



**Not So
Late Show
with Joe**
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Braxton, Mike, Jack, Brooke and Alexa Wiens enjoy Family Day at The Gardens at Pillar and Post. (David Gilchrist)

Family Day spent outdoors in NOTL

Penny Coles
The Local

Brooke and Mike Wiens had a great Family Day in Niagara-on-the-Lake, enjoying their day out so much they plan to repeat it.

It didn't work out exactly as planned, but it turned out to be a really good day, Brooke says.

On Sunday, they had decided to take their three kids skating at The Gardens at Pillar and Post. Unfortunately, they arrived just after it had closed, and they decided to return Monday.

However, with a bit of a warm spell, they discovered

the ice was melting, she said, so they weren't going to be able to skate after all.

"The kids were pretty disappointed," she says, but since they were already there, they took a walk around the gardens, appreciating the beautiful natural environment, and sat down for a bit at one of the fire pits.

"It just made a moment. We had a good conversation, telling stories, and talking about memories. It was really nice."

The surprise bonus of

Continued on page 3

Hirji remains undecided about lifting restrictions

Penny Coles
The Local

Last week Niagara's chief medical officer of health was afraid provincial lifting of restrictions coming next week are too much, too soon, ahead of the original timetable, and he's not yet been convinced otherwise.

While it's very good news that hospitalizations and intensive care admissions from COVID-19 have come down, "I'm mindful that they are still relatively high compared to historical levels — at least half as high as the peaks of our previous waves," Dr. Mustafa Hirji told The Local Tuesday.

"As well, both the Ontario science table and Public Health Ontario warn of infections possibly resurging or plateauing at a high level, meaning that hospitalizations would remain high or go up again. That resurgence of plateauing wasn't predicted to become apparent until late February or early March."

Hirji says he supports reopening, "but on the original timetable set by the province to ensure trends continue to be positive before we take next steps." The provincial timetable was fast-tracked to March 1, with restrictions originally

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Learning about Black History

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

For Jason Walloschek and the eight students in his Grade 3-4 class at Royal Oak Community School, Black history is as much about the present and the future as it is the past.

Classes at the independent Niagara-on-the-Lake school have been focusing on Black history throughout February, designated as Black History Month in

Canada, the U.S. and the U.K.

"All of our classes are engaged in Black History learning," head of school Julia Murray tells The Local. "Mr. Walloschek has been delving in quite deeply with his students, and has also picked up on our whole school conversation about how children can make an impact."

Walloschek, who previously spent eight years abroad teaching in Brunei

and Dubai, began Tuesday morning by reviewing some of the most recognized names in Black history of the past. Canadians such as Viola Desmond and Oscar Peterson were on that list, as well as pivotal figures Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and the first African-American female to become a licensed pilot in 1921, Bessie Coleman.

Walloschek pivots the discussion into more recent times. One student, Max,

was eager to share some details about Muhammad Ali, including his boxing career and the year he passed away. Walloschek segued that into a chance to remind students the famous boxer and activist denounced what he termed his 'slave name,' Cassius Clay, when he accepted the teachings of the Nation of Islam.

While he served as the first Black president of the

Continued on page 3

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Some regional opposition to Niagara restrictions

Continued from page 1

expected to be lifted March 14.

“I also strongly believe that a faster reopening should be coupled with a strengthened proof-of-vaccination requirement that requires a third dose, three to six months after the second dose,” Hirji says.

“Booster doses greatly reduce the risk of infection spreading, and would enable higher risk public places to reopen with much lower risk of infection continuing to spread. I think that would best enable a safe reopening on a more aggressive timetable.”

Last week some regional councillors admonished Hirji for going “above and beyond” provincial COVID restrictions, and tried to pin him down on whether he was willing to go along with the lifting of restrictions to come next week.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Niagara-on-the-Lake Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, have both supported him in his efforts to keep residents safe and healthy during the pandemic.

However, Disero says she has some of the same questions as other regional councillors.

Hirji told councillors last Thursday there are currently two local orders remaining under Section 22, and two “letters

of instruction,” adding another level of protocols specific to Niagara on top of the provincial regulations. Some of the limitations impact restaurants and bars, others sports and recreation facilities, and add proof of vaccination requirement to use those facilities and for municipal employees who work there.

Some councillors made it clear they don’t support anything other than provincial restrictions, and asked when they might end.

Lincoln Mayor Sandra Easton said she was concerned about the extra level of regulations in Niagara, and suggested public health should instead be “looking at other ways to offer levels of caution than to continually make rules that limit people.”

“I believe decisions around our orders and letter of instruction should be based on the data,” Hirji told The Local. “I have made no decision one way or the other, and am leaving options open because the data should guide the decision. As well, I would like to see the province’s final regulatory language for March 1 and beyond before making any decisions on which orders and instructions would still make sense for March 1 and beyond.”

Regional CAO Ron Tripp said regional restrictions would be discussed in a meet-

ing with municipal CAOs, including looking at how long they will remain in place.

That meeting was taking place Tuesday.

“As municipalities operate many sports and recreational facilities, the CAOs wish to share feedback on how implementing the Letter of Instruction on those settings has worked so that we can advise on work-arounds and take back consideration for possible amendments,” Hirji told The Local Tuesday, before the meeting. “I don’t believe the meeting is around when the requirement might be lifted per se. As we reassess the Letter of Instruction based on data this week, and the new provincial regulations, we hope to communicate any changes by Friday or Monday morning at the latest.”

On March 1, the province is expected to lift capacity limits in all indoor public settings, and proof of vaccination requirements will no longer be required. Other protective measures, such as mask requirements and screening of patrons, are expected to remain in place.

The province clearly allows local public health units to deploy regional responses based on local health indicators, Hirji told councillors last week, explaining there is an expectation that health units will sup-

plement and enhance certain measures based on local risk, and that is occurring in other public health units across the province, not just in Niagara.

There is a varying amount of risk in other areas, and the province continues to say “there is ongoing value in local measures,” he said.

Disero said Easton raised the possibility of less limiting alternative measures, in response to the emails and comments from residents putting a “growing pressure on regional colleagues.”

If there are going to be continuing restrictions in Niagara outside of provincial regulations, Disero added, she agrees with regional councillors who are calling for additional resources to help municipalities pay with the increased costs, including bylaw enforcement.

“If there are going to be local restrictions, we need as a region to be compensating municipalities for the extra resources required,” she said, but added that depends on what happens both at the provincial and regional level.

“We have to wait to see what happens, what the numbers are, what is recommended, and go from there.”

Part of the discussion at regional council came about because some employees have been terminated for not being vaccinated, but that hasn’t been necessary in Niagara-on-the-Lake, she said.

The comments also indicate “some councillors want everything opened up, while others hope Niagara can get there in some way, without restrictions.”

Some regional councillors are concerned that as municipalities move toward normal,

there could be outrage over an extra local level of measures, Disero said. “We’ll have to be cautious, and we’ll need to talk about who is going to pay for them. There were some valid points made.”

“I’m just waiting to see what he recommends,” she added. “Dr. Hirji may just be following the provincial level. I’m not going to not support something that hasn’t happened yet. I’ll wait to see what happens, and take it from there.”

At the least, she hopes mask-wearing requirements will stay in place.

When pushed by one councillor who was hoping for a guarantee from Hirji that he would not impose extra measures on Niagara when restrictions are lifted across Ontario next week, the acting chief medical officer of health said the province asks public health units to consider the local context regarding restrictions, and he would be making assessments and decisions at that time. “I can’t make a promise one way or another,” he said.

Other councillors questioned whether regional council has the ability to override the special orders set by Hirji, or whether they could vote to end them.

CAO Tripp told councillors that public health decisions are at the sole discretion of the chief medical officer, and councillors do not have a say in what restrictions are in place or when they will end.

Port Colborne Coun. Barbara Butters asked her colleagues to be patient, and put public health ahead of politics. Decisions are not being made “on a whim,” she said.

“One person needs to

make these decisions, because if it was up to this group, everything would be so-called back to normal.”

If that happens too soon, she said, the results “could be catastrophic.”

St. Catharines Coun. Laura Ip also backed Hirji’s decisions, saying she was embarrassed by some of councillors’ comments.

“What I know for sure is that no one on this council is qualified to be making any of the decisions that any of our medical officers of health have made,” she said, thanking Hirji for his “difficult decisions.”

Gary Zalepa, NOTL’s regional representative, was chairing last Thursday’s meeting at the request of Chair Jim Bradley, and lamented that as chair he was unable to offer any comments.

If he had, it would have been firmly in support of Hirji, whose job it is to make such decisions. Zalepa said he appreciated the comments made by Butters and Ip.

He was especially disappointed that some councillors still do not understand the governance of public health, including the role of the chief medical officer of health, which is set by the province.

“It’s a very clear structure,” he said, with the medical officer of health making decisions independent from council. “It was very clear some councillors would have reviewed that.”

They do, however, have the right to ask questions, which allowed information to come out for the benefit of the public as well, who seem also to be confused, judging by the emails to regional councillors, “asking us to tell Dr. Hirji what to do. It doesn’t work that way. I have to explain it’s not within my ability to do that.”

Hirji was hired for his scientific expertise, says Zalepa, “That’s why we put him in that position, to make sure we have good decisions. I will continue to follow his advice and to continue supporting him. That’s the proper thing to do.”

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Black history should include present, future

Continued from page 1

U.S. for two terms, Barack Obama's impact on low income individuals and human rights was the focus of that topic.

And Zack piped up when Walloschek mentioned nine-year-old Kyra Milan Brown. The young entrepreneur from Montreal started her online brand, Koily Kurls, in mid-2020, when she was just seven years old.

With the help of her mom, Shenika Paris, Kyra created logo designs and slogans for a brand of products for people who want to embrace their curls and natural hair texture. Last Christmas, she used her social media fame (93,500 followers on her Instagram account @kyra_milan) to mobilize residents to help the city's homeless with essential goods and winter garments.

Murray says the examples of children the same age as Royal Oak students making positive, impactful change, focusing on the bravery necessary to make that first small step, has been a theme for the school this month.

"Small voices can make a large noise when put together," says Murray. "Changing

a community can change the world."

As an example, Royal Oak students learned about Ayanna Najuma, who at seven years old in 1958 travelled to New York City from a segregated Oklahoma City. While there, she noticed that segregation did not exist in the north at water fountains, restaurants, hotels or otherwise.

When she returned home, Najuma and 12 of her friends organized peaceful sit-ins, and one segregated lunch counter at a time, they changed their rights and eventually their entire communities. Now 71 years old, Najuma continues to use her voice to fight for change.

"It's important to connect the history to what's happening now," Walloschek told The Local. "It's still not always easy for the Black community. We continue to learn today that a lot of people are still struggling because of their race."

With the 2022 Winter Olympics just finished, Walloschek discussed the story of 31-year-old Eliadj Balde. The class learned how the Black Canadian figure skater faced an uphill battle to become a high-level competitor. His family's financial struggles and his darker skin raised barrier after barrier to his early develop-

ment in the sport.

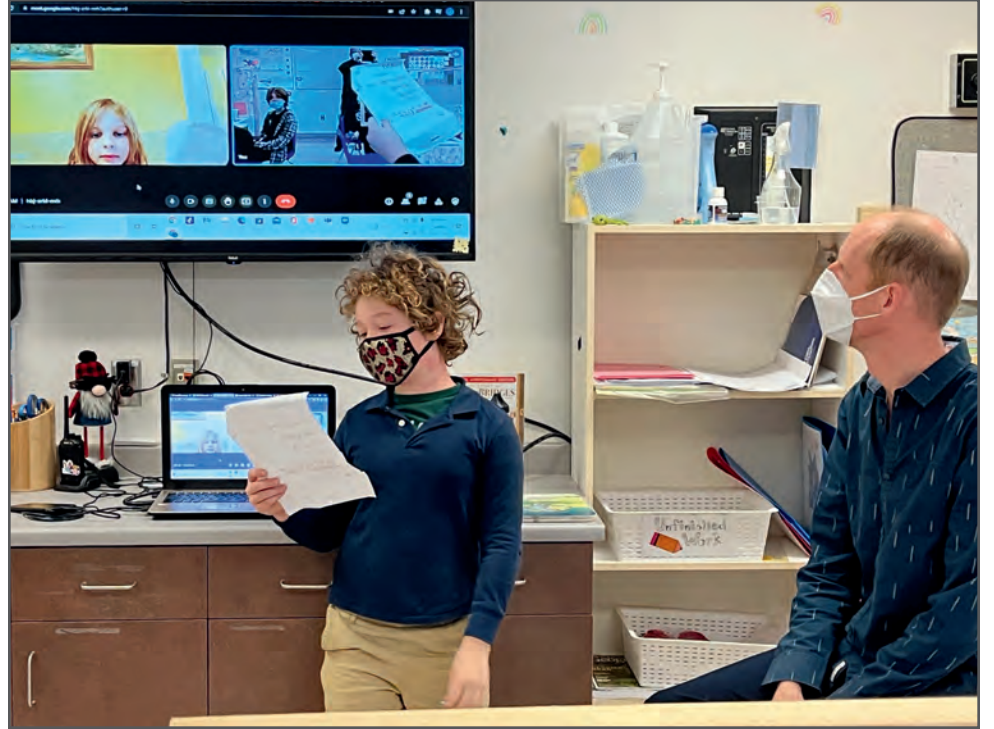
Balde helped found the Figure Skating Diversity and Inclusion Alliance, a group of like-minded athletes working to get more minority youth in the sport. Though he didn't qualify for the 2022 Games, the 2008 junior national champion was there as a field reporter for CBC Television.

Following the review, the class is asked to share the results of its Family Day weekend reading activity. The students were paired up to read graphic novels that focused on important figures in Black History.

"This way they come in as leaders, as authorities to a certain degree," Walloschek explains. "Then they teach us about something that has happened. Book presentations are new to the class, but they seem to be enjoying it and they're doing a great job."

Grayson and Zara read a book about Ruby Bridges. Now 67 years old, she was the first African-American child to desegregate an all-white elementary school in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis in 1960. She was six years old at the time.

"She stood up every day, went to school instead of staying home and being scared," Grayson told the



Teacher Jason Walloschek listens as Aspen discusses a book about Frederick Douglass, with Skielor joining in virtually from home. (Mike Balsom)

class. "When she went, people would be mad at her. She knew inside that she should keep on doing what her heart told her to do. It's good that she stood up, because today there would be even more racism."

Aspen took his place at the front of the class as his partner Skielor appeared behind him on screen from her home. They presented what they had learned about Frederick Douglass, who once spoke on American slavery at the Town Hall in St. Catharines.

Max read about how Harriet Tubman helped freedom seekers leave the US for Canada in the mid-1850s via the Underground Railroad. Both Tubman and Douglass spent a great deal of time in the Niagara area, where many freedom seekers eventually settled.

Walloschek, who gently guided the discussion using positive reinforcement to keep things on track, posited the idea of taking the class on a future walking tour of the many Black history sites just down the

street in NOTL, piquing the interest of the children.

And he'll use the next few school days to move from the past and the present and into the future.

"Black History Month is certainly needed," he said. "It's important to look at the persecution, the fight for rights and enslavement. But we talked about the possibility of some day having a Black Futures Month to focus on how we can make a positive impact to move things forward for the future."

Monday a good day to enjoy the outdoors

Continued from page 1

the fire pits made the day an unexpected pleasure, she said, and they weren't the only ones taking advantage of the environment — there were other families walking around the paths of the John Street gardens.

To keep the kids from getting bored as they sat, she asked them what "the moment" reminded them of. Mike started off, saying it made him think about sitting around a campfire last summer, and that got the kids talking.

"We said we'd come

again, and next time bring a bag of marshmallows. It worked out really well, talking to each other, and enjoying each other's company. It was kind of a simple, old-fashioned day, perfect for Family Day."

Their children, Braxton, 11, and Alexa, nine, who attend a French Catholic school in Niagara Falls, and Jack, four, who goes to a Montessori school in St. Catharines, are too young for phones, but they have tablets, and livestream shows on TV, so like all families, trying to limit screen time is an issue, even more so during COVID.

"As parents, we've had this message telling us that too much screen time is bad. Then everyone turned to screen time to attend virtual school. I think this is just the beginning of the conversation, about screen time, about what we were learning about it, and how much is too much. First it was bad for the kids, then it was necessary."

On Family Day, it was especially good to get away from it, says Brooke, and to enjoy the outdoors and The Gardens at Pillar and Post. "We'll definitely go back," she says, and maybe get in some skating next time.



Families were unable to skate, but still enjoyed their day out at The Gardens at Pillar and Post. (David Gilchrist)



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Season a little easier for farmers, offshore workers

Penny Coles
The Local

Since farm workers began arriving in Niagara in January, and with more arrivals several times a week leading up the real rush, which comes about mid-March, local growers are saying the chaos of the last two years has been calmed.

Farmers depending on the arrival of the help they so depend on still have concerns, but they are not dealing with the nightmares they experienced in recent years as all levels of government figured out how to bring seasonal workers to Canada during a pandemic, and how to keep them safe once they got here.

Ken Forth, Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services (FARMS), says he's expecting — hoping for — at least 20,000 workers from the Caribbean and Mexico this season, the early arrivals already at work mainly in Ontario greenhouses, although some in vineyards as well.

The first two years of the pandemic, they had to quarantine for 14 days when they got here, some in hotels, an expensive proposition for growers, says Forth.

This year he's feeling a

little more optimistic — isolation is only necessary with a positive result from a random COVID test on arrival, and travellers are being tested before they leave home.

"A small percentage have to wait a few weeks until they can travel, but not many."

All workers coming from Jamaica have to be double vaccinated, and although that is not the case with those coming from Mexico, most of them are as well, he says.

Forth, a highly respected third-generation grower of broccoli and onions in Lynden, outside of Hamilton, received the 2019 Grape Growers of Ontario Award of Merit and sits on boards of several agricultural organizations. His role with FARMS is to ensure reliable offshore labour, supporting local farmers and workers throughout that process.

That was a struggle in March, 2020, when the program was suspended for a couple of weeks while the federal government halted arrivals from outside Canada, including farm workers. Once that was worked out, there was still concern about how many workers would be able to come, a lot of paper work to deal with and many regulations to in-



Although most of the offshore farm workers will arrive over the next couple of weeks, there is already work to be done in vineyards. (Dave Gilchrist)

stitute. "2020 was a tough year," says Forth.

Last year was easier, "but still erratic. Farmers stepped up on this, as they always do." Whatever the regulations were, "they did it all, to keep their workers safe. In a lot of cases, the workers are our friends. We don't want them to be sick," he said.

"Hopefully this season will be more like it used to be. COVID is something we have to live with, and we've got to get on with life."

Nothing much has changed since last year, except proof of vaccinations

required for some places locally, at least for now, but most workers are able to provide those — many of them were vaccinated in Canada before they went home last fall. And with growers more familiar with the regulations, "it is a little more relaxing. I'm also optimistic the numbers are going to be way down this year."

Coun. Erwin Wiens agrees this year should be a little less chaotic for farm workers trying to get to Niagara and growers waiting for them. "We've all navigated this for two years. It's not coming as a surprise."

But there are still concerns about their arrival, he adds.

"We understand what we have to do and work with it, but you still have to worry about what you do if they don't get here."

There is still uncertainty as rules change though, he said.

He has eight men coming for the season, and not all were able to get on the plane when expected, due to paperwork that had to be completed, and delays with testing.

They are all vaccinated, which makes it simpler, he says. "If you're bringing in a group of guys, and one isn't

vaccinated, how do you deal with that?"

Most growers want the policy for farm workers to be the same as for other arrivals, that they all have to be double vaccinated. "It makes everybody feel safe," he says.

As double-vaxxed farm workers arrive, they are offered a booster shot at the airport when they land, "if they want it."

Although Wiens says his farm is now well-equipped to handle all the necessary regulations, as are others, after two years, "the biggest concern is who is going to get on the plane. There is a lot of bureaucracy involved. Will we get the crew we need? I hear about guys who are expecting 10 men to arrive, and they get seven."

Wiens said when he heard not all of his workers were able to come at the same time, he pushed their arrival by a week to allow them to get the paperwork in place so they could travel together.

"There is still a lot of work to do, between COVID tests and paperwork. It used to take about an hour, and it was easy. Now we have to start applying in September, and still nothing is guaranteed."

There is just so much paperwork, so much bureaucracy," he says, listing Service Canada, Public Health, and the RCMP, all involved and asking questions.

"The phone never stops. They're trying to reach men who are isolating, to be sure they're doing what they're supposed to do, but the men don't have a phone card yet because they're isolating. Then whoever's calling asks me to give them my phone, but I can't, because they're isolating. They have no way of communicating. Logistically, it just doesn't always work."

Despite the difficulties, Wiens believes it's easier in Niagara than in other areas of Ontario. Public health has been great to work with, he says.

"At the end of the day, we all want the same thing. We don't want anybody to be sick, and have to be isolated. And in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it's a different atmosphere. They have places to get together. They have a community. They get to know each other and they're really well-looked after. People like Jane Andres and Julia Buxton Cox are doing a great job. There can always be improvements, but I think it really is a better atmosphere here."



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While starting her own personal injury law practice during a pandemic is not ideal, local lawyer Sharon Mackay is taking it all in stride. With the help of remote platforms implemented by the courts and a swift change to work from home she has ensured cases, and business operations, keep moving along. This has prevented the COVID-19 pandemic from becoming an insurmountable obstacle for her clients and her firm.

Sharon Mackay has been a litigation lawyer for 18 years and is celebrating the first-year anniversary of opening

her own personal injury practice in St. Catharines. “We are a small boutique personal injury firm, so you have our attention. We’ll meet with you to talk about your situation and let you know at the beginning whether or not we think you have a case”. Mackay just wants people to know their rights so they can make informed decisions.

Mackay started out representing the insurance companies. While the work was interesting, she knew her true calling was representing the victim. In 2011, while working at an insurance defence firm she was re-

cruited by a personal injury firm in St. Catharines. She hasn’t regretted for a minute switching sides. “I have always valued access to justice and representing personal injury victims helps me pursue this goal”. As the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Beverly McLachlin, aptly said: “The finest justice system in the world is a failure if people cannot use it.”

Personal Injury Lawyers are Access to Justice

While the pandemic has certainly reduced the number of accidents with less people out and about, Mackay has managed to keep busy with mediations and settlements still occurring, albeit in a new and virtual environment. Mackay says her firm is still able to offer the key cornerstones of their client service: contingency arrangements (meaning the client won’t pay any legal fees unless the lawyer wins the case) and good communication. Contingency arrangements, she says, are a key component to ensuring access to justice.

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The pandemic has certainly made things more challenging, but Mackay’s greatest concern remains for her injured clients. She says the important treatments an injured person receives after an accident, especially physiotherapy, are greatly impacted by our current reality. She’s seen clients well behind their recovery targets simply because they can’t get the medical care they need.

On the operations side of the practice, though, despite the likelihood of new challenges ahead, Mackay is confident in the legal system and her firm’s ability to cope with whatever the future brings.



Sharon Mackay

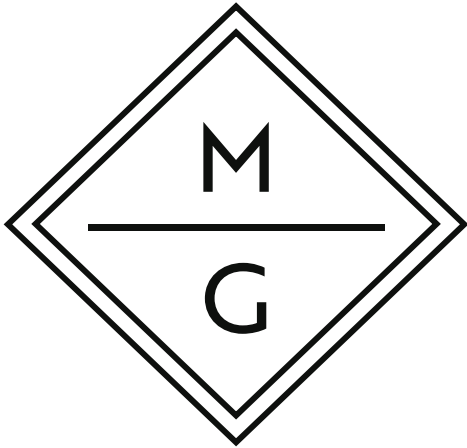
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SHARON MACKAY

EDITORIAL

The times, they are a changin' — we hope

This week feels like the right time to take a deep breath, recharge, and prepare for brighter days ahead.

We can put the news of the occupation of Ottawa behind us, we hope. It seems a symbol of where we are in this pandemic, in many ways — the illegal occupation seems like it's over, but may not be. It could sneak up on us and return. Similarly, the pandemic seems to have almost been conquered, and we're watching it in our rear view mirror, but it too could hold some nasty surprises for us in the future.

There are other parallels that can be drawn, both requiring all the tools available to us to overcome, and both deeply dividing our country, and in some cases, our friends and families.

That was never more evident than when the streets of Ottawa finally cleared. After weeks of calling for a solution, the prime minister called weak for doing nothing, then suddenly, with the problem solved, the Conservatives were blaming him for using a sledgehammer for solving what was merely a parking problem. They said those who had occupied the streets were heroes and patriots, not people breaking the law and mocking the police trying to enforce it, and that the penalties were too harsh, even though the occupiers were warned for days what the penalties could be, and given every chance to walk away from them, they chose not to.

In the recent weeks of the most polarizing, partisan poli-

tics we've seen in a long time, the one to emerge to save the day, with common sense, reason, respect and compassion was NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, who referred to recent weeks as a failure of leadership at all levels of government. He supported the measures in place now only for as long as needed to address the crisis, not knowing who or what is waiting in which corner of the country, or where they may reappear. He will withdraw support the minute he feels there is no longer a threat, he said.

He's like the family member who is trying to make everybody get along, knowing it's a lost cause, at least until the pandemic is really and truly behind us.

And as an aside, The Local learned that in recent weeks, the town's Emergency Control Group was watching out for us, going over possible problems and solutions with the police, keeping track of what was being said on social media and preparing for any sign that a convoy of protestors was coming this way. Good to know that was taking place, and hopefully never needed.

So let's put our fear behind us and look at what might really be ahead of us. As the snow melts and spring is tantalizingly close, people are starting to feel comfortable about getting away on holidays, about going out more, about enjoying all that is good around us, about socializing with family and friends without the worry of spreading infection. Children are back at

sports, recreational activities such as lacrosse and soccer are looking at a normal season, indoor and outdoor events may soon be at full capacities. Will we be wearing masks? Will we be thinking we still need to keep space between ourselves and those we don't know? Will we still need QR codes? It's hard to imagine what that might feel like.

Will the anger level out there be reduced to a simmer, or even disappear? That would be the best result of all.

As the pandemic becomes an endemic, as we learn to live with this virus long-term, we'll remember this time and be grateful it passed. As a society we'll do what we need to do to protect ourselves and each other (or most will), just as we have with polio, tuberculosis, and a whole host of diseases that at one time were killers, before we knew how to put a stop to them.

When thinking about getting back to normal, what was it that we missed the most? Time with family? Group activities? A community we felt distanced from? We can have them all, and may appreciate them all the more for having missed them.

Without getting ahead of ourselves, this might be a really good time to reassess what is important in our lives, to think about what matters to us, and to remember that in the days ahead, when we get to make choices about how we live our lives after a pandemic.

Penny Coles
The Local

Snowy owl (Bubo scandiacus) — it's an amazing species

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

One of the more amazing species of bird to catch sight of during winter in town has to be the snowy owl. A visitor from the Arctic tundra, they overwinter in areas of agricultural land where they can obtain food by hunting. They can often be observed sitting on fence posts, telephone poles or buildings where they can scan the land below looking out for movement. They usually eat small mammals such as mice in the fields.

Snowy owls are the largest member of the owl family and can be a half-metre in height. The males are more white while the females are dappled with brown. This colouration is highly suitable in the tundra but makes them stand out in our area. The first one that I had the pleasure of seeing, a few years ago, was in a field where plants had been cut in the fall. It was peeking out behind a stalk of dry vegetation, all the while keeping an eye out for movement of prey and on the photographers eager for photos.

The snowy owl in these

photos was sitting on the corner of a building for a long period of time and seemed to be soaking up the sunshine provided after so many grey and miserable days. Although the air was

quite cold, its warm layer of down underneath its feathers and the heat from the sun made it appear to be quite comfortable while it preened itself. It was wonderful to again see one locally.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

In *Daphne* (Prime, 2007) Geraldine Somerville stars as Daphne Du Maurier, in a film that focuses on the British writer's unrequited

love for an American heiress (Elizabeth McGovern) which led to her real-life affair with actress Gertrude Lawrence (Janet McTeer). A film rich in detail and insight is set in the late 1940s and early '50s. Donald Combe is a retired

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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COMMENT

Borderline historic water levels hit some parts of NOTL



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

It was just another typical February thaw. Or was it?

It happens just about every year in southern Ontario, where the frost giant's grip loosens and the world around us melts away. Considering NOTL lies in the 'banana belt' of the country, sometimes it happens on our peninsula but not elsewhere, north of Toronto, for a while longer.

Sorry for the newsflash, but a spike in temperature and the arrival of warm rain in February does not mean winter is over yet. Surely we will plunge back into a frigid vat of snow once more before with back-to-back snowstorms in mid-January, plus warm subtropical air and precipitation pushing north from the Gulf of Mexico, the stage was set last week for a serious change of plans for water in the area. The dense snowpack was liberated from its solid form, and it leaked, spread, and even rushed across the landscape in some areas. In certain instances, remnant ice blockades impeded the water from getting to where it needed to be, resulting in massive pooling in vineyards and people's front yards.

Certain creeks and low spots, especially from what I could observe around the

Virgil area, seemed at the highest they have been in decades. Meanwhile, our friends in Brampton dealt with more than 100 homes impacted, and roughly half of those residences had to be evacuated — some by rescue boat.

Could we say that climate change is the direct cause of this? Not necessarily, as climate change takes years and decades of gathered data to create a notable trend. In other words, a significant weather incident is bound to happen every so often, and some are rarer than others. However, this single and extreme event doesn't represent the entire theme of climate change as a stand-alone event. It is a mere data point contributing to a much broader pattern that could one day help further amplify that climate change is happening — if we continue to see higher frequency and intensity of these floods.

The science is out, and climate change is real. The tricky part about getting the population and every politician to fully accept this is how slowly it occurs, and how impacts may take decades to fully realize the consequences. In other words, if we started having floods like this every year, and perhaps they became even more severe, then we could start to recognize a trend forming.

Driving to work, I was already excited to get off work on the way there — the ditches had turned to creeks and creeks had turned into little rivers. I had a camera ready for the visually shocking day.

My first stop was at our Red Roof Retreat property, where the creek, a tributary of Four Mile Creek, was hitting a record-breaking high mark from what I've seen since roughly 2000. Looking at any creek and the surrounding landscape, you can deduce where the historic water lines are. They are the various shelves and ridges flanking the creek, marked by a change in elevation where that creek historically moved the earth around. Hence, the existence of terms like the 1/10, 1/50, and 1/100 year flood lines.

The farm's creek was just a foot away from the once in a century mark. The creek was at its absolute highest banks, as it tunnelled its way through our property like a giant brown serpent. If it had breached the banks at a few spots, it would have spilled over into an area of land that statistically only sees creek water every 100 years or so.

I tell you what, rushing and elevated levels of water make my heart rush too. Call me an odd duck, but I get particularly excited and energized by high water events. There is something primal about our innate connection to the power of water. The life-giver and the life-taker alike, thankfully the former in larger quantities. I've dealt with floods in places like Australia and Ecuador before, but at least there, hypothermia isn't really an issue if it gets too close to home.

Around 2011, we recreated and regenerated the wetlands at Red Roof Retreat for both

the human and ecological benefits. The wetlands slow the incoming water influx, but also serve as a catchment sponge should the creek ever burst its banks, which it nearly did last week.

After taking notes and visual measurements of what was unfolding on my property, I took the remaining hour of daylight to cruise to some of my favourite creek vantage points across NOTL to snap some photos. Naturally, I had to go with the flow of this borderline historic situation.

I checked out the overpass by East-West Line and Concession 6, where Four Mile Creek was as wide as a river. Across from Enns Battery and Tire, the creek had spread a brown layer of water westward and into the adjacent orchard. From the same general area, a friend of mine on social media posted images of firewood and outdoor furniture floating around in his backyard. Minutes up the road and behind the historic Butler's Burial Ground, Two Mile Creek's flood plain was serving its exact purpose as it has been doing since before Colonel John Butler or any European settler even arrived in Canada. It was awash with about a foot of water proceeding through the whole valley toward Lake Ontario.

I have personally never seen the water so high or a snow dumping so profound as this winter.

Have you? If so, I'd love to hear about it, or see images if possible.



Owen Bjorgan is checking out the creek at Red Roof Retreat. The creek is about six feet deep in a spot where it is normally a trickle, he says. (Photos by Owen Bjorgan)



This is the view near the S-bend on Four Mile Creek Road, as the creek breaches into the orchard area.



Owen Bjorgan has been checking out areas close to home, including Four Mile Creek bursting its banks, looking northward at East and West Line.



This is a view of the Two Mile Creek floodplain near the historic Butler's Burial site.

Local LETTERS

View of vaccinations disturbing

(Re A look at the other side of the vaccination issue, The Local, Feb. 19): I read this letter with something approaching despair.

After two years and approximately 38,000 deaths from COVID in Canada versus 900,000 in the U.S. to suggest that our vastly improved performance over our southern neighbour is not due to our way more successful vaccination policy is so disheart-

ening. To follow this up with remarks that "many of the unvaccinated I know are well-educated professional people" who "have spent hours researching and listening to renowned virologists, immunologists, epidemiologists and cardiologists," and yet still have somehow come to the conclusion that they are being intimidated into vaccination "by the rhetoric of fear mongering by

government subsidized TV and newspaper outlets" — really!

There are further statements that "the majority of (COVID) virus-related hospitalizations are in the vaccinated. In some institutions as much as 2:1. The implication clearly being that you are more likely to end up in hospital if you have been vaccinated — really! The letter goes on to state that non-emergent

surgery cancellations are due to preexisting conditions, ignoring the fact that surgical staff & beds are tied up with COVID patients.

We are all entitled to our own opinions but we are not entitled to our own facts.

Dr. R.G. James FRCPC
NOTL



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Volunteers busy assembling welcome kits

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

For many of us 2022 will be remembered as a time when a caring community shone brightly, despite the second year of COVID-related challenges. That is clearly reflected as volunteers begin to put together welcome kits for farm workers as they arrive in town for the coming season.

Last spring the delivery of more than 500 welcome kits to farm workers was a success because of the growing support of the people of this town. It has been a joy to meet so many locals who provided welcome kits for the men and women who braved a pandemic to come here and work, helping our farmers avert a financial disaster and loss of crops.

The idea of welcome kits started from a simple observation in 2008, when my friend Jodie Godwin and I travelled to Jamaica. It was my second trip, and Jodie's first. We stayed with farm workers and their families, travelling from Montego Bay to Kingston, visiting churches and schools along the way. Our memorable visits with their families led to a greater understanding of the many challenges farm



Dianne Hughes and Jodie Godwin are putting together welcome kits for farm workers.

workers face while here on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program.

Every year farm workers arrive often very late at night, after an exhausting day or more of travel. They have to wait until the following day to go to the bank, get groceries and finally start cooking their first meal

by the afternoon. When we realized how long friends on neighbouring farms had to wait to get a proper meal, we began to provide soup and sandwiches on their arrival to see them through the first night.

The idea of a simple welcome kit containing essentials has grown expo-

entially in the 10 years that followed.

In 2018 Niagara Workers Welcome began partnering with Socks for Change, a charitable organization from Niagara run by Sam Baio. We purchase heavy-duty, made-in-Canada work socks for about \$2 a pair. Socks for Change also provides us with surplus balaclavas and neck buffs at no charge, items which are greatly appreciated by men working in frigid temperatures.

The kits are easy and inexpensive to pack, as well as a fun and practical way for individuals, families, and community groups to express appreciation. A thank you note or child's drawing adds a personal touch that many bring home to share with their families. Some of the welcome posters made by children are still there to brighten walls in their bunk houses years later.

Welcome bags are dis-

tributed to the first 500 Caribbean workers as the men and women arrive. Father Antonio Illas and his wife Cela organize the Migrant Workers Outreach Project for the Spanish-speaking farm workers, an initiative begun by the Anglican diocese over 15 years ago. Their welcome kit program is very similar to that of Niagara Workers Welcome and we cooperate closely to share resources and ideas.

Safety protocols are strictly maintained, with kits dropped off in advance through arrangements made with employers who wish to be part of the project.

The cheerful green welcome bags have proven to be a practical way to connect with migrant farm workers in our community, helping to create a sense of belonging. These connections have been vital as we support each other in a caring community.

A list of contents for kits can be found on the Niagara Workers Welcome website. Bags to be filled can be picked up at the NOTL Public Library, Sweets & Swirls Cafe and Applewood Hollow Bed and Breakfast. Completed welcome kits can be dropped off at all three locations. The Farmworkers Hub will also open its doors for drop-offs on Thursday, March 3 and Tuesday March 8 from 2 to 5p.m. Location for the Hub is 1570 Niagara Stone Rd., rear side door of Cornerstone Church.

For others who would like to support this successful local endeavour, a donation of \$25 will provide the contents of a welcome kit for one farm worker. For more information visit our website at www.workerswelcomeniagara.com.

For Spanish-speaking farm workers contact Father Antonio Illas - <https://www.migrantfarmworkers.ca>

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SHAW FESTIVAL 60



There are kits ready to go, but many more are needed. For those who would like to help or donate, visit www.workerswelcomeniagara.com.

Four classical, two jazz series concerts for Bravo Niagara

**Mike Balsom
Special to The Local**

Bravo Niagara! Festival's upcoming spring 2022 season features a new set of classical music performances dubbed The Maestro Series, to debut on April 2.

Announced this week, April, May and June will feature six performances in total, five of them to be performed in front of live audiences at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines. The four Maestro Series shows are to be complemented by two TD Jazz Series events, both paying tribute to two of the biggest names in jazz history.

The Maestro Series is an opportunity for co-founders Chris Mori and Alexis Spieldenner to shine a light on the talented classical musicians who represent Canada on the international stage.

"They're all Canadians who are internationally renowned," Mori tells The Local. "During the pandemic, I really wanted to support our Canadian artists. This year five Canadians competed at the International Frédéric Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland. Per capita, the amount of Canadian talent that we have is truly incredible."

The season kicks off April 2 with a free online

performance by the Cheng² Duo. Twenty-three-year-old cellist Bryan Cheng is the grand prize winner of the 2019 Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal and 2020 Bader & Overton Competitions, while his 31-year-old sister Sylvie is a recipient of the Roy M. Rubinstein Award for exceptional promise in piano performance. The siblings will be filmed by Fourgrounds Media in the quaint setting of Mori and Spieldenner's Bravo Niagara! studio in their Niagara-on-the-Lake Village home.

On April 8, Charles Richard-Hamelin, winner of the silver medal at the 2015 Chopin Competition, will perform works from Chopin, Ravel and French composer César Franck. The concert will be the first for Bravo Niagara! held in the intimate setting of Robertson Hall at the PAC. The famous Steinway grand piano will be rolled into the black-box theatre space from its usual home in the larger Partridge Hall.

"We are trying to create a more relaxed atmosphere," Mori says. "We're breaking down the barriers between performer and audience. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear these artists up close. No stage, everything's going to be very close to the artist."

Robertson Hall is also



The Brubeck Brothers, Dan and Chris, with Chuck Lamb and Mike DeMicco, will pay tribute to the late Dave Brubeck on June 22 at the PAC's Partridge Hall, part of the TD Jazz Series. (Photo supplied)

the venue for Jan Lisiecki's April 26 concert. The one-time child prodigy, now 26 years old, signed a recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon at only 15 years old. His 2021 double album of Frédéric Chopin's Complete Nocturnes immediately topped the classical charts in North America and Europe following its August release.

Perhaps not surprisingly, his Bravo Niagara! performance, dubbed Poems of the Night, features Chopin Nocturnes and Études. Lisiecki last played for Bravo Niagara! in 2018 at St.

Mark's Anglican Church.

The Maestro Series continues on May 29 at the Recital Hall with the charismatic and entertaining Jon Kimura Parker's program featuring the music of Brahms, Beethoven and Liszt, as well as Chick Corea and Oscar Peterson. The gold medalist at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition, Parker is an Officer of the Order of Canada and has a dozen albums in his discography. The Vancouver native has received honorary doctorates from the University of British Columbia and the Royal Con-

servatory of Music, Toronto.

The creative partner with the Minnesota Orchestra's Summer at Orchestra Hall is also the artistic director for the Honens International Piano Competition and an artistic advisor for the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival. He juggles those responsibilities with those that come with his role as a faculty member of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. In the past, he has collaborated with the likes of Doc Severinsen, Audra McDonald, Bobby McFerrin and legendary drummer of The Police, Stewart

Copeland.

As Spieldenner and Mori explain, the Parker event is one that they planned to present a while ago, before the pandemic put a stop to live performances.

"We haven't cancelled, and we're not going to cancel anything," confirms Mori. "The challenge is trying to make up for those two years. The next couple of years are going to be phenomenal. All the artists, they want to come, and we want to see them. We're actually already planning as far ahead as

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Road safety measures embraced by NOTL councillors

Region to adjust project or get Grimsby onboard

Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake's regional councillor says the greatest number of emails in his inbox come from residents who are concerned about the large number of collisions on local, mostly rural roads.

In response to regional concerns for increasing road safety, there have been major discussions and solutions offered recently, as the Niagara Region works toward making regional roads and intersections across Niagara safer. Coun. Gary Zalepa says he supports three initiatives he believes will improve traffic issues in NOTL.

One large project many residents continue to oppose is the roundabout at the main intersection in St. Davids, for fear it will destroy the small-village atmosphere of the community.

Zalepa says the intersection is already busy, and he is looking further down the road as growth in the community and traffic demands continue to increase. He believes the region has come up with the best long-term solution to address traffic concerns, and it will benefit rather than harm the village.

He is also relieved the region will soon be installing a four-way stop on York Road at Concession 6, an intersection that has been the location of many collisions since Mewburn Road Bridge reopened in 2019, after being closed for about 10 years. It had been used as a throughway from Niagara Stone Road to Niagara Falls, and since the bridge has reopened, has seen an increase in traf-

fic. With the majority of collisions at that location caused by vehicles driving on Concession 6 and not stopping for traffic on York Road, the region first installed oversized stop signs in both directions on the concession, with flashing red lights. The speed has also been reduced on York Road from 60 km/h to 50 km/h, leading to the Concession 6 intersection, and on Concession 6 between York and Queenston Roads, to 60 km/h from 80 km/h.

The region has also decided to add a four-way stop, and would have already done it, if not for the amount of snow on the side of the road, says Zalepa. He has been assured by Niagara Region's director of transportation Carolyn Ryall that the project will be completed "when the snow melts, hopefully soon."

Another initiative he supports, and which Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors are enthusiastic about, is a regional plan to use photo radar. Four speed cameras will be rotated around 13 community safety zones in Niagara, including one on York Road by St. Davids Public School, and one on Niagara Stone Road in front of Crossroads Public School, town councillors heard last week.

The traffic safety program, called Vision Zero, also includes 10 red-light cameras in the region, which will be deployed at intersections around the region. Along with the four rotating photo radar units, the goal is to eventually eliminate injuries and deaths on Niagara roads to zero.



A group of partners from the town, the region, the school board and St. Davids Public School, including students, pose for a photo in front of one of the Community Safety Zone signs on York Road when it was installed in 2019. (Penny Coles)

But before it can move forward, all 12 municipalities have to agree to it, and so far, the majority of Grimsby councillors are opposed to the initiative.

Zalepa explains all municipalities have to be on-board to allow for a revised administration to Niagara region's inter-municipal court agreement that deals with tickets, and how the revenue collected will be spent.

The program will cost an estimated \$4 million to implement, which the region will pay for, says Zalepa. Moving forward, program costs would be funded by revenue from the tickets. Any revenue over and above program costs would be split 50-50 among the region and lower-tier municipalities,

to be used for road safety initiatives.

Zalepa wants to see the project move forward to increase road safety across the region, and believes it would be especially beneficial to the rural municipalities, which suffer more critical collisions on rural roads with higher speed limits than in urban areas.

Once the municipalities have all voted — only Port Colborne has not — regional councillors expect a report on how to move forward without the agreement of all municipalities, but Zalepa says he hopes Grimsby will have another look at it and join the program.

Judy MacPherson, the region's transportation services co-ordinator, spoke to NOTL councillors re-

cently and answered some of Grimsby's concerns, including that photo radar on regional roads might mean drivers would avoid them, increasing traffic on municipal roads.

MacPherson assured councillors that won't be a problem, "due to the geographical setup of those roads." Although the project will start with regional roads, it is expected to expand to municipal roads as well, she said.

Ryall addressed the same issue, referencing the "halo effect" that should result from a change in drivers' behaviours. In response to a question by Coun. Allan Bisback, she said that will also influence drivers who come across the photo radar in other municipalities, with in-

creased driver awareness, which will increase traffic safety across the region.

Although school safety zones will be the first to be targeted with the four speed cameras, she said, that part of the project could expand to include community centres, long-term care centres and other busy locations.

The red-light cameras are proven to reduce right angle collisions by 25 per cent, she said, "making streets safer for all users. It's an effective means to stop drivers from running red lights."

There are still details to be worked out, including how to proceed if Grimsby councillors don't change their minds — Zalepa says he can't imagine anyone not supporting road safety.

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Pandemic caused delay of some of this season's events

Continued from page 9

2024.”

For the TD Jazz Series, the mother-daughter team has teamed up once again with Céline Peterson for a tribute to her father, Canadian jazz legend Oscar Peterson. The April 30 program features NOTL pianist Robi Botos, a Juno Award winner who learned much of his craft at Peterson’s Toronto home. He teams up with veterans of Oscar’s band — Jeff Hamilton on drums, Ulf Wakenius on guitar, and Dave Young on bass.

As well, rising jazz guitar phenomenon Jocelyn Gould will join the quartet at the Recital Hall at the PAC. Gould’s 2021 release *Elegant Traveller* is the reigning Juno Award winner for Jazz Album of the Year. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Gould completed a Masters Degree in Jazz Studies at Michigan State University and now teaches guitar at Humber College.

One of those rescheduled presentations completes both the spring season and the TD Jazz Series on June 22. Originally scheduled for March, 2020, the Brubeck Brothers Quartet bring their tribute to their father, well-known jazz artist Dave Brubeck, to Partridge Hall.

“It was right at the beginning of the lockdown,” Spieldenner says. “I think

March 24 is when it was supposed to happen.”

“It was in honour of their father’s centennial two years ago,” adds Mori. “So now I guess it’s 102. They’re pretty busy making up dates. We are lucky to get them back here. We’ve never done a show that late — we’re usually done by May.”

Drummer Dan and bassist Chris, both sons of Dave Brubeck, team up with guitarist Mike DeMicco and pianist Chuck Lamb for a multimedia presentation paying homage to their famous patriarch, the composer of jazz classics such as *Blue Rondo à la Turk* and *Take Five*. Archival footage of the late pianist, who died a day before his 92nd birthday in 2012, will be integrated with the quartet’s performance of their father’s music.

Though the province will soon no longer be requiring vaccine passports for indoor events, Spieldenner and Mori say they have entered into an agreement with the First Ontario PAC to continue to require them until the end of April. It’s a cautious approach that allows concert-goers to ease into the live setting once again. Capacity limits will be lifted, however, by the first event on April 8.

The pair credit their supporters for keeping Bravo Niagara! going through the pandemic. Like other arts organizations, they had to shift to a fully online mod-

el, unable to present any in-person performances until fall 2021, just before the omicron wave pushed people back into their homes.

“These concerts, and the recordings we’ve done over the last two years, would not have been possible without our corporate sponsors, government support and our patrons,” Spieldenner explains. “And we’ve received some COVID relief, too. Without ticket sales all of that has been so important.”

Though the entire run of live performances takes place in St. Catharines, Mori promises that they are working on future presentations in NOTL for the near future. Pandemic capacity limits and requirements have made that virtually impossible the last two years. She adds that they may offer a shuttle service from the NOTL Public Library for some of the spring events if there is a demand for it.

Lovers of classical music can purchase a new Maestro Series pass at 20 per cent off for all three live concerts. Alternatively, a Flex Pack saves Bravo Niagara! Fans 25 per cent on a selection of any of the three to five classical and jazz concerts in the spring lineup.

Single tickets go on sale March 1. Youth and student tickets are half price. Visit bravoniagara.org for tickets and information.



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Jan Lisiecki, who signed a recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon at only 15 years old, performs April 26 at the PAC’s Robertson Hall. (Christoph Kostlin)

Not So Late Show a mix of comedy and music

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Hosting a talk show is a natural extension of what Niagara-on-the-Lake comedian and business owner Joe Pillitteri does on a regular basis. Even so, his role as the emcee for Music Niagara Festival's new *Not So Late Show* is a step in a fresh direction for the popular stand-up comic.

"I've wondered a few times if this is something I could do if the opportunity was given to me," Pillitteri tells The Local. "And then Music Niagara reached out to me and asked me to host. And I love the guys from Quartetto Gelato, they're so talented. So it was an easy decision."

The Local caught up to Pillitteri and Quartetto Gelato, the *Not So Late Show*'s 'house band,' at Yuk Yuk's in Niagara Falls for the taping of their second instalment of the online talk show earlier this week. The contemporary online variety show seeks to engage with a diverse viewership across Niagara and Ontario with a thrilling mix of live music, comedy, and local hospitality.

"Each episode of the *Not So Late Show* features eclectic guests and a con-

versational atmosphere," says Music Niagara's general manager Karen Lade. "It's all filtered through a local focus with a particular spotlight on fellow businesses and arts organizations that have been impacted by the pandemic."

The first three episodes are funded by a grant via Reconnect Ontario 2021 and the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program. Episode one was filmed two weeks ago at the library at the Pillar and Post. Episode three is scheduled to be recorded in early March at Hernder Estates Winery in St. Catharines.

At the core of the show is the ease at which Pillitteri banters back and forth with the quartet, led by oboist Colin Maier.

"Nothing's forced with him," Pillitteri says of Maier. "When nothing's forced with the person you're bantering with, it's so easy to make it flow naturally. You're not trying to rescue each other."

The pair first connected in August 2020 at a Music Niagara show that combined Pillitteri's comedy with the classical music, tangos, gypsy, klezmer, jazz and folk songs in the quartet's repertoire. It's a perfect fit, as Maier and bandmates

Konstantin Popović, Matti Pulki, and Kirk Starkey regularly engage their audiences with an at times irreverent sense of humour in their performances.

Pillitteri displays an ability to engage with his guests and make them feel at ease. NOTL residents are familiar with how funny he is, and that comes through on the program. Though he says his favourite talk show hosts include Johnny Carson, Stephen Colbert, Conan O'Brien and David Letterman, he doesn't try to channel any of them in this gig.

Episode two of the *Not So Late Show* features Pillitteri sitting down to chat with comedian Ben Bankas, who also performs a stand-up set. Marcel Morgenstern from Pondview at Bella Terra Vineyards (formerly Pondview Estate Winery) and Toronto musician Kris Maddigan, who has composed the music for the enormously popular video game *Cuphead*, also take a chair beside the host.

His discussion with Morgenstern touches on the marketing expert's efforts to support the local hospitality industry's recovery through his creation of wheninniagara.com and the Restaurants of Niagara Facebook page.



Joe Pillitteri interviews Marcel Morgenstern at Yuk Yuk's, for a Music Niagara series. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

The conversation also delves into Morgenstern's YouTube channel, which often features his children's stop-motion Lego animations. Both Morgenstern and Pillitteri laugh about the fact that neither one has the patience of the kids to get beyond 10 frames.

That segues nicely into Pillitteri's conversation with Maddigan, a Regina, Saskatchewan native who has become one of the biggest names in video game scoring in recent years.

Maddigan's childhood friends Chad and Jared Moldenhauer are the creators of *Cuphead*, a popular run-and-gun video game developed by their independent studio MDHR. They enlisted the drummer/percussionist to write music for their 2017 release.

Visually, *Cuphead* features graphics inspired by the golden age of American animation, such as the early works of Walt Disney Animation Studios and Fleischer Studios.

Maddigan tells Pillitteri the game has sold about six million copies and has even inspired a new Netflix

animated series. It has also spawned a sequel coming this summer, *Cuphead 2*, for which Maddigan has once again composed music. He gathered about 120 musicians to play on the score, which he describes as in the style of the big bands, such as those of Cab Calloway or Benny Goodman.

Maier is one of those musicians recruited for *Cuphead 2*. "When I told my son I was doing *Cuphead*, Maier tells Maddigan and Pillitteri, "he was so excited. Honestly, with all the stuff I do, it's the first thing he's ever cared about. It's finally something that's relevant to him."

Of course, that leads to the opportunity for Maddigan to sit in on spoons with Quartetto Gelato on an outtake from the first game, called Tombstone Tango. Other musical guests for the second instalment of the show include Tanya Charles Iveniuk of the Odin Quartet and Music Niagara founder and artistic director Atis Bankas.

Through it all, Pillitteri keeps things flowing with his comedy. He had the

musicians and the small crowd roaring at his stories of his parents embarrassing the entire family at his son Johnny's hockey games.

Bankas, Maier and Pillitteri are enjoying their collaboration. Pillitteri seems truly fascinated by the talent of the musicians. Maier and the quartet are clearly having fun, as they always do on stage. Maier sees the talk shows as a chance to turn some new people on to the world of classical music.

Says Lade, "the Niagara arts, live performance, and tourism sectors have all suffered dramatically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This new programming initiative seeks to alleviate some of the financial pressure on the region's hardest hit industries while highlighting local Niagara businesses."

Lade says they are hoping to record more episodes in the future. The first three episodes of the *Not So Late Show* will be streamed on March 17, 24 and 31 at 7 p.m. on Music Niagara's website and YouTube channel. For more information visit musicniagara.org.



Kris Maddigan with Quartetto Gelato's Colin Maier, Konstantin Popović, Matti Pulki, and Kirk Starkey.



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NOTL woman helping to feed low-income neighbourhood

\$10,000 donation at stake to support her organization

Penny Coles
The Local

A unique food market in Niagara Falls is operating to help those with low incomes access fresh, healthy and affordable food.

The founder of GROW Community Food Literacy Centre is a Niagara-on-the-Lake woman, Pam Farrell, who with her husband operates a small-scale farm on Line 9. They have horses, sheep and chickens, and grow vegetables. They moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2011, wanting a rural way of life, for themselves, and to bring up a family.

"It's a beautiful town, with so much to offer," she says. "It's the prefect place for us."

While teaching in Niagara Falls, Farrell became aware of a neighbourhood of low-income families, with no affordable grocery store nearby — she considers it a "food desert," ironic, she says, in a fruit belt.

Fresh food is a basic human right, Farrell believes,

but unfortunately, for some, "it's a privilege."

In 2019, Farrell created the strategically located physical space — one that is bright and airy, organized like any food market, with lots of choice — that responds to food insecurity in an innovative way. Some of the produce is grown on her farm, and other local farmers also donate, she says, mentioning MacSween Farms (Quiet Acres) in particular, and Singing Tree Frog Farm. The MacSweens have donated hundreds of vegetable seedlings to use in Farrell's farm garden, and to hand out to members at GROW to get them involved in food literacy, she says. Singing Tree Frog Farm "has supported us with the most delicious organic produce, including heirloom tomatoes, squash, Swiss chard and more."

Anyone with proof of low income can shop at GROW, located at 4377 Fourth Ave. in Niagara Falls, although its customers are mostly from the surrounding neighbourhood. Open

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., it is heavily subsidized through donations, without any government support, and focuses on fruits and vegetables, dairy, meat and fish, and meat and dairy alternatives.

It's a unique model, different from food banks, says Farrell, who believes it's important for some people not to feel they are taking a handout.

"It's a different way of approaching a food program. Only 25 per cent of people who are food insecure access a food bank. In part because of the stigma that's attached, for some people it's a last resort."

Food banks often have limited options, with fresh food or items for specialized diets hard to come by, she says. "We want to provide a balanced diet, whatever that may look like for people. We want them to have choices."

One of eight households is food insecure in Canada, Farrell says, "and GROW is about to change that."

She has recently had some assistance with that, in the form of a \$10,000 donation.

Farrell has been chosen as one of 10 honourees of the L'Oreal Paris 2022 Woman of Worth program.

This philanthropic initiative, L'Oreal explains, annually honours a group of strong, diverse, and passionate women leaders who implement change and bring hope to Canadians.

As an honouree, Farrell has received \$10,000 from L'Oreal Paris for GROW Community Food Literacy Centre (www.growcflc.com). As the volunteer ex-

ecutive director, Farrell is supported by a team of 25 volunteers with varying backgrounds and skills. The funding will support food security programs and initiatives at GROW.

But there is more to come, hopefully. The L'Oreal Woman of Worth program is donating another 10,000 to a charity on behalf of one of the 10 women, to be cho-

sen the national honouree. Members of the public can vote online until March 6, with the winner to be announced March 8. A vote for Farrell could mean another \$10,000 to support GROW's mission, which would go a long way to feeding people, she says.

To vote, go to: <https://www.lorealparis.ca/en-ca/women-of-worth>.



Pam Farrell has a video explaining the importance of GROW. It can be seen at <https://www.lorealparis.ca/en-ca/pam-farrell> (Photo supplied)

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Seasonal ambassadors program to be expanded

Volunteers needed to cover two-hour shifts

Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake Ambassadors is a volunteer program that is becoming a permanent, seasonal fixture in the Old Town, offering a friendly welcome to visitors as well as offering recommendations about what to see and do while visiting.

The ambassador project was originally created in 2020 to share pandemic protocols, such as mask-wearing and physical distancing, with visitors, through a partnership between the town and Shaw Guild volunteers.

Guild members remain involved, says Cheryl Morris, one of the lead team members of the program, with Tourism NOTL, and a steering committee of members representing tourism sectors, has redesigned the project, based on some of the feedback from volunteer ambassadors over the last two summers.

Those who participated in the program, about 20 of

whom will be back strolling Old Town streets beginning this May long weekend, had a lot of fun talking to visitors, Morris said, and thought the program was a great idea. But while they enjoyed the engagement with visitors, the ambassadors learned tourists don't always arrive having done a lot of advance planning, or with information about what to do while they're here. "They said they were often asked for information about what there is to do in town by visitors who were here for three hours, or here for three days. Now visitors can find that information all in one place. We've never had that where people can come up to us on the street."

Training and orientation, involving several tourism partners, such as the wineries, the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre and the NOTL Museum, will help ambassadors do a better job of providing that information.

New this year will be a kiosk outside the Court House — not a permanent

structure, but a table with signage, and a rack for flyers, including a map — for ambassadors to help pass on that information.

Morris says they hope to attract a total of about 50 volunteers to cover about six two-hour shifts throughout the tourism season, not all necessarily from NOTL but from around the region, who reflect the diversity of visitors as far as language and backgrounds.

There will be about four hours of training involved, plus some diversity and public safety instructions.

Some of the volunteers will stay at the Court House kiosk during their shift, others will walk around the Old Town to greet visitors and answer questions, says Morris. The program will support local businesses and organizations, "and share the passion we feel for our town."

The ambassador program steering committee looked at other places around the world which offer something similar for visitors, including Banff, Alberta, the province of Nova Scotia, and many areas in Europe, and then used some of what they learned as the basis of what they wanted to offer locally, Morris says.

They also decided they would like to encourage ambassadors to share their own personal stories and recommendations and favourite places to help visitors make the most of their time in town.

The town was fortunate to receive a grant that is

helping to fund the revised program, including a new website which links to arts and culture venues, outdoor activities, information on visitor services, and other useful information, and also "really cool attire," with a new look and a new logo, quite an improvement from

the T-shirts and vests of the last two years, says Morris, who was tasked with making a decision and ordering the clothing in a very tight time-line.

Anyone interested in becoming a NOTL Ambassador can contact them at info@notl-ambassadors.ca.



Laurie Harley, Marie Gillespie and Vlad Haltigin, members of the NOTL Ambassadors leadership team, are hoping for more help. There is a training program coming up in March. Anyone interested in volunteering can email info@notl-ambassadors.ca. (Photo supplied)

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Queenston residents expected to have strong opinions

Will likely want to be involved in development proposals

Penny Coles
The Local

Queenston residents can be expected to have strong opinions about the future of the former Laura Secord School property, with the residents' association planning on putting together an official position in the coming weeks.

The board of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts has announced it will put the Queenston property, now known as the lower campus, up for sale, having decided there is no need for it in the future of Willowbank.

Jim Armstrong, president of the Queenston Residents Association, says at this point he expects their board "will be looking for adherence to the Queenston Secondary Plan, and an architecturally sympathetic development."

Although Armstrong and board members were told of the impending sale of the property before the announcement was made public, they have not yet met with Willowbank Board members, he says. He has been away in recent weeks, and has had emails back and forth with QRA board members, but has not yet had time to develop a position. Villagers support Willowbank and its survival into the future, and he doesn't expect the association will try to block development, "which would not be productive," but will be watching closely to see the kind of development is proposed — the last thing they would want is a repeat of what is happening on the Parliament Oak property in

the Old Town.

He describes a situation that is occurring at that site and has been typical with other developments in town — a developer promises something appropriate and respective of the surrounding neighbourhood, and then presents a plan neighbours say "wow, this doesn't fit at all." The process continues, going back and forth with concessions made by the developer, residents at loggerheads, and hopefully gets to the point of something everyone can live with.

"It is a key piece of real estate," he says of the Laura Secord site, "so what happens there will be of interest and concern to the villagers in general, no doubt."

Armstrong says it's been obvious to villagers in recent years that the property "was an albatross around the neck" of Willowbank, which wasn't using it or maintaining it — for example, he says, the original portion of the school "desperately needs a new roof."

Willowbank purchased the building in 2012 through a partnership with the town, planning on using it to expand restoration arts classes.

But a decade later, after a thorough analysis and review of the future direction of Willowbank and its School of Restoration Arts, board vice-chair John Scott says the lower campus was "vastly underused" during the last decade, and the building deserves to be maintained, in good repair, with a role to play that will benefit the community. Willowbank has shown good stewardship of the property, he added, "but that takes a



The rest of the school building is not significant, but the original 1914 portion should be preserved for an adapted use, says Queenston Residents Association president Jim Armstrong. (File photo)

lot of resources."

The property and the school building have a heritage designation, but it is really only the original, 1914 part of the school, designed by prominent architect A.E. Nicholson, that is significant and worth preserving, he says. "It needs to be taken care of and preserved," he says, and hopefully adapted for a use that can be part of the future of the property. "The old building is the real jewel in the village, and we would want to be sure there is some readaptive use for it."

But the newer portion is not significant historically, nor is the architecture particularly interesting, he adds. "We'd have no issue whatsoever with that coming down. It doesn't add anything to the 1914 building."

He says there is also likely to be discussion about what would be considered

appropriate development for the property. "We sure wouldn't want glass towers or square boxes." Again, he says, they would be looking for adherence to the secondary plan, which calls for any development to respect the nature of the neighbourhood, referring specifically to details such as height and architectural style.

Although there is no guarantee that will have the desired effect, it worked when Willowbank originally planned to build a row of townhouses on part of the property, which residents opposed.

In 2016, a design was presented for six townhomes on the parcel then slated for development. Many residents were opposed to the "massive wall of townhouses" that was proposed, which didn't fit in with the surrounding homes, he says. "Members of the QRA, and

lots of other residents, were livid about it."

A public meeting was held, the town turned down the proposal, and in the end, the property was divided and sold for three single-family homes, with no objections, says Armstrong.

But over the years, many charming little villages like Queenston have been "completely swallowed by cookie-cutter developments. We don't want that, and don't want to see Trump Towers."

At this point, he says, there continues to be email discussions with board members, but not a huge response from residents. It is early in the process for that, with no idea of what may be proposed, but the board will be looking to ensure all villagers, members of the QRA and others, "have a voice in what is going on. We would be proposing a public meeting to see what they want to

do. Villagers might not necessarily be worried now, but down the road there will be a lot of interest."

Scott, the Willowbank board member overseeing the sale, said earlier this week the school site is still not listed — it takes a long time to put a property of that size on the market. He has spoken with Lord Mayor Betty Disero about council's concerns, which include wanting to meet with the Willowbank Board to discuss the future of the Laura Secord site, and with Armstrong.

While the Willowbank board "will not be steering the sale," members share the same concerns, he says.

"We want to be good neighbours. We expect to be there for a long time, and we have a keen interest that the purchaser will do something complimentary to the village of Queenston."

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Hort society looking for gardens for this year's tour

Would like 25 to 30 gardens, with some in every village

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society is planning its 30th annual garden tour, which will be quite different from previous years.

Instead of the usual eight gardens chosen by a committee, the horticultural society is asking NOTL residents to nominate their garden, or one of a family member, friend, or neighbour, that visitors would appreciate the chance to visit on July 9, the day chosen for this summer's event.

The "open tour" is a way to celebrate the milestone anniversary, the reopening after two years in a pandemic, and to recognize the town's proclamation that 2022 is the Year of the Garden, says garden tour committee chair Cindy Grant.

With two years of the tour cancelled due to COVID putting off the 30th anniversary celebration, this year seemed the right time to branch out and try something different, says Grant.

To add to the celebratory nature of the tour, it will be free. "Since we have not been able to have the tour in the last two years, the society wants to give back to the community, and the broader gardening community this year."

Committee members are hoping for 25 to 30 gardens for the self-guided tour, and having five in each of the five communities of NOTL, and in the rural areas. Hopefully there will be clusters of gardens, so visitors don't

have to drive too far, and some new gardens for them to see which have not been involved in former tours, of the horticultural society or the Shaw Guild — in previous years there has been overlap. "In the past it's been mostly Old Town gardens, and it's becoming slim pickings to get new, interesting gardens and garden owners who will agree," says Grant.

The open tour model, which is done in many oth-

er areas, including a popular one held annually in Buffalo, NY, will showcase a wide selection of gardens. Tour guests will be invited to visit and enjoy gardens at their leisure throughout the day.

It's been especially difficult to get garden owners onboard during COVID — many have been hesitant about having their gardens crowded with visitors, says Grant.

She hopes, and expects, to have a similar turnout as other years, with about 1,200 visitors, but gardens should be less crowded since there will be more of

them, spread over a larger area.

Some aspects of the tour are being scaled back, as the committee tries to keep it simple — there will be no flashy coloured flyers, although a map will be provided, and no associated events or entertainment in the gardens.

Whatever pandemic protocols are in place will be followed, and even if vaccination passports are no longer required by the province, the committee will have to make a decision about whether to request them anyway for the

comfort of garden owners, volunteers and participants, says Grant.

The committee is looking for all types of gardens — perennial, annual, organic, pollinator or butterfly, water garden, cottage, modern, small, or even vegetable gardens. They also want to know which gardens are accessible, but that will not be a limitation to signing up.

Committee members will do some vetting to ensure gardens will be interesting for visitors, Grant added.

"Your garden does not have to be perfect or 'done'

— we're looking for all types of gardeners' gardens that our visitors can learn from and enjoy. You do not have to commit your entire garden to the tour — we can showcase just the front or the back garden or even a garden at the side of your home."

If you would like to submit your garden for consideration in the Open Garden Tour on Saturday, July 9, please submit the form, which can be found at www.notlhortociety.com/garden-tour-2022-sign-up, no later than Tuesday, March 15.



The NOTL Horticultural Society is looking for gardens to be part of their 2022 Garden Tour, which will be held July 9. This beautiful garden is from their last event, in 2019. (Photo supplied)



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Medical side of history is always well documented

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's Virtual Lecture Series continues next week with the Apothecaries to Pharmacies – Prescriptions, Potents, and Healthy Herbs.

Digitization coordinator Katelynn Best will be taking the audience on an intriguing investigation into the history of medicines.

Best received her BA in classical and Near Eastern archaeology from Wilfred Laurier University, and a certificate in museum and gallery studies from Georgian College. In October, 2021, she was hired to digitize and upload a portion of the museum's vast collection of items, a project made possible by a generous grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

"Digitization is an absolute necessity," said managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman. "But it's also costly and time-consuming. Thanks to Trillium, we're able to make this huge investment for the museum and the entire community."

With such an extensive collection that includes large maps and giant posters, to tiny hand-written labels from tincture jars, the digitization of the museum's collection is a major undertaking. To date, Best estimates only 17 per cent of the collection has been uploaded, but the goal is to increase that to at least 30 per cent. "It might be a lofty goal, but we are hopeful," says Best. At the moment, she is the only person work-

ing on the project, but the museum is hoping to add to the staff as the year progresses.

She explains that with the Trillium grant the museum was able to purchase larger equipment, and now has different methods to handle more delicate items. "It is hard to put a crumbling piece of paper on a regular scanner," she says. "These scanners handle everything from journals, ledgers and letters, to legal documents, maps and images, dating back 200 years and more," said Best.

This project will help to preserve the collection as well as increase the museum's online presence on their own website and on platforms such as Google Arts & Culture. Museums around the world are investing in their online programming, and the NOTL Museum's collection of more than 50,000 artifacts is one of the most unique in Canada, attracting online visitors from all parts of the globe. "Digitization is key to helping us grow our online presence," said Kaufman. "We receive at least 200 access requests per year, and it's growing all the time."

To decide what gets digitized, Best works from a priority list that includes items or collections that are most frequently requested for research, and items that are needed for upcoming exhibits. It was not a large list of items at the beginning, but it keeps on growing, she said. Best explains much of the museum's collections is separated and organized into boxes, and each box of

artifacts is a new adventure for her. It was a box of items from the Niagara Apothecary that inspired her upcoming lecture.

When she was tasked with digitizing an item from the box that was on the priority list, she found 16 different labels for medicine bottles, which intrigued her. She soon discovered many other medical treasures. The museum also has some bottles, tools and equipment from the Niagara Apothecary in their collection. The Niagara Apothecary on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake operated from 1820 to 1964 and opened as a museum in 1971. Although she does not have a specific interest in medicine, these items sparked her curiosity about the apothecary, the products they sold, and the history of apothecaries as well as their connection to modern-day pharmacies. She also notes that the medical side of history is always well documented. "If you eat a mushroom and you die, someone will write a paper on it. If you eat a mushroom and it does something great, someone will write a paper on that too."

Join Best as she presents her findings in her lecture into the history of the medicinal world of “prescriptions, potents and healthy herbs, Wednesday, March 2 at 11 a.m.

Registration is required at www.notlmuseum.ca. For more information contact Amy Klassen at 905-468-3912 or by email at aklassen@nhsm.ca



The NOTL Museum's Katelynn Best is digitizing and uploading a portion of the vast collection of items. *(Photos supplied)*

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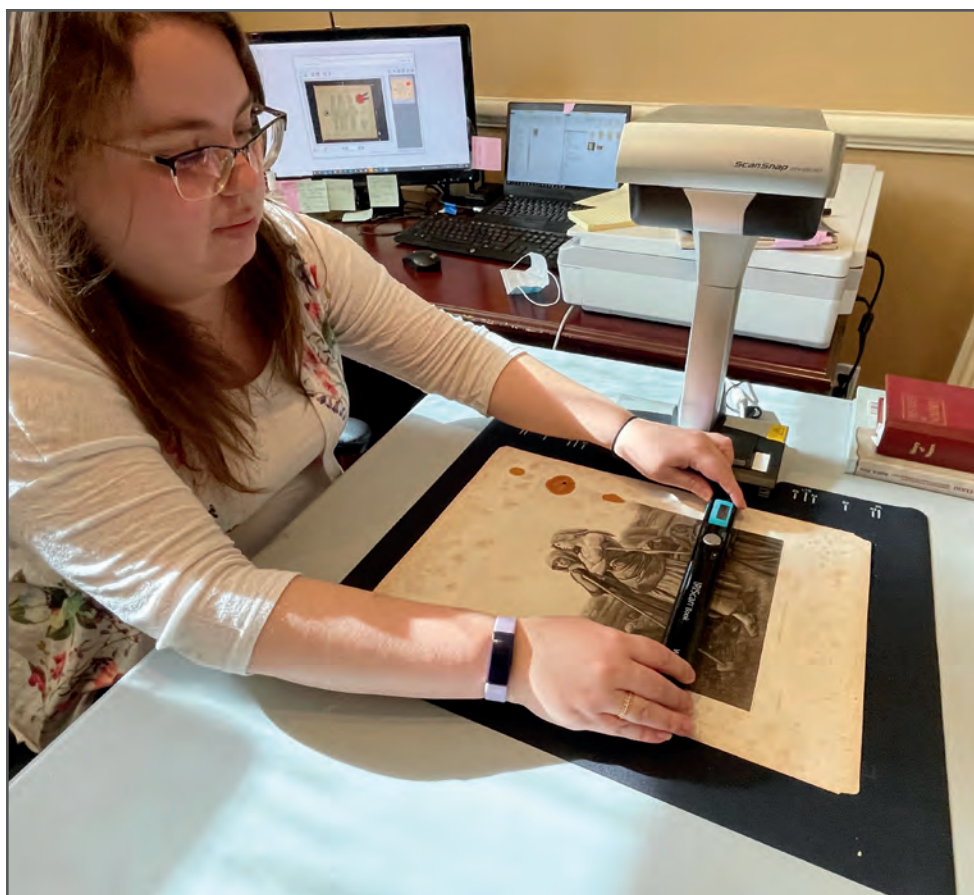
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When going through items to digitize, Katelynn Best came across artifacts from the Niagara Apothecary which she found interesting, and will give a lecture on medicines in history Wednesday, March 3.

LocalSPORTS

Predators win two of three this weekend

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

After 180 minutes of hockey and 1,030 kilometres travelled, the Niagara Predators finished last weekend earning four of a possible six points.

The three-game stretch started on a high note, with a 5-2 victory at home against the North York Renegades, who hold down first place in the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's Southern Division.

"This is a big one," Predators owner, head coach and general manager Robert Turnbull enthused following the win. "This is like a playoff game, it's huge. We implemented a little fore-check system. We worked on doing some things differently. They earned this win."

Niagara's power play was firing on all cylinders, scoring three out of a possible five times with the man advantage. In addition, they held high-scoring forward Santino Foti to just one as-

sist, frustrating him to the point he took an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty in the third period, disqualifying him for the Renegades Saturday game versus Plattsville.

Noah Caperchione scored two of those power play goals, in addition to the Predators first even-strength marker early in the first.

"I've been reminding him to play his position," said Turnbull. "When he plays his position, he puts



Alexander Page played a strong game against North York. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



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himself in place to take the man and get the puck. It's one of the hardest things to do at any level of hockey, to learn how to play without the puck. He's now doing that, and we're learning to get the puck to him."

The loquacious Caperchione, who is an electrical apprentice outside of the arena, scored three goals in the previous Sunday's 5-4 victory at Plattsville, giving him seven over the two games. There's no doubt he's holding the hot stick for the Predators right now.

"During the time off (December and January) I've been constantly working," Caperchione told The Local. "It took me a couple of weeks to get back into the rhythm, but I'm starting to feel like my old self. Position in this game is absolutely crucial. It's what generates your chances. Trying to stay

underneath the puck, giving the defence some outlets rather than trying to get the breakaway. It's working."

Though the Renegades were the first to score less than four minutes into the game, Caperchione answered with two that period, and the Preds played a physical, dominating game that seemed to leave North York added.

Alexander Page in particular was doling out body checks at every opportunity, rattling the boards in the process.

"North York has a couple of bruisers," said Turnbull. "I had to remind Page to bring it down, bring it down, don't get sucked into something. You have to give him kudos. He did a great job."

It was the first chance for the home crowd of just under 100 to see the 6'7" Morgan Penwell in net for

Niagara. He's an imposing figure, filling up the maximum amount of space between the pipes. He turned back 29 of North York's 31 shots for his second win since joining the team this month.

Interestingly, down 4-2 with 4:21 left to play, North York pulled goalie Garin Janiuk in favour of the extra attacker. Penwell and the defence came up huge, stopping shot after shot, until Caperchione added his fourth of the night on the empty net with two minutes to play.

For Saturday's road trip to Windsor, Turnbull turned over the reins to assistant coaches Connor Shipton and Samantha Marson, staying behind at his home in Pickering. It was a chance for the 21-year-olds, both of whom have aspirations for a career behind the bench or in the front office, to gain some experience.

The four-hour bus journey may have resulted in a slow start for the Preds. They gave up two early goals to the Aces, and were down 4-3 by the end of the second period.

"They were a little sluggish out of the gate, trying to find their legs, trying to find their hands," Shipton admitted. "They did pull through, but there were certain times they were trying to do too much on their own, not using their linemates. It took us a little while to get going and to find our game."

By the third period Niagara had finally found the formula to keep Windsor's first line, featuring GMHL leading scorer Kory Silverio, who had four assists, off the scoreboard. Page tied it up eight minutes in and Caperchione scored the winner with just over seven minutes remaining.

Jason Humphries, Dante Massi and Brenden Morin each added a goal for the Preds. The line of Caperchi-

Continued on page 20

LocalWORSHIP

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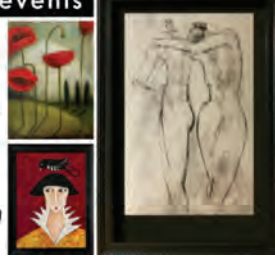
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OBITUARY



CUDMORE, CHAD JOHNATHAN RAY—It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Chad, on Monday, February 14, 2022, at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, at the age of 47. Beloved son of John and Jo-Ann Cudmore. Devoted brother of Chuck (Janna) and adored uncle of Ayla and Rylan. Fondly remembered by many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Chad was someone who was admired for his strength, kindness and sense of humour. Chad loved to attend concerts, ball games and to camp and fish. A special thank you to Chad's exceptional team of close friends who cared for him.

Private family arrangements in care of Morgan Funeral Home 905-468-3255. A service to celebrate the life of Chad, will be held at a later time. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to either the Heartland Forest or to the Lincoln County Humane Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



MARY ELIZABETH HAZELL—(nee Gibbs) passed away peacefully in St. Catharines, Ontario, on February 11th, 2022, at the age of 89. Loving wife of John, always known as Jack, and cherished mother to Evan (Jackie), Dee (Peter), Anne (Harry), Rebecca (Sandy), and Margaret (Tim). Proud grandmother of Jessica, Kyra, Mary, Christopher, Jack, and Evan. Mary was predeceased by parents James and Catherine Gibbs, and sister Dorothy Iddings.

Mary was born on January 29th, 1933, in Los Angeles, California and grew up in the nearby city of Gabriel. During her youth, Mary travelled often to the family cottage at Honey Harbor, Ontario, as well as Toronto, to visit her aunt, uncle, and cousins. Throughout her life, she always spoke of those family visits with great fondness. Mary enrolled in Nursing at Queen's University in Kingston, and met the love of her life, Jack. Upon graduation, they moved to Leeds, England, and married. Jack completed his PhD in chemistry while Mary worked as a nurse, and they began their family. In the years ahead, Jack's career took them to Montreal and Toronto. Mary kept very busy with the arrival of their five children. Throughout those years, the family enjoyed wonderful summer holidays at the Glenbrook Farm on Lake Memphremagog, Quebec, and visiting the family farm in Picton, Ontario.

As the children left home, Mary and Jack developed a love for sailing, exploring the beauty of Lake Ontario. They also travelled extensively throughout North America, as Jack's business responsibilities grew. Mary indulged her lifelong love of the English language, through her many happy years working at the Anglican Book Centre in Toronto and publishing short works of fiction. In 2001, Mary and Jack retired to beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mary became an accomplished and widely recognized quilter, as well as being very active at St. Mark's Anglican Church. They also travelled the world, taking two or three extensive trips a year. When those worldly adventures came to an end just a short time ago, their bucket list was empty.

Mary was a wonderful, loving person who gave her all to her family. She was always there for us, encouraging us through the tough times and celebrating the good ones. Her family misses her profoundly. May her soul be at eternal peace and rise in glory. The family wishes to thank the extraordinary team at The Royal Henley in St. Catharines, who provided such a supportive and positive environment for her final days, with a special thanks to both Dr. Jayawardene (Dr. J) and their Personal Support Worker, Anna.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted with George Darte Funeral Home, 585 Carlton St., St. Catharines. A celebration of Mary's life will be held at a later date. If desired, donations in memory of Mary would be much appreciated to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Online Guestbook: www.georgedartefuneralhome.com



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
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23			24	25				26						
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32	33						34					35		
36					37	38					39			
40				41					42	43				
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51	52	53					54	55				56		
57						58					59	60		
61					62						63			
64					65						66			

- Across:

1 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 decision-making 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 lady

55 Sets of beliefs

58 Not me

59 Expression of disgust

60 Gun owners' grp.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1 Lacey, 6 Stud, 10 Claw, 14 Awake, 15 Wit, 16 Outa, 17 Names, 18 Apostolic, 20 Dim, 21 C B S, 22 Call to, 23 Stigma, 26 Soil, 27 Taut, 28 Tennyson, 29 No time, 34 Pant, 35 C P U, 36 Axel, 37 Reuse, 39 Wren, 40 Zee, 41 Opal, 42 Clean, 44 Insanity, 46 Tarp, 47 Bels, 48 Edemas, 51 Choral, 54 Wild, 56 E-L-E, 57 Himalayas, 59 Untie, 61 Adam, 62 Roam, 63 Grasp, 64 Dens, 65 Sums, 66 Halts.

Down: 1 Lands, 2 Await, 3 Committees, 4 Eke, 5 Yes, 6 Swab, 7 Tips, 8 U F O, 9 Disconnected, 10 Coolly, 11 Lull, 12 At it, 13 Waco, 19 Taint, 21 Caterpillars, 24 Gall, 25 Mum, 26 Seas, 28 Truly, 29 Scrap metal, 30 Open, 31 Nuns, 32 Nazi, 33 Oxen, 38 Eats, 39 Were, 41 O'Neal, 43 Lad, 45 Abrams, 49 A-list, 50 Seeps, 51 Chad, 52 Hide, 53 Oman, 54 Ma'am, 55 Isms, 58 You, 59 Ugh, 60 N R A, 49 Seems, 51 Java, 53 Cat, 54 I do, 55 Naw, 56 Nip.

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THIS NEWSPAPER

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
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Player fatigue a factor in Sunday’s game

Continued from page 18

one, Massi and Reese Bisci have been the de facto leaders of the team recently. “They gel really well together,” Shipton said. “Reese has stepped up big-time with Mario (Zitella) being out with an injury. He’s using his speed, creating opportunities, pressuring guys, being in the right position defensively. He’s really taking advantage of this opportunity. And Noah and Dante, they’ve been as they’ve been all year, playing hard and getting opportuni-

ties.” All that travel may have caught up to the team Sunday for the rematch with the Renegades at the Canlan Ice Sports Centre at York University. The tables were turned as North York outshot Niagara 38-37 and dominated the Predators down the stretch en route to a 6-2 victory. “As much as they wanted to play their best hockey, some of the kids didn’t get home Saturday until 2:30 to 3 a.m.,” Turnbull explained Monday morning. “I was pleased with the way we played in the first and

second period. Everybody, goaltenders, defence, forwards, was doing their job.” Humphries and Caperchione both scored in the first period, trading off goals with Lucas Stafford and Brandon Stojcevski of the Renegades. After that, it was all North York on the scoresheet, with three of their next four goals coming in the third period. As that third period began, the fatigue began to be evident. Complicating matters was the larger European ice surface in North York, which the Renegades took advantage of as well. The fatigue certainly resulted in a lack of discipline in the final frame. Niagara took four penalties in the third, leading to two North York power play goals that put the game out of reach for the Preds. Defenceman Brett Lee was charged with unsportsmanlike conduct, leaving him unavailable for Niagara’s next two games. The Preds did come alive at one point when they were at full strength, and Morin rang the puck against the goal post, but Renegades goal-

tender Nicholas Lewicky played strong in net to keep the Predators from scoring. With seven games left in the schedule between now and March 6, Turnbull is happy with what he’s seeing as the playoffs loom around the corner. With St. George losing 11-10 Sunday to Windsor, the Preds are only a point behind the third-place Ravens. “Friday night was huge, and for the team to come back Saturday for the win with a short bench was big too. My biggest fear is if we lose another player or two, we’ll have a tough time beating the top teams. Everyone has to play well, but our best players have to play their best.” Defenceman Josh Davidson should be returning, and Turnbull hopes to have forward Mackenzie Okumura in the lineup some time this week. In preparation for another three games coming up the team will focus on honing their power-play and penalty-kill techniques in upcoming practice sessions. This Wednesday, Niagara has a rare mid-week

game in Durham. They return to the Meridian Credit Union Arena Friday night at 7:30 p.m. to host St. George, and close out the weekend

with a visit to the Plattsville Lakers. Three games spaced out for time and fewer kilometres to travel should bode well for the Predators.



Preds’ Noah Caperchione unleashes a shot for his second goal of this weekend’s home game.

Meet the Predators

Name: **Jacob Collaco**

Jersey number: **31**

Age: **18**

Birthdate: **Sept. 28, 2003**

Hometown: **Mississauga, Ont.**

Nickname: **Collaco/Colzy/Jake**

Favourite hockey player: **Carey Price**

‘Hype’ song: **Me and Your Mama by Childish Gambino, or Earquake by Tyler, The Creator**

Hockey highlight: **One of my first junior games was against one of the top teams. We had seven players show up. We lost 12-0 but I had 100-plus saves and in the end had lots of fun.**

Other sports you play: **Soccer, a bit of volleyball.**

Favourite ‘cheat’ meal: **Nachos**

Secret talent: **Chess player, used to participate in tournaments. Won my high school’s inner chess tournament during COVID.**

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