100th birthday celebrated

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 residents of Upper Canada 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 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, 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 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.

Waterfront situation could become ‘catastrophic’

Councillors emphasize rising water creates serious situation

Penny Coles
The Local

A discussion at the Town’s planning committee meeting Monday night identified the need for shoreline protection in the Dock Area as a priority, and a situation that could become catastrophic.

A week ago Ron Simkus, a Dock Area resident and mining engineer compiling data on the rising lake level, also predicted the situation becoming catastrophic if the level continues to rise. Since Friday, Lake Ontario has jumped more than another two inches, most of the increase due to the Niagara River flowing at record high rates, he says. Heavy rains Friday and Saturday “were the icing on the cake,” he added in his email blast to about 100 people.

A report in the Town’s information package to council described several projects for shoreline protection on municipal property in the Dock Area, totalling more than $1 million, with only $128,000 in the 2020 budget.

And that doesn’t touch the “larger picture,” mention by Coun. Clare Cameron, referring to the need for protection from shoreline erosion and flooding along other areas of the lakefront.

Simkus reports the lake last Thursday was more than nine inches higher than the same date in 2019, 16-1/2 inches higher than the same date in January 2017 — and most alarming, at “precisely the same elevation as April 19, 2019, and still rising.”

Simkus has been stressing the Town must finish the shoreline work already started in the Dock Area — the addition of a groyne, or anchor stone wall, in the water to break waves before they hit shore, and more anchor stone and cobble along the shoreline to prevent erosion from the waves that wash onto land.

Once that work is finished — the sooner the better — Town staff will be free to focus on mitigating...
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.

The terms of reference have been drafted, and will be approved or revised by the committee, once it’s been formed, the report says. The terms of reference will have to be “pared down,” and could impact the timeline for construction, says Turcotte.

“We won’t have the answers until we have information on the grant,” he said. “It’s hopeful that having an approved design and shovel-ready project will contribute to a positive response.

There are other grants that could be pursued if necessary, he added. “We’re already looking for grants.”

The report to council says staff believe there will be more interest in the committee once 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 to wait, and it was agreed Monday that Lord Mayor Betty Ducoy 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.

Coun. 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 to fill out an online application for the committee.

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

A discussion about an important review of service delivery that was a priority of this term of council led to some heated words Monday night, over the involvement of councillors.

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 and modernization of the Town’s service delivery, through talking to senior management and frontline staff, but not councillors.

It will also look at whether service delivery is aligned with council’s strategic plan.

A final report is expected to be presented to council in March, but the implementation of a plan to improve service delivery is expected to take until 2022 to complete, councillors were told.

The consultants will look at factors such as which services are legislated and which are discretionary, what standard of services are provided and what standard residents expect, and which services are contracted, shared or delivered by town staff.

The service review has been much discussed since the beginning of this council term, which councillors looking for the information that will be gleaned from the study to guide their future decisions. The purpose of the review, said Deloitte consultant Tony Hamer, is to help the Town become financially successful “while delivering the services you want to deliver.”

Coun. Clare Cameron made a motion that council see a draft of the report before the final report is prepared, in case council has “grave concerns” with the report.

Lord Mayor Betty Ducoy was adamant that a draft report to council would be inappropriate and consultants should be 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 it is their report.”

Coun. Allan Baback 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 response was that while it’s 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 do 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.

**Not Local**

**OLiV Tasting Room & Restaurant**

633 Lakeshore Rd, NOTL

Open for Lunch Daily

*(Supplied)*

**A rendering of the revised design for the pool was shown to residents in October.**

---

**Valentine Features**

**Valentine's Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Live MUSIC with JAMES GAY & FRIENDS**

Friday, February 14th  
6 - 9 p.m.

**Live JAZZ**

Sunday, February 16th  
12 - 3 p.m.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Live MUSIC with JAMES GAY & FRIENDS**

Friday, February 14th  
6 - 9 p.m.

**Live JAZZ**

Sunday, February 16th  
12 - 3 p.m.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Live MUSIC with JAMES GAY & FRIENDS**

Friday, February 14th  
6 - 9 p.m.

**Live JAZZ**

Sunday, February 16th  
12 - 3 p.m.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Dinner Reservations available now!**

3-course Fixed Price  
Menu for $44.95

(per guest) (plus tax & gratuity)

Call us at 905-468-8814 to make your reservation.
At a January council meeting, short-term rental operators were told they had an extension to pay the increase in licensing fees, but operators have been objecting to the extension. According to a report and a staff report said Jan. 31, the increase is to cover the cost of two bylaw officers to deal with problems and complaints regarding short-term rentals, such as noise and parking. But licensed owners have said they are being punished for issues that are created by unlicensed establishments, and that they have no way of knowing the extent or number of complaints.

In order to lessen the burden of the increase, council asked staff to consider allowing the fees to be paid over two instalments for 2020, and that the fees be reviewed for 2021. In a report to the planning committee Monday, a staff report said Jan. 31 "may not be reasonable for many operators who experience less bookings during the off-season."

But splitting the invoices into two instalments would be difficult to administer, especially considering the invoices have been issued and some operators have already paid. However, staff have agreed to waive the penalty on any outstanding invoices until July. This means that operators will now have until June 30 to pay their fees, the report said.

At Monday’s planning committee meeting, Coun. Allan Bisback thanked staff for reviewing council’s request. He asked for information that would indicate how many of the 400 short-term 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 expected this spring, Simkus has emphasized. He believes the water will reach a level where flooding is inevitable, and damage control will become the priority.

Lord Mayor Betty Di eros 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 confused about what is planned.

“We seem to be going backward and forward,” she said. “I want to get a handle on what we’re doing this summer.”

Randall assured councillors the work on the groyne and anchor stone wall has been put out to tender, and will proceed. The next priority, he said, will be flooding prevention as the water level rises.

What is not a priority, he added, is the crumbling retaining wall in front of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

Coun. Gary Burroughs told Randall the pumphouse “has real concerns about the safety of the wall. Will we do it or wait a year and hope the property is still there?" Although divers have looked at the wall and it has been identified as requiring repairs, it isn’t an emergency, Randall says — there is no “immediate risk to life or the structure on the property.”

Peggy Walker, neighbour to the pumphouse property, owned by the Town, has contracted with Rankin Construction to repair her portion of the retaining wall, at a cost of up to $100,000, and was hoping the Town’s section could be done at the same time.

She’s been told that if the wall on the adjoining property is not repaired, water can get behind her wall and cause further damage.

But after Randall’s discussion with Rankin, a decision has been made not to proceed with repairs to the Town’s portion of the wall this year. The money is not in the budget, he says, and he feels he might get a better price, and possibly outside funding, by waiting.

Lord Mayor Betty Dise ros asked Randall if there is a list that is prioritized, with the serious nature of the situation emphasized. “This has to sound like a catastrophe, because I think we’re moving toward a catastrophe,” Bisback replied.

There was also agreement that councillors attend conferences such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario also take every opportunity to press the need for funding. Environmental supervisor Brett Ruck, overseeing the work in the Dock Area, will provide a further update Monday, councillors were told.
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 of deputy fire chief — or one of them, with the recent move to have two deputy chiefs with distinct duties.

Trostenko, who grew up on York Road in St. Davids, and with his wife Laura has 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 St. Andrew 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 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 firefighter.

Trostenko says he was never one of those boys who dreamed of growing up to be a firefighter, and when he joined the department as a volunteer, it was not with the goal of transitioning to a professional.

Both his father and his uncle were police officers — his father with the regional police force, his uncle with the Ontario Provincial Police.

He thought that might be his future as well, but tests showed some colour blindness, which eliminated that possibility.

His older son, Brian, hopes to go that route. Living in Barrie, he has taken a police college course and hopes to land a job as a police officer.

So at 21, when he was 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 same year he became a volunteer.

“I was always happy to be a volunteer, just going along and doing my thing,” he said, and he’s still a firefighter, but in January he traded a job he 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 operations and training.

He’d never applied for a department job, but when this opportunity presented itself, Trostenko said, at 51, “I figured if I was ever going to do it, I better do it now!”

He’d volunteered during some of the same years as Fire Chief Nick Ruller, although they were at different stations, and he believed their ideas about the department were aligned.

“I think we view things in similar ways, and have the same direction and vision for the future.”

Now, with a full complement of staff, “every one of us has also been a volunteer firefighter,” he said.

Former fire prevention office Jay Plato had already been promoted to deputy fire chief overseeing fire prevention and community risk reduction.

Brad Dishel is the new fire prevention and public education officer, Darryl Janzen the training officer, and Matt van der Zalm the administrative assistant.

And when Trostenko’s buzzer goes off, he still responds, although now more in a command role, “but I would still put my gear on if necessary.”

When the department had two calls close together recently, he was on his way to the Pillar and Post for a kitchen fire, with Ruller behind him. When the call to a Firelane structure, “Nick pulled off to head to the fire.”

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

Trostenko’s 30 years in the department, and most recently as a district chief, showed him to be a “proven leader,” said Ruller. “He is one of the most dedicated firefighters I have seen.”

In Trostenko’s career in the fire service, Ruller said, “there are very few people who can compare, especially in attendance.”

When Ruller presented a report to councillors in December explaining the realignment he was proposing, he received praise from Lord Mayor Betty Duyser for finding a way to effectively staff the department without a large budget increase.

Ruller, also a local and a long-time volunteer firefighter, was named chief after a turnover of chiefs in the department in the last two to three years, and he explained in his report that there had also been a significant turnover of department employees, including going through two deputy fire chiefs, four training officers, three fire prevention officers and for administrative assistants.

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)

---

**Deputy Fire Chief Darren Trostenko**

**Open House 2020**

**Royal Oak Community School**

**Niagara-on-the-Lake**

**February 12, 2020**

9:30 AM onwards

RSVP by emailing admin@royaloakschool.ca

For more details, visit www.royaloakschool.ca

---

**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 wineriesofniagaraonthe lake.com/event/days-of-wine-chocolate. At Reif Estate Winery, Marissa Osborne holds a glass of Reif Estate Semilion, which was paired with ravioli filled with chocolate and pears. (Fred Mercnik)
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 lack of them — with the 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 concerning thing 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.

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

Some may be on the autism spectrum, but not yet identified as such. Some may not be toilet-trained, 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 last week’s talks, 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 the top five issues," she says. "It's all about working conditions, and teachers equate that with learning conditions for their students. All teachers want is what's best for their students."

Another key issue in negotiations for high school teachers is how to incorporate online learning into the curriculum. While it doesn’t affect elementary teachers now, says Nicklefork, it could in the future. She’s heard talk of online classes starting in high school and eventually reaching Grade 6 students, and even if it is restricted to high school students, "it will impact all students in the future."

Elementary school teachers are feeling overwhelming support from parents, she says, "and for that we are so grateful."

She believes parents understand teachers are doing what is best for the kids, not only of today, but for the future. "If we don’t fight now, that money will be pulled out of education, and we’ll never get it back."

A provincial strike of elementary schools in the public sector has been called for Thursday, with boards also participating in daily rotating strikes.

The Catholic elementary school teachers in Niagara protested Tuesday, and the ETFO teachers in the District School Board of Niagara will be on strike Friday.

Although this is report card time, and elementary teachers completed their reporting obligations, Nicklefork says, the DSBN and many other boards have chosen not to send those report cards home. Extra-curricular activities, considered as "struck work," have been cancelled, with teachers under work to rule instructions since November 26.

This Thursday and Friday, Feb. 6 and 7, teachers from Niagara-on-the-Lake public schools will protest at the five corners in Niagara Falls, outside Commissioner’s, as they did in their Jan. 23 participation in a rotating strike.

"Our battle is not with our parents," Nicklefork says. "It never has been. It’s also not with the school board. These protests are about visibility, letting others, those too young to have kids now — our future parents — and grandparents as well, know why we are striking."

Teachers spend about $1,000 out of their own pockets to pay for school supplies, even necessities such as books and pencils, because there is no money in the budget to pay for them, she says. "Kids aren't getting the resources they need. Some teachers are paying for food and clothing for their students. Teachers do a lot more than teach."

As for the future, the union can only hope for more talks, but at the moment "we're disappointed 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 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."
To report or not to report

It was fascinating to see a debate over a really positive 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, Mayor Betty Dinosaur, 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 deeply committed member of council with municipal experience from the other side of the table.

It isn’t the first time she and the lord mayor have disagreed, but it took an unexpected and fierce turn when Cameron took a comment from Dinosaur as an insult to council Monday.

The issue was simple. The Town had asked Deloitte consultants to review service delivery and tell them what they want to suggest councillors couldn’t see a draft without trying to influence the outcome in even the slightest way — a comment Cameron was not to be part of the review, and Dinosaur 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 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 as interested as 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 contrary to what they are trying to accomplish, and would have raised eyebrows.

The vote was a tie. At a council 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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

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

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?

Today’s western civilization shows kids spending more time indoors, inactive, and engaged in screen time in the past couple decades. This is not meant to paint these pastimes with a brush of negativity, as all of these are indeed enjoyable and soothing.

But what happens when 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 you 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.

In fact, in moderation, they can be completely healthy and beneficial for our development.

I remember a childhood of building ramps with bricks under them, and trying to launch my bike and I over a hedge in 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 beer necks, ice cold swak-ers, 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 some-what with a plan.

And in hindsight, all with amazing laughs and rich memories. Those are just my personal experiences, but I wasn’t the only one enjoying those experiences. I don’t see kids exploring outside and playing in creeks and snowbanks as much as I used to, and unless my obser- vations are misleading, I think that’s a little sad.

When kids are exploring outside, their senses are being stimulated from all directions without them being aware.

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

This youngster (Bjorgan’s friend’s child) climbing a tree is gaining plenty of mental and physical benefits from this type of outdoor play. (Owen Bjorgan)

Letters

Re: Time for tourists and tourist businesses to pay their share

Thank you for your kind support to Jane Neaves’ second annual Christmas Toy Drive.

The toys were given to our paediatric oncology patients who had to spend Christmas in the hospital.

Your support helped many children and their families, in so many ways. Parents and caregivers felt relief that they did not have to worry about the cost of toys as going through a cancer di- agnosis puts many financial constraints on families.

They did not have to think about leaving their child at the hos- pital to battle busy crowds of Christmas shoppers, when all they want to do is sit by their child’s side. They did not have to think about how they would get gifts to the hospital with the appropriate timing so that gifts would appear in their child’s room Christmas morning.

Children going through the cancer journey miss out on events, holidays and celebra- tions that healthy children get to experience. They often miss school, birthday parties of friends, going to a mall or watching a movie.

There can be a meaningful 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 raters. The 8.6 per cent tax increase could be fully eliminated by implementing a MAT.

Joe Accardo

Re: Tourists help support NOTL, says 88th owner (The Local Jan 30)

Just read the letter from a 88th owner, who would have you believe that we should all thank the tourist’s business op- erators for the wonderful town that we live in. Wherein it is the raters of NOTL that subsi- dize the tourist business operators by paying for the roads, parks, beautification, upkeep of cultural aspects and waterfront protection that these tourist business operators use to entice visitors for their own profit.

But the letter doesn’t men- tion that these tourist business operators do not pay/contribute for the operating costs at- tributed to tourism. Indeed, these businesses do not con- tribute because NOTL does not have a commercial tax. So yes, we, the raters are directly subsidizing these businesses. It is time that tourists and tourist business operators pay their fair share towards the main- tenance 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 accommoda- tion industry need to stop the mindless and unsubstantiated doom and gloom that is at- tached to the Municipal Ac- commodation Tax (MAT). If accommodation taxes are the boggymen they make it out to be, then hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions around the world would lay empty: it just isn’t so! Niagara Falls has an ac- commodation tax, yet it is cited as a location tourists would go to. NOTL implements a MAT.

Particularly galling are ex- emptions of raterbenefit of tourism, including increases to property values and that the growth of the town is directly attributed to tourists, by saying if people don’t come here first then 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 transporta- tion, cultural assets, 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 overarching consideration then we would all be living in Disney World.

There can’t be a meaningful 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 raters. The 8.6 per cent tax increase could be fully eliminated by implementing a MAT.

Joe Accardo

NOTL LOCAL Front and Editorial Banner Bookings

There are just a few dates left for these premium positions for 2020! Contact us today!

Don’t miss out!

NOTL businesses: call Karen at 905.641.5335 or email karen@notllocal.com

outside NOTL: call Julia at 905.934.1040 or email julia@notllocal.com

Continued on page 8

************
Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

This week on Auchterlonie 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.

Thursday, Feb. 6: The Moon in Cancer is in a dreamy mood today with an extra bit of healing for those who need it. Good health news is here for some of us. And even though the evening is stressful, there’s 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 sensitive Cancer into loving Leo in the supper hour. So this is a day where feelings change from soft to fiery. And a challenge from Uranus later tonight 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 armored name after him, Billy Bishop, was born Feb. 8, 1894 in Owen Sound. He is credited with the most hits of any pilot in that war, but also flew for several years in the Second World War. Sunday, Feb. 9: Oooh, 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 taken seriously. The lady who gave pop music an extra shot of creativity, intelligence and love from the late 60’s until today, Carol King turns 78. With unforgettable songs like Up on the Roof and Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow, she won the hearts of dozens for decades. She has come out of retirement with a new song, and is eager 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 across the globe to defend his title, Tommy Burns, won a title fight against Jack Palmer in four rounds. made 13 title defences despite often being the underdog due to his size.

Tuesday, Feb. 11: Most of today’s it’s the Moon in Virgo, late until 6:37 p.m. when she moves on to balancing, peace-loving Libra. Although this peace isn’t so steady, courage is rising through the evening. The future. Born people with the Moon in Libra need extra time to think things over.

Wednesday, Feb. 12: MercURY in a perfect position to helping hand from Saturn in Capricorn today. Roger Nash Baldwin, the 46th birthday for NBA MVP (two times) and fine Canadian, Steve Nash. Born in South Africa, Nash grew up in Vancouver, B.C.

Auchterlonie on Astrology

THE NOTL LOCAL

nottlocal.com

February 6, 2020

PINTS WINE BY GLASS

SELECT APPS PIZZAS (EAT IN ONLY)

DOMESTIC BEER BOTTLES ON SPECIAL

ALL DAY EVERYDAY IN FEBRUARY

358 Mary Street, NOTL 905-468-TRAP (8727)
Hours: 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.
sandtrappub.com

IT’S BACK

$5 FEBRUARY

NOTL's first anniversary

Congratulations on Local's first anniversary

Congratulations! Penny Coles and Karen Skoch 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 an 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 unnoticed. I wish you both continued success. It is comforting some good efforts do not go unnoticed.

Nellie Kneeler
NOTL
Fisherman makes gruesome discovery along parkway

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

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Abraham Petersen had just finished doing a bit of fishing in Queenston Tuesday, when he made the gruesome discovery.

He was heading from Queenston back toward NOTL along the Niagara River Parkway in his truck when he pulled over to read a plaque on the side of the road.

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

There are several dead coyotes on the slope from the Niagara River Parkway to the gorge. (Fred Mercnik)

There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“They weren’t all easy to see, hidden by branches and leaves, but there were several, he said. Not sure who to call, but believing he should report what he was seeing, he called the Niagara Regional Police, who suggested he call the Niagara Falls Humane Society.

He also called The Local.

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

They’ve had reports 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 or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“There are several dead coyotes on the slope from the Niagara River Parkway to the gorge. (Fred Mercnik)

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“No body likes to see animals dumped in that manner, and it’s unfortunate it’s occurred,” he said. If an animal could be picked up safely they would do that, “but that’s clearly not the case.” It’s possible they were “dispatched to protect live stock,” and they have been dumped on more than one occasion, according to reports, he said, but although they’ve received complaints, nobody has witnessed the activity or reported a vehicle or licence plate number, making it impractical to investigate.

“We’re not going to try to remove them, going back to last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight. “We didn’t see anything fresh,” he said. There have been “two or three reports” from the public, and coyotes are spread out in a few different 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 public, it was decided to leave them where they are.

“No body likes to see animals dumped in that manner, and it’s unfortunate it’s occurred,” he said. If an animal could be picked up safely they would do that, “but that’s clearly not the case.” It’s possible they were “dispatched to protect live stock,” and they have been dumped on more than one occasion, according to reports, he said, but although they’ve received complaints, nobody has witnessed the activity or reported a vehicle or licence plate number, making it impractical to investigate.
Providing quality products with genuine service for more than 55 years

Submitted by Peninsula Flooring

Peninsula Flooring has been a trusted name in Niagara since 1963. Originally located at the corner of Line 2 and Andres St. in Virgil, the showroom was moved to 13 Henegan Rd. in the Virgil business park, becoming the largest flooring showroom in the Niagara region with something for everyone. As the 3rd owners of Peninsula Flooring, Art & Carol Hubert have introduced innovative and luxury options to the extensive selection of flooring options. New designer carpets such as Kane, Antrim, Stanton, Hibernia, and Karastan have been added to provide clients with the option of customizing their flooring, with on trend area rugs, stair runners and wall-to-wall carpet. We are Niagara's Platinum Karndean Dealer, showcasing a design centre that features a complete line of Karndean luxury vinyl plank and tile, adding to our selection of quality vinyl plank and tile. Other offerings include: a vast selection of tile from ceramic to natural stone, hardwood flooring, quartz countertops, Impex Stone Wall Cladding, a full range of installation materials for the professional or do-it-yourselfer. Our design consultants will help you create the space that you envision within a comfortable budget, and our installers will bring your flooring vision to life.

Visit our design centre for a great selection of the latest in flooring styles.

Visit the colour and paint experts at Creek Road Paints, Benjamin Moore to find the products and hues that are right for you!

Creek Road Paints
Benjamin Moore® Paints

PAINT - PAPER - BLINDS RECLAIMED HOME DÉCOR

905.468.2412
1573 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil

Peninsula Flooring Ltd.
13 Henegan Road
Virgil Business Park
(905) 468-2135
www.peninsulaflooring.ca

Little Rooms, Big Looks

Submitted by Creek Road Paints

The right interior paint can transform any room in your 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 spa-like 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.

Your master bath is your 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 space.

Pale blues and greens and combinations of both colour values – invite us to relax, providing a calming ambiance and stress relieving environment, while the deepest of these tones provide an intriguing alternative to black. Mint and blue greens are perfect for these tranquil, sanctuary-like 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 morgens are tough enough without an unflattering cast of green on your morning routine.

A modestly sized powder room can have an immense impression on your guests. Play with colour and create a bold space with saturated colours like Azure Water 677 or Varsity Blues 756, which can bring a lot of ambiance 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 right paint? When it comes to avoiding the unsightly effects of humidity, a glossy finish is no longer your only option. The matte finishes of Aura Bath & Spa provides exceptional durability, 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.

Little Rooms, Big Looks
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 story-telling ability that make Chris Thompson the perfect host for the annual whisky-tasting event, says Tony Chisholm, president of The Friends of Fort George.

"Chris is very good at what he does. He’s very entertaining, and he has some great stories. He explains the background of whisky evolution in Canada and the gap Forty Creek is filling," says Chisholm. "This is his full-time job, travelling all over North America to do it. He knows that’s interesting and how to make it fun."

Back at Navy Hall for the third year, organized by The Friends, the event will pair seven Forty Creek whisky samples with extensive hors d’oeuvres. Forty Creek introduces one new whisky a year, which will be one of the seven offered at the tasting, says Chisholm. "And Chris is very generous with his servings. They are significant samples."

Errin Lockard of Sweets and Swirls is providing the food, "and she has some great ideas. She checks with Chris on what goes with what, and does a great job. She’s basically providing seven courses, and we’re pleased to have her involved again."

Given the size of Navy Hall, where the event will be held, only 75 tickets will be sold, and although there are tickets still available, last year was sold out.

"It’s the perfect venue," says Chisholm. "There is a fire roaring, and it’s a great atmosphere."

The Friends of Fort George like to plan events that fit an 1812 theme, and the history of Navy Hall as a place where soldiers might have enjoyed a whisky or two, along with its ambience, make it a great place for a whisky tasting, he added.

"It was a whole new experience for them, and they said they wanted to come back this year."

Tickets for the event, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m., are $45 per person, which includes the food and whisky.

Forty Creek donates the whisky for the event, says Chisholm, which raises much-needed funds to cover wages of the summer program at Fort George.

Call The Friends of Fort George at 905-468-6621 or email admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca to reserve your spot.
Centenarian loves 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 very ill over Christmas, 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 column for the Niagara Advance.

“I was never much for gardening,” says Trudy — she left that up to her husband Gordon — but she 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 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.

Trudy Waldie is congratulated by MPP Wayne Gates and Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who attended the 100th birthday celebrations at Upper Canada Lodge. (Fred Mercnik)
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 heart-warming documentary The Biggest Little Farm.

Raffle ticket tables were set up by the entrances to the theatre. Nancy Mouget, who set up tables by the entrances to the theatre, said she was happy to sell tickets that morning. "Friday night documentaries are missed by many," she says.

Other raffle ticket volunteers were Ginny Douglas, Connie Costanzo, and Ann-Louise Branscombe.

Gooddine Catering has been serving up gourmet lunch offerings every week during the film series, which will continue until the end of February. They offered ham hock and white bean soup with mixed greens salad, butternut squash risotto and red curry vegetable lettuce wrap. After this series ends, Gooddine Catering will return to the summer with a pop-up mobi-bike kitchen in the parking lot of the Shaw Festival. As always, the location of this event is partially ambiguous yet full of heart. It likely will draw you away from the everyday grind of owning and operating a traditional farm. It chronicles all the trials and triumphs over a nine-year period.

Beth Webb, from the film magazine Empire, described this way: “The gentle rhythm of this timely, environmentally conscious documentary will temporar-ily draw you away from the world of tiny screens into a partially ambiguous yet fulfilling tale of endurance.”

The Biggest little Farm won third place in the People’s Choice Award in the documentary category at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). That same year, next week’s feature film, The Grizzlies, was nominated for best Canadian feature film and with its feature film with director, Miranda de Pencier. The Grizzlies will be shown on Feb. 8. The film is based on a true story about a youth lacrosse team that bands together to combat youth suicide in Kugluktuk, Nunavut. After its premiere at TIFF, the director went on to win the Directors Guild of Canada award for best direction in a feature film.

The film Jojo Rabbit is scheduled to be shown on Feb. 15. This film was featured at TIFF in 2019, and won the People’s Choice award amid controversy and mixed reviews. However, with this film’s recent awards and release, organizers haven’t been able to confirm it for the Shaw Film Series. The potential audience is assured there will be a solid backup that is aimed to please.

The final film of this year 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.shaw-fest.com/event/film-series/.

Volunteers Shirley Rednall and Nancy Mouget sell raffle tickets as the crowd waits for the documentary to start Saturday afternoon. (Photos by Kim Wade)
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-a-lifetime 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. Serving at the brink of the Falls, in these awesome 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 this weekend does a great job on both fronts. Diners will be enjoying a fried egg-white mousse 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 a surf and turf of sorts, with aged beef and Ontario shrimp, Colaphore Springs Trout, or local fresh Niagara mushroom and gnocchi ragout. For dessert, diners will choose between three different options, all based in squash grown by Crawford at his four-acre farm.

"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 squash, so it's super fun to incorporate the squash in the dessert."

True to the Backhouse tradition, the evening will wrap up with some toasted marshmallows.

Crawford had a chance to check out the setup last weekend. With some light snow falling, he felt the ambiance of the snow globes was perfect.

"Is it going to be a little bit chilly?" he asks. "Of course it's going to be chilly. It's Canada. It's winter. We're Canadians. It's not freezing (in the snow globes), it's more like a warm, wrapped-up-by-the-fireplace feeling. It's a Canadian experience, and what better way to showcase our cool climate cuisine."

Crawford will be serving at the Snow Globe Soiree Feb. 6 through Feb. 9. Visit niagarawinefestival.com for information.
Kindergarten at Crossroads – a great place to be

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

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 Neumann, Kayla Thwaites, Maddy MacPherson, Issie Thwaites, and Frannie Baskin. They are excited to show their work!

(Photos supplied)

Hank Neumann and Nash Funk enjoy playing a game together.

Leonard Renda and Hunter Berry work on writing words and sentencing.

Rory Paget and Markus Doan create books in response to stories they have read.

Madeleine Friesen works with clay.

Tessa Davis, Colton Meleskie, and Owen Thornibert build unique Lego creations.

Amanda Blair creates a colourful painting.

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

Kenneth Lauber and Nathan Muir create 3D structures.

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

Amanda Blair creates a colourful painting.
Get your LOCAL MEMBERSHIP CARD now! notllocal.com/membership

$39.95 per year
plus HST ($45.14)

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS

1. Buy online at notllocal.com/membership
2. In Person
   Visit or call our office. We’re located at
   1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil
   Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card.
   You may also call us at 905-641-5335 to pay by credit card.
3. By Mail
   Send a cheque for $39.95 + HST ($45.14) made payable to:
   The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local
   NOTL LOCAL
   P.O. Box 430, Virgil L0S 1T0

Interested in having your business be a Local Membership partner?
Call Karen at 905-641-5335 or email karen@notllocal.com.
Bravo Niagara! presents Kurt Elling in concert Saturday

Mike Balsam 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 Martin on piano, Clark Sommers on bass, Ulysses Owens Jr. behind the drum kit, Troy Roberts playing saxophone and Tino 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 seven times, and the JazzTimes Poll seven times, and the Downbeat Readers’ Award, Elling has won 13 times, the Downbeat Critics Poll 13 times, the Jazz Mama singer of the year in 2002, and the Downbeat Critics Poll 13 times, the Downbeat Critics Poll.

Elling’s repertoire and the musical 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 in 2017-2018 season’s fundraising dinner.

On April 5, Bravo Niagara! presents the Canadian debut of the Brubeck Brothers Quartet’s Dave Brubeck Centenial 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 Vineyard, and other upcoming Bravo Niagara! shows, are still available. Visit bravoniag.ca for information.
A group of 40 bridge players enjoyed a morning of bridge and brunch at the Queenston Heights Restaurant. (Photos supplied)

Bridge and brunch for 40 at Queenston Heights

A group of 40 bridge players had a great time on Saturday at the first Bridge & Brunch event offered for social bridge players at the Queenston Heights Restaurant. Organized by Marlene Walther and supported by the Niagara Parks Commission, the day started with bridge at 9:30 a.m., followed by brunch at 12:30 p.m.

Prizes were awarded for those with the best score, the worst score, for driving the farthest, having the most number of tricks down, for doubling the opponent for penalty, as well as other fun categories, says Walther. Players from all over the Niagara region mixed and mingled and made many new friends in the bridge community.

“The setting was beautiful and the food was delicious,” says Walther.

In attendance was Kim Viney, senior director of business development for Niagara Parks, who picked the grand prize-winning ticket of two passes to all 11 Niagara Parks attractions. It was won by Kathy Swayze from Welland.

The other door prizes were two Niagara Parks water bottles and cooler bags, won by Linda Campanelli from Fonthill and Mary Lou Bradley from Grimsby, and a $25 LCBO gift card won by Nancy Kemball from Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The most often heard comment at the end of the day, says Walther, was: “When are we doing this again?” So, stay tuned for the next one.”
Niagara’s Premier Choice for Luxury Automobiles

Performance luxury

Season of Performance

The 2020 MDX Tech From

$258* 86-WEEKLY $749 DOWN MOONLEDS / TINT 4-DOOR

0.99% O.A.C. FOR 36 MONTHS (3.96% EFFECTIVE APR)

OR RECEIVE UP TO A $6,000† CASH REBATE ON SELECT 2020 MDX MODELS.

Performance Acura Niagara

158 Scott Street, St. Catharines
905-937-1811 | performancecura.ca

AN EXHILARATING WINTER DRIVING EXPERIENCE
AT YOUR DOORSTEP.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE FROM $42,150*

2020 G70 2.0T Advanced AWD

LEASE FOR $398 1.9% 60 MONTHS*

MONTHLY PAYMENT $4,416 DOWN

2020 G70 3.3T Sport model shown*

Test Drive | Purchase | Maintenance
We Come To You 1-844-571-8180

Genesisniagara.ca

*The Genesis name, logos, product names, feature names, images and design are trademarks owned by Genesis Motor Canada, a subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Company. All other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. List price does not include $1,395 destination charges. Not all models available in all markets. Prices and offers may vary. Reference price may not represent actual vehicle price after dealer, tax, licence fees, and other dealer installed options or deletions. Prices and offers subject to change without notice. Genesis reserves the right to change, discontinue and cancel offers at any time. For complete details, see your Genesis retailer. Offer expires March 1, 2020.