years, but you really had to take a careful look to find where they started. You'd also have to accept and embrace the bushes and crowded shrubbery. I was blown away to see a couple of these trails last week, which now make no mistake about being a well-worn hiking path. As I prepared my tent and fire to sleep, I wondered how this all happened seemingly overnight.

On top of the escarpment and on the darkest of nights, I stand on one of the highest points in NOTL and look down to the lights below. The new suburbs of St. Davids butt up against the black blankets of the countryside. A few headlights traverse the roadways, while St. Catharines emits a distant glowing bubble of familiar light pollution. I sipped my whiskey and quietly asked myself, are there simply too many people on the planet to walk all of these trails? Or just in general? That is a whole other discussion.



Time in the forests, especially winter, shows how trails grow in width over time.



# LocalSPORTS

## Predators shut down by COVID until Jan. 27

**Mike Balsom**  
Special to The Local

Niagara Predators owner and head coach Robert Turnbull wasn't surprised when the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) announced a pause in the schedule until Jan. 27.

With the number of COVID cases increasing in December due to the spread of the omicron variant, four GMHL teams had reported cases that month. A number of games had already been postponed in the league.

And when Turnbull himself tried to book an appointment for his booster shot and realized how long he would have to wait, he felt the writing was on the wall.

"When you see games being rescheduled in other leagues, the OHL (Ontario Hockey League), the OJHL (Ontario Junior A Hockey League)," posits Turnbull, "you know it's going to happen. I'm disappointed, but I appreciate the fact that it was done to err on the side of safety."

To date, the Predators have not reported a single case of the virus.

In Ontario, only the OHL, which was assigned 'elite amateur' status by the province, and the NHL are currently playing games. Since that announcement was made by the Ontario government on Jan. 3, high level players in other leagues as well as the OUA (Ontario University Athletics) and the OCAA

(Ontario Colleges Athletics Association) have been locked out of arenas.

"They're professionals, they get paid," Turnbull says of OHL players. "You can't really compare the OHL to any other junior league in Canada. I sent a letter to the government to protest the decision, but there is a big difference."

Though OHL players do not receive an actual salary each month, their career and vocation is supported in several ways, and the organization takes care of all costs related to education, transportation, and board. Certain scholarships are also available, and there can be bonuses and reimbursements in the offseason.

The Predators last played on Dec. 19, a 5-3 loss to the North York Renegades on the road. They closed out the first half of the season with 19 wins and 5 losses, sitting in a tie for third place with Durham in the GMHL's South Division.

The pause in the schedule means that their games against Durham (3), St. George (2), Streetsville (1) and Windsor (1) have been indefinitely postponed.

Turnbull and other GMHL owners met this Tuesday to hammer out a plan for the return to play.

"The games that have been lost between now and Jan. 27, with the exception of a few, will be made up," Turnbull tells The Local. "The season will now be 38 games (down from 42), practices will be increased

for the time lost, and the regular season will be extended until March 1."

The GMHL playoffs will begin March 2, with a few minor changes that will be hammered out at the next owners' meeting. The trade and player signing deadline will be extended to Feb. 3.

The plans all depend, of course, on any future announcements by the provincial government. Turnbull expects the Predators' revised schedule to be posted on the GMHL website within a few days.

### General manager Johan Eriksson takes a new job

Johan Eriksson has accepted a new position with Marych Sports Agency as their director of hockey operations in North America and Sweden. His new role includes recruiting, advising, and scouting as well as player placement in those two geographic regions. The European-based agency works with amateur and professional hockey players worldwide.

"He's worked hard behind the scenes for us," Turnbull tells The Local. "He's an excellent scout, and this is a big move, a big promotion for him. He will still scout for the Predators, but he'll be scouting for everyone moving forward. We look forward to our continued relationship with Johan."

Turnbull will be assuming most of the day-to-day responsibilities of the general manager's job, with the help of assistants Connor Shipton and Samantha Marson.

Eriksson moved to Canada from Sweden three years ago as a scout for Swedish hockey teams. In that role he visited arenas in the American Hockey League (AHL) and the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) to report on players being eyed by teams in his homeland.

He spent two seasons as the assistant general manager of the South Muskoka Shield of the GMHL's Northern Division prior to accepting the GM role with the Predators.

Besides managing the Predators, Eriksson had also been working as a European liaison, player advisor, amateur repre-

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### Meet the Predators

Name:

**Pontus Madsen**

Jersey number: 4

Age: 20

Birthdate:

**January 14, 2001**

Hometown:

**Rosersberg, Sweden**

Nickname:

**Mad-Dog**

Favourite hockey player:

**Rasmus Dahlin**

Favourite 'hype' song:

**Thunderstruck by AC/DC**

Hockey highlight:

**Scoring a coast-to-coast goal**

Other sports you play:

**Played football (soccer) when I was younger**

Favourite "cheat" meal:

**Pizza**

Secret talent:

**I'm really good at fighting!**



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# LocalSPORTS

## Truck Series racer Stewart Friesen sets goals for 2022

**Mike Balsom**  
Special to The Local

The current off-season for stock car and NASCAR driver Stewart Friesen is a time to recharge his batteries for what he hopes will be a 2022 filled with further success on the track.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake native is coming off his best year ever on the dirt circuit with 34 total wins. And though he didn't capture a checkered flag in a NASCAR Truck Series race, he narrowly missed a shot at the championship final after spinning out in the overtime laps at Martinsville, Virginia on Oct. 30.

On the truck circuit, it was Friesen's second year running with Toyota after switching from Chevrolet in 2020. He finished 6th overall in the Truck Series this year.

"The improvement that the race team has made over this past season really turned things around," he says. "We had a legitimate chance to make the final four, and had we done that we would have won the championship. I'm really proud of the strength and growth of the HFR (Halmar Friesen Racing) team."

Friesen also marked a number of firsts this year in his association with NASCAR.

His wife Jessica, an accomplished dirt car driver

herself, joined Stewart for two Truck Series races as his HMR teammate this year. Though she didn't end up running in the final at Bristol Motor Speedway in May, the pair finished 26th and 27th at the Corn Belt 150 at Knoxville Raceway in July.

"At Bristol, it was more of a dirt set-up, and that kind of hurt us with the way the track raced, really abrasive, like a pavement track," Stewart tells The Local. "At Knoxville, we were able to set up the truck differently, with Jessica's feedback, and we were able to race up to the field pretty good until we got knocked around there at the end."

Bristol, Tennessee was also the site of another first for



NOTL native Stewart Friesen. (Photos supplied)

Friesen. In March, he made his debut in the NASCAR Cup Series, driving the number 77 car for Spire Motorsports in the Food City Dirt Race, a rare dirt event for the circuit. Friesen finished 23rd that weekend.

"It was a dream come true, it was really special and neat," says Friesen. "Trip Bruce, our team manager at HFR, helped put the deal together. We worked closely with Spire and their crew chief, and we traded paint with the best in the business."

Finally, just last month he was invited by NASCAR to

test drive their Next Gen car on the dirt track at Lancaster, South Carolina.

"It was one of their first prototype test cars," Friesen explains. "Every Cup Series team was there, engineers and crew chiefs observing and suggesting ideas. It's a purpose-built pavement vehicle that they're trying to make 'racey' enough to put on a good show on dirt. It was neat to give some feedback and it will be neat to watch and know I had a small part in creating the show there."

The Cup Series returns to Bristol this year, but Friesen

doesn't expect to get the call to climb into the cockpit in 2022.

On the dirt circuit, Friesen's bread and butter, the highlights just kept coming.

"The big win in Port Royal, Pennsylvania, and again at the Fonda 200 in the fall, both were \$50,000-to-win races," he says. "They stand out as the two big guys. It used to be in dirt modified you only had Syracuse, but now we have four of those big races. It's a great time for modified racing."

Continued on page 20






### NOMINATIONS WANTED!

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## Swedish forward headed to B.C.

Continued from page 17

sentative and consultant for Pursuit Hockey Development, a Niagara-based business focused on helping aspiring players reach their goals in the sport.

### Henry-Pierre Jayet traded

Swedish forward Henry-Pierre Jayet is moving across the country to B.C. The 21-year-old forward requested a trade to a team out west, and Turnbull swung a deal with the Mackenzie Mountaineers, receiving cash in compensation.

"I think the world of him, he's a great player," Turnbull says. "It's all

about helping these kids achieve their dreams."

### Players back home

A few of the Niagara Predators decided to head back home over the holidays, and for some, home means Sweden. Forwards Jesper and Emil Eriksson, as well as defenceman Pontus Madsen, are back with their families there.

"They're skating on ponds over there," Turnbull laughs. "They're committed to coming back here to play. I'm in constant contact with them, their gear is still here, too. Though Pontus asked me to ship his gear to him so that he can skate with his

old team to keep in shape."

Swedish native Alexander Insulander and Georgy Kholmovsky of Russia decided to stay in Canada during the break in play.

### Oskar Spinnars Nordin update

Former Predators goaltender Oskar Spinnars Nordin celebrated his 20th birthday on Jan. 9. Since leaving the Predators for the Bismarck Bobcats of the North American Hockey League, he has appeared in six games for his new team. Through 330 minutes in net, he has recorded a 3.63 goals against average, a 0.895 save percentage, and a 2-2-1 record.





**Sunday, January 16th**

**10:00 a.m.**  
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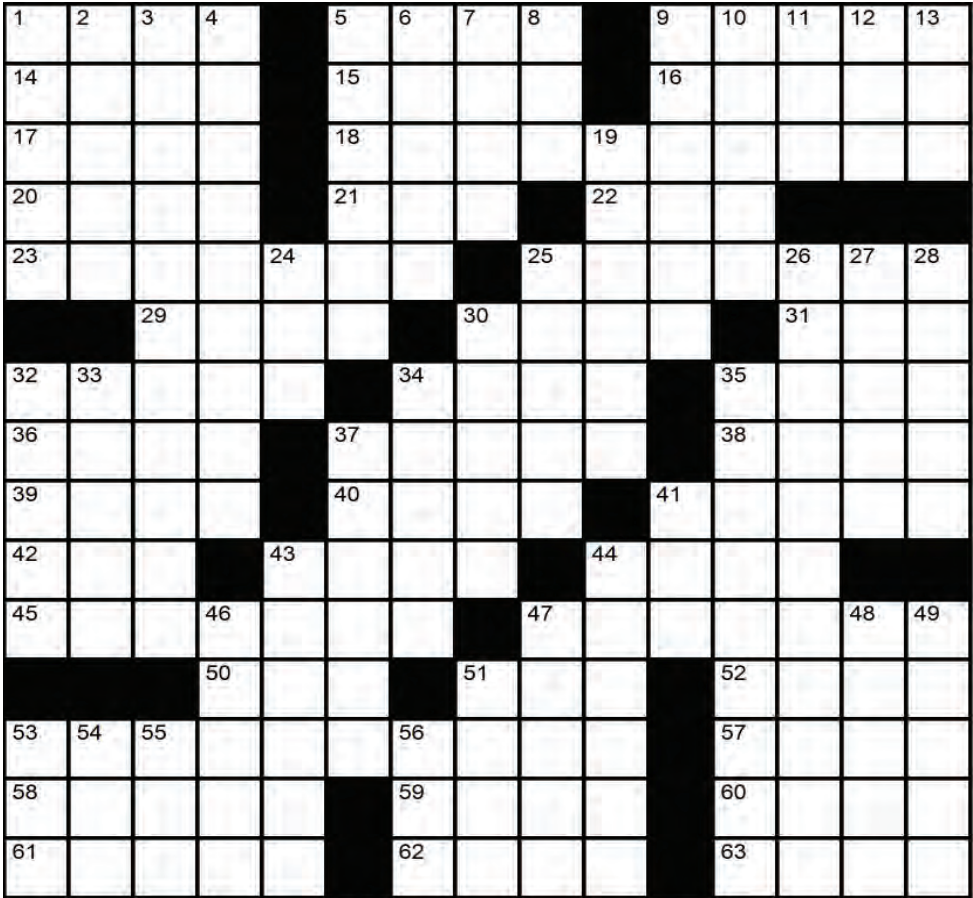
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21 Central  
22 Reactor safety overseer: Abbr.  
23 Crimson  
25 Shuns  
29 Kvetch  
30 Hot air  
31 Street guide  
32 Severe  
34 Spark generator  
35 Scotch companion  
36 Perfectly  
37 Take pictures  
38 Egyptian solar deity  
39 Legs it  
40 Throw  
41 Corrosive chemicals  
42 Since  
43 Canter
- 44 Surrealist Jean ---  
45 Short musical passages  
47 Dearth  
50 Rider Haggard romance  
51 Clash  
52 Narrow road  
53 The Queen City  
57 Otherwise  
58 Oil well firefighter Red ---  
59 Terrible Russian leader  
60 Morose  
61 Specifically  
62 Fencing stake  
63 Storm centers
- Down:**

1 Fumed  
2 Together  
3 Minor crime  
4 Travel documents  
5 Get up  
6 Rubbed off  
7 Spot  
8 Destructive computer key  
9 Stiffer  
10 Shell which can be blown  
11 How some stocks are traded (Abbr.)  
12 The --- small hours  
13 S L C church
- 19 One way to preserve food  
24 Scurried  
25 Poet whose work led to "Cats"  
26 Passionately  
27 Walked knee-deep through water  
28 Crosses  
30 Fillip  
32 Bag supporter  
33 Knotty  
34 Total confusion  
35 Blasphemy  
37 Filter out  
41 Ambition  
43 Collarless short-sleeved top  
44 Devil dog  
46 Computer information exchange code  
47 Deadly  
48 Follow  
49 Appears  
51 Programming language  
53 Twin-hulled vessel (Abbr.)  
54 Statement of agreement at the altar  
55 Rural negative  
56 Small drink

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Sudoku solution from January 5, 2022

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

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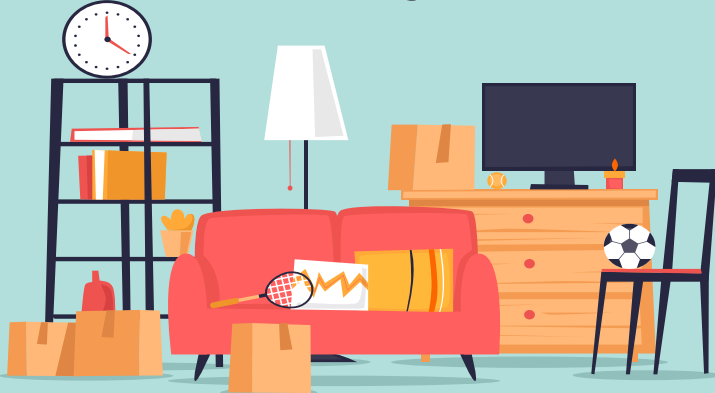
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

**Down:** 1 Raged, 2 As one, 3 Misdemeanor, 4 Passports, 5 Awaken, 6 Wiped, 7 Espy, 8 Del, 9 Alm, 43 T-shirt, 44 Marine, 46 A S C I I, 47 Fatal, 48 Ensur, 49 Seems, 51 Java, 53 Cat, 54 I do, 55 Naw, 56 Nip.  
Ivan, 60 Gium, 61 To wit, 62 Pale, 63 Eyes.  
Miro, 45 Phrases, 47 Famines, 50 She, 51 Jar, 52 Lane, 53 Cincinnati, 57 Else, 58 Adair, 59 Coil, 35 Soda, 36 To a T, 37 Shoot, 38 Aten, 39 Runs, 40 Cast, 41 Acids, 42 Ago, 43 Trot, 44 Ends, 21 Key, 22 N R C, 23 Deep red, 25 Eschews, 29 Moan, 30 Blah, 31 Map, 32 Stem, 34

