Niagara likely moving to red, despite variant fear

Penny Coles  The Local

Niagara may be in the red by next week, although Dr. Mustafa Hirji is not about to make that recommendation to the province.

He told The Local Monday he’s unsure whether his opinion will be sought by the province, which has a more aggressive approach to reopening than he would choose, before the expected announcement Friday.

“Being extra cautious would protect residents better,” he said.

Staying in the grey zone causes a lot of difficulty for some businesses, he said, but as mindful as he is of business owners and those out of work, he is concerned about reopening in the face of variants, which spread more quickly than COVID-19 and add to the potential for a third wave.

There are six cases of possible variants identified in Niagara, yet to be confirmed, he says, found in positive tests of people who have some connection to the GTA, either from travelling there or staying temporarily, before returning to Niagara, and spreading the infection to others. The testing will also confirm the kind of variants.

He also worries that people will see the red zone as a signal to let down their guard and resume socializing, he said.

His choice would be to see Niagara, along with other areas such as the GTA and Peel, continue to be locked down, until the spread of the variants can be better controlled.

While a third wave is not inevitable, the acting chief medical officer of health is saying measures must be taken to avoid it.

If Niagara moves from grey-lockdown to red, restaurants can open their dining rooms, to a limited capacity. Gyms and salons can also open.

Most of Niagara, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, has case numbers in the red zone, with some orange and yellow areas, he said, but while most of the trends are improving, there are other factors to consider, and reopening, with a threat of variants that spread quickly, could cause a spike in cases.

Vaccination plan ready to roll

Penny Coles  The Local

The vaccination program will start to ramp up in the region in the coming weeks, and will be a game-changer in the fight against COVID-19, says Dr. Mustafa Hirji.

Niagara has a more detailed plan than the public has seen, but the acting chief medical officer of health says it is so dependent on the arrival of vaccines he fears releasing information and then having to change it.

While the supply is expected to be steady, arriving weekly, Hirji says the number of doses are not as high as he was told to expect a week ago.

He understands residents are anxious to know when they will be vaccinated, where, and how to register, and there will be communication through several avenues, including local media, as that information becomes available.

He expects the public health department will look after registration, using software provided by the province, with the 80- to be steady, arriving weekly, Hirji says the number of doses are not as high as he was told to expect a week ago.

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Continued on page 3
Lord Mayor asks for patience with vaccination roll-out

Penny Coles

The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Wellness Committee will have a small role in vacinating people in the area, primarily in the area of communications.

After a meeting of the committee Monday, which included Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Sean Simpson of Simpsons Pharmacy, and Mary Keith, executive director of the Niagara North Family Health team, chair Cindy Grant said there was some confusion and concern amongst residents of the vaccination plan.

The first location is expected to be the community centre, although there is no date available about when vaccinations will begin.

The wellness committee wanted to talk about a made-in-Niagara vaccination plan, including local stakeholders in the discussion, says Grant.

The province has dictated certain terms of the vaccination roll-out, including a priority list of the order in which people are able to receive their doses. Other details are left up to the region, and Niagara Public Health is working on plans for vaccination clinics in each municipality, all depending on a timeline for the arrival of vaccine.

"We’re swimming in the dark, with so many unknowns," says Grant, who offered the committee’s assistance, saying members could help with communicating information to the public as it becomes available.

Keith told the committee the family health team has not been asked to provide volunteers, and that as Public Health reaches out to the health team, "my understanding is we will be asked to provide staffing at some level, but I don’t get the sense we will be asked to organize anything."

She has also been asked to provide lists in five-year age brackets, which was easy to do.

But in the afternoon, Keith received an email she shared with Grant, with information to make public, saying the province announced that those aged 80 and above should contact their doctor to be vaccinated, so the family health team could expect to get phone calls and inquiries from patients.

However, the health team staff had no details to give patients, or any idea of what should be collected in the way of information from patients.

The information that will be given to patients on the family health team website and through social media is that while they know people 80 years and older will be given priority for vaccination, they have no information yet about where or when vaccinations will take place, how appointments for vaccinations will be booked, or who will be notifying patients.

Grant says although the wellness committee also has little information to share, they understand everyone is anxious to know more about the vaccination process. The committee has offered to communicate with residents, asking them please to be patient, and ensuring them information will be made public as it is available.

Local Staff

The Shaw Festival is canceling Gypsy: A Musical Fable, for this year.

With planning for next year well underway, the festival is looking ahead to 2023, intending to offer the musical production then.

The decision was made based on new COVID-19 restrictions, and Niagara being in the grey-lockdown zone.

The restrictive measures placed on the rehearsal and performance protocols impacting the Shaw Festival are going to assist with vaccinating those 80-plus, she says, shouldn’t have to wait that long.

However, the health team members could help with communicating information to the public, saying "We’re swimming in the dark, with so many unknowns," says Grant, who offered the committee’s assistance, saying members could help with communicating information to the public as it becomes available.

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Dec says Niagara Health has been co-ordinating vaccinations for the most at-risk health care workers, including staff of hospitals, as well as long-term care and high-risk retirement homes who are getting their second doses this week. Space at the Seymour Hanham sports centre in St. Catharines reopened last week to allow for vaccinations as quickly as the vaccine supply is available.

He spoke in general terms of mobilizing quickly as the vaccine arrives, but with no specific details on the roll-out plan.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the community centre is expected to be the first vaccination site, although that too is still to be confirmed, Disero says.

How many days or hours the clinic will be open, she doesn’t know, but that is when and where vaccinations, primarily in the community centre, all clinics in each municipality, all waiting for the pharmacies to assist with vaccinations, she says. But later in the afternoon, Disero told the committee the pharmacies are going to assist with vaccinations, she says, but when she questioned Disero Friday, she was clarified that primary care clinics and pharmacies were expected to become part of the vaccination process at some point later down the road, as the roll-out works its way through stage 1 through stage 3.

Those 80-plus, she says, shouldn’t have to wait that long.

According to the Niagara Region website, first stage also prioritizes those at higher risk of severe outcomes of COVID-19, and those most likely to transmit infection to those at higher risk for severe illness or death.

Once those people and the 80-plus age group is vaccinated, it decreases the age limit by five-year increments to age 70 as supply of the vaccine becomes available.

"The 80-plus age group should be able to go to the community centre (if that’s the confirmed location), and not have to wait until the pharmacies are open for vaccinations," she says.

"There’s a lot of confusion about the pharmacies being open for vaccinations," she says.

"We’re swimming in the dark, with so many unknowns," says Grant, who offered the committee’s assistance, saying members could help with communicating information to the public as it becomes available.

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Provinces have ‘emergency brake’ if COVID cases spike

Continued from page 1

While not an expert, he adds, he would expect that the real push in that practice is now, and hopes those outbreaks will soon be under control.

If Niagara moves to the red zone, on top of provincially required restrictions, restaurants will only be allowed four people from the same household at one table, with some exceptions, as was the case in the fall. Throughout no faith in restaurant owners, in-person dining is “inherently risky,” Hirji says, with people sitting close together without masks. He described a situation in Niagara last fall, when three people became infected when they were first instated in November, he said, leading to a reduction in the spread of COVID-19 outbreaks, while still allowing dining rooms to re-open.

Also included in the local restrictions, which came into effect this week, Niagara is following Hamilton and Halton in implementing better policing of compliance with issues such as screening staff, controlling crowding in stores, having a plan ready available, and enforcing proper mask-wearing of customers.

But anyone on that list who has not been vaccinated cannot expect to be vaccinated before week after week after week at that location, as was the case in the fall. It might be only for two days a week, but for week after week, after week at that location, as we move from one group to another.

And all of that is based on the amount of vaccine, and when it arrives. There is a lot of uncertainty from the provincial government, a lot of difficulty getting numbers,” says Hirji.

Vaccination schedule relies on supply from province

Continued from page 1

plus residents expected to begin that process of registration toward the end of March. While each region is running across the region, in centres such as the Niagara-on-the-Lake community centre, by April, but there are still few details to be worked out, the most important factor the arrival of sufficient vaccine.

“Don’t have any time to give that information arrival, “so we don’t have a lot from the provincial government,” says Hirji.

He would expect that the real push in that practice is now, and hopes those outbreaks will soon be under control.

If, despite those extra measures, Niagara sees a spike in cases, the province’s ‘emergency brake’ is designed to quickly put the area back into lockdown. “Hopefully they would listen to us and our concerns” Hirji pointed to several other European countries that have aggressive measures.

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that out there. I’m hearing more and more from people who are asking what is going on. If people are waiting for pharmacies to access the vaccine, I’m afraid they may miss an opportunity.”

Sean Simpson of Simpson’s Pharmacy is a member of the regional task force, representing the Pharmacist’s Association of the Niagara Peninsula. His advice to those who are concerned or confused is also to be patient, and not worry.

His Niagara Stone Road pharmacy is taking registrations from those who want the vaccine, compiling a list so that when he has vaccine, he will be able to begin vaccinations quickly.

But anyone on that list who has an opportunity to be vaccinated elsewhere sooner, such as a local clinic, should do that, he says. “I’m encouraging people to be added to the waitlist, but I don’t have any dates. We’ll be notifying people when we do.”

As a member of the task force, he doesn’t have any advance notice of dates of vaccine arrival, he says. Members are discussing how to proceed, on a consensus basis, with the goal of getting vaccinations done as soon as possible.

“People shouldn’t be worried. Worrying about it isn’t going to make it happen any sooner,” says Simpson.

Hirji also has already instituted restrictions on restaurants and retailers. Restaurants will only be allowed four people from the same household at one table, with some exceptions, as was the case in the fall. Throughout no faith in restaurant owners, in-person dining is “inherently risky,” Hirji says, with people sitting close together without masks. He described a situation in Niagara last fall, when three people became infected when they were first instated in November, he said, leading to a reduction in the spread of COVID-19 outbreaks, while still allowing dining rooms to re-open.

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And all of that is based on the amount of vaccine, and when it arrives. There is a lot of uncertainty from the provincial government, a lot of difficulty getting numbers,” says Hirji.

Ideally, if there is enough vaccine, those in the last stage, which includes everyone who wants to be vaccinated, should be able to get it by August or September. When pharmacies become involved also depends on how plentiful the vaccine is, says Hirji, but that likely won’t happen until late spring or early summer. Obviously, if we get enough vaccine, it could be earlier.

For more information about the regional vaccination plan, visit https://niagara.on.ca/health/covid-19/vaccination.aspx?shorturl=1
Like so many businesses and organizations in town, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library staff have transitioned to serving patrons through a pandemic, learning some valuable lessons for the future along the way.

Although the building is closed, kids can still be borrowed, and many library programs continue, with new ones added, says program coordinator Deborah Krause.

Checking out the library calendar shows a busy schedule of virtual programming, targeting all ages, from toddlers and teens to adults, from learning about the brain and mental health issues, to enjoying trivia and game nights.

And similar to other organizations, virtual programming will carry on after the pandemic, allowing the library to offer better access to more people, says Krause.

“Since the province went into lockdown in December and the library was closed to the public for the second time, book pickups curbside have continued to be available.

The same goes for book bundles for kids and adults. Kids’ books are offered in bundles of 10, aimed at several different age groups, and for adults, five books can be included in a surprise package, or can be requested in various themes.

Reciprocal borrowing from other libraries is also ongoing, and has become pretty popular, says Krause. Currently, a staff member picks up and drops off several cartons of books at the Pelham Public Library weekly, the central location for the project, but a more sustainable solution is being discussed with other libraries in the Niagara libraries cooperative.

All book-borrowing programs are available online, or by phone — leave a message and a staff member will get back to you.

There are some patrons who can’t get out to pick up their books, says Krause, and in the past the library has relied on volunteers to offer a delivery service. During the pandemic, Krause says she has taken on the task of dropping off books and picking them up three times weekly, rather than offering it as part of a volunteer program, as it was pre-COVID. There aren’t a lot of members who require that service, but it ensures everybody who wants to borrow a book is able to, she says. Some of the people who are members who were receiving their books from lockers in St. Davids and Virgil are closed, partly because the buildings are now closed to the public, but also due to the inability to sanitize the lockers.

After a break of most virtual programs over Christmas, the library has been ramping up again with new offerings, although the very popular Tuesday Night Trivia has gone non-stop, says Krause. It continues to increase in popularity, with more new people joining in weekly. “We mostly see names we don’t recognize, which is great. It means we’re really reaching out into the community, and that’s good.”

In addition, other trivia contests are offered, with themed every-other-Friday evening programs for adults who might be interested in a particular topic. This Friday, Feb. 26, is a Period Drama theme, and Senfend trivia is offered on March 12.

As well, the library is trying the occasional trivia program for families, says Krause. Teen game nights are also being organized, the next one Thursday, March 4, using Skribbl.io and Jackbox, which provide online games for groups.

Other programs include Dr. Bill Brown, with a series on the brain Wednesday afternoons through March, and something new March 11, Dishin’ with Dirt, a gardening workshop with library board member Betty Knight.

With limited attendance for the Zoom meeting, registration is required for the workshop, which will offer information about getting gardens ready for the planting season, including a discussion about soil, mulching tools, and pruning.

The popular Beer and Books and Wine and Words programs are on hold, but an online book club has developed instead. Called the Fireside Reads Book Club, it was done to transition from beer and books, but registration is almost full for the March 3 session. The first time we offered the book club online, we had one person sign up,” says Krause. “Now, because of the logistics of a Zoom meeting, we’re limiting it to eight.”

It’s taken some time for some library patrons to be come comfortable with virtual discussions, says Krause, who understands that feeling — it took her a while to become accustomed to the idea of leading an online meeting. But people are using them more often and becoming more accepting of programs online, whether virtual or not.

“People are using them more often and becoming more accepting of programs online, whether virtual or not.”

Kevin Ferris, the library’s youth services librarian, says children are more comfortable participating.

“Kids are more comfortable participating.”

And similar to other organizations, virtual programming is not well-suited for the youngest set of library patrons. A weekly Tuesday morning Rhyme Time for toddlers and seniors on Zoom hasn’t been a great success, says Krause. “Kids that age don’t stick, and it was pretty chaotic.”

The sessions are held set, she says. The one age group virtual programming is not well-suited for is the youngest set of library patrons. Each week the library staff really have to work hard to hold attention for the children. It takes a while to build that kind of relationship, and it’s hard to do on a screen, but it’s working.”

Krause has two new up- coming virtual offerings she’s excited about. One has to wait until she is able to have Burlington author Ian Hamilton in the library building, to host an online session from there. It was planned for January, but had to be cancelled when the second shut-down was announced.

The author, popular for the Ava Lee series and other standalone books, will draw a virtual crowd when the date is set, she says. But perhaps what is exciting Krause the most about upcoming library offerings is The Big Leb Go, a series of four mental health workshops to be held throughout April by author Darcy Patrick.

Based on her book by the same name, Patrick, also a public speaker and writing coach, recognizes that when people tell us to let something go, it’s not that simple. His goal is to teach people how to let go and move on to live a full and happy life, sharing his tools to get us there, including forgiveness, setting boundaries, acceptance, changing perspectives, and having faith in ourselves.

“Those are some big things, but they’re also a very important part of our well-being, in addition to our physical and economic situations. Mental health needs to be something we talk about. We’re all in COVID fatigue, and this makes us less able to cope with the hard stuff we’re facing.”

Patrick’s workshops may be timely, in that his advice on how to let go of things we can’t control could be more important now than ever, adds Krause.

Register for the first workshop, Thursday, April 8 from 9 to 9 p.m., and you will be reg- istered for the other three dates as well.

Program registrations can be done online at https://notl-publiclibrary.org. For more information call 905-468-2023.

![Local families were invited to enter a library contest with replicas of their favourite place, created with Lego, sticks, playdough, straws or anything on hand. Winning entries were from Alice McGlashin and Maggie Adams, with a judge prize party for both families donated by Maple Leaf Fudge.](images/2021/03/18/1781417155.jpg)
Smart Home Technology more accessible than you think

Submitted by Kraun Electric

Many homeowners feel overwhelmed when they think about smart home technology. With so many options and devices to choose from, it can be hard to know where to start. The smart home market is still relatively young. It currently generates $2.74 billion US dollars in revenue in Canada. By 2023, the smart home market will reach $3.8 billion dollars in sales.

While it is true that there are many options for setting up a smart home, it doesn’t have to be complicated. At Kraun Electric, we work with homeowners to plan and install a smart home system that meets their needs or wants and nothing more. There are systems for all levels of comfort with technology.

The Simplest Smart Home Set-Up
One of the simplest but most effective examples of smart home technology is a switch to control lighting on your bedside table. Getting up during the night has never been safer or more convenient. By programming the lights to come on at a dim level with the touch of a button by your bedside, you can light your way without disturbing sleeping family members.

A smart thermostat is another simple, practical solution. It can save you money and increase your comfort level in your home. Not only can you access and change the thermostat while you’re away from home, but it can also detect when you’re at home and operate accordingly.

The All-In Set Up
Kraun can help you design a complete smart home solution that will seamlessly integrate with your life. From the convenience of your phone or another device, you can control everything - blinds, door locks, lights, security cameras, smoke detectors, and all your electronics. Imagine pulling into your driveway at night and having the lights in your home come on automatically. Your garage door opens. By the time you get to the door, it is already unlocked. Your therapist turns up or down, depending on the time of year and your desired comfort level. Welcome home.

Contact Us Today to Get Started

A consultation and quote are free with Kraun Electric. Contact us today to get started on creating your smart home.

Not looking for a smart home system, but need an electrician? We have you covered. Our skilled and licensed electricians are available to help with any of your electrical needs. And we offer 24/7 service in case of emergencies.
EDITORIAL

Don’t worry, this community will have you covered

We’ve been playing a waiting game for what seems like a long time, not only for vaccine to arrive, but for information about what the roll-out in our neighbourhood will look like when it gets here.

Finally, we’re beginning to see big numbers in the amount of vaccine arriving in Canada. Provinces are sharing the good news. Quebeckers aged 85-plus are starting to get shots next week, beginning in Montreal, with registration starting this weekend. That makes us seem pretty far behind, but Quebec is prioritizing the elderly population in the area that has had the highest number of cases.

In Niagara, residents at all long-term care homes have been vaccinated Indigenous adults in northern and higher risk communities and health care workers with the highest risk of exposure to COVID-19 are next on the list, along with other health care workers, their priority 1A and 2, depending on their risk category, along with firefighters and paramedics. Those in the over 80 category are included in that grouping, and in Niagara, are expected to be given their registration information in March, and vaccinations in April

However, Dr. Hryh, our regional chief medical officer of health, says all of this depends on the arrival of vaccine, so it could be earlier, if the good news continues, or it could be later. While the delivery of vaccinations is co-ordinated at a regional level, with help from municipalities, the supply is totally out of local control.

As long as we get our fair share of vaccine, the region has a plan and is ready to roll with it. But Dr. Hryh is not sure about how much they may have to adapt they may not be able to keep the problem is, is everyone is getting antsy, especially the older seniors who are next in line. And understandably so. The rest of us want to be vaccinated to keep our lives back to normal. Those 80 and over are more concerned about saving their lives so they will live to enjoy a post-pandemic normal. They want to leave their homes if feeling like it’s a death sentence. They want to see their families, hug them, maybe enjoy a dinner out with them.

We are all being asked to be patient, assured our turn will arrive, but that is particularly difficult for the over 80 crowd, who may face other frustrations and some level of confusion. They may not have family close by to explain it to them; they may not have access to the details available online, as scarce as they are; they may have heard news yesterday that had changed today and could change again tomorrow. They may be afraid they will miss the news that it’s their turn, and miss their opportunity. Register online! You may need help with that. They are also worried about how they will know where to go, when to go, and how they are going to get there. They may not drive, and even more of a challenge, they may have mobility issues.

As a community newspaper, we can do our best, but there are more personal contacts to help. As family members, or close friends, they may have access to the details available online, as scarce as they are; they may have heard news yesterday that had changed today and could change again tomorrow. They may be afraid they will miss the news that it’s their turn, and miss their opportunity. Register online! You may need help with that. They are also worried about how they will know where to go, when to go, and how they are going to get there. They may not drive, and even more of a challenge, they may have mobility issues.

Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls riding Special to The Local

COVID-19 did not start the long-term care crisis, but that has exposed exactly what our families and advocates have been saying for years. Successive governments have failed our seniors, and refused to invest the necessary money to maintain our long-term care homes and invest in new beds. For years, seniors have been living in hospital beds, desperately waiting for access to long-term care rooms, and that’s made our hospitals more overcrowded. At the same time, private companies have been stretching dollars thinner and thinner to ensure their record profits continued to grow. The system is broken, and we need to fix it.

Government after government refuses to face up to the failures of their actions in long-term care, and instead kicks the can down the road. The cycle must stop, and this must be fixed.

We need to start taking the actions to build a new system that protects our seniors and gives them the level of care they deserve. As a Member of Provincial Parliament for a riding that has one of the highest populations of seniors per capita in the country, I believe getting these steps underway is a matter of life and death.

The Ford government reluctantly agreed to an inquiry into COVID-19 crisis in long-term care, but refused to make it a fully-independent judicial inquiry. This means when the minister of long-term care and the health minister give evidence, it will be behind closed doors. The commissioners themselves have said the Ford government is ‘slow-walking’ the release of documents requested by the commission, making it more difficult for them to deliver a full report by April. The Ford government must stop obstructing their work, and waste no time in implementing every recommendation, but there are actions that can be taken immediately.

We have a new vision for a new system for home and community care and long-term care where every dollar goes directly to residents. In the meantime, we have put forward positive ideas that will help make a difference right now.

We have tabled legislation to provide a minimum of four hours of hands-on care to seniors in long-term care homes, but today our Premier and his caucus continue to block this necessary measure. We have a bill before the legislature that would give PSWs a $4 an hour pay raise to start giving them the wages they deserve, and help to recruit more staff for our long-term care homes. Ford and his MPPs have unfortunately voted against that too.

We know the system is broken, and needs to be fixed. Let’s be led by this. Start by taking actions now to protect our seniors. Increasing hours of care and raising the pay of critical frontline staff is just the beginning, but the government must need to stop withholding any of the information requested by the commission, and make these changes without delay. Our parents and grandparents can’t wait while politicians drag their feet.

By acting now we can save lives and put the foundations in place for a new system that puts residents first.
**Biodiversity subject to an ever-increasing number of visitors**

Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

This week, I am forecasting what Niagara’s hiking trails and parking spaces might look like as we roll into the nice weather of 2021, and beyond.

In a handful of articles for *The Local* over the last year, I observed and reported on the changes in trail conditions, safety concerns, parking problems, and the increased litter that came with the pandemic. I also watched with curiosity a new wave of people discover Niagara’s green spaces, and their sense of wonder and appreciation of nature. I find myself sitting here on the cusps of spring, equipped with the same peculiar uncertainty I felt during the last year. What are Niagara’s trails and our communities in for once the warmer weather arrives, and the 2021 true outdoor season begins?

For every force, there is a reaction. What will the impacts of all these new visitors be on our biodiversity and stable ecosystems?

Let's briefly revisit a timeline, and what I propose is likely to happen again come this spring and beyond.

Last year’s discovery of Niagara’s nature wasn’t accomplished by Europeans and American visitors. It was largely enjoyed by locals and those from the Great Toronto Area. From across the province, we showed up when it came to maximizing nature time during the pandemic, as many looked for new recreational options during uncertain times.

The signs were clear in the spring of 2020. Newly imposed restrictions had people thinking about appropriate and safe activities. I believe a subset of our southern Ontario population caught on to Niagara’s natural spaces, aided by the power of social media and hyper-localized travel. I have never seen Niagara’s trails busier.

And we're not just talking about summer. When most people have the time or comfort to get their outdoor fix, it continued, and still does, in all seasons. Parking lots at the Niagara Gorge, Short Hills Provincial Park, and Decow Falls were filled to their concrete limits and onto the roads in 2020. It is still happening on weekends this winter.

And for the first time, this is happening with higher frequency and greater volume than ever before.

With this unforeseen influx of hikers, there came logistical and safety concerns. Lined up for nearly a kilometre in some cases near Decow Falls. Short Hills parking lots reminded me of landscapes that feed snacked cars onto the paved roads, sometimes with 25-plans on either side of Pelham or Wyke Roads.

Trains of people hiked along the Short Hills trails, while Decow and the gorge saw a historic spike in use of unprepared hikers, as they were caught off-guard by the beauty and danger dichotomy.

Here's what I think might happen next, and I also wonder how we will be prepared for this scenario.

After a winter and lock-down combo, I feel visitors from Southern Ontario are going to be extra-enthused to get outside once spring makes its first appearance. We can't resist the first T-shirt days of the season, the sounds of birds, and the green life popping through the soil.

Now imagine that outdoor runs we all experience, multiplied with the events of last year’s local travel increase to hike trails from the GTA and beyond. I anticipate it will just take a few weekends with nice spring weather to really pack our parking lots again.

By the way, the red budding of maple trees, and the return of morning robins songs are late February signs that spring is coming. It already happening here in NOTL, largely afforded by being so far south in Canada.

The theme snowballs as we exit the snow season. Suddenly, it’s summer, and our trails are being packed by locals, people from the GTA, and all other accessible locations.

Let’s imagine the hypothetical: When we truly reopen full scale.

With a steady Ontario base already inundating the trails and parking spaces, what are we going to do when we allow Americans, Europeans, and the rest of the world back into a state of normal travel?

I guess we have months, maybe years to think about that. But one week, we need to heed the warning signs that our natural areas are going to be under immense pressure, even while delivering such positive influences to minds of all sorts.

It’s like 20 people trying to play with a puppy at once. To be appreciated, albeit fragile and delightful figure must be protected and respected to the highest degree. Biodiversity, and protected tranquility, is the puppy.

With an extraordinary number of people already parking, walking, hiking, and influencing nature, the soil, while it influences their nature, what are we going to do in the times to come?

I am writing to express my concern over letters in the media. I feel disturbed how we arrived at the moment really we are living through with COVID-19 in Canada. We need to look hard at the difference in what is being said and what has been done. In a crisis like this, results matter, and frankly, in Canada results have been poor. I truly wish it were otherwise, but it is not. As I write this Canada is 40th on a list of developed countries in terms of percent of population vaccinated.

While that is a sad fact, it is nonetheless a fact. If you measure a government on effectiveness versus political spin, that is a failing grade.

As to the statements that Canada was the first country to sign Moderna, I would take that with skepticism. Moderna was 99.9 percent funded by the U.S. government to both develop and supply a vaccine for the American people. Canada provided zero funding to the major pharmaceutical companies when they were seeking funds to ramp up research. Our resources instead went to the United Kingdom, and China now has a vaccine they will not share with Canada. Again, facts, not fiction.

As to the funding of the Providence, made-in-Canada solution, Providence requested funding in early 2020 and had to wait until October to get a response from the government. It took seven months of no answers before a very small fraction of the requested funding was granted. Both too little and too late, as the delay meant any chance for a made-in-Canada vaccine to be utilized in 2020 or early 2021 was lost. Quebec-based Medicago has received more than $170 million in vaccine funding, versus roughly $10 million for Providence, based in Alberta.

Another comment stated the government has followed the science on pandemic respons.

Again, on the fact side of the ledger, this government entered office with two key resources which were developed by health experts following the SARS outbreak years before. The health experts set up an intelligence unit in Health Canada to provide both on the ground-local, information, and early reporting on world-wide pandemic outbreaks. This advance warning system was to ensure we would never have to depend on other governments to understand risks that could impact Cana-dians. The fact is this Liberal government shut down this unit against the advice of health experts. No reason has been given.

The second asset was a series of warehouses which would hold emergency supplies of personal protective equipment so Cana-dia could respond quickly to the next epidemic. The Liberal government tricked the personal protective equipment (PPE) to the dumping it stated was past its best before date. While that is not incorrect, they neglected the key requirement of replacing the critical supplies before discard-

ing the old but usable PPE. If this government had left those two critical resources in place we could have reacted sooner, and provided frontline workers with critical PPE early on.

Masks are so common now it is easy to forget our govern-

ment told us not to wear masks for months, claiming they would be too dangerous for the popula-

tion to use. This is not new tech-

nology, and was an easy ask. No-

One expected medical grade masks for all, but basic medical science has seen masks used to prevent spread of germs and vi-

dues for centuries. Comments and opinions have been shared on the government’s econom-

ic response. In general there is economic consensus that the government acted quickly and with a significant dollar amount.

While not efficient, it was gener-

ally effective. The lack of willing-

ness to correct errors is a valid issue, but based upon results that is irrelevant to the fact the economic strategy worked.

Going forward, the World Monetary Fund has stated Can-

ada needs to pare back planned spending, and expressed con-

cern that this government can-

not continue to increase our debt GDP ratio. Hopefully we can accept we have been suc-

cessful, and not feel the need to double down. Whether we can control spending will be deter-

mined going forward.

While I am sure many people will spin or deny the results we are seeing, the pandemic will not be defeated by spin. Vaccines continue to be delayed. Cana-
dians will get sick and some will die, and it may well happen again with the next pandemic. Nothing can improve if we can-

not be honest with the facts. In a country where competence is less valued than political spin and partisanship, nothing will change. I hope I am wrong, but again look at the facts. In truth, looking at the facts is what we should always be doing as voters.

M. D. Macdonald

Niagara-on-the-Green

**Letters**

Governments get failing grade dealing with COVID

Emmy Wise and Will Marley pose with Father Christmas in front of the Court House on September 24, 2020. (Owen Bjorgan)

*905-641-5335 or email karen@thenotllocal.com 1-800-594-5542*
When Leslie Ibbotson made her exciting decision to open an antique store in Virgil, where she grew up, her planned opening was April 2020.

Selling antiques has been a career for her; but this would be her own business, and she had found the perfect location — the former fruit and vegetable co-op on Four Mile Creek Road, a 1930s building with original beams, hardwood floors, a welcoming fireplace and a beautiful covered porch that would be an extension of the store.

“It kind of nestled perfectly to an antique store,” says Ibbotson, and has become the new home of Antiques on Creek, with eight “fabulous vendors selling top-shelf, one-of-a-kind treasures.”

Her opening was planned for April, 2020, but of course no one could have predicted what was about to happen — the town suddenly in a state of emergency, businesses shut down and residents being urged to stay home.

“I couldn’t have picked a worse time,” says Ibbotson, her dream opening delayed because of the early throes of a pandemic.

She was able to proceed with her plans in June, with doors officially open to a welcoming interior and the porch drawing people with its elegant vintage clothes and unique antiques.

It was a “fabulous” summer for the fledgling business, with visitors from the region and Toronto, and many locals who are antique lovers becoming loyal, repeat customers, says Ibbotson. “The local support was really touching.”

Six months after opening, she was closed again, along with other non-essential retailers, and is happy to be open once again, even with a five-person limit and all the protocols of a pandemic to follow.

“It’s a snowy winter day when Ibbotson talks to The Local, and weekdays are quiet, she says. Weekends are busier, although “not crazy by any means.”

She continues to get customers from Toronto and the GTA making day trips to NOTL, she says, “not anybody’s preference” under the circumstances, but she is pleased to see anybody who walks through her doors. Ibbotson does some promotion on Facebook and Instagram, “but it’s very difficult to sell antiques online. It’s really a business meant for in-store shopping.”

And that’s what she is meant for as well. She’s a people person, she explains, loves her work — which, as the saying goes, never feels like work. Loves to have people in the store, loves to chat, and loves her hometown. “This is where I’m happiest,” she says. “I love my life.” Which is just as well, considering she typically works seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the other dealers taking shifts so there are two people in the store every day. Consistent hours, she says, even during a pandemic, are really important.

She’s created a welcoming atmosphere with the cozy seating area by the fire, books and local newspapers close by for husbands who want to relax while wives look around, and a comfortable spot for her on quiet days.

“I’ve decided to have Cheese Secrets from Market Street also coming to add another attraction for visitors. There will be a couple of tables in the store for those who would like tea, coffee, or a cold drink. There will be a small selection of cheeses available, and charcuterie, along with boxed lunches for those going on bike tours, she says, and when the weather improves, a few tables out on the porch.

Listening to Ibbotson, it’s quickly evident where her love lies. She’s been an antique collector for as long as she can remember, and a long-time dealer in Lakeshore Antiques and Treasures, where she continues to sell her treasures, as do some of her Antique on Creek dealers.

She has watched the ebb and flow of the antique business in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and would like to see it return to the “mecca of antiquing” it has been in the past, believing passionately in the value of having a thriving community of antique stores in town as a visitor attraction.

“Tin hell-bent on making it what it once was,” she says, noting there are several other great antique stores scattered around town, although it’s a difficult business to operate on Queen Street, with its high rents.

“The more we have here, the better it is for everybody. Back in the day there used to be an antiques map for tourists.”

Although there’s no way to know where we’ll be with pandemic restrictions this summer, Ibbotson has no doubt the good weather will bring another wave of visitors, and antiques will be one more attraction to help make NOTL the destination it always is.

Leslie Ibbotson has created a warm, welcoming atmosphere in the 1930s former fruit and co-op building, perfectly suited for antiques. (Photos supplied)

Antiques on Creek owner optimistic about future
Museum offers four films celebrating women

Local Staff

In honour of International Women’s Day on March 8, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum and RiverBrink Art Museum are co-hosting a series of four documentaries.

The films will be offered as part of the museum’s Doc Club, which meets virtually to discuss and debate Canadian documentaries, many of them courtesy of the rich National Film Board library, says Barbara Worthy, the museum’s visitor and members services assistant. Participants watch the shows on their own time, and then bring their observations to a virtual discussion.

During March, the Doc Club’s four films highlight A typical resilient Canadian woman, she says. “They share the tenacity of some of Canada’s most remarkable artists, with a discussion on March 12; Wanted! Doctor on Horseback, a look at Emily Carr, and Frida Kahlo – three of the 20th century’s most remarkable artists, with a discussion on March 19, and wraps up with Bone Wind Fire, an evocative journey into the hearts, minds and eyes of Georgia O’Keeffe, Emily Carr and Frida Kahlo – three of the 20th century’s most remarkable artists, with a discussion on March 26. All are at 10 a.m.

The month of March is also designated Women’s History Month in the U.S., Australia and the U.K. Canada’s celebration is always in October, to correspond with Persons Day, honouring the ground-breaking legislation known as The Persons Case of October 1929, which gave women the right to sit in Canada’s Senate. Registration is required to join the Doc Club discussions and to receive links for each documentary.

For more information contact: sdelazzer@riverbrink.org or bworthy@nfhm.ca.

The series ends with Bone Wind Fire, a look at Emily Carr, and two other 20th century artists.

The first film in March is part of the NFV series, The Canadians, and tells the story of Agnes Macphail, who became Canada’s first woman Member of Parliament exactly 100 years ago. The debate will be held on Friday, March 5, at 10 a.m. “The Doc Club has proven to be a welcome break in our pandemic lives,” said museum volunteer Judy Thornton. “We all miss the Shaw’s films this winter, and it’s been good fun to have a good-hearted debate over tea and shortbread.”

The series continues with By Women’s Hand, with a discussion on March 12; Wanted! Doctor on Horseback, with a discussion on March 19, and wraps up with Bone Wind Fire, an evocative journey into the hearts, minds and eyes of Georgia O’Keeffe, Emily Carr and Frida Kahlo – three of the 20th century’s most remarkable artists, with a discussion on March 26. All are at 10 a.m.

Agnes Macphail, Canada’s first female MP, will be featured March 5, in the first of a four-part documentary series. (Photos supplied)
Donations to help honour life of Kenzie King

Paul Jacot
Special to The Local

On Jan. 22, 2021 the lives of the family and friends of Mackenzie “Kenzie” Austin Drew King, 25, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, were thrown into darkness, as he tragically passed away from a car accident while on his way to work. Blakely, his sister, and Tom, his father, have set up a GoFundMe page in memory of Kenzie to raise money for a FundMe page in memory of Kenzie to help honour life of Kenzie King. Kenzie would love to watch their neighbour tinker with his sailboat and so came his interest in sailing at the NOTL sailing camp. His second home was the water.

Kenzie attended NOTL schools, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Michael, and Parliament Oak, excelling in basketball and soccer. He was an excellent team player and stand-out goalie with the NOTL Wolves.

In recent years, Kenzie had been working for QBM repair ships, extensively as a Splicer Technician on the Canadian Steamship Lines.

Kenzie was an avid traveler, spending many of his summer vacations traveling all across the globe with his sister Blakely, stepbrother Colin, and favorite uncle Peter. This past September, Kenzie traveled to the Maritimes, citing it was one of his most memorable trips. His favourite places in the world were his Uncle Bill’s cottage in Muskoka and his mother’s farm in Ridgeway, Ontario. His mother now resides in New Brunswick.

“Death is nothing else but going home to God, the bond of love will be unbroken for all eternity.” — Mother Teresa.

A thank you from friends and family who would greatly appreciate any donations given to the GoFundMe page (GoFundMe.com - type Mackenzie King in the search bar) – to honour the life of our dearest Kenzie.

Paul Jacot is a writer and journalist, and a friend of Tom King and the family.

Kenzie had a heart of gold, large enough to include the family pets. (Photo supplied)
Ironwood Cider evolves from fruit winery

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Whenever this "new normal" that people have been talking about since last March begins, it’s certain that it will coincide with a new beginning for Sunnybrook Winery.

In fact, that new beginning comes with a rebranding of the winery and its owner Richard Liu.

"The change makes perfect sense at this time. The $4 million expansion at the south side of the building is nearly complete. That price tag includes some shiny new equipment that will be used to ferment new types of ciders."

"But it’s the new cider-house that brings the organization a bold, new modern look that contrasts with the homey atmosphere of the original Sunnybrook barn. The central feature is a large tasting area, but there is an upper level that features a private event space, a lounge, and a room that Liu hopes to use to host podcasts. The entire space should attract more and more cider lovers once restrictions are eased." And, as Liu tells The Local, cider has slowly overtaken the fruit wines for which Sunnybrook has been traditionally known, to the point where his sales are now 90-10 in favour of the apple-based beverage.

"Liu bought Sunnybrook in 2013, when sales of fruit wine were roughly equal to those of the Ironwood Cider brand that was part of the deal. The former marketing manager at a Hong Kong investment bank had no prior experience in either the winery or cider business, but he quickly saw the potential in one of those areas in particular."

"I originally bought it hoping to turn it into a VQA facility," remembers Liu. "But within six months to a year, I realized that from a growth standpoint it would probably be very challenging. So I started to really look at the Ironwood Cider, and as I got my feet wet in it, it came up as a high-potential category."

"With the new facility, Liu is planning to maximize that potential with a number of different products. The original Ironwood Cider that began in 2005 out of Sunnybrook will still be produced, but Liu sees the brand’s future relying on a mix of artisanal and modern cider varieties."

"We want to make sure when people come here that they can get the full view of what cider can be," he says. "Some of the artisanal products take a bit longer, just like wine. Two years ago we started to make cider from European varieties that we found from local orchards, basically French or English varieties that are better, smaller apples, that have a lot more tannins. They are fruit that is meant to be fermented, not eaten."

"These aren’t your standard McIntosh, Granny Smith and Gala apples you buy at valu-mart, or even the Russets or Northern Spies that are used for traditional ciders. Yarlington Mills, Dabinett, Stock Red, Tolman Sweet, and Kingston Black apples are referred to by Liu as vinifera-style apples he is so excited about. The artisanal line will be what Liu calls the "craft beer" of the cider world, based on an in-house yeast culture they have developed, and using different skin-aging and botanical techniques."

"One will be a vintage line, which uses those vinifera-style apples he is so excited about. The artisanal line will be what Liu calls the "craft beer" of the cider world, based on an in-house yeast culture they have developed, and using different skin-aging and botanical techniques."

"Finally, the modern tier sees the large tasting bar playing host to three different categories of ciders. One will be a vintage line, which uses those vinifera-style apples he is so excited about. The artisanal line will be what Liu calls the "craft beer" of the cider world, based on an in-house yeast culture they have developed, and using different skin-aging and botanical techniques."

"Continued on page 16"
Jane Andres
Special to The Local

Jane Andres, best known in Niagara for her work helping offshore workers, says although she has spent her entire life in Niagara, “I possessed only a few dusty facts regarding the history of the US side of the river. I had vague recollections of the story of the Tryon house, but it wasn’t until I spotted it from the Niagara Parkway close to Queenston in March 2020 that I became intrigued. My research over the past 11 months has been fascinating, and challenged me in ways I hadn’t expected. In this story, I wove together the facts in a way that stays true to the historical narrative, with only a few careful liberties taken.”

The bartender is in on it. The livery owner and his crew are in on it too. Enjoying his morning tea behind the stately porticos of his mansion overlooking the Niagara River, Major Benjamin Barton was in on it from the beginning. The ladies from the weekly church sewing circles are min Barton was in on it from the Niagara Falls House, and would be much obliged if anyone could offer assistance or possible tips on the whereabouts of the man he was seeking. They empathized with the bounty hunter’s story, and told him they hope he will find them at home in town.

He declines an offer for dinner, instead opting to head down river to Youngstown for the afternoon, while the weather is favourable. Josiah, his wife Mary and a small cluster of punishments engage in conversation with the minister after the horse and rider disappear towards the river road.

No doubt about it, the pastor states emphatically, there is a fresh wind of the Spirit blowing in this congregation. The previous summer a young preacher from Rochester by the name of Charles Finney had visited their congregation. He had preached a mighty sermon, challenging the congregation that if they consider themselves to be Christians, their daily lives must reflect Jesus’ command to love their neighbour as themselves.

He had greatly encouraged them, sharing news of endeavours similar to their own spreading to congregations across New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

The previous summer a young preacher from Rochester by the name of Charles Finney had visited their congregation. He had preached a mighty sermon, challenging the congregation that if they consider themselves to be Christians, their daily lives must reflect Jesus’ command to love their neighbour as themselves.

He had greatly encouraged them, sharing news of endeavours similar to their own spreading to congregations across New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The spark that Rev. Finney’s sermon had ignited in the small congregation had grown into a steady flame, and a beacon of hope for many. The small group bows their heads in prayer in the shadow of the church and asks for God’s protection for the plans unfolding later that evening. The pastor’s wife withdraws two child-size quilts from under the folds of her shawl, and hands them to Mary. An elderly Black woman, an employee in the kitchen at Barton’s Inn, slips in beside her, informing her that fresh loaves of bread were tucked under the blankets of their carriage while they were in church. Mary is filled with fresh resolve as she views the long, angry scar on the senior’s cheek, the result of a branding she suffered as a young woman, punishment for attempting an escape. As the group disperses, the pastor entertains a worrisome thought. He wonders to himself how long a town of over 200 can keep the Holy Hush.

Josph and Mary are deep in thought as they guide their horse toward home after the church service.

It’s been more than two years since they bought the house at the edge of the Niagara River from his older brother Amos Tryon, son-in-law to Major Barton. The two-storey house possesses a stately dignity befitting the social status of the wealthy Barton family. Folks in town call it Tryon’s Folly, because Amos had built it for his young wife, Sally Barton. According to local gossip, Sally refused to move there from their comfortable home in town. Raising 10 children necessitated living as close to familial support as possible. But there is more to it than that.

Tryon’s Folly is also known as The House with Seven Cellars, one of the most unique homes to grace the banks of the river. A hidden passage and series of cellars connected by deep interior stairwells cascade down the steep banks of the river. It is a strategic link in a vast network of “stations,” providing freedom seekers with safe passage to the British colony.

Although refugees had been following the north star for many years, it wasn’t until the British colonies abolished slavery in 1834 that the trickle of freedom seekers became a steady stream. Hot in pursuit, an increasing number of bounty hunters also arrived in towns along the Niagara River, in...
Entire town of Lewiston aided escapes to freedom

Continued from page 12

Bounty hunters often stayed at the Frontier House hotel as they looked for information about the enslaved they were hunting. Lewiston is Niagara’s connection to the Underground Railroad. Nothing would have happened on this side of the river without the work of the people in Lewiston, says Andres. (Photo supplied)

The home of Josiah and Mary Tryon’s in Lewiston, N.Y., can be seen across the Niagara River from Queenston, often leaving people who don’t know the story wondering about the unusual house. (Frank McGee)

Josiah’s sister Sally is helping in the kitchen. She removes a large pot of soup from the fire, gathering bowls and utensils. Mary draws the curtains closed and lights a small coal oil lantern. They begin pulling a crate piled high with bolts of cloth out of the corner, revealing a hole in the wall above the floorboards. Mary gives them three short taps on the wall. They hear a shuffle and a low voice murmurs from the other side. She slides the wrapped bread through the hole, followed by the pot of soup, bowls and utensils. She offers the quilts through the same space, enquiring after the children, and instructing them to get some rest to prepare for their last leg of the journey.

After his meal, Josiah returns to the bedroom to try to rest for a few hours. He struggles to fall asleep, and a wave of panic engulfs him as he drifts off, dreaming that he is drowning in the icy waters of the Niagara.

Despite the fact that he has been making night crossings on the river for two years, it never gets easier. The challenges grow exponentially during the winter, with the added risk of lake effect snow squalls, ice jams and hypothermia threatening refugees already considerably weakened by their long journeys. He heard the stories of other boats trapped by converging ice floes, and forced to drift blindly under the black of night. Some eventually made their way to safety in Newark after hours adrift, but he knew there were others who were not so lucky.

While Josiah wrestles with his anxieties, a face peers out from the window of the lowest cellar. It disappears for a second, and then there are two faces, after the stranger’s seven-year-old son begs to be lifted up for a view. Tears fill his wife’s eyes as she takes a turn at the window. This is their first view of freedom, a sight that will be embedded in their memories for the rest of their lives. She gathers up their two-year-old son, and as they may share that glorious sight as a family. She caresses her daughter’s arms, overflowing with gratitude that they will never know a whip or chain. She tucks the little arms back into the depths of the warm quilt Mary gave her. She traces her finger along the decorative stitching, and admires the deep rich colours. Her favourite was a blue as brilliant as the waters of the river before her, the colour of freedom.

Rested and energized, they enjoy one last meal together, served by their hosts, this time joined by Josiah.

They are reassured by the kindness in his eyes, and the warmth of his presence as he explains the plans for the evening and instructions for the other side — if all goes well. At 9 p.m. they hear the church bells tolling. What they do not see is a large, reflective lantern, the signal being lit in the western window of the bell tower of the Presbyterian Church.

Mary and Sally meet them in the large room at the lowest level, providing a thick wool cape and a large winter coat, along with a small sack of biscuits and provisions. They gather in closely, uniting their hearts in prayer for safety in the crossing. Tears, hugs, and hope permeate the atmosphere as Josiah cautiously opens the door a crack.

The dim glow of a lantern appears far off on the west shore of the river. It is time. The stairs curved into the steep banks are buried in snow. They have to cling to a rope to guide them down 60 feet to where the rowboat awaits. Overhead the north star beckons, as it has for their entire journey.

Josiah carefully guides mother and daughter in first, holding the small vessel steady. The father wraps his arms protectively around his young son, and closes his eyes after settling in. It is terrifying now that they view the ice flowing by so swiftly between them and the distant shore.

“Keep your eyes fixed on the light,” Josiah instructs them. “God is with us.”

They unhook the rope from the dock and starts to pull on the oars.

………

Thousands of enslaved men and women made their way to the final crossing to freedom, until slavery was officially abolished at the end of the Civil War. Josiah Tryon was referred to as the man with the rainbow heart, because his jackets were the colours of the rainbow, and he enthusiastically embraced people of all creeds and colours. When he died in 1866, there was little left in his estate to pass on. Everything had been reinvested in the cause of freedom.

In all of those years, the people of Lewiston never betrayed the Holyasha.

Tryon’s folly still stands on the banks of the Niagara River.

Visit the Historic Lewiston’s website for more information - http://historiclewiston.org
Jeffrey didn’t win cover shot, but glad she tried

Penny Coles

**February 24, 2021**

**THE NOTL LOCAL**

**notllocal.com**

She may not have won the Miss Jetset Magazine contest this year, but Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Lisa Jeffrey feels like a winner.

After leading her category through the first four stages, Jeffrey was eliminated in the semi-finals on Feb. 12, placing sixth in her group. The contest is now down to the final four contestants, and the winner will be announced Feb. 25.

The winner of Miss Jetset Magazine earns a spot on the cover of the internationally distributed publication, a pictorial and article inside, and a $50,000 prize. But the votes also raise funds for a childhood cancer charity Jeffrey’s supporters helped a child fight.

Jeffrey is also raising money through B+ (Be Positive) Foundation, a childhood cancer charity.

Lisa Jeffrey hoped to have her photo on the cover of an international magazine, and by joining the contest, helped contribute to a cause dear to her heart. (*Photo supplied*)

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**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

**DEMENTIABILITY WOW MEMORY BOOK**

*March 2 @ 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.*

Join us for a free Zoom webinar all about creating and using a Memory Book in caring for those with dementia offered by DementiAbility. This Session will provide an overview of some of the key elements that are central to successful outcomes when creating and using a memory book – a book that holds facts and photos related to an individual’s unique life story. A discussion about brain and behavior, and the DementiAbility WOW model, will highlight the “how-to’s” of creating a book that will support memory, contribute to positive social connections and ultimately help with creating outcomes that are aimed at improving the person with dementia with meaning, purpose, enhanced self-esteem, choice and joy.

Register for this free webinar at https://notlpubliclibrary.org/ zooms.io/GD03

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**TEEN GAME NIGHT**

*March 4 @ 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.*

Join our Discord server for our first Teen Game Night! Chat, hangout and play Among Us, Shibiiboo and Jackbox. Register: https://notlpubliclibrary.org/ zooms.io/4Y84602

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**RHIME TIME**

*March 9 @ 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.*

Looking for something fun to do with your tots? Come sing, move and have fun with Debbie, live on Zoom! https://notlpubliclibrary.org. For details and registration, please visit https://zoom.io/7Yn

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Deadline: Monday 3 p.m.

Call Karen 905-641-5335

or email: classified@notllocal.com

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**LOCAL WORSHIP**

*May 2 @ 10 a.m.*

Worship Gathering (Online Only)

*March 3, 2021*

Samson and Marty McSorley, but was bitten San Jose defenceman, Marty McSorley, but was bitten in the throat in the second period of the game.

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**MARCH BIRTHDAY GREETING**

*March 24, 2021*

Happy birthday to all who are celebrating on March 24. Please send your greetings to classified@notllocal.com.

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**AUCHTERLONIE ON ASTROLOGY**

WELCOME TO AUCHTERLONIE ON ASTROLOGY, a look at the week of Feb. 25, 2021 through March 3, including the full Moon on Saturday.

On your calendar this week you can also check out a new book called Full Moon: Your Personal Birth Chart including a forecast for the year ahead. The publisher is at www.auchterl-oneiroastrology.ca.

Now, the week ahead.

Thursday, Feb. 25:

While Venus enters Pisces, setting up a few up a few happiness issues, the Moon in Leo opposes Mercury (again), creating an argument between heart and mind. This is our last chance to resolve some of these issues, so do the right thing. It was Feb. 25, 1964, that Muhammed Ali won his first boxing title. His opponent, Sonny Liston, failed to come out for the seventh round.

Friday, Feb. 26:

The Moon moves into Virgo at 12 p.m. This makes for a day of unhappy feelings, including arguments with others. Mars in Taurus in the morning, and with arguments with Venus in Pisces in the afternoon. Be creative and be less picky. Today would be a good day to set new goals and plans.

Saturday, Feb. 27:

The Full Moon is in Virgo this morning, bringing stress, even when the Moon is in finicky Virgo. Fortunately, there are several opportunities if we can only open our hearts to new approaches. Jacques Plante, who played in net for the Montreal Canadiens for 10 years, winning six Stanley Cups, died Feb. 27, 1986. He was the first goalie to wear a face mask.

Sunday, Feb. 28:

Here is a sweet Sunday with the Moon moving into Libra at 2:16 p.m. It’s especially warm and fuzzy this morning. Eric Lindros turns 48 years old today. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Flyers.

Monday, March 1: It’s a day for big ideas and bigger plans. Make time and keep notes. Justin Bieber was born March 1, 1994, in London, Ont. He is the only record-setting artist to have seven songs from a debut album reach the Billboard Hot 100.

Tuesday, March 2:

The Moon moves from peace-loving Libra into sexy Scorpio at 3:38 p.m. An insight into the true mission in this life is today’s gift to you. It was March 2, 1965, that The Sound of Music, starring Christopher Plummer and Julie Andrews, premiered in N.Y.

Wednesday, March 3: Venus and Mars, Uranus and the Moon all have important roles to play in a very busy day. Expect the unexpected. It was March 3, 1847, that Alexander Graham Bell was born in Scotland. He moved to Canada, where he invented the telephone. Then he moved to the U.S., where he patented his invention. The telephone was one of hundreds of ideas he patented.

Next week is the third quarter Moon in Sagittarius on Friday, March 5, so until then, shine on!
Ciderhouse promising 50 new releases in its first year of operation

“We’re planning to work with five artists a year,” says Voth, “and there’s no shortage of local talent to choose from.”

They have already booked the artists for their first year, and will kick things off with Hamilton-based abstract painter Vick Naresh, who is of Indian descent. His works use metaphor and broad strokes to create narratives that arise from everyday experiences as well as current socio-political and activist themes. This often results in an ethereal feel to his pieces, combining shapes and styles to create striking images.

The bright colours of Naresh’s work will provide much contrast to the stark interior of the new ciderhouse. The art promises to be an integral part of the whole experience at Ironwood, as visitors will be able to peer out through floor-to-ceiling windows to the beautiful setting of the Sunnybrook Farm orchards while standing at the tasting bar.

And speaking of Sunnybrook, the popular fruit wines will still be available to purchase and to taste at Ironwood Cider, but they will no longer be front and centre. Over the next few weeks, Ironwood will be putting the finishing touches on the interior in preparation to welcome guests to the facility. The opening is planned for the spring, but of course will depend on COVID restrictions. In the meantime, Ironwood ciders and Sunnybrook wines are available for online orders and local pickup. And keep your eyes and taste buds peeled for the announcement of their first new products in early March.

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Social gatherings can have deadly consequences.

Stay home to stop the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at ontario.ca/covid-19

Ironwood Cider will be taking the spotlight, but fruit wines will still be available.