The Niagara-on-the-Lake



The trusted voice of our community.

MARCH 19, 2020 notllocal.com

Volume 2 · Issue 12

The great outdoors With all community programs and facilities closed down

for March break, taking kids to Simcoe Park and other neighbourhood parks and playgrounds might be one of the few activities left - and even outside, social distancand hands should be washed frequently. (Fred Mercnik)



COVID-19 virus closing down local businesses

Penny Coles The Local

In a matter of days, the world has changed for many locals who found themselves in the process of shutting down their businesses Tuesday.

Premier Doug Ford's morning announcement affected restaurants and wineries in town, which were doing their best to continue operations, stepping up cleaning practices and in some cases limiting the number of visitors at one time.

Just days before, on a sunny Sunday afternoon at the start of March break, Queen Street was busy with families visiting, and Corks Restaurant was experiencing a typical lunch hour.

meal had travelled from Whitby for a three-day break, staying at the Pillar and Post. They

planned to visit some wineries and maybe the lavender farm while they were here, and were no more concerned about COVID-19 virus than if they had stayed home.

By Tuesday, there were three cases in Niagara, all travel-related, the number of cases across the province was escalating and businesses were being shut down to "help flatten the curve," slowing the spread of the virus so that fewer people need to seek treatment at any given time

On Sunday, Maria Mavridas and her father Bob Mavridis were optimistic. At that point there was no discussion of closing.

"I'm hoping it will be over sooner than we think," says One couple enjoying their Maria. "We've had 9/11, we've had SARS. There's always

Continued on page 3

Seasonal farmworkers not allowed in country

Labour shortage threatens food supply, says grower

Penny Coles The Local

As of Tuesday morning, word in the farming community was that the 28,000 seasonal farmworkers expectnext couple of weeks will not

Ontario growers Monday evening, saying that no seasonal workers (no non-nationals at all) will arrive in Canada after March 18.

There were workers expecting to fly out of their minds of those behind this home countries Tuesday, with ed to arrive in Ontario in the a cut-off time for arrivals at midnight, says grower and Coun. Erwin Wiens. disaster," says Wiens. "This is are not Canadian nationals. our food chain we're talking about. It's not just a matter getting together and helping

announcements, and emailed each other out. We need labour, and there is no labour."

The email said FARMS "is devastated by this news," and "is working with other industry partners to do everything possible to try and change the decision."

Although flights were being allowed from some areas



be allowed into the country.

The announcement came from FARMS (Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services) which has been keeping tabs on federal

including the Caribbean, the "This is a catastrophe. It's a borders are closed to those who



This photo of workers pruning at Thwaites Farms was taken at this time last year by Jane Andres. The seasonal farmworkers were expected to arrive this week, but they are not being allowed into the country. "Timing is everything. This news could be the end of fruit farming and will seriously **Continued on page 3** threaten our food security in Canada," says Andres.

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We'll bring the wine to you! Order online at konzelmann.ca and use promocode : NOTL20

Free shipping applies to orders within Niagara-on-the-Lake only. Online only. 2 bottle minimum order. Offer ends March 30.

konzelmann estate winery

#shoplocal

Shaw Festival postpones play openings until May

Penny Coles The Local

The Shaw Festival is cancelling all performances and public events until May 1.

It is also shutting down all "on-site non-essential business operations," including rehearsals, and its box office, with the plan of resuming those operations on April 6.

Following "a very difficult few days," talks on Monday, which included colleagues at other theatres and communi-

tor Tim Jennings.

Dropping the first 33 performances from the season rehearsal now and the supwill have economic consequences not only on the festival, but the community. "For he said. every \$1 we don't make," Jennings says, the region loses \$7 to \$10.

Jennings likened the difficult decision to "juggling a hand grenade," one that comes on the heels of an announcement of a successful 2019, with a 13 per cent inty partners, led to the difficult crease in operating revenue, made early in April.

decision, says executive direc- and a surplus of of more than \$500,000.

> Actors who would be in port staff who won't be working will be paid until April 6,

> Jennings said the Shaw will "continue to monitor the situation to see if additional cancellations and closures are required, based on the recommendations of the public health units of the region, province and country." The next decision will likely be

and that of our communi- Aunt, Gypsy and Prince Casty, our artists and our staff is our top priority. We feel that cancelling performances and drastically reducing business operations is the only responsible decision at this time," says Monday's press release from the Shaw.

Jennings says at this point he is not considering extending the regular season, with the holiday plays the Shaw is ther information, email feedplanning leaving little room back@shawfest.com. for extra performances.

pian.

Ticket-holders to the affected performances will have the choice of rescheduling, getting a refund, or considering the ticket cost a donation, says Jennings, adding "we're really hoping they'll come."

Ticket-holders will be contacted by staff once the box office re-opens. For fur-

"We have an incredible The three plays that have team here who have been visit shawfest.com.

Town announces more

"Your health and safety, been affected are Charley's cooking up some wonderful theatre. Of course it is frustrating to have to put that on hold, but if our aim is to create a more human, more connected theatre, then our first priority has to be keeping everyone safe," says artists director Tim Carroll in the press release. "I know our amazing audience will understand and support us, and we send everyone our love and good thoughts. Please stay safe and well; we will get through this together."

notllocal.com

For more information

Bikes for Farmworkers taking a break

Penny Coles The Local

Mark Gaudet of Bikes for Farmworkers says the volunteer-driven organization is shutting down for now.

It's the time of year that would normally be busy, with volunteers repairing bikes for seasonal farmworkers who would be arriving in the coming weeks.

With their ability to come to Canada up in the air, social distancing recommended by the public health department, and the need to keep volun-

made Monday to put their ready and safe to ride when work on hold, Gaudet says.

The organization, which Virgil school with Gateway Community Church, had just announced a community partnership with the church.

The partnership is intended to confirm both organizations' commitment to serving the local migrant farmworker community, and ensuring a sustainable outreach program.

says volunteers picked up and arrange a pickup at a future repaired bikes from five of the date.

teers safe, the decision was larger farms, leaving them the farmworkers return.

The plan is for Bikes for shares space in the former Farmworkers to resume operations April 7, when its workshop will re-open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday, April 9, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., "if all goes well," says Gaudet. "Like the rest of the world, we'll be re-evaluating."

People who have bikes to donate can call Gaudet 289-783-1684 or Terry Weiner at During the winter, Gaudet 905-321-8638 and they will

ero is meeting daily to discuss changing measures in response to the COVID-19 virus.

The most recent news Tuesday morning was adding public washrooms and the Court House closures to the public to the long list of public buildings that have been shut down since last Friday.

Monday morning, keeping in line with measures being taken by the Province, all Town administration buildings were closed to the public. All public and committee meetings have been cancelled.

The town council meeting scheduled for March 30 remained scheduled, but is subject to further notice.

Notices will be circulated once new dates have been confirmed, says Disero.

Last Friday, the Town announced the closing of Town facilities, such as the community centre, library and arenas. That included the Niagara Nursery School and March break library programs, until at least April 6.

> "These decisions are

necessary based on the demographic of our population and the risk of a human health emergency as a result of COVID-19. This closure will assist in protecting the health and well-being of our residents

and staff," said Friday's release. Despite these closures, Town staff will remain available to assist and serve citizens online and over the phone, Disero said.

Meetings will continue with the Town's Emergency Control group, as will discussions with Niagara Region Public Health, "and while the risk of contracting the virus is still low, the Town is focused on efforts to protect the public, staff and their families from potential exposure to COVID-19."

Other moves to maintain core services were announced Tuesday afternoon, and information is available on the Town's website at https://notl.civicweb.net/ document/16277.

"Communication right now is really important. We're sending out information as we have it, as soon as we have it."

Faced with some criticism from people about overreaction, Disero says, "I'd rather do too much than too little. I'd rather not be unprepared, trying to play catch-up. Better to err on the side of caution."

The Town's Emergency Control Group (ECG) includes Lord Mayor Disero, senior staff, and members of the Town's Fire and Emergency Services Department. Their role is to develop and coordinate responses and preventative actions to any emergency. In the event of an emergency, they work to ensure the continuity of Town operations and protect the public and Town employees.

Additional information will be forthcoming in the hours and days to come.

For all messages coming from the Town, monitor the Town's social media pages and visit www.notl.com/ COVID-19.

To accommodate those residents who don't operate online, important messaging from the Town will be displayed at all local post offices. Town phones will continue to be answered between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday (905-468-3266), and online service requests will remain available at www.notl.com.

stores restocking But please, says Phil Leb-Penny Coles **The Local**

Don't panic: grocery

On Monday morning, the two valu-marts in town were out of some staple food items such as pastas and sauces, some paper products, soaps and sanitizers, and for some reason, chicken.

And, of course, toilet paper those shelves were completely bare.

trucks to arrive with the items to customers' cars, but his mes- ternative - place an order and needed to restock the bare sage was that there is no reason then pull into a parking space

oudec of Phil's valu-mart in coming, the shelves will be re-Virgil, don't buy more than you need.

His parking lot and store looked like it was the Friday before a long weekend Monday morning, cars waiting for parking spots, shoppers in long line-ups, with all cash registers open, grocery baskets filled to the brim and more.

Leboudec was bagging Both stores were expecting groceries and taking them out

"Be patient. The trucks are stocked. There is no food supply shortage."

If people would just do their regular shopping, there would be no problem, he says. It's the panic that is causing the bare shelves, nothing else.

"At the end of the day, do your regular shopping, maybe for a couple of extra days, and you'll be covered."

Online shopping is an al-

public building closures **Penny Coles** The Local Lord Mayor Betty Dis-

spots Monday, and by Mon- to buy more than you need. and have groceries brought to would have noticed a difference — the trucks had arrived. and we won't miss a delivery."

day evening, those shopping Stockpiling is unnecessary. your car. That too was backed "We haven't missed a delivery, up early this week, but Lebou-

dec expected that to change.

Feature your business in our LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



The full page is made up of a HALF PAGE AD and HALF PAGE ARTICLE Article word count: 450-500 | Ad size: 10.25"w x 7"h Publication Date Subject to Availability



NOTL Businesses contact Karen at 905.641.5335 at karen@notllocal.com

Businesses outside NOTL contact Julia at 905.934.1040 at julia@notllocal.com



Vic Martens likes to drink coffee and chat — he can often be found at the Tim Hortons on Mary Street, the community centre, and sometimes the NOTL Golf Club. With all of those closed (although you can pick up coffee to go at Tim Hortons), he's found another place to enjoy his morning coffee --- outside the Mary Street coffee shop. (Hugh Hutton)

Stay home and we'll deliver, urges Simpson's Pharmacy

Penny Coles The Local

At this point in the COVID-19 pandemic, what Sean Simpson would really like to see is delivery-only service from his pharmacy.

He is doing everything he can to protect all Simpson's Pharmacy staff and customers, with particular concern for seniors, the most vulnerable of Niagara-on-the-Lake. To protect seniors who feel the need to come to the pharmacy he has posted a request online for customers to leave the first couple of hours for seniors to shop, and although he can't enforce it, he sees it as helpful to those most vulnerable. "I'm asking people to honour that, although I'm not enforcing it," he says.

"And I'm promoting social distancing. In an ideal world, you wouldn't have a call, let us know what you people need." need, we will deliver.'

ple to take advantage of it.

He can even arrange for of payment. "parking lot pickup," he says.

He has increased cleaning and disinfecting, but fewer people in the store is better for everyone, he says.

He is also urging anyone with symptoms such as fever, cough, or trouble breathing; or anyone who has come in contact with someone who has those symptoms, to call in an order for free delivery.

for concern, he says — as much as he wants to protect And if you're at all spiritual, the community, he wants pick up the phone and pray to keep his staff healthy, so together." they can continue looking after the community.

everyone safe, including facebook.com/Simpsons ourselves, so we can con- Pharmacy/.

to come out at all. Give us tinue providing the services

For anyone self-isolat-Simpson's delivery is ing, the items ordered can free, and he would like peo- be dropped off on the doorstep, with electronic forms

And for those who may be struggling with too much alone time, in the face of fear of the virus, Simpson says, "the seriousness of what's in front of us is really taking its toll. We need to keep social distancing, but there are ways to overcome it. Pick up the phone, talk to people you haven't talked to in a while. Get to know each other in a He has double reason way you haven't had time to — use the time to connect.

For up-to-date information visit simpsonsphar-"I'm just trying to keep macy.ca or fb https://www.



Ashley Jackson, manager of a Niagara Falls Starbucks, and Ryan Dawson, manager of the Virgil



Sean Simpson says practise social distancing — stay home and Simpson's will deliver what you need. (Penny Coles)

'Can't stop mother nature'

Continued from page 1

"I'm scared," says Wiens, who has a relatively small farm, and up until Monday, was hoping and expecting his group of Jamaican workers would arrive next week and "hit the ground running," as seasonal farm workers do, he says. "It's not like they sit around waiting to work."

He had delayed having his seven workers come one week, and that has made the difference — they could have be pruning and tying in vinebeen here already.

only one in this position, with many farmers requiring much more help than him.

"Everyone is really worried. Across the province and across the country, 28,000 workers in Ontario, these workers come to help farmers with work that needs to get done now, not a few weeks from now. It's not like you can just start whenever they get here. You can't stop mother nature. There is a very short

tender fruit and grapes," says and if they arrive. Wiens. "You can't make that time up?

And while the closures originally discussed were expected until April, now there is talk about extensions until May or June.

He says he is hoping the Minister of Agriculture will be talking to the prime minister, and that the situation, which has been evolving very quickly, can change.

As they arrive in Niagara-on-the-Lake, they would yards, and pruning and thin-He's certainly not the ning in tender fruit orchards — jobs that can't wait.

Some seasonal workers are already in town, working on some of the larger farms, but the "vast majority would be arriving in the next couple of weeks," says Wiens.

And if they are allowed to come, he says, "what happens when they get here? Are they in quarantine? Are they allowed to get out to work in the fields?"

His main concern, though, window to get done what is getting them here - all else needs to be done, for both would be worked out when

Those who are in limbo at home waiting to hear about flights, says Andres, are concerned about what awaits them when and if they get here. But they are also worried about not being able to work on Canadian farms and earn the money they would be sending home.

Meanwhile, she was looking at ways to help those who were expected to arrive this week, including how to get them the food they need.

Some of the farmers were arranging food delivery, but she was considering asking restaurants, which are now closed or closing, if they have any food they can't use.

"Maybe they would even consider spending some time in their kitchens to prepare meals for the workers their first week here," she says.

If the farmworkers are unable to get out to stores to buy phones, it would also be helpful if the NOTL Public Library would lend some of its Wi-fi hotspots so they could communicate with family until they are able to get phones, she says.

Starbucks, said Monday they'd been instructed by their head office to leave the coffee shop open for "grab and go," but tables are closed. They are still serving at the drive-thru. (Penny Coles)



Natasha Serba and Aaron Levy were enjoying a short break, visiting NOTL from Whitby this week. They had no idea when they sat down to lunch at Corks that restaurants and wineries would begin closing the next day. (Penny Coles)

Continued from page 1

something, and we're still here. But no question this is a wake-up call for all of us."

The concern of some of the local restaurants, similar to residents, was toilet paper.

"Our supplier had lots, so we've got boxes, and we're sharing with Backhouse, who has a different supplier who doesn't have it."

By Tuesday, rather than worrying about toilet paper, she was trying to figure out how to help their employees, who were going to work for two more days to help with the shutdown, their future uncertain after that.

"That's what my father is worried about. We've got rent and mortgage payments

to worry about, but he's really concerned about the employees," she said, as she drove to the Queen Street restaurant to begin the process of closing.

Whatever food they have up amongst the employees.

Her real frustration, she says, was with directives such as closing, and assurances there would be help for businesses and employees. But there has been no information, no clear avenue for accessing that help announced, no phone number or department to reach out to.

As late as Monday night, Paul and Matt Dietsch were

preparing for one of their biggest, most successful annual events, St. Patrick's Day.

Tuesday morning, they were shutting down the restaurant, talking to their staff, and planning to step up takeout, which has always been part of their business model.

They will provide takeout left over, she planned to divvy hours from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., says Paul, and for now, will offer their full menu, since they already have the supplies in — but like everything else these days, that could change.

Like Mavridis, he's also trying to find information about how to get help for his employees.

On Queen Street Tuesday at lunchtime, the streets were empty.

"There is nobody out there," says Mavridis. "Nobody."

Wineries closed to tastings, public events

Kim Wade **Special to The Local**

We all know how much have been shut down. difference a day makes we've learned that very Gretzky Estate Winery and quickly.

"We are open for business" at Trius Estate Winery, staff said Sunday afternoon.

By Monday there were rumours of closing, and by Tuesday morning, tasting bars and restaurants within wineries were being shut down, under the direction of Premier Doug Ford, in an effort to "flatten the curve" of COVID-19.

In response to virus concerns, Sunday staff behind the tasting bar were donning black latex gloves and smiles. There was a faint scent of disinfectant in the air mixed with a springtime freshness, thought to be the new reality in the face of the current on wineries but it seems lopandemic. Latex gloves, disinfectants, hand sanitizers and skin rubbed raw from diligent hand-washing while singing numerous choruses of "Happy Birthday" to ourselves. To be sure, local wineries were taking the advice of Health Canada very seriously, while balancing the desires and expectations of their customers.

enough.

staying open — at least they were on Tuesday — but tasting bars and all public events

Next door at Wayne Distillery, the message was the same. The roaring fire in the hearth that warmed guests as they attended tours and tastings was one of the last days they would be allowed to continue, at least until April 6.

Hinterbrook Winery had already addressed the situation by taking a proactive approach to ensure the safety of their customers. They had decided last weekend to suspend all in-store wine tasting and tours booked between March 16 to April 5, but remain open for online and phone orders.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 is taking a toll cals are remaining loyal to owner of Strewn Winery, points out. She noted on Sunday that there had been from the LCBO. a drop in the numbers of people coming to the winery in the last couple of weeks, but they were seeing more of their club members and locals. She said they have had some visits from locals visit-But that wasn't to be ing their retail shop to pick they weren't worrying about up a few of their favourites large gatherings. She takes Retail winery stores are that they would usually get pride in this model, she says,

the cause, as Jane Langdon, Karen and Bill Colvin are greeted warmly by Jane Langdon at Strewn Winery Sunday. Although tastings and public events are cancelled, they can still shop at the retail wine store - at least for now. (Kim Wade)

Langdon said that they do not usually see a large number of people in the winery anyway. Since they are a small business and not a volume winery they don't get that many people, so



TOWN ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Keeping in line with measures being taken by the Province, effective immediately, all Town Administration Buildings are closed to the public. As a result, all public and Committee meetings, including Committee of the Whole, have been cancelled. The Town Council Meeting scheduled for March 30, 2020, remains scheduled but is subject to further notice. Postponement notices will be circulated once new dates have been confirmed.

This announcement is in follow up to Friday's notice advising

believing that with "fewer people, they have a longer, more personalized experience."

Langdon knew they were are unable to get to the retail working on a day-to-day basis, monitoring the situation and adjusting accordingly, and that too changed Tuesday, with all events and tastings cancelled. They will keep their retail shop open, as long as they are able, and they are stepping up the from the locals, and from number of wines available Strewn club members, such for order online.

"We're not sure what the The Colvins first discovered next round of announce- Strewn on a bike tour in ments will bring," she said, 1999, and have been Barrel "but we want to do the right Members ever since. Curthing for everybody."

OLiV Tasting Bar and have a son, daughter-in-law Restaurant, within the win- and two granddaughters livery, has also closed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Niagara Region Woodland By-law Review **Notice of Cancellation of Public Information Centres**

shipping in Ontario, and

a discount on shipping for

club members outside of the

very thankful for support

as Bill and Karen Colvin.

rently living in Guelph, they

Langdon says she is

province.

Due to the temporary closure of public facilities, the following Public Information Centres for the Woodland By-law Review

Langdon says that she is in the area, they decided to "cautiously optimistic" this pop into the winery for a visis a short term issue. As an it, where they were immediincentive for customers that ately greeted like family. "We want to see our store, or just choose to stay American friends, our cushome, she is offering free

tomers and club members," says Langdon. "They support us so well, they appreciate the quality of our wines. We have a lovely town. We have heritage, culture, and wineries, but this town depends on tourism. We are blessed and we will get through this. I'm not sure what it will take but we will do whatever it takes."

For news of other winery closures, check online or on Facebook.

With files from Penny ing in Virgil. Since they were *Coles*.

of Town facility closures. These decisions are necessary based on the demographic of our population and the risk of a human health emergency as a result COVID-19. This closure will assist in protecting the health and well-being of our residents and staff.

Despite this closure, Town staff will remain available to assist and serve citizens online and over the phone. Our phones will continue to be answered between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday (905-468-3266), and online service requests will remain available at www.notl.com.

We want to thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding. All new updates from the Town will continue to be posted online on the Town's social media pages and website. Hard copies will also be posted at Town Administration Buildings, and all local Post Offices. For all Town updates and additional informative resources, please visit:

www.notl.com/COVID-19

have been cancelled:

- Tuesday, March 24 at Wellandport Community Centre, 5024 Canborough Rd., West Lincoln
- Wednesday, March 25 at Niagara Region headquarters (cafeteria), 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold
- Monday, March 30 at Gale Centre, 5152 Thorold Stone Rd., Niagara Falls
- Tuesday, March 31 at Vale Health and Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth St., Port Colborne

For additional information visit niagararegion.ca and search Woodland By-law Review or contact woodlandreview@niagararegion.ca.



Iniagararegion @niagararegion

notllocal.com

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: NIAGARA HOLIDAY RENTALS Sharing NOTL with visitors and supporting local businesses

a locally-owned and operated property management company in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Started more than 15 years ago, it manages vacation homes and cottages located in Old Town.

"We live in Old Town and are only minutes away from all the homes to ensure a great coming for a reunion of famguest experience, and also to ensure that all homes are closely watched and maintained," says Jason Clements, who owns Niagara Holiday Rentals along with his wife, Elsie Mae Clements.

Providing home rentals any unique dietary needs. meets a unique need by of-

Niagara Holiday Rentals is friends to meet, and experi- iting NOTL for the first time ence the area, says Clements. It's an affordable option and provides the opportunity to bring the whole family, including children, not always allowed at bed and breakfasts, and also the family pet.

> ily and friends, sometimes from locations around the lyties to the town, dating back world," adds Clements.

Guests also like facilities to cook their own meals, managing expenses so that they stay in town longer, and meeting

Jason and Elsie Mae were fering a place for family and first tourists themselves, vis-

more than 20 years ago. They instantly fell in love with the town and it was their destination of choice for weekend getaways, and the occasional extended stay, renting a vacation home themselves before "Many of our guests are moving here permanently five years ago.

Jason is proud of his famito the late 1700s. Reverend Robert Addison, founder of St. Mark's Anglican Church, is a distant relative. His nephews settled in Oxford County, where Jason's family tree includes the Addison name.

"We enjoy helping visitors

plan their stay by suggesting local, not-to-be-missed experiences," explains Elsie Mae. "Niagara-on-the-Lake is a town of experiences. It's the wineries, the heritage and the history, the surroundings, Shaw Festival, Queen Street...other small towns don't have these. Without the tourists coming here, Niagara-on-the-Lake wouldn't have all these attractions. We're glad to be a part of this, and helping to support the town."

Having a short-term rental managed by a local, professional property manager such as Niagara Holiday Rentals ensures homes are maintained, contributing to the beauty and character that makes NOTL a great community, and guests are respectful to the homes and neighbours. Niagara Holiday Rentals

is registered with the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO) as a licensed travel agency. To facilitate shortterm accommodation rentals in Ontario, a business must be registered with TICO. This assures guests and homeowners of professional standards eries, to fruit stands, bakeries, to which Niagara Holiday and grocery stores - they love Rentals must adhere.

Each year, Niagara Holiday Rentals hosts visitors ally proud that Niagara Holi-

living like the locals!

Jason and Elsie Mae are re-



All homes managed by Niagara Holiday Rentals include Jason's direct line posted on the front door for guests or neighbours to get in touch.

from all over the world, givday Rentals is a local business, ing them a place to reconnect and they are happy to support with family and friends and many of the other local busicreate memories that will last nesses in the community, ina lifetime. While they are cluding HVAC companies, here, they also support the electricians, landscapers, and local economy from shops, local cleaning contractors. restaurants, festivals, and win-

You can learn more about Niagara Holiday Rentals, the homes that they manage and their property management services, at www.niagara holidayrentals.com.



Look for Niagara Holiday Rentals' van around town.



EDITORIAL During dark times, let's look for the light

The world is changing as long-term care facilities. They is still allowed, but if you walk these words are written, and will have changed again by the time they are read.

Working to get The Local to press, with CBC News running in the background and regular pinging as emails arrive, signalling more changes, more closures, information overload about the COVID-19 virus and how we should react to it, is dizzying.

As CBC travels across the country, the messages can be slightly different, although the goal is always the same — to ensure safety for all. Just heard one Canadian premier say "we need to stay at home," followed in the next sentence by, "as a community, we need to take care of our neighbours." He didn't explain how to do both.

Our provincial health ministers are talking about the number of virus victims in each of their jurisdictions — they are on the rise - and about "simple asks" such as hand-washing, self-isolating for those who have been out of the country, limits to public gatherings and closures, along with so many other reminders and updates, such as take our jewelry off when hand-washing in one breath, in the next, the Rolling Stones are cancelling their tour.

But you can find that news, those statistics, anywhere. More important to us is what is happening here, in our community, a bit of news to brighten our day. We were excited to hear, for a change, of an event that has not been cancelled, something that shows our true community spirit, in the face of difficult times.

Every year, for more than three decades, the NOTL Horticultural Society has been making spring bouquets and delivering them to residents of local also used to include patients at the hospital, but of course we have no hospital now.

and her staff at Van Noort Florists are helping the horticultural society volunteers, since they are unable to get together because of the COVID-19 scare, and there are 245 bouquets to be made. The flower store is closed so that staff can get the job done.

In the early days of the Flowers for Seniors event, volunteers who made the bouquets were able to hand them directly to the seniors, who were always so grateful to receive a colourful, cheerful reminder of spring. Then, as policies changed to protect the health of the longterm care residents, volunteers would leave them at the front desk, to be distributed by staff. This year, they are leaving them outside the entrances of Heritage Place, Upper Canada Lodge and Chartwell, but never mind, they will still be gratefully received, likely even more so with the shortage of visitors to these facilities.

What a great example of community — a local business helping the horiticultural society to hold on to the tradition of cheering up seniors.

Amongst all the gloomy news, the repeated phrases about "unprecedented times," it was so reassuring, so heartening to hear this bit of brightness in important contacts is the reour community is continuing.

Although the experts we see on the news are giving out all the advice we feel we could possibly need, one little bit they're not telling us — this is just a suggestion from someone who thrives on news — is don't overdose on it. Turn it off, get up and go for a walk — not sure if that **The Local**

where there aren't a lot of people and you can keep your distance from any you might encounter, This year, Sharon Van Noort it may not be too risky. A little bit of sunshine and physical activity might lift the feeling of isolation that leads to depression.

> Otherwise, follow the example of the spring flower event and reach out to others who are also in need of some more uplifting human contact and conversation. We might not be able to bring them colourful bouquets - although we could leave one on their doorstep — but a phone call, a few encouraging words, could have the same effect of bringing some light and cheer into what could otherwise be a dark day.

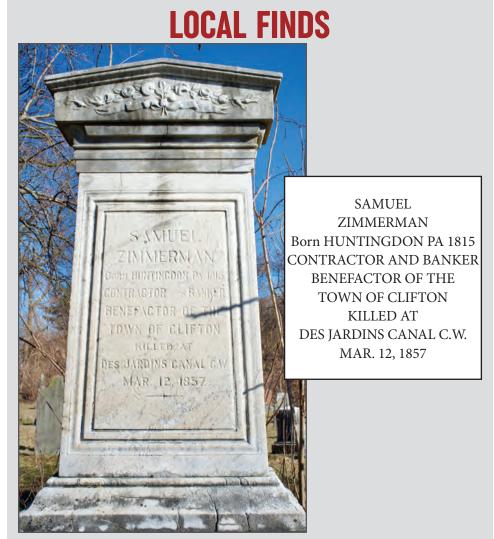
> For more local news, we will try to keep our readers up-todate. It's difficult when changes are occurring so quickly, but we are committed to bringing you all you need to know. As we hear information that might be important to you, we'll post it online and on Facebook. Social media is a good source of news about what's closed tomorrow that wasn't closed today. But if that's not your expertise, if you have trouble finding what you need to know, call me at 905-246-5878, or email me at penny@notllocal. com. If I don't know the answer I'll try to direct you to where you can get the help you need.

Possibly one of the most gional public health department, online at https://www. niagararegion.ca/news/article.aspx?news=1038&t= Niagara+confirms+third+ case+of+COVID-19. Or call the health department at 905-688-8248 ext. 7476. Penny Coles

The NOTL Local acknowledges the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations. Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous peoples.



Lana Loney and Sharon Van Noort of Van Noort Florists are helping the NOTL Horticultural Society carry on with an annual spring event. (Photo supplied)



Niagara Falls founder buried in St. Davids by Donald Combe Special to The Local

Samuel Zimmerman, considered the founder of the city of Niagara Falls, made a fortune in construction and speculation. He was killed when the tracks, which he had built for the Great Western Railway, failed, and the train plunged into the Desjardins Canal at Hamilton. Zimmerman and 58 others were killed. He was interred in a vault on his estate overlooking the Falls, but was removed in 1888 to St. Davids, to lie beside his first wife Margaret Woodruff.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

The trusted voice of our community

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Building NOTL community vitality through connectedness

COMMENT



Larry Chambers Eva Liu, Hanna Levy **Special to The Local**

According to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Wellness Committee's January report, community vitality involves both connectedness and education through life-long learning.

Although connectedness is something that NOTL does well, the committee's report also recommends the following:

 Promotion of the NOTL Safety Committee's Know Your Neighbour initiative;

• Continued expansion of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council membership and development of ideas for inclusivity for young people to foster better integration with the overall community;

• Development and implementation of additional inter-generational events within the community;

• Investigation of public garden allotments for supportive housing);

• Encouragement of town staff to continue enhancing the volunteer potential of residents and developing volunteer programs which tap the extensive experience of older the brain in addition to the residents, and the potential body. contributions of younger residents. For example, reinstating and expanding the volunteer-based leaf and snow buddy programs.

Brain and genetics research reveals that social activity avoids isolation and depression. 'Use it or lose it' is a good principle when it comes to the brain, mind and body.

It is often said there are two aspects to the mind: emotive, concerned with feeling; and cognitive, concerned with remembering, decision-making and that received no intervenlogical thinking. Social mind. Conversations and No differences were obpede socialization and lead brain shrinkage is part of

seniors living in shared, these neural networks. This brain maintains its size of two years. makes it even more important for people in this higher risk category to mitigate those risk factors through the use of visual, hearing, or mobility aids, and to put emphasis on exercising

> Two recent studies show the importance of social connectedness for brain fitness.

The first looked at the significance of social engagement and its connection to brain shrinkage. A study in Shanghai, China compared groups who either did Tai Chi, walking on their own, had social interaction or no intervention. Study participants had MRI assessments of their brain size at the beginning and end of the study. Compared to a reduction in the group tion, significant increases interactions require use of in brain size were seen in numerous neural networks the Tai Chi and social interin your brain, as they often vention groups. The Tai Chi require both the emotive group also improved on and cognitive aspects of the neuropsychological tests. activities with friends and served between the walking family help keep the brain on their own group and the active. Visual, hearing, or no intervention group. This mobility problems can im- study shows that although residents who do not own to isolation, putting peo- the normal aging process,

when engaged in social activities.

amined brain shrinkage recently showed the imporin adults over 65 enrolled in the Experience Corps, a U.S. program that brings retired people into schools to even more important for serve as mentors to young children, compared with those who were not. They work with teachers to help children learn to read in understaffed school libraries. with more frequent social The program helped participants maintain a regular Experience Corps participants work in teams with young people and engage in problem-solving, providing complexity and novelty that often disappear once people retire. Typically, annual tiple networks in your brain rates of brain shrinkage in ensuring that you use them adults over age 65 range from 0.8 percent to two percent. In this study, comparing Experience Corps ened more by meeting and participants with those not helping other people than in this program, the latter group exhibited expected age-related shrinkage in brain size. The participants people will not only imof the Experience Corps, prove cognitive functioning however, showed an in- and reduce feelings of lonecrease of 0.7 to 1.6 percent liness but also reduce the

The Shanghai and Experience Corps studies are The second study ex- intervention studies that tance of social engagement on brain health.

> Social contact is perhaps those living with dementia. Research has shown that, among people with dementia, the rate of cognitive decline is lower among people contacts.

If NOTL follows routine that is socially and through with the recomphysically engaging. The mendations of its Community Wellness Committee, it is more likely that residents will experience the following benefits:

> • The act of interacting with others calls upon muland do not lose them;

> • The brain's resilience and reserve will be strengthby simply sitting on your own learning a new skill;

• Meeting and helping

property (i.e. renters, and ple at higher risk of losing the memory centre in the in brain size over the course rate of shrinkage of your brain;

> • Social contact and stimulation for people with dementia may help slow their rate of cognitive decline.

> A clear plan is needed to optimize physical health and ensure good vision and hearing, to allow older adults the best opportunity to stay intellectually engaged and reduce isolation and depression.

Larry W. Chambers has authored 175 articles and books concerning disease prevention (e.g. dementia), and innovative approaches for continuing professional development. He is research director of the Niagara Regional Campus, School of Medicine, McMaster University. Eva Liu and Hanna Levy are medical students at the Niagara Regional Campus of the McMaster University School of Medicine. They are interested in improving community wellness of frail older adults in NOTL by narrowing the fitness (physical and brain) gap, diversifying housing options for older adults, and increasing economic activity within the community that also increases ability to interact with people and ideas.

Taking advantage of outdoors



Newark Neighbours to offer limited hours for food bank



Suzanne Vaillant Special to The Local

To all our valued customers and food bank clients: The health and safety and comfort of our volunteers, customers and food bank clients is our number bank. We hope to be able to one priority. The growing concerns vice for our clients. We are regarding the COVID – 19 working on a plan to safely pandemic is an important accept food donations and

ing seriously.

At this time, we feel it necessary to suspend shopping and drop-offs until April 6. We will re-evaluate at that time. Our drop-off bins will be locked further until notice. Please do not leave donations around on the ground as they will only go into the garbage, which is a cost to Newark Neighbours.

health matter, and one that to be able to ensure our Newark Neighbours is tak- clients do not go hungry during this pandemic.

Food Room Clients: The food room will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call 905-468-3519 and leave a message.

We appreciate and value the generosity of our community for your donations which allows us to continue our mission of "Serving our Community with Compassion, Care and Concern." Making this mission a reality would not be possible without all of our volunteers whose time and effort we greatly appreciate.

With the arena closed and the minor hockey season coming to an early end, dad Will Vargent and his son Liam, with friends Lucas and Andrew Ceglie, hang out at the Virgil sports park Sunday, enjoying a cool but sunny day. (Penny Coles)

Our priority is our food have no disruption in ser-



Taking advantage of outdoors

Penny Coles The Local

Locals Karen and Guy Hamilton, walking Bowie and Sonia, were enjoying the sunshine and window shopping on Queen Street.

fresh air, and so were they," she says, gesturing to the two pets who help keep them active.

They had been grocery shopping for "a few bits we need," before the store was too avoiding crowded areas.

'We're getting outside and

ing in close contact with peo- trying to educate ourselves. ple," says Karen.

good health, and we can decide awhile, and then we turn it off when we want to spend time and discuss what we've heard." in town. We're watching the news to see what happens, but cert in St. Catharines - now "We were in need of some it will still be there when we get home," says Karen, about have attended if it had gone the updates on the COVID-19 virus, which in the last couple of days has been emphasizing social distancing.

busy, and they were consciously sometimes, but we're learning pocket. new information all the time, such as how it's transmitted. It's

And we want to be sure we're "We're retired, we're both in being vigilant. We listen for

> They had tickets for a concancelled, but they wouldn't ahead.

They might have ventured out to a restaurant, but they're cautious while they're out, says "You have to turn it off Karen, pulling gloves out of her

rival of their son, who was go-

enjoying the town without be- important information. We're ing to work from their home, and their granddaughter. They are looking forward to the visit, but not sure what they will be doing to entertain the youngster while her father worked - they are hoping for good weather.

> As they walked away with their dogs, Karen said, while social distancing may be good for our physical health, it can pose a danger to mental health, especially for those who live alone.

"If you're someone who They were expecting the ar- likes being around people, social distancing is sad."



Logan and Spencer Hutchison, five-year-old twins, love the Virgil Sports Park. Their mother Stephanie Hutchison, who left their threeyear-old twin brothers at home with their father, says they come often to use up some energy, and will likely be back again in the coming weeks, with few other activities to occupy them. "It's going to be a long three weeks," jokes the mother of four boys. (Penny Coles)

Guy and Karen Hamilton take advantage of the sunshine and enjoy a walk with their dogs along Queen Street. (Penny Coles)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Statement of Opinion of Non-Conformity with the Regional Official Plan under Subsection 17(40.2) of The Planning Act

with respect to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council adopted new Official Plan

On Oct. 22, 2019, Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council adopted its new Official Plan (the "Plan"). On Jan. 30, 2020 the record pursuant to subsection 17(31) of the Planning Act was received by the Niagara Region as the approval authority to make a decision on the Plan.

Under subsection 17(40) of the Planning Act, if the approval authority fails to give notice of a decision in respect of all or part

- the identification of and permitted uses within the Natural Heritage System
- the identification of and permitted uses within agricultural lands
- growth management
- proposed employment land conversions and permitted uses within the employment areas.

notllocal.com

of a plan within 120 days after the day the plan is received by the approval authority, any person or public body may appeal to the Tribunal all of any part of the plan. An exception to this provision applies if the approval authority states that the plan or any part of it does not, in the approval authority's opinion, conform to the upper-tier municipality's official plan.

The purpose of this Notice is to inform you that Niagara Region, is of the opinion that the Plan does not conform to the Niagara's Regional Official Plan (2014 consolidation). Regional staff have identified multiple areas where conformity with the Regional Official Plan has not been achieved. These include, but are not limited to:

The identified matters above is not an exhaustive list of non-conformity, but reflect a sample of matters that need to be resolved prior to the approval authority making a decision on the Plan. Pursuant to subsection 17(40.4) of the Planning Act, the 120-day period does not begin to run until Niagara Region confirms that the non-conformity with the Niagara's Regional Official Plan is resolved. As such no appeals under subsection 17(40) of the Planning Act may be filed at this time.

> Date of Notice: **Municipality:** Subject Lands:

March 12, 2020 Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake All Lands within the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake



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Town's new Official Plan needs more work

Penny Coles The Local

The Town's new Official Plan, sent to the Region for approval in January, has been sent back to local planning staff for more work to be done before the Region can consider it for approval.

Council knew when it approved the OP at a special council meeting in October that it did not conform to all regional and provincial policies, and understands it will now take time, and more public meetings, to bring the new plan into conformity with those policies, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

In the meantime, the Town's 1994 plan remains in effect, and with the amended legislation that allows for compatible development with surrounding neighbourhoods as outlined in the new OP, "there is no need to rush," she says.

One of the main discrepancies between the new OP and provincial policies concerns the way ditches are treated, of great concern to the agricultural community which relies on them for irrigation.

During discussions lead-

committee expressed concern about the provincial policy that treats ditches as part of the "natural heritage system."

The agricultural community was concerned about the impact on specialty crops, with provincial policy limiting what can be done when drains and ditches used for irrigation overlap with protected natural heritage areas.

Councillors were warned by the consultants there might be problems finalizing the plan, with ongoing changes at both the provincial and regional levels resulting in planning policies that conflict with the Town's, especially on the issue of natural heritage features.

Council approved the new OP knowing it wouldn't meet regional and provincial policies in that area, hoping, for the benefit of the agricultural community, to open a discussion that might allow for some exceptions for NOTL's unique situation.

She says she hopes in the coming months the discussions of the OP with the Region will include irrigation ditches and

OP, Disero says, the agriculture ural heritage, but if the Town's man-made ditches are not recognized as distinct from natural heritage features, the Province will at least be aware of the unique situation in NOTL.

> In addition to the natural heritage system, other areas identified in the Town's OP that don't conform to regional and provincial policies include (but are not limited to, the report says) permitted uses within agricultural lands, growth management, and proposed employment land conversions to allow for residential development.

> The Town's new OP has some issues with land use for wineries that have to be addressed, and it doesn't deal with conversion from commercial to residential development, which is not a common occurrence, says Disero.

> Referring to growth management, she explained numbers regarding future housing units were omitted, since regional and provincial growth policies were unknown when the Town's OP was under consideration. The Region was expected to fill in the numbers

ing up to the approval of the changes to the mapping of nat- once they were available, Disero says, but likely decided not to when it realized there were other issues that meant sending the plan back to the Town for further changes.

> A Regional report regarding the non-conformity of the Town's OP to regional and provincial policies, presented to its planning and development committee last Wednesday, was accepted without discussion.

> The report said the Region has met with Town staff and councillors about bringing the plan into conformity, so that regional council can consider it for approval.

> Developer Rainer Hummel says a delay of the plan's regional approval doesn't impact developers, with the possible exception of the conversions from employment lands to residential land use.

> town council was in a hurry to have the new OP completed and approved, with the time and cost of town staff and consultants, when councillors knew it was a document that could not be adopted by the Region.

In addition to the agricul-

tural issues, the Town knew a re- Plan — it was discussed at length vised provincial policy statement would be announced by a newly-elected provincial government, and taxpayers' money could have been saved if it had waited for that news, says Hummel.

"They didn't know what the policy would say, and they couldn't just guess at it," he says.

Although the Region listed four main areas of non-conformity, he believes there are many more issues, "an entire host of things," that will have to be revised, likely requiring hiring a consultant again, in order for the document to be approved by the Region.

The whole process to rush for approval was unnecessary, he says, "and unfair to the taxpayers."

There have been many changes to provincial policies over the years, right up until the new provincial government His question is why this proposed changes in 2019, the report says. Regional and Town staff met on several occasions to discuss conformity matters between the Town's draft OP before it was approved by council. Regional staff also noted in the report that the Region is currently preparing a new regional Official

at Wednesday's meeting.

Niagara Region has 120 days to review the Town's new Official Plan for conformity and consistency and for regional council to either approve, modify and approve, or refuse it. But a "temporary pause" is permitted when the plan does not conform to the upper-tier municipality's Official Plan, and once the Town's OP conforms with regional policy and is again presented to the Region for approval, the 120-day countdown is reset.

Disero says public meetings will be required, but she doesn't see any need for consultants or any extra cost — the Town has the original consultants' report, which for the most part will conform to Regional policies. The exception would be the numbers for growth, which need to be added.

Although she was concerned about the provincial threat of amalgamation at the time of the OP approval, it wasn't rushed, she says. "We had the consultants' report, and we had made the changes we wanted, so we approved it."



\$1,049,000 ML\$ 30793248 • Linda Williams	\$2,995,000 MLS 30718753 • Christopher Bowron, Audrey Wright and Nicole Vanderperk	\$935,000 MLS 30785384 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft	\$1,299,000 MLS 30786148 • Nicole Vanderperk		
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Chamber of Commerce presents Spirit of Niagara



The Chamber of Commerce Chair's Award was given to NOTL Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services, recognizing the value of their support and comfort to the community. The Spirit of Niagara awards were handed out at the Ravine Vineyard conference centre March 10.(*Photos by Penny Coles*)



The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre received the Community Leadership Award. Gail Kerr accepted the award on behalf of Lise Andreana, and the Pumphouse, presented by Coun. Wendy Cheropita.

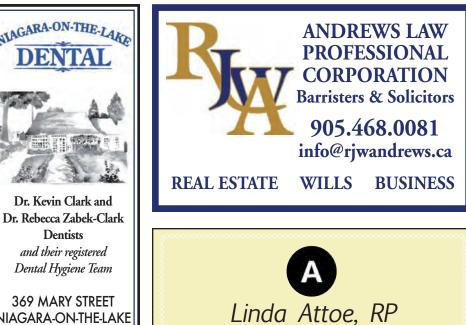


Tim Jennings, executive director of the Shaw Festival, presented the Christopher Newton Award of Extraordinary Vision in Business to the Wayne Gretzky Estate Winery, accepted by winemaker Scott McGregor. Newton is a former artistic director of the Shaw.



Alex Harber celebrates with his brother Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyard, who won the Peter Ling Entrepreneur of the Year Award, for initiative and innovation in a business venture or project. The award is in memory of longtime chamber board member Peter Ling, for his generosity to the chamber and the community. The Spirit of Niagara ceremony was held at Ravine in its new conference centre.





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Leigh Atherton and David Watt of the Garrison House won the Celia Liu Award for Excellence in Hospitality, for their outstanding commitment to delivering excellence, with a positive, unifying influence on the community. Liu, a friend to many in the business community, passed away in 2014, leaving memories of an amazing human being, fully dedicated to sharing the joy she experienced in daily life.

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March 19, 2020 THE NOTL LOCAL

wen Bjorgan wins youth leadership award

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

According to NOTL Local columnist Owen Bjorgan, the 2020 Spirit of Niagara Awards snuck up on him last week. "This was news to my ears, just a week ago," he said, in accepting the very first Dan Patterson Youth for the outdoors through Leadership Award last week. "I'd been on the fly, I've been out in the woods, working, I wear rubber boots seven days a week."

In juggling the many things he does, Bjorgan indeed pulls on those wellies each and every day. His love his senior year by deciding of, and commitment to, the environment, is what earned him the award. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce couldn't have made a better choice.

The 27-year-old spends his weekdays, Monday to Friday, working as an outdoor educator for the District School Board of Niagara. He took on this role, a natural fit for Bjorgan, last fall. It continues to offer him treat and Heartland Forest. the chance to share his lifelong passion with children of a natural fit. Red Roof Reall ages.

'The kids and youth are something special," he enthuses. "They're still learning about their values, their surroundings, and their community. That's the age when they're really taking all that stuff in. To give them the proper experience of an outdoor education is an opportunity to inspire them."

The Niagara-on-the-Lake native began his own relationship with the outdoors at a very young age. Growing up along the Niagara Escarpment, with the Bruce Trail practically in his backyard, he admits early on he didn't grasp its importance. But he knew how much he loved it.

He also points to the swamp across the street as a

unique learning ground for him. He credits his parents, Moe and Steffanie, as big influences on his love for the outdoors. Steffanie, he says, has always been an animal lover, and a hiker, while he would tag along with Moe to go fishing on trips up north.

He followed his passion high school, at Sir Winston Churchill and Niagara District Secondary Schools, and enrolled at the University of Guelph for a Bachelor of Science degree in Biodiversity, which he completed in 2016.

He made headlines in to take on the entire 890-kilometre Bruce Trail while raising money for charity. Bjorgan was honoured when one of his heroes, Dr. David Suzuki, reached out to him at the start of his quest, to commend him for his efforts.

Bjorgan's Bruce Trail hike brought in \$27,000, which he decided to split between two organizations near and dear to his heart: Red Roof Re-

The former, of course, is treat was founded by Bjorgan's parents to help Owen's brother, Garrett, and other children with special needs, to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing and fun environment. His desire to give back to the community that he loves is ingrained deeply, he says, another way his parents have profoundly influenced him.

Heartland Forest, meanwhile, is the subject of an chased by Dan Bouwman eight-episode docu-series for YourTV (formerly TV Cogeco) that Bjorgan is currently editing with friend and colleague Jacob Graham. The perience nature. 93-acre property, featuring a Carolinian forest, frog and turtle ponds, a stream, vernal

Retreat. The land was purof Niagara Falls to provide a peaceful place where his niece, Sydney, born with a rare brain disease, could ex-

Besides his position with the DSBN, the indefatigable Bjorgan also runs his own pools and unique species of business. Recently rebrandbirds, trees, and amphibians, ed as Owen's Hiking and

much of his "off-time" guidwilderness. His tours bring people up close to wildlife Hills Provincial Park, Decew

president of the chamber. (Photos by Penny Coles)

leaves to find a rare salamander, so his guests can get a nature. closer look.

has similar roots to Red Roof Adventures, Bjorgan spends fire, his ability to never quit." team." He adds that it was a surreal ing clients through the local honour to meet Irwin's familv.

Owen Bjorgan accepts his Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Niagara youth leadership award presented by Eduardo Lafforgue,

Bjorgan has also brought in the Niagara Gorge, Short his own passion to the stage in a Ted Talk, delivered at his Falls, the Wainfleet Bog, and alma mater, the University other significant local nature of Guelph. And, of course, spots. He's been known to there's his regular column jump into the water to pick here in The NOTL Local, up a turtle, or to rifle through another avenue he uses to inspire a love and concern for was "unbelievably well-de-

That concern for nature is He has also shot and a big part of what drives him. ture, he sees himself bringhosted a number of nature "I believe we are at a crucial documentaries, where his point in time when it comes love and respect for the out- to the environment," he to tour people globally, to doors takes centre stage. His warns. "The Niagara Region ecosystems of greater signifsee more action toward not just conservation but also preservation in Niagara, in order to curb our ecosystems being withered down to levels of functioning that would make them incomparable to their original state." Reflecting on receiving the Youth Leadership Award, Bjorgan remains humbled and honoured. As he says, "I admires Irwin, who died in agara-on-the-Lake, and it is "no ordinary town to be conhe was pierced in the chest by nected to. There are a lot of big, big hearts and influential "He was in your face, people in this town, and they

And he was further humbled when one of those influential people, Debi Pratt, spoke highly of him as a big part of NOTL's bright future when she took to the stage to accept her Citizen of the Year Award. She said it was high time the chamber brought back a youth award, and that the choice of Bjorgan served."

Looking toward the fuing his tours to ecosystems outside of Niagara. "I want icance," he says, "and be an international outdoors tour guide. I would like to take people up to northern Ontario, and to teach navigation and outdoor skills in bear country and wilderness settings. These are skills I have that I can't really apply in Niagara." He also talks about taking his nature documentaries to another level. His goal is for them to become educational tools that will further inspire others. With these visions, Bjorgan is closer to becoming a peer of his heroes, Suzuki and Irwin. It's clear that Niagara, though plenty bountiful in natural settings, may not be able to hold Owen Bjorgan much longer.





Debi Pratt, named citizen of the year, congratulates Owen Bjorgan on his award.

series of Hidden Corners has lost 90 per cent of its wetprograms, available on his land coverage. I would like to website (owenshikingandadventures.com) and his You-Tube channel, follow him through his favourite spots in Niagara, as well as his adventures in Ecuador, Australia and Florida.

It was during his trip to Australia, when he was able to meet the family of another one of his heroes, the late Steve Irwin, known as the Crocodile Hunter. Bjorgan feel deeply connected to Ni-2006 doing what he loved a stingray while filming.

he was passionate, he was were in that room last night, enthusiastic, his heart real- and in the group photo with ly beat for conservation. I me, and I felt like I was part learned a lot from him, his of a bigger, accomplished

Debi Pratt named citizen of the year

Penny Coles The Local

Debi Pratt is known for her decades of leading public relations and marketing for Inniskillin Wines, but also for being one of the strongest supporters and promoters of the Niagara wine industry as a whole, as it grew and flourished to become the industry it is today.

She has been recognized twice with lifetime achievement awards, and last week was named citizen of the year at the Chamber of Commerce Spirt of Niagara award ceremony, in recognition of her widespread volunteer involvement in many community projects.

Called the Lord Mayor's Award of Excellence, it was presented to her by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who has worked with her on several projects and considers her a go to for advice.

Previous award-winners have been recognized for a range of worthwhile pursuits, assisting in community projects, raising funds for charitable causes, or generally making life better for residents, said Disero.

"Some have been recognized for their contributions never asking for anything in to heritage preservation, for years of volunteer work, or for their service to the public."

"Throughout the years, # Brockview School, and she has been tapped on the then at Laura Secord Memoshoulder for worthwhile pursuits, community projects, fundraising and generally making life better for our residents. She has never refused and always willing to lend a helping hand."

"As a resident of our dear town," Disero said, Pratt "has never stepped away from helping out where there are issues to be addressed. She was part of the Town committees dealing with the ongoing issue of parking and this year was a leader in creating our authentic natural Christmas decor."

And on a personal note, said the lord mayor, "she is someone I go to for advice and as a sounding board, when I need guidance. I appreciate her steady, logical thinking, her cool head and her inclusive manner."

Speaking after the award friend, and someone she will ceremony, Disero said it was not surprising that Pratt spoke of the accomplishments of others who were also recipients, including Owen Bjorgan for his youth leadership award.

> "Debi is the most selfless person I have ever known," Disero said.

> "She is always giving, return. She just wants to do good, for the betterment of her community."

Pratt told the gathering in all of those, she said. school teacher at the old Line along with citizen of the year."

rial School in Queenston. She has taught many local kids, now adults, and asked those in the room to stand up, congratulating them too on how well they have done.

Her teaching career has continued, although along a different path. "I went from teaching students how to read, to teaching people how to drink."

But although she joked about the educational component of the wine industry, she has continued to talk to students at Brock University and Niagara College, and has mentored many along the way.

She also spoke of her days on the Chamber committee that administered the awards in its early days, leading to the spirit awards now given out annually.

"We recognized those who gave their hearts and souls" to their community, and their expertise, to keep the town "vibrant, sustainable and proud."

Giving back to the community, she said, "is so simple. Pay attention, and when you see someone in your neighbourhood who needs help, when you see something in your neighbourhood that needs help, you step up. The people who are here tonight have done that," she said.

"I'm so proud to be a cit-Pratt has been involved she had been an elementary izen of Niagara-on-the-Lake,



Debi Pratt receives the Lord Mayor's Award of Excellence from Lord Mayor Betty Disero at Ravine Vineyard's conference centre last week. (Photos by Penny Coles)

Niagara Trailers top business Family-owned

Penny Coles The Local

Founded in 1972, Niagara Trailers is a local business that has made a significant impact, not only on the RV industry, but on the surrounding community.

At last week's Spirit of Niagara award ceremony at the Ravine Vineyards conference centre, the family-owned and run business in St. Davids was grounds to their business next 48 years in St. Davids."

born," said Niven.

Their initial investment, he said, "was a handful of small Canadian-made RV trailers, which multiplied throughout the late '70s, and continued to grow through the '80s and '90s. During this time they remained true to their commitment of customer service and the camping off the spring, our busy time." lifestyle."

named Company of the Year. portfolio, including Sherk-The story of how it got its ston Shores in 1987, Grand

added, and worthy of the title of Company of the Year.

"It's been a great journey," said John, accepting the award with his wife Anna.

"We absolutely love the RV lifestyle, and we enjoy the community of St. Davids."

Receiving the award, he added, "is a great way to start

Thanking the Chamber, They began to add camp- he said, "I look forward to the

Following the ceremony, Anna joked about her reac-River RV Resort in 1989, tion to the thought of another and Lighthouse RV Resort in 48 years, suggesting it might be for family members, if they take it on — there are several working in different areas of the business, she said, "although I want them to do what makes them happy.""



start traces back to a coincidental conversation at the former Fudge Stand at the corner of York and Queenston Roads, explained Andrew Niven, pany's patriarch," John and Anna Petrie.

It was John's father, Doug, and his mother, Anna (John's wife jokes that she's Anna Jr.), who owned the Fudge Stand. Anna made and sold fudge, while Doug went off to work as a mechanic.

One day they were apasked if he could put his trailer, which was for sale, on the property, a highly visible site at a well-travelled intersection.

Much to the couple's surdays, "and thus a business was really makes them unique," he

2006.

In 2002, Doug, "the compassed who presented the award to away, said Niven, at which time the operation was handed to John, "whose business acumen and extraordinary vision has brought it to be one of the most successful RV trailer businesses in the provindustry awards.

The Petries are equally Anna." proached by a passerby, who committed to the community, he said, "donating both time and dollars to local causes, and organizations like the St. Davids Lions, Red Roof Retreat and Meals on Wheels." It's "their quiet, unprise, it sold in a matter of der-the-radar approach that

The best part of the business, she said, is the people they've met.

"We've had many repeat ince," and winning it many customers, still coming in and talking about Doug and

> She said she and John were both surprised, and humbled, to receive the award, and when they got home, "I told him how proud I was of him, and how proud his dad would be. We miss him so much. He would be so proud."

Anna and John Petrie of Niagara Trailers won the Company of the Year Award at the Spirit of Niagara ceremony, presented by the Chamber of Commerce.

sound in your home

HOME IMPROVEMENT FEATURE **Custom solutions give optimum** Spring forward at Creek Road Paints

Visit our Home Theatre Room for the optimum surround sound experience.

Submitted by Thomas TV

Making good sound even better, is what we love to do. When a customer comes into our store looking for a hi-fi system that suits their space and listening style, we take the time to demonstrate the variety of options there are to consider. Our goal is to bring them their optimum listening experience.

Having audio distributed to several rooms in the home is popular, and brings a range

of questions from homeowners such as, Can I add in-wall or in-ceiling speakers to my house if it is finished? Where would I put the equipment? Should I consider wireless audio? We specialize in retrofitting existing homes with audio and video, adding music to any room or outdoor space you wish, and installing the equipment out of sight. Wireless audio is an option, but it isn't the best solution for every application, however there are several quality options that we home consultation.

recommend.

For over 55 years, Thomas TV has focused on offering quality brands and service to the Niagara Region. We have seen technology evolve, and we're always excited to bring what's new to our customers. Our knowledgeable staff and trained installers are focused on customer satisfaction, after all, home entertainment should be fun! We welcome vou to visit our showroom, located at 130 Thorold Rd. in Welland, or call for an in-

Submitted by **Creek Road Paints**

Spring is in the air! Unfortunately, we know it's not the only thing in the air, as many of us have received government directives to either work from home or to quarantine ourselves to prevent and contain the spreading of COVID-19. Maybe this would be a great time to get a jump on that spring painting project you were holding off on? Or freshen up that bathroom with one of our Zero VOC Paints?

Spring forward into Daylight Savings Time with the expert team at Creek Road Paints, Benjamin Moore who have the essential solutions to paints, products and home decor that will save you time, daylight and cost!

Renew the hues that are right for you and are also trending. Consider Benjamin Moore's 2020 Colour of the Year, First Light 2102-70, which is the "backdrop for a bright new decade." First Light features a fresh palette. A revitalized spirit. A soft, rosy hue blooming with potential. Combine accents of the 10 harmonious hues of the Colour Trends 2020 palette, which deliver "modern paint colour pairing that combine optimism with understatement, a timeless way to lighten up." These colours

are not only palette-able for ourselves in, the staff of Creek Spring, but will breathe life and renewed energy into your space.

Whether you are starting a painting project in your basement, garage, bathroom, kitchen, living room or bedrooms, trust our expert staff to provide you with the appropriate line of premium paint, primer, stain, and all the products that will help you achieve your project goals.

Thinking of beginning an exterior job? Just because the sun has started to come out, doesn't mean the brushes are ready to come outdoors yet. We have seen some sunnier days, and the temperature seems to be warming up, but the focus during this seasonal shift should still be interior projects - at least until Mother Nature declares it safe to venture outdoors. Until then, as a general rule of thumb, the Exterior Paint Meteorologists call for a consistent temperature of a minimum of 10 degrees Celsius, with the exception of Aura Exterior, which makes it possible to drop down to 4 degrees, and if you're staining, you can go down to 2 degrees Celsius with our Ready Seal - Goof Proof Staining system. Visit us in store for Moore tips, essential solutions and plans on how to spring forward in preparation of exterior projects. At this difficult time we find

Road Paints, Benjamin Moore cannot reiterate the importance of the safety and well-being of everyone. We would like to acknowledge and thank those clients that have travelled and have postponed painting projects in order to follow the necessary precautions of COVID-19, and have also taken into consideration their painters, contractors, and the whole community.

Although businesses, organizations, and institutions may close their doors, it is our intention to remain open until further notice. Please consider the most vulnerable: the elderly, those with autoimmune, respiratory and other health issues. Cardinal Rule: Wash your hands like you wash your paint brushes! And remember... There's Always Something Moore at Your Local Creek Road Paints, Benjamin Moore Store.







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HOME IMPROVEMENT FEATURE

Submitted by Imperial Hardwood Flooring

In order to keep your new wood floors looking great, always follow these tips:

- Wipe up all spills immediately.
- Only use vacuum cleaners that have a setting for hard-surfaces. Turn off the beater bars/brushes on the vacuum cleaner when present.
- Do not wet-mop a wood floor. Standing water will result in cracks, splits, cupping, warping, degradation of the finish, and leave a discoloring residue. Use approved cleaners made specifically for hardwood floors. We recommend the BONA line of cleaners.
- NEVER use Murphy's Oil Soap on your hardwood floor.
- Do not use steam cleaners on wood

floors. Water in a vapor form will penetrate the wood fibers and cause irreversible damage to the wood flooring and the finish. • Take special precautions with non-skid pads that are frequently placed under area rugs. Some of these pads may

- Use breathable throw rugs both inside and outside the doorways to prevent grit, salt, chemicals, sand, moisture and other debris from • being tracked onto the wood floors.
- For wood flooring installed in the kitchen, place a breathable area rug in front of the kitchen sink and stove.
- Rugs should be shaken out, cleaned, and thoroughly dried when they get wet.
- Check with the finish manufacturer for when rugs can be placed on the newly finished floor. In general, they should not be placed on a newly finished floor for a minimum of seven days after the final coat of finish has been applied.

- Take special precautions with non-skid pads that are frequently placed under area rugs. Some of these pads may imprint their pattern onto the finish and/or the wood floor. (Natural fibers may not transfer as much as some synthetic pads.)
- Be aware that area rugs cover the wood floor, protecting it from UV/ sun exposure, which results in color differences in the wood floor.
- Put fabric-faced glides under the legs of furniture to prevent scuffing and scratching. Periodically check these floor protectors for embedded soil and replace as necessary.
- Avoid walking on your floor with cleats, sports shoes, and high heels. A 125-pound woman in high heels has an impact of 2,000 pounds per square inch. An exposed heel can exert up to 8,000 pounds per square inch. This kind

of impact will dent any floor surface.

- Keep pet claws trimmed and in good repair.
- When moving heavy furniture, do not slide it on wood flooring. It is best to pick up the furniture completely to avoid scratching the floors.
- When moving appliances (refrigerators, stoves, etc.), use safety glides. On newly finished floors, wait a minimum of three days before replacing appliances.
- Use an appropriate humidifier throughout the winter/dry months and/or a dehumidifier in the summer/humid months to keep wood movement and shrinkage to a minimum. It's important to maintain a consistent environment throughout the year to minimize floor movement.
- When the floor loses its luster, it's time for a recoat.





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to promote our membership card, especially as it is an ideal gift for a senior. It is perfect for those who may be hard to buy for and it gives them the flexibility of patronizing various local businesses over the course of an entire year. Our card simply says, "I'm Local," and if you present it to participating businesses, it entitles the cardholder to discounts and special offers - so important for anyone on a fixed income. We have a convenient wallet-sized card waiting for readers who want to sign up, at a cost of \$39.95 (plus HST). The charge for the cards helps cover the cost of the program for us, and will also help to support your community newspaper. Our membership bonus includes two free classified ads per year - a \$40 value their neighbourhood busi-(private party only). There is nesses and businesses who no charge for businesses to want to welcome locals.

We are excited to continue come onboard — their cost is the discounts and special offers for you, our readers. Additionally, we have a website that explains how to join, and also allows you to sign up online, using PayPal or a credit card. As a Local member, you have so many great choices! From dining to fitness/ healthcare to home décor to automotive and more! Businesses may change their offers monthly, or they may stay the same. That's up to them. Be sure to check back often to see new businesses on board and existing participants vary their offers month to month. The more variety, the better. So there you have it - our local membership plan. It's a cliché, we know, but we feel it's a win-win situation, for locals who want to support



Contact Karen at 905 641 5335 or email karen@notllocal.com Online at notllocal.com/membership or visit our office at 1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil

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THE NOTL LOCAL LOCAL SPORTS

Soccer registration only available online

Mike Balsom The Local

With the current self-isolation in place throughout the province and the country, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Club has been forced to postpone its annual live registration.

When the town shut down all public facilities, the planned March 28 registration at the arena in Virgil was affected. The Ontario Soccer Association (OSA), of which the club is a member, also suspended all sanctioned activities last Wednesday.

Club president Ted VanderKaay says this is a perfect time for parents and players to register for this summer's season via the club's new website, at notlsoccer. ca. At press time, the board lsoccer.ca. of directors of the club were planned.

VanderKaay points out that the new website was nec-

inal software provider.

their initial program and wanted us to migrate to their new platform. That forced our hand to look for other options, and we felt that a more update our database, to more local provider, Power Up Sports Management Systems of Toronto, provided a superior product with a more local to up-to-date information on flavour."

Other clubs in the Niagara area, including the St. Catharines Jets, Niagara Falls United and the Welland Soccer Club are also using the new 2018. platform.

Because of the move to the new software provider, VanderKaay says that all previous registrants will need to ness, including those posted create a new account on not-

optimistic that the May 23 to register, but VanderKaay opening festival will go on as says "one of the benefits of couple of adult teams added having the new software is into the fold. that we are upgrading all our systems information to be have moved on, and this year essary due to some changes accurate. With the old plat- the club is offering a house

"They were cancelling lot of inaccurate and incomplete information, including contact information for parents. By migrating to the new platform, we will be able to current, accurate levels."

The new website will also direct parents and coaches the club's concussion protocol. VanderKaay says the club is compliant with Rowan's Law, passed by the Ontario government in Bill 193 in set at \$100, and house league

Upon registration, visitors to the site will be directed to a number of online resources related to concussion awareby the Province.

Last year, the NOTL Soc-It may take a little longer cer Club had 405 players registered, in ages 4 to 17, with a

For 2020, the adult teams

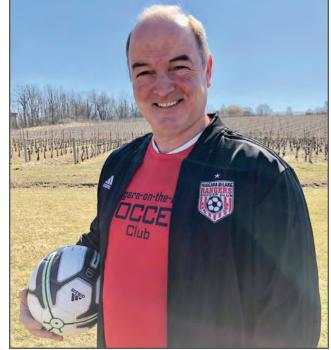
put in place by the club's orig- form, it had been around for league, beginning with the about 10 years, there was a Timbits program for ages four and five, and ending with their interlock program, for up to age 17. In that program, teams from NOTL compete against those from other Niagara municipalities in a sort of extended house league program.

> There will also be travel programs, with U8, U9 and U11 boys/co-ed teams competing in the Niagara Soccer League.

> With Timbits registration at \$160, VanderKaay feels soccer is still one of the most affordable activities in town.

> "It's a great outdoor activity," he says, "and our soccer facilities, in Virgil and Memorial Park, are second to none."

The club is also holding a soccer camp the week of Aug. 10. Instructor John Di-Pasquale returns that week to offer a fun-filled program of games, activities and instruction to improve soccer skills. Again, at only \$85, it is an af-



NOTL Soccer Club president Ted VanderKaay is hoping the soccer season will begin as scheduled, but registration is online only. (Photo supplied)

fordable way for kids aged six ca to register. And, once the to 14 to spend half a day. Registration for the camp is also if people are confined to their available on the website.

parents to visit notlsoccer. start kicking the ball around.

warmer weather sets in, even homes, it's never too early VanderKaay encourages to get out to the backyard to



Proud figure skaters

Victoria Sattarzadeh, Samantha Frydryk, Julianna Sattarzadeh, Sienna Larmet, Jamie Doucet, and Darah Adeyiwola travelled to Mississauga recently to enter their first competition. They all skated at the STAR 2 level at the STAR 1-4 competition. Earning silver were Adeyiwola, Frydryk, Larmet and Julianna Sattarzadeh. Victoria Sattarzadeh and Doucet earned bronze. (Photo supplied)



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LOCAL WORSHIP

Sunday, March 22nd Speaker: Kevin Bayne

CORNERSTONE

Message: The Word of Anguish Kids Ministry Sign In (Grade 8 & under) Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. at 434 Hunter Rd.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



VAN RIJN, MARIA—Passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday March 10, 2020 at the Niagara Health System- St. Catharines Site, at the age of 88. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Henk (2002) and adored granddaughter, Claire Davis (2010). Cherished mother of Rebecca Bates (Dan), Hugh and Christine Davis (Glen). Treasured Oma of Megan, Owen Bates, Quinten, Miller and Tessa Davis. Maria is survived by her

sister, Carla Kanellis (late Zacharias) from Greece and predeceased by her sister, Henny Buitelaar (late Hans) from Holland. She will be missed by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. In accordance with Maria's wishes, cremation has taken place and a private family service will be held at a later date. In honour of Maria's memory, donations made to the Lincoln County Humane Society would be greatly appreciated by the family.

OBITUARY

JO-ANN CUDMORE

IN MEMORIAM



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SUDOKU PUZZLE

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52 Mantle 56 State of constant change 58 Lily Munster actress Yvonne De ---60 Not his 61 Captain Jack Sparrow actor 62 Online missives 63 Senses of self-importance 64 Wild about 65 Look after 66 Seedy joint 67 Talks lovingly 68 Singles 69 Could be bobby, red or white Down: 1 One 2 Army chaplain Gush forth З 4 Presidential workplace 5 Chucks 6 Outbreak 7 Junkie 8 Destructive Hindu deity

26 Enter stealthily 28 Provide new equipment 29 Long feathery scarf 31 Get lost! 32 Minor chessman 33 Smile 34 Federal farming regulator 35 Confront 36 Channel revived as Heartland 40 --- King Cole 45 Engraved with acid 48 Salty 50 Montreal ---, now the Washington Nationals 51 Gray matter 53 Breastplate of Zeus or Athena 54 Brigham Young University city 55 Antique auto 56 Depositors' protective grp. 57 Longtime "Tonight Show" host Jay 59 Rounds

Sudoku solution

from March 12, 2020

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5 8 1

123

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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E-mail, 63 Egos, 64 Into, 65 Mind, 66 Dive, 67 Coos, 68 51 Bah, 52 Cape, 56 Flux, 58 Carlo, 60 Hers, 61 Depp, 62 , il9D 04, in9S 84, ifO 74, in8M 04, ino sei1, 44, ins iO 64, A D A 24, woN 14, egennoT 65, T 2 3 85, end 75, enoT 65 Yeti, 24 Vet, 25 Read, 27 Gras, 29 Bad, 30 I S P, 33 Bushel, 16 Idol, 17 Eases, 19 Inca, 20 True, 21 Overt, 22 Vast, 23 Across: 1 Ups, 4 Thou, 8 Scab, 12 Naps, 14 Hens, 15 Hare,



Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local

This week on Auchterlonie on Astrology I'll look at the new Moon in Aries on Tuesday, March 24, the earliest spring equinox in 124 years on Thursday, March 19, and more.

a look at The Astrology of 2020 - A New Order, and also the week of Sunday, March 22 through Saturday, March 28. The website is https://www. the U.S. and proclaimed sces just after midnight lookingupwithbill.com/ podcasts.html.

Now, the week ahead:

At 11:49 p.m. we witness of course,' meaning the is a lot of karmic energy in something we haven't seen Moon has no contact with the air today, so reap and in 124 years, the spring any other object in the so- sow with your best foot equinox. To explain this in lar system for most of the forward. Better get 58 can-

"This Year's Equinox Is a powerful connection lat-

surprise that makes for a and Jerry Seinfeld, Carl is more secure future. On a funny man. this day in 1885, Louis Riel for Saskatchewan.

time and space. If you are a 'do nothing' kind of day. because that's how old she power to accomplish just interested, just google But Mars and Jupiter make is today.

March 19, The Earliest In er this morning, bringing 124 Years." It will explain good fortune to medical how our clever calendar appointments, health matadjusts for the difference ters and work activities. between the true time it One of the world's funniest takes to go around the Sun people, Carl Reiner, turns and the time we measure 98 today. From the Dick on our calendars, includ- van Dyke Show, to direct-On my podcast I've got ing over centuries. It's a ing Steve Martin's films, to serious Thursday, with a working with Mel Brooks

Saturday, March 21: returned to Canada from The Moon moves into Pia provisional government and Saturn moves from her home sign of Capri-Friday, March 20: After corn into Aquarius at the Thursday, March 19: 5 a.m., the Moon is 'void very end of the day. There detail would take too much day. This usually makes for dles for Rosie O'Donnell,

Sunday, March 22: This is one of the busiest Sun- New Moon always holds days ever. The Moon in the promise of new begin-Pisces gives imagination nings. Today it occurs at and Venus and Mercury 5:28 a.m., and even though are on board to help heal the New Moon sees both old wounds and find ex- the Sun and Moon in Ariciting new ideas. Captain es, most of the energy is 'off Kirk was born on March stage,' or shrouded in some 25, 1807, that the Parlia-22, 1931 in Montreal. way. Back then they called him William Shatner. Hey, we energy does break through played many varied roles will be powerful and very still seems Captain Kirk to honest too. The first anmany.

There is energy and will- North America.

about anything.

Tuesday, March 24: The

This means that if the still do! And while he has to this side of the plane, it over his nearly 90 years, he dynamic. Yet it will be ti-slavery newspaper, the nie with Astrology looks Monday, March 23: The Provincial Freeman, was Moon moves into 'leap be- published on March 24, fore you look' Aries in the 1854, in Windsor, Ontarearly evening, and Mars io. It was edited by Samuel hooks up with Pluto early Ringgold Ward and Mary in the morning in the Con- Ann Shadd Cary, the first stellation of Capricorn. black woman publisher in

Wednesday, March 25: Good times. Testy times. Good, thanks to benevolent Jupiter. Testy, courtesy stubborn Pluto. Try to be honest and know that a fight with Pluto is never a good idea. Put it aside until the heat has cooled.

March 19, 2020

And it was March ment in London, England abolished the slave trade throughout the British Empire with a fine of 120 pounds per slave to be paid by ship captains.

Next week, Auchterloat the week of Thursday, March 16 through Wednesday, April 1. (No fooling!)

As Joni Mitchell says: "We are stardust. We are Golden. So Shine On!"



Encouraging species at risk

Last Thursday Parks Canada hosted an open house and field visit for the community to learn about nature conservation initiatives at Parks Canada sites, including Paradise Grove, identifying 12 species at risk. It will focus on six species, encouraging new growth. Christina Lawrence shows the eastern flowering dogwood to the nature enthusiasts on the tour. Invasive species need to be removed so sunlight and more room can encourage new growth. (Fred Mercnik)

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