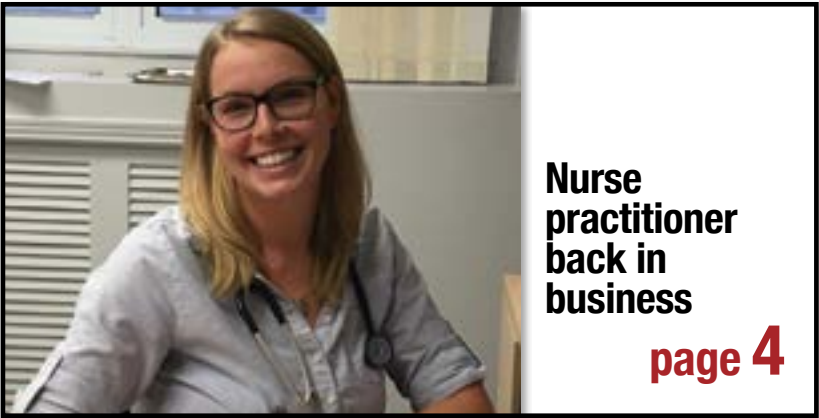


# The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Nurse  
practitioner  
back in  
business

page 4

The trusted voice of our community.

notllocal.com JANUARY 31, 2019 Volume 1 · Issue 3

## Party for a good cause



The first annual After Party on Ice, held at the Fort George skating rink and sponsored by Vintage Hotels, raised money for Red Roof Retreat, which provides day programs and respite care for youth and young adults with disabilities. (Fred Mercnik)

## Red Roof committed to mental wellness programs for all

By Lauren O'Malley  
The NOTL Local

Red Roof Retreat is committed to expanding to support mental health.

"My board is all over it," says Steffanie Bjorgan, the respite centre's executive director. "Mental wellness for youth is a cornerstone, but this is about more than youth. We didn't want to build a relationship with

people and then at 24 we tell them you gotta go — that's not great for mental health."

Two basement rooms at RRR's Concession 6 property have been renovated and custom-built to suit a variety of activities for the new Growing Wellness program — paid for in part by a generous donation from the Mavridis family, owners of Corks and Orzo restaurants.

One room is private and

cozy, set up for one-on-one or small-group counselling and therapy. The goal is to find a few different counsellors with unique skill sets to serve the community, who will rent the space for a day or two a week, for example. "We're meeting with people and looking for a good fit," says Bjorgan.

The main room is bright and neutral, ready to hold a long table and a dozen chairs

for a vision board workshop, or a dozen yoga mats, or cushions or easels — anything required to offer workshops, classes and activities that might help contribute to good mental health.

"The goal for year one is one event or activity per month," says Bjorgan. The series will launch on Feb. 4.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Karen Post, co-ordinator of the Growing Wellness program at Red Roof Retreat, prepares her own vision board in the facility's new space devoted to its mental wellness programs. (Lauren O'Malley)



### ENGEL & VÖLKERS

Engel & Völkers Niagara, Brokerage

376 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

905.468.4700

nancy.bailey@evcanada.com



Peter Fischer



Carmela D'Amico



Nancy Bailey



Candace Walker



Janet Tan

Peter Fischer, Broker of Record and Carmela D'Amico, Sales Representative and Nancy Bailey, Broker and Private Office Advisor are excited to announce the opening of the Niagara-on-the-Lake office on January 28, 2019. New team members include Candace Walker and Janet Tan, Administrators and Lorilee Royer, Sales Representative. We are looking for talented real estate sales professionals to help build our real estate shop.

If you embrace a culture that values competence, exclusivity and passion, let's chat.



# Fire station problems date back 40 years

By Penny Coles  
The NOTL Local

Rob Copeland, a 30-year volunteer Queenston firefighter and resident of the village, is concerned about the future of his station.

It's nothing new to him — it's been an ongoing discussion for more than 40 years, he said, and has resurfaced recently. He's just not sure why.

Information about the oldest station in Niagara-on-the-Lake was requested by council at this time.

A report by Fire Chief Rob Grimwood on the subject of the viability of the station will be presented to council Monday.

He looked as far back as 1971 at its history and included everything he could find relating to the station since then, he said.

He presents it “without analysis,” and should council want that level of detail or recommendations for the future, another staff report would be required, he said.

He said his sense in dealing with the request from council was that it was not tied to the budget — it came about because he had mentioned during orientation

meetings for new councillors that three of the five fire stations are relatively new and in good condition.

He suggested the Town will need to look at a long-term plan for St. Davids and Queenston stations, which are both “getting up there in age.”

Looking back, he said, whenever the discussion came up, there was a question of whether each community requires its own fire station or whether they could be well-represented with one.

‘It isn't a new issue. It's just getting a handle on what to do in the future.’

Last week, Grimwood talked to the volunteers of the Queenston station to fill them in on what he'd found.

What he couldn't tell them was where the discussion might be leading, said Copeland, who wanted to know the reason for the report and its timing.

The request by Coun. Stuart McCormack for the information was made at the same meeting as budget deliberations, and Copeland fears a discussion may ensue once Grimwood's report is presented over the cost of maintaining the building.

McCormack said that

was not the reason behind his request. He learned at the orientation meeting that there were some issues with the station and was asking for information. If his request has been seen as tied to the budget, it “may have been taken out of context,” he said.

“It may have come up within the course of budget discussions, but it was not necessary related to budget discussions.”

Several of the reports done over a period of more than 40 years, beginning in 1971, indicate there has been an ongoing consideration to close Queenston and St. Davids stations and build a new one on York Road, or cover the two districts out of the St. Davids station. Instead of making a decision, councils deferred the issue.

Copeland, who has retired from his role as assistant district chief in Queenston, is now an auxiliary member of the department, staffing the rehab truck and looking after firefighters on the job. He loved being a firefighter, and stayed on to work with the mobile rest station, providing safety measures to volunteers who are called out to battle a blaze in any of the NOTL



The Queenston fire station began experiencing problems as soon as it was completed. (Fred Mercnik.)

districts. He is also president of the Queenston Firefighters Association.

He remembers the many reports on the Queenston station — he was on council for some of the discussions.

This time, he said, it seems the report was to look at the viability of the building, “but I think it's about more than just the building.”

Of the information in Grimwood's report, he said, “a lot of questions could be asked. But my question is why start this now? Where is it coming from?”

As Grimwood's report indicated, the building is in bad shape, agrees Copeland.

It's had structural problems since it was built, he adds, but the contractor went out of business before those issues could be addressed.

“It's the oldest station in use now, and it's past its sell-by date. It was built to last 40 to 50 years, and it's getting expensive to maintain, but it can be maintained.”

Copeland was on the 10-year master plan steering committee charged with looking at the future of fire stations from about 1994 to 2006, he recalls.

Decisions kept getting put off from one term of council to the next — one

committee report described it as an “emotional issue.”

He recalls another push in 2002 to build a new station on York Road and amalgamate Queenston and St. Davids stations. The steering committee had reconvened from the previous term of council and by then the neighbourhood of Glendale was growing. Instead of making changes to the St. Davids and Queenston operations, he recalls successfully advocating for a standalone station for the new subdivision before his last term of council ended in 2006.

The most recent engineering inspection of the Queenston building's structural problems was undertaken in September 2018, by a company that had first provided information on the state of the station in 2003, and again in 2010 and 2012. Some of the issues identified in those reports have been fixed, and some haven't.

Copeland questions whether there is also a concern about the viability of the station because of recruitment numbers.

He says the recruitment program became an issue when the province introduced more stringent guidelines about training, which prompted a decision about sending new volun-

teers to firefighter school or stepping up the department program.

Grimwood has managed to bring the NOTL Fire Department “into the 21st century,” Copeland said, with “very high standards set for its training program and well-equipped facilities,” but there hasn't been a push to attract new volunteers.

Copeland is hoping council will receive the information from past reports and take a long-term look at the future of all stations. He agrees it should be part of another 10-year master plan, rather than a quick decision based on cost savings.

With a plan for the future, the Town could start building a contingency fund for repairs or reconstruction for both stations — the state of the Queenston building today is due to the failure to do that in past budgets, he said.

Eliminating a station now, Copeland said, would put more stress on the others, and increase response time.

In recent years the call volume has been down, “but at any time we could get a big call. It doesn't happen often, but it happens. We have to be equipped for it, which we are in Queenston.”

## Keeping it local.

**IT'S BACK  
\$5  
FEBRUARY**  
• Beer • Wine • Apps  
• 4 slice pizza  
**ALL DAY  
EVERY DAY**



358 Mary Street, NOTL  
905-468-8727  
sandtrappub.com

## Crash on Townline Rd.



NOTL firefighters, along with Niagara EMS and the NRP were at the scene of a crash Sunday, about 9:30 p.m., where a van travelling northbound on Townline Road near Carlton Street left the road and rolled over. Firefighters extricated the driver, who was taken to the St. Catharines hospital. (Joseph Burd)



# Town staff, councillors struggling with budget

By Penny Coles  
The NOTL Local

Town councillors are making every effort to pass a 2019 budget at a reasonable tax rate, with several discussions during workshops and council meetings over a three-month period to look for cost savings and increased revenue sources.

Councillors have targeted an increase of no more than 4.5 per cent, and along with Town staff have been struggling to get there, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero Tuesday.

With two open houses for public input coming up this week, she hoped to have a definite answer by Thursday.

By next Monday, she said, she expects a budget will be presented that will be ready for committee approval.

Town treasurer Kyle Freeborn said the current draft is at 5.1 per cent tax increase over last year. The hike for a typical residential assessment of \$483,000 would amount to about \$50 (for the Town's portion only). "We are confident that council will make steps towards 4.5 per cent," he said.

At council's target of 4.5 per cent the change is approximately \$45 for that same residential assessment, he said.

For an assessment of \$750,000 the change is approximately \$69, and for an assessment of \$1,000,000 the change is approximately \$92.

Council is struggling, said Disero, because it inherited a problem that has been growing for years, she making it a challenge to come up with a sustainable budget. "It's not a one-year fix."

This council will work toward building a capital reserve that has been depleted in the past to the point that she's looking further down the road to future terms of councils, and hoping they won't have to deal with the same issue.

Staff salaries are also out of line with other municipalities, and maintenance in some areas has not been kept up.

"We can't blame the last term of council. It's happened over a number of years," said Disero.

Most members of this term of council "although brilliant," have not worked in the public sector, and needed to get a handle on how it works, which includes paying for services that are not self-sustainable, such as libraries and museums.

"The private sector doesn't do that."

A 2.7 per cent increase to keep up with the consumer index was approved for most user fees, but there were other asks of the Town that exceeded that.

"Whatever we do to build the community is paid for by the taxpayer," she said. "That's the challenge."

But councillors have been "dedicated and hard-working, and took the time we needed to get it done, without laying off staff or cutting services drastically."

Along with Town staff,

she said, "It was a collective, team effort."

Over the next year, council will continue to look at the budget "to see what we can do better for next year. Feb. 11 will be the beginning of the process for next year. We won't be in such a crunch."

At the last council meeting in January, representatives from several organizations in town spoke about the level of Town funding they require, pleading their cases for increased or at least stabilized funding for services they provide, to see them through the coming year. A final decision on those requests is expected next week.

Allan Bisback and Norm Arseneault were the two councillors looking at the discretionary grants and making recommendations to council.

They were working with a grant budget of \$100,000, and the requests submitted totalled more than \$200,000, said Arseneault, so difficult decisions needed to be made.

Of 17 organizations that asked for a portion of the discretionary grant budget, all were approved to receive some funding, but not at the level requested.

Royal Oak Community School was one such organization. The school had asked for \$26,000 for initiatives such as a program that would be extended to all local children, including a day camp during teachers' professional development days, and events that would bring students from all NOTL schools together. Instead a \$5,000 grant was approved.

Council also approved a motion by Disero to look at other ways to offer the school financial support, including lowering the school's rent for use of the former hospital building, now town-owned, on Wellington Street.

Greg Mendulin, vice-president of external relations at Niagara College, laid out numbers that show the growth of the institute, with 11,000 full-time and 15,000 part-time students, 1,300 teachers, five degree programs and more than 100 accredited courses. He spoke of the long history of global engagement, with 4,500 international students in Niagara and several worldwide programs adding to the success of the college.

Student success at hands-on learning of important skills is paramount, he said, and provides value to the town through support for small and medium businesses in NOTL. The college's response to the needs of local businesses is what differentiates it from other institutes, he added.

Two campuses boast 130 programs, with the NOTL site, celebrating its 20th anniversary, offering a teaching winery, brewery, greenhouse, distillery, and the first cannabis program in Canada, which he said has garnered international attention.

NC and its staff and students add \$800 million in annual income to the Niagara regional economy, but is de-

pendent on government for funding, Mendulin said.

The province gives the college \$450,000 annually for instructional equipment, when what the college needs is about \$2 million, resulting in a "never-ending" need to close the funding gap.

That's why the partnership with the Town and its annual \$20,000 financial support, is so important, he said. "This gap needs to be funded by community partners."

Coun. Clare Cameron brought to council's attention NC's annual report, which lauds the college for being a "huge financial success among Ontario colleges" with a \$13 million surplus for 2017-2018. She asked Mendulin what value the Town's \$20,000 financial assistance would have to the college, given the greater amounts received from upper levels of government.

The surplus is a new development for the college, he said, and is chiefly due to "an explosion of international students."

Most Ontario colleges have seen this influx, he said, which has buoyed NC's financial situation.

That money has been earmarked for improvements such as paving parking lots, new roofing and improved HVAC systems. The surplus is not expected to be repeated, he said.

The \$20,000 requested from the Town will help fund new equipment, such as that required for the culinary lab, and expanded learning spaces.

Amy Klassen, acting managing director of the Niagara Historical Museum, was also at council to address the need for Town funding, with a request for \$209,790, about \$50,000 more than last year.

In addition to outlining everything the museum does in a year to require operations funding from the Town each year, Klassen's request for the \$50,000 extra was explained by her announcement about the appearance of the Canadian Snowbirds as the historical society's major fundraiser, scheduled for Sept. 11, which is expected to attract 3,000 spectators or more. It will go toward the expansion project.

She also addressed a recent comment at council regarding the society's reserves of \$120,000.

Reserve funds have been accumulated from fundraising efforts over several years, to maintain a cushion for capital expenditures, special projects and operations in the event of lost revenue, she said. "If, for example, the roof was to blow off, we would need the funds to fix it."

Some of the reserve is earmarked for expansion plans, she said, which are estimated at \$7 million.

"Over the past few years, this town has started to see what can happen when built heritage and cultural landscapes are lost or under threat. We want to make sure that this doesn't happen for our material culture. It is why the muse-

um has worked hard to gain support through many years of government cuts, changing standards and evolving trends," said Klassen.

History is a driving force in town, and one of the reasons people choose it as a tourist destination.

The museum has "arguably the most important historical collection in the province," and promotes, stores and exhibits NOTL's artifacts, including more than 30,000 town documents, with about 200 new items being added with year, and must be protected, she said.

Last year, the museum expanded its outreach programs. A year-long exhibition on the First World War Polish training camp earned recognition in the Polish community, she said. The museum received an award from a Polish-American organization and was included in a documentary from Poland.

Through a grant from the Niagara Region, the museum produced a series of pop-up exhibits, and there was also a First World War display at the Shaw Festival's Studio Theatre, and an exhibit at the Chamber of Commerce with fun facts about NOTL, Klassen said.

Klassen detailed the many popular programs that will be ongoing through 2019: a month-long lecture series on art and fashion; a month-long

discussion group, the Famous and Infamous; walking tours in the summer, neighbourhood walks, a heritage festival, the Kid Curators summer camp and participation in several community events.

The museum no longer receives a discretionary grant, but is included in the Town's annual budget so heritage and culture continue to be an "important element" of what draws people to NOTL.

The Niagara District Airport is also asking for budget increase.

Interim chief executive officer Dan Pilon spoke to council about the airport accomplishments during 2018, and detailed some of its challenges in 2019, including wag-

es, extensive rehabilitation to one of the runways and other capital projects for safety and sustainability. Some expected revenue for 2019 has been lost, but there important capital projects to be funded, he said.

The airport is looking for a \$32,264 for operating costs, and \$23,915 toward capital projects from NOTL this year. The airport also receives funding from St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, and its total budget would mean a contribution of \$3.21 per person from each of the three municipalities, he said.

Each of the requests is expected to be decided by the Feb. 4 committee meeting, with final approval of the budget Feb. 11.

## Suspect flees to QEW



Niagara Regional Police were called to the Outlet Collection at Niagara on Glendale Ave. Monday night about 7:30 p.m., in relation to a theft of \$5,000 in jewelry. A man had left the mall and was walking on the Garden City Bridge of the QEW. The QEW was shut down until about 10 p.m. while the NRP and OPP negotiated with the armed man, said Const. Phil Gavin. Police arrested the suspect and he was taken to the St. Catharines hospital for assessment before being released to the custody of the NRP. (Joseph Burd)

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

# LOCAL

is thrilled to announce the appointment of

## JULIA COLES

to our Media Sales team servicing all areas outside Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Julia is Niagara-born, raised and educated. She is a Brock University graduate with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree. With more than 30 years experience in the newspaper industry in Niagara, she has achieved national awards for ad design and was the Sun Media Niagara Business Woman of the Year.

Julia has participated in many charitable events over the years through the Niagara Association of Realtors, the Kiwanis Club and the Alzheimer Society of Niagara. She received an Ontario Volunteer Recognition Award in 2017.

"I am excited to be working with such an experienced, professional and dedicated team of newspaper people whose respect and reputation in NOTL knows no equal," she says. "The aim is not to be the biggest, merely the best. Works for me!"

Julia brings with her extensive knowledge and experience with sales across the Niagara Region. We encourage businesses outside Niagara-on-the-Lake to contact her at [julia@notllocal.com](mailto:julia@notllocal.com) to discuss our advertising opportunities that can benefit your business.





# Red Roof planning workshops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The first vision board workshop will be led by Michelle Madden, a social worker and clinical therapist.

“This time of year people are looking forward, wondering what their year will look like,” Karen Post, co-ordinator of the Growing Wellness initiative, says. “This is a way to open it up and get people thinking, a simple activity, magazines, markers — anything you connect with.”

On Feb. 20, adults will have the opportunity to create their own vision boards. Each workshop costs only \$5 to participate. A youth

introduction to yoga class with Meredith Lichte on Feb. 23 and a youth introduction to music therapy class led by Aksana Kavaliova-Moussi on March 25 will also cost only \$5.

“A lot of people are donating their time and efforts,” says Post, which is how they can keep costs low for now.

Class sizes are maximum 12 people, and the youth age limits are 15 to 24 years.

Bjorgan also plans to run larger-format programs in the spring and fall. “I’m talking to healers, therapists, practitioners to build something,” she says. She expects to send out a needs

assessment to the community “sooner rather than later,” to find out what people want to see.

Part of the idea of the initiative is to bring people together in a safe space to allow them to share and process their thoughts.

Post sums it up simply: “Everybody just talk. It sounds so simple but, if everyone took a dark moment and shared it, we could help each other find ways to help manage what we’re going through.”

For more information or to book a spot in upcoming classes or workshops, email karen@redroofretreat.com.



Lindsey Parr, nurse practitioner, is seeing patients in the basement at the former hospital on Wellington Street. (Photo submitted)

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

### 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

### AA MEETING

every  
Wednesday evening,  
at 8:00 pm to  
9:00 pm  
at  
**St. Mark's Parish Hall**  
41 Byron St,  
Niagara-on-the-Lake

### FAMILY FISH FRY

Friday, February 1st ~ 4:30 - 7 pm  
(take out available) • 1-Pc \$8, 2-Pc \$12

Price includes: Coleslaw,  
bread, french fries,  
baked potato, coffee/tea.  
Alcohol Available.

Leave the cooking to us!

**Lions Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St. Davids**  
[www.stdavidslions.ca](http://www.stdavidslions.ca) @ stdavidslions on Facebook  
Next Family Fish Fry ~ Friday February 15th

To advertise your event in

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

contact  
[karen@notllocal.com](mailto:karen@notllocal.com)

Visit us online at:  
[www.notllocal.com](http://www.notllocal.com)

## SKATING RINK AT FORT GEORGE NHS

**December 1, 2018 @ 8:00 am - March 20, 2019 @ 5:00 pm**  
Operating season and hours are subject to weather conditions,  
please check the Fort George National Historic Site Facebook page  
for more information.

## NIAGARA PUMPHOUSE INSTRUCTORS' EXHIBITION

**January 12 @ 11:00 am - March 31 @ 4:00 pm**  
The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre presents its Pumphouse Instructors' Exhibition, running until March 31, featuring the artwork of some of its talented instructors. 27 Ricardo Street, Open Tuesday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## SHAW FILM SERIES: COLETTE

**February 2 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**  
Don't miss Barara Tranter's Historical Gossip series short on the war years of veteran Norm Howe, to be shown before the feature film.

## COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING

**February 4 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
Expect a comprehensive report on 2019 Town budget at the Town Hall.

## SHAW FILM SERIES: CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?

**February 9 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

# Walk-in clinic opens

By Penny Coles  
The NOTL Local

Lindsey Parr is back, her shingle hanging to declare the walk-in clinic in the Old Town is open for business.

Parr is the nurse practitioner who staffed the office in the basement of the former hospital on Wellington Street for a few short months in 2017. She took the job in July of that year, and when she began her maternity leave six months later, the office closed.

It opened earlier this month, Parr running it single-handedly, without so much as a receptionist to record patients' information as they arrive.

It's a simple take-a-number, take-a-seat in the corridor situation, and when Parr ushers the patient next in line into her office, she takes down the necessary details and registers them through the St. Catharines office of Niagara Health, her employer. Hers is a small office, and it wouldn't be feasible to have two people looking after it.

Parr is there to attend to patients who either don't have a family doctor, or who need attention and can't get in to see a doctor, she says.

She is a registered nurse who has both a master's degree in nursing, a new requirement for the job of nurse practitioner, and a supplementary education certificate.

With those additional credentials, she is authorized to diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, as well as prescribe medication and other treatment.

Parr became a registered nurse already knowing she wanted to take the extra steps needed to become a nurse practitioner, she says. “I was interested in expanding my knowledge and scope of practice, and enjoy having the ability to practice autonomously.”

The walk-in clinic is an office distinct from the local family health team and the doctors who share space at the former hospital, says Parr, but they work in collaboration when needed. If she feels she would like a doctor's advice, she has only to walk down the corridor to get it.

“If I want to consult with a doctor, I can. We're separate entities who can work together. Our funding comes from different sources, but we work as a team.”

She will see as many people as possible in a day's work, she says, without appointments. “However my hours are subject to capacity and if volumes are high I may not be able to accommodate everyone.”

To clarify when it's appropriate to seek care from a nurse practitioner, Parr explains: “I would say the medical concerns I can assist patients with would include those of less urgency, that have potential for complications or are causing mild distress, and in which the patient would benefit from intervention or medical advice.”

That would include minor injuries, including lacerations — she can provide sutures and wound assessment — minor infections such as urinary tract, throat, sinus or ear problems, which are the symptoms of the majority of people she sees, or minor abdominal pains and rashes.

She is also able to assist patients with “episodic primary care issues,” including refilling some prescriptions.

The scope of a nurse practitioner, she says, which has come to include writing prescriptions for most drugs, has become much broader in recent years.

When patients choose to see a nurse practitioner instead of a doctor, it can help ease the burden of doctor shortages. Nurse practi-

tioners are sometimes more readily accessible and can often spend more time with a patient than a busy doctor with a tight schedule of people to see — that's a comment Parr often hears from her patients, she says.

As hard as it was for her to leave her baby, a little boy, and return to work, she loves her job in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

She heads along the highway from her Port Colborne home every morning, looking forward to the people she will meet during the day.

When she began working for the clinic, she was taking over from nurse practitioner Joan Ostrander, who had staffed the office for 15 years and developed a strong rapport with regular patients. As the newer kid on the block, Parr says she isn't quite there yet, although she is starting to get to know people.

“I'm happy to be here. This community is awesome. Everybody here is great.”

Sean Simpson of Simpson's Pharmasave says for some locals, the walk-in clinic is the only option in town.

“It provides a great service for residents who don't have a family doctor,” he said.

“I've already seen patients who are utilizing it, and they're happy it's open. It's a great complement to the other medical services in town,” said Simpson. “We're very pleased to find the service open and running.”

To access the walk-in clinic, Parr says, use the back door of the hospital that is reached from the parking lot. Go downstairs — it's actually the basement but labelled as the ground floor — and there will be a sign pointing down the hall.

The hours of the clinic, at 176 Wellington Street, are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.



# Chamber asks for continued financial support



Joe Perrie, Larry Pretto, Tonie Mori and Nadia Pretto at the White on Ice dinner. (Karen Skeoch)



Maria Marvidis, Janice Thomson, Holly Dowd and Rob Dowd at the White on Ice dinner. (Karen Skeoch)

## Increased bus parking fees could have ripple effect

**By Penny Coles**  
The NOTL Local

In an effort to increase revenue from tourism to offset tax increases to the 2019 budget, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors have decided to raise the price for tour bus parking.

Janice Thomson, president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, spoke to councillors recently, hoping they would reconsider what seemed like a hasty decision to increase tour bus parking to \$70 a day from \$25, without any input from the local business sector or any conversation with the coach operators.

Their decision wasn't

reversed, but at the last meeting in January before the budget is presented for approval Monday, the amount of the increase was reduced to \$50 a day.

Other municipalities which welcome tourists, including Stratford and St. Jacobs, do not charge any fees for tour bus parking, Thomson told councillors.

The increase "does not accurately reflect what is charged for on-site parking of buses in any single municipality," she said — even the City of Toronto, recognizing the importance of the coach industry to commerce, has some free parking spaces for buses.

Thomson said there were almost 8,000 tour

buses in the heritage district in 2018, carrying 267,774 visitors to town.

The increase in parking fees could have the unintended consequence of tour buses bypassing not only the heritage district but wineries, restaurants and farm markets, where they often stop on the way to the Old Town, she said.

Coun. Clare Cameron suggested reducing the increase even further, to the consumer price index increase of 2.7 per cent, given the lack of consultation with tour operators, with support from Coun. John Wiens and Coun. Erwin Wiens, but the majority of council were in favour of the \$50 increase.

**By Penny Coles**  
The NOTL Local

Janice Thomson, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, is hoping town councillors, in the midst of deliberating a 2019 budget, will agree to maintain an annual payment for service negotiated two years ago.

Instead of a discretionary grant which can be altered yearly, Thomson came to an agreement with the Town in 2017 to have an annual payment become a line item on the budget that recognizes the many services the chamber provides to attract tourists, and the Town's role in contributing to the cost of services.

Thomson outlined the agreement to the new council, with a bottom line that means after the rent the chamber pays for the Court House is factored in, the Town contributes \$70,000 toward the chamber's costs of promoting tourism and attracting visitors to town.

It costs the chamber a little more than \$460,000 a year to maintain its services that welcome tourists seven days a week, she

said. Until 2017, the Town paid a fee for service of \$37,000.

Two years ago, Thomson said, "we renegotiated that base number."

The Town now pays an additional \$33,000 toward the chamber budget for listing and selling tickets for local events, highway signage and media tours, and another \$48,000 for the icewine festival, peach celebration and candlelight stroll.

These events, she added, help "promote the town, and define what NOTL is," for residents and tourists.

That amounts to the \$118,000 line on the single budget line, she says. Factoring in the \$38,000 rent paid by the chamber to the Town for space in the Court House, that means the Town invests about \$70,000 in the work of the chamber.

A portion of the chamber's revenue comes from its 400 members, including representatives from wineries, restaurants, accommodation, arts and culture, and professional services offered by accountants, insurance companies, real estate brokers and others from

across the community, she said.

It also comes from participation in group marketing efforts and working with other funding partners such as the Tourism Partnership of Niagara.

The Town gets a good return on its \$70,000 investment, which helps generate 100 per cent of the visitor economy that is revenue that doesn't have to be shared with the Region or the Province, Thomson says. Only 22 per cent of property tax payments stay with the Town, the balance going to the upper levels of government.

The amount that stays in NOTL includes \$1.6 million from parking revenue, and a portion of the \$490,000 federal gas tax payment, Thomson said.

"The chamber strongly believes this investment, our partnership and our operating relationship, generate a very positive return on investment that the town is realizing annually, as well as supporting our members. It is certainly very much appreciated, and we believe together we're investing wisely in success for the town of NOTL."



## 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.





TAREN A. TRINDADE B.A., DD



J. GUS KORONEOS BSc., DD

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



# EDITORIAL

## Budgeting for now and future a difficult task

Niagara-on-the-Lake council members and staff are struggling to produce a reasonable yet sustainable budget. They have been faced with deciding the fate of requests for funding increases from several organizations, while knowing most taxpayers are only interested in the bottom line, the one that affects their wallets.

And they have been handed the daunting task of making up for years of dwindling capital reserves, wanting to look to the future but again without over-burdening residents.

Then we have the many organizations in town which provide great services, but rely on municipal funding to support them.

For example, most communities have a chamber of commerce to promote small local businesses, and to play the role of advocate for them in municipal decisions. Niagara-on-the-Lake is fortunate to have a strong chamber to host events, promote and handle tickets for events organized by others, to work seven days a week to attract tourists and welcome them when they arrive, and lobby local representatives for support for the

business community. This town is different from most other municipalities in that its economy depends on a healthy tourism industry. While town staff and council members battle to balance a budget, every taxpayer, whether they take advantage of chamber events, or whether they see any personal gain from the tourism industry and the effort that goes into its promotion and management, will benefit on their tax bill.

Parking alone pays the town revenue of \$1.6 million, and every cent of that is money that would otherwise be spread out over the tax bill, or lead to a reduction of the services residents have come to expect living in NOTL.

The same can be said about the town's museum and the many events and services it provides. We might not all make regular visits to the local museum. But local history is one reason tourists visit NOTL, pay for parking, stay in local accommodations, eat in restaurants and shop in stores that might employ us or our teenaged children at some point in their lives.

The same could be said

about the Shaw Festival — if you're local and don't go to the plays performed by some of the most talented and creative people in Canada, you may be missing out. But those who have never stepped foot inside a Shaw theatre have gained some financial advantage from having a world-class theatre as a neighbour, one that attracts visitors.

Tourism is not only good for the economy, it's good for every taxpayer, every family who lives in NOTL, every child who has played minor league sports on a team sponsored by a local business, every service organization, church or school that has had a fundraiser and asked businesses to donate.

Residents of this small town are fortunate to have a great library with a wide range of services, a beautiful community centre, two arenas and hopefully this summer still two pools — so much for which to be thankful.

Yes, funded by property taxes, and the toil of all who live and work here. But also by the tourism industry which adds to municipal coffers, and by doing so, helps to make this community a great place to live and work.

## Let's talk about it

When we say, "How are you," what are we really asking? Could it be one way of saying, "How is your mental health right now?"

One measure of success of the Bell Let's Talk initiative would be for all of us to feel at ease asking, and answering, questions about our psychological and emotional well-being readily and candidly.

Are you "fine?" "Good?"

Or maybe you're anxious about having to attend a social event where you won't know everyone and feel people might judge you.

Maybe you've been feeling "sad" since the sun shifted and

we headed into these cold and isolating winter months.

If someone asked, could you tell them you feel lonely, and wish you had more time — or more confidence — for friends?

Could you be open about how everyone's perfect life on social media makes you feel less than; like you don't belong, like you're the only one who doesn't travel the world with their perfect family and eat photogenic meals for breakfast, lunch and Netflix?

The Let's Talk campaign aims to diminish and ultimately eradicate the stigma around mental illness. Which

is actually a funny way to state it, because why is anxiety an illness when in fact it's more prevalent than its opposite, which is... what, exactly?

Not only on Bell Let's Talk Day, but really, every day, try being honest with yourself and those around you.

Maybe you'll connect and have a real conversation, maybe even dispel some darkness by shedding light on the issues we've been trained to hide.

For more information visit <https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/bell-lets-talk-day>.



## LOCAL FINDS



### What is this monolith?

by Lauren O'Malley

There is an approximately 10-foot-tall wood-clad monolith in the parking lot on John St. near Butler's Barracks and the Commons. A rather mysterious thing, it has't had smart brass lettering, or local event posters, or really any kind of message on it in the past 15 years.

Interest piqued.

According to Fran Di Cesare of Parks Canada, "The structure was used as a parking sign for Butler's Barracks NHS in the 1970s and more recently as a notice board, where we post information from time to time. However, earlier this year, we identified this structure as being superfluous and have marked it for removal by March 31."

So if you want to pay your respects to this local artifact, you might want to give it a sign. Or if you'd like to see it stay up as another form of community bulletin board....



The NOTL Local has an office, with an address, a desk, and just about everything it needs to produce a weekly newspaper for Niagara-on-the-Lake readers. For those looking to find us, we're at 437 Mississauga St., in the Caldwell Financial Centre beside Tim Hortons. We're grateful to Jim Caldwell and Loraine Craig for offering us office space while we look for a more permanent home. For now, it works for us!

## The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

Editor:  
**Penny Coles**  
[penny@notllocal.com](mailto:penny@notllocal.com)  
905-246-5878

Publisher:  
**The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local**

Advertising Sales:  
**Karen Skeoch**  
[karen@notllocal.com](mailto:karen@notllocal.com) • 905-641-5335

**Julia Coles**  
[julia@notllocal.com](mailto:julia@notllocal.com) • 905-934-1040

Multimedia Journalist:  
**Lauren O'Malley**  
[lauren@notllocal.com](mailto:lauren@notllocal.com)  
Graphic Designer:  
**Rosie Gowsell**  
[composing@notllocal.com](mailto:composing@notllocal.com)

[notllocal.com](http://notllocal.com)  
[facebook.com/notllocal](https://facebook.com/notllocal)  
[instagram.com/thenotllocal](https://instagram.com/thenotllocal)



# RiverBrink open year round for exhibits and lectures



**By Debra Antoncic**  
RiverBrink curator

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents enjoy a rich and vibrant arts scene, of which RiverBrink Art Museum is an important part.

One of the many cultural facilities in the area, the fine art museum in Queenston is a resource for local artists and art lovers, and a destination for visitors and tourists. Through exhibitions, lectures, artist workshops and other events, RiverBrink provides access to a collection of art works by professional artists, here in the local community. In addition to the art collec-

tion, established by Samuel E. Weir and augmented by new acquisitions since Weir's death in 1981, RiverBrink has a library of books on art and history, a small decorative arts collection, and other treasures.

Open year round since 2013, the art museum has a reduced schedule in the winter months but continues to host programming events along with current exhibitions. We are now entering the final weeks before the closing of the exhibition Mary Prittie of Port Colborne: Paintings, on March 2.

A prolific and talented artist, Prittie's landscapes of Niagara, ships on the Welland Canal, local farms and streetscapes, and the former amusement park at Crystal Beach, are impressive and not to be missed.

In addition, we are in the process of installing new

collection-based exhibitions Menagerie and Centre and Periphery: the Group of Seven and preparing for the exhibition The Power of Niagara, generously sponsored by OPG Niagara, which opens April 18. This exhibition includes loans from the OPG facility in Queenston along with a contemporary video work Ice Forms, American Falls, Niagara (2016) by artists Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier.

This exhibition schedule, of contemporary art works integrated with our permanent collection and loans from other institutions and individuals, is a significant shift from the exclusive display of the Weir Collection when the art museum opened in 1983. One of many changes at RiverBrink in recent years, the introduction of contem-

porary art helps ensure we engage new audiences with current ideas and trends in the art world.

While this curatorial work is ongoing, we also host educational programming and workshops. The popular LearnMore courses continue through the winter months, with a new series beginning Feb. 6. This latest series, Beyond The Myth: Seeing Leonardo da Vinci in 2019, delivered by art historian Penny-Lynn Cookson, is now at capacity, but we do have a wait list and, who knows, we may convince Penny-Lynn to offer it again.

For art practitioners we have a workshop scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 23 with artist Robin Nisbet.

Our programming is supported by the town of NOTL through a discretionary grant,

which helps subsidize the cost of workshops and courses. Other upcoming events include a Queenston Circle outing, a visit to Rodman Hall on Feb. 26.

Please see our website [www.riverbrink.org](http://www.riverbrink.org) for more

information on this and other levels of membership, our current exhibitions, and upcoming programming. You can also call 905-262-4510 or stop in at 116 Queenston St., Queenston.



The Mary Prittie exhibition at RiverBrink closes March 2. (Photo submitted by RiverBrink)

# Pumphouse celebrates 25th anniversary with look back



**By Rima Boles**  
Niagara Pumphouse

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, Niagara-on-the-Lake's community art gallery and studio on the beautiful waterfront, is celebrating a milestone. For 25 years, the Pumphouse has been exhibiting original art by locals and offering visual art classes and workshops for all ages.

The Pumphouse name refers to the history of the Municipal Waterworks Plant built in 1891. This pumphouse supplied the town with water from the Niagara River until 1983. The Town purchased the property in 1985.

"Wilbert Dyck, our lord mayor at the time, was determined to preserve it," said former Pumphouse board chair, Nancy Butler. The town council then established a steering committee to determine the

end use of the building. "The suggestions for use came pouring in" recalls Butler, including, "a wine museum with a shop, a restaurant, boat launch, tourist information booth, rehearsal space for the Shaw Theatre, and even a baseball museum."

In the meantime, three enthusiastic artists, Diana Bellerby, Nancy Bongard and Maureen Lackner "spotted the derelict, empty Pumphouse looking for TLC," said Bongard and rented the Pumphouse from the Town to use as artists' studio space upstairs and exhibition space downstairs.

"Unlocking the old building, they left us with the raccoons, mice and beautiful, colourful giant pumps," recalls Bongard. They cleaned up and repainted the Pumphouse, and three additional artists, Barbara Ahluwalia, Diane Debenham and Susan Carr joined the group.

"While they worked," said Debenham, "they realized that the complex could be perfectly adapted to cre-



Heather Puderbaugh and her daughters Francine and Maeven get creative at the Family Friendly Drop-in class at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. (Photo submitted by the Niagara Pumphouse)

ate an art centre. And so the idea was born and, after several years of strenuous community effort it eventually prevailed." Steering committee and founding member Donald Combe says, "The Pumphouse was, and remains, a very Niagara-on-the-Lake story. We are people with dreams, generosity and hospitality."

The Pumphouse Art Centre Association was formed in 1990 and through community effort, the building was restored and converted and officially opened on Sept. 23, 1994. "Our fundamental idea was that the Pumphouse Art Centre should be a place first and foremost for our community," recalls Deben-

ham, steering committee member and former board chair. "It continues to be so today, providing a precious place where people gather to create and to be inspired by art and by the beauty of the Niagara River."

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Pumphouse board and staff will be featuring memories of the

Pumphouse early days from founding members and long-time instructors, celebrating the past and looking forward to a bright future through our programming.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is located at 247 Ricardo St. Visit [www.niagarapumphouse.ca](http://www.niagarapumphouse.ca) to learn more about 25th anniversary events coming up.

**NOTL LOCAL Banner Bookings**  
We are now booking **FRONT** and **EDITORIAL** page banners for 2019.

**Don't miss out!**

call **Karen** at **905.641.5335**  
or email **karen@notllocal.com**





# Library a hub of activities to serve community

By Penny Coles  
The NOTL Local

It's been a long time since libraries were mere repositories for books to be borrowed, with a few students being shushed for whispering and giggling while there to study.

The value and goal of today's public library is to help the community achieve "an informed and involved citizenry, creating engaged teens and adults, a level playing field for literacy, lifelong learning, and access to technology," Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library board chair Madeleine Lefebvre told town councillors recently. It also strives to ensure "an inclusive, culturally diverse society with a strong sense of community and well-being," she said.

The duties of the library board, she added, as legislated by the province, include providing a comprehensive and efficient service that reflects the unique needs of the NOTL community.

Credited with having the first circulating library in Upper Canada, founded in 1800, Niagara-on-the-Lake opened its current public library on Anderson Lane in 2000 — a modern building designed with those goals in mind.

Since then membership has grown to just shy of 5,000, says Debbie Krause, the community engagement co-ordinator. With about 12 regularly-scheduled events listed each week on its calendar, and more scattered throughout the month, Krause helps guide the progress that continues to evolve to meet the needs of the community. In the decades since the library added videos to borrow and a small bank of computers for members without them at home, it has transformed to a bustling meeting place, a hub for events and programs related to literacy and education in a much broader sense — and that's only what takes place within the Anderson Lane brick and mortar. There

are also several outreach programs that take library services out into the community to further achieve its goal, says Krause.

NOTL's library has been the envy of other municipalities since it was built, but after about six months' closure in 2017 for an extensive renovation, a bold move for those in charge of a relatively new building, it re-opened with a design even more suited to the programs already being offered, and which allows for many others that had only been imagined.

"It's made a world of difference," said Krause of the current design. "It's become even more of a multi-use space."

One of the biggest changes made during the renovation was to the shelving, which is more accessible, curved and shorter, opening up the look and feel of the library — patrons can now stand at the front and look across the stacks, through the windows to the outdoor space behind the building. The shelves can be easily moved to create a cozy and cocooned rotunda for gatherings, as it was last week for a reading from favourite author Ian Hamilton's new book to a full house, or to accommodate a larger crowd for an event such as Tales by Moonlight, an interactive story-telling, dance and drum circle to celebrate Black History Month, to be held Saturday, Feb. 16. These activities can be scheduled during library hours, without interrupting members who have wandered in for other purposes.

There is a quiet space, where people can read or study — it's used by students of all ages, said Krause, as well as by those who work from home but want a change of scenery. Walk by it and you'll see people surrounded by papers spread out around them, brows furrowed, deep in concentration and oblivious to the activity in the rest of the building.

The glassed-in computer room is usually busy, the children's corner floor

is often covered with kids sprawled out while they read, and the comfy chairs tucked away in nooks and crannies, especially those pulled up beside the fireplace, are taken by folks reading magazines or the local newspaper.

There are programs for babies and toddlers, which combine playtime with activities that encourage reading readiness, and there is the new Makery space, where people "think, build and solve," which is used for several programs. One encourages parents to gather early in the evening to have fun with their kids — a time of day when youngsters are often drawn to the TV.

New this month is a book club for teens Grade 7 and up, encouraging reading, discussion and debate. It's organized by the library and the Lord Mayor Youth Advisory Council — books and snacks provided.

Last year, there were 1,600 participants taking part in a total of 201 children's programs at the library.

And there's room for all of them. "We looked at the needs of the community, and provided the space to satisfy those needs," said Krause.

Aesthetically, she adds, "it's a beautiful space, with a really great atmosphere in a physical environment that works for the community. We did very well with the space we had before the renovations but everything is easier, more comfortable now."

It's also a great place for staff to work, she adds.

The InfoHealth series is one of the most popular programs for adults, said Krause, held in the Rotary Room, which was also moved and enlarged.

Also popular is the Moccasin Talk series, with Indigenous speakers addressing issues of Truth and Reconciliation, including the history of land agreements.

There is a Nobel Prize series, a movie matinee, yoga, workshops on DNA and genealogy, book clubs for

adults, technology classes, e-books to borrow, and book lending made easier with the help of volunteers who visit those who are home-bound, not only delivering their favourite books but sometimes staying to read to them.

Wine and Words is a great example of another successful outreach program, said Krause — authors are invited to local wineries and offer readings and discussions in a relaxing atmosphere over a glass of wine, and locals are introduced to a winery they might not otherwise have visited.

Another outreach project is travelling wifi, making high-speed internet available to migrant farm workers to help them connect to their families at home.

Then there are the lockers in the St. Davids fire station on Warner Road, and in the Virgil arena — books can be ordered online, and picked up and returned at those locations.

New last fall, said Krause, is the book-stocked "vending machine" at the Centennial Arena. A library card can be scanned, the door will pop open and the items selected will be checked out when the door is closed. Books can also be returned through the same process, said Krause.

Library CAO Cathy Simpson was at the January council meeting with Lefebvre to explain the budget request which will be decided by councillors at Monday's committee meeting, and ratified at the Feb. 11 council meeting.

The library, she said, "is a great community building and one of the last free public spaces. Everyone is welcome; it's open to all."

To support its many programs and all it offers the community, the library is asking for an increase of a little more than six per cent over last year's budget, said Simpson, which represents an extra \$42,000, bringing municipal funding up to \$728,759.

There is some revenue from fundraising, and small

grants from the provincial and federal government — although provincial legislation controls libraries in Ontario, 97 per cent of the library's funding comes from the municipality, she said.

The provincial contribu-

tion to libraries was significantly reduced in the '90s, and leading up to last year's provincial election there was lobbying to increase it, said Simpson, but with the change in government, "we're not hopeful."



A group of women take part in the yoga program at the NOTL Public Library. (Photo submitted)



Janice Thomson and Marie Warman waits for Ian Hamilton to sign a copy of his book at a recent book launch.



Tom, Julia, and Finley Hewitt build with lego together at a recent Tinker Thinker Thursday program. (Photo submitted)



Jasper Hewitt and Ladon Munger design their video game with Bloxels on Tinker Thinker Thursday at the library. (Photo submitted)

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



# Kinsmen help local girls attend summer camp

By Lauren O'Malley  
The NOTL Local

Six Niagara-on-the-Lake girls are LEAP-ing for joy these days, as they see their dreams of going to a leadership camp this summer get closer and closer to becoming a reality.

Bob Forbes, president of the NOTL Kinsmen Club, says the association likes to donate to groups in need. When the local Girl Guides leaders asked for some support to help girls attend the camp, Forbes said they met and agreed it was a worthwhile cause. "We look for local groups of young people, groups that may not have access to a lot of money," says Forbes. They tend to lean toward athletic pursuits, sponsoring things like the Crossroads basketball team, and the Niagara Thunder lacrosse team.

The Kinsmen also donate their hall to all the levels of Girl Guides, from

Sparks to Pathfinders. "It's free. We take care of that," says Forbes.

LEAP 2019 is a girls' leadership camp at Doe Lake Camp, near Huntsville. It's a week-long "large-scale event," according to Guides patrol leader Megan Gilchrist — attracting between 2,000 and 2,500 young ladies from all over Ontario and Nunavut.

The camp features traditional activities such as archery, canoeing and rock-climbing; plus STEM activities, such as robotics. "There will also be a service component," says Gilchrist. "The girls will have a choice between several activities such as helping out at an animal shelter, or making kits for residents of a women's shelter or for people experiencing homelessness."

The Guides will continue to raise funds for the campers by selling cookies, and making and selling tea light holders. Each camper's fee is \$900 for

the week, so they're eager for you to keep buying the Chocolatey Mint cookies until the end of February. In March they will bring out the traditional chocolate and vanilla sandwich cookies.

Gilchrist points out that you can donate even if you don't want cookies, and the boxes you pay for will be given to Newark Neighbours.

She also says most units of Sparks, Brownies, Girl Guides and Pathfinders are still accepting new recruits, and there's a new program in place called Girls First, which is "an exceptional program because the impetuses are coming from kids, they're skills-based, and they're really fun."

Madison, 10, is "really excited" to go to LEAP 2019, and not at all nervous to go to overnight camp, because she's been before. Brooke, nine, is equally excited and confident. Also attending will be Sophie, Josie, Amara and Hannah.



Kinsmen Brian Litke (treasurer), Ed Froese (past president), and Bob Forbes (president) present a cheque for \$800 to campers Sophie, Brooke and Madison. (Lauren O'Malley)



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

920 offices in over 40 countries. Connecting to the World. [www.notlrealty.com](http://www.notlrealty.com)

EXCLUSIVE AFFILIATE OF  
**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

## 5 DAVID SECOND DRIVE \$738,000



Quality built raised bungalow located in charming village of St. Davids amongst other newer homes, offering high quality finishes throughout and featuring cathedral ceiling, gas fireplace, double patio doors, wide trim and hand scraped, engineered flooring. Extra conveniences include home being wired for alarm system, surround sound throughout main floor, central vac and exterior gas bbq hook up. Lower level has its own separate entrance and is fully finished to include a 2nd kitchen. Conveniently located close to QEW and US border. **MLS 30708141. Thomas Eltoft and Kim Eltoft.**

## 8 MCFARLAND GATE \$1,895,000



A rare find in town situated on a gorgeous 1.1-acre ravine lot, located on a prestigious cul-de-sac. This custom built 2 storey Tudor of timeless design offers 4 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms. 3 wood burning fireplaces, 5037 sq. ft. Of finished living space. Walkout to the breathtaking backyard canopyed by Mature trees stretching down to the meandering creek and beyond or enjoy a peaceful and enjoyable setting for company on the expansive wood deck which wraps around the entire rear of the home. A must see property! **MLS 30686681. Chris Bowron, Audrey Wright & Nicole Vanderperk.**

## 10 LUCIA COURT \$749,000



Perfect retirement property located on a quiet cul-de-sac in a great area of town. Features main floor master bedroom with ensuite; wood floors; lovely open concept kitchen; gas fireplace and 2 doors that lead out to the deck, patio space and private rear yard. The upper level has 2 bedrooms with Jack & Jill ensuite. Finished lower level has a large recreational room, bedroom and a three-piece bath. This lovely home is within walking distance of downtown shops, restaurants, wineries and theatres. **MLS 30684670. Victoria Bolduc and Sarah Gleddie.**

## 30 OAK DRIVE \$689,000



Set in the desirable Chautauqua area is this pleasing 1450 sq. ft. raised bungalow. Main level features 3 bedrooms, 3-piece bathroom, open living/dining area with hardwood flooring. Lovely 3 season enclosed sunroom and deck which overlooks a tree and private backyard. Full lower level consists of a family room, 4th bedroom, 3-piece bathroom, potential hobby room and walk up. Steps away from the phenomenal sunsets overlooking Lake Ontario. **MLS 30670987. Chris Bowron, Audrey Wright & Nicole Vanderperk.**

## 26 WEATHERSTONE COURT \$4,900/MONTH



FOR LEASE 6 MONTHS TO 12 MONTHS all inclusive and furnished. In a quiet courtyard behind the Rand Estates Stonewall sits this beautiful townhome. On the main floor, you will find a den with wood burning fireplace, an open concept dining/living room with a gas fireplace, an outstanding kitchen and a powder room. Two master-sized bedrooms with 16-foot ceilings, an office, and laundry are located on the second floor. Garden maintenance and pool opening/closing provided by owners. **MLS 30701022. Patricia Atherton & Caroline Polgrabia.**

## 22 MELROSE DRIVE \$1,099,000



Sitting on a magnificent 1 acre (approx.) wooded lot down a long driveway is this beautiful ranch style bungalow in a secluded position within the Niagara Escarpment Conservation Area of Bevan Heights. With some internal updating, this spacious home with walk-out basement could easily be turned into your dream home. **MLS 30701523. Kevin Stokes.**

## 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.**

## 56 KENMIR AVE. \$405,000



Build your dream home in the charming village of St. Davids. Fully serviced building lot surrounded by newly built higher value homes. Fully completed and approved building plans available. Great location close to QEW and US Border. Taxes to be determined. **MLS 30691260. Thomas Eltoft and Kim Eltoft.**

## 15396 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY \$1,079,000



Lovely Colonial style 4 bed, 3 bath home filled with natural light on the prestigious Niagara River Parkway with beautiful views of the River. A well-designed floorplan includes main level master suite with vaulted ceilings. The spacious open concept kitchen with Corian countertops and large island overlooks the family room that features floor to ceiling windows. The gardens include plenty of mature trees to provide privacy and a double car detached garage with ample storage. The home is a pleasure to show and worth a visit. **MLS 30701950. Philip Bowron & Sarah Gleddie.**

## 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.**

## 268 JOHN STREET \$3,500 + UTILITIES



Brand new custom build in convenient location offering numerous amenities within walking distance including new community centre, library, wineries/breweries and only minutes from downtown Niagara on the Lake's shops, theatres and restaurants. This 3 bedroom 4 bathroom home features a blend of traditional and modern details with high-end finishes and appliances, main floor laundry and a main floor master bedroom suite. Convenient sunroom, walkout to back deck, attached double garage and double drive. Available immediately. **MLS 30705280. Thomas Eltoft & Kim Eltoft.**

## 1895 LAKESHORE ROAD \$1,049,000



Fabulous Bed and Breakfast licensed for 3 bedrooms (all ensuites), 2 bedrooms for the owners. Main level has a sitting area for the guests & a breakfast room and the kitchen plus lovely large owners sitting area. The Kitchen and owners space open up to the back yard. The back yard has been finished with a couple of decks which allows private sitting area for the guests and owners. The house has been run as a B&B for over 20 years and has consistently done well based on the layout of the property, location and ample parking. **MLS 30614875. Trish Badham**

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

Nicole Vanderperk\* ..... 905-941-4585  
Trish Badham\* ..... 905-262-1876  
Viviane Eltoft\* ..... 905-468-2142  
Thomas Eltoft\* ..... 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**



# Family nightmare ends well

By Lauren O'Malley  
The NOTL Local

Spoiler alert: This story has a happy ending. But it was a harrowing experience for Whitney Fowler and her family.

Whitney (nee Peterson, daughter of Gary Peterson and Trisha Romance) and her husband Jordan Fowler are Niagara-on-the-Lake natives who moved to Cayuga in 2015 to continue to farm, raise a family, and run a cozy community cafe, The Carolinian. They have a young son, John (two and-a-half), and a recent addition in Melody, almost five months old.

This is a story about Melody.

A few weeks ago, Whitney and her friend Jenna spent the day together with baby Melody. One of those simple, innocent days that does nothing to predict the maelstrom that will follow.

When Jordan came home from running the cafe, Whitney and Jenna were chatting and folding fresh laundry. The doting father went upstairs to hold the baby and enjoy their bond. Melody fell asleep in his arms, and Whitney thought he might like to have his phone handy while he held the napping child. Jordan took the phone, and said he thought Melody felt hot. Whitney noticed the baby looked a little limp, and her colour seemed off.

"I just happened to have tidied up our collection of thermometers that morning," says Whitney, so she knew exactly where to find them. The first reading: 39°C. Panic started to seep into the moment. Second reading: 39°C again.

Whitney decided that if Melody wouldn't breastfeed, she would take that as an indication that she should take the baby to the hospital. "She had no interest in feeding, so I got her into her carseat and Jenna and I took her to the West Haldimand General Hospital," the nearest medical facility. By this point the baby was panting.

"As we got her to hospi-

tal I had a feeling this was the wrong place to take her," says Whitney.

The staff at the small-town establishment cooed over the adorable baby, and gave her Tylenol to lower the fever. They didn't seem overly concerned about the situation, and thought perhaps the baby had a urinary tract infection. Tests were ordered after about 90 minutes — a heel prick for a complete blood count (CBC), and an attempt to collect a urine sample for the UTI. The blood test showed a possible infection, but not what type. The urine collection was a failure due to contamination of the first sample, and subsequently due to Melody's dehydration: she was too sick to nurse, and so didn't produce any further urine.

Whitney, Melody and Jenna were at the hospital for several hours, ostensibly waiting for a urine sample from a dehydrated baby. In the meantime, the baby's heart and respiration rate were elevated, and her fontanelle (soft spot) was raised. Whitney says she could feel the baby's heartbeat throbbing in her soft spot.

"I thought maybe we should just take her home," says Whitney.

Like any great tale, this one has a hero, and this is where she appears. A nurse arrived, starting her shift. "She took one look at us and said, 'You're going to McMaster [Children's Hospital] right now,'" says Whitney. The nurse had a doctor call ahead to prepare a team for their arrival. Whitney drove Jenna to the Fowler residence so she could take care of young John when Jordan would go to open up the cafe in the morning, and then drove herself and Melody to McMaster.

"We walked in and right away they swept her into the ER — they don't waste any time when they see a sick baby," says Whitney. Within minutes the team of approximately 15 people had set up an IV, a catheter, chest x-rays:

"They knew it was an infection and they were looking to determine all of the symptoms," she says. They confirmed she had sepsis — a life-threatening overreaction to infection.

"I called Jordan at 5 a.m. and told him Melody likely had a blood and brain infection, and she was being wheeled in for a CAT scan," says Whitney, remembering a very difficult moment no parent would ever want to experience. Jordan left John with Jenna and made his way promptly to the hospital.

The CAT scan revealed a severely swollen brain. A diagnosis of either meningitis or encephalitis was likely at this point. "Meningitis is an infection of the meninges surrounding the brain," explains the newly-informed mother. "Encephalitis is an infection of the brain itself." Neither is desirable.

The baby couldn't nurse; her mother couldn't sleep. "I was just shaking, and worrying." While the diagnosis was narrowing down and the 31-year-old mother was feeling more confident about treatment for her daughter, there were still so many questions. "Is it viral or bacterial? Is she going to make it through this? Is she going to have brain damage?"

"At that time her soft spot was like a puffball — which is a good thing because there was room for the swelling to expand upward," says Whitney. She explains that in older children and adults the swelling presses down into the spine, potentially causing all kinds of damage.

For the first few days the infection was managed but not specifically diagnosed. That final determination was made on day three: a spinal tap was performed to extract cerebrospinal fluid which would be cultured and studied. "The spinal tap would reveal the bug Haemophilus influenza type A (HIA)," says Whitney. "The more common bacteria to cause meningitis is Haemophilus

influenza type B (HIB). Type B we vaccinate for in Canada. Melody was vaccinated for type B. But this did not protect her against A."

Thanks to the spinal tap, a very specific treatment could be initiated. "They got her on the big gun antibiotic which fought her specific form of meningitis," says Whitney. They kept the baby's fluids up and kept her comfortable, and "decided to see how things would play out for the next couple of days," when an MRI would be done to see how the various parts of Melody's brain had survived the infection.

"On day five we had a clear MRI, and her brain was back to its normal size," says Whitney. "A top neurologist came in and put all these cords all over her, cables everywhere — she looked like a little alien baby. They were monitoring seizure activity; there was none."

"Everything was just feeling more hopeful. We never felt out of the woods though — she was still spiking fevers."

A cause for the infection has not been determined. "An infectious disease team asked us about everything we had touched, eaten, done. We told them everything to the last detail. Their determination was just 'bad luck.'"

Whitney's keenly aware of her good luck, however. After five days in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, they were moved into the general paediatric ward. "They say it's kind of like going from being Kate on the Titanic to being Jack — from a highly modern space with a private nurse to a general ward. It was a bit of a shellshock," she says. They were in a room with three other families, and were following the sad stories playing out around them. "Their issues were permanent," she says. "We thought, 'This sucks for now, but she's getting better. She's a fragile little baby, but oh my God, we've got it good.'"

At one point Whitney was able to wheel Melody down a hallway with her IV unit in tow. She passed a mother who said, "Oh, are you in for cancer treatment too?" Whitney says her heart broke for the woman and her family. "Sitting in a children's ward, with families and children going through the impossible... it's heartbreaking — but beautiful," she says.

Throughout the 12 days in hospital, Whitney was amazed and touched by the care around her. "You think of a medical situation as being cold and clinical, but they were very caring and sympathetic," she says. "A lot of things that could have been so hellish, they made better."

The caring came not only in the hospital itself, but from her own community.

"Jordan would text me all the time to tell me about all



Fowler family in hospital (Photos submitted)



Melody in hospital



Whitney and Melody at home

the kind things people were doing for us. Our customers were bringing everything, anonymous donors, people leaving money to pay for hospital parking, blankets, letters, meals, prayers, everyone wanting so badly to help, all these amazing things people would do; it was so beautiful to see our community come together," she says.

"You don't realize how many people are out there thinking about you at any given time."

Melody is home and well now, and will receive follow-up screening with a paediatrician regularly to make sure there is no long-term damage. Regarding her medical care, Whitney is divided. She was profoundly impressed by the

professionalism and kindness of the staff at McMaster, but remains concerned the symptoms weren't pieced together by the staff at her local facility. "Her high heart rate, respiration rate and slightly raised fontanelle were signs of meningitis," she says. "Shouldn't the doctor have known this?"

The artist and musician says the experience has made her want to do music therapy, "volunteering to sing for kids going through things like this. My guitar has always been a source of healing for me. I write it all into the fabric of life."

"I could write a book about the time spent there," she continues, "It opened my heart to feeling something so much deeper than I thought I could feel."



**REVEL.**  
LUXURY

**Thinking Of Moving? Let's Chat!**  
*From One Neighbour To Another.*

**c. 905.380.6702**  
**o. 905.357.1700**  
**andrew@revelrealty.ca**  
**thefineesteam.com**

**F FINE ESTATE TEAM** **ANDREW PERRIE**  
LUXURY SERVICE EVERY TIME SALES REPRESENTATIVE



# Horses, dogs, and a pig: they board them all

By Lauren O'Malley  
The NOTL Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake is the kind of charming small town where anything can happen. Including bumping in to two young women on horseback on the Commons, which you might have done if you were out and about of a Saturday morning.

Emily Mayes and Kasia Polakiewicz-Morrice took their horses Tucker and Copper for a trail ride, for the obvious reason of wanting to enjoy nature and each other's company — and also to acclimate Copper, an Arabian rescue, to new trails, and to trailers.

Polakiewicz-Morrice fell for Copper the minute she heard his tragic tale. He and another horse had been found by the Hamilton Humane Society after spending three days in a trailer without food or water, in the heat of summer, in the city's downtown.

Her husband Justin Morrice bought the traumatized 11-year-old horse from Whispering Hearts Horse Rescue for Polakiewicz-Morrice's birthday almost two years ago, and she has been rehabilitating him since. "He had never been ridden before

— had never even been brushed," she recalls. "He trusts me now."

Copper was not their first rescue — Polakiewicz-Morrice has been at this for a decade.

The young couple manage a boarding business and farm on Concession 6. They have four horses of their own (including Copper and Minipuff, a miniature pony), "and we're adapting to suit all animals for boarding," says Morrice.

Their most common clients are horses and dogs; they also board cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and even sheep. "A man was moving his farm from Manitoba, and needed a place to keep his three horses and a dozen sheep for two weeks," says Polakiewicz-Morrice.

They have boarded a pet pig too, "A big one. We kept him in the barn," she remembers with a smile. "We haven't gotten an elephant yet," quips Morrice.

The pair were married in 2016 on the 16-acre property, which belongs to Polakiewicz-Morrice's parents. Her father is an accomplished carpenter who has built and customized any number of projects on the farm, with

help from Morrice. The latter works in greenhouses, and has helped establish striking perennial beds which act as backdrops for photo sessions in the summer.

Polakiewicz-Morrice is an amateur photographer, and creates albums for her clients of their pets' "vacations." She also offers seasonally-themed backdrops and photo shoots for pet owners.

Five acres of the land at Evergreen Trail Stables are native forest "with trails galore," she says — and locals are welcome to come and enjoy them. The site is also becoming a popular location for weddings.

Polakiewicz-Morrice's father has made a habit of planting approximately 100 new trees on his land every year, including fruit orchards and evergreens, to a total of more than 1,000 new additions. Since establishing the stables, manure is used as a convenient fertilizer.

"We have our own little paradise here," says Polakiewicz-Morrice, looking over the pastures at the pond feasting turtles and fish in season, and the Weeping Willow tree that sweeps over it. "We enjoy every day."



Kasia Polakiewicz-Morrice and Emily Mayes ride horses on the Commons. (Lauren O'Malley)



Justin Morrice and Kasia Polakiewicz-Morrice love dogs as well as horses and welcome them all. (Lauren O'Malley)

## The Genuine. The Original.

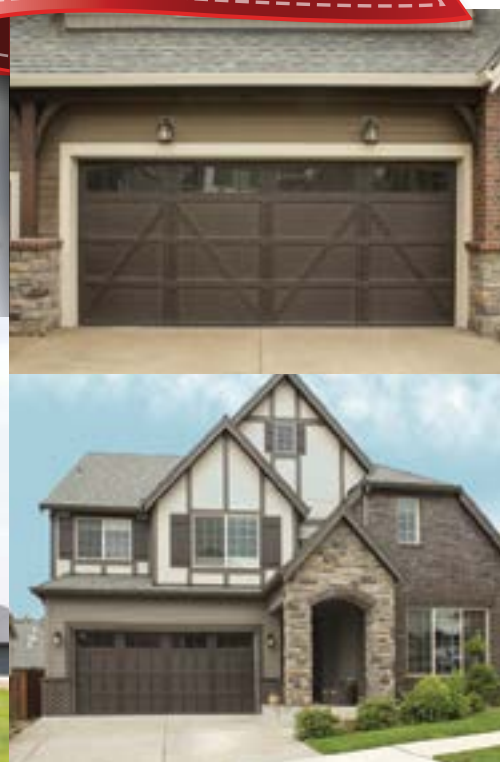


*The Ribbon is Always a Sign of a Winner.*

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**





# Making themselves at home in NOTL

By Lauren O'Malley  
The NOTL Local

"It seems like we only have wine glasses," says Cheryl Blake, looking for a water glass.

"Welcome to Niagara-on-the-Lake," says her husband Roman Mamalyga, laughing.

Blake and Mamalyga have recently been welcomed to town from Oakville. As transplants, they are already reaching deeply with their roots.

"We do everything local," says Mamalyga. "I love to go to Valu-mart every day for my groceries. I walk to Willow every morning and when she sees me she puts two large coffees on the counter."

"If you want to create value and help people you have to put stuff into the community," Mamalyga says passionately. "We do everything here, absolutely everything. That's the only way to do it."

Blake has had a long-term relationship with NOTL, having visited often in her youth with her philanthropic father, Philip Robert Blake, who was a patron of the Shaw Festival. "I've been coming here since I was this high," she says, holding her hand three feet off the ground. "That's how I got my love for the theatre, Vintage Inns, and the retail therapy here."

"Five years ago when she suggested we should go to Niagara-on-the-Lake," says Mamalyga, "I had no idea what she was talking about." He was an urban Torontonion whose knowledge of Southern Ontario stretched only as far west as Oakville, "where all the rich people lived."

They started visiting NOTL once or twice a year, on their anniversary, and for Christmas. Over the 2017 Christmas holidays, they booked several days at the Pillar and Post, and enjoyed the snowy celebrations.

"You know how it goes

in life where things just start happening," asks Blake. "We had booked a special private walking tour with Dick Coyne," she recalls. "He said, 'If you ever consider moving Niagara-on-the-Lake, there are some areas I would suggest you look at.'"

"For all the years we'd been coming to NOTL we had never been past the golf course," says Mamalyga, who was inspired by Coyne's suggestion to go for a drive in the Chautauqua and surrounding neighbourhoods. They spotted a "for lease" sign for a house on Nassau Street, and impulsively decided to act on it. They called the realtor listed on the sign. "Laurie [Sobil] said she had just walked in the door from a trip to England — we caught her just in time. She said, 'You guys are so lucky.'" He shakes his head and says, "Yeah, we are."

The couple saw the house and promptly decided to become locals. "Laurie asked if I wanted to see the upstairs and I said I didn't need to — we'd take it," says Blake.

They moved here in March, 2018, and integrated fully. "I joined the golf club. John and Laurie Sobil have become good friends," says Mamalyga. "Mike Berliss has introduced us to many people, and gives us a list of local wines to try every week." Through Berliss Mamalyga has also joined the international group Les Marmitons: amateur chefs who meet up once a month to learn high-end cooking techniques from professionals.

"All of a sudden he's a cook," laughs Blake — and goes on to describe the dinner parties for which they're becoming known. She describes Mamalyga's Ukrainian spin on entertaining, which they do often. "Most of our friends are here now," says Mamalyga, amazed at the difference one year can make.

Blake — or "Miss Blake," as Mamalyga fondly calls her — is a history buff, and refers to locations in town by

their proximity to historical sites. Charlotte Street is "by the old railroad," and their newly-purchased home in St. Andrew's Glen is "near Butlers Burial Ground." When her adult son visits from Toronto they like to follow the old train paths around town and imagine the way things were. "I read about a group looking to preserve the trails — that would be something I would love to be involved in," she says.

The outgoing Mamalyga has joined the local Rotary club, and was excited to be among the volunteers at their holiday house tour. "There's a lot of positive in the NOTL Rotary," he says. "The people, meeting them for the first time — you're part of the family. All successful people just giving back." Blake — who says she's taking a bit of a back seat for now — has joined Friends of Rotary, and sustains her long-term relationship with the Shaw by volunteering for the festival.

Mamalyga had never been to the theatre before attending A Christmas Carol in 2017. Now the couple attends at least one play a month, and has joined the Friends of the Shaw.

"It's all magical," says Mamalyga, "but the timing was right." He's referring to the fact the couple was able to uproot their relatively new life together and integrate into a whole new community because their children are grown and have lives of their own — Mamalyga has three children and one grandchild, Blake the one son. They were also able to change their business focus, Mamalyga moving away from his career in the flooring industry and Blake from hers in insurance and administration. They have launched a shared business in the financial field.

"We're really putting down roots," says Mamalyga. "That's it, we're here."

"This is it for us," says Blake about their new life as locals.



Roman Mamalyga and Cheryl Blake with Gizmo. (Lauren O'Malley)

## Party on ice



Party-goers take a break from skating on the Fort George outdoor rink at the After Party on Ice event Saturday, which raised money for Red Roof Retreat. (Fred Mercnik)

**Join us for the 53rd Big Game with a \$53 deal!**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd**

**One large three item pizza, Domestic Pitcher of Beer, 10 wings and an order of Chicharons**

**\$53**  
(eat in only during the game)

**1573 FOUR MILE CREEK RD., NOTL**  
**905-468-8808 | BRICKSANDBARLEY.CA**



# SCHOOLS

## ST. DAVIDS PUBLIC SCHOOL

### STEAM Challenges in Kindergarten

**By Lindsay Parravicino  
St. Davids Public School**

The Kindergarten students at St. Davids Public School love taking on challenges that are placed around the room each week.

We call these STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) challenges. These are fun and engaging activities that help children learn more about math and science, and give them opportunities to investigate and problem-solve throughout their days at school. Many of these challenges require students to work together in order to solve the problem, and to persevere through many trial and error attempts in order to solve the problem.

When I asked a group of students to explain what a STEAM challenge is, Joshua replied, "It's a challenge where you can play with someone else to solve a problem. I love them." Harrison added, "A STEAM challenge is something that is hard for you, and you have to try and solve it. They teach us math and science."

Joshua went on to say, "Today we made balloon rockets using string, straws and balloons. We had to see whose would go the furthest!" "The ones that had a lot of air went really far, but the small balloons barely moved," added Mathew.

Students then learned about force, and that the more air the balloon has, the more force is omitted once the air is released. That is why the big balloons travelled so far down the string, they discovered.

I then asked students to tell me about some of their favourite STEAM challenges from our year together. Wyatt told me, "I liked when we had to try and build a fence for the pumpkins. We had to use clay and popsicle sticks and make a bridge that could hold up a pumpkin. It was really hard and we had to keep adding more sticks because the pumpkin was so heavy." This was a favourite activity for many of our students, and there was great conversation about making a solid and sturdy base that would support the weight of the pumpkin.

Harrison had a different favourite activity, that

we completed during our pirate inquiry. "I liked using robots. We made a maze and pressed buttons to make them go through the maze." Throughout this inquiry, students learned about mapping and coding. We used Google Earth to help us make a map of our school playground and students made treasure maps that included a compass and legend. Our friends loved having the opportunity to use BeeBots to learn about coding. They used large wooden blocks to build mazes, and then had to program the BeeBots to travel throughout the maze. This involved a lot of counting and spatial awareness.

There is at least one STEAM challenge available for students to investigate each week in our classroom. These are always very popular activities, and we love to see how excited the children are to engage in these learning opportunities. Great work, St. Davids Kindergarten friends.

*Lindsay Parravicino and Cara Bodnar are the teachers of the St. Davids Kindergarten class*




Safaleen Johal, Maggie Adam, Parwez Sidhu and Clark Buehler face a Pirate STEAM challenge.



Vivienne Atwood's challenge is to make a base strong enough to hold up a small pumpkin.



Mathew Keda discovers how force works by having fun with a balloon.



Serving Niagara Since 1977

# SIMPSON'S

PHARMASAVE  
Canada's  
Community Pharmacy

## 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.

## 20% off\*

#### Simpson's Pharmacy

Stairglides, Mobility Equipment Sales & Service.  
Therapeutic Nutrition and Weight Control Solutions.

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

#### Simpson's Apothecary

Compounding Lab &  
Full Dispensing Services

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](http://www.simpsonsparmacy.ca) · Free Delivery From Both Locations



# Think boating, and plan for safety

By Randy Klaassen  
Special to The Local

The Toronto Boat Show gets a lot of people thinking about summer, and some of those people are Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers.

Gerry and Fran Doran of Niagara-on-the-Lake have served as SAR volunteers for the past six years with the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) Niagara, based at the Niagara District Airport. They recently spent two days at the Toronto Boat Show.

"Thinking of the upcoming season on the water we were there to remind boaters that now is the right time to plan for safety," said Gerry. "Planning to be safe before going out on the water is the best way to ensure that everyone gets home again."

As a spotter aboard CASARA aircraft, Fran knows first-hand what it is like to search for a missing person floating on Lake Ontario or Lake Erie. "Flying 1,000

feet above the water, and scanning a mile beyond the side of the aircraft, it can be really difficult to spot an object as small as a person in the water, especially if there are waves. And then, whenever the aircraft makes a turn, the light on the water changes, which can hide objects."

The main attraction of the SAR display was a 424 Squadron CH-146 Griffin helicopter, which flies SAR operations across Ontario, and has the capability to hoist stranded people out of the water.

"There are unique weather patterns created by the two Great Lakes, Erie and Ontario," said SAR pilot Captain Erin Pratt. "The forecast can indicate calm, clear weather, which is great for boating, and people go out on the water. But the weather changes, she said and boaters often fail to wear a lifejacket, she said, and fall off the back of a boat. "Seems like a silly thing, but the best way people can assure

a successful rescue is to wear a lifejacket. When things do go wrong, people need to know they are going to be in the water for a long time. Wearing a lifejacket makes it easier than having to swim for four hours or more."

"We hear from people who say they take a lifejacket in the boat, but don't like to wear it," said Fran.

"Another frequent comment heard is they plan to rely on their cell-phone when they get into trouble, but often cell-phones don't work out on the lakes, and they certainly don't work in water. Boaters have a much better chance of survival if they have and use the proper equipment."

Pratt added, "Having flown too many searches for missing boaters, the number one thing I can tell people is to wear a lifejacket whenever you are on the water."

To learn more about volunteering with CASARA see the website <https://ontario.casara.ca>.



Gerry and Fran Doran, search and rescue volunteers working out of the Niagara District Airport, were at the Toronto Boat Show to talk about safety.

## Ken Gansel appointed chair of police services board

By Penny Coles  
The NOTL Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Ken Gansel says as the new chair of the Niagara Regional Police Services Board, he is looking forward to a productive year, but there are challenges ahead.

Gansel replaces Niagara Falls Regional Coun. Bob Gale, who remains a board member.

To earn the appointment, Gansel said, he expressed interest in the position, and won it with four of seven votes.

Gansel is a former police officer with the Ottawa force and a retired citizen employee of the NRP. He was first elected to the police board in 2012, and has served three years as vice-chair.

He began his career as a police officer in the '70s in Ottawa, he said.

He then worked for the province, in the office of the Chief Justice of Ontario and for the Ministry of the Attorney General, in IT security. He also worked for the Niagara Regional Police, again in computer security.

The job of chair of the services board "is a good way to end my career," he said, putting his experience to good use in retirement while

still being able to travel with his wife Karen.

"I've always been a believer in work and life balance. This job allows me to try to limit work and spend time with family."

There are two "major irons in the fire" for the board to deal with early in the term, he said.

The first is the 2019 budget of \$147 million, a 6.5 per cent increase over last year. That was approved by the service board last Thursday, and will go to regional council this week.

The other is "getting a shovel in the ground and construction underway" for the new police building in St. Catharines, on a piece of property on Welland Avenue, a brownfield that cost the Region about \$3 million to purchase in 2014 and clean up.

That and the unanticipated high tariffs on steel has put them over budget before beginning construction, he said.

The budget for the building is about \$17 million, said Gansel.

Another "critical piece of work" to be developed is the 2019 to 2021 Strategic Plan, which will include priorities identified by the NRP members and the community.

As board chair, Gansel said, it will be his job to en-

sure the board asks the right questions, and with the facts before them "consider all options and viewpoints of service management and of individual board members," and that the board "engage in the discussions and debates necessary to tackle those challenges effectively."

Gansel is an active member of the community and currently serves the Town as the chair of the Committee of Adjustments and is a member of the Community Safety Committee.



Ken Gansel has been appointed board chair of the Niagara Police Services board. (Photo submitted)

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





The Great Canadian History Songbook performs at the Niagara Falls museum. (Photo submitted)

# Learn local history through song

By Lauren O'Malley  
The NOTL Local

Do you think you could have learned the alphabet without the alphabet song?

Music has been proven to help people of all ages learn. Now you can perfect your local history knowledge with the Great Canadian Historical Songbook.

Local Barbara Worthy, a Shaw alum and seasoned broadcast producer, has written and produced a series of songs telling the stories of, among others, Chloe Coolie, who is believed to have been the instigator of the end of slavery in British North America. "She was an iconic character. We really don't know much other than she had a name and wasn't named after her master, which is what makes her so intriguing," says Worthy. Hence her lyrics, "I have a name, I have a face/Though all you see is black/You see nothing in me/But one day I'll be back."

Worthy pulled together a group of talented and well-known Niagara artists to help bring history to life. Singer, songwriter and performer Aaron Berger has long been a collaborator.

"Aaron was a student of mine at Brock University," says Worthy. "He was pure mischief." The pair has since collaborated on a variety of projects, including a living history

show called Petticoats, Boots and Muskets; and works for Canada 150 celebrations. "I get so much inspiration from working with young people," says Worthy of her endeavours with this group of artists.

For this particular project, Worthy says she would write lyrics about a historical figure — Samuel Zimmerman, for example, who built the second Welland Canal, and brought railways to Niagara: "March 12, 1857, heading from Toronto up to heaven." She would sing them, "badly," into her smartphone, suggesting a melody. And then she would send the recording to Berger with the annotation, "Think Great Big Sea."

"Aaron would always come back with something amazing," says Worthy. "We have become a songwriting team."

When Worthy wanted to create a song commemorating Nikola Tesla, she wrote the lyrics and handed them over to Niagara producer Joe Lapinski with the direction, "Think [70's progressive rock band] Yes." "Joe came back with something phenomenal, with all this electrical feeling about Tesla. He turned Tesla on."

Also in on the collaborative effort are singer and songwriter Laurel Minnes; singer and producer Juliet Dunn; and performer Adrienne Smoke, a Six Nations Mohawk.

In writing a song about the Indian Act and residential schools, Worthy wrote the lyrics and then ran them by several Indigenous people and authorities on the culture, to be sure not to offend. "The lyrics include, 'Squaw, squaw, you're out the door,' shouted by white people." Worthy has done extensive work with Indigenous peoples, and says she is very sensitive to the delicate issues involved.

Minnes has become an "unofficial music director," says Worthy. "Laurel makes everything 10 times better. She has such a sense of harmonies and rhythms."

"I love working with this group," says Minnes. "Babs has such a passion for history, and this is such a neat idea." The musician and bandleader goes on to say the collaborators "definitely have a good working relationship, knowing our roles, where everyone's strengths are best utilized. And Aaron is hilarious."

The Songbook is performed live, with Worthy side-stage as narrator. The show has been staged at the Niagara Falls Museum, and — in an innovative twist — during the break between The Niagara Rhythm Section's sets last Saturday night at the Old Winery restaurant. "I asked Steve [Goldberger, the band's leader] if we could do it, and he said yes right away," says Worthy.

Upcoming shows include Feb. 19 at the NOTL public library, and Feb. 23 at Mahtay Cafe in St. Catharines. "I would love to add an orchestra and perform at heritage events all over the country," says Worthy about this celebration of Canadian history through music.

"We are definitely open for business," says Berger. "We're really pleased to have six gigs right away, and we're certainly hoping a little history with your music will appeal to people."

Worthy also feels there's room for more songs: "Every time you turn around here there's another story to be told," says the history buff who loves to share her passion for the people and ideas that shaped Niagara.

In the meantime, the group plans to record a series of podcasts, six episodes at five minutes apiece — one per song. The concept is to give some historical context to the song, discuss the creation of the piece, and then add the song itself. "I've never done podcasts but I listen to a lot of them," says Worthy, who is excited about this next iteration of the project. "It will be a learning process for all of us."

You can follow the Great Canadian Historical Songbook on Facebook, and watch for more upcoming performances.

## Parks commission job fair Saturday

The Niagara Parks Commission, one of the region's largest employers with more than 1,700 full-time and seasonal employees, will host its annual job fair on Saturday, Feb. 2 at Niagara Parks' Legends on the Niagara Golf Complex.

The annual job fair allows the parks commission to showcase the seasonal job opportunities that exist within the commission each year, while providing individuals with an opportunity to connect directly with various departmental hiring managers. Representatives from the human resources department will also be onhand to answer questions.

More than 350 positions will be available in 2019 in the following departments: culinary, retail, attractions, parks, golf, heritage and transportation. Niagara Parks also welcomes all those who qualify to consider a student co-op or an apprentice cook placement.

Applicants should come prepared for an on-site interview and are encouraged to bring their resume. Each applicant will also be required to create an online profile to submit their formal application, prior to the job fair, at [niagaraparks.com/employment](http://niagaraparks.com/employment).

**Date:** Saturday, February 2, 2019

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Location:** Legends on the Niagara Clubhouse (entrance off Willoughby Rd.)  
9561 Niagara Parkway,  
Niagara Falls

**Free shuttles:** For those using public transit, free shuttles will run every 30 minutes from the corner of Portage Rd. and Macklem St., beginning at 9:30 a.m., with the last shuttle departing Legends on the Niagara at 1:30 p.m.

**Contact:** For more information and to apply online, please visit [niagaraparks.com/employment](http://niagaraparks.com/employment)

## Crossroads preparing for home show

Preparations for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Home, Garden and Craft Show, a fundraiser for Crossroads Public School, are underway.

In its 11th year, the home show continues to be an amazing one-day event, showcasing local businesses, says organizer Amy Rapone.

The show will be held at Crossroads Public School on Niagara Stone Road. Exhibitors and vendors include home energy, landscape/gardening, home renovation, home-based businesses, crafters "and so much more," said Rapone.

The Home Show is planned to be a great day for the whole family, she added. In addition to the

nearly 85 vendors, there will also be a barbecue lunch, a kids' zone with a bouncy house and games sponsored by Niagara Inflatables, raffle prizes, grand prizes, and swag bags for the first 500 attendees.

Home Show proceeds will benefit the community by supporting the students of Crossroads Public School by helping with equipment updates, academic and music programs, said Rapone.

To become a sponsor or vendor or add to swag bags, or for more information, contact [notlhome-show@gmail.com](mailto:notlhome-show@gmail.com).

The home show will be held Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**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](http://WayneGates.com) | [wgates-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:wgates-co@ndp.on.ca)

**Peninsula Flooring Ltd.**

13 Henegan Road | Virgil Business Park 905-468-2135

**SALE ON SELECT**

*Karastan*  
CARPETS

**ANDREWS LAW PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**  
Barristers & Solicitors

**905.468.0081**  
[info@rjwandrews.ca](mailto:info@rjwandrews.ca)

**REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS**



## Friends thank friends



Tony Chisholm, president of the Friends of Fort George, presents Angela Redekopp of Greaves Jam with a plaque of thanks to acknowledge generous funding to support Canada Day events over the past few years. "Greaves Jams has been proud to contribute to the Friends of Fort George and their volunteer efforts on Canada Day," said Redekopp. Fort George events help make Canada Day meaningful for locals and tourists, and contribute to the special atmosphere of the town, she added.

## Teaching kids to play and love tennis

By Lauren O'Malley  
The NOTL Local

"It's that moment when a kid who couldn't even catch a ball hits one over the net," says Trish Spagnol, a volunteer with Tennis 4 Kids.

Karen Wright is leading the group tennis lessons at the community centre. "We use the pickle ball nets which are lower, and better for the kids," she says. Children between the ages of five and 10 learn co-ordination skills, and how to catch and throw a ball; they learn the basic of a ground stroke, and ultimately how to rally with forehand and backhand strokes.

"They also learn competition, skill development, co-ordination, and good social things," says Wright.

A recently retired elementary school teacher, Wright was with the District School Board of Niagara for 30 years. "I missed being with kids," she says. "I need to be with kids."

Then the 58-year-old Niagara Falls native moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake, and heard that Rosemary Goodwin was offering free tennis lessons at the public courts in Rye Park. She decided to give them a whirl. "I hadn't played tennis since a couple of times in my teens," she says—and this time

around she found herself smitten with the sport. So much so that she now plays as many as a dozen games in a week, and is working toward certification as an instructor. "Tennis is something you can play your entire life," says the recent convert.

Tennis 4 Kids meets weekly in the gym at the community centre; the third session has just started and will run for seven or eight weeks, depending on the availability of the space.

"Tennis is a tough thing. You've got racquets flying—it's pretty crazy," says Wright, referring to the levels of both co-ordination and patience required. The hour-long lessons are divided into two age categories (five to seven, and eight to 10), and grouped in basic skill levels. Volunteers at a ratio of one to four help the kids toss cottony balls and catch them, control foam balls with their hands and racquets, and work up to actual rallies over the net. The pace is quick and the children are focused and excited.

Goodwin, Wright's former instructor, is also an important factor in Tennis 4 Kids, volunteering her time as a teacher, and also supplying all the racquets and balls and any other equipment necessary — other than the nets, which are supplied by the community centre. "Dan has been just wonderful," says Wright of

the centre's helpful co-ordinator.

The program has been so well received in the community that Wright is working to take it into the schools through the DSBN. A pilot project at St. Davids Public School went well, and is leading to sessions in the gyms of other local schools.

"People think this is a seniors' community, but look at all these kids," says Wright. "There must be a thousand of them in Niagara-on-the-Lake." And Wright would have every last one of them wielding a racquet.

A session with Tennis 4 Kids is \$50 per child. Students who learned to rally in the last session will be spending time at Vineland Tennis Academy playing in the tennis bubble and receiving two hours of free instruction from professional coaches. Wright describes children with eyes wide with delight at the idea.

To maintain its growing success, the group needs a few more volunteers — "people who have some knowledge of tennis, and a comfort level with kids," says Wright. She provides a lesson plan for each session.

High school students can use this toward their community hours. More information regarding volunteering or participating as a student can be obtained by emailing Wright at [kidstennisniagara@gmail.com](mailto:kidstennisniagara@gmail.com).



Emily, Taleah and Caleb learn to play tennis at the NOTL community centre. (Fred Mercnik)

## LOCAL WORSHIP



**Sunday, February 3rd**  
Message:  
**Matt Unruh, Pastor**  
**Will I Have Enough?**  
**Kids Programming**  
**Grade 8 & under**  
**Sunday Worship**  
**at 10am at 434 Hunter Rd.**  
**Offices at**  
**1570 Niagara Stone Rd.**  
[www.ccchurch.ca](http://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](http://www.graceunitedchurch.com)

To advertise your

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

in this section,  
please contact

[karen@notllocal.com](mailto:karen@notllocal.com)



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

[classified@notllocal.com](mailto:classified@notllocal.com)

Deadline:  
**Mondays at noon.**





# Local lacrosse player recognized by U.S. university

By Penny Coles  
The NOTL Local

Bryan Neufeld's choice of lacrosse over hockey as a teen in Niagara-on-the-Lake turned out to be a wise decision. Neufeld, inducted into New York state's Siena College Athletic Hall of Fame Saturday, was described at the ceremony as "the offensive catalyst for the winningest class in program history," leading the Saints to a 48-21 overall record. He helped guide the Saints to several championships and tournament appearances during his four years playing lacrosse, and was named the 2011-12 male Athlete of the Year. Neufeld studied finance while at university, where he was recruited to play lacrosse after a successful stint in NOTL with the Thunderhawks. A graduate of Virgil Public School and Niag-

ara District Secondary School, he returned to Niagara to marry Catherine Rougoor, who he met at high school. Neufeld played minor hockey and lacrosse growing up in NOTL, and triple A in Niagara Falls. But when he realized he had gone as far as he could on the ice, he chose to focus on lacrosse, and played for the Jr. B Thunderhawks. That helped him on his path to the U.S. university, he said. The sport he chose was one he came to love. "I liked the fast-paced nature of the game, the contact, and the high-scoring." He still does, coaching both field and box minor lacrosse in NOTL, where his family and friends are, where he comes to play pick-up hockey, and where he hopes to relocate as soon as he and his wife can find an affordable house.

"That's our goal. We're always looking for a way to get back." And it's where his heart is. "I still try to give back to the community, and to the game. NOTL Lacrosse did a lot for me, and I want to be involved in the minor league as much as I can." His drive to succeed in sports, he says, carried over to his career, and in his life choices. The sport also taught him "values you can't learn in a classroom — meeting others, dealing with other kids, learning what success feels like and what failure feels like." He believes every child should have the opportunity to play sports, he added. "You learn things you don't learn anywhere else." Neufeld was the recipient of many athletic awards and named to sev-

eral N.Y. all-star teams. He was a North-South Senior All-Star Game participant, he was the 2009 Rookie of the Year and is the only four-time First Team All-Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) selection in program history. Named to the MAAC's 35th Anniversary Spring Sports First Team, which covers three states, he is the conference's all-time leading scorer and ranks second on Siena's charts with 240 career points. Neufeld led all Division I players nationally from the Class of 2012 with 156 career goals, which also stands as the second most in Siena history. He ranked in the top 10 nationally in scoring during both his junior and senior seasons, and led all Division I freshmen in goals scored (38) while ranking third in scoring (51) during his rookie campaign in 2009.



Bryan Neufeld puts his skill to good use, coaching minor lacrosse in NOTL.

## Nationals win home game



The NOTL Nationals Jr. A hockey team played the North York Rangers at home Friday, winning 5-4 to move up to 5th place in their division of the Greater Metro Hockey League. Joey Fratanio made 46 saves and Bailey Pritchard collected two goals and an assist, while Colt Jaime scored a goal and two assists. Next home game is Friday Feb. 1 at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Game time is 7 p.m. against Nationals rivals, the Niagara Whalers. The game is sponsored by Bricks & Barley. (Fred Mercnik)



Celebrate your happy moments with the NOTL LOCAL!



Advertise in our

# LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

Contact [karen@notllocal.com](mailto:karen@notllocal.com)  
Pricing starts at \$20.



Deadline is Monday at noon.





LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

Classified deadline: Mondays at noon.  
Contact: classified@notllocal.com  
Visit us online at: www.notllocal.com

FUNERAL SERVICES

Niagara's Premier Affordable Funeral Alternative



**Holly Prince-Jensen**  
Licenced Funeral Director



*Considerate*  
CREMATION & BURIAL SERVICES



**Bruce Keating McClelland**  
Licenced Funeral Director

**Compassionate Service for Considerably Less**

**Transparent ... Practical ... No Pressure ... Just Your Wishes**

**Serving the entire Niagara Region**

**1-52 Scott Street West, St. Catharines**  
(between Ontario Street & South Service Road)

**info@CCBSCares.ca • 289-362-1144 • CCBSCares.ca**

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
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			
66					67					68			
69					70						71		

**ACROSS**

1 Maker whose cars go up and down

5 Unfortunately

9 Old Indian coin

13 Individualist

15 --- Marlene

16 Turns

17 Weighty

18 Thought transference

20 San ---, California

22 Correction

23 4th largest Great Lake

24 With regard to

25 Place

26 Contains Jets and Texans

28 Composure

30 Small cell

32 Paces

35 Common subjects in life classes

39 Zits

40 Delhi wraps?

42 S M S

43 Additional clause

45 Financial holdings

47 Doze

49 Calf meat

50 Tennis player's org.

51 Drop in value

54 Small pool lining slab

56 Burrow

58 Unworldliness

60 Storm

63 Truce

65 Ace golfer --- Els

66 Amount

67 "Born Free" lioness

68 Lucifer

69 Was completely certain

70 Raised platform

71 Thanksgiving dish

**DOWN**

1 "Quantum of Solace" actress --- Kurylenko

2 Ripped

3 Very soon

4 Cut

5 Either a male or a female voice

6 Recline

7 Filmmaker Woody ---

8 Jagged mountain range

9 Turkish rulers

10 Asleep

11 Long narrow jacket with a high collar

12 So far

14 Ancient artifacts

19 Song of praise

21 eg. venison, beef, pork etc.

24 Better

26 A long way off

27 An ellipse has two

29 Spring

31 Not manual (Abbr.)

33 Person between 12 and 20

34 Father

36 Dominican-American fashion designer Oscar ---

37 Way out

38 Cease

41 Not fresh

44 Assesses

46 Online attacks

48 Pockmarked

51 Nibble

52 Moses' brother

53 Easy putt

55 Bizet's priestess in "The Pearl Fishers"

57 Start of a divine appeal

59 Perspective

60 eg. Oolong, Darjeeling

61 Now Thailand

62 Sawbucks

64 Long-running Ted Danson show

PUZZLE ANSWERS

**Across:**  
1 Otis, 5 Alas, 9 Anna, 13 Loner, 15 Lili, 16 Goes, 17 Grave, 18 Telepathy, 20 Anselmo, 22 Erasure, 23 Erie, 24 In re, 25 Put, 26 A F C, 28 Calm, 30 AAA, 32 Footsteps, 35 Nudes, 39 Acne, 40 Sars, 42 Text, 43 Rider, 45 Portfolio, 47 Nap, 49 Veal, 50 A T P, 51 Sag, 54 Tile, 56 Lair, 58 Naivete, 60 Tempest, 63 Armistice, 65 Ernie, 66 Come, 67 Elsa, 68 Satan, 69 Knew, 70 Dais, 71 Yams.

**Down:**  
1 Olga, 2 Torn, 3 In a second, 4 Sever, 5 Alto, 6 Lie, 7 Allen, 8 Sierra, 9 Agas, 10 Not up, 11 Nehru, 12 As yet, 14 Relics, 19 Paean, 21 Meats, 24 Improve, 26 Afar, 27 Foci, 29 Leap, 31 Auto, 33 Teen, 34 Sire, 36 De la Renta, 37 Exit, 38 Stop, 41 Stale, 44 Rates, 46 Flames, 48 Pitted, 51 Snack, 52 Aaron, 53 Gimme, 55 Lelia, 57 I pray, 59 View, 60 Teas, 61 Siam, 62 Tens, 64 C S I.

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/>

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**

RENTAL SPACE

Rental space for a Counsellor/Therapist focusing on spiritual, emotional and/or mental health well-being. Rates vary from \$20 - \$25 /hour. Variable rates and times can be discussed. If interested, call Karen at 289-868-9800

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

**classified@notllocal.com**



**Deadline: Mondays at noon.**

VENDORS WANTED

**Calling ALL Vendors!**

**SATURDAY March 2nd**  
**9AM to 3PM ONE DAY ONLY**

**11th ANNUAL NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE HOME GARDEN & CRAFT SHOW**

**Crossroads Public School**  
1350 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

SPONSORED BY:



**EMERALD**  
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE



**DIXON INK**  
PRINTING & DESIGN



**ENGEL & VÖLKERS**



**SHAW FESTIVAL**



**Advance**

**FREE ADMISSION | FREE PARKING**

**FREE Kids Zone**    Find us on Facebook  @notl.homeshow

**FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO BE A VENDOR, SPONSOR OR DONOR CONTACT notlhomeshow@gmail.com**



# NOTL native competing in NASCAR Truck Series

By Mike Balsom  
Special to The Local

Coming off the heels of his debut NASCAR Camping World Truck Series season, Niagara-on-the-Lake native Stewart Friesen is excited about the road and track ahead.

His busy 2018 (23 NASCAR Truck races, 51 DIRTcar Modified races) will be in the rear-view mirror starting Feb. 12. That's when the 2019 DIRTcar season kicks off at Volusia Speedway in Barberville, FLA, followed by the NextEra Energy 250, the first entry in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series, at Daytona Speedway just 3 days later.

Speaking from his home just outside of Albany, NY, where he lives with his wife Jessica and three-year old son Parker, Friesen reflected on 2018 and his goals for the upcoming year. He says his performance in the Truck Series last year was mixed. Though he didn't win a race, his nine top-five finishes and a chance to compete in the Chase for the Championship (he finished seventh out of eight) were definitely positive signs.

The learning curve was steep for Friesen in moving from Dirt racing to the NASCAR Truck Series. He initially started out more aggressively, and soon found he had to adjust to the longer races in the Truck Series. He was forced to become more patient as a driver, he said, and to learn to run the race based on what his No. 52 Chevy Silverado gave him. Friesen is confident that

with one season under his belt, and a great team with Halmar-Friesen Racing, he can attain his goal of winning at least one Truck Series event and placing higher than seventh in the Chase for the Championship this year.

Friesen grew up in the pits at local speedways Ransomville, which his parents owned, and Merrittville. He doesn't get back to NOTL often, so is looking forward to competing once again at his old haunts when the Super DIRTcar Series returns there this August. Though he definitely has ambitions to progress up the NASCAR ladder, Friesen says Dirt racing is his first love, his "bread and butter," and he can't see himself ever fully turning his back on the sport.

He still nurtures a great relationship with the local racing community, he says. Though he builds his cars with his team near his home in New York state, he still uses many parts from local manufacturer Bicknell Racing Products.

About those ambitions: Having started out racing go-karts at 10 years old, Friesen knows his unique selling point to NASCAR success is his almost 26 years of short-track experience. At the same time, he knows NASCAR is very sponsorship-driven. Many of the newcomers to NASCAR are 25 years old or younger, and bring with them a long list of powerful sponsors. Friesen says his own key to success is to do well with the Truck Series, make a name for himself, and to move up the ladder that way.

To that end, he's been busy with his team, pre-

paring both his DIRTcar and Truck Series vehicles for action next month. He'll be travelling with Jessica and Parker for most of the east coast dates, hitting the road in an RV and enjoying family time between stops.

When asked if Parker will follow his father's (and his grandfather's) footsteps, Friesen says he certainly won't push him. And besides, he has to learn how to master his tricycle before he can even think about racing.



Stewart Friesen feels confident as part of the Halmar-Friesen Racing team. (Photo submitted)



Stewart Friesen is looking forward to winning a race with his No. 52 Chevy Silverado in the upcoming season. (Photo submitted)

## 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**

**RJW**

**ANDREWS LAW PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**  
Barristers & Solicitors

**905.468.0081**  
**info@rjwandrews.ca**

**REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS**

**INNOVATIVE KITCHEN DESIGN**

**elmwood** fine custom cabinetry **CABICO**

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

Visit us online at:  
**notllocal.com**

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



# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: SWAG HAIR COMPANY

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

If you haven't been to Swag Hair Company located in Virgil, you are missing out!

The atmosphere in Swag is unique, unlike other salons and spas — from its modern design, layout and the products offered, right down to the music played. Not only does the salon offer the latest in hair trends for men and women, but it also provides a full-service spa. The team at Swag Hair Company are passionate, knowledgeable and believe in responsible beauty.

"We strive to give our clients 100 per cent of our craft each and every time they visit. The products we use in the salon and spa are as natural as possible to ensure the integrity of the hair, nails and skin."

Swag Hair Company has been in business since October 2016 and is growing rapidly. "We are thankful for the amazing support from

our clientele and community and we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our highly skilled and artistic team."

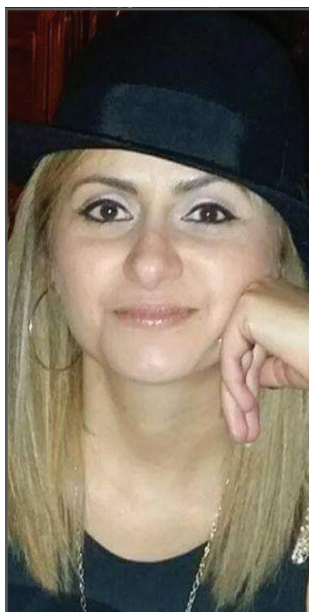


Whitney

Meet Whitney, Esthetician/Skin Specialist/Lash and Brow Stylist. Whitney has more than 13 years of experience in aesthetics and four years in lashing services.

Her bubbly personality has her going above and beyond for her

clients no matter what service they are having. Whitney's professionalism is evident through continuously researching her industry and taking courses to service clients to the best of her ability. She has a very holistic approach, believing in natural, nontoxic products such as RICA, Zoya and Wild Craft Skin Care. Pamper yourself with a spa treatment with Whitney and enjoy a relaxing experience.

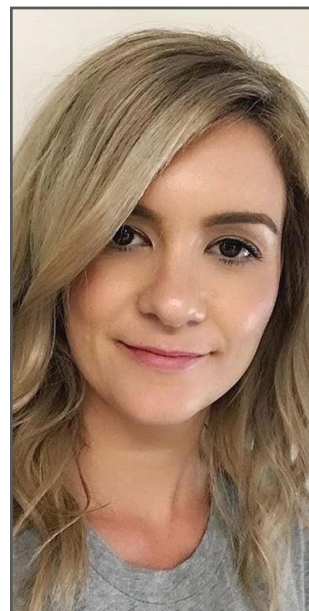


Nadia

Meet Nadia, Colour Specialist. Nadia has 26 years experience in the hair industry, focusing her expertise in all colour services. With training in Ave-da, Goldwell and RICA hair colour, her passion for her profession is shown through her techniques and creative talent. Nadia specializes in all aspects of colour and is constantly keeping up to date with ongoing education so she can provide her clients with the newest and latest in hair colour and hair trends.

Meet Jenn, Stylist/Colourist/Bridal Specialist. The newest member of the Swag team, Jenn brings with her almost 10 years of experience in the hair industry. She has trained with some of the most prestigious names, such as L'Oreal, Redken, and Schwarzkopf and is certified in hair extensions. With her attention

to detail in all aspects of hair, Jenn's passion for bridal up-dos and special event styling showcases her talent.

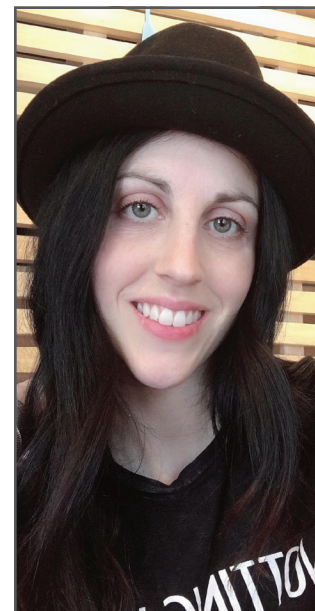


Jenn

Meet Cristina, Stylist/Colourist and Owner. She has 15 years experience in scissor cutting, razor cutting, colouring and beautifying in the hair industry. With training in RICA, Toni & Guy, Vidal Sassoon, Cezanne and many

more under her belt, she is meticulous in her craft. Cristina discovered RICA, a line from Italy with a motto that fits in with her vision for the salon. Cristina is passionate about hair and it can be seen through her excitement, creativity, knowledge and professionalism.

"We've got you covered, let our team pamper you from head to toe!" says Cristina.



Cristina

*The Lash & Brow Bar*  
Available at **SWAG** HAIR CO.

## SPECIALIZING IN

- Lash Extensions • Lash Lifts • Tinting • Brow Design • Facials • Spray Tans
- Manicures • Pedicures - amongst many other esthetic services

**Bring this in and Receive 20% OFF any esthetic service**

\*Cannot be combined with any other offer \*One per client

Reserve your appointments today!

[www.swaghaircompany.ca](http://www.swaghaircompany.ca)



Swag Hair Co.



swaghairco504

504 Line 2 Rd, Virgil | 289 868 8600 | [swaghaircompany@gmail.com](mailto:swaghaircompany@gmail.com)