



Faye and John Shaver retire together page 12

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Celebrate International **Women's Day** with a family of strong women

Sharon Burns Special to The Local

For Stephanie Lakeit-Hall, creating an opportunity for women to celebrate International Women's Day is a way to honour and to give back to the strong women in her life.

Caroline Cellars Winery will be hosting the 4th Annual International Women's Day Lunch and Networking on March 8.

"The last International Women's Day event hosted by Caroline Cellars was pre-COVID — four days before the world shut down," said Lakeit-Hall, whose grandmother, Caroline, helped her parents purchase the farm on Line 2 in 1978. When her grandmother died, her father built the winery in Caroline's honour.

"She was a leader in our family," said Lakeit-Hall. "She was a strong personality who was always pushing us forward. I come from a family of strong women." The winery, retail store and office are run by Lakeit-Hall's two sisters and mother. "We are female-empowered."

"I feel that there is still very much a need for International Women's Day," said Lakeit-Hall, who is "coming from 20 years working in a corporate, male-dominated industrial organization. Women don't celebrate our accomplishments enough. Globally," she asserts, "International Women's Day is important."

Continued on page 15

Paths diverge for future of Negro Burial Ground

Penny Coles The Local

There is good news regarding the progress of work proposed for the Negro Burial Ground.

There is also some discord amongst those attempting to right a wrong of many years.

Research on the history of

go ahead. However, what happens af-

ter that remains uncertain.

When James Russell came to town from Toronto with ground-penetrating radar to ascertain how many graves and headstones were buried in the possibility of two more stages cemetery, his hope was to even- that could include hand excatually put names to those who vation of each headstone, and the cemetery proposed by an were laid beneath the surface. a possible third stage to address etery property, must approve do that, and we'll hope for enarchaeological firm has been He had a vision that would lead conservation of the headstones. to headstones being uncovered and restored, and ARA, the use of ground-penetrating ra-Kitchener archaeological com- dar, had determined where

to pay for it, so that work will pany the town agreed to hire, had established a course of action with a report that called first for research, at a cost of about \$5,000. That was the next step he was anticipating, and then depending on the results of the research, there was the

stones and graves lay beneath mark out the locations, local George Webber stepped in, offering to help with fundraising and to be the face of the project in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A fundraising steering comwhich, as the owner of the cem- tell us when it's appropriate to

The \$5,000 or so raised the ground, and was able to so far, Webber says, "has come mostly from family and friends, and people who have heard what we're doing. We haven't officially started to do any fundraising yet."

"We haven't been to council mittee was struck, and they yet to tell them what we want began working with the town do," he added. "The town will

off, leaving them the way they are or having them professionally restored to be appropriate for the site. But that would cost a whole lot of money."

All three stages of the ARA proposal were estimated at about \$64,000, and it seemed fundraising would have to pay for it, although Russell feels strongly it's the town's responsibility.

approved by the town, the firm has been hired and a fundraising committee has the money

Once Russell, through the

any work done at the site.

From the beginning Webber has set \$150,000 as the fundraising goal.

thusiastic support."

Initially, he said, "we were thinking of digging up the headstones and dusting them

There came the fork in the road, with Russell and Webber heading off in different directions.

Continued on page 9



THE NOTL Gocal

Add-ons increase capital budget by almost \$600,000 Broken diving board to be replaced morial Park swimming pool, der budget, we can come back times in March before the which has been out of service on it," he said. after two years of being off-limits for two years. Council passed a motion to Parks and recreation mandevote \$15,000 to replacing the ager Kevin Turcotte said the diving board for this summer.

Zahraa Hmood **Special to The Local**

A few adjustments have been made to Niagara-onthe-Lake's planned capital budget for this year, which includes an additional \$596,000 to be spent on projects at the Old Town fire station, Andres Street and Riverbeach Park.

The 2023 budget is set for a final review and approval on Thursday, March 23, and so far, the town has made plans to spend over \$10 million for work on roads, improving streetscapes and other capital expenses.

The budget review committee had its second meeting to discuss the capital budget on Feb. 22, during which it reviewed changes made to the budget during its first meeting on Feb. 16. This budget totalled \$9.58 million with a plan to take on \$2.19 million in debt for three large projects.

Council voted in favour of including three projects which were initially to be removed from the final capital budget: installing a system which removes diesel exhaust at Fire Station 1 in Old Town, at \$250,000; creating permeable paving for the parking lot at

Andres Street, at \$135,000.

The town will spend an extra \$211,100 on parking, leaving a deficit of a little more than \$40,000 in the parking reserve. According to Freeborn, the town is applying for a grant that may include funding for this project, which should help offset the deficit.

As for the capital reserve, there will be a surplus of about \$190,000, as the two new projects will cost \$385,000; however, the municipality is also receiving \$135,000 from the federal government through its Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly the Gas Tax Fund).

The diesel exhaust removal system is for the health of firefighters exposed to the carcinogenic fuel exhaust. The permeable paving is so the parking lot absorbs rather than collects water, which runs off into the sewer system, carrying environmentally-damaging pollutants. The sidewalk installation, from Cherry Street to Line 2 Road, is to improve traffic and pedestrian safety.

During the Feb. 22 meeting, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa asked what the town's policy

Riverbeach Park, at \$211,100; is on handling capital reserves, and installing a sidewalk on and Freeborn said the general practice, not policy, is to leave \$100,000 per year in a reserve.

"We do normally try to keep a balance in the capital reserve in case things come up in the year or to fund any capital variances at the end of the year," Freeborn said.

As for what "surprises" could come up over the year requiring the town to dip into those buckets of funding, Freeborn said in an average year, they could end up spending anywhere between \$20 to \$100,000. Alongside variances for projects that run over their costs, this could also include emergency situations, such as flooding or heavy rain causing culvert failure.

If a reserve can't pay for variances or fix emergency situations, Freeborn said the town can dip into its working funds reserve, or review its capital program for the year and re-evaluate what projects it has on its agenda, "which is rare," he said. "It hasn't happened."

The Feb. 22 meeting also included a discussion brought forward by Coun. Adriana Vizzari to fix the damaged diving board at the Veterans Me-



cost of replacing it would be about \$15,000. "If we come un- mittee will meet two more

The budget review com-

budget comes before council for approval: Wednesday, March 1 and Thursday, March 9, during which the committee will discuss the 2023 operating budget.

Fatality on Glendale in **NOTL Monday**

Local Staff

A driver in his 90s is dead after a collision in Niagaraon-the-Lake.

Monday afternoon on Glendale Avenue at Homer Road.

say a 91-year-old man was driving a 2015 Mini Cooper east on Glendale Avenue at Service, Niagara-on-the-Lake about 2:50 p.m. when a collision occurred with a 2019 Chevrolet Blazer that was travelling west on Glendale Avenue.

saving measures to the driver main under investigation. of the Mini Cooper, who was unresponsive after the collision. He was transported to The collision took place a local hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

The driver of the Chevro-Niagara Regional Police let Blazer sustained no physical injuries.

Niagara Regional Police Fire Department and Niagara Emergency Medical Service paramedics responded to the scene.

Witnesses provided life- to the cause of the collision re-

Witnesses and motorists who were in the area with an operational dash-camera are encouraged to review their footage and contact the lead detective at 905-688-4111, option 3, badge 1009170 with any relevant information.

Members of the public who wish to provide information anonymously are encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-8477.

The circumstances related

Second Tawny Ridge petition

Zahraa Hmood **Special to The Local**

Another petition has come forward from residents of St. Davids who have more than a few worries about the 86-unit development being proposed.

Local resident Gienek Ksiazkiewicz is filing a petition to the town of Niagaraon-the-Lake on Tuesday, March 7. It states the Tawny Ridge Estates development being proposed by Riverview Homes Niagara at Tanbark and Warner roads, if built, would be "very detrimental" to the fabric of the community and place too much pressure on its infrastructure.

The petition, like one filed mid-February and signed by 99 residents of Courtland Valley Estates, asks town officials to consider the concerns of residents and assess the potentially negative impacts of the high-density rezoning request from the developer.

"Development of Tawny Ridges Estates ... would be welcomed by residents," the petition reads. "However, the construction of high-density three-storey stacked townhouses and/or a four-storey apartment building are not consistent with the neighbourhood or viable for a number of reasons." The petition outlines Ksiazkiewicz's reasons. The first is the proposal goes against the trust local residents placed

in the town to maintain the current housing density of the community.

The developers are requesting an Official Plan amendment to increase the housing density and to allow the building of a four-storey apartment, and zoning by-law amendments which allows for taller buildings and greater lot coverage of properties.

"There was a trust placed in elected officials to maintain that zoning and preserve the homogeneity of the neighbourhood," Ksiazkiewicz writes.

The development, Ksiazkiewicz estimates, could host 121 or so vehicles belonging to residents, which, combined with the lack of lit crosswalks on Tanbark and Warner roads, could spell trouble for motorists and pedestrians.

"There will be extreme traffic congestion inconsistent with the neighbourhood and a potential hazard for St. Davids School students, dog walkers and others that live and walk

school and intersections like Tanbark and York roads and Warner and Four Mile Creek roads.

The community is lacking in infrastructure upgrades, the petition argues: there is no community centre, few outdoor recreational surfaces for children, and repairs to the St. Davids pool have been on hold due to unavailable funds.

"It is unknown whether the existing public school could accommodate the potential increase in students," he writes. "The existing infrastructure of St. Davids can only support a

specific number of residents." As for the value of neighbourhood homes, the petition shares concerns that the proposed high-density housing will negatively affect the resale value of surrounding properties.

"This financial impact must be taken into consideration by council in their decision-making process," Ksiazkiewicz writes. The Tawny Ridge Estates proposal comes during a push from the region to increase housing options in Niagara. Affordable housing is commendable, Ksiazkiewicz writes, in appropriate places. "Tawny Ridge is a square peg trying to fit into a round hole." A public meeting on the development will be on Tuesday, March 7, at 6 p.m. Residents can register to attend at clerks@notl.com before 12 p.m. on Monday, March 6.

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in that neighbourhood," Ksiazkiewicz writes.

The petition argues traffic studies should be done to determine the affect of a high-density residential area with 121 additional cars. Points to look at should include: speeding on Tanbark and Four Mile Creek roads, Tanbark being a steep, downhill road, congestion at specific times and in specific areas, like 8:30 a.m., 5 p.m., when students go to and leave

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Committee make-up chosen for tourism strategy

Zahraa Hmood The Local

Council has approved an important step for the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake tourism, as the community expands and contends with growing pains and travel in a post-pandemic world.

A tourism strategy committee is being formed, which will consist of Couns. Wendy Cheropita and Maria Mavridis, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, local tourism business operators, and a representative from Tourism NOTL.

The composition of the tourism strategy committee was approved at the general committee of the whole meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21, with municipal project liaison Kathy Weiss and a hired consulting team in charge of leading the tourism strategy process.

This strategy, along with a master plan and action plan, will lay the groundwork for how the town wants to attract visitors while keeping tourism sustainable and beneficial for everyone who lives and works in the municipality.

"You'll end up with a

high-quality publication at the end of the year," said Rebecca Godfrey, senior vice-president of CBRE Tourism Consulting, with a presentation outlining the team's current timeline for creating these plans for the town.

This included five recommendations presented for council to vote on, including the structure of the strategy committee. Committee members will be responsible for providing key insights into how the town should attract tourists, representing different areas of life and work in Niagara-on-the-Lake and pooling their perspectives.

Godfrey presented the team's recommendation for the committee structure, which included one member of town council, five tourism business owners, two local residents, and a member of Tourism NOTL.

However, during a discussion between councillors on who should occupy its seat on the committee, two names emerged: Cheropita, nominated by Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, and Mavridis, who put forth her own name for consideration.

Both Cheropita and

R		1000	E	\oslash
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
invironmental Scan & Destination Analysis	Economic Impact Assessment	Vision and Focus	Draft Strategy, Masterplan & Action Pla	NOTL Tourism Strategy, an Masterplan & Action Plan
Key Tasks -Literature Review -Stakeholder Consultation -Asset Inventory -Organizational Review -PESTLE & SWOT	Key Tasks -Benchmarking & Performance Metrics -Economic Impact Assessment Review	Key Tasks -Visioning Session Focus Group -Draft Vision, Focus, and Strategic Priorities	Key Tasks -Recommended Strategy & Masterplan -Action Plan	Key Tasks -Final NOTL Tourism Strategy, Masterplan and Action Plan Report -High Quality Publication -Final Presentations

Councillors see the tourism strategy's five phases and the work they include. (Screenshot)

Mavridis have experience with tourism-related businesses in the Niagara region. Cheropita worked for five years as the Wine Council of Ontario's director of marketing, building tourism in the wine industry, and currently works as a consultant for business development, while Mavridis has operated businesses in the Heritage District for more than two decades, including Corks Restaurant & Wine Bar on Queen Street.

The two councillors were

on why they should be the one to fill this seat at the table.

"I have actually built tourism strategies," Cheropita said. "It's all about collaboration, it's all about working with a multi-faceted stakeholder group, and making sure that we can come up with consensus."

Mavridis highlighted that she has been working in Niagara-on-the-Lake since she was 12 years old, and said she believes she can maintain objectivity on the committee even while being a current business operator.

"I have been here for over 30 years and have pivoted five spots for a business operathrough many ups and downs in this town: SARS, 9/11, the market crash, COVID - and

given the opportunity to speak we survived," she said. "I'd be excited to sit and work with the CBRE, the town and residents to ensure that we come up with the perfect strategy."

> Both pitches were well-received by council members. "I'd like to see what both candidates have to do on the committee," said Coun. Sandra O'Connor.

In the end, council members voted unanimously on a strategy committee that has two councillors, four tourism business operators, two local residents, and one Tourism NOTL representative.

They eliminated one of the tor, with the idea that Mavridis would provide representation both for the municipality and the business sector, and also to keep an odd number of seats at the table, considered more ideal for decision-making.

Then they voted in favour of electing both Mavridis and Cheropita to the two available seats.

Godfrey's presentation went over the five phases of the tourism strategy project, with the team currently in the first phase: consulting with stakeholders like the strategy committee and other business owners, tourism groups, agricultural operators, residents, municipal staff and council.

At this stage in the process, the team will be conducting interviews, two online surveys, focus groups, a workshop, and more.

Councillors discouraged with revenue from MAT

Zahraa Hmood **The Local**

After launching a two per cent tax on certain accommodation bookings last summer, Niagara-on-the-Lake's finance team has started collecting its earnings. So far, the town has received almost \$167,000 from the operators of 20 hotels and inns, based on profits during the peak of tourism season.

Some councillors shared concerns over what they found to be a low financial yield, while the director of finance detailed challenges the town has encountered with the municipal accommodation tax program since it began last July.

ey from the hotel industry in Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Coun. Gary Burroughs, who voiced concern that the municipality doesn't have a clear picture of what the MAT's benefits will be.

"This is what would be expected from one property operating in the busiest of their months," said Coun. Maria Mavridis.

Freeborn said the town is currently following up with all the hotel operators that haven't submitted a remittance. As for why 39 per cent of these remittances haven't been submitted, Freeborn said the operators are tances, such as each accommosaying "not a whole lot."

Freeborn gave an update on would move in that direction." which has been reflected in

with MAT funds.

One project the town hoped to start this year was enhancing Queen Street. Now, with the MAT governance committee recommending that project's \$146,000 budget be funded with MAT dollars, the project is being deferred.

"I think this project would be great to be a good pilot project for something like this to bring to the committee for a discussion," Freeborn said.

The town also wants more information from the hotel operators who submit remitdation's total occupancy rates. "We do have the ability to According to Freeborn, the transfer outstanding payments large operators were hesitant Director of finance Kyle to tax," he said. "If we have to, we to provide this information,



the MAT program's earnings to council during a recent meeting of the budget review committee. According to Freeborn, the town has received \$166,820.41 in remittances, starting July 1 (when the program came into effect) until the end of September.

According to the town, this represents 61 per cent of the municipality's total MAT earnings for the third quarter of 2022.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is collecting half of the tax's earnings to fund tourism initiatives, promotions, and related infrastructure projects. The other half is going to Tourism NOTL, the tourism branch of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, to spend on tourism marketing.

"\$166,000 is not a lot of mon-

two per cent tax on all accommodation bookings made in Niagara-on-the-Lake for those with five or more rooms. Approved in late June last year, the town is planning to raise the tax to three per cent in 2024, then four per cent in 2025.

Starting in March, hotel operators will need to submit remittances for the fourth quarter of 2022, meaning more money added to the MAT reserve.

Mavridis asked how the municipality is going to put together its 2023 budget if it doesn't know yet its total revenue from the tax. In response, Freeborn said it'll be a combination of waiting until the town has the funds to complete a project and discussing projects that they would like to tackle then, a way to spend it."

The MAT program places a relevant parts of the remittance forms being submitted.

"So far, we've only had our first return, and most of them are coming in blank," he said.

"Having been in the hotel business for 30 years," Burroughs commented, "it's highly unlikely I would've ever given other hotels information about my operations ... it's confidential."

Burroughs said he thinks the town needs to start pushing the issue of MAT payments in order to have a better idea of its potential benefits for Niagara-on-the-Lake's tourism sector.

"The MAT tax is going to be so important for our town," he said. "Until we know what we're expecting from last year, it's hard to budget what we're looking for from this year, and to welcome Sandy Page to our Bosley Niagara Team. With more than 30 years of experience buying and selling real estate, Sandy can see the potential in any home and is looking forward to blending her market knowledge with her passion for service. Sandy's goal is to understand her client's needs and values, to help them make their family's real estate dreams come true.

Welcome Sandy, we wish you all the very best as you launch your real estate practice here at Bosley. On your behalf, we invite your friends and past colleagues to contact you for timely answers to their questions and assistance in finding the right solution to their real estate needs.

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THE NOTL Gocal

Yellow Door presents You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

Mike Balsom The Local

If 15-year-old Eden High School student Avery Kasper has any qualms about playing the iconic title character in ra Secord Secondary School Yellow Door Theatre Project's production of You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, he's not showing it.

After all, following his first appearance in a YDTP production last year as another iconic character, playing Jesus in *Godspell*, it's probably a piece of cake.

Yellow Door kicks off March Break with four presentations of the well-known musical based on Charles Schultz' beloved Peanuts comic strips, March 11 and 12 at both 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. each day. It features a cast of local teens as the main characters as well an ensemble of intermediate-aged youth.

YDTP's founder and artistic producer Andorlie Hillstrom about the musical. "The music is fun, upbeat and clever. Because it's a series of vignettes, as if you're reading the actual comic strip, it's simply a set-up for one joke after another after another. And that's great training for these kids, learning how to deliver dark-haired foil to Charlie a joke."

Schultz' work on paper was adapted for the theatre in 1967 by American composer, songwriter, author and actor Clark Gesner.

"He took his material directly from the comic strips," Hillstrom explains. "I found some of them, and it's fascinating. It's as if you're watching a comic come to life. I'm directing the kids so there's

more of a feeling of flatness to it, like there is when you through Charlie Brown's eyes, are reading a comic. I've been as he and his friends play sending them some of that stuff so they get that feel."

Catherine Dubois, a Laustudent who lives in Niagaraon-the-Lake, plays Lucy in the YDTP production.

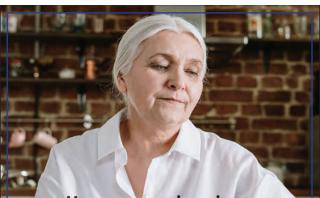
"I knew the musical," Dubois says. "A couple of years ago I did a song from it, My New Philosophy, for my audition here. Then through that one song that Sally sings, I did some research, and I remembered seeing the TV specials. But I didn't really know the comics."

Dubois says Hillstrom encouraged the young teen cast to look more to the comics in preparation for the upcoming show than to the musical or even the much-loved TV shows.

"The way Andorlie is stag-"I've always loved it," says ing it is a lot like the comics," adds Dubois. "When we do the show we work a lot with us front-facing one way, then another way, so it looks kind of like how it was drawn. It's cool to take it directly from the comic strip and into our he always has the mentality show."

Brown's potential happiness.

"She has some strange traits," she laughs, "like just punching people all the time. Her anger is definitely there. She has her ups and downs, but she's funny, she knows what she wants. Like Schroeder, she really likes him. studio in Virgil, with the cast Even though he could care less about her, she knows what she wants and she sticks to that."



baseball, send valentines, sing songs and share friendships. Fans of the comic strip will recognize some well-known situations, such as Lucy operating her psychiatric booth, Schroeder playing the piano, Linus spouting wisdom while clutching his blanket and Snoopy fantasizing while sitting atop his doghouse.

Kasper sees a lot of facets to his character that many might not realize are there.

"I really had to delve into those layers," Kasper explains. "And when I found it, I connected with him a lot. He has this weird relationship with Lucy, and I didn't get it at first. But after experiencing it with Catherine, it's a real backand-forth relationship. In the end, I think we do get that closure. She turns out to be a great friend."

Despite the pathos inherent in the hapless boy at the centre of the musical, Kasper sees his character as an optimist.

"He's very hopeful, and that it's a new day with new She's having a lot of fun obstacles, and he's going to playing Lucy, the acerbic overcome them," says Kasper. "It's fun to play such a hopeful character, and sometimes it's challenging to sell the hurt he feels, but as I've been connecting with the character more, it's coming out more naturally."

> The musical will be performed in the Yellow Door surrounded on three sides by the audience in a thrust stage layout.

"It's really good training for them," says Hillstrom. "There's an intimate nature to it, sitting right beside the performers. There are people literally inches behind the performers. They have to focus when they are surrounded on all sides, and hold that focus."

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown follows the YDTP tradition of present-

cast in the early spring. Hillstrom is planning ahead for the non-profit youth theatre group's summer program, when they will be presenting Mary Poppins. And she's just booked the Robertson The-Dec. 6 through 9 to present production. the musical Newsies.

in 2015 and assembling her 12 performances, Dubois staff, Hillstrom has worked with dozens of young aspiring actors and built relationships with many supportive businesses in the community.

The musical explores life ing musicals with a smaller seen many of her students win plays crazy director Gene roles in productions at the Shaw Festival. Dubois herself appeared in White Christmas in 2022. And when Gypsy takes to the floorboards at the Festival Theatre this season, Yellow Door students Wren atre at the Performing Arts Evans, Hannah Otta and Centre in St. Catharines for Sofia Otta will be part of the

While continuing to re-Since founding YDTP hearse for the March 11 and and Kasper are also involved in theatre projects at school. Dubois is in the ensemble for Laura Secord's upcoming production of A Midsummer And she's proud to have Night's Dream, while Kasper

Culpepper in Eden's presentation of Murder's in the Heir, an interactive murder mystery.

notllocal.com

But the busy schedule isn't too much of a challenge for either of the young actors, who are simply getting a chance to do what they love, performing with their friends in front of a supportive audience.

Tickets for You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown are \$15 and can be purchased in advance via tinyurl.com/ cykh8wx2 or bought at the door the day of the show, at the Yellow Door Theatre Project Studio at 504 Line 2 in NOTL.



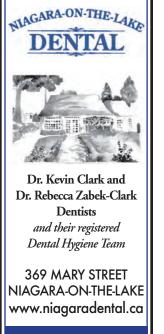
Avery Kasper as Charlie Brown, with (back) Alex Bergshoeff as Snoopy, Liam Marriott as Schroeder, Diego Rey as Linus: and (front) Maya Sternin as Sally, Catherine Dubois as Lucy, and Leah Hyatt as Sally — she and Sternin share the role. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



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Michael Man. Photo by Peter Andrew Lusztyk



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Subject to availability. No exchanges. Phone or in-person sales only. Tickets purchased prior to this offer are not eligible for discount and may not be exchanged for Town Preview tickets. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Handling fee applies. Limit of 4 tickets per household. Offer ends March 31, 2023.



EDITORIAL THE NOTL goeal notllocal.com

Future of hospital should include community use, town ownership

The doctors are gone, and an arts, culture and education. almost-empty building sits on a beautiful property in a prime location in the Old Town. It's time for council to move ahead and make a decision on what to do with the former hospital building on Wellington Street.

It may need some updating, but first the grand old building needs a purpose.

And a group of residents with a grand plan to match the building is offering that purpose — to serve the community as a hub for

A presentation to the town about the former hospital Tim Jennings, Shaw Festival building, expected at last week's meeting, was put off until this Tuesday. Since council meetings are now held mostly on Tuesday evenings — after decades of the traditional Monday nights just as The Local is going to press to be delivered with your mail Wednesday morning, we can't report on the presentation in this of residents who tried to estabweek's paper. That story will be lish a community hub in the

can say what we hope took place. when the school board declared attempts to find a use for the Robin Ridesic, along with

CEO, and Tim Johnson, a Shaw board member and Indigenous educator, were hoping to convince council members, first and foremost, of the importance of holding on to community-use properties to retain the town's vibrancy and sustainability.

Ridesic was one of a group online later. In the meantime, we former Parliament Oak School

that building surplus.

We all know how that turned out, what has happened with that property since, and what its future is likely to hold.

Just imagine the developers salivating to get their hands on the hospital property!

Parliament Oak was not an option for a community hub that would include a not-for-profit school, Royal Oak Community School opened in the Market Room of the Court House, and then moved to the hospital site, where it has since expanded.

Since then, the town has asked for expressions of interest to redevelop the Wellington Street property. They received nine proposals, all were rejected by the last term of council, and the process came to a halt. In addition to the proposal of an arts, culture and educational hub, which would keep ROCS as a tenant along with other non-profit organizations, other suggestions included tourism accommodation, seniors housing, residential housing, and parking, among other ideas.

making any decisions, and said

property would wait until January 2023.

In the meantime, the doctors and LifeLabs that were located in the building have moved out, and there remains only the school, which takes up a small portion of the building; When it became obvious a massage therapist; and office space for the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service.

> The presentation this week was expected to include an ask that the lease agreements with the remaining three tenants be extended, and that additional community organizations be prioritized as tenants, while stressing the importance of preserving the community facility zoning for the property. Although the school is presumably hoping to continue to grow with a secured future at the site, there is room for so much more that would benefit the community, in terms of arts and cultural non-profit organizations that could have more space, social and physical, deliver more services to the community, and connect the community.

Councillors of the last term, Council decided to put off who decided to defer a decision, did so in part because the last summer that any further proposals that were received

seemed to make them realize the shortage of appropriate community space - many of those zoned as such have in recent years been sold.

Creating a long-term tenant space seems a perfect solution that would allow the town to retain ownership of the building, while providing a location that can meet the current needs of some of the non-profits in town which have expressed interest in it, allowing them to expand their presence and their services to the community.

It would also help the town offset costs of maintaining the aging building.

The Creative, Cultural and Community Hub, as presented by those who want to see the building's community use continue, with the bricks and mortar remaining in the hands of the town, would redress a situation that was created years ago with the sale of Parliament Oak and other community buildings, and avoid having history repeat itself. Hopefully this current council agrees, and sees this proposal as a win for all — arts, culture, education, the community and the town.

Penny Coles The Local

Rumours of enslaved people buried at Centre St. addressed

Shawna Butts **Assistant Curator and Education Programmer** of the NOTL Museum

Information has been sourced from the Joy Ormsby files, NOTL Museum's House files (digital and physical), Black History research files, Niagara Eve of War website/ research, People Files, and the NOTL Museum's permanent collection. Additional resources were outsourced, including the website The Niagara Settlers.

In 1796, Miles Hitchcock under Davenport's tenure, as received the Crown Grant for there was no war loss claim lot 202 in the Town of Niaga- submitted for the property folra. In a petition transcript obtained from the Upper Canada Land Petitions, held by Library and Archives Canada (accessed via The Niagara Settlers), 1822. Hitchcock states that he arrived in the province in 1786 with his 1828) was the son of United wife and six children after serving the British Army during the American Revolution. For his service, he received 600 acres of land, however, he does no indicate where the land was in the province. In this petition he is requesting land on lot 14 and 15 on the Twenty Mil Creek (Lincoln area). In 1787, Robert Hamilton compiled one of the earlies census records in the Niagar

land area) and Grimsby Town- lowing the American Revoluships. Hitchcock and his family are listed in the third section of this census. This, coupled with the fact that Hitchcock petitioned the land board for lots located along the Twenty Mile Creek indicates that he, in all likelihood, settled in the Clinton Township area.

Under Hitchcock's ownership, the property appears to have remained vacant, and in 1800, he sold the lot to Abraham Davenport for 25 pounds. The lot very likely continued to remain vacant

tion. David must have provided his children with a decent education, as John was able to study law, was listed in the Law Society of Upper Canada register in 1812, and was called before the King's Bench in 1817 as a barrister. John is often confused in several historical writings as a lawyer from Virginia. The lawyer from Virginia was John C. Breckenridge (note the spelling difference) who was once vice-president of the United States, pro-slavery, and an enslaver. Following the American Civil War, John C. Breckenridge did seek refuge in Niagara to prevent his persecution for his actions during the war. Beginning in 1866, Breckenridge and his family rented and lived at the home at 80 Front Street and by 1868 they

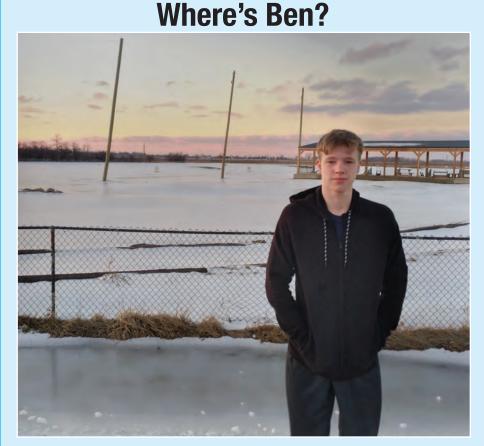
Donald Combe Special to The Local

Sharper (Apple TV, 2023) is a film experience where none of the characters is who he seems to be, so there are endless dramatic character revelations. The writ- loves to go to the movies. Until ing, direction and acting are all superb; however, what I learned as I watched was both alarming and somewhat depressing. Donald Combe is a re-

View from the couch

tired English teacher who

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.



Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@ notllocal.com. Two weeks ago, Ben was at the Mackenzie Printery in Queenston, and we neglected to mention that Christine Rizzuto got that one right. Last week, Ben was at the former Parliament Oak School. New NOTL resident Raymond Marina identified the location and said he was pleased to learn some of the history of the school.



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lowing the War of 1812. John Breakenridge purchased the property from the

heir of Abraham Davenport in

John Breakenridge (1789-Empire Loyalist David Breakenridge, who received a land grant in the Prescott area fol-

were renting 120 Front Street. In 1816, John Breakenridge married Mary Warren Bald-

Continued on page 7

 indicate where the land was in the province. In this petition, he is requesting land on lots 14 and 15 on the Twenty Mile Creek (Lincoln area). In 1787, Robert Hamilton compiled one of the earliest census records in the Niagara 	ession, Service for youth WOMEN'S d crisis. 416-586-5437 HELPLINE
he is requesting land on lots 14 and 15 on the Twenty Mile Creek (Lincoln area). In 1787, Robert Hamilton compiled one of the earliest	ession, Service for youth WOMEN'S d crisis. 416-586-5437 HELPLINE
Region. It is made up of three sections with the latter having settlers who settled in the Clin- ton (Lincoln, Beamsville, Vine-	-3711 (Crisis Line) #SAFE (#723 kidshelpphone.ca 1-866-863-05 (Toll Free) (Toll Free) CTIONS ALCOHOLICS (Toll Free) SS Meetings every Wednesday evening 0-5205 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark's Parish Hall niagaratips.co 41 Byron St., NOTL Text 274637 (CRIM

COMMENT ____ THE NOTL Gocal

Cocal LETTERS Parliament Oak proposal does not warrant consideration

est proposal for the Parliament Oak property since after spending a decade here I thought Benny Marotta (of Two Sisters Resorts and Solmar, now own-

I was disappointed in the later of the property) would have and scale. It's called contextualcome to appreciate what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake unique.

> New buildings have always been compatible with their surroundings in use, size, materials

ism, and it's a philosophy that has been successfully followed in the design of new structures in the town for 200 years.

Mr. Marotta is insulting our

community and embarrassing himself in proposing a huge brick and stone hotel in the middle of one-and-a-half and two-storey single family houses, clad primarily with wood

siding or stucco. Town council and staff should not give this proposal any serious consideration as it reveals poor land use planning as well as proposing a building

cereal, quick oats, pasta,

For pick-up in Niagara-

canned food, peanut butter, en-

on-the-Lake e-mail Helen Mc-

Callum at hfmccallum@gmail.

ergy bars, etc.

that wouldn't be compatible anywhere in town, not just on this property.

March 1, 2023

Wayne Murray, B. Arch, **MRAIC NOTL**

— *Qocal* LETTERS People in Ukraine and from Ukraine still need help

Victoria Biliak Katz immigrated to Canada in 2015 when Russia annexed the Crimea. She is now the president of AMD FOR HOPE (amdforhope.com), an organization committed to helping relieve the suffering of Ukrainian victims during their atrocious fight for freedom.

Victoria is one of those re-

sponsible for humanitarian aid for newcomers to the Niagara region. The organization is reaching out for help in providing new arrivals from Ukraine with:

• Household items — dishes, towels, bedding, small appliances, pots and pans

• Toiletries — soap, toothpaste, shampoo, laundry detergent supplies, toys • Non-perishable food items

cereal, quick oats, pasta, canned food, peanut butter, energy bars, etc.

For those still in Ukraine, ADM FOR HOPE has collected and shipped medical aid donated by other local non-profits as

• Diapers, wet wipes, school well as humanitarian supplies collected locally.

Those still in Ukraine need: • Sleeping bags, gym mats • Thermal clothing, socks, new under clothing, hand/foot

warmers Non-prescription drugs (Tylenol, Advil, cold medica-

A lot of you have already tion), vitamins, bandages donated and it is very much ap-

com.

• Non-perishable food items preciated. The crises, however, continues.

> Take a look around your home and you will find things for which you no longer have a need: rest assured they will be a treasure to someone who has nothing.

> > **Helen McCallum** NOTL

NOTL Museum research 'can't determine validity of rumours'

Continued from page 6

win and a year later the couple moved into the first home that he had built in Niagara — 363 Simcoe Street (lot 201). A few years after moving to Niagara, John had another home built at 392 Mississauga Street (lot 227), and by 1823 John had constructed the home at 240 Centre Street (lot 202). The Breakenridges were living in this home by 1825. In 1828, John Breakenridge died. To counteract the loss in income, his wife Mary and Eliza Fenwick opened and operated the Niagara Seminary for Young Ladies from 1829 until 1832. In 1852, Mary sold the home to John Connelly for 250 pounds.

When John was just four years old, the 1793 Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada was passed. This act gradually abolished the practice in the province but did not immediately free those who were enslaved. The sale of enslaved people would still occur in the province until the practice was abolished in the entire British Commonwealth in 1834. There have been questions raised if John could have afforded or had enslaved people at the 240 Centre Street property.

of buying/selling was still legal when he acquired the 240 Centre Street property. Recent statements have been made that Breakenridge could not have afforded to enslave anyone.

for several reasons. Since enslaved people were considered personal property, they were often named in Last Will and Testaments. The Breakenridges could have inherited them at no cost to his person. Additionally, account ledgers or John's Last Will and Testament do not appear in any institution, or they remain in private collections, meaning that evidence to substantiate his ability or inability to afford to enslave people cannot be ascertained until the evidence becomes available.

One of the statutes in the Act to Limit Slavery was that any recently freed enslaved person (either via the law or manumitted) had to receive security from their former enslaver. Security could have been in the form of individuals being held in trust by a local church or town warden. What this rule promoted was that enslavers could employ people they had formerly enslaved as indentured servants (for a maximum of nine years, at which point the term could be renewed). According to Joy Ormsby's research notes on the property, there is an 1826 Gleaner Newspaper advertisement where the Breakenridges in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Eviare seeking help for the return dence of this is found at Christ Legally John could have of their indentured servant Church McNab. slaved people as the practice Maria and her father, and they are offering a reward. Unfortu- mours of enslaved people being nately, this advertisement could buried on this property seem to not be found, at this time, in have attached themselves to John any issue held by the NOTL Breakenridge's ownership. How-Museum. Without any written ever, written records of these records or census records from rumours pre-date his ownership.

This is not necessarily correct around this time, we are unable to substantiate whether Maria and her father were formerly enslaved by the Breakenridges, manumitted, and then indentured by them or if they simply entered an indentured contract via other means.

> When Mary operated the home as a school with Eliza Fenwick, Eliza mentions in a letter dated October 31, 1831, paying three shillings for services provided by servants. It is unknown if these were the father/daughter previously indentured by Mary and John. A few years after the school closed, the enslavement of people was abolished in the entire British empire.

A question that should be raised is: If the Breakenridges buried enslaved people on their property, why didn't they bury them at St. Andrew's graveyard directly across the street or at the Baptist Cemetery (1830)? The family was very involved in St. Andrew's Church and its construction, and the family would have likely had some sway in having them buried in the graveyard. Burying enslaved people on consecrated ground was not uncommon

For some reason, the ru-

found in the museum's digital house files and in the Joy Ormsby files, states that Miles at 240 Centre Street in 1796 and additional home for his daughter. The family enslaved 18 individuals and they would travel between these two homes. that it is believed beneath a knoll in the back garden, the Hitchcock family buried three people they had enslaved. This is the only written record that mentions enslaved people being buried on this property. However, this article must be taken with a grain of salt as there are several major historical inaccuracies, and Frances Phelps does not source where they obtained their research. Firstly, we know for a fact

that John Breakenridge commissioned 240 Centre Street to be built in 1823. Frances Phelps' indication that this brick home was built by Hitchcock in 1796 and that many of the windowpanes, the original knocker and much of the original hardware remain from his ownership, is false. In fact, John Breakenridge's affiliation with this property in this article is but quired. one short sentence. Addition-

A 1956 St. Catharines Stan- of Niagara-on-the-Lake, sever- 240 Centre Street, there is also dard article by Frances Phelps al of which pre-date the War of 1812. During this period, many of the homes in Niagara were described as hovels, shacks, cab-Hitchcock built the brick home ins, skeletons and ruins (Capital Years). Many of the homes that on this one-acre lot was an that were built during the early days of Niagara's settlement were made from wood, a readily available and cheap material. Even men who were part of Frances Phelps also indicates the colonial elite had homes, although much grander, built from wood.

> Additionally, proof that this lot likely remained vacant until Breakenridge purchased it can be found on the 1810 Gray Map of Niagara. This map shows buildings that were in the town during this time. There is no building shown on lot 202. However, as previously mentioned, the lack of a war loss claim following the War of 1812 may be further proof of it being a vacant lot.

With regards to proof of the Hitchcock family enslaving 18 people, Natasha Henry, Assistant Professor of African Canadian History at York University and President of the Ontario Black History Society, was unable to determine if Hitchcock enslaved people. Further research to locate evidence is re-

This means that the histor-

a document detailing information about the homes (mentioned above) that were built by John Breakenridge. In this package of information, the author, who is unknown, mentions that Arent/Aaron Bradt, who received the Crown Grant for lot 227 (329 Mississauga Street) buried six enslaved people on this property. However, I have not been able to locate records of Bradt having enslaved people. Natasha Henry was able to provide information that Andrew Bradt, Arent's son, did enslave people, but was unable to determine if he inherited them from his father.

Records found on The Niagara Settlers website indicate that Bradt had settled on 200 acres of land in the Niagara Township (lots 72/73) in 1784. Bradt received lot 227 in 1796 and in the same year he died, leaving it vacant. The property appears to have remained in his name until it was sold to John Breakenridge in 1817.

Since lots 227 and 202 butt onto each other, the rumour of the burial of enslaved people could have started with either lot. Sadly, without any primary source information including death or burial records, the NOTL Museum cannot determine the validity of these rubeing able to locate the true source of these rumours (it may not be Frances Phelps' article) we cannot trace how valid they may or may not be.

ally, at the time of Hitchcock's not common. During the town's formative years, there were only a few brick homes within the present municipal boundaries

ical information presented in mours. Additionally, without ownership, brick homes were this article, including the mention of 18 enslaved people and their burial on the property, should be heavily questioned. In the house history file for



NOTL'S FAVORITE REALTOR[®] FAMILY TEAM – #1 RLP TEAM NOTL 2022

earn and Live series continues at the library

Mike Balsom The Local

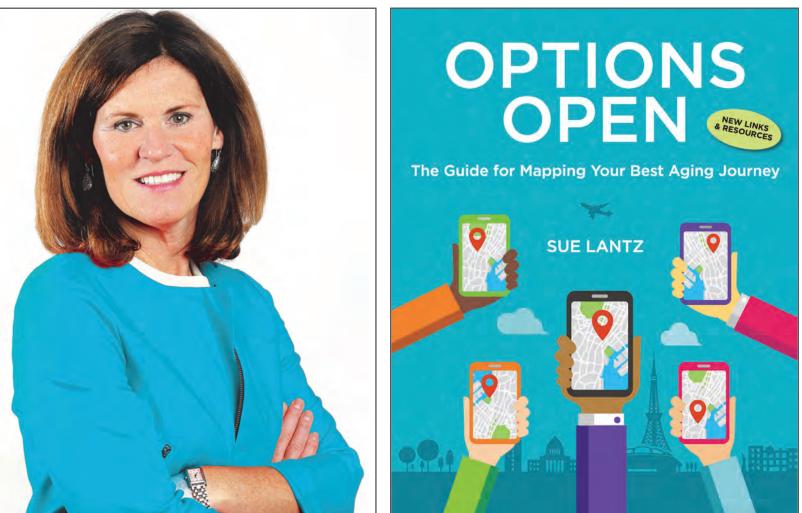
The research is irrefutable. Lifelong learning is important for our well-being and can help stave off dementia and other diseases.

In an article called *Lifelong* Learning; Why Do We Need It? in the journal Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences, doctors Marjan Laal and Peyman Salamati write, "continuous building of skills and knowledge throughout the life of an individual enhances social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development, helps people to take an active part in civic life, lead a more sustainable lifestyle, and improves their health and wellbeing."

To that end, a popular series of lectures, workshops and seminars with a focus on learning for all ages returns next Monday, March 6 to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. The first of 11 sessions will feature Bonnie Bagnulo from NOTL Community Palliative Care Service.

It's part of the Learn and Live Series that got its start in 2021 via recommendations from the town's Community to council that year.

Live and Learn kicked off in October 2021, with Dr. Ron Clavier speaking on the emo-



On March 27, author and advocate Sue Lantz leads a discussion on successful aging. Shown is her guide for managing options for "your best aging journey." (Supplied)

tional wellness of learning. included partnering with Clavier was followed by Mc- losses, a session on the three Master University professor museums in NOTL, an event Wellness Committee's report Larry Chambers on reducing for youth called Mind Over the risk of dementia, and then *Matter*, and a guest from the geriatrician Dr. Sam Thrall Avanti Singers leading a sesspeaking about healthy aging. In spring 2022, topics ing Voice.

sion called Finding Your Sing-

co-organizers Cindy Grant and Terry Mactaggart gathattended previous events.

stormed," says Grant. "At passed it on to Cindy and Terone point last year, we asked attendees what kinds of sessions they would like. We had that information, and we had a couple of other people join us for some meetings to get more input. Then we started approaching potential guests a great turnout for Willow for this year."

Grant buzzes with excitement about this year's lineup.

just about one topic, she says. "Wellness can really be anything. And Terry always I learned so much from her emphasizes that this needs to be a program that reaches all ages, not just the seniors in town."

Indeed, this year's sessions, which run up to July and many others will surely 17, are widely varied in na- be the June 19 session feature. Grant is really looking turing Shaw Festival artistic forward to a few that should director Tim Carroll.

For this year's program, library's community engagement coordinator, tells The Local. "Because of what she ered feedback from those who talks about, I figured it would be a really great fit for the "Terry and I sat and brain- Learn and Live program. So I ry to run it under the Learn and Live umbrella."

> The June 5 session is called Unpacking Indigenous Baggage — Updating your *Carry-ons.*

"I'm really hoping we get (Shawanoo-Kechego) from the Niagara Regional Native Centre," Grant says of that "We didn't want it to be night. "She is so passionate and energetic. In the hourlong meeting we had with her about Indigenous issues and what this land means to their people. I am sure people will find her talk fascinating."

And a highlight for Grant

help fill Mactaggart's mandate "He'll be talking about

and free for all to attend. Each guest donates their time to lead their Learn and Live session. As well, the library is happy to host each event in their atrium free of charge.

A few of the talks, however, move out of the library this year, including a fourpart series in May on creating your own tiny museum exhibition that will take place at the NOTL Museum and the Community Centre. And the final event on July 17, The Prettiest Town in Canada: How Does it Happen, with NOTL Parks supervisor J.B. Hopkins, will be held on the Court House steps.

For the first session on March 5, NOTL CPCS executive director Bonnie Bagnulo hopes to dispel some myths about what palliative care is and isn't, and also draw some attention to some of the lesser-known services the organization offers.

"Palliative Care begins at the onset of a life-limiting progressive illness," says Bagnulo. "It follows through for a vear after the loss. What I'd like the community to know is that we would like to be working with people living with a life-limiting illness at the onset of that illness. Sometimes we can be with our client for years."



Facebook @notl.homeshow

Raffle Draw to win A PAIR OF NIAGARA RIVER LIONS SEASON TICKETS at 2:30pm with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

FREE PARKING

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO BE AVENDOR, SPONSOR OR DONOR **CONTACT** notlhomeshow@gmail.com

of appealing to all ages.

On March 27, author and advocate Sue Lantz leads a discussion on expanding the options for successful aging in place. Lantz is a policy expert and a voice for seniors and people with disabilities. She serves on the board of directors for a global organizaadvisory board for Toronto Metropolitan University's National Institute on Aging.

"Debbie Krause from the library suggested her," says Grant. "She consults with all kinds of people, including municipalities. She will shed light on the supports that we need to age in our own homes here in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

"Sue came to us via one of our patrons," Krause, the program is open to all ages

how to watch a play," says Grant, "what to think about while you watch it, how it gets put together. I'm really, really excited about that one, too."

Grant expects Carroll's appearance to be very popular, and Krause is ready for any overflow that might cause.

"Last year's sessions were tion called 880 Cities and the all at capacity," Krause says, "but that was set at 25 to 30 because of COVID. I think anything that has to do with Shaw will draw a big audience in this town. The rotunda can seat up to 80 people, because the shelves are moveable. We also have the option of moving out of that space completely and heading into the series. Visit the library's web-Rotary Room."

Grant stresses that the events calendar.

Bagnulo's talk will focus on resources for in-home care and bereavement as well.

"We also have a caregiver program that we are just starting," she adds. "We want everyone to know that we are here to care for our clients and our caregivers."

Pre-registration is required for the Learn and Live site at notlpubliclibrary.org and follow the links on the

Two visions — benches versus restored headstones

Continued from page 1

The chasm between them is so deep that Russell, who originally proposed the town hire ARA, didn't know that had occurred and the work was going ahead, until he heard about it from The Local. The town, with Kevin Turcotte, parks and recreation supervisor, apparently taking the lead, notified Webber and the fundraising committee members, who have decided that once the first research phase of the archaeological work is completed, they have a different plan for the confrontational, and isn't property.

Now, with the research that committee members have done, "we know the huge probability of who is buried there," says Webber. They have been working with the museum, he says, "and our sense is the 18 names we have are the people who are likely buried there."

His plan includes having those names engraved on a memorial wall of some lasting material - possibly marble, concrete or steel - for all to read, he says.

Webber envisions the cemetery as a place with pathways and benches, where visitors will learn about the burial ground from the plaque that relays its history, and will be able to sit for a time of quiet reflection. He says he believes that plan to be a better use of any money raised than the expensive work of excavating headstones and

preserving them.

He and Russell had the discussion about going their separate ways last October, he says. "He doesn't want to work

with the committee. He wants to do his thing, and I'll do mine." Webber says his concept

for the cemetery, which has the support of the committee, "is, I think, an even better approach."

The committee, the town, and the Burial Association of Ontario, which oversees cemeteries, will be working together, he added, and he is confident of their support.

Russell knows he can be bothered by that. He has definite ideas of what he believes should be done, and isn't backing down from his beliefs.

second and third stages it outlines in its report, Russell wants those carried out, although he doesn't know who will pay for it. He feels strongly the town, as owner of the cemetery, should foot the bill.

He has also spent months trying to get the owner of the property at 240 Centre Street, which borders Mississagua Street, to use groundpenetrating radar on that property. There are two homes that were originally owned by the same family bookending the property, and there have been rumours for years that the family had enslaved servants, and that some of them might have ask the residents of Niagabeen buried there.

Although there have been several phases of an archaeological study and dig on that property, he explains none of the work that has been done eliminates the possibility of graves.

Research undertaken by Shawna Butts of the NOTL Museum indicates that is a possibility, but the rumours are just that — there is no evidence to prove they're true.

Russell says there are tools that can confirm whether there are bodies buried on that property, and ground-penetrating radar is one of them. He has tried, unsuccessfully so far, to use legal means to force further investigation, and he says he isn't one to give up.

Although he has been told If ARA recommends the there is no intention to develop the property, he is afraid that at some point it might be done, with no attempt to do further archaeological studies "in the right places" to be certain there are no graves. "I don't know what else to do. I don't understand why this is so hard," he says, referring to the use of ground-penetrating radar. "It's frustrating as heck."

> And the future of the Negro Burial Ground is even more frustrating for Russell, given the likelihood that unearthing headstones will not happen.

However, he says, he has "plan B. In April, I'll be а back, with a petition that I'll ra-on-the-Lake to sign, urging But he has met with resis- the town to pay for the com-

tance every step of the way. plete archaeological restoration continue to do just that. of the Negro Burial Ground."

He says he has no problem town councils have not done "with making a lot of noise, and being a pain," and he plans to

"It's been 147 years, and

anything. The time for talking is long past. Town council

needs a push, until the people buried in the Negro Burial Ground have been given back the identity that has been taken from them."

March 1, 2023



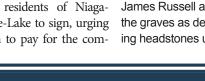
George Webber, the chair of the fundraising committee, would like to see benches in the Negro Burial Ground, with a wall that has the names of those buried there. (Supplied)



James Russell and his wife Marilyn were in NOTL in September, putting down new flags to mark the graves as detected through ground-penetrating radar. He hasn't given up on the idea of having headstones unearthed and restored. (Mike Balsom)



33 ANGELS DRIVE



69 GARRISON VILLAGE DRIVE \$2,388,000 MLS 40364242 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller



\$2,150,000 MLS 40373076 • Thomas Elltoft and Jane Elltoft

\$1,599,000 MLS 40360342 • Viviane Elltoft and Jane Elltoft

WILLIAM STREET

\$3,695,000

MLS 40374714 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk





How can we serve you better? Do we have the right priorities?

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro will be presenting our plans for the next 5⁺ years of investments & operations and want to know what you think about it. NOTL Hydro is community owned and profits go back to the community.

If you would like to submit comments, please visit our website. A link to the Open House will be on our home page. Presentation materials will be made available on March 8 by noon. www.notlhydro.com



Police marine unit trains from dock at Navy Hall

Mike Balsom The Local

photographer David Gilchrist, himself a diver, was out with his camera recently and came Navy Hall.

Sgt. Jon Pilkington of the NRP for details on the dive, which was part of the unit's regular train across the region. weekly training routine.

different diving conditions for any of our policing functions like Sherkston and the Welland we are required to perform," Pilkington told The Local.

exposure to zero visibility," he went on, "some light current, and varied degree of conditions that has water, we train there." and obstacles on the bottom. a scuba system."

The river near Navy Hall has some unique features that weather is a major factor. Pilklend themselves to such a training dive. Pilkington points out that about 25 to 30 feet from shore there is an eddy. The current closer to the dock is very we're using for a dive," Pilkinggentle, moving in a southern ton adds, "it all depends on the direction, but further out it changes to flow north in the direction of Lake Ontario.

"It can pose some potential challenges to an inexperienced diver," Pilkington says. But as he explains, there is not much likelihood anyone on this month's training session at Navy Hall fit that bill.

To become a member of the marine unit, officers must already be second class constables, with experience on the road and on a uniform patrol. This usually takes at least three years. When an opening comes up, they apply to the unit almost like they are applying for a new job.

"We put a posting out," he says, "there's a resume package you have to submit, some other qualifications to meet and test-

water scuba certification, with a certain number of dives and trol vessels, including two 9.4bottom time accumulated. Niagara-on-the-Lake Local They have some experience coming in. We aren't teaching them how to dive."

As sergeant of the marine across a group of divers from unit, Pilkington oversees a the Niagara Regional Police team of seven constables who marine unit participating in a are certified to dive. They optraining exercise off the dock at erate out of the NRP's support services division based in St. The Local reached out to Catharines, but respond to sit- and close shoreline searches," uations across the region. Because of that reach, they also

"We do various locations "We train at various loca- along the Niagara River," he tions around the region where said. "Miller's Creek in Fort we are able to get exposure to Erie, some shore-based locations along the river, and places Recreational Waterway. And off the shore, we jump in off "That was a day for us to get the boat to get some different exposure to open water conditions. Anywhere we can get to

The length of each training And on that day we were using session depends on the number of divers who are fit to dive that day. And, of course, the ington says each diver has his or her own comfort level under very cold conditions.

> "Depending on the system depth they are going to. The deeper they're going, the more air they will consume. So if they're on scuba, they are limited to the amount of air in their cylinder, compared to surfacesupply, which provides air from the surface to the diver."

The unit operates five pametre Zodiacs as their primary patrol vessels, capable of heading into open water on Lakes Erie and Ontario.

They also have a smaller, 22-foot secondary patrol vessel based in the upper Niagara River, and two personal watercraft, or Sea-Doos.

"Those are for beach patrols says Pilkington, a 24-year veteran of the NRP and a 17-year veteran of the marine unit. "And we do have two additional smaller, tiller-style vessels that we can use for shoreline searches and to access areas like Lake Gibson and Lake Moodie."

From about May through October, the marine unit is out on patrol vessels in Lakes Erie and Ontario and on the Niagara River. They work with both the Canadian and U.S. Coast Guards, as well as the Grimsby auxiliary marine rescue unit and the Port Colborne marine auxiliary rescue unit to respond to search and rescue missions.

Pilkington began diving recreationally in 1994, and it didn't take long for him to realize that he could combine his hobby with his profession. His options, besides policing, included diving commercially. He, of course, chose the former.

"In our area," he says, "we are fortunate that there are so many varied things going on between the marine patrols and the dives, and supporting our front-line officers. Most days, it doesn't even feel like going to work."



Niagara on-the-Jake HYDRO

ing you have to pass. We follow the commercial diving requirements. Anyone applying has to have a minimum of an open



Niagara Regional Police marine unit divers train from the dock at Navy Hall. (Photos by David Gilchrist)

Women gather to share ideas, support each other

Penny Coles The Local

Judging by the success of her first Women in Business event, Helle Brodie feels she's hit on something women in Niagara-on-the-Lake both need and want.

She is planning her second event this Thursday, March 2 at The Old Winery, and the group is already growing.

She was pleased to have "20 fabulous women" attend the first gathering, representing a range of ages and businesses, including construction, decorating, real estate, mortgages and insurance, therapy and coaching, and food services.

"The energy in the room was incredible," she says, cus on positivity, and to be a ful people," she didn't know "and the consensus is this is much needed in the NOTL area."

A Facebook group has been created for the group, she says, and in a very short time had grown to 95 members.

Her plan is for women to get to know each other, share ideas and support each other. It's not intended as a network for promotion or sales, she stresses, although several of the women who attended the first meeting have told her it almost immediately helped build clientele, through word to NOTL about six months of mouth.

"The whole idea is to fo-



A group of 20 women attended the first Women in Business meeting. (Photos supplied)

very inclusive group."

Brodie says she's been an entrepreneur for 35 years, and is now a business and mindset coach — her second business. She likes to think she and some of the more experienced women in business have some wisdom and experience to share with those in connecting with other women. the younger age group who are just starting out.

people with similar interests, die. "What's not to like?" she adds.

ago, and aside from her retired neighbours, "wonder-

anyone in town, and saw this as an opportunity to gather women together to meet other like-minded women in the community. And that seems to be what those in attendance enjoyed the most — the majority came on their own, didn't know the others, and loved

"Twenty women in one room with a glass of wine, it's It's also a way to meet new bound to be fun," laughs Bro-

And now, she adds, "I feel Brodie says she moved like I have 20 new friends."

The second Evening for Women in Business will be held at the Old Winery on

Thursday, March 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. Going forward, Brodie plans for one woman to make a brief presentation about her business — this month it's about music therapy.

"It sounds fascinating, and I want to know more about it. I'm a curious person, and I like to hear what everyone is doing."

Tickets for the March 2 event at The Old Winery on Niagara Stone Road are being sold to cover the costs of the event. Tickets can be purchased online at app.promotix.com/events/details/ March-Evening-for-Women -in-Business-tickets.



Lindsay Bernacci and Claudia Yiu-Lee are obviously having fun at their first Women in Business meeting



Irene Harlond and Julie Saggers chat at The Old Winery Restaurant.

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St. Saviour's organist retires — this time for good

Mike Balsom The Local

It's not the first time Faye Shaver has headed into retirement, but this time she promises it will take.

After 54 years on a church organ bench, 44 of them in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Shaver retired Sunday from St. Saviour's Anglican Church in Queenston, where she had been their organist and music director since 2010.

She was joined Sunday by her husband John, a lay reader at St. Saviour's, as well as her children Patricia and Dan, their partners Matt and Irene, and her five grandchildren. In the small, historic Queenston church, the nine guests almost doubled the size of Sunday's gathering.

When Rev. Janet Cashin stepped to the microphone to begin the service, she drew attention to it being Shaver's last day there, and said it was "bittersweet" having to bid adieu to her friend and collaborator.

During a short two years while Faye was between church organist gigs, she and John dropped in at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Chippawa, where Cashin had been the minister. As is still her custom today, Cashin walked over to greet the couple and to thank them for attending.

A few short years later, Cashin had followed Shaver to St. Saviour's after her own first retirement.

"It's very emotional," Cashin tells The Local about the departure of both Faye and John, whom she calls two mainstays of the small congregation. "I dence. She and I have a terrific is a busy instrument, but it's School, while Dan, who lives relationship. We've supported each other, we've cared for each other and we've worried about and at only 13 years old, Faye each other. We've shared a lot."

Faye was born into a musical family in Erin, Ontario, a town of 12,400 (currently) in Wellington County. She was the second of six children of Wallace, who played harmonica, and Sylvia, a pianist. Only the fourth child, John, chose sports over music.

The family attended All Saints Anglican Church, an historic building constructed in 1867 and located on the The couple, with their young town's Main Street.

"Everything revolved around the church," says Shaver. "Church service on Sunday, young people's group on Sunday night, Girl Guides Monday night. That was our life."

At 10 years old she began taking piano lessons for 50 cents an hour from a neighbour named Queenie Overland. She loved the piano right from the start.

"I played and I sight read," she says. "Sight reading has always been one of my strong points, and it was pointed out as such by my most recent organ teacher, too."

She was just a pre-teen when she felt she was called to minister in music. Faye and her younger sister Anne sang in the choir at All Saints, and Faye was so intrigued by the sound of the organ that she approached the congregation's organist.

"I said to her, 'I really would love to play the organ one day," Shaver recalls. "And she asked me when we could start. I went right from piano to organ, and Patricia plays piano and teach-

worth it."

Her organ teacher retired, became All Saints' permanent organist, playing for Sunday services, weddings (for \$5 in remuneration), and funerals. She held that position until she got married to John, who worked in the banking industry, when she was 23 years old.

When John's job took him to Niagara, they moved first to Grimsby, then St. Catharines, then Welland, and finally to NOTL's Garrison Village. daughter Patricia, began attending St. Mark's Anglican Church, and she became the church's organist in 1977.

Shaver spent 31 years playing the pipe organ at St. Mark's, through what she calls the "halcyon years" of the 1980s, highlighted by the Queen Mother's visit for a Sunday morning service in 1981.

She proudly shows The Local a photograph of John and church officials greeting the dignified guest outside of St. Mark's on a sunny Sunday. Still more photos document a visit by the Anglican House of Bishops, when her son Dan led the group into the church, and outings with the St. Mark's choir. There's even a photo of her sitting beside actor Martin Sheen when he was in town filming *The Dead Zone*.

The couple raised their children during those years, bringing Patricia and Dan to church with them weekly. The musical gene, by the way, was passed down to the next generation.

will miss Fave's quiet confi- never looked back. The organ es music at St. Davids Public in Odessa, Ontario, earned his Grade 8 designation in piano at the Royal Conservatory.

> Faye's first attempt at retirement came in 2008, when she stepped away from St. Mark's after 31 years, having worked with five different parish priests during that time.

> But she didn't sit still for too long. Following that retirement she and John started attending different churches around the region, including Holy Trinity, where she met Cashin.

"I filled in on the organ at a number of churches," Shaver remembers of that time, "and I got to visit some wonderful churches. Then somebody called to see if I would play at St. Saviour's, and I thought it would be a good way to wind down my career, at a very small church, with no choir, no church politics."

St. Saviour's struck Faye as a lot like All Saints, where she started so many years ago in her hometown.

She's played for Sunday services at St. Saviour's and became a big part of church life through their annual hymn sing, knitting prayer shawls, lunches and dinners.

Observing her at the organ at St. Saviour's, it's easy to see the joy she brings to the bench. She dubbed the organ prelude to last Sunday's service 'Name That Tune, a medley of some of her favourite hymns played and sung at the church over the past 13 years, challenging the parishioners to see how many they would recognize.

But today Shaver knows



Faye Shaver, with her family gathered around at her last service at St. Saviour's before retiring. Behind her are Dan, Irene, John, Patricia, Julia, Matt, Annelise, Nadia, Dawson; and in front, Faye with Isaiah. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



John Shaver is also retiring, so he and Faye can attend different churches in the area on Sundays, and gave his final reading in Queenston last Sunday.

her to retire.

Surely Faye and John will be spending much time with their grandchildren: Dawson and Julia in NOTL; Annelise, Nadia and Isaiah in Odessa. Faye will continue to play the piano in their Old Town home for her own enjoyment, and she might continue contributing to St. Saviour's by knitting prayer shawls.

And though she and John

and attending social teas, that now is the right time for won't be playing the organ or reading scripture on Sundays, they will be attending church somewhere each week.

> "We've been tied to churches all these Sundays," she says. "We think we are going to be nomadic worshipers for a while. We'll visit other places on Sunday mornings, probably go back and test the waters at St. Mark's after having been away for a while. We'll just see what happens."

Standing up with MPP Wayne Gates against Bill 23



Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

Sitting across the beautiful wooden table in Wayne Gates' office Sunday, I was listening to our local MPP as he talked about our mutual concern surrounding Ontario's Bill 23. The conversation about the Ontario government unilaterally choosing to erode the Greenbelt's protection erodes farmlands, forest coverage and public trust alike. This is why MPP Gates and I planned to team up to make a presentation to Niagara Falls city council and Niagaraon-the-Lake town council, and by the time you read this in the print edition of The Local, that should have already happened. The Doug Ford government recently passed legislation that would amplify development processes in aggressive ways we haven't witnessed before, including less developer fee collection and opening up

highly protected just weeks ago. Ford is on record saying he would never harm the Greenbelt as an election promise in his previous term, only to later perform a flip-flop so stunning that not even a fish on land could compare to it.

I totally respect whomever u vote for, but I can never sup-

areas of the Greenbelt that were benevolence in mind. They're species of bird and fish, or our imported from many countries tected Provincially Significant chomping at the bit to open up — and therefore destroy some of southern Ontario's last remaining prolific green spaces at the expense of citizens who will be faced with drastic environmental and economic challenges because of this.

> "It's protected, until it's not," is a quote I have had echoing in

water quality flowing through our woods and farmlands. So, what are these potential

ecological problems? In a landscape such as Niagara, we will see ripple effects of unchecked development

away. The worse climate change gets, the more expensive it will be to fight, and the harder it will hit our local biodiversity. Lastly, I frequently blast my

thoughts into the public, or an echo chamber, or sometimes in real time. Firstly, the water both; we live in the most biodiquality for all of our watersheds verse region of Canada. When will decrease as we replace there's about 10 per cent of our original natural heritage left, including the amazing wildlife and community protections it gives us all, isn't it time to care? Right now? I was having excited, confident jitters about my presentations with MPP Gates, who I was grateful to stand beside on this issue. He is one of the few elected officials around who seems to outwardly and vocally care about Bill 23's impending implications, and I respect any politician of any party who takes more than a moment to think about such matters. For me, it creates flashbacks to standing before various elected councils during the Thundering Waters Forest debacle, where concerned citizens and academics opposed the development of a large pro-

Wetland on the outskirts of Niagara Falls in 2015 to 2016.

At the exact same spot I would be standing Tuesday, I was once labeled as a special interest group by certain members of Niagara Falls city council. I find that uncanny, as here we are again all of these years later, and it appears the 'special interest group' is actually a small cohort of developers who are going to make a quick buck at the expense of our frogs, fish, freshwater, farms and yourself included. I'm not anti-development, but we need to collectively agree on something while putting our political prejudices aside - we all need and deserve a healthy environment. We are a developed country with education and money and structure. We can do better, and we must. Maybe, flip-flop Ford will flipflop once more with the appropriate style of pressure, as we have seen him do over the past handful of years over a number of big issues. Look for a follow-up article next week regarding how this conversation was received. Stay tuned with The NOTL Local.

port someone who backtracks on big issues like this, especially pertaining to the environment and societal wellbeing.

That sudden reversal — let's call it a lie — is just one of the troubling aspects of this story, let alone the guise that Bill 23 is meant to sound like a celebratory cure for the housing affordability crisis. Do we honestly think that a handful of developers who share no affinity for the Greenbelt's ecological services and wonders are doing

this to make sure that 30-yearolds can move out of their parents' basement? In my humble and honest

observation, I'd say that governments and companies that mistreat our natural heritage, which serves us all, are highly unlikely to treat most of us with

my head for years as a local biologist, eco-tour guide, and outdoor educator. I've heard people like myself say this with a sense of foreboding, as well as from eager entities who can't wait for exactly that to happen. Now it is legislation, and it has happened.

That means it is up to the public and local municipalities to stick up for the most correct course of action. Studies show that in any historical or modern society, the diminishment and degradation of natural heritage and farmland, both previously protected by the Greenbelt, can only lead to impending problems of a serious umbrella scale.

Sadly but truly, those with the heaviest pockets will not feel the pain at the expense of true hardworking locals, our rare

wetlands with farms, and then farms and wetlands with development over sensitive but senseless areas. I picture drier, poorer soils for agriculture with higher rates of soil runoff,

as treed areas are removed, and water flows over concrete more aggressively with the human pollutants it carries.

Gobbling up some of North America's best farmland will make it harder for consumers to gobble up their favourite meal, as a lack of agricultural space will force us to buy from afar or abroad as local food availability becomes more scarce.

We will not only pay more to ship in our favourite groceries, but we will also therefore be adding to the climate change issue as we demand food to be

Buzz on Pollinators: Winter seed-sowing

Sandra Ozkur **Special to The Local**

Getting the itch to get growing? Now is the time to start native plants and wildflowers from seed, while your gardens are fast asleep. Introducing native plants to your garden is the best way to support biodiversity and provide food for bees, pollinating insects, birds and butterflies. Winter sowing is an easy and inexpensive way to start plants from seed. Native seeds need freezing and thawing in order to sprout, and winter sowing provides these exact conditions.

Winter sowing is a method that mimics the cycle of flowers and plants in nature. Native plants generally self-seed in the fall and reproduce naturally in the wild. Unfortunately, with loss of natural habitat, native plant varieties are finding it more difficult to survive, so humans can lend a hand by planting pollinator friendly gardens. It is fun and easy, and perfect for beginners.

Native plants are in sync with the natural cycles of the seasons. In autumn, seeds fall from the plants to the ground and are covered by falling leaves, which protect them from wind and birds, and when the snow falls, it provides insulation from extreme temperatures. Throughout the winter, the seeds remain dormant but the natural freezing and thawing breaks open the hard outer shell so the seed can sprout in spring. As the snow melts and the sun gradually

to sprout when the time is right. With winter sowing, we are imitating nature in a controlled environment by making miniature greenhouses. This gives the seeds a better chance of survival.

Frieda Krugel, alocal Niagaraon-the-Lake expert on winter sowing, recommends saving plastic containers that would be tossed into the recycling bin. Large plastic milk bottles or two-litre pop bottles work well, but her favourite containers are four-litre water jugs. They are the perfect height and width for seedlings to grow, and the carrying handle makes them easy to move.

"The idea is to create mini greenhouses with these containers where the seeds can germinate, set roots, and grow big enough to be transplanted directly into your garden. By setting the containers outside. you are giving the plants a head start, and nature does all the work," says Krugel.

"Winter sowing is an easy way to start plants from seeds without expensive equipment such as grow lights, heating mats or special containers. This method is much simpler, the seeds are put into moist soil, covered with a transparent lid, then placed outside under the sun. When conditions are right, the seeds will sprout and begin to grow. You don't have to be an experienced gardener to get this right," she explains.

good selection of untreated na-

warms the soil, the seeds begin tive seeds, suitable containers, and pat down evenly, then give potting soil, a spray bottle for water, plastic forks for labeling, packing tape to seal containers, and a drill or pointy metal BBQ skewer for making drainage holes in the containers.

> Begin by collecting suitable plastic containers; if you don't have enough, check your neighbourhood recycling bins. These containers should be at least six inches wide and 10 to 12 inches high to accommodate the plant stalk and leaves as it grows. Cut the bottles six inches from the bottom almost all the way around but leave a small portion intact to serve as a hinge. Next, take your electric screw driver or pointy barbecue skewer (heated over a candle) and make four to six holes around the sides of the container two inches above the bottom as well as underneath the container to allow good drainage. This will prevent the seeds from rotting.

Prepare a bag of potting soil in a bucket or tub by moistening it thoroughly - two parts soil to one part water. Keep mixing it by hand until it is evenly moistened, breaking up any large clumps as you go. Once the soil is thoroughly moistened, distribute it amongst your prepared containers placing at least four inches of soil in the bottom of each container. Next, place your seeds into the pot at a depth twice the diameter of the seed. Follow the instructions on To start, you will need a the seed package for best results. Sprinkle a little dry soil on top

a final spray to wet the top layer. Finally, write the plant name on the handle of a plastic fork then stick it into the soil. Once the planting is complete, close the lid and seal it with two layers of packing tape to prevent it from blowing open or being disturbed by curious animals.

Once the containers are complete, take the lid off and throw it away, this opening will act as a ventilation hole and let in just enough snow or rain to keep the soil moist. Place diffused sunlight and prevent the containers outside on the ground in a sunny area protected from the wind. Find a suitable place alongside the house foundation or in your garden. Placing them into a raised garden bed works great because the frame keeps them from tipping over and the soil beneath acts as insulation.

Keep eye on your containers but don't interfere with the process. As it gets closer to spring and the weather warms up, you may see little sprouts emerging. This is the time to start monitoring your little greenhouses daily. If they are sitting in full sun the soil may dry out, so check that there is always condensation on the inside walls of the container. If there aren't any droplets of water forming, mist some water into the container the weather warms up, you may have to move the containers if they are getting too hot. Placing them under a tree will give them



Plants can be seen peaking out of plastic containers, getting ready for spring. (Sandra Ozkur)

them from drying out.

Once spring has officially arrived and the risk of frost is over, you can open the tops of the containers to let the plants grow taller until you are ready to transplant them into your garden. After transplanting, native plants may be slow to grow, but once their roots establish in the new location, they accelerate quickly. Native plants are perennial or self-seeding, which means that you won't have to ever replant them, they will self-propagate.

Buy seeds from reputable growers who specialize in untreated native plants and flowers. Never buy seeds that have been treated with neonicotinoids or fungicides, as this will kill the beneficial insects and bees that feed upon the plants.

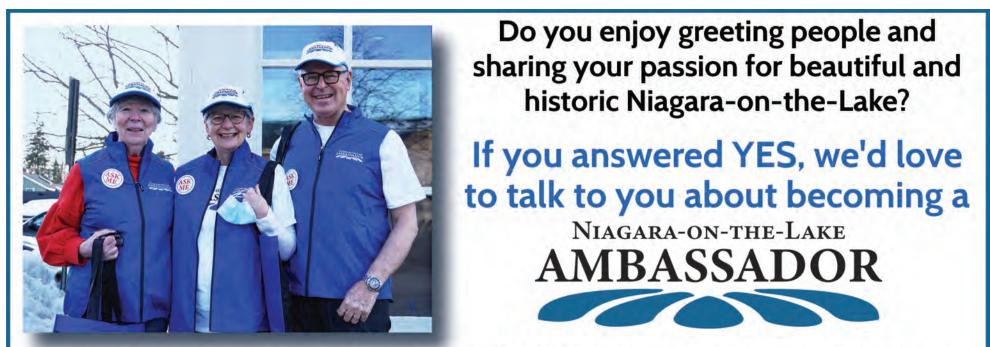
"February through midwith your spray bottle. Once March is a good time to do winter sowing," says Chris DiRaddo from Sassafras Farms Nursery in Welland. He has a selection of native seed packages on his website.

"Seeding a variety of native flowers will create genetic diversity, which improves the species and creates more resilient plants. Growing native plants that are adapted to our local environment saves on water, fertilizer and yard maintenance. Once your pollinator plants are established, you will see more flowers, bees, birds and butterflies because you are providing the right food and habitat," Di-Raddo explains.

So, get busy and have some fun with winter sowing. Your efforts to grow native plants will result in a garden full of splendour and you will feel good knowing that you are providing homes for our tiny pollinator friends.

Check out YouTube videos and online articles for more detailed instructions for winter sowing at youtu.be/zRt0o1L H98.

Tip of the week: Many local garden clubs host Seedy Saturdays, where you can buy or exchange native and heirloom seeds.



Ambassadors stroll along Queen Street on weekends from May to September to provide visitors with recommendations on all there is to see and do, and to make their stay an extraordinary experience. We are recruiting volunteers now for the 2023 season! Come to an Information Session to learn more about the program: 10:00 am - 11:00 am on Monday, March 20 10:00 am - 11:00 am on Wednesday March 22 To attend a session, please email us at info@notl-ambassadors.ca Even if you can't make it to either of these, you can still get involved. Contact us!

Visit our website: notl-ambassadors.ca

and relax."

Church offers Safe Haven for teens to hang out

Penny Coles The Local

A St. Davids church has opened its doors as a Safe Haven for teens, offering a gathering place twice a month on Friday evenings, for kids aged 13 to 17.

Maya Gazzard is one of the teens who has taken part in the youth group, organized by St. Davids-Queenston United Church on York Road, and had encouraged her friends to join her.

Maya, 16, a Grade 11 student at A.N. Myer Secondary School in Niagara Falls, is the Sunday school teacher at the church, and says it is her "pride and privilege to teach the kids and have fun with them."

When the decision was made to go ahead with the church youth group, she got involved in getting it started by spreading the word through posters and social media, and she plans on being a regular participant.

"I love the youth group and what we do," she told The Local in an email.

Her friends who joined her the first evening have returned, and even brought their own friends, she says.

What she likes most about the gatherings are "that we have lots of activities, food, and everyone can just let loose and relax."

The teens who have participated have told her "they just like having a place to go where



Rev. YongSeok Baek at St. Davids-Queenston United Church plays a video game with a teen during a Safe Haven Friday night gathering. (Photos supplied)

they can hang out with friends high school they attend.

continued, "Mario Kart, and eat together. There is no program that goes with it. The space is purely a place for teens to go to socialize and unwind. I wish there was something like this when I was younger," she says, "a place where everyone was welcome and safe, to have fun sounds just like what a younger me would have wanted."

This Friday, March 3, Safe Haven is offering something special. Recently some local teens had their semi-formal school dance canceled due to poor weather. This Friday evening, teens have been invited to "dress your best" for a formal evening with "no entry fee and no agenda — just a safe place for teens to gather and design their own fun." It's open to

The seed for a safe hav-"We all play ping pong," she en for teens was planted two years ago, when the church was looking for a new minster, and wanted to engage someone who would be interested in developing a program for younger people in the community, explains Lyndsay Gazzard, vice-chair of the church board.

The church has a decadeslong history of community engagement and support, including making and selling hundreds of pies each year at the Lions Carnival; monthly beef on a bun and cards events, and an annual bazaar. "These events are wellknown and warmly-anticipated community events. As the church has a large hall they also can offer rental space to groups like Scouts who meet regularly there. Events that included teens, though, were all local teens, regardless of which noticeably absent," says Gazzard.



There are several different activities provided for teens, but they are welcome to just hang out - there are no planned programs.

When Rev. YongSeok Baek was hired, one of his many strengths was in his enthusiasm for young people, and he had successfully developed and grown a youth group in his previous church in Saskatchewan, she explains. As the volunteer Sunday School teacher at the church, her daughter Maya, when approached by Rev. Baek, was keen to help with a teen-focused project.

church's Christian education have received appropriate pocommittee, led by Nancy Lang, met and decided that a teen group would be a great offering the community was growing, more families were moving in, and most teens were limited to hanging out at the Pen Centre, says Lyndsay.

The Safe Haven teen group was created and is a drop-in can fill its mandate to serve and

twice a month on Friday evenings, and offers a space for teens to hang out and chat and to use the board games, ping pong, air hockey and Foosball, gaming systems and musical instruments — and to do whatever they enjoy. "It is purposefully not structured, as the teens are allowed to decide what they'd like to do within the space," Lyndsay says.

Food is donated by members of the congregation and Maya, Rev Baek and the it is supervised by adults who lice vulnerable sector checks, and there is no fee for entry, food, snacks or drinks.

"Any parent of a teen in the NOTL area will tell you that there is a lack of activities and safe spaces to gather at no expense for young people, and the church is hopeful that it space for teens 13 to 17. It runs support all generations of our Rd., St. Davids, from 6 to 9 p.m.

community," says Lyndsay. Lang, who has attended

each session so far with a core group of volunteers, says, as a grandmother of four, three of whom are teenagers, she has watched young people struggle through the pandemic, missing out on opportunities to socialize with their friends. When the idea of a youth group came up, "I saw it as giving them a place to land."

The Friday evenings started with a small group, which has grown, as those who came have returned and brought friends. Even if it remains a small group, the church will continue to operate, happy to provide the space for whomever wants to attend.

Lang stresses that this initiative is not just for church families, and it's not a faithbased group. "The church is just providing the space," she says. "The doors are open to any kids who want to come."

And while there are lots of activities provided, "we do not organize anything. We make equipment available to kids and they decide what they want to do."

From what she's witnessed, she adds, it's working. The kids seem to have fun, there is lots of laughter, lots of music — and so far, they seem to want to return for more.

Safe Haven is at 1453 York



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Opportunities to celebrate Women's Day

Continued from page 1

Lakeit-Hall organized the event at Caroline Cellars "to get like-minded individuals together, women and men," she said.

The global theme for this year's International Women's Day is equity.

The event at Caroline Cellars Winery presents "an opportunity to network closely with some amazing female business thought-leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators and activists: Lani Lirio of Bright Mango Consulting, Julie Christiansen of Leverage U, and Jess Boulay, co-owner and vice-president of Giant Shoe Creative and the coordinator for The Shoebox Project."

Proceeds from a 50/50 draw will go toward The Shoebox Project, which are boxes "filled with items for women (journals, toothbrushes, hygiene products, socks) and delivered to women's shelters and women in need," said Lakeit-Hall. "We are really passionate about helping and supporting women in the community."

Lakeit-Hall is part of a "great diverse group of women who are all part of the Niagara community. We're better together. If we come together and learn from each other and celebrate together we can have a better impact on the community and give back more."

Tickets can be purchased until March 6 via email at info@

shconsultinggroup.ca.

Another event in honour of International Women's Day is being held at Ironwood Cider House on March 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. The event, called Women For Women, will include live music from Riley Michaels. A small shop market with several vendors will be located in the loft.

"Local businesses, such as 124 Queen, Oast House, Blackburn and Ruffino's have donated to the silent auction," said Robyn Brown, Marketing and Events Manager for Ironwood. "Proceeds from the silent auction will go to Gillian's Place St. Catharines in support of survivors of gender-based violence". Visit ironwoodcider.ca for tickets.



Caroline Cellars will celebrate International Women's Day with an event, as it did pre-pandemic. Pictured here are retail manager Jaclyn Lakeit, mom Frieda Lakeit, and event host Stephanie Lakeit-Hall. (*Megan Muir*)





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YES! WE'RE OPPOSOL USE VIEW OF A CONTROL OF



Ontario pharmacists can now treat many minor illnesses

heard that pharmacists can now write prescriptions for common conditions like allergies, pink eye and heartburn. This sounds quick and convenient, but what does it mean? Can you just show up at the pharmacy counter with a problem? Here are the answers to these and some other top questions:

What is a minor illness?

A minor illness is a health condition that can be managed with minimal treatment or self-care strategies. It's usually a short-term problem that doesn't raise any red flags for a more serious condition or require a blood test or lab work to diagnose.

Which minor illnesses can I see a pharmacist for?

Your local pharmacist can now assess and treat 13 common ailments: al-

(NC) You may have lergies, oral thrush, pink eye, eczema and skin rashes, painful periods, heartburn, hemorrhoids, cold sores, bug bites and hives, tick bites, sprains and strains, urinary tract infections (UTIs) and impetigo.

Do I need to book an appointment?

No, you can simply walk in and speak with a highly trained pharmacist without having to call ahead.

Is there a fee?

Assessing and prescribing medication for minor illnesses is covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, so all you need to do is show your valid OHIP card. You may still pay the normal dispensing fee if they fill a prescription.

What happens during the pharmacist visit?



Your pharmacist will cide on the best course mendation for an over- your illness is serious or ask questions to assess of action. This could be a the-counter medication. requires a follow up, they new service at rexall.ca/ your condition and de- prescription or a recom- If the pharmacist feels will refer you to a doctor. prescribing.

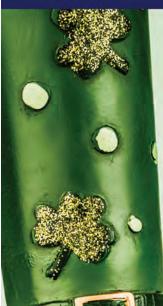
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Immerse Yourself in the Wonders of Morocco

adventure, to me, is almost as exciting as the journey itself. On October 18, 2023 I will be leading a 16 day tour to one of my bucket list destinations... Morocco! Already, I have completely embraced thoughts of jumping headfirst into this exotic and captivating country. Experiencing it with Craig Travel means that the program was created with seniors in mind and that I will be joined by new and old friends alike.

rakech, with their unique plethora of goods in the Moorish and Islamic architecture, the clean lines and the lively banter of the venarchways of the medieval dors and savouring the exbuildings and the stunning otic scent of colourful spicpatterns and colours of intricately placed tiles. Visiting How exciting to roam the royal palaces, beautiful gardens, fascinating museums colourful clothing, ceramand beautiful landscapes ics, leather items, carpets will be an exciting part of and slippers. it all.

bat, Meknes, Fez and Mar-

Imagine I am seeing myself there,

The anticipation of a new exploring the mysterious old town section of the cit- A camel ride is an opportustreets, marvelling at the souks (markets), listening to es, piled high in huge bins. stalls bursting with textiles, An overnight tenting in

wandering the vast Sahara will be a highthrough the medinas, the light and treasured memory.



walled Imperial cities of Ra- ies, navigating the narrow nity I, for one, will not miss! Tents come complete with private washrooms, so we're not exactly roughing it! To walk barefoot on the warm sand surrounded by miles of desert silence is indescribable. To enjoy delicious cuisine served by attentive Berbers in traditional garb, followed by the sweet sounds of Moroccan music, while sitting under a blanket of twinkling stars, will be magical! Next morning, we will want to get up early to experience the desert sunrise!

> We will cross over the rugged Middle Atlas Mountains into the heart of Berber country where we will visit a Berber village and learn their customs. We'll make our way to the magnificent Todra Gorge with its limestone cliffs and visit fertile valleys and tea plantations. A special highlight will be a visit to the Amal Centre founded in 2012 to support local women with disadvantaged backgrounds. In the world. Casablanca, we'll explore Mosque, the largest functioning mosque in Africa Humphrey Bogart and In-



and the seventh largest in

Our farewell dinner will the stunning Hassan II be at the recreated Rick's Café, made famous by

grid Bergman in the movie classic Casablanca. What a wonderful end to this magical adventure!

> Article by Donna Rombough

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3 steps to take if your online data has been breached

(NC) Cybercrime is an and criminals continue to This can hurt not only your and even your reputation. unfortunate reality in our find ever more sophisticat- personal finances, but also always-connected world, ed ways to access our data. your credit score, identity

If you're feeling concerned, you're not alone.

According to a recent poll, almost half of Canadians are worried about being a coming year.

Older Canadians (55+) in likely than younger generations to be concerned about having email or social accounts hacked, or being scammed online.

grows, so does cybercrime you'll only need to remem-– and the methods continue to evolve," says Adam Evans, chief information security officer with RBC. "It's important that Canathemselves and know what order to better recover."

are several steps you can can reduce the chances of take right away:

Change all passwords immediately.

Regardless of where the victim of cybercrime in the breach occurred, it's important to update all your passwords right away, esparticular are much more pecially if you've used the same one across several accounts. A reputable password manager can help by saving your passwords to a vault and suggesting new "As our Internet usage ones for each site – that way ber one.

Double down on safety.

If you haven't already, enable multi-factor audians proactively protect thentication. This provides a second layer of security steps to take in the event that helps prove you are personal data is breached in who you say you are, like sending you a text with a If your personal data is numeric code you use to

thieves accessing more than one account following a breach.

Lock your cards and contact experts to help.

If your financial information has been compromised, chances are that your bank or credit card company is already aware. However, it's a good idea to lock your debit or credit cards and call your financial institutions. Also advise friends and family to keep an eve out for unusual messages that could be attempts to access your personal information.

Education and vigilance are essential to guard against cyber criminals. You can become more cyber aware with resources like The Vault, a downloadable guide to cyber safety, compromised online, there complete your login. This available at rbc.com/cyber.

How to spot reliable health information

(NC) Sometimes it seems like everyone thinks they're an expert on health, and many people are quick to offer opinions on health information. How can you be certain you're finding the best information from reputable sources?

1. Be skeptical

read with a grain of salt. Information circulates be easy to think that what fact-checked.

that isn't always the case.

Misinformation Take everything you abounds because people can post opinions and make comments on health quickly online, so it can matters without credentials or sources cited. To ensure you're reading has been that you're accessing the However, most reliable information,

The importance of self-care

(NC) When hearing the within our control. But, routines, it may be time to words "self-care," some having things to look for- reach out for help. This is people may think it means ward to and putting aside another important act of indulging yourself, such time to prioritize yourself self-care itself. as getting a massage or are important parts of ev- There are many free and buying yourself a treat. In eryone's well-being. As credible mental health resome ways it can include these types of things, but it is also much more. Whatever your form of self-care, there is real value in taking care of yourself in simple, regular ways. For you, it might be your daily walk through the neighbourhood, a good chat with a friend or a session with a therapist. Taking care of your physical and mental health can help you handle difficult experiences, help you feel more confident in yourself and your abilities and improve your ability to regain some control after you've been through a tough time. Of course, many things can affect mental well-being, and they aren't all

ling with qualified health

the key first step is to rec- Canadian citizens can acognize that not everything you hear is true, especially if the information is asproduct or service.

2. Access official sources

While you might be inundated every day with information from friends, family, social media, websites and more, you can very easily establish a few key reliable sources for news. You can't go wrong with trusting official government websites. Health Canada is the leading source for reliable health-

cess for free.

non-prof-Healthcare its can also offer a wealth sociated with the sale of a of information supported by doctors, experts in the field and individuals with lived experience. The Kidney Foundation of Canada, for example, has many resources about kidney disease, such as their website, webinars and social media feeds.

3. Consult your healthcare provider

If you feel like there's a lot of conflicting information online or you have care information that all that aren't being taken into your family doctor.

account, bring those questions to your primary care physician. Especially if you feel like you may need to make any changes related to your health, seeing your doctor should be a critical step in any decision-making process.

Following these three key steps will help you find accurate, fact-based healthcare information. Before trying any new diet fads, making changes to your drug and health products, or anything else, remember to be skeptical, check your trusted sourcspecific health concerns es and, if needed, consult

HEART TO

HOME MEALS

many of us learn the hard sources available online, way, you can't do your best including self-guided therfor anyone else if you're not apy, one-on-one counselshowing up for yourself. If even the small things professionals and moderseem challenging or you're ated peer-to-peer support. finding that emotions like You can find more inforsadness, worry, loneliness mation about these reor anger are long-lasting or sources at canada.ca/meninterfering with your daily tal-health.

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7 common scams targeting seniors

(NC) Scams targeting tive, often a grandchild, or jail time. older adults are on the rise, but being informed and knowing how to spot the signs can reduce your risk of falling prey to one.

Here are seven common scams to watch out for according to Royal Bank of Canada:

1. Romance scams

Initiated on dating or social media sites, scammers build relationships over time before asking for large sums of money. The perpetrator says they can't video chat for technical reasons, but it's because a video call would reveal that they aren't who they say they are.

2. Sweepstakes scams

Scammers claim you won a lottery or other prize, but you must pay taxes or fees to claim the prize. It's often a contest or lottery the victim never even entered.

3. Grandparent scams Impersonating a rela-

the fraudster phones in a panic saying they're in 6. Gift card scam

trouble and need money to be sent immediately. The legitimate source or busiphone is then handed to ness asks you to pay for their "attorney" or "representative" before you can money on a gift card, it's a clearly recognize the voice. Often the fraudster will say "Don't tell my parents," and "You're the only one who and then ask you to share can help."

4. Computer software or virus scams

A pop-up ad or email says your computer has been hacked and demands payment from you. Once gitimate sources like law you engage, they use extreme pressure tactics to and trick you into providpush for more funds or gift ing money to help with cards.

5. Government agency scams

sonates someone from the branch and they need the one they're involved and dercover operation to pre- take your time if someor another government sum of money to be used turned. Remember, a busi-

If someone posing as a something by putting scam. They say it's urgent,

may tell you to purchase several different gift cards, the gift card number and pin. Once you do, your money is gone.

7. Undercover investigation scam

Criminals pose as leenforcement or your bank a criminal investigation. There are many variations, but the scammer often claims they are investigat-The scammer imper- ing an employee at a bank



Canada Revenue Agency victim to withdraw a large that the money will be re- vent fraud. agency, demanding pay- as evidence. It may happen ness, government agency a victim of one of these tion on how to protect ment or a transfer of funds over multiple days. The vic- or your bank will never ask scams, remember to think so you can avoid a penalty tim is told not to tell any- you to participate in an un- twice, ask questions and privacysecurity.

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Chef recognized for program to feed those in need

Mike Balsom The Local

The lights go on in Niagara College's Benchmark kitchen shortly before 9 a.m. Volunteer students in various stages of their programs at the Daniel J. Patterson Campus' School of Culinary Arts don their Grill. whites and get to work.

an Asian-glazed barbecue Niagara College faculty. pork loin, steamed basmati rice and a mix of frozen vegetables. The food will be portioned and packaged into 250 two-pound boxes, each filled to the ered a group of volunteers brim with gourmet food.

Later in the day, representatives from local non-profits in Niagara, such as Gillian's Place, Start Me Up Niagara, the Boys and Girls Club Youth Shelter, RAFT and Village of Hope Niagara will pull up in vans to collect 50 boxes each to serve to clients in need.

It's a program called Feed the Community, initiated and led by chef professor Olaf Mertens, and it's earned the St. Davids resident recognition from the provincial government.

On Feb. 4, Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities, presented Mertens with an Everyday Heroes Award for the project's focus on addressing food insecurity, promoting health and wellness in the community, and diverting otherwise discarded food from compost heaps.

Mertens tells The Local his idea for the initiative tribution. got its roots from a trip to Newfoundland he and dean Craig Youdale took a few years ago.

"I had an epiphany there," he says. They cooked for a week, and the

executive chef, co-founder insecurity when it comes and owner of HIP (Hos- to food, it becomes a difpitality Inspired People) ficult thing to deal with. Restaurants, with three When you have the ability Mississauga locations — On the Curve Hot Stone out, to do good, we really and Wine Bar, Ten Restaurant and Wine Bar, and West 50 Pourhouse and

In 2010, after a decade On the menu today is in that role, he joined the teers because "I love cook-The journey to the east I feel blessed in my life. I coast with Youdale took love that I can come in and place shortly after that.

> at the time, he discovwho were cooking for 600 people every Friday, distributing food to those in need in that area. Mertens way to continue giving signed on to help them out back in a similar fashion. for a five-week stint.

> idea to Youdale and began tens and the other faculty a similar program at Niagara College in 2021. From out. its beginning that year to December 2022, about work with," Boyd says of 5,000 meals were prepared their jovial leader. "He's a by Mertens, alongside culinary staff and students, He lets you figure things and donated to local shelters and food banks. Already this year, 1,000 individual meals have been everyone involved. Everydonated to about 20 organizations.

> of an holistic approach, as ing through the summer food is being saved from months. The college fithe compost bin. As well, surplus products brought first two sessions, and a loin for special events, such as 100 portions of chicken from the Feb. 4 Caps, Corks and Forks event, the costs of the proteins are often frozen for future and the packaging," he Feed the Community dis-

cooking for those in need donation contributed to School of Culinary Arts brings him, the faculty, about 2,500 to 3,000 meals. and the students, all vol- They were able to see exunteers, back to their roots actly where it was going." — feeding people because they simply have to eat.

response from everyone brings much joy to Mer- lence presented by Dunthey cooked for was one of tens, who is just as happy lop to Niagara College this gratitude, thanking them to turn over the reins to month. The other went for the food, for travelling his student volunteers and to its new Accessibility to be there, and then com- take a back seat to peel Hub. Launched in spring ing back to express their onions and carrots for the 2022, it helps educators with Mertens on the calculations for the supplies order that had to be placed comfortable with the ata week ahead of time.

Canada, then became the society. For those that have and a skill set to help those want them to understand the power that they have."

Krista-Lee Boyd, a second semester student from Welland, says she voluning, I have the time, and help make meals for peo-Living in Burlington ple going through tough times."

Boyd believes in volunteering and expects as she graduates from the program she will find some And she appreciates the He then brought the example being set by Mermembers who also help

> "He's a lot of fun to really good teacher as well. out with trial and error. I think you learn better that way. He's great at getting body loves him."

Mertens hopes to keep Mertens says it's a bit Feed the Community gonanced the program for its cal family donated \$10,000 for the third session.

"The donation covered says, "as well as some dry goods that we needed. And And Mertens adds that the family knew that their

Everyday Mertens' Heroes Award was one It's clear this project of two Awards of Excel-



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Chef Olaf Mertens (back) with students in Benchmark kitchen at Niagara College. (Mike Balsom)



Chef Olaf Mertens in the kitchen with student Krista-Lee Boyd. (Mike Balsom)



gratitude again.

"I wanted to cook just to cook," he adds. "Not for monetary reasons, not even to teach. Just to recapture my enjoyment in it."

Mertens grew up in his family's Mississauga German deli. From as early as he can remember, he wanted to be a chef. After high school, he apprenticed in Berlin, Germany, and was named that city's apprentice of the year in 1989.

He returned to Canada and spent eight years as the chef at Rogues Hotel in Mississauga, before heading back to Germany designation. With that in his pocket, he signed on

learning," he says. "I see Community, preferring to it more as mentoring and deflect it back to the stucoaching, rather than acting as a culinary instructor."

the community.

as a corporate chef back in ly part of who we are as a the college community."

meals. Today's menu was and non-educators alike designed by graduating to build accessibility-first students, who consulted habits into all aspects of their work.

Mertens is clearly untention drawn to him "It's another style of for kickstarting Feed the dents who donate their time to the program.

receiving On the Youdale says the ini- award from the minister, tiative begun by Mertens he says he felt "humbled brings focus to the power and grateful. Obviously that food and the skill of it's meaningful that it got preparing it can have on recognized, but really I'm hoping it creates a ripple "Sure, it's a job for effect, that we can use it as to earn his Master Chef them, an opportunity, part a moment to scream from of a career," he says of the the rooftops about how students. "But food is real- else we can do this within

Chef Olaf Mertens receives an Everyday Heroes Award from Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. (Supplied)



Niagara Rangers lose a heart-breaker to Pelham

Mike Balsom The Local

A slow start, some foul trouble, a number of questionable non-calls and a few key missed shots resulted in the Niagara Rangers dropping a 41-39 decision to the Pelham Panthers in Under-19 girls basketball Thursday.

"It was a frustrating game for many reasons," coach Shawn Pylypiw told The Local after the game in Pelham, "but our team didn't seem to have their hearts in it. The effort wasn't there and they were lacking that spark."

It did take a while for the Rangers to get going in the first quarter. Their first three possessions ended with two missed shots and a turnover under the Panthers basket. The only saving grace was that the Panthers were also missing the hoop at the Rangers end of the court.

board, though, going up 2-0 on to the basket to retake the lead utes remaining to play and Pel- she never actually gained posfoul shots. But a mid-quarter surge gave the Rangers the lead on two layups by Ava Froese and a basket by Melia Kotsanis, who followed that up with a successful bonus foul shot to put Niagara up 7-4.

The Panthers roared back, though, with six unanswered points to end the first ahead 10-7.

scoring run to open the second quarter, taking a 14-7 lead. Then, Rangers point guard Mikayla Wallace went on a run of her own, draining two baskets then going one-for-two on the foul line to close the gap to two.

A foul on Kyla Pylypiw gave the Rangers a chance to tie the game. She stepped to the charity stripe and coolly hit both shots. On the ensuing Pelham possession, Pylypiw came up big again, stealing the ball at half court and who took a technical and fouled

for the Rangers.

Pelham tied it up shortly after that, but Kotsanis regained the lead for Niagara when she put away a rebound on her own shot with two minutes left in the half. Neither team found the basket the rest of the way, and the half ended with the Rangers up 18-16.

Niagara's offensive attack Pelham continued their sputtered in the third as they were outscored 12-4 by the Panthers in that quarter. The Rangers were not getting the bounces at either end, and the lack of fire their coach was referring to was a factor in many missed rebounds under their own backboard.

The Rangers were taking a physical beating by the Panthers, specifically Wallace and Froese, and they were not getting the foul calls they deserved. That seemed to deflate Froese,

ham ahead 39-31.

But Niagara clawed back. on a layup. The Rangers forced another turnover, and Pylypiw narrowed the margin to a single point with 1:09 left.

A shot by Pelham's Jada Upshaw, who ended the night with 11 points, made it 41-38 for the home team. When the Rangers got the ball back, Pylypiw was fouled driving to the basket. She scored on one of her two free with 17 points, leading all scorthrows to make it 41-39.

on their next drive, Niagara's Amy Venneri had a chance to tie it but missed the net. The Rangers forced another turnover, and their coach called a timeout with 0.9 seconds remaining, enough time for a quick inbounds play and a shot.

Kyla Pylypiw made an inbound play to Venneri, who was

session of the ball.

"That final play of the game Wallace sank a three, then, after summarized our night," coach a Pelham turnover, scored again Pylypiw said. "We set up a play under their basket for a catch and shoot. The five players who went out had no sense of urgency to get set up and be ready. When our players were not even set. That was how the whole game was, lacking that effort and the heart which we normally have."

Wallace finished the game ers. Froese had eight, while After Pelham was stopped Kotsanis added seven and Kyla Pylypiw chipped in six for the Rangers. Both Upshaw and Mackenna Belding scored 11 for the Panthers.

> Pylypiw refused to blame the referees for the calls his girls both did and didn't get in the game.

> "I told them the missed calls and questionable ones against us didn't change anything," Pylypiw

Pelham was first on the setting up Wallace, who drove out of the game with four min- challenged by the Panthers, and lamented, "and that is all we can control. Running into some foul trouble also limited some of our play, but I don't allow that as an excuse for lack of effort."

> Pylypiw added that he saw a brief glimpse in the last couple of minutes when they turned it up a bit, but it was too late.

"Even if we won it would the referee handed the ball to us, have been a disappointing game for us," he insisted. "We need to have a gut check moment to find that spark as we are now mid-season and need to start getting things rolling. We need to look at what we can control and what we are responsible for. I know this team has greatness from each player, but potential is a waste unless you play up to it."

The U19 Rangers travel to Brantford's North Park Collegiate School this weekend for their second tournament of the season. They play the Toronto Lords Friday night, then Blessed Sacrament and the Stratford Revolution on Saturday.

Golden weekend for local senior

Steve Bogatek, competing in the 70 to 75 age group at the weekend's Canadian Masters Indoor Championships at York University in Toronto, came home with three gold medals. He won the 50-metre hurdles. 60-metre hurdles and the triple jump. He also won silver in the long jump. Bogatek plans to compete in U.S. Championships in North Carolina in July, and has hopes for next year's World Championships in Sweden.







Ranger Morgan Lambert dribbles to the corner. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Ranger Amy Froese in a crowd under the Pelham basket.





Predators' Sunday loss takes team to third game

Mike Balsom The Local

22

If he were to write a book about his team's 2022-2023 Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League season, Niagara Predators head coach Kevin Taylor might title it A Tale of Two Teams.

That familiar refrain came out again following his team's 4-2 loss to the rival Ravens in St. George Sunday afternoon, squandering their opportunity to sweep the best-of-three first round series in the Russell Cup playoffs.

"I go through every week wondering exactly who is going to show up, what team we will be," Taylor told The Local. "We had no sense of urgency out there Sunday. St. George played with desperation. They wanted it more than we did."

The other Predators team

night, though they were a bit got the puck to Czyzewski's left plan that I was hoping for, with slow to start on their way to a and passed it across the ice to 5-2 victory over St. George in Anthony Tropea, who set up game one of the series.

got the Preds on the scoreboard 3:19 into the second. Reese Bisci led a three-on-two rush into the St. George zone, bringing the puck into the centre area and dropping it off for a trailing Manco, who one-timed it past Ravens goalie Matt Czyzewski for the goal.

Just 33 seconds later, fellow defenceman Ethan Boyd put the Preds up 2-0 by knocking in his own rebound past a sprawling Czyzewski.

Later that period, after Czyzewski made an incredible stop on a breakaway by Niagara's Tyler Gearing, St. George's Simon Otaki was called for hooking and was sent to the penalty box. On the ensuing

Declan Fogarty for a one-timer Defenceman Guy Manco to the open side of the net.

> The Preds added to their three-goal lead 1:37 into the third when Savoie got the puck off a faceoff in the Raven's end and blasted it past a screened Czyzewski. But St. George's Harry Pollard-Dall finally solved Preds goalie Zane Clausen a minute later with a screened shot of his own to put the Ravens on the board.

> Ten minutes later, Raven Malcolm Campbell closed the gap to 4-2 with a backhand that Clausen couldn't get to. But Gearing added another insurance goal with just under seven minutes left to seal the 5-2 victory.

> "It was a good win," said Taylor after the game. "The Ravens came out strong against

had showed up in Virgil Friday power play, Cameron Savoie us, they established the game captain, Cameron Ison in the the body. But we settled down, out flying in the second period. That took the game away from puck in the Niagara zone, skatthem."

> Clausen's performance Friday won rave reviews from Taylor.

"Our guys play with a different confidence when Zane's in net," he said.

Santini, who is one of the best in bell skated in unchecked on our league, too. I can count on any of them, and the guys in the stands (fellow goalies Cameron Huff and Warren Krogman, who were not dressed for the game), as well."

again Sunday in St. George and, like they did Friday, the Ravens start the first period.

St. George got onto the scoreboard at 5:45 with their

penalty box for cross-checking. With just a few seconds remainweathered the storm and came ing in the Preds' power play, St. George's Dylan Labelle stole the ed behind the net and fed a pass out front to Spencer D'Souza, who slipped the puck past Niagara goalie Zane Clausen for the shorthanded goal.

About six minutes later, Ra-"And we still have (Ryan) vens forward Malcolm Camp-Clausen and tried to bang the puck into the left side of the net. Clausen blocked it, but Campbell picked it right up, brought the puck around the back of the net to the other side, and depos-Clausen was back in net ited the wrap-around behind Clausen for a 2-0 lead.

The Ravens scored again in set a fast pace out of the gate to the second period, this time on their own power play, with the Preds Cameron Savoie serving time for slashing. Just 17 sec-

onds after Savoie was sent off, Ison put his team up 3-0, scoring on a second rebound after the Preds failed to clear the puck from the front of the net.

The Preds tried to storm back in the third period, and got some help from St. George's Reece Furtado, who took a five minute penalty for highsticking. During his time in the box, Cameron Savoie scored the first goal for the Preds on a shot from the right side that fooled Ravens goalie Owen Neomytka on the opposite side of the net.

With Furtado still in the box, Savoie's linemate Declan Fogarty closed the gap to 3-2 only 44 seconds later on a wrist shot that he was able to put past Neomytka's right pad.

Just as the Preds seemed to have some wind in their sails, though, Tyler Warnez scored the insurance goal for the Ravens on a shot that was almost identical to Fogarty's to make it 4-2.

The Preds were unable to solve Neomytka the rest of the way, as the Ravens kept the offensive barrage going on the Niagara net, forcing Clausen to once again come up with some eye-opening saves. St. George outshot the Predators 46-37.

"We didn't go into the corners with a purpose, we didn't skate through the zone with a purpose," said Taylor.

"A couple of selfish plays, some bad penalties at the wrong time, giving up the shorthanded goal. It seemed guys were starting to panic and reverted back to their own skill, and didn't play a team game."

Taylor was frustrated with the fact that his team clawed back to within a goal in the third but quickly coughed up another marker to the Ravens right after that.

"We let up for a shift," he said, "and they got a pretty weak goal. And we don't have that guy who can put the team on his back and win the game for us. It seems everyone is trying to say that they're that person, and they have to start thinking more about playing as a team." The first round is a best-ofthree series, meaning Tuesday's game in Virgil was the deciding one. It was do or die for both the Predators and the Ravens.





Anthony Tropea, Ethan Boyd and Cameron Savoie challenging Ravens goalie Owen Neomytka in Sunday's game, a loss for the Predators. (Anthony Tropea Sr.)



Predator goalie Zane Clausen makes a save while Ethan Boyd clears the crease in Friday's home game win. (Mike Balsom)

*ocal*worship

CORNERSTONE

Sunday, March 5th

9:45 a.m. Kids Ministry Sign In (Nursery - Grade 8) 10:00 a.m. Worship Gathering Online & In-Person

Message: Kevin Bayne The Gospel of Reconciliation (Colossians 1:21-23) BAPTISM SERVICE

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"We have to get a better start," Taylor said of the rubber match.

"We have to be better prepared and go from there. There are a couple of guys for whom this could be their last game ever. If you don't want it to be, you have to leave it all out there on the ice. There's no tomorrow if we lose. We have to want it better than they do."

With a 5 p.m. press time Tuesday, The Local can't report on the game in Wednesday's paper, but look online at notllocal. com to see whether the Predators move on or hang up their skates for the season.

THE NOTL Goeal March 1, 2023 23

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No Pressure





CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

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- 4 First Lady before Mamie
- 8 Speedy
- 12 Flintstone pet
- 13 Large international show 14 "I am just --- boy, though my story's seldom told ... (Simon and Garfunkel, "The Boxer")
- 16 North of Tex.
- 17 Take --- Train (Duke Ellington song)
- 18 Upper story
- 19 Totters
- 21 European mountain system
- 23 "Copacabana" showgirl
- 24 Tucson time
- 25 Barrier
- 27 Holler
- 29 Sheet of glass
- 30 Computer interconnection
- system
- 31 Higher degree
- 34 Marzipan base
- 37 Tomb Raider --- Croft 38 Not ordained
- 39 Undiluted
- 40 Big Blue
- 41 This place
- 42 Sawbuck
- 43 Chemical pollutants
- banned in 1975
- 45 Leftovers
- 47 Space viewed from below

- 48 Play on words
- 49 Computer brains
- 50 Some foreign Government
- heads 51 Tree with a partridge at
- Christmas 52 Adult female pig
- 55 Interlock
- 58 --- Silvers or Collins
- 60 Singer/songwriter --- Mars
- 62 Thespian
- 64 Line about which rotation
- occurs
- 66 M --- mouse
- 67 Formerly the Gold Coast
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- 69 Liquor measure
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- Down:
- E.g. Schwinns 1
- 2 Arm of the sea
- 3
- Target
- Gamble 4
- 5 Breathe out
- 6 Incantation
- Cleaner 7
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- Fittingly 9
 - 10 "Licence to Kill" Bond girl
 - Talisa --
 - 11 Labor strenuously
 - 12 Campus housing

5

15 --- Building, now the

Comcast Building, NYC 20 Graceful waterbird

- 22 Lasting mark
- 26 Logical operator
- 28 Viral genetic material
- 29 Mary Jane
- 30 Flee
- 31 Court statement
- 32 Heavenly instrument
- 33 Eabric colors
- 34 Hill dwellers
- 35 Emblem of Wales 36 Large number
- 37 2.000 to a ton
- 40 Arabic "son of"
- 41 Slugger's stat.
- 43 Common measure of
- pollutants 44 Turning point
- 45 Health club
- 46 Edge of a street
- 49 Singer --- Dion 50 Ring 51 Screen dot
- 52 Osaka fish dish 53 Aromatic bulbous vegetable 54 Habit
- 55 Journal 56 Reverberation 57 Dagger thrust
- 59 Overactors
- 61 Coarse file

6

63 Flat fish 65 Down

OBITUARY

WILLIAMS, ELLEN ELIZABETH (HENRY)-beloved mother, grandmother, and retired teacher, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2023 at Hospice Niagara, in St. Catharines. Ontario after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Born on January 17, 1945. Ellen dedicated her life to her family, her teaching career, and being an active member of her community.

Ellen was a devoted wife to Brian, mother to Lesley (David) Jesseau and Scott (Kyra) Williams, and was incredibly proud of her three grandsons, Ben & Nathan Jesseau, and Asher Williams. Throughout her life, she was an active

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walker, who enjoyed the outdoors and the beauty of nature. After Brian's passing in 2014, Ellen relied on the loving support of her Niagara-on-the-Lake community and friends including her beloved poker group, community organizations such as Newark Neighbours and her travelling companions with whom she travelled to South America, Mexico, Spain, and Morocco.

Ellen will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all those who knew her. Her kindness, generosity, and unwavering spirit will forever be remembered and celebrated. The family wishes to thank the incredible staff at Hospice Niagara for

Per Ellen's wishes cremation has taken place, arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Ellen to take place at

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julia@notllocal.com

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their work to support Ellen and them through her final days.

a later date. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to Hospice Niagara or to Pancreatic Cancer Canada. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com





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