



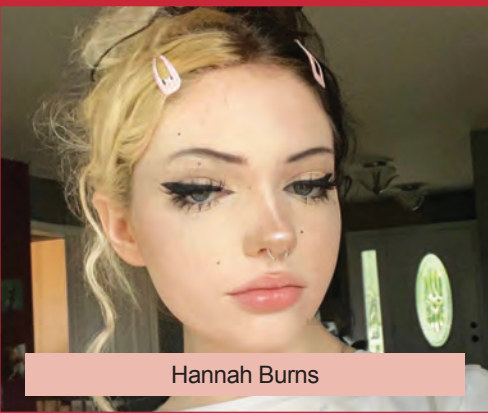
Spring forward Sunday at 2 a.m. when daylight savings time begins



Danielle Bley



Danielle Lepp



Hannah Burns



Emily Day



Heather Davis



Karley McKeigan



Didi Wilson



Maggie Burns



Maggie Forsyth



Lucy Hopkins

# International Women’s Day important to all ages

Sharon Burns  
The Local

“It’s important for all genders to understand women’s past disadvantages, to learn how to respect women and to see how our past struggles still impact us,” said Lucy Hopkins, high school student, in advance of March 8, International Women’s Day.

“There is still misogyny deeply rooted in our society. It’s important to not just live in bliss and think that things

are good all the time.”

Several Niagara-on-the-Lake women indicate the need to continue this important work. College student Maggie Burns said that “there are quite a few countries where women are believed to be the property of their husbands who have beliefs based in misogyny. If we didn’t have International Women’s Day, it could leave women in these situations feeling unseen, or worse, unsafe.”

Today, the purpose of

Women’s Day is to celebrate and support women around the globe. Embrace Equity is this year’s theme: Equity isn’t just a nice-to-have, it’s a must-have, says the women’s day website.

A focus on gender equity needs to be part of every society’s DNA, it continues, and it’s critical to understand the difference between equity and equality. The aim of the IWD 2023 #EmbraceEquity campaign is to get the world talking about why equal opportunities aren’t enough.

“People start from different places, so true inclusion and belonging require equitable action.”

The first Women’s Day marches occurred in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland in 1911, following years of unrest among women who demanded shorter working hours, better pay and voting rights, according to the International Women’s Day website.

Today, International Women’s Day, according to the Ca-

nadian website, is “also a time to raise awareness of the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the work remaining to be done.”

Emily Day, a finance analyst, says there is much work still to be done. “It’s obvious that women are not equal to men almost everywhere you look,” said Day, who works a corporate job. She says she has experienced her work being doubted because she is a woman. “We have definitely made great strides where women

are given more opportunity to show their capabilities, but there is still so much to do for women to be considered equals around the world.”

High school student Hannah Burns recognizes that “there are still lots of disadvantages women have. For example,” she said, “there is still a difference in salary between men and women in the trades.” Burns, a feminist, thinks that “the

Continued on page 14



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# NOTL man charged in Indigenous art fraud

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

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Jeffrey Gordon Cowan, 47, is among eight individuals charged in relation to an art fraud investigation.

The Ontario Provincial Police, after working with Thunder Bay Police on an investigation that began about two and a half years

ago, say eight people were arrested March 1 for their involvement in the apparent fraudulent manufacturing, distribution and sale of artwork purported to be that of Indigenous artist Norval Morrisseau, also known as Copper Thunderbird, from Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation.

Police announced the findings of the investiga-

tion in a press conference Friday.

More than 1,000 alleged fraudulent paintings, prints and other artworks have been seized, some of them selling for tens of thousands of dollars.

Police say the fraud began more than 20 years ago in Thunder Bay, and was eventually discovered by Thunder Bay Police Sgt. Jason Rybak,

a homicide detective, in 2019 when he was investigating a murder.

According to police, it covered such a large area the OPP were called in to help with resources.

Rybak said the investigation unfolded in stages, leading across Canada and to southern Ontario, where three men, including Cowan, were found to be in-

involved and arrested.

Even before Morrisseau's death in 2007, allegations had begun to emerge of individuals who had been creating and selling art under his name, and made in his distinctive Woodland School of Art style, police said.

When word began to spread of the fakes, a second stage began, allegedly using talented Indigenous artists to produce the fakes.

The investigation showed that around 2008, a new ring began to emerge.

It operated in southern Ontario, and in this case, Cowan allegedly "provided false information for provenances of the forgeries, and made up stories about the art's origins."

While Cowan allegedly sold many forgeries directly to victims, police say others also distributed these forgeries and prints of the forgeries, which were ultimate-

ly purchased by members of the public who had no reason to believe these were anything but authentic.

Cowan was the main distributor of the 2008 new-style '80s paintings worldwide, Rybak said.

Last Wednesday, March 1, Cowan was charged with uttering forged documents; defrauding the public over \$5,000; and four counts of fraud over \$5,000 contrary to Section 380(1) of the Criminal Code.

Five men charged are from Thunder Bay, the other three from Southern Ontario.

The eight people arrested are facing a total of 40 total charges.

The allegations against those charged have not been proven.

Rybak says the three Southern Ontario men who were arrested are to appear in a Bradford court on March 28.



Eight people, including one from NOTL, were charged after OPP seized more than 1,000 alleged fraudulent artworks purported to be painted by Norval Morrisseau. (Photos supplied by OPP)

## Arrested man contacted The Local with unbelievable story

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

Last summer, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident emailed The Local with a story idea, but with no hint of what it was about. It would

be a long story, and needed to be told in person, he said.

His name was Jeff Cowan, and during a meeting at the community centre, he unravelled a long, confusing and incredible story about going with his father to Bo-

livia to dig up lost treasure.

They found it, he said, but were being watched, and were chased out of Bolivia by the police, leaving the treasure behind to escape, fearful for their lives.

He said the treasure was

buried in caves back in the 1760s by Jesuits who were being forced to leave the country and couldn't take it with them — a treasure worth billions today.

As a friend pointed out when he heard this story, it brings to mind *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, a movie some readers may be old enough to remember, but not so old they've forgotten the plot line, which is very similar. The difference was they didn't survive to make it back home to tell the story that made for a pretty spectacular chase on the big screen.

Cowan said he was hoping to return to Bolivia, but in the meantime, he explained, having told his story in good faith to a man who worked for a well-known treasure-hunting company in the U.S., he discovered to his dismay that the person he had confided in had taken his information and organized an expedition to Bolivia himself.

Fortunately the treasure was not discovered and remained buried, but those in that expedition got close to the caves, and Cowan was worrying his time would run out.

Why was he telling The Local that fantastical story? It really wasn't made clear.

Was he hoping that if it was published he might be given money to finance his expedition? He said no. He explained that as an im-

porter/exporter of artwork, he would be able to fund it himself.

A look later online turned up no information to back up any part of his story.

Recently, Cowan contacted The Local to say he had been back to Bolivia, and wanted to meet again.

He also had another story The Local might be interested in, he said.

For the last year, he recounted, he'd been spending long days at an Indigenous site in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area "that will prove to be extremely important. I have the may-or getting involved as well as reaching out to the Six Nations, which I'm waiting to hear back from."

The site "is incredible," he said, "and is producing some of the oldest and rarest artifacts I've ever seen. That's a story worth telling."

His next email said he was "leaning on repatriation of some really important Indigenous stone artifacts, right from this area. There is a site here still that needs to be exposed, and I'm curious, if somehow it can be exposed for its importance to the region, and our town."

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said Cowan did contact him, but Zalepa suggested he find an expert to talk to.

The Local once again agreed to meet with Cowan last week, interested in

knowing if there was any truth at all to the Indigenous find, but before that happened, the news from a press conference of OPP and Thunder Bay police was that eight people had been arrested and charged with several counts relating to fraud, for allegedly selling artwork they claimed was by a very famous Indigenous artist.

Five were from Thunder Bay, two from other areas of Ontario, and the other was Jeffrey Cowan, of NOTL.

Thunder Bay Police Sgt. Jason Rybak assured The Local this is the same man — the Jeff Cowan who was arrested was the same man who told The Local about adventures in Bolivia.

If The Local had just met with him as planned before the arrests of those connected with the fraud, this story might have been far more interesting.

But as Rybak said, there are victims in this case, those who have purchased alleged fake paintings, some who may be billionaires who invest in art, and others who may have used their last dollar hoping for some retirement money.

To those who can't afford a lawyer, police say, contact the Law Society of Ontario, and ask for a referral to a lawyer who will help you.

This service apparently offers a free half-hour consultation.

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# Camp Molly encourages young women to consider firefighting

**Sharon Burns**  
The Local

Local firefighter Karley McKeigan always thought she might want to be a first responder, but when she was a teenager she did not know how to proceed.

That will all change for young women in the Niagara region with the introduction of Camp Molly.

The four-day, free camp experience provides the opportunity for females between the ages of 15 and 18 to meet and engage with strong female role models in their community, while learning about many branches of the fire service.

Camp Molly is named after Molly Williams, who was the first female firefighter on record in the U.S. in 1818.

Molly “was a slave in New York,” said Tracey Fitzsimons, division chief public education officer for the Fort Erie Fire Department. “Then men fell sick with influenza and Molly hauled the pumper and answered the call of duty. She was a trailblazer.”

“All the regional fire departments are participating,” said Fitzsimons. “Candidates have to be female and must live in the Niagara region. Girls will work through seven evolutions, including fire

suppression, communications, medical, public education and prevention.”

“Camp Molly is a great idea,” said McKeigan. “If I was exposed to the fire world at a younger age, it would have been put on my radar a lot sooner.”

McKeigan has been a Niagara-on-the-Lake volunteer firefighter at Station 1 in the Old Town for more than three years. Inspired by her friend Laura Robertson, who passed away in 2018, McKeigan says she “felt I owed it to her to follow through to join the fire department. Then I found out I really like it. It’s a good fit for me.”

“There is still too much stigma attached to what are male roles and what are female roles,” said Fitzsimons. “We want to take away that stigma about which is a male and a female career and empower and change the way young women see themselves.”

For McKeigan, “it was intimidating starting because the stereotype is that firefighting is a man’s world, and I personally had to push through a lot of mental barriers. I learned that I am capable of a lot more than I thought I was. Each time I would accomplish something new I felt so great about

myself and kept pushing for these small milestones and my confidence grew.”

With the spotlight this week on International Women’s Day, both McKeigan and Danielle Bley, also an Old Town station volunteer firefighter, say they have been well-supported as women in a non-conventional career. “The guys here treat us like one of them. They are amazing people who made me feel very welcome,” said McKeigan.

Bley, a graduate of kinesiology and paramedicine, is also a paramedic for the region of Niagara.

“The former chief at Station 1, Cort Day, would talk to me about the fire department and he told me they would love to have someone with my background in paramedicine. He was my accelerator to get here.”

“As women,” said Bley, “we have come into a few road bumps, particularly with various equipment sizes because a lot of it is proportionate for a man. But the town worked alongside us to get us the equipment that we needed in the appropriate sizes.”

McKeigan admits that “it is a challenging role to be in. Everything is big and heavy. It’s tougher for a woman to be a part of that world, but at



Volunteer firefighters Danielle Bley and Karley McKeigan love the idea of Camp Molly, which encourages young women to think of firefighting in their future. (Sharon Burns)

the same time we fit in really well and we have a lot to offer. There is definitely a place for women here.”

The camps are for any girl who “wants to be challenged, or to find some direction,” said Fitzsimons. “It’s not about physical fitness or being the strongest or most athletic. There are many roles in the fire department.”

This is true for McKeigan, who also works in the fire department in a community risk reduction role. “I love suppression and thought that was a career goal for me, but then I got to see the other side of the fire department

and I really like prevention and public relations.”

Bley agrees. “In this department, they promote that there is no one way to do anything. The way my co-worker completes a task isn’t going to be the same way I complete a task.” Individual strengths are recognized, she said. “Medical calls are my bread and butter. Someone else will be an expert on pump operations.”

“Even if you go to Camp Molly and realize that the fire service is not for you, but you were still able to push yourself and get through that camp and get through the scary evolutions that

you didn’t think you could — that’s a huge accomplishment in itself,” said McKeigan.

Applications are due April 11 and the camp runs from May 11 to May 14 in Niagara Falls.

Application forms can be found at [www.campmolly.ca](http://www.campmolly.ca). They are also looking for strong female community members interested in supporting the camp in a volunteer role.

Camp Molly’s motto is “Be prepared to be challenged. Be prepared to be empowered. Be prepared to change the way you see yourself.”



A group of young women attending Camp Molly and learning about firefighting. (Supplied)



## NOTICE OF PASSING OF EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY USE BY-LAWS 4316EG(1)-23 & 500XV(1)-23

### Temporary Extension of Restaurant and Bar Patios

The Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake approved an extension to existing Temporary Use By-laws and passed Temporary Use By-laws 4316EG(1)-23 and 500XV(1)-23 on February 28, 2023, under Section 34 and Section 39 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

By-law 4316EG(1)-23 and By-law 500XV(1)-23 permit the extension of restaurant and bar patios onto public and private lands, subject to the Town’s Temporary Patio Program requirements, without application of any provisions of Zoning By-law 4316-09, as amended (urban areas) and Zoning By-law 500A-74, as amended (rural/agricultural areas). The Temporary Use By-laws expire on February 28, 2024. A copy of the By-laws are available on the Town website, <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notices> or at Town Hall.

The Temporary Use By-laws apply to all lands within the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. By-law 4316EG(1)-23 applies to all lands within the urban area boundaries (Old Town, Virgil, St. Davids, Queenston and Glendale) and By-law 500XV(1)-23 applies to all lands in the rural/agricultural areas of the Town.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, March 8, 2023

Victoria Steele - Acting Town Clerk ([clerks@notl.com](mailto:clerks@notl.com) or 905-468-3266)

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# Council asks for more info on hospital building, hub

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillors want to know how much it costs the town to maintain the former hospital building, along with more details in terms of financial investment from a group hoping to establish a community hub there, as well as the risks and benefits to the town.

Speaking to council last week, Robin Ridesic, representing a number of non-profit organizations, along with Tim Jennings, executive director of the Shaw Festival, and Tim Johnson, an advisor and activist on Indigenous education, asked for its support for the concept of retaining the facility to create the Niagara Creative, Cultural and Community Hub.

Ridesic talked of the Official Plan, and what it sets out for properties such as the hospital that have community facility zoning, which specifies providing for the culture, education, health and welfare of the existing and future residents of the town.

“They cannot even consider rezoning it to residential use if there are community facilities that can be established on that site — and we know there are several non-profit organizations that need that space,” said Ridesic.

She pointed out the site is at a crossroads, with the doctors gone and just three tenants in the building, “so council needs to take action now to remove this burden from taxpayers and get the property productively providing services to the community.”

Their ask of the town was for a solution that removes the operational and capital burden from taxpayers today, while preserving the town asset for the future, meeting future needs of the community’s culture, education, health and welfare needs.

Their ask does not include funding — they are offering to pay the costs to keep the building running, and to address its aging issues, in part thanks to a donor who is offering \$2 million. And with this multi-million investment, they are committed to fundraising to ensure there would be no cost to taxpayers, while the town would continue to own the building, councillors were told.

“This is a beautiful opportunity for the town to do something extraordinarily impactful to the benefit of residents, the economy and non-profit organizations, all without costing a penny of taxpayers’ money,” said Ridesic.

In addition to several non-profits interested in sharing the space, there was talk of improved educational services, such as a studio for virtual programming with digital capacity to share programming from all potential hub organizations including school homework clubs, any disadvantaged people, and those isolated in the community, including seniors.

Karyll Justo, a local early childhood educator, is hoping to open a nursery school in the building. There are 223 names on the Niagara Nursery School and Child Care waiting list, she told councillors, and she plans to offer “robust after-

school programming to support elementary school-age children, especially those with working parents, while “sustainably reusing this beautiful building, which was originally built by the community 70 years ago.”

Jennings said the Shaw, as the largest cultural charitable organization in the Niagara region, supports small to mid-sized non-profits and charities that would be in residence at the hub. The idea is to offer a world-class centre for creative cultural and community organizations to work together in a shared-services model, he said, in a self-funded collaboration including the Shaw, Music Niagara, Plenty Canada, Royal Oak Community School, and Yellow Door Theatre Project.

The Shaw, which is “very excited about the idea of seeing a space like this developed here in town, would help manage the facility,” he said, adding that NOTL has one of the highest number of cultural workers and non-profits of any town of its size in Canada.

Tim Johnson, who is a board member of the Shaw and the NOTL Museum, and a senior advisor for heritage and legacy with the Niagara Parks Commission and Plenty Canada (which is working with Brock University, Niagara College and school systems on Indigenous education), also spoke to councillors about the need for a community hub.

“This idea of the cultural hub is fantastic,” he said. “Non-profit organizations and charities really need space to operate and collaborate. There’s a lot of great potential there.”

With many opportunities for Indigenous learning close by, such as the Indian Council House, Fort George and Fort Mississauga, Johnson added, “obviously from the Indigenous side, we’re very interested in that particular location. My ancestors walked these grounds, Joseph Brant and John Brant. I think from that perspective we’re very interested in the kind of dynamics that can come out of a space where you have a number of creative organizations and educational organizations using it to cross-fertilize and develop something that’s very, very compelling.”

Karen Lade of Music Ni-



Tim Jennings, Karyll Justo and Tim Johnson ask council to support a Niagara Creative, Cultural and Community Hub in the former hospital building. (Screenshot)

agara, one of the supporters of the group’s proposal, was unable to attend the council meeting, but told The Local that Music Niagara is passionate about the hub, and hoping it will give them a permanent performance space, as well as the opportunity to work with community partners.

Music Niagara is a non-profit organization run by only two employees, a board of directors and more than 100 local volunteers, said Lade. It has evolved into a world-class summer music festival featuring Canadian and international musicians performing a variety of music genres, and is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It rents office space in the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, and rents performance space throughout NOTL to host its concerts.

“However, renting performance spaces becomes costly, and limiting in many ways for scheduling concerts,” Lade said.

“The hub will give Music Niagara stability and a year-round performance space for concerts,” she added. “This will create opportunities for extended programming that can be offered year-round to youth, seniors, tourists and local residents.”

It would also increase the performance and employment opportunities for established and emerging musicians each year, she said, allowing Music Niagara to showcase new-generation artists at the hub and provide educational and outreach concerts to students and seniors year-round.

Lade stresses other benefits to the partnership: increased efficiency from co-location; increased rev-

enue; greater visibility and/or recognition for artists and students; greater opportunity to engage with audiences; and greater capacity to perform.

“We believe that by working in collaboration with community partners in the hub, we can enrich the cultural life of the community and its visitors. Together, through this community hub, we can build better communities through the arts.”

While councillors seemed generally supportive of the concept that was presented, there was some discussion about how the town should move forward. Coun. Erwin Wiens spoke of making it part of the discussion of council’s strategic planning.

He asked if council would be “going down the road to sole-sourcing” the building to the hub.

“Should we first find out our strategy with that property before we get into working with groups to see what their costs are?” he asked, wondering if it would be prudent to put the hub ahead of other possibilities for the property.

Coun. Gary Burroughs spoke of the importance of knowing the group’s budget. “In my opinion, we need this facility, but we need it to be successful,” he said.

Ridesic told council they know it’s a multi-million dollar project to do improvements to the building “that frankly have been needed and not done over the last five years,” to make it purpose-built for community organizations; and also “to green the building.”

Asked about the typical process the town would follow when deciding a use for the building, CAO Marnie

Cluckie explained that would mean addressing it through strategic planning, and once council has given direction, it would go through the usual competitive process. But if council asked staff “to go in a different direction, we’d figure out a way to do so that would be in keeping with our procurement bylaw.”

Council agreed with a motion by Coun. Wendy Cheropita to ask staff to report back with more information on the costs of the building to the town, and what the group is proposing, identifying risks and benefits.

Council also asked staff to work with the existing tenants, who are currently renting on a month-to-month basis, on an extension or short-term lease.

Following the meeting, Ridesic told The Local that community hub representatives “are pleased to see that council is moving forward with identifying a usage case study, opportunities and financials for the site.”

A tremendous amount of staff and council work has already been completed through the Official Plan and the requests for expressions of interest for the site, she said, “and we are now looking to our new council to take this last piece of input and act promptly and decisively in the best interests of taxpayers and the community.”

The hub group looks forward to working with other community groups who also need space in town, she said.

“We invite any interested organizations to please reach out to us so that we can work together to develop the best solution for the site for the benefit of the whole community.”

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# EDITORIAL

## Consensus is we've come a long way, but there's still a ways to go

There is no doubt among women, young and not so young, those still at school looking forward to joining a workforce one day where equality will be taken for granted and those looking back on the evolution that is taking us in that direction: International Women's Day still has meaning. Its significance has and continues to change, but the most often repeated refrain when talking about gender equality is that we've come a long way, but we're not there yet. That's how most of us feel, living in one of the most progressive countries in the world, where gender equality is ac-

knowledgeed as a human right, even if not perfectly executed in society. There are many other countries, of course, that still have a long, long way to go. While we may feel comfortable with the recognition of women's rights and the progress being made, it's still essential to make this day also about rallying for those who require our aid and support, and even our outrage, for women and children of the world who are prevented from receiving the same education as males, or from participating in business or politics or even basic family decisions — not just because

they have to work harder or fight for their rights, but because they have no rights. We talk a lot about strong women who have helped to make this community what it is. We have only to look around to see who they are. But every woman of every age, every single ordinary woman — if there is such a thing as an ordinary woman — whether they are acknowledged in public as community leaders, known for their accomplishments, or whether they are women who are quietly trying to live their best lives, deserves to be celebrated, today and everyday.

As well, every one of us should be advocating for change, should be trying to play a role in the history not for ourselves or our country, but for the many communities around the world where it can take extraordinary courage just for a woman to survive. We teach our daughters to value themselves, to stand up for themselves, while other mothers have to teach theirs about laws and doctrines meant to restrict their rights and freedom. If you are a mom reading this, are you thinking about the mothers in Iran who are keeping their daughters home from school because some group

against educating women is poisoning girls in school? Are you thinking of the women in Ukraine, being kidnapped with their children? Those mothers could be any one of us, those children our children. And there are many more heinous actions being taken every day against women in countries where their value is not recognized. What can we do to help them? We don't have an easy answer to that. We can raise our voices, speak up, advocate for women's rights and gender equality. Being aware of the need is a first step, being outraged by the persecution

of women should follow, and refusing to be complacent should become ingrained in our minds and souls. We are none of us so naive as to think we can change the world, but ignoring it makes it worse. We are strong, we live in a beautiful and safe community and country, not perfect, but at least aware of the value of women. Let's all recognize and support each other, and use this day and every day, as a rallying cry to do more for others who are not so fortunate. Penny Coles The Local

## Three suits, a busy day, and greenbelt presentation



Owen Bjorgan  
Special to The Local

A recent day commenced with me wearing layers of bulky outdoor clothing and rubber boots, also known as my forest suit. I was teaching almost 30 Grade 6 students about the joys of hiking and the fun practicalities of storm shelter building in Niagara's only provincial park, known as Short Hills. This general region is part of Ontario's Greenbelt, which is now likely to be besieged under the newly implemented Bill 23, which permits development over previously protected conservation and agricultural lands — arguably Ontario's, and even North America's, finest. You can thank your provincial govern-

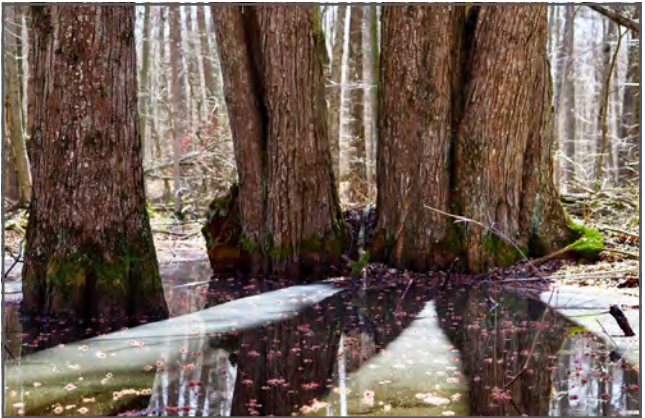
ment for that. To be clear, I think all mainstream political parties are incompetent and indifferent on environmental protections, which ultimately protect the fragile fabric of our distracted and indifferent society. In moments of raucous noise, joy and learning deep in the Short Hills forest, I reflected on what kind of future we, as adults, are going to leave for these kids by such an erroneous and greedy leap of legislation. That's why I transformed into suit-and-tie mode after work to speak alongside MPP Wayne Gates to Niagara Falls city council and Niagara-on-the-Lake town council. Our message was much clearer than the degraded, turbid waters of Niagara Peninsula; we are not anti-development, we are not here to fight, we are only here to encourage elected municipal leaders to lead by example and do better. Please, leave our

Greenbelt lands alone at all costs, if you can. For the first time since pre-COVID, I was back at a place I had once become familiar with. Dressed up, and standing in front of various councils trying my best to ask our local politicians to truly respect the value and irreplaceable nature of our natural heritage in Canada's most biodiverse region. Meanwhile, MPP Gates spoke passionately and succinctly about the financial and political details behind Bill 23, while simultaneously recognizing that an affordable housing crisis exists, but shouldn't have to directly impact Greenbelt lands. Speaking in person again about such immense matters made me reflect on how vital face-to-face communication really is. Demonstrably important and acute issues like Bill 23 spark complex conversations about environment, agriculture, housing, economy, mental (and therefore biological) health all in the same basket. It was refreshing to have these conversations effectively and with fluidity in an orderly fashion at both councils, back-to-back. However, the tones between the two municipalities were notably different. Not by a lot, but appreciably. From Niagara Falls, Councilor Mike Strange acknowledged the checkmate scenario where stakeholders want to protect

environmental and agricultural lands of value, while also recognizing the realistic need for population and housing growth. I agreed with his actualized and transparent concern, but also mentioned that I drove by plenty of dilapidated, worn-out industrial sites on the way to that very meeting within the current urban boundaries. Why not tear these places down and build anew, and vertically upward in the form of affordable housing? What about abandoned farm fields, also known as brown fields, where invasive species run amok, instead of active healthy plantations and forests of the Greenbelt? It's not a total solution, but it could help alleviate the pain of the Greenbelt's seemingly inevitable suffering. And therefore, our own.

NOTL council was a different vibe, if you will. In fact, I learned that evening that the town has taken a majority stance on opposing Bill 23 in official documentation. I was surprised and beyond glad to hear this, as was MPP Gates, but I will also hold the currently elected council accountable to make sure that words match actions. Back to the Niagara Falls council chamber. A young girl stepped up to the microphone moments before MPP Gates and I discussed the ripple effect impacts of Bill 23, which passed without consulting municipalities or the public. She sang the national anthem like an angel. I admittedly was swept off my feet and nearly teared up. Her voice was so innocent and incredible, balancing the delicate act of something inspiring and haunting at the same time. It made me think that as Ca-

nadians, we can do better to protect our land for this girl and for future generations. Will Niagara Falls and NOTL rise to the challenge? The only barriers are willingness and time. And both will tell. At the end of this big day, I went full Canadian, heading to the Virgil arena to play some hockey. Believe it or not, there is more of a sense of stability on the ice than there is in Ontario's geopolitical cosmos at the moment.



Like the trees in this photo, says Owen Bjorgan, he and MPP Wane Gates stood side by side to protect wetlands, forests and agricultural lands in the face of Bill 23. (Owen Bjorgan)

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<b>MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS</b> (Toll Free) <b>1-866-550-5205</b>	<b>ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS</b> Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark's Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting <b>905-682-2140</b>	<b>CRIME STOPPERS</b> <b>1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)</b> niagaratips.com Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip
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The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local  
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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### Where's Ben?

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. Last week's photo was a tough one — nobody recognized the golfing range on Eastchester Ave., just off Niagara Stone Road.

### View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

Dear Edward (Apple TV+ 2023) tells the story of a 12-year-old lone survivor of a plane crash, trying to make sense of his life, as do others who have lost someone close in the tragedy. This series focuses on survival, resilience, connections and the struggle to get on with life following a traumatic event. Powerful.

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



# COMMENT

## Ted's thoughts on overreacting to what we fear

**Ted Mouradian**  
Special to The Local

It seems that every time I turn on the news I am hearing people scream about something I thought might be simple or not that bad and wonder why everyone is so upset. We are bent out of shape over that new development, the drag queens, the trans people, TikTok, just to name a few.

Should we be cautious about what is happening in the world? Yes. Should we be cautious about certain trends in society? Yes. But are we making our two per cent of angry people into our 98 per cent?

Let's talk about TikTok for a minute. Yes it is owned by a Chinese company, and because of that, Canada issued orders this week banning the use of TikTok on government-issued mobile devices due to increasing privacy and cybersecurity concerns.

From what I understand the information is well-protected by the people who actually run it. Of course I don't have all of the details, but I for one am not concerned.

First of all, let's put a little perspective to the whole thing. In today's universe unless you do not have a cell phone, do not have internet or cable TV or no credit cards and of course never shopped online or have never given your phone number or email to anyone, you are already finished. They can have and know everything about you now. If the Chinese want you, they have you.

We are hearing concerns about drag queens and trans people. Drag queens are not corrupting young people. They are simply entertainers who want to entertain. Nothing more.

People who think young children are being groomed should look at parents who take their kids to certain restaurants. Now there is grooming, sending a message that women should look sexy and men should be sexualizing them. But of course that

isn't grooming, is it?

Trans people are also not a problem some people make them out to be. Instead of vilifying a trans person, do your research and look past your prejudices. No, you don't have to understand it or even agree with them because you are not in that person's shoes and have no business telling them that they must live within your narrow definition of gender.

Those are just a few of the issues we are upset about today. Please, I don't mean to trivialize how you are feeling but I think we need to take a step back and look at how some little thing that someone else is doing all of a sudden becomes a threat to our way of life.

There are elements in society today that like to blow things way out of proportion simply to satisfy their own self-interest or fear.

We must resist the temptation to follow blindly these two per cent who want to divide, not heal, want to create fear, not love, and look at things as being either black or white.

I had one friend of mine tell me that I am living with blinders on and that I should be worried about the direction society is going. My answer to that person is that I already read that book or saw

that movie.

Think back to the early days, when there were the crusades. Then came the witches. When we invaded the new world we made the Indigenous peoples out to be savages, but who were the real villains of that story?

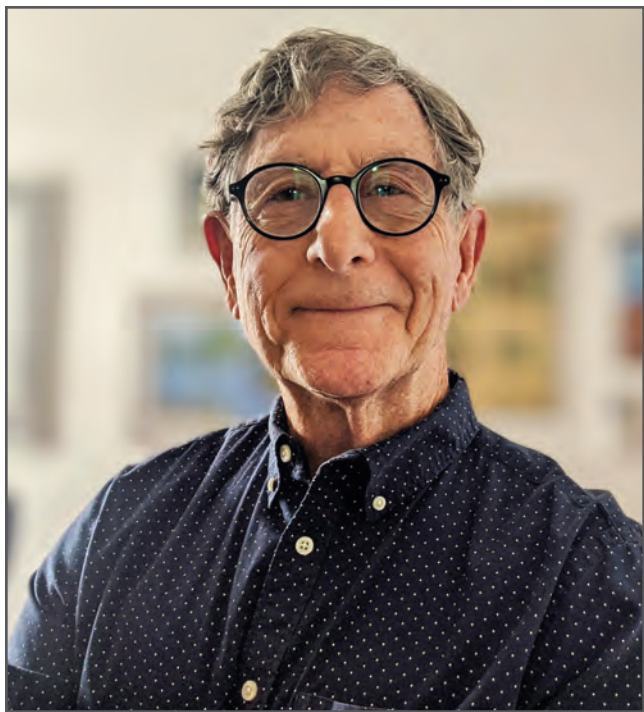
We banned alcohol because it was going to ruin the world as we know it. We tried to stop women from voting because it was going to ruin society as we know it. We wanted to stop same-sex marriage because it was going to ruin the family as we know it.

Now we are on to the next target to vilify, TikTok, trans people and drag queens. Yet, society, the world and the family are just fine. We really need to see what is actually going on. We are creating the other by putting fear on a pedestal.

Remember F.E.A.R. is False Evidence Appearing Real. Find out what the true evidence is before you dive down that rabbit hole.

The journey is simple, we complicate it.

*Ted Mouradian is an author and professional speaker. He is president of the 2% Factor Inc. and his videos can be seen on TikTok and Instagram. Ted can be reached at ted@the-2percentfactor.com*



Ted Mouradian

## Local LETTERS

### Ukraine is important, for many reasons

Friday, Feb. 24, 2023 marked the one year anniversary of the illegal and unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Russia's actions are considered by many to have crossed the threshold of being war crimes, and include illegal actions such as the bombing of hospitals and national historic sites; levelling cities and villages; raiding museums of cultural importance; as well as killing and kidnapping innocent children and women.

Hundreds of Niagara residents and Ukrainians gathered on a recent evening during freezing temperatures at Table Rock in Niagara Falls to show their support and solidarity for Ukraine. Different ethnic communities have also rallied to support the efforts to help Ukraine. Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates; St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle; Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati; Jim Bradley, Regional chair; Irene Newton, president of the Niagara Ukrainian Canadian Congress were at the event as well as members of the St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church and other organizations in Niagara Falls.

Around the world many other towns held their own gatherings and continue to show support in other ways. We have many Ukrainians living in NOTL as well as Ukrainian newcomers who already are applying for their Canadian citizenship and want to make NOTL their permanent home.

We can't put this in the back of our minds nor say "it's not in my backyard so why should I worry about it." We all should worry about what Russia is doing.

For those who ask: "Why does Ukraine matter?"

This is why Ukraine matters, by David Giles, a journalist who has helped to share the plight of

Ukrainians.

"It is the second largest country by area in Europe by area and has a population of over 40 million — more than Poland.

Ukraine ranks:

First in Europe in proven recoverable reserves of uranium ores;

Second place in Europe and 10th place in the world in terms of titanium ore reserves;

Second place in the world in terms of explored reserves of manganese ores (2.3 billion tons, or 12 per cent of the world's reserves);

Second largest iron ore reserves in the world (30 billion tons);

Second place in Europe in terms of mercury ore reserves;

Third place in Europe (13th place in the world) in shale gas reserves (22 trillion cubic meters);

Fourth in the world by the total value of natural resources;

Seventh place in the world in coal reserves (33.9 billion tons).

Ukraine is an important agricultural country:

First in Europe in terms of arable land area;

Third place in the world by the area of black soil (25 per cent of world's volume);

First place in the world in exports of sunflower and sunflower oil;

Second place in the world in barley production and 4th place in barley exports;

Third largest producer and fourth largest exporter of corn in the world;

Fourth largest producer of potatoes in the world;

Fifth largest rye producer in the world;

Fifth place in the world in bee production (75,000 tons);

Eighth place in the world in wheat exports;

Ninth place in the world in the production of chicken eggs;

Sixteenth place in the world in cheese exports.

Ukraine can meet the food needs of 600 million people.

Ukraine is an important industrialized country:

First in Europe in ammonia production;

Europe's second and the world's fourth largest natural gas pipeline system;

Third largest in Europe and eighth largest in the world in terms of installed capacity of nuclear power plants;

Third place in Europe and 11th in the world in terms of rail network length (21,700 km);

Third place in the world (after the U.S. and France) in production of locators and locating equipment;

Third largest iron exporter in the world;

Fourth largest exporter of turbines for nuclear power plants in the world;

Fourth world's largest manufacturer of rocket launchers;

Fourth place in the world in clay exports;

Fourth place in the world in titanium exports;

Eighth place in the world in exports of ores and concentrates;

Ninth place in the world in exports of defence industry products;

Tenth largest steel producer in the world (32.4 million tons).

Ukraine matters. That is why its independence is important to the rest of the world."

Ukraine is a huge economic target and prize for Russia, as it was for Nazi Germany in 1941.

This was first posted on Feb. 12, 2022, 12 days before the invasion, when some of us thought that an invasion was likely. Giles has not changed his post but obviously there have been many changes since. And as people say, it's the people of the Ukraine that really matter.

**Shirley Madsen**  
NOTL

### For those of you who are wondering

Why are there no street signs for Anne St?

They seemed to have removed all of them last summer.

**Gary Albano,**  
NOTL

Reply from Marah Minor, town communications coordinator: Town Staff is aware of

the missing signs and is working with the Region to have them replaced. The new signs are expected to be received and installed early next week.

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# Play premiere, imported tent new for Shaw this season

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The Shaw Festival has opened its season with the exciting world premiere of the contemporary adaptation of *Mahabharata*, the four-thousand-year-old Sanskrit epic being offered in two parts.

It opened March 2, and runs until March 26, with both parts presented along with Khana, a community meal with storytelling. *Mahabharata* is a Why Not Theatre production.

It's a play adaptation that was commissioned as artistic director Tim Carroll arrived at the Shaw for the 2019 season, explains Tim Jennings, executive director. But it wasn't ready in time, and was moved to the summer of 2020. But with the restrictions of the pandemic it had to be put off again — it involves its own company of artists, coming from five countries — and so now, “seven years later, we're producing it.”

“It's a new season and time to experience something new at The Shaw,” said artistic director Tim Carroll in a recent news release about the upcoming season. “Now is the perfect moment to give in to your curiosity and revel in it. Let's reconnect. Allow the incredible skill of our company captivate, entertain and inspire you.”



The Spiegel tent from Belgium will provide a new venue for this season, presenting two plays and other performances. (Supplied)

*Mahabharata* is not the only “something new” at the Shaw that Carroll is referring to. The festival is also presenting performances in a new space — new for the Shaw, although actually really old.

It's called a Spiegel tent, a space that is enclosed, with tables to sit down and enjoy a drink while watching a play, or a concert, or whatever the Shaw may decide to offer for the season.

Already planned for the space, in fact the reason the Shaw decided to have the Spiegel tent shipped from Europe, is *The Game*

of *Love and Chance*, a romantic comedy with a cast that will be different every performance, and lines that are improvised each time it is offered. As the playbill promises, “literally anything could happen.” It opens in the tent June 28.

Once they realized they would have that space, Jinwhich holds about 160 people, Jennings said, they decided *Mother, Daughter*, a one-act play exploring the nature of the changing relationships between children and their parents, would also be perfect for the Spiegel tent, and will

open June 3.

Spiegel tents, named for their magic mirrors, explained Jennings, are pavilions that were used as travelling dance halls, and are considered perfect for cabaret and music salons.

There were about 100 of them built in Belgium during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and those that are still in use are much in demand, travelling around Europe and beyond — including to Canada.

In addition to those two plays, Carroll is also thinking about “other concerts and cool performances,”

that would lend themselves to entertainment occupying the centre of the tent, with people at tables around the outside centre, “a little like you might have found in a German beer tavern 100 years ago,” said Jennings.

It is booked just for the season, but with the extra space it offers, if patrons like it, they might try in the future to rent one for longer, “but that would be difficult,” he adds, with so few available and so much demand for them.

There will also be a stage under another tent backing onto the commons, Jen-

nings said. The two outdoor venues allow for what will be Shaw's largest season ever, as well as the largest staff complement. The Shaw was able to keep actors on during the pandemic, and has grown since, running full tilt during the regular season in addition to holiday shows. “We've not had this many actors since the '90s — this season will pass that by just a bit.”

With the artists and all those who support the plays, there are about 650 employees this season, making Shaw one of the top 20 employers in the region, Jennings said.

Also at the Festival Theatre are *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*; Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*; and *The Amen Corner*, by James Baldwin.

Featured at the Royal George Theatre are *Prince Caspian*, based on the novel by C.S. Lewis; *On the Razzle*, by Tom Stoppard, adapted by Johann Nestroy; *Village Wooing*, a lunchtime one-act, by Bernard Shaw; and *The Shadow of a Doubt*, by Edith Wharton.

Performances at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre include J.M. Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World*; *The Apple Cart*, by Bernard Shaw; and *The Clearing*, by Helen Edmundson.

For tickets, visit [shaw-fest.com/whats-on-tickets/#grid-plays](http://shaw-fest.com/whats-on-tickets/#grid-plays).

## Chamber celebrates NOTL's #2 ranking as best destination

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Coming in at number two in Canada in Tripadvisor's Best of the Best Destinations for 2022 is a reason for Niagara-on-the-Lake to celebrate. And that's just what the NOTL Chamber

of Commerce and Tourism NOTL did, gathering together a number of organizations who no doubt contributed to the ranking last Wednesday at the Prince of Wales Hotel.

“This is a fantastic award for us,” said Chamber president and CEO

Minerva Ward. “It's very prestigious. Tripadvisor is one of the world's biggest review sites for travel and tourism. To come second in Canada overall is a fantastic testament to our performance, the experience and the level of service we provide. It speaks to our

industry and the partners who make it possible.”

Only Vancouver finished ahead of NOTL in the ranking. The town beat out such tourism destinations as Banff, Quebec City and Whistler, B.C., as well as big cities Montreal and Toronto.

“We're probably the smallest destination in the top 10,” said Ward. “It speaks to the quality of our experiences. We may be small in size, but we punch far above our weight.”

Along for the party were staff members from six local wineries and representatives from the Shaw Festival and Fort George National Historic Site of Canada. They were all amongst Tripadvisor's list of the top 50 destinations in Ontario for last year as well.

“We invited the staff who made it all happen,” Ward emphasized. “We wanted them to be a part of our celebration, and to have them understand the significance of this. It's about the contributions they make as part of the bigger picture of tourism overall.”

Andrew Niven of Konzelmann Estate Winery, named the eighth best attraction in the province, was excited with the ranking.

“It's definitely our team,” Niven told The Local. “In the wine industry the focus is definitely on experience. We've really developed and embraced getting back to that experience-based model, making some memorable times for our visitors who come here.”

Representatives from each of the top 50 attractions provided a short video and were toasted by the convivial crowd. There was a definite sense of camaraderie between the group throughout the proceedings.

Niven acknowledged the shared efforts of those in the room, as well as many other businesses who didn't make the top 50 in Ontario, in making NOTL number two in Canada.

“We're all friends, we all socialize together,” he said. “We help each other with a lot of these collaborative initiatives. It's a testament to what we do in Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

And, as if on cue, when Andrew Wade of Peller Estates Winery (Number 20 in Ontario) toasted his staff for their success, he pointed out that he was doing so with a glass of Reif Estate Winery's (Number 12) Riesling.

With the town working on its official tourism strategy, the Tripadvisor rankings couldn't come at a better time.

“It's a marketing tool,” added Ward. “It's a prestigious thing we will use for branding, on our businesses, on our doors, on our websites. It lets people know we are the best of the best.”

The second-place ranking is a marked improvement from fifth the previous year. And, echoing somewhat the old Hertz Rental Car advertising campaign, Ward promised that west coast city that NOTL has its sights set on an even higher ranking this year.

“Watch out Vancouver, we're coming for you,” she warned with a chuckle. “We're coming for that first place spot this year.”



Celebrating NOTL's Tripadvisor #2 ranking in the list of best destinations across Canada are Andrew Wade, Peller Estates Winery; Cheryl Penman, Jackson-Triggs Estate Winery; Valerie Taylor, Shaw Festival; Andrew Niven, Konzelmann Estate Winery; Martin Lindqvist, Chateau Des Charmes Winery; Lisa Curtis, Parks Canada (Fort George); Minerva Ward, NOTL Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL; and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. (Mike Balsom)



# Town looking at 8.56 per cent tax hike

## Zahraa Hmood Special to The Local

As Niagara-on-the-Lake reviews a draft of this year's operating budget, residents may expect a tax hike of 8.56 per cent, based on this year's average assessed value of a single detached home in Niagara-on-the-Lake at \$541,000, compared to last year's assessment of \$536,960.

Those in urban areas will to pay 11.6 per cent more taxes to the municipality in 2023, with \$104 more for property taxes, and in the town's urban areas, an additional \$50 for stormwater management.

With three weeks left until the final annual budget is approved Thursday, March 23, council and town staff met on March 1 to discuss

the operating budget staff are currently proposing.

All in all, the town is currently considering a 2023 operating budget of approximately \$44.1 million, compared to last year's approved budget of \$40.1 million.

Last year, the tax hike was \$97.25 for residents in urban areas, which combined a 2.77 per cent bump to property taxes and an approximately 5.13 per cent bump to the storm levy.

The cost of contracts for operations, supplies, and materials have gone up by 6.3 per cent, according to director of finance Kyle Freeborn, one of a handful of factors driving the town's budget up this year.

Others include the rising cost of insurance to \$89,000, and \$150,000 for pension

payments to municipal employees, thanks to more workers now qualifying for these earnings under the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System.

As well, last year the town made a one-time transfer of \$672,000 to reserves to ensure the municipality's stability during the election year — now unavailable.

Spending for corporate services is also going up, with \$491,000 worth of new business cases for 2023, including new employees. The levy will support a contract for a new digital records coordinator, and introduce four other full-time employees: an economic development officer and coordinators in health and safety, legislation, and climate change.

There was discussion

over the storm levy requirement increasing from a little over \$879,000 last year to \$1.27 million this year. Last year, the storm levy nearly doubled, going from approximately \$457,000 in 2021 to over \$879,000.

Overall, the stormwater management budget is going up by 44.4 per cent, the highest change in the budget from last year, next to wastewater services, which is increasing by 35.7 per cent.

"We had a huge increase last year," said Coun. Sandra O'Connor, "and now there's another big increase."

The town is looking to complete an expedited clean-out of two of its 17 stormwater ponds, part of a provincially-legislated requirement to do regular clean-outs of stormwater ponds, also responsi-

ble for last year's storm levy hike. The clean-out cost is \$500,000.

Part of the issue, as explained by director of operations Rome D'Angelo, is the municipal stormwater catchment areas, which collect the stormwater that then goes into its ponds. The ponds are responsible for keeping pollutants out of the natural environment.

"When they were originally designed, I don't know if there was enough forethought ... on what that would look like when it came time to maintain them down the road," D'Angelo said. "We're waiting to do our operation and maintenance plan on all stormwater ponds to get a better idea of what that total cost will be going forward."

When O'Connor asked if

staff could phase in its operations — and their associated costs — from budget to budget to avoid another big financial hit to taxpayers, D'Angelo said staff hope to bring forward numbers on what maintaining the ponds would be, rather than a full clean-out, at the second operating budget meeting on Thursday, March 9.

As for wastewater services, "the big drive," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, is capital investments. The town's regional sewage plants, Freeborn explained, are about 50 years old, and are due for million-dollar replacements.

"They've done a really good job at keeping the cost of operating very tight," Zalepa said of staff. "It's below inflation."

# Region outlines approved budget for 2023

## Local Staff

The chair of Niagara Regional Council says he understands the challenges residents are facing with rising costs but says the region did a thorough review of spending before approving a budget that includes a 7.58 per cent tax increase on the regional portion of your property tax bill.

"Council appreciates that everything in the lives of our residents is costing more and we are sympathetic to how this budget may be seen as yet another increase to be absorbed by households across the region," Regional Chair Jim Bradley said in a news release.

"I can assure the public that regional council was exceedingly thorough in its examination and critical review of the budget and we strived to be as responsible as possible. The 2023 budget ensures that we can continue to provide residents with the service they expect and deserve, while maintaining over \$9.8 billion in Regional infrastructure."

Regional council approved a budget that continues to make critical investments while managing the impacts of inflation and other unique pressures, the region said.

The regional budget process concluded on Feb. 23 with the approval of the general levy operating budget.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Regional Coun. Andrea Kaiser told The Local she was disappointed in the increase.

"It was not the end result everybody wanted, but there wasn't a lot of choice," she said.

During the pandemic years, capital reserves were used to cover additional costs, "and we need to be cognizant of what that impact was. I will aim not to

repeat that," she said. "It is a good example of what happens when you keep pushing things down the road."

The budget covers regional departments and Niagara Regional Police Service, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Niagara Regional Housing and Court Services as well as the consolidated capital budget.

"Niagara Region continues to be confronted with unique challenges and staff have done an excellent job managing the region's finances as we navigate these pressures," Todd Harrison, commissioner of corporate services and treasurer said.

Regional council had previously considered separate special levy operating budgets for waste management and Niagara Transit Commission and the rate budgets for water and wastewater.

Council approved the 2023 general levy with an expenditure increase of \$38 million, for a property tax increase of 7.58 per cent on the regional portion of the tax bill.

For the average property assessed at \$278,764, the regional portion of the tax bill will increase by \$123 totaling \$1,743 in 2023.

The work the region performs touches the lives of residents in many ways, from providing clean water, road maintenance and waste collection to public safety, housing, child care and much more.

As the largest source of revenue for the municipality, property taxes fund more than 45 per cent of programs and services that Niagara residents rely on.

The region's financial plan for 2023 reflects residents' desire to see investments in economic growth initiatives, expansion of transit services, access to affordable housing,

and to ensure Niagara continues to care for its most vulnerable citizens.

The 2023 budget includes funding for several critical programs and services including:

- \$1.5 million for housing provider operating subsidies
- \$10.6 million to support infrastructure for regional departments and agencies, boards and commissions
- \$6.9 million for incentives programs including agricultural and brownfield development charges and tax increment grants
- \$2.3 million for operating and capital costs of new ambulances
- \$9.6 million for Niagara Regional Police Services.

For 2023, the region is also recovering 33 per cent of a \$6 million tax deferral approved in 2022 to fund the general levy.

The operating budget for 2023 contains a tax levy of \$444 million, which funds the daily business of the region, its boards and agencies.

To help drive council's priorities for the current term, the operating budget also supports a \$237-million approved capital program. The region has allocated funding toward a number of key initiatives such as:

- \$18.6 million Ontario Street reconstruction
- \$11.3 million Oswego Bridge reconstruction
- \$8.4 million York Road watermain replacement
- \$16.8 million Ontario Street watermain replacement
- \$14.2 million for the rehabilitation of existing housing stock
- \$16.1 million Decew Booster Station upgrade.

Regional council also endorsed operating and capital budgets tabled by the Niagara Transit Commission Board last November, an

important first milestone for integrated regional bus transit service in Niagara.

The commission's first budget for 2023 advances a commitment to better connect Niagara communities while continuing to deliver exceptional service to transit riders. The financial plan reflects an amalgamation of municipal and regional bud-

gets, with adjustments made to account for long-term infrastructure needs, inflation, and recent declines in revenue realized by the former transit providers, the region's news release said.

Regional council approved a separate special levy of \$55.1 million to be billed to ratepayers in 2023, resulting in an annual house-

hold cost ranging from \$64 per year to \$295 per year, depending on the municipality.

Much like waste management, transit is funded separately from the general levy and will appear as a special levy unique for each municipality as an item on the local municipal tax bill, starting with bills issued in the second half of 2023.



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Local author anticipating  
release of her new book

Penny Coles

The Local

Winning her second writing marathon in 2020 was great news for local author Sharon Frayne, but the result of that win has been even better.

The prize was to have her young adult novel, *The Sound of a Rainbow*, sent to publisher Latitude 46 for consideration, and it was quickly snapped up for publication.

It's almost ready for release, expected to be in all major bookstores April 22, after an unusual journey that began when the first words were written, to the book's completion in

a rough draft just 72 hours later.

That was followed by a six-week frenzy of rewrites, and eventual acceptance for publication.

Frayne wrote *The Sound of a Rainbow* during her second year participating in the annual Muskoka Novel Marathon in Huntsville, in what was held as a virtual writers' competition. The contest, which gives participants 72 hours to produce a novel, is intended to raise awareness for adult literacy in the area and funds Muskoka YMCA literary programs.

It also helps writers, whether they win or not, through the

comments they receive from judges, and if they win in their category, they have a publishing company look at their work.

But getting your book looked at doesn't mean it will be published — 99.9 per cent of the time, says Frayne, "you get a response saying 'nice job, thank you. Congratulations and good luck.'"

It was six months after she submitted the book that she got her response, by which time she'd pretty much given up. "I nearly fell off my chair when I heard," she said.

Continued on page 11



Sharon Frayne (Supplied)

Niagara Lake

on the lake

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STRATEGY  
COMMITTEE

The Town is recruiting members for the Tourism Strategy Committee, a Committee designed to support the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tourism Strategy and Action Plan Project.

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The submission deadline is Thursday, March 23, 2023.

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# Young adult genre works for former teacher, principal

Continued from page 10

Although she has self-published other books, this was her first to be picked up by a publishing company, a very different process.

"I was told a young intern read it, fell in love with it, and told them they had to have it. They have all the Canadian and U.S. rights, and all media rights."

They also have editors who helped her through another three to six months of edits. "That is humbling. They make your work as polished as possible — to get the best possible book to market. They want it to do well, and editing is just part of the process for anybody who goes the traditional route. It has to be a little more polished than what was written in 72 hours," she jokes.

There was also an artist to design the cover — it took three iterations before Frayne had one she was happy with — along with marketers, who have a tour laid out to help publicize it. And they encourage sequels, says Frayne, which are especially important in her young adult genre — she has taken that to heart, with a second one in the works.

Encouragement has also come from Open Book, which publishes reviews of new book releases. It describes her novel thus: "An authentic and captivating read, *The Sound of a Rainbow* is timely and smart."

*The Sound of a Rainbow* is written for an audience Frayne, as a retired teacher and principal, knows well, and is a genre she's familiar with — her book written at the 2019 marathon was also a young adult novel, and it too won, but was not published, although she still has hope it might be.

Frayne also won the 2020 award for the longest novel — hers was submitted at 44,000 words.

But it was a rough 44,000 words, and after her win, she was given six weeks to polish it before submitting to Latitude 46 for consideration, although what she needed most after the 72-hour marathon was rest.

Due to the pandemic and the need for a virtual contest, she was able to sleep in her own bed at the family cottage in Muskoka, with her husband Bill French there to prepare meals for her, allowing her to concentrate on her writing.

She was able to get by on four hours of sleep each night, but the last day, as she wrote feverishly trying to finish, French had to leave the cottage, and although he left prepared food for her, she didn't stop to eat.

Once she hit 'send' for the last time, she was not only exhausted but disoriented and dehydrated, with aching, swollen wrists, and slept for two days to recuperate from the toll the marathon took on her body, she said.

The rules for the virtual

contest were stringent, with ways to ensure participants were writing on the spot. They were expected to log on to submit every 100 pages, and every word had to be written during that 72-hour period, with just a page of notes allowed for reference.

Frayne had the characters and story line in her head when she began, and stuck to that at the beginning, although some of it changed as she went along. However by the time she was racing to the ending, she got back to her original intent, and the tension of trying to finish, she said, helped increase the tension in the story as it too neared its ending.

Without giving too much away, Frayne explains she wanted her story to include a diverse group of young people with special needs, and set the novel in an inclusive northern Ontario camp intended for the kids she wanted to write about.

A 16-year-old girl with a great singing voice is the protagonist, but she has had a disastrous final performance on a talent show that is filmed and goes viral on social media. While she is dealing with her humiliation, her parents are in the midst of a divorce, and send her to a summer camp. She is distraught at being sent away, and is initially withdrawn and depressed, trying to distance herself from staff and campers, a diverse group of young people with varying special needs.

One boy on the autism spectrum becomes an important part of her story, and once her empathy kicks in, it takes her to unexpected places, including an animal sanctuary on the same island as the camp. As a mystery unfolds, she finds herself supporting her new friends, on an "uplifting, transformative journey" that leads her to finding herself and her strength, said Frayne.

"It's a story that can make you cry, and also make you cheer for her — it's like an emotional rollercoaster in a wild theme park, and you're going on this ride with her."

A member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Writing Circle and many other organizations for authors, Frayne knew she wanted to be a writer when she was a little girl, but the path she took to get there has taken decades. She first studied journalism at university, but became a teacher, looking for something a little more secure, and it wasn't until she retired that she plunged into writing full-time. That means writing about three hours a day, and spending much of the rest of the day thinking about what she's writing. And she has lots to think about — this success has only spurred her on.

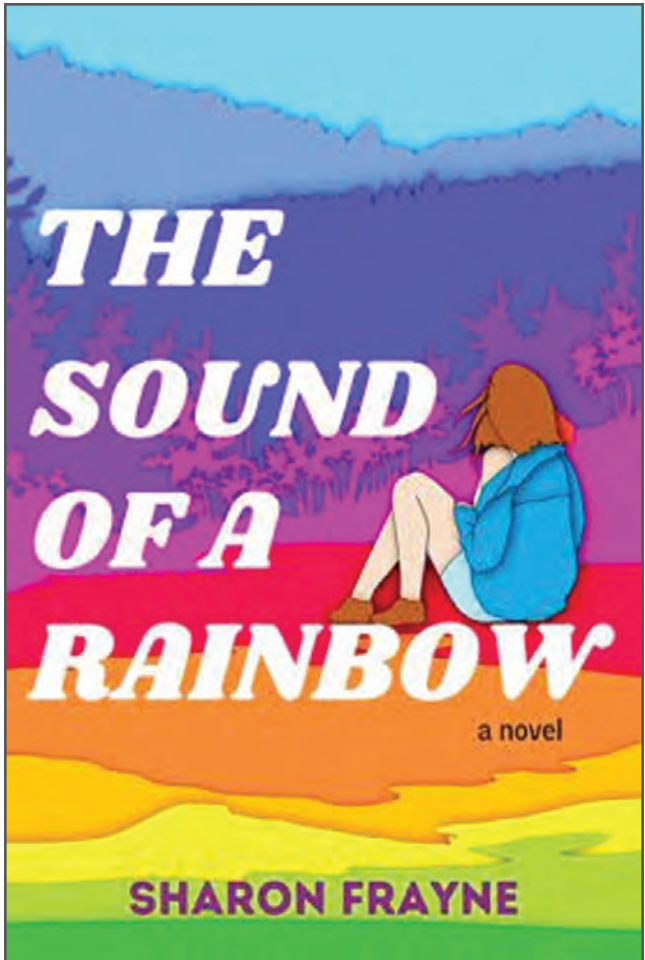
She also still has hope for publishing another book written at another Muskoka marathon — this one didn't win, although it was her favourite, and again, a young adult novel. "I taught school for 40

years," she explains, "and I like kids. Young adult literature don't mean it's something less — look at the successful series like *Harry Potter* and *Hunger Games* — they reach all ages. Young adults are themselves experiencing an intensity of powerful emotions, actions and decisions that affect them for the rest of their lives. It's a time of life that's never boring."

Readers in the 13 to 16 age

group like to read about young people slightly older than themselves, who are leading exciting lives, she added.

And Frayne is doing her best to give them what they are looking for, beginning with the launch of *The Sound of the Rainbow*, hopefully to be followed by many more, to be developed during those afternoons of thinking about what's to come next.



It took three tries, but the author loves the final design chosen for her book cover. (Supplied)



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# Bravo! Niagara's season begins with Alex Cuba

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Bravo! Niagara Festival has announced its spring 2023 season of five concerts, featuring Juno and Grammy winners, internationally acclaimed classical musicians and an online world premiere of a tribute to the music of Astor Piazzolla. It all begins at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre's Robertson Hall with a solo performance by Cuban-Canadian singer-songwriter Alex Cuba on March 25.

Cuba lives with his wife, Sarah Goodacre, and their three children in Smithers, B.C., about 13 hours northwest of Vancouver. The Juno and Grammy Award winner likes to joke that he ended up so far north as a result of his flight from the law, but the reality is that Sarah hails from the town of 5,351 people and the couple settled there many years ago to be close to her family. "It's snowed a lot here the last 48 hours," says Cuba, taking a break between bouts of shovelling. "We haven't had this amount of snow in a while. It's both beautiful and scary." Cuba, whose real name is Alexis Puentes, moved to Canada from his native Cuba in 1999 after he and Sarah were married in his homeland. His brother Adonis Puentes emigrated to Canada with them, and until 2004 the twins performed as the Puentes Brothers duo. They have gone their separate ways professionally since then, with Adonis fronting the Voice of Cuba Orchestra.



Alex Cuba (Eduardo Rawdriguez)

Cuba's 2021 album *Mendo* was his eighth solo release. Like many of his albums, *Mendo* sees Cuba singing in both Spanish and English while collaborating with other world music artists, including Antonio Carmona (Spain), Lila Downs (Mexico), Gilberto Santa Rosa (Puerto Rico) and Gian Marco (Peru). The 10 songs on the collection encompass afrofunk, salsa, flamenco, jazz and mambo styles. After winning two Juno Awards and four Latin Grammys, *Mendo* earned the guitarist and singer his first Grammy Award for Latin Pop Album of the Year in 2022. Since the release of that album, Cuba has been leaking out a few singles via streaming services, including his latest, *Quiero Que*, a slower, romantic number. The singles will be packaged for release as an EP of six songs in May, but it's his follow-up album coming in September that has him bursting with excitement. "I've been looking forward to

doing an entirely solo album for the very first time," he says. "Just one voice, one guitar. I have always been a singer-songwriter. I've always enjoyed playing my songs in an intimate setting. It's the magic I am able to manifest. For years, though, I always thought nobody would come to see a guy with a guitar, without a band, singing in Spanish." But appearances he made at a couple of folk festivals in 2019 convinced him he could bring that solo magic to larger audiences. "The folk world just ate it up," he marvels. "It really boosted my confidence. I did four shows in Ontario, just me and my guitars. I had so many unbelievable fan testimonies about those shows. It was way more emotional, and way more powerful. The connection becomes very, very strong between me and the audience." Local fans who were lucky enough to see Cuba's performance as part of the Jackson-Triggs sum-

mer concert series in August 2022 might attest to that. "I always wanted to play there," he recalls. "When I got the offer to play there solo I was so excited. I got a bit nervous thinking (the audience) was expecting a full band. But it was such a great moment. I sent them to the moon there. That crowd loved every second of that show. I got three encores." It's a solo Alex Cuba who will take to the Robertson Hall stage on March 25, but he'll have a few new originals to throw into the set and a renewed confidence that winning a Grammy can bring. "An American Grammy, as we call it, is a big deal," he admits. "To compete with the music in the United States of America, it says you are competing with the big guys. It was my fourth nomination, but I wasn't expecting to win. I didn't even go because I was playing two symphony shows in B.C." It was while driving back to Smithers from one of those shows that he found out that he won the award. "What a moment," he says, somewhat flabbergasted thinking about it. "I got to share that moment with my wife and my oldest. I didn't expect it. It was just unbelievable." The statuette, which names him as artist, engineer and producer of *Mendo*, has found a spot in his living room, but he might move it into his new recording studio, which he assembled because of the success of the album. "I recorded *Mendo* in my liv-

ing room," Cuba explains, "but winning the Grammy convinced me I had to build a studio. I turned my whole garage behind my house into a recording studio. I started using it in June last year. It's my favourite place in the world. I open the door and I'm on, I'm excited, I'm inspired." From his vantage point in northern B.C., Cuba says it's hard not to see everything through a Canadian lens. "I feel very, very Canadian, and I'm proud of that," he says. "My music is Cuban Canadian. Canada has given me a unique sound. I have embraced being Canadian, and I have developed art as an expression of where I am in my life. You can hear Canada in my music." Following Cuba's solo show, longtime electric-acoustic jazz group Yellowjackets bring their fusion sound to the PAC's Partridge Hall on April 29 for a Bravo! Niagara performance. Formed in 1977 in California, the quartet has over 25 albums to its name and has been nominated for 10 Grammy Awards, winning in 1987 and 1989. Keyboardist Russell Ferrante is the last remaining original member of the group that has seen some of the best jazz musicians, including guitarist Robben Ford, drummer Terri Lyne Carrington and bassist Felix Pastorius, come through its ranks. On Saturday, May 13, the Piazzolla Trio, led by internationally-acclaimed pianist Louise Bessette, celebrates Astor Piazzolla's Argen-

tina in an online-only performance with violinist Marc Djokic and cellist Chloe Dominguez. The repertoire was recorded in the Bravo! Niagara studio, and ticket buyers will be able to view the performance any time between May 13 and 20. Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and Bravo! Niagara co-founders Christine Mori and Alexis Spieldenner are proud to partner with the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre to present the Ontario debut of internationally-acclaimed pianist Kyohei Sorita. The May 24 concert at Toronto's Kobayashi Hall celebrates the 60th anniversary of the centre. Sorita is one of the most sought-after pianists of his generation, and the winner of the silver medal in 2021 at the prestigious 18th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. Bravo! Niagara's spring 2023 season wraps up on Friday, June 9 with harpist Valerie Milot and cellist Stephane Tetreault presenting *Transfiguration* back at the PAC's Robertson Hall. It's described as a total concert experience, with the pair immersed in an all-encompassing digital and cinematographic environment. *Transfiguration* was recently nominated for Album of the Year and Concert of the Year (Modern and Contemporary Music) at the 2023 Prix Opus Gala on Feb. 5 in Montreal. Tickets for Alex Cuba at Robertson Hall and any of the Bravo! Niagara performances can be purchased via [bravoniagara.org](http://bravoniagara.org).

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# Youth collective ready to wrap up a successful start

## Local Staff

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Youth Collective is getting ready to wrap up its inaugural drop-in winter 2023 session this Wednesday.

Plans are underway for the end-of-session pizza party, says organizer Caroline Polgrabia. As with the majority of the collective programming, the event will be made available in partnership with a community partner, this time with Hummel Properties. Rainer Hummel, a lifelong resident of NOTL, has supported countless commu-

nity initiatives over the years. "We can see what the NYC group is trying to do for our community, and believe it is needed," said Hummel. "We have many wonderful youth programs in town, and NYC creates a place to focus attention on our youth and try to fill the gaps."

From the beginning, the collective has aimed to align and leverage town resources, not duplicate existing programming or services, said Polgrabia.

"Our hope for the inaugural eight-week winter 2023 session was to get our initial volunteers trained, sort out

important policies and operating systems, test out a few new programs and create some momentum," she explained. "From the moment we opened the doors on Monday, Jan. 16, it took on a life of its own. I think we exceeded our own expectations."

The numbers indicate the collective has programming that resonates, said Polgrabia. In eight weeks, 110 youth have registered, 35 days of programs delivered, 90 certificates earned in first aid, babysitting and home alone programs, 385 health snacks and 100 more snacks with meals served, and 88 Valen-

tine's Day cards delivered to seniors.

The group also tested many new program ideas, including Tutor on Site, Let's Talk, What's Inside, Cooking with Bobbi, Chess Night, Book Club, Youth Curators, and Youth Advisory Council. They ran five St John's Ambulance certification programs and held three pizza parties and a movie night.

Brian Ferguson watched as the registration numbers climbed over the first eight weeks. "We worked really hard to test out a large variety of programs. Some did very well, some did just okay." And

some nights saw very high attendance — as many as 46 on the busiest night — and others, only a few kids relaxed in the space. "We have learned a lot," Ferguson said.

The NYC team completed 118 volunteer shifts resulting in more than 354-plus supervision hours, as well as hours spent managing volunteers, planning programming, setting up the space, building community partnerships, managing youth registration, media relations and managing digital and social media accounts. "It's almost impossible to calculate the number of hours

volunteers have spent behind the scenes. The list seems endless," said Brenda Ferguson, volunteer coordinator. "We are grateful for all our volunteers and community partners. We could not have done this without them. We will be putting out a call for volunteers for anyone who is interested in getting involved and helping us grow the program and our community connections."

As the program and the volunteers take a short break to rejuvenate and evaluate the winter session, planning continues for an anticipated April spring program.

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# University student says Women's Day recognizes work that still needs to be done

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Janvi Ganatra is in her second year as a systems design engineering student at University of Waterloo, and as a high school student, was a member of the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

She says it is important to recognize International Women's Day, "to acknowledge the women who have played essential roles in advocating for our rights and

celebrate the accomplishments of women worldwide, including those in our lives."

It is also an opportunity to recognize the work that still needs to be done towards achieving gender equality and raise awareness towards the challenges women face today, she says.

Ganatra says she has not experienced inequity in her life so far, and is "grateful to have supportive parents who have been there for me from day one. Their uncon-

ditional support empowers me to fearlessly pursue an education and career that I feel passionate towards."

As someone who will enter a male-dominated field in STEM, she has concerns over the inequity she may face in the workplace. "However, my internship experiences so far have been positive overall. I have worked in teams where I felt an equal opportunity to contribute to the projects and have felt valued and heard."

Ganatra says she is lucky to be surrounded "by women who are there for me and continuously inspire me. From my mother and my close female friends to mentors I've had throughout my educational and career journey, they all play a role in how far I've come. As such, I believe it's essential for women to be supportive and build each other up to become the best versions of ourselves and achieve our goals together."



Janvi Ganatra (Photo supplied)

## Women's Day a reminder that 'progress doesn't happen by accident'

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Adriana Vizzari is a first-time Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillor with four children, three of them girls.

International Women's Day definitely matters, she says, "because at its core, it's a rally cry. It is an essential reminder that progress doesn't happen by accident. All the accomplishments and successes the world celebrates didn't come easily, but they prove what is

possible. As a call to action, IWD tells us to look at where we've been, see how far we've come, and keep fighting for more."

Asked if she has experienced gender inequity, she answers, "I don't know a woman who hasn't."

About preparing her daughters for the day it might happen to them, she says, "I choose to focus on teaching them how to respond should they encounter inequity. They are currently seeing first-hand and learning

so much in watching the Canadian Women's National Soccer Team and their fight for equal rights and pay."

Vizzari says she has always looked to strong women, "those who lead their life with no limits," as role models. "My daughters and I are so fortunate to be surrounded by such women in our daily lives. We read and learn about female trailblazers that came before us, soak up all the life lessons learned and draw inspiration from them."



Coun. Adriana Vizzari with daughters Antonia, Gigi, and Loretta Cater. (Photo supplied)

## Mavridis chats with daughter about importance of Women's Day

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Leading up to International Women's Day, Maria Mavridis, award-winning businesswoman, fundraising event organizer and town councillor, sat down to have a conversation about the day with her daughter Hope.

Asked if Women's Day is important, Hope said it

is, to recognize "women's accomplishments and how far we have come. So many women have done amazing things, and men get a lot more recognition."

"I think everyone should be recognized for accomplishments," said Maria, but "unfortunately we are still living in a society where inequity exists."

Hope says she has experienced gender inequity

"a bunch of times. Boys at school should just know better. We have talks all the time about sexism. They are learning as they grow older."

Maria, too, answers the question about experiencing inequity in the affirmative. "Unfortunately I have. Fortunately I was raised by a strong female who accomplished so many great things in her short time on this earth, and an even

more empowering male (my father)."

Hope says the strong woman she looks up to is "my mom. She is my role model."

And Maria, who lost her mother to cancer far too young, says, "I surround myself with some amazing females that I learn from. But my biggest role model was my mother."



Coun. Maria Mavridis and daughter Hope (Photo supplied)

## Day needed until women are 'equal in every way'

Continued from page 1

idea of feminism has been taken too far by some people who think women just want more. The definition of feminism is to want equity between men and women."

While "it's important to celebrate and support women's accomplishments," said high school student Maggie Forsyth, "sometimes having a specific day for it seems a little bit performative. The theme of equity is important because women have a voice and are equal and have the opportu-

nity to improve themselves and show that they can be just as valuable as men."

When asked what they would say to their 15-year-old self, several women responded with advice to believe in themselves. "Find that self-confidence sooner rather than later," said firefighter Karley McKeigan. "Self-doubt and anxiety have always been a roadblock for me, but by being a part of the fire service, I have been able to prove to myself that I really can do it."

Danielle Lepp, an entrepreneur and fitness coach,

agrees. "If I could talk to my 15-year-old self, I would tell her, 'even if it seems that there is no possible way you can do it, you can.'" Lepp also advises, "pay attention to who you spend your time with and who is around you, because they have the greatest influence on your mindset and your self-belief."

"My advice to young women is to expose yourself to as much as possible," said Danielle Bley, local firefighter and paramedic. "There are so many different experiences in the world, so don't pigeon-hole

yourself down one path."

In celebration of women, Lindsay Bernacci, entrepreneur and restaurant owner, thinks "it's a great time to celebrate everything that we have accomplished, and a good time to reflect on so many women who have made such a difference in this world. The restaurant business is male-dominated," she continued, "and it's amazing that two women, like me and my mother, can have the strength and confidence to own their own restaurant."

Marty Sherlock, also a

high school student, thinks "it's important to recognize women. My mother inspires me because she has four kids. It's just her, and she takes care of all of us and still has a job. Being a single mom is hard, and she does it all."

Regardless of age, all of the women who spoke to The Local agree that Women's Day is still necessary. "We need International Women's Day until every woman everywhere is able to live a life where she is equal to men in every way," said high school business teacher Heather Davis.

"Fortunately for those of us in NOTL, Canada, that is the case, but it is certainly not the experience for all. I see this every day in my experience as a teacher of young women."

"Because men have received daily recognition internationally far more than women," concluded Didi Wilson, NIA dance instructor, "it is essential that we 'wisdom keepers' are acknowledged and celebrated. Women have been the backbone and peace-makers of our civilization for millennia. We have earned our day to shine and be revered."



# University student hopeful for future

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Victoria Balsom, in her second year of university, says she thinks International Women's Day is important "because it shines a light on all of what women have been through in the past and present. By acknowledging Women's Day we can see how to do better and appreciate the women that have improved the world."



Victoria Balsom with the family's puppy, Bailey (Supplied)

She says she hasn't faced any real inequity, but has "sometimes felt like people were treating me different because I'm a woman."

She does have some fear about being treated equally with men as she moves into the workforce, but says, "I have hope in the people who will be in control."

And yes, she does have strong female role models to mentor her and help her navigate: "Mainly my mom," she says.

# Two young Ukrainians on International Women's Day

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Since Women's Day is international, with the help of translator Shirley Madsen, The Local asked two recent arrivals from Ukraine about the need for a day to recognize women.

Iryna, a 20-year-old woman, says she faced inequality at home and at school. "I had many wonderful teachers, but there was also one who would single out their favourites among the students and give them better grades, simply because the teacher liked them more than other children. But if you take all my life, then I no longer encountered inequality. I meet good people who do good deeds and help me, and I try to be grateful."

While Women's Day is important, she says, "at work, I am not afraid to face inequality. I will go forward towards my goal. But I know many cases where people do face inequality."

She has seen that happen when relatives of "the boss" were hired, but she is not afraid, she says, because "I know for sure that I will be judged by my efforts and work."

The most important woman who inspired her is her mother. "She is the main motivator for me. This woman lived a very long and interesting life, where she faced many difficulties. But despite this, my mother remained the

same kind and bright person whom I love. I know that she will read this. I just want to say thank you for raising me the way I am. She taught me to respect people, taught me to go towards my goal and never give up. Mom, you know so much and so you love me so much. I am grateful for everything you do for me."

She continues, "I want to tell you that in my life I meet good people. We recently met a very beautiful woman. Her name is Shirley. Shirley speaks Ukrainian very well and helps a lot of people. I want to express my deep gratitude to her for her work and help to Ukrainians. Shirley has a very kind heart. She is an example for the future."

Victoriia, another recent arrival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with her parents and younger sister, is turning 15 this month. She has started high school, and has recently been taking tennis lessons in St. Davids, at the invitation of Karen Wright — a strong and compassionate woman who uses tennis to help others — and is enjoying them.

Victoriia says, "personally, I have never experienced inequality in my life, but I have heard a lot of stories about it."

And yes, sometimes she worries about it and how it could affect her future, but she hopes it will no longer be a problem in society.

And she too says the woman who inspires her more than anyone else is her

mother.

"She always supports me and helps me not to stop because of difficulties."

"On March 8, Women's Day," Iryna adds, "I want ev-

ery woman who reads these lines to understand that she is beautiful. I congratulate all women on the holiday of spring and wish everyone happiness."



Iryna, from Ukraine, says all women are beautiful. (Supplied)



Victoriia says her mother inspires her to keep going even when something is difficult. (Supplied)

# Daughter needs to value her time, energy

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Sarah Dalisay, mother of Jenna, 9, says she doesn't worry about her daughter as she gets older, "as she is very smart, confident and determined. I'm also hopeful that gender equality will improve over time, and will not be as much an issue in 10 to 15 years when she en-

ters the workforce.

Sarah says her mother always told her "I can be anything I want! I have definitely benefited from her encouragement."

And for Jenna, she says, "I would make sure my daughter knows her time and energy are as valuable as a man's, and she's as deserving of promotions and other benefits."



Jenna and her mom, Sarah Dalisay (Supplied)

# Mom happy staying at home

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Mariah Reese, mother of three boys, says her perspective on gender equity might be a little different than others.

"I have been beyond blessed to have never experienced inequality. I was a waiter at a few different places when I first started working. As such, I had the upper hand to males. Females tend to make better tips than men."

Following a few years in the service industry, she says, "I worked in an office. I was totally unqualified for most office jobs. On top of that, I had just had a baby. Despite having no experience or qualifications and having a baby, I was hired by a company that not only gave me a job but they gave me a huge office (about 400 square feet) so I could bring my baby into work with me."

Reese says she "very clearly took that office from someone (including a few men) much more deserving of it than I was. I brought my

baby to work with me every day for four years until he started school. By the time he was ready for school, I had met and married Robert who made enough for me to quit and be a stay-at-home mom."

And there she still is, and has been for the past 12 years or so.

"I never plan on working for anyone again, so I also can't say how I feel about re-entering the workforce. I'm also married to a ship captain (arguably one of the most "manly" jobs). But when he comes home, he answers for me. There are no gender roles in our house. He cooks (more than I do), cleans, takes care of the kids, etc., so I don't feel burdened with my 'role' in the house."

As for teaching her boys to respect women, that's not an issue — they are perfect gentlemen for the most part, with occasional slip-ups, like every human, she says. "There's never been a conversation with them about how to treat women specifically, but we have many con-

versations about how to treat everyone fairly and there is no reason or excuse to treat someone different. A very important point we make is, as they are very protective of their brothers, if they wouldn't want someone saying or doing something to

one of their brothers, then they shouldn't be saying or doing it to someone else.

They do many household chores, she says, and "they know if they get married and expect too much of their wives, they'll have me to answer to."



Mariah Reese and her oldest son, Sebastian (Supplied)



# LocalSPORTS

## Hunter Holmes playing in university hockey championship

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

When the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) men's hockey championships take place this Saturday in Windsor, a key element in the Lancers' chance to win at home will be Niagara-on-the-Lake's Hunter Holmes.

The 23-year-old graduate of St. Davids Public School and A.N. Myer Secondary School is in his second year with the Lancers, who will face the Universite du Quebec a Trois-Rivieres Patriotes at 7:30 p.m. for the title.

Having previously spent a season and a half playing with the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Quebec Ramparts, Holmes is quite aware of the style of play the Patriotes will bring to the Capri Pizzeria Recreation Complex. He'll face some of his former teammates this weekend.

"They play a very different style of hockey than us," Holmes says on the phone from the Windsor apartment he shares with his girlfriend, Emma. "They're small, they're fast, they're younger. They're a run-and-gun skill team, and we're much bigger and older. But they're coming to our rink, where we know all the bounces."

The Lancers finished second in the OUA regular season after losing their final two games 6-2 to the Lakehead Thunderwolves and 5-3 to Western. They knocked off the Brock Badgers in two straight in the quarter-finals, then won two out of three against the first place Thunderwolves, having to play the final two games in Thunder Bay.

"They're 18 hours away, you have to fly to play them,"



Hunter Holmes, #93, in action, in a photo from the University of Windsor website.

Holmes says. "That makes it tough. And there's not a lot else to do in Thunder Bay, so they pack their rink. They had more than 3,500 people for both games. They treat it like it's a big deal. It's a big event, it's hard to win there."

The human kinetics major's stint with the Lancers follows a successful junior hockey career, with three and a half years playing for the Ontario Hockey League's Flint Firebirds and then his stint with the Ramparts. In 190 games with Flint, Holmes had 29 goals and 64 points, while he added another 13 goals and 31 points in 60 games playing out of Quebec City.

"There were things I liked better about Flint, and things I liked better about Quebec," he says. "The tradition in Quebec City is honestly second to none in the entire CHL (Canadian Hockey League). The fans love the Ramparts, they have a brand new NHL-ready arena. They pack in 8,000

people minimum a night. It was first class, an unbelievable experience."

With the Ramparts, Holmes was coached by Montreal Canadiens legend Patrick Roy.

"That was pretty cool," Holmes says. "He was a really good guy. When it was game time, he was intense. Once the puck dropped his alter-ego came out. We were a pretty good team, so we didn't see that side of him too much. I enjoyed playing for him, and he seemed to like me."

Like many former OHL and QMJHL players who follow that experience playing university hockey, Holmes had to adjust last year in his first season with Windsor.

"It's a lot different than junior," he agrees. "In some cases you're playing with guys who are six years older than you. There's an adjustment period. Guys are bigger and stronger in this league. They play a different

style of hockey."

Many say the OUA is one of the best-kept secrets in hockey. Many former OHL players who don't get noticed by pro teams end up playing university hockey.

"If you're not going pro, this is where you go," says Holmes. "There's great talent coming out of the OHL, and there's guys who play Tier II, who hope to go to the NCAA (U.S. College) but that doesn't work, so they find their way here. The teams are just packed with really good players. There's plenty of guys who come out of this league who go on to play pro hockey."

Holmes suffered a dislocated shoulder last year, leaving him on the sidelines for much of the season. The Lancers finished first in the regular season but lost in the first round of the playoffs.

"This year, I just felt a bit more confident in my game," he adds. "When you're playing with a great team, and great players, and

you're winning, it's easy to produce and get points."

Holmes is carrying a full schedule of five courses. With the travel being a member of the varsity hockey team requires, that sometimes makes that challenging. But he's good at buckling down and getting his work done when his professors don't offer him deadline extensions.

He chose the University of Windsor partly because of its strong Human Kinetics program, and partly because Emma, a Michigan native, was completing a Masters degree there.

He is intent on finishing his degree and perhaps applying to teacher's college following that. But the oldest son of Chuck and Maryellen Holmes hasn't ruled out a pro career in the future.

"I've definitely always had the mindset that I want to get my degree before I do that," Holmes insists. "I have one more year and then, who knows? You have to do

all the leg work yourself, it's difficult. But if the opportunity presents itself, that would definitely be something I would consider."

In December, Holmes' younger brother Owen caught on with the nearby Leamington Flyers of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, for whom he has scored 21 points in 20 games.

"I went to watch him play once, but we both play Fridays and Saturdays so it's hard," Holmes tells The Local. "But he's coming Saturday with my mom to watch the finals. I've seen him a handful of times, and I hadn't seen him play in such a long time. It's cool to have him so close, only 30 minutes away."

Cole, the youngest of the three boys, is playing hockey in NOTL this year. He is on the Wolves Under-18 travel team, heading into the playoffs.

After the OUA championship game the Lancers will be flying out to Prince Edward Island for the U-Sports Canadian championships. The top two teams in each division get a berth in that tournament, but winning this weekend would give them a higher seeding there.

Because Windsor competes in a different division than the Universite du Quebec a Trois-Rivieres, Saturday's championship will be the first time the two teams have met all year.

"I think we have a pretty good chance," Holmes says. "I think we have the best goalie in the league, so that should help. I think if we play our game, be physical and smart, and take our chances when we get them, we should do well. If we counter their run-and-gun style with good defence, you never know what will happen."

## St. Davids Lions supports local students



Students at St. Davids Public School welcomed Bradd Anderson of St. Davids Lions (past president) and Allen Snider (Lions International director) Tuesday. The picture shows the students wearing team uniforms that were purchased for the school thanks to a generous donation from the Lions Club. "We are so fortunate to have such an amazing partnership within our St. Davids community," said principal Carl Glauser. Many St. Davids students are Leos, members of the Lions' youth organization, who give back to the community through their work with the Lions Club. (Supplied)



# Niagara Predators swept away in playoffs by Renagades

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Despite playing some of their best hockey all season, the Niagara Predators were swept in three straight games by the North York Renagades this weekend. The losses eliminate them from the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's South Division playoffs, while the Renagades advance to the division finals.

The series between the fourth place Predators and the first place Renagades kicked off Friday night at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. Although North York had home ice advantage for the semi-finals, Niagara hosted game one because of difficulties in securing ice time.

North York's stretch pass attack and continuous deft passing in the Niagara zone proved too much to handle, and the Preds dropped a 6-3 decision in front of the home crowd.

Despite the Renagades dominating puck possession from the start, Niagara escaped the first period with a 2-2 tie on the strength of two quick Anthony Tropea goals.

They were able to curb the North York offensive attack in the second, forcing turnovers and mounting attacks of their own on Renagades goalie Nick Lewicky. But Darius Mani popped one past Preds netminder Ryan Santini to give his team a 3-2 lead.

Predators forward Declan Fogarty took an elbowing penalty after the second period ended so Niagara started the third shorthanded. Mani scored what turned out to be the winning goal on the ensuing power play.

Fogarty redeemed himself about four minutes later when he tipped in an attempt by linemate Savoie to close the gap to 4-3 with about 15 minutes left to go.

The rest of the way, though, all of the time spent chasing the puck in their own zone seemed to catch up to a tired Predators squad.

Johnson scored his second for the Renagades near the midpoint of the period and Joseph Lioni added the exclamation point at 18:49, and the series moved to North York with the Renagades up a game.

The Predators entered Saturday's game without two of their hottest scorers. Anthony Tropea and Nolan Wyers sat out after suffering injuries Friday night.

Team president Robert Turnbull said he and the coaching staff talked to the players about their teammates' absence before the game.



Predators shake hands with the Renagades, who swept them out of the league playoffs. (Screenshot)

"We told them each player would get an opportunity to play, probably more than they thought," he told The Local Sunday. "We explained, you just have to do your role. For most of the game they did. We had a couple of bad goals against us. But we took them down to 3-3 and we had the opportunity to score."

For over 58 minutes the game could have gone either way, but untimely back-to-back penalties gave the Renagades a two-man advantage, allowing Darius Mani to score the winning goal again, with only 1:17 left in the third period.

The Preds actually took their first lead of the series late in the first period when Ethan Boyd took the puck behind the Renagades' net and fed a pass to Cameron Savoie in the slot. Savoie quickly fired it into the net behind Lewicky's right shoulder for the power play goal.

But Nickolai Salov tied it up for the Renagades four minutes into the second with a wrist shot he was able to put past Niagara goalie Zane Clausen's outstretched right leg.

Ryan Fritz and Joe Lioni added power play goals before the 10-minute mark of the period, and the Renagades were up 3-1. They took that lead to the dressing room with them.

Fogarty narrowed the gap to 3-2, with Boyd setting him up in the same spot from where Savoie scored in the first, this time with a quick shot past Lewicky's left leg.

Two minutes later, the Preds tied it up when Timur Mirzaizants skated in front of the North York net with Alexander Isidori in pursuit.

With the defender trying to tie him up, he was able to sweep the puck in behind a screened Lewicky to make it

3-3.

The turning point came with 3:09 left in the third. Alex Andrews knocked Jeddja Somersall to the ice away from the play and was penalized for checking from behind.

Then, with the Renagades pressuring in the Niagara zone, Preds forward Tyler Gearing hooked an opponent's stick and sent it flying toward the boards. He was called for interference, giving the Renagades a five-on-three advantage for another 1:08.

The Preds killed the Andrews penalty, but were still down a man when Mani

picked up his own rebound and gave North York the lead.

The Preds then had a power play opportunity with just over a minute to go. Clausen soon skated to the bench in favour of the extra attacker, but the Renagades got an empty net goal from Eric Stephenson to ice the 5-3 victory.

"It hurt," Turnbull said about the late penalties. "It really hurt bad. When we had two men down with two minutes to go, we had one forward and two defence-man. Everyone was kind of backing in on the goalie and they were taking pot shots. The kids were blocking shots,

doing everything they needed to do to prevent them from scoring. But it was almost inevitable."

It was back to North York's Canlan Ice Sports Centre for game three Sunday night.

Tropea and Wyers were back on the ice Sunday, but the Preds lost Alex Andrews to a misconduct call, as well as Fogarty, Savoie and forward Leo Savin to injuries during the game, forcing head coach Kevin Taylor to mix up his lines.

The evening started out well for the Preds, despite them giving up a goal to Daniel Johnson, who tipped in a slapshot from teammate

Somersall in the first five minutes to give North York a 1-0 lead.

But the Renagades netted four goals in the second period and another pair in the third to send the Preds packing, beating them 7-2. Savoie and defenceman Guy Manco scored the lone Niagara goals.

"It's a disappointing way to end the season," Taylor said. "Looking back, though, I think we lost the series in the second game. That was a really tough loss. I'm not saying we would have won the series, but we would probably have been able to take it to five games."

Left to come for the Predators is to clean out their room at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena, and for Taylor, Turnbull, general manager Andrew Ferlatte and the coaching staff to hold exit interviews with each of the players.

"Our jobs aren't done yet," emphasized Taylor. "We have to start making the phone calls to get some of the overagers to their next place. For some that will be college."

North York now awaits the winner of the series between Durham and Bradford to play in a best-of-seven series for the South Division championship.

The South Division champion will then take on the winner between the North's High Prairie Red Wings and the Northern Alberta Tomahawks for the Russell Cup.

## Skating for success



NOTL skating club members attended the Orono skating competition recently, hoping to qualify for the upcoming provincial championships in Stratford. At the competition, the final regular event for the season, were Ophelia Xie, Ashleen Hale, Samantha Frydryk, Katharine VanderKaay, Mary Lamky, Jamie Doucet, Carlee Bering, Abigail McCabe and Hailey Mitchell. The skaters did well, with Mitchell, McCabe and Hale earning gold in events. Hale took a second place as well, with Doucet, Bering, Frydryk and Lamky earning third place finishes. Ophelia Xie took sixth place in her division, and VanderKaay placed 11th in her group. The skaters are waiting for final results to see if they go on to compete in provincials. (Supplied)



# LocalSPORTS

## Pickleball tournament at Virgil arenas first in Niagara



Last summer NOTL Pickleball Club members played in the arena, and while some found the surface hard on their knees, others enjoyed the indoor courts. (File photo)

**Zahraa Hmood**  
**Special to The Local**

Pickleball enthusiasts will come from far and wide for a weekend-long celebration of the sport, as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club is set to host its first-ever tournament in June. “It has never been of-

fered in the Niagara region: not a single pickleball tournament,” said John Hindle, club member and organizer of the event, sharing news of the Classic Pickleball Tournament at Tuesday’s council meeting. The tournament will take place indoors at the two arenas from Friday, June 9 to Sunday, June 11. Hindle asked council to consider a municipal partnership with the club and sponsor the tournament by waiving rental fees for using the arenas for the competition. The pickleball club has seen a rocky few years recently, with their courts closed until spring 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic for public safety reasons, and outdoor courts at the Virgil Sports Park closed last spring after the club and town were convicted in court for a noise by-law violation. The conviction, deliv-

ered in June, included a \$1,000 fine and a two-year probation on using the outdoor courts. “Although over our five-year history we’ve had some stressful times ... we stand strong,” Hindle said. The goal is for the tournament to be a fundraiser for the club, which wants to make financial contributions to the town and to re-open outdoor courts in a new location, he said. Tickets are \$10 for the exhibition tournament on Friday, June 9, which will see eight professional players face off in teams to win a \$2,000 prize, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The competitions on June 10 and 11 are free for the public to attend, starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday. Registration is open for the tournament, which is looking for competitors in the men’s or women’s doubles and in the mixed dou-

bles. Players can register for \$55 to compete in one of two categories: by age or by skill level. Registration may be closed soon, once 200 players have signed up. Demand to participate has been high, Hindle said, with 80 players registering on the first day alone. “There’s obviously a great interest in coming to the region and playing pickleball,” he said. According to chief administrative officer Mar- nie Cluckie, it is typical to charge the market rate for renting municipal arenas to groups, but over the years, they’ve sometimes turned to subsidized rates instead. “My fear is that we’re opening the door to being approached for sponsors,” said Coun. Maria Mavridis. “There are a ton of organizations that use the arena and the surrounding recreational spaces.”


Coun. Adriana Vizzari proposed using the town’s discretionary grant program to supplant whatever the cost would be for the club to rent the arena. During the latest budget committee meeting on Wednesday, March 1, councillors were told the town has budgeted \$102,000 in its discretionary grant program for the 2023 operating budget. Starting in April, groups can apply for partial funding for events and initiatives through a discretionary grant: the program’s committee would determine who gets funding and how much. “This is the ideal kind of set-up where a discretionary grant, 100 per cent or partial, would apply,” said Coun. Gary Burroughs of the pickleball tournament. Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa recommended council defer its decision on the pickleball tournament funding options to the budget review committee, once staff have a number for the total fees that could be waived for the tournament. While the tournament wasn’t mentioned during Wednesday’s 2023 operating budget meeting, the committee has a second meeting scheduled for March 9 to further discuss plans for operations spending and revenue this year. For more information on the tournament, which is looking for sponsorship, or for registration, visit [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com).

### LocalHAPPENINGS

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### LocalWORSHIP



**Sunday, March 12th**

**9:45 a.m.**  
Kids Ministry Sign In  
(Nursery - Grade 8)

**10:00 a.m.**  
Worship Gathering  
Online & In-Person

Message:  
**Sabrina Wiens**  
**Jesus on the Bible**  
(Matthew 5:17-20)  
[www.ccchurch.ca](http://www.ccchurch.ca)

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OBITUARY



**MARGARET DOLORES DEMENINT**  
July 14, 1937 – March 5, 2023

On March 5, 2023, Dolores Demenint, our Mom, Grandma and Great Grandma passed away peacefully at Albright Manor at the age of 85.

Dolores will be dearly remembered by her children, Garth Demenint, Lynn Roselli (David Roselli) and Gary Demenint, her grandchildren Kevin, Lisa and Christine and her great-granddaughter Annika. She is predeceased by her husband Theo (Ted) Demenint and her brother Allan Clark.

She will also be remembered by her nieces and nephews and her many friends, all of whom will cherish their memories of happy times together.

Dolores enjoyed sewing and was a figure skating judge for many years. She also taught skating to children with special needs and started the Special Olympics program at the Cambridge Skating Club.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
			20		21			22		23		24		
25	26	27					28					29		
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51				52	53				54	55				
56				57				58						
59			60		61		62			63		64	65	66
67					68					69				
70					71					72				

Across:

- 1 Grouches  
6 Female supporters  
10 Flat-topped hill  
14 Misbehave  
15 Arizona city on the Colorado  
16 In addition  
17 Latin American dance  
18 Side  
19 --- Christian Andersen  
20 Sharp flavor  
22 Note hastily  
24 34th President  
25 Moonshot program  
28 Sound of a lion  
29 Louse egg  
30 Washed out  
31 Watch --- step!  
33 Not odd  
35 Free  
36 Settlement  
37 Nudge repeatedly  
38 Aloof  
40 Conductive elements  
43 Hoppy brew  
44 Conforms  
45 Blockhead  
47 Pirate's plunder  
49 Mischievous  
50 Solitary  
51 "L" operator  
52 Unpleasant to look at  
54 Conjured up

56 Attila, e.g.

- 57 Aught  
58 Political top dog (Abbr.)  
59 Brief swim  
61 It's worth ---!  
63 Start playing tennis  
67 Skin  
68 Film genre  
69 Flowing and ebbing  
70 Roman wear  
71 Large and scholarly book  
72 Heap

Down:

- 1 Coverts rotary motion into linear motion  
2 Appliance and electronics maker  
3 Bill dispenser  
4 Hollow gas globule  
5 Mar  
6 Unit of computer memory  
7 Regret  
8 Key with three sharps  
9 Pacific country  
10 Speed measure  
11 Seinfeld cohort --- Benes  
12 Clicked  
13 Valuable possession  
21 Prius maker  
23 Choice morsels  
25 Interest charge  
26 Two identical things

27 Shoppe adjective

- 28 Manage  
32 Be in debt  
34 Old kind of computer monitor  
36 Fighter ace  
37 Lower  
39 "Rosemary's Baby" actress --- Farrow  
40 Provides input for an amp.  
41 Observe  
42 Levelheaded  
44 Cook in hot oil  
46 Central bank  
47 Artist's workshop  
48 Diminishing  
49 Extremely  
50 Snap  
51 Map  
53 Enormous  
55 Kevlar garments  
58 Funeral woodpile  
60 Electronic helper just for you  
62 Border  
64 Old food label letters  
65 Carpet cleaner (Abbr.)  
66 Moose



**LILY'S SONG:** Lily Ann Falk was born on January 31st, 1962 in St Catharines. She was the second of the five daughters born to Hedy and Henry Winter. As a young girl, Lily spent a happy childhood cultivating many of her many different talents. During these years, she developed her extraordinary 'green thumb' working at Reimer's Nurseries, her appreciation for Linda Ronstadt, and her unique brand of 'kind aggression' playing competitive volleyball for Eden Christian College. Most significantly, Lily's passion for music, her servant heart, and her deep love for her Savior, were becoming central aspects of her life. On the periphery,

however, a short-but-cute young man from her youth group began to slowly wear down her dating sensibilities. He also drove a black '77 Camaro, which helped. And so Lily married the love of her life, Larry Falk, on January 29th, 1983. Together, they were involved in the agricultural industry until selling their family farm in 2013. Somewhere along the way, three children also showed up – one red, one brown, and one blonde. Through each of these transitions, her lifelong love of music was continually made evident through her accompaniment of various choirs, worship teams, and her piano teaching. Chances are, if you have been to a school musical, a wedding, or a funeral in NOTL within the last 45 years, you have seen/heard her serve with her musical gifts. Above all this, she is most well known for her passionate love of Christ that empowered her to boldly share Jesus with everyone she met. Even in these last days, as her strength failed, her desire/ability to share the love of Christ never wavered – a testament to the power of God's Spirit at work within and through her until the end.

On Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023, surrounded by her family, Lily ran into the arms of Jesus, her Lord. Though we grieve now, we are confident that she is secure in the divine love and care that God has promised His children.

Predeceased by her mother, Hedy (nee Neufeld), and nephew, Michael Labonte. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Larry, children, Brittany (Christopher) Koop, Craig (Morgan) Falk, Candice (Joshua) Gifford, eight grandchildren, and father, Henry Winter. She will also be mourned and fondly remembered by her sisters, mother – and father-in-law, brothers – and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and countless others.

Thank you to Dr. Kalani as well as the wonderful staff at St. Catharines Hospital for your compassionate care. Funeral service was held on February 28th, 2023. Special thanks to Cornerstone Community Church for their generosity, the use of their facilities, and to all who contributed that day. The service can be accessed on Cornerstone Community Church Niagara's YouTube channel.

Auf Wiedersehen, Lily. Well done, good and faithful servant!



**WILLETT, DAVID**—Passed away unexpectedly on Monday, February 27, 2023 at the age of 91. Beloved husband of Carol for over 36 years. Loving father to John (Edel), Tim (Louise), Jane (Jimmy) Jaggs and Paul (Devon). Caring grandfather of Audrey (Praveen), Ross, Matt (Ivana), Taylor and Sarah.

David graduated in Engineering from Imperial College in London and retired from Acres/Hatch in 1996 after 40 years as a Civil Engineer specializing in Hydro Electric projects.

In his spare time David enjoyed many hobbies and was an active and successful athlete. He took up running in his forties

and qualified for the Boston Marathon several times including running a 3:17 in 1979, and was the winner of the Buffalo NY Runner of the Year series in his age group multiple times over a 30 year period. He also participated in cycling, sailing and more recently rowing where he won the Canadian Indoor rowing championships in his age category and competed in several World Indoor rowing championships well into his eighties. He also undertook to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa in his mid-seventies.

In his retirement, David enjoyed travelling with Carol, gardening, building models, and fine dining.

Cremation has taken place. Friends wishing to pay their respects are welcome to join the family on Friday, March 10, 2023 between 2 and 4 pm at MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. A celebration of David's life will take place at a later date. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Canadian Cancer Society or Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from  
March 1, 2023

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

**Across:** 1 Crabs, 6 Bras, 10 Mesa, 14 Act up, 15 Yuma, 16 Plus, 17 Mambo, 18 Team, 19 Hans, 20 Bite, 22 Jot, 24 Ike, 25 Apollo, 28 Roar, 29 Nit, 30 Pale, 31 Your, 33 Even, 35 Rid, 36 Town, 37 Nag, 38 Remote, 40 Metals, 43 I P A, 44 Fits, 45 Oat, 47 Swag, 49 Arch, 50 Lone, 51 C T A, 52 Ugly, 54 Evoked, 56 Hun, 57 Nil, 58 Pres, 59 A dip, 61 A try, 63 Serve, 67 Flind, 68 Noir, 69 Tidal, 70 Toga, 71 Tome, 72 Stack.  
**Down:** 1 Cam, 2 R C A, 3 A T M, 4 Bubble, 5 Spoil, 6 Byte, 7 Rue, 8 A major, 9 Samoa, 10 M p h, 11 Elaine, 12 Sunk in, 13 Asset, 21 Toyota, 23 Treats, 25 A P R, 26 Pair, 27 Olde, 28 Run, 32 Owe, 34 V G A, 36 Top gun, 37 Nether, 39 Mla, 40 Mlc, 41 Look, 42 Sane, 44 Fry, 46 Fed, 47 Studio, 48 Warning, 49 All too, 50 Lose it, 51 Chart, 53 Giant, 55 Vests, 58 Pyre, 60 P D A, 62 Rim, 64 R D A, 65 Vac, 66 Elk.





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