



Niagara Riding Stable owner needs some help
page 14



Message of love and awareness

A display of red dresses outside the NOTL campus of Niagara College is dedicated to opening hearts to lives lost and impacted by violence. For story please see page 2. (Photo supplied)

Historic Steward House has the perfect tenant

**Mike Balsom
Special to The Local**

The moment she visited the tiny house at 507 Butler Street, Elizabeth Pilzecker knew she wanted to live there.

"I couldn't believe I actually had the chance to live in history," she says of the William and Susannah Steward (also known as Stewart) House. "History was my major at the University of Waterloo. And I actually focused a lot on the civil rights movement of the 20th century. When I learned about the house's history, I signed the lease within a week."

The heritage house is part of the Voice of Freedom Black History walking tour of Niagara-on-the-Lake. It's one of 13 stops on the tour that includes Fort Mississauga and Queen's Royal Park.

William Steward was an African American teamster and carpenter. He and his wife Susannah bought the lot on the

corner of John and Butler Streets in 1834. By the middle of that decade, Niagara's Black community was about 400 strong, and they owned about 10 per cent of the lots in the town.

The Steward home was part of what became known as Niagara's "coloured village," a community of former Canadian slaves, Black Loyalists and African American refugees. The majority of the Black families lived south of William Street between Regent and Simcoe Streets.

The couple cleared the land, planted crops and built a small house. A barn was also constructed on the site, and most likely housed a cow that the Stewards kept, though there is some speculation that the barn may have already existed on the property when they acquired it.

Being a history major, Pilzecker threw herself into researching more of the history

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Words of diversity, inclusivity, equality pack powerful message

**Penny Coles
The Local**

Jamie Knight, co-chair of the town's diversity, equity, and inclusion committee, and with support of the committee members, spoke to councillors about the remaining and importance of a rainbow crosswalk, and the council's support to date.

Making his presentation Monday night, he said he spoke of "rain-

bows, Black history, and valentines."

He had "written some words" that so impressed and deeply touched Lord Mayor Betty Disero. She spoke of some of what is going on "in our community and country" that make his words especially appropriate on Valentine's Day, including the celebration of non-profits in Ontario, and the annual Feb. 14 march to raise awareness of missing and mur-

dered Indigenous women and children in Ontario. "We've had a lot of discussion recently about diversity, inclusion and equity," she said, and thought Knight's words "are so appropriate and so impactful that I wanted them to be read that she asked him to read." She asked him to read what he had written for the benefit of councillors and the community.

The diversity committee, he said, has recom-

mended that a few spots around town be painted the colours of the rainbow, with five benches and a crosswalk, and also appreciates recent town motions to support public consultation regarding the location for the rainbows, benches and crosswalk and encouraging private funds to help offset the cost.

The modern rainbow flag has six colours, he said: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun-

light – also meant to stimulate new ideas, green for nature, indigo for serenity and violet for spirit.

In recent years, the design of the flag has been enhanced by the BIPOC, and Trans triangle. Pink and blue are traditional colours for boys and girls, he said, "and in my interpretation, white can represent two concepts: intersex, trans, or those outside the gender binary, and also people who are not of co-

lour, but are allied to the DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) concepts."

Brown and black, he said, is added to represent the BIPOC community, Black, Indigenous and people of colour.

This is very much a pride flag, but is also a progress flag and, in my view, at the end of the day, it is essentially a human flag."

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REDress Project honours victims and survivors of colonial violence

Local Staff

On Monday, a day dedicated to celebrating love, and continuing through the week, a meaningful initiative at Niagara College is dedicated to opening hearts to lives lost and impacted by violence.

Both campuses of Niagara College have joined Brock University in hosting the REDress Project, beginning Valentine's Day, to raise awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (2SLGBTQIA+) people.

The REDress Project pays tribute to individuals lost to violence, as well as those who survived, and acknowledges the impacts that violence had on their families, friends and communities, says Lianne Gagnon, Niagara College director of student services.

"It's only by shining a light and providing information that we can take the steps to expose the truth of the violence. That's why we feel it's so important to educate our students and staff about the violence perpetrated against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, in the hope of eliminating it," said Gagnon. "As postsecondary providers in Niagara, we are proud to stand with our partners at Brock and take a lead role in informing our communities to end the violence and work towards a more diverse and inclusive future for all."

Niagara College is hosting a week-long display of red dresses in prominent outdoor locations at its Daniel J. Patterson Campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and its Welland Campus.



NC Indigenous student Emily Schutt says students are proud to partner with Brock University with its display of the red dresses. (Photos supplied)

The dress displays are intended to be powerful visual reminders of the thousands of MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA+ people who were victims of colonial violence over the past 40 years, and to help raise awareness of the REDress Project throughout the college community.

"Valentine's Day is the perfect time to host the REDress Project because the victims and survivors that we honour are not just statistics; each one of them was a person who was loved," said NC Indigenous student success leader Emily Schutt. "We are proud to join our partners at Brock in displaying the red dresses on our campuses, and hope that the initiative encourages everyone to take the time to learn more about the REDress Project and the MMIWG inquiry."

The red dress displays, for which the REDress Project was named, originally began as an art installation by Métis artist Jamie Black in 2011 at the University of Winnipeg, and has since been replicated in communities across Canada.

Monday evening, Niagara Falls and Brock University's Schmon Tower were illuminated in red in honour of the REDress Project.

A National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was launched in September 2016. Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was published in June 2019. The report contained 231 Calls for Justice, which also included a public campaign to expose what has been experienced by Indigenous people and a national task force to examine the unresolved cases. In 2021, the Government of Canada released its plan to address the tragedies experienced by MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA+ by committing \$2.2 billion dollars to fund the goals outlined in the final report.

A National Action Plan was released in 2021 that focuses on ending the violence against MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

This will be the second year that the college is hosting the REDress project and red dress displays on its campuses.

Indigenous education at Niagara College launched a REDress Drive in early 2022 to collect donations of red dresses from the college community in support of the initiative.



A red dress hanging outside the Niagara College campus in NOTL displays information of the REDress project.

House is on the Black History walking tour

Continued from page 1

of the home and its previous occupants.

"I couldn't just live in the house and not know why it's here, and why it was important," she says. "I felt it was my duty to learn its history."

And she's also picked up a lot from tour guides who have brought people onto the property in the six years that she has lived there.

According to Pilzecker's research, William Steward was already a freed man in the U.S. because of the fact that he was educated and could read and write.

"He was an affluent person of colour," she says. "And his wife, from what I know, did some hairdressing on the side as well."

In 1837, Kentucky fugitive Solomon Moseby was facing extradition back to the U.S. on a charge of stealing a horse from his former enslaver. The Stewards were among the 17 local Blacks who signed a petition asking Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head to refuse to extradite Moseby, who was subsequently rescued from the Niagara jail by more than 200 African Canadians. The Moseby riot left two Black men dead.

The Stewards sold part of their lot to Robert Baxter, another local Black resident, and eventually in 1847 they moved to Galt, which is now part of Cambridge. The "coloured village" continued to be a strong community, but as families grew older and children became educated, many of the Black families moved to other more affluent areas of the town.

The Niagara Foundation, whose mandate is to preserve and promote the history, traditions and culture of the Niagara area, especially its historical buildings, purchased the Steward House in 1999 from the estate of well-known activist and Newark Neighbours founder Peggy Anderson, for whom Anderson Lane is named.

Foundation board member Richard Merritt says there were rumours the property had been earmarked by a developer.

"It was in a very bad state of repair," Merritt says. "There had been a couple of additions put on, including a porch. When the restoration began we found that the foundation had to be rebuilt. The house was jacked

up to restore the original foundation, and all the utilities were moved into the basement."

The restoration took several years. Some original architectural detail remained, but vandalism claimed some of those, including the original front door.

Once the restoration was completed, the question of what to do with it remained. Options included converting it into a small Black history museum or turning it into an interpretive centre.

Wilma Morrison, long-known as the guardian of Niagara's Black history, was called in to provide some insight. For a time, bus tours would make the Steward House a frequent stop, but it became evident that the large vehicles were disruptive to the neighbourhood.

As well, there were costs involved related to the Niagara Parks Commission that prohibited its continuation as an interpretive centre. And the museum option also turned out to be too expensive, as it required staffing.

Merritt says at one point the Niagara Foundation considered severing part of the lot for sale to make one of those options more feasible, but that was not permitted. They also applied to the Ontario Heritage Foundation to inquire if they were interested in acquiring the property, but they didn't have the funds.

Reluctantly, it went on the market in 2009, and was purchased by current owner Bruce Harvey, who at the time was involved with the Niagara Foundation.

Harvey and his wife Janis had previously renovated three other historic homes, either by making the interiors more liveable to today's standards or constructing additions for added space. They had worked with renowned heritage architect Peter Stokes on one of those projects.

"There wasn't a lot left of the original interior of the house, other than the fireplace," Harvey tells The Local. "There was no insulation. The restoration had installed new joists, and new flooring. The staircase was original to the house, but it wasn't safe and had to be replaced."

Harvey says he had no historical photos or documents that would provide them guidance on ensuring the interior was more period-accurate.

Bruce and Janis did a great job of creating a liveable space that honours the Steward House's history. The dark hardwood floors look suitably rustic, and the kitchen features Shaker-style cabinetry, though those are framed by a granite countertop. A beautiful tin ceiling caps off that room, and Pilzecker also points to the antique lighting fixtures which enhance the historic feel of the 800 square foot residence.

The new narrow staircase leads up to the small loft bedroom, with a half-bathroom on the second floor. And there was no attempt to make a new entrance into the basement from inside the home. That can only be accessed by bulkhead doors located next to the side entrance.

Pilzecker, a volunteer with NOTL Cat Rescue, currently shares the Steward House with a bunny named BunBun and three cats. The question often comes up about the possibility that such an important, historic home might be haunted, she says.

"I ended up working for a week in Oakville, and my mom stayed here to look after my cats," says Pilzecker. "A couple of weeks later, I told her that when I was in my house, it felt like someone was trying to talk to me. She said 'your house is so haunted, and they're having a party.'"

Subsequently, she connected with an Indigenous woman who offered to assess the house for spirits.

"She came in and smudged the house," Pilzecker recalls. "She said I had about 13 ghosts upstairs, and that they told her they help me clean. She said they were buried out the back, and they were Christian. And she added that in the basement you can hear them singing freedom songs."

Pilzecker speculates that the Stewards may have harboured freedom seekers, though there is no documentation that she can find to support that speculation. Despite the possible presence of ghosts, Pilzecker says the house actually gives off a warm, loving feeling.

Besides the spirits there are other challenges to renting the Steward House, especially with its historic plaque out front explaining its significance.

Though the bus tours long ago stopped parking on the street (confirmed, by the way, by Rochelle Bush, who runs Tubman Tours Canada out of



Elizabeth Pilzecker loves history, and has found the perfect place to live, in a house preserved by the Niagara Foundation, and that couldn't be more steeped in history. Not a lot of the original remains, but it has been restored in a way that honours its history. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

St. Catharines, who would love to take her bus tours to the site), Pilzecker often finds her solitude interrupted by tourists and curious newcomers to town.

"I was told right away to put up a 'Private Residence' sign because people do try to enter the front door," Pilzecker laughs. "Once, a person who didn't speak English walked right into the house. He kept saying 'Mein Haus' and pointing to a brochure, and then to me. When he realized what he had done, he ran out embarrassed."

She also installed privacy curtains early on.

"Within the first week of moving in," she adds, "I was sitting on the couch one Saturday and I saw a couple outside. I heard one of them say 'the blinds are open'. They walked right up and started peeking into the windows. I just waved at them as they pressed their noses against the glass."

She says there is a tour guide named Kevin from Buffalo's Motherland Connections who brings visitors as part of his Underground Railroad tour.

"I haven't seen him since COVID, but I would always let them in the house," Pilzecker says. "He always talked about everything, and I always waved to him. And one day my house had just been cleaned, so I invited them in. He tells the story of the Moseby affair, and he seems to be so knowledgeable."

Merritt, who has not visited the property in some time, is pleased to hear that someone like Pilzecker, who appreciates the property's significance, is the current steward of the Steward House.



"I was going over the minutes of our meetings from that time, and we really agonized over the decision to sell it," Merritt says. "But it was the right thing at the time. With

the Voices of Freedom Park now, and the fact that there's become much more interest in Niagara's Black history, maybe it will survive as a historic landmark for generations to come."



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Diversity co-chair talks of unconditional love

Continued from page 1

February is Black History month, Knight reminded councillors. “We have a vibrant Black history in Canada. Indeed, Niagara-on-the-Lake has had Black residents since the 1780s. In 1793, the first anti-slavery legislation in the British Empire was introduced here, although it did not immediately end slavery.” Until the early 1800s, he said, “there were both slaves and free Blacks. NOTL was a key destination for freedom-seekers from the south. The journey from enslavement to freedom and equality is still continuing. Today,

NOTL honours our Black history and also going forward, through the Voices of Freedom Park.” Going further afield, he continued, “I want to reflect on some lesser known words from the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Aug. 28, 1963:

He said, “We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvellous new militancy which has engulfed the

Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers and sisters, as evidenced by their presence here today, who have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.” While Dr. King’s words focused on racial issues in the U.S., Knight said, “the same noble call for dignity, discipline, allies, and freedom applies to inequity

wherever we face it.” Acknowledging the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Dec. 26, 2021, Knight quoted some of his sayings, including “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” Tutu also said that the “ordinary act of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value,” and that “exclusion is never the way forward on our shared paths to freedom and justice.” Neutrality in the face of injustice, Tutu said, “you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

And, said Knight, one of Tutu’s sayings with religious overtones, but very appropriate: “Isn’t it amazing that we are all made in God’s image, and yet there is so much diversity amongst his people?” Finally, since it was Valentine’s Day, Knight said, he would close on the topic of love. “While each of us may aspire to – and achieve – different types of love at different times of our lives, I trust we all may embrace agape, which is the unconditional love for others, regardless of such characteristics as race, place of origin, age, gender, gender choice, sexual orientation, religious belief or non-be-

lief, or disability – to name some of the more prominent differences. Agape lies at the root of the DEI committee and I trust it will continue to be the guiding light for our committee, whoever may be the members.” To end, he returned to words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: “I have decided to stick to love ... hate is too great a burden to bear.” “On behalf of all of us,” Coun. Gary Burroughs thanked Knight for his “excellent presentation,” with other councillors nodding in appreciation and some looking like they wanted to clap — Coun. John Wiens did applaud Knight’s words.



We can strive for unconditional love for others, regardless of such characteristics as race, place of origin, age, gender, gender choice, sexual orientation, religious belief or non-belief, or disability – and more. (Stock photo)

Canadian flag in Queen’s Royal Park gets a nod

Penny Coles
The Local

Chatauqua resident Ross Robinson wants the “magnificent Canadian Maple Leaf flag” to fly proudly in Queen’s Royal Park.

The flagpole is paid for, he told councillors Monday night, the town just needs to okay it. Tom and Jim Caldwell of Caldwell Securities, two long-time, active proud and patriotic NOTLers, have committed to donating the funds to cover the cost of a flagpole — one of good quality, councillors were assured — with a Canadian flag and the installation of it in Queen’s Royal Park. Robinson says he has done “much street lev-

el research,” including in grocery stores, the Avondales, the Stagecoach and local pubs, which indicates support for his proposal, he said.

The Canadian flag “punches well above its weight on a global recognition scale,” he said, and is simple, elegant and “leaves no doubt” about which country it represents. Currently, there is no indication from the Niagara River or Lake Ontario that this side is Canada, he said — the only flag seen from the water is the Union Jack at Fort George. Robinson gave a little bit of a history lesson about the discussions and controversy about a new flag, that began in 1925, but it wasn’t until Feb. 15, 1965 that Prime Minister Lester Pearson dedicated the Canadian flag when it was raised for the first

time on Parliament Hill during a public ceremony, with these words: “May the land over which this new flag flies remain united in freedom and justice...sensitive, tolerant, and compassionate towards all.” The time has come, said Robinson, to “raise the proud Canadian flag in Queen’s Royal Park.” Then, the tens of thousands of photographs that will be taken will include the gazebo, the river, across the river Fort Niagara, and the Canadian flag as part of their pictures, he said, adding, “Why hasn’t it been done before?” At this difficult time in NOTL history, he added, “we have a chance to show unity, not divisiveness.” A motion made by Wendy Cheropita was approved by councillors, including that the staff decide on the exact location,

that there be an agreement with the Caldwells that will make clear to future councils that only the Canadian flag be flown at that location, that it be installed before the summer games begin in Niagara, and that a report come back from staff on the subject, including the exact location. Parks and recreation director Kevin Turcotte provided a reminder to councillors that the staff perspective is to minimize items such as furnishings and signs in Queen’s Royal Park, and to maintain the park’s natural aspects, including the green space and historic views. Coun. Clare Cameron suggested that the view across the river from the park is of great national significance, and said she would “assume it won’t be blocked, ironically,” by a Canadian flag.



At a virtual meeting of NOTL planning committee members, Ross Robinson asked councillors to approve the installation of a flag pole and Canadian flag at Queen’s Royal Park. (Screenshot)



Nick Colamartini, Mountainview representative; Cindi LoForti Lepp, YtheW Capital Campaign Committee Co-Chair, and Elisabeth Zimmermann, Executive Director of the YWCA Niagara Region.

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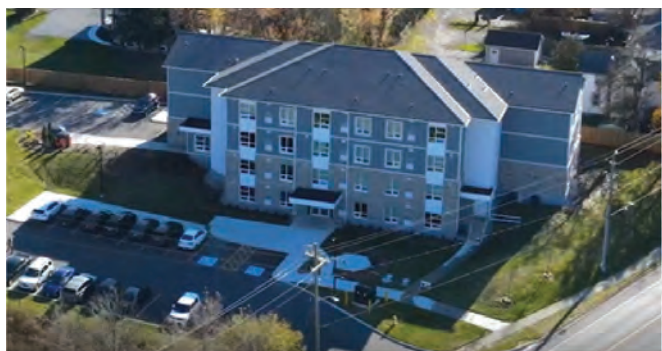
"We are so grateful to Mark Basciano and Mountainview Building Group for this wonderful gift. Mark and his team have shown great leadership through this gift ensuring that vulnerable women and their families have a safe place to heal and move forward with their lives. Our deepest thanks to the Mountainview team and our community for making this building a reality."

- Elisabeth Zimmermann, Executive Director of the YWCA Niagara Region

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Time and time again, you are there when the YW and members of the Niagara community need your support. When we sought your help to make housing accessible through Oakdale Commons, your generosity and compassion were unwavering. With our deepest gratitude, the team members at the YW and the people it serves thank you for taking action in our continued battle to end homelessness.

Because of your support, 15 Home For Good units will provide the most vulnerable women in our community with a place to call home, 6 Emergency Family Shelter units will put roofs over children's heads, and 3 Transitional Housing units will be home to families on their way towards independent housing.



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EDITORIAL

Canadians are better than this - we hope

Some of the Coutts, Alberta protesters have it right — what for them started out as a peaceful protest against a vaccination mandate morphed into something they could not have imagined. Many agreed to leave peacefully, after learning their protest had been infiltrated by extreme, armed elements with far more on their mind than a resolution to the vaccine mandate.

At this side of the country, reopening the border took a little more effort. Hundreds of police officers encircled the small crowd of protesters in Windsor this weekend. It took the police two days, after many of the protesters left under their own accord, and it was peaceful, although arrests were made and vehicles seized. By Monday, traffic was thankfully crossing the Ambassador Bridge.

But Tuesday, there was still little movement in Ottawa, which is a much more complicated situation.

After two weeks of listening to demands for leadership from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to rid the streets of the block parties that have been going on — for many the inflatable hot tubs were the last straw — the situation is getting worse, with no sign of a solution, at least not by Tuesday.

Trudeau is finally taking responsibility, and the ball is in his court, while we can only wait to see what he will do with the emergency measures he now has at hand. We should hear soon, and hopefully whatever the plan is, it works, and quickly.

Of course, this has become so politicized, it seems far more about all sides trying to score points, while the poor people of Ottawa seem to have been all but forgotten.

Not only are Ottawa Conservatives using every opportunity to criticize what isn't happening — although two weeks ago they were taking selfies and chatting up the protesters — premiers across the province are being harsh in their displeasure of what they see as Trudeau going too far. Easy for them — they don't live in Ottawa.

But to Premier Doug Ford, it's a different ball game. His voters are the people who are suffering from the protest, and are also the people who are protesting, at least the ones who haven't come up from Texas.

Ford is supporting the federal decision to invoke the emergency act to deal with the protest, and to provide whatever tools the police can use to bring an end to it.

Many of us remember Pierre Trudeau's history-making moment after enacting what was then the War Measures Act, during the 1970 FLQ crisis — it is being much talked-about these days. When he was asked how far he would go in suspending civil liberties to stop the violence that was occurring, he replied, "just watch me," and those words have earned a place in our history.

These are different times, different circumstances, and nobody is suggesting that level of suspending civil liberties — well, maybe the residents of Ottawa are, and the health care workers at nearby hospitals — but there is no doubt, Justin needs to find his moment.

The people who are protesting don't trust any government, but most of us put our faith in our elected representatives to do their job. It's time for it to be done.

The longer this goes on, the more it seems to pose a risk of ending in violence. The emergency act recently passed has limited scope, and must be used cautiously, but hopefully can be effective in peacefully solving a problem that so far has escaped resolution.

We don't like what we see happening in our own country. Dealing with a pandemic has been difficult for everybody, and Canadians have for the most part done a heroic job of getting together and getting through it. We don't want this to be what we remember of these times, or what we're remembered for.

Local VOICES:

Rangers contributing to United Way's Period Promise



Tannin Driedger-Bradshaw
Special to The Local

The 1st Niagara-on-the-Lake Rangers Guiding Unit is a branch of the Girl Guides of Canada, with Rangers being the final step for youth members aged between 15 to 17.

This year our Rangers Guiding Unit has decided to partake in a service project that will be beneficial for those in our community. We are hoping to earn our Rangers Service Project Award, an achievement that is designed to help use our skills, creativ-

ity, and feelings to make a positive contribution to our town. The Service Project Award is a requirement to earn the Trailblazer Leadership Award, the highest award a Ranger can earn.

A service project is a plan that a person or group has to better help a community. This is what we at the NOTL Rangers plan to do. We have decided to ask for donations of period products to send to the United Way's Period Promise organization, which is making accessing menstrual products easier for everybody. This campaign appealed to our Ranger unit because the Period Promise drive by United Way is a great way to help those in our community to be able to receive menstrual products,

which are essential for so many of our town members.

The United Way's Period Promise organization is a year-round project that has given out tampons and pads to 12 different community organizations around Ontario. Over 300,000 menstrual products were distributed, and the results made it clear that community organizations are essential to building solutions to period poverty in our province.

For anyone interested in helping our 1st Niagara-on-the-Lake Ranger Guiding Unit service project, if you have any new unopened sanitary products, please drop the items off at 23 Annmarie Drive in Virgil in the collection box, until March 4.

beyond depressing. We know what the end will be, but when it happens we find it impossible to accept, because fairy tales have happy endings. We created the problems, but refuse to listen to truth.

Donald Combe is a re-

tired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

I watched *Don't Look Up* (Netflix 2021), a razor sharp satire that unmercifully examines where we as a society are. The film is excellent, but

beyond depressing. We know what the end will be, but when it happens we find it impossible to accept, because fairy tales have happy endings. We created the problems, but refuse to listen to truth.

Donald Combe is a re-

tired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

Local LETTERS

Hopefully artists will be able to stay at Laura Secord

Responding to the various articles about the Willowbrook School's sale of the old Queenston Laura Secord Elementary property, a subject close to my heart.

I wanted to express my support in having the town of NOTL getting involved in the future development of this property. It has been a bright light in dark times for me to meet and get to know the artists who are currently leasing space at the old Laura Secord School, Sharon Okun and Adam Markovic. They

are both world-class working artists who relocated to NOTL during the pandemic, with a vision to create a place for the arts and build a cultural enclave in Queenston where they can share their knowledge and skills.

I've been lucky enough to take painting classes with Sharon. I really hope they can stay with the property as long as possible, and can fulfill their vision to create an active artists' community.

The old school building is such a sentimental property

and iconic to Queenston landscape. I hope the building can be revived as a thriving learning centre and does not get parcelled off for other developments, or worse, torn down. I've been involved in the arts for my entire life, and I'm thrilled and privileged to meet artists of their talents in my community. I want Sharon and Adam to stay and I want the property to be revitalized and occupied and remain part of Queenston.

Penny Coles
The Local

Regina Robb
NOTL



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The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

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COMMENT

Local LETTERS

Public support is required for rainbow crosswalk, reader says

OUTNiagara speaks with a very loud and demanding voice on this issue (OUTNiagara calls for rainbow crosswalk in heritage district, The Local, Feb. 9), although it does not represent the majority of the tax-paying residents of NOTL whose opinion is of major importance, but remains undetermined.

It speaks of endorsement, but only by a select few, and conveniently ignores majority public opinion when it seeks permanent endorsement on public property of a minority agenda. It speaks further of June as being the month devoted to the pride agenda (this

is of course comparable to February as being the month devoted to Black history), but despite the equality of these events and the public acceptance and recognition that is demonstrated, there is still a further demand from these same representatives of the minority group for a highly visible, permanent and public endorsement.

However, without getting into the numerous and interminable arguments that can be made on this issue, what is important and needs pointing out is that not once has public input or majority opinion been addressed by those in

favour of this endorsement, except perhaps for the earlier commissioning of two surveys, both of which are considered flawed, inconclusive and without credibility by most people.

Without a genuine demonstration of public support that everyone knows is needed, the endorsement by a select few will amount to nothing more than a false statement of public opinion, and as such will be seen by many as being quite meaningless. This is hardly a statement of comfort or inclusivity for anybody.

Derek Collins

Local LETTERS

Protestors mistake democracy for civilization

The protestors will have you believe they are fighting for democracy. They are seriously mistaken. Democracy is a type of leadership perhaps best described by Churchill as “the worst form of government except all the others.” Until we find a better form of government, I think most of us will happily stick with what we have. With democracies majorities determine who governs. The protestors don’t even come close to representing the majority of professional drivers, let alone the massive majority of nearly 31 million fully vaccinated Canadians.

I firmly believe all Canadians should have the right to protest and be unvaccinated. I’m sure the majority of us don’t want to live in a country where we are forced to have an injection of any kind. However, I do believe in informed consent/refusal, and if you choose to be unvaccinated that choice comes with consequences.

That’s exactly what we have in Canada – no one is being forced to be vaccinated. We all have a choice but, like all choices in life, there are consequences.

Civilization is a force of nature far more powerful than governments of any kind. It is the force that put humans in the dominant role on our planet. Civilization means depending on each other for survival. Democracy depends entirely on civilization while civilization has endured eons of different governments. Civilization requires individuals to make reasonable sacrifices to continue to benefit from its fruits, such as food, shelter, healthcare, education and protection from those who would take those benefits from us. A simple example of a modern “rule” of civilized societies that transcends all forms of government is a traffic signal. They have nothing to do with democracy. Most of us don’t enjoy stopping

at red lights, but if we don’t stop, sooner or later, at best, we would be fined and lose driving privileges or, at worst, kill ourselves, family or others. Those are the consequences. That’s how civilization works.

Once protestors chose to block transportation routes that prevent people from earning a living, sourcing food and healthcare and even sleep, they left the realm of democracy and took on one of the most enduring forces in human history — civilization. Civilization is survival. Democracy won’t help protestors fight survival. It is not optional. We all know in a few weeks time the trucks will be gone, the media will move on to more important stories, and the vast majority of Canadians will have forgotten this leaderless, hypocritical, uncensored protest. Civilization wins again.

Michael Peirce, NOTL

Local LETTERS

A look at the other side of vaccination issue

I empathize with those who are caring for family members who tested positive for COVID despite being vaccinated and boosted.

My husband and I (both in our 70s) also cared for our daughter’s three year old, two year old and newborn baby when she and her husband fell ill with the delta variant.

However, I take exception to the broad characterization of the unvaccinated as stubborn, refusing to listen to experts and being ignorant of facts. Many of the unvaccinated I know are well-educated professional people who refuse to be intimidated by the rhetoric of fear mongering by government subsidized TV and newspaper outlets.

They, on the contrary, have spent hours researching and listening to renowned virologists, immunologists, epidemiologists and cardiologists. They watched as scientists had given expert testimony before the United States Congress. Some of them have concerns about blindly following drug companies, who in the past have been accused of cherry-picking the data they presented to the CDC and FDA. Some have reservations after reviewing the CDC’s VAERS (vaccine adverse event reporting system), and are rightly disturbed that drug companies have immunity from any legal liability. Their biggest concern is the vilifying and maligning of any dissenting narrative to the mainstream doctrine of vaccine only.

In reference to the misappropriation of tax dollars and misuse of hospital beds, I think it is noteworthy that many hospitals are indeed reporting that the majority of virus-related hospitalizations are in the vaccinated. In some institutions as much as 2:1. I realize that the vaccinated population is proportionately higher than the unvaccinated and so we would of course expect them to have a higher number of

hospitalizations. But, the fact is that they are still in a bed, still using tax dollars and still stressing the health care system.

Most experts agree that the omicron variant is much more contagious than the original virus or the delta variant, but usually results in less severe infection. It is also proving to evade even the boosted.

We could go back and forth debating which virologist or epidemiologist is to be believed, which peer reviewed study published by the Lancet is more trustworthy, but I believe it would be to no avail.

It is with great sadness that I have read many letters sent to newspaper editorials suggesting the unvaccinated be denied medical care. Should we refuse care to diabetics who refuse to modify their eating or exercise habits? Do those with a history of smoking deserve to be considered for bypass surgery? Do we really want our sons and daughters who are brought to the ER with an opioid overdose to be denied care because of their poor choices? It will be a slippery downward slope if we decide to marginalize certain groups of people and decide who is and who isn’t worthy of care.

I worked as a registered nurse in Ontario and Michigan for over 30 years. The problem of bed shortages, long ER wait times and hallway medicine is not a new phenomenon. Many influenza seasons saw our hospital operating at over 100 per cent capacity.

An important indicator of a country’s health care system is the number of beds per capita. Canada has one of the lowest rates of acute beds in the developed world. Ontario has one of the lowest government health expenditures in the country. I think both Liberal and Conservative parties must share equal blame as beds have been cut since I started nursing.


I think we as a society have engaged in too much name-calling, too much derogatory language, insults and ostracizing. Even our top official, our Prime Minister, has been guilty of such behaviour as members of his own caucus pointed out earlier this week. We have had two very difficult years. Is it possible for us to make 2022 a year of overcoming our differences with a hand of graciousness extended to one another? We Canadians are known throughout the world as a polite and kind people, I hope we will endeavour to live up to that reputation.

I recently read that upwards of 10,000 healthcare workers were fired last year in Canada for refusing what they believed to be an experimental vaccine. Several of them are my friends and coworkers, who selflessly worked through the greater part of the pandemic. In January of this year the CDC acknowledged that those who had recovered from COVID have a more robust immunity than those who are double-vaxxed.

It is very possible that my friends and others had COVID and recovered. We also know two years into this pandemic that those double-vaxxed can still get COVID and still spread COVID, but have been allowed to keep their jobs. It is true that hospitals have had to cancel non-emergent surgeries, but much of that is related to staff shortages again not a new phenomenon. How long will our hospital CEOs and MPs ignore this research?

As a way of thanking our front-line workers, might I suggest picking up our phones, calling our MPs and demanding that in light of these findings, those fired hospital workers be reinstated, so they can get back to the job they love — caring for people.

Dianna Verhulst NOTL



Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you’d like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won’t publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.



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Doug Garrett will be missed — especially his laugh

Penny Coles
The Local

Doug Garrett, renowned among family and friends for his story-telling prowess, has died at the age of 94. He leaves behind a large number of family and friends, who may miss him most of all for the twinkle in his eye, and his large, infectious laugh, which delighted all who knew him.

"His laugh could fill a room with so much joy. He had an awfully big laugh for just a little fellow," says his daughter Kelly Atalick.

Doug died at home last Thursday, Feb. 10, with his granddaughter Dahli by his side. Kelly's 28-year-old daughter was close to her papa, and was travelling back and forth from Toronto to spend time with him and help out whenever she could. "It was really hard for her, but I think he knew it would have been harder for me. I wouldn't have handled it as well," says Kelly.

Doug was born and raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and as the fourth generation of a family who were United Empire Loyalists, he loved the town and never wanted to live anywhere else. "He wanted to die here, at home, and he did."

He was being treated for pulmonary fibrosis, Kelly explains, but was doing well, and although his family hoped they

would have more time with him, he died suddenly of a heart attack. "Ultimately, I understood this would have been a much calmer passing for him. I'm sorry he's gone, of course, but feel blessed that he didn't suffer," and that she believes he is with Christine, and "we'll all be together again one day."

They expected to celebrate his 95th birthday on May 20 with him. Instead, she says, they have chosen that day for his celebration of life. "We'll be celebrating without him, at the golf club. He was a social butterfly and loved his friends. He was so well-liked," she says, "I don't know how we'll be able to fit everyone in."

Doug was also known for his love of sports. He played hockey in his youth, reaching the Senior B level before getting hurt and gave it up.

His real love was golf. He was a very talented golfer, and as a teen, dreamed of being a professional player, Kelly says. But his father died when he was just 17, and he had to go to work to help his mother support the family. He worked for a butcher for a time, delivered milk with a horse-drawn wagon, and took a few other jobs — anything he could find that would allow him to help out at home. The bulk of his working life, though, almost three decades, was with the LCBO, where he retired as a store

manager in St. Catharines.

He married his first wife, Dorothy, as a young man, and they had two sons, David and Paul. Dorothy died of cancer tragically, at the age of 42, and Doug was fortunate to later find happiness with Christine, who he met while working at the LCBO. She worked at a cafe nearby where he would stop in, they became friends, then developed a relationship, and eventually married, says Kelly.

Doug was still living on Shakespeare Drive when Christine, suffering from Alzheimer's, was moved into Upper Canada Lodge. Going to see her was an important part of his routine, and that continued after Kelly and Nick built a beautiful, self-contained apartment onto their Queenston home for Doug. Christine, now in the final stages of Alzheimer's, didn't know who Doug was or that he was visiting, but he would say he knew who she was, and wanted to be there with her. The visits continued until the week he died, Kelly says.

"She was the love of his life," she adds, recalling the days her mother would get "all dolled up" and her parents would go out dancing. "They had a lot of fun together."

Doug had recently reached the stage where he required full-time care, and had a palliative team caring for him,

with Kelly, Nick and Dahli also spending as much time with him as they could.

His brain was sharp right up to the end, she says — he was laughing and joking, and enjoying family gatherings with his children and grandchildren around him.

When asked what about Doug's achievements and a life lived to the fullest made him most proud, she says, "his family and golfing would be at the top of the list. He was really proud of his family." Then she laughs, saying golfing might have been a tight second, and "maybe some days number one."

One of his greatest honours was being inducted in 2019 into the NOTL Sports Wall of Fame, in the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

One of his friends and fellow golfers, Ward Simpson, was the MC of the event, and both of them ended up teary-eyed at the ceremony.

Doug said in his golf career he had only one hole-in-one, Aug. 8, 1971, on the second hole at the NOTL Golf Course. "In those days," he joked, "there were a lot of holes-in-one that never were, but mine did happen, because we had a boy on the hill witnessing it."

Other memories Garrett shared included caddying for 35 cents for nine holes, and 75 cents for 18, and sneaking beer in wrapped-up towels to golfers after they finished their fifth round. "What I am trying to explain is that there is nothing new to having a beer cart on the golf course."

Doug said he considered himself fortunate to have worked alongside George Knudson, a Canadian golfer with eight PGA wins, who taught him the fundamentals, rules — and how to control his temper.

"I was golfing with him one day and made a terrible shot. I was so mad I threw my golf club. He made me go get it, looked at me and said, 'you are off the course for two weeks.' Boy, I cried. I certainly learned my lesson, never threw another club."

His Wall of Fame description says, "A Veteran, Legionnaire, Mason and even a former horse-drawn wagon milkman, Doug Garrett still made his largest impression on our community on the golf course. His personality, competitiveness and athleticism led him to 21 NOTL Club Championships at all levels, plus one Senior Champion of Champions for the entire Niagara District. His indomitable spirit and joyous personality, coupled with innumerable course records, still evoke joy and awe for all those who know him."

NOTL Golf Club operator John Wiens has known Doug — everyone called him Dougie, Wiens says — for many years, and golfed with him often. When Doug turned 90, he was given a life-time club membership.



Doug Garrett at the NOTL Golf Course, with his long-time golfing partner Paul Dickson. (Photos supplied)



Paul Dickson supplied this photo of Doug Garrett meeting some Legion members in Ireland.

He golfed through the 2020 season sometimes several times a week, as a member of different leagues, and last year, although he didn't get out on the course, he continued to stop by the clubhouse.

He was always well-received, and members loved to have him sit with him, have a beer, and regale them with his golf stories.

Wiens recalls the days when Doug would travel by ferry across the river to Lewiston with some of the club members for a tournament that involved a bit of drinking after the game. There were years when they missed the ferry home, and needed to call someone on this side of the river to come and get them — those games were the source of some of his best stories.

Doug, Wiens says, was such a good, consistent golfer, "he never got into any trouble. At least not on the course," he laughed.

"He was great fun, knew the etiquette of golf, and how to interact with others, always with a smile. He was a very special man. When he came into the club, everyone wanted him to sit at their table and tell a story. He was the kind of person, as soon as you saw him, your eyes would light up. People had such huge respect for him. It was always nice to see him."

On the golf course, says Wiens, Doug, a left-hand-

ed golfer, "had such a sweet swing. Nice tempo, nice follow-through, and always hit right down the middle. He was a very good golfer, that's for sure."

And he was always a gentleman, kind and patient to those who asked advice. He was willing to listen, and willing to help. "He was a very gentle man, and very much loved everywhere he went."

Paul Dickson, who partnered on the golf course with Doug for many years, emails from Ireland that "the passing of my great friend and golfing partner has touched me with sadness, and wonderful memories. When I arrived in Canada and Niagara-on-the-Lake back in 1987, I was young and keen to get into the game of golf. What a lucky day it was that I met 'wee Dougie,' and along with fellow Irish friend Brian Mckillop, we were welcomed with open arms at the club."

Soon, Dickson continues, they began their Sunday morning games, which went on for the next 25 years. "Although my game never quite matched up to the game that Doug played, that was the delight, playing with a master of his craft. Countless club championships and club tournaments to his name, we soon decided that he should be introduced to the game in Ireland," as well as Dickson's and Mckillop's

Continued on page 9

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Induction into Sports Wall of Fame a highlight

Continued from page 8

families and friends.

"As a long time Legion member, we thought it might be a good idea to sample a beverage at my local Legion. Needless to say once the locals heard that Doug was a veteran from Canada, there was no way we could put our hands in our pockets."

From Ireland, Dickson says, "he is being mourned over here by all his friends."

About the golf games Doug loved playing, Dickson continues, "he also enjoyed a flutter while doing it. Nothing too serious mind you, but as he usually collected his winnings each week, he always departed with a twinkle in his eye and reminder 'to not forget my quarters next week.' He was also my lucky charm. I have three holes in one, all played with the 'wee man,' all in NOTL on #4 hole."

Doug's golf game seemed to get better with age, Dickson says, "and I again was fortunate to play with him as he shot 65 as a senior (still a record). He had the best and smoothest swing I've ever seen, and the best putter, well into his 80s. But time take its toll on us all, so as Doug aged his handicap moved up, and while mine flatlined we soon realized that meant we qualified to play as a team for the Goldup Pairs in NOTL. Making our way through the rounds, we found ourselves in the final, and one

up playing the final hole. Doug then confided in me (with a tear in his eye) that this was the only trophy he had never won. No way we would lose. We repeated twice more. Doug decided to go out undefeated. He was 90! That same year Doug was inducted into the sports hall of fame in Virgil. A proud moment."

Doug always had a smile and loved a beer at the club or at his little spot in Queenston, says Dickson. "While always a Niagara boy, born in his mother's kitchen on Simcoe Street in 1927, he lived a full life that has left an indelible mark on our club and community. I called him whenever possible as his health failed, but his spirit never dulled. I am blessed to have called him my friend and golf partner. Let's hope we can all celebrate his wonderful life this spring on the golf course he called home."

Ricky Watson played with Doug when he was younger — Watson has been the club junior champion several times, and worked last season as assistant club professional. Doug, he says, "was the biggest gentleman. I was lucky enough to play a bunch with him when I was younger, and he was always helping out juniors around the club (including me) with their games, even donating his old clubs to some of the younger left-handed members. I will always remember Doug for his very distinct laugh. I would hear him before seeing

him most days at the club, and he was always a positive and happy figure that we will dearly miss around the NOTL Golf Club."

Doug was also involved in the community as a volunteer. He was a firefighter for two decades, and a strong supporter and canvasser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. He was also a member of the Masons, and was head mason for a time. But perhaps his biggest contribution was as a member of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. He played a role in the annual Remembrance Day as Sergeant-at-Arms for almost 65 years, but when the year came his knees prevented him from laying the wreaths during the service, he said was handing that role over with pride.

As Sergeant-at-Arms, his duty was to maintain order during meetings and be responsible for the colours and flags. Although he was one of the oldest active veterans, he never saw action — he signed up for the 44th Field Artillery Regiment in St. Catharines but the war ended before he was sent overseas. He did however serve five years in the reserves.

For decades, he continued to distribute poppies in the days leading up to Remembrance Day, taking up his usual spot on Queen Street, no matter what the weather.

The moment the veteran stepped up to the Cenotaph with his poppy box, he was besieged by people who would

stuff bills in the box in exchange for a poppy, thanking him for his service. His age and his demeanour — or maybe the smile and the twinkle in his eye — seemed to draw respect, and when talking to The Local, he became a little tearful that people were so appreciative of his efforts.

In his later years as a member he was concerned for the future of the branch, with the difficulty of getting volunteers to help out at the events and fundraisers — it always seemed to be the older members doing the work, he said.

"I'm not sure what's going to happen when we're not around," he told The Local the last year he was out distributing poppies, "and you know that's going to happen."

Although he couldn't do his usual job of laying wreaths, he was at the Cenotaph to raise the flag and lower it in 2019, the last Queen Street Remembrance Day ceremony before COVID, and said when he attended the annual services, he stood with pride and thought not only about those who didn't come home, but about those who did, injured, and also increasingly about the local veterans who had died in recent years, and were missed — to him and other Legion members, he added, every day is Remembrance Day.

In NOTL, there will be many people who will remember Doug Garrett, and many days when he will be missed.



Doug Garrett, in 2019, recalled his golfing days during the Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony. (File photo)



At 92, Doug Garrett was out on Queen Street distributing poppies leading up to Remembrance Day 2019. (File photo)



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Shane Sherlock considered ‘an institution’ in town

**Mike Balsom
Special to The Local**

The outpouring of community love and support for her family in the wake of the sudden loss of her husband Shane Sherlock has left Stephanie Tribe in awe.

When word got out about Shane suffering a fatal heart attack Feb. 5 at work that Saturday, local resident Alison

Waller began a GoFundMe campaign with the goal of raising \$5,000 for Tribe and her children Chloe (24), Paige (21), Marty (14) and Ty (11). At press time, \$19,195 had been donated by 130 people, almost quadrupling the target amount.

In addition, another local resident, Jennifer Buchanan-Olsen, initiated a campaign to help the family out with meal donations on a website

called Meal Train. Again, the response to Buchanan-Olsen’s appeal has surpassed any expectations.

“It’s insane to me,” marvels Stephanie. “It’s all of these moms that we’ve met over the years, through hockey, or Niagara Nursery School, and there’s a massive list of them. They all just got together and did this. It’s mind blowing to me. I’m shocked and humbled.”

Someone even delivered a freezer to the family’s Chautauqua-area home to store the excess food being dropped off. Stephanie has frequently returned home from walking their dog Rufus to find bags of groceries at her doorstep.

Donations and phone calls of support have been coming in from people the couple hadn’t seen or spoken to in 20-plus years, many of them sharing stories of Shane’s younger, more “reckless days,” in her words.

The donations of food have been especially helpful through the last week and a half, as she finds herself exhausted each day due to the combination of emotions and all the phone calls of support that she has been receiving.

The couple were together for 26 years. They met when Stephanie was 18 years old, attending Niagara District Secondary School. Though Shane was eight years older than her, she says she had often run into him in various social settings, and was drawn in by his charm and his cool factor.

“We both went to Parliament Oak and Niagara District, but not at the same time,” she says. “He was living out west but came back home for a visit when I met him. When he went back I was heart-broken, but six months later he came back to Niagara and we’ve been together ever since.”

Within a year Stephanie was pregnant with Chloe, and the two discussed how they wanted to raise her. They were committed to being parents who always put their kids first, providing them with any and all opportunities they wanted and needed.

From the earliest days as a

family unit Shane threw himself into his role as a father. When Chloe and then Paige attended Niagara Nursery School in the days when it was a cooperative, it was Shane who took part in the required parental duty days, partly due to Stephanie’s incredible shyness. She has photographs of Shane sitting in the mini kitchen there working with Chloe and the other children to get ‘breakfast’ ready.

And over the last 24 years he was never one to sit back and just watch the kids play. He always wanted to be playing with them, whether it was swimming at Ryerson Park, skating on the nearby pond or playing street hockey.

When other kids came by to play or hang out, Shane would still play along with the group, acting just like one of them. Stephanie would often hear from her children’s friends about how cool a dad Shane was.

“Ty has this amazing group from his hockey team. They’ve been friends since kindergarten,” Stephanie says. “The one mom picked up all these kids last week. Each kid came in with food to give us. They all came in crying, and just circled Ty with this big hug, saying ‘we all loved your dad, he was so cool and so fun’”

As the family grew, the Tribe-Sherlocks became unofficial ambassadors of Old Town Niagara-on-the-Lake. Shane would often be seen riding his bicycle along with the kids, accompanying them to Ball’s Beach, Queen’s Royal Park and other locations throughout town.

In fact, when this newspaper launched in January, 2019, its very first edition featured a

large front-page photo of Sherlock walking Rufus in front of the gazebo at Queen’s Royal Park, trailed closely by Ty and Marty.

“He loved Niagara,” she says. “He was all over the marina when he was younger, and Navy Hall, too. He and his friends would float down the river and do all kinds of crazy things. One guy at the arena remembers them making a ramp at the bottom of King Street. They would ride their BMX bikes down the hill and ramp off into the lake.”

Shane was determined that his children would get the most out of the town as he did at that age. Stephanie says like his father, Ty rarely sits in the house, preferring instead to get outside to burn off his energy. And all four children picked up their father’s ability and propensity to speak to anybody, local or tourist.

As the family of six spent so much time together, Stephanie often underestimated how well-respected and loved her husband was.

“He was incredibly smart, and he could talk to anyone, from the homeless to millionaires who lived in town,” she says. “But he was very opinionated, and would speak his mind, too. Some people wouldn’t know how to take him. So it’s so amazing to hear all the great things people are saying about him.”

Waller’s son Nikola is one of those kids on Ty’s hockey team.

“Stephanie said she had told her mom that she and Shane had no friends,” Waller says. “But I think we all get so busy that we just don’t realize how many people our lives have touched. Their family was always so visible, always together doing something fun.”

Waller remembers Shane taking the boys fishing and accompanying them on bike rides. He would even construct unique bicycles for them to ride. Last summer, when the pair wanted to play



In a fall photo, Stephanie Tribe and Shane Sherlock are with Paige, Chloe and Marty. (Photo supplied)



2022 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE INTERIM FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Tax Rates as per Interim By-Law No. 5374-21

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If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, your account will be credited only after the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow **ten (10)** working days for payment processing.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, **payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date. Penalties may not be waived.**

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Continued on page 11

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Continued from page 10

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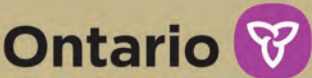
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Hirji fears reopening too aggressive, too soon

Penny Coles
The Local

The lifting of provincial restrictions that comes this week is premature, and too aggressive, says Niagara's acting chief medical officer.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji spoke to reporters Monday, after Premier Doug Ford's announcement of lifting of indoor capacity limits at restaurants, gyms and other places beginning Thursday, a week early.

Ford is ending the COVID-19 vaccine passport system beginning March 1. However, the mask mandate will remain in place.

Further lifting of restrictions expected March 14 will also be fast-tracked to take effect March 1.

The positivity rate of infections is decreasing across the province, said Hirji, and downward trends, such as tests to waste water, look optimistic, but the reduced availability of PCR testing makes it difficult to know

how accurate that information is. The number of new infections could be close to 30,000 a day, he suggests.

Although hospital admissions due to COVID are declining, they are not going down as quickly as he'd like to see, and are still higher than in the first two waves. "Hospitals remain quite stretched," Hirji says. "It's still a relatively precarious situation."

Vaccinations are also falling off, and the provincial reopening sooner than expected sends a mixed message about the importance of vaccinations that could put people at greater risk, he added.

"On the one hand, the province is saying it's fine to go into high-risk settings without vaccinations, and on the other hand, they're saying everybody needs to keep getting vaccinated."

Hirji suggested that while proof of vaccination is being eliminated in many situations, for those places

of employment where it is still necessary, third doses, which increase protection against infection significantly, should be required.

"If the province is really hell-bent on getting rid of it, at least let's incorporate booster doses into proof of vaccination," so that three doses are necessary to be considered fully vaccinated.

Hirji said although he could prolong some of the measures in the Niagara Region, he believes it's up to the province to set those broad regulations, and without adequate testing, there isn't enough reliable data to see a pattern that justifies a local layer of restrictions.

He was asked pretty much the same questions and gave similar responses when interviewed Tuesday on CP24. He also spoke of the lifting of requirements for PCR testing for travelling, vaccinated Canadians, saying rapid tests are a good alternative, with a quick turn-around time.

Town provides update on provincial restrictions

Local Staff

A "cautious and gradual easing of public health measures" is starting sooner than expected, with the next phase of measures being eased beginning Thursday, Feb. 17, said a town news release Monday.

"With positivity rates decreasing and new admissions to hospital and ICU declining, it is assumed that the omicron peak is behind us. Therefore, the province feels it is safe to move into the next phase of its reopening plan."

"It is reassuring to see improvements in key indicators," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero. "Thank you to all residents who did and continue to do their part in minimizing spread. Due to these committed efforts by all, we are moving to the next phase in reopening earlier than expected."

The changes in provincial regulations that begin Thursday will include increasing social gathering limits to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors, and increasing organized public event limits to 50 people indoors, with no limit outdoors.

Gone are capacity limits in the some indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including restaurants and bars, and non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms, cinemas and meeting and event spaces.

Seating capacity at sports arenas, concerts and theatres remains at 50 per cent.

Capacity limits for indoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites, or ceremonies is restricted to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance. Capacity

limits are removed if the location opts in to use proof of vaccination or if the service, rite, or ceremony occurs outdoors.

Capacity limits in other indoor public settings, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, retail and shopping malls, will be maintained at, or increased to, the number of people who can maintain two metres' physical distance.

In addition, as of 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 18, Ontario is expanding booster dose eligibility to youth aged 12 to 17. Appointments can be booked through the provincial booking system, as well as at select pharmacies administering the Pfizer vaccine. Appointments will be booked for approximately six months after a second dose.

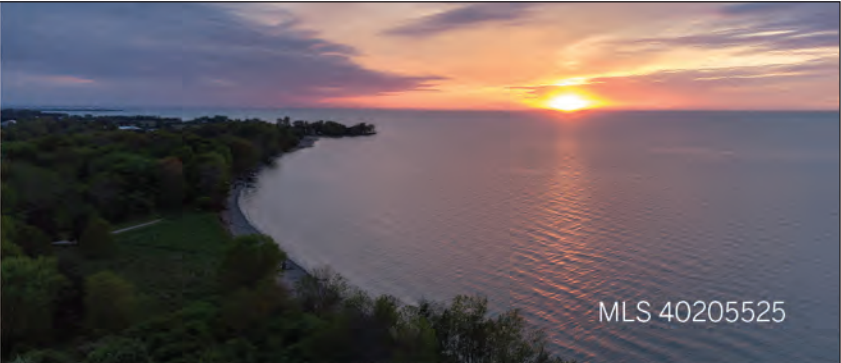
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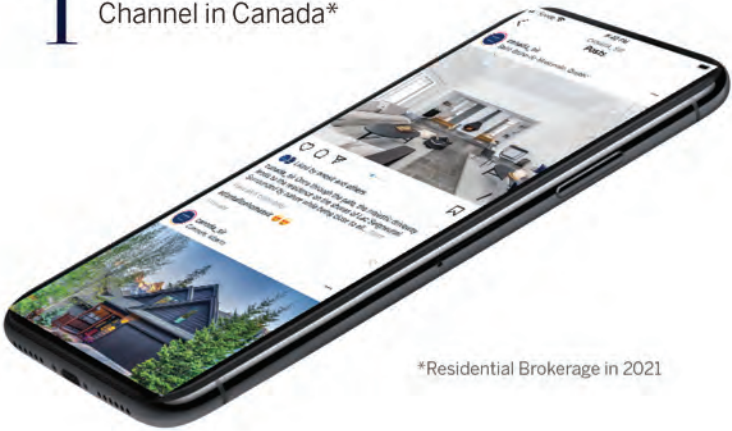
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Barn roof collapses, help needed to replace it

Penny Coles
The Local

Dinah McGibbon can't remember a time when she didn't love horses.

Her parents established Niagara Riding Stables on Warner Road in 1962, and growing up, she was always surrounded by horses, and learned how to ride at an early age.

She took over the business after her dad's death, and it, and her horses, have become her life, and her passion.

On the morning of Feb. 4, she woke up and looked out the window at a sight she never expected to see — after a second unusually heavy snowfall and some ice that had accumulated on the roof of her 100-year-old barn, a portion of the roof had collapsed.

"I've never gotten dressed so quickly," she says. "I couldn't believe my eyes."

She rushed to the barn, falling in the snow on the way. She was feeling devastated about the damage, anxious about what she might find, and fearful for her horses.

Only two were in the barn, and thankfully, because the portion of the roof that collapsed was over the hay loft, they were fine.

With her property nestled into the escarpment and surrounded by vineyards, McGibbon has a great location for offering trail rides, and from the testimonials she receives it's obvious she provides an experience that is much appreciated and valued. "I've heard it called 'a piece of paradise.'"

She has been running the business herself, only taking as many bookings as she can manage, with a limited amount of help in the summer.

"We have a fairly small, personalized stable. It may not be smart business, but I do it for the love of it, and for the horses. I spend all my money on the horses. This (the roof damage) is a large expense, totally unexpected, and caring for the horses is not cheap. I do everything I can for them, including keeping them forever."

Some stables get rid of some of their horses in the fall, rather than carrying the expense of caring for them during the winter, but she keeps hers year round, she explains. "Summer is the busy time, but because I love them, I keep them through the winter, and I just run a small operation. I spend all my money on horses. The business is not a huge money-maker."

Last fall was not a great time for McGibbon, finan-



Niagara Riding Stables' Dinah McGibbon with Duncan and Cino. (Penny Coles)

cially or emotionally. She lost two of her nine horses in the fall, one nearly 30 years old, with some health issues, whom she laughingly calls "the love of my life. I kept him going for as long as I could — it was really hard saying goodbye."

A second horse, a mare, developed kidney disease, went downhill very quickly. "It's been a rough year," she says.

She would like to build her stable back up to 10 horses, but with COVID more people are buying horses for outdoor activities, and it's difficult to find the right kind of horse to fit in with the business. Those who are suitable and for sale have become very expensive, she adds, so she may have to wait a little longer to make those purchases.

McGibbon advertises her business for all seasons, but the number of bookings she takes in the winter is very dependent on the weather — she won't take the horses out when trails are icy, or there is too much snow, but there are some days when the weather is perfect for a trail ride. Last Sunday, a beautiful sunny day, there was a lot of snow with ice below it in spots, and she had cancelled bookings.

Insurance won't cover the damage caused to the roof, and McGibbon is in a difficult financial position, unable to cover the cost, es-

timated at \$40,000.

It's important to her that people understand her horses are in no danger. Most are outdoors, where they love to be, wearing blankets against the cold. On Sunday, Duncan and Cino were just inside the doors of the barn, staying close to their feeding pails. But McGibbon is stressed about what she has ahead of her. She's not thrilled about going public with her problem, but can't begin to cover the cost without donations, and is appreciative of any help she is offered.

She feels an urgent need to see the roof fixed, sooner rather than later, before more snow or rain turns the barn floor into a pool of mud.

Soon after hearing of the roof collapse, Julie Whitehead, McGibbon's long-time friend who has been riding at Niagara Riding Stables for more than 40 years now, started a GoFundMe page to help cover the repair cost.

"I want to help fundraise to help repair the barn roof so that Dinah can continue to provide the necessary shelter for her horses," she said on the online fundraising page. "I know how much the farm means to Dinah, and to many others who have visited over the years. Being able to fix the roof and damage done will mean the world to Dinah and her horses. Please consider donating whatever



Dinah McGibbon was able to take a photo of the top of the roof to show the extensive damage caused by snow and ice. It needs to be repaired soon, before snow and rain in the coming days flood the floor of the barn. (Dinah McGibbon)



Five of seven of the Niagara Riding Stables horses were content outside Sunday, with blankets to keep them warm. (Penny Coles)

you're able to. No amount is too small."

A recent post on Facebook by Pat Darte, who understands the complexities of running a stable and caring for horses, was to help with donations to the GoFundMe page. Instead it turned into a long conversation about that donation site and issues connected to the Ottawa protest. It quickly became focused on the protest, rather than McGibbon's roof, and hasn't

received a lot of attention since.

"I guess I've been in such a little bubble, I had no idea what they were talking about. Apparently the topic of GoFundMe has become quite political. Because of that there are several options offered to anyone who wants to donate."

To help, you can make a donation in one of four ways, says McGibbon.

1. Donate online at <https://www.niagara>

riding.com by clicking on the PLEASE DONATE NOW button

2. Send an eTransfer from your bank to info@niagarariding.com

3. Send a check directly to Niagara Riding Stables at 471 Warner Road RR4, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, L0S 1J0

4. Donate at GoFundMe at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/niagara-riding-stables-barn-roof-collapsed>



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Pumphouse offering online fundraising 'flash sale'

**Kim Wade
Special to The Local**

A Niagara Pumphouse "flash sale" will feature recent art donations from local, national and international artists, and specially curated gift baskets featuring locally-sourced and specialized donations.

This three-day, online sale fundraising Flash Sale, Feb. 25 to 27, will also include unsold works from the arts centre's annual holiday sale.

These "overlooked treasures" are being offered at even "more attractive prices" according to the centre's marketing coordinator Aimee Medina.

"The Fundraising Flash Sale features paintings,

photography, mixed-media, and sculptures donated by artists, estates, patrons, and members," she explains.

"We wouldn't be able to hold this event without the generous contribution of the community. We truly appreciate the incredible support of our donors, board of directors and volunteers," says Rima Boles, arts centre director.

In addition to donations of works by Victor Klaus and Erin Whitten Crysdale, the Centre has several works by Raymond Martin who, according to Medina, "was born in Toronto and moved to the Niagara Region in the late 80s. He was a popular instructor at the Pumphouse."

The curated gift baskets, she adds, "are themed, such as Tea-time, Family fun, and Picnic, thoughtfully put together by the team. They all will be meant to be enjoyed by the buyer, or as gifts for any occasion."

As a not-for-profit community-based organization, the Pumphouse relies on the generosity and support of its members, the artists and the community to fulfill their mission "to engage, enrich and celebrate our diverse and growing population through the visual arts."

"The community is invited to help raise funds for programs that connect and engage the children and youth of our community to visual arts. This is a great

opportunity for individuals to start or build their collection or purchase gifts while supporting a great cause," says Boles.

The sale can be previewed starting Feb 21 at

the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre website fundraiser page, found at niagarapumphouse.ca/events. The online sale goes live on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m., closing on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

All items are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. All proceeds from the online shopping event will go specifically to support children and youth programs.

Some of the items for sale include a tea-time gift basket, a large print by Victor Klaus (right), and an original painting by Raymond Martin (below). (Photos supplied)



Friends of Fort George offer kids program

Local Staff

The Friends of Fort George will be offering an online children's program beginning Thursday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Executive director Amanda Gamble is putting out a call to kids to put on their favourite jammies, grab some stuffies, and prepare to listen to a special bedtime story.

The 30-minute program will include a game, special activities to do at home and reading a book called *Drummer Hoff*.

The cost is \$10. Tickets can be purchased online for the event, Thursday, Feb 17, 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.: <https://friendsoffortgeorge.square.site>.



Reading *Drummer Hoff* is included in a 30-minute online Friends of Fort George program. (Photo supplied)

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Religious tract spreads misinformation about COVID

Penny Coles
The Local

When Cynthia Rand opened her rural mailbox last week and discovered a religious tract that attacks vaccinations, and just about everything else associated about the COVID pandemic, she was concerned.

It wasn't distributed through Canada Post — someone has driven the rural roads to deliver them by hand.

There were two and a half double-sided pages of closely packed, really tiny type that made it difficult to read, but she took the time to read through them.

"There are most certainly untrue items, and inaccuracies," she says.

She and her husband Peter both have a science background - Peter is a retired professor of biophysics, and Cynthia's career was as a scientific assistant.

She began by pointing out a portion attacking the mRNA vaccinations that this tract says changes our DNA, an argument we've heard before, but this time, it says it's being done "with the goal of making us trans-human..."

The mRNA in vaccinations has not affected the DNA, she points out—many of the experts we trust have stressed that. "It has acted as an intermediary as a defence against the virus."

Another piece of popular misinformation it contains: "Surely by now you can see all 190 nations in coordinated lock step aggressively taking draconian actions against what appears to be no worse than the yearly flu."

"Statistics of deaths, hospitalizations, hospital procedure cancellations, would negate that last

part," Cynthia continues.

"I thought I could quote, and refute, other parts of this propaganda; it is muddled nonsense, and I thought it must be counteracted," she says, which is why she reached out to The Local.

"It is a detailed description of plans to control or eliminate populations. Those who would profit from results of these plans are not specifically named; pharmaceutical investors are implied," she says. "It is clever. Well-read, educated people, get overwhelmed by the density of its accusations. People not used to examining information flowing at them from all the social media, accept this noxious flow as facts, are angry and feel impotent. Hence a recourse to powerful trucks."

There is more, some of it very unsettling, including laying out a course it compares to the Holocaust, with those who survive being put in COVID camps, to be re-educated and lose control of their property, never to return.

There is far, far more, but Cynthia fears repeating it is akin to spreading

misinformation and giving it a legitimacy it doesn't deserve. "It should be counteracted, but I don't know how to do that with publicizing it."

Although she admits to getting angry at such misinformation, and can be aggressive in wanting to pursue it and do something about it, Peter, she says, is more laid back.

This, however, disturbed him as well. He started to read the tract, and gave up, tossing it aside. "There is no value in it, and I think there is danger in it. You can't counter

these arguments even if you wanted to. There is a gap that can't be crossed. There is no point in discussion — the differences are irreconcilable."

Social media makes it so easy to draw people in, and spread misinformation so quickly, he added, "it's a major problem in the world today. The speed with which misinformation can be transmitted is pretty unprecedented. Any group that has something they want to propagate any idea, can find enough people to support it, and to make a lot of

noise about it, until it becomes quite a force."

Peter says he can't imagine what people would be looking for that would compel them to read the tract. "I'd be surprised if many did read it, and if they did, it would be interesting to know what they took from it, and what their interest is."

The best way of counteracting this propaganda, says Cynthia, "is to ask people who receive it to read it, carefully, like the small print of a contract, until they can take no more, and then burn it."



Cynthia Rand was disturbed by what she found in her mailbox last week, and hopes to counteract the misinformation. (Penny Coles)

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Local author writes about importance of monarchy

Penny Coles
The Local

After a distinguished career in academia, and with a list of scholarly and authoritative tomes on Canadian politics, the constitution and federalism to his credit, David Smith says he might just have written his last book. An important one.

His most recent, co-authored with two other experts on Canada's constitution and the role of the monarchy, has just recently been released, and is being positively reviewed.

Canada's Deep Crown, Smith says, explains how a constitutional monarchy functions, and how it has shaped, and continues to shape Canada's system of government.

Its role in our history, and in our government today, is not something that is widely understood by Canadians, he says.

Despite having worked with co-authors Christopher McCreery, the private secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and Jonathan Shanks, senior counsel at the Privy Council Office Legal Services Sector of the Department of Justice Canada, Smith says he doesn't know either of them well.

He recalls a time about three years ago, when they met at a reception for Elizabeth Dowdeswell, lieutenant gov-

ernor of Ontario, and after the event, had some time to talk. Their conversation was around the need for a book to be written about the Crown, "that goes beyond the power of the crown, and that takes a closer look at the effects of the power, which is really quite enormous. Most Canadians don't really understand the extraordinary power of the Crown."

Now 85, Smith says he can't remember much talk about the Crown at all during his school days, "except that it did exist, and that we were a colony of Great Britain. People don't think that way any more."

He says when we talk about the Crown, it is typically about the pomp and circumstance — but more about the pomp, and little about the circumstance, yet "it's remarkable how well the system works. Canadians need to be more appreciative of the success of the constitutional system in our country."

Canada's Deep Crown, Smith says, is important in that it will help Canadians have a better understanding of the constitutional system and its success.

He and the co-authors "thought it would be helpful to explain the breadth and depth of the powers of the Crown in Canada, as a symbol, but one that has a lot of influence. The tendency is to undervalue that."

Smith was born in Nova Sco-

tia, of British heritage, and has lived in different locations across the country, including B.C., Saskatchewan, and Ontario.

His wife was a judge in the court of appeal in Saskatchewan, while he was a professor at the university.

He has been called "one of the treasures of Canadian political science," and is now a political studies professor emeritus of the University of Saskatchewan, where he taught political science from 1964 to 2004, and is a previous president of the Canadian Political Science Association. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the department of politics and public administration and a member of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies at Ryerson University.

He and his wife are enjoying retirement years in Niagara-on-the-Lake, family both close by and scattered across Canada.

Their move to NOTL came after a visit to friends in Queenston. "My wife was quite attracted to the area," he says, and about seven years ago, they moved to Garrison Village.

Over the course of his career, "I've pretty much always been writing a book, but I may have come to the end of that. I'm not sure I'm up to writing another," he says, citing health issues that sap his energy.

He recently gave up driving, so the days of travelling to

Toronto to continue his association with Ryerson University have decreased. A trip to the city, where he has done most of his research pre-pandemic, has become taxing, taking about two hours each way. As much as he and his wife love NOTL, that was one aspect of moving he didn't consider, he says.

While they both enjoy the restaurants, the wineries, and the Shaw Festival, "what we most love is the countryside around Niagara-on-the-Lake. It's very pretty, and very relaxing. We love the peaceful rural areas. I just wish there was more convenient public transportation to get to the city."

Those trips have been put on hold during COVID, as have most of his activities, including a men's book club.

He finds it frustrating that he's lost contact, temporarily at least, with Ryerson, but "not nearly as frustrating, I'm sure, as it must be for students or other younger faculty."

Canada's Deep Crown is published by University of Toronto Press, which says about the book, "The Crown in Canada has had a profound influence in shaping a country and a constitution that embraces the promotion of political moderation, societal accommodation, adaptable constitutional structures, and pluralistic governing practices. While none of these

features themselves originated through legislative or constitutional action, David E. Smith, Christopher McCreery, and Jonathan Shanks propose that all reflect the presence and actions of the Crown."

It is available from Amazon, at Indigo Books, and where academic books are sold, says Smith.

Reviews that have been published recently call it "an excellent book that should be read by anyone interested in the monarchy in Canada. It is the most comprehensive and authoritative source available on the subject, offering a wide-ranging and in-depth analysis of the crucial role

played by the Crown in Canada." (Andrew Heard, Professor of Political Science, Simon Fraser University)

Serge Joyal, former member of the Senate of Canada, says on the eve of the Queen's jubilee, the publication of a book by three knowledgeable authors underscores the exceptional character of her long reign. In exploring three core themes — myth, law, and personality — the authors explain how the Crown retains its enduring importance in our constitutional order. Readers will learn the ways by which the Crown continues to serve and remains relevant in contemporary Canada."



NOTL author David E. Smith (Photo supplied)

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Search and rescue teams practise drone operations

Randy Klaassen Special to The Local

The local air search and rescue team has accomplished another first in their 45-year history as part of the national organization, training in the use of drones.

In 1982, members of CASARA Niagara (Civil Air Search and Rescue Association) were involved with Canadian Forces conducting tests of the satellite program for search and rescue operations used world-wide.

The Niagara organization was recently again at the fore-

front of search and rescue history by conducting exercises for Canadian Forces observers in the use of drones as a search vehicle in cold weather.

Major Claude Courcelles, the Canadian Forces national CASARA liaison officer, gave the morning briefing to combined air and ground crew of search and rescue members from Niagara and London. "You are making history today, by attempting to prove the capabilities of your skills with the added assistance of remotely piloted aircraft systems (drones) in order to locate a person in dense forest."

Niagara member Gord Tes-
sier has been at the forefront of
drone use for search and res-
cue operations in Canada, as a
drone pilot and instructor. In
the past year he has been trav-
eling across Ontario and Que-
bec instructing new search and
rescue drone pilots.

“The skills are varied, in that not only do pilots fly, they also follow complex search patterns, all the while searching video monitors for the person or object they are searching for. While the pilot flies the drone, it’s really a team effort,” says Tessier. “The assignment comes from Canadian Forces Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, who relay information to a search coordinator, who guides a crew of three to five others who support the pilot. It’s all about teamwork, in order to successfully find a person in distress.”

Courcelles expressed appreciation to the local team for the advancement of drone technology being added to the capabilities of Canadian search and rescue operations. "It's always about researching different technology that will best fit the demands of SAR, and the Canadian environment, which presents a wide variety of unique demands on equipment. What CASARA and the Canadian Forces have accomplished in the past year



Drone Gord Tessier and an assistant fly one drone, while the other is at base for a battery change. Meanwhile crew members watch a video monitor of what the drone sees — a pilot who crashed, waiting to be rescued. *(Alex Cyberovic)*



Canadian Forces Major Claude Courcelles provided a morning briefing to Search And Rescue volunteers of CASARA Niagara and London at Niagara District Airport. *(Randy Klaassen)*

is develop standards to incorporate the use of drones in the National SAR system.”

The local team of volunteers is the first organization that includes the use of drones, says Courcelles.

In the past year Tessier has been called to fly his drone four times, searching for people missing in the waters of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

The recent exercise was originally planned to involve aircraft and ground crews from both Niagara and London organizations. Yet one of the most important skills for SAR is adaptability to changing situations. A morning snowfall in London prevented their aircraft from taking off. Meanwhile, the Niagara crew was ready to take off when a sudden snow squall

kept them on the ground. Without the aircraft to search for a simulated ultra-light pilot who had crashed, ground crews had to rely upon their own skills to do the searching. With temperatures in the minus 10 range, time was of the essence to find the cold, and likely, injured pilot.

Using electronic homing receivers, two separate ground crews worked together to narrow down the area of the search, whereupon two drone pilots launched their vehicles to search a wooded area. Tessier was joined by recently certified advanced drone pilot, coordinating their search areas while other crew members divided their responsibilities, providing visual support of the drone, and observation of video monitors of the drone's cameras. Shortly

after launching, the stranded pilot was located, and a ground team was able to quickly provide aid.

Courcelles said the next stage for testing drone operations will be conducted in the mountains of British Columbia, with anticipation of the technology being operational across Canada by May of this year. "It's the latest technology being used to filter the data produced by drones to detect persons in distress faster," he added.

As a non-profit registered charity, CASARA volunteer teams in London and Niagara depend on donations for equipment and operations. For more information, see the website for Niagara at www.caresniagara.ca, or for London at <http://casaralondon.ca>.

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Council agrees on solution to 15-year-old problem

Penny Coles
The Local

A problem of more than 15 years has finally been resolved.

NOTL town councillors have finally settled on the town's responsibility toward residents with grinder pumps, and have agreed to a set of recommendations that include a limited amount of financial aid, in the form of an insurance rebate, to those who require the pumps as part of their sanitary sewers.

It was 2004 when St. Davids residents had grinder pumps dropped off in their driveways as part of the new low-pressure sanitary sewer installation in the village, and were left with the responsibility for installing and maintaining them.

There are now about 180 homes in the village requiring grinder pumps as part of the town's sewer system, 90 that were connected as part of the instal-

lation of the system, and the others in newer subdivisions built since then.

Through each election since then, and with each new council, St. Davids residents with grinder pumps have asked for assistance with what has become a costly burden to some, through no fault of their own.

Grinder pumps reduce solid matter in a large tank in basements before pumping it uphill to the sewer system, where it then travels to a substation, and on to the regional wastewater treatment plant in Niagara Falls. They are required in homes that have sewage that needs to be pumped up to the level of the sewer system.

A committee was formed by the current council in December 2018, in response to serious issues being encountered by current residential owners of grinder pumps in NOTL — and those issues “continue to be encountered,”

committee member Angelo Miniaci told councillors Monday. They include pumps not working properly and needing to be replaced, sometimes several times, often because they were not installed properly.

An amendment to the staff report requested by the committee called for a \$75 annual insurance rebate program, established for the original owners with grinder pumps in Bevan Heights with a budget of \$7,000, to be extended for a three-year period and then be reviewed at that time, with some conditions attached.

“The recommendation provides what is really a small, but hard, tangible form of assistance which takes into consideration current economic conditions,” said Miniaci. “It is a reasonable and affordable option offering assistance to current residential owners of grinder pumps in NOTL.”

He told councillors

grinder pumps are “tightly integrated with the municipal sewer mains, and provide the energy required to make the system work. There is a reason that low pressure systems are called systems. Without the pumps, sewage would simply not move.”

Committee member Dave Snelgrove also spoke to councillors, about their goal to offer assistance to residents who own grinder pumps, and have to pay the same sewage rates, for electricity to run the pumps, and for repairs, replacements and insurance. “Not only are they burdened with a system that they must power, monitor and maintain, but when their pump breaks down they must seek alternate accommodation until the issue is resolved.”

The recommendations in the report from staff to councillors was approved Monday with the amendment suggested by the

committee, along with other recommendations that include a regular maintenance program to be created by staff; a town inventory of emergency critical parts for grinder pumps to be made available to home owners; information to be shared with residents regarding care of grinder pumps; a robust program of inspection and installation approval; and an updated bylaw to reflect the actions to be taken by staff.

The only vote against the amendment to the recommendations was from Coun. Erwin Wiens, who said there are “a number of inequities” in the municipality when it comes to the cost of utilities, including for those who have to pay to have their septic tanks emptied, or others who have oil trucked in — other taxpayers don't share those costs.

Other councillors supported the recommendations, glad to be able to

help out those who have no choice but to depend on grinder pumps.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita spoke of knocking on doors in St. Davids during the last election campaign, and hearing “awful, horrible situations I'll never forget,” including sewage “going everywhere, indoors and out.”

She said she's proud of the committee and the work it's done, and feels the amendment says to the residents, “we hear you, we're listening, and what happened to you along the way was not right.”

The committee was thanked for its work and the hundreds of hours members have put in as they learned about grinder pumps, and was disbanded.

“I think this is a real success story for the town,” said Lord Mayor Betty Disero. “It took a while, but we did it this term. Congratulations on finishing unfinished business.”

Alternative school closed by court decision

Penny Coles
The Local

Monday morning, the classrooms that have been filled with children attending an alternative school in the former Virgil building were empty.

Lloyd Redekop, owner of the Four Mile Creek Road building and landlord to the school, said he visited the property Monday morning and found no-one there.

The Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance, which was renting space from Redekop, was shut down by an injunction order against the school, based on provincial legislation that allows a school or child care centre to be closed if it is “an imminent threat to the health, safety or welfare of any children.”

The Ministry of Education had launched the complaint and sought an injunction after an investigation into the program that was being run by Monica McCourt and Lori Davidson, along with parent volunteers, with up to 40 students aged four to 13, from 25 families.

The women running the program described it as a learning pod providing home schooling, but Justice Meredith Donohue, hearing the case, disagreed, although she noted that the women were “sincere and well-meaning in their personal desire to foster the health and well-being of their children.”

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, Donohue said that when an investigator from the province went to the school, there were 11 children in one classroom, and 18 in another.

The program being offered is not a private school under the education act, or a licensed day care centre under the child care and early years act, she said.

The next day, the school operators were told they must reduce the number of children in their care to no more than five, which would allow it to operate as an unlicensed day care. The operators, the justice noted, objected to the order because they said “no investigation took place.”

When the women didn't comply, the ministry filed the application for an injunction, resulting in Friday's hearing.

In describing her analysis of the situation and her decision, Donohue referenced the number of measures taken by the province since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic “sought for public safety and to maintain the ability of our public health system to deal with the increased demand on their resources. We have seen the government respond to lighten or tighten the measures in consultation with public health as the pandemic has waxed and waned in the last two years.”

The measures are in place to protect vulnerable people, including children,

she said.

The issue of the school operators not following those restrictions came to light when they freely admitted, on social media and to the media, that neither the children nor the adults were wearing masks, and that some of the children, when attending public school, had been segregated, discriminated against, and were suffering from mental health issues. Davidson also posted photos showing school activities indoors, without any masks or physically distancing.

During the hearing, the women said the children and educators that were unmasked all have “mask exemptions.”

McCourt told The Local in an email Monday that Davidson no longer represents the school or its community, although she was posting on Facebook as one of the operators up until Feb. 10, and the court document referred to McCourt and Davidson as “the two respondents” who have spearheaded the program as a collective with other parents.

McCourt said anything Davidson says are her own opinions and separate from the school.

There are exemptions to legislation that could have allowed the school to continue, Donohue said, such as if it was operating outside of regular school hours, if it is licensed as a private school, or if it is a day care for no more than

five children, but those exemptions don't apply to the Virgil school founded by McCourt, who says she is the sole owner of the corporation formed to operate the school.

Donohue said she had no evidence to support or demonstrate “exemption circumstances” that would provide a reason to refuse the injunction.

The women representing the school “are aware of the laws and regulations but persist to serve their own agenda,” she said.

The injunction is considered an interim order to be maintained until there is a final decision or further

order of the court.

Redekop says “there was nothing going on at the school” when he was there Monday morning, but he hadn't been told anything “officially” about McCourt's intentions going forward.

When he agreed to lease space to the school, it was described to him as “home-schooling with a learning pod methodology,” and the women involved seemed well-intentioned. Nothing was ever mentioned to him about them being “anti-masking.”

While he has been criticized for not shutting it down, he says he wasn't about to judge what they

were doing. “I'm just a landlord, renting them a room. It's not my job to be judge and jury.”

He didn't think to ask if they were licensed to operate a school — he wouldn't have known one was necessary until he heard about the injunction. And since his building was a school, with institutional zoning, “I had empty rooms to rent, so it made sense to me. This seemed like the kind of tenant I was looking for.”

McCourt, who has been upset with the media coverage to date, said she didn't want to comment on anything to do with her school.

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Make kindness the norm Interview with a Dragon

Random Acts of Kindness Day is Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022 and Random Acts of Kindness Week is Feb. 13 to 19.

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Visit www.randomactsofkindness.org to download your free participant guide that contains everything you need to plan a fun week.

Let's make 2022 the biggest RAK Week and RAK Day yet.

by Taleah Bucci, II

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A. I would like to be a firefighter. I know a lot about fire and my body is fire-proof.

Q. What is your favourite book?

A. I like *Dragon Flight* by Jessica Day George.

Q. What do you do to help others?

A. I melt all the snow and ice on commonly used sidewalks so people don't slip. I also carry people on my back to help them get around.

Q. What is a fun family tradition you have at home?

A. I love having tea parties (you're never too old to have tea parties). I like Spice Dragon Red Chai tea and Jalapeno Chips with extra hot spice.

Q. What's that certain something that makes you special?

A. I'm great at making s'mores, popcorn, and other roasted snacks. I'm also a softie at heart and I think it's important to help people.

Q. How would you change the world if you could?

A. I would stop global warming (with the ability to breathe fire, I'm hot enough already).

Q. What is your ideal day in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

A. I'd begin the day playing outside in one of the parks. Then I'd fly along the shoreline of the lake and collect pebbles and sea glass. I'd finish the day with a picnic.

Q. What is your favourite thing about Niagara-on-the-Lake?

A. The scenery. I love seeing how it changes through the seasons, and I never leave home without my camera.

Q. How did you keep yourself busy during COVID lockdowns?

A. I made friendship bracelets, arranged flower bouquets, went figure skating,

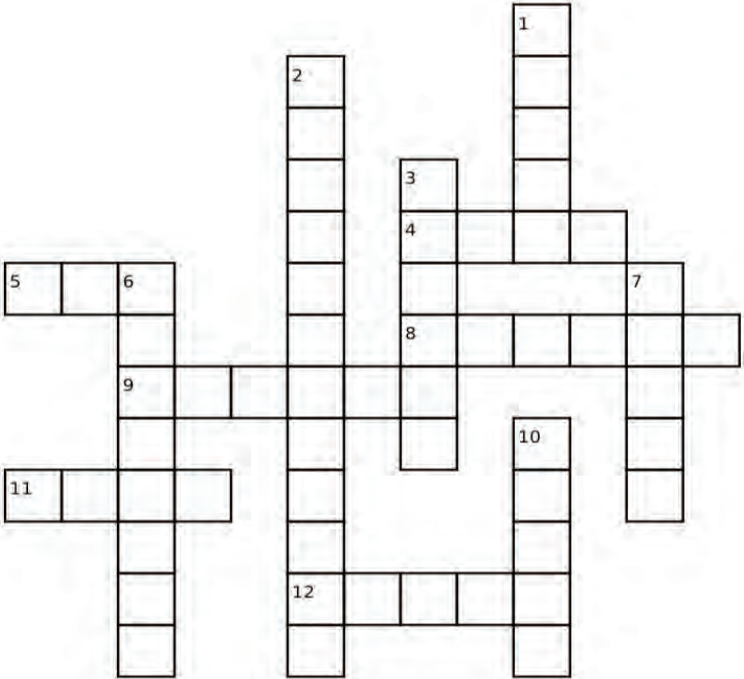
The Birthday Surprise

by Ella (II) & Naomi (8) Wiens

Do you like skating? If you do, you can go to the Pillar and Post rink. They have beautiful gardens and a waterfall. You can rent skates and if needed, borrow a helmet. You can buy hot chocolate and sit by a nice fireplace. The rink has beautiful lights strung over top and hay bales to sit on while you put on skates. They provide washrooms that have a mat safe for skates to walk on. If you are looking for a nice evening out, this is the place to go! Thank you, Vintage Hotels, for providing this wonderful free rink.



Crossword: ANIMAL GROUPS



Down:

- 1 A group of hummingbirds
- 2 A group of butterflies
- 3 A group of penguins
- 6 A group of ferrets
- 7 A group of bats
- 10 A group of giraffes

Across:


- 4 A group of caterpillars
- 5 A group of kangaroo
- 8 A group of zebras
- 9 A group of fish
- 11 A group of elk
- 12 A group of lions

Answers: 1. charm 2. kaleidoscope 3. waddle 4. ammy 5. mob 6. business 7. cloud 8. dazzle 9. school 10. tower 11. gang 12. pride.

Artist's Corner

Snowman by: Nathan Epp





JOKE

Submitted by :
Maanak Gandhi-Malhotra

Q. Why was the tortilla sad?

A. I don't know. He didn't want to TACO-bout it!

WINTER FUN FACTS

Some insects survive the winter by producing their own version of "antifreeze." Scientists call these produced chemicals "cryoprotectants" which make the insects less likely to freeze in cold weather.



SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and interacting with the community in a positive way. We welcome submissions for all categories from kids of any age. Please keep the reviews positive and all submitted content appropriate for kids of all ages. Please send all submissions to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.

CHARITY

We are looking for charities in which kids can participate. If you would like your organization to be highlighted here, please send your information to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com.

LocalSPORTS

Minor soccer planning season of 'normal game activity'

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Registration for soccer in Niagara-on-the-Lake opened last week, with the NOTL Soccer Club planning for a full return to normal game activity for the first time since 2019.

"It's pretty exciting," new club president Carrie Plaskett says. "We're moving forward, making this basically a normal season. We're planning to make this look like what it looked like before all of our lives changed. And if it has to change, we'll be prepared to make modifications if needed, because of our success last year."

After a 2020 that saw soccer fields remain vacant, the game returned to NOTL in a condensed and altered version in 2021.

Before hitting the fields last season, the club's board of directors worked hard to plan for the return, responding to many different changes in COVID restrictions over the months before summer began. Just as they had nailed down what it would look like, restrictions changed. But as outdoor activities for kids were not only being allowed but being encouraged by the province, the club decided to offer a summer season that focused even more on skills development, rather than house league competition.

More than 350 children were registered with the club, a number that was only slightly down from the usual 400-plus players. And as the modified season required more supervision on the field, Plaskett, who served in the registrar's role last year, says parents stepped up to volunteer in droves.

As well, equipment orders were modified last summer, with each player receiving a club T-shirt and socks rather than a full uniform. That allowed the club to remain flush financially, as did the contributions from local business owners, who continued to generously support the sport through sponsorship.

"That first day when the kids were on the field was so beautiful," Plaskett remembers. "It was so heartwarming to see the kids running around and having fun. There was a lot of pride, as a board member, about contributing to making the season happen. But as a parent as well, seeing how happy those kids were, it felt so good."

Plaskett herself stepped up to take on the president's role for 2022 when past president Ted VanderKaay's term was up.

"Ted is such a huge asset to the club," Plaskett says. "Knowing that he would stay as past president, to guide and mentor me in the position, that made it an easy decision."

We have a great board, everybody is contributing. But we don't have a lot of members on the board, and we do need more volunteers."

Plaskett and her husband, Jay Buffington, moved to town from San Francisco just before the start of the 2019 soccer season. The couple was looking for a quieter, small-town location to raise their twin sons, Henry and Malcolm, now 10 years old. Though Plaskett was raised in Thornhill, her mother has been living in NOTL for a number of years, so she knew the area well.

"I wanted my kids to come to Canada, and to go to school in Canada," she says.

They signed the boys up for soccer that summer and Plaskett liked the way the club ran the program. Last year she put her name forward as a director at large before being gently convinced to take on the registrar's role, which she soon discovered she loved.

"I've always been involved in the kids' sports," Plaskett says. "I think it's so important to be involved in the community. Sports are so important to me and the kids, and I wanted to contribute. It's also important for my kids to see me in a leadership position, to see a female as a role model and leader in sports."

Plaskett says she's in for the long haul when it comes



Soccer club president Carrie Plaskett is hoping this soccer season will unfold as planned, but will be prepared for alternatives if it doesn't. (Photo supplied)

to her involvement with the club. She wouldn't have taken on the president's role if she wasn't. And she was impressed with the way things came together for 2021.

"We were faced with all these challenges last year, and our goal was just to get these kids out onto the field in whatever way we could. Knowing that we had to start a plan early and everything could

have changed at any moment, I think the board worked really well together to make that happen. We were able to keep kids safe and happy."

At press time, about 85 kids have already been registered for age divisions from Timbits (U4/U5) up to U15, with a plan to hit the pitch the week after Victoria Day. Most house league divisions play out of the Virgil sports

park, and the season wraps up the week before Labour Day. There is also a limited number of rep teams who will play in the Niagara Soccer League.

The club has not yet decided on whether or not to hold an in-person registration day at the Meridian Credit Union Arena, as it has in past years.

To register and to sign up as a parent volunteer, visit notlsoccer.ca.

Strengthening mind and body



Charlotte Mannella (above) practises her kicks, Sophie Mannella, 13, does a spin hook kick (above, centre), and Samuel, 5, shows off his jump kick (right). They are training with Master Badri Rici in St. Davids. (Photos supplied)



Master Badri Rici, resident of NOTL for over 36 years, is a 5th degree black belt with over 20 years of experience, and teaches taekwondo out of her Sandlewood Cres. studio in St. Davids. The training and focus of taekwondo helps sharpen her mind, and the mental and physical strength she gained from it taught her how to overcome injuries and hardship through discipline, focus, and physical fitness, she says. For more information call 905-321-9938. (Photo supplied)

LocalSPORTS

Preds win one, lose one for second weekend

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

For the second straight weekend the Niagara Predators followed up a Friday night loss with a Sunday afternoon win in Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) action last week.

In a rare Friday night game on the road in Mississauga, the Preds suffered their first shut-out of the season at the hands of the Streetsville Flyers. Though Niagara outshot the Flyers 40-23, they just could not solve goalie Tayte Praycek in the home team's net.

"It was a very, very tough loss," head coach, general manager and owner Robert Turnbull told The Local. "I have to tip my hat to their goalie. He played really well. We had several opportunities to score, but it just didn't happen."

The score remained blank throughout the first period, but only 48 seconds into the second Flyers forward Nick Giamou got the credit for a goal that started with a scramble around the net, bounced off two players out front and caromed off a skate and past Niagara goalie Morgan Penwell, who was making his season debut for the Predators. Giamou also assisted on Cole Wigle's empty net goal with 1:21 remaining to make it a 2-0 game.

"Penwell played exceptionally well also," Turnbull said. "It was an unbelievable game. I told them 'if you leave the rink angry because you lost, that's okay. But don't leave thinking you lost because you didn't work hard. You should hold your heads high on your way out.' It was an awesome goaltending battle."

The Predators had some power play chances in the third, knocking the puck off the crossbar and the post a few times, while Praycek continued his phenomenal play, stopping a number of other chances.

Like last weekend, Niagara was short-staffed, with forwards Mario Zitella, Georgy Kholmovsky, Dante Massi and Alessandro Massi as well as defenceman Logan Baillie all sitting out.

Also out of the lineup was Swedish forward Emil Eriksson. Turnbull passed on the news that the speedy winger has opted not to return to Canada to finish the season, which wraps up on March 6. Instead, he will be playing professionally in Åseda, Sweden in Alltrea Division 3.

As well, fellow Swede Jesper Eriksson (no relation), who left the team the previous weekend for a tryout with a team in Austria, has left the Predators permanently. The Preds' leading scorer this season with 56 points (tied with Dante Massi), will be moving on to a Swedish pro team in the Hockeyettan league.

The short bench meant Niagara could only cycle two forward lines throughout the game, leaving some players in the unusual situation of actually wanting to come off the ice at times. Turnbull credited Gino Carter Squire, Dawson Walker and Reese Bisci as unsung heroes in Friday's game.

Alexander Page joined the others on the sidelines for Sunday's game in Plattsville as a result of an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty Friday. Page continued with some choice words on the ice that earned the new Niagara forward, in only his third game with the team, a suspension for Sunday. Turnbull and assistant coach Connor Shipton had to rotate defencemen into the sixth



The Predators in an away game against Plattsville Friday, which the Niagara team won. (Sreenshot)

forward slot just to keep two lines rolling.

Bisci thrived with all the extra ice time Sunday, picking up five points on two goals and three assists. His linemates Noah Caperchione, with a hat trick and a helper, and Jason Humphries, with two assists, accounted for all of the scoring in a 5-4 victory, with defenceman Maxwell Bredin adding an assist.

Caperchione got the ball rolling just 15 seconds into the first period, then added his second goal three minutes later, giving Niagara a 2-0 lead. Kyle Struth got the Lakers on the scoreboard before Bisci netted his first, then added a second goal to narrow the margin to 3-2. With Carter Squire in the penalty box, Plattsville's Lucas Bast tied it up before the period ended.

Turnbull made a goaltending change before the second period began, replacing Jacob Collaco with David White. Bisci's second of the night came on the power play at 8:32 into that period, but Plattsville's Malcolm Campbell knotted the score yet again as that frame closed out.

Caperchione completed the hat trick five minutes into the final frame when Humphries fed him a pass from Niagara's face-off circle to centre ice. Caperchione turned and beat two Plattsville defenders to sneak a wrist shot past goalie Rahul Bola for the winning goal.

Turnbull is hoping to have three lines for the upcoming



The Predators' Reese Bisci, shown in last week's home game against Durham, was one of the "unsung heroes in Friday's away game. (Mike Balsom)

weekend, which they open Friday night at home against the North York Renegades. The Predators hit the road for a Saturday night match in Windsor, then head in the other direction for a Sunday rematch at the second place Renegades' home arena.

With two games this weekend against the Renegades, Niagara is going to have to find a way to solve forward Santino Foti, who has 29 goals and 63 assists on the season and is second in points in the GMHL's South Division, fourth overall in the league.

"We really have to put a person on him, and we can do that when we have three-plus lines," explains Turnbull. "We're just going to have to keep an eye on him. He's a gifted player, but it's not just Foti, they have a few. We're just going to have to stay close to him as best as we can and be aggressive."

With seven defenders all healthy and ready to play this weekend, the plan is to continue to move one or two of them up to the forward position to keep fresh legs on the ice and stay close to the high-powered Foti.

"If we're going to play with long sticks and not impede his progress, then we're going to have a long day," continues Turnbull. "But our defence has been playing great lately, with the return of Josh Davidson and Nathan Fehr. Everybody on this team right now is buying into having to do their job."

The Predators are looking to pick up their first win this season against North York. Check that, they are hoping to pick up their first two wins against the Renegades, which would tie the season series at two wins apiece. Game time at the Meridian Credit Union Arena is 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Meet the Predators

Name:
Logan Baillie
Jersey number: 17
Age: 17
Birthdate:
November 25th 2004
Hometown:
Niagara Falls, Ontario
Nickname:
Bails
Favourite hockey player:
Cale Makar
Favourite 'hype' song:
Ramen and OJ by Joyner Lucas & Lil Baby
Hockey highlight:
Traveled to Europe to play in Slovenia
Other sports you play:
Golf
Favourite "cheat" meal:
Bacon cheeseburger with fries and a ginger ale
Secret talent:
Crazy eyes



LocalHAPPENINGS



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St. Davids and District Lions Club
1462 York Rd., St. Davids (NOTL)
Friday Fish Fry


JOIN US
February 18th
4:30 to 7 p.m.
1 piece dinner \$11
2 piece dinner \$15
Haddock & Chips or Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Tarter Sauce, Bread, Tea/Coffee
TAKE OUT & EAT IN
(proof of 2 vaccinations required)
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PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT HERE
With or without a border, colour graphics optional.
Include your Logo! Prices starting at \$20.
Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-641-5335 or email: karen@notllocal.com

LocalWORSHIP



Sunday, February 20th
10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering
Online & In-Person
(Registration Required)
Child Care for Grade 8 & Under
Message:
Kevin Bayne -
Look at the Lamb! (Rev 5)
Our services are also streamed online Sunday's at 10 AM. Visit our website for more information!
www.ccchurch.ca



To advertise your
Worship Services
in this section, please contact:
karen@notllocal.com

-Local **CLASSIFIEDS-**
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OBITUARY



WICHERT, GEORGE—passed away Sunday, February 13, at Pleasant Manor in Virgil. He was 94 years old.

George was born in April 1927 in Kitchener, Ontario, to Henry and Elisabeth Wichert, who had immigrated to Canada from Russia the year before with their 3 eldest children. George was the first of five children born in Canada. Except for Margaret, who died at age 2, the rest all remained in and around Virgil, and in time the 7 siblings, 6 spouses, and 23 children formed a large and close-knit family clan.

In 1935 the family bought land in Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Niven Rd., where George grew up and developed his love of farming. After WWII interrupted his schooling, George finished high school at the newly formed Eden Christian College (now Eden High School), then located in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He was the first in his family both to finish high school and to go on to university, attending Waterloo College of Arts (now Wilfred Laurier University), and a year of teacher's college in Toronto, before becoming a high school teacher.

In 1954 George married Bertha Dick, recently graduated from nursing school. A year later he returned to Virgil, and to Eden, to begin his 32-year career at the school, including 12 years as principal. He built a house on Henry St., at the time only a dirt track, with electricity, but no running water. In December their first son, David, was born, followed, in later years, by 4 more children: Nancy, Timothy, Geoffrey and Suzanne.

In 1970 the family moved across Virgil, to a farm and new house on Line 1. The cherry and peach orchards became another defining feature of the family, blending the rhythm of pruning and harvesting with the cycles of the school year.

George was ordained as a minister in 1964, and after his retirement from teaching in 1987 he and Bertha spent several years doing pastoral ministry in Mennonite churches, first in Germany and then back in Virgil. Bertha died of cancer in 1997, after nearly 43 years of marriage, and the following year George married Linda Willms, with whom he would spend the remaining 24 years of his life.

George has always loved to travel. In addition to regular family camping trips, he and Bertha did major excursions to Europe, India, and Africa. Together with Linda he travelled to Europe, Israel, Alaska, UK, the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean. In between these major excursions, Ontario canal cruises and several US locations were favourite destinations, as well as trips to western Canada to visit children and grandchildren. We celebrated his 90th birthday with a Caribbean cruise including all 4 children and their partners.

George is survived by his wife, Linda, 4 children, 13 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, brother Walt and sister Marian. He is predeceased by his first wife, Bertha, eldest son Dave, brothers Henry, John and Jake, and sisters Margaret and Louise.

The funeral will take place Tuesday, February 22, 11:00am at Cornerstone Community Church, 434 Hunter Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake, with visitation an hour before the service (10:00am). The service will be livestreamed at: <https://cornerstonenotl.online> church. Burial at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery immediately following the service. There will also be visitation at the church on Monday, February 21, from 5:00-7:00pm.

Memorial donations may be made to the Eden High School Spiritual Life Centre (www.slceden.com/donation) or Camp Crossroads (www.campcrossroads.com/give/)

OBITUARY



SHERLOCK, SHANE—It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Shane Robert Holtam Sherlock, after a heart attack on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at the age of 52.

Shane was extremely intelligent, thoughtful, generous and wild. Such a philosopher, such a rebel. He touched the lives of so many from all walks of life. He lived for any sport, music, nature, but most of all his family. He was the hardest working and best damn father there is.

Shane leaves behind his wife and best friend Stephanie of 26 years. Beloved father of Chloe, Paige, Marty, and Ty. Loving son of Glenda Edgar (Marc Bertrand). Caring brother of Lacia (Christian Olofsson) and her children Pontus and Sebastian. Fondly remembered by his dogs Rufus and Kiki and the many members of the Tribe and Bjorgan families.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Shane's legacy will take place on Sunday, May 29, 2022 with details to come closer to the date. Arrangements entrusted to MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Those who wish to make a memorial donation can do so to his favourite charity, Red Roof Retreat. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

SUDOKU ANSWER

Sudoku solution from
February 9, 2022

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

NOTICES

HELP WANTED

This is a live-out position. Work from Monday to Thursday. \$700 weekly. Administrative Assistant position (part-time). Must be able to interact. MUST HAVE REFERENCES AND BE RESPONSIBLE.

If interested you can reach Jackie at burnsh9hjackie@meefeltzozhipcdhvaed.com



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**To place your classified ad, contact Karen: classifieds@notllocal.com
Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.**





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12 St Andrews Lane



\$1,075,000

Elevator, gorgeous finishes

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\$1,450,000

Gorgeous property with large barn and double garage!

3 Meritage Lane



\$1,645,000

Backing onto a vineyard

5 Sandlewood



SOLD

\$3,250,000

5,500 square feet of finished living space



6 Brown's Point \$3,995,000

6 bedroom, 8 bathrooms. Over 11,000 ft.



16 George Manor



SOLD

OVER ASKING

\$995,000

Gorgeous end unit townhome

831 Concession 6



SOLD

FIRM

\$1,790,000

42 beautiful acres

8 Harmony Dr



SOLD

\$1,850,000

Jumbo bungalow with private backyard, call Greg for asking price!

56 Niagara On The Green Blvd. NOTL



SOLD

OVER ASKING

\$850,000

Beautiful 2100sq ft, 2 Storey Detached Home

1550 Concession 4



SOLD

asking **\$899,000**

Sold to our happy clients

366 Concession 3



SOLD

OVER ASKING

\$995,000

St. Davids