

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



The Perfect Pack makes its way through Virgil.
page 12

The trusted voice of our community.

notllocal.com JANUARY 17, 2019 Volume 1 · Issue 1



Beginning a new day

Marty, Ty and Shane Sherlock walk their dog Rufus early in the morning across Queens Royal Park, the quintessential photo of Niagara-on-the-Lake, with the gazebo in the background. (Fred Mercnik)



Lauren O'Malley, Penny Coles and Karen Skeoch are thrilled to present the first edition of The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local. (Julia Buxton Cox)

Hope you'll help us be voice of the community

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

If you are now holding our first print edition of The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local, hot off the press, we couldn't be more thrilled.

We have had so much fun getting to this point, and the support that has brought us here has been incredible.

Last week, we held our first community advisory board meeting in preparation for our print launch, and it was a huge success — a group of smart people

from various sectors of town gathered to listen to what we hope to accomplish, and to offer suggestions on how to get there. They had such great ideas for us. It was exhilarating and such a blast, we can't wait to meet again.

The goal of having an advisory committee is to encourage community collaboration and transparency — we believe we live in a time when both are crucial.

We aim to be the voice of the community. Our mandate is to represent everyone, whether you live in Old Town, the rural areas,

or one of our other neighbourhoods; whether you're interested in politics, want to know what's going on around town, or like to read about the fascinating people who are your friends and neighbours. And kids — we want to tell you what they're up to, what their schools are doing, how their sports teams are faring.

We live in a town of neighbourhoods and residents of varied and sometimes competing interests, so we decided to ask for help

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Tis the Season

We're celebrating Icewine all month long.
Visit konzelmann.ca for more info.



Town report to answer hunting, fishing questions

Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

"Honestly, what are we becoming? It is frightening, and it's hitting home. We can't just let these things happen." So says Coun Gary Burroughs about a hunting incident that robbed the town of five of its eight "mascots of the waterfront," as some describe the Embden geese who have made their home on the land of the former customs house in the dock area.

The geese have built a profound relationship with those who visit them regularly. Locals such as Dory Karr and Sarah Burroughs among others have made pilgrimages to feed and connect with the growing flock every morning over the last several years. Some of the birds come running to greet their human friends. Gary to this day is greeted enthusiastically by Mac, the senior male, whose foot the animal-lover heroically released from an ice patch several years ago.

How to best protect them and ensure the safety of people close to the waterfront is unclear, said the councillor, but he has asked for a report on what can be done.

He wants consultation with all the relevant agencies, federal, provincial and local, to determine who is responsible for the waterfront and what legislation covers the area and the situation. He is also asking the Town to look at whether it can require licensing for fishing or any other activity on the waterfront.

And if something similar occurs, residents need to know who to turn to for help, which level and office of government they should contact.

Finally, he wants to know whether there is any role for a Town bylaw enforcement officer to play should a similar situation arise. Council agreed to ask staff for a report and suggested a deadline of March for completion.

The facts of what actually happened haven't been officially confirmed by an eye-witness, and so technically remain hearsay, says the councillor. He believes a Niagara-based man took a young acquaintance out in his boat for a hunting expedition on the Niagara River on Boxing Day. As they approached a group of decoys at the base of East and West Line — in the area of the Smugglers Cove Boat Club — the man ap-



A hunting incident robbed the town of five of the eight geese who have made their home in the waterfront area beside the Melville Street dock for years. (Dory Karr)

parently spotted the unusual geese, and tried to scare them away, telling his companion not to shoot. The young man allegedly shot anyway, killing four of the eight geese. A fifth bird was injured, likely by a boat, perhaps this same one.

The story continues, says Gary, that the hunters collected three of the

dead birds, with the fourth being pulled downriver by the current.

He says it has been recounted that local men, also hunters, were stationed in a blind at the water's edge, and chastised the men in the boat for their actions.

While hunting with proper paperwork and training is not illegal on the river, there are several issues that are unsettling in this particular incident that the councillor sees as safety concerns and are part of the reason behind his request to Town staff.

First, it should be made clear these were treasured animals, neither wild nor entirely tame but pets nonetheless to the many who have fed them and cared for and about them in the decade or so they have been nesting in the dock area. Embden geese are typically livestock: the big white bird we see in storybooks and on farmsteads. This particular flock found its way to the water's edge and into the hearts of many locals, including both Gary

and Sarah Burroughs, Marion McMicking, and many others.

Another issue at stake is the fact these are not migratory birds. According to the laws and licences of seasonal hunting, only migratory birds can be killed legally. However, a call to the Ministry of Natural Resources wasn't particularly edifying. When asked if Embden geese are legal targets, the employee looked the bird up online and said, "It looks like a snow goose — I'm going to go with migratory." This particular breed is not built for flight, and, having stayed in one location year-round for a decade, is clearly not migratory.

Other potential legal infractions include shooting from the water towards the shore, which is obviously dangerous, given the fact there are residences, public trails and parkland, and other serious casualty risks, says Gary. But again, without tangible proof or a first-person account, there is little to no legal recourse.

Another significant issue is the reason Gary believes the birds had travelled up-river from their former home on the former customs house land. He tells of a glut of fishermen from all over Ontario overcrowding the water's edge, and deliberately denying the birds their path of access to and from the water over the rocks between the Jet Boats operation and the concrete wall that is part of the adjacent Town-owned property.

Because this breed of birds is not built for flight, they need to be able to walk into and out of the water. "This issue can't be left alone, and does tie in to the fishermen," Gary says. "When the birds were in danger they could find safety on that land before the fishermen crowded them out."

"Everything is too late," the concerned councillor continues. "Fishing grounds have been decimated. It can't be normal to allow this stuff to go on."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3





Our In-Store Collections:

- Women's Clothing
- Accessories
- Well-Crafted Jewelry
- Excellent Giftware Selection



Our Designers:

- Fringe
- Spanx
- Glamjulz
- Annaleece
- Tofino Towel
- C'est Moi
- PRIV Sleep
- Piperwest

- Black Tape
- Smash + Tess
- Gentle Fawn
- Dex Clothing
- Loftan Jewelry
- Elan
- Quay Sunglasses
- Bella Buddha Beads



700 Penner Street, Virgil
 Located inside Penner Building
 Center in the Loft
905.468.3242
www.kekeboutique.ca

Keeping it local.



Open 11am - 2am daily
 Join us for
"the Big Game"
 February 3rd in support of:



Great homemade pub favorites

Best pizza and wings

Wednesday 50¢ wing night



sandtrappub.com

358 Mary Street, NOTL • 905-468-8727

‘Immense sadness’ over loss of geese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

It may or may not be too late for the three remaining birds. The fifth, injured bird was collected by an officer from the Niagara Falls Humane Society, who was notified by concerned residents. The bird’s leg was broken in several places and her wing was severely damaged. “I believe she was hurt by the boat while trying to protect her flock — Jill was very protective,” says Gary. According to Marion McMicking who made the call to the NFHS, the bird was in so much pain she was easily rescued and taken away. A rehabilitation expert in marine wildlife inspected the goose at the Humane Society, says McMicking, and deemed her beyond saving. The bird — named Jill — has been euthanized.

Some locals fear the attention to the entire story will put the diminished flock at risk — either by the efforts of well-meaning residents wanting to re-home the geese, or by government officials seeking to follow the letter of the law, which some fear could mean removing the geese.

The councillor — along with many others who have

joined very lively commentary on social media — is deeply concerned about the safety of our residents, and the inherent risks in the practices of the hunters on and off the river. He believes all levels of government need to take action. “The role the Town should and will play is we have to keep this story alive,” he says. “Assuming local government cares, we need to make those at the provincial and federal level do so as well.”

Both Sarah and Gary Burroughs tell of garbage, tangled fishing lines, decapitated fish heads and other detritus scattered along

the waterfront. Sarah says when she asked the fishermen to clean up after themselves, they simply swore at her. When she approached local bylaw officers, she was told there was nothing to be done. “Now we’re dealing with coyotes down there,” she says. “I don’t blame them, there’s garbage everywhere.”

“There is an immense sadness that’s going on,” Sarah concludes.

Karr echoes the despair, and says, “I hope this makes people think about what’s all around them. To appreciate it while they can. Because it can all disappear in an instant.”



Mother Embden goose and goslings. (Photo supplied by Dory Karr)

Friends say thanks for support



Tony Chisholm (centre) of the Friends of Fort George presents a plaque to Tom Elltoft and Chris Bowron of Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty for their ongoing support. (Lauren O’Malley)

Lauren O’Malley
The NOTL Local

“It’s important to thank donors and sponsors when you’ve come to ask them for something,” says Tony Chisholm. “Especially when you know you’ll be coming back for more,” he jokes.

The member of the Friends of Fort George presented a gift of gratitude to Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty co-owners Tom Elltoft and Chris Bowron. “A plaque they can put up in their lobby to remind them of their generosity and our grati-

tude,” says Chisholm.

For more than five years, NOTL Realty has provided funding for the Canada Day celebrations at Fort George. “We put a lot of time and effort into that event, and it’s nice to know we won’t be losing money on it,” says Chisholm.

He continues, praising the real estate brokerage’s community spirit, “One of the things I respect about Tom is that he’s very pro everything in town. Tom’s done a lot for the community terms of support and education.”

Chisholm wears period dress — including a kilt made of the Chisholm tartan — for events related to Fort George, as a tribute to the era of the fort’s heyday. “It’s a personal choice,” the retired publisher says, “based on a) comfort, and b) cost.”

The Friends of Fort George have plenty of events planned for the year, including a whisky tasting, and a first-ever collaboration with Fort Niagara across the river. For more information visit friendsoffortgeorge.ca and/or follow the group on social media.

175 Lakeshore Rd, NOTL
905-934-5066 www.seawayfarms.ca

From our family to yours...

Thank you

We are very grateful for your continued patronage because we wouldn’t be here without loyal customers like you.
See you in the Spring!

Chautauqua proposal better, but not perfect

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

Chautauqua residents see their neighbourhood already changing, and are asking the Town to do a better job of controlling inevitable development.

It's a neighbourhood full of charm, where many of the homes were originally cottages, built by people who would come for the summer to attend concerts and lectures — the streets were laid out like spokes in a wheel, with an amphitheatre in the centre. The beach offered recreational activities, including tennis courts and croquet, and small boat rentals were available.

The sandy beach has eroded over time, and the amphitheatre is long gone, but the small community feel, where everyone knows their neighbours and people walking their dogs or pushing babies along the streets in strollers stop to chat remains. They even hold an annual corn roast.

It's a pocket of Niagara-on-the-Lake that has remained relatively untouched by tourists or progress, and residents say they want to keep it that way.

But large lots are being

divided, and new homes built, said Victor Tarnoy, who was representing his neighbours and members of the Chautauqua Residents Association at a public meeting Monday to discuss a Circle Street severance proposal. It is only one more lot and one more new home, but residents are afraid of what it means for the future of their neighbourhood. Members of the CRA understand development is out of their hands, but they want the Town to protect the trees, the streetscape, village character and cottage atmosphere of their unique neighbourhood, Tarnoy said.

Most of the neighbours' concerns had been voiced at two previous open houses, and on Monday planning consultant Susan Wheler presented a revised application, which sought to alleviate some of the issues raised at the earlier meetings.

"I believe we have a better plan, more in keeping with the neighbourhood," she said.

A reduced front setback is still required, but less than originally proposed, the design of the house is substantially different — it's now showing a Victorian-

style two-storey house with a smaller footprint — and the heritage silver maple on the town boulevard, which was in danger because of the proximity to the house where it was originally sited, will be protected.

"This process has produced a better design," she said.

Tarnoy said the CRA is no longer opposing the severance. Given the changes to the proposal, he said "it would be unfair to object."

There is also a benefit to severing the large lot, rather than leaving it for one huge out-of-character home to be built, he added.

Tarnoy did however offer what he sees as a better alternative to the proposed lot sizes and shapes, and said he has an issue with the planning process — he believes it did not include sufficient analysis of the impact of the proposal on the Chautauqua neighbourhood.

Rather than two unequal-sized lots, the larger one with a smaller, older house and a new, larger house on the smaller lot, he proposed two equal lots, which would require the removal of the older existing home.



Chautauqua residents remain concerned about a severance proposal and a new house that will be built on Circle Street. They believe the small home on the existing lot should be torn down now to allow for a better lot division. (Lauren O'Malley)

The CRA feels certain the owner's plan is to take it down eventually and build a larger one, and Tarnoy suggested the time to do that is now, to allow for a better lot configuration.

The location of the older home has dictated the shape of the second lot, Tarnoy said, creating a situation where the developer needs a variance to increase the front yard setback on a pie-shaped lot, putting the new house too close to the street. The streetscape would be improved by two new homes on equal lots and respecting the existing setback.

He said as an architect he isn't personally crazy about the new design of the house, which is too "pretend Victorian" with too many curlicues. He'd like to see cleaner lines, but it's an improvement over the original design.

In addition to the lack of detail in the planning impact analysis, the CRA was also critical of an arborist report, both were incomplete and misleading, he said, yet the planning department recommended the original proposed setback be allowed.

Michael Burns lives across the street from the

Circle Street lot the owners hope to sever. He objected pretty strenuously to the proposal from the time he first learned about it, concerned about the trees, the streetscape, and the precedent that could lead the way to drastic changes in the Chautauqua neighbourhood.

His concern for the streetscape is that it should be done with a plan that is well thought-out and coherent — which he doesn't believe has occurred in this application.

"The criteria for much new development is simply 'how can we get away with building the biggest thing allowed by zoning bylaw,'" he said.

Although he recognizes the owners are "bending over backwards" to improve the proposal, he still objects to the front setback.

But most of all he objects to the lack of planning analysis.

"Where is the sober in-depth analysis that is designed to consider the impact of such developments on the character of the neighbourhood?" he asks.

"Where are the reports that will assist in the protection of cultural heritage resources and ensure that

new development is compatible with the existing streetscape, not only for this development but for the precedent it sets moving forward."

Wheler, when complimented by Coun. Wendy Chiropita for showing "the gold standard of co-operation" in revising the project to address neighbours' objections, replied the revised proposal "might not be the perfect solution, but it's a step in the right direction."

Chautauqua resident Kevin Collins, however, offered what he believed to be an even better solution.

He told councillors he understands the severance request for a new house, with money to be made by splitting up large properties, but he asked that an increased setback be refused.

What he doesn't understand is how someone can ask for a severance but then say the house they hope to build is too big, and expect an increased setback to accommodate it.

"Don't come and ask for pushing it forward, even by an inch. Get with the program. Everyone else in Chautauqua is living in these tight spaces. Go with it. Join the club."



Painting

Niagara-on-the-Lake

On display at the Niagara Historical Museum
NOVEMBER 27, 2018
to MAY 4, 2019

Niagara Historical
SOCIETY MUSEUM

43 Castlereagh Street | Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario | 905-468-3912
niagarahistorical.museum

"My Sanitone
Drycleaner Gets It
Right The First Time,
So I Come Back
Every Time."



30% OFF

your next order

Must present this coupon with incoming order.
Cannot be used with other discounts or coupons.

Does not apply to tailoring.

Good at all depots & on all routes.

EXPIRES 5 PM THURSDAY JANUARY 31, 2019



Now Open
in NOTL!
238 Mary Street
(Inside Avondale
Food Store)

Students thrive in small classes at Royal Oak

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

Royal Oak is not a private school, parent and board member Robin Ridesic told Town council Monday, it's a registered charity that ensures access to any student who wants to attend.

With council debating budget items and grant levels leading up to a February approval date, Ridesic was representing one of several organizations in town weighing in on their financial requirements.

Ridesic was responding to a discussion last week that suggested Royal Oak is a private school and should not receive funding in the way of a discretionary grant from the Town.

Not all councillors agreed, with Coun. Clare Cameron speaking on Royal Oak's behalf, reminding council it is the only school in the Old Town, and the new council has made a commitment to look after youth.

"I don't envy you having to decide how to divvy out what money you have," Ridesic told councillors, thanking them for their consideration.

To continue to support the school, which is currently leasing the Town-owned hospital building on

Wellington Street, Lord Mayor Betty Disero suggested staff instead look at other ways for the Town to help out financially.

Ridesic told councillors Royal Oak came about after a long battle to save Parliament Oak School, which has since closed. Some of those involved in fighting its closure looked at ways to keep education for elementary students in the Old Town partly to ensure its sustainability, vibrancy and balance, but also to address the issue of public school capacity.

The three publicly-funded schools in town have a combined capacity of about 1,200 students, while serving a community with 1,500 elementary school-aged kids, she said. Royal Oak has become a "place-holder" for public education in the Old Town, as a service to the community and to help retain families.

Forty-six of its students receive bursaries, said Ridesic, assuring council no student would be turned away because of financial issues.

Royal Oak has attracted many children who weren't thriving in NOTL's public schools, she said. Crossroads has almost 600 students and large class sizes, creating

challenges for some students, especially those who need extra attention, she said.

Royal Oak has 35 kids with eight full-time staff providing a safe and supportive learning environment, and also provides ample opportunity for students to be part of the community - they use the library and the community centre gym, clean up garbage in near-by parks, attend Remembrance Day ceremonies and recently sang O Canada at an Ice Dogs game.

The school's discretionary grant application was focused on funding for community wide programs, she said, such as a free camp on Easter Monday and after-school clubs to allow children from all communities and schools to play and learn together.

Although the majority of council decided against a grant for the school, Ridesic said the board is pleased councillors agreed to ask staff to look at rent reduction options instead.

She is confident that when staff review the details they will drop an planned rent increase. "This would allow the Town to still make money from the rent charged to the school but maintain the school's costs at last year's levels," she said.

Service recognized



Lord Mayor Betty Disero presented Queenston firefighter Rob Copeland, also a former town councillor, with his plaque for 30 years of volunteer service to the NOTL Fire Department. She also asked for one of his bear hugs before making the presentation. Also recognized were Frank Pearson for 32 years of service with the St. Davids station; Simon Drakeford who volunteered with the Virgil station for 25 years; and Sean Pearson, for 16 years with the St. Davids station. (Photo submitted)



Revel Realty Inc. Brokerage
905-357-1700 (office)

Your Neighbour

Andrew Perrie

Sales Representative

905-380-6702 (cell)

andrew@revelrealty.ca



INVESTMENT FARMING! 5 bdrm, 2.5 bath w/roomy 2-car garage, extensive decking & formal entry. Build your wealth w/this great investment. 50 acres of opportunity, contemporary showcase farm home (3,680 sq. ft), modern horse stable & arena + lrg custom built shop (approx. 4,000 sq. ft). \$2,350,000 | 5 | 2.5
MLS 30663825 | TEXT: T40368578



LUXURY LIVING IN PORT COLBORNE One-of-a-kind! A dramatic entrance draws you into this 6 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home with gleaming hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, and an elegant kitchen to display your culinary talents. Indulge yourself! \$998,000 | 6 | 3.5
MLS 30688912 | TEXT: T40387713



TUSCAN VILLA IN WINE COUNTRY! Leave the city lights behind. The good life is certain in this 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with cathedral ceilings, distinctive entry, and an exquisite luxury bath. Beautiful acreage. Great curb appeal and views from all rooms! Make this lovely home yours today! \$1,846,000 | 5 | 4.5
MLS 30671347 | TEXT: T40368579



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ROYALTY! Give your lifestyle a boost! This 5 bdrm, 3 bath home is thoughtfully designed w/exercise room for your private workouts, attractive patio, and formal dining room. Spectacular view from almost every room. Large salt-water pool & beach volleyball court! \$2,490,000 | 5 | 3
MLS 30615206 | TEXT: T40368360



PRESTIGIOUS LIVING IN FONTHILL! Add to the spacious feel of this remarkable home. Quiet country living. Dramatic foyer sets the stage of this remarkable 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with easy main floor living plan, beautiful gourmet kitchen, and oversized two-car garage. Better act quickly! \$799,900 | 3 | 2.5
MLS 30662992 | TEXT: T40387715



COUNTRY FARM LIVING! Farm whatever you want on this 43 acre farm. Live your dream in this 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath home w/many golf courses nearby. Many extras, & loads of counter space. Beautiful acreage with available leased land for cash crop, cattle or animals. An unbeatable price point! \$935,000 | 4 | 3.5
MLS 30688434 | TEXT: T40387714



FINE ESTATE'S TEAM
LUXURY SERVICE EVERY TIME

TEXT 81035 WITH THE TEXT CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION

TheFineEstatesTeam.com

Our mandate: to represent every corner of our community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from a group of locals we feel have their fingers on the pulse of different sectors in town, to ensure we stay on our chosen path. With their help we want to strengthen our ties to each corner of the community and make sure we are accountable to all areas and interests.

Imagine Joe Pillitteri sitting at a table for a serious discussion — at our first meeting he had us in hysterics one minute with a story about ripping his pants at a wedding, (likely to be included in his next comedy routine), and then he had us in tears as he told us how much faith he has in us in our new endeavour.

Sean Simpson, a successful and clever businessman with a young family, zeroed in on council stories — what's important about them, he said, is how council decisions impact people's lives. A good reminder.

Janice Thomson is one of the wisest people on this planet, known for doing what is right. She's an ardent supporter of the business community, which some would say in the long run is good for the community as a whole. She'll be sure to keep us on track.

Julia Buxton Cox is a top-notch social media moderator, always striving for fairness and objectivity — qualities also essential in a news source.

Andrew Niven lives in St. Davids with his young family, and works for Konzelmann Estate Winery. He is also chair of the NOTL Wineries, which promotes the local industry, and so understands better than most the balancing act between creating sustainable tourism and developing great communities for raising families.

Marcia Penner of Penner Building Centre is an active member of the Virgil Business Association, a business person raising a family, and knows the people and the community of Virgil and the rural area inside out.

Debbie Krause, a NOTL native who has also raised a family in town, talks to a lot of people during the course of the day. Or rather, she says, through her job as program co-ordinator at the NOTL Public Library, listens to a lot of people, who have varied ideas of what the community needs and doesn't need. She'll know what stories we need to tell.

Joan King, well, what can we say. There aren't many events in town where she isn't volunteering in some capacity. While she's best known for organizing the Terry Fox Run and raising a ton of money, her involvement spans every corner of the community.

Mike Balsom has also agreed to help us out. He's a St. Catharines high school teacher and a great interviewer for YourTV Niagara — whether the event is a fundraiser, political or sports-related, he does a great job presenting community news.

We also have a member of the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee on board. Alexcia Cofell has signed up, and we are delighted to have her. She's bright, smart, motivated, and young! If we're going to represent all of the community, it's important to have at least one person representing the youth in town. Her advice to us: "I think to make the paper more relevant we can reach out to local high schools and elementary schools to let them know about the paper; we can also place ads in local stores and businesses, put

ads on social media and lastly encourage youth to spread the word about this paper to their peers," she said. To make it more interesting to youth, she added, "I think covering the most relevant and exciting events would attract me and my peers, as well as including many images and creative ideas." The town is in good hands.

And then there's us. Karen Skeoch, the multi-media sales representative for the former Niagara Advance for 27 years, is well-known by business people in town. Reach out to her if you want to talk about advertising.

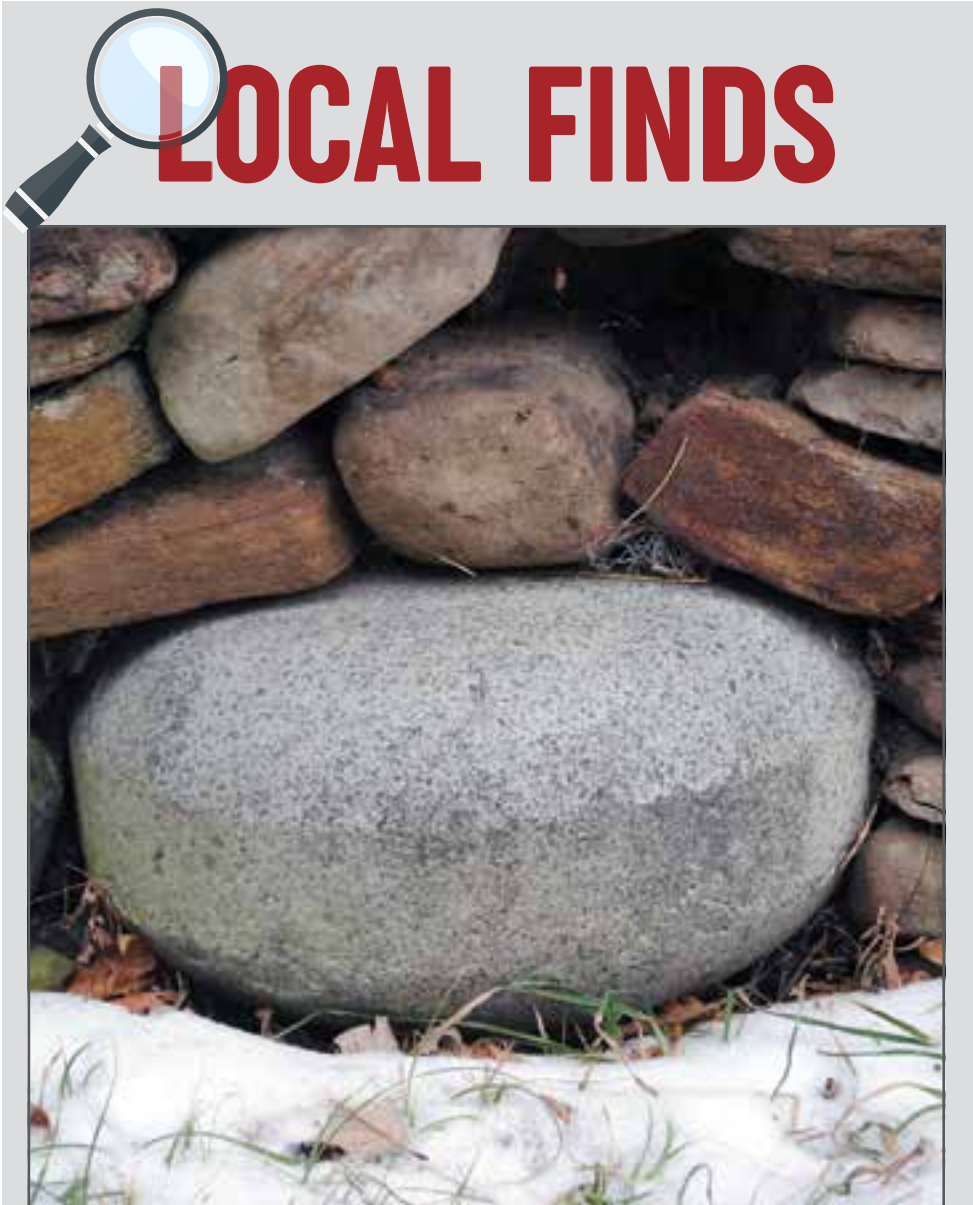
Karen and I are partners with Pat Darte — he's supposed to be silent (difficult for those who know him to believe), and our business advisor. We depend on him to sort out all the important details we know nothing about.

Lauren O'Malley, a creative and wonderfully talented journalist, loves to tell the people stories, to write about events, music and the arts, and we're so proud to have her put her skills to work for The Local.

Members of our community advisory board have been asked to be judges of whether we are fulfilling our mandate and achieving our goals. We expect them to tell us how we can do better, and to be part of our team. We hope they will love being part of forging strong connections between The Local and their communities.

That invitation extends to all of you, whether you have a story to tell, an event to share, or any suggestions about how we can be your voice — please email penny@notllocal.com.

Penny Coles
Editor
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local



Curling stone in a portion of the Randwood wall on Charlotte Street by Lauren O'Malley

The stone wall embracing the Randwood Estate is one of those many symbolic elements that give NOTL its historic gravitas. Which is why it's a bit of a surprise to find a curling stone at the base of a segment of the structure on Charlotte Street. In NOTL, many historical roads lead to the Bradley family. Hope Bradley, the family's 91-year-old matriarch, says, "My father and grandfather built that wall. They started when my father was 17 — he was born in 1900. My grandson Stephane pointed out the curling stone when he was young." She says she hadn't seen it before then (and that was a couple of decades ago), and doesn't know the story behind the anomalous stone, but assumes it was just discovered on a nearby farm and used like any other stone. Bradley goes on to explain that her parents met while that wall was being built. "My mother was a governess for the Nelles family, who had the hotel at the entry to town," she said. "She and her sister would walk by while my dad and grandfather were building the wall, and they would chat." Without the wall, there would be no Hope.

The **Niagara-on-the-Lake**

LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Advertising Sales:
Karen Skeoch
karen@notllocal.com
905-641-5335

Multimedia Journalist:
Lauren O'Malley
lauren@notllocal.com

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

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



Some of The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local community advisory board members were able to meet last week in the Market Room of the Court House, including Andrew Niven (back, left) Julia Buxton Cox, Sean Simpson, and (sitting) Joan King, Janice Thomson, Debbie Krause and Joe Pillitteri. Alexcia Cofell, Mike Balsom, and Marcia Penner are also board members, but are missing from the photo. (Lauren O'Malley)

Bill 66 and Protecting our Greenbelt



By Wayne Gates, MPP

One of things I frequently do in the provincial legislature is encourage my fellow members to take a trip and come visit us in Niagara-on-the-Lake — and many of them actually take me up on the offer. Niagara-on-

the-Lake wasn't a ways the busy tourist destination that it is today. The reason people come from around the world to experience our beloved town is because of the work that residents did to preserve its unique historical nature and character.

This is why I'm so concerned about Bill 66.

Bill 66 covers many pieces of legislation, but there is one piece that particularly worries me and that is the provision that

will allow municipalities or the province to override The Greenbelt Act which protects our natural heritage. That would make way for possible developments in the Greenbelt. Approvals to develop on the Greenbelt would not require public consultation or review periods, simply just approval by the Ford government.

The Greenbelt protects almost two million acres of our land. It protects farmlands that are

the backbone of communities, natural areas that have become wonders of the world and vital sources of our clean drinking water. Given that Niagara-on-the-Lake is home to many smaller farms, there are certainly discussions the Ford government needs to have with local farmers to ensure their needs are being met.

However, I firmly believe that most residents support the intent of the protective measures of the

Greenbelt Act and recognize its importance to our region's beauty.

Don't get me wrong, I am not opposed to development. Some of the biggest job-creating projects we've brought to Niagara in the last few years have been because of extraordinary developments we've worked together to achieve. However, I support meaningful development. That means we recognize the special gifts our communities have and we

value input from residents who already live in those communities. When we do that we can develop in a way that protects our heritage and environment while expanding the local economy.

I understand there's a great deal of money to be made in paving over the Greenbelt and building high rises, but I would argue there's something more valuable lost when you pave over our natural heritage.

Black History Month at the library



By Debbie Krause
The NOTL Public Library

The New Year has just begun and yet, for me, the holidays seem like an eternity ago. The second week of January saw the start of the library's winter program schedule. Please take a moment to check out what's going on, whether by picking up a brochure, or by visiting our website and multiple social media sites. You can also sign up for our monthly e-newsletter to stay up to date with all adult programs held that month. You'll find those instructions on our homepage.

I would like to spend the rest of this column focusing on February and the observance of Black History Month. In 1926 African American historian Carter G. Woodson created a week of recognition and celebration of Black culture and contributions in the United States. He chose the month of February in honour of two very important men born in that month; Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the U.S. who fought tirelessly against slavery, and Frederick Douglass, a former slave who spoke out for the freedom for slaves and

equality for women. The month-long celebration became official in 1976 in the U.S. and in Canada in 1995.

I think it's fair to say that not enough of us know the importance that our little town played in the abolition of slavery in this country. It was at the site of Parliament Oak School, on July 9, 1793, that the first anti-slavery legislation in the British Empire was signed. The mural and plaque still hang on the former school. The history of Black Canadians and Americans is rich in our community and we are slowly beginning to recognize this— the newly opened Voices of Freedom park is a good example.

This year, to acknowledge Black History Month, the library has decided to host two special, yet very different events. The first will be a morning of celebration and music honouring African culture. On Saturday Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. Babarinde (Baba) Williams will present Tales by Moonlight. He migrated to Canada in 2000 from Lagos, Nigeria, and although he is classically trained in both piano and trumpet, it is the djembe drum that will be featured at this event. In fact, there will be 80 djembes provided for audience participation. Imagine the library rotunda as a giant drum circle, the community, young and old, coming

together through drumming, dance, call and response songs to tell stories. What a wonderful sight — and sound.

The event is free for all ages, but we ask that you register through our website, notpubliclibrary.org, so that we can have an idea of numbers.

Also mark your calendars for Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. Local multi-disciplinary artist Howard Davis will be presenting his film, C'est Moi. Registration is also available online through the library website. For more information please email me at dkrause@notlpl.org. Hope to see you soon!

New on the shelves: New Fiction

The Goddess of Yantai
by Ian Hamilton

Hippie by Paulo Coelho

The Killing Habit
by Mark Billingham

Shell Game
by Sara Paretsky

Bright Young Dead
by Jessica Fellowes

A Delicate Touch
by Stuart Woods

The New Iberia Blues
by James Lee Burke

The House Next Door
by James Patterson

New Non-Fiction

Let's Go (so we can get back): A Memoir of Record-

ing and Discarding With Wilco, etc.

by Jeff Tweedy

To The Edges Of the Earth: 1909, The Race For The Three Poles, And The Climax Of The Age Of Exploration

by Edward J Larson

Feel Free: Essays
by Zadie Smith

Black Klansman: Race, Hate, And The Undercover Investigation Of A Lifetime
by Ron Stallworth

The Myth Of The Nice Girl: Achieving A Career You Love Without Becoming A Person You Hate
by Fran Hauser

First Nations: Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada
by Royal Canadian Geographic Society

Inuit: Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada
by Royal Canadian Geographic Society

Indigenous Canada: Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada
by Royal Canadian Geographic Society

New DVD's

White Boy Rick

Three Identical Strangers

Night School

Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot



We want your photos!

We'd love to feature local photos, so if you have one you think our readers might enjoy, please email it to penny@notllocal.com. Deadline is Monday at noon. Thanks!



Letters! We want letters!

We are so excited to have our first edition in print! We have an opinion page put aside just for residents — we know you have opinions and we would love to share them. If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. The deadline is Monday at noon.



Michelle Reynolds
Broker

Stefan Regier
Sales Representative

ReynoldsRegier.com
905-468-4214

michelle@royalpage.ca

stefan@royalpage.ca



ROYAL LePAGE

NRC Realty, Brokerage. Independently Owned & Operated

Region looking at garbage collection for 2021



Meredith, Nadia and Ben Raso use the blue and grey recycling boxes, but Meredith says she could be better at recycling organics. (Lauren O'Malley)

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

Meredith Raso tries to be responsible when it comes to putting out her garbage. She wants to do what is right for the environment, and is pretty conscientious about using her grey and blue boxes.

But she has two challenges — a large family, and an aversion to maggots.

With four kids from the ages of nine to 13 living at home, some weeks she puts out a second garbage bag for collection. And although she has a lot of organic waste from feeding a large family — when she peels potatoes it's usually half of a 10-pound bag — she doesn't always use her green bin. "I'm hit and miss with that, especially in the summer," she said. "I really have a problem with maggots."

In a perfect world, rather than seeing garbage collection reduced to every other week, she'd prefer it more often.

But if the Region decides to pick up residential garbage every second week, as it is considering, and continues weekly recycling and organic waste pickup, she would adapt.

"I'll do what I need to do. It would be hard, but I wouldn't be opposed to it. It is better for the environment."

Reducing her garbage to one bag every other week

would be a challenge, and would force her to work harder at recycling, she said, "but I still have that issue with the green bin."

One concern she has is a possible increase in people tossing their garbage out of trucks on rural roads — she sees a lot of that already.

"I'm not sure why people choose to do that. Hopefully it won't get worse."

With a new garbage contract looming in 2021, the Region is asking municipalities to consider some curbside collection changes, with a goal of increasing recycling and composting, and streamlining costs.

Moving to pickup every other week for residential garbage is one of the options under discussion.

Catherine Habermebl, regional director of waste management, spoke to Town councillors recently to explain those options.

If residential garbage pickup moves to every second week, bag limits would double. Recycling and composting material would continue to be collected weekly, she said.

Container limits for businesses and mixed-use properties would be reduced to four — some areas are now allowed six or seven.

Other suggested alternatives include a four-item limit per collection for large items, each collection.

The mandatory use of clear bags was considered but eliminated as an option — there was little support from the public.

"We do know for a fact through our audits that 50 per cent of the garbage bag in Niagara consists of organic material," Habermebl said. "That material can be better managed through our green bin program."

Other municipalities which have gone to every-other-week collection have successfully increased waste diversion, and increases in savings have ranged from \$200,000 in Barrie to \$12 million in Peel Region.

The Region is also considering eliminating the collection of appliances and scrap metal. In the majority of cases, Habermebl said, by the time the contractor gets to the curb,

the material has already been grabbed by people who know the garbage schedule and get there first.

In response to a question from Lord Mayor Betty Disero about an increase in cost to the municipality to look after scrap metal and appliance pickup, Habermebl said the Region still has drop-offs at landfill sites. Residents can also find people who will collect them at no cost.

In the past when collection changes were made, there was a slight increase in illegal dumping at the beginning, which declined as residents adapted, she said. And the Region has a program to address it if there is an issue. "We don't believe there will be an increase in illegal dumping as a result of every-other-week collection."

Following the presentation, Brad Whitelaw, program manager for waste management, explained municipalities are also being asked to review enhanced services to see if they are required at the same level in the new contract. NOTL has three extra garbage pickups a week on Queen Street, with businesses able to put out up to 20 bags, and two cardboard collections with no limit, for which it pays the region an extra \$76,000 a year.

"Once a new contract is awarded, if that service is not needed, you don't realize cost savings," he said.

Maria Mavridis is quite sure the extra service is needed, and would hate to see it reduced. Her family's restaurant on Queen Street, Corks Restaurant and Wine Bar, not only puts out garbage as often as allowed with the enhanced service, but sometimes trips to the dump have to be made to get rid of food waste between collections — if it piles up behind the restaurant, it attracts raccoons and skunks.

During the summer, she had to ask the NOTL Chamber of Commerce to intervene because garbage was collecting on the street, still piled curbside when tourists began arriving in the morning.

"I don't know what we would have done if Janice (Thomson, president of the chamber) hadn't

stepped in to help."

While some businesses in other areas can arrange private collection, using dumpsters to store garbage between pickups, that's not practical on Queen Street, said Mavridis.

"Some of us don't have room for a garbage can in the back, never mind a dumpster. And it would be impossible for trucks to get back there to pick them up."

Whitelaw has been handling public consultation and engagement through the region's website, social media, open houses, community booths and surveys, both online and by telephone. An open house and community booth were held at the NOTL community centre in November, he said.

The responses across the region in favour of and against every-other-week garbage collection for residents were fairly evenly split, he said.

Statistics from across the province prove moving to every second week collection increases organic diversion. People don't want their "smelly garbage" hanging around and will use their green bin rather than putting food waste in a garbage bag, he said, and there are other benefits to diversion, including the creation of a product from compost material.

In addition to "cost avoidance" in the new contract, he added, environmentally, "it's the right thing to do."

Allowing two bags every other week isn't taking away service, it's rescheduling it to reduce the number of trucks required in the fleet and to cut down on truck maintenance, Whitelaw said, but as residents increase their recycling and use the green bin for organics, they'll find they won't need two bags.

The four-item limit per residence for large items and the elimination of scrap metal and appliances collection have been largely supported during public discussions and in surveys, Whitelaw said.

The Region is asking municipalities to look at what they want in base collection service and other options and enhancements available to them, with a response by Feb. 20.

Creek Road Paints



Benjamin Moore® Paints

PAINT . PAPER . BLINDS
RECLAIMED HOME DÉCOR

905.468.2412

We've Moved up the Creek to
Four Mile Creek Rd, Virgil

Follow Us On   #upacreek

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE LOCAL



1501 Niagara Stone Rd, Virgil
905-468-7241 | silkscountrykitchen.com

Women ready for global march Saturday

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

"I'm taking a leadership role — and if I can do it, anyone can," Jacqueline Thair says modestly, regarding her part with Women's March Global.

WMG is a grassroots network of people around the world aspiring to create equality of all kinds through action and events. Their annual days of action, dubbed #WomensWave, take place this Saturday and Sunday, with marches and gatherings scheduled in more than 15 countries.

Thair, a Shaw Festival actor, is no stranger to roles, but activism is a new element in her life. "A couple of years ago my sister and I went to Detroit for a women's conference," she says. "There were 5,000 women chanting in unison, and it inspired me and made me want to be part of something like that."

Her sister went on to take a job with Women's March Global, and that

made Thair want to make a difference here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. While the organization's name contains the word "women," the focus is on all genders and issues. "The general population in NOTL is older and white. Trans people, persons of colour, these are not the average NOTL person. We want to help them be exposed to different types of people through things like this."

Thair and event co-organizer Amy Jewell have planned a march and experience that will present different perspectives for those who might not be familiar with a broad range of issues. Speakers will include Mel Thivierge, who is a transgendered person working in NOTL. They will be speaking about simple day-to-day things most people might take for granted, like entering a public washroom.

"Natasha Mumba will be thanking her parents for helping her go to Canada," says Thair. Mumba is an actor at the Shaw Festi-

val. Elizabeth Zimmerman, executive director of the YWCA Niagara Region, will discuss economic security for women.

Lord Mayor Better Disero is also on the list of speakers, because "she is a woman in a leadership role — specifically in politics — which is part of the WMG mission," says Thair.

"I look forward to participating in this peaceful protest," Disero says. "It's something that will be beneficial to the town. I've always believed that with good role models we learn more quickly."

Jewell says, "I can't keep yelling at my TV screen and hope things are going to change." She joined Thair at the helm of this local facet of the global movement, feeling that "because of Trump, Ford and other current leaders, rights are being taken away from women. If women, as well as LGBTQ and other minorities, all speak out together we have a stronger, louder voice."

On Saturday, Jan. 19,

participants will congregate at the bandshell in Simcoe Park at 11 a.m. The march will move from there to King Street, taking Johnson Street to the Voices of Freedom Park, then down Regent Street to Prideaux and back to the bandshell where the speeches will begin.

There will also be musical performances by drag queen Maya Nority, singer/songwriter Ange Nethersole, and possibly an Indigenous women's drum circle.

Thair and Jewell feel this event is important to provoke a "sustainable momentum of change." Jewell refers to a "grey zone," where we tolerate "cat calls, comments on our appearance, and intolerance." She tells of Black actors at the Shaw being harassed in town, and relates the story of a gay friend. "I asked him if he walks down the street holding hands with his partner," she says. His tear-inducing answer: "It depends."

"Sometimes you need to step outside the grey zone to propel yourself into activ-

ism," says Jewell, who feels she has found her voice in the passion she has discovered for the issues involved.

She quotes writer Dustin Lance Black: "If you want to change a mind, you have to start with someone's heart." She's hoping this event will move people toward change.

The women say they will deem the event a success by small increments. "I hope people walk away saying 'Maybe I'll hold an event of my own, maybe I'll show a meaningful movie,'" says Jewell. "I hope they talk to someone else and say 'You won't believe what I experienced.'" They also hope people will be moved to join the Niagara-on-the-Lake chapter of Women's March Global, which can be found through the organization's website.

But mainly they hope the day will be mild, and families and friends will stroll over to Simcoe Park on Saturday with open minds and open hearts. For more information contact thairjacqueline@gmail.com.



Amy Jewell is co-organizer of the NOTL Women's March Global, to take place Saturday, with speakers in Simcoe Park. (Lauren O'Malley)



Jacqueline Thair, who has taken a leadership role in organizing a Women's March Global in NOTL, has helped to arrange speakers with a focus on all genders and issues. (Photo submitted)



**Niagara
on-the-Lake
Realty**
1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

EXCLUSIVE AFFILIATE OF
CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

920 offices in over 40 countries. Connecting to the World. www.notlrealty.com

681 WARNER ROAD

\$439,000



This unique property has many possibilities, located right on the edge of historic St David's with city services. lot size 50 ft. x 412 ft. Renovate or remove to build your dream home. **MLS 30704675. Chris Bowron, Audrey Wright and Nicole Vanderperk.**

8 LUCIA COURT

\$939,900



Outstanding custom-built bungalow located in a quiet and sought-after neighbourhood. This versatile home features brand new hardwood flooring on the main floor, an impressive cathedral ceiling, 2 gas fireplaces, central vac and custom detailing throughout with over 3,200 square feet of finished living space. The spacious open concept floor plan offers an effortless flow perfect for entertaining and includes convenient main floor master suite. This is a superior home located in an exclusive community close to walking trails, wineries and only blocks from main street shops, restaurants and theaters. **MLS 30705901. Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft.**

11 MURRAY STREET

\$839,000



Located in The Village, this pristine bungalow provides over 3200 sq. ft. of finished living space with exceptional quality and taste. Entertaining is made easy with open concept main floor living, an upper loft providing ample space for guests, a fully finished lower level and private rear courtyard. With hardwood floors, character moulding and high-end fixtures, this gleaming home can't fail to impress. Restaurants, wineries, shops, town library and community centre are all within easy walking distance. **MLS 30687159. Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft.**

341 LAKESHORE ROAD

\$999,999



A unique opportunity to own a 2.46-acre estate in Niagara on the Lake just minutes from St. Catharines and historic old town. Almost 2000 sq. ft. Side Split and outbuilding set on a rolling hill well back from Lakeshore, surrounded by trees, expansive lawns, a meandering creek and farmland and features a beautiful backyard with in ground concrete pool. **MLS 30684112. Chris Bowron, Audrey Wright & Nicole Vanderperk.**

9 THE PROMENADE

\$789,000



Stunning bungalow with a great location in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This desirable address in a quiet neighbourhood is a close walk to the commons and downtown village. The new kitchen has granite countertops and both main floor bathrooms have been totally renovated. This home is ready to move into and won't be on the market long. Book your showing today! **MLS 30689883. Trish Badham & Cheryl Carmichael.**

48 WEATHERSTONE COURT

\$779,000



Weatherstone Court is a small unique group of town homes surrounding a central green space and bounded by the old stone wall of a large estate. This bright and airy freehold town home with approx. 2300 sq. ft. of finished space features an open foyer with lofty ceilings and elegant stairway leading up to two large bedrooms with ensuites. The kitchen is upgraded with light cabinetry, granite counters and sunny dinette area. A formal dining room, living room with gas f/p, laundry and upgraded powder room complete the main floor and the lower level is fully finished. **MLS 30700507. Thomas Elltoft & Viviane Elltoft.**

373 VICTORIA STREET

\$749,000



Building lot- located 2.5 blocks from Queen Street in desirable location, Surrounded by beautiful neighbourhood. There currently is a small dwelling on the property which will be demolished as a condition of the severance. Call listing agent for more details. **MLS 30695479. Chris Bowron, Audrey Wright and Nicole Vanderperk.**

5 CHRISTOPHER

\$1,175,000



Custom-built bungalow on a secluded cul-de-sac in the Old Town. The large, pie-shaped lot abuts a gentle stream and mature trees, running the width of the back garden. This 2,000 sq. ft. home offers a floor plan designed for retirement main floor living. Your large master suite is secluded in one wing of the home, offering a walk out to the large private deck. A bright, spacious kitchen is the hub of the home with a walkout, casual eating, and a Butlers Servery to complement your formal entertaining. The second main floor bedroom offers ensuite privilege with a large extra bedroom available on the lower level. An extra-large family room features a third wood burning fireplace, expansive built-in cabinets, wet bar and walkout to a private garden patio. **MLS 30701002. Marilyn Francis.**

2 BAY BERRY LANE

\$969,900



Beautiful bungalow in a highly desired neighborhood close to all the amenities the town offers. This stunning home has been updated with a designer look and model home feel. Features include quartzite counters, vaulted ceiling, gas fireplace with marble surround, jetted tub, wet bar, custom storage area, main floor laundry, hardwood floors, sprinkler system and professional landscaping. **MLS 30703152. Linda Williams.**

377 GAGE STREET

\$949,000



A rare 117 x 211 foot cleared lot on a quiet cul de sac in the old town of Niagara on the Lake within easy walking distance of the golf course and main street shops, restaurants and theatres. There is an approved building permit for the foundation. Municipal and regional development fees have been paid. Sewer, water and culvert have been installed. Plans for a 5000 square foot bungalow are available upon request. **MLS 30655229. Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft.**

9 WEATHERSTONE COURT

\$3,795,000



This resort like villa is unmatched for entertaining with exquisite indoor and outdoor living spaces. Visitors are welcomed in grand style to the great room and library with soaring vaulted ceilings, a towering stone fireplace and a full glass wall showcasing the spectacular inner courtyard. **MLS 30695090. Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia.**

277 RICARDO STREET

\$3,885,000



A rare opportunity to own this spectacular one of a kind residence located in a most coveted position at the mouth of the Niagara River. Historic neoclassic design with lovely pool and gazebo overlooking the dock and boat launch. Sophisticated classical architecture combined with a prime location. **MLS 30682989. Bonnie Grimm.**

Christopher Bowron***..... 905-468-2269
Victoria Bolduc* 905-941-3726
Philip Bowron* 905-348-7626
Bonnie Grimm* 905-468-1256
Kim Elltoft** 905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong** 905-651-2977
Audrey Wright* 289-241-0212

Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585
Trish Badham* 905-262-1876
Viviane Elltoft* 905-468-2142
Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012
Cheryl Carmichael* 905-941-0276
Sarah Gleddie* 905-685-2458
Robert Wilkinson* 905-380-3851

Kevin Stokes* 905-988-3222
Christine Bruce* 905-328-9703
Marilyn Francis** 905-932-1266
Linda Williams* 905-401-4240
Caroline Polgrabia* 905-933-4983
Patricia Atherton* 905-933-4983

***Broker of Record ** Broker *Sales Representative

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. David's Office 905-262-6996

THE ORIGINAL
Icewine
Festival

January
18th – 27th
2019

Niagara-on-the-Lake

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
ORIGINAL ICEWINE FESTIVAL
www.originalicewinefestival.com
+1 (905) 468 1950

Photography exhibit tells story of repressed women

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

GateWay Community Church is collaborating with Open Doors Canada at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library to share a mixed media art exhibition called #One-WithHer.

Andrew Croft, partner engagement director with Open Doors Canada, says the exhibit was created to shine a spotlight on the religious persecution of women around the world.

"Research has been conducted with a gender-based analysis, and it was found women are doubly persecuted, because of religion and because of their gender," says Croft.

Open Doors Canada works globally with oppressed and restricted Christians. As a result of years of advocacy and exploration, the organization had an extensive library of photographs of marginalized women from dozens of countries, and decided showing these images in a gallery setting would help bring about

awareness of their plights. "We want to highlight these beautiful women who have amazing stories," says Croft. "It's heartbreaking and also amazing who they have become through their struggles. We wanted to make these things public."

To give the show more variety, and to tell the women's stories in slightly different ways, ODC approached several artists in Toronto to have them recreate some of the photographs in paintings and drawings.

Michelle Mercer, pastor at GateWay Community Church, was alerted to the show through social media, and also heard about it from a member of her congregation. "When we went to see the show we decided it would be worthwhile bringing it to Niagara-on-the-Lake," she says.

The exhibit will be accessible during regular library hours from Jan. 25 to 27. Volunteers from both GateWay Community Church and ODC will be on-site

throughout to provide more information and enhance the experience.

"We chose the library because it's a neutral, public place with lots of people coming and going," says Mercer. "And it's an educational piece and so part of the library's mandate."

There is an advocacy and activism component to the exhibit as well: ODC has made policy recommendations to the federal government regarding foreign aid and women of religion, and invites patrons to do the same if they feel so moved. While GateWay is not a political organization, says Mercer, "we are a resource to connect people to worthy causes."

Open Doors Canada offers resources for advocacy and activism through their website. The stories of these persecuted women can also be found on the organization's social media platforms.

For more information about the exhibit contact the GateWay Community Church office at 905-468-8971.



Gateway Community Church is partnering on an art exhibit to tell women's stories, on display at the NOTL Public Library Jan. 25 to 27. (Supplied photo)

Zalepa aiming for transparency at NPCA

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

Gary Zalepa, Niagara-on-the-Lake's interim board member of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, said the new board is on track to governance reform.

And the work of examining an auditor general's report, released last summer citing several governance issues, can now begin, said Zalepa.

Some changes have already been made as a result of that report — the current Niagara board members were appointed to provide leadership while determining a process for each municipality to recruit citizens with certain skill sets to serve as NPCA representatives. The auditor general had suggested the former board was weighted too heavily with political appointments rather than knowl-

edgeable citizens.

The next task for the interim board members will be to go through that report, "looking at what's already been accomplished by the past board and staff, and see what else needs to be done," said Zalepa.

"This will shape what we have to do going forward."

Zalepa said the meeting was the first opportunity for the Niagara representatives to sit down with those from Hamilton and Haldimand County, areas also covered by the conservation authority.

"This was one positive result, that we got to meet the board members from outside Niagara. We didn't know what to expect. But we got the sense that there is good synergy around issues and that we will get a solid governance back in place. There was a general consensus on wanting to to that."

The initial task of the agency's interim board went as expected at Monday's first meeting at Ball's Falls, with the election of an interim chair and vice-chair, followed by the unexpected: the former vice-chair, who took the helm to start the meeting, was censured by his colleagues for a racist social media post.

David Bylsma, mayor of West Lincoln, was chosen chair, Diana Huson, Pelham's regional councillor, was selected vice-chair. The procedure under NPCA bylaws is to fill those positions at the annual general meeting. But board members voted to depart from that procedure to help them get to work on some of the many issues facing them — staffing and legal issues were on the agenda to be discussed at a closed-door session.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Crossroads Medical Centre delayed by appeals

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

The new tribunal designed to speed up appeals to municipal planning decisions is doing just the opposite, says a local developer anxious to start work on the new medical clinic town doctors hope to call home.

Lloyd Redekopp's project, a two-storey building on Line 2 designed for the Niagara-on-the-Lake family health team and related services, was first delayed while waiting for rezoning approval from the Town. Now it's facing further setbacks, but this time the impediment is the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal backlog, with no end in sight.

Town approval came last fall, but two appeals to the provincial body were then filed. One came from the owner of a medical clinic on a site already zoned for commercial development, who is arguing that rezoning Redekopp's Line 2 property was unnecessary and a poor planning decision.

The second appeal was filed by a neighbouring residential developer who is still dealing with storm water drainage issues from Redekopp's property, and hoping for a resolution so he too can move forward with his plans.

Last April, the province introduced a new process for appealing planning decisions and the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) became the scaled-down LPAT. The new board was intended to be streamlined, quicker with its decisions, encouraging negotiations to eliminate the need for hearings and giving more weight to the decisions of municipalities.

But as Redekopp and a few other developers — including Two Sisters Resort, waiting for a decision on a John Street hotel planning application, and John Hawley with his village centre proposal at Niven Road — have discovered the reality to date has proved to be just the opposite.

Town planning director Craig Larmour explains why not only NOTL projects but developments across the province are stalled: Soon after the OMB became LPAT, its procedural rules were questioned by the developers of large a Sudbury proposal under appeal. At issue was who could give evidence at the hearing — the rules were more restrictive than during the days of the OMB. Unable to make a decision, LPAT referred the matter to a divisional court, said Larmour.

And there it remains, with no movement on any

appeals since — not even initial discussions of cases have been held, and no hearings have been scheduled. There is no way to determine where NOTL appeals are in the queue, he said, so it's impossible to even guess when they might be heard.

It's frustrating to be so far behind, said Redekopp, with no idea when he'll be able to move forward. Meanwhile he's working on having everything else in place so that when the appeals are heard and decided, he'll be ready to put the shovel in the ground, "although I have no idea of when that might be."

The solution going forward, he suggested, is for developers, municipalities and other stakeholders to look for solutions outside of the appeals process, although once LPAT's problems are resolved by the divisional court, appeals might begin to move quickly through the system, as originally intended, he said.

Meanwhile, although it's not his responsibility, he is concerned about the doctors who will be in limbo, with no leases where they are currently located to see them through the delayed appeal process and the construction of the new building.

"I've offered to be open



While he has some hope the appeal process could be finished by the summer, developer Lloyd Redekopp says he really has no idea when he'll be able to begin construction on a new medical clinic on Niagara Stone Road. (Photo submitted)

for any assistance I can provide," he said.

While he won't speak to their plan, he knows they're working on one. He has also been assured they want to remain in town and are still looking forward to a centralized health care building on the Crossroads site, he said.

Mary Keith, executive director of the Niagara North Family Health Team, which includes NOTL doctors at the Old Town hospital site and the Niagara Medical Clinic in Virgil, emailed this: "The team is working on a contingency plan. In this plan every effort will be made to not disrupt the pro-

vision of health care services to our patients."

Sean Simpson of Simpson's PharmaSave is also in limbo and frustrated. He's limited in the business decisions he can make until he has a timeline for the future — he has committed to being part of the new medical clinic, but has no idea of when that might happen.

He hasn't been made privy to any contingency plans the doctors may have, but it's important to him and his customer patients to be close by. He'd like to be consulted, he said, "so we can make our own arrangements to see that our patients are

being looked after."

He has a lease for the next four years, so he doesn't have to worry about his business having a roof over its head, but even when the appeals have been heard and a decision made, "the new clinic won't be built in six months."

"We can only wait to see what will happen. There are a lot of balls up in the air, and in the meantime my job is to continue meeting the needs of our patients."

Since the Town has involved itself in decisions about local health care, Simpson said, "we could use some leadership from them in this instance."



THE WAIT IS ALMOST OVER!

GRAND OPENING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25TH
AT 11AM

GREAT FOOD * GREAT TIMES
GREAT PEOPLE * WOOD-FIRED PIZZA
CRAFT BEER * LOCAL INGREDIENTS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT
9:30 PM WITH VINYL FLUX

WATCH FOR OUR GRAND OPENING
DETAILS IN NEXT WEEK'S NOTL LOCAL

1573 FOUR MILE CREEK RD,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
905-468-8808
BRICKSANDBARLEY.CA



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
DENTURE CLINIC

We love to keep our community smiling!



- Complementary Consultations
- Same Day Repairs, Relines
- Implant Supported Dentures
- Teeth in a Day
- Full or Partial Dentures
- Immediate Dentures
- Locally Owned and Operated

ON-SITE LAB FOR CUSTOM PERSONALIZED SMILES.




1630 NIAGARA STONE ROAD, NOTL
905-468-4444 • niagaradentures.com

Walkers lead Perfect Pack through streets of Virgil

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

"I run a tight ship," says Jessye Disher as she negotiates the sidewalks of Virgil with her pack of nine dogs, along with her assistant (and sister-in-law) Jessica Paul.

The group is an impressive sight, with all of the pups maintaining a well-trained heel and being very polite to one another.

The multiply-accredited dog trainer is a member of

the International Association of Canine Professionals. "I'm working on two more certifications," Disher says. "Apparently I like to have a full plate at all times," she laughs.

And full it is: The recently married 28-year-old exercises upwards of 30 dogs a day, over the course of 10 to 12 hours. Paul, a high school student, helps in the summers and on weekends, and Disher has just hired Sam Augerman to help with the growing busi-

ness. "When I announced that on social media, 15 new clients signed up that same day," says Disher with a mixture of amazement and relief. Typically her waiting list is between four and six months.

While she has always worked with animals — taking after her mother, Virgil-based animal chiropractor Dr. Susanne Langdon — Disher adapted her dog walking business after adopting Zoey, an Anatolian shepherd cross.

"Zoey had such bad dog aggression and human aggression she was a liability to the world," she says. "She would have killed all of these dogs, maybe twice, just to make sure she killed them right the first time."

Zoey was a rescue from the Welland Humane Society two years ago, and required so much of a commitment in terms of time and training that the process dramatically changed the lives of both dog and owner.

That's when Disher pivoted toward acquiring serious dog training qualifications, and made that service an integral part of her offerings with The Perfect Pack. Her business model goes beyond basic dog walking, and deep into training. "Ninety per cent of our dogs started reactive," she explains, meaning they were not socialized, and/or had behavioural issues. The sight of the animals — including Zoey — in a calm and well-ordered pack is a testimony to Disher's skills and dedication.

Disher's business can be found online and in orderly fashion on sidewalks in Virgil, Old Town, St. Davids and St. Catharines.

New CAO sought

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The selections of chair and vice-chair will be confirmed at Thursday's annual general meeting, board members agreed.

But before the board cleared the room for their in-camera meeting, Hamilton representative Brad Clark made a motion to censure his colleague, vice-chair James Kaspersetz, also from Hamilton.

Kaspersetz recently reposted an anti-Muslim comment on social media, and although he had apologized and removed the post, it did not reflect the values of the NPCA or the areas it covers, Clark said.

"We want to make it clear such behaviour is not acceptable."

Following a three-and-a-half hour meeting behind closed doors, which was a "good work session," said Bylsma, a motion was made to instruct interim CAO Dave Barrick to freeze hiring, firing and promotions without board approval.

Zalepa, who has pledged to keep the process going forward as open and accountable as possible given the controversy plaguing the actions of the last term, asked for a staff report on the hirings, firings, promotions and obligations of the board.

If it has to be a confidential memo to the board, he

said, "that's fine, but I want the public to know it's been requested."

The board also agreed to direct staff to come up with terms of reference and appointments for a selection committee to replace the interim CAO.

A Dec. 14 release from the NPCA updating the leadership rollercoaster of the organization explained Lisa MacManus, announced Dec. 6 as interim CAO by the former board (the day regional council appointed the new board), had resigned. She had been replacing former CAO Mark Brickell. David Barrick, who had been an NPCA employee up until last November, was named interim CAO "to support the 2019 board of directors in their search of a new CAO," the NPCA release said.



Gary Zalepa, NOTL's regional councillor and NPCA interim board member, is aiming at transparency for this term.



From left to right: Baileys, Jessye Disher, Ozzy, Oliver, Jenny, George, Zoey, Mika, Jessica Paul, Simon, and Bindi. (Lauren O'Malley)

LAKEVIEW

VINEYARD EQUIPMENT INC.



Compact Tractor
Parts & Service



Lawn & Garden
Parts & Service

Complete Farm
Service

40 Lakeshore Road, R.R. #5,
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

905-646-8085 or Toll Free: 1-866-677-4717

www.lakeviewvineyardequipment.com

Call Lakeview today for all of your farm and garden equipment needs.

At Lakeview — we're PROUD to be local!!

Actor's introduction to NOTL begins with Corks concert

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

Things seem to fall into place for George Krissa.

When he was facing a difficult decision, fate — or a poster — gave him a nudge.

At the time Krissa was working at Earls, a restaurant/bar chain in Edmonton. He was a recent graduate of Grant MacEwan College, holding a diploma in vocal performance, and wondering which would accelerate his career further: more education, or a one-way trip to Toronto. "There was a poster on the wall at the bar that said, 'Do you want to move to Toronto,'" says Krissa. The chain was expanding to the Big Smoke, and wanted to hire from within.

On the one hand, it sounds so easy: Krissa gets his travel expenses paid, and is set up with a job and an apartment. On the other hand, "I knew no one, had no training, no contacts, no agent," he says. "Looking back, I had a lot of guts."

So "seem" would be the operative word. Like most overnight sensations, there was a lot of hard work,

risk-taking, and courage prior to the "overnight" that suddenly turned the world's head in Krissa's direction.

One thing that made heads swivel might have been a leopard-skin Speedo.

Krissa has just finished a turn as Rocky in the Stratford Festival's smash success production of the Rocky Horror Show. His performance was a tour-de-force, and netted him attention from far and wide — and from Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Rob Burke is the co-founder of Something Something Productions, which is known in part for its staging of the Rocky Horror Show at Corks Playhouse on Queen Street. Burke and his partner Dina Mavridis had come up with the idea of having an intimate, one-person concert featuring a musical theatre actor. "We were thinking of who we wanted to bring in for the first of this kind of concert," he says. "We were following the stories at Stratford this year, hearing about the success of the Rocky Horror Show, and asking about the cast. Everyone kept saying how good this actor play-

ing Rocky was. He did the character work, wasn't just being a muscle man."

Burke did some research, and learned Krissa had quite a bit of experience singing in repertory theatre, playing Elvis in Million Dollar Quartet, Tony in West Side Story, and performing The Songs of Sinatra. Burke had his man. When he reached out to Krissa's agent to make inquiries, he was very intrigued, but couldn't reveal why until some ink had dried on a contract.

In that hard-work-plus-effortlessness way of Krissa's life, it turns out he was in the process of confirming two lead roles at the Shaw Festival this upcoming season. A solo concert at Corks in February would be a lovely way to introduce himself to NOTL.

"I had always dreamed of being at Stratford and the Shaw," says Krissa. But he never imagined starting out with feature roles in Rocky Horror and The Music Man in year one at Stratford, and leads in Brigadoon and A Horse and His Boy in his first year at the Shaw.

Krissa says he went to a general audition at the Shaw

in 2017. "I didn't hear anything back," he says. "Then earlier in 2018 I got an offer from them. That's the first time that's ever happened to me," he says with some awe. Interestingly, he auditioned with a song from Brigadoon. "It's one of my favourite shows ever, and no one ever does it — anywhere," he says. "Stunning music — it's a role I've always wanted to play."

In the meantime he also auditioned at Stratford. "It was a Donna Feore dance call, famously impossible," he recalls. "I got a dance callback for the first time ever. Then I sang, and got a callback. Then I got a call saying I had been accepted — it was one of the most exciting moments of my life," says the 30-year-old.

"I was struggling to even be brave enough to enter the room to audition. To have somewhere I've always wanted to work for ask me.... I only cried for a couple of minutes," he says with a chuckle.

"My life goals were to work at the Shaw and Stratford, both notoriously hard to get into," Krissa says. Looks like it's time to set some new life goals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

George Krissa sings at Corks Playhouse Feb. 9



Leadership & Legacy

Thank you to the Hoxie family for supporting the Education Foundation of Niagara with a \$25,000 leadership gift.



Your leadership and legacy will help create communities in Niagara where every student has access to all of the enriching opportunities school life offers.

efnniagara.ca #ourstudentsourfuture



Art instructors show their work at Pumphouse

By Lauren O'Malley.
The NOTL Local

One of the current exhibits at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre allows patrons to get to know the work of the people who teach at the centre.

The Pumphouse Instructors' Exhibition features the oeuvres of several artists who teach classes and workshops at the gallery, including locals such as David Antscherl. The artist is a former physiotherapist and human anatomy researcher, giving him profound insight into the inner workings of the body for life drawing.

Other artists in the exhibit include Patricia Haftar and Kayla Benner. One of Haftar's pieces demonstrates the acrylic pouring class she will be teaching next month. The artist describes her work in relation to "rhythm, movement, pattern, texture and colour," and says, "The Pumphouse is an excellent example of a structure that encapsulates the rhythm, patterns, textures, colours and movement of the community in which it is situated."

Banner is a potter based in Port Colborne, who will be teaching an introduction to pottery series in January and February.

The exhibit, which runs until March 31, "offers a glimpse into the diversity and creativity of our instructors," says Rima Boles, the art centre's director. "It also shows students examples of what type of work they can expect from any given course."

Boles says, "Some of these people have been teaching at the Pumphouse for a good 20 years — and we're always looking for new instructors to bring new course offerings."

"We are so fortunate to have this local art centre which focuses on education in all aspects of visual art for new and experienced artists of all ages. This historical building and space is such a great place to go

to explore new creative ideas and to make paintings, sculptures, and many other arts and crafts. I love teaching in their big bright studio at the banks of the river. It's all so inspiring in itself," says instructor Sandra Iafrate.

Some winter programs have begun. A full list of courses is available at niagrapumphouse.ca.

The arts centre has also put out a call to artists for its Walker Industries Art Competition. The competition is juried by a panel of six locals and art academics, and will culminate in prize money of up to \$2,500. Deadline for submissions is March 30, 2019; details can be found on the arts centre's website.



Paul Schibli — at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre (Lauren O'Malley)



Kayla Benner — at Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre



Janice Low — at Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre (Lauren O'Malley)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE LOCAL



48 Glendale Ave.,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-682-1746

526 Queenston St.,
St. Catharines
289-362-1177

paolo.miele@notl.town



1578 Niagara
Stone Rd.,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-1200

martin.mazza@notl.town



NOTL icewine festivities warm up this weekend

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

As the temperature chills (hopefully) for the weekend, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce is preparing for two weekends of celebrating the harvest of frozen grapes and the nectar they produce.

It was 24 years ago that the chamber began celebrating what quickly became known as “liquid gold,” a sweet wine made by local wineries from grapes harvested and pressed while frozen, and served chilled, often with desserts.

The festival acknowledges the importance of the product to local wineries and the regional tourism industry, but nowhere is it as valued as in NOTL, where the celebration has been named the Original Icewine Festival, now going back to its roots, says Janice Thomson, chamber president.

In past years, it had become more of a winter festival on Queen Street, with craft beer and red and white wine also being served, she said.

But the wineries decid-

ed a few years ago to revert to serving icewine only — since that was what was being celebrated.

The Sparkle and Ice gala, the Friday evening spectacular, is a celebration of icewine-makers and their VQA wines, paired with culinary tastings prepared by chefs from NOTL restaurants, which have formed a group known as Signature Kitchen Chefs.

The gala will be held at the Prince of Wales Hotel’s Royal Cambridge, with an evening finale of fireworks and an icewine toast to follow.

The Icewine Village opens to the public Saturday, Jan. 19, on Queen Street, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and again on Sunday, Jan. 20, from noon to 5 p.m. Shimmering ice sculptures stretch from King Street to Regent Street along Queen Street, which is closed to traffic, and under a dozen tents 23 wineries serve samplings of icewine, with culinary treats again prepared by Signature Kitchen Chefs.

Queen Street takes on a completely different atmosphere Saturday evening for the Flash and Panache Icewine Cocktail

Competition. Bragging rights are important to local chefs who put their skills to the test of creating new and amazing icewine cocktails, at an event which locals love to attend.

The street will remain closed between the two weekends, with ice sculptures and a dozen tents left on the roadway, said Thomson, in preparation for the second weekend, Saturday, Jan. 26, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 27 from noon to 5 p.m. About 15,000 tourists are expected to visit the festival over the two weekends, she said.

The prelude to the second weekend will be the 5th annual White on Ice Dinner Friday, Jan. 25, again celebrating all things icewine. It begins with an outdoor reception before moving into the ballroom in the Court House. VQA wines will be served with cuisine from the Signature Kitchen Chefs, accompanied by live music and dancing.

The evening concludes with fireworks and an icewine toast under the stars.

Admission to the Icewine Village is free, with tokens available for pur-

chase of the food and wine tastings.

Throughout the month of January, local wineries join in the festivities by offering weekend events of icewine samplings and culinary adventures — check the chamber’s calendar of events at <https://www.niagaraonthelake.com/event-calendar> for more details.

The Original Icewine Festival opens with a gala Friday and an Icewine Village on Queen Street Saturday and Sunday. (Elena Gayley-Pride)



Jeff Weir from Reif Estate Winery and Sydney Appel of Lakeview Cellars serve icewine at the 2018 Original Icewine Festival. (Elena Gayley-Pride)

Visitors vote town ‘most welcoming’

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a town of awards and distinctions, topping lists in all kinds of categories — the prettiest town, the best hotels, best fine dining, best in heritage preservation and volunteerism, and the friendliest — that was from expedia.

It can now add one more to the list: NOTL has been named one of the most welcoming places on Earth.

“It is very gratifying to see the long-term investment made in hospitality recognized,” said NOTL Chamber of Commerce president Janice Thomson. It’s especially rewarding to see the town regarded so highly by visitors who have experienced its hotels, restaurants, events and hospitality first-hand, she added.

The accolade comes from visitor surveys, she said, through booking.com.

The surveys indicated 73

per cent of global travellers say that friendly and interesting locals are one of their top considerations when selecting a destination for their next trip.

NOTL made the list along with Goreme (Turkey), Slunj (Croatia), Eluanbi (Taiwan), Lake Tekapo (New Zealand), Bendigo (Australia), Newport (US), Nozawa Onsen (Japan), Fernando de Noronha (Brazil) and El Chalten (Argentina).



Visitors to NOTL will find the town one of the most welcoming, as they have in the past. (Elena Gayley-Pride)

restaurant

Oban Inn

Open Daily
Free Parking

Tuesday is Date Night

3 Course Dinner for 2 - \$79.95

Thursday is Mussels Night

Midweek Lunch Special

2 Course Lunch for \$21.95

905-468-2165

160 Front St. Niagara on the Lake

www.obaninn.ca

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

To advertise your event in

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

contact

karen@notllocal.com

Visit us online at:

www.notllocal.com

FISH FRY

AT THE LEGION:

Public welcome, take out available,

Every Thursday 4:30 to 7:30

Royal Canadian Legion

410 King St., Niagara-on-the-Lake



Julia Buxton Cox enjoys her “pura vida” in “Magicville.” (Lauren O'Malley)

Social media moderator provides ‘party line’ for 1,300 locals

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

Some 1,300 locals know Julia Buxton Cox as the moderator of the members-only (i.e. Niagara-on-the-Lake residents only) Facebook group NOTL Today.

“It purely came about because of all the goodness we’ve seen in this town,” says the 48-year-old transplant from Oakville. She sees this as a volunteer role, a way for her to give back to the town she has grown to love deeply.

“The Facebook page represents my passion for this town, for connecting residents and providing a platform for them to speak to each other,” she says. The page is something of a version of people opening up their windows and yelling out a question to their neighbours, or hanging out at the local coffee shop or pub. “I see it like the old fashion party phone lines,” says Buxton Cox — which allowed several people to speak at once — “or like like having coffee with your neighbours, but you can do it in your PJs.”

Before choosing to move to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Buxton Cox was the owner/operator of a travel agency in Oakville. With her warmly gregarious nature, it’s no surprise she found herself in that industry.

She fell into it unexpectedly. “We were preparing to attend a destination wedding in Punta Cana, and I got to talking with the travel agent who was organizing it,” she says. “I was in kitchen sales and design at the time, and didn’t like the hours — evenings and weekends. The travel agent suggested I try her line of work, even part time.”

“So I tried it,” says the spirited Buxton Cox. “And I loved it.”

After nine years in the industry, the London Ontario-born Buxton Cox decided it was time to move on. The industry was changing, and so was her lifestyle: She and her husband David were planning a move to their cherished NOTL.

“We were married here in 1997,” the statuesque redhead recalls. “In Grace United Church. We had the town crier there, and rode in a Sentineal carriage; had the reception at Queen’s Landing. So to be back here 20 years later —

this sounds so corny — is a dream come true.”

Until she met David Cox, Buxton Cox had no awareness of NOTL. But he was born and raised in Niagara Falls, and had very fond ideas about this town. “David would talk about it, so we started coming here from Oakville for get-aways,” she says. As Cox’s retirement time came nearer, the couple decided to buy a house in what they had begun to refer to as “Magicville” and “Pleasantville.”

“We bought our house through Kevan O’Connor, ‘Mr. NOTL.’ He and his wife dressed up for every event in town,” Buxton Cox remembers. “I asked Kevan if he ever got tired of tourists. He said, ‘Niagara-on-the-Lake will never lose its magic.’” She couldn’t agree more.

They bought a bungalow on the edge of Chautauqua in 2015, and built a new house on the property in 2016. “I told (builder) Kekoo Gatta I wanted lots of light,” she says, standing in the open-concept kitchen-living-room-dining-room which is streaming with sunbeams. The many windows and glass doors look out on a well-loved yard.

As a travel agent, the aficionado of the Spanish language found a niche for herself as an expert on Costa Rica. “It was so inspiring — how close to nature people can live,” she says. “Pura vida.” Buxton Cox seems to have found her own version of “pure life” in her house surrounded by mature trees, the grounds dotted with bird feeders attracting all kinds of fauna.

“Not a day goes by that we don’t feel blessed to live here,” she says.

That statement is not often heard coming from dedicated followers of politics — a tribe which Buxton Cox was surprised to find herself joining when she moved to town. “I started following council because we are a small town and it was just an interest,” she says. “I started going to meetings, and now we’re live streaming the meetings at home, cooking dinner and enjoying a glass of wine while watching them. It gives you a really good sense of what’s going on, who councillors are, how they vote.”

However, politicking is not allowed on NOTL Today. The page’s description

is very specific about rules and protocol. “This is a forum for residents of NOTL to come together to promote events, share photos, look for recommendations and discuss issues facing our town. We welcome lively debate but it must be in a mature and respectful manner. We will not tolerate any form of bullying or vulgar comments,” states the mandate, written by Buxton Cox.

“People are seeking connection and not everyone is seeking it face-to-face,” says the extroverted recent local, who has met “hundreds of people” as a result of the forum.

She spends about seven to 10 hours a week moderating NOTL Today, and says, “Overall it has been a great experience. I really do have a passion for the town. As a travel agent I know what we have here. I just want the goodness of the town to come through on the page.”

Posts on NOTL Today include shots of local beauty; questions about power outages; requests for recommendations for dentists, driveway pavers and restaurants; and lost and/or found dogs. The page bypassed a call to Ken Reid, the local “dogcatcher,” when a message of a found dog was posted and the owner was found and picked up his pooch within less than an hour.

“I’m always looking for good content to share,” says Buxton Cox. “We’re open to suggestions on how we can improve. I just want to see people happy.” Recently she decided to ask residents for photographs or artwork to use as the page’s profile image, rotating seasonally. The current “winter” image is a moody shot of bare trees on the Commons by local photographer David Gilchrist. Gilchrist also often posts striking nature shots, most recently of a “coywolf” spotted by Butler’s Burial Grounds.

Other familiar posts on the page include links to stories Buxton Cox shares from various local media sources, as well as member posts about everything from ice wine grape picking to the sad announcement of the passing of Thomas the cat at Pet Valu Virgil.

NOTL Today, as curated by Buxton Cox, is a real snapshot of our diverse and yet connected community.

 **Peninsula Flooring Ltd.**
Est. 1963
13 Henegan Road | Virgil Business Park 905-468-2135

SALE ON SELECT *Karastan* CARPETS

Visit us online at:
notllocal.com

 THE Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving Niagara Since 1977 **PHARMASAVE** Canada's community pharmacies

 **SIMPSON'S**

Seniors' Day
Third Wednesday of Every Month

*Regular-priced merchandise only. Excludes prescriptions, Philips Sonicare & Muse products, special orders and codeine products. Applicable to 60 and over.

Simpson's Pharmacy
Stairglides, Mobility Equipment Sales & Service.
Therapeutic Nutrition and Weight Control Solutions.

Simpson's Apothecary
Compounding Lab & Full Dispensing Services

1882 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil
Located next to the Medical Centre
905.468.2121
Open 6 Days a Week

233 King St, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Free Parking at Back Entrance off Johnson St
905.468.8400
Open 7 Days a Week

www.simpsonsparmacy.ca • Free Delivery From Both Locations

Family Fun



Three siblings and their cousin love to go skating at the Fort George outdoor rink, which is sponsored by Vintage Hotels and encourages great family time. In front: Michael Miele, behind him (left) are his sister Sophia, his cousin Samuel Miele and his sister daughter Felicia.

Gratitude among friends

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

Tony Chisholm, president of the Friends of Fort George, is excited to express his gratitude to supporters of the non-profit organization of volunteers who work so hard to support the works of Parks Canada and local historic sites.

"I ask for something, he says how much," Chisholm says of the generosity of Doug Rempel and Bosley Real Estate. "And he always reminds me to come back soon."

Rempel is a sales representative who believes deeply in the inherent and historical beauty of Niagara-on-the-Lake. "We can never really 'own' Niagara,"

he says. "We are simply caretakers of its history and participants in a very special lifestyle." He also finds it important to focus on education and community, so the students hired by the FoFG for seasonal work at the fort are an ideal initiative for Rempel to support. "It's all about respecting the impact of what the Friends of Fort George do to continue education," says Rempel.

"You never know," he continues, "you sow a seed here and you sow a seed there, and then you've fostered something." The realtor generally donates gift certificates from local restaurants for the silent auction fundraisers held by the FoFG. As Chisholm points out, "This way he's

supporting local businesses, as well as a local non-profit." Chisholm continues, "He certainly deserves this award, and Bosley certainly deserves this award."

The plaque presented by Chisholm to Rempel features a dramatic and moody photograph of fog rolling over the ground of the fort seen through the frame of the dark, daunting gates, and will take pride of place on an entryway wall of the Bosley Real Estate office on King Street.

Other top supporters of the Friends of Fort George can expect to receive awards in the weeks and months to come, as Chisholm goes about showing the group's gratitude to the community.



Tony Chisholm, president of the Friends of Fort George, presents a plaque to Doug Rempel of Bosley Real Estate for his support of the volunteer organization. (Lauren O'Malley)

The Genuine. The Original.



The Ribbon is Always a Sign of a Winner.

The red ribbon means you've found everything you're looking for in a garage door – reliable performance, innovative design and a range of styles and options to fit any home.

Overhead Door Co. St. Catharines Ltd.
13 Seapark Drive, Unit 1
St. Catharines

Call for your quote today!
905-682-5591





Skaters take to the ice at the Regency Skate at Fort George. (Fred Mercnik)

1800 meets 2019 on ice

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

Eras collided — but people didn't — on the ice at the Fort George rink for the first annual Regency Skating Party on Saturday. The rink and the fort were both a-bustle all afternoon, with demonstrations, musket firings, a Regency-era fashion show, and skating. Sentineal Carriages ferried people on the bumpy path between the two locations,

and added to a real sense of what life was like in the early 1800's. Reenactors made their way to the event from all over Ontario, many having made outfits specifically for the skating party. Abel Land, a period costumer based in Guelph, hand stitched a spectacular gentleman's overcoat with mink trim and wooden buttons. Both Land and local Rick Meloen even wore period skates. Dozens of regular

skaters seemed to enjoy the anachronism of the Regency enthusiasts, and stayed to watch the skating contest, judged by Parks Canada's Scott Finlay as Sir Isaac Brock. Meloen won as the best (and only) amateur; three reenactors were also given prize baskets of goodies from local shops. You have almost a whole year to plan your outfit for next year's event — the gift shop at Fort George has patterns to get you started.



Skaters enjoy a cup of tea while they warm up in the Officers' Quarters at Fort George following the Regency Skate. (Fred Mercnik)



Jo-Ann Cudmore
Sales Representative
Royal LePage
NRC Realty
Office 905-468-4214
Cell 905-321-8126
jcudmore@royallepage.ca | www.cudmorehomes.com



Visit us online at:
www.notllocal.com



Expect the unexpected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

When Krissa was growing up in Lashburn, Saskatchewan, population 750 ("I laugh when people say they're from a small town of 100,000 people"), he and his friends had a favourite pastime. "We were super-duper unpopular," he says. "A group of us would get five movies for five days for \$5 and watch them all — the worst horror movies." In another full-circle achievement, "Another crowning moment of my life was when I got to be in one of those really campy scary movies," he says. Another high point was being given the Guthrie Award at Stratford last year. "They give out awards at Stratford," he explains. Some are financial, like small grants. "Everything I had was stained orange on the inside," he laughs. "I had to be spray-tanned every day. I had to replace all of my clothing, and spent a lot of money on supplements and protein powders," to develop

the perfectly-sculpted body of a mad scientist's embodiment of the perfect man. "I asked for money to replace it all, and they awarded me the Guthrie," he says with his typical combination of humour and humility. That humility is further evidenced by Krissa's unwillingness to share his own songs on stage. "I love playing guitar and writing songs," he says, "but just for myself, mostly because I don't think they're very good." He goes on to make an insightful point: "You're always putting yourself in vulnerable positions with acting — in classes, in auditions, on stage — and it's nice to have something to keep to myself." So while there won't be any of his originals in the Feb. 9 concert at Corks, there will be "a little bit of everything, something for everyone," he says. "Classical, traditional musical theatre, country, funk, soul, jazz. A collection of music that I enjoy and think other people will enjoy."

The triple-threat performer is looking forward to his first ever solo concert. "This will be nice because I'm not trying to teach you anything, I just want to entertain you," he says. Although he does hint there will be special guests in the show, so he won't be entirely on his own. Krissa becomes an honorary local in February, taking up residence just down the street from the Festival Theatre. Rehearsals start on Valentine's Day, so the Toronto-transplant sees this concert as a great lead-in to the season. Burke says tickets are selling well for the 65-seat performance, so it might be wise to act quickly if you want to meet your new, very talented, neighbour. The concert is at Corks Playhouse Theatre on Feb. 9, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$40, general seating, and can be purchased online or by phone at 289-668-0482 to save service fees, says Burke.



My offices are here to serve you!
Niagara Falls: 905-357-0681
Niagara-on-the-Lake:
(Friday afternoons) 289-241-2238
Wayne Gates
MPP Niagara Falls
WayneGates.com | wgates-co@ndp.on.ca

Shaw film series builds on sense of community

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

Locals know how it works on Saturday afternoons: Get to the Festival Theatre at about 1 p.m. Line up with some friends and get the conversation started. When the doors open at 1:30 a.m., put your coat on a seat to reserve your favourite spot, and then go back out into the lobby for a sip and a sup.

These are the Shaw Festival Film Series rituals. And yes, there's a movie in there too.

"What has become its real centrepiece is maybe not so much the movies, but the social community feel," says Stephen Levy, founder and director of the series.

Of course the films themselves are relevant and important, he affirms. Levy spends 10 months of the year selecting and chasing down the films that are shown weekly between December and February — every year for thirteen years now.

Levy and his wife Ria moved to town from Toronto via California almost 20 years ago. "We used to come to Niagara-on-the-Lake to see plays at the Shaw," the youthful 80-year-old recounts. "One afternoon we were seeing a show at the Festival Theatre. During the intermission we stood on the back patio and looked out and said, 'Why not move

here?' We bought our house that afternoon."

He loved the sense of community, but as an actor and film producer, he found he really missed seeing foreign and independent films. "The only films you could see around here were blockbusters in St. Catharines or Niagara Falls," Levy recalls. He decided to approach the Shaw festival about using the Royal George theatre as a cinema in the off-season. The George was built in 1915 to entertain the troops, and Levy thought it fitting to put it back to use as a film house.

"I thought the most difficult thing would be to get the films," Levy says. "That turned out to be the easiest part."

He approached the Shaw Festival with his idea, and was given a hard no.

Perhaps using the skills he learned selling aluminum siding in his youth, Levy didn't give up. "I don't know why I thought I should try again, but a couple of years later there was a new regime at the Shaw, so I spoke to them — and they were all for it," he says. There were two conditions: They couldn't offer the Royal George theatre, because it wasn't equipped with heating, and this was planned for the winter months — but the Festival Theatre was available, being empty for several months between seasons. Problem solved. But, they would not supply the

screen and projector required, and estimated the cost for both at \$75,000.

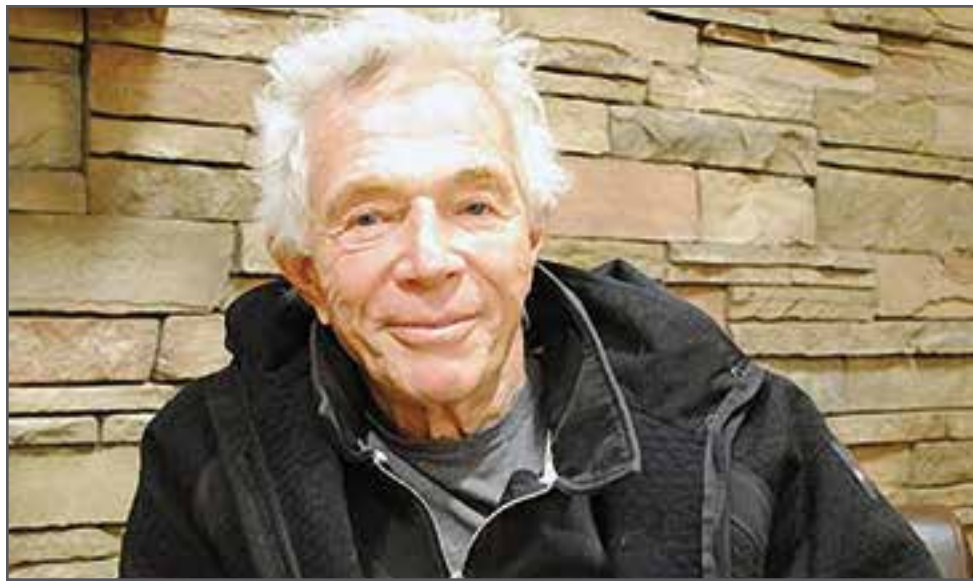
Levy, undaunted, reached out to Carol Walker on the advice of some friends. "They said she loved film, and was well-connected within the community." Walker was just the ticket: "Through her help we raised the money necessary to buy the screen and projector."

Now to source the films. Levy approached the Toronto International Film Festival. "I thought TIFF would be the perfect source—not for films from their own festival, but for their connections to distributors."

Levy says he went to the organizers of TIFF and said, "I'm trying... I'd like... is there any way...?" The response surprised him. "They said sure, you can access anything you want." It turns out they were just launching a mandate to reach out to smaller communities.

"It's been a joy," says Levy. "I enjoy choosing the films and feeling the community thing — it's like giving back to the community, but it's also giving to me. I get an ego rush in picking the films."

His criteria? "One, that I like the film. Two, taking into consideration the overall audience — which is changing from an older demographic to a younger one, more open to subtitles," he says. And they must be entertaining and well made.



Stephen Levy, founder and director of the Shaw Festival Film Series. (Lauren O'Malley)



Jan. 19 film: *I Feel Pretty*, about a woman struggling with insecurity who wakes from a fall believing she is the most beautiful and capable woman on the planet. Her new confidence empowers her to live fearlessly, but what happens when she realizes her appearance never changed? Starring Amy Schumer.

Town youth council looking after needs of peers

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

Some of Niagara-on-the-Lake's brightest young lights are looking after the youth of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A dozen young people met at the town hall Monday to discuss ways to meet their mandate of giving youth a voice in NOTL and encouraging community involvement.

This meeting of the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council featured three special guest speakers: Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Red Roof Retreat executive director Steffanie Bjorgan and restaurateur Maria Mavridis.

Disero has promised to support the LMYAC, and brought in community leaders Bjorgan and Mavridis to help champion the cause — and to share their wisdom.

"Lord Mayor Betty implemented ideas about having a economic plan, housing plan, new activities, and new jobs in Niagara-on-the-Lake," says Alexcia Cofell, a council member. "She also mentioned how we can thrive as a committee by reaching out to Maria and Steffanie, who would provide us with many resources."

"She also said the youth are the future of our town," says Bethany Poltl, another member. "She is trying

to keep us here, wants us to stay."

"Maria Mavridis and Steffanie Bjorgan talked about potential opportunities for the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council," says Cofell.

Some of the group will be attending an upcoming vision board workshop run by the Red Roof Retreat's mental wellness initiative. "Our next project is the second annual Mental Health and Wellness day to help bridge the gap between Grade 8 and high school," says Poltl. The group is working hard to secure a wide variety of speakers and activities for the event.

LMYAC meetings

are held monthly. Locals between the ages of 13 and 18 are encouraged to join; applications are available online through jointheconversationnotl.org.

HERITAGE DENTAL HYGIENE

1547 NIAGARA STONE RD #2, VIRGIL

WWW.HERITAGEDENTALHYGIENE.CA

LOCAL WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, January 20th

Message: Fear of Death

Kids Programming

Grade 8 & under

Sunday Worship

at 10am at

434 Hunter Rd.

Offices at

1570 Niagara Stone Rd.

www.ccchurch.ca

Grace United Church

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

222 Victoria Street 905-468-4044

Sunday Service

@ 10:30 a.m.

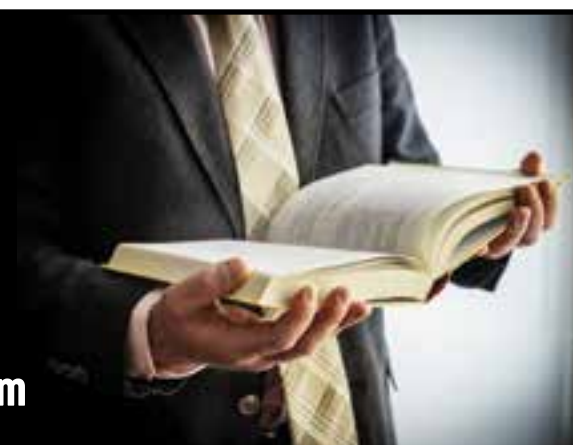
Check us out at...

www.graceunitedchurch.com



Alexcia Cofell, Bethany Poltl and Tiffany Leung, members of the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, at their January meeting. (Lauren O'Malley)

To advertise your
WORSHIP SERVICES
in this section,
please contact
karen@notllocal.com



Norm Howe earned a place in hearts of locals

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

Norm Howe, a man who earned a place in many hearts in Niagara-on-the-Lake, died Dec. 6 at the age of 93.

A beloved father of four and husband to the love of his life, Margherita, who died in 2006, he was also a friend to many in town.

Next month, at the Shaw Festival Film Series, a short video about him will be shown before the feature movie, providing a glimpse into his life as a fighter pilot in the Second World War.

“He was intelligent, loving, funny, engaging, generous, witty, empathetic, creative and self-sacrificing. He saw the best in others and gave the best he had,” wrote his son Michael for Norm’s obituary, also describing him as a champion tennis player, an amateur watercolour artist and a bird-watcher.

Those who were fortunate to call him friend knew him as a great story-teller with a quick, dry wit, and a man who in his heyday, while raising a young family in NOTL with Margherita by his side, loved to party.

There were several couples of the post-war era, raising kids in town during the 50s and 60s, who met often for dinner and socializing, says daughter Louise Howe, who recalls those years as

an ideal time to grow up in a tight-knit community. When the parents got together, there was always lots in town for the kids to do, she said, playing outdoors, on the Commons, getting into the sorts of harmless hijinks kids did when left to their own devices, as they were in those days.

Her dad was a “kind and accepting father,” she said, and well-liked by others.

He was also a great role model for her and her brothers, Michael, Robin and Peter, she added.

“He instilled in us a great love for humanity.”

A glimpse of those years in the Old Town has been recorded in the first part of two videos by film-maker Barbara Tranter, who grew up living beside the Howes. Her parents were part of the “party scene” with 20 to 30 couples, she said, which went on for 10 to 20 years.

And the kids, she added, also had fun, mostly unsupervised and “free to develop our own scene. Life was so different for kids those days.”

It was the party atmosphere of those decades, which she considers part of the social history of NOTL, that she wanted to capture in talking with Norm. Although Margherita was the extrovert and Norm the quiet one, he had a great sense of humour and lots of en-

tertaining stories of the era to pass on — stories which would have been lost eventually without that recording.

“I’m trying to capture the stories and the people before they’re gone.”

Her first interview with Norm was done in 2017, and the resulting video was shown last winter as part of Tranter’s Historical Gossip series during the Shaw Festival Film Series one Saturday afternoon, before the feature movie. It’s a wonderful glimpse of him at his finest, reminiscing and joking about about some of the best days of his life.

Tranter interviewed Norm again about three weeks before he died, and is in the process of editing the footage in preparation for showing it at this year’s Shaw film series in February. This second part will focus on his war years, when he served as a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force, based in Britain and flying bombing missions over Germany.

He had aged considerably since the first video was made, she said, but his mind, and his familiar and much-loved wit, were still sharp. He showed a different side, one of the pragmatism required of a young man who understood the devastation caused by about 80 solo bombing missions, for which he was much decorated, and which

he could describe without emotion as doing the job he was sent to do.

The five-minute films are meant to show a “vignette” of the people she has interviewed, but the first one focused on Howe was as much about life in NOTL in those decades, as seen through his eyes, said Tranter. His stories and some of the photos she includes in the film provide a sense that it was a time of great fun and celebration — the war was over, and although many lives had been lost, these young men and women had survived to marry and raise their families in a community they had chosen to call home, and in a way that was surprisingly normal given what they had lived through, she said.

The film to be screened in February will show the veteran looking back on a very different time, but one which shaped the lives of the generations to come.

During the years after the war, Norm was Margherita’s biggest supporter, her passionate activism an accepted part of family life. It led to several awards, including her being named to the Order of Canada for her fight to clean up the Great Lakes and the Niagara River.

At her funeral at St. Mark’s Church, Norm spoke of her with great love and admiration, while holding on

to a beautiful wooden box that had been a gift to her from the Great Lakes Society, and which held her ashes. He said when his turn came, he hoped she would “scooch

over” to make room for him. He’s there with her now, said Louise, following a private family service. A public celebration of Norm’s life is being planned for the spring.



Norm Howe attended his last Remembrance Day service Nov. 11, 2018, and proudly displayed his medals earned during his years as a fighter pilot in the Second World War. He died in December, and a short film about days flying missions over Germany will be shown in February at the Shaw Festival before the feature film. (Supplied photo)

Inspiring Niagara-on-the-Lake, one kitchen at a time



New kitchen in Old Town
Niagara-on-the Lake, designed
by Tara Hollingworth, installed
by Innovative Kitchen Design



INNOVATIVE
KITCHEN DESIGN



443 Eastchester Ave. East, St Catharines 905 641 8888 www.ikds.ca

Rest is best treatment for concussion

By Lauren O'Malley
The NOTL Local

A head injury used to be lightly known as “having your bell rung,” and was more often than not treated by just “walking it off.” Not so these days, with concussions being top of mind — as it were — for parents, athletes, and, really, most people.

Essentially, your head is a big heavy flower sitting on top of a relatively weak stem. “You can put as much protection on your head as you like, but the neck is frail,” says Sean Simpson, compounding pharmacist and owner of Simpson’s Pharmacy and Simpson’s Apothecary. Simpson is known for his expertise in and alternative treatments of traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

The pharmacist’s first piece of advice is to try to minimize your risk of concussions. You can’t prevent them, but one way to diminish the chances is to strengthen the muscles in your neck — make that stem stronger. Simpson also makes an argument for an “optimal state of health versus a sub-optimal state. You can minimize the damage to neurological processes through diet and supplementation.”

Much of his advice for prevention also applies to the treatment of head injuries. “Magnesium is a mineral that that most of us are deficient in to begin with,” he says, and encourages adding it to your supplements. “One of the foundations or cornerstones is omega-3 fatty acids, as they are anti-inflammatory. It’s not just something that’s for heart health even though that’s typically what people think of, but it is important for neurological processes as well.” He also recommends curcumin, vitamin C, zinc, B complex, and branch chain amino acids.

Regardless of supplementation, athletes are more vulnerable to brain injuries. “The worst injuries are the ones where both people are looking elsewhere and collide at high speed: their necks and bodies aren’t braced for the impact, so the damage is amplified,” says Simpson. He believes the incidence of TBIs in football and hockey is six to seven times higher than what actually is reported, because so many aren’t diagnosed. Mouth guards can help by absorbing some of the shock, and of course up-to-date helmets can protect the wearer from some of the damage of a direct hit.

Should you suffer a head or neck injury, the key is diagnosis. “The big

awareness is any time you have an impact to the head or a sudden movement, there’s a possibility of concussion,” says the pharmacist. “Symptoms don’t always happen right away — they can take several weeks or even months to manifest.”

Consult a health professional immediately after any kind of head or neck injury to confirm whether or not it’s serious and requires treatment.

The problem is, as Simpson says, “Concussion is a confounding condition.”

The symptoms vary, and are unpredictable. “Typically you get an inflammatory cascade in the brain and that can cause mood abnormalities, headache, inability to focus or concentrate. It can affect memory, balance and co-ordination,” says Simpson.

The most universally recommended — and least followed — medical advice is rest. Dr. Gary Friesen, a chiropractor, clarifies: “Rest means no video games, no reading, no computer time, no going to the mall.” Friesen is an athlete himself, and has treated many sportspeople. He says he has a passion for managing TBIs, and makes a point of sharing his knowledge on the subject with patients, parents, and schools.

“If a patient comes to me with a diagnosed concussion I want to be sure they’re doing everything they can to make the bruising heal,” says Friesen. He echoes Simpson’s advice for a well-balanced diet, supplementation, good sleep hygiene and coping mechanisms for stress management.

TBI patients tend to feel a great deal of anxiety, with nothing visibly wrong with them and yet they are under strict instructions to do virtually nothing. Simpson describes concussion as “an excitatory state,” and recommends trying supplements such as L-Theanine, “a calming type of amino acid that can support people who are suffering,” and melatonin which he says helps with sleep and is also a very potent antioxidant.

He also recommends meditation to focus and calm the brain with minimum effort. Any meditation apps or guided meditations relax and allow for healing, he said. “The simple idea is that it relaxes your mind — you’re taking control of your brainwaves and calming them from the excitatory state. Calming your brain allows it to heal.”

“Sugar is inflammato-

ry in nature and so by removing it we’re reducing some of the damage,” he adds. He recommends high-quality unsweetened electrolyte drinks.

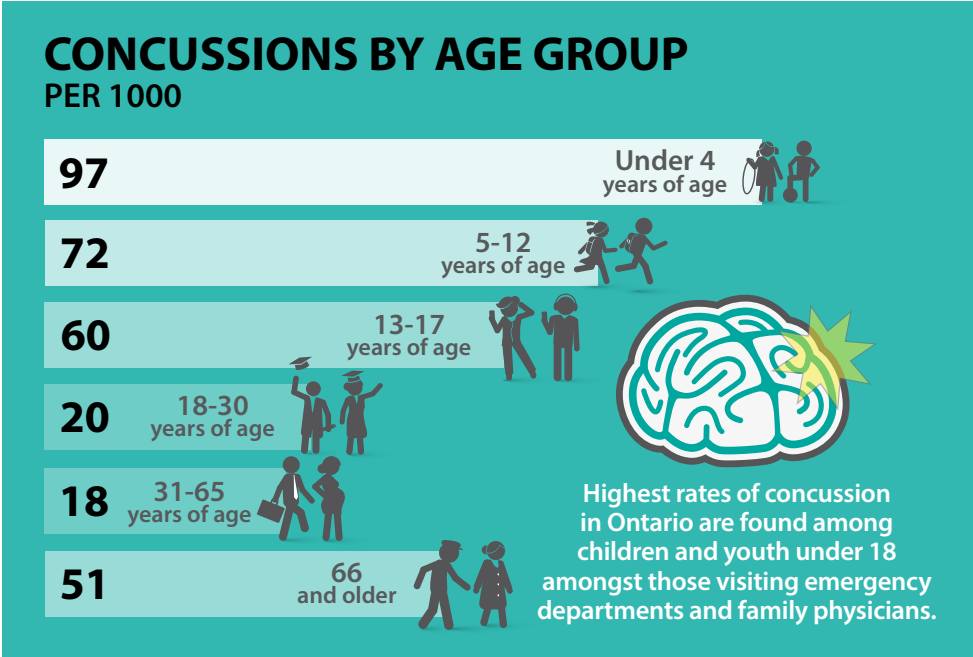
And when the time is right to begin resuming activity, he suggests yoga as an excellent mind-body re-integration.

Friesen also warns of trying to get back to normal activity too quickly. “As your concussion symptoms start to lift, you wake up one day thinking, ‘Hey, I feel pretty good,’” he says. “But just because you feel better doesn’t mean you’re healed.” The chiropractor urges people to err on the side of caution. Take it more slowly than you want to, he advises. Do less, not more.

“When you’re absolutely symptom-free, try a very light workout and see how the body responds,” says Friesen. “Try some light reading, and see how the body responds.” He encourages parents to understand that kids with concussions are not going to be able to study for tests, or get back on the team for that important game. He says most concussions can heal well; 85 to 100 per cent can get better — but he stresses that any subsequent blow can do major damage.



Supplements can be used to prevent and treat concussions. (Lauren O'Malley)



Source: Concussions Ontario

LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY Birthday KIM

Love your family and friends!!

Kelsey Penner, daughter of Kevin & Marcia Penner of Virgil and **Bradley Overbeeke**, son of Ken & Nell Overbeeke of Fenwick were married on October 20th, 2018 at 2pm.

The ceremony was held at Bethany Mennonite Church, with Pastor Randy Klaassen officiating.

An elegant reception was held at White Oaks Resort & Spa. Kelsey & Brad had a fabulous honeymoon in beautiful, sunny Punta Cana.

A heart-felt thanks to everyone who attended, and took part in making this day a dream come true!

HAPPY Birthday DORIS

Love, the Hens!

To advertise your happy moments in our **LOCAL CELEBRATIONS** contact karen@notllocal.com

Visit us online at: www.notllocal.com

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

Visit us online at:
www.notllocal.com



CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Eleanore Epp, who passed away Jan 1-2019 would like to thank the Niagara Medical Centre team and Dr. Bestedo for the amazing care they provided during a difficult time. Also like to thank the incredible staff of Bethany Mennonite Church, Simpsons Pharmacy, and all the family and friends that provided so much love and care.

HALL RENTALS

**Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 124**

Our upstairs hall is available to rent for weddings, birthdays, meetings, and as a commercial venue.

**Contact the Branch
office weekdays 10am
to 4pm or leave a
request with our staff.
410 King Street
905-468-2353**

FURNITURE

My Reclaim to Fame

Furniture Refinishing

Restoring vintage & outdated furniture*

***Custom Work Available**

Painted China Cabinet
Painted with Fusion's Champlain
with metallic pearl accents.
Dimensions: 59"H x 38"W x 16"D
Price: \$325.00

Ladybinks@hotmail.com

Visit to see more:
<https://facebook.com/myreclaimtofame/>



Earn extra cash by selling your unwanted items in our CLASSIFIEDS contact

classified@notllocal.com
Deadline: Mondays at noon.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17						18				19				
20				21						22				
23			24				25		26					
		27				28						29	30	31
32	33				34				35		36			
37				38				39						
40							41				42			
43				44		45				46				
			47						48				49	50
51	52	53				54		55				56		
57						58					59			
60						61				62				
63						64				65				

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

Across

- 1 Distant
- 6 Apex
- 9 Jobs
- 14 "ER" actress --- Tierney
- 15 "--- Believer",
Monkees hit
- 16 Start playing!
- 17 Tap
- 19 "Fear of Flying" author
--- Jong
- 20 Snow runner
- 21 Less common
- 22 Buoyant
- 23 Old-fashioned cab
- 25 Lightweight tropical
hats
- 27 Elite group
- 28 Gene Pitney was only
24hrs from here
- 29 Downloadable
program
- 32 Small lake
- 34 Natter
- 35 Tenor --- Bocelli
- 37 Sidestepped
- 39 Splendors
- 40 Demeanor
- 41 Total
- 42 Capital of Norway
- 43 Source of formic acid
- 44 Jambalaya ingredient
- 46 Little one
- 47 "Band of Gold" singer
Freda ---
- 48 Miscreants
- 51 Economizer

- 54 Succeed
56 One of New York's
finest, perhaps
57 Nautical fastener
58 To
60 Carroll's rabbit-hole
explorer
61 Wyo. neighbor
62 Extended area of land
63 Waterproofed as many
showers are
64 Affirmative vote
65 Solemn promises

Down

- 1 Pennsylvania
Mennonites
2 Sri ---, formerly Ceylon
3 Ahead of the field
4 Mineral source
5 Litter of pigs
6 Bracket
7 Stimulus
8 Security detachment
9 Anna Paquin won an
Oscar for this film,
aged 11
10 Spanish winds
11 The pen
12 Recoil
13 Remain
18 Rotating engine part
24 Welcome
26 Old Testament song
28 Sliver

- 29 Nobleman
30 Rind
31 --- doble (dance)
32 One of the Three Bears
33 “--- Almighty”, in
which Morgan
Freeman played God
34 Nixon’s successor,
informally
36 Drivel
38 At peace
39 Rev up
41 --- Todd, barber
45 Chest pain
46 Am disposed
47 Serenity
48 Pro
49 Gun handle nick
50 Notices
51 Get outta here!
52 “--- want is a room
somewhere...” (“My
Fair Lady”)
53 Bridal wear
55 Start of a Hamlet
soliloquy
59 Geological time
composed of periods

PUZZLE ANSWERS

[illegible]

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

Across:

1 Aloof, 6 Tip, 9 Tasks, 14 Maura, 15 I'm a, 16 Hit it, 17 Intercept, 19 Erica, 20 Ski,
21 Rarer, 22 Perk, 23 Hansom, 25 Topis, 27 Few, 28 Tulsa, 29 App, 32 Mere,
34 Gas, 35 Andrea, 37 Avoided, 39 Glories, 40 Mannet, 41 Sum, 42 Oslo, 43 Ant,
44 Prawn, 46 Tor, 47 Payne, 48 Felons, 51 Saver, 54 Get on, 56 Cop, 57 Clear,
58 In order to, 60 Alice, 61 Neb, 62 Tract, 63 Tiled, 64 Aye, 65 Oaths.

Down:

1 Amish, 2 Lanka, 3 Out in front, 4 Ore, 5 Farrow, 6 Tier, 7 Impetus, 8 Patrol,
9 The piano, 10 Aires, 11 Stir, 12 Kick, 13 Stay, 18 Cam, 24 See in, 26 Psalm,
28 Tad, 29 Aristocrat, 30 Peel, 31 Paso, 32 Mama, 33 Evan, 34 Gerry, 36 Drool,
38 Departed, 39 Gun, 41 Sweeney, 45 Angina, 46 Tend to, 47 Peace, 48 For,
49 Notch, 50 Spots, 51 Scat, 52 All I, 53 Veil, 55 To be, 59 Era.

LOCAL SPORTS

Niagara Motors skates to win over Pelham



The Niagara Motors novice house league team looked strong on the ice as players skated to a 6-1 win over the Pelham Panthers Saturday afternoon at the Centennial Arena in Virgil. (Fred Mercnik)



NOTL Nationals in sixth place leading up to divisional playoffs

By Penny Coles
The NOTL Local

With 10 games left to go in the regular season, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Nationals are on track to end it in fifth or sixth place in their division.

Spencer DeWolfe, coach of the Jr. A team, says the Nationals are in sixth place with a record of 17 wins, 15 losses and one overtime win.

"It's a very successful standing for a first-year expansion team," said DeWolfe.

"We were unsure going into the season, but top five or six going into the playoffs would be a big accomplishment for our first year."

They will play their last regular season game at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil Feb. 15, with the playoffs beginning shortly after.

The new franchise team of the Greater Metro Hockey League started off strong, and has continued building momentum in the South division. Two losses

mid-December were followed by three wins, putting them in a tight race to the post-season.

Their most recent game Sunday was a 6-1 loss to North York but they remain in sixth place, said DeWolfe.

Having developed such a competitive team for its first year, DeWolfe hopes to keep his core players going into the Nationals' second season, but he knows he will lose one who will age out and others as they go off to post-secondary

school or leave to pursue other opportunities. Tryouts for next season will begin in April, he said, for players 16 to 21 years old.

The team has already lost one skilled player to a professional team in Norway, and has gained some additions this season as well, sending four players to representing the Nationals at the Quebec all-star showcase this weekend.

For more information about tryouts or game results visit notlnationals.com.



NOTL Nationals won 7-3 against Windsor Saturday, the third-place team in the South Division of the GMHL, putting the Nationals in sixth place as the local team heads into the final stretch of regular season play. The game was at home in the Meridian Credit Union Arena Friday. The next home game for the Nationals is this Friday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. (Fred Mercnik)

LOCAL BUSINESS

The Genuine. The Original.

OVERHEAD DOOR

Garage Door Sales and Service
Commercial - Residential

905-682-5591

13 Seapark Dr Unit 1, St Catharines
overheaddoorco.ca



REVEL LUXURY

Revel Realty Inc. Brokerage
905-357-1700 (office)

Your Neighbour
Andrew Perrie
Sales Representative

905-380-6702 (cell)

andrew@revelrealty.ca

To advertise your company in

LOCAL BUSINESS

contact karen@notllocal.com



**ANDREW'S LAW
PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION**
Barristers & Solicitors

905.468.0081

info@rjwandrews.ca

REAL ESTATE

WILLS

BUSINESS

**INNOVATIVE
KITCHEN DESIGN**



443 Eastchester Ave. East, St Catharines
905 641 8888 | www.ikds.ca

Visit us online at:
notllocal.com





116 Simcoe Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
\$3,895,000



493 Regent Street, NOTL
\$1,988,888



This extraordinary property offers a unique lifestyle with substantial living space and its specification level of the highest standards. It is located on a half acre directly across from the 9th hole of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course the oldest golf Club in North America. This home has been refurbished with fastidious attention to detail. Developed over some years the main property has three substantial guest Bed & Breakfast suites all with ensuites and outdoor decks and/or balconies. The master suite comprising a spacious ensuite steam shower, walk-in closet and a balcony with a hot tub is its own oasis. The property further entails a Great Room with a see-through fireplace to the covered outdoor kitchen with a fully equipped BBQ, dining room, private office, 2 laundry rooms, professionally equipped kitchen, and gym. The terraces offer an outside living space overlooking a pond, gazebo, putting green and water feature. Enhanced with a 3+ car garage and parking for an additional 6 cars, this is a one-of-a-kind home.

This 5 Bedroom Inn is in a prime location across the street from the Pillar & Post Inn and Conference Centre. It is walking distance to all the fine/casual dining, live theatre, boutique shops and parks that Niagara-on-the-Lake has to offer. The Weather-pine Inn is an elegant retreat nestled in a beautiful garden setting and the property was designed in the tradition of a fine country inn with wide plank pine floors with a focus on privacy. Vaulted wood-beamed ceilings and a double sided fireplace complement the traditional architecture of the Inn. The large wrap around porch and second storey balcony offer the perfect setting for guests to relax and enjoy a coffee or glass of Niagara wine. Many aspects of this property have been grandfathered and are not achievable in Niagara-on-the-Lake anymore. The new gardens being created by Vintage Hotels down the street will only drive more business to this Inn. Have a look and be the master of your own business.



SOLD

15082 Niagara Parkway, NOTL
Welcome to this beautiful property tucked back from the Parkway in a quiet are of Niagara-on-the-Lake. This property is perhaps most impressive for its incredible setting. With view of your own vineyard outside your door, this cultivated land is simply overwhelming. The Century Home is comprised of 4 bedrooms.



\$895,000

28 Harmony Drive, NOTL
This Gatta home overlooks a wooded backyard and offers a serene oasis with a waterfall and a variety of spaces guaranteed to appeal. Located in the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake, this custom built bungalow spans 1875 sq. ft. and hosts a den and 2 bedrooms on the upper level, including an impressive owners suite.



\$875,900

6 Aberdeen Lane, St. Catharines
This property that backs on to Two Mile Creek was built in 2015 and designed for 2 level living in a Bungalow. The condominium development is located steps from the Old Town of NOTL, wineries, trails and restaurants. The kitchen and living/dining room have an open plan interior layout, with large sliding doors to a balcony overlooking a ravine.



SOLD

603 Simcoe Street, NOTL
Years of exquisite design culminate here in a home like no other, with uncompromising luxury and sublime details. Located a ten minute walk to all of the buzz of the main street, the new owner will enjoy the quiet small town charm of Niagara-on-the-Lake or a brief stroll to the new Community Centre and Library.



\$859,000

1783 Townline Road, NOTL
This fully furnished Bed & Breakfast ½ Storey was built in the 80's and is set just outside the sought after village of NOTL. The spacious Guest suites are rooms filled with light and open spaces, each with ensuites and all encapsulating a perfect getaway. The ground floor comprises an entrance hall leading to a large living room.



SOLD

20 Macdonell Road, NOTL
Nestled in the four season Garrison Village community, the reproduction facade blends seamlessly with the chic, clean-lined open floor plan, which is perfect for modern living on a grand scale. A gracious entrance Foyer leads to the expansive Great Room featuring an abundance of windows, a fireplace, a custom kitchen and dining area.



SOLD

1413 Niagara Stone Road, NOTL
The dream of owning your first home is an everyday reality here in one of the most desirable towns...Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is also ideal for investors looking for a turn-key vacation property. This home is located in Virgil, a 10 minute drive to the Old Town and a stroll away from restaurants, bakeries, wineries and micro-breweries.



\$559,000

21 - 608 Simcoe Street, NOTL
This contemporary home has been designed with remarkable attention to detail in every respect. It offers many comforts for leading a quality lifestyle, whether this is your second home in Niagara-on-the-Lake or a space you live in year-round. Highlights include a gorgeous galley kitchen with high-end appliances and granite counters.



Nancy Bailey
Private Office Advisor, Broker
905-371-4234
Engel & Völkers Niagara, Brokerage
3521 Portage Road, Niagara Falls
nancy.bailey@evcanada.com

OPENING SOON
Our New Location at 376 Mary St.,
Niagara-on-the-Lake



ENGEL & VÖLKERS®