

# The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Career  
choices for  
Brownies  
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Niagara College student Isabel Oeggerli is ready for the prospective students and their families visiting the college greenhouse at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus during Saturday's open house. The flowers are for sale at the greenhouse retail shop. (Fred Mercnik)

## United Way surpasses campaign goal

**Lauren O'Malley**  
The Local

When Sean Simpson announces the success of the United Way of Niagara's first fundraising campaign, he'll be doing so with no small personal relief, having committed to wearing a certain pair of red sneakers until the goal was met.

"We will be announcing the fact that we surpassed our \$5 million goal," says the pharmacy owner, who

was planning to share his good news with the public Thursday.

The shoes as a branding exercise began as an accident, Simpson explains.

"The campaign theme was 'Hit the Ground Running,' and I happened to wear red sneakers to the launch," he says. "It was a good excuse to wear them throughout the campaign, a good reminder for me that we had a goal to meet."

They also served as an opportunity to raise aware-

ness, as a conversation piece.

"At a meeting in Vancouver, and at an event in Toronto, I was quickly able to explain the red sneakers and draw attention to the campaign."

However, "There were a few cold days in December and January when I would have liked to have been wearing more robust footwear," he adds.

Continued on page 3



Sean Simpson, chair of the United Way campaign, can relax and take his shoes off now the goal has been reached. (Lauren O'Malley)

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# Unlicensed B&Bs a growing concern

## Councillor hoping Town initiates process to address problem

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Town councillors recently struggled over how to handle bed and breakfast operations with overdue licence renewals. Their next dilemma with the ac-

commodation sector is expected to be dealing with the proliferation of unlicensed operators: those who openly advertise their premises outside municipal bylaws put in place to regulate them.

Allan Bisback, in his

first term on councillor, has become an unofficial representative for the sector of licensed B&Bs — he and his wife were owners and operators of a B&B for 10 years, and Bisback was the vice-president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake B&B association during a time of turmoil for the owners, negotiating with the Town as it worked on regulations for the sector.

There has always been an issue of unlicensed operators, says Bisback, but with the growth of platforms for rentals such as Airbnb — that's becoming the most well-recognized name but it's only one of many — and a Town that relies on complaints to seek compliance, the issue has become one that can no longer be ignored.

And it's not just in the Old Town. While that is where the majority of B&Bs operate, they are becoming increasingly popular, and more problematic, in Queenston and St. Davids, says Bisback.

He's found 15 B&Bs advertised in the little village of Queenston, usually a case of rooms being rented in older homes as an added source of income; while in St. Davids, the number of new homes is creating a different situation.

Couples from out of town are seeking out retirement homes and purchasing before they're ready to retire, using the intervening years to make some revenue off their future home — not an ideal situation for neighbours. He's seen one such situation shut down, and is following others.

The Bisbacks, like many other couples, themselves moved to NOTL to open a B&B as part of their plan of easing into retirement. He continued to work for Canada Post, while his wife looked after guests. They had a 10-year plan, but it didn't allow for how quickly the B&B would become busier than one person could handle, so he retired a little sooner than he had anticipated to help out. As they reached the 10-year mark, a house they had had an eye on since moving to NOTL became available, and they decided to purchase it and allow themselves time to enjoy it — for Bisback, that also meant the time to run for council.

As a councillor, he continues to say to council, as he did during the recent debate about revoking licenses for those behind in their fees, "Let's be fair."

During the days of the B&B task force, the association presented a list to the Town of unlicensed rental establishments, but nothing was done to shut them down.

These days, it's not as if those operating outside the licensing bylaw are below the radar — they are easy to find, he says.

"With online advertisement, it's not difficult to search them out."

Town staff are "chasing down 20 to 25," he estimates, following up on on complaints — most often about the number of cars parked in a driveway or on the road that signals there are rooms being rented, and a concern over the number of people coming and going — and Bisback has a list of a few he's checking on, but that's likely a drop in the bucket to what's out there.

"I know there are quite a few, but I can't quantify how many," he says.

"Most licensed B&B owners are good operators, but it's not fair to expect them to follow the regulations, while others do not."

Licensing was put in place to enforce safety regulations, with inspections from the fire department — his three-room B&B, licensed for about \$700 a year, required five fire extinguishers — and to ensure sufficient liability insurance.

But there is no way to check on issues such as fire codes and insurance for those operating outside the licensing regulation, says Bisback. In the research he's done, all he can discover is that Airbnbs are encouraged to "operate within municipal legislation."

"If I'm going to stay in a B&B, I'd like to know it's safe."

What he wants is a level playing field for all, but to get there, he says, the Town has to look at its process of regulation for all rental accommodations, and he hopes that conversation begins soon.

"The research has to come first. We have to know what we're dealing with before we can proceed."

The goal, he says, is that level playing field he's after, by having every accommodation rental "regulated to the same degree."

Other towns and cities are also experiencing problems with the growing

number of accommodation rentals, Airbnbs and others, "but we live in a unique, premiere destination. Rates can be higher than other places. Visitors love coming to NOTL, and the B&Bs fit the community."

Rick Jorgensen, also a former B&B owner and former president of the B&B association, urges the Town to take a pro-active role in seeking out those without licences and shutting them down.

When he started OliV, now with five restaurants and tasting rooms in Niagara and others across the country, he no longer had the time to run a B&B, but he has followed the explosion of Airbnbs and other platforms with interest.

He doesn't hesitate to quantify the situation, saying he believes there are "hundreds" operating outside municipal bylaws.

Going back to the early days of licensing and regulations, he describes a "love/hate" relationship between operators and the Town, with its "inordinate amount of guidelines in place to protect the public."

Unlicensed operators have always been a cause for concern, he says, but with the explosion of the sector over the last decade, he sees the possibility of there being more unlicensed than licensed. "The Town has to adjust to accommodate for that."

It's the job of town staff to go after them, put a stop to it, and make it fair for everyone — and like Bisback, he believes at the root of the problem is the Town's complaint-driven bylaw enforcement policy.

While a lack of resources is usually cited as a barrier to a more forward approach, he says, "What resources do they need? These operators are advertising, they're putting it out there. Either stop advertising, or pay for a licence."



Coun. Allan Bisback is concerned about the growing number of unregulated B&Bs, and is hoping Town staff will be asked to look at the growing problem. (Penny Coles)

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# 'All funds stay in region'

Continued from page 1

The United Way of Niagara is a new entity, having been recently created through the merger of three smaller agencies: the United Ways of Niagara Falls, Greater Fort Erie, and South Niagara. Simpson is on the transitioning committee.

"There were effectively three United Ways competing in a small region where people often live and work in different jurisdictions," says the local businessman known for his family's legacy of philanthropy. "There were three boards of 12 volunteers each — the capacity of the total system is enhanced by moving forward as one organization."

With three separate United Ways, he says, "some agencies were forced to write three different funding applications — for example the Canadian Mental Health Association. This is a drain on resources, given that a lot of staff are writing grant and funding applications."

"We were simply trying to find levels of efficiencies, looking for reductions in cost wherever possible — these are always priorities with a charitable organization," he explains.

While one in three peo-

ple in Niagara is touched by the United Way, says Simpson, who has been on various boards of the agency for more than six years, "a good number of people don't know what the United Way does."

"It is critical to understand that all funds stay within the region: United Way Niagara serves all people in Niagara," he adds. "What I like about the United Way is that, with so many great charities around, this is a way to support over 100 programs run by over 70 agencies, with the money going to those who can use it the most," he says. "Volunteers do a really good job of determining where the money can have the greatest impact."

Simpson describes just a few of the programs supported by the charity. "One of the most successful is an after-school program in at-risk neighbourhoods, keeping kids engaged and off the streets," he says.

"Another project is filling backpacks. We get great support with getting bags and supplies, for families who have a hard time preparing their kids for school. There is also the Niagara Nutrition program, which supplies breakfast and healthy snacks for kids who need them."

Fundraising happens in a number of ways, but the mainstay is automatic deductions at work. "When I graduated from pharmacy school, I started to give to the United Way through our workplace campaign," recalls Simpson. "It didn't cost a lot, just \$1 to \$2 per pay cheque."

Now the employer of a number of people, Simpson continues to offer the workplace donation campaign to his staff, and suggests other businesses consider doing the same.

With the economy's move away from larger workplaces — GM, for example — Simpson says the fundraising focus is turning to smaller businesses, as well as independent giving. But he cites local businesses such as Vintage Inns, the Town, and Robin Ridesic of The Exchange Brewery as workplace supporters of the United Way.

Simpson is quick to point out donations don't have to be monetary. "You can give dollars, you can give time, you can give experience," he says.

And while a new campaign chair will be announced at the event, along with the outcome of the campaign, he says, "My work with the United Way has been very rewarding."

## Local bunnies ready for spring



The sun brightens the day, and Callum Clements, Graham Staz and Ellie Colvin of Niagara Nursery School start thinking spring, and the annual Bunny Trail fundraiser locals love to attend Easter weekend. (Photo supplied)

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# Shaw veteran moves to Foster Festival stage

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Guy Bannerman takes delight in chatting with the people he meets when he's getting groceries in Valu-mart.

He appreciates, likely more than they'll ever know, his neighbours who are also friends, and the lasting friendships he and his wife Marian made when their daughters, now adults, were in nursery school.

He is grateful, but also surprised in a wonderful sort of way, to have lived in the same house in the same

neighbourhood since 1997, longer than he ever dreamed possible. He is also grateful to be part of a community that is larger than the community of the theatre, that is about more than showing up for 50 years of performances on stages across the country.

Bannerman has been acting since he was 12, and was accustomed to feeling "like a bit of an outlaw" as a young man. But he has always believed in the importance of education, and earned a master's degree, assuming acting might not be a full-time job. He recalls a conversation with a friend

whose ambition was to work for a theatre group in a town like Niagara-on-the-Lake, while he thought he might end up as a teacher. His friend, he says, is the teacher, and Bannerman has spent three decades, with more than 4,000 appearances, on local stages for the Shaw Festival Theatre. At the same time he was building a life for himself and his family he didn't ever dare to hope he would have.

For such a content family man, when he takes to the stage this season, it will be at the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre for his role in a premier for the Foster Festival, one that will challenge his acting skills. He plays a husband and father with an abrasive personality that drives his wife from him and damages his relationship with his son.

What suits him perfectly is playing a character of an appropriate age — at 73, Bannerman is portraying a 68-year-old over a five-year time span, ending, coincidentally, he says, when he's 73.

"All I'll have to do is remember what it was like to be 68," he jokes.

The play is *The Writer*, and Bannerman's character is renowned playwright Donald Wellner, who has a difficult, complex relationship with his son Blake, a travel writer. The father can't let his son forget his

success, and measured against it, his son falls short.

"He is very disparaging of his son's efforts," says Bannerman, and in his self-aggrandizement is disappointed with his offspring's lacklustre career.

As many performances as Bannerman has behind him, and as many plays as Norm Foster has written, the Shaw ensemble member has never performed in a Foster play.

"I've met him socially," he says, "but I've never been in a rehearsal with him."

He can imagine, he says, sitting down with the writer of 60 plays to discover some biographic details and decipher whether there is a speck of Foster in Wellner. "I'd like to ask him a few pointed questions, and get details. This is a luxury for me to have the opportunity to sit with a playwright and have that conversation. It might provide some clues as to the depth of the character."

Although on the surface *The Writer* seems to be made of serious stuff, it will have Foster's trademark "humour with heart," says Bannerman.

"If it's Norm Foster, it will be entertaining. He's known for one-liner after one-liner."

And while that might seem incongruous given the nature of the father's treatment of his son, which Bannerman says is harsh to the point of being uncomfortable, "it's our job as performers to humanize the situation."

His job also, he adds, involves looking at why the father feels the abusive language he uses as a parent is necessary, in an effort to make him believable.

It's possible, as Norm Foster progresses as a playwright, he is looking for more depth in his characters, and responding with humour to the life crises they encounter, says Bannerman.

"Jokes can make light of dark, an uncomfortable situation more comfortable. This is life scripted. All the things we wish could be said, are said — that's the point of a play, especially when the character doesn't have as much

self-knowledge as he thinks he does. My job is to get beneath the surface to see what happens when that character is alone in the dark."

While Bannerman is known locally for his work with the Shaw, he has had a varied career on stages across the country, and is delighted to have the Foster Festival offering interesting roles in his own backyard. He also lectures with Shaw colleague Sharry Flett, offering a course for Queens University students in its School of Drama and Music, specializing in Victorian costumes and customs. It's a subject they've taught to several theatre groups in varying formats, including at the Shaw, and is just one more opportunity that has allowed Bannerman to stay close to the community that has become home.

He recalls the move to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1997, then working for the Shaw while living in Toronto. Deciding to buy a house was a daring move for an actor, who never knows where his next play is coming from. Shortly after settling on a little street considered a part of the Chautauqua neighbourhood, steps from the lake, there was a flood in the basement of their home. Neighbours pitched in to help as the water rose — including one man who was riding by on his bicycle, and seeing what was happening, leaned his bike against a tree and pitched in.

Neighbour and NOTL native Hope Bradley, looking out her window, saw the water rising in the hollow, and called to Bannerman to bring his family to her house.

"This is the longest I've ever lived anywhere, through marriage, babies, and kids who have grown up here — it's a real advantage, to be able to grow up in a community like this," he says.

"People are saying the town is changing, but people were saying that in the 80s. Is it really changing?"

Bannerman makes sure he is part of the community —

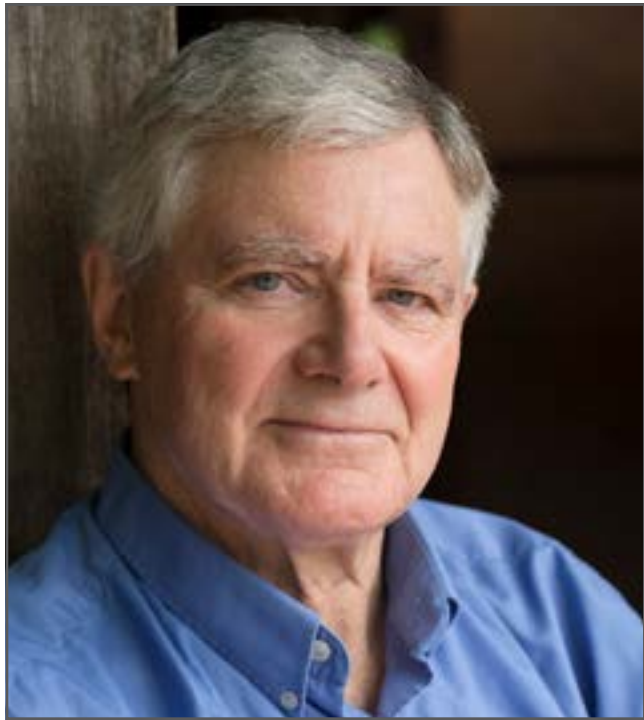
he volunteers with Wine and Words at the library, meeting authors and dining with them before introducing them to their audience. He never misses an opportunity to go into schools to read stories to the students — listening to him read Roch Carrier's *Hockey Sweater* is an experience they'll not likely forget — and is ready and willing to speak any time he's asked. "Anything I can do to give back is very, very satisfying," he says.

Marian is now a program manager with the Niagara Region. Their daughters are 24 and 28, have left the nest but know their rooms are waiting for them at the family home, and Bannerman is reaping the benefits of technology — if he wants to audition, he can "self-tape" and send it in, and has been cast that way from a distance, without the need of a trip to Toronto.

He and Marian are both drawn to the water, he says — they love hearing the sound of lake waves on the nearby shore at night, and spending time with friends and neighbours, some of whom "have roamed the world and chosen this place as their home." They make for interesting dinner conversation, he says, but more than that, "they're people who know how to make things work and who help to make this town a better place."

When he first came to NOTL to work in the theatre, he says, "what I never expected was that we would discover it was such a caring and supportive community to raise our family. It's really been a miracle for us, and for other families of Niagara artists as well. And the work opportunities keep expanding, especially with the founding of the Foster Festival."

*The Foster Festival runs from June 19 until Aug. 17. The Writer premieres June 19 and is on stage until July 5 followed by Hilda's Yard, July 10 until July 26, and then another premier, Beside Myself, a musical by Norm Foster and Steve Thom- as, July 31 until Aug. 17.*



Guy Bannerman (Supplied photo)



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# Music and humour accompany Officers' Dinner

**Lauren O'Malley**  
The Local

While period dress is not required for attendance at the 1812 Officers' Dinner on April 5, it might be recommended.

Parks Canada's Scott Finlay and Peter Martin will be assigning rank at the door, based loosely on costume. And whim. "Better dress equals higher rank — but not always," says Martin with a mischievous gleam in his eye.

However, rank isn't really all that important, given that everyone will be punished equally for breaking any of the esoteric rules of the dining event, as dictated by the "20 Rules of Decorum for the Officer's Mess," dated 1804.

Be sure not to wear your hat at the table, for instance — and there will be no talk whatsoever of politics or religion. Leaving the table for whatever reason without permission will result in punishment, and junior officers must finish everything on the senior officers' plates. Punishment in this instance is light and comical, and might involve drinking, or singing, "depending on the level of infraction," says Finlay, the genial corporate programming coordinator for Parks.

"People can dress with the spirit of the era in mind," says Martin, special events and product development officer

for Parks Canada. "Last year one woman sewed her rank onto her sweater with chevrons."

But the main thing is to be comfortable, adds Tony Chisholm of the Friends of Fort George. The three-course meal, catered by Beamsville-based D & T Classic Catering, will be generous, and will have one main feature, he says: "Meat."

A typical officer's meal of the era consisted of much local game meat, including rabbit, venison, lamb and pigeon.

Lady Simcoe kept prodigious notes about local flora and fauna, says Finlay — she described raccoons as similar to Canadian monkeys, and she loved to watch them frolic and play — and then described them as tasting something like pork.

The event will not feature such unusual foodstuffs, but will offer some offbeat humour with Finlay interspersing games and entertainment throughout. The diners will also have the pleasure of live period music played on the violin by Friends favourite Stephen Fuller.

Finlay will head up a reenactment on a very small scale, using audience members and hats, he says: "One person represents the Americans, and one person represents the British."



Scott Finlay and Peter Martin prepare to have some fun at the Officers' Dinner. (Lauren O'Malley)

The long wooden table in the elegant Officers' Quarters (the yellow building toward the rear of the Fort George property) will be set by Friends volunteers with classic Blue Willow patterned china, and the fireplaces will be ablaze, creating that much more of a traditional atmosphere.

Should you choose to immerse yourself completely in this experience, and happen to find yourself without a coatee or gown, what to do?

One option is to follow

Finlay's lead, and consult with famous period costume expert Peter Twist, who designed and helped to produce the Major General's jacket with real gold braid and thread hand-embroidered in Pakistan. Jokes Finlay, "I like to wear this as I lounge at home sipping sherry."

Finlay recalls an attempt to sew himself a pair of traditional grey wool pants. "I got the legs done, but when it came to the top part, with the flaps and the split, and the buttons..."

he shakes his head and waves his hands around helplessly.

Amanda Gamble says there are patterns for "smalls" (shirts, pants and bonnets) available in the Fort's gift shop. Ironically, they are accompanied by online instructions, and are "pretty adaptable," according to the Friends' executive director. She models a "lady's outfit" — although she admits to cheating, because she wasn't able to recruit anyone to help her lace up and tie her corset.

Finlay reminds people there will be no judgement regarding outfits at the event. "There will be no history police; this is all in good fun," he says.

As with most Friends events, proceeds from the dinner will help support student employment opportunities at Fort George and Brock's Monument.

Call the Friends of Fort George, 905-468-6621 or email [admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca](mailto:admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca) for more information.

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# EDITORIAL

## Power down for Earth Day

While one hour of energy conservation may seem like a tiny drop in a very big bucket, there is an opportunity to use that time to begin a larger conversation, according to the organizers of Earth Hour.

In its eighth year, Earth Hour occurs March 30, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. The idea is to switch off lights and any electrical appliances that can go without power for an hour, and spend that time connecting with each other, and with nature.

Coordinated in Canada by the World Wildlife Foundation and other volunteer organizations, Earth Hour is meant to be in part an exercise to draw attention to wildlife loss across the country and around the world due to climate change, habitat loss,

invasive species, and biodiversity loss.

Many local families plan to light a few candles, haul out the board games and card decks, and enjoy a singular focus on communing with each other.

The Earth Hour website suggests stargazing, candle-lit dinners — or taking it to a grander scale by holding an event, a concert, a party.

There may be individuals and families who are doing just that, but it doesn't have to be a grand gesture — in fact, simplicity is probably not only the easiest but the most effective response, especially as a learning tool for children who are so dependent on their electronic devices. It can be a shared experience that benefits all generations — we

can all take an hour, adults and children, to remind ourselves of the importance of environmental stewardship.

Last week's climate change protest in Niagara-on-the-Lake, organized by teens, was an indication that the next generation can be the leaders. But there is still an example to be set, one of encouragement to all of us to reduce our footprint on this planet, and to develop lifestyles that are healthier for us and for our environment.

One hour of action and awareness is a tiny step, but it's better than none at all.

There are resources and kits available at earthhour.org. Should you participate and want to share your experience, the suggested hashtag is #Connect2Earth.

## LETTERS

### Dog owners urged to be responsible

Having a dog can bring a lot of joy. They can be silly and fun: certainly good companionship, and hopefully keep you fit by taking them for walks regardless of the time of day or weather. However, along

with all the joy comes responsibility.

I have noticed over the past few months that some dog owners in the area where I live, Garrison Village and The Village, let their dogs do their business

and either don't clean up or else leave the poo bags on the side of the sidewalk.

To these people I say "Act responsibly and clean up after your dog."

Stephen Cohen

### A salute to Frank and Sue Pohorly

The Fruit Shack on Niagara Stone Road is no longer open.

Frank and Sue Pohorly ran a business that certainly was a prime example of how a business should be run. It was never a hardship to stop and shop at the Fruit Shack. Every member of their team

made you feel welcome. This approach is lacking in most businesses today. They also presented agricultural produce in the best way that any advertisement cannot achieve.

I for one will miss this jewel that was one Niaga-

ra-on-the-Lake could be proud of.

Thank you Sue and Frank and your super staff. We all will miss you but you certainly have earned your rest.

All the best in your future.

Nellie Keeler

## LOCAL FINDS



### Who lies below? by Penny Coles

Generations of St. Davids children have taken lessons and enjoyed swimming in the St. Davids Pool on York Road, and on the playground nearby. Most, if not all, have at one time climbed on the fence and the stone in a tiny cemetery beside the pool, likely without giving much thought to who is buried beneath. Dorothy Walker, author of *A Village In The Shadows: The Remarkable Story of St Davids, Ontario*, tells the story: There are at least two bodies, whose names are on the stone. One is Joseph Clement, who lived from 1790 to 1867, and became a wealthy and successful businessman, farming 500 acres. The cemetery is on the property of two lots, which he could have inherited, or been deeded as the son of a United Empire Loyalist. His father, James Clement, lived and was buried on a Line 6 property. He was a courier during the War of 1812, was injured, likely from a gun shot wound to his hand, and died of sepsis. James married Catherine Crysler, who died in childbirth four months after her husband's death, leaving Joseph to care for his siblings. Joseph married twice, and had four children with his first wife and 10 with his second, Ann (Caughill) Clement, who is buried with him on what is now the Lions Park property. She lived from 1800 to 1888. Walker says there is some thought a third body is buried there as well, but she has been unable to confirm that. Joseph was reported to have been worth \$150,000 at the time of his death, a great deal of money in those days.

## LETTERS

### Welcome Back To – A “Local” Paper

I'm a bit of an old curmudgeon, a confirmed analog man in a digital world, and a "dyed in the wool" Luddite. That's why I cling to, and enjoy the experience of reading an actual hard copy newspaper at the end of the day. Sitting in my easy chair, the dogs on the floor at my feet, a glass of wine in my hand, and the news of the world at my fingertips – nothing better.

Paul Simon once wrote a song with the lyric, "I can gather all the news I need from the weather report." That's not for me, I love getting current international, national, regional, and hometown news in a format I've always enjoyed — a newspaper. Scrolling down, and having to squint at a tiny electronic device is not the same as unfolding pages of news and information you can select at a glance. Maybe because I delivered newspapers as a young gaffer is why I support them as well.

Today, with all the changes going on in the technological world, it is not surprising to see the decline and closing of many long time newsprint organizations; in particular, the small town papers. These are the ones that truly serve a small community — such as Niagara-on-the-Lake. That is sad, because the essence of a town such as ours is reflected out, and defined for residents and others, through their editorials, local news stories and home town personal and event articles.

We are lucky to have a genuine hometown newspaper again, and that is The Local. My wife and I wholeheartedly support the publisher, editor and staff; and give them a lot of credit for the effort they have put into getting this newspaper together and out to the community.

They just put out their 10th issue, and in our opinion, they have consistently captured the essence of what a small town paper should be. Their editorials have the incisiveness and sensibility not seen since the days of an earlier local paper; and their news stories and local articles are written with a genuine acquired understanding of the people of this town. This is what we need to have for our residents, both established and new.

Congratulations to The Local — "the trusted voice of our community."

Cheers,  
Rob Copeland and  
Helena Copeland  
Queenston

*Editor's Note: When The Local began receiving letters of support, we made a decision not to print them. We didn't want our opinion page to be about us, nor did we want it to appear we were seeking support in a competitive market. We thanked our letter-writers and explained our position. Rob Copeland has convinced us to reverse this decision, not only because his is such a beautifully-written letter, but because he made such a strong, passionate argument for his right to freedom of expression, and to have a letter that was not offensive or inflammatory in any way, printed in his local paper. He convinced us since we consider The Local to be the voice of the community, we need to fulfill that promise.*

*We'd like to thank our supporters whose letters we did not print, and hope they understand why we have decided to change our policy.*

## The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

437 Mississauga St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1J0

Editor:  
Penny Coles  
penny@notllocal.com  
905-246-5878

Publisher:  
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Advertising Sales:  
Karen Skeoch  
karen@notllocal.com • 905-641-5335

Julia Coles  
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

Classified Sales:  
Anna Tiedtke  
anna@notllocal.com • 905.932.2518

Multimedia Journalist:  
Lauren O'Malley  
lauren@notllocal.com

Graphic Designer:  
Rosie Gowse  
composing@notllocal.com

notllocal.com facebook.com/notllocal  
instagram.com/thenotllocal



# Teens appreciate volunteer mentors



**Bethany Polti**  
The Local Community  
Advisory Board

The award statue is appropriately named The Mentor.

Its lines are smooth, its appearance is unique. My interpretation is that the metal is sculpted to look like two people standing together, the mentor looking supportively to the mentee.

On March 5, The Chamber of Commerce Chair's Award was given to the NOTL Lord Mayor Youth Advisory Council.

Volunteer work is something all Ontario secondary school students are required to do — 40 hours are required for one to graduate. Students can start before high school and I can tell you most of us do. A conversation with many of my peers would indicate most of us have well over 40 hours. I myself have been volunteering in my local community of Niagara-on-the-Lake since I was five years old. I started with carrying the donation basket at church every Saturday evening, that led to my years as an altar server, and helping

with the Kids' Corner at the Peach Festival. Volunteering at school events, for Rotary, and many other opportunities presented themselves. Volunteering, for me and many of my friends, is much more than the hours needed for graduation. It is the whole experience and it is such a rewarding experience on so many levels.

Volunteering is that opportunity to give something to others. Some have amazing talents they share, some have special skills, others learn the skills as they volunteer. All of us, no matter how busy our lives are, make the time to give back, to give to, and to help out. This is the nature of community service and it is the nature of human beings to be there for one another. In some volunteer roles we, as teens, are the mentors.

When we step into a role, such as looking to provide a voice for NOTL youth, we are able to represent the voices of many, all the while learning important leadership skills. Being recognized for our efforts, with the Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Niagara award, was such an honour and very encouraging for this enthusiastic group of young people to continue and look to do good things for our youth and our community.

Even more motivating was the opportunity to hear about others in our community and the contributions they have made. Being among community leaders, "pillars" of NOTL, hearing what work and time they have put in to create the optimal place to live, to learn, and to grow. We were surrounded by successful people from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom were humbled to be recognized.

These people, whether they realize it or not, are our mentors. It is said that children look to the adults around them and learn or copy what they see. What I saw were adults coming over to our "teen" table and saying hello, asking us about ourselves, adults showing a genuine interest in our work and our efforts.

After the awards, I found what was most rewarding was getting to speak to some of the other award recipients. Again, many of them approached us first. We were treated as equals and with such respect!

I personally would like to thank each individual who spoke with us and demonstrated that role of mentor.

On a side note, the Outlet Collection at Niagara team was very happy to congratulate us, as I was to congratulate them — humorously we shared a red carpet "who are

you wearing" moment: the outfit pieces I was wearing were all bought at the Outlet Niagara stores.

I would like to put in some special mentions: Pat Darte nominated us; to our parents and families who continue to support us; to Joe Pillitteri who went up to start the night off with his comedy, he is really so genuinely funny, he took the time to acknowledge the youth advisory council and highlighted our efforts; to Lord Mayor Betty who always warmly welcomes us; and to the Chamber and all the members for their encouragement. The whole evening was such an award for us, as youth, and we hope we can continue this partnership for NOTL.

My motto is "Together we can achieve great things," and we saw many fine examples of people working together and achieving great things. Thank you.

Youth can do amazing things and teens are doing awesome things. I would like to be able to share stories of amazing Niagara teens and youth with everyone. If you know a Niagara youth who has a special talent, who volunteers their time, who is a great supporter of friends and family, I would love to hear about them and speak with them. I would love to highlight our

amazing teens for all to recognize the efforts they make. Please contact me, Bethany, through The Local. Do not be

shy, we want to share inspiring news. And I know the youth in Niagara have lots of inspiring stories to share.



Bethany Polti thanks the chamber for the Lord Mayor Youth Advisory Council award. (Lauren O'Malley)



The Mentor is the award statue. (Bethany Polti)

# Children's programs prepare for literacy



**Debbie Krause**  
NOTL Public Library

A little more than five years ago I began my career at the NOTL Public Library as the children's librarian.

My days were filled with story times, play dough, paint, glue and the picture book collection. Of course, in my new role as community engagement coordinator, I still get to connect with the younger demographic of our community,

but it's not the same as regularly sitting cross-legged in a circle, usually with a little one in my lap, singing Zoom, Zoom, I'm Going to the Moon, or Shaking my Sillies Out.

I have always been passionate about children's programming and this week I've chosen to write about it for two reasons: The first is that the library has hired a new children's librarian. We are very excited to welcome Kasia Dupuis to our staff and look forward to her creative vision for our children and family programming. The second reason is to remind us all about the value and

impact of children's programs in general.

Have you ever wondered what all the noise and seeming-chaos of story time has to do with early literacy? Let's be honest, most of story time is not spent reading a book. There's singing, clapping, jumping, sound effects and lots of playing. I can tell you, everything that happens during a typical story time has value and lays the foundation for learning to read, communicating effectively, and navigating the world. Singing, rhyming, clapping etc. introduces the very young to language. We don't just speak words, we

pause between them, we speed up and slow down, we use dynamics to communicate emotion. Language is complex, and before we can read it, we need to know how to use it.

Movement and play are also integral to the development of a child. It has been said that play is how children work. It is also how they learn. Through play, children develop their imagination, dexterity and physical, cognitive and emotional strength. It encourages children to creatively explore a world they can master by conquering their fears and insecurities. When play is undirected

children learn to work in groups, to share, negotiate, resolve conflicts and to advocate for themselves. They practise decision-making skills, discover their own areas of interest and develop a passion for learning.

The library takes its responsibility to the children and young families of this community seriously. Just as we strive to remain current with technology, we have also tried to be innovative with our children's programming.

For example, we will be offering a STEAM story time beginning in May. STEAM is an educational philosophy that uses sci-

ence, technology, engineering, art and math to guide children to use inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking in their play and learning. Children are encouraged to take risks, freely experiment, be persistent, embrace failure and be creative in their problem solving.

This program is specifically for the very young, aged 18 months to four years. More information will be available on line in the next couple of weeks.

I hope this column will remind you to smile when you hear noise coming from our Rotary Room — it's children at work.



## We're coming to you!

Make an appointment or come by our mobile offices and meet our staff.

**St. Davids Outreach Office - St. Davids Lions Club**  
**Tuesday, April 9 - 10AM-12:30PM**

**Wayne Gates** MPP Niagara Falls Riding [wgates-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:wgates-co@ndp.on.ca) • 905-357-0681



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*The Glass Menagerie*

Tennessee Williams' American masterpiece of beautiful dreams and cruel reality.

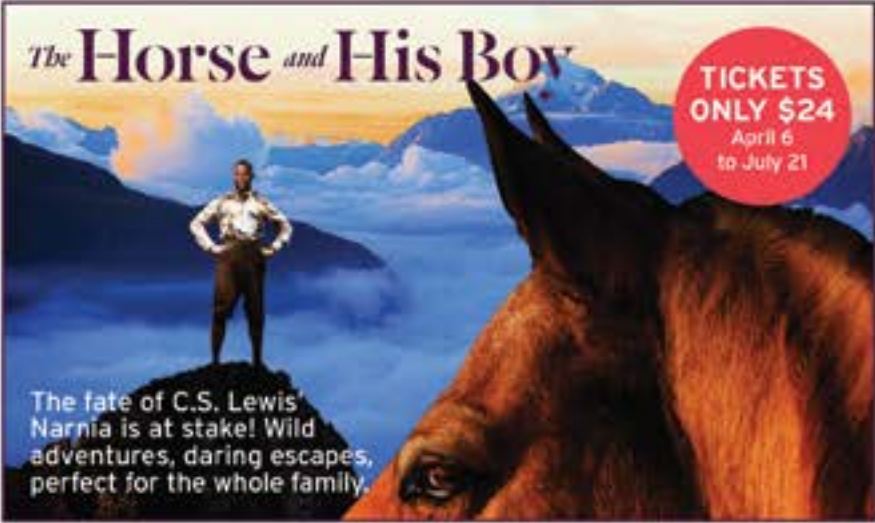
2pm: May 29; June 5  
7pm: June 9, 16  
8pm: May 24, 30; June 8, 15, 22, 26, 28



*Cyrano de Bergerac*

The love story that has been sweeping hopeless romantics off their feet since the 19th century.

1pm: July 28; August 25  
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7pm: September 1  
8pm: August 3, 7, 30



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Photos of Julia Course (*The Glass Menagerie*) and Tom Rooney (*Cyrano de Bergerac*) by Peter Andrew Lutzyk.

2019 SEASON | April 6 to December 22 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON  
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# Newark preparing for Easter

## Treats for baskets would be appreciated

**Hilary Bellis**  
Newark Neighbours

Many thanks to everyone who has already renewed their 2019 Newark Neighbours membership, and a special thanks to new members who have recently joined us — welcome.

If you haven't yet renewed or joined us as a new member, now is the time. Membership is only \$10 and helps to support our operations and food bank. Membership forms are available in the thrift shop and also on our website, [www.newarkneighbours.ca](http://www.newarkneighbours.ca).

Our 2019 annual general meeting is Friday April 5, at 1 p.m. in the Mary Snider Room in the Centennial Arena in Virgil. Please join us to hear about our activities from 2018 and our plans for 2019. We are very pleased with our progress this year and are anxious to share our news with all our members.

We are beginning to prepare for our Easter food baskets program for our registered food bank clients. If you are a registered client and wish to receive an Easter basket, please notify us between March 8 and

April 8. Please contact us at 905-468-3519 or stop by our location to talk to one of our volunteers to be sure we have you on our list.

In order to prepare for distribution Thursday, April 18, our thrift store will close for the Easter holiday Wednesday, April 17.

We will reopen after the holidays on Tuesday, April 23.

Items we are currently low on are salted soup crackers, Beefaroni, canned chili and beef or chicken chunky soups.

We also would be appreciative of any Easter treats that we could add to our upcoming baskets. Items we can use in the store are blankets, warm men's boots and hoodies.

We would like to thank Reif Estate Winery for its continuous support with the Taste for Hunger program. By bringing a non-expired, non-perishable food donation to Reif during the month of March you will receive a complimentary wine tasting at the wine bar. Please enjoy the wines while helping out Newark.

Our Sunday opening hours will resume on April 7 and will continue until the fall. Sunday opening hours are the same as during the week: Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please bring donations to 310 John Street East (just off the Riverbend Inn driveway). For more information call 905-468-3519 or visit [www.newarkneighbours.ca](http://www.newarkneighbours.ca).



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# Friends helping Friends of Fort George

The Irish Design store in town has generously contributed funds to support various fundraising events and Canada Day for the Friends of Fort George over the past few years, says Tony Chisholm, the

president of the Friends.

Tuesday morning he presented a plaque to Paul and Maureen Dickson as a thank you for their continued support of Canada Day celebrations. Their generosity has proven to

be a very helpful measure of support from the community, says Chisholm. "They are always willing to step forward for this local charity."

Paul Dickson says he has "been pleased to

contribute needed funds to the Friend's successful events at Fort George during Canada Day celebrations."

Paul and Maureen have been donating now for more than a decade and are considered valuable partners in supporting

the volunteers who work with the Friends of Fort George.

The Friends of Fort George is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with Parks Canada to preserve, promote and protect the heritage of Niagara National

Historic Sites.

Through special events and the operation of two gift shops, the Friends of Fort George generate awareness and funds to support student summer employment opportunities at Fort George and Brock's Monument.



Paul Dickson from Irish Design on Queen Street accepts a plaque from Tony Chisholm, president of the Friends of Fort George, in recognition for the support of Paul and Maureen Dickson for Friends activities. (Photo supplied)

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**277 RICARDO STREET \$3,885,000**



A rare opportunity to own this spectacular one of a kind residence located in a most coveted position at the mouth of the Niagara River. Historic neoclassic design with lovely pool and gazebo overlooking the dock and boat launch. Sophisticated classical architecture combined with a prime location. **MLS 30682989. Bonnie Grimm.**

**10 LUCIA COURT \$749,000**



Perfect retirement property located on a quiet cul-de-sac in a great area of town. Features main floor master bedroom with ensuite; wood floors; lovely open concept kitchen; gas fireplace and 2 doors that lead out to the deck, patio space and private rear yard. The upper level has 2 bedrooms with Jack & Jill ensuite. Finished lower level has a large recreational room; bedroom and a three-piece bath. This lovely home is within walking distance of downtown shops, restaurants, wineries and theatres. **MLS 30684870. Victoria Bolduc & Sarah Gledie.**

**8 MCFARLAND GATE \$1,775,000**



A rare find in town situated on a gorgeous 1.1-acre ravine lot, located on a prestigious cul-de-sac. This custom built 2 storey Tudor of timeless design offers 4 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms. 3 wood burning fireplaces, 5037 sq. ft. of finished living space. Walkout to the breathtaking backyard canopied by Mature trees stretching down to the meandering creek and beyond or enjoy a peaceful and enjoyable setting for company on the expansive wood deck which wraps around the entire rear of the home. A must-see property! **MLS 30686681. Chris Bowron, Audrey Wright & Nicole Vanderperk.**

**341 LAKESHORE ROAD \$999,999**



A unique opportunity to own a 2.46-acre estate in Niagara on the Lake just minutes from St. Catharines and historic old town. Almost 2000 sq. ft. Side Split and outbuilding set on a rolling hill well back from Lakeshore, surrounded by trees, expansive lawns, a meandering creek and farmland and features a beautiful backyard with in ground concrete pool. **MLS 30684112. Chris Bowron, Audrey Wright & Nicole Vanderperk.**

**61 FRONTIER DRIVE \$649,000**



A beautifully appointed, custom built, raised bungalow with 2070 sq. ft. of finished living space situated at the end of a quiet cul de sac in the village of Virgil and nestled against a beautiful spruce forest. The open concept 3+1 bedroom design is light and airy and has been maintained as new. There is access from the great room to a private raised deck overlooking a well stocked fenced garden. Easy walking distance to crossroads school, restaurants and shops. **MLS 30717514. Viviane Elltoft & Thomas Elltoft.**

**11 MURRAY STREET \$839,000**



Located in The Village, this pristine bungalow provides over 3200 sq. ft. of finished living space with exceptional quality and taste. Entertaining is made easy with open concept main floor living, an upper loft providing ample space for guests, a fully finished lower level and private rear courtyard. With hardwood floors, character moulding and high-end fixtures, this gleaming home can't fail to impress. Restaurants, wineries, shops, town library and community centre are all within easy walking distance. **MLS 30687159. Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft.**

**377 GAGE STREET \$949,000**



A rare 117 x 211 foot cleared lot on a quiet cul de sac in the old town of Niagara on the Lake within easy walking distance of the golf course and main street shops, restaurants and theatres. There is an approved building permit for the foundation. Municipal and regional development fees have been paid. Sewer, water and culvert have been installed. Plans for a 5000 square foot bungalow are available upon request. **MLS 30655229. Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft.**

**8 LUCIA COURT \$939,900**



Outstanding custom-built bungalow located in a quiet and sought-after neighbourhood. This versatile home features brand new hardwood flooring on the main floor, an impressive cathedral ceiling, 2 gas fireplaces, central vac and custom detailing throughout with over 3200 square feet of finished living space. The spacious open concept floor plan offers an effortless flow perfect for entertaining and includes convenient main floor master suite. This is a superior home located in an exclusive community close to walking trails, wineries and only blocks from main street shops, restaurants and theatres. **MLS 30705901. Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft.**

**5 CHRISTOPHER \$1,175,000**



Custom-built bungalow on a secluded cul-de-sac in the Old Town. The large, pie-shaped lot abuts a gentle stream and mature trees, running the width of the back garden. This 2,000 sq. ft. home offers a floor plan designed for retirement main floor living. Your large master suite is secluded in one wing of the home, offering a walk out to the large private deck. A bright, spacious kitchen is the hub of the home with a walkout, casual eating, and a Butlers Servery to complement your formal entertaining. The second main floor bedroom offers ensuite privilege with a large extra bedroom available on the lower level. An extra-large family room features a third wood burning fireplace, expansive built-in cabinets, wet bar and walkout to a private garden patio. **MLS 30701002. Marilyn Francis.**

**9 THE PROMENADE \$770,000**



Stunning bungalow with a great location in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This desirable address in a quiet neighbourhood is a close walk to the commons and downtown village. The new kitchen has granite countertops and both main floor bathrooms have been totally renovated. Book your showing today! **MLS 30689883. Trish Badham & Cheryl Carmichael.**

**420 GATE STREET \$1,399,000**



Fully renovated "modern farmhouse" two storey home just blocks away from the main street. 57.8 x 211 Lot with 3+1 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. Hardwood floors throughout, spacious living spaces and fully finished basement. 18x18 covered back deck and board & batten fence for privacy. All new stainless-steel appliances. **MLS 30714895. Cheryl Carmichael.**

**48 WEATHERSTONE COURT \$779,000**



Weatherstone Court is a small unique group of town homes surrounding a central green space and bounded by the old stone wall of a large estate. This bright and airy freehold town home with approx. 2300 sq. ft. of finished space features an open foyer with lofty ceilings and elegant stairway leading up to two large bedrooms with ensuites. The kitchen is upgraded with light cabinetry, granite counters and sunny dinette area. A formal dining room, living room with gas f/p, laundry and upgraded powder room complete the main floor and the lower level is fully finished. **MLS 30700507. Thomas Elltoft & Viviane Elltoft.**

Christopher Bowron\*\*\* 905-468-2269  
Victoria Bolduc\* 905-941-3726  
Philip Bowron\* 905-348-7626  
Bonnie Grimm\* 905-468-1256  
Kim Elltoft\*\* 905-380-8011  
Randall Armstrong\*\* 905-651-2977  
Audrey Wright\* 289-241-0212

Nicole Vanderperk\* 905-941-4585  
Trish Badham\* 905-262-1876  
Viviane Elltoft\* 905-468-2142  
Thomas Elltoft\* 905-380-8012  
Cheryl Carmichael\* 905-941-0276  
Sarah Gledie\* 905-685-2458  
Robert Wilkinson\* 905-380-3851

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**9 THE PROMENADE**  
**28 ABERDEEN LANE S**  
**420 GATE STREET**  
**48 WEATHERSTONE CRT**  
**SUNDAY 2-4 PM**



# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## AA MEETING

every  
Wednesday evening,  
at 8:00 pm to  
9:00 pm  
at

St. Mark's Parish Hall  
41 Byron St.,  
Niagara-on-the-Lake

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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

contact  
anna@notllocal.com

Visit us online at:  
www.notllocal.com

## NOTL NEWCOMERS CLUB

March 29 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am

NOTL Newcomers Coffee & Conversations. Held the last Friday of the month at the NOTL Community Centre, in the Simpson Room, 14 Anderson Lane, NOTL. We meet from September to June with the last Coffee of the year the end of May. All women new to the community are welcome. The NOTL Newcomers Club is a social club for women who've moved to the NOTL community within the past three years and want to get to know people and the area. Learn More about the NOTL Newcomers at notlnewcomers.com.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

March 30 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00

FALCONS OF FREEDOM FILM SCREENING Join us for a screening of the Polish documentary about the Polish army at Camp Kosciuszko in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Free admission. To view trailer and register please visit:

www.niagarahistorical.museum/events/index.html

## FAMILY FRIENDLY ART STUDIO

March 31 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Drop in to the Family Friendly Art Studio at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre to make your own artwork. An opportunity for the family to explore art and get creative. Families are encouraged to see the exhibition in the gallery and then get their hands messy working on their own artwork in the studio.

## FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Wednesday, April 3rd

LEGENDARY LADIES OF COUNTRY

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## FAMILY FISH FRY

Friday, April 5th ~ 4:30 - 7pm  
(take out available) • 1-Pc \$8, 2-Pc \$12

Price includes: Coleslaw,  
bread, french fries,  
baked potato, coffee/tea.  
Alcohol Available.

Leave the  
cooking to us!



Lions Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St. Davids  
www.stdavidslions.ca @ stdavidslions on Facebook  
Next Family Fish Fry ~ Friday, April 19th

## NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CONSERVANCY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 P.M.

at Addison Hall  
- St. Mark's Church

Guest Speaker:

Lord Mayor Betty Disero



Julie Ponesse paints a Niagara vineyard in bright, light colours. (Photos supplied)



Dan Pigeon paints the same scene from the same photograph, using an abstract style and moody colours.

# Two artists, two styles, one exhibit

## Penny Coles The Local

One artist paints in oils, the other in acrylic.

One artist's works are impressionistic, the other abstract.

And one tends to choose shades dark and moody, the other leans toward bright, light and colourful.

Both draw inspiration from Niagara landscapes, and although they may see and interpret what they see differently, they paint with the shared goal of artists: hoping to capture something meaningful, something viewers will find speaks to them.

Dan Pigeon and Julie Ponesse are collaborating on Common Ground, an exhibit opening April 2 at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, with six paintings, each displayed side by side. A reception will be held Thursday, April 4, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The two artists have known each other for years. Pigeon grew up in Niagara, still has family here, and now lives and works in Toronto. Ponesse discovered Niagara-on-the-Lake as a visitor, lived here for about five years while she worked at Niagara University in the U.S., and now splits her time between NOTL and London, where she teaches philosophy at

Western University. She likes to spend her summers in town working on sketches, and then paints from them while at home in London during the winter months.

Pigeon explains the exhibit's name has multiple meanings — the most obvious, the "common inspiration" the artists have found in area landscapes and their shared awe of the unique light found in Niagara.

It's the light that attracts her, says Ponesse — there is much that is unique about NOTL, but to the artist, it's the quality of light that draws her to paint local landscapes. "It's unlike any other, with possibly the exception of Italy. I don't know whether it's the water, or the escarpment — the reason doesn't matter. I just see that pink light as it floats across the vineyard, and I think about how I would paint it."

Viewers of the exhibit will be able to see the journey the two artists took to get to their finished paintings, which started with photographs of Niagara landscapes they had taken separately, and had planned to paint, said Ponesse.

Each sorted through their images, choosing the ones that had meaning to them. They stayed away from the typical tourist destinations such as Niagara Falls, she said, and decided on six views that would speak to locals — among them vineyards, which are familiar to everyone who lives in or visits Niagara, as well as some beautiful images of farmers' fields, and the Niagara River — and decided on six they would each then paint.

"We thought it would be interesting to work from the same images, in our own style, and then display them side by side to see how artists capture images differently, and also to see the similarities."

Because they had to agree to some of the other's photos, "we both had to work outside our comfort zones. This challenged us, and I'm excited to see how it all comes together."

Others familiar with their work have been a little surprised, knowing how differ-

ent their styles are — Pigeon's is strong and graphic, with his moody colours, in contrast with the work of Ponesse who loves light and colour.

"You look at the paintings we've done and you can see the same image, but really different takes on that image," she says.

It's an indication that as artists "we're not just trying to recreate a photo, we're capturing its essence. We're painting the same image, but we're seeing it differently."

Her experience with plein air painting is similar — there can be five to 10 artists all lined up facing the same view, she says, all looking at the same thing, but one artist might have as a focus some detail the others didn't even notice.

"It tells you how much people see the world differently, yet we're still very connected. There is still this universality between us."

That holds true for the images captured for this exhibit, she says.

"At the base of each painting is the structure, the foundation, like the scaffolding of a building. It's like taking a black and white photograph and adding the colour, the light and the detail, and they become very different."

The process was one of self-discovery, she says, because "when we chose our photos, we didn't necessarily get our way. Dan chose one with low contrast, a moody farmer's field. I left it to the end to paint, knowing it would be difficult for me."

She quotes musician David Bowie: "If you feel comfortable in the field you are working in, you're not working in the right area."

"It was a good challenge for me. It's important to keep propelling yourself forward. It helps when you're facing the next challenge, shifting gears and moving forward. I couldn't just abandon the painting. I definitely feel rewarded that I accepted the challenge and that I'm prepared for the next one. I'll be less fearful to take it on."

She said it has helped to realize she doesn't want to be too comfortable in the style

for which her work is recognized. "I'll always be after the sense of light, trying to get something to glow from within," she says, but at the same time she relishes the idea of tackling something new.

Her next show is primarily figurative, "something new for me, but I'm carrying some of the confidence from this show forward to the next one."

At the moment, though, she's gearing up for the pumphouse exhibit, and the reception, which will give the artists the opportunity to see viewers' reactions to their work.

During her days as a budding artist, she says, she used to be very self-conscious of her work leading up to the opening of a show, asking herself, "Is it good enough? Will people like it?"

Now, she's more likely to want to know "Does it touch you, does it reach you, give you a feeling? Are you seeing what I saw, or something different?"

She enjoys the reaction of the viewers, but for different reasons — she knows what they see in her work is personal, drawing on their own past experience.

This exhibit, she imagines they will be remembering places they've been — maybe the common ground will be Niagara, or possibly they will be remembering somewhere completely different — all that matters is the art touches them, as the landscapes spoke to the artists who painted them.

"We keep saying these paintings are our collective love letters to Niagara," she says.

Common Ground is at the pumphouse, until April 28.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is at 247 Ricardo Street. It is a not-for-profit community-based organization celebrating its 25th anniversary.

For more information about events, including several events to acknowledge its milestone anniversary, visit [www.niagarapumphouse.ca](http://www.niagarapumphouse.ca).

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# Hundreds of dresses, shoes and suits await

Niagara high school students don't have to spend a fortune on clothes, thanks to Prom Project

**Lauren O'Malley**  
The Local

Prom night can strike fear in the hearts of parents and youth alike. While it should be a joyous time, there are social expectations that go along with it: dates, parties — and the usually very expensive crucial outfit.

and 1:30 p.m., and don an outfit of their choice. Nicole Smith of EFN says there are “hundreds and hundreds” of outfits to choose from; used and new, modern and retro. “Over 70 racks of items — shoes too.” “It's the best day; it's so much fun,” says the event and communications officer. “It's like a

them find the perfect look. There are even seamstresses in place to make alterations on the spot. Local and corporate sponsors have also made it possible to primp for the big night with cologne and make-up; coupons for hair salons; corsages and boutonnières, and dry cleaning. “It's all free, they get to keep everything,” says Smith. “I like to tell them, ‘This is not the only time you're going to need a suit.’”

The event even supplies jewellery and ties. “By the time we're done, they're all ready to go,” she says. “Kids walk out smiling, confident, knowing they're going to look good. The volunteers come back year after year because it's so rewarding.” The annual event started in 2009, serving 34 students in its first year. They now expect between 400 and 500 participants to show up at one of the three locations involved:



There are three locations in Niagara, including the DSBN Academy in St. Catharines, where prom clothes will be available April 6. (Photo supplied)

DSBN Academy in St. Catharines, Beamsville Secondary School, or the Fort Erie Race Track. “This primarily started to help low-income families, but now we're finding middle-income people are coming too, because it's hard to make ends meet,” says Smith. “Prom Project Niagara believes graduation and prom are life-defining occasions for students, and

that every student deserves to have their moment in the sun, regardless of their financial restrictions,” says Laura Byers, executive director of the Education Foundation of Niagara. Donations are still welcome, and can be dropped off at any PenFinancial credit union location, or other spots listed on the Foundation website. Clothing will also be

accepted all day at the event. The event is also still seeking volunteers. The Education Foundation of Niagara is a registered charity that supports DSBN students in financial need. For more information, to donate, or to participate, visit [www.efnniagara.ca](http://www.efnniagara.ca) or contact Nicole Smith at 905-641-2929 ext. 37710 or [nicole.smith@dsbn.org](mailto:nicole.smith@dsbn.org).

“ Kids walk out smiling, confident, knowing they're going to look good. ”  
*Nicole Smith*

Enter the Education Foundation of Niagara's Prom Project Niagara. Grade 8 and Grade 12 students from across the region, regardless of school or board, can visit one of three locations on April 6 between 9:30 a.m. big shopping mall day for free with the inventory we have. Some of it is brand spanking new. They can see what fits them and what they like.” The on-site volunteers are happy to guide people through the racks and help

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SCHOOLS

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Madison Giampa, Sam Vanderlee, and Shay Vidal display their Heritage Fair projects. (Photo supplied)

## Fair showcases heritage

**Hannah Kumarage and Madison Giampa**  
St. Michael students

Every year the Grade 6 and 8 students at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School participate in a school-wide Heritage Fair.

The fair allows us to investigate a Canadian topic of our own choosing, such as a person, place or event, and create a project proving its importance to our

Canadian heritage.

Students become the experts and create a presentation with a board and a creative piece (slide show, model, art piece etc.).

On Wednesday, students were going to be showcasing their projects to the students and parents in our school community. Several students were to be judged on their projects and the top six will attend the Catholic

school board's Heritage Fair at Brock University. In the past, St. Michael students have been very successful at the Regional Fair and with some of our students advancing to the Provincial Heritage Fair in Toronto.

All our students have worked quite hard to express an aspect of Canada's heritage and have taught fellow students about Canada's great history.

## Art, Lego, games clubs for students

**Zoe Anger and Grace Healy**  
St. Michael students

We have many different clubs at St. Michael School, which have kept us busy during this long cold winter. We have started some new clubs this year such as the Art club, Lego club, Board games club and Tchoukball intramurals. Student leaders have come up with new ideas for our clubs and activities.

Some of our previous clubs like Rosary Club, Choir, Irish Dance, Chess and ECO continue.

The students at St. Michael enjoy the clubs a lot plus we get to try out new things.

## Two students advance to provincial competition

Every year, students at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School submit entries to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 124 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Remembrance Day competition includes essays, poems or posters in either colour or black and white. This year St. Michael students came up on top with several winning entries, two of whom, Treesha Ray and Matthew Murray, will

advance to the provincial division.

### Colour Poster Category Winners

Avery Williams  
Vanessa Rezza  
Audrey Rapone  
Natascha Steltman  
Leah Luton  
Mira Strickland  
Gracie McCarthy  
Nathaniel Moncion  
Sofia Vetrone  
Janiece Strangroom

Amelie Merrill  
Madison Giampa

### Black & White Poster Category Winners

Brayden Sacco  
Ava Catinari  
Ethan Dulas  
Sienna Lalonde  
Jack Friesson  
Klarysa Harrington

### Poem Category Winners

Ella Murray

Simon Regier  
R.J. Luton  
Carter Lalonde  
Braden Grealy  
Mikaila Amio  
Olivia Serluca

### Essay Category Winners

Treesha Ray  
Emma LaValle  
Alex Amodeo  
Matthew Murray  
Mateo Grusso  
Brandon Taylor



Owen Nzouankeu, Edwin Thom, Emily Ganski, Marla Serluca, Milania Guinta, Christian Tomic, Jensen Paugh, and Maya Hubbard play at the Lego wall in a club at St. Michael. (Photo supplied)



Fabian Ornelas-Nevarez is part of the Lego Club. (Photo supplied)

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# IT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME!

## Give Back & Grow Your Garden Experience #GROWniagara

Submitted by  
Mori Gardens

On April 1st, Mori Gardens is proud to open for its 45th season, offering beautiful plants, expert advice, award-winning designs and rentals of both plants and venue to assist in clients' garden experience.

As a family-owned business, Mori Gardens has always believed in giving back to the Niagara community because it's only through that kind of community support that everyone grows together. As part of their 45th year in business, Mori Gardens will continue their support for local organizations, returning as the presenting sponsor for both the Shaw Guild Garden Tour and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Garden Tour.

Additionally, Mori Gardens has chosen to increase its contribution to a community resource and preferred charity near and dear to the Mori Family and their friends, Niagara-on-the-Lake Communi-

ty Palliative Care, a "vibrant organization dedicated to helping the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake and their families cope with life-threatening illnesses through compassionate care."

"As we grew excited for Spring, our Garden Team discussed how we could give back further to NOTL Community Palliative Care this year, both through monetary support as well as through recognition of this selfless community service," say Tonie Mori and her son Miguel.

This year, Attendance fees for Mori Gardens' weekly Saturday Garden Seminar Series will be in-part donated to Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care. Mori Gardens is proud to further support the charity by matching seminar attendee fees up to \$2,000.

If you've never experienced a garden seminar at Mori Gardens, these casual, fun events are hosted by an award-winning designer and garden

expert, with great tips for the sprouting gardener, the green thumb enthusiast and everyone in-between.

Seminar attendees gain assistance on garden projects, learn how to increase the beauty, usage and value of their property, and now they can take pride in supporting a great community organization while exploring their love of gardening.

Join the fun at Mori Gardens on Saturdays at 10 a.m. running weekly until June 8th. The attendee drop-in rate is \$5, Mori Gardens Membership holders attend for free, and additional donations are always welcome. Those who register in advance also have a chance to win door prizes at each garden seminar.

Garden enthusiasts can register online, on Mori Gardens' website or by calling 905-468-7863.

Join Mori Gardens in celebration of their 45th season, while giving back to your community and growing your garden experience. #GROWniagara

# #GROWNiagara



Tonie Mori at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society appreciation event in the Oasis Space at Mori Gardens. (Photo supplied)

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# IT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME!

## Hardwood flooring always stunning and now so practical in vinyl

### Submitted by Imperial Hardwood Flooring

Many people are choosing to rip out their existing carpets and replacing them with hardwood or laminate. Hardwood creates a stunning new look in your home. One of the first things we hear from customers when we are finished the job is how much larger and amazing their home looks. They are so easy to keep clean, just sweep or damp mop occasionally, they alleviate health problems such as asthma and allergies, and the 25 year warranty will keep them looking like new.

New flooring is definitely an investment that will last a lifetime, adding beauty and value to your home. There are so many different styles, options, colours and textures to choose from. You may have also heard the term "luxury vinyl plank." Vinyl has really made a strong impact on the market in the last five

to six years. There are several manufacturers that make a 100% waterproof vinyl product, making it ideal for stress-free living, especially for those homeowners with pets or children. Most people think of the 60's style linoleum when we talk about vinyl

flooring. This is definitely not your grandmother's old floor. Vinyl comes in long planks that have the look and feel of real hardwood or in squares that look like ceramic tile. You can get them in virtually any colour, style or texture.

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isting hardwood flooring, making it look brand new, at a fraction of the cost of new hardwood.

Located on Read Road, the store has well over 5000 different samples of hardwood flooring, laminate flooring, luxury vinyl tile and plank, and

carpet. Doing business with an Authorized Dealer will offer you not only guaranteed quality service and installation, but the reassurance that you will receive the best product available without the hassles or worrying about what to do if something goes wrong. Imperial Hardwood also carries the old-fashioned 3/8" x 1 1/2" or 1 3/4" oak or maple strip flooring, making renovations and repairs of older homes possible.

The personalized service customers receive at Imperial Hardwood Flooring is second to none. The store completes its own installations as opposed to contracting the work out. The owner, Jurgen Heinrichs, personally oversees all estimates and installations, ensuring total customer satisfaction. Imperial Hardwood Flooring is proud to provide superior quality for a reasonable price.

For more information, call 905-937-2189 or visit the store at 580 Read Road in St Catharines.



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# IT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME!

## Add a water feature to your garden

Submitted by  
**Darrell Boer and  
Jolanda Broekema  
Regal Florist &  
Garden Centre**

Spring is in the air, as the grass is getting greener, our thoughts escape to the sights, sounds and scents of our garden retreats. We realize how ever-changing this little piece of heaven we call our garden really is.

Looking ahead to the coming season, our imagination takes us to all the ways we can enhance the character of our outdoor living and take it from ordinary to extraordinary.

Soothing sounds. What better way to create a relaxing oasis than to add the calming influence of a fountain? Outdoor water fountains have many benefits including a peaceful ambiance and the ability to drown out ambient noise. When we think of fountains, many people visualize a three-tiered traditional style in concrete. So much has changed! Al-

though concrete fountains remain very popular; in many cases timeless, modern and contemporary styles in fiberglass and resin have become quite fashionable. Both offer the advantage of being

lightweight and less expensive. Create a relaxing focal point in your garden space by choosing from the amazing selection of gorgeous fountains at Regal Florist and Garden Centre.



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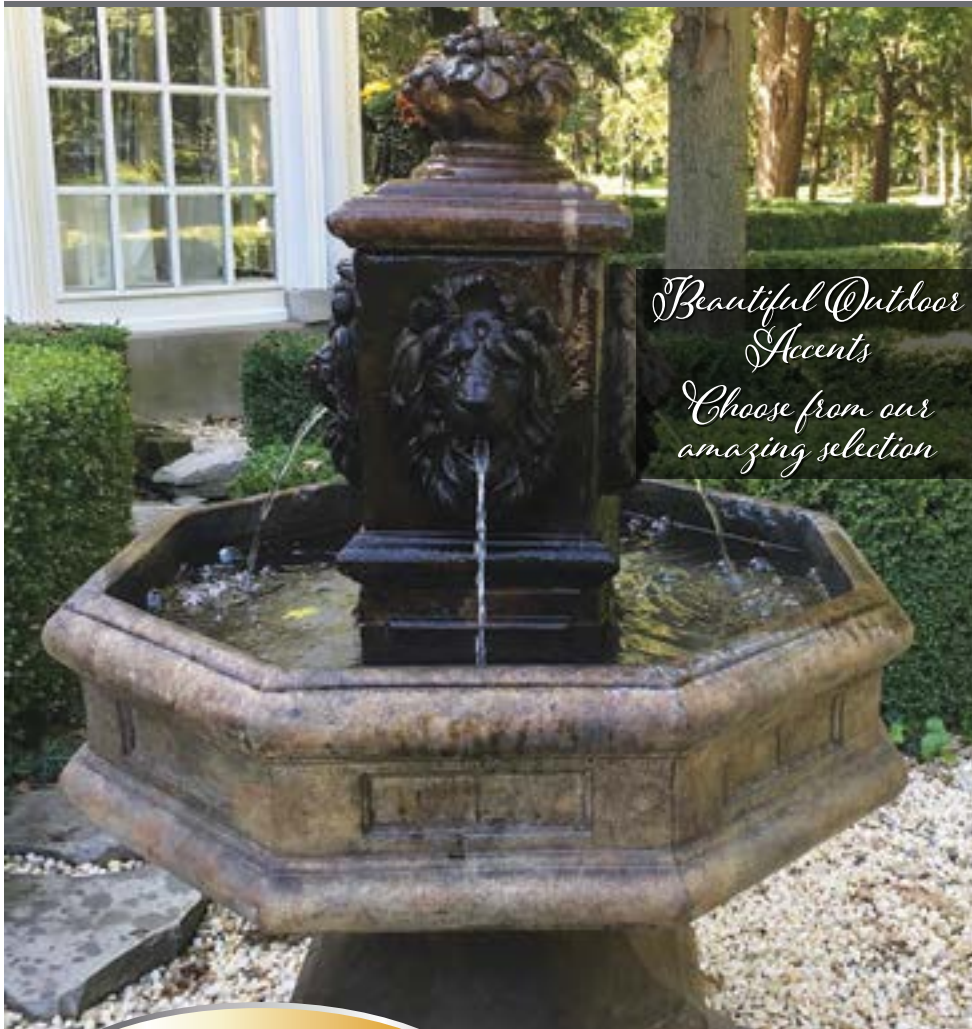
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# IT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME!

## How to select the right garage door

Submitted by  
**Brian Schmidt**  
Overhead Door  
St. Catharines

If you're in the market for a new garage door, you have a lot of choices. As with any home improvement purchase, it's important to choose the right brand. The Overhead Door™ Brand has been trusted for more than 95 years and provides an exclusive network of professional distributors and technicians who pride themselves on delivering superior products and expert service.

Do you want to add more curb appeal to make your home "pop?" Just change the garage door, and take it from basic to beautiful. Learn how you can amp up your curb appeal by selecting your next garage door from many different style options, materials, colors and accessories.

When choosing

your new garage door, for most homeowners, nothing is more important than the style and design. Learn more about the three types of styles

that you'll find with most garage doors—traditional, carriage house, and modern — and find one that suits you and your home.

What your new garage door is made of will determine its appearance, how long your door will last, its durability, and how much

annual maintenance it will require. Learn more about the varied door material options including steel, vinyl, wood, and aluminum, and

determine which one best suits your climate and home.

The amount of insulation you need in your garage door depends on your region. With the garage usually being the primary entrance to the home, and with living space often above or beside it, it's best to keep the temperature in the garage as comfortable as possible. Learn more about the benefits of garage door insulation and considerations for your regional climate and home.

There are many things that can influence the price of a garage door, such as style, type of material, and size. Overhead Door™ garage doors offer a complete line of selections ranging from premium to economical and everything in between. Learn about what to keep in mind when considering a garage door system purchase.



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# IT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME!

## Colour and sustainability are at the forefront at Creek Road Paints

Submitted by  
Creek Road Paints

Paint like no other. Discover a different kind of paint store at Creek Road Paints, a Benjamin Moore store. For all the latest colour trends, sustainable design decisions, wallpaper patterns, window coverings and products to fit all your project needs. From start to finish, they have you covered.

From sustainability to the resurgence of floral printed papers, find the latest design and decorating trends to create the space that's right for you.

In 2019, sustainability is at the forefront of design, making more strategic and conscious decisions not just about our palettes, but the type of products we use to build and renovate our homes, and the effect they will have on the environment. By choosing Benjamin Moore paints,

you are choosing a "Green Promise" product that recognizes the demand for the growing population, but understands the way we build is a determining factor in the efforts to address climate change.

The trend of sustainable practices also translates into the materials used. Natural, organic materials like wood, grasscloth and stone are dominant in design decisions today, intended to bring the outdoors in — illustrating the important relationship between humankind and nature to maintain a balance of the elements. As well as sustainable, hand-made pieces to accent your home.

The colour of the year for 2019 is Metropolitan, AF-690, which is defined as a comforting and effortlessly sophisticated grey that finds common ground in any space. It's adaptable, balanced and has a nice neutrality that creates a

softness in a matte finish, and shines with sheen.

Benjamin Moore's 2019 is "a palette of hues, ranging from neutrals, to rich blues and greens that all help to compliment Metropolitan."

As well as balanced and bold hues, we are also seeing a rise in feminine tones — dusty pink and blushes, as well as layering greys, helping the modern home find its softer side.

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# Brownies learn about career choices

## Lord mayor, neonatal nurse, firefighter and teacher present female role models

**Lauren O'Malley**  
The Local

If the recent Brownies career night is any indication, the Niagara-on-the-Lake fire department can expect an influx of about a dozen young women recruits in a decade or so.

Mandi McLellan, a St. Catharines firefighter, was on hand with her in-depth knowledge, and her full set of gear — and she was very popular with the group of girls from Grades 2 and 3.

The town may experience an onslaught of female mayoral candidates in a while too: the girls were very intrigued by Lord Mayor Betty Disero's tales of local government.

"Brown Owl" Brenda Benoit Ferguson has been volunteering with the local Girl Guides groups for four years, beginning with Sparks, and now with Brownies. This was the first career night she has organized, and she had a couple of goals in mind.

She sourced women from four careers that could be appropriate for any gender, with two that have tended to skew male: firefighter and mayor. "What better way to show them women can do anything," she said. She also invited a high school teacher, and a neonatal nurse.

Benoit Ferguson asked each participant to be completely transparent about their career path. "I wanted the girls to know that if you don't know what you want to do for a living that's okay, and if you want to change, change," she said.

The girls were split into four groups and rotated around the hall, spending about 15 to 20 minutes with each professional representative.

Laura Quinn Borges, the neonatal nurse, explained she is a nurse because she wants to help people. She brought a tiny doll and a one-pound block of butter, indicating how small a premature baby can be. She also provided special feeding syringes and other tools only seen in hospital settings. The Brownies focused on feeding the doll, and soothing it with touch.

The high school teacher, Ann Deuerlein, was playful and clever with her "students," starting off one of her sessions by saying, "Every teacher needs a coffee," with a laugh. Deuerlein went on to describe the importance of school eco clubs. "I brought in things for the Enviro Club: refillable water bottles, a composter — it was wicked," she said. "If your school doesn't have an eco club, ask for one."

She also urged the kids to think beyond grades. "Set your goals not just for marks, but also for friendships, and creativity, and fun, and other good things too," she said.

Lord Mayor Disero brought the children through the history and the present of local government. She explained the end of slavery started here in NOTL, and also discussed the Dish With One Spoon treaty. She explained municipal government's role in the everyday aspects of life: "Every road, every stop

sign, every public tree, the flowers lining the streets, the community centre, the houses you live in — all of it has to go to council in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We have to discuss it, and take it to experts," she explained.

But it was the firefighter who had the most engaged crowds. Girls dressed as astronauts, horseback riders, nurses, doctors, police officers and veterinarians were eager to discuss trauma and rescue — and also to try on McLellan's heavy coat, big boots, pants with suspenders, and protective hat.

Some answers she provided included, "Yes, we put out car fires. We work together with police and paramedics as a team," and, "Yes, we can rescue people out of trees, out of holes, off cliffs, out of water, out of ice."

She explained she had been doing some frozen water training just recently. "I was floating in ice water a couple of weeks ago for 45 minutes and wasn't cold," she said, citing her very effective specially-designed equipment.

Benoit Ferguson, who didn't miss out on her own chance to try on the firefighting gear, was grateful to the women who participated in the event, and thrilled with the outcome.

"I left the hall smiling ear to ear," said the Brownie leader.

"Hearing the girls ask their questions and being so engaged was the goal for this evening. These are moments that will help inspire them and show them they can do and be anything they want to be. I know I was inspired."



Jillian Drayyer and Daphne Cadeau explore career options. (Lauren O'Malley)



Eva and Ellie Grealy, Eva Smith, and Olivia Ferguson listen, rapt, to firefighter Mandi McLellan. (Lauren O'Malley)



Eva and Ellie Grealy, Eva Smith, and Olivia Ferguson learn about local history from Lord Mayor Betty Disero. (Lauren O'Malley)



Eva Grealy tries on being a firefighter for size. (Lauren O'Malley)



# Community involvement could save lagoons

## Less costly ‘let it be’ solution for lagoons often overlooked

**Owen Bjorgan**  
Nature in NOTL

If you were to check out a satellite image of the Golden Horseshoe (the region covering Niagara to the Greater Toronto Area), you can spot a peculiar characteristic.

Using your finger, you can trace the Lake Ontario shoreline from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Hamilton, to Toronto, and all the way out to Cobourg. Throughout this whole stretch, almost the entire shoreline is either urbanized or agricultural land.

NOTL has a rarity though — it appears to be the only municipality at this end of Lake Ontario where old-growth forest meets the shore, as it did more than 12,000 years ago.

Ever since I started exploring the federal military lands on Lakeshore Road as a kid, I have always marvelled at the habitat complexity found there. In a small area, you’ve got towering mature Carolinian forest, coastal marshes, forested wetlands, and a gritty, relatively undisturbed

shoreline. This combination doesn’t appear anywhere else on the map in the Golden Horseshoe. However, this is what the majority of Lake Ontario’s shoreline once looked like.

There is an area of this property that has been causing two types of stink as of late. The two sewage ponds are confirmed to be decommissioned, but what is to happen with them now?

The Region appears to support filling the ponds in, resulting in an open landscape that would eventually regenerate into a meadow, and then a forest. The second option, which is to simply let them be, is far less costly and would continue to provide for the existing ecosystem, as NOTL’s Harmony Group of residents has actively promoted.

I believe both options have environmental benefit. One creates a new type of habitat on the property and quickly removes the “stinkma” surrounding it, but at a significant cost to do the work. The other option is truly simple, an often over-looked “just let it be” approach that sometimes

applies very appropriately to natural ecosystems. Although these two ponds were created artificially, they have been established for so long now they have effectively become part of the natural system.

The Region is saying that without the provided water to these ponds from sewage treatment, they would eventually dry up. The ponds have been established for so long though, I objectively question how quickly, if at all, these ponds would ever go dry. I think a proper soil and hydrological study needs to be conducted, if it hasn’t already, or at least revisited. We need to understand the dynamic of the drainage and soil type associated with these ponds. If it seems unlikely the ponds will eventually dry up, then you’ve got my vote to keep them there. If they remain, here’s what we can do to enhance the area for both wildlife and people alike.

We find funds and initiatives to plant native tree and plant species. This is also a solid opportunity for community involvement. And not just trees for the land,

but other plants that are best suited to an aquatic environment in the lagoons.

In doing so, we can also work with a very talented bunch of staff, and they aren’t even human. They are species of plant that are naturally excellent water purifiers. For example, some areas of the world have used floating treatment wetlands (FTWs) to clean up freshwater environments affected by excess nutrients (in this case, human excrement and the nutrients associated with it).

FTWs have been shown to work with undeniable success in storm water ponds, waste management lagoons, and inner-city water bodies. These floating islands of vegetation are created on land and then thrown into the water; there, they simply float around just doing what they’re meant to do — filtering and recycling nutrients and breaking down harmful compounds. This cleans the water and will eventually remove unpleasant odours of the past.

With the addition of native plant species and correct biological controls, the

water quality will rebound, and the wildlife sensitive to such water conditions can thrive or perhaps make a return to an area where they once lived.

Add in some bird boxes, bat houses, and some pollination-friendly plants, and we suddenly have a world of opportunity. We could educate the public about what NOTL has done to meet climate change and biodiversity initiatives, and we would also be graced with an outdoor laboratory that could open up possibilities for research, school involvement, and general public education.

I am really drawn to the idea of a Heritage Nature Park, as described by NOTL’s Harmony Group. This area has potential as a diverse and unique eco-park.

I am going to get visionary for a second here, so bear with me.

Imagine this area just on the outskirts of downtown NOTL, a short drive or bike ride away. Locals and tourists alike visit it, taking in the sheer diversity of habitat on one property. There are trails, perhaps a more rugged one,

but also a wheelchair accessible and relaxed walk option. These trails have minimal environmental impact. We have signs educating people in a fun and approachable way about the property, its natural heritage and historical significance, and what NOTL and other organizations have done to protect it.

Some are having a nice family picnic, others are on a boardwalk somewhere trying to spot an endangered species of bird flying overhead. Meanwhile, school groups and aspiring students visit the remediating wetlands and gain an understanding of natural succession, and in a bigger picture, our relationship with nature in terms of decision-making. Lastly on this vision, there are parcels of that property I believe should remain off-limits — for nature and science only, considering how rare this type of land is along Lake Ontario.

As the process moves along, I encourage NOTLers and decision-makers to let science talk, and to imagine a greener, healthier, more proactive NOTL.

*bwhikes@gmail.com*



The steep banks on the shoreline of Lake Ontario on this federal property are home to a colony of provincially threatened bank swallows. This is also one of the only areas in NOTL where Bjorgan says he has heard spring peepers, a type of tree frog, calling. There is a lot of ecological value here to appreciate, he says. (Owen Bjorgan)



# Remembering a name forges human connection

## A warm welcome goes a long way when farm workers arrive

**Jane Andres**  
**Special to The Local**

It was early Saturday evening in the heart of Mandeville, Jamaica and we could already hear the distant din of the market from the lobby of our downtown hotel.

A group of us from Niagara had just spent a week soaking in the sun and the warmth of our many friends who live on the south coast of Jamaica. Now we continued our travels across the island to visit our neighbours from the farms back home. Our group split up for the evening and Jodie Godwin and I headed out on foot to immerse ourselves in the local culture.

Located on a plateau at 2,000 feet, the temperatures in this centuries-old city are pleasant all year and that night was no exception. As soon as we headed down the street we heard exuberant sounds of the band warming up next door at the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Navigating past the long lineups at the corner KFC we were suddenly in the thick of the crowds.

Traffic was a slow crawl three lanes deep with pedestrians and motorcycles weaving in and out, horns blaring. Cars with speakers mounted on the roof were blocked in the traffic jam, bass rhythms pounding out loud enough to loosen the fillings in

your teeth.

In the park across the street a raspy-voiced preacher harangued the crowd with dire warnings of God's wrath. A few 100 feet away a band was stacking a massive sound system in preparation for a late night sound clash, an event we were able to enjoy from the comfort of our hotel way into the wee hours.

The Mandeville market was the picture of fortification, rising above white-washed stone walls dating back to the early 1800s. A sea of tarps rippling overhead cast the outdoor market vendors in a brilliant blue hue.

They were busy dismantling their stalls and packing up unsold produce at the end of a long day, a scene replayed every Saturday for the past 200 years. Exhaustion lined their faces, having been up since the early hours of the morning.

Men struggled to steer pushcarts heavily laden with plantains, carrots, yams and cabbage as they inched their way down the crowded ramp from the market and onto the street, while tantalizing wafts of barbecued jerk chicken and pork drifted overhead.

As was our custom on our previous visits to Mandeville, Jodie and I decided to take our time in the crowds. Above the shouts and din of the market I

thought I heard my name being called out. I looked around but couldn't see a familiar face in the falling dark.

While weaving my way through the crowd, I suddenly felt two hands clamp down on my shoulders, stopping me in my tracks. There was no sense of fear, only expectation.

I instantly recognized Mark, our good friend from Thwaites farm back home.

People stepped back in surprise as we laughed and exchanged hugs.

"This is a good feeling Jane. It's a wonderful feeling Jodie. My soul is overwhelmed. My, my, my," he exclaimed joyfully. He pointed back to his sister's produce stand a good distance away where he had first spotted me.

"I told my sister, 'that should be Jane,'" he called back as he raced off through the taxis and burst through the crowd. He had no idea we were in Jamaica and was beyond excited.

We made our way to his sister's stall where we were introduced to neighbouring vendors and curious bystanders.

"These are my Canadian friends, these are my Canadian mothers. My soul is overwhelmed," he repeated, laughing so hard, still incredulous at his good fortune.

We made our way to a nearby grocery store to surprise his wife and

children where they were shopping. Jodie had visited them at their home a few years earlier, making this unexpected visit even sweeter.

Jodie and I have travelled together to Jamaica six times to visit our neighbours from the farms, joined by friends and family on the last four trips. It was always the highlight of our travels when we made those unexpected connections.

What have I learned through these adventures in community?

I've learned that when a person is called by name it means they are no longer invisible. They are no longer a statistic lost in a massive, expendable labour force.

When we are called by our names the labels which have been imposed lose their power to define us. Barriers can be transformed into bridges of understanding. We begin to appreciate the unique gifts we all possess and long to share.

I have learned the lost art of being neighbourly can be rekindled. It is an exercise in living with intention, and paying attention.

At home, a simple 'Welcome back, glad to see you' and a handshake takes five seconds of our time at the grocery store or bank. We can scribble notes to help us remember.

We will make plenty of mistakes and learn to laugh at our attempts as we fumble our way toward a greater sense of community.

This week I dropped off some new winter coats to three men who had arrived the day before, their first time in Canada. I asked the first young man his name and where he was from back home.

We chatted a bit about the town he was from as I had visited it numerous times. I made notes, turned around and asked the same person the same questions, not recognizing him from our conversation just seconds earlier. He looked at me quizzically and repeated his name.

I could see the guys giggling behind him at the lunch table. I still have to laugh thinking about it. This will happen more times than I can count in the coming months but in the trying I also get to experience the grace they extend, over and over.

The view in Jamaica was breathtaking in every direction as Jodie, her daughter Leah and I hiked up the rugged road to the summit of Juan Del Bolas Mountain in the parish of St. Catherine.

In one direction we could view the sparkling waters along the rugged southern coastline almost 25 kilometres away. We heard a scuffle of boots on loose rocks and turned to see a man in his 60s appear through the brush on the steep slope below us.

His eyes widened with surprise to meet strangers in this isolated mountain peak. He shook our hands, extending a warm welcome to his neighbourhood. He was just returning from a hard day's work in his ter-

raced yam fields.

We introduced ourselves and he burst out laughing when we told him where we were from.

"Why I know that place very well. I worked for Abe Epp for many, many years. That's my house down there, built with Niagara peaches." With his machete he proudly pointed out his shell pink house in a tall stand of feathery bamboo on the ridge below us.

He nodded to me. "I passed your place every day all those years. It's right round the corner from the packing barn."

The moment of four lives intersecting at the top of a mountain, so very far away from home, packs an emotional punch difficult to describe. For the next 30 minutes we talked with our former neighbour, sharing stories of mutual friends from back home.

Jodie asked for his name.

"Denford Thomas," he replied, this time gripping her hand like an old friend, reluctant to let go.

She turned toward the edge of the precipice and cupping her hands yelled "Denford Thomas," and we listened to the echo reverberating across the ridge and his home, where his wife was preparing dinner.

"Denford Thomas," she called one more time, and then declared, "There, now I will never forget your name."

Together we walked away from the precipice and into the falling dark, humbled and transformed by the power of human connection.



Visiting the Juan Del Bolas Mountain area in the parish of St. Catherine, Jamaica, Jane Andres took this photo of Denford Thomas, pointing with his machete to his home for Jodie Godwin and two children watching.





The Segwun is the oldest operating steam-driven vessel in North America, built in 1887. (Tony Chisholm)

# Marine history: the era of the steamship

**Tony Chisholm  
Special to The Local**

The 1830s and 1840s mark the end of the sailing era and the beginning of the more comfortable steamship travel on Lake Ontario in the maritime history of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

By 1838 business was booming at the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company here in town. Cargo being shipped included horses, cows, wagons, hides, fruits and vegetables. They were shipped all over the lake — to Toronto, Prescott, Oswego and Ogdensburg, with 400 men employed as carpenters, sawyers, moulders, sailmakers, machinists and engine builders. This was the largest ship-building facility in Upper Canada.

It seemed every year there was a rivalry between the steamboat captains to be the first to arrive before the first of March. The reward was no docking fees for the season. However, crossing the lake was very dangerous in those early days. There were no charts, buoys, or GPS.

In February 1835, a schooner named Brothers left during a winter storm and was later found capsized 25 miles down the American coast. Nine people perished.

As commerce expanded after the 1850s, growing numbers of ships faced the dangers of the lakes. A four-day gale in 1869 wrecked 97 ships. Between 1878 and 1897, the Great Lakes claimed almost 6,000 ships.

These lakes are some of the most dangerous waters in the world, with powerful storms, especially in late fall — and the lakes freeze in winter.

Although experienced captains respect the limits of the shipping season, fast

changes in the weather turned many ships to wrecks.

It was tough being a sailor in those days. Stokers, wipers and engineers worked in the engine room. Stokers worked in miserable conditions shovelling coal with sweat and coal dust as their companions.

In 1840 Donald Bethune got a government contract for mail delivery, and purchased five steamers from the dock company. They became known as the Royal Mail Line. But Bethune was soon in bankruptcy, and by 1843 the dock company itself was essentially bankrupt. The ship the England was the last steamer built in 1847. By then there were lots of creditors. By 1847 the first iron steamers appeared and there were often five different steamers leaving the docks every day here.

The Niagara Harbour and Dock Company was sold in 1853 to Samuel Zimmerman, a railway entrepreneur. He owned the Erie and Ontario railway and wanted it extended to Niagara to have it connect to steamers to Toronto. By 1853 the Town of Niagara's position had declined with the building of the second Welland Canal.

The Town hoped building a rail line to Niagara would revive its fortunes. So the Town borrowed a large sum of money to provide Zimmerman funds to build his facilities.

During the 1853 election in Niagara, Zimmerman spoke to electors in front of the courthouse. He mentioned the improvements to the dock and the plan to build three steamers, and the next year Zimmerman received a sizeable loan from the Town. As promised, the railway was extended in 1854 to Niagara, and became just the third steam railway to oper-

ate in Ontario. A station and freight facilities were built on the wharf. Remnants of this railway near the dock are still visible near Riverbeach Road and Turntable Way.

On April 18, 1855 a tornado struck Niagara and in five minutes virtually destroyed the railway car factory on the dock. The water level in the river reportedly rose five to eight feet.

Business flourished in the late 1850s. The census of Canada West in 1857 lists the Town of Niagara with 3,400 people. William Kirby is listed as publisher of the weekly paper called The Mail, with an annual subscription rate of \$2.

There was still no railway around Lake Ontario and passengers preferred to cross the lake to Toronto by schooner or steamer. The alternate was a long, uncomfortable stagecoach ride. By the 1850s the ships were crossing the lake all year. Yes, even in the winter.

In 1851 the Chief Justice Robinson, an ice-breaking steamer, ran on the Niagara River 11 months of the year. By 1855, steamers started crossing the lake as early as Jan. 1.

Can you imagine that this winter?

In mid-winter the harbour in Toronto was frozen. Amazingly, ships would be met at the edge of the ice with sleighs travelling across the ice, dropping off passengers and freight for the ships alongside. Travel was a lot more difficult — just think what the government and Transport Canada would say about that today.

Zimmerman died in a railway accident over the Desjardins Canal in Hamilton in 1857 — an interesting end for a railway magnate. Zimmerman also owned the car engine and carriage fac-

tory on the docks.

Ironically, one of his carriages, pulled by one of his engines, was passing over the Desjardins Canal bridge, another of his projects, when the bridge collapsed, killing him and 58 other passengers.

After his death, the Town received no more payments from the money they had loaned him, and by 1864 the facilities at the dock company were in disrepair. Finally, all shipbuilding ceased. During its time, the company built six schooners and 18 steamboats.

In 1870 Captain Duncan Milloy, described as a dashing figure, purchased the dock company property for \$7,000. (Now there was a good deal.) The following year, he died at the age of 46 at his house — the future Oban Inn. Milloy had been born in Oban, Scotland.

All the town flags were lowered to half mast and his ship, the City of Toronto, was draped in black. She sailed with his body to Toronto for burial and thousands awaited his arrival at the Yonge Street wharf.

In 1877 the Niagara Navigation Company was formed by Barlow Cumberland and Frank Smith to provide steamboat service across the lake. The opening of a large military camp at Niagara in 1871 brought demands for more passenger boat service and thousands of soldiers passed through Niagara. By the 1880s steamships like the Cibola and the Chippewa were now side paddle wheelers and described as floating palaces.

The number of ships grew substantially after 1900. It was the rule of the Niagara Navigation Company that all steamship names start with a C and end with an A. There was the Chippewa, the Carona, the Cibola, and finally, the Cayuga, which was launched 1906. She was 317 feet long and was propelled by twin screws rather than paddles.

These ships could hold up to 2,500 people per trip. And with five steamers a day arriving, that means up to 12,000 tourists per day — the equivalent of 250 buses per day arriving in town.

Amazingly there were no

government or coast guard restrictions on the number of passengers allowed on board. It seems only the engines and boilers were regulated. We can imagine how crowded the decks must have been — especially with these low competitive prices. It was just \$1 to travel across the lake.

*Tony Chisholm moved to NOTL in 2003 and retired from his publishing job a few years later. With a love of history, he soon got involved with War of 1812 bicentennial events and was chair of the committee that brought the tall ships to town in July 2017. He is a tour guide for the NOTL Historical Society and Museum and last year did several tours of the Dock Area for residents. He is currently president of the Friends of Fort George and is on the Town's Heritage Trail Committee.*

*Acknowledgements: "Sailing out of Niagara... since 1833" by Isabelle Ridgway and the Niagara on the Lake Sailing Club and the Niagara on the Lake Historical Society and Museum.*



The Niagara Harbour and Dock Company plaque is outside the restored office building, now part of the Queen's Landing Inn, on Ricardo Street. (Tony Chisholm)



# LOCAL SPORTS



## 3 on 3 winners

Local hockey players took part in a 3 on 3 Hockey Niagara Challenge at the Gale Centre recently, with the tyke players winning against teams from Clarington, Buffalo, and Grimsby, and Clarington again in a thrilling final. Playing for the winning team were (back) Charlie Rowaan, Luke Simpson, Brayen McGrath, Ben Bayne. and (front) Joshua Hannon, Cohen Poirier and Dax Partridge. *(Photo supplied)*



## Aussies lose to Niagara

The Warriors Tournament of Niagara Sports and Entertainment welcomed a young team from Australia, the Queensland Cyclones, who lost to a Merriton Bulldogs team. St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik dropped the puck. Looking on is NOTL businessman Pat Darte, part owner of The Local and organizer of the tournament. *(Photo supplied)*

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HALL FOR RENT (for all occasions). Complete facility with kitchen. St. Davids Lions Hall, 1462 York Road, St. Davids. Call 905-262-4844; please ask for Trish.

## SUDOKU PUZZLE


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



**Is your attic overfull? Do you need to clean your basement?**  
Advertise your Garage/Yard Sale here! Call or Email for Details  
**905-932-2518 or anna@notllocal.com**  
Deadline: Mondays 3 pm.

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

## IN MEMORIAM



*Irene Wiens*

June 29, 1925 – March 28, 2018

One year has passed since that sad day  
When one we loved was called away  
God took her home. It was his will  
But in our hearts she liveth still

*Always remembered  
Forever loved*

Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren

**Earn extra cash by selling your unwanted items in our CLASSIFIEDS.**

**Contact**  
**anna@notllocal.com**  
**Deadline: Mondays at 3pm**



## OBITUARY



**MOHAMMED, Nelly** Passed away suddenly but peacefully at the Niagara Falls General Hospital on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. Beloved wife and trusted life partner of Ed for more than 50 years. Cherished and inspirational mother of Nelson (Alie) Mohammed, Peter (Thelma) Mohammed and Rahzia (Robert) Neufeld. Loving and caring Oma of Myles (Brigette), Alison (Ryan), Bryan (Cathy), Jessica (Brandon), Lindsay (Garrison), Jody and Ridley. Proud Great Oma of Hudson and Anna. Dear Auntie of Vanessa (Jim) Allison and loved by many close friends including her special friend Marion Grdovich. Nelly is survived by her brother and predeceased by two sisters, all of the Netherlands. She enjoyed a long career in nursing at Hotel Dieu Hospital and brightened countless lives along the way. She was a long term Parkinson's warrior and a pioneering participant in programs at

Shaver and Rock Steady Boxing. A special thank you to the caregivers and medical professionals with whom we have had the privilege of working over the last few years.

**"I might have Parkinson's but Parkinson's doesn't have me."**

A Celebration of Nelly's life was held at Pleasantview Funeral Home on March 24, 2019. Memorial donations can be made to Parkinson's Canada. Please share your condolences, memories and photos at [www.pleasantviewcemetery.ca](http://www.pleasantviewcemetery.ca)



**STEWART, Evelyn Alberta** (nee: Elmer) Born Sept. 25, 1919. Evelyn passed away peacefully with her loving family at her side in the Greater Niagara General Hospital on the evening of Thursday January 31, 2019 at the age of 99. She was the beloved wife of the late Frederick James Stewart (1977) and a much cherished and devoted mother/mother-in-law of Dorothy (Rick) Edwards and the late Paula (2014) (Ron) Yaras-cavitch. She was the loving and proud "Nana" of Eric (Terrie), Carilynne (Robert), Marc (Katie), Blake (Jennifer) and Alec (Jennifer). Paula and Ron's children brought her many years of love and happy times and she was delighted later in life to become "GG" to seven beautiful great-grandchildren. Rena Edgley survives her dear sister but Evelyn was predeceased by her brother Bert and her sister Dorothy Elmer. She will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by many family and friends.

Evelyn was born and lived her entire life in St. Davids. In early years her beautiful voice and love of music took her from church choir to local engagements and singing over CKTB radio with her sister and then in 1942, along with a friend, to New York City as part of the "We Three Trio" for professional engagements, a record demo and performing for the wounded troops. She was a lifelong member of the St. Davids United Church and took an active part in church life throughout the years. She sang in the youth choir; joined the Young Peoples Society; helped out in the Sunday School; was an Explorer leader; a member of the Fun and Fellowship Group and the UCW women's group. She also served on the Official Board and the Mission and Service Committee.

Evelyn was a gentle and loving person throughout her 99 years focusing a great deal on family life, whether it be at home or up north at the cottage. She was a good and faithful friend to and with many terrific people — some whose friendship spanned greater than 60 or 70 years.

Many people have been touched by her kindness; her thoughtfulness, whether it was during sad or happy times by a phone call, card, note, letter or a visit. It was her caring, compassionate heart that compelled her to sponsor Third World children for over 35 years and give towards numerous charities and work in missions and service.

Playing cards or cribbage, playing tennis, fishing, boating, arranging flowers, drawing in pastels, writing prose and poetry and traveling were some of the great passions in her life.

Evelyn had an easy-going manner, a good sense of humour and fun and a quick beautiful smile which will be remembered and sorely missed! She lived a long, wonderful and full life!!

A visitation will take place at MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME, 5917 Main St., Niagara Falls on Friday March 29, 2019 from 6 to 9 p.m. The following day, on Saturday March 30, 2019 a funeral service will be celebrated for Evelyn at St. Davids-Queenston United Church, 1453 York Rd., St. Davids at 11:30 a.m. A lunch reception at the church will follow the service where family would love to share stories and memories of time spent with Evelyn. A private interment will follow at a later date. For those who may wish to make a memorial donation, we would like to suggest two things which meant a lot to Evelyn. They were World Vision and the St. Davids-Queenston United Church Mission and Service. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morseandson.com](http://www.morseandson.com)



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2019 ACURA MDX

LEASE FROM  
\$258<sup>†</sup>  
BI-WEEKLY

1.9%  
O.A.C.  
36 MONTHS  
with \$5,700 DOWN

OR RECEIVE UP TO A  
\$6,500  
CASH REBATE ON SELECT  
2019 MDX MODELS

Performance Acura Niagara

158 Scott Street | St. Catharines | 905-937-1811 | performanceacura.ca

Limited time lease offer based on a new and previously unregistered 2019 Acura MDX Base (YD4H2KJN) // model shown, a 2019 MDX A-SPEC (YD4H0KJ) with optional colour upgrade available through Acura Financial Services. Representative lease example: 1.9% / 1.9% (4.24% effective APR) lease rate for 36 months (78 payments). Bi-weekly payment is \$258 / \$308 with \$2,700 / \$5,700 down payment. 16,000 km allowance/year; charge of \$0.15/km for excess kilometres. Total lease obligation is \$25,824 / \$27,624. Lease payment includes freight and PDI of \$2,075 and applicable fees/levies/duties (all of which may vary by region and/or dealer) but does not include sales tax, registration fee up to \$207.5 and then registration agent fee of \$3.00, which are due at time of delivery. Taxes, insurance, licensing and registration fees (all of which may vary by region) are extra. \$5,500 cash rebate available only on the cash purchase of new and previously unregistered 2019 Acura MDX A-SPEC (YD4H0KJ) MDX Elite (YD4H0KJN) MDX Elite (YD4H0KJN) models from an authorized Acura dealer when registered and delivered before April 1, 2019. Total incentives consist of (i) \$3,500 that cannot be combined with lease/finance offers; and (ii) \$3,000 that can be combined with lease/finance offers. All incentives will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. Some terms/conditions apply. Model shown for illustration purposes only. Offers end April 1, 2019 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. Certain features only available on certain trims. Offer does not apply to used demonstrator vehicles, pre-owned vehicles, discontinued models, time specials, one-of-a-kinds, and limited quantity vehicles. Advertising errors and misprints do not apply. Adjustments cannot be made on previous purchases. Performance Acura reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations may apply. Please contact Performance Acura for details.

SPRING INTO AUDI SALES EVENT



2019 Audi Q5 quattro

Lease from  
\$418<sup>†</sup>  
per month\*

Lease from  
2.9%  
for up to 36 months with  
a \$6,588 down payment\*

Includes  
\$1,500  
in Audi Credit\*

INCLUDES A 1% RATE REDUCTION.\*

Offer ends April 1, 2019.

Audi  
St. Catharines

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\*Limited time lease offer available through Audi Canada Finance on approved credit, on select new and unregistered Q5 models. \$1,500 Audi Credit to be applied as a discount to the MSRP before taxes on purchase or lease of 2019 Q5 Models (Excludes SQ5). Offer includes \$2,095 freight and PDI, \$100 air conditioning levy, \$29 EH, \$10 OMVIC fee, \$58 PPFA fee and \$395 dealer admin fee. \$6,588 down payment or equivalent trade-in, a security deposit of approximately one month's lease payment and first monthly payment are due at lease inception. Licensing and taxes are extra. Total lease obligation: \$22,641 (excluding applicable taxes). Kilometre allowance of 16,000/year; charge of \$0.30/km for excess kilometres. Offer ends April 1, 2019 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offer does not apply to used demonstrator vehicles, pre-owned vehicles, discontinued models, time specials, one-of-a-kinds, and limited quantity vehicles. Advertising errors and misprints do not apply. Adjustments cannot be made on previous purchases. Audi St. Catharines reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations may apply. Please contact Audi St. Catharines for details.

THE ULTIMATE BMW OFFER TO UPSTAGE ALL OTHERS.

LIMITED TIME ONLY FROM MARCH 26 TO APRIL 1.

Rates as low as\*  
0.99%<sup>†</sup>  
APR  
up to 60 months

Delivery credit of\*\*  
\$2,500  
available 2018 BMW X1 models only

Additional sale credit up to\*\*  
\$1,000



Performance BMW

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European model shown. Features and equipment may vary in Canada. \*Finance offers for 2018 BMW X1 xDrive28i / 2019 BMW X3 xDrive30i / 2019 BMW X5 xDrive40i is 0.99% / 2.99% / 2.99% APR for 60 months available only through BMW Financial Services Canada on approved credit (OAC). Finance example: \$40,080 / \$50,980 / \$72,980 financed at 0.99% / 2.99% / 2.99% APR for 60 months with \$0 down payment equals a monthly payment of \$684.94 / \$915.82 / \$1,311.03, including a sale credit of \$3,000 / \$750 / \$1,000. Retailer administration fee (\$399), OMVIC fee (\$10), A/C levy (\$100), tire recycling fee (\$16) and fees associated with PPFA (\$53.73) are due on signing. Licensing, registration, and applicable taxes are extra and due on signing. Cost of borrowing is \$1,595.42 / \$4,547.77 / \$6,260.58. Total obligation is \$41,675.42 / \$55,527.77 / \$79,240.58. \*\*Delivery credit of \$2,500 on select new in-stock 2018 BMW X1 xDrive28i applies to cash purchases or lease/finance purchases made through BMW Financial Services Canada. Plus sale credits of \$500 / \$750 / \$1,000 on select new in-stock 2018 BMW X1 xDrive28i / 2019 BMW X3 xDrive30i / 2019 BMW X5 xDrive40i applies to cash purchases or lease/finance purchases made through BMW Financial Services Canada from March 26th to April 1st, 2019 only. Offer expires April 1, 2019. Delivery must be taken by April 1, 2019. Offer is subject to availability and may be cancelled or changed without notice. Certain conditions apply. See Performance BMW for full details. †New BMW vehicles purchased from an authorized BMW Retailer in Canada are covered by a No-Charge Scheduled Maintenance plan for four years or 80,000 km, whichever comes first. Certain limitations apply. ©2019 BMW Canada Inc. "BMW", the BMW logo, BMW model designations and all other BMW related marks, images and symbols are the exclusive properties and/or trademarks of BMW AG, used under licence.

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Experience the 2019 Lexus UX. A fresh take on the compact luxury SUV with city-smart technology and bold urban style - designed to enable your active lifestyle. Built on an all-new chassis with a low centre of gravity, UX fuses SUV-versatility with the agility of a hatchback.

2019 LEXUS UX 250h AWD F SPORT 1 HYBRID

ALL-IN PRICE  
\$44,504<sup>†</sup>  
+HST & LIC

RATES FROM  
2.9%<sup>\*</sup>  
O.A.C.

Performance Lexus

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\*Lease and finance offers available O.A.C. from Lexus Canada Financial Services based on a new 2019 Lexus UX 250h AWD F-Sport Hybrid with an annual lease and finance rate of 2.9% for up to 36 months. For Lease: Bi-weekly payments are \$231.37 + HST for 36 months, and include Freight and PDI of \$2,075, Dealer Administration Fee of \$498, Air Conditioning Tax of \$100, PPFA of \$0, Ontario Tire Stewardship of \$20.70, EH, Filters of \$1, and OMVIC Fee of \$10. Licensing, registration, and applicable taxes are extra and due on signing. Down payment of \$5,200 and first bi-weekly lease payment of \$231.37 + HST is due on signing. Security Deposit is \$0. Residual amount is \$24,662. Fees may vary by dealer. Dealer may sell for less. Total driven kilometres are limited to 12,000/year; \$0.20 per excess kilometre. Excess wear and tear charges may apply. For Finance: First month's finance payment + HST is due on signing. Cash purchase price of vehicle is \$44,504. Licensing, registration, and applicable taxes are extra and due on signing. Cost of borrowing is \$2,281.59 over 36 months. All amounts are in Canadian Dollars. Fees may vary by dealer. Dealer may sell for less. Lease and finance offers only valid until March 31, 2019, and may not be redeemed for cash or combined with other offers. Performance Lexus reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations may apply. Please see Performance Lexus for details.

Great offers are in season.

2018 Mercedes-Benz GLE 400 4MATIC

ALL-IN PRICE  
\$65,995<sup>†</sup>  
+HST & LIC





- Panoramic Sunroof
- 360° Camera
- Premium Package
- Sport Package
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- Aluminum Running Boards

- Anthracite Poplar Wood Trim
- Active Parking Assist
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