The Niagara-on-the-Lake



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notllocal.com **FEBRUARY 6, 2020** Volume 2 · Issue 6



Trudy Waldie celebrates her 100th birthday surrounded by friends and family at Upper Canada Lodge Sunday. With her were family members Keith (top), Louise, John, and Betty. (Fred Mercnik)

100th birthday celebrated

Penny Coles The Local

Choosing a healthy diet and avoiding alcohol helped Trudy Waldie reach the age of 100, a birthday that was celebrated over several days, surrounded by family, friends and the Lodge.

She says during her first pregnancy her doctor warned her to stay away from fatty foods and sugar, and although she likes her sweets, "I never over-indulged."

Waldie's daughter Louise Waldie is the only one of Trudy's five children living Niagara-on-the-Lake, in and with her husband Andrew Porteus ensured her mother's birthday was given the honour it deserved.

Trudy says she felt very fortunate to have most of her family, including 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren number 15 on its way —

with her to celebrate. They are spread out across Ontario to Alberta, but made the trip to be with her for her birthday.

"It was quite a celebration. It was lovely to see all the family. I think I'm a very fortunate woman."

The partying took place residents of Upper Canada over five different events, each with its own birthday cake, ending with a dinner celebration at Betty's Restaurant with about 60 family members and friends Saturday, followed by a party at Upper Canada Lodge with family and all the residents Sunday.

She enjoyed being the centre of attention, says Porteus, but found Saturday especially exhausting.

Trudy had lived on her own up until about six months ago, but a series of falls were worrisome, and family decided it was time for her to be where she had care and meals provided.

Continued on page 12

Waterfront situation could become 'catastrophic' Councillors emphasize rising water creates serious situation last Thursday was more or anchor stone wall, in

Penny Coles The Local

Dock Area as a priority, and a situation that could become catastrophic.

A week ago Ron Sim-

and mining engineer com- rains Friday and Satur- lion, with only \$128,000 in piling data on the rising day "were the icing on the 2020 budget. A discussion at the lake level, also predicted the cake," he added in his Town's planning commit- the situation becoming email blast to about 100 the "larger picture," men- alarming, at "precisely the waves that wash onto land. tee meeting Monday night catastrophic if the level people. identified the need for continues to rise. Since A report in the Town's Cameron, referring to the 2019, and still rising."

kus, a Dock Area resident high rates, he says. Heavy totalling more than \$1 mil-

tioned by Coun. Clare same elevation as April 19,

than nine inches higher than the same date in before they hit shore, and 2019, 16-1/2 inches high- more anchor stone and er than the same date in cobble along the shoreline And that doesn't touch January 2017 - and most to prevent erosion from the

the water to break waves

Once that work is finished — the sooner the

shoreline protection in the Friday, Lake Ontario has information package to need for protection from jumped more than anoth- council described sever- shoreline erosion and ing the Town must finish free to focus on mitigating er two inches, most of the al projects for shoreline flooding along other areas the shoreline work already increase due to the Niag- protection on municipal of the lakefront. ara River lowing at record property in the Dock Area,

Simkus reports the lake

Simkus has been stress- better — Town staff will be started in the Dock Area

— the addition of a groyne,

Continued on page 3



2

Town to move ahead with pool fundraising Advertising for fundraising committee members elicited no response

Penny Coles The Local

A fundraising committee for the new St. Davids Pool is moving forward, but it could use some help.

Despite some uncertainty about funding, council was asked and agreed to reaffirm its commitment to replacing the pool, and strike a fundraising committee.

In an update from Kevin Turcotte, the Town's acting director of operations, councillors learned that although staff advertised in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Advance for interested community members to apply for the committee, nobody has come forward and offered to help.

A request for committee members was also posted and then reposted on the Town's website, also with no results.

have been drafted, and will be approved or revised by the committee, once it's been for construction, says Turcotte. formed, the report says.

One of the items discussed at a December council meeting was the cost of the new pool, which had risen to \$5 million from the original projection of \$3 to \$3.5 million.

The increase was due to some changes in the design, includ- could be pursued if necessary, ing more swimming lanes, he added. "We're always lookand was finalized in October, ing for grants." after several opportunities for public input. The 2020 budget earmarks \$100,000 for interest in the committee once the pool, with the fundraising committee charged with raising a portion of the cost. Turcotte is hoping for an infrastructure grant, funded by the federal and provincial governments, along with a municipal to wait, and it was agreed investment.

asked for \$4.74 million, and if successful, 40 per cent would come from the federal government and 33.33 per cent from the Province. The Town would be expected to contribute the remainder, about \$1.2 million, either through its capital budget or fundraising.

The result of the grant appli-The terms of reference cation could mean the project will have to be "pared down," and could also impact the timeline

> "We won't have the answers until we have information on the grant." He's hopeful that having an approved design and shovel-ready project will contribute to a positive to fill out an online application response.

There are other grants that

The report to council says staff believe there will be more the status of the infrastructure grant is known, and at that time, the request for members to serve on a fundraising committee could be reposted.

But councillors don't want Monday that Lord Mayor The grant application Betty Disero would reach out to the St. Davids Ratepayers Association and to the St. Davids Lions Club, asking each to provide two members to sit on the committee. She had already sent the emails by Tuesday morning, and was hoping for a positive response.

Couns. John Wiens and Gary Burroughs have volunteered to sit on the committee.

Burroughs also suggested contacting some of the swimmers who regularly use the pool to help out.

The more bodies the better, says Turcotte, who directs anyone who is interested and has some expertise in fundraising for the committee.



A rendering of the revised design for the pool was shown to residents in October. (Supplied)

Consultants' review of Town's service delivery underway

The consultants will look at

standard residents expect, and

which services are contracted,

shared or delivered by town staff.

much discussed since the begin-

ning of this council term, which

councillors looking for the in-

formation that will be gleaned

from the study to guide their

future decisions. The purpose

of the review, said Deloitte con-

sultant Tony Hamer, is to help

successful "while delivering the

before the final report is pre-

Coun. Clare Cameron made

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

services you want to deliver."

The service review has been

Penny Coles The Local

pected to take until 2022 to com-A discussion about an implete, councillors were told. portant review of service delivery that was a priority of this factors such as which services term of council led to some are legislated and which are heated words Monday night, discretionary, what standard of services are provided and what over the involvement of council.

The Town has used part of its funds from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to hire a consulting company to complete the review.

Deloitte Consulting will work with Town staff on a six-phase study, with the first three phases now underway concurrently, councillors heard during Monday's planning committee meeting.

The study is intended to look for economies, efficiencies, the Town become financially effectiveness and modernization of the Town's service delivery, through talking to senior management and frontline staff, a motion that council see a draft but not councillors.

It will also look at whether pared, in case council has "grave service delivery is aligned with concerns" with the report. council's strategic plan.

A final report is expected to was adamant that a draft report be presented to council in March, to council would be inappropri-

but the implementation of a plan ate and consultants should be to improve service delivery is ex- allowed to do their job without council interference. "I don't want this report publicly tainted," she said, adding, "we might not like it, but this is their report."

Coun. Allan Bisback also opposed a draft report, saying the Town is paying a good consulting company with a team of people working on the review, and council should trust them to do their job. Allowing people to see the draft, and possibly make revisions "is dangerous," he added.

Cameron's response was that while it's not unusual to hear people "slagging council," it was unusual to hear council members slagging each other, insinuating "we're all being dishonest."

"I did not imply any one of you would actually go with this intention," said Disero, adding that seeing a draft could give the impression council was trying to tell the consultants what to say in their report. "Do not interfere," she said.

The debate on the motion to see a draft report was lost on a tie.





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Short-term rentals given extension on fees

Penny Coles The Local

At a January council meeting, short-term rental operators objected to an increase in licensing fees, asking they be tabled until further discussion could little notice. The decision unlicensed establishments, take place.

That hasn't happened, but operators have been Jan. 31. given an extension to pay

the increased fees.

creased to \$325 per room, and complaints regarding an increase of \$207, and short-term rentals, such licensed owners are angry as noise and parking. But the hike was approved for licensed owners have said this year's budget without they are being punished for any consultation, and with issues that are created by was made in December, and that they have no way with the new fees due by of knowing the extent or

The increase is to cover

The fee has been in- cers to deal with problems council asked staff to con- es into two instalments number of complaints.

In order to lessen the

the cost of two bylaw offi- burden of the increase, be reviewed for 2021.

> ning committee Monday, a staff report said Jan. 31 agreed to waive the penalty many operators who expethe off-season."

But splitting the invoic- the report said. sider allowing the fees to be "would be difficult to adpaid over two instalments minister, especially conbeen issued and some oper-In a report to the plan- ators have already paid."

However, staff have "may not be reasonable for on any outstanding invoices until July. This means that rience less bookings during operators will now have until June 30 to pay their fees,

At Monday's planning committee meeting, Coun. Allan Bisback thanked staff for 2020, and that the fees sidering the invoices have for reviewing council's request. He asked for information that would indicate how many of the 400 shortterm rental operators had already paid their fee, and also requested individual operators be told of the extension.

Repairs to pumphouse wall will wait another year

Continued from page 1

the flooding that is expectemphasized. He believes the water will reach a level where flooding is inevitable, and damage control will become the priority.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero asked Interim CAO Sheldon Randall what work will be done on the waterfront this summer. She mentioned the two projects for shoreline protection outlined in the report, and another \$300,000 worth of work in the parkette, and said she and the residents are time. confused about what is planned.

backward and forward," she said. "I want to get a wall and cause further oritized, with the serious handle on what we're do- damage. ing this summer."

tender, and will proceed.

said, will be flooding prerises.

What is not a priority, ing, by waiting. he added, is the crumbling the Niagara Pumphouse Walker is told of the Town's Arts Centre.

ty is still there?"

has been identified as requiring repairs, it isn't an lationship." emergency, Randall says - there is no "immediate looking for federal and risk to life or the structure provincial money to help on the property."

bour to the pumphouse done in the Dock Area on property, owned by the municipal property, and Town, has contracted with councillors stressed that Rankin Construction to he needs to impress upon repair her portion of the higher levels of governretaining wall, at a cost of ment that the situation is up to \$100,000, and was catastrophic. hoping the Town's section could be done at the same ative," said Coun. Allan

the wall on the adjoining If the Town is going to ask "We seem to be going property is not repaired, water can get behind her to have a list that is pri-

But after Randall's dis- phasized. Randall assured coun- cussions with Rankin, a cillors the work on the decision has been made a catastrophe, because I groyne and anchor stone not to proceed with rewall has been put out to pairs to the Town's portion a catastrophe," Bisback of the wall this year. The added. The next priority, he money is not in the budget, he says, and he feels ment that councillors atvention as the water level he might get a better price, and possibly outside fund- as the Association of Mu-

retaining wall in front of ro asked Randall to ensure press the need for funding. decision. It will be hard for visor Brett Ruck, over-Coun. Gary Burroughs Walker to be sitting in her seeing the work in the told Randall the pump- house, getting ready for Dock Area, will provide house "has real concerns the work to be done on her a further update Monday, about the safety of the wall, not knowing what councillors were told.

wall. Will we do it or wait a will happen next door, said year and hope the proper- Disero, asking she be notified, "just so she doesn't Although divers have feel in the dark, that she's ed this spring, Simkus has looked at the wall and it not being ignored. It will go a long way to a good re-

Randall said he will be complete the remain-Peggy Walker, neigh- ing work that needs to be

"I don't want to be neg-Bisback, "but this seems She's been told that if to be a huge shopping list." for money, he said, it has nature of the situation em-

> "This has to sound like think we're moving toward

There was also agreetending conferences such nicipalities of Ontario also Lord Mayor Betty Dise- take every opportunity to

Environmental super-

PHARMASAVE



This photo, taken last July, indicates a crumbling wall in front of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre that needs repairing, but it is not considered a priority. (Penny Coles)



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New deputy chief a long-time volunteer

Penny Coles The Local

As part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department's reorganization of staff, local Darren Trostenko has been given the position lice. of deputy fire chief — or one of them, with the recent be his future as well, but ment of staff, "every one of move to have two deputy chiefs with distinct duties.

Trostenko, who grew up on York Road in St. Davids, brought up their two sons, Eric and Brian, down the road on Paxton Lane (the "old" part of the lane) in St. Davids, — with a short stint living up the road in Stanford until they could afford a home back in the village.

As a boy, he attended the former Mapleleaf School, St. Davids Public School, and then went to Denis Morris High School, continuing to play minor sports in town, including baseball, hockey a volunteer, just going along necessary." and lacrosse.

For the last 30 years, he has been a member of the St. Davids fire station, where he rose through the ranks to the role of district chief.

In recent years, he has had the pleasure of working alongside his younger son, Eric, who is also a volunteer department job, but when firefighter.

Trostenko says he was never one of those boys who dreamed of growing up to be a fireman, and when he joined the department as some of the same years as

professional.

uncle were police officers his father with the regional police force, his uncle with in similar ways, and have the the Ontario Provincial Po-

He thought that might tests showed some colour us has also been a volunteer blindness, which eliminated firefighter," he said. that possibility.

and with his wife Laura has hopes to go that route. Living in Barrie, he has taken fire chief overseeing fire prea police college course and hopes to land a job as a police officer.

> single, Trostenko decided joining the fire department would be an interesting way to spend his spare time outside of work - he started in the lumber business the buzzer goes off, he still resame year he became a volunteer.

> and doing my thing," he said, and he's still a firefighter, but had two calls close together in January he traded a job he enjoyed at Penners Building Centre for a full-time position in the fire department, as deputy chief in charge of a Firelane structure, "Nick operations and training.

> He'd never applied for a lane." this opportunity presented itself, Trostenko said, at 51, "I figured if I was ever going necessary, and not always to do it, I better do it now."

He'd volunteered during benefit. a volunteer, it was not with Fire Chief Nick Ruller, al-

ent stations, and he believed showed him to be "a prov- out a large budget increase. Both his father and his their ideas about the department were aligned.

> "I think we view things for the future."

> Now, with a full comple-

Former fire prevention His older son, Brian, office Jay Plato had already been promoted to deputy vention and community risk reduction.

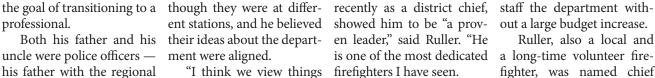
Brad Disher is the new So at 21, when he was fire prevention and public education officer, Darryl Janzen the training officer, and Matt van der Zalm the administrative assistant.

And when Trostenko's sponds, although now more in a command role, "but I "I was always happy to be would still put my gear on if

> When the department recently, he was on his way to the Pillar and Post for a kitchen fire, with Ruller behind him. When the call to pulled off to head to the fire-

> Having administrative staff who are also locals, and have been volunteers, is not the case, he said, but it is a

Trostenko's 30 years in the department, and most



who can compare, especially in attendance."

finding a way to effectively istrative assistants.

Ruller, also a local and is one of the most dedicated a long-time volunteer firefighter, was named chief In Trostenko's career in after a turnover of chiefs in same direction and vision the fire service, Ruller said, the department in the last "there are very few people two to three years, and he explained in his report that there had also been a sig-When Ruller presented nificant turnover of departa report to councillors in ment employees, including December explaining the going through two deputy realignment he was propos- fire chiefs, four training ing, he received praise from officers, three fire preven-Lord Mayor Betty Disero for tion officers and for admin-

Several of them left for higher salaries, some twice the rate paid for the same position in NOTL, with shorter work weeks, he said.

Having two deputy chiefs takes some of the pressure off other employees, the report explains, with no increase in staff, just a reclassification in duties.

The overall impact of fire department staff to the budget was a \$14,000 increase for 2020, which had already been included in the draft budget.



Deputy Fire Chief Darren Trostenko (Penny Coles)

Days of Wine and Chocolate





Over the next three weekends, Feb. 7 to 9, Feb. 14 to 16 and Feb. 21 to 23, the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake are offering wine and chocolate pairings matching VQA wines with chocolate-infused dishes. For more details, visit wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/event/days-of-wine-chocolate. At Reif Estate Winery, Marissa Osborne holds a glass of Reif Estate Semillon, which was paired with ravioli filled with chocolate and parsnips. (Fred Mercnik)

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Elementary public school teachers to strike two days

Penny Coles The Local

In a new building on York Road, across from the Husky Travel Centre, a small staff of four people are working diligently to ensure quality working conditions for local elementary school teachers.

And what's best for the teachers is also what's best for the students, says Jada Nicklefork, president of the Niagara local of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO).

That means, at this time, dealing with ongoing strikes and bargaining talks - or Province.

The ETFO is one of the four major teachers' unions without a contract this school year, all engaged in differing forms of job action in protest.

Nicklefork, who also sits on the ETFO's collective bargaining advisory committee, says union members were hopeful leading up to last week's talks there would be some resolution to the conflict, "that we could get back to normalcy," but after three days, were disappointed there would be no agreement.

Nicklefork said the continuing concern of the union is class size, particularly in Kindergarten and the early grades, and the ability to have both a teacher and an early childhood educator (ECE) in the classroom, which she says is being threatened.

The Ford government has said it is offering a commitment to full-day Kindergarten for next year — what he plans after that is unclear — and wants to increase class sizes.

studies is you need two ture." teachers in the classroom for Kindergarten. The ECE can help with social skills, and the teacher can teach. Without that partnership, there grateful." just isn't enough support for these very young kids."

Some may be on the autism spectrum, but not yet only of today, but for the fu- in their Jan. 23 participation identified as such. Some ture.

and there may be issues of violence, such as biting and kicking, all issues that require more attention than one teacher can provide with a large class of students, she says.

There is also a shortage of resources to identify students with special needs, and to help them once they have been identified.

This strike is not about teachers being greedy, she adds. Doug Ford's government has imposed a one per cent cap on public employees, while the cost of living increase is two per cent.

Following talks last week, lack of them - with the government has said while it has addressed each of the union's issues, it keeps coming back to that extra one percent.

> "Teachers just want to keep up with inflation. They want to have the same buying power today that they had last year."

When the union surveys the teachers about what they want, "money is not even in get it back." the top five issues," she says. "It's all about working conditions, and teachers equate lic sector has been called for that with learning conditions Thursday, with boards also for their students. All teachers want is what's best for strikes. their students."

gotiations for high school teachers is the government's ETFO teachers in the District direction to incorporate online learning into the curriculum. While it doesn't affect elementary teachers now, card time, and elementary says Nicklefork, it could in teachers completed their rethe future. She's heard talk of online classes starting in lefork says, the DSBN and high school and eventually many other boards have reaching Grade 6 students, chosen not to send those reand even if it is restricted to high school students, "it will ricular activities, considered "What we've found from impact all students in the fu- as "struck work," have been

> Elementary school teachers are feeling overwhelming since November 26. support from parents, she says, "and for that we are so Feb. 6 and 7, teachers from

> She believes parents understand teachers are doing what is best for the kids, not side Commisso's, as they did



On Jan. 23, teachers from Crossroads and St. Davids Public Schools were protesting at the Commisso's parking lot in Niagara Falls, with other DSBN teachers, during a day of the school board's rotating strike. (Photo submitted)

of education, and we'll never

A provincial strike of elementary schools in the pub-

The Catholic elementary Another key issue in ne- school teachers in Niagara protested Tuesday, and the School Board of Niagara will be on strike Friday.

> Although this is report porting obligations, Nickport cards home. Extra-curcancelled, with teachers under work to rule instructions

> This Thursday and Friday, Niagara-on-the-Lake public schools will protest at the five corners in Niagara Falls, outin a rotating strike.

may not be toilet-trained, "If we don't fight now, "Our battle is not with

not with the school board. These protests are about visibility, letting others, those resources they need. Some too young to have kids now — our future parents — and why we are striking."

Teachers spend about

"It never has been. It's also there is no money in the budget to pay for them, she says.

"Kids aren't getting the teachers are paying for food and clothing for their stuthan teach."

As for the future, the \$1,000 out of their own pock- union can only hope for ets to pay for school supplies, more talks, but at the moeven necessities such as ment "we're disappointed

that money will be pulled out our parents," Nicklefork says. books and pencils, because this is not progressing," she says.

> "Is the government going to call us back to speak in Toronto? We never know day to day what to expect."

The legislature resumes participating in daily rotating grandparents as well, know dents. Teachers do a lot more in about two weeks, but if the premier decides to legislate teachers back to work before then, he can call an emergency session, a process Ford has called "a last step."





Jada Nicklefork, president of the Niagara local of the elementary public school teachers' union, speaks of the current strike action of teachers from her York Road office. (Penny Coles)

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EDITORIAL

To report or not to report

move by council — to hire a highly reputable and experienced consulting company to review the Town's service delivery — turn into an extremely heated debate.

It was the seasoned politician, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, against newbie Coun. Clare Cameron.

Those who have paid attention to council meetings will have noticed that while Cameron might be a first-term politician, she is a bright, articulate, and a deeply committed member of council with municipal experience from the other side of the table.

It's not the first time she and the lord mayor have disagreed, but it took an unexpected and fierce turn when Cameron took a comment from Disero as an insult to council Monday.

Town had asked Deloitte consultants to review service delivery and tell them what they

It was fascinating to see a are doing wrong and how to debate over a really positive fix it. A report will be presented to council. They can listen to it and make changes to improve service delivery, disagree and do nothing - or decide on many variations in between.

Cameron wanted council to see a draft report. Disero said no, that's inappropriate, don't interfere. Her political experience told her that could lead to contrary to what they are trying trouble. Councillors were not to to accomplish, and would have be part of the review, and Disero made it clear she believes no good could come of them seeing the report.

As in every good debate, there were two sides to the argument. Cameron wants a chance to ensure the review covers what council wants covered. She felt it was a slap in the face to suggest councillors couldn't see a draft without trying to influence the final product.

But if council isn't going The issue was simple. The to recommend changes, voice their opinions or influence its outcome in even the slightest way, why ask to see it?

Councillors may, in fact, not be at all pleased with what they learn from the report. It may not tell them what they want to hear. But the reason behind the decision to pay for outside help is to hire an objective opinion.

In politics, perception is important. Even the faintest hint of trying to influence the outcome would seem completely raised eyebrows.

The vote was a tie. At a council meeting, it would have been broken by the chair, who in this case was Coun. Stuart McCormack. But at a committee meeting, a tie means the vote is defeated, and that means no draft report. It would have been interesting to see how the lawyer on council would have voted.

And it was really gratifying to hear the diverse opinions of a strong group of councillors.

Penny Coles The Local

LOCAL FINDS



CATHARINE YOUNG DIED Oct. 19, 1840 Aged 67 years

This tribute of regard is Erected by the relatives of her Husband JOHN YOUNG Who was drowned in Lake Ontario July 30, 1841

Dead husband's family pays tribute **Donald Combe Special to The Local**

John Young was the man after whom Youngstown, New York was named. Although he had business interests in Youngstown, he lived in Niagara. His last will provided a bequest of 750 pound to St. Andrew's Church, and was used to purchase the manse across from the Simcoe Street church.

Man Goes to the Movies

Donald Combe Special to The Local

1917

1917 is an extraordinary film. I have no other words.

The Gentlemen

Lady Mary Crawley somehow escaped Downton Abbey and found herself part of a group of thugs. Everyone in the film is a thug; however each is beautifully and correctly attired and has charming and engaging ways. A morally decent viewer of the film would be appalled at their behaviour and actions, but I wasn't, I was just terrifically entertained.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. His Facebook reviews have

he has graciously agreed to for The Local.

become popular with his share his opinions through friends and followers, and "short and sweet" exclusives



George MacKay

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake

The trusted voice of our community

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Out with the old



An old chicken barn along the Niagara River Parkway was torn down on the weekend by new owners. (Fred Mercnik)

Children at play outdoors becoming a species at risk

COMMENT



Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

In many of my articles, I refer to certain species at risk the plants and animals trending toward extinction unless conservation action is taken.

I also like to discuss the various risks we take with the natural world and its processes, and the implications that may follow.

For today's risk assessment, I ask any reader to reflect on their age, and then ask yourself - how has risky childhood play changed since, well, your childhood?

Trends in western civilization show kids spending more time indoors, inactive, and

past couple decades. This is not eficial for our development. meant to paint these pastimes with a brush of negativity, as all of these are indeed enjoyable and soothing.

youth are exposed to this lifestyle at such a young age? It's captivating stuff. The screens, the technology, and their ability to entertain and educate alike. A deeper question might be, are the youth comfortable, or are they addicted?

Do the hours logged in such activities replace the hours of more rigorous, risky, and challenging styles of play that youth used to engage in?

On the flip side of the coin, maybe the descriptors I just used could be painted with the brush of dangerous styles of play. But they don't have to be.

I remember a childhood of building ramps with bricks under them, and trying to launch my bike and I over a hedge in But what happens when the front yard, sometimes disastrously. But when I landed, it felt unbelievable.

> My buddies and I built forts across the street in the swamp, and we took on everything from bees' nests, ice-cold soakers, and getting flat-out lost together. I used to drive an ATV with hockey sticks, goalie equipment, and my brother on the back up the escarpment to play road hockey for an afternoon, the sound of frogs all around us and robins bounding from tree to tree. We biked to each other's houses, then went fishing somewhere without a plan.

the only one enjoying those that's a little sad. experiences.

engaged in screen time in the be completely healthy and ben- ories. Those are just my per- used to, and unless my obser- There are so many colours, sonal experiences, but I wasn't vations are misleading, I think

When kids are exploring I don't see kids exploring outside, their senses are being outside and playing in creeks stimulated from all directions and snowbanks as much as I without them being aware.

sounds, and textures available for our brain and body. New and unforeseen challenges come out of the woods, creeks, and sky.

Continued on page 8



And in hindsight, all with This youngster (Bjorgan's friend's child) climbing a tree is gaining plenty of mental and physical In fact, in moderation, they can amazing laughs and rich mem- benefits from this type of outdoor play. (Owen Bjorgan)



Time for tourists and tourist businesses to pay their share

Local Jan 30).

Just read the letter from a B&B owner, who would have tion that these tourist business you believe that we should all thank the tourist's business operators for the wonderful town that we live in. Wherein it is the ratepayers of NOTL that subsidize the tourist business operators by paying for the roads, parks, beautification, upkeep of subsidizing these businesses. It cultural aspects and waterfront is time that tourists and tourist accommodation taxes are the

NOTL, says B&B owner (The business operators use to entice visitors for their own profit.

> But the letter doesn't menoperators do not pay/contribute for the operating costs attributed to tourism. Indeed, these businesses do not contribute because NOTL does not have a commercial tax. So yes, we the ratepayers are directly

fair share towards the maintenance of the infrastructure they enjoy and profit by. No one in this debate is arguing for the elimination of tourism. Just that they pay their fair share.

Those in the accommodation industry need to stop the mindless and unsubstantiated doom and gloom that is attached to the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT). If

be, then hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions around the world would lay empty. It just isn't so! Niagara Falls has an accommodation tax, yet it is cited as a location tourists would go to if NOTL implements a MAT.

Particularly galling are examples of ratepayer benefits of tourism, including increases to property values and that the growth of the town is directly attributed to tourists, by saying

tourists then they wouldn't move here. People move to locations for many reasons ... climate, to be close to family, availability of services, access to transportation, cultural aspects, to be near water, health care services, small town feel, etc. All of which we have here without tourists. If being a tourist is an overriding consideration then we would all be living in Disney World. There can't be a meaningful

Re: Tourism helps support protection that these tourist business operators pay their boogeyman they make it out to if people don't come here first as conversation about how to pay for ever-increasing operating costs by making the MAT a sacred cow that is not to be considered.

It's time tourists and tourist business operators pay their fair share to relieve the tax burden that five members of council have placed on ratepayers. The 8.6 per cent tax increase could be fully eliminated by implementing a MAT.

> Joe Accardo NOTL

Please stop blaming legal short-term rentals

Neighbourhoods (The Local, Ian 30).

I must disagree with the letter that blames the "hollowing out" of Old Town on shortshort-term rentals are too easy to blame.

Re: Hollowing Out of and found the same thing. So short-term rentals are owned please don't pick on cottage and operated by people living rentals for these home vacancies and the "hollowing out" of their rental homes. Old Town.

Short-term vacation rentterm rentals/cottages. It seems als have, for decades, provided in fact paying for the proposed an important option for tour- extra bylaw officers through ists who travel with family, the recently increased licence I also live in Old Town. children and/or pets. These fees. Let's hope these officers There are eight houses on my are the most valuable tour- put an end to the illegal rentals block but only one cottage ists because they stay longer, that don't pay any fees and are rental. Of the eight homes, half typically a week. They are the unregulated. And let us, please, town's best "clients" as they stop blaming legal and regulatshop locally, eat in local restau- ed short-term rental cottages rants, attend the Shaw Festival for "problems." Theatre and wineries. Further-

here in town who take pride in

Despite what the author says, the licensed rentals are

Toy drive helps sick kids, parents Thank you for your kind pital to battle busy crowds of port helped to ensure they did support to Jane Neaves' second

annual Christmas Toy Drive.

who had to spend Christmas in the hospital.

many children and their fam- their child's room Christmas ilies in so many ways. Parents morning. and caregivers felt relief that they did not have to wor- the cancer journey miss out ry about the cost of toys as on events, holidays and celegoing through a cancer di- brations that healthy children agnosis puts many financial get to experience. They often constraints on families. They miss school, birthday parties did not have to think about of friends, going to a mall or leaving their child at the hos- watching a movie. Your sup-

all they want to do is sit by The toys were given to our their child's side. They did not paediatric oncology patients have to think about how they would get gifts to the hospital with the appropriate timing Your support helped so that gifts would appear in

Christmas shoppers, when not miss out on Christmas and all of the happiness and magic the season brings.

Your support helped many children believe Santa brings gifts to children everywhere, even at the hospital.

On behalf of the children, their parents, hematology/on-Children going through cology program and McMaster Children's Hospital, please accept our sincere appreciation and thanks.

are rarely ever occupied and represent second homes for the owners. This seems to be the norm in this part of town. I checked an adjacent street more, over half of the legal

Tony Chisholm NOTL

Maria Restivo, Nate Seroski, Nancy Stefin

Certified Child Life Specialists McMaster Children's Hospital



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THE NOTL LOCAL



Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local

on Astrology I'll look at the full moon in Leo on Sunday, Feb. 9, and the period from Thursday Feb. 6 to Wednesday Feb. 12.

On my podcast I've got a look at Indigenous North American astrology, and the week of Feb. 9 through Saturday, Feb. 15. The website is https://www.lookingupwithbill.com/podcasts.html.

Now, the week ahead.

it. Good health news is here for some of us. And even though the evening is stressful, there's This week on Auchterlonie an opportunity to make things better by making a change in activities. The Great Bambino, Babe Ruth, was born Feb. 6, 1895 in Baltimore. He was often quoted as in: "I only have one superstition: I make sure to touch all the bases when I hit a home run."

Friday, Feb. 7: Venus moves from imaginative Pisces into aggressive Aries this afternoon, and the Moon moves from Thursday, Feb. 6: The sensitive Cancer into loving Moon in Cancer is in a dreamy Leo in the supper hour. So this mood today with an extra bit is a day where feelings change of healing for those who need from soft to fiery. And a chal-

asks us what we really want the future to hold. Changing plans will not be easy. Today is the 46th birthday for NBA MVP (two times) and fine Canadian, Steve Nash. Born in South Africa, Nash grew up in Vancouver, B.C.

Saturday, Feb. 8: This is a pokey day where underlying stress nags at us - or at least most of us – all day long. Try to remain focused on the things and people you love and try to make changes where you can. The First World War flying ace with an airport named after him, Billy Bishop, was born Feb. 8, 1894 in Owen Sound.

hits of any pilot in that war, but gave pop music an extra shot of Second World War.

Sunday, Feb. 9: Oooww it's another full Moon, this time the constellation Leo and at 2:33 a.m. EST. There may be news today that changes your travel plans. In addition to the high emotional energy of the Sun opposite the Moon today, there are eight other connections between the Moon, including Pluto, Saturn, Venus, Uranus, Mars and more. And if that weren't enough, Mercury in Pisces and Pluto in Capricorn connect on an idea that is asking to be recognized and

lenge from Uranus later tonight He is credited with the most taken seriously. The lady who also flew for several years in the creativity, intelligence and love from the late 50's until today, Carol King turns 78. With unforgettable songs like Up on the Roof and Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow she won audiences for decades. She has come out of retirement with a new song, One, to urge America to get healed.

Monday, Feb. 10: Venus and Chiron connect in the middle of the night as the Moon continues through Virgo all day. The best of this Monday is knowing what feels correct and making use of that knowing to heal an old wound. On Feb. 10, 1904, the only Canadian-born world heavyweight champion boxer, and the first to travel the globe to defend his title, Tommy Burns, won a title fight against Jack Palmer in four rounds. made 13 title defences stardust. We are golden." So despite often being the under- shine on!

dog due to his size.

Tuesday, Feb. 11: Most of today it's the Moon in Virgo. At least until 6:37 p.m. when she moves on to balancing, peace-loving Libra. Although this peace isn't so steady, courtesy of stress about the past and the future. People born with the Moon in Libra need extra reassurance that they are loved.

Wednesday, Feb. 12: Mercury in Pisces gets a helping hand from Saturn in Capricorn today. It's an improvement on an idea that you likely have already thought of. And that's good because once again, that Moon in Libra is being stressed out by other things in the sky.

Next week is the third quarter Moon in Scorpio on Saturday, Feb. 15. That and more, next week on Auchterlonie on Astrology here in The Local.

Joni Mitchell said: "We are

Kids thrive in outdoors

Continued from page 7

And it unfolds at random, bevond our control. When kids are found in an environment where their senses are being woken with a sense of wonder, there are countless mental and physical benefits to be derived. They have entered the curiosity slipstream.

Youngsters walking over roots and rocks, balancing on logs over the water, or climbing up the hillsides are using every muscle group at least once, you can bet. As young human bodies develop, familiarization between the growing skeleton and its muscle groups are key. It sets the tone and baseline strength for good adult posture one day, and gives them a sense of awareness when it comes to their physical surroundings.

Time spent outdoors also installs resilience in kids. They begin to accept that not just things in nature, but things in life are going to be beyond their control sometimes. Be patient with the weather, the bugs, the boss, or the obstacles across the path. The intertwining of nature-taught scenarios and daily

swear they do it on purpose).

I revisited some childhood moments this past weekend. I was out with friends in some deep woods in Niagara, walking across barely frozen ponds and wondering if we'd break through, challenging one another from the other side. I also purchased a sled, so we could tow it around in the fresh powdery snow for a good laugh.

Some adrenaline, laughter, muscle usage, and good times with good friends.

I spend a lot of time around youth for my work. I might be wrong, but I can feel the difference of childhood play and attitudes before me — and we're not even a full generation apart technically. Something seems to have happened about 10 years ago. Maybe social media got too interesting, TV got too good, and the cozy indoors got even cozier.

I guess I'm still a big kid myself.

With sufficient studies showing the link between outdoor physical activity and overall wellbeing, it would be nice to see more kids outside and life lessons is indisputable. I get reaping the benefits. Thanka kick out of watching kids who fully, let's not forget NOTL is celebrate rain and thunder- one of the safest places going storms, and don't mind wiping in terms of both nature and out in the mud (sometimes I human factors to get outdoors.



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Congratulations on Local's first anniversary

Congratulations Penny Coles and Karen Skeoch for your first anniversary of publishing The Local. You have

earned a reason to celebrate.

I enjoy receiving The Local as I had for so many years receiving the Niagara Advance.

For the years Penny was editor at the Advance, she brought with her the ethical

and informed reporting to Niagara-on-the-Lake citizens that is carried through to The Local.

Your efforts do not go without notice.

I wish you both continued success. It is comforting some good efforts do not change.

> **Nellie Keeler** NOTL

Fisherman makes gruesome discovery along parkway

Penny Coles The Local

A number of dead coyotes on the slope from the Niagara River Parkway cal. trail down to the gorge will remain where they are, left Parks Commission police, to decompose naturally.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Abraham Peterson had just finished doing a bit of fishing in Queenmade the gruesome discovery.

He was heading from Queenston back toward NOTL along the Niagara River Parkway in his truck or three reports" from the when he pulled over to read a plaque on the side of spread out in a few differthe road.

Over the fence from where he stood, down the embankment to the Niagara River, were a number of dead coyotes.

They weren't all easy to and leaves, but there were several, he said.

but believing he should re- trieve them," said Forcier. port what he was seeing, he

called the Niagara Region- body likes to see animals be picked up safely they stock," and they have been plaints, nobody has witcall the Niagara Falls Hu- and it's unfortunate it's oc- clearly not the case." mane Society.

He also called The Lo-

A call to the Niagara since the coyotes are on parks property, brought a return call from Parks Police Chief Paul Forcier.

They've had reports ston Tuesday, when he before about the coyotes, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. "We didn't see anything fresh," he said.

There have been "two public, and coyotes are ent locations, all on the slope down to the gorge, he said. It was determined it would be dangerous to try to remove them, and since they are not in an area accessible to the pubsee, hidden by branches lic, it was decided to leave them where they are.

"We're not going to Not sure who to call, put anyone at risk to recurred," he said.

al Police, who suggested he dumped in that manner, would do that, "but that's dumped on more than one nessed the activity or reoccasion, according to re-It's possible they were ports, he said, but although plate number, making it If an animal could "dispatched to protect live- they've received com- impractical to investigate.

ported a vehicle or licence



"We're troubled by it. No- There are several dead coyotes on the slope from the Niagara River Parkway to the gorge. (Fred Mercnik)



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home into an extraordinary space. Bathrooms are an easy transformation with the powerful combinations of the right colour and the right paint. Be inspired by vibrant hues and stunning colour combinations to create big looks for modestly sized spaces.

Whether you want a spalike sanctuary in your master bath or a bold gesture of colour in your powder room to wow your guests, transforming or updating your bathroom can be easy with the right paint.

most personal space. Create a spa-like environment with a soothing paint colour that nurtures rest and relaxation. Consider calming hues like Palladian Blue HC-144, Raindance 1572 or Italian Ice Cream 2035-70 to create a tranquil environment while still adding a pop of colour and character to your right paint? When it comes to space.

combinations of both colour no longer your only option. values - invite us to relax, providing a calming ambience & Spa provides exceptional duand stress relieving environ-

settings. Greens are seen as a healing colour, but can be tricky. Although they are incredibly soothing they can cast unflattering undertones if you choose the wrong green for your space, and mornings are tough enough without an unflattering cast of green on your morning routine.

A modestly sized powder room can leave an immense impression on your guests. Play with colour and create a bold space with saturated colours like Azure Water 677 or Varsity Your master bath is your Blues 756, which can bring a lot of ambience to a small space.

> For visual flow, always be sure to choose paint colours that share the same cool or warm undertones as the walls in the adjoining rooms to your bathroom.

Now that you have the right colour, what about the avoiding the unsightly effects Pale blues and greens and of humidity, a glossy finish is The matte finish of Aura Bath rability, colour retention and



mildew resistance in high-humidity environments. A matte finish that delivers a sense of softness to bathrooms where hard surfaces like tile, mirrors and metal fixtures abound.

Looking to update more than just the wall colour in your bathroom? Then try playing with different textures and finishes. Mixing stone, glass and wood elements can bring nature's beauty indoors, and awaken other senses within the space. Fabrics, plants, prints and décor add texture to your aesthetic as well, as the trends this year focus not just on colour, but sustainable, organic and responsible uses of design elements.

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11



Friends of Fort George executive director Amanda Gamble, town crier Thomas Pekar, Chris Thompson and Tony Chisholm at last year's sell-out whisky tasting. (Photo supplied)

Annual whisky tasting at Navy Hall coming up

Penny Coles The Local

What job could be more perfect for a whisky-lover than brand ambassador for Forty Creek Distillery?

It is that love of whisky, his knowledge and his sto-Chris Thompson the perfect and how to make it fun." host for the annual whis-Friends of Fort George.

what he does. He's very en- d'oeuvres. tertaining, and he has some great stories. He explains es one new whisky a year, the background of whisky which will be one of the evolution in Canada and the seven offered at the tasting, Hall, where the event will ence, make it a great place gap Forty Creek is filling," says Chisholm. "And Chris be held, only 75 tickets will for a whisky tasting, he addsays Chisholm. "This is his is very generous with his be sold, and although there ed. full-time job, travelling all servings. They are signifiover North America to do it. cant samples." ry-telling ability that make He knows that's interesting

ky-tasting event, says Tony third year, organized by The great ideas. She checks with atmosphere." Chisholm, president of The Friends, the event will pair Chris on what goes with seven Forty Creek whisky what, and does a great job. George like to plan events perience for them, and they george.ca to reserve your

Errin Lockard of Sweets

seven courses, and we're the history of Navy Hall as a back this year." again."

are tickets still available, last year was sold out.

and Swirls is providing the says Chisholm. "There is a ple from upstate New York gram at Fort George. Back at Navy Hall for the food, "and she has some fire roaring, and it's a great who attended the event and

The Friends of Fort

Forty Creek introduc- pleased to have her involved place where soldiers might have enjoyed a whisky or Feb. 21 at 7 p.m., are \$45 per Given the size of Navy two, along with its ambi-

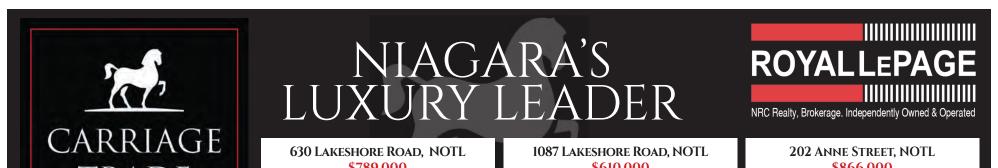
> new faces every year — last much-needed funds to cov-"It's the perfect venue," year, there were some peo- er wages of the summer proreally enjoyed it.

"Chris is very good at samples with extensive hors She's basically providing that fit an 1812 theme, and said they wanted to come spot.

Tickets for the event, person, which includes the food and whisky.

Forty Creek donates the whisky for the event, says He especially likes to see Chisholm, which raises

Call The Friends of Fort George at 905-468-6621 or "It was a whole new ex- email admin@friendsoffort-





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Centenarian **Ioves life at Upper Canada Lodge**

Continued from page 1

Now in a wheelchair, Trudy says it's only temporary until she can get her strength back. She was and is now having physiotherapy with a goal of being able to walk again.

She says she feels very grateful to have family coming to see her regularly, and since moving into Upper Canada Lodge has become good friends with Jean Cochrane, who used to write a gardening colvance.

gardening," says Trudy she left that up to her husband Gordon — but she Lodge. (Fred Mercnik)

speaks with pride of the African violets she tended in her home every winter, which Gordon then would take to market.

Sitting in the bright very ill over Christmas, common area of Upper Canada Lodge, sunshine streaming through the windows, she says she enjoys the regular interdenominational church services, the concerts, and chatting with her friend. Her room looks out on a garden which will be beautiful in the summer.

umn for the Niagara Ad- Trudy Waldie is congratulated by MPP Wayne Gates and "I was never much for Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who attended the 100th birthday celebrations at Upper Canada





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THE NOTL LOCAL February 6, 2020

Documentary at Shaw draws afternoon crowd

Kim Wade **Special to The Local**

Leave it to the Shaw Festival to make going to see a movie an experience.

An afternoon at the Shaw Film Series comes complete with first-rate wine, an exceptional gourmet lunch and an award-winning film.

Although the film didn't start until 3 p.m., ticket holders began arriving at about 1:30 p.m. to meet up with friends, grab a glass of wine and socialize. Others enjoyed the lunch menu from Gooddine Catering before the 3 p.m. screening of the she says. heart-warming documentary The Biggest little Farm.

set up by the entrances to the Ann-Louise Branscombe. theatre. Nancy Mouget, who is usually accompanied by her husband Alfred, enlisted fellow volunteer Shirley Rednall to help her with ticket sales this week.

According to Mouget, they have raised approximately \$500 a week from raffle tickets sales, "which becomes significant over the course of the film series." All proceeds from the raffle go to the Shaw Festival General Fund. The prizes for this week's draw were a \$100 gift certificate from the Garrison House Restaurant and a din-

Oh Canada, Eh?, valued at \$140. Past sponsors for the weekly raffle prizes have been Treadwell Restaurant and Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery.

Mouget, a former Shaw board member, has been involved with the festival for more than 30 years. She has been attending the film series since its beginning in 2006. "Shaw makes the town," she says.

She was happy to see a documentary was being screened this week. She misses the time when the Shaw showed documentaries regularly. "Friday night documentaries are missed by many,"

Other raffle ticket volunteers were Ginny Doug-Raffle ticket tables were las, Connie Costanzo, and

> Gooddine Catering has been serving up gourmet lunch offerings every week during the film series, which will continue until the end of in hand and full bellies. February. They offered ham hock and white bean soup with mixed greens salad, butternut squash risotto and red curry veggie lettuce wrap. After this series ends, Gooddine Catering will return in the summer with a pop-up mobile kitchen in the parking lot chronicles all their trials and of the Shaw Festival.

As lobby lights beckoned the crowd to their seats, audience members began to mener and show for two from ander into the theatre, wine scribed it this way: "The

Feature your business in our



Ginny Douglas, Connie Costanzo and Ann-Louise Branscombe sell raffle tickets as the crowd waits for the documentary to start Saturday afternoon. (Photos by Kim Wade)

The featured movie for this week was The Biggest lit*tle Farm*, a documentary that follows a young couple and their dog, while they worked hard to make their dream of owning and operating a traditional farm a reality. It triumphs over a nine-year period.

Beth Webb, from the film magazine, Empire, dedocumentary will temporarily draw you away from the filling tale of endurance."

won third place in the People's tion in a feature film. Choice Award in the documentary category at the 2018 Toronto International Film Feb. 15. This film was featured Festival (TIFF). That same at TIFF in 2019, and won the year, next week's feature film, The Grizzlies, was nominated for best Canadian first feature views. However, with this film with director, Miranda film's recent awards and rerede Pencier.

shown on Feb. 8. The film is Film Series. The potential au-

gentle rhythm of this timely, based on a true story about environmentally conscious a youth lacrosse team that bands together to combat youth suicide in Kuglugtuk, world of tiny screens into a Nunavut. After its premiere partially ambiguous yet ful- at TIFF, the director went on to win the Directors Guild of The Biggest little Farm Canada award for best direc-

The film Jojo Rabbit is scheduled to be shown on People's Choice award amid controversy and mixed release, organizers haven't been The Grizzlies will be able to confirm it for the Shaw

dience is assured there will be a solid backup that is aimed to please.

The final film of this year's series, Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood, will light up the screen on Feb. 22. This film did not play at TIFF but did go on to be nominated and win several awards, including winning three Golden Globe awards for best motion picture, best screen play and best performance by an actor in a supporting role in a motion picture (Brad Pitt).

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the box office or online at https://www.shawfest.com/event/film-series/.



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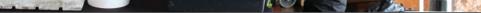
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Tyler Heath of Gooddine Catering prepares food at the Shaw Festival Film Series.



Volunteers Shirley Rednall and Nancy Mouget sell raffle tickets at the Shaw film series.

Local chef provides dinners to Snow Globe Soirees

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

Ryan Crawford of Backhouse Restaurant will be supplying the menu for one of the most unique Niagara dining experiences this weekend.

Sponsored by the Niagara Icewine Festival, in partnership with the Niagara Parks Commission, Crawford and his staff will be serving a gourmet meal at the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, in 10 igloo-like snow globes overlooking Niagara Falls.

Crawford is the latest Niagara chef to have the opportunity to provide the menu for this once-in-alifetime dining experience.

"It's a great chance for all the chefs to showcase Niagara cuisine," he says. "I think all of us try to promote and use local ingredients as much as we can. job on both fronts. Serving at the brink of the Falls, in these awesome a fried egg-white mousse snow globes, it's super exciting."

Dorian Anderson, of the Niagara Icewine Festival, says the response to the Snow Globe Soiree dining experience has been phenomenal. "Our first week that we launched, we had over 500 people on an information/waiting list, and

we had chefs lining up to give it a try, which is amazing, because it's a different kind of service."

Indeed, Crawford will be working hard back at the restaurant to prepare much of the menu before heading to the snow globes, which are located just below the entrance to the zipline on the Niagara Parkway. And he'll be bringing a staff of six servers, two team leaders, and three or four people working in the trailer that subs for a kitchen onsite.

The five weekends of the Snow Globe Soiree are part of the 25th anniversary of the Icewine Festival. Anderson says, in choosing the chefs to participate, it was important that their proposed menus were both seasonal and effectively incorporated icewine into the fare.

Crawford's menu for will choose between three this weekend does a great different options, all based

Diners will be enjoying ford at his four-acre farm. with an icewine bacon dipper, or Jerusalem artichoke soup with burnt pear and celery root for the appetizer. For the main course, they will choose between squash, so it's super fun to a surf and turf of sorts, with aged beef and Ontario shrimp, Colaphore Springs Trout, or local fresh Niagara mushroom and gnocchi wrap up with some toasted

Snow Globe Soirees set up by Niagara Falls offer an unusual dining experience. (Mike Balsom)

ragout. For dessert, diners marshmallows. in squash grown by Craw-

"Everything right now is coming from our root cellar," says Crawford. "We had some awesome Jerusalem artichoke, and we grew about 12 different types of incorporate the squash in the dessert."

True to the Backhouse tradition, the evening will

Crawford had a chance to check out the setup last chilly. It's Canada. It's winweekend. With some light ter. We're Canadians. It's snow falling, he felt the ambience of the snow globes globes), it's more like a Feb. 6 through Feb. 9. Visit was perfect.

tle bit chilly?" he asks. "Of course it's going to be not freezing (in the snow at the Snow Globe Soiree warm, wrapped-up-by-the-"Is it going to be a lit- fireplace feeling. It's a Cana- for information.

diana experience, and what better way to showcase our cool climate cuisine."

Crawford will be serving Niagarawinefestival.com



Ryan Crawford, owner and chef of Backhouse, is one of the chefs who has the opportunity to provide meals at the Snow Globe Soirees. (Photo supplied)



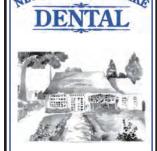
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Kindergarten at Crossroads – a great place to be

Kindergarten classes have been busy exploring, building, problem solving, creating, and having fun, as they learn.



A group of Crossroads Kinders repurposed Christmas trees after the holiday and built a fort.



Kindergarten students are making 20 cards to send to 20 different classes across Canada, along with a letter about Crossroads Public School and its community. Students, in turn, will receive 20 cards and letters from 20 different classes across Canada, telling them about their schools and communities. So exciting! Making cards for The Great Valentine Swap are Christian Gossen, Alex Lilly, Hank Neaumann, Kayla Thwaites, Maddy MacPherson, Issie Thwaites, and Frannie Baskin. They are excited to show their work! (Photos supplied)



Leonard Renda and Hunter Berry work on writing words Rory Paget and Markus Doan create books in response to and sentencing





stories they have read.





Hank Neumann and Nash Funk enjoy playing a game together.



Amanda Blair creates a colourful painting.

Bella Doan represents the number eight in a variety of ways.

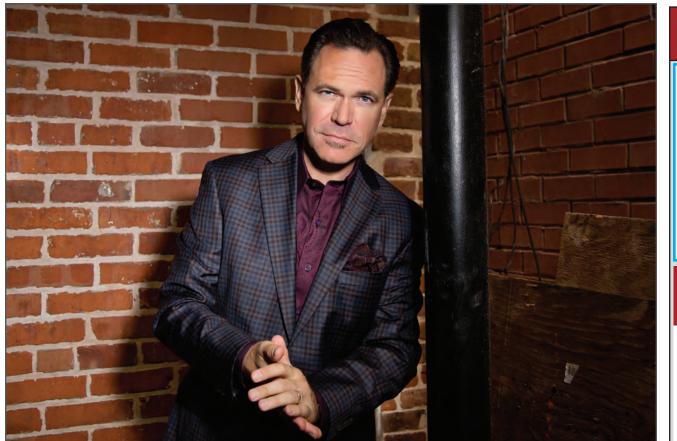


Madeleine Friesen works with clay.

Tessa Davis, Colton Meleskie, and Owen Thorimbert build Kennith Lauber and Nathan Muir create 3D structures. unique Lego creations.



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			AL The Ward of Decaration of the Second Seco



Kurt Elling (Photo supplied)

Bravo Niagara! presents Kurt Elling in concert Saturday

Mike Balsom **Special to The Local**

Niagara residents will have the rare chance to catch a live performance from one of the world's most renowned jazz vocalists next week.

Bravo Niagara! brings Grammy Award winner Kurt Elling to the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines February 14th.

The concert is being billed as A Century of Heroes. Elling and his ace band - Stu Mindeman on piano, Clark Sommers on bass, Ulysses Owens Jr. behind the drum kit, Troy Roberts playing saxophone and Tito Carrillo on trumpet — take on the music of Frank Sinatra, Billy Eckstine, Jon Hendricks and Nancy Wilson.

In addition to his Grammy Award, Elling has won male singer of the year in the Downbeat Critics Poll 13 times, the Downbeat Readers' Poll seven times, and the Jazz-

presenting the Elling concert. The pair attended Jazz Congress at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City a couple of years ago, where Elling's agent reached out to them. Since then, they have been working to find a date to bring Elling here to Niagara.

Before an earlier stop in San Diego, the Chicago-born singer referred to the show as a "chance to take a break from all the heavy stuff that's going on," and to point everyone's attention back to his predecessors, the male and female singers who have made his work possible.

One of the premier jazz vocalists of today, Elling is often compared to Sinatra, and hearing his rich baritone and four-octave range take on some of the Chairman of the Board's most well-known for jazz fans.

On a completely different occasions. He has also taken songs linked to "vocalese" along with her mother, Chris- and-blues influences of Nan- year have been sold out.

vo Niagara!, are thrilled to be swing stylings for which Billy Eckstine was known.

> At previous stops on the Century of Heroes tour, Elling and his band have also performed classics from Nat "King" Cole, Louis Armstrong and Shirley Horn.

> Spieldenner says the evening fits in perfectly with the Bravo Niagara! mandate, which is to give concertgoers a rare opportunity to experience the world's leading artists, whether it's a large-scale jazz concert or an intimate classical recital.

> As an added option, since the Elling concert is on Feb. 14, Bravo Niagara! has partnered with Ravine Vineyard to offer a special Valentine's Day dinner and concert package, which includes a concert ticket and a three-course pre-concert dinner at Ravine with wine and a glass of sparkling.

Spieldenner promises a songs will certainly be a treat sneak peek of one of next year's concerts will be revealed at the Elling concert, as well as some Times Readers' Poll on eight note, Elling will also perform information about a special collaboration in 2020-2021 home awards from Germany, and scat-singing master Jon with the FirstOntario PAC. Poland, the UK and Scotland. Hendricks. The evening will She is thrilled that a number Vineyard, and other upcom-Alexis Spieldenner, who, be rounded out by the soul- of Bravo Niagara! events this ing Bravo Niagara! shows, are

sical guitarist Milos Karadaglic will be appearing at St. Mark's Anglican Church on May 15. Karadaglic, based in London, released his latest album, Sound of Silence, last summer. He is returning to the Bravo Niagara! lineup, having last appeared at a 2017-2018 season's fundraising dinner.

On April 5, Bravo Niagara! presents the Canadian debut of the Brubeck Brothers Quartet's Dave Brubeck Centennial Celebration at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. Their season wraps up with a spring weekend of concerts in Niagara-on-the-Lake. On May 2, it's a new project, From Broadway, With Love, featuring three Broadway stars from Les Mis, Phantom of the Opera, and more. Things wrap up May 3 with two world-renowned virtuosos in recital: pianist and Order of Canada recipient Jon Kimura Parker, and renowned violinist Cho-Liang Lin performing on the 1715 Titian Stradivarius.

Tickets for the Kurt Elling performance, dinner at Ravine

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February 7 @ 7:30 p.m. Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole

February 9 @ 2:30 p.m. **Africville Stories**

February 11 @ 6 p.m. Dog Man: The Musical

February 14 @ 8:00 p.m. **Bravo Niagara! presents Kurt Elling**

February 15 @ 7:30 p.m & 16 @ 2:30 p.m. **NSO presents POPS! 3 Music of the Knights**

> February 16 @ 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. An Evening of Adult Puppetry

February 17 @ 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show

February 21 @ 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Jazz Orchestra

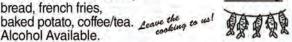
February 23 @ 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Les Ballets Jazz De Montreal presents Leonard Cohen's Dance Me

> February 27 to February 29 The Archivist by Shaista Latif www.FirstOntarioPAC.ca



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

Price includes: Coleslaw, Fish Fry



Lions Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St. Davids www.stdavidslions.ca @ stdavidslions on Facebook Next Family Fish Fry ~ Friday February 21st

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tine Mori, the founders of Bra- cy Wilson's repertoire and the

still available. Visit bravoniag-Next on the schedule, clasara.org for information.

tions. 905-468-2023 or www.notlpubliclibrary.org.

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February 7-9 @ 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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FUNERAL SERVICES



GRETZINGER, ADELLA—Passed away peacefully at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, surrounded by family, on January 30, 2020 at the age of 88. Beloved wife of the late Bruno (2018) for 67 years. Loving mother of Ken (Cindy), Dianne McGinn (Lawrence), Janet Marcynuk (Ed) and Gary. Proud grandmother of Jeremy (Sue), Benjamin (Nicola), Neal (Amy), Ryan (Renée), Holly (Graham), Jessica (Rob), Kevin, Sarah, Adam; step-grandmother of Selena (Trevor),

Heather (Larry), Bonnie (Anton) and Leslie (Scott); and great grandmother of 27. Survived by her sister-in-law Donna and brother-in-law Benjamin. Aunt to many nieces and nephews. Adella lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake where she worked with her late husband Bruno at the John Deere dealership for many years. Adella loved to knit and crochet, making many beautiful hats and scarves, which she donated to Project Share.

OBITUARY

Cremation has taken place. The family received friends at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday February 2, 2020 from 2-4 pm. Funeral service was held at the funeral home on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 11 o'clock. Private interment at a later date. For those who

IN MEMORIAM

wish, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



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May the peace that comes from the memories of a love shared, comfort you. Remember them with a Loving Tribute.

Contact: classified@notllocal.com or call 905-641-5335

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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13 In case 15 Tennis ace --- Sampras 16 Fault 17 A law --- himself 18 Behavioral and learning problem 19 Refractor 20 Resident of Rabat, perhaps 22 Fragile 23 Sis sib. 24 Faith 26 E.g. United Way 28 Frightening 29 1/1000 inches 32 News exclusives 35 Alliance of some former Soviet countries

8 Tenet

- 36 Buffalo Bill
- 37 Where we all started
- 38 Consequence of driving over a nail
- 40 Baking chamber
- 41 Copies
- 42 Female deer
- 43 Resident of Damascus, e.g.

54 Wanness 57 Gunfight 59 Elite group 60 Turkish currency 61 Software test version 62 Below 63 Arthurian lady 64 Bohemian 65 Jottings 66 They hatch 67 Distress message

51 Navigational aid

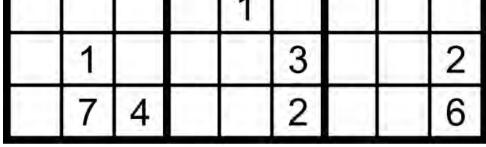
Down:

1 Exactly vertical

- 2 E.g. Pavarotti
- 3 Stargazer
- 4 Room
- 5 Foot controls
- 6 Type of war crime
- 7 Espouse
- 8 Arrange in battle formation
- 9 Utah senator --- Hatch
- 10 Dismal
- 11 Rolling stones lack it, but
 - the Rolling Stones don't
- 27 Sailors 29 Cinema buffs 30 Notion 31 Coal Miner's Daughter, Loretta ---32 Exchange 33 Manage 34 More morose 36 Volume of wood 39 Golfer's shout 44 Up-and-down toy 46 Inviting smells 47 Lou ---, baseballer who gave his name to a disease 49 Angry stare 50 Highways 52 Renaissance cherub 53 Remains 54 Annoying person

25 Earth goddess

- 55 Periodic Table abbr.
- 56 Departed
- 58 Details not yet set (Abbr.)
- 60 Sheltered side



PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from January 30, 2020

At No, 56 Left, 58 T B A, 60 Lee. Aromas, 47 Gehrig, 49 Glare, 50 Roads, 52 Putto, 53 Stays, 54 Pain, 55

Lynn, 32 Swap, 33 Cope, 34 Sadder, 36 Cord, 39 Fore, 44 Yo-yo, 46 Too, 21 Crop, 22 Firsts, 25 Gaia, 27 Gobs, 29 Moviegoers, 30 Idea, 31 41, YmmA St, asoM 11, imin 01, inim 09, yolqed 8, beW 7, gnianseb Down: 1 Plumb, 2 Tenor, 3 Astronomer, 4 Space, 5 Pedals, 6 Ethnic

Beta, 62 Infra, 63 Enid, 64 Arty, 65 Notes, 66 Eggs, 67 S O S. 49 Greenery, 51 G P S, 54 Pallor, 57 Shoot-out, 59 A-team, 60 Lira, 61 A flat, 40 Oven, 41 Apes, 42 Doe, 43 Syrian, 45 Per, 46 A drag, 48 Ode, N-G O, 28 Scary, 29 Mil, 32 Scoops, 35 C I S, 36 Cody, 37 Womb, 38 18 A D H D, 19 Prism, 20 Moroccan, 22 Flimsy, 23 Bro, 24 Religion, 26 Across: 1 P T A, 4 Spew, 8 Dogma, 13 Lest, 15 Pete, 16 Error, 17 Unto,

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



A group of 40 bridge players enjoy a morning of bridge and brunch at the Queenston Heights Restaurant. (Photos supplied)

Bridge and brunch for 40 at Queenston Heights

Saturday at the first Bridge as other fun categories, Queenston Heights Restaurant.

Organized by Marlene the bridge community. Walther and supported by the Niagara Parks Commission, the day started with cious," says Walther. bridge at 9:30 a.m., followed by brunch at 12:30 p.m.

the worst score, for driv-

A group of 40 bridge down, for doubling the op- was won by Kathy Swayze players had a great time on ponent for penalty, as well from Welland. & Brunch event offered for says Walther. Players from were two Niagara Parks social bridge players at the all over the Niagara region water bottles and cooler mixed and mingled and bags, won by Linda Cammade many new friends in panelli from Fonthill and

tiful and the food was deli- gift card won by Nancy

In attendance was Kim on-the-Lake. Viney, senior director of Prizes were awarded for business development for comment at the end of those with the best score, Niagara Parks, who picked the day, says Walther, was: the grand prize-winning "When are we doing this ing the farthest, having ticket of two passes to all 11 again?'s So, stay tuned for the most number of tricks Niagara Parks attractions. It the next one."

The other door prizes Mary Lou Bradley from "The setting was beau- Grimsby, and a \$25 LCBO Kemball from Niagara-

The most often heard



Kathy Swayze was the lucky winner of the prize drawn by Kim Viney of Niagara Parks.



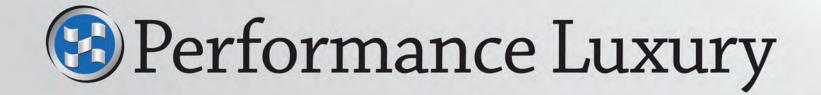
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