



Sean Simpson
combines
hockey fun with
fundraising
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Family members join Mary Snider (center) as she gets ready to cut into her cake, made by Willow Cakes and Pastries, at her 100th birthday celebration on Saturday held at the St. Davids Lions Club. With Mary are (left to right) extended family SK Wong with youngster Haiato Ng, Yuana Ng, and Angela Fung; Allen Snider's son Richard Snider; Betty Snider, Susan and Allen Snider, and So So Chan and Doug Snider. (Penny Coles)

Mary Snider celebrates 100th with family, friends

Penny Coles
The Local

Mary Snider, highly respected member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community, had a long line-up of people waiting to congratulate her at her 100th birthday celebration Saturday, held at the St. Davids Lions Club hall, where she was surrounded by family and friends.

Snider is known for her decades of volunteering, going back to the early days of what was then called the Virgil Business Men's Association and her work for the Virgil Stampede. She was one of the founding members in 1966, and is now an honorary member.

She set a high bar for volunteers in the community, and has received many awards over the years, most because of her decades-long association with the VBA. She has also been very active with Grace United Church, which she attended regularly with her husband George.

A table of newspaper articles, photos and accolades set up at the hall Saturday showed just how much of herself she has given back to the community.

She was recognized by both the Chamber of Commerce, and the town, when it was giving out annual awards to volunteers.

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Budget meeting delayed with no time for discussion

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalist
Initiative Reporter

Niagara-on-the-Lake council was prepared to approve its 2024 capital budget Tuesday night, but a contentious development got in the way.

A special council meeting started at 4 p.m. ahead of a 6 p.m. committee-of-the-whole planning meeting, with a

closed session about the Tawny Ridge subdivision in St. Davids first on the agenda.

Council didn't reconvene in public until shortly after 5:30 p.m., having dealt with its closed session matters. At that time treasurer Kyle Freeborn delivered a presentation on the capital budget, which he wrapped up only minutes before the 6 p.m. committee-of-the-whole meeting, causing

the budget meeting to be adjourned.

Staff began capital budget deliberations in August and have met twice with the budget review committee, made up of all councillors, to go over the proposed 2024 capital plan.

As they stand now, the capital and operating budgets reflect a 9.4 per cent increase for local taxpayers, which adds up to about \$124 per home.

The 2023 budget saw an 8.39 per cent property tax hike with an increase for the average detached home at \$102.62.

Initially, staff reviewed capital spending to ensure funding capacities match total proposed spending, and subsequently presented the first draft to the committee with a total proposed capital program of \$10.4 million.

Minor adjustments were made through two

meetings, with the capital budget whittled down to \$10.2 million.

The first draft of the capital budget was more than \$14 million before it was presented to councillors, and was then reduced to \$10.4 million "so that available reserve funding could match proposed expenses," staff said in its report to council Tuesday.

For 2024, only one project is proposed to be

funded with debt, a culvert at Dorchester Street for \$750,000.

When staff brought its \$10.4 million capital plan to councillors in late September, the only change was to reduce the cost of a boundary stone restoration from \$12,500 to \$7,500.

In early October, further opportunities were identified to optimize

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Jimmy Lai nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

Penny Coles

The Local

Vintage Hotels' Jimmy Lai has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Lai, owner of a pro-

democracy Hong Kong news organization now shuttered, is currently being tried for sedition in Hong Kong under its new national security law. He has pleaded not guilty,

and his supporters around the world, including his Niagara-on-the-Lake family, have denounced the trial, which began in December, as a sham.

A British citizen, Lai is


the founder of Apple Daily, a Hong Kong media outlet openly critical of the Chinese Communist Party. It was closed after being raided by police, with several staff members arrested. Lai took part in the 2019 Hong Kong pro-democracy street protests, and was charged with conspiring to collude with foreign forces to endanger national security. He was first jailed in 2020, released on bail and then arrested again later that year.

Lai Properties is the owner of Vintage Hotels, which includes several hotels in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and others in Jordan and Caledon.

“We are thrilled to hear of Mr. Lai’s nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize,” Vintage Hotels president Bob Jackson said in an email to The Local. “As the founder, and undeniable inspiration for Vintage Hotels and the Lais Hotel group in Canada, it is a fitting recognition for someone who has sacrificed so much in the fight for freedom and democracy.”

"Our hope is that this continues to shine a light on the unjust trial and imprisonment of Jimmy in Hong Kong," he continued. "As always, he is in our thoughts and in our prayers."

NOTL resident Erica Lepp, Si Wai Lai's daughter and and Jimmy's niece, says "our family is really proud of my uncle, but not surprised. He's a great guy,

A portrait of a middle-aged man with dark hair, wearing a white jacket over a light blue shirt. He is looking slightly to the right. The background is a wall with several framed certificates or diplomas.

and has always led with love and peace. He's an amazing person."

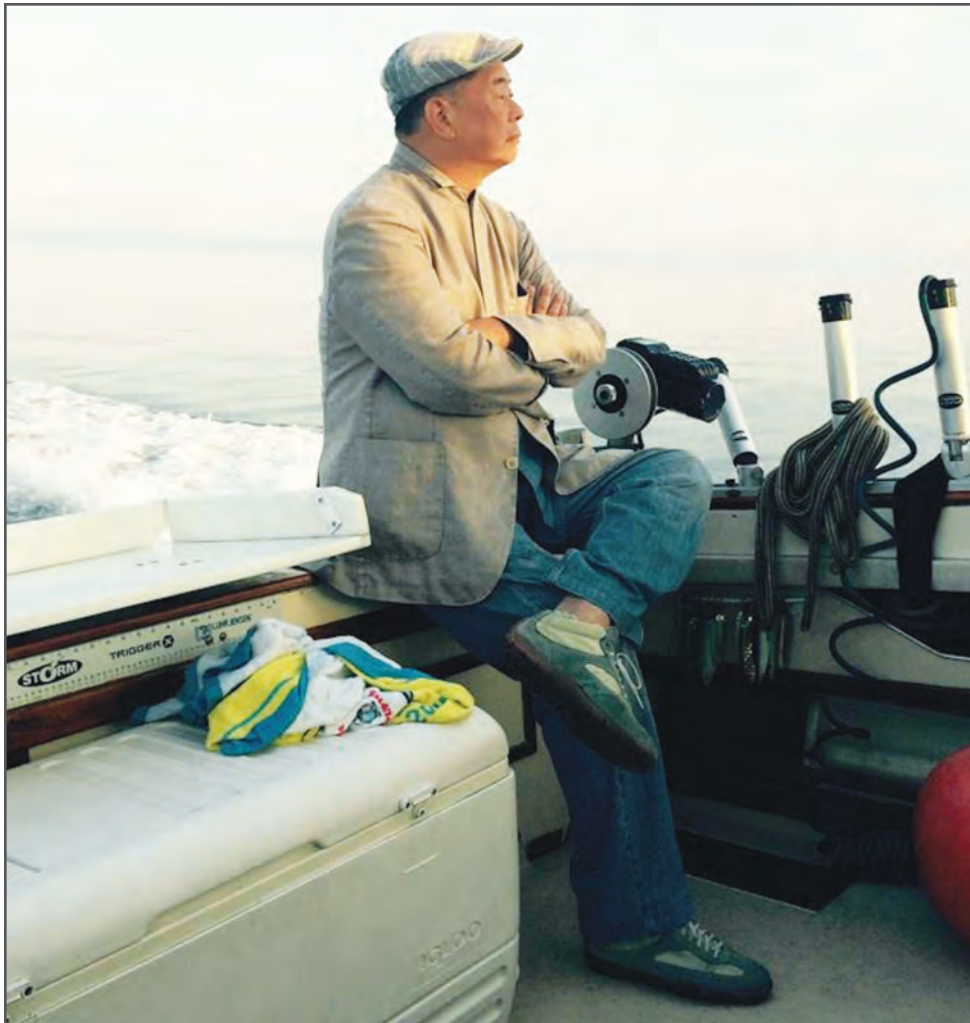
He's kind, loving, and the nomination for the most prestigious peace prize "is appropriate," she says. "I've told my kids, 'look at what your great-uncle is doing. You should be proud.'"

chairs of a Congressional Executive Commission on China. They also nominated jailed Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, and legal activists Ding Jiaxi and Xu Zhiyong.

The Associated Press reports that “while hundreds of people are often nominated for the annual prize, this nomination is certain to draw a sharp rebuke from Beijing.”

"All these individuals embody the spirit of the Nobel Peace Prize and justly deserve the award," Smith, a New Jersey Republican, and Merkley, a Democrat from Oregon, wrote in their nomination document, quoted in AP.

“The Peace Prize will focus world attention on all those struggling to exercise their fundamental human rights in the People’s Republic of China.”



Operating budget discussions haven't started

Continued from page 1

funding sources and reduce capital spending on two projects — a fire and bylaw workspace expansion and an addition to the Virgil fire station, reducing pressure on the budget, staff said in its report Tuesday.

An additional item has

been included as well — accessibility upgrades to town benches and picnic tables — with a cost of \$20,000.

Funding for capital projects primarily comes from town reserves, amounting to \$9,467,210 for 2024, with the balance of \$750,000 proposed from debt, for a total of

\$10,217,210, the staff report said.

Council has yet to finalize its operating budget, which treasurer Freeborn told The Local is currently sitting at about \$16.5 million.

Freeborn said the operating budget approvals are contingent on an employee bargaining

agreement being met for unionized staff, and that this needed to take place first. In the closed session at Tuesday's meeting, council also discussed that agreement and executed one in the discussion, according to a motion read by clerk Grant Bivol after the meeting.

There are five projects

that make up more than 50 per cent of the capital envelope, the most expensive being the second phase of a reconstruction of Concession 6 Road between Warner and York Roads, at \$1.9 million.

The project with the second-highest price tag in the town's capital plan is a Hunter Road water-

main replacement between Four Mile Creek Road and Concession 4, at \$1.65 million.

This is followed by \$750,000 in work to the culvert on Dorchester Street, a \$500,000 replacement of a 2009 dump truck, and \$400,000 for new parking machines downtown.

Major overhaul required for historic Royal George

Penny Coles
The Local

While the Royal George Theatre is being prepared for the 2024 season of productions, a major overhaul that has been in the works for years is expected to begin when the final curtain closes at the end of the year.

Issues with its clay foundation dissolving have come to a head — it was built as temporary — and “must be addressed after the end of this season,” says executive director Tim Jennings.

“We lost several sold-out shows in 2023 to water permeation of the foundation and other facility issues that cause safety concerns, and simply can not be addressed with temporary solutions any longer.”

“The specifics of what we are going to do are not fully decided,” he continued, “so it would be premature to say much else, other than if we are going to address the

foundation issues, we see opportunity to address a lot of other issues like accessibility, carbon footprint, washrooms, etc. at the same time.”

After 20-plus years of ongoing issues, “mitigation has simply become too expensive and seems no longer effective.”

The Queen Street theatre was built in 1915 on the site of a blacksmith shop for the entertainment of troops garrisoned in the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake during the First World War, and later became a movie house, and then an intimate setting for Shaw plays.

On stage this year at the historic theatre will be what artistic director Tim Carroll calls a “mouthwatering Royal George season,” with Agatha Christie’s best murder mystery, *Witness for the Prosecution*, a Shaw favourite in *Candida*, and the evergreen classic *The Secret Garden*. “These are all shows we expect to sell like hot cakes,” he says.



Preparations are underway for the opening of the Royal George Theatre this season, but once it closes foundation issues have to be addressed. (Mike Balsom)



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DSBN heeds students, reverses grad decision

Mike Balsom
The Local

Grade 12 students at DSBN secondary schools rejoiced Friday when news broke that plans to move graduation ceremonies to early June were officially being reversed.

The principals at Laura Secord and A.N. Myer Secondary Schools and Eden High School, as well as the other 13 DSBN secondary schools, informed grads about the reversal near the end of the day last Friday. An email was also sent home to parent and guardian contacts.

Samantha Fretz, a member of Laura Secord's class of 2024, is pleased that she will cross the stage after writing her last high school exams.

"I am happy that graduation has been moved back to after exams," says Fretz. "It will feel more like a graduation and we won't have to go back to school after. When we heard the news about the date change in the auditorium, the crowd erupted with clapping and everyone was so excited that our voices were heard."

For Ayla Jamal of St. Davids, a classmate of Fretz's, hearing the news from principal Helena Tritchew was a welcome way to start her final semester of high school.

"We were all gearing up



Ayla Jamal in the Valedictorian Hall at Laura Secord Secondary School. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

and waiting for this moment," Jamal told The Local. "It was a good conversation. She said the DSBN took the student voice into consideration and changed the grad date back. It was a big deal. It felt like a triumph for us."

Laura Secord student Mackenzie Overweg said she could not have been more pleased when she heard the graduation date had been changed. "It was a feeling of joy, accomplishment and

gratitude knowing that our voices were heard. I think as a whole community we are all so grateful to have graduation moved back (until after exams), making it feel more natural and on a more realistic timeline."

Last fall the public school board announced that graduation dates at all of their high schools would be moved from after final exams to some time between May 21 and June 14, with specific dates to be



Mackenzie Overweg and Samantha Fretz, Grade 12 students at Laura Secord, were outspoken critics about an early graduation decision made last December.

chosen by each school. They also had the added option of pushing the ceremony to the following fall.

The change was explained as necessary for operational concerns and to increase inclusion.

With school enrolment increasing, Ann Gilmore, superintendent of curriculum and student achievement told The Local in December that finding venues to accommodate large numbers of attend-

ees was becoming more difficult. And she added that it was also time for graduation to be redefined as a celebration of each student's journey and accomplishments leading up to Grade 12, to create a sense of belonging for everyone.

An online petition begun by Eden High School student Olivia Gillespie in opposition to the move quickly gained steam and captured the attention of the press, including the NOTL Local. It was signed by

almost 5,000 people.

"I think it was largely because of the bad press they got," says Jamal about the DSBN's reversal. "They realized they had made the wrong move because of the amount of negative feedback they were getting. I wish they hadn't waited so long, I wish they had listened to the initial student voice that was so strong."

Leeane Smith, also a DSBN superintendent, insists the main factor in the reversal was the student voice.

"They came forward loud and clear," Smith says. "They were consistent and specific in that they wanted their graduation celebration after exams. We heard that and we feel that we were able to honour that."

Smith adds that awards will be given out at each school's graduation, including awards for students who earn top marks in each subject.

"Any further review of graduation timelines would include input from students and their families before a decision is made," Smith said when asked if the DSBN might revisit changing grad dates for the 2024-2025 school year.

Laura Secord's new graduation date is Thursday, June 27. The Class of 2024 at both Eden and A.N. Myer Secondary School will cross the stage one day earlier on June 26.

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Snider has steady stream of visitors at Lions hall

Continued from page 1

She was named Citizen of the Year in 1982, says her daughter Betty Snider, as she went through the various articles and certificates pointing out Mary's many awards.

In 1990, she was recognized for the work she did organizing Canada Day Celebrations.

That was followed by Volunteer of the Year in 1996, a Volunteer Recognition Award in 2009, and another Citizen of the Year award again in 2011.

Betty recalls that although her mother had a small greenhouse business, selling plants and vegetables grown from seed, "once the May 24th weekend came along, we sold flowers and then we all went to the stampede to help out."

She and her brothers are all St. Davids Lions members and continue to help out, she says, a tradition of community service that George and Mary set as an example to them from the time they were kids.

Dave Dick, president of Niagara Motors, was president of the VBA for decades and with his wife Terry is a good friend of Mary's.

They stopped in Saturday toward the end of the celebration as the crowd thinned out. "We were able to sit and have a really nice chat with Mary," he says. "She's amazing. You would never think she's 100."

"She is so sharp mentally," he continued. "We visit her at home, and when we leave we always say we've had a lot of fun. She sits and does those 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles, and she is really fun to talk to."

He recalls her being asked to come on board as secretary and treasurer of the VBA, which she did, "and she never took a dime."

Dick was a school friend of Mary and George Snider's children, Allen, Doug and Betty, and says he spent a lot of time with them at their house.

Mary was 17 and George was 20 when he left to fight in the Second World War, where he served for four years, Mary waiting for him so they could be married on his return.

"Mary looked after us all," Dick says, "and she worked so hard."

When the group of Virgil business owners decided to raise money to build the Centennial Arena, they decided to move a horse show and fireworks from where they were then being held at the Virgil

School, and to invite the community to watch. That was the genesis of the Virgil Stampede. "She said she'd help us for a year, and she stayed for 46 years," Dick says.

But she played a far greater role than her official title suggested — there wasn't much about the stampede she wasn't involved in, including the popular nickel sale, which she organized and ran. Even as her direct involvement wound down in later years, she would travel around the grounds

on a golf cart making sure everything was running smoothly, with a walkie talkie to call for help if it was needed.

"She did all the work, and she made us look good," says Dick.

The Virgil Stampede quickly became the VBA's signature event, and over the years Mary was a huge part of it, but she wasn't the only Snider — George, Betty, Allen and Doug all helped out, said Dick.

And she was an inspiration to the community. "If Mary asked you for help,

why would you say no? She did so much work herself, gave up so much time. She knew what would work and what wouldn't work. She knew how to get things done."

When she received her Lord Mayor's Award of Excellence from the Chamber of Commerce, it was presented by the late town council member Dennis Dick, also a VBA member. In addition to being the "only secretary and treasurer since 1966," she ran the stampede, co-ordinating organizations and vol-

unteers, a task that would typically require a five-person volunteer committee, he was reported as saying, "with Mary doing 95 per cent of the work."

All members would recall receiving the meeting minutes hand-typed, and when her old manual typewriter wore out, she wouldn't accept any help to purchase a new one.

Under Mary's direction for most of the years of the Stampede, the VBA has raised more than \$1.5 million to make the community a better place for

all, including most of what can be enjoyed in the Virgil sports park.

Mary still lives in the house she and George built in 1946, and she intends to stay there. She struggles a little with walking, but with help from her daughter and other family members, especially her daughter-in-law Susan, and daily home care visits, "she isn't leaving," says Betty. "She's determined to stay in her house. She is not moving."

To see more photos please visit notllocal.com



Mary Snider receives birthday wishes from her cousin Virginia Haines, 95. (Penny Coles)



Alice and Wally Bogusat chat with Mary Snider. (Supplied)



Yuana Ng and Haiato Ng present flowers and wish Mary Snider a happy birthday. (Penny Coles)

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EDITORIAL

Thank you Mary Snider, for your community service

What's the secret to living until you can celebrate your 100th birthday?

Mary Snider isn't telling. She didn't want a fuss made of her birthday, but her family managed to put on a lovely event at the St. Davids Lions Club for her, choosing the hall where her husband George, sons Allen and Doug and daughter Betty have met as club members for decades.

In addition to many other accolades, Mary also has a meeting place named after her

— the Mary Snider Room in the Centennial Arena is bright, spacious and well-used by many organizations and individuals in town.

To some it's best known as the nickel sale room — those of us who have volunteered at the nickel sale couldn't even guess at how many times we've been asked what we're selling for a nickel, but that's another story.

Virgil Business Association members who have helped out at the Virgil Stampede over the decades have known Mary to

be unequalled in her capacity to organize and her ability to accomplish what needs to be done.

She's an inspiration to all of us, and this community will never fully understand how much richer it is for residents of all ages, because of the \$1.5 million worth of projects the stampede has helped to fund. It begins with everything you see in the Virgil sports park, where our kids play softball and soccer, make use of the skatepark, the walking path, two play-

grounds, a splash pad and two arenas.

Not sure how many communities with a population of 19,000 have two arenas, and how many small towns had even one in 1967, but thanks to the huge part played by the Virgil Business Association, NOTL can boast two of the best.

That's just the start of the list — there are school playgrounds, some of the sports park property, the community centre, hospitals, swimming pools, town fire halls, and many

other organizations in town that have benefited.

The VBA has had several presidents over the years, from Dave Wall as a founding member to Richard Wall now, and I'm sure they would all agree that while Mary Snider's title was secretary/treasurer, typing her reports on an old manual typewriter and then delivering them the next day by hand, she was as much a leader of the organization and all it has accomplished as anyone could be. All while operating a small

business and raising a family also dedicated to community service.

She may be getting a little frail, but her mind is strong, and her pleasure at seeing so many familiar faces Saturday was evident. Thank you Mary, for all you have done for this community, and enjoy those 1,000-piece puzzles that keep you busy. If that's your secret for aging, there might be a run on puzzles in the coming days.

Penny Coles
The Local

From Lightfoot to heavy metal, music a reminder of nature



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

I once wrote an article for The Local about how many revered musical artists claimed to have found their inspirations from nature. I opened a discussion about how the songs of a bird, a '70s drug trip in a meadow, or the poetry of water and woods could drive receptive artists to create music that reflected it.

The very concept of nature, essentially all biotic forms from moss to trees to bees, has sparked not only music, but marvels of engineering, medicinal, and spiritual advancements since the dawn of history. Species, and their intricate interactions have existed for 3.5 billion years. This energy soup of colour and evolution has led

to our creation — it is no wonder we feel drawn and connected to the natural world, and we can express that through art.

Enter music, the human species' other language of communication. We have mastered delivering our uniquely defined emotions by means of happenings we witness and feel in the real world. The birds singing back and forth elicit sound waves of joy, whereas the foggy valley elicits feelings of isolation or calm. A thunderstorm demonstrates inevitable anger. The hymn of midnight insects elicits mystery, and a thought into another lifestyle we know so little about.

Case in point, I like to watch footage and organic memories from my times in the canyons, jungles and deserts of the world. When I insert these shots into one of my Hidden Corners nature documentaries, I write music that I feel represents that ecosystem, that moment and that vibe in time.

In a highly personalized list, I present to you my personal fa-

vourite bands that remind me of and pair well with nature. I would love to know if any readers share these particular bands with me in terms of how they assimilate these artists' sounds into the great outdoors.

My favourite "desert island band," meaning the artist I would listen to for the rest of my life if I were figuratively stranded on a desert island, is Radiohead.

Besides their hit song *Creep*, which many will be familiar with, the rest of their musical catalogue is wildly diverse, immersive, and intriguingly challenging to listen to. Like the inconsistency and imperfection of nature, Radiohead's works jump around from one genre to another on the same album. With no two songs sounding alike, let alone one album juxtaposed to another album, Radiohead seems to embody the versatility and unpredictable nature of a functioning ecosystem. Some of their songs include the sounds of birds, and others take on an aggressive tone about hiding "women and children first" in a climate change eco-political crisis.

Where did Radiohead openly get their inspiration from? These Brits nod their head to our Canadian friend, Neil Young. But back on their home soil, it is Pink Floyd.

Is anyone surprised that this band just sounds like trees, mountains and human emo-

tions all in one?

Pink Floyd was massively ahead of its time. Their perceived bold ability to push boundaries and experiment is exactly what nature does through evolution — always reinventing and creating new norms. I always think of the album *Animals*, and how they lyrically discuss, and seemingly create a mockery of how humans can behave as pigs, dogs and sheep at any time. Musically, the journey is gentle enough to make you feel as if you're having this discussion in a safe setting, but it is evoking at the same time.

To throw things back to our side of the pond, I like to consider Gordon Lightfoot and the Tragically Hip. Who here has driven up north to the land of lakes, woods and silence to the iconic sound of either of these two bands? I would be willing to bet that most of you have had their ears and souls soothed by both of the late great Gordas at some point in their life.

Gordon Lightfoot arrived on the scene over a decade in advance of the Tragically Hip, and sang of railways cutting through unending woodlands, a giant green forest "too silent to be real," and of course, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*. Lake Superior nearly claimed me, without exaggeration, about five years ago in a canoe. Lightfoot understood the forces, barriers and welcome mats of nature alike, and he showed his respect for those topics through his unforgettable music.

Meanwhile, Gord Downie and the gang of the Tragically Hip sing about northern Ontario towns, fishing trips and the Indigenous connection to the land.

I will leave with a potentially challenging thought — that heavy metal music pairs well with nature. Understandably, this is not for everybody, but I have always felt that the power

and tightness of metal music is a mirror of the sheer forces it took to create mountains, exploding volcanoes, tsunamis and hurricanes. Nature has routinely created forces that are more powerful than a nuclear bomb.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a fully developed hurricane can release the amount of energy of a 10-megaton nuke every 20 minutes. That's a fun fact to headbang to.

On the opposite end of the musical experience, let's put a massive sound against a minuscule situation. I also enjoy thinking about cells dividing inside a tree to create a 200-plus-year-old behemoth. There is something seriously heavy metal about pairing up tiny cell division with pounding, gargantuan guitar riffs.

Life moves fast and slow at once, and music can help us experience that unique feeling.

View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Bank of Dave (Netflix 2023) is set in the once thriving, but now down-at-the-heels, town of Burnley, Lancashire, England. The hero is Dave Fishwick, a successful car salesman who has always been there

to lend financial help to struggling townfolk. He is persuaded to set up a community bank, even though no banking licence has been granted in over 150 years. He challenges London's elite financial institutions and wins. The film is based on a real-life story and it is very heart-warming to see a

David taking on a Goliath. I loved it.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to the movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of online series and movies for The Local.

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Where's Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com.

Last week, Ben was at St. Saviour's Anglican Church in Queenston.

COMMENT

Local LETTERS Voices of Freedom could be better recognized

The Voices of Freedom Park would get a lot more use and associated recognition if the diagonal path across it was linked up to the municipi-

pal parking lot behind it. I would love to walk through that park instead of by that park. I have always wondered why it wasn't

linked to Queen Street but I noticed recently that there is now a temporary gap in the fence to the parking lot behind the Court House mak-

ing it possible to slip by and into the park. I assume that both properties are under the jurisdiction of the town so I wonder

why they aren't linked. It would make it so much more convenient for people to have the option to walk through the Voices of Freedom Park

and enjoy it! Is there anything that can be done to make that happen? Jackie Bonic Old Town of NOTL

Local LETTERS Local historian has a proposal for Rand property

I wish to comment on three aspects of the Randwood character study and then conclude with a proposal that I hope will interest the Solmar Corporation and the town council.

The first heritage feature I wish to talk about is the wall that surrounds three sides of the Rand Estate. The Randwood Wall is recognized by not only the residents of this town but by the many visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The section on John Street is in relatively good shape, being made of concrete. However, the part that runs down Charlotte Street is beginning to deteriorate and the section on the south side of the estate along the former train

tracks is in terrible disrepair. I've been told how difficult the wall is to repair. First, one must search for the correct sized stones to replace the ones that have disappeared and then attempt to fix them in place, a long and difficult procedure. I would like to see the Town start maintaining the Randwood Wall as soon as possible. It is definitely the best known wall in the region, if not the entire province.

The garden around the Rand swimming pool was designed by the Dunington-Grubbs in approximately 1925. When seen shortly before the property was bought by Solmar, the peony alley was still intact and producing numerous blooms. The

climbing roses had grown incredibly thick in the 85 years since they were planted and had prolific rosehips. I would like to see these horticultural features maintained as soon as possible. All gardeners will acknowledge that if perennials are neglected for more than two years or so, they are overrun with weeds. This is especially true in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which seems to be the world capital of goutweed.

I was pleased to see the recommendation of installing the axial pathway from the railroad gazebo across the fields to John Street, thereby creating a pathway from the Heritage Trail to the Commons. While some people

would say that the public should not be allowed to cross private property, I would like to remind them of how welcoming the Rand family and the Foxes who owned 144 and 176 John Street from 1993 to 2004 were to the townspeople of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Many people today talk of being invited to the Rand swimming pool, the first one built in town, while others speak of the tennis tournaments held on the Randwood courts. Hope Elliott Bradley has told me about the dances held in the Randwood stables that the young people in town attended in the 1940s. In its early years, the opening night party for the Shaw Festival was held on the grounds of

Randwood. Bill and Carol Fox, who ran the School of Philosophy in the buildings that face John Street, allowed organizations in town to hold luncheons in the Randwood house. They also invited neighbours to explore the pathways at 144 and 176 John. However, more recently, all the gates have been shut and nailed closed. I very much hope that the townspeople of NOTL will soon be welcome on the Rand Estate. It is evident that if the Official Plan amendment under consideration is adopted, there will be very little land remaining on which to build housing units. I would like to propose that the council invite Mr. Marotta, the CEO of

Solmar Development Corp., to donate the property at 200 John Street and 588 Charlotte Street to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. He and his family have lived here for at least 12 years and have established many successful businesses in town. Since they are known for their generosity, as witnessed by major donations to Niagara College, the Niagara Falls hospital and the St. Catharines hospital, why not make a donation of this heritage estate so the townspeople of Niagara-on-the-Lake can enjoy the beauty of the Rand Estate? I hope the council and Mr. Marotta will consider this idea.

Elizabeth Masson NOTL

Birds likely to be seen in NOTL this winter

David Gilchrist
The Local

Most winters we have become used to fairly large numbers of migratory waterfowl at the mouth of the Niagara River, but this year has been an anomaly.

Where we usually see lots of the greater scaup, white-winged scoter ducks, mergansers and smaller numbers of the odd waterfowl, it just hasn't

happened so far. In the water off Balls Beach, Nelson Park, the marina basin and along the shore toward Navy Hall several species have been noted, but usually only one or two horned grebe, red-throated loon, three American coots, etc. The larger numbers of diving ducks have simply not appeared yet. I'm assuming that the milder winter we have had so far is the primary cause.

Further afield in the rural

areas of the town, there are large number of starlings which appear to be attracting the usual predators: hawks, merlins and the beautiful small falcon, the American kestrel.

I've witnessed several murmurations of starlings as they move like a cloud through the air, landing for brief periods on trees or the ground before lifting en masse to the sky. At times you can even spot the predator that is the cause of

this action flying in among the clouds of starling or on the ground with a capture.

Backyard feeders in town also continue to attract the non-migratory birds and we are treated daily to finches, sparrows, cardinals and blue jays.

Sometimes large numbers of robins gather in a smaller area and actively feed on whatever is left in trees. It can be quite busy overhead.

Well, we will have to see what the next few months will bring us to see bird wise. With the prediction of an early spring we may be seeing hum-

mingbirds arrive earlier than usual. Already, we're seeing turkey vultures several weeks ahead of their usual time of arrival.



A pair of cardinals



Cooper's hawk

Ricky Rap

Ricky Rap is a list of 10 thoughts and offerings from Niagara's own Rick Mills. Retired from more than 30 years of management in the steel

industry, he continues pastoral ministry here in town. Ricky Rap, he says, is intended to help us to believe in and laugh at ourselves.

1. Cathy's mom, Marion Marino, was a nurse in NOTL for 50 years.
2. She delivered me.
3. Doctor was late.
4. I wasn't.
5. 11 years ago my hands were the last she felt in her 91st year.
6. Mere moments before dying.
7. Just her and I in the room.
8. She ushered me in.
9. I ushered her out.
10. The essence of life is walking one another home.



Marion Marino

STAY IN THE LOOP

If you haven't already signed up for our daily newsletter, with all the latest headlines from Niagara-on-the-Lake, you're missing out!

Our Village Media website offers hyperlocal journalism, and much more than we can include in our weekly printed edition, coming to you daily. Keep up to date on local news, weather, gas prices, community updates, news from the province, across the country and more!



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New signs enhance heritage trail experience

Sharon Burns
The Local

On a sunny afternoon this past Monday, representatives from town staff, the Heritage Trail Committee and members of the Goettler family assembled around one of six newly installed permanent interpretive signs along the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.

The signs, meant to enhance users' experience, showcase unique facts and

history about the local area.

This initiative was made possible thanks to the generous donation from the Goettler Family Foundation and Owen Bjorgan, a Niagara-on-the-Lake local who wrote the content for the signs.

"Many community members use the Heritage Trail daily, and I am proud to see this addition come to life," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

The easy-to-read signs cover a wide range of information about the local area, such as nationally rare trees and rare and interesting wildlife, Niagara waterways, and the history of the Heritage Trail and railroad.

Bjorgan's content brings attention to the unique current and historical landscape that the trail traverses. "The Niagara region has all kinds of fascinating and nationally unique features right

under our very feet," said Bjorgan.

The signs explain the rich biodiversity of the Carolinian forest zone and pollinator gardens along the trail. "We're very lucky to have that right in our own backyard. I think that often gets overshadowed and overlooked by many other wonderful features of the area," said Bjorgan.

An ancient lake bed under several feet of water used to run the length of most of the Heritage Trail,

explained Bjorgan. "That's why we have such fertile farmland that hikers, walkers and bikers enjoy going through to this day."

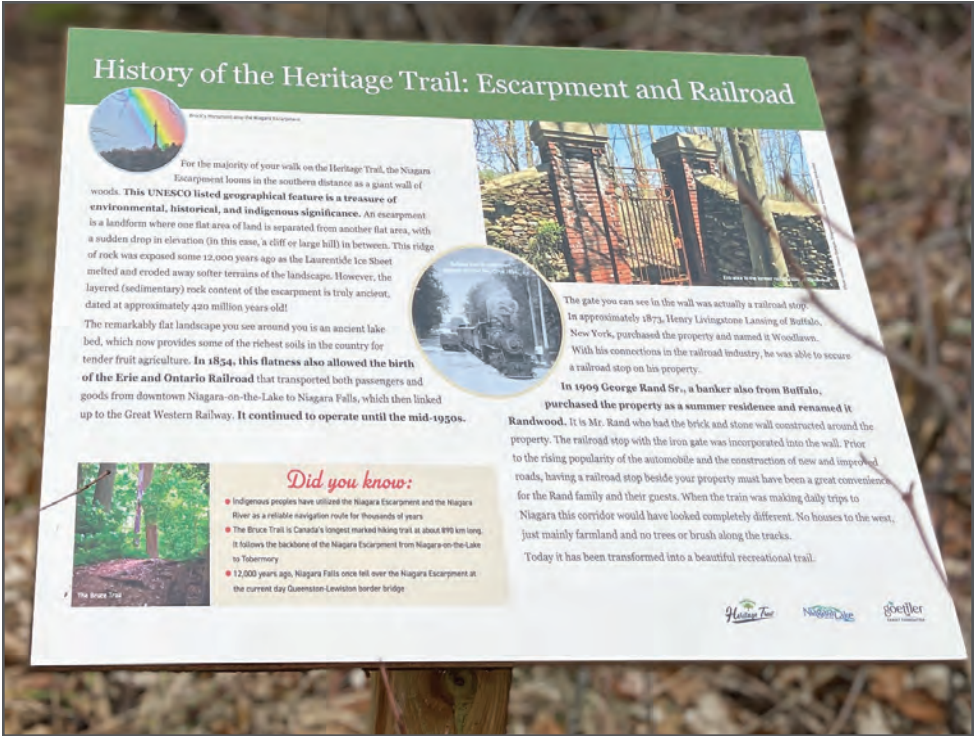
"The fun challenge of it (writing the content for the signs) was trying to convey all of that interesting information in a succinct, inclusive way," he said.

"If you can convey the information accurately in an exciting kind of way, it creates a greater sense of place for visitors and

locals alike. The greater sense of place people have, the more inclined they are to talk about it, spread the word, care for it and revisit it," Bjorgan said.

The signs are located between the John Street entrance and Charlotte Street, and Charlotte Street and East West Line.

"These signs are a great way to learn and explore while using the Heritage Trail to stay active," said interim CAO Bruce Zvaniga.



Environmentalist Owen Bjorgan wrote the content for the signs. (Photos by Joy Sanguedolce)



Coun. Wendy Cheropita, Tony Chisholm, Rick Meloen, Kevin Turcotte, Vaughn Goettler, Dick Coyne, Coun. Sandra O'Connor and Coun. Tim Balasiuk celebrate new signs on the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.

The 9 Lives of a Domestic Shorthair



There's a saying "every cat has 9 lives", if only we could guarantee that for our furry friends. But for one, I can certainly attest to this statement, as my Tarzan-AKA Little T, -is currently living his best 9th life.



Almost eight years ago, a client stopped in our hospital with the most beautiful tabby kitten that she found in her window well, with no mother to be found. After a quick exam from our Veterinarians, it was determined this little one was male, about 5 weeks old, abandoned, and in need of a good home. Now who can turn down a kitten in need of a good home? Certainly not me. I packed him up, grabbed some kitten food and brought him home. Being a Disney family, we thought the name Tarzan was very fitting, as he was a fighter and a survivor.



Tarzan fit well in our home. He adjusted to our other cat, Jenny, and rambunctious boxer, Theo; or maybe it was them that adjusted to him, as he ruled the roost from day one. He was an adventurer, a hunter, a trouble maker, but also so affectionate, cuddly and a great companion.



Tarzan's curiosity would get him into trouble now and then; locking himself in a closet, unravelling an entire toilet roll, opening the back door and letting himself outside, you know...usual kitten behavior. But he was always a happy, healthy, bright-eyed kitten. That is until one morning when my very food motivated kitten wouldn't eat. And worse yet, he began to vomit. Only slightly worried, I brought him in to work for an exam to see what was going on. Bloodwork and radiographs revealed a likely obstruction in his intestines. I am very fortunate to work with a very supportive group that quickly prepped him for surgery, and Dr. Turpel went in to reveal the tiny tip of a children's nerf-gun bullet, the perfect size to block such a small little guy.



He recovered well, I removed every trace of nerf-gun paraphernalia from my home and life went back to normal. Until the next time, and the next, and the next. Fast forward 7 years and my sweet boy has been in and out of our surgical suite far too many times, ingesting far too many inedible items, likely record setting in the veterinary industry. He always bounced back with just a little more spunk and attitude. Until this past fall.

It was a Monday morning and my sweet boy didn't want breakfast. A quick call to the hospital to let them know he was coming in with me that day, and we were off. Upon arrival our Pet Health Care Team took over. Tarzan was examined, we did an x-ray and an ultrasound, and it was determined, yet again, there was an obstruction. Once again Dr. Turpel and my incredible team prepped him for surgery.

We are so careful with him at home, nothing is left out, doors now have child protective handles, it's literally Tarzan proof. But that weekend as we were cleaning the yard and preparing for winter, he escaped and ate the ornamental grasses in the garden. Low and behold, a clump of ornamental grass was found, causing a serious blockage. Surgery went well, the grass was removed, he did great under anesthetic and he was moved to our recovery area.

I went home that evening and prepared his usual house so he could heal peacefully.

Tuesday morning, I headed into work excited to give my little guy his breakfast. He never misses a meal, even post-surgery, so my assumption was he would be ravenous. But this time he wasn't. He looked up at me, meowed and went back under his blanket. Upon exam everything seemed ok at this point. No fever, his pain was managed, so I thought ok, he's older now, maybe he needs a bit more time to recover from this one. We gave him an hour and still no appetite. In that time, he had developed a high fever, his bloodwork showed rapid progression of serious concerns, ultrasound showed fluid in his abdomen, and it was determined his incision site had broken open internally (an unfortunate risk with any abdominal surgery) meaning fluid from his intestines was leaking into his abdomen. Tarzan had rapidly developed life-threatening septic peritonitis.

This is one of the biggest risks of a foreign body surgery, but I had never thought we would have to face it, as he had always done so well. I was devastated to face one of two options. One, Dr. Turpel goes back into surgery and repairs the tear with a 50/50 chance of survival, as he was so sick. Two, we say goodbye. Nothing prepared me for this decision. How did I go from having a perfectly happy and healthy cat just two days ago, to facing a decision like this? How could I go home and tell my family that he was gone?

I have worked for Dr. Turpel for 12 years. We have been through many ups and downs in our hospital, supported our staff and clients through very sad moments, and celebrated the good moments. He has been my mentor and a dear friend to me. So, when he took me aside and said we need to give him a fighting chance that was all I needed to hear, and for the second time in less than 24 hours, our team scrubbed in for surgery, Tarzan's 9th surgery.

My little one held strong, and survived, but his progress over the next few days was critical. Dr. Turpel took him home for 24-hour care over the next 2 nights, administering medications as scheduled all through the night, and our team nursed him throughout the day. Tarzan had a drain in his abdomen to help remove the remaining fluid, a feeding tube placed to ensure he was intaking food and medications, as well as a cone and an enormous bandage covering most of his body. But by Friday, he finally started to eat on his own and he was ready to come home, receiving medication every 4-6 hours.

He returned to work with me a few times to check his blood and ensure he continued to heal. I am thrilled to say he improved every day, and now, other than the patches of shaved hair, you'd never know what he had endured. Tarzan is a true fighter and survivor.

I will be eternally grateful to Dr. Jim and to my work family here at Upper Canada Animal Hospital. They held my hand, wiped my tears and supported me through it all, and most important, did everything in their power to ensure Tarzan could come home again.

Tracey Niven
Hospital Manager – Upper Canada Animal Hospital



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Niagara Nursery recognizes expansion donors

Sharon Burns
The Local

This Sunday, the board of directors and staff of Niagara Nursery School unveiled a special wall installation to celebrate individuals, organizations and businesses that have donated to the school's expansion fund.

"We are very grateful to all of our donors who contributed," said Candice Penny, executive director of Niagara Nursery School. In all, \$80,000 was raised, which was "used to purchase furniture for the infant and toddler spaces as well as put funds towards our debenture."

In September 2021, the daycare relocated to a new extension of the Community Centre, allowing for significant expansion, including the addition of infant and toddler programs and a larger outdoor space.

The nursery school has several rooms dedicated to different age groups. The infant room is divided into two spaces, a bright and spacious play/learning area, and a cosy sleeping room where every baby has their own assigned crib for nap time.

The toddler room is "definitely a big step up from our infant room," said

staff member Sarah Brunton. "We kind of follow a preschool schedule a little bit more, so they're sleeping on cots, they have a snack and outside time, usually twice a day."

Children aged two and a half to four years spend time in the preschool room, practising letters and numbers, social interactions with others, and many other activities in a variety of learn and play zones. Another classroom is used by school-age children after school or during holidays such as March Break.

"Our growing waitlist shows that the demand for quality childcare in Niagara-on-the-Lake is extremely high. Thanks to the tremendous support of our donors we were able to grow our programs to accommodate even more children for years to come," said Olivia Fabiani, board president of Niagara Nursery School.

These additions have allowed the school to support the community by offering programs for newborns up to 12 years — they previously started at 27 months — and have doubled the capacity from 39 students to 69.

Celebrating their 50th anniversary of operation during COVID, the school

has also doubled their staff roster from nine teachers to 18.

Many donors were able to show their continued support by attending the unveiling of the donor plaque.

"Choosing to donate to the Nursery School was important to us to support the current children but also a hope it continues to support many more children for years to come," said Jason and Caitlin Disher from Niagara Truck 'n' Stuff in a news release.

Andrew Perrie, director of The Fine Estates Team, said that "investing in the future begins with nurturing the roots of our community, and by contributing to Niagara Nursery School we are sowing the seeds of education and growth for future generations."

As a not-for-profit, 100 per cent of funds raised are put directly back into school programming and essential learning equipment which directly benefits the students of Niagara Nursery School.

The nursery school continues to welcome monetary donations from residents and local business owners. Please email niagaranursery@gmail.com to arrange for your donation drop-off.



Alan and Diana Ash, donors to the nursery school, by the donor wall plaque. (Photos by Sharon Burns)



Niagara Nursery School staff member Kaitlyn Eymann in the new preschool room.

— LOCAL LOVE LETTERS —

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Dear Charlotte, We love you to the moon and back!! From your big brothers, Matthew & James

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*A winner will be randomly selected from all entries published

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Plaque of Chloe Cooley unveiled at Navy Hall

Mike Balsom
The Local

It's fitting that Parks Canada chose Navy Hall as the location to unveil a new national historic plaque in honour of enslaved woman Chloe Cooley.

As St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle explained, it was at that same Navy Hall in 1793 that Black Loyalist Peter Martin and William Grisley reported to the Executive Council of the Parliament of Upper Canada the horrors of Cooley's sale to an enslaver in New York state.

Bittle joined Parks Canada vice president Jewel Cunningham, Dr. Richard Alway, chair of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, consultant and author Rosemary Sadlier and Rochelle Bush, historian and trustee at the Salem Chapel British Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Catharines, at an event Saturday hosted by Parks Canada to appropriately mark the start of February, Black History Month. It was also the first event in a series of Parks Canada presentations this month called Fireside Fridays.

It was Cooley's screaming that got the attention of Martin and Grisley in March 1793. Her enslaver, Adam Vrooman of Queenston, had made a deal to sell Cooley to an American across the Niagara River. With the help of at least two others, they bound her and placed her in a boat for the journey.

Alarmed by her loud protestations, Martin and Grisley brought their concerns to Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe. Despite some pushback, Simcoe was able to convince the Executive Council to pass the 1793 Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada, the first major piece of legislation that eventually led to the abolition of slavery in Canada.

Alway began Saturday's presentation by explaining the work of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board over more than a century. During that time, he said, about 2,000 burgundy and gold bronze plaques have been installed across the country to recognize individuals and events that have national importance.

"This morning, we add to that number by recognizing Chloe Cooley," Alway told the gathering of about 60 in the historic building. "Her

remarkable story is an example of courage and resilience that still resonates after more than two centuries. This morning we seek to bring her and her story to the attention of all Canadians."

Bush, herself a descendant of freedom seekers, began her remarks by explaining more of the Chloe Cooley story and its repercussions.

"Setting the stage for the great North American freedom movement known as the Underground Railroad," said Bush, "the Act to Limit Slavery would change the course of enslavement in Canada and around the world."

Bush explained that before learning of Cooley's story through reading Daniel G. Hill's 1981 book *The Freedom-Seekers*, she had no idea that enslavement had even existed in the Niagara region.

"I knew slavery existed in Canada," said Bush, thrilled with the chance to speak at the event, "but it never dawned on me that people of African descent had been enslaved in Niagara. I give thanks to Chloe Cooley because her unfortunate circumstances made it possible for tens of thousands of enslaved African Americans to seek refuge in Canada, my family included."

Bush expressed pride in Cooley's federal designation, especially, she explained, in light of prominent citizens in other countries around the world recently denying the existence of slavery and racism and rewriting the narrative.

"Chloe Cooley's narrative will serve as a reminder of Canada's painful past," said Bush.

"Her federal designation, however, signals the importance of narrative inclusion, greater awareness of our diversity, and equity of all."

Bush was followed by Sadlier, a specialist in diversity, equity and inclusion, Black history and social justice, and president of the Ontario Black History Society for 22 years.

It was Sadlier who nominated Cooley to the Monuments Board. Sadlier also sat on the Canada Post Advisory Committee that was responsible for issuing the Chloe Cooley stamp just last February.

"This is critical in terms of telling the story of Canada, and in terms of defining how and what freedom in Canada truly looked like and meant," Sadlier told The Local.

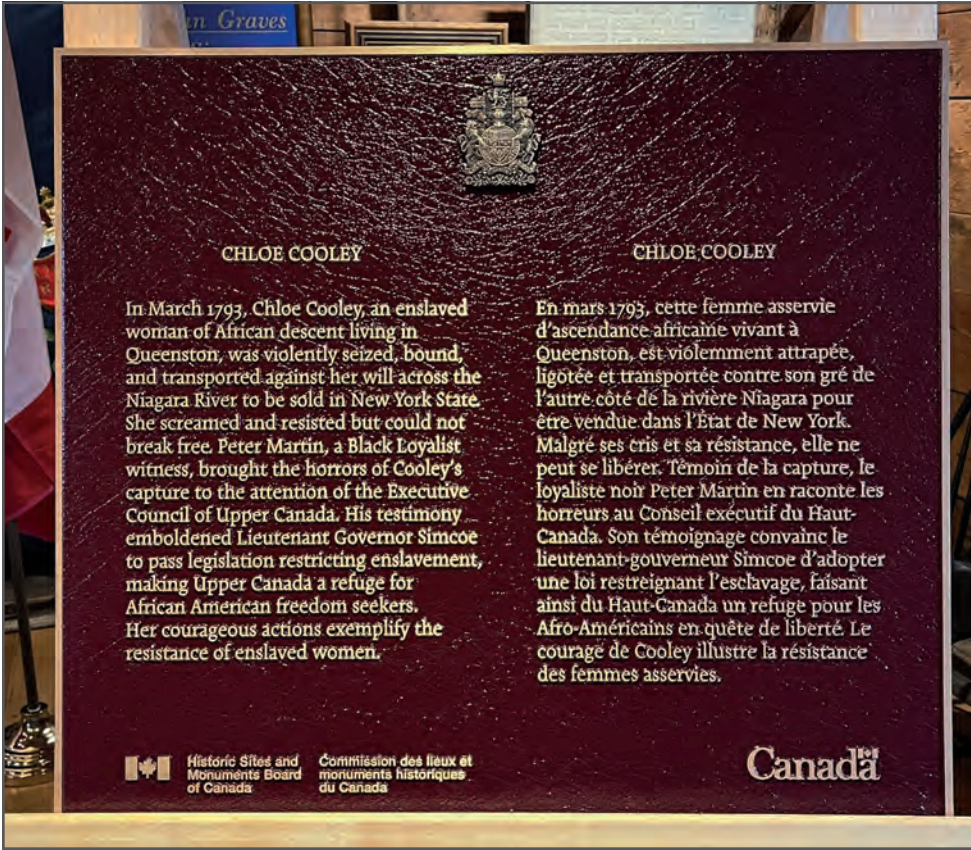
In her speech, Sadlier, like Bush a descendant of freedom seekers who came to Canada via the Underground Railroad, reflected on what her family members would have experienced back then when slavery was still a reality for many in the country that would become Canada.

In recounting the importance of Chloe Cooley's experience, she posited that if her screams had not been heard by Martin, it most likely would have taken much longer for Simcoe's legislation to come to pass.

Simcoe was pressed into tabling the act by Martin, she offered.

"If Martin had not been a former Black Loyalist," opined Sadlier, "had not been a former defender of the Crown, then perhaps Simcoe would have dismissed his comments."

Change, said Sadlier, is brought about by people such as



The Chloe Cooley plaque will be installed at Queenston Heights, overlooking the Niagara River. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Cooley, Martin and Grisley simply responding to their reality.

"It is not always brought about because somebody who is rich and powerful finally moves on making things better," she added. "There needs to be a push, a touching of the consciousness. That is ultimately what Chloe Cooley was able to do."

There were smiles all around as the speakers gath-

ered beside the plaque. To a countdown from three, Bush and Sadlier lifted the burgundy velvet drape off the new national historical monument to loud applause from the audience.

The plaque will soon be erected at the lookout located at Queenston Heights Park, offering visitors a chance to reflect on Cooley's struggle as they gaze directly over the section of the Niagara River where

Vrooman and his helpers forcibly rowed the enslaved woman across to New York state.

"Putting this plaque for Chloe at Queenston Heights," Sadlier told The Local, "with the likes of General Brock as well as a previous plaque I was able to work on for the Coloured Corps, adds a very important element. It more fully defines the beginning of freedom in this country."



Rosemary Sadlier, author and specialist in Black History, nominated Chloe Cooley to the Monuments Board.



Deborah Bush, Makayla Scott Bush, Rochelle Bush, Linda Bush, Rosemary Sadlier and Saladin Allah celebrate the Chloe Cooley plaque unveiling at a Parks Canada event at Navy Hall.

S O L D

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property at **130 FRONT STREET, KIRBY HOUSE (PLAN 86 PART LOT 11 PART LOT 12)** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Description of Property

The subject property is located on 130 Front Street. The Kirby House is located near the intersection of Front Street and Gate Street. The residential building is set in a large site which has partial views of Lake Ontario on the north. The orientation of the built structure is such that it is placed closer to Front Street and has a large backyard in the rear. 130 Front Street also contains a detached garage located towards the southeast corner of the subject property. The open space surrounding the residential building is landscaped with a few mature trees located towards the west and south of the subject property. The pedestrian access to the house is through a paved stone pathway through the picket fence facing Front Street. Access for cars is through a rubble driveway located towards the east of the residential structure, outside the picket fence boundary.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property known as the Kirby House has cultural heritage value or interest for its design and physical values, its historical and associative values and its contextual values.

The house which has become to be known as the ‘Kirby House’, was constructed in 1818. The property has design and physical value because it is a representative example of the Georgian style. The two-storey rectangular plan residence has a side gable roof with return eaves, symmetrical façade with three bays, cornice details, six over six double hung windows, the neo-classical doorway and the stucco finish. The balanced, simple and symmetrical side elevations are also characteristic of the Georgian style.

The Kirby House is also of value because of its association with William Kirby. The influence of William Kirby was far-reaching and had an impact locally, provincially, nationally and he also raised recognition of Canada internationally. Kirby first came to Niagara in September of 1839. Initially, he worked as a tanner and then was a partner in a tannery business, from there he transitioned to teaching. After his marriage in 1847 to Eliza Madeline Whitmore, Kirby moved permanently to Niagara and in 1850, became the editor of the Niagara Mail until well into the 1860’s. William Kirby was the author of the Annals of Niagara, The Golden Dog, Canadian Idylls and other works. His work, The Golden Dog, went on to become an international best-seller. His work is well known internationally and even helped gain international interest in Canada’s history. After his arrival in Niagara, he worked in various industries and was an essential part of many societies. William Kirby was also one of the original Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. He has a plaque dedicated by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board, installed in front of the Kirby house.

The Kirby House also has contextual value because it is important in supporting the historic character of the area. Kirby house is within the boundaries of the Historic Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and is in close proximity to the Queen-Picton Heritage District. The house design and layout of the subject property, in terms of the open and built spaces, is in keeping with the surrounding properties.

Description of Key Heritage Attributes

Key exterior and interior attributes that embody the heritage value of the dwelling at 130 Front Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake include its:

- 3 bay symmetrical façade
- Side gable roof with overhanging return eaves
- Red brick chimneys on each gable end
- Upper sash and cornice details
- French and six over six double hung windows
- Wooden trim details around openings
- Main doorway with entablature, cornice, sidelights and pilasters
- Plaque dedicated by Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board
- Location of Kirby house within historic old town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Mature trees and landscaped lawns
- Mantel piece with fluted pilasters
- Recessed carved fans
- Centre hall staircase

Objections

Any objection to this designation must be filled no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intent to Designate. Objections should be directed to Grant Bivol, Town Clerk, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1T0. The last date to file a notice of objection is **March 8th 2024**.

Queries

Any further queries should be directed to Sumra Zia, Heritage Planner at **(905) 468-3266 ext. 327** or through email at **sumra.zia@notl.com**.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 7th day of February 2024
GRANT BIVOL, CLERK



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property at **12 PRINCESS STREET, ST. SAVIOURS ANGLICAN CHURCH (CP 1 LOT 247 TO LOT 249)** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Description of Property

The subject property is set in a small site which overlooks the Niagara River and the Queenston docks to the east. On the subject property, the church building is located at the intersection of Princess Street and Highlander Street, towards the east of Princess Street. 12 Princess Street also contains a parish hall, located towards the south of the church building. The building was relocated in the 1950s from the St. Martin’s Anglican church in Niagara Falls. The open space surrounding the church building and the parish hall is landscaped with a few mature trees located towards the north and south of the subject property. The structures have a moderate setback from Princess Street and Highlander Street. The access to the church and parish hall is through a paved pedestrian pathway through the Highlander Street, towards the northwest corner of the church building.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property known as the St. Saviours Anglican Church has cultural heritage value or interest for its design and physical values, its historical and associative values and its contextual values.

The building which became to be known as the ‘St. Saviours Anglican Church’ was constructed in 1879. The property has design and physical value because it is a representative example of the Gothic Revival style. The one-and-a-half storey rectangular plan church has a large steeply pitched front and rear gable roof, lancet and pointed arched window openings, diagonally projecting vestry door, tracery on windows, angled buttresses, dressed and undressed voussoirs, stone chimney, and stained glass rose window which is typical of Gothic Revival structures. The asymmetrical façade and symmetrical side elevations and detailing are also typical of the Gothic Revival style.

St. Saviours Anglican Church has associative value as the Brock Memorial Church. It has direct association with Sir Isaac Brock who is considered the ‘Saviour of Upper Canada’. He led the charge against the enemy in the Battle of Queenston in 1812. The church is dedicated to his memory and is believed to be the only church in Canada to be named after a layman. There are plaques located on the subject property dedicated to Sir Isaac Brock.

St. Saviours Anglican Church also has direct association with the parish of St. Saviours, which was formed in 1817. They met in various locations until 1879, by then the construction of the St. Saviours church was completed. The church also has the potential to yield information that contributes to the understanding of its parish community. St. Saviours Anglican Church also has the potential to offer new knowledge or a greater understanding of the commemoration aspects of the community’s history as a former rector of the church is also buried on the grounds of the subject property near the west elevation.

St. Saviours Anglican Church has contextual value because it is important in maintaining the character of the area. St. Saviours church is part of the historic fabric of the Queenston urban area. It lies in close proximity to the Brock Memorial in Queenston Heights and both the structures are visible from the Niagara River. The church has served functionally to its community as a church to its congregation since 1879. Visually, the church sits on a rise of land which slopes down to the surrounding properties and the landscape and could be viewed from various vantage points in the neighborhood. The church is also designed with its main elevation facing the Niagara River which would have made the church more recognizable and visible for the people coming up and down the Niagara River.

Description of Key Heritage Attributes

Key exterior and interior attributes that embody the heritage value of the church at 12 Princess Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake include its:

- One and a half storey Gothic Revival church
- Steeply pitched gable roofs
- Projecting chancel on the west side
- Tower with steeple on the northeast corner
- Stone chimney
- Diagonally projecting vestry door
- Broken course rubble construction
- Lancet and pointed arched openings
- Stained glass windows
- Dressed and undressed stone voussoirs and sills
- Trefoil and tracery details on window openings
- Angled buttresses
- Main door on east elevation with its hardware
- Plaques dedicated by Archbishop E. Scott and Queenston residents
- Brock memorial window above the altar
- The grave of a former rector located on the subject property
- Location of St. Saviours within Queenston facing the Niagara River on a rise of land
- Mature trees and landscaped lawn

Objections

Any objection to this designation must be filled no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intent to Designate. Objections should be directed to Grant Bivol, Town Clerk, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1T0. The last date to file a notice of objection is **March 8th 2024**.

Queries

Any further queries should be directed to Sumra Zia, Heritage Planner at **(905) 468-3266 ext. 327** or through email at **sumra.zia@notl.com**.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 7th day of February 2024
GRANT BIVOL, CLERK

PAC presents perfect pairing for Valentine's Day

Mike Balsom
The Local

Nashville, Tennessee, jazz singer and pianist Kandace Springs headlines a romantic Valentine's evening of jazz and soul at Partridge Hall on Feb. 14, with St. Catharines-based Juno Award winner Sammy Jackson opening the show.

A Nashville native, Springs was originally discovered via her early YouTube videos. One of those videos was seen in 2014 by none other than Prince. Impressed with what he called her "voice that could melt snow," he invited the singer, pianist and songwriter to his Paisley Park studios. Soon she was signed to the legendary Blue Note record label.

Though Nashville is known more for country music than it is for jazz and soul, her father, legendary soul singer Kenneth "Scat" Springs, blazed a trail for her. She credits Scat for her development as a jazz performer.

"He always played and listened to funk music and soul," she says about her dad, who for 30 years fronted the Nashville institution the Scat Springs Band. "I kind of got into jazz



Nashville-based jazz singer, songwriter and pianist Kandace Springs headlines a Valentine's Day concert in downtown St. Catharines.

through his Nina Simone, Norah Jones and Roberta Flack records. That's what shaped who I am."

Those influences are evident on her four albums, especially so on her 2020 Blue Note release *The Women Who Raised Me*, an homage to some

of the most legendary female jazz singers. In fact, she covers *Killing Me Softly With His Song*, made famous by Flack, and duets with Jones herself on *Angel Eyes* as part of that collection.

"I was in the middle of a gig in Minneapolis,"



St. Catharines' own Sammy Jackson will open the show with a set of jazz and R 'n' B music. (Photos supplied)

Spring says. "During our break I texted her. I told her she was one of my biggest inspirations, and asked her to play on the album. She texted me back in 10 minutes and said she'd love to."

That album also includes instrumental contributions

from Christian McBride (bass), David Sanborn (sax) and Elena Pinderhughes (flute), a testament to the respect some of the biggest names in jazz have for Springs' talent. On her most recent record, *My Name is Sheba*, Springs' voice proves to be as rich and complex

as ever on a set of original songs that has inspired a 33-episode fictional podcast by the same name that takes on the struggle of living the creative life.

Sheba is a stunning collection of compositions that includes a guest appearance by Scat himself on the opening track *Simple Things*. As much as her singing shines on the record, her piano work, especially on the beautiful *Love is All We Have*, is stellar.

Sadly, Scat Springs passed away in 2021. Kandace's new album, *Run Your Race*, set to be released any day now, is a tribute to her father. The title cut hit streaming services on Jan. 11. It's a heartfelt paean to her father's influence, with a powerful, gospel-inflected crescendo for a coda.

Spring will be fronting an all-female jazz trio in St. Catharines for her Niagara debut. Caylen Bryant, whose own father, saxophonist and composer Lance Bryant, is her biggest influence, will be on bass, while Camille Gainer-Jones lays down the beat on drums. Both Gainer Jones and Bryant also front their own combos when not playing with Kandace.

"They both sing a bit and back me up," Springs says. "They are so talented. I can't brag enough about them. It's great to tour with them. We have only one guy who tours with us, our manager. He just puts up with us."

Spring laughs that since the show is on Valentine's Day, the trio will play "some of our less depressing songs. I promise you'll have a good time, there'll be some laughing, there'll be some crying, too."

And she loves to take requests from audience members.

"Sometimes they come a long way to hear certain songs," Springs explains. "I would really like to hear suggestions from some of the guests coming to this show. I like to get feedback, narrow it down and give the audience what they want to hear."

St. Catharines' own jazz and R 'n' B chanteuse Sammy Jackson will play a homecoming set to open the show.

The singer with a smokey voice is known for weaving pop influences into her jazz stylings. Her second release, the EP *With You*, featuring the single *Past Tense*, earned her the 2021 Juno Award for Jazz Album of the Year.

It's the perfect jazz double-bill that promises to make for a perfect way to celebrate Valentine's Day. For tickets, visit firstontariopac.ca.

Local HOME of the WEEK

566 LANSDOWNE AVE. | \$3,495,000

Cleverly designed, this modern build on a ravine property showcases many natural outdoor elements and an open-flowing floor plan that create the perfect balance between form and function. The kitchen with immaculate fixtures and finishes, large center granite island and convenient walk-in pantry opens to well-appointed principal rooms. An expansive front foyer, convenient mudroom, laundry room, powder room and comfortable den with wood fireplace and walk-out to covered porch complete the main floor. The upper level is comprised of a chic open loft area with bedrooms on either side and a shared 5 piece bathroom. The lower level is finished to include an entertainment size rec room, gym area, 4th bedroom, 5 piece bathroom and plenty of extra room for utility and storage. This ravine property offers tranquil surroundings and the exterior includes manicured grounds, putting green, in-ground pool, hot tub, pool shed, covered porch, 2 car garage and double drive.

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REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS



Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

Where to find extra cash with your name on it

(NC) Many of us are finding it hard to manage the rising costs of living like rent, groceries and other necessities. It may feel like you can't make ends meet, let alone get ahead. But what if there is cash waiting for you?

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) calculates that it has distributed approximately \$1.4 billion in cheques that have not been cashed yet, and one of these could have your name on it. Some of them date back to 1998 – a bit like finding an unclaimed lottery ticket in a drawer

or \$20 in your old coat pocket.

In 2020, a grandparent discovered they had over 100 uncashed cheques worth almost \$50,000. As a pensioner and primary caretaker for their grandchildren the money was very much needed and appreciated. The amount was a combination of many benefits. Make sure you check with the agency for any uncashed cheques you may have on file.

These cheques never expire, and if you've already signed up for My Account, you should be

able to see if you have one right away.

If you haven't signed up for the online account yet you can do it on the CRA website or by calling their general enquiries line at 800-959-8281.

While you're at it, you may want to sign up for direct deposit to have your money securely deposited into your bank account. That way, you'll never miss a cheque again.

You can find more information on how to claim uncashed cheques at canada.ca/cra-uncashed-cheques.



3 reasons seniors are embracing technology

(NC) While some seniors are intimidated by today's technology, many have wholeheartedly embraced it for the convenience it can provide in their daily lives. Here are three ways open-minded seniors are using tech to their advantage – and to connect with their family during special occasions.

Personal safety

Smart-home technology refers to any household appliances or electronics that are connected to the internet. While younger people may mostly use smart-home technology for things like energy conservation or to turn on their favourite playlist while they're making dinner, for seniors, there are added safety benefits to living in a high-tech home.

You can use voice-activated home systems to turn the lights on before getting out of bed or entering a room. You can also program them to give audible appointment or medication reminders.



Owners can also use smart tech to make hands-free phone calls in the event of a fall or other emergency. Outside the home, voice-prompts from GPS maps can get users safely to their destination without the distraction of trying to read a

map on the go.

Staying in touch

While we were isolated in our homes during the pandemic, many people learned how video communication platforms make it possible to do our jobs remotely. We

also used the same tools to connect with friends from a distance.

Seniors, who might otherwise have been reluctant to try to learn these tools soon realized that it was the only way to stay in touch with friends, children and grand-

kids. Now, many of us have mastered the art of setting up group meetings so our book club can go on no matter how bad the weather – or how far-flung the participants.

It's also a great way to send Valentine's greetings or to celebrate Family Day with

the grandkids if travelling to see them is not an option.

Automated banking

At this time of year, the weather can often make it tricky or even dangerous to venture out. That's one reason why seniors are increasingly using online banking and other automated financial tools. This includes setting up direct deposit for any money coming in and automating bill payments so you don't forget to pay one.

If you haven't already, it's useful for seniors – and Canadians of all ages – to sign up for direct deposit payments from the Canada Revenue Agency. It's the fastest way to receive income tax refunds and any other rebates or incentives you're entitled to. You can receive your payment in as little as eight business days with direct deposit.

Learn more about signing up for direct deposit for federal government rebates and refunds at canada.ca/cra-direct-deposit.

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New programs begin at the library

Sharon Burns
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library is planning their first-ever Trivia Night Fundraiser and Silent Auction for Feb. 29 in the library rotunda.

Library staff will be running the trivia contest, said Debbie Krause, Community Engagement Coordinator. “It’ll be general knowledge — a variety of topics.” Various local and regional businesses have donated towards the

event. “There will also be snacks and a cash bar, with Silversmith as the beer sponsor.” A table of eight can be purchased for \$225, or individual tickets for \$30, through the library’s event calendar.

A new book club called True Stories Book Club with Amy will be reading non-fiction books starting with *I’m Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy. Their first meeting is on Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. The Beer and Books

book club meets at the Old Winery, and the Read it and Eat Cookbook Club continues to explore culinary delights. The popularity of Scrabble Club has caused staff to move it to a weekly format, on Mon-

days at 1 p.m. “The positive interactions and community spirit are quite lovely,” in all of these clubs, said Krause. The library is closed Family Day, Monday, Feb. 19.

Museum offering next set of lectures

Barbara Worthy
NOTL Museum

February is that month when winter is too long and spring is too far away . . . so stay cozy with the NOTL Museum virtual lectures as they continue through the month of February, bringing together a unique offering of specialists, storytellers, hobbyists and lovers of history.

The virtual lectures are offered weekly, via Zoom, on Wednesday mornings — Feb. 14, Feb. 21 and Feb. 28 — at 11 a.m. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Feb. 14 — Ordinance Boundary Stones: Updates and Restoration

Ted Rumble, former NOTL Museum board member and retired orthopaedic surgeon, has a long-standing interest in

history, particularly military history. In this presentation, Rumble will give an update on his efforts, with the Town of NOTL, to restore and protect these stones, honouring some of the oldest historical artifacts in the Old Town. Thirty-seven military Ordnance Boundary Stones, complete with identifying ‘broad arrows’ stamped on the stones, were installed by the British Army between 1823 and 1854 in the town of Niagara, marking the boundaries between town land and the four military reserves, and continuing a tradition that dates back to the 16th century.

Feb. 21 — The Borderland: Black Agency and Resistance Between Two Nations

In honour of Black History month, Josh Poole, visitor experience specialist from

the Underground Railroad Heritage Center, Niagara Falls, NY, will discuss the influence and impact of freedom seekers who arrived at this critical borderland between the U.S. and Canada, as well as the role played by the free Black waiters of the infamous Cataract House in Niagara Falls. “They were pioneers of the anti-slavery movement, right here on this border,” said Poole. He will also discuss how formerly enslaved people grappled with the challenges of their new lives once they crossed that border.

Feb. 28 — Historically Hysterical

Back by popular demand is NOTL Museum’s assistant curator, Shawna Butts, with her presentation on the history of women’s healthcare. Sometimes toe curling, but always entertaining, Butts reveals all the vagaries and



Ordnance stones will be featured in next week’s lecture by Ted Rumble. (Supplied)

experimentations that constituted women’s healthcare for centuries. Misdiagnosis and mistreatments were systematic. “The myths, mysteries and wacky treatments continued well into the 20th century,” said Butts.

“It’s no wonder that the term ‘hysterical’ was used so often when a woman visited her physician.” So join the NOTL Museum’s Virtual Lecture audience this month, and feel free to get as hysterical as

you want. A question and answer period follows each lecture. Registration is required to receive a Zoom link. Visit notlmuseum.ca or phone 905-468-3912 for more information.

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Support a hockey matchup for a great cause

Penny Coles
The Local

Sean Simpson is known for his volunteerism and fundraising efforts when it comes to supporting important causes, but this week he is reaching

out for one that has personal meaning for him, and that is especially close to his heart.

And it doesn't hurt that the fundraiser involves a hockey event, a sport that has long been an important part of his life.

The Hotel Dieu Shaver

Foundation Celebrity Ice Cup 2024 event is a vital fundraiser that directly supports the ongoing efforts of the hospital, ensuring that they can continue to provide exceptional care and support to patients, he says. It's one he has been involved with

for about seven years, playing with other locals who are having a good time supporting an important fundraiser.

"It's a lot of fun, and it raises a lot of money," he says.

His fundraising efforts in the past "have been low-key, but this year I thought I'd see if we could get more support, and so far I've had a lot of positive response from emails. I've been happy to hear from those who reposted and those who are helping raise a little more money."

"Every dollar raised goes a long way in enhancing the quality of life for those undergoing rehabilitation," including support for patient-care equipment, education, specialty clinics, "and improvements to treatment areas to support exemplary patient care at Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital," Simpson says in a letter he has sent out, asking for support.

Simpson has himself spent some time at the hospital, first as a pharmacy intern, and then a casual pharmacist, seeing first-hand and being very impressed by the work that is done toward rehabilitation, and "making a lasting impact on the lives of many."

In addition, he regularly sees locals who have benefited directly from Hotel Dieu Shaver programs through his work at Simpson's PharmaSave, "mostly stroke, but also people from all around Niagara there for a variety of rehabilitation

programs," he says, "people who need a high level of care."

One of the programs Simpson says holds a special place in his heart is the Steve Ludzik Centre for Parkinson's Rehab. His mother, Oresta Simpson, has been battling Parkinson's disease, "and this centre has been a beacon of hope for individuals and families facing the challenges of Parkinson's," he says in his letter.

He tells The Local he sees a lot of patients who need help transitioning from rehabilitation at the hospital to home. "And it certainly hits close to home," he says of Oresta's participation in the Parkinson's Centre, and other locals he knows who have benefited from it. "We're not seeing any reduction in the numbers of people diagnosed with Parkin-

son's. That helps keep it top of mind."

The Hotel Dieu Shaver Foundation Celebrity Ice Cup, held Feb. 23 and 24 at the Gale Centre for Parkinson's Rehab, gives local hockey players such as Simpson and others a chance to suit up with NHL alumni — a two-day hockey experience allowing amateurs the opportunity to play with and against hockey legends.

And if you like hockey, says Simpson, it's also a fun event to come out and watch locals and celebrity greats on the ice during the Feb. 24 games, which start about 8 a.m., with about 16 NHLers expected to play.

To learn about the event and donate to Simpson's fundraising goal of \$10,000, visit hdsfoundation.akaraisin.com/ui/2024CelebrityIceCup?ab-cId=20956541&TV=1.

Giampa listed for another award

Mike Balsom
The Local

The honours and recognition just keep coming for 20-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake native Matteo Giampa.

This week the freshman forward for the Canisius University Golden Griffins finds himself on the nomination list for the Tim Taylor Award, given each year to the nation's best rookie hockey player. Since its inception in 2007, past winners have included former Buffalo Sabres top draft pick Jack Eichel, Kyle Connor, Clayton Keller, Devon Levi and Adam Fantilli.

Last week he was named as one of almost 80 hockey players from 64 NCAA Division I schools to be nominated for the prestigious Hobey Baker Award, presented to the nation's top college hockey player.

Giampa continues to set the pace for the Griffs, leading the team with 16 goals and 27 points. Those numbers place him second among all Divi-

sion I freshmen in goals and ninth in assists. He has earned a point on 36 per cent of Canisius' goals, another impressive achievement.

And if that wasn't enough, he was also named last week as the Atlantic Hockey Association's Rookie of the Month for January. Giampa won that same award in November, when he also captured the AHA's Player

of the Month honours.

Giampa is back in action with Canisius for a three-game homestand that began with their Tuesday night match against rival Niagara University. The Bentley University Falcons make the trip from Waltham, Massachusetts, to Buffalo's LECOM Harborcenter to take on the Golden Griffins Friday and Saturday.



Matteo Giampa has been nominated for another prestigious award. (Tom Wolfe)



Sean Simpson at a Hotel Dieu Shaver Foundation Celebrity Ice Cup fundraiser with former NHLer Shayne Corson, who played for the Montreal Canadiens, and other NHL teams. (Supplied)

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Predators notch third win in a row

Mike Balsom
The Local

It wasn't the prettiest of wins, but it was good enough for the Niagara Predators to get the job done.

Led by Isaac Locker with a goal and two assists and another strong performance by goalie Zane Clausen, the Preds edged the Toronto Flyers 3-2 Sunday afternoon at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. Locker and defenceman Nick Savoie both assisted on Luca Fernandez's goal that opened the scoring 3:08 into the game. The Preds' leading scorer picked up his 25th goal of the season with a wrist shot from the face-off circle that beat Toronto

goalie Lucas DiRisio.

About 10 minutes later, Georgy Kholmovsky, who spent much of his ice time throughout the afternoon wreaking havoc near DiRisio's crease, picked up teammate Dylan Denning's rebound and backhanded it into the Toronto net for a power play goal. Locker also recorded an assist on the play.

The well-played first period by the Preds was followed by a sloppier second. Toronto's Xavier Vanderpool was left alone in front of Clausen just long enough for the goalie to lose sight of Iaroslav Morozov, who unleashed a wrist shot from the point to get the Flyers on the board.

But Locker responded before the period ended when Fernandez skated with the puck behind the Toronto net and fed a pass right to his line mate, who had moved in to the top of the crease. With Flyers' defender Connor O'Shea on his back, the 18-year-old forward from Orillia put the Preds up 3-1 with his 11th of the season.

Toronto's Julian Ferreira narrowed the gap 8:25 into the third but the Preds' aggressive backchecking shut down any Flyers opportunities the rest of the way to escape with the 3-2 victory.

Though the Preds picked up two points with the win, head coach Kevin Taylor wondered after the game why his team didn't bring the same fire and intensity they brought to last Saturday's 9-2 decision against the same Flyers in Toronto.

"I thought that we played down to them," Taylor lamented, "we didn't step it up. The first period was a really nice one to watch. The second period we were flat, and the third period, we didn't really do anything to show them that we wanted to win. I don't think the boys prepared properly for this game."

With three straight victories and only four games remaining in their Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League season, Taylor knows his team has to play better the next two weekends.

"We have three extremely important games next week," Taylor forecasted. "Two huge games against St. George. We see after tonight where we have to correct, and we'll go into practice this week looking at things we have to fix and we'll go from there."

At 16-19-3 after Sunday's game, the Predators hold down sixth place, only two points behind fifth place Tottenham and three behind the St. George Ravens, who are in fourth. Niagara faces St. George in a home game this Friday, then hits the road for games Saturday and Sunday at Tottenham and the Ravens' respectively. They close out the regular season at home against first place North York Feb. 16, one final chance to finally upset the Renegades.

"One game at a time, that's all that we have to do," Taylor said. It really doesn't matter where we finish. If we end up sixth we play Durham. If we end up fourth or fifth we play St. George or Tottenham. We're happy with any of those matchups."

Prior to the start of the Sunday afternoon game,



Isaac Locker takes on Mikhail Grachev of the Flyers. Locker had a goal and two assists in the win. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Forward Georgy Kholmovsky, who scored the Preds' second goal, spent much of his ice time getting in Toronto goalie Lucas DiRisio's way.



GMHL commissioner Ken Girard presented Zane Clausen of the Predators with the South Division's Goalie of the Year trophy prior to the start of Sunday's game.

league commissioner Ken Girard presented Niagara's top goaltender, Zane Clausen, with a trophy as the South Division's Goalie of the Year. He also acknowledged Clausen for placing second in the division for the Most Valuable Player Award.

"I have had the chance to meet him a few times," Girard told The Local after the presentation. "Great personality, great character. I can see why the South Division nominated him as MVP. Hands down he takes the best goalie award. He wins

games for this team. It's well deserved."

It's the second straight top goalie award for Clausen, who came to the Predators from the Bradford Bulls last January in exchange for St. Davids resident and team captain Max Bredin.

With only 74 goals against him over 21 games, Clausen leads all of the league's netminders with 20 or more games played this season in that metric. His save percentage of 0.911 is third best and his goals against average at 3.60 is fifth.

"It's nice to get some recognition," Clausen said after the game. "I'm hoping that having these two trophies under my belt will show people that I'm serious about this game, that I'm serious that this is what I want to do. I want to take my career as far as I can and play professional hockey."

Clausen was also honoured at the end of Sunday's contest. He was chosen as the second star of the game, behind teammate Locker.

Game time this Friday is 7:30 p.m. at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

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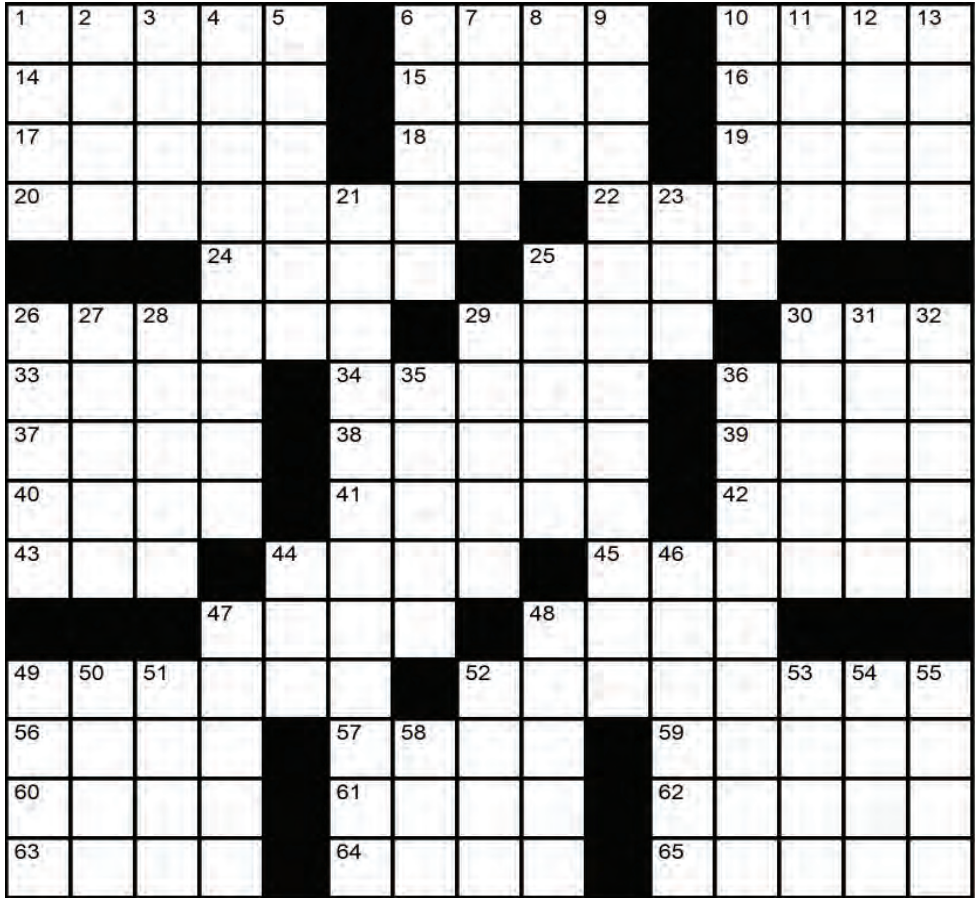
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7 Two-fold
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9 One of a hundred in D C
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50 Competent
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53 Scent
54 Diamond team
55 New plant in the making
58 Walking in space
- general

OBITUARY



SHELLY, Gerald "Gerry" Edwin—With sweet sadness we announce the peaceful MAID assisted passing of Gerald Edwin Shelly on February 5, 2024, at his home in Niagara-on-the Lake. Gerry was born May 26, 1933 in Walkerville, Ontario to Denis and Muriel Shelly. When Gerry was five, he, along with his siblings and mother had to work to support the family as his father joined the war effort. Gerry began selling the Liberty newspaper for five cents and was able to pocket a penny. As he grew older and stronger, he was able to deliver ice, bale hay, and many other jobs. His favourite was exercising the horses at the racetrack behind their house. Later in life, he was able to enjoy the horses for pleasure, including competing in the Royal Winter Fair and playing polo.

With his work ethic well established, Gerry graduated from high school and studied graphic arts at Ryerson, which led to a job at the Etobicoke Press as a typesetter. He quickly realized that his brother was making far more money selling automobiles, so, starting at the bottom washing cars he began a lifetime in the automotive industry. He and his brother established Carway Motors, and the pinnacle of his career was becoming president and partner of Chryslers Big Three in Toronto.

Gerry always had a fondness for travel, especially to warm climates. As a young man, he spent a lot of time in Acapulco deep-sea fishing. He had a great love of the water and had many boats over the years. Whether he was on his beloved Ardilaun Island in Georgian Bay or his winter home in Treasure Cay in the Bahamas, Gerry loved to be behind the wheel of a boat. He retired early enough to enjoy all these things and then he added another. He played golf with a passion and loved to practice. Last year was an incredible golf season for him, his seasonal average score was below his age.

With his twinkling eyes and quick, easy, welcoming smile, Gerry was a man who exuded warmth, contentment, and a true enjoyment of life. He was a perpetual optimist. Gerry noticed and appreciated all that was beautiful in life, water, the sun, roses, fine dining, tea and cookies in the afternoon, and a good golf course.

Gerry married his beloved Helen (Sorkilmo) who predeceased him in 2004. He was the much-loved father of Gerald (Linda), Darryl and Denise (David), five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Love blossomed again for Gerry, and he married his cherished wife, Peggy Larder in 2007. They felt like two teenagers as they began their life together. Gerry was predeceased by his parents Denis and Muriel, and siblings, Denis and Maureen.

In keeping with Gerry's wishes, cremation has taken place, and his ashes are to be scattered among many treasured places. The family will have a private celebration of life at a later date.

A heartfelt thank you for the exceptional care and compassion shown to Gerry by the health personnel. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care, who provide a tremendous service to our community. Special thanks to friends who made this journey with us, may your kindness be returned a thousandfold. Farewell to a true gentleman.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



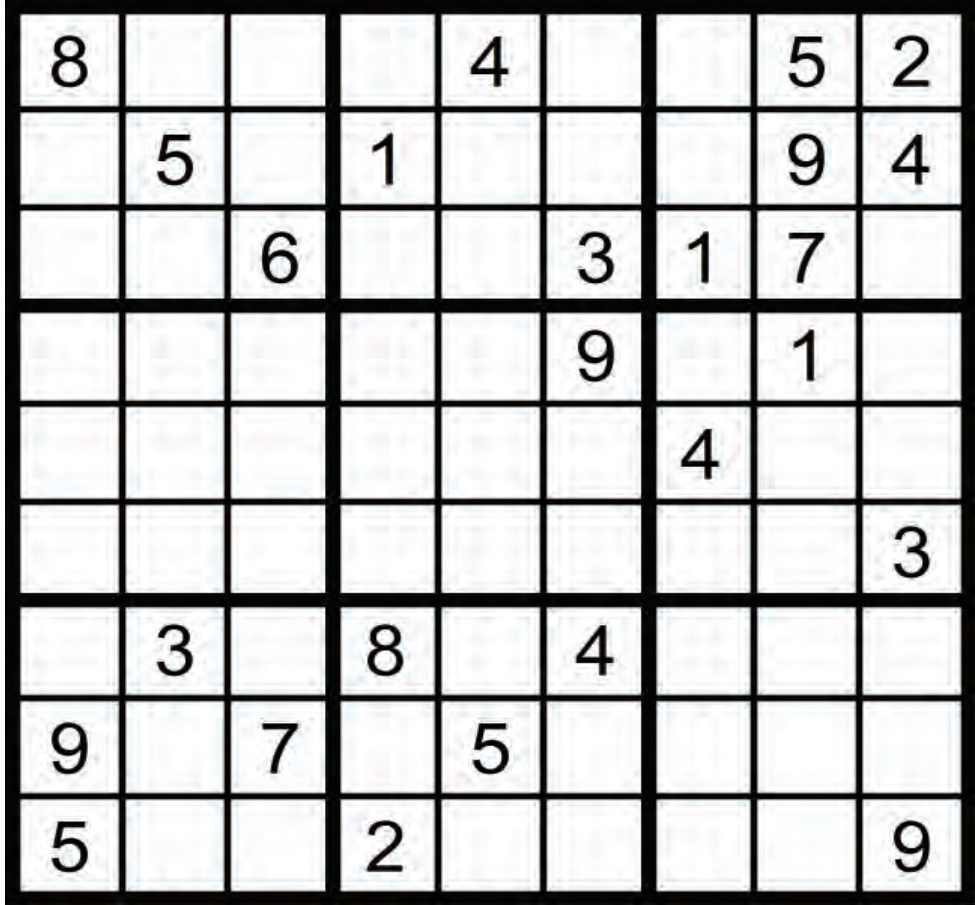
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Sudoku solution from
January 31, 2024

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

Across: 1 Share, 6 Adds, 10 Hero, 14 Cocoa, 15 Suit, 16 Alum, 17 Alto, 18 Saga, 19 Dada, 20 Mystical, 22 Tenner, 24 Clay, 25 Fest, 26 Always, 29 Gasp, 30 Jim, 33 Beau, 34 Halve, 36 Nano, 37 Owns, 38 Swoon, 39 I S B N, 40 Mite, 41 Terra, 42 Goat, 43 B Ss, 44 Prey, 45 Trendy, 47 Flak, 48 Four, 49 Wallop, 52 Versions, 56 EBay, 57 Peal, 59 Sadie, 60 Blot, 61 Evil, 62 In one, 63 Beso, 64 Dana, 65 As red.

Down: 1 Scam, 2 Holy, 3 Acts, 4 Root cause, 5 Easily, 6 Assay, 7 Dual, 8 Dig, 9 State senator, 10 Hadn't, 11 Elan, 12 Rude, 13 Omar, 21 Cash-strapped, 23 E S P, 25 Favor, 26 A-bomb, 27 Lewis, 28 Warts, 29 Jason, 31 In bad, 32 Monty, 35 A week, 36 Nigerians, 44 P L O, 46 Russia, 47 Fly to, 48 Fella, 49 Webb, 50 Able, 51 Laos, 52 Vain, 53 Odor, 54 Nine, 55 Seed, 58 EVA.



Bravo Niagara! bringing Blue Note’s next generation to PAC

Mike Balsom
The Local

In the world of jazz there is probably no more prestigious trademark of quality than the Blue Note Records stamp of approval.

Art Blakey, Joe Henderson, Terence Blanchard, Sonny Rollins, Cannonball Adderly, Charles Lloyd, Thelonius Monk, Miles Davis, Kurt Elling and Cassandra Wilson are among the best of the best who have all been signed to the legendary label, whose history dates back to 1939.

Drummer Kendrick Scott, part of the Blue Note Quintet coming to the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre on Feb. 25, presented by Bravo Niagara! Festival, is aware he and his bandmates are standing on the shoulders of giants.

At 23 years old, Scott was asked to provide the backbeat for trumpeter and composer Blanchard’s 2004 album *Flow*, Blanchard’s second for the label. In fact, Scott’s syncopated rhythm is the first thing you hear at the start of that record.

“It was wonderful,” Scott says about the experience. “You gain so much insight from people like Terence, the way they carry themselves, the way they live their lives, the way they are of service to the music and the people. To walk into that studio and have Terence Blanchard say



Kendrick Scott (Justin Bettman)

‘let’s make a record,’ with Herbie Hancock producing, that was the best thing ever. We’re talking about dream stuff.”

Scott points out that he and three other members of Blanchard’s *Flow* band also ended up being signed by Blue Note. He adds that like drummer and bandleader Art Blakey, who took Blanchard under his wing in 1982, Scott’s mentor gave him the tools he needed to eventually take the reins of his own combos.

“He told me when I joined his band,” says Scott, “that he wanted to train me up for that, that when I left his band I would be ready to lead my own band. That’s not the mindset of a lot of leaders. Most tell you what to do

to make them sound good.”

Downstream is what Scott calls the progression from Blakey to Blanchard to himself, a Blue Note family tree of sorts.

Scott eventually moved on from Blanchard, joining Charles Lloyd’s band for a short time as well as playing on dozens of other artists’ recordings. He has released six albums of his own, the most recent being 2023’s *Corridors*, his reaction to the pandemic with saxophonist Walter Smith III and bassist Reuben Rogers.

With the Blue Note Quintet, Rogers mostly takes a back seat as pianist Gerald Clayton acts as musical director. Fleshing out the band are saxophonist Immanuel Wilkins, vibra-



Gerald Clayton (Ogata)

phonist Joel Ross, and bassist Matt Brewer. All but Brewer have released their own albums on Blue Note, while the bassist has guested on other artists’ recordings on the label.

They’ve come together for a 35-date tour to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the legendary label, with the Niagara date being their only foray into Canada. That makes this Bravo Niagara! Festival presentation yet another major feather in the cap for co-founders Alexis Spielfenner and Christine Mori.

“We’re all really simpatico,” Scott says of his bandmates. “Matt Brewer and I have played in other bands together, Gerald and I have played together too. I played with Gerald with the

great Charles Lloyd. Joel and I played together with Marquis Hill. Immanuel is the only one I hadn’t played with before.”

On the phone from Seattle, Scott tells The Local that the quintet had about three hours of rehearsal before beginning their trek on January 18 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. But with the talent and experience of the collective, they immediately found their groove.

“We are all akin to each other in the way we hear music,” he says. “We are interpreting each other’s music, which is really good. We’ve been exploring each of our music along with tidbits of Blue Note history in there as well.”

As music director, Clayton has composed some new works

for the quintet and pieced together a set of original music from each of the members.

“Audiences have been responding very well,” Scott says. “We play some music from some of the masters, too, and we play some interviews from some of them like Sonny Rollins, Chick Corea, Duke Pearson, Billy Higgins and Dexter Gordon. They’ve really loved hearing that.”

A week after playing the PAC they fly out to Modesto, California, to begin the quintet’s final seven shows. Then Scott will get busy completing his next album, entitled *Unearthed*, that Clayton and Smith III and the Harlem String Quartet will appear on.

Meanwhile, Scott calls it a supreme honour and pleasure to play with the quintet and to represent so much history in the jazz world. At 43 years old the drummer is the oldest member of the band. Thus, he sees himself a bit in Blanchard’s role while playing with 26-year-old Wilkins and 23-year-old Ross.

“It’s weird,” he laughs. “Just seeing the lineage is really the best thing. Feeling like you are a part of that family. And we all have that knowledge of the music that came out of Blue Note, it’s some of our favourites. It’s an easy melding of the minds.”

Tickets for the Sunday, Feb. 25 show at the Recital Hall are available at firstontariopac.ca.

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