# The Niagara-on-the-Lake



Museum quilt exhibit free until end of February

page 4

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### High water more a fear than soil erosion

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

Projected work in the Dock Area could be finished this summer, or it could take until 2029 to complete.

council to make, and depends on funding, environment supervisor Brett Ruck told councillors last week.

is becoming more of an issue than soil erosion, he said Tuesday.

the waterfront, with a total ing to debenture the amount as a breakwater. and move ahead with the The decision is one for work, it could be finished by won't allow for work to be neer who keeps tabs on water But the issue of flooding take another nine years to be unexpected marine archae- ible equipment for photogfinished, he said.

In an update on what March, with money in the edge of the existing groyne, pointed to the eastern edge still needs to be done along budget to pay for it, is now where the new stones would of the rock headland in front and stop spending precious on hold until mid-July, Ruck be placed. Filling that in will cost estimate of \$1.2 million, said. It involved a groyne, or take time, Ruck said, and will Ruck said if the Town is will- stone wall, in the water, to act delay the project.

The provincial permit resident and mining engithis summer. Or it could plan done in the water during levels, says on Jan. 24, he saw to look to see if there was a wall will replace the expento complete it as reserves are fish spawning, which begins an archeologist wading into drop-off in the lake bottom, sive bladders the Town used built up and funding is avail- March 1, and although Ruck the water by the Old Railway and pass on his observation last year, he added. able, which means it would was set to move forward, an Culvert with some submers- to town staff. ological assessment turned raphy. In his email blast to fortunately, said Simkus, is Some of the work that up no artifacts, but did find about 100 people, Simkus the delay of the groyne inwas expected to be done by a hole, or pocket, off the says, "I talked to him and stallation.

of us. That structure has been in place for 14 years but, for some reason, appeared to be Ron Simkus, waterfront collapsing into the lake over the last 12 months."

He asked the archeologist

"Forget about the groyne, tax dollars" on trying to patch up something for a concept that has become "outdated and enormously expensive," he said in his email.

Burying the anchor stone

That work is also detailed He did, and the result, in Ruck's report, which in-

Continued on page 3



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## SORE wants details of newest hotel design

**Penny Coles** The Local

Members of SORE (Save Our Rand Estate) have reacted to the latest drawing of a hotel proposed for two historic John Street East properties.

Benny Marotta of Two Sisters Resorts has released a drawing that shows a revised proposal — the third design he has offered — for the hotel and conference centre he plans to build on two of the John Street properties, incorporating the historic Randwood and the Devonian House.

He appealed his original application to LPAT, having failed to receive a decision from the Town within the allotted time, and that is where the hotel proposal remains.

He says he has contacted the Town, hoping for a meeting to review his latest proposal, "and come to a solution."

in the last application, he says. being swayed by "a couple of This one is for five storeys, "which complies with the two have been for a six-stoamendment to the 2011 bylaw that allowed for five storeys.

He would still need an informed decision." amendment for a "small increase" in rooms, he says. more concerned with the im-His last proposal was for a pact the development will have total of 118 rooms, 107 in the on the surrounding community new building, as well as some rooms in the Devonian House and the main Rand building. Now he says he is planning 138 rooms in the new building, and none in the others.

He says he would like to work with the Town on this latest plan, but they have failed to respond to his request for a to go to the board," he said of his appeal to LPAT.

Lyle Hall, SORE spokes-

The elevation is different than person, says his group isn't pretty pictures."

SORE has seen no details 2011 bylaw in height." The last to go with them, and without more information about rey hotel, which required an issues such as the number of parking spots and restaurant seats, "it's too soon to make an

He says SORE members are than what they can see from the

"The last thing SORE wants to do is be the aesthetics police," he says. "We're concerned about the mass, scale, traffic, parking — a list of details that are not generated by these photos."

meeting. They are "forcing us main concern, SORE is not convinced the five-storey hotel in the drawing will neces-



This is the third design Two Sisters Resorts has submitted, but SORE says so far no details

which was vague, Hall says.

where you measure it from," he says, suggesting whether or not Marotta's newest proposal meets the bylaw depends on proposed building meets the its interpretation.

Two Sisters lawyer Mi-While height has been a chael Melling has weighed in on that, in a letter to local papers, saying "a simple check with the town clerk or plansarily meet the 2011 bylaw, ning department would have picture that would allow us to

"The height depends on didn't just file a picture. They filed a full set of architectural drawings and a site plan."

> height requirement in the Romance Inn zoning bylaw."

There are other questions SORE would like the answers to. "There is insufficient detail on the table to go with the

confirmed that our clients make an informed decision on whether this is better or worse than before," says Hall.

In response to Melling's Further, Melling says, "the comments, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said, "Mr. Melling should know what is required for a complete application."

> There is an update coming soon from the Town's legal department, she added "and I cannot comment until we have met with them."

### Same volume, different collection schedule for garbage

**Penny Coles** The Local

When Niagara Region's new collection contract starts in October, Miller Waste Systems will be picking up garbage in Niagara-on-the-Lake under a new contract that will see a raise in fees per household.

And while collection policies will change under the new contract, Catherine Habermehl of the Niagara Region stressed it is not a reduction in service, it is the same volume of material being collected in a different way.

Since the 2009 contract was signed with Emterra, which was \$4 million less than the next lowest bidder, labour, insurance, fuel, vehicle and technology costs have increased, she said.

The main change will be the move to every-other-week pickup of two bags of garbage, while recycling and organics will continue to be collected weekly. Leaf and vard waste will be collected weekly as well, and branches eight weeks per year.

The collection of large appliances and scrap metals is being discontinued, said Habermehl, and the Region will provide the names of private contractors who she said. will pick them up — that change was made because by the time regional trucks would arrive, the material had already been picked up to be sold for scrap.

Large items will still be collected, with a limit of four per pickup, but with as many collections per year as needed.

Diapers was brought up as a concern by Coun. Clare Cameron. Currently, one bag a week for families with young children and people with medical conditions, or licensed home day cares, can be put out at the curb, but two will be allowed after the new contract goes into effect in October, Habermehl said.

Every-other-week pickup is considered the best practice for municipalities, and will result in a change in behaviour, she explained, resulting in increased waste diversion - 50 per cent of what residents put in garbage bags now is organic waste that should have been put in the green bin. Another 14 per cent is recyclable.

Shifting to every-other-week collection will encourage the use of the green bin for smelly garbage, to avoid odours,

It will also extend the lifespan for the two existing Regional landfills — looking for more landfill space is an expensive and lengthy process. The Region just received approval for an expansion at the Humberstone landfill in Welland, at a cost of \$1.2 million, through a process that took nine years to complete, Habermehl said.

With more recycling removed from garbage and placed in recycling boxes, revenue from the sale of those materials will increase.

Waste diversion programs also create 10 times more jobs than waste collection, she said.

And while promotion and education is effective in increasing diversion rates, it doesn't accomplish the same increase as through collection policy changes.

When asked why residents avoid using the green bin for organics, she blamed the yuck

Residents perceive using the green bin as inconvenient and smelly, "and without policv change, we won't see a behavioural change," she said.

She also agreed with con-

cerns from some councillors that communication of the message that service is not declining

Two companies have been chosen for curbside collections: GFL Environmental Inc. of Toronto, and Miller Waste Systems from Markham.

The companies won contracts for curbside collection, haulage of garbage, recycling and organics.

The Region is splitting the new collection contract into two about a year ago, with the increase

areas: GFL Environmental will be the pick up in Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet and West Lincoln, and Miller Waste Systems in NOTL and the rest of the regional municipalities.

The 2019 contract with Emterra was \$35.3 million, said Gary Zalepa, NOTI's regional councillor. It will increase to \$38.8 million in 2020, \$42.5 million in 2021 and \$46.7 million in 2022.

The contracts were signed

in the first year of the new contract representing just under \$15 a household, he said.

The Region is expecting a "high quality of labour and improved service" with the new contracts, Zalepa said.

Every-other-week garbage collection was recommended to regional council based on support from an online survey; increase in diversion opportunities; reservation of landfill capacity; and environmental benefits.

### Rethink your drink

St. Michael students Joshua Sasso and Nicholas Vetrone researched and did their science project on Rethink Your Drink, teaching what healthy and what isn't. (Photo supplied)







### Debenture could get work done by this summer

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

cludes the partial burying of more anchor stone on shore, and placing cobble along the shoreline to protect it.

Doing the in-water work in July means doing it in high water, Ruck told councillors. "We're just going to have to deal with it."

The information report said the two projects alone, burying anchor stone on shore and placing it in the water, are estimated to cost about \$160,000.

Ruck said there is \$260,000 in the 2020 budget, which includes those two projects and a feasibility study on some of the other work that needs to be completed.

When asked by councillors if there were other funding options, he said he wanted to see what they have to say about the two he is presenting.

The advantage of the debenture is getting the work done quickly, he says, while a plus of planning it over coming years would allow time to apply for grants to help fund

Doing it now would mean relying on whatever grant might be available for this year, he added.

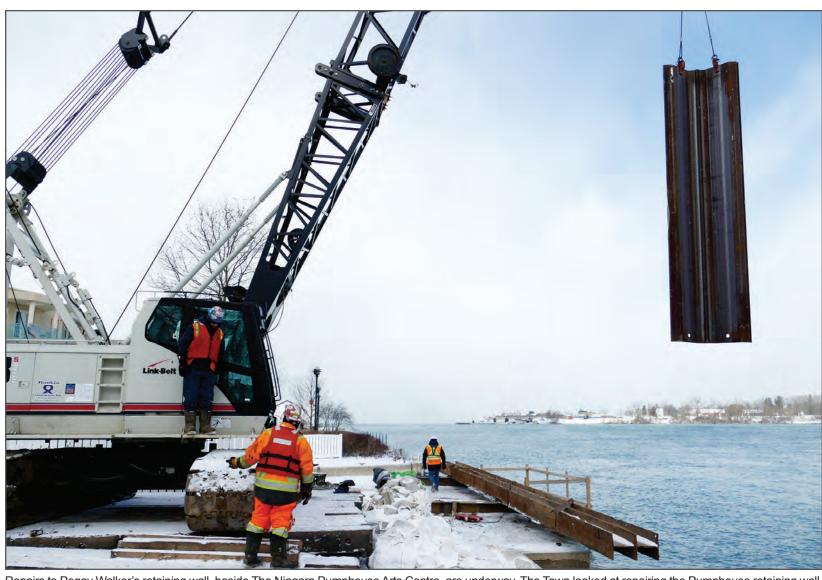
ing protection for low-ly- Adding work that needs to of the Niagara Pumphouse much-discussed rain garden Melville Street, Nelson Street hasn't yet addressed, brings ity study is completed and

stabilization, and flood- ed to cost about \$300,000. study, and the wall in front \$1.2 million. ing areas, which involves a be done to Riverbeach Park, Arts Centre, which the Town plete costs until the feasibil-

cluding more shoreline to collect water, is estimat- Park, a pump feasibility the estimated cost to about all the numbers are in, and

Ruck won't have the com-

councillors won't be expected to make a decision about funding until they have the report in front of them.



Other work to be com- Repairs to Peggy Walker's retaining wall, beside The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, are underway. The Town looked at repairing the Pumphouse retaining wall, pleted on the parkette, in- which is crumbling, but put the work off. (Fred Mercnik)

### Friends of Laura Secord ask for recognition of history in Glendale area

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

After working on a plan for several years, the Friends of Laura Secord are hoping they are a step closer to recognition of local history and heritage in the Glendale area.

Caroline McCormick, a direct descendant of the Canadian hero and president of the organization promoting her, was at the Town's general committee of the whole meeting to ask for support, and to offer specific suggestions for recognizing Secord as the development of the Glendale area progresses.

With her was David Brown, vice-president of the Friends of Laura Secord, whose presentation included a request for support from council.

He asked first that the district itself be renamed, saying Glendale has no relevance in history — other than as an extension of a St. Catharines street.

He suggested that the names of streets, subdistricts, neighbourhoods, parks, public monuments, infrastructure, and other development features recognize and celebrate the landscapes, history, heritage, and also the significant

people, of the area. The Main made a motion that the re-Street in particular, which will connect Niagara-on-the-Green to the Outlet Collection across the street, "should pay specific homage to significant, but underrepresented female figures significant to the history of Niagara - notably First Nations women, Black women, and pioneering female settlers, including, of course, Laura Secord."

He was also looking at town staff to engage the NOTL com- several years ago, and we were tifying people and events that There is an opportunity to do Glendale district

quests from the Friends of Laura Secord be adopted in principle, and asked for a staff report.

McCormick said she's pleased with the result of the requests to council, and expects to make the same presentation to regional council, since it is the Region that is currently working on a plan for the future development of the Glendale area.

"We started working on this munity in the process of iden- at council to offer suggestions. could be commemorated in the something wonderful with this district by recognizing local Lord Mayor Betty Disero history," said McCormick.



Caroline McCormick and David Brown ask councillors to support renaming Glendale, and other recognition of local history.



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### A Piece of Her Mind – Exploring the Herstory of **NOTL** Women

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

Laura Secord may be a household name to the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, but women such as Susan Miller Ball and Elizabeth Smith are less well-known although not forgotten, thanks to the current exhibit at the newly named Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum (formerly The Niagara Historical Society & Museum).

This exhibit, which runs until April 25, celebrates the lives of these women through their textiles. On display are samples of quilts, needlepoint, a quilt made by Laura Secord's embroidery, woven textiles, coverlets, and pillows. The tools of their trade are also on display. There are looms, spinning wheels and a beautifully ornate ebony sewing box complete with bobbins embellished with mother-of-pearl and dainty silver scissors.

According to Shawna Butts, curator of the exhibit, this display gives us a "unique perspective" by focusing on women's contribution to the history of the town. By working in textiles, whether they be weaving, needlepoint or quilting, women were able to express themselves through their

craft. The textiles on display come from the museum's own inventory, which they received as donations, and were made by or for women from NOTL in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"Written records of wom-Chubbuck, Ann Clement, Mary en's voices are rare to come by during the 18th and 19th centuries, but you can find traces of women and their experiences if you know where to look," says Butts. "While written records of women's voices are historically rare to find, quilts, samplers and coverlets serve as a testament that women lived and created."

> One unique piece is that of granddaughter, Augusta Smith, named Crazy Quilt. Dated 1888, it was created by stitching together pieces of embroidery made by Laura Secord. Another beautiful specimen is the Cradle Quilt, made by Augusta McCormick (nee Jarvis) dated 1845. It follows a honeycomb pattern in muted colours with a soft fringe. Although there is not much information about McCormick directly, it is assumed she must have led "a life of wealth and leisure, based on her father and husband's positions within the Niagara community." Her father, William Jarvis, was a provincial

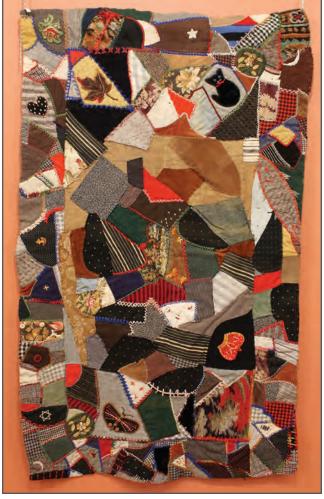


exhibit at the NOTL Museum. (Photos by Kim Wade)

Executive Council of Upper Canada, and her husband was the manager of the Bank of Upper Canada.

In addition to the samplers and quilts, there are also cover-

secretary and registrar to the lets on display, woven on looms nochan, Margherita Howe and by giving us, your friends, your and made mainly from wool and cotton. One such coverlet is believed to have been woven by Eliza Magdalene Kirby (nee Whitmore), dated 1837. It displays a repeated four roses pattern.

According to the informapattern is often used as a wedding design. Again, not much is known about Kirby except that she married William Kirby, a local author and historian.

of Niagara-on-the-Lake's women," looking at the quilts not just as utilitarian pieces, but as a way to highlight the women's bordering rows of patterns and

Butts explains the exhibit coincides with the release of a book that is an historical account of women of NOTL. The tentative title at this point is simply, Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and puts women's history in the forefront. Since the history of NOTL has been as a military town, men's history has been the main focus. This book seeks to highlight stories of women from Niagara who challenged the norm of their times. Records of some of these women were involved in the courts as prosecutors, by charging men with domestic violence, while some found themselves on the other side of the law as defendants facing charges of prostitution, assault or swearing. Others faced charges of acts against temperance and operating taverns without a licence. Butts says that in 1801, there was a woman hanged for murder in the Queen Street Court House, as it was the district capital for the courts.

The book will also feature short biographies on more Brant, Chloe Cooley, Janet Car-



Crazy Quilt by Laura Secord and Augusta Smith, 1888, in an Glennys Wade admires a signature quilt at the NOTL Museum exhibit, which is on until April 25.

Laura Dodson.

Butts is working on another biography for the book but explained other community members have also contributed. She expects it to come out

As for the current exhibit, tion from the museum, this one of the oldest pieces on display is a sampler made by Elizabeth Smith, in 1749. Smith was the aunt of D. W. Smith, who was one of Upper Canada's early Surveyor Generals. This The goal for this exhibit is needlework picture is beauti-"to illuminate the lives of some fully decorated and intricate. It depicts red flowers resembling poppies with intertwining green vines, stems and leaves a verse. Smith stitched under her signature block the words, "This work in hand my friends may have when I am dead and laid in grave."

> Thank you Elizabeth for a peak into your world, and the world of other women of your age through your handiwork ple & Events series.

"work in hand."

For more information on the museum and its special events and exhibitions, please visit www.nhsm.ca or call 905-468-3912.

The Museum is located at 43 Castlereagh Street and is open daily 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to April. The exhibit, A Piece of Her Mind: Quilts & Coverlets, is on until April 25. The museum is also honouring Black History Month with Lunchbox Cinema on Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

The movies will run about an hour and viewers are encouraged to either pack a lunch or purchase snacks and refreshments at the museum. Remember Africville and Black Mother, Black Daughter will be shown on Feb. 21. Speakers for the Dead will be featured Feb. 28.

On Monday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m., Peter Kemball will speak about Harry Nyquist as part of the Famous & Infamous: Peo-





famous characters, as Molly This traditional log cabin quilt, creator unknown, is part of A Piece of Her Mind exhibit at the NOTL Museum.

THE NOTL LOCAL February 20, 2020

## Public invited to museum envisioning session

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is moving ahead with plans for an expansion space, but first, there is a strategic plan to be developed for the next four years.

And public input is replan.

While an envisioning ses-28, is ostensibly to talk about using the existing museum space, it will also give the public, and the many groups and community organizations that have been invited, an opportunity to look further into the future, when an expanded space provides more options.

"We're looking for feedback about what we are doing that you like, and what we could improve on," says Sarah Maloney Kaufman, managing director and curator of the museum.

room for a larger collection, more exhibit space and more programming,

Although has some ideas of what she history, churches, the waterwould like to provide, she wants to hear what the public want the community to realhas to say.

"We want to hear from the public about this build-

ing for the next four years, but we also want to take a look at the future, and what we can do when we have more space."

For example, she would that would almost double its like to see more children's programming. The Kids Curator Camp has always been well-received, but it can only be held in the summer, quested to help develop that taking advantage of the outdoors.

"I'd like to have a March sion planned for Friday, Feb. Break program, after-school programs and a Family Day program," she says. "But we don't have the space inside."

She would also like to see a permanent exhibit that is more inclusive, that takes in all the villages of NOTL, as well as Black history and the Indigenous community.

The name has been changed recently to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum to reflect that it belongs to the community. "We are NOTL's community museum, and we need to be more visible," The expansion will allow she says. "Our collection is the community's collection. We have town documents and artifacts of town history," Kaufman she says, including military front and agriculture. "We ize it's theirs, and take ownership of it."

The more input they re-



This rendering shows the design for an addition to the current museum building. (Supplied)

about how to proceed, the er and always will be." better, she says.

Kaufman added.

Society will continue as owner ed space. They have applied and operator of the museum, for a grant from the promaintaining membership, vincial and federal governfundraising and supporting ments, and hired a profes-

Kaufman says the build-There will be more pro- ing expansion is expected to new logo and new signs to they are budgeting another promote in the near future, \$2 million for the additional exhibitions and program-But the Niagara Historical ming to make use of the add-

heritage preservation.

The Niagara Historical motion of the new name, a cost about \$8 million, while Society was established in ect is the need to accommo-1895. Originally housed in date the Accessibility for Onthe Court House, the muse-tarians with Disabilities Act, um collection was moved to by 2025. its present location in Memorial Hall in 1907.

the 1970s. It hasn't been ren- 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There ovated since the 1990s. We're is also a survey to fill out at the museum. "I operate the sional fundraising company in desperate need to expand," https://www.surveymonkey. museum on their behalf. We to approach foundations and says Kaufman. "We house com/r/NiagaraMuseum.

ceive from the community have always been tied togeth- members of the public who more than 53,000 artifacts, a are interested in history and massive collection for such a small museum."

Also propelling the proj-

An envisioning session for the public is being "It hasn't expanded since held Friday, Feb. 28, from



# EDITORIAL

### Let's pledge to do better

It's not news that 64 per will be full. cent of the material we put out curbside with the rest of our recent approval of a Niagara garbage is either compostable or recyclable. And it's certainly not good news.

The Region gave us the dismal statistics last January, when completed. they came to council to talk about changes in service once er-week pickup of garbage, the new garbage collection contract was negotiated.

Of that 64 per cent in the garbage bag, 50 per cent is the smelly, yucky stuff that nobody wants to touch, and the rest is recyclable material.

That's on us, and it's adding to what it costs each of us to have our garbage picked up at the curb. Some of that material could be sold to bring in revenue to offset collection costs. But the compostables, which end up in landfill, are what will really add to the cost if we don't smarten up and change our behaviour.

The more we put out for landfill, the sooner our two ex-

We learned that the most landfill expansion, at Humberstone in Welland, cost \$1.2 million, and took nine years for the approval process to be

Moving to every-othother than recyclables and compostable material, is designed to alter our behaviour. In other words, convince us to do what we should already be doing. The change in the collection schedule, as explained, represents cost avoidance. The same amount (at least of residential garbage) will be collected, but not weekly.

The Region will roll out an educational program designed to make us understand we can still put out the same amounts of garbage, wanting to avoid the perception that we are paying more for a reduction in service. That is not the case.

What should be the takeisting Niagara garbage dumps away from this is that some of **The Local** 

us are doing a really, really bad job of recycling and composting, and that needs to change.

While we're told the reason we avoid composting is the "yuck factor," it doesn't have to be yucky. There are plenty of choices for compost material bins for the kitchen - look online and you'll find websites that claim they can be attractive and stylish — and bags to fit them. Tie them and plop them in the green bin, and you never have to touch the stuff. Nor should it smell. You might have to rinse out the containers once in a while, but how bad can that be?

It doesn't seem like a lot to ask, considering the cost of the alternatives - and not just financial costs. While our kids and grandkids are concerned about climate change, protesting and demanding action, we're sending our compostable material to landfill. Not the message we want to send.

**Penny Coles** 

### **LOCAL FINDS**



**SACRED** to the memory of SARAH LAURENCE who departed this life on the 5th day of November1823 in the 64th year of her age

### **Oldest stone in cemetery** by Donald Combe **Special to The Local**

The seldom visited Methodist/United Church cemetery is near the corner of Gage and Gate streets. This burial ground was closed in 1925, but remains a sacred place worthy of a visit.

This monument to Sarah Laurence is the oldest, and it seems she was the first wife of George Laurence, of Virgil. He was interred in the Methodist cemetery in Lawrenceville, as Virgil was then known.

A Man Goes to the Movies

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

### The Niagara-on-the-Lake

#### The trusted voice of our community

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story of Katharine Gun, whose job involved handling classified information. When she learned that the U.S. was enlisting Britain's help in voting in favour of an invasion of Iraq, Katharine risked everything to stop an unjust

**Donald Combe** 

**Special to The Local** 

Official Secrets, based on true events, is the

It's all about integrity. Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. His Facebook reviews have

war.

become popular with his share his opinions through friends and followers, and "short and sweet" excluhe has graciously agreed to sives for The Local.



Keira Knightley

# COMMENT

### Messing with escarpment policies could be dangerous



#### Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

As I look out the window into the vineyards, I am reflecting on information I learned that concerned me.

The Niagara Region has been handed a report created by MHBC Planning, Urban Design & Landscape Architecture. In the readings, there are recommendations for trimming down policies that protect the Niagara Escarpment from winery development. These policies are found within the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP), which stands to protect the fragility and biodiversity of this UNES-CO listed feature.

These policy changes could involve wineries being able to develop larger retail buildings, parking spaces, and production areas along Niagara Escarpment properties.

With 101 wineries in the Niagara appellation, 29 of them sit within a zone regulated by the NEP.

This is where we play the tricky empathy game.

If you're a smaller but booming winery along the Niagara Es-

may currently find yourself in a bind. That urge to grow seems like an inevitable stage for any agricultural business, but what happens when the breaching point arrives and policy roadblocks are keeping you still?

Is this the "cost" of doing winery business in a geographically sensitive area? Interestingly, let's consider how we use the language in this scenario. Is it a cost, or buyer beware? Are the policies there to protect, or are they there to inhibit? Depending on which word you stand by, that is the lens through which you look at this scenario.

In this case, I don't personally see the need for changes and peel-backs on policies within the NEP. These policies protect or inhibit, but rather, to balance and regulate.

This balance is already off in Niagara. Just look at a satellite image of the region, and you can identify the Niagara Escarpment as a thin strip of green running west to east along Lake Ontario.

When I'm out hiking on the Bruce Trail, I often ask hikers to pause and look in both directions up and down the path. As a group, we become engulfed by the impression that these woods are never-ending, as you can't where its primary vineyard is

that, in reality, we're just looking "down the hall." If you were to face up or down the escarpment instead of along it, you would see that you are just standing within a ribbon of green.

I have seen how the Niagara Escarpment and its forests work for our vineyards as unpaid staff.

Every year, Lake Ontario heats up over the course of summer. When Canadians start throwing sweaters and toques on again in fall, Lake Ontario remains warm from the summer heat. Winds push that lovely warm air across the lowlands and up the Niagara Escarpment like a bike ramp. This slightly warmer air then becomes trapped on this shelf (hence the term "bench" for wine-growing shouldn't be seen as there to areas nestled along the escarpment), circulating around and keeping the ambient temperature just a smidgeon warmer, sometimes by only a degree or two. That doesn't sound like much, but that means an extra-long growing season for our farmers, and richer flavours into the late harvest.

I have seen other examples where the escarpment forests work in beautiful harmony with vineyards. I know of one winery on the Twenty Mile Bench roots, wiry and ripped like a mechanic's forearms, are holding back rocks and soil from eroding away down the slopes. That means the precious minerals and nutrients that make the wines so tasty are being kept on the property, and as a bonus, the property itself isn't being chiselled away.

This is an example of how the Niagara Escarpment and its policies are already working by letting nature do its work.

I've also seen this work part-

carpment looking to expand your see the end of the tree-line in surrounded by mature forest nership go sour, when grape lieve that in other conversations, production capabilities, then you either direction. The sad trick is on the escarpment. You can vines infiltrate the Carolinian see examples where the tree forest and strangle our native tree species. Bird bangers, farm equipment, and various sprays all have some sort of detrimental environmental impact, but no business has no impact. I just don't think our forests need more of that exposure than there already is. There comes a time to hit the brakes and think about what's at stake.

> To step back out of the woods for a moment, I can understand how policies can be more annoying than the mosquitoes on the trails. I also be-

policies absolutely should be changed or reconsidered from time to time. Alas, sometimes, we still need to remember what's most important per context, and how policies protect what is ultimately the most precious.

I feel this potential policy shift within the NEP would be a slippery slope. My fear is this would turn into a give-an-inchtake-a-mile syndrome, and the ultimate loser would be the natural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment, taking a hit here, a dent there, and another policy change.



Roots and rocks of the Niagara Escarpment's forests are shown holding back the soil, preventing erosion and keeping the nutrients available for our vineyards. (Owen Bjorgan)



### **Auchterlonie on Astrology**

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

This week on Auchterlonie on Astrology I'll look at the new Moon in Pisces, on Sunday, Feb. 23, and the period from Thursday, Feb. 20 to Wednesday, Feb. 26.

On my podcast I've got a look at The Astrology of 2020 - A New Order. It's the whole year –

Feb. 23 through Saturday, Feb. 29. The website is https://www. lookingupwithbill.com/podcasts.html.

Now, the week ahead:

start to the day is courtesy of the ning. Do you remember who 1918, in Toronto. Moon and Saturn in the same tion Capricorn, asking us to be and first hit it big time with a The new Moon signals opportuhonest, at least with ourselves. Jupiter, also in Capricorn, gets a friendly bump from Neptune in her knock-out role in Juno and Pisces, giving good news about a since she has done every kind to compile a list of things you is 71 years old today.

health situation for some. Good news about travel as well. The Moon moves into the constellation Aquarius in the middle of the afternoon, and that sets the stage for old memories that cause us to freak out a bit. Today is the birthday of the first Canadian-born Governor General of Canada. Vincent Massey was born Feb. 20, 1887.

Friday, Feb. 21: Loads of en-Also the week of Sunday, ergy with Mars in Capricorn, in perfect harmony with Uranus in Taurus, means big steps forward toward long-term goals for some. And the Moon in Aquarius gets a friendly bump Thursday, Feb. 20: A serious from Venus in Aries in the evebegan with small roles on Trailspot on X-Men: The Last Stand? Most of us remember her for

of role imaginable including producing and documentary film work. Halifax native, Ellen Page, turns 33 today.

Saturday, Feb. 22: Usually it's the Moon making all the contacts in the sky above, but today the Sun is unusually active, with a helping connection from Saturn just past midnight, making life more secure. And then, with an even better nudge from Uranus in Taurus in the morning, bringing long-term plans closer to reality. The man who invented the walkie-talkie, citizen band radio, the telephone pager and the cordless telephone, Alfred J. Gross, was born on Feb. 22,

Sunday, Feb. 23: It's the New nities to make fresh starts, with just about anything you choose. So get a piece of paper and start

want to start. Or want to start over again! Eight connections for the Moon today make this an astrologically busy Sunday. Add to that hookups between Venus and Jupiter, and Mercury and Pluto, and then the Moon and Pluto, and it's also a day to revisit ideas you may have made over a still here, Steve Jobs would be week ago. Remember Mercury is still retrograde - in the sign Francisco, he was adopted, and of Pisces, so communications (even with yourself) may not be what they seem. A navy man by training, this MP joined Canada's fledgling space program in 1983, and in 1984 became the first Canadian in outer space iPad, and iPhone, and take over when he served as crew on U.S. the world electronics industry. Shuttle Mission 41-G. After venturing to space a few more times, moves from imaginative Pisces Moon in Gemini on Monday. place in the sky in the constella- er Park Boys, and other TV fare, Moon in Pisces at 10:31 a.m. he would go on to serve as head into fiery Aries this afternoon, of the Canadian Space Agen- and then Mercury, moving retrocy from 2001 to 2006. He was elected Liberal Member of Parliament in 2008. Marc Garneau

Monday, Feb. 24: Here is a very busy astro start to the week, with Mars and the Sun and the Moon all taking leading roles. The best of it is a continuation of yesterday's new Moon energy, only now with that unbeatable Piscean imagination. If he were 65 years old today. Born in San dropped out of college to tour India. Teaming up with Steve Wozniak, they launched the Apple I and then the Apple II. Then he was kicked out of Apple, only to return and create the iPod,

Tuesday, Feb. 25: The Moon grade, crosses the path of the Sun. Be wary of what you hear or say today. It may be designed to deceive. My Sweet Lord — he was a Beatle and one of the Traveling Willburys, and were he still here on the Earth plane, George Harrison would be 77 years old today.

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Mercury is busy again today, connecting to both Venus and Mars. It's Mars in the morning giving ideas, energy, and practicality. And Venus in the evening, giving ideas, charm, and innovation. Born in Belleville Ontario, he became one of the wealthiest industrialists of the Age of the Robber Barons. Herbert Henry Dow, founder of Dow Chemical and the man they named the Dow Jones Industrial list after, was born Feb. 26, 1866.

Next week is the first quarter March 2. That and more, next week on Auchterlonie on Astrology here in The Local.

Joni Mitchell said: "We are stardust. We are golden." So



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February 20, 2020

### New housing choices would add quality to life



Larry W. Chambers, **Eva Liu and** Hanna Levy Special to The Local

Both the Niagara-onthe-Lake committee reports, from the Economic Development Committee and the Community Wellness Committee, presented to council recently, identified an increased need of social support as a major local issue for individuals, families and the community within NOTL.

Extending health span and compressing morbidity could reduce this need for social support for the aging population in NOTL. If we all take action to reduce the fitness (physical and brain) gap, the need for social support can be reduced by up to 20 per cent, as estimated by the newly established UK National Academy of Social Prescribing. Social prescribing involves helping people improve their health, wellbeing and

nity.

number of years a person new way of thinking about is able to enjoy good health and live independently without assistance from others. The mission of preventive services was primarily to increase lifespan and reduce its inequalities. More recently there has been a shift toward increasing health span and reducing its social inequalities.

To increase health span requires us to tackle both basic risk factors, including sleep deprivation, poverty, smoking, drugs and alcohol, inactivity and diet, and risk factors which are particularly important for people aged 60-plus. The aim of achieving five additional years of healthy life and reducing health span social inequality by 2035 is of the highest priority. However, the people who will benefit from such changes by living longer, better. 2035 are those currently in

ing them to their commu- For those currently aged 60 and beyond, focus on Lifespan is a term that is increasing health span and familiar to many of us, but compressing morbidity the term has gained a recent will decrease dependency companion – health span. on social assistance within Health span refers to the two years. This requires a

social welfare by connect- for some time to come. and need for social support is often manifested through dementia, fragility, or a combination of both. These conditions occur as a result of three other processes:

> Loss of fitness, starting with prolonged inactivity at desk jobs and •

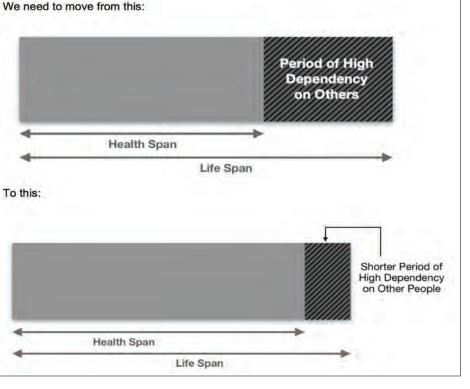
and high blood pressure. This is principally because of beliefs about rest and lack of knowledge about what the Academy of Medical • Royal Colleges calls: *Exercise: the Miracle Cure.* Disease, often aggra-

with the reassurance of 24-hour on-site staff, communal facilities, and optional support as needed; and

Creates communities or villages that provide extra support housing, housing-with-support, assisted living, close support apartments, or independent living settings. In Ontario, see Schlegel Villages for an example.

Renaissance communities need to be supported not only at the individual level, but through society as a whole, similar to how one would support those working against climate change or the Bruce Trail Conservancy. This will give a sense of purpose for these communities within NOTL, and be combined with activities such as cycling and walking competitions between renaissance communities to promote fitness.

Larry W. Chambers has authored 175 articles and books concerning disease prevention (e.g. dementia), quality improvement in long-term care homes and innovative approaches for continuing professional development. He is research director of the Niagara Regional Campus, School of Medicine, McMaster University. Eva Liu and Hanna Levy are medical students through changing NOTL's at the Niagara Regional Campus of the McMaster University School of Medicine. They are interested in improving community wellness of frail older adults in NOTL by narrowing the fitness (physical and brain) gap, diversifying housing options for older adults, and increasing economic activity of housing designed for within the community that also increases ability of our minds to interact with people and ideas.



To this:

Aging by itself is not a their 30s and 40s, who will cause of major illness until not need social assistance the late 90s. Dependency increasing in rate after the onset of long-term conditions, for example, • type 2 diabetes, obesity

vated by accelerated loss of fitness.

Negative beliefs and pessimistic attitudes.

The recommendations in the two NOTL committee reports call for a culture change, and for leadership to focus on new ways of approaching change, such as housing options.

When speaking about housing for older adults, the terms 'care' and 'retirement' should be replaced with the terms 'support' and 'renaissance'. Support is the more appropriate verb for what is needed. Renaissance characterizes the management older adults, that:

- Combines high quality housing options for older people with tailored support services;
- Allows residents to rent or own a property and to maintain their privacy and independence,







Josh Klassen, youth pastor at Cornerstone Church, has been providing activities for local students during the teacher strike days. This photo was taken on the church property's "gaga ball" pit, a game popular with the kids. (Cristina Unruh)





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### Municipal taxes help improve our lifestyle



Ted Mouradian Special to The Local

It's that time of year again when council has debated and set out the budget for the coming year. And as usual in this yearly debate, we have the two sides. One: we need more money to run the city. Two: we can't afford to pay more money so we need to cut expenses.

First let me be clear about where I stand on municipalities and what they are actually supposed to do. Municipalities are not supposed to be run like a business for a profit. They are supposed to conduct the dayto-day operations of the municipality with prudence, ensuring that they do due diligence to make sure that money is spent wisely for the benefit of the citizens they serve.

Having said that, I do not believe in a zero-based budget promise. My reasoning is that budgets need to at least reflect the cost of living. Let's face it, garbage to the curb? Now we der to appease the few. raises. Utilities rise. Unexpected expenses occur. So, municipalities need to have the money to support the services the ratepayer is entitled to and wants.

comes into play. Some of the ratepayers are adamant that they are tired of rising taxes and that at some point enough is enough, while others want to receive a quality of service to maintain a certain lifestyle. These things include good roads, garbage collection, parks, hydro, sewage facilities, fire, police, hospitals, ambulance, libraries and even course we got on the topic of Christmas lights, and of course much more.

An example I can give to illustrate what I mean is that years ago when it snowed, each and every street in our municipality was plowed, and usually plowed before we woke up in the morning. Now the main lives, then I am good with that. streets are plowed and eventuget done at some point in the future. Another is garbage collection. Do you remember when the garbage men used to come into your back yard and put the

each year costs rise. Staff get take it to the curb ourselves each week and pretty soon, it will only be every other week.

My point is that if we want a certain level of service, someone has to pay for it, and if we don't Here is where the friction want to pay for it, then we need to stop complaining about our perceived lack of service.

> There are still others who say that they are tired of paying for something they don't use. It is this attitude that flies in the face of who we are as neighbours and proud Canadians.

I was talking to some friends from the U.S. recently, and of universal health care. They said our health care system is not actually free, because we pay for it in taxes. I said that is correct, and pointed out that if I have to pay a little in extra in my taxes so my neighbours don't have to mortgage their houses to save their

Of course, a municipality's ally the secondary streets might elected officials and staff must ensure money is spent wisely, and they should always be on the lookout for efficiencies, but we need to stop cutting services that benefit the majority in or-

that it takes a village to raise a child. It also takes a village of caring neighbours who are willing to contribute some of their blessings to ensure the village is a place where people come together to experience a quality of life that others envy.

For many years now, Canada has been voted number one for quality of life worldwide. That is

net and a social conscience of You have heard the saying helping thy neighbour, factors driving down good roads. More our friends south of the border sometimes ignore. Look at what just happened in Newfoundland. Neighbour helping neighbour, without asking, 'what's in it for me?'

ing of this yearly battle over a few percentages as negative, and start to think about keeping and maintaining a quality of life that because we have a social safety makes us the envy of the world.

I like clean water, and I like importantly, I am happy to pay my share so that others who follow have the same advantages and quality of life we have.

Just saying...

Ted Mouradian is the Pres-I think it's time to start think- ident of the 2% Factor Inc. and creator of the Law of Cooperative Action. He is an author and professional speaker and can be reached at ted@the2 percentfactor.com.



Family Day at Gretzky's

Gretzky Winery and Distillery offered a free skate, with treats, to celebrate Family Day, which turned out to be a popular event. (Fred Mercnik)



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February 20, 2020

THE NOTL LOCAL

### Author, speaker and activist emerges from years of abuse

**Penny Coles** The Local

When Samra Zafar came to Canada as a 17-year-old bride, she was terrified of leaving her home and fam-

tion in a country that would continue her education. offer her freedom.

years older, quickly turned ily in Pakistan, but excited abusive, and her life became

high school and fulfilling her they shared with her in-laws, dream of a university educa- with no possibility for her to

Zafar, author of A Good Instead, her husband, 11 Wife: Escaping the Life I Never Chose, was the speaker at last week's Wine & Words event, organized by Debbie Krause of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, and hosted at Hare Wine Co.

> Zafar's story begins with the description of a happy childhood in the United Arab Emirates, where her father worked, and her progressive parents encouraged her to do well in school, with the promise of a university education. At 16, she was told there was a man in Canada who wanted to marry her, and after meetings between her parents and his, dren. her fate was sealed.

believed her job was to be a good wife to their son, which included constant subjugation and obedience to her demanding mother-in-law.

In the years that followed, she had two daughters to care for, and no hope of escape from a miserable existence, her dignity, security, and independence stripped from her by a man who had a quick temper, and was daily verbally, emotionally and physically abusive. She was

at the thought of finishing one of a prisoner in the home kept isolated, walking on egg woman standing before the poignant conversation with her safety, never knowing has taken control of her life would come, often in front of

Zafar's story and her description of feelings of despair, women escape their cycle of helplessness, and even invison what goes through the legal in Canada for girls unwhere to turn for help.

She described it as "livenough air to breathe," and said she had suicidal moshe had to go on for her chil-

She thought of her old-Her hopes for continuing er daughter, she said, "and her education were dashed I knew I had to go on for by controlling in-laws, who her. If I wasn't around, she to that." would be pushed into an early marriage as I was, and she wouldn't get to go to there is an element of saduniversity."

> to make films, "to bring stories like this to life," she said, with pride, while her youngest daughter is a "science who encouraged her to stay nerd" who wants to work in with her husband rather than the medical field.

> The portion of her book ly as a single woman. she chose to read at Wine & Words was not the most dramatic, but represents the her marriage sooner. Her turning point in her life when, after starting a day care in her home and saving some of the cash she earned, she was able to enrol in classes and walked into a lecture hall at the University of Toronto for the first time.

liberation, where she found broke down and they grew a support system, friends, and counsellors who helped her escape her old life and create a safe haven for her diagnosed with and received and her daughters. Leaving treatment for PTSD, and her husband was not simple — at one point she faced mother became close again. being homeless with her two girls — but several part-time have contact with their fajobs at the university, and a ther, Zafar said, adding he student apartment, made it continues to blame her for matter, can make a differpossible.

when the next violent attack and become a successful corporate businesswoman, but she has not forgotten what In her book, and in it took to get there. She has speaking at Wine & Words, become a speaker, mentor and activist, helping abused abuse. She also is working ibility helped shed some light to end child marriage — it's mind of an abused woman der 18 with parental consent. — that it was her fault, that Under some circumstances, she needed to try harder, do that may not be necessary better, and that she had no- if a judge says so — usually because the girl says it's what she wants, said Zafar. In ing in a dark box, with just both those situations, the law can work to allow arranged child marriages, which she ments, but reminded herself describes as legalized pedophilia. "No 16-year-old should ever be put into that ments that excited the crowd: situation," she said. "If I can a movie and a second book accomplish one thing in my life, it would be to put an end

Despite her self-confidence and assured manner, ness not far from the surface. Her daughter now wants She is not close to two of her three sisters, who lead "traditional" lives in their Muslim community, or her mother, bringing shame on her fami-

Yet she says her only regret is that she didn't leave oldest daughter, during the early days of their new life, gave her strength, but as a teenager went through her own struggles, unable to grapple with the memories from her childhood. At that time, "always at loggerheads," That was the start of her said Zafar, their relationship apart. After years of her daughter self-harming and a suicide attempt, she was through therapy, she and her

Her girls choose not to

shells and living in fear for audience at Hare Wine Co. her oldest daughter, who is now 18. She reminded her mom of an incident when she was six or seven, and had made a card for her father. She asked if she could give it to him, and they both went to his room to present it. He flew into a rage over being disturbed, Zafar recounts, and after hurling humiliating insults at her, started to beat her, with her daughter watching.

> "She said to me, 'I'm really sorry for that. It was my fault. I hope you can forgive me.' My heart broke to pieces that she had carried that with her," said Zafar, bringing tears to the eyes of many in the audience.

> She made two announceare both in the works.

> The book is being co-written with her daughter, about the years when they were apart, and coming back together. It also talks about the effects of family violence on children, she said.

> The movie is being produced by Bell Media, and will chronicle her life as described in her book. She has made sure she will have creative input, she said — she wants to ensure it "sticks to the story without being sensationalized."

> She doesn't want it to become a "cultural piece." While her situation was in the context of her Muslim culture, she is clear in her book and her speaking that abuse against women is universal, and she doesn't want that part of the story overshadowed, she said.

"One out of three women will suffer some kind of abuse," she said. Women with violence in their lives, who need help, who need to make a connection, can sometimes find that in one moment of kindness, of someone reaching out to them in the simplest of ways. "Making them feel they poisoning them against him. ence. What could be worse She describes a recent than feeling invisible?"



event at the Hare Wine Co. (Photos by Penny Coles)







Karin Bauer has her copy of Samra Zafar's book signed at a Wine & Words event.

### Music and dance of '80s wows the audience

#### **MIke Balsom Special to The Local**

How does one go about writing a jukebox musical focusing on the 80s?

For Oh Canada Eh? Artistic Director Lee Siegel, the process began with gathering up a collection of Best of the 80s compilations, and listening to about 600 songs from the era.

Once he decided on the 65 songs that made the cut for All Night Long - Hitz of the 80s, the trick for Siegel was to string them all together to tell a story without dialogue.

That's right. Sixty-five songs and no dialogue constitute this high-energy jukebox musical on now at Oh Canada Eh? Dinner Theatre in Niagara Falls.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Anne Robinson, co-owner of Oh Canada Eh? says audiences loved the creativity of their 70s musical *The Show Must Go On*, from 2018. "They were fascinated by the way the story was told through the lyrics of classic 70s songs. People went to see it multiple times to catch the subtle genius of the writing of that show. *All Night Long* is the

same, as we get to know these O'Keane, who plays Whitney, first act through the great music and lyrics."

Robinson adds that the second act is a big party, as the show follows seven teenagers as they prepare for, then experience, high school prom. Think Pretty in Pink, Sixteen Candles, or pretty much any John Hughes movie from that decade.

sing their way through hits by Whitney Houston, Foreigner, Bon Jovi, Cutting Crew, Madonna, Huey Lewis, Toni Basil and more, all while falling are just so incredible, and cliin and out of love amidst the drama inherent in the typical have fun doing an 80s show?" movie prom scene.

difficult times in the 80s — Ronald Reagan's Star Wars plan, the Cold War, interest rates in the teens, Chernobyl, AIDS — but you wouldn't know it from this musical. The songs, the dancing and the wardrobe all focus on the good times.

Oh yes, the wardrobe. As to the prom. one might imagine, it's a key element in All Night Long. Louisa

loveable 80s characters in the dons some of the most outrageous costumes, including bright-coloured tracksuits, leg warmers, headbands, and a prom dress just this side of Cyndi Lauper. The veteran of 15 years with the theatre that defining moment of teen says this musical has been the culture in that decade — the most taxing physically of her career, with non-stop dancing through its almost two-hour duration.

Sue Thibert describes her The seven actors dance and character, Gloria, as the science nerd, who has a crush on Axe, the bad boy at school, played by newcomer Fynn Cuthbert. "Our characters we get to play che, and fun. How can you not

One of the most elaborate There may have been some and hilarious scenes in the musical takes place in the science lab, set to the Thomas Dolby song, She Blinded Me With Science. Here, amidst glass test tubes and beakers and a mad scientist teacher, Gloria tries desperately to get the attention of Axe, in an effort to be asked

> Another hilarious scene involves the love triangle be-



Blake and Krystal, two main characters in All Night Long, share a scene. (Photos courtesy of Lee Siegel Photography)

tween Krystal, Jessie and Blake high school gym, where the (played by Alexandra Reed, Alex Titei and Andrew Goff, respectively), with Van Halen's mid-80s hit Jump as the centrepiece. Titei and Goff amazed the audience of about 75 theatregoers with their ability to keep up with the lyrics, while holding an intense jump-rope competition to win Krystal's affections. This, along with a cruise in a 1981 Trans Am, is a key factor. What better way one of Robinson's favourite to involve the audience than to scenes in the play.

A musical about the 80s wouldn't be complete without a look at the fitness craze of the decade. An aerobic workout is the centrepiece for the Bonnie Tyler hit Holding Out for a Hero, which was featured in the movie Footloose. Here, female cast members were decked out in brightly coloured leotards, while the males wore crop-top and tight short shorts.

Act Two takes the charac-

prom is being held. As the stage is set, the live band, who plays all 65 songs, segueing seamlessly from one to the next, is visible behind the cast. The band is a key element of this musical, playing with an energy that helps drive the actors to their best performance.

Since this is a dinner theatre, audience participation is pull them into the prom.

The cast jumped off the stage during the Arrow hit *Hot!* Hot! Hot! to entice about 20 people out of their seats for a very well-organized conga line. The smiles on the faces of the participants made it clear they were having a blast snaking through the dining area.

Some lucky theatregoers, this reviewer included, had a football jerseys, mesh shirts chance for a slow dance with dancing to the Loverboy hit ters out of the classrooms and Almost Paradise, Gloria and the the fast food joint and into the other cast members were able

to hook their temporary dance partners even further into the developing storyline of the play.

Of course, no prom is complete without a king and queen. Despite the hopes of the seven characters on stage, two audience members were chosen to wear the crowns and sashes, and to take the spotlight for their coronation dance.

It all wrapped up with another song recognizable from the movies. (I've Had) The Time of My Life, from Dirty Dancing, saw the cast all come together, as the audience joined in on the song's lyrics to sum up their feelings about the evening.

As Robinson says, Oh Canada Eh? is only a 20-minute drive from NOTL, and the show is over in time to be home by 10 p.m. And who doesn't need a night of fun and nostalgia at this point in the winter?

All Night Long - Hitz of some of the characters. While the 80s is well worth that 20-minute trip to Niagara Falls. It's on at Oh Canada Eh? until April 11.



The cast of All Night Long - Hitz of the 80s.



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#### February 20, 2020

### Farmworker reminisces about work on Epp farm

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

Last week I took readers of the The Local to a mountaintop, high up in the clouds Uton and Linnette Bell. Since that experience in 2008, I have had the privilege of visiting the Bells both in Jamaica and at their home in Niagara many times.

This past October, I enjoyed a lively time of reminiscing around their kitchen table in Niagara Falls, joined as well by Tony, a former coworker.

With the three of them around the table, the memories flowed effortlessly, vacillating between laughter and moments of serious reflection.

Uton offered us a bit of background to his early experience in Canada.

When the Seasonal Agricultural Work Program began him too," Tony added, "He in the mid 1960s, Abe Epp hired two men from Jamaica. Impressed by their work ethic he would have us picking up and willingness to learn, he stones, whatever, because he hired four more men in 1968. knows we wanted the hours." One of them was Uton Bell. At that time, the main part of employee it's a bond togeththe corner of Lakeshore Rd. and Firelane 2, with the two bunkhouses situated directly behind Abe and Eleanore his goals — a house to build, Epp's home.

The work was hard, but to do his best for the farm- nothing!" Linnette recalled. the time to help Uton learn love, that joy that he can have, how to ride a bike.

of St. Catherine, Jamaica, with would be hot TV dinners a common bond together, I waiting for us when we got believe that with all my heart. back to the house. Man, we It works out good for both the had never heard of TV dinners before. We really looked know that he is helping his forward to that after a long family in Jamaica. I believe day of work. Mrs. Epp used that this is what can happen." to wash our bed linens for us back then too. All we had to bridge together, says Uton do was put it in bags on our with passion. "It's unity. It's doorstep on Saturday morning and she would pick it up, wash it and bring it back to us," says Uton.

> morning in "Every fruit-picking time, there They have to enjoy working would be hot coffee waiting. Coffee and donuts. If you didn't drink coffee, they would have pop for you. By then, there was about 16 of coffee in hand, and bringing

"And a good thing about they came to Canada. would always find work. Even if he didn't have work,

"With a farmer and an friendly relationship," says Uton. "The worker knows that he would like to achieve ering in the back seat.

they enjoyed the friendly at- er, so he can go continue on mosphere. Mr. Epp even took each year. That binding of and cold when they arrived, that we can smile and talk to "If we worked late, there each other... They can share farmer and for the worker to

They have to build that strength, it's the binding of a greater relationship."

If a farmworker doesn't enjoy working with a farmer, "then it's not going to help. together."

Linnette had been bustling around the kitchen, and now she sat down to join us, us back to the story of how

Sky-rocketing inflation, and the collapse of local markets in Jamaica due to globalization, made it clear to them both that they should accept Abe Epp's offer to sponsor them to come to Canada. On a bitter cold winter's night in the Epp farm was located at er, they work together in a 1975, they drove up to the tiny farm house on Concession 1 with their four children shiv-

> "We were completely una family to raise, and he wants prepared, no winter clothes,

The farmhouse was dark not at all what she had expected. They all huddled together for warmth, and the next morning asked the Epps to help them find warm winter clothing and bedding.

By spring they had settled comfortably into the little farmhouse, with the children enrolled in Virgil Public School.

They walked every week to the library in the Old Town, and came back loaded down with books, a privilege that was unavailable in their tiny mountain community back home. On Sunday mornings, they enjoyed the services at the Niagara Fellowship Chapel on Concession 2.

Uton picked up where his wife left off. "Things began to change in the late 70s. Many of the farms began to expand, now that they had a work force they could depend on."

There were some good farmers and there were some other kinds of farmers, he Dave Bell, one of Uton's sons, took a walk down memory lane says. "Sometimes the farmers in the next orchard would come and spray us while we were working or having lunch. Our food, clothes, everything covered with pesticide. Some would apologize, but others just swear."

He elaborates on some of those days. "I think fruit farming, such as peaches is one of fruits you can ever go in to."

adds. "So many times Mr. Epp would send his own crew out were running behind. Maybe the weather warmed up We would go help the other farmers pick and then we would fall behind ourselves. Sometimes the entire orchard would be lost because we were one day late in picking our own crop. The peaches get soft so quickly. Timing is for sure. We all worked hard,

everything," he emphasized.

in Niagara Falls. (Jane Andres)

through the former Virgil Public School, which he attended

when his parents moved the family to NOTL. He has made a

career as a regional employee and is bringing up his own family

After eight years of working for the Epps, Uton took a higher paying position at the challenges of farming in a manufacturing plant in Stoney Creek. With their four children, Monica, Dave, Garthe..." He hesitates to ponder field and Sophia, planning to his next words. "Peaches are attend university or college, one of the most discouraging it was necessary to make the move. Despite the change in Timing is everything, he employment, they continued to invite the Epps to important occasions, such as their to help other farmers who children's weddings and their own anniversary celebrations.

After he retired from the too fast. Maybe it would rain. factory in 2003, Uton returned to work once again for the Epp farm. By then it had become one of the largest peach farms in Canada, employing well over 100 men during harvest.

"It was a challenge for us

including the Epp family. I have to say that on our farm - if we tell Idy (Epp) we have a washing machine or dryer not working, she has it fixed and running by the end of the

Uton was hired as a supervisor, but he was also an important support for the Jamaican employees. He would take them to the doctor, bring them phone cards, and help them connect with family members when a visit to the hospital was required.

He also had to deal with issues involving the Jamaican Liaison Service. He shakes his head when describing the complicated relationship he had with the liaison officers, and the lack of support the men and women experienced

**Continued on page 13** 

CARA-ON-THE-I

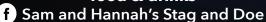


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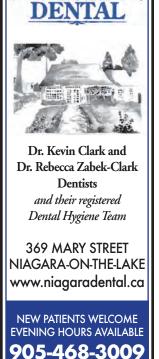
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### Friends continue to stay in touch

#### **Continued from page 12**

when situations arose.

When Mr. Epp began shipping library books to Jamaica about 15 years ago, Uton helped to facilitate the deliveries to rural schools. On several occasions, he organized transportation on the island for visiting members of the Epp family.

They continue to stay in touch with Abe Epp, regularly checking in on him to see how he is doing.

Now Uton and Linnette are both retired, and enjoying life in Jamaica for a few months each year. They are a close-knit family, despite the distance that separates them. All their children contribute in significant ways to the communities in which they now live.

Their son Dave is the only one who still lives in Niagara. Although he has a busy life juggling family responsibilities, and a job at the Niagara Region, he continues to sup- ers workshop in the baseport the men and women on ment. the farms in practical ways. For the past 14 years, he has been on the music team at the (Caribbean Workers Outreach Project) church services. You may also recognize him playing saxophone at the the names accompanying the Peach Pickers Picnic.

Last year Dave delivered some reflective jackets for



Ivy Gooden, whose husband worked at the Froese Farms for years, looks at an old photo with Uton Bell. (Jane Andres)

farmworkers to a temporary storage space in the old Virgil Public School. He and his wife Claudeen marvelled when we gave them a tour of the impressive Bikes for Farmwork-

time for him, recalling many fond memories of starting a new life in Canada, and makparticularly enjoyed reading handprints, which were paint-

little spooky to an 11-year-old back in 1975, he says.

Our coffee cups empty, the conversation started to wind

Uton looked thoughtful as he studied the faces in a 1968 It was also a trip back in photo of the crew at the Epp

"I'm the only one left out of all the (Jamaican) guys ing friends at the school. He Mr. Epp started with. They've all passed on," he says. "We were so sorry when his wife Eleanore passed away. It's ed on the walls in an effort to hard, you know. We were at brighten up the space. Those his house just the other day.

same halls were more than a He was going to the grave to put some flowers on it, and he says as soon as he gets there, he was going to tell her that we come by to visit."

The seeds of respect and friendship planted so many years ago have weathered droughts, tough years on the farm, and incredible gains and losses to finally arrive in their senior years together.

A favourite proverb our Jamaican friends love to quote: " A good friend is better than pocket money."

I know two men who would agree.

### **LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

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February 20 @ 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Members are invited to a free trivia night in appreciation for their annual support. Make a team of 6 or we can find you a team! Snacks and refreshments provided. For more information: 905-468-3912 or email: contact@nhsm.ca.

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February 27 and February 28 @ 8 p.m. and February 29 @ 2 p.m. The Archivist by Shaista Latif

February 28 @ 7:30 p.m. **NSO presents The Symphonically Hip** 

March 4 @ 7:30 p.m. Sarah Slean & Hawksley Workman

March 5 & March 6 @ 8 p.m. **KasheDance presents** Facing Home: Love & Redemption

www.FirstOntarioPAC.ca

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH –**

February 21 @ 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

REMEMBER AFRICVILLE - (35 minutes) & BLACK MOTHER, BLACK DAUGHTER - (29 minutes) Pack a lunch and learn about the Black experience in Canada. Snacks and refreshments available for purchase. Free admission. For more information: 905-468-3912 or email: contact@nhsm.ca.



This undated old photo taken at Epp Farms shows several of the farmworkers and Epp family members. (Photo supplied)

# LOCAL WORSHIP



Kevin Bayne Acts 11:1-18

Kids Ministry Sign In (Grade 8 & under) **Sunday Worship** at 10 a.m. at 434 Hunter Rd.

Offices at 1570 Niagara Stone Rd. www.ccchurch.ca



### St. Davids and District Lions Club

**FRIDAY FISH FRY** February 21st 4:30 to 7 p.m. 1 pc. dinner \*9 2 pc. dinner \*13

Haddock & chips or baked potato, with coleslaw, bread, tea or coffee Also available: PAN FRIED FISH

NEXT FISH FRY FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH





The Canadian Cancer Society is holding a **Volunteer Recognition Tea** 

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 2:00 at the St. Vincent de Paul Church Parish Hall, 222 Davy St., NOTL.

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** 

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18			1	19				
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51	52	53		1	+		54	55		i		56	1	
57	+		1			58				59	60			
61					62					63				
64			1		65					66				
				1		1							1	-

#### Across:

- Cagney's partner
- 6 Poker variant
- 10 Nipper
- 14 Got up 15 W L A N
- 16 "I'm --- here!"
- 17 Identifies
- 18 Papal
- 20 Slow-witted
- 21 The Tiffany network
- 22 --- quarters: precedes Taps
- 23 Symbol of disgrace
- 26 Earth
- 27 Drawn tight
- 28 "Idylls of the King" writer
- 32 The blink of an eye
- 34 Harangue
- 35 Computer brain
- 36 Ice skating jump 37 Put back into service
- 39 St. Paul's Cathedral
- designer 40 Follows why, by the sound
- of it
- 41 Iridescent gem
- 42 Scrubs
- 44 Mental illness
- 46 Waterproofed canvas (Abbr.)

- 47 Measure of sound intensity
- 48 Swellings
- 51 Music for voices
- 54 It means "central"
- 56 Globally calamitous happening
- 57 Home to Everest
- 59 Release
- 61 First lady's partner
- 62 Wander about
- 63 Understand
- 64 Lairs
- 65 Simple arithmetic
- 66 Terminates

#### Down:

- 1 Comes ashore
- 2 Anticipate
- 3 Advisory or decisionmaking groups
- 4 Scrape
- 5 Agreeable response
- 6 Wad of cleaning cloth
- 7
- Gratuities

- 8 Mysterious radar image
- 9 Fragmented 10 Nervelessly
- 11 Brief let-up
- 12 On the job

- 13 Texas siege city
  - 19 Sully
  - 21 Butterfly larvae
  - 24 Winner of three Olympic golds, --- Devers
  - 25 Perform in a pantomime
  - 26 Large bodies of salt water partially enclosed by land
  - 28 Sincerely
  - 29 Can be recycled?
  - 30 Exposed
  - 31 Convent inmates
  - 32 E.g. Speer, Himmler 33 Draft cattle

  - 38 Dines
  - 39 Used to be 41 Oscar winner Tatum ---
  - 43 Youth
  - 45 Tank type 49 Top celebrities
  - 50 Percolates
  - 51 Large African lake
  - 52 Conceal
  - 53 Persian Gulf monarchy
  - 54 Courteous address to a
  - 55 Sets of beliefs

  - 58 Not me
  - 59 Expression of disgust
  - 60 Gun owners' grp.

#### **OBITUARY**

#### DR. ARNIE LOWENBERGER-JUNE 13, 1927 - FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Born on a farm near Raymore, Saskatchewan, Arnie was the youngest of five children. His education was interrupted when WW2 broke out as his two older brothers enlisted and he left school to help his father run the farm. When the war ended, Arnie graduated from Raymore High School and Saskatchewan Normal School.

In 1950, Arnie accepted a position at Snake Lake, Saskatchewan, a settlement just south of the Arctic Circle where he taught 36 children spread over 6 grades. In 1951, he returned to Raymore to teach and, subsequently, enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan, completing his B.Ed. in 1955. Regina College then hired him as a lecturer in Physical Education.

Arnie married Patricia Purcell in 1957, who also taught at the College. They had two children while Arnie completed his M.S. at the University of Washington. Returning to Canada, Arnie was asked to develop a plan for the newly-formed University of Regina in 1960, outlining a degree program in Physical Education and associated facilities.

Arnie then completed his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon.

In 1967 Arnie was hired by Brock University to develop a degree program in Physical Education along with appropriate associated facilities. Shortly after the family moved to St. Catharines, Patricia became ill and passed away in 1969. Also, in that year, Arnie was appointed Dean of Students at Brock, establishing that Department. When the new Physical Education Centre opened he became the first Director of Physical Education and Athletics.

Arnie and Vicki (nee Nanson) married in 1982.

As the Department continued to grow, Arnie was appointed the first Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics in 1986 and sat on the Judicial Committee of the OUAA. Arnie retired in 1992 and in 2004 the University honoured him by naming its newest residence, The Arnie Lowenberger Residence.

Arnie died from complications following a fall. He is survived by his wife, Vicki, his son, Tim, (Tracey Carnahan) and his daughter, Monica, as well as grandchildren, Ben, Marshall, Eric and Emma and numerous valued nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Carl and Mary, and his siblings, Fred, Ella, Henry and Mary, Arnie was much-loved and will be sorely missed by all who were touched by his kindness and good humour.

Cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Saviour's Church in Queenston on Saturday, February 29, at 11 a.m. Visitation will be held on Friday, February 28, from 2-4 and 6-8 at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street,

Niagara-on-the-Lake. Memorial donations may be made to Wellspring Niagara, 50 Wellspring Way, Fonthill, ON. LOS 1E6. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

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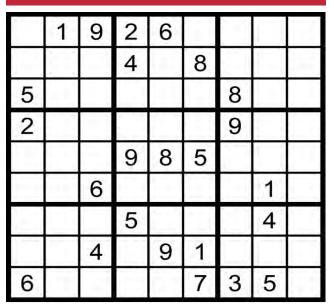
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### **PUZZLE ANSWERS**

.A A N 00 , dgU 63 , uoY 53 Oman, 54 Ma'am, 55 Isms, 58 A-list, 50 Seeps, 51 Chad, 52 Hide, 0,1/43 Lad, 45 Abrams, 49 33 Oxen, 38 Eats, 39 Were, 41 metal, 30 Open, 31 Nuns, 32 Nazi, Mum, 26 Seas, 28 Truly, 29 Scrap 19 Taint, 21 Caterpillars, 24 Gail, 25 10 Coolly, 11 Lull, 12 At it, 13 Waco, 7 Tips, 8 U F O. 9 Disconnected. Committees, 4 Eke, 5 Yes, 6 Swab,  $\mathbb B$  . Lands,  $\mathbb S$  . Lands the  $\mathbb S$ 

Grasp, 64 Dens, 65 Sums, 66 Halts. 59 Untie, 61 Adam, 62 Roam, 63 54 Mid, 56 E-L E, 57 Himalayas, 47 Bels, 48 Edemas, 51 Choral, 42 Cleans, 44 Insanity, 46 Tarp, Reuse, 39 Wren, 40 Zee, 41 Opal, 34 Rant, 35 C P U, 36 Axel, 37 27 Taut, 28 Tennyson, 32 No time, B 2' SS Call to, 23 Stigma, 26 Soil, Names, 18 Apostolic, 20 Dim, 21 C 14 Awoke, 15 Wi-fi, 16 Outa, 17 Across: 1 Lacey, 6 Stud, 10 Claw,

#### Sudoku solution from Feb. 13, 2020

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

notllocal.com THE NOTL LOCAL February 20, 2020



### **Family Day at** the Fort

On a beautiful, sunny Family Day at the Fort George - Vintage Hotels skating rink, Santiago gets his jersey signed by an IceDog player (left). IceDog players are introduced to a crowd of kids by the emcee (below, right) while Jack White is in awe getting an autograph from Andrew MacLean, a goaltender acquired by the IceDogs in January. (Photos by Fred Mercnik)





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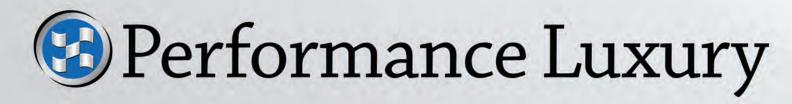
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