# The Niagara-on-the-Lake



**Ariel Carr** recovering from first surgery at Sick Kids hospital

**page 12** 

The trusted voice of our community.

**FEBRUARY 13, 2020 Volume 2 · Issue 7** notllocal.com



### Ministry, parks police investigating dead coyotes

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Lesley Sampson, founder and executive director of Coyote Watch Canada, has made a career of educating people about coyotes.

ara-on-the-Lake, where she man on his way home from not about. These people have began studying coyotes more Queenston, a heavy snowfall no regard for anyone or anythan 20 years ago. Her re- had covered the area, making thing." in town have been mostly the coyotes herself. She had cades, and not only in NOTL, directed toward educating only photos to go on, and but the deep slope down to residents concerned about no way to determine how the Niagara River, she says, is sightings of coyotes in urban they were killed or why they

week, however, was quite dif- kill." She also used the term ferent — one she found deep- "slob hunters," both derogato investigate the dumping of kill for excitement or gratifiseveral dead coyotes on the cation. steep slope of the gorge along the Niagara River.

She's no stranger to Niag- ceived a report from a fisher- ome of what conservation is search and continued efforts it impossible for her to see 
It's been going on for dewere dumped. But her guess, Her visit to NOTL last she says, is they were a "thrill

ly disturbing. She had come tory terms for hunters who

"This is not the behaviour of ethical hunters," says Since The Local had re- Sampson. "This is the epit-



CHCH reporter Jason Gaidola reported on the news of the dead coyotes from the Niagara Continued on page 4 Parkway Recreational Trail. (Fred Mercnik)



February 13, 2020 THE NOTL LOCAL notllocal.com



The Town will look at combining the Queenston and St. Davids fire stations, as well as locations and funding options. The Queenston station has had problems since it was built. (File photo)

### Town looking at consolidation of two fire stations

### Queenston station has been suffering from structural issues for decades

**Penny Coles** The Local

Ongoing problems with the Queenston fire station that began when it was built almost 45 years ago have resulted in a move toward consolidating it with

Councillors were given

for an analysis of the St. stations be requested; and has been discussed and de-

an extensive report on the that a funding strategy be history of issues with the developed for the potential Queenston station Mon- construction of a new, conday, and recommendations solidated fire station, into consider: that they ask cluding potential locations.

With just a few ques-Davids station and operations and little discussion, tions; that a report on the councillors agreed to all viability of consolidating recommendations, mov-St. Davids and Queenston ing toward a solution that

ferred for decades.

the viability of the Queenston station to council, refbefore the facility was built, affected stations. and everything he could find relating to it since.

Over the decades, been suggested several times that the Town look at a long-term plan for St. Davids and Queenston staties required its own facility, or whether they could be combined.

ports referenced by Grimwood indicated there had been an ongoing consideration of closing Queenston and St. Davids stations and building a new one on York Road, or covering the emotional Davids station.

cision when those reports have invested a lot in the while the number withwere discussed, councils of organization." the day deferred the issue.

business before those is- tions Sunday to hear and sues could be addressed, discuss the recommendaand because of its age, it has become expensive to maintain, those reports in- was being proposed, and dicated.

In February, 2019, ments, he said. council asked staff to provide a further analysis of past about resignations, he Grimwood's report, with recommendations of fu- type of concern amongst ture action.

The result of that request was the report coun- council in 2006 again ref-Monday, which says that of the two stations, but several years after the there was no further disbuilding of the Queenston cussion. Since then, there station, an undated report have been several reports (assumed to be the fire Queenston facility, includchief at the time) advo- ing the existence of struccated for the replacement tural defects. Some remeof the Queenston station dial work was completed, the report says.

rather than an amalgama- but there continued to be In January, 2019, former tion with St. Davids, as Fire Chief Rob Grimwood recommended by Office presented information on of the Fire Marshal report in 1971. The author cited firefighter resignations 'en erencing reports going as masse' if an amalgamation far back as 1971, six years was forced upon the two anything conclusive," this

In 1996, in response to recommendations made by the Office of the Fire councillors learned, it had Marshal, the report says, discussion of amalgamation of the two stations was reignited, with a follow-up report again recommendtions, including whether ing they be combined. each of the two communi- Again, no further action was taken.

issue, Fire Chief Nick Rul-Several of the early re- ler told councillors Monday, when asked about the comment of years ago of possible resignations if the repairs. two stations were combined.

"There is definitely an attachmenttwo districts out of the St. from our members," said wids station. Ruller. "They're members
Instead of making a de- of the community, and

tions in his report.

They understood what offered constructive com-

As to the threat of years said, "we're not seeing that our members."

Another report to

issues that were not addressed. In 2010 and 2018, structural engineer reports note various issues and identifying possible causes, but "didn't come up with report says.

The station continues to develop cracks that require maintenance, and "it is not uncommon for these gaps and cracks to grow to a size where one can see light passing through the exterior walls," says the report presented to councillors Monday.

The facility is also lack-It's been an emotional ing in space for operating effectively or meeting current health and safety standards, and requires an estimated \$20,000 for HVAC

A 2017 building condition assessment estimated maintenance and repair costs for the Queenston station, through to 2046, to total \$572,100.

As for station calls, in the Queenston district The fire chief said be- remains consistent, the The Queenston station fore presenting the report need to respond outside has had structural prob- to councillors, he had the district has declined, lems since it was built, but called an open forum for representing "a 55 per the contractor went out of firefighters from all sta-cent decrease in demand for Station 4 (Queenston) resources across the municipality in 2019, when compared to the 15-year average."

Despite that decline, the report continues, Queenston firefighters and apparatus "prove valuable to provide coverage and surge capacity for the municipality during a large-scale incident."

The 2016 census shows cillors had before them erenced the consolidation a population of 370 people in Queenston's urban area, with limited opportunities for residential growth.

The St. Davids urban with an unknown author on the condition of the area census shows 1,670 people, with several areas approved or designated for future residential growth,



### Donation, challenge for St. Davids pool fund

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

St. Davids resident Andy Panko wants to see the village have the new pool it needs and deserves.

He's opening up his wallet to help see it built, and is encouraging others to do the same.

The father of two kids who attended the village public school and swam in the pool more than 20 years ago is now the proud grandfather of a little boy who is also growing up in St. Davids. Panko hopes his grandson, along with all other kids and future kids who live in the area, will have a great pool nearby.

Panko, 66, has been semi-retired for the past six years, and is shortly to be fully-retired, he says. He's looking forward to spending his days between his garden, his bees, model train collection and railway history articles. "I was a licensed geoscientist, and with great partners, did brownfield property development for many years. I am now happy to pursue more personal interests." His wife Domenica has been retired for the past 13 years after 31 years as a teacher, and is busier than ever with

seasons, indoors and out, says Panko, who is also helping Domenica babysit their grandson when their daughter is at work.

"I remember when we raised money as a community for a new gym at St. Davids School," he says. One of the leaders in the community who homes will also attract familed that campaign was Bob Gale, then a St. Davids resident with kids attending the school, recalls Panko.

in making this donation for the them will be bought by young pool, based on what he did for the school gym."

Panko met with Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Kevin Turcotte, acting director of operations, in St. Davids Thursday to says. hand over a cheque for \$5,000. He'd made the decision to donate when he read in The Local that the Town is forming a fundraising committee for the pool, and is challenging others to do the same. "I just want started," he says.

"There are all kinds of people coming into the community. When we were bringing our kids up in St. Davids, there was just a small community. We made sure our kids came first. These people who are moving

many things on the go in all into Cannery Park don't have cost \$5 million, and the Town Davids Lions Club, asking each swimming pools in their backyards, and the most important thing you can do for your kids is teach them how to swim."

As the community grows, there will be more families moving in, and as the seniors in the village downsize, their lies, he says.

"There may not be a lot of kids now, but next year, or the year after, some of these hous-"He was an influence to me es will be flipped, and some of people."

Those who come to the area "couldn't find a better school or a better neighbourhood" for raising a family, he

"People who live here, especially people who have just moved here, are just finding out how cool it is, how much better it is than they could ever even imagined. It's a perfect spot, bucolic, as far as I'm conto give a little push to get this cerned. But it needs a pool." The St. Davids Lions Club has contributed \$10,000, and with the proceeds from the Town's golf tournament, which included a donation from the St. almost nobody here. We were Davids Ratepayers Association, the fund is now at about \$45,000.

The pool is expected to

has applied for a federal/provincial infrastructure grant of \$4.74 million. The 2020 budget includes \$100,000 for the pool, The fundraising campaign goal will depend on the success of the grant, but is likely to be set at \$1 million, says Turcotte. Lions Club volunteers, and the

The next step is to form a committee. Disero has reached out to the St. Davids Ratepayers Association and to the St.

to provide two members to be involved. Couns. John Wiens and Gary Burroughs have volunteered as council representatives. Since last week's meeting, she has received an application from one resident, she has two residents association is looking for two representatives.

Calling Panko's donation "the spark to ignite the fund-

raising campaign, Disero says, "this generous donation is a great way to launch the St. Davids Pool Fundraising Committee. The establishment of the committee will come to council on Feb. 24, 2020. Now that we have our first private donation, let's get going!"

Applications for committee can be found at: https://notl.civicweb.net/ document/15898.



St. Davids resident Andy Panko handed over a cheque for \$5,000 to Lord Mayor Betty Disero and acting director of operations Kevin Turcotte for the St. Davids pool fund. (Penny Coles)

### **Councillors drop overnight** parking ban on all streets

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Councillors have approved the removal of the 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. parking prohibition on all town streets.

The recommendation from town staff to lift the prohibition comes after consultation from residents in each of the five areas of Niagara-on-the-Lake, councillors heard Monday.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero told councillors she had attended all five meetings, and very few residents showed up.

Overnight parking became an issue when some residents of The Village asked that the prohibition be dropped, and

broad support for the removal of the overnight parking prohibition, which was also supported by town staff, Monday's parking ban be lifted. report says.

Disero said there were also a small number of residents who wanted it enforced. There were heated discussions during the previous council with residents divided — those who wanted the rule enforced, because parked cars near one intersection were causing an obstructed view, and others who cars they owned, and needed to motion passed. park on the street.

Disero suggested a com-

surveys and community en- promise: that a no parking sign gagement sessions indicated be moved from its current location at Jordan Street and Garrison Village Drive to provide a better sightline, and that the

Although there were objections about moving a sign with no input from staff or technical data about whether it should be moved, or if so, how far. Disero agreed her request was based on politics, and with advice from interim CAO Sheldon Randall, modified her request to ask that the sign be moved, but that town staff determine had garages too small for the best spot for it, and her

> The decision will be ratified by council Feb. 24.



### Friday, February 14th



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### This is the work of 'unethical hunters,' says Coyote Watch head

#### **Continued from page 1**

an easy and convenient place for disposing of the animals.

"Who is going to see them? The region is a hot spot for out-of-town hunters. I've seen several different dumping spots in NOTL," she says, including on private leave them where they are. property.

homeowners who have had issues with hunters on their troubled by it. Nobody likes property, including one senior who was afraid to walk on her own property for fear nate it's occurred." of being shot by accident. And she's photographed dead coyotes, left by hunters, on public and private prop-

this "horrifying" situation, Sampson says, it is for people to be aware and on the lookout for this illegal dumping of coyotes, which is just one part of a much larger issue — the unethical, wanton, en masse slaughter that leads to the dumping.

says, it's not one pack of animals that has been killed, it's one to witness something happened over a period of and not realize what they're time.

Niagara Parks Commisto last spring, and an officer dispatched counted eight.

Coyotes are spread out in a few different locations, all on the slope down to the gorge, he says. It was determined it would be dangerous to try to remove them, and since they are not in an area accessible or even likely to be seen by the public, it was decided to

"We're not going to put She's been called by anyone at risk to retrieve them," said Forcier. "We're to see animals dumped in that manner, and it's unfortu-

If an animal could be picked up safely they would do that, "but that's clearly not the case."

It's possible they were If there is a message from "dispatched to protect livestock," and they have been dumped on more than one occasion, according to reports, he says, but although they've received complaints, nobody has come forward to say they've witnessed the activity or reported a vehicle or licence plate number, making In this case, Sampson it impractical to investigate.

It would be easy for someseeing, says Sampson.

Parked by the Niagara sion Police Chief Paul Forci- River Recreation Trail Friday, er says he's had reports before at the spot where the coyabout the coyotes, going back otes were photographed last week, Sampson and The Local photographer Fred Mer-



Lesley Sampson of Coyote Watch tells CHCH the Niagara gorge is a convenient dumping spot for unethical hunters.

was devastated by the cruelty he had witnessed, were interviewed by CHCH. It is a place trucks and cars pull over, Sampson says, and nobody would think anything

"Maybe people will be more aware now, and decide to report it. If someone sees something, they need to call the parks police, or maybe engage the Ministry of Natural Resources."

Both the parks police and the ministry are investigat-

cnik, an animal lover who ing, says a representative of Watch) could help in any the Ministry of Natural Re- way, we would, gladly," says thing and doesn't make the sources and Wildlife.

of agencies that would work ment agencies and the pubtogether, and if we (Coyote lic."

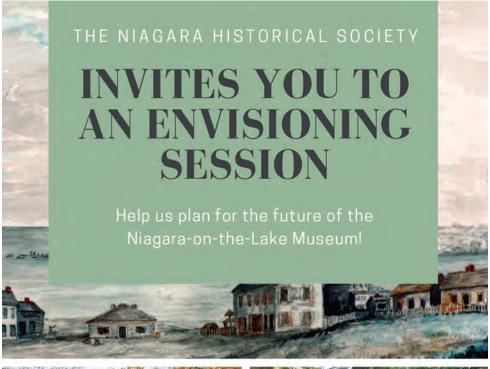
Sampson. "We're often the "There are a whole bunch conduit between govern-

If someone sees somecall, "this is going nowhere," she says. "We're trying to create awareness, so this never happens again."

#### Love songs at St. Mark's



Singer Roger Wyatt, Dan Kozar on guitar, and Clark Johnston on bass entertained at St. Mark's Church Sunday with Embraceable You, a selection of love songs from the great American song books. (Fred Mercnik)







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### Leos raising funds for hospital teen zone

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Having just completed a second ambitious fundraising campaign, providing two autism-assist dog guides for two children, the St. Davids Leos Club has embarked on another project.

The Leos' next goal is to raise \$1,500 for the MacKids Teen Zone Project, to upgrade a teen cancer unit in Hamilton.

The McMaster Cancer Clinic is being renovated and expanded in a project that will cost \$1.6 million, says St. Davids Lion Bradd Anderson. Lions clubs from Niagara and the Hamilton areas have pledged \$75,000 by January 2021 to help fund a unique area for teens undergoing treatment that will be separate from the adult centre.

now 44 members strong largest, in Ontario, is committed to helping, says Leo tinued as a club member. She mimic eye disease from mac-

Zoe Abraham.

as members have attracted friends, both from St. Davids Public School and now from Niagara high schools attended by Leos who have graduated from St. Davids and remain members.

Abraham is spearheading the MacKids Teen Zone campaign for her club, and is grateful for the opportunity to help teens with cancer.

"We're raising money to make the area more fun for teens who are in the hospital or living in homes nearby, such as the Ronald McDonald House. We'll be helping to pay for TVs, more colourful."

teens during their chemotherapy or other cancer treatments.

Abraham joined the Leo The St. Davids Leos Club, Club as a Grade 6 St. Davids student. She's now in Grade 10 one of the largest, if not the at A.N. Myer Secondary School in Niagara Falls, and has con-

was especially grateful to attend ular degeneration, diabetes, encouraged to bring their fa-The Leos Club has grown a recent graduation ceremony for dog guides in Oakville at the Lions Foundation training

he recipient of the second dog the Leos helped finance was on hand, with his dog, she says, and spoke about how grateful he was to the Leos for allowing him the opportunity to have a dog guide.

Leos fundraise by helping out at Lions fish fries and the annual carnival, and at events they have organized.

The St. Davids Lions have also contributed to their campaign, as has the Merritton Lions Club, which partnered games, and making the unit with St. Davids on the guide dogs, through their Dog Bowl, The space will be used by a five-pin bowling event held to raise money for dog guides

> Often referred to as "blind bowling," it also helps educate participants on what it's like to be blind or visually impaired, by providing them with specially-designed glasses that

glaucoma or retinopathy.

In addition to making desserts and selling them at fish fries, they are now planning a game night for families to help fund the MacKids Teen Zone, says Abraham.

It will be held Sunday, March 1, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the St. Davids Lions Club.

There will be an admission charge of \$5 for adults and \$2 for teens and children, who are nerships with the Lions clubs."

vourite board games.

Pizza, pop and dessert, including cupcakes, will be sold as part of the fundraiser.

"I think I made hundreds of cupcakes to help pay for the dog guides, and we were all so happy to have reached our goal. It's hard to raise that much money from the dessert table, selling treats and popcorn, and we really appreciated the part-

At the dog-guide graduation ceremony, with the children who had also received training on how to handle their dogs, "we could see how important it was to Reece, the friendship he and his dog had already developed, and how happy he and his parents were," says Abraham.

"We'd like to fundraise for another dog guide in the future, but for now we're concentrating on the kids' zone."



St. Davids Leos Leah Schouten and Zoe Abraham, Merritton Lion Linda Sawrey, Reece with his dog guide Darius, and Merritton Lions Bill Sawrey and Dunc Tolley attended a graduation ceremony at the Oakville training school for dog guides recently. With help from the Merritton Lions Club, the Leos raised money toward the training of Darius. The Leos are now fundraising for a teen-friendly unit at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton. (Photo supplied)



Bird walking tour begins



A winter-plumaged red-throated loon is one of the birds those on Saturday's tour might see. (Kayo Roy)

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

This Saturday, a nature group bird walk will begin at area all year round, he says, still destination for hikers, cyclists, Navy Hall, one of three walks nesting. "I hope we'll get to see conservationists, boulderers organized by the Niagara Parks one of the two pairs in the area." and anyone seeking an oppor-Commission.

Canadian Raptor Conservancy and local field naturalist clubs.

The Niagara Glen Nature Centre is opening its doors for its first ever birding day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for the rare opportunity to get up close and personal with a red-tailed hawk, a great horned owl and a bald eagle. Representatives from the Canadian Raptor Conservancy, Birds Canada and local birding groups will lead talks about the native bird species found in the Niagara region.

The Navy Hall walk along the mouth of the Niagara River toward the Old Town, will be Falls Nature Club.

He says it's a two-hour tour, with a good chance of seeing buntings, "a beautiful, beautiful bird of the north," says Roy.

The event partners with the will see a red-throated loon on the lake — there were several seen earlier in the week.

> There have been two bird counts recently, the first one in December covering Ontario and showing a 20 per cent decrease, says Roy.

The other was in January on both sides of the border, and the report is not in yet, he says.

At 11 a.m., meet at Dufferin Islands, for a tour led by Marcie Jacklin of the Bert Miller Nature Club. The walk begins at the main entrance by the Niagara Parkway, 6345 Dufferin Isle Road.

At 1 p.m., meet at Brown's led by Kayo Roy of the Niagara Point, for a walk led by Bob Highcock and Jean Hampson of the Peninsula Field Naturalists. Begin at the parkette just north of

some land birds, such as snow Brown's Point Court, on the Niagara River Parkway in NOTL.

The Niagara Glen has be-There are bald eagles in the come a renowned outdoor He's confident the group tunity to connect with nature. In recognition of its growing popularity as a destination for nature enthusiasts, the new Niagara Glen Nature Centre reopened in 2017, enhanced with new programming options, with a focus on school programs, outdoor programming and guided tours of the glen.

> The Canadian Raptor Conservancy is one of the largest captive breeding projects in the world. They have more than 200 captive-bred birds at their facility, regularly breeding over 15 different species each year. Many are endangered species and some of their offspring are sent back into the wild through organized release projects around the world. All of the birds used for demonstrations are captive-bred.



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# EDITORIAL

# Let's all pull together for young Ariel Carr

el Carr, it was through her atom hockey coach, James Cadeau.

He was blown away by her strength of character and determination to overcome her disability.

This little girl, smaller than others her age and with mobility problems on her left side, wanted more than anything to play hockey as all her older siblings had.

It was a rough start for her, to be. but gradually she became stronger, as she came to understand the game and how she could contribute, she became a valuable member of her team.

Cadeau said she worked harder than anyone on the team, and she never gave up.

When he handed her a well-earned award at the end of the season, he said to the spectators, "she may be the smallest player, but she has the biggest heart. Everyone can learn from her." He learned from her. She inspired him to be a better coach, he said.

Ariel is undergoing at least two major procedures at the Hospital for Sick Children in

When I first learned of Ari- Toronto, the first extremely el would love to have cards painful, and both with long or messages wishing her well, hospital stays and risks attached. Those who know Ariel know she's a fighter, may want to reach out. Cards and right now she's fighting can be mailed to 100 Read for her future, the ability to stand straight, improve her mobility and maybe one day be able to step out on the ice with her teammates again. She was hoping to join the peewee division this year, but it wasn't Ariel — they can be sent to

> The youngest of eight siblings, Ariel has all her friends from Crossroads Public School and from NOTL Minor Hockey pulling for her.

Whether we believe in prayer, in positive thought waves, or in the healing power of love, let's all set our minds to helping this very fragile, but very sweet little girl, get better. Let's use any powers we may have to will her a successful recovery, so she can return to school, her friends, and maybe even her hockey teammates, and just be the happy 12-year-old doing behind them. what all 12-year-olds do.

Her mom Denise says Ari- **Penny Coles** 

and is sharing her mailing and email addresses for those who Road, St. Catharines, L2R 7K6. The large Carr family lives in one of three houses on the street that is considered St. Catharines, Denise explains. She will also share emails with eightenough7@yahoo.com.

And while we're at it, we can send some positivity to Denise and Ace Carr, whose pain right now as parents, watching their daughter suffer, is impossible to imagine. They are facing challenges themselves, while trying to stay strong and focus on their daughter.

This is such an amazing community when one of our own is in need. If we can do anything to brighten their day, it's little enough. Let's see if we can make a difference for Ariel and her family, who will know they have a community

#### **LOCAL FINDS**



#### Canadian senator buried in St. Mark's by Donald Combe **Special to The Local**

Sacred To the memory of The Hon. Walter Hamilton Dickson Born Jan. 4, 1806 Died Aug. 30, 1885

Sacred To the memory of Augusta Maria Geale wife of the Hon. Walter H. Dickson of Niagara Born Sep. 19, 1813 Died March 6, 1853 Aged 39 Years

Walter Hamilton Dickson was the son of William Dickson and Charlotte Adlam of Woodlawn, now known as Randwood. He represented Niagara in the Legislative Assembly from 1844 to 1851, when he was appointed to the Legislative Council. In 1867, he was appointed to the Senate of Canada, representing Niagara until his resignation in 1884.

#### Editorial on "heated debate" balanced, says reader

appreciation your editorial in last week's NOTL Local. Having watched the altercation on Livestream concerning the heated debate concerning the service delivery review by Deloitte consultants and the reporting of same to council.

Your take on this little episode was perfectly bal-

I read with interest and anced and insightful. I was particularly impressed by your final paragraph: "it was really gratifying to hear the diverse opinions of a strong group of councillors."

> I actively campaigned in the last election for Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Deputy Lord Mayor Clare Cameron and Coun. Stuart McCormack and couldn't think of

better praise for these individuals than your reasoned editorial afforded them.

Thank you for presenting a moderate, insightful view into this fabulous Niagara-on-the-Lake council. We, the citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake, are 100 per cent behind them.

**Bob Bader** 

The NOTL Local acknowledges the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous peoples.

### The Niagara-on-the-Lake

#### The trusted voice of our community

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

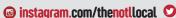
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# COMMENT

### What will nature look like in the future?



Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

Let's take a hard right turn into the future. Whether this is the near future or not, is your call. Put on your Netflix goggles, as I paint a picture of nature's place in a dystopian world, let's even say here in

I've always wondered how the concept of nature would be psychologically perceived, and how we would compartmentalize it, once we've pushed our relationship with it to an absolute breaking

If the following story were to hypothetically take place, the underlying condition would be that most of the ecosystems and their functions would have already been removed. Scarily enough, this is the current trend in reality for net forest, wetland, and other natural habitat losses across the globe and here in Niagara. Buckle up. You're cruising into a new town.

I'm imagining these mas-

These buildings are enormous, maybe the size of a WalMart. When a visitor walks through the doors, they are stepping into a past world. A climate-controlled, realistic atmosphere set according to that region's historical conditions prior to human influence. The interior climate also adapts with the historical season swings and the weather associated with it, so there is biological life in the building. It's a bio-dome.

Small native plants and animals would grow and hop along the floor, and even scurry across the trails at visitors' feet while they look at information signs. At this point, any creatures deemed dangerous by society are likely extinct. Now, they live on as flashing images and videos on screens, which are mounted on the walls of the nature centre. It's like watching an athlete's highlight reel, this impressive living thing doing what it once did best. big cats, bears, and ferocious canines once ruled the woods

where each municipality is learn how they once govobliged to have one, by law. erned an entire society free of people, and they did so very responsibly.

> At this point, will the general public's reaction be "Whoa, cool!" or, "Whoa, that's really unfortunate?"

> When you leave the nature centre and hop back in the car, you slowly cruise back out of town. You notice that most front yards are bleak, bare, decluttered. Others are lush and almost over-grown. You can bet these green folks are getting a nice tax break for all of that messy looking shrubbery in their front yard. Those who go the extra mile to re-wild their private properties may even get some direct financial incentive. That's because it's in the best interest of the government, and our lungs to keep our air clean and keep biodiversity alive.

Property owners collect points as a sort of credit, and the credits start to rack up when you plant rare species, or cloak the rooftop with pollinator-friendly flowers. Descriptions of how these If a certain bird species is recorded nesting in your planted trees, you may earn some would be available for your points for giving back to the

Now it's time to visit the green square on the outskirts, as you cruise back out of

ecotourism has been perverted at this point. Small remnant areas of original forests directs you to find a spot at and other natural environ-

sive public nature centres, reading pleasure. You would decimated ecosystem that ments have become squares of protected space.

> Tourists flock to this little green square. Not many towns have these anymore.

There's a waterfall and The concept and image of some big old oak trees tucked in there somewhere. Upon arrival at the place, your guide the base of the waterfall — it'll

make for the ultimate souvenir photo. You walk up to the base of the falls, bumping shoulders and exchanging "excuse me's" along the way. You turn around to face the camera, and smile. Click! You and 200 other people really enjoyed that moment together. You walk away with the photo.

But what did we learn?



This photo illustrates the flow of influences back and forth between nature and society. It can spark us to think about the directions we are heading, and what that future just might look like, says Owen Bjorgan. It was snapped in a wetland near Niagara Falls. (Owen Bjorgan)

### **B&B** owners are also ratepayers, with increased assessments

tourist businesses to pay their share (The Local, Feb. 6).

I read this letter with a sense of deja vu. We used to see letters like this in the old Niagara Advance, 10 to 15 years ago. Full disclosure: my wife and I operated a small scale, hosted accommodation (B&B) in Old Town for more than six years in the 2002 to 2009 time. As a past-president of the BBA, we responded to all of them during my

tourism industry.

pression that there are two

Re: Time for tourists and distinct groups of people in ation by about 10 to 15 per sued. Our per-room licence would be collected by hotels town, "ratepayers," and tour- cent above the market value ist/B&B operators. When my of a similar house without a wife and I arrived in town B&B licence. in 2002, we thought of ourselves first as residents, and as accommodation providers second. Our B&B certainly met the Town's definition of a B&B as "secondary use of a private family residence." B&B operators are ratepayers too. The letter suggests that B&B operators don't contribute because NOTL doesn't has yet been removed by the tenure on the association have a commercial tax. I might have agreed with that authorities. It might be worth My comments this time argument until about 2006, noting that no other homecome from that background, when I found out that the based businesses were treated and may not be representa- Town was supplying the ad- in this fashion. tive of other segments of the dresses of B&B licence holders to the Municipal Proper- millennium, B&Bs were in- early, in fact before the city lines in that city. And final-The contribution to the ty Assessment Corporation spected annually by one of had the authority to create ly, I guess things must have discussion from last week's (MPAC), which immediately two NOTL bylaw enforceletter seems to create the im- and arbitrarily increased the ment officers prior to a li-

I watched and assisted one colleague who took MPAC through the appeal process to get the B&B surcharge removed. He won his case, but found the increased evaluation right back on his assessment details the following year. I have no reason to believe that the B&B surcharge current property assessment

fees covered (probably more and restaurants and turned than covered) the Town's over to Niagara Falls Tourism cost for the time the officers for use in promoting tourism dedicated to B&B regulatory in the city. To my knowledge,

ing what the Town has been the time with the NF Chamdoing with those funds after ber of Commerce said it was it vacated the regulatory are- collected sporadically at some na more than 10 years ago hotels and restaurants, had to and terminated the officers be removed from the bill if providing the regulatory ser- the customer complained, vice? I understand that the and that the revenue from the B&B licence fee is still being charge seldom left the estabcharged annually.

And I wouldn't be too lected. quick to use the hospitality

it was never extended to in-Perhaps we should be ask- clude B&Bs. My contacts at lishment at which it was col-

I think it's safe to conclude In the first decade of the Certainly it was implemented maintain any roads or sewer such a tax; therefore it wasn't changed since 2009, because a tax but was a fee. The theory when municipalities did reproperty assessment evalu- cence for the year being is- was that the hospitality fee/tax ceive authority to levy a mu-

nicipal hospitality, tourism or accommodation tax, initially at least, all the revenues collected were to be turned over to a designated marketing or tourism organization for use only in promoting tourism.

The evidence provided here suggests that licensed B&B operators have been paying two premiums to the municipality, one for which they have never received any benefit, and the other for which they have received an essentially worthless piece of paper (aka a B&B licence) for more than the past 10 years. "tax" implemented in Niag- that the Niagara Falls hos- It weakens the argument that Falls as a good practice. pitality "tax" didn't repair or licensed B&B operators have not been paying their share and that the proposed MAT should be extended to in-

**Kenn Moody** 



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# COMMENT

### Message for Valentine's Day and every day



Ted Mouradian **Special to The Local** 

Well, Friday is Valentine's Day, another day that is really good for some and not so good for others.

We will see ads for gifts for that someone special, and of course the restaurants with their deals for a romantic evening for two. What if you are single, or just lost your loved one? Then the day is not so special. Of course that does not mean that the day is not worth celebrating.

As for me, Valentine's Day is a very special day and has been for the last 72 years, when I spend it with the one I care for the most and the one I look after first, no matter who is in mv life.

Well you may have guessed, Valentine's Day is my birthday. My mother called it the 1948 St. Valentine's Day Massacre. She ing love. When we are love, to do for you. said she was in labour for

put in print.

and the memories of those love is not out of need, but times will always be cheris simply love. ished. But I figured somespecial day even more speand goes. First off, I am so pleasant.

are three kinds of love. Be- help but be pure and good. ing in love. Being loved. are simply love, we don't all of you. have to be in love and we don't have the need to be loved.

to be loved, then that love ing love, you will appreciate can be toxic, and with that, all those around you who odds are it won't last long. need some love. You will If someone is in love with stop trying to do what most something or someone that of us do when we get into a does not have the capability of returning that love, this too can be toxic, and you, now change!" You will in this case can actually be accept all of those you love destructive.

there is no need to be look-

Many from a faith-based thing out that makes this background are taught that love is the ultimate. This is cial as each birthday comes true as long as the love begins first with one's self, for blessed to be here to cele- when we can love ourselves brate Valentine's Day, be- unconditionally, that intercause the alternative is not nal love rushes forth into the universe so strong that I have a theory that there anything it touches can't

So, here is my Valen-And being love. When we tine's Day/birthday wish for

Be love!

Not just for one day and not only for a thing or an-When someone needs other person. By simply berelationship; that being... "I love you, I love you, I love for who they are, the same The third option is be- as you would expect them

Finally, please remem-

two days. She said other ing for love, especially in ber, when you are celebrat- act is perfect, because true President of the 2% Factor things as well, that I can't the wrong places. Of course ing with that significant love is just that...perfect. when one is love, one can other, do what they want Over the years, I have also be in love but it does to do, not what you want to to you all, no matter what He is an author and a prohad my special Valentine not create toxicity, for the do. Because when you are your situation is. truly love, and when you truly accept you, then every

Ted Mouradian is the factor.com

Inc. and the creator of the Happy Valentine's Day Law of Cooperative Action. fessional speaker and can be reached at ted@the2percent-

### Silversmith supports Red Roof



Ben Goertzen and Steffanie Bjorgan celebrate a partnership over a half-pint at Silversmith Brewing Company, which will feature a Happiest of Hours special, Beginning next Wednesday, Feb. 19, \$1 from each pint sold between 5 and 9 p.m. will be donated to Red Roof Retreat. Goertzen says Silversmith is moving forward with some changes, including a renovation of its kitchen, which will be taken over by the trendy oddBird of St. Catharines, and wants to celebrate that new direction with community involvement. (Penny Coles)







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### **Auchterlonie on Astrology**

#### **Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local**

This week in Auchterlo-Scorpio on Saturday, Feb. 15 and the period from Thursday, Feb. 13 to Wednesday, Feb. 19.

a look at Indigenous North American astrology, and podcasts.html.

Now, the week ahead.

courtesy of Saturn in Capri- plication. And in 2010, Al- at 7:57 p.m., until March ing Sagittarius makes for a a 'my scientists are bigger corn. For some this may be a scary Thursday. Fear is not an appropriate response. nie on Astrology I'll look at Honesty will conquer any the third quarter Moon in challenge of this kind. It was Feb. 13, 1866 that Jesse James held up his first bank in Liberty Missouri. His take was \$15,000 - an On my podcast I've got amount worth hundreds of times as much today.

Friday, Feb. 14: Happy the week of Sunday, Feb. 16 Valentine's Day! In spite through Saturday, Feb. 22. of a restless night of sleep, The website is https://www. this is a good Friday where lookingupwithbill.com/ the Moon makes six connections and most bring helping hands and smart Thursday, Feb. 13: It's an- ideas thanks to Jupiter in other day of sexy generosity Capricorn and Mercury in as the Moon in Libra and Pisces. On this day in 1876 Mars in Sagittarius make in Brantford, Ontario, a friendly this afternoon. Scottish immigrant named Then the Moon moves into A. Graham Bell invented sexy Scorpio tonight. But the telephone. Most of Bell's most of the day has a kind hundreds of other inven- is the dreaded day when

exandre Bilodeau won the Gold Medal in the freestyle skiing men's moguls event, becoming the first Canadian to win a Gold Medal during a Canadian-hosted Olympics.

Saturday, Feb. 15: It's a serious, but positive start to the weekend as the Moon in Scorpio makes a 90-degree (square) aspect to the Sun at 5:17 p.m. It's the third quarter Moon - a day of stubborn feelings butting against an energetic Sun. On this day in 2001, the first draft of the complete human genome was published in the journal *Nature*, changing the direction of medicine more profoundly than anything ever in previous history.

Sunday, Feb. 16: Today of stubborn quality to it tions have yet to find an ap- Mercury turns retrograde

11. When Mercury is retrograde we can expect trouble with communications da's seventh prime minister, and with communications Wilfred Laurier, died on devices. This go round the this day in 1919. He was our change happens at 11-degrees of Pisces and the direct turnaround is at 28 degrees of Aquarius. So the first part of it is more likely about confused thinking. And then on March 4, of the Pharaoh Tutankhasarcophagus. I have held the gold mask in my hands on two occasions, when I of Ontario.

Still, the Moon in all-know-

positive vibe even if there's not much going on. Canafirst French-speaking prime minister.

Tuesday, Feb. 18: Now here comes a very busy day! The Moon kicks it off by moving into Capricorn earthe devices problems are Sun winds it up by moving more likely. On Feb. 16, from Aquarius to imagi-1923 Howard Carter opens native Pisces to end the the inner burial chamber day just before midnight. There's a lot going on and mun's tomb and finds the a lot of energy to burn to board. make things happen. Today is the birthday of the planet Pluto. US astronomer worked at the Art Gallery Clyde Tombaugh made the discovery on Feb. 18, 1930. Monday, Feb. 17: This is While there has been de- Local. the slowest, dreariest start bate in the past few years to a week I can ever recall. about Pluto's classification are stardust. We are goldas a planet, this is largely en." So shine on!

than your scientists' kind of feud where the ones most interested in the Solar System all agree that Pluto is a planet.

Wednesday, Feb. 19: Another busy day. This time with ideas dominating the activities. Remember Mercury is still retrograde so be wary that the ideas you're ly in the morning. And the discussing or thinking about are ideas that make sense and that you're not being tricked into some sort of thought game in order to confuse you and get you on

> Next week is the new Moon in Pisces on Sunday, Feb. 23. That and more, next week on Auchterlonie on Astrology, here in The

Joni Mitchell said: "We



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February 13, 2020

### Niagara College takes over 'stewardship' of **Canopy Growth vineyard**

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Through a partnership with Canopy Growth, Niagara College is taking over the operation of the Concession 5 vineyard next to Tweed Farms.

one of the largest medical marijuana greenhouse operations in the world, with more than a million square with an experienced grape feet in production.

The vineyard next door to Tweed was originally Growth announced Mon-

May, 2019.

looking for a partnership come," he said. grower.

owned locally and operated day that the college will as Coyote's Run Winery. It continue the operation of was sold in October, 2017, the vineyards. As home to with unfounded rumours the first commercial teachsaying it had been sold to ing winery in Canada, and Canopy Growth, which did the first commercial canultimately purchase it in nabis production program in the country, the college At that time, the new will use the 27-acre proper-Tweed is best known as owners said they planned ty as a "hub for learning to to continue wine produc- be enjoyed by Niagara Coltion at the facility, but were lege students for decades to

> College president Dan Patterson referred to the Jeff Ryan of Canopy teaching winery's role as taking "stewardship" of the



Marc Nantel, vice-president of Research, Innovation and Strategic Initiatives at Niagara College, toasts Regional Chair Jim Bradley, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and wine industry expert Debi Pratt, with a 2018 pinot noir from the Concession 5 vineyard. (Photos by Penny Coles)

Concession 5 property, and preserve the vineyards on ager of the college's Learnas an example of the "three drivers of the success" of the college: its strong com- made to a crowd of about 50 winery, brewery and distillmitment to industry/edu- people at the college's Wine ery, called the partnership a cational partnerships; the Visitor + Education Centre win-win-win. "unparalleled opportunities" it presents for its students; and the people and grown and the terroir of imizing impact on its culture at the college, interwoven into the fabric of the present a different oppor- and Niagara-on-the-Lake region and all sectors of its tunity for learning than at residents gain good neigheconomy, educating future the college's teaching win- bours through our comemployees for regional in- ery, and the building on the mitment to maintaining the dustries.

He also praised Canopy ondary production site. Growth for its decisions to

the Concession 5 property.

Monday morning.

the Concession 5 vineyard greenhouse property will become a sec- vineyards with sustainable

Steve Gill, general man-

ing Enterprise Centre, The announcement was which includes the teaching

"Canopy benefits from The varieties of grapes our dedication to minoperations, farming practices."



Jeff Ryan of Canopy Growth, and Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, launch a partnership that gives the college the operation of a Canopy Growth vineyard.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** 

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#### Making new friends



Crossroads student Claudia Bator, Riley Murray from Oakridge Public School, and Royal Oak Community School student River Chico made fast friends on one of the elementary school teachers' strike days, when Royal Oak welcomes students from other schools. Josh Klassen from Cornerstone Church has also been offering activities at the former Virgil School gym, strike mornings only. (Photo supplied)

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### Local businesses look for staff at college job fair

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Wineries were just two of the Niagara-on-the-Lake businesses hoping to attract future employees at the Niagara College job fair last week.

Most of the industry representatives at the job fair hope to hire many more employees than they expected to see at the job fair, some ready to hire on the spot.

Jamie Slingerland, director of viticulture at Pillitteri ate from Niagara College. Estates Winery, welcomed Matthew Portelli, a recent take on summer interns for graduate of a theatre arts technician program at Fanshawe hours to count for the co-op College. His eventual goal is to work at the Shaw Festival, but for now, he would be happy to work at a job in hospitality, he says.

A Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, he volunteered at the job throughout high school, and has worked at other jobs in the hospitality industry.

"Theatre's in my blood, and has been for many years," he says.

for anything that could be full-time hours. I'm open to trying new things."

His resume looks promising, says Slingerland, who was hoping to hire some seasonal workers for the retail winery shop, and also for production, one for now, and more for the fall.

"Our main interest here is they said. seeing people, getting their resumes, and doing follow-ups for those we are interested in."

Arterra Wines was also at the job fair, looking for about 60 to 70 employees, mostly

seasonal, for Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery and Inniskillin Winery. Arterra was there for two days, and had about 15 interviews set up for Friday.

Although most of the employees they hire will be students, some are in their final year and will stay, and others will remain on through the year, with part-time hours, says Derek Ingham, retail coordinator at Inniskillin — and a sales and marketing gradu-

The wineries will also paid positions, allowing their component of their programs, he added.

The college job fair works well for the wineries, since so many of the programs dovetail with the employees they hope to recruit — not only the winery and viticulture program, but hospitality, sales and marketing and culinary students will all gain valuable experience, says Ingham.

The Niagara Parks Com-"But for now, I'm looking mission also had representative at the job fair, looking for about 500 seasonal, part-time Friday. employees for their many attractions.

They've been at the college event for several years, and found it to be successful. Even if they get 50 resumes a day, it helps make a dent in the number they hope to hire,

The college's annual onestop shop for job seekers was its largest ever, hoping to attract current students, alumni and others to explore opportunities, hand out resumes,



Derek Ingham, retail coordinator at Inniskillin wines, Christine Lehotay of Jackson-Triggs, and Vicky Gallagher of Arterra Wines in Mississauga were at the Niagara College job fair last week hoping to find some summer staff. (Photos by Penny

network, and meet with potential employers from a variety of industries.

The career fair began last Tuesday at the Welland Campus, and continued at the NOTL campus Wednesday to

A record number of employers were registered to recruit full-time, part-time, co-op and seasonal positions for more than 150 employers from the Niagara region, with 40 and 55 exhibitors each day.

Exhibitors at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus represented hospitality and tourism, horticulture and cannabis production, culinary and beverage, business, sales and marketing.



Jamie Slingerland, viticultural manager at Pillitteri Estates Winery, Alissa Short, store manager, and Matthew Portelli talk about job opportunities at the winery.



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February 13, 2020

THE NOTL LOCAL

### Ariel's mom says 12-year-old is strong, but in pain

### Crossroads student has long, difficult journey ahead of her

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Ariel Carr is a very strong little girl, says her mom De-

She has to be.

The tiny 12-year-old had her first surgery Friday to straighten her spine, twisted half hour operation at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto.

It involved using eight bolts to attach a traction halo to her head, two above each eyebrow and two in front of By Saturday, before time for the bolt sites to begin to heal, five pounds of weights were added to the halo, with two pounds more being added each day.

"They will continue doto 24 pounds," says Ariel's mom, who is struggling with watching her daughter in pain, and feeling overhelplessness to stop it. After ed she might never walk. that, she will remain in traction with the halo for four to hockey as well, but still six weeks, says Denise, and Ariel is already asking when left side.

the halo can come off.

moved into a traction chair, says Denise. in which Denise wheels her her room.

She got her favour-Saturday, a double choco-

Nurses are trying to get each ear, describes Denise. her to take Ensure, a nutrihealth issues. She isn't havcan't afford to lose weight, says Denise.

Ariel has been overing that up until they get coming obstacles since birth, when as a premature baby she was born at three whelmed with feelings of Doctors at the time suggest-

with some difficulties on her

At 47 inches tall, and 43 It won't, for several pounds, Ariel is small for weeks. The weights are re- her age, but the surgery and moved when she goes to the weights could add another washroom, and when she is inch or more to her height,

There will be at least one around just to get her out of more surgery, which will involve shaving some bone off the top of her spine, which by scoliosis, in a two-and-a- ite drink from Starbucks is now shaped almost like a candy cane, curving into late chip frappuccino, but her neck. She's been told it's she was in too much pain to expected to be a nine-and-adrink it, and most of it was half hour operation, but that won't happen until after the weeks in traction.

> There might be a third tional drink for people with operation, says Denise. When Ariel went through ing much success with that a growth spurt recently, her either, but she's so tiny, she ribs grew as well, causing them to grow into her hip on her left side, and to press into her lungs. That has been causing her pain, making movement difficult, and diminishing her lung capacpounds, 15 ounces, with no ity, making her tire easily. movement on her left side. Depending on how well this stage of her treatment works, she may have to go back into She has, and played the operating room to have one or more ribs removed.

Denise sleeps in Ariel's room, and never goes far

from her side. Her husband Ace plans to spell her some nights — one of them will have to be with Ariel 24 hours a day while she's in the hospital. They have to pay for parking, food, and gas going back and forth, and since they both work at the same place, they don't want to both be off at the same time. They've been warned by the hospital it could cost them \$5,000 a month. The family has set up a GoFundMe page to offset the costs. To help, visit https://ca.gofundme.com/f/ ariels-scoliosis-battle.

Denise says she leaves Ariel briefly for some fresh air, but always with her cell phone, knowing Ariel also has a phone and can call her.

She sometimes uses that time to let her emotions out, crying the tears she doesn't want Ariel to see, she says.

"When she knows I'm upset, she tells me not to be. She worries about me. Sometimes it seems like she's the parent and I'm the child. She's so tough, but she is in pain, and it is so hard to watch and not be able to do anything to help her."

Denise takes her to the her by her friend Brooke says. "I'm so glad she has it." washroom, and for trips around the hospital in the hospital. traction chair, but it's hard can't move her head.

Ariel is spending her Denise. awake time on an iPad, which she can hold up high enough to be able to see while she's lying down. Even when sitting, the halo prevents her from moving her Feb. 7, the day of Ariel's first eves up or down — her area surgery." of vision is very limited.

before she left to go to the

"It has Brooke's voice on for Ariel to see much — she it telling Ariel she loves her, and that she is strong," says

> "Ariel listens to it all the time. Brooke even gave her tion. She asked her mother a birth certificate with it saying the teddy's name is Angel, and she was born al as she recalls that difficult

a large teddy bear given to pillow for her head, Denise

It's been a terrifying time for Ariel and her family, and it's far from over. Although Ariel is surprisingly strong for her age, says her mom, she admitted to being scared the night before her operaif she was going to die, says Denise, becoming emotionconversation.

"I told her she was It's always beside her, coming home, that we'd be She draws comfort from and sometimes acts as a soft coming home together. And



Crossroads student Ariel Carr is in a traction bed in the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, with a halo bolted to her head and weights attached to the halo to straighten her spine. She is expected to be in the traction bed for six to eight weeks, with another surgery after that. (Denise Carr)



#### **FEBRUARY**

#### **FEB 15**

#### Official Secrets

The true story of a British whistleblower who leaked information to the press about an illegal NSA spy operation designed to push the UN Security Council into sanctioning the 2003 invasion of Irag. Starring Keira Knightley, Matt Smith and Matthew Goode.

#### **FEB 22**

#### Once Upon a Time in ... Hollywood

A faded television actor (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his stunt double (Brad Pitt) strive to achieve fame and success in the film industry during the final years of Hollywood's Golden Age in 1969 Los Angeles.



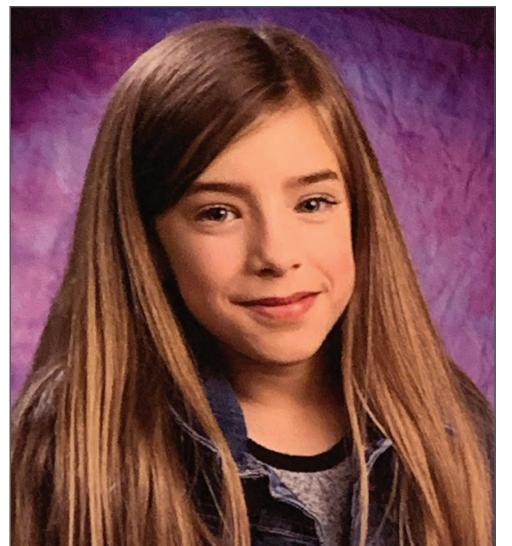
Enjoy gourmet eats (\$) from GOODDINE CATERING before the films, starting at 1:30pm.

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Advance and same day tickets available at the Shaw Festival Box Office. All prices include tax. Presented by the Shaw Festival in association with Film Circuit, a division of the Toronto International Film Festival Group.



Ariel has a long road ahead of her before she returns to school. She hopes to be able to play hockey again with her friends. (Photo supplied)

# SCHO

St. Michael Catholic Elementary School hosted its annual Science Showcase on Feb. 5 in the gymnasium. Students in Grades 5 and 7 shared their investigations and findings with the school community and many visitors. From ice to

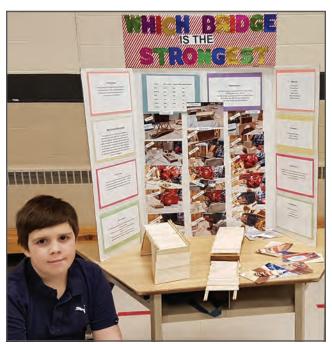
eggs, the fermentation process or the structural integrity of a bridge, all budding scientists created eye-catching informative displays that riveted their audiences. Niagara Regional Science Fair – here come the students of St. Mike's.



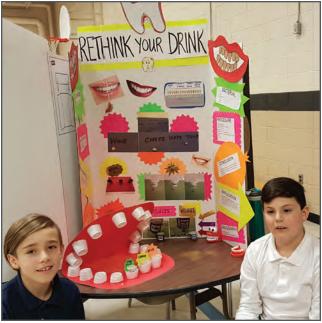
Maya Hubbard researched the fermentation process.



Katherine VanderKaay and Sophie Gatt researched ice.



Jensen Paugh studied the strength of bridges for the Science Fair. (Photos supplied)



Chase Brown and Nicholas Vetrone looked at unhealthy drinks.

This Monday, St. Michael students began taking part in the Kids Helping Kids Campaign. Each of the school families has the opportunity to donate \$5, Children's Centre and Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Both local

agencies work in different capacities to help children right here in Niagara be the best they can be. St. Mike's Student Council hosted an assembly modelling the crawhich will go to the Niagara zy hats, hair and bling that make them joyful disciples, caring and serving brother and sisters in need.



Red White & Pink day - Tannin Drieger-Bradshaw, Simone Rezza, Anessa Raso, Oliver Regier, Joe Bowman, Seth VanderZalm dress up for the occasion.



Noah Kugler and Mario Galbraith have a scooter race in the gym.



Five Second Rule is the title of Lucas Williams and Jake Cook's Science Fair project.



Bling up your uniform - Joe Bowman, Nick Munera, Lucas Roberts Ramos, Ava Randall, Grace Healy, Jasmine Griese, Lila Singleton, and Mykayla Brown are joyful disciples.





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February 13, 2020 THE NOTL LOCAL

### Local cinematographer working for top musicians

#### Mike Balsom Special to The Local

Adam CK Vollick can't explain it. He posits "it's a combination of work ethic and stupidity." He adds that he's a "good hang, who doesn't get weirded out about the stature" of the people with whom he works.

The 41-year-old Queenston resident is the go-to cinematographer for rock legend Neil Young. Vollick, originally from Canfield, Ontario, has had the fortune to work with many other well-known artists on both music videos and feature films.

His most recent big-name project was Mountaintop. Filmed in the Telluride, 9,000 feet above sea level, Vollick completed all the cinematography for the movie, which documents the recording of Colorado, Young's latest album with his long-time band, Crazy Horse.

Using four Go-Pro cameras, set up in various locations around the recording studio, as well as a Sony A7R III 35 mm, Vollick captures Young quarterbacking his long-time musical allies as they lay down the tracks for what would become the 10-song album.

The film screened simultaneously last October in 120 theatres around the world, timed to the release of the album. On his eponymous website, the late film critic Roger ton. Finding work in a studio Ebert enthused about Vollick's with access to high-end digital cinematography and how it equipment, he began to phoperfectly complemented the tograph bands as they played rag-tag nature of the music of in the Steeltown bar scene. Young and his band.

film. The 74-year-old Young, who launched his archive website three years ago, is known for documenting everything he records. "I thought I was hired to just document (the sessions)," Vollick says, "so that there was a record to it." To that end, he took a utilitarian approach to shooting with the small Go-Pro cameras, making sure he stayed out of sight of the band for the most part.

Six weeks after the recording sessions, he received a call from Young's people, informing him they had pieced together a two-hour version of his work. Vollick flew to L.A. to complete colour correction on the footage, to ready it for the late October screening.

Vollick came to filmmaking almost by accident. A former student in Sheridan College's applied photography program, he began assisting in a Toronto commercial studio while still enrolled. Feeling he had learned all he could at his diploma.

Following the Toronto experience, he moved to Hamil-

A chance encounter with Vollick says Mountaintop Bob Lanois, brother of U2 and wasn't even supposed to be a Neil Young producer Daniel, led to him being hired by the Lanois family to photograph a wake held in memory of another brother, Ron.

About a year later, Dan Lanois called Vollick and asked him to shoot some portraits for his 2005 album, Belladonna. The shoot turned into a casual rap session, and two weeks later, Lanois invited him to Los Angeles to collaborate on a stage show for his Belladonna tour.

The call couldn't have come at a better time. Vollick had left the Hamilton studio, thinking his dream had come to an end, and was selling home security systems for a friend. He quit that job, flew to L.A., and was offered a fulltime job as Lanois' in-house photographer and video artist, whose next album was Here Is What Is, released in 2007. The movie of the same name, shot and directed by Vollick, became his first feature-length film. It screened as a special Sheridan, he decided to leave presentation at the 2007 Tothe program before earning ronto International Film Festival, alongside Hollywood fare from directors such as Sean Penn, Noah Baumbach and



Adam Vollick at Pukaskwa National Park in Heron Bay, Ont. this summer. (Photo supplied)

Jonathan Demme.

Lanois became the springboard for Vollick's move into Neil Young's inner circle. Young was familiar with the Particle Kid. work Vollick did with Lanois for a project called *Black Dub*. Young called Lanois, telling him he wanted to make a record with him, and that he rently be seen on Netflix. "wanted that kid from Canada to film it."

with Ben Howard, subsequently directed the Le Noise film, which documented the recording of Young's 2010 solo record.

shoulders with the likes of Hannah.

Hannah, by the way, matographer for her 2018 film, Paradox. The movie can be in *Paradox* as the Man in the Black Hat, lurking around the fringes of the other characters while playing typical Neil Young guitar riffs. Nelson briefly appears as a character named Red, while his sons,

Lukas and Micah, who peribacking band, portray characters named Jailhouse and The

It's a surreal and masterful piece of filmmaking, for which Vollick acted as the one-man crew on camera. It can cur-

The Lanois-Young connection, it's safe to say, has Lanois and Vollick, along changed Vollick's life. That's true in his professional life, obviously, but it is also evident in his personal life.

Vollick's first marriage He's been working with ended in divorce shortly after Young ever since, brushing he began his work with Lanois. He met his new partner, Jess country legends Emmylou Rice, while shooting Paradox Harris and Willie Nelson, as for Hannah and Young. Rice, a well as Young's wife, Darryl chef, was hired to cook for the cast and crew. After a long day of shooting, he stumbled into brought Vollick in as the cine- Rice in the kitchen, and struck up a conversation.

A short while later, their described as a cross between friendship, then their roscience fiction and a western, mance, blossomed, while on with a concert film thrown tour with Young and his band. into the middle. Young stars After Vollick suffered injuries in a bicycle accident in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Rice came up to Canada to help him recuperate. Last March, he popped the question, and last month, they tied the knot at St. Catharines City Hall.

The newlyweds are getting odically find work as Young's ready to settle in at Vollick's rented home in Queenston, where his basement is set up with the equipment he uses to continue working for Young and others.

> Vollick rarely finds time for his first love — photography. NOTL residents may remember his stint as artist-in-residence at Backhouse in 2017. He speaks of two current films that will find space on his hard drive.

> One is his next major project, to document Young's recent five-show run of concerts in Minneapolis, where he mixed his music with his calls for action on environmental issues.

However, when reached for this article, he was busy putting finishing touches on a short documentary about Doug Atkins of Crystal Beach. The film was to debut at a party last Saturday to celebrate Atkins' retirement from 40 years of serving the community as a volunteer firefighter.

Vollick speaks of that film with as much enthusiasm as he does of any of his projects with Young, Lanois, Hannah and others. It's clear that for Adam CK Vollick (CK are his middle initials, Clayton Kenneth), no project is too big, or too small.





The full page is made up of a HALF PAGE AD and HALF PAGE ARTICLE

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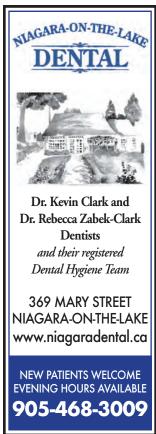
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### Uton Bell calls Canada home, but still spends time in Jamaica

#### **Jane Andres** Special to The Local

It was a golden morning in Spanishtown, Jamaica.

The sunshine and birdsong erased any memories of the dull winter my friend Jodie Godwin and I had left behind in Niagara. We were enjoying our stay at the home of Uton and Linnette Bell, good friends we had met through the Caribbean workers church service back home. It was 2008, my second time visiting friends I had met in the neighbourhood back home and I was no longer enjoying the Jodie's first experience touring the island.

Uton came to Canada originally through the farm work program in 1968, moving to Niagara permanently in 1973 with his young family after being sponsored by Abe Epp. Although he has called Niagara home for the past 47 years, he looks forward to spending a few months in Jamaica each year.

We enjoyed a hearty breakfast of roast breadfruit and fresh oranges, then headed out to the mountains to visit friends who worked on neighbouring farms back home. The drive started off winding through the countryside with Uton at the wheel, his wife Linnette filling in the details while he pointed out places of interest.

Stops were spontaneous and frequent. Every few minutes we would honk at a front gate and someone employed at a Niagara farm would appear at their door, a mix of joy and surprise on their faces.

The home of Earl "Earlybee" Newell, a long time employee at the Epp Family Farm and our keyboard player at the Caribbean workers church service, was the first stop. He gathered family members to make introductions: Clive Brown from Hunter Farms, Checko from Epp's, Errol, and Johnny. After hugs, laughter and weather updates from Niagara we would drive on to the next house, to be repeated many times as we gradually wound our way up the mountain.

Fields of sugar cane and yam gradually yielded to rocky outcrops and feathery stands of bamboo gracing the roadway. Stops were less frequent as the road narrowed and the incline became steeper. Our journey slowed to a crawl as Uton navigated the many potholes and washouts.

It was a marvel to view the terraced fields of carrots across the valley, somehow carved by hand from the steep terrain. No four-wheel drives could navigate those slopes, only sure-footed donkeys laden with sacks of tools could pick their way along the jagged paths.

We were headed to a setup, a large gathering of friends and family honouring the passing of a loved one, in Kentish, a

small village perched on one parish of St. Catherine. A setup usually takes place at the home of the deceased, each day leading up to the funeral. Often the funeral will be delayed two to three weeks to allow family members to return home from the UK, the U.S. or Canada. It is one of the most significant events for the community, as they come together to mourn and support of bereavement.

As the journey progressed, view. My foot was jammed down on an imaginary brake pedal and I kept my eyes focussed on the brush scraping the car against the face of the cliff. I was relieved to have Uton pointed out a distant ridge with little specks moving about on the crest. "Look, we're almost there!"

The road had narrowed to a rutted path, and we inched along. Once on the ridge, the precipice dropped down on Park rum. both sides, and Uton hunched over, gripping the wheel as he

I refused to open my eyes until we finally reached a relatively level area that widened out into a field of sugar cane. More than 100 people milled about in small groups, with

I slid weak-kneed out of the SUV, taking a few minutes to steady myself, while Uton and Linnette jumped out to greet old friends. Jodie and I started to follow but were quickly intercepted by curious locals, who welcomed us warmly. It became obvious as the night progresses. Uton (Sonny, as he was known here) and Linnette were wellloved in the community.

Men and women hustled around steaming pots simmering over coals in the yard of a turquoise bungalow. The aroma of fresh pimento and jerk chicken wafted over the visitors, who were arriving sicians, coaxing some lively steadily on foot, in vehicles tunes from an ancient saxoand on mules.

back in Niagara. It felt strange to meet people who were my neighbours eight months of the year on this distant mountaintop a world away.

They guided me through the crowd and we headed through the cane field and beretired from Epp's.

Jodie was off exploring, barely visible in the distance, where the far end of the ridge descended into the mist.

Forgetting my fear of heights completely, I caught up to Jodie, where she had befriended a few contented he laughed. It was Jodie's first

as if to start soaring, and sharing our sentiments shouted, "I'm on top of the world!"

The following day we had of the highest peaks in the the privilege of joining in on the final night, known as the nine-night, of the setup at another family member's home. Uton parked by an overlook that offered a spectacular panoramic view of city lights shimmering over a distance of 30 miles. A group of young boys came over and insisted we take their hands to guide us to the house a good distance away. We were grateful for each other during their time their assistance as it was impossible to see our way in the dark. Due to the recent downpours, the path was extremely slippery. We had no idea how treacherous it was until the foliage parted and the boys pointed out the tiny lights of a village straight down.

Off in the distance we reached the summit when could hear the sounds of the nine-night band warming up. The warm glow of single bulbs strung from tree to tree illuminated the yard jammed with people coming to pay their respects and avail themselves of liberal amounts of Worthy

The band was set up under a loosely configured tent. navigated every little bump Impatient for the guitars to finish tuning, the vocalists let loose into their microphones. It quickly became obvious they were not singing in the same key but after a few minutes and a swig or two from a nearby bottle, they settled into a few donkeys tied up on the a lively groove. It took awhile before I recognized the songs as more animated versions of old hymns. Nine-night bands that provide the music at setups are prepared to play until the break of dawn, typically starting off with hymns and gospel choruses and evolving into reggae and popular music

People were friendly and curious, but conversations dwindled once the music took off. The drummers alternated every few songs, allowing a young boy of about 12 to display his exceptional talents. Later an elderly gentleman shuffled into the circle of muphone. Tambourines, pot lids, Uton introduced me to and graters rounded out the men who worked on the farms percussion section as they repeated the choruses over and over, the crowd singing along. Young and old joined in on the dance floor, the senior dancers enjoying centre stage.

After a few songs, there seemed to be a commotion on the far side of the crowd. yond with William Rhule, also A Canadian visitor was dancing energetically in her own unique style, oblivious to the attention of onlookers.

> An elderly gentleman beside me observed Jodie, then looked at me quizzically.

"She learned to dance like that in Africa," I offered, and visit to the island. Wherever She threw her arms open we travelled, she made herself right at home, investing herself 110 per cent in whatever activity we were engaged in.



Jane Andres visits Linnette and Uton Bell at their home in Jamaica. (Photo supplied)

Tonight was no different.

Walking back along the path a few hours later, there was so much to reflect on after the day's events.

I began to appreciate how painful it would be to experience the loss of a loved one while working almost 3,000 miles from home. I cannot even imagine the struggle to keep the pain to oneself without the support of a community or the ability to participate in the traditions that are vitally important to one's well-being.

Some of our neighbours able to fly home to take part in family funerals, and others are not so fortunate. Finanthe need to pay off crushing

funeral costs require that they remain on the job.

It has been my experience so many times over the last 14 years to simply "hold space" and listen to someone pour out their grief in a peach orchard, at a picnic table or even in the grocery store. Showing up, taking them out for a quiet meal away from the noise of the bunk house — there are so many ways to let them know they are not alone and that our community cares.

Last summer, some locals working on Niagara farms are responded to concerns about Zenaida's coworkers after she passed away from the tragic hit-and-run accident. Fran cial responsibilities and often Boot and Betty Houghton Knight invited the five wom-

hospital bills and subsequent en out to enjoy a beautifully spread picnic table one summer evening at Queen's Royal Park, followed by a walk in the Old Town. A unique story of friendship has unfolded in the past five months, and the delightful memories they've created together are a blessing not just for the participants, but family members back in

> Last year, a Jamaican man working on a local farm approached me rather tentatively and asked if I had ever been to a setup in Kentish.

When I replied in the affirmative he laughed so hard, and said he would never forget the night that Canadian lady was dancing. I believe he wasn't the only one!



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February 15 @ 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Colours to Dye For with Sandra Lawrence - Dyeing of textiles has been going on since mankind was first able to twist plant and animal hair fibres into threads, and to weave those threads into fabrics. This presentation looks at the fascinating, and sometimes tumultuous histories behind some of those dyes. Tickets are \$10 for the general public or free for Niagara Historical Society Members. Reservations required as seating is limited. 905-468-3912 or email: contact@nhsm.ca.



#### The Canadian Cancer Society is holding a

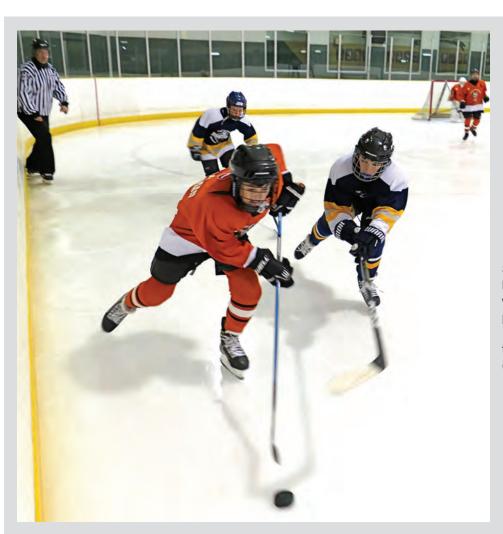
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#### Win for **Wolves**

Sawyer Hoadley is on his way to scoring the winning goal as the NOTL peewee Wolves record a 1-0 win Saturday against the Port Colborne Sailors. (Fred Mercnik)



### Skaters compete in Milton

NOTL Skating Club skaters at a recent Milton Winterskate competition were Jeong Lee (left), Tatum Lyric Bidal, Katharine VanderKaay, Ophelia Xie, Soraya Felice, Addisyn Wiens and Lauren Shedden. Felice won her STAR 5 Women (U13-Grp 4) event; Bidal finished third in her Juvenile Women (U14) event and 13th in the STAR 9 Women (U14) event. Lee was fourth in STAR 5 Women (O13-Grp 1) and 10th in STAR 7 Women (O12); VanderKaay was sixth in STAR 5 Women (U13-Grp 1); Shedden 11th in STAR 5 Women (U13-Grp 5); Wiens was 12th in STAR 5 Women (U10-Grp 1) and Xie 12th in STAR 5 Women (U10-Grp 2). (Photo supplied)

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#### Across:

- Scorch
- Constructor 10 Antarctic sea
- 14 Trusted assistant
- 15 Handy
- 16 Very dark
- 17 Please answer
- 18 Civil wrongs
- 19 On-screen Bean
- 20 Tire inflation measure 21 Close
- 22 Ready to entertain
- 24 Brace 26 Circumspect
- 27 Closer
- 29 Prickly seed vessel
- 30 Musical collections 31 Type of lamp
- 32 Campus house, maybe
- 36 Troubles 37 Inordinate
- 39 Make over 40 Sediment
- 41 Short dog with a flat
- 42 Taken in
- 44 Surrender
- 45 Not alee
- 46 Close to the coast

- 50 Held fast
- 51 People found in the Horn
- of Africa 52 Puts on
- 53 Global currency body
- 56 Fine
- 57 Yellow-green color
- 59 Hard up
- 60 Sack
- 61 Enthuses wildly
- 62 Toothpaste container
- 63 Minnesota ---, pool player
- 64 Moves back and forth
- 65 Aide (Abbr.)

#### Down:

- 1 Complain
- 2 Convicted spy Alger ---
- 3 Recommended
- 5 Convent heads
- 6 Entangled
- "Slaughterhouse Five" author --- Vonnegut
- Time in Boston
- 9 Ability
- 10 Vertical pipe
- 11 Upright
- 12 Edible ray
- 13 Ecclesiastical council

- 21 Appear
  - 23 Average golf score
  - 25 Tie up
  - 26 Recognized leader
  - 27 Pin down

  - 28 Fashion magazine
  - 29 Emblem
  - 32 Scowl
  - 33 Spiritual
  - 34 Yemeni port
  - 35 Sweeney ---38 Uncovered
  - 43 Literary work
  - 44 Mountain pass

  - 46 Has gone
  - 47 Cell maker
  - 48 Well turned out
  - 49 Ira ---, Iwo Jima flagraiser 50 Small flock
  - 52 Prima donna
  - 54 Rabbles
  - 55 Abrade
  - 58 Statute
  - 59 Harper Valley org.

#### **OBITUARY**

YOUNG, AUDREY GLADYS (NEE JONES) -Passed away peacefully at McNally House Hospice in Grimsby on Monday, January 13, 2020 in her 94th year. Loving wife of the late John Young (passed September 15, 2014) for 64 years. Beloved mother of Deborah and her husband Kip, Larry and his wife Janet, Steve and his wife Shelley. Proud grandmother to six grandchildren Kate, Kieran, Gregory, Paul, Stephanie and Colleen. Loving great grandmother to Deegan, Luca, Athena and Jack.

Audrey was born September 18, 1926 to the late Frederick and Pretoria Anne Jones in Niagara Falls. She attended High School in Niagara Falls and graduated as a registered nurse from Mack School of Nursing in St. Catharines. After having three children, Audrey enrolled in the University of Toronto and graduated from their Public Health program. For many years Audrey worked as a Public Health Nurse for York Region.

Some of Audrey's happiest moments were when her bags were packed and she was travelling anywhere in the world. She enjoyed sharing amazing stories of her journeys to the Arctic and Antarctic. Her love of learning, experiencing new activities and cultures, and embracing adventure was one trademark of her personality. Audrey was very artistic and enjoyed knitting, quilting, and painting. Audrey was a terrific cook and shared her wonderful gift of gracious hospitality with so many people. She and John enjoyed many years running a Bed & Breakfast in Haliburton. Her warmth, caring personality, and terrific sense of style will be missed.

Family and friends are welcome to gather for a celebration of Audrey's life at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at Grand Victorian Bed & Breakfast, 15618 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Special thanks to the staff at The Royal Henley retirement home in St. Catharines and the staff at McNally House Hospice in Grimsby. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to McNally House

Hospice or the Canadian Cancer Society. Arrangements have been entrusted to MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent St. Niagara-on-the-Lake. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



#### **FOR SALE**

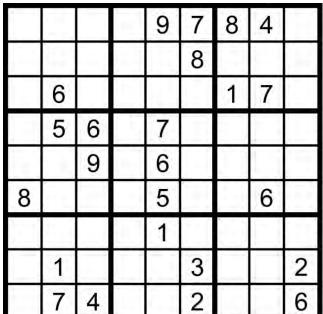
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#### **PUZZLE ANSWERS**

Mobs, 55 Fret, 58 Law, Hayes, 50 Covey, 52 Diva, 54 Is off, 47 Nokia, 48 Smart, 49 38 Nude, 43 Opus, 44 Col, 46 Religious, 34 Aden, 35 Todd, Elle, 29 Badge, 32 Frown, 33 25 Truss, 26 Guru, 27 Nail, 28 13 Synod, 21 Seem, 23 Par, Riser, 11 On end, 12 Skate, EST, 9 Resourcefulness, 10 8 ,Yurt, 8 Afoul, 7 Kurt, 8 Advisable, 4 Rep, 5 Mother Down: 1 Carp, 2 Hiss, 3

Fats, 64 Sways, 65 Asst. Fire, 61 Raves, 62 Tube, 63 26 Okay, 57 Olive, 59 Poor, 60 51 Somalli, 52 Dons, 53 I M F, Upwind, 46 Inshore, 50 Clung, Pug, 42 Fooled, 44 Cede, 45 Undue, 39 Redo, 40 Lees, 41 31 Arc, 32 Frat, 36 Ills, 37 27 Nearer, 29 Burr, 30 Albums, Open to, 24 Steel, 26 Guarded, Sean, 20 Psi, 21 Shut, 22 17 R S V P, 18 Torts, 19 81, 48 of 15 Of use, 16 Across: 1 Char, 5 Maker, 10

#### Sudoku solution from Feb. 6, 2020

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

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### Friday night skating brings out couples, families

#### Kim Wade **Special to The Local**

On Saturday night, the moon was bright and full. Stars peeked out among the trees as skaters circled the George. The skaters who small children, teenagers air. mingling in little clumps and couples gliding hand in ers can warm themselves hand under criss-crossing by one of the gas fireplaces, strings of lights.

among the trees, skaters relaxed in bright red Muskoka chairs and warmed their toes by the fires. Parks Canada employee, Erin Ronfeld, explains that there are fewer rentals on these cold nights. She theorizes that new skaters tend to stay away from the rink when the weather gets chilly. It is the "more dedicated skaters that come out when it's colder," she says. Nonetheless, she likes watching the new skaters best. She enjoys watching new Canadians and international students try skating, many of them for the first time. She appreciates their efforts to attempt this winter pastime. "It's fun to see them come that is so Canadian," and to watch them improve.

She notes it's a mix rink rules. of locals and non-locals gion, coming out to try this helmet and skate rentals

She describes how busy the rink has been lately. There have been many families seeking out ways to entertain the kids over chocolate treat until 9 p.m. the past few days due to the Canada skating rink at Fort see around 200 people a day on a weekend, and skating braved the crisp weather is a great activity to get ev- it's an Ice Dogs celebration were a mix of families with eryone outside in the fresh from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ni-

Tired and hungry skator grab a hot chocolate and Near the rink, nestled a snack inside the Agora. Vintage Hotel staffers, Jacob Hebbert and Nic Vanghan, explain the skating Parks Canada and Niagara rink was formerly the Rink Ice Dogs official merchanon the Brink that was situated in Niagara Falls near from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the Table Rock Restaurant. Vintage Hotels bought the rink equipment and part- on the rink can be found nered with Parks Canada on https://www.pc.gc.ca/ to set it up at Fort George, en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/ where it has become a wel- activ/patinoire-rink, come winter fixture over current rink conditions the past four years. In this and updates can be found partnership, Vintage Ho- on the Fort George Twitter tels provides the rink, sup- page. plies the DJ and runs the concession stand inside the Agora, while Parks Canada provides the property and maintains the rink. Along with other Parks Canada staff members, Ronfeld is and try to do something responsible for keeping the fires stoked, administering first-aid, and enforcing the

Tunes on Ice is just one that come out to skate on of many events at the rink the outdoor rink. Among this month. This Friday, those who come from out Feb. 14, is a PA day for of town, she says many of many schools. The rink them are from the Toronto will be open during the day area. The "locals" she sees from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for are not necessarily from an open skate, then from Niagara-on-the-Lake, but 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for superfrom across the Niagara Re- vised family skating, with

unique outdoor experience. available. Starting at 6 p.m., there will be a special Valentine's Day Date Skate, complete with skating to live music and a rose and

Saturday Night Tunes on ice to their favourite tunes at rotating teacher strikes and Ice returns on Saturday, Feb. The Vintage Hotels – Parks PA days. She says they can 15, and runs from 6 to 9 p.m. until the end of February.

On Family Day, Feb. 17, agara Ice Dogs players will be at the rink from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., along with their mascot, Bones, and the Parks Canada's mascot, Parka. There will be games and activities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and a chance to win dise. The family skate runs then from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Further information



Katie and Garret Dion enjoy skating to dance tunes at the outdoor Vintage Hotels - Parks Canada skating rink. (Fred Mercnik)

### Fun at the fort

Fiona Allison pulls her friend Michala up the hill outside Fort George. (Fred Mercnik)



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