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 awareness, 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)
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 accommodation 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 council, has become an unofficial representative for the sector of licensed B&Bs — he and his wife operate a B&B and Usback 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, Bisback says.

With online advertising, it’s not difficult to find, he says. It’s not difficult to find, he says.

“Hundreds” operating outside the radar — they are easy to quantify, say Bisback, that Airbnbs are encouraging next dilemma with the ac-

“With online advertising, it’s not difficult to find, he says. It’s not difficult to find, he says.

aim at the growing problem.

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.
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 people 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.”
Guy Bannerman takes delight in chatting with the people he meets when he’s getting groceries in Vala-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.

For such a content family man, when he takes to the stage this season, it will be the first time the 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 abrading 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.

“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 McGill, 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-gratuitous diatribe is disappointed with his offspring’s lackluster 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,” says Bannerman, “but I’ve never been in a rehearsal with him.”

He can imagine, says, sitting down with the writer of 40 plays to discover some biographic details and decipher whether there is a speck of Foster in Wilber.

“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 reading a 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, Bannerman is hard 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 humor to the point of being uncomfortable,” he says. “It’s our job as performers to humanize the situation.”

The play is coming from. Shortly after settling on a little street shore at night, and spending the sound of lake waves on the nearby shore at night, and spending time with friends and neighbors, some of whom “have roamed the world and chosen this place as their home.” They may be creating drama, 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, “I never expect that what would be discovered was it such a caring and supporting 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 Thomas, July 31 until Aug. 17.
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 signing autographs at the door, dressed loosely on costume. And when “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 instance is light and comical, and might involve drinking, or singing, ‘depending on the

The event will not feature such unusual foodstuffs, but will offer some offbeat humour with Finlay interpersing games and entertainment throughout the dinner. There 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.”

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 coat 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 whisky.”

Finlay recalls an attempt to sew himself a pair of traditional grey wool pants. “I got 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@friendsoffort-george.ca for more information.
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 communicating with each other. The Earth Hour website suggests lighting a candle for dinner — 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 certainly silly and fun: certainly good companionship, and hopefully keep you fit by taking you 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 then don't clean it up. It is not only the easiest but the most respectful way to deal with it. I for one will miss my Jewel that was one Niagara-on-the-Lake that 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 Kooer

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

LOCAL FINDS

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

Letter:电力日

在它的第八年中，地球一小时活动于3月30日举行，从晚上8:30到9:30。这个想法是关掉灯和任何可以不用电力运行一个小时，然后花时间联系彼此，以及大自然。

该活动在加拿大由世界野生动物基金会和其他志愿者组织协调，目的是通过某种方式表达对地球生物多样性的关注，以及气候变化对全国和全球的影响。

许多当地家庭计划点燃几支蜡烛，拖出棋盘游戏和纸牌，享受一个专心于彼此交流的单独时刻。地球一小时网站建议在晚餐时点一支蜡烛——或者以一个更正式的规模来举办活动，如音乐会或派对。

可能有一些个人和家庭正在这样做，但这不需要是宏大的事件——实际上，简单可能是最有效和最易于实施的响应，特别是作为孩子们的学习工具，他们非常依赖电子设备。这是一种可以分享的体验，对所有世代都有好处——我们可以为成人和儿童提供一个小时，提醒我们自己对环境的贡献。

地球一小时的网站提供了资源和工具，供参与者使用。如果您参与并希望与他人分享您的体验，可以使用提及#Connect2Earth的话题标签。

栏目：法律

宠物主人被要求做负责任的

有宠物狗可以带来很多乐趣。它们可以是既有趣又愚蠢的伙伴：它们可以提供良好的陪伴，并且可能让你保持健康，只要它们定期散步。然而，这些快乐也伴随着责任。

我注意到在过去的几个月里，一些狗主人在他们居住的地方——花园村和村庄——让自己的狗做自己的事情，但不清理。这不仅仅是最容易的，而且是尊重的方式。对我来说，我会想念那个被称为“我的球队”的宠物，它是尼亚加拉湖上的一颗宝石。

谢谢你们的狗和你们的超级员工。我们都将想念你，但你确实值得休息。祝你们未来一切顺利。

读信人：Nellie Kooer

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

LETTERS

Welcome Back To – A “Local” Paper

I’m a bit of an old curmudgeon, a confirmed, an- alogue lover in a digital world, and a “lived in the woods” 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 for- mat that I’ve always enjoyed — a newspaper. Scrolling down, and having to squat 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 youngagger is why I support them as well.

Today, with all the chang- es going on in the technolog- ical world, it is unsurpris- ing to see the decline and closing of many long time newspaper 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 have a duty to have a genuine hometown newspaper again, and that is The Local. My wife and I wholehearted- ly support the publisher, ed- itor 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 sensitivity not seen in many of our local papers, and their news stories and local arti- cles are written with a genu- ine 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

Editor’s Note: When The Local began receiving letters of support, we made a deci- sion 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 compet- itive 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 writ- ten letter, but because he made such a strong, passion- ate 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 newspaper. He further said that since we consider The Local to be the “trusted voice of the community,” we need to fulfill that promise. Well done to our sup- porters whose letters we did not print, and hope they un- derstand why we had decid- ed to change our policy.

编者按：《我们本地人》在收到许多支持者的来信后，决定不再刊登这些信件。我们不想让我们的观点页成为关于我们的平台，也不希望人们认为我们正在寻求支持，与竞争对手进行竞争。我们感谢了写信者，并解释了我们的立场。RobCopeland成功地说服我们改变了决定，不仅因为他的写得非常优美，而且因为他的热情的论证支持他对言论自由的诉求，以及希望他的来信不具有攻击性或煽动性。我们也希望在任何情况下，都能够在本地报纸上刊登这样的信件。他进一步表示，因为考虑到《我们本地人》是“社区的可靠之声”，我们需要履行这一承诺。做得好。感谢那些我们没有刊登的信件的支持者，因为他们理解了我们为什么决定改变政策。
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 un directed 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 science, 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!
March 28, 2019

THE NOTL LOCAL

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.

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.

Newark Neighbours
905-468-4444 • niagaradentures.com
1630 NIAGARA STONE ROAD, NOTL
• Complementary Consultations
• Same Day Repairs, Relines
• Implant Supported Dentures
• Teeth in a Day
• Full or Partial Dentures
• Immediate Dentures
• Locally Owned and Operated

ON-SITE LAB FOR CUSTOM PERSONALIZED SMILES.

Hilary Bellis
Newark Neighbours

NotLocal.com
Friends helping Friends of Fort George

The Irish Design store in town has generously contributed funds to support various fundraising events and 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 Fort George. They are “always willing to step forward for this local charity.” Paul Dickson says he “has been pleased to contribute needed funds to the Friends’ 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)
Two artists, two styles, one exhibit

Penny Coles
The Local

One artist paints in oils, the other in acrylic.

One artist’s work is 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: perhaps 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 that 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 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 or possibly the exception of Italy.”

“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 which they would each 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 see the differences.”

Because they had to agree on 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 different their styles are — Pigeon 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, looking at the same view, 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. This is the universality between us.”

That holds true for the images captured, she says, “It’s important to keep your work leading up to the next one. I’ll be 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 how viewers react 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 our 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 Ricar- do 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.
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 — and the usual — and the usually very expensive crucial parties — and the usual — and the usual — and the usual —

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. 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 seamstress — 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 boutonnieres, 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 on-site volunteers are happy to guide people through the racks and help 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 come back year after year because it’s so rewarding.”

The annual event started in 2009, serving 34 students in its first year. 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 or contact Nicole Smith at 905-641-2929 ext. 37710 or nicole.smith@dsbn.org.
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.

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

Black & White Poster Category Winners
Brayden Sacco
Ava Catinari
Ethan Dulas
Sienna Lalonde
Jack Friesson
Klarysa Harrington

Poem Category Winners
Ella Murray

Essay Category Winners
Treesha Ray
Emma LaValle
Alex Amodeo
Matthew Murray
Mateo Grueso
Brandon Taylor

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 Tchockball 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.

Owen Nzouankeu, Edwin Thom, Emily Ganski, Maria Sertuca, Milania Quinta, 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)
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 Community 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
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 60s 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.

For over 25 years, Imperial Hardwood Flooring has been supplying and installing hardwood and laminate flooring to homeowners in Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and the surrounding communities. We can also sand and refinish your existing 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 ½” or 1 ¾” 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.

Sales & Installations
Imperial Hardwood Flooring

Need New Floors?
Let us help you brighten up your home this year!

From hardwood, laminate or cork flooring, you’ll be sure to find something to suit your style and budget. We will provide you with the best quality customer service from start to finish.

What about those large and heavy pieces of furniture? No worries! We will move them out of the way and put them back when we are done... FREE of charge!

580 Read Rd., St. Catharines
or call 905-937-2189 today!
email: ihf@vaxxine.com

5/8 inch x 1 1/2 inch or 3/4 inch 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.

Sales & Installations
Imperial Hardwood Flooring

Need New Floors?
Let us help you brighten up your home this year!

From hardwood, laminate or cork flooring, you’ll be sure to find something to suit your style and budget. We will provide you with the best quality customer service from start to finish.

What about those large and heavy pieces of furniture? No worries! We will move them out of the way and put them back when we are done... FREE of charge!
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! Although 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.

Design experts ideal for choosing the right flooring for your lifestyle

Submitted by A-1 Flooring

We are design experts trained in flooring, and that is evident from the moment you step through the doors of our 2000 square foot showroom.

Our buyers and designers work together to source Niagara’s largest selection of fine domestic hardwoods, imported porcelains and exceptional broadlooms for custom area rugs and installations as well as stylish practical flooring options for busy families with children and pets.

A-1 Flooring Canada is a local family-owned business rooted in our community for over 43 years. Our many years in the business have aligned us with top suppliers in the industry and our association with Flooring Canada gives us proprietary products and priority pricing to share with our clients. Our history and success allow us to employ and train our installers to meet our high standards for quality control, scheduling and reliability.

Whether you are renovating, building, refreshing or accessorizing your home, our design team is ready to help.

Located five minutes from the Homer bridge on the city side of the canal. We look forward to welcoming you to our Showroom at 166 Bunting Road in St. Catharines.
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.

The red ribbon means you’ve found everything you’re looking for in a garage door — reliable performance, innovative design and a range of styles and options to fit any home.

Overhead Door Co. St. Catharines Ltd.
13 Seapark Drive, Unit 1 St. Catharines

Call for your quote today! 905-682-5591

The Genuine. The Original.
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, 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 paint, 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, handmade 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.

Need the right paint or stain for your project? From deck staining, to reimagining your interior spaces, to painting the whole exterior, we have specific products to meet your specific needs. Try Aura Exterior and see the exclusive colour lock technology it provides. It resists fading, and stands up to the harshest of weather conditions, allowing you to paint when you want to, and not when you need to.

For your deck, try Arborcoat, a superior stain that protects while it enhances the texture and grain of your wood, with mildew and superior UV resistance, and can be mixed in a wide range of colours to suit any style. Our paints are tinted using our Gennex Technology, which is the science behind the quality and the vibrancy of our hues to last for years. Benjamin Moore makes their own colorants, designed specifically for their paints, which is why you cannot simply “match” one of our paint colours, but is what makes them ultra durable and environmentally responsible.

Visit the design staff of Sarah, Karla and Hannah at our new location to get your home ready for the trends and trials of 2019. We promise to help you find the hue that’s right for you!
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 Borge, 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 compostor — 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 fighting gear, was grateful to have 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.

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 fighting gear, was grateful to have 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.

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 fighting gear, was grateful to have 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.

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 fighting gear, was grateful to have 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.

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 fighting gear, was grateful to have 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.

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 fighting gear, was grateful to have 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.

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 fighting gear, was grateful to have 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.

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 fighting gear, was grateful to have 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.
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— 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 marveled at the habitat complexity found there. In a small area, you’ve got towering mature Carolina 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 benefits. One creates a new type of habitat on the property and quickly removes the “stinkm” surrounding it, but at a significant cost to do the work. The other option is truly simple, an often-overlooked “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 (FTW’s) to clean up fresh-water environments affected by excess nutrients (in this case, human excrement and the nutrients associated with it).

FTW’s 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 correctly 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 remediated 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 NOTL’s and decision-makers to let science talk, and to imagine a greener, healthier, more proactive NOTL.

bwhikes@gmail.com
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 I headed out on foot to immerse ourselves in the local culture.

I 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 decided to head down the street a raspy-voiced diver from Mandeville, Jamaica and we were suddenly in a shopping mall.

At the Adventist Church.

More about the church. As soon as we arrived, we saw a crowd of people gathering outside. They were busy distributing information and paying attention, and paying attention, and paying attention. We began 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 his home, where his wife was preparing dinner. Jodie had visited it numerous times earlier. He looked at me quizzically and repeated his name. 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.
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 there was a boom in shipping, due to the construction of railway and docks. In February 1835, a schooner named Brothers was launched. It was a rivalry between the schooner and the steamboat. Steamships were more comfortable and had a faster speed than sailing ships. By 1838, business was good, and the chartering of ships increased.

In the late 1850s, the history of the Great Lakes changed dramatically. The settling of the Ohio Valley and the increase in the number of settlers were accompanied by a movement of factories and workers along the Upper Great Lakes. The Canadian government decided to build a railroad to connect the Upper Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence River. In February 1835, the Compagnie de navigation du Canal de Sorel was formed to build a canal from Lake Ontario to the St. Lawrence River. The first section of the canal was completed in 1836.

In 1837, the Compagnie de navigation du Canal de Sorel was incorporated into the Compagnie des canaux du Saint-Laurent, which was responsible for building the entire network of canals and docks along the St. Lawrence River. The company was capitalized at $1 million and issued 100,000 shares of stock. The first section of the canal was completed in 1837 and the second section in 1839. The canal was opened for business in 1841.

In 1877, the Niagara Navigation Company was formed by Ralfe Cambrell 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 new side paddle wheelers and described as floating palaces.

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 new 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 Czarina, the Cibola, and finally, the Cayuga, which was launched in 1966. She was 317 feet long and propelled by twin screws rather than paddles. These ships could hold up to 2,500 people per trip. 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 Ridgeway and the Niagara on the Lake Sailing Club and the Niagara on the Lake Historical Society and Museum.

The Segwun is the oldest operating steam-driven vessel in North America, built in 1887. (Tony Chisholm)
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 Merritton 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)
WANTED TO RENT/LEASE

Former NOTL residents (retired) looking to lease a house mid-Aug. or Sept. 1, 2019. Long term (3 years min.) NOTL, St. Davids, NOTG or N. Falls. 3 Bdrm, 2 Baths, Garage. $1,850 - $2,000/month.

Please call: 289-241-8680

RENTAL SPACE

Rental space for a counsellor/therapist focusing on spiritual, emotional and/or mental health and well-being. Rates vary from $20 to $25/hour. Rates can be discussed. If interested, call Karen at 289-869-5800.

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.

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

FUNERAL SERVICES

Niagara’s Premier Affordable Funeral Alternative

Considerate CREMATION & BURIAL SERVICES

Compassionate Service for Considerably Less

Transparent ... Practical ...

No Pressure ... Just Your Wishes

Serving the entire Niagara Region

1-52 Scott Street West, St. Catharines

(between Ontario Street & South Service Road)

info@CCBSCares.ca • 289-362-1144 • CCBSCares.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

I might have Parkinson’s but Parkinson’s doesn’t have me.

“I might have Parkinson’s but Parkinson’s doesn’t have me.”

June 29, 1925 – June 23, 2019

Irene Wiens

Irene Wiens

Irene Wiens, 94, of St. Davids, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, June 23, 2019.

Irene, who was born in the Netherlands, was a long-time Parkinson’s disease advocate and was known for her positive attitude and her commitment to supporting others who were affected by the disease.

During the 1960s, Irene moved to Canada and became active in the Orange Order and the Dutch community. She was a dedicated volunteer at many local organizations and was a regular attendee at many community events.

In 2012, Irene was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, which led to a significant decline in her mobility and independence. Despite this, she continued to remain active in her community and remained committed to supporting others who were affected by the disease.

In addition to her faith and her commitment to her community, Irene was also a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was happily married to her husband, John, for 60 years, and they had three children and several grandchildren.

Irene will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and the community she had served for so many years.

OBITUARY

MOHAMMED, Nelly Passed away suddenly but peacefully at the Niagara Falls General Hospital on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. Beloved wife of the late Frederick James Stewart (1977) and a much cherished and devoted mother/mother-in-law of Dorothy (Dick) Edwards and the late Paul (2011) (Ron) Yaraschuk. She was the loving and proud “Nana” of Corin, Erin, Rhonda, Rhys, and Kasey, the proud grandmother of forty grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Irene will be forever loved and missed by many close friends including her special friend Marion G. P. She was a long-time 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

SUDOKU PUZZLE

The Suduko puzzle is not legible and cannot be transcribed.

GARAGE SALE

In your attic overhead? Do you need to clean your basement?

Advertise your Garage/Yard Sale here! Call or email for details.

905-932-9336 • anna@notllocal.com

Deadline: Mondays at 3pm

THE NOTL LOCAL

March 29, 2019

Deadline: Mondays at 3pm

Contact: anna@notllocal.com

March 14, 2019

23
**THE ULTIMATE BMW OFFER TO UPGRADE ALL OTHERS.**

LIMITED TIME ONLY FROM MARCH 26 TO APRIL 1.

Rates as low as:

- **0.99% APR** up to 60 months
- **2.9%** for up to 36 months with a $0 down payment

Delivery credit of：

- **$2,500** available 2018 BMW X1 models only

Additional sale credit up to：

- **$1,000** on select new in-stock X3

**Performance BMW**

266 Lake Street | St. Catharines | 905-694-3336 | performancebmw.ca

*Fees may vary by dealer. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. License, insurance, and registration are extra and due on signing. Total driven kilometres are limited to 12,000/year; $0.20 per excess kilometre. Excess wear and use fees may apply. Additional conditions and limitations may apply. Please contact Performance BMW for details.*

---

**APPARENTLY, YOU CAN BUY TIME.**

**GENESIS G70**

**1-844-571-8180**

**genesisniagara.ca**

*Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer must sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. O/uniFB00  er does not apply to used demonstrator vehicles, pre-owned vehicles, discontinued models, or any other offers. All offers cannot be combined with lease/fi  nance offers; and (ii) $3,000 that can be combined with lease/fi  nance offers. All incentives will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Rates as low as 0.99% APR for 60 months available only through Genesis Financial Services on approved credit (OAC). Additional conditions and limitations may apply. Please see Performance Genesis for details.*

---

**Great offers are in season.**

**2018 Mercedes-Benz GLE 400 4MATIC**

**All-in price $65,995**

**2.9%** with **$4,504** down payment

**Performance Mercedes-Benz**

371 Ontario Street | St. Catharines | 905-685-3838 | performancemercedes.ca

*Fees may vary by dealer. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. License, insurance, and registration are extra and due on signing. Total driven kilometres are limited to 12,000/year; $0.20 per excess kilometre. Excess wear and use fees may apply. Please see Performance Mercedes-Benz for details.*