High water more a fear than soil erosion

In an update on what still needs to be done along the waterfront, with a total cost estimate of $1.2 million, Ruck said if the Town is willing to de-bure the amount and move ahead with the work, it could be finished by this summer. Or it could plan to complete it as reserves are built up and funding is available, which means it would take another nine years to be finished, he said.

Some of the work that was expected to be done by March, with money in the budget to pay for it, is now on hold until mid-July, Ruck said. It involved a groyne, or stone wall, in the water, to act as a breakwater.

The provincial permit won’t allow for work to be done in the water during fish spawning, which begins March 1, and although Ruck was set to move forward, an unexpected marine archaeological assessment turned up no artifacts, but did find a hole, or pocket, off the edge of the existing groyne, where the new stones would be placed. Filling that in will take time, Ruck said, and will delay the project.

Ron Simkus, waterfront resident and mining engineer who keeps tabs on water levels, says on Jan. 24, he saw an archeologist wading into the water by the Old Railway Culvert with some submersible equipment for photography. In his email blast to about 100 people, Simkus says, “I talked to him and pointed to the eastern edge of the rock headland in front of us. That structure has been in place for 14 years but, for some reason, appeared to be collapsing into the lake over the last 12 months.”

He asked the archeologist to look to see if there was a drop-off in the lake bottom, and pass on his observation to town staff.

He did, and the result, fortunately, said Simkus, is the delay of the groyne installation.

“Forget about the groyne, and stop spending precious tax dollars” on trying to patch up something for a concept that has become “outdated and enormously expensive,” he said in his email.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 wall will replace the expensive bladders the Town used last year, he added.

That work is also detailed in Ruck’s report, which in-
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 Eterra, which was $4.9 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 yard 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 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 per week for families with young children, and people with medical conditions, or licensed home daycare centres, 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, she said.

It will also extend the lifespan for the two existing Region landfills — looking for more space is an expensive and lengthy process. The Region just received approval for an expansion at the Hamberstone 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 bins, 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 factor.

Residents perceive using the green bin as inconvenient and smelly, “and without policy change, we won’t see a behavioural change,” she said.

She also agreed with comments from some councillors that communication of the message that service is not declining is essential.

Two companies have been chosen for curbside collections: GFL Environmental Inc. of Toronto, and Miller Waste Systems in Toronto, and the rest of the regional municipalities.

The 2019 contract with Eterra was $35.3 million, said Gary Zalepa, NOTL 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 about a year ago, with the increase 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.

SORE wants details of newest hotel design

Penny Coles

The Local

Members of SORE (Save Our Rand Estate) have react- ed 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 meet- ing to review his latest propos- al, “and come to a decision.”

The deviation is different than in the last application, he says. This one is for five storeys, “which complies with the 2011 bylaw in height.” The last two have been for a six-sto- rey hotel, which required an amendment to the 2011 bylaw that allowed for five storeys.

He would still need an amendment for a “small in- crease” in rooms. His last proposal was for a total of 118 rooms, 107 in the 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 meeting. They are “forcing us to go to the board,” he said of his appeal to LPAT.

Lyle Hall, SORE spokes- person, says his group isn’t being “swept by a couple of pretty pictures.”

SORE has seen no details to go with them, and with- out more information about issues such as the number of parking spots and restaurant seats, “it’s too soon to make an informed decision.”

He says SORE members are concerned, more concerned with the im- pact the development will have on the surrounding community than what they can see from the drawings.

“The last thing happening is we do it to the aesthetics police,” he says. “We’re concerned about the mass, scale, traffic, parking — a list of de- tails that are not generated by these photos.”

While height has been a main concern, SORE is not convinced the five-storey bo- tol in the drawing will necess- arily meet the 2011 bylaw, which was vague, Hall says.

“The height depends on where you measure it from,” he says, suggesting whether or not Marotta’s newest proposal meets the bylaw depends on its interpretation.

“Two Sisters lawyer Mi- chael Melling has weighed in on that, in a letter to local newspapers, saying “a simple check with the town clerk or plan- ning department would have confirmed that our clients didn’t just file a picture. They filed a full set of architectural drawings and a site plan.”

Further, Melling says, “the proposed buildings meet the height requirement in the Ro- manian zoning bylaw.”

There are other questions SORE would like the answers to. “There is insufficient detail on the table to go with the picture that would allow us to make an informed decision whether this is better or worse than before,” says Hall.

In response to Melling’s comments, Lord Mayor Bet- ty 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

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Debenture could get work done by this summer
Continued from page 1

includes 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 it.

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

Other work to be completed on the parkette, including more shoreline stabilization, and flood protection for low-lying areas, which involves a much-discussed rain garden to collect water, is estimated to cost about $300,000. Adding work that needs to be done to Riverbeach Park, Melville Street, Nelson Street Park, a pump feasibility study, and the wall in front of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, which the Town hasn’t yet addressed, brings the estimated cost to about $1.2 million.

Ruck won’t have the complete costs until the feasibility study is completed and all the numbers are in, and councillors won’t be expected to make a decision about funding until they have the report in front of them.

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 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 community in the process of identifying people and events that could be commemorated in the Glendale district.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero made a motion that the requests from the Friends of Laura Secord be adopted in principle, and asked for a staff report. McCormick said she was 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 several years ago, and we were at council to offer suggestions. There is an opportunity to do something wonderful with this district by recognizing local history,” said McCormick.

Repairs to Peggy Walker’s retaining wall, beside The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, are underway. The Town looked at repairing the Pumphouse retaining wall, which is crumbling, but put the work off. (Fred Mercnik)

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Caroline McCormick and David Brown ask councillors to support renaming Glendale, and other recognition of local history. (Penny Coles)
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 Chubbuck, Ann Clement, Mary Miller Bull 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 30, celebrated the lives of these women through their textiles. On display are samples of quilts, needlepoint, 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 diamond slivers.

According to Shawna Butts, curator of the exhibit, this display gives us a “unique perspective” by focusing on women’s contributions 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 women’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 a quilt made by Laura Secord’s 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 secretary and registrar to the 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 coverlets on display, woven on looms and made mainly from wood 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 information from the museum, this pattern 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.

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 faced 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 famous characters, as Molly Brant, Chloe Cooley, Janet Car-

Glenrns Wade admires a signature quilt at the NOTL Museum exhibit, which is on until April 25. (Photos by Kim Wade)

The exhibit, which runs until April 25, celebrates the women’s contribution to the history of the town. By working in textiles, 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-
Public invited to museum envisioning session

Penny Coles
The Local

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

And public input is requested to help develop that plan.

While an envisioning session planned for Friday, Feb 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.

The expansion will allow room for a larger collection, more exhibit space and more programming.

Although Kaufman has some ideas of what she would like to provide, she wants to hear what the public has to say.

“We want to hear from the public about this building expansion 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 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, taking advantage of the outdoors.

“I’d like to have a March 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,” she says. “Our collection is the community’s collection. We have town documents and artifacts of town history,” she says, including military history, churches, the waterfront and agriculture. “We want the community to realize it’s theirs, and take ownership of it.”

The more input they receive from the community about how to proceed, the better, she says.

There will be more promotion of the new name, a new logo and new signs to promote in the near future, Kaufman added.

But the Niagara Historical Society will continue as owner and operator of the museum, maintaining membership, fundraising and supporting the museum. “I operate the museum on their behalf. We have always been tied together and always will be.”

Kaufman says the building expansion is expected to cost about $8 million, while they are budgeting another $2 million for the additional exhibitions and programming to make use of the added space. They have applied for a grant from the provincial and federal governments, and hired a professional fundraising company to approach foundations and members of the public who are interested in history and heritage preservation.

The Niagara Historical Society was established in 1895. Originally housed in the Court House, the museum collection was moved to its present location in Memorial Hall in 1907.

“It hasn’t expanded since the 1970s. It hasn’t been renovated since the 1990s. We’re in desperate need to expand,” says Kaufman. “We house more than 53,000 artifacts, a massive collection for such a small museum.”

Also propelling the project is the need to accommodate the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, by 2025.

An envisioning session for the public is being held Friday, Feb. 28, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There is also a survey to fill out at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NiagaraMuseum.
Let’s pledge to do better

It’s not news that 64 per cent of the material we put out curbside with the rest of our garbage is either compostable or recyclable. And it’s certainly not good news.

The Region gave us the dismal statistics last January, when they came to council to talk about changes in service once 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 can 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 existing Niagara garbage dumps will be full. We learned that the most recent approval of a Niagara landfill expansion, at Hum- berstone in Welland, cost $1.2 million, and took nine years for the approval process to be completed. Moving to every-oth-er-week pickup of garbage, other than recyclables and compostable material, is de- signed to alter our behaviour. In other words, convince us to do what we should already be doing. The change in the col-lection schedule, as explained, represents cost avoidance. The same amount (at least of resi- dential garbage) will be collect- ed, 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 pay- ing more for a reduction in ser- vice. That is not the case.

What should be the take-away from this is that some of 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 attrac- tive and stylish — and bags to fit them. Tie them and plop them in the green bin, and you never have to touch the stuff. (You might have to rinse out the contain- ers 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 fi- nancial costs. While our kids and grandkids are concerned about climate change, protest- ing and demanding action, we’re sending our compostable material to landfill. Not the message we want to send.

Penny Coles
The Local

SECOND STRING
This week’s article is about the Niagara-on-the-Lake basketball team, the 2022-23 Niagara-on-the-Lake Lakers. The team is coached by Mark Stirton and plays in the Niagara Basketball League. They have a mix of players from the local area and from other parts of Ontario. The team is looking forward to a successful season and is practicing hard to improve their skills. The team’s home games are held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Arena. The team is also looking for new players to join their ranks. If you are interested in joining the team, you can contact Mark Stirton at mgstirton@gmail.com or by calling 905-688-3711.
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 MHRB Planning, Urban Design & Landscape Architecture. In the readings, there are recommendations for trimming down policies that protect the Niagara Escarpment from wind development. These policies are found within the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP), which stands to protect the fragility and biodiversity of this UNESCO 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 Peninsula, 29 of them sit within a zone regulated by the NEP. On top of wineries being able to develop larger retail buildings, parking spaces, and production areas along Niagara Escarpment properties.

"If you're a smaller but booming winery along the Niagara Escarpment looking to expand your production capabilities, then you 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 branching point arrives and policy roadblocks are keeping you still?"

Is this the "cost" of doing winery business in a geographically sensitive area? Interesting, let's consider how we use the language in this scenario. Is it a cost, or buyyer beware? Are the policies there to protect, or are they there to inhibit? Depending on what 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 shouldn't be seen as there to 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 see the importance of policies as a thin strip of green running west to east along Lake Ontario. When you look at the Bruce Trail, you 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 see the end of the tree-line in either direction. The sad trick is, 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 the summer. When Canadians start throwing sweters and thugs on again in fall, Lake Ontario retains warmth from the summer heat. Winds push that lovely air across the lowlands and up the Niagara Escarpment like a hike ramp. This slight warmer air then becomes trapped on this shelf (hence the "Snowbirds" for wine ars nested along the escarpment), circulating around and keeping the air temperature just a stradgmu warm, 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 flavors 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 where its primary vineyard is surrounded by mature forest on the escarpment. You can see examples where the tree roots, vary and rippled like a mechanic's firearms, 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 up 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-partnership go sour, when grape vines infiltrate the Carolinian forest and strangle our native tree species. Bird bangers, farm equipment, and various sprays all have some sort of detrimental environmental impact, and no business has no impact. I just don't think our forests need more of that exposure than they 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 mosquitos on the trails. I also believe that in other conversations, policies absolutely should be changed or reconsidered from time to time. Also, 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-inch-take-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 – in 10 minutes.

Also the week of Sunday, Feb 23 through Saturday, Feb 29. The website is https://www.lookingsigns upwith.com/pod casts.html. Now the week ahead.

Thursday, Feb 20. A serious start to the day is courtesy of the Moon and Saturn in the same place in the sky in the constellation Capricorn, asking us to be honest, at least with ourselves. Jupiter, also in Capricorn, gets a friendly bump from Neptune in Pisces, giving good news about a 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 mental memories that cause us to freak out a bit. Today is the birthday of the first Canadian-born President of the United States, who was born Feb 20, 1807.

Friday, Feb 21. Loads of energy 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 from Venus in Aries in the evening. Do you remember who began with small roles on Trail- er Park Boys, and other TV fare, and first hit it big time with a spot on X-Men: The Last Stand? Most of us remember him because of his knock-out role in Juno and since she has done every kind of role imaginable including producing and documentary film. Halifax native, Ellen Page, turns 33 today.

Saturday, Feb 22. Usually it's a big day for people to think of the things they are passionate about. But today it's the sky above, but today it's the sun is unusually active, with an even higher connection from Venus in Taurus to the Sun just mid night, making life more secure. And then, with an even better 1 ruler of Pisces, so communications (even with yourself) may not be what they seem. A navy man by training, this MJ joined Canadas fledgling space program in 1983, and in 1984 became the first Canadian in outer space when he served as crew on U.S. Shuttle Mission 41-G. After ven- turing to space a few more times, he would go on to serve as head of the Canadian Space Agency from 2001 to 2006. He was elected Liberal Member of Par- liament in 2008. Marc Garneau is 71 years old today.

Monday, Feb 24. Here is a very busy astro start to the week, with Mars and the Sun and the Earth and Moon all taking leading roles. The best of it is a continuation of yesterday's new Moon energy, only now with that unbeatable Pisces imagination. If he were still here, Steve Jobs would be 65 years old today. Born in San Francisco, he was adopted, and dropped out of college to tour India. Team up with Steve Wozniak, they launched the Ap- ple and then the Apple II. Then he was kicked out of Apple, only to return and create the iPod, iPad, and iPhone, and take over the world electronics industry.

Tuesday, Feb 25. The Moon moves from imaginative Pisces to fiery Aries this afternoon, and then Moon moving retro- grade, crosses the path of the Sun. Be wary of what you hear or say today. It may be designed to de- ceive. My Sweet Lord — he was a Beatle and one of the Traveling Wilburys, and were he still here on Earth, George Har- rison would be 77 years-old today.

Wednesday, Feb 26. Mercury is busy again today, connect- ing to both Venus and Mars. In Mars the morning giving ideas, energy, and practicality. Born in Venus in the evening, giving ideas, charm, and innova- tion. Born in Burlington Ontario, he became one of the wealthiest industrialists of the Age of the Robber Barons. Herbert Henry Dow, founder of Dow Chemi- cal and the man they named the Dow Jones Industrial list after, was born Feb 26, 1866.

Next week is the first quarter Moon in Gemini on Monday, March 2. That and more, next week on Auchterlonie on Astrology here in The Local. "You’re a starfish. We are goldfinch. So shine on!"
New housing choices would add quality to life

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

Both the Niagara-on-the-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 social welfare by connecting them to their community.

Lifespan is a term that is familiar to many of us, but the term has gained a recent companion – health span. Health span refers to the number of years a person 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 2035 are those currently in their 30s and 40s, who will not need social assistance for some time to come.

For those currently aged 60 and beyond, focus on increasing health span and compressing morbidity will decrease dependency on social assistance within two years. This requires a new way of thinking about 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
- 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 aggravated with the reassurance of 24-hour on-site staff, communal facilities, and optional support as needed; and
- Creating 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 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 within the community that also increases ability of our minds to interact with people and ideas.

School’s out

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)
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 not supposed to conduct the day-to-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. My reasoning is that budgets need to at least reflect the cost of living. Let’s face it, each year costs rise. Staff get raises. Utilities rise. Unexpected expenses occur. So, municipalities need to have the money to support the services the taxpayers are entitled to and wants.

Here is where the friction 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 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 streets are plowed and eventually the secondary streets might get done at some point in the future. Another is garbage collection. Do you remember when the garbage men used to come each and every week and put the garbage to the curb? Now we 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 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 course we got on the topic 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 extra in my taxes so my neighbours don’t have to mortgage their houses to save their lives, then I am happy with that.

Of course, a municipality’s elected officials and staff must ensure money is spent wisely. However, they should always be on the lookout for efficiencies, but we need to stop cutting services that benefit the majority in order to appease the few.

You have heard the saying 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 because we have a social safety net and a social conscience of helping thy neighbour, factors 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?’

I think it’s time to start thinking of this yearly battle over a few percentages as negative, and start to think about keeping and maintaining a quality of life that makes us the envy of the world.

I like clean water, and I like driving down good roads. More 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 President 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@the2percentfactor.com.
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 family in Pakistan, but excited at the thought of finishing high school and fulfilling her dream of a university education in a country that would offer her freedom. Instead, her husband, 11 years older, quickly turned abusive, and her life became one of a prisoner in the home they shared with her in-laws, with no possibility for her to continue her education.

Zafar, author of A Good 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, her fate was sealed.

Her hopes for continuing her education were dashed by controlling in-laws, who 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 dastardly verbally, emotionally and physically abusive. She was kept isolated, walking on eggshells and living in fear for her safety, never knowing when the next violent attack would come, often in front of her children.

In her book, and in speaking at Wine & Words, Zafar’s story and her description of feelings of despair, helplessness, and even invisibilized helplessness showed that what goes through the mind of an abused woman — that it was her fault, that she needed to try harder, do better, and that she had no where to turn for help.

She described it as “living in a dark box, with just enough air to breathe,” and said she had suicidal moments, but reminded herself that she had to go on for her children.

She thought of her older daughter, she said, “and I knew I had to go on for her.”

She described how she was pushed into an early marriage as a way to “save her” and that she wouldn’t get to go to university.

Her daughter now wants to make films, “to bring stories like this to life,” she said, with pride, while her young, eldest daughter is a “science nerd,” who wants to work in the medical field.

The portion of her book she chose to read at Wine & Words was not the most dramatic, but represents the 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 To-ronto for the first time.

That was the start of her liberation, where she found a support system, friends, and counselors who helped her escape her old life and create a safe haven for her and her daughters. Leaving her husband was not simple — at one point she faced being homeless with her two girls — but several part-time jobs, university, and a student apartment, made it possible.

The strong, confident woman standing before the audience at Hare Wine Co. has taken control of her life and become a successful corporate businesswoman, but she has not forgotten what it took to get there. She has become a speaker, mentor and activist, helping abused women escape their cycle of abuse. She also is working to end child marriage — it’s legal in Canada for a girl under 18 with parental consent.

Under some circumstances, that may not be necessary if a judge says so — usually because the girl says it’s what she wants, said Zafar. In both those situations, the law can work to allow arrangements for child marriages, which she describes as legalized pejoratively.

“Those who have the power should ever be put into that situation,” she said. “If I can accomplish one thing in my life, it would be to put an end to that.”

Despite her self-confidence and assured manner, there is an element of vulnerability not far from the surface.

She is not close to two of her three sisters, who lead “traditional” lives in their Muslim community, or her mother, who encouraged her to stay with her husband rather than bringing shame on her family as a single woman.

Yet she says her only regret is that she didn’t leave her marriage sooner. Her eldest 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,” said Zafar, their relationship broke down and they grew apart.

After years of her daughter self-harming and a suicide attempt, she was diagnosed with and received treatment for PTSD, and through therapy, she and her mother became close again.

Her girls choose not to have contact with their father, but, Zafar said, “the younger continues to blame her for poisoning them against him.”

She described a recent poignant conversation with 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 to 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.”

Her 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 announcements that excited the crowd: a movie and a second book are both in the works.

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 sensa
tionalized.”

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 over-simplified, 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 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. It’s hard to feel you can make a difference. What could be worse than feeling invisible?”
Music and dance of ’80s wows the audience

Mike Balsam
Special to The Local

How does one go about writing a jukbox musical focusing on the ’80s?
For Oh Canada Eh! Artsitic 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. Fifty-five songs and no dialogue constitute this high-energy jukbox musical now on 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 it,” Siegel said.

This year’s musical is the subtle genius of the writing of it multiple times to catch the drama inherent in the typical movie prom scene.

There may have been some difficult times in the 80s — Ronald Reagan’s Star Wars plan, the Cold War, interest rates in the teens, Chernobyl, AIDS — but how could you not have fun doing an 80s show?

One of the most elaborate 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 Alex, in an effort to be asked to the prom.

Another hilarious scene involves the love triangle between Krystal, Jessie and Blake (played by Alexandra Reed, Alex Titie and Andrew Goft, respectively), with Van Halen’s 80s hit Jump as the centerpiece. Titie and Goft amazed the audience of about 75 the areggos with their ability to keep up with the lyrics, while holding an intense jump rope competition to win Krystal’s affection. This, along with a cruise in a 1981 Trans Am, is one of Robinson’s favourite 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 a key element of this musical, playing with an energy that helps drive the actors to their best performances.

Since this is a dinner theatre, audience participation is a key factor. What better way to involve the audience than to 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 snakeing through the dining area.

Some lucky theatregoers, this reviewer included, had a chance for a slow dance with some of the characters. While dancing to the Loverboy hit Almost Paradise, Gloria and 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 (He 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 the 80s is well worth that 20-minute trip to Niagara Falls. It’s on at Oh Canada Eh! until April 11.
Farmworker reminisces about work on Epp farm

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

Last week I took readers of the ‘The Local to a mountain-top, high up in the clouds at St. Catherine, Jamaica, with 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 lovely time of reminiscing around their kitchen table in Niagara Falls, joined as well by Tony, a former co-worker. 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 in the mid 1960s, Abe Epp hired two men from Jamaica. Impressed by their work ethic and willingness to learn, he hired four more men in 1968. One of them was Uton Bell. At that time, the main part of the Epp farm was located at the corner of Lakeshore Rd. and Firelane 1, with the two bunkhouses situated directly behind Abe and Eleanor Epp’s home.

The work was hard, but they enjoyed the friendly atmosphere. Mr. Epp even took the time to help Uton learn how to ride a bike.

“If we worked late, there would be hot TV dinners waiting for us when we got back to the house. Man, we had never heard of TV dinners before. We really looked forward to that after a long day of work. Mrs. Epp used to wash our bed linens for us back then too. All we had to do was put it in bags on our doorstep on Saturday morning and she would pick it up, wash it and bring it back to us,” says Uton.

“Every morning in fruit-picking time, there 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 us.”

“And a good thing about him too,” Tony added. “He would always find work. Even if he didn’t have work, he would have us picking up stones, whatever, because he knew we wanted the hours.”

“With a farmer and an employee it’s a bond together, they work together in a friendly relationship,” says Uton. “The worker knows that he would like to achieve his goals – a house to build, a family to raise, and he wants to do his best for the farmer, so he can go continue on each year. That binding of love, that joy that he can have, that we can smile and talk to each other… They can share a common bond together, I believe that with all my heart. It works out good for both the farmer and for the worker to know that is helping his farming family in Jamaica. I believe that is what can happen.”

“They have to build that bridge together, says Uton with passion. ‘It’s unity. It’s 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. They have to enjoy working together.”

Linnette had been busying around the kitchen, and now she sat down to join us, coffee in hand, and bringing us back to the story of how they came to Canada.

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’s offer to sponsor them to come to Canada. On a bitter cold winter’s night in 1975, they drove up to the tiny farm house on Concession 1 with their four children shivering in the back seat.

“We were completely unprepared, no winter clothes, nothing!” Linnette recollected. “The farmhouses were dark and cold when they arrived, 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 set 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 expanding, now that they had a work force they could depend on.”

There were some good farmers there, but some others kinds of farmers, he 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 the challenges of farming in those days: “I think fruit farming, such as peaches is one of the most discouraging fruits you can ever go into.”

“Timing is everything, he adds. “So many times Mr. Epp would send his own crew out to help other farmers who were running behind. Maybe the weather warmed up too fast. Maybe it would rain. 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 everything,” he emphasized.

After eight years of working for the Epps, Uton took a higher paying position at a manufacturing plant in Stony Creek. With their four children, Monica, Dave, Gar- field and Sophia, planning to attend university or college, it was necessary to make the move. Despite the change in employment, they continued to invite the Epps to important occasions, such as their children’s weddings and their own anniversary celebrations.

After he retired from the 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 for sure. We all worked hard, including the Epp family. I think that is what you say in that farm – if we tell Idy (Epp) we have this, we wash a machine or dryer not working, she has it fixed and running by the end of the day.”

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 at their workplace.

Dave Bell, one of Uton’s sons, took a walk down memory lane 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 in Niagara Falls. (Jane Andres)
Friends continue to stay in touch

Continued from page 12

When situations arose.

When Mr. Epp began slipping 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 River, he continues to support the men and women on the farms in practical ways. For the past 14 years, he has been on the music team at the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project church service. You may also recognize him playing saxophone at the Peach Pickers Picnic.

Last year Dave delivered some reflective jackets for farmworkers to a temporary storage space in the old Virgil Public School. He and his wife Claudene marveled when they gave them a tour of the impressive Bikes for Farmworkers workshop in the basement. It was also a trip back in time for him, recalling many fond memories of starting a 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.

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

랫 LOCAL WORSHIP

To advertise your WORSHIP SERVICES in this section, please contact: karen@notllocal.com

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

AA MEETING every Wednesday evening, at 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Mark’s Parish Hall 41 Byron St., Niagara-on-the-Lake

NIAGARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM – MEMBERS – TRIVIA NIGHT

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.

FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

February 21 @ 7:30 p.m., New Orleans Jazz Orchestra February 23 @ 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Les Belle Écorces de Montréal presents Leonard Cohen’s Dance Me February 27 and February 28 @ 8 p.m. and February 29 @ 2 p.m., The Architect by Shinta Laliuf 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 – LUNCHBOX CINEMA SERIES

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@nhism.ca.

St. Davids and District Lions Club

FRI DyFish FRY

February 21 @ 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Haddock 2pc dinner $13

PAN FRIED FISH

www.fishfry.ca

1462 York Rd., St. Davids
stdavids lions.ca

The Canadian Cancer Society

Monday, February 24, 2020

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

Free parking is available at the St. Vincent de Paul Church Parking lot. Please join us for refreshments, conversation and some well-deserved awards to volunteers of your neighbourhood.

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niagara historical museum – members – trivia night

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.

First ontario performing arts centre

February 21 @ 7:30 p.m., New Orleans Jazz Orchestra February 23 @ 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Les Belle Écorces de Montréal presents Leonard Cohen’s Dance Me February 27 and February 28 @ 8 p.m. and February 29 @ 2 p.m., The Architect by Shinta Laliuf 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 – lunchbox cinema series

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@nhism.ca.

St. Davids and District Lions Club

Friday fish fry

February 21 @ 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Haddock 2pc dinner $13

PAN FRIED FISH

www.fishfry.ca

1462 York Rd., St. Davids
stdavids lions.ca

The Canadian Cancer Society

Monday, February 24, 2020

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

Free parking is available at the St. Vincent de Paul Church Parking lot. Please join us for refreshments, conversation and some well-deserved awards to volunteers of your neighbourhood.

Place your coming event community social here

With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Include your logo. Prize starting at $50. Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-461-6339 or email classified@notllocal.com.
CLASSIFIEDS

FUNERAL SERVICES

Considerate Cremation & Burial Services

Compassionate Service for Considerably Less

1-52 Scott Street West, St. Catharines (between Ontario Street & South Service Road)
info@CCBScares.ca • 289-362-1144 • CCBScares.ca

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across:
1. Casey’s partner
2. 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: precautions
23. Symbol of disgrace
26. Earth
27. Drawn light
28. “Idyll of the King” writer
29. The blink of an eye
34. Harengue
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. Indecent germ
42. Scrubs
44. Mental illness
46. Waterproofed canvas (Akor)

Down:
1. Coming ashore
2. Anticlimax
3. Advisory or decision-making groups
4. Scrape
5. Agreeable response
6. Wind of cleaning cloth
7. Graffiti
8. Mysterious radar image
9. Fragmented
10. Namelessly
11. Bled let-up
12. On the job
13. Texas siege city
19. Sully
21. Butterfly larvae
24. Winner of three Olympic golds — Devens
25. Perform in a pantomime
26. Large bodies of salt water partially enclosed by land
28. Sincerely
29. Can be recycled?
30. Exposed
31. Convict inmates
32. E.g. Speer, Himmer
33. Draft cattle
34. Dresses
35. Used to be
42. Cleans
44. Insanity
46. Tarp
47. Measure of sound intensity
48. Swellings
49. Music for voices
50. It means “central”
51. Globally calamitous happening
52. Home to Everest
53. Release
54. First lady’s partner
55. Wander about
56. Understand
57. Lairs
58. Simple arithmetic
59. Terminates

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

HELP WANTED

Home based program for an adult male requiring care.
Structured program in place with community outings. Experience in brain injury care is an asset. Requirements: PSW certificate, current First Aid and CPR certified, valid driver’s license.

Send resume to homeprogram73@gmail.com

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 WWC 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 8 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 the Physical Education Department. 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 accepted 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 sisters, Fred, Elva, 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 20, 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 Welspring Niagara, 56 Wellington Way, Fonthill, ON, L0S 1E6. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

CABIN FEVER SALE

15% OFF STORE WIDE

ON NOW until Sunday, February 23rd

Lakeshore Antiques & Treasures
855 Lakeshore Rd, NOTL
Open 10-5, No Additional Discounts

HELP WANTED

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Earn EXTRA CASH by selling your unwanted items in our CLASSIFIEDS.
Contact: classified@notlocal.com
Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.

Cabin Fever Sale

15% Off Store Wide

ON NOW until Sunday, February 23rd

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Home Based Program for an Adult Male Requiring Care.
Structured program in place with community outings. Experience in brain injury care is an asset. Requirements: PSW certificate, current First Aid and CPR certified, valid driver’s license.

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Obituary for Dr. Arnie Lowenberger

Classifieds@notlocal.com

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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)
The Mercedes-Benz Snow Days Event.