Operating budget reduced, but still no final approval

Zahraa Hmood
The Local

Council once again ran out the clock on a meeting held to finalize and approve its annual budget, but not before approving $100,000 in cuts to its 2023 expenses.

During its latest special council meeting on Tuesday afternoon, April 4, council voted to alter some of its staff hiring plans for this year, in an attempt to reduce the planned tax levy hike of 8.85 per cent. These savings come from motions by Coun. Wendy Cheropita to not convert the contracts of six workers associated with the municipality to full-time employee positions. Cheropita moved six motions recommending budget changes, three of which passed and three which were defeated. Her goal, she said, is addressing “critical gaps” the town needs to fill in delivering municipal services as part of its $43.9 operating budget.

“I feel like this is the time to be fiscally responsible and to focus on strategic investment and basic services that impact the quality of life most for the residents,” she said.

Changes approved at this meeting include not converting the contract of the recently-hired communications coordinator, for a savings of $6,000.

Contracts will remain for roles in the operations and environmental services departments, saving $75,450, including a utility locator, a parks and recreation labourer, a community coordinator, a parks and recreation communications coordinator, for a savings of $6,000.

During its latest special council meeting on Wednesday, April 5, council bought the hospital from Niagara Health in 2018, and the previous council un-vetered the hospital’s lease in 2015. This February, the doctors and other medical professionals who had been operating out of the lower floor of the building moved to a new facility in The Village subdivision, leaving much of that floor vacant. Ridesic told Stiles that the town bought the hospital from Niagara Health in 2018, and the previous council unable to keep it for community use. But we have to let them go through this process.”

Royal Oak head of school Julia Murray told Stiles that the innovative hub concept’s overall goal is to strengthen the community of NOTL.

“I hope to strengthen social networks, worksho the impact of each of these cultural organizations, collaborate, and share space and services. It will allow us to synthesize new creative ideas by having these powerhouse non-profits together, and thinking about how they can benefit from one another.”

Murray pointed out that

Continued on page 3

Cultural hub proponents make their case to NDP leader

Mike Balsom
The Local

Ontario New Democratic Party leader Marit Stiles heard Friday that the old Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital is the perfect gateway location to host a creative, cultural and community hub.

The leader of the official opposition was in town with local MPP Wayne Gates for a meeting with proponents of the concept. The pair spent the morning in Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital which had been operating out of the medical professionals who had been operating out of the building since 2017.

The post-1950s building was 118 years old, and the old NOTL hospital, removing the beds in 2015. This February, the doctors and other medical professionals who had been operating out of the lower floor of the building moved to a new facility in The Village subdivision, leaving much of that floor vacant. Ridesic told Stiles that the town bought the hospital from Niagara Health in 2018, and the previous council unable to keep it for community use. But we have to let them go through this process.”

Royal Oak head of school Julia Murray told Stiles that the innovative hub concept’s overall goal is to strengthen the community of NOTL.

“I hope to strengthen social networks, worksho the impact of each of these cultural organizations, collaborate, and share space and services. It will allow us to synthesize new creative ideas by having these powerhouse non-profits together, and thinking about how they can benefit from one another.”

Murray pointed out that

Continued on page 8
Step forward for heritage district gateway project

Zahraa Hmood
The Local

The gears are in motion again for the makeover plans at Queen and Mississauga Streets, considered the gateway to the main street, with the town awarding the construction project to a local company at almost $265,000.

Town staff reviewed three bids received after a request for tender this winter, and have decided to award the project to Three Seasons Landscape Group, after issues arose last year with the contractors initially slated to handle the project.

This project will introduce a significant new feature to the Old Town intersection, as visitors driving into the heritage district on Mississauga Street will see the walled entrance sign on the north side of Queen Street.

It's being funded entirely through a donation from Gerald Kowalchuk's Family Foundation, according to parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte.

"We have gone out to tender and these are the tender results," Turcotte said during council's March 28 meeting. "What we are constructing is everything on the golf course side, with the drystone wall, the irrigation and the plantings that go along with the drawings that you've seen."

According to his report, upon receipt by council, staff will award the project to the successful bidder.

In January 2022, council approved a final draft of the design, with a 22-metre long, 2.7-metre tall drystone wall and entrance sign.

Initially, construction was meant to start in September and be completed by this spring by Aldershot Landscape Contractors. However, during council's Sept. 26 meeting, it reviewed a staff report which stated the cost estimation they received from the contractor was $150,000 higher than the original estimate, putting them over the project's budget limit.

During the process, they also found out their original subcontractor would not be able to start on the project until spring 2023, and was missing someone with master drystone wall certification to do that skilled work.

Going back to the drawing board — as approved by council during the September meeting — a request for pre-qualification was put out late December. The town received four proposals from interested contractors and reviewed each submission to see if it met the town's project requirements.

Three contractors were then invited to submit their requests for tender and on March 7, the town reviewed the presented construction costs, with Three Seasons coming in with the lowest price.

With an additional $29,790 for design costs, the town would need to pay $264,890 to the Three Seasons company to complete the project, falling under the available project funding amount.

The report did not share when construction will get started. Turcotte wrote that while work with the successful contractors and the landscape architects to create a build schedule, and will share an update on jointheconversation.notl.org once it is finalized.

Residents advised to take alternative routes around Virgil

Zahraa Hmood
The Local

Niagara Stone Road is the focus of two road work projects this year, with construction underway this spring and scheduled to go until the fall, and plans to create a pedestrian crossing at St. Andrews Glen this July.

During council's March 28 meeting, Andrea Kaiser, the town's regional councillor, said the region's message to the public is to be proactive in finding routes to avoid construction in Virgil on this main arterial road.

She said the region wants to work with local businesses to advise its patrons of the construction taking place, and will potentially be working on a communication plan through the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce.

"There was an outreach to make sure that the businesses were well aware of the process and how that would unfold," Kaiser told council.

"It's going to be a little bit painful in the meantime," Kaiser said.

Another Niagara Stone Road project planned for this year is the construction of a pedestrian crosswalk, or crossover, in the St. Andrews Glen neighbourhood.

According to Kaiser, this work was deferred from the 2022 budget to amalgamate the cost of three other crossovers the region wants to do.

"Residents are very happy about that, and installation is planned for July," she said.

Construction will include installing an illuminated pole to help with safety at the crossing.

Kaiser said she would return to council with a more detailed schedule of how long the construction work should take, but according to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepski, "with most of them, it's fairly quickly done."

Coun. Nick Ruller advised Kaiser that the region should take into consideration the potential impact to volunteer firefighters based out of the fire station on Andrew's Lane across from St. Andrews Glen.

"My concern is we're going to end up with congestion leading to the station that will ultimately impact our response times," he said.

Other regional road work taking place this year includes work on Lakeshore Road culvert, and the replacement of the watermain on York Road, extending 3.8 kilometres between Concession 7 and Four Mile Creek Road. Construction on that project is expected to start in the fall.

Another landscaping company has been chosen for the gateway project, when the last one came in over budget and with nobody skilled available to do the drystone wall.

Residents advised to take alternative routes around Virgil

Zahraa Hmood
The Local

April 16
8:30 pm

A Musical Candlelight Experience

Featuring

CLASSIC MOVIE THEMES
By Grace Notes - A String Quartet

Admission: $15 Per Person
Limited Space Available • Reservations Required

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
THEIRISHHARP.COM
(905) 468-4443 • TAXES & GRATUITIES EXTRA
Credit Card Required To Reserve Your Spot • 72 Hour Cancellation Policy In Effect
Regional update on Upper Canada Lodge closure

Zahraa Hmood
The Local

Long-term care home Upper Canada Lodge is currently in the final steps of helping its residents relocate, with closure currently on track for 2024, according to a recent update from the town's regional councillors. This is part of the shifting landscape of long-term care living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with Niagara Long Term Care and Pleasant Manor both planning expansions, although neither will be ready in time for Upper Canada Lodge residents.

NOTL regional councillor Andrea Kaiser, who attended the town council's March 28 meeting, says Niagara Region is finalizing “transition plans for residents” leaving the region-owned home on Wellington Street. They aim for residents to move to the home of their choice, Kaiser said. “There is a large percentage of the residents who actually don’t reside in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” she said. “The region is working with residents themselves to understand where they would like to be.”

Upper Canada Lodge, an 80-bed facility, was originally expected to close in 2022, according to a NOTL Local report from July 2019. At the time, director of senior services Henri Koning said it was not feasible to redevelop the property to align it with provincial standards. As for the future of the property, which sits on land owned by Parks Canada, Kaiser said “it’s still early days” and would require the region and Parks Canada to come together for a discussion, including what activities can and cannot take place on this property.

Coun. Gary Burroughs pointed out while the lodge doesn’t meet new provincial standards, he believes it is “structurally, quite sound” and hopes to see the town have some say in its future. “Because it’s in our community, because it’s about 80 separate rooms with common space, with dining, with a bar, it’s an ideal situation for something,” he said. “I just think the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake should participate, only because it’s in the town.”

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said this can be discussed during council’s upcoming strategic planning session for 2023.
Donations needed to support Wheels of Hope

Sharon Burns
The Local

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope," said Lady Bird Johnson, First Lady and wife of former U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson. It’s spring, and daffodils are starting to pop through the soil in Niagara-on-the-Lake gardens.

Cancer organizations around the world use the daffodil as a symbol of hope for all people affected by cancer, because not only do daffodils mark the return of spring, they also symbolize new life.

Up until a few years ago, Susan and Walter Weaver wore plastic daffodil pins on their jackets and canvassed their neighbourhood of Garrison Village for donations to the Wheels of Hope program. However, explained Susan, “with COVID things are really changing and door-to-door isn’t an option anymore. We are just hoping that people will donate online.”

Wheels of Hope is a branch of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) where people with cancer can access rides to and from treatment.

According to the CCS website, “the emotional, financial and practical challenges of a cancer diagnosis can feel overwhelming. Sometimes, simply planning travel to cancer appointments can be a difficult task.”

“You would be amazed at people who don’t have transportation to medical appointments and treatment,” said Susan. “Their family is busy. They may have the money and the means but they just need transportation.”

Susan has been involved with raising funds for Wheels of Hope for many years, and during that time, she says, “we have lost many family members and friends, like everyone else, to this disease. It has touched all our lives.”

“We have just lost a close family friend to cancer this weekend,” she added.

One of the statistics the CCS shares is that almost half of Canadians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Susan is a board member for the CCS and organizes canvassing. “The Golf for a Cure tournament has been cancelled for a number of years,” she said, “and during COVID, fundraising activities were curtailed. Now, to restart this, we need volunteers to come forward.”

“Now, driver volunteers are needed for Wheels of Hope,” she added. “Funds raised by CCS go towards covering the gas.”

The Shaw Festival makes a sizeable donation from its town preview program. “It’s wonderful. And they have had a lot of people who have dealt with cancer. It’s a wonderful contribution they are making for such an important cause,” said Susan.

“When my husband retired,” she said, “he became a volunteer and was canvassing in our neighbourhood. He was so touched because there was this elderly woman who could hardly speak because of cancer, and she told him how much she appreciated this program because her family wasn’t around to help her.”

Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society’s Daffodil Campaign can be made online at the CCS website. Click on the “Get Involved” tab to find ways to volunteer.

“Funds go to cancer research as well and if you want your funds directed to Wheels of Hope, you can,” explained Susan. “We must continue this fight to cure cancer by doing research and helping those in our community dealing with it.”

While we may not see someone at our doors wearing a yellow daffodil pin, now is the time to help hope bloom with a donation today for people facing cancer.

Sharon Burns
The Local

Plan your visit to The Pumphouse Art Centre prior to July 1st to enter a Free Draw for 2 original paintings by award winning local artists Sharon Frayne and Lorraine Kelly.

Sponsored by 2022 President’s Gold Award Niagara-on-the-Lake Royal LePage Sales Representative Peter Domarchuk

Sharon Frayne

Lorraine Kelly

Peter Domarchuk*
Canadian Cancer Society

CCS donations are needed locally to support WHEELS OF HOPE. This important program transports cancer patients to their medical appointments.

You can contact CCS by using
1. online: cancer.ca
2. phone: 1-888-939-3333
3. mail: CCS
   55 Clair Ave W Suite 500,
   Toronto, M4V2Y7

Your donations will support those in Niagara dealing with cancer.
Please give today.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Weaver 905 468 2928
The pool in St. Davids is pretty basic, but it has served generations of families well.

The question is how long it can or should keep doing that, and the answer is predicated on accurate information from town staff about the condition of the pool and cost to update it.

This is not a new discussion. Many residents who remember when council had to make a decision about both pools, back in the 90s. Memorial Pool was replaced, although it was still pretty basic, and St. Davids was repaired.

We’ve been told it’s not a good idea to keep repairing it, that it needs too much work, and it will be too expensive. That may well be true.

But those on the pool committee, and councillors who will have to make this decision, aren’t there yet. Just a few sunny days, and summer doesn’t seem so imminent.

Residents have been assured they will have their St. Davids pool open again this year, hopefully without incident or expense.

It’s been a long wait since the St. Davids Lions hall filled with locals in anticipation of a new pool design reveal. What they showed didn’t look like anything the second version, which is the 85 million design residents are still waiting for. They were told construction might begin as early as the end of the 2022 swimming season, but the elusive grants and the Council had to make a decision about both pools, back in the 90s. The memorial Pool was replaced, although it can or should keep doing that, and the answer is predicated on accurate information from town staff about the condition of the pool and cost to update it.

This is not a new discussion. Many residents who remember when council had to make a decision about both pools, back in the 90s. Memorial Pool was replaced, although it was still pretty basic, and St. Davids was repaired.

We’ve been told it’s not a good idea to keep repairing it, that it needs too much work, and it will be too expensive. That may well be true.

But those on the pool committee, and councillors who will have to make this decision, aren’t there yet. Just a few sunny days, and summer doesn’t seem so imminent. Residents have been assured they will have their St. Davids pool open again this year, hopefully without incident or expense. It’s been a long wait since the St. Davids Lions hall filled with locals in anticipation of a new pool design reveal. What they showed didn’t look like anything the second version, which is the 85 million design residents are still waiting for. They were told construction might begin as early as the end of the 2022 swimming season, but the elusive grants and the pool committee agreed the town needs a new pool, it could be years before money is available to build it. If they decide to repair and upgrade what is there, to settle for basic and not reach for the bells and whistles, it has to be with a level of certainty it will continue to serve the community for years to come.

Whatever the outcome, it will shape the St. Davids community of the future. We wish the pool committee members all the best on their new endeavor.

Penny Coles
The Local

**VIEW FROM THE COUCH**

Donald Combe is a retired Niagara Regional Native Centre.

We all remember Paul Hollywood from The Great British Bake Off. Now, in Paul Hollywood’s Big Continental Road Trip (Netflix, 2017) you will learn of his other passion, cars. You will be amazed, astonished, enlightened and above all, amused as we learn about nationalities by their attitudes towards their cars. Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to the movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through “short and sweet exclusives,” of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

Erie contrasts some of Niagara’s most heavily-forested areas with dense residential spots. We have a little bit of everything, and it is changing fast. Fascinatingly, this all comes to light when we run programs at the school board. The contrasts are wilder than any woods we have left in Niagara. We see kids who are uncomfortable touching mud and kids we can’t keep out of it. We have kids who are totally gassed after hiking up the escarpment to kids who could run up and down it all day. Some students hunt with their parents, while others are on the hunt for their next ‘like’ on Tik-Tok. Some kids can take a bonk in the head, and others openly admit they are scared to enter the forest at Woodend Conservation Area.

My coworkers and I have had students express that they have never been in a forest before, despite growing up in Niagara. Others ask if we have black bears in the woods, and sometimes these are students who are old enough to have a job.

During our popular storm shelter building program, some kids haven’t yet grabbed that you can’t necessarily lean a tall skinny stick against a tall skinny tree and expect it to be stable. Other students understand basic structures so intricate and cleverly engineered that they are hard for me to take down at the end of the day. Some students don’t grasp that if you sprint through mud in clunky boots, you will soon be eating the mud, while others know how to build bridges over it.

We also see interesting psychological patterns involving resilience, manners, listening skills, and general attitudes which can vary according to where students come from. I used to notice these patterns playing sports across Niagara in my youth, too.

However, the moment the students step off the bus, I put my analyses to the side. Every student and every class is going to correlate with their neighborhoods. On their field trips, we have been using the same forests and offering the same programs over the years. With these consistent background variables, it gives me and my coworkers an opportunity to analyz e how kids interact with nature, and what it might tell us about their communities.

Niagara Region is a mosaic of urban and rural environments, as well as appreciable green spaces. The lifestyles and communities that exist on our peninsula of nearly half a million people are remarkably diverse. To me, this is also what makes Niagara such a special place to live, work and play.

In a 15-minute drive, you can go from a true inner city environment to sprawling farmlands and big properties.

Driving from south to north end Niagara Falls feels like an endless concrete jungle, yet a cruise out in Wainfleet or West Lincoln offers glimpses into true agricultural living.

Erie

A school trip with Owen Bjorgan.

Donald Combe
The Local

**NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL**

DISTRESS CENTRE For domestic, family, distress and crisis 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711 MENTAL HEALTH and ADDICTIONS ACCESS Toll Free: 1-866-550-5205 GAMBLER’S ANONYMOUS 905-351-1616

KIDS HELP PHONE (Children’s Line) 416-586-5437 1-800-668-6868 kidsline@philpottle.ca ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark’s Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting. 905-682-2140

ASSAULTED WOMEN’s HELPLINE Mobile calls to: #SAFE (#7233) 1-866-863-0511 (Toll Free)

CRIME STOPPERS 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) niagaratips.com Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Trusted Voice of Our Community

Editor: Penny Coles
penny@notllocal.com 905-246-9770
Publisher: The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local
Village Media Regional Publisher (online sales)
John Hammill
John@villagemedia.ca 905-988-5995 ext 1157
notllocal.com | facebook.com/notllocal | Instagram.com/thelotalocal | thenotllocal.com

NEWS TIPS: news@notllocal.com

WHERE’S BEN? Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Last week, Dennis Rizzuto correctly identified the Niagara Regional Native Centre.
I believe that the members of council are doing their ‘best to try to get it right’ as it per-
tains to the 2023 budget (The Local, March 29). It is a tough job, particular-
ly when people second-guess decisions that were made with the best of intentions. However,
there are two concerns that I have in terms of process. 1. It appears from the edi-
torial that the council did not provide any direction at the beginning of the bud-
get process. Many people are struggling to make ends meet because of the high level of in-
fation and I would suggest if there was ever a year that spe-
cific direction was needed, this was the year. I would sug-
gest the direction should have been clear and unequivocal so the budget increase must not be en-
dorsed. 2. Even in the absence of such direction, surely the CAO and her leadership team should have realized that a budget process above the rate of inflation was unacceptable, and should have planned ac-
cordingly. I think that’s part of the deal.

Fortunately there is still time to get it right. Like any business or family, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake needs to live within its means and make the difficult decisions that are necessary to achieve this. Ev-
eryone is struggling now much is at high inflation so salary increases, if any, are not com-
pensating for this. Many tax payers are on fixed incomes.

Against this backdrop council and town leadership need to find a way to keep the budget increase below the rate of inflation.

Jan Household
NOTL

I don’t know whether anyone in the area has had a chance to watch The Siste-

ers on CTV on Fri-

day nights. They are actually mother and daughter – the two enplan-
ted as of late on the need for skilled workers in the construc-
tion industry. With major growth in the

theme of the college’s cooperative

education program as she spoke to O’Regan yesterday morning. “I’m looking for-
ward to continuing to get training even after my college program. I’m learning a lot, I’m so much more capable hands-on work, I look forward to coming in and working on cars every day.”

Lots of attention has been placed as of late on the need for skilled employees in the pro-
gress. With major growth in population expected in the next two decades in the Niagara Re-
gion, and in NOTL specifically, skilled workers in the construc-
tion trades will be key. Currently the average age of a journeyperson, or skilled tradesperson, in Canada is

where the staff made

Mike Balsom

Some of the recent federal and provincial announcements lead me to believe that both these levels of government are seriously trying to get it right when it comes to skilled trades and apprenticeships.

The focus needs to shift from inspiring young people to desire to work in the trades to providing the means for em-
ployers to create the job open-

ers for large projects. As of April 1, 2023, students Students Loans and

Canada Apprentice Loans, in-

cluding those currently being repaid, are now permanently interest free, and new enhance-
ments proposed in the federal budget will allow students to access up to $14,400 in fed-

eral support for the upcoming school year, an increase of $1,260.

As well, Employment and Social Development Canada offers financial support to small and medium-sized employers to hire first-year apprentices.

ESC offers a $5,000 grant to businesses for each eligible first-year apprentice hired.

That amount is doubled if the new apprentice is hired from an equity-deserving group.

The provincial government has also addressed the skilled labour shortage in recent an-

The town should also look at how it will cope if part-

Brenda Wieland

We are thoroughly enjoy-

ing this show. It is well-written, well-acted and just fun to watch.

Brenda Wieland

Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years in business.

established in 1946 by Frank

itors has been a driving force

and began expanding the

vide additional income for

the winter off, preparing for

planting and harvesting a

at work on his 50-acre farm,

Within four years of work-

75 years.

and look forward to serving

to the 2023 budget (The

of council are doing their ‘best

fairer to residents in this time of

with open arms

my life.

it worries me that the

I strongly believe the town

half the time to get it right. Like any business or family, the Town of

NOTL needs to live within its means and make the
difficult decisions that are necessary to achieve this. 

Everyone is struggling now much is at high inflation so salary increases, if any, are not compensating for this. Many tax payers are on fixed incomes.

Against this backdrop council and town leadership need to find a way to keep the budget increase below the rate of inflation.

Jan Household
NOTL

I don’t know whether anyone in the area has had a chance to watch The Siste-

ers on CTV on Fri-

day nights. They are actually mother and daughter – the two enplan-
ted as of late on the need for skilled workers in the construc-
tion industry. With major growth in the

theme of the college’s cooperative

education program as she spoke to O’Regan yesterday morning. “I’m looking for-
ward to continuing to get training even after my college program. I’m learning a lot, I’m so much more capable hands-on work, I look forward to coming in and working on cars every day.”

...
Ridesic announces donation from Burton family foundation

Continued from page 1

the building itself came about in 1950 through the fundrais-
ing efforts of the citizens in NOTL.

“It’s the last town-owned community-use building in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” she added. “This belongs to the residents, and this particular location should serve them. In the past, community build-
ings have been sold off to de-
developers. We want to stop that pattern. This is our last space that can really give back and do it in a way that benefits the whole town.”

“We really feel that this can be an example in Cana-
da of a successful community hub,” Ridesic told the NDP leader. “We have a great group of organizations, and really committed donors willing to invest all the capital we need to adaptively reuse the build-
ing and to green the building.”

Ridesic went on to suggest a hub would have impact far beyond just the services it would offer, providing benefit to tourism in the town as well as the arts sector as a whole.

“It can transform this whole end of town,” said Ri-
desic, “to make it an atrium that highlights the arts and culture we have going on in the community that connects with Fort George and Parks Canada. They are very keen to be able to work with the community I can’t think of a better location in the country to showcase something like this.”

Stiles suggested to the at-
tendees, who also included Karyll Justo, the potential operator of the proposed nursery school, that making an economic case for the hub is key to having their dreams realized.

“Bringing services into a community like that,” said the MPP for Davenport, “it’s immediately an attraction for people who want to come here to live and work. And they’ll reinvest in the com-
munity. I think there’s a really strong economic argument here.”

Ridesic impressed both Stiles and Gates when she informed them that $2 mil-
ion had already been raised, including a large sum from the James A Burton and Fam-
ily Foundation, for necessary upgrades to the facility.

“The Niagara Creative, Cultural & Community Hub has the potential to transform our community and how our charitable organizations deliver services,” Burton, a NOTL resident, said in an email. “Through co-location, shared services and collabo-
ration, the hub organizations will amplify their impact and ability to deliver services to support all demographics in our town, from seniors to at-
risk youth.”

It’s not the first time such a proposal for a cultural hub in NOTL has come to the fore.

“I fought to keep our school open,” Gates said of Parliament Oak Public School, which the DSBN closed in 2015. “Then, when we were going down that road, one of the things we wanted to do at that time was to have it as a community hub. It would have been a win for the town and the commu-
nity.”

Murray and Ridesic ex-
plained how the non-profits housed under one roof could bring unique opportunities for collaboration, including Shaw actors and crew mem-
ers and Music Niagara mu-
sicians working with Royal Oak students. It would also offer opportunities for lo-
cal seniors to remain active through volunteering with the various groups at the hub.

As well, its location on land with rich history would provide further opportunities for Plenty Canadian Indige-

nous cultural programming. Unfortunately, the last-
minute nature of the meeting meant representatives of that organization, as well as Shaw Festival and Music Niagara, were unable to attend.

The two NDP MPPs of-
tered help to the hub propo-
sents in navigating the some-
times complicated process of researching and applying for grants for the project, as well as assistance by writing letters of support to various levels of government.

“If I were the town,” Ri-
desic said, “I would want to con-
tinue to own the land but get rid of the burden of the building. I would say in our long-term community plan-
ing, we don’t know what our needs will be 50 or 100 years from now, so we’d like to con-
tinue to own it. It’s exactly like the agreement the Shaw has with Parks Canada across the road.”

Stiles said she feels there should be funding available through Infrastructure On-
tario for community projects such as this hub but added that currently most projects that receive funding usually have a housing component attached. She also expressed hope that Justo’s daycare plans could benefit from provincial capital potentially available to communities for increased child care spaces.

Following the meeting, Ridesic expressed gratitude to Gates for suggesting that he bring his party leader in for the meeting. She was very pleased with the potential benefits it could bring to the groups as they move forward.

“I think they both were very supportive of the con-
cept,” she told The Local. “They see the vision, they see the impact that it can have on the community. I think they will be great partners and resources for us as we move forward. Support at the provincial level to help us ac-
cess resources that we need is great.”
Create a Fluffy Bunny

All you need is cotton balls and some craft glue! Glue the cotton balls inside the grey circles to make your bunny fluffy. Colour the Easter eggs and display me in your home!

WING WEDNESDAY IS BACK!
75 cent wings every Wednesday

358 Mary St., NOTL
905-468-TRAP (8727)
sandtrappub.com
Louise Leyland at Brock’s Monument with Alexander Salton, one of the many summer student interpreters she worked with over the years. (Photos supplied)
Ken Reid looking for man who helped him

Ken Reid, well-known and respected in Niagara-on-the-Lake for his time in past decades as canine controller officer in town, is asking for residents’ help.

He says he was attacked by a much younger and bigger than him on Friday, March 24, at approximately 6 p.m., on Regent Street, just outside his home.

The man pulled over, and shouted at Reid that his dog had run out in front of the man’s vehicle, Reid says.

Reid believed the dog was in his yard, but couldn’t be sure, he told The Local. Reid, 70, advised that as the man advanced toward him, he picked up a stick — a dead tree limb, about an inch thick — for protection, while shouting at the man to get off his property.

“He was on my property and coming toward me. "He said — he said, "I'm sure they were going to pass out, he called an ambulance. Reid thinks the man who helped him said his name is Brian, and that he lives in the area. ‘I'm sure they were close enough to see what happened,’ he says, ‘and they were shouting at him, ‘leave him alone, what are you doing?’’

Reid says as he walked up his driveway to his house, he began feeling dizzy. Thinking he was going to pass out, he called an ambulance, and was treated at the Niagara Falls Hospital site for a dislocated shoulder, a fractured right wrist and a pulled muscle in his back.

Reid says he was attacked by a man much younger and bigger than him on the Regent Street scene to assess one of the involved persons, he said.

At this time no charges have been laid, "Gavin said.

Ken Reid, formerly the town’s canine controller officer, shown with his partner Lise Walton, says he was assaulted in his driveway, and he hopes to find a man who came along at the right time and assisted him. (File photo)
Pool committee reinstated to look at repairs or replacement

Penny Coles
The Local

The St. Davids pool fundraising committee has been reinstated, says Coun. Adriana Vizzari, on a motion made by her and approved last week.

It’s a little different process from the other town committees, which dissolved at the end of the last council term, she explains. This one was not, and will begin meeting shortly with the same members.

However, there is a different mandate for them — they are to look at repairing or replacing the pool, with the intention of making recommendations to council, so it’s no longer just about fundraising.

The original intent for the committee was to raise funds to supplement a grant the town hoped would be forthcoming from upper levels of government to pay the majority of the cost of a new pool, but applications for a grant have so far been turned down.

“Maybe some people who were on the committee last year won’t be interested in this new mandate,” says Vizzari. “Looking at what repairs the pool needs and how much it would cost — those are a different skill set than fundraising.”

The makeup of the pool committee is still the same, with a total of nine people, two of them councilors, but not all of them may show up or want to continue on the committee, she says. If that happens, a decision will have to be made by council about how to proceed. The goal of having a reasonably small committee of nine, she explains, is that all of them should be committed to attending meetings.

Kip Voega, a retired contractor living in St. Davids, spent a lot of working days looking after town facilities, including the pool. He’s interested in what happens to it, and has been reading all the paperwork he can find, including the facilities master plan and a consultant’s report.

He doesn’t agree St. Davids needs a new pool — unless someone can show him otherwise. He points to what he’s read in various reports and agrees it needs some repairs and upgrading, but could be a better choice than spending $5 million on a new pool.

It doesn’t need new decking, and any work on pipes below the deck has been done in the past with out removing it, and can be again if necessary.

“I question why the pool needs to be replaced,” says Voega. “It just needs some TLC, because it’s been neglected.”

When the last term of councilors were discussing the possibility of repairs, Sharon Randall, advised against that. “Personally, I don’t think that’s a good idea,” he said, explaining there are a lot of challenges, including accessibility issues, and meeting regional standards for chlorination.

“I think we’d be looking at spending a lot of money to keep it going every year until we come up with a permanent solution,” he said. And repairing the pool is “definitely not part of the facility master plan.”

The facilities master plan, going back to 2018, says staff raised serious concerns in regards to St. Davids Lions Pool. While the town has been diligent in trying to maintain the facility for many years, there are a number of issues with the pool and building, that cannot be resolved without complex and expensive repairs. Even by implementing the possible repairs, major issues would remain unresolved. The building housing the changerooms / washrooms and the mechanical room is very old, does not meet current code standards, and does not meet current requirements for universal accessibility.

Voega says that what is important to her is that the town provides residents with “safe, affordable lessons for all our kids in town, so they learn water safety and can swim.”

“I think it’s fair to say St. Davids would be happy to see the pool repaired. But we need to see the facts.”

Vizzari says there is $100,000 in the 2023 budget for a new St. Davids pool, but nothing she knows of for repairs, although she’s also not aware of “anything glaring that it needs to be opened for the season.”

A year ago, then-Lord Mayor Betty Disero suggested a solution to fund pool repairs, rather than replacing it — the town could sell two surplus properties, one on Anne Street as it connects to Butler Street, and the other a parcel of vacant land behind the Vineridge Academy, which came under town ownership when it purchased the old high school from the school board, and hung onto when the school was sold.

If it turns out there is no grant available and the pool is to be repaired, the sale of those lots would likely cover whatever repairs are needed, she said.

Vizzari says what is important to her is that the town continues to offer swimming lessons and a swim team, and that “there will be something here for the future generations. I want to do what’s best for the residents of St. Davids today and in the future.”

Help for the Hub

Andrew Niven and Madison Vine of Vineyards of Niagara-on-the-Lake stopped by with a donation for The Farmworker Hub, raised from sales of their Winemakers Pass.

“We’re so grateful for this support. It’s amazing to see the wineries giving back to our friends on the farm,” says Hub founder Julia Buxton-Cox, “supporting those who grow and harvest the grapes in a very tangible way.”
Sunrise service this Sunday at Wayside Chapel

Sharon Burns
The Local

A tiny white chapel on the Niagara River Parkway will once again host a sunrise service on Easter Sunday.

That the church can only seat eight people didn’t deter people from attending — the service will be conducted outside.

The Living Water Wayside Chapel, built in 1965 and located at Walker’s Country Market, belongs to Faith Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Niagara Falls.

Rick Meloen is a member of Faith Fellowship who has been organizing Easter services at the small church for the past 20 years. “This is a time of celebration and remembrance. Our Lord rose from the dead on Easter morning and we celebrate that,” said Meloen, who will lead the service.

The chapel was intended as an outreach project for the church, as “a place where people could stop for a moment of quiet meditation, here on the parkway, with nature close by, before continuing on their way,” he told The Local.

The location gives visitors to the area an opportunity for a bit of a break from their busy days at a small, but inspiring stopover for a few minutes of respite. Or as Meloen says, “a place for a passive sort of witness, not in-your-face, but a quiet spot to stop and say a prayer while travelling.”

In the guest book, noted Meloen, “most of the comments are in a different language. It’s interesting to see the diversity of people that come to visit the area. Thousands of people each year will grace the doors of that little tiny church.”

Easter sunrise services at Living Water started around 1980, and “there are a lot of familiar faces from year to year. It’s become a bit of a tradition now. There’s more people that come out from the community than from our church,” said Meloen.

“It is more of a community event.”

Dress appropriately for the 20-minute outdoor service, suggests Meloen. The service starts at 7 a.m. and if it’s a clear day, attendees will enjoy watching the sunrise over the Niagara River. Everybody is welcome to the sunrise service this Sunday, April 9.

The Living Water Wayside Chapel will be open to the public in the next few weeks.

Cat rescue sells out, donations still needed

Sharon Burns
The Local

Tanya Rice, volunteer director of fundraising at NOTL Cat Rescue, hosted the third annual spring fundraiser for the organization this past weekend.

Rice said they had an incredible turnout for the fundraiser, despite the dis- mal day. “Due to the weather, we utilized the garage and front porch to carry on,” Rice said.

In total, 377 planters were sold, several hundreds of pounds of cat food was donated, as well as bags and boxes of cat litter.

“We are so very grateful to the community, local businesses and Kauflarz Family Farm for the generous support,” added Rice.

Winners of the raffle table and silent auction have been contacted and their names will be posted on NOTL Cats Facebook page.

If you are aware of a cat needing services, or would like to donate your time, cat products or money, please email notlcats@cogeco.ca.

Heritage planner agrees to some alterations on Randwood Estate

Most requests are opposed by planner

Zahraa Hmood
The Local

The town’s heritage planner has recommend-ed allowing two properties next to the Randwood Estate to be demolished, while opposing a large bundle of requests to alter or remove other parts of the historic property, in connection with plans for a subdivision next door.

Solmar Development and Two Sisters Resorts submitted heritage permit applications to the town this winter for proposed alterations and demolitions at 200 John Street East and 588 Charlotte Street.

This is part of owner Benny Marotta’s long-standing plan to build a subdivision on these properties: they will be presenting their subdivision plans to the town in two public meetings on Wednesday, April 12 and Monday, April 24.

In heritage planner De-nise Horne’s report on the applications, published March 29, she recom-mends approval of eight alter-ations the Solmar group proposed, and refusal of 15 others.

This includes demo-lition of the Calvin Rand summer house on John Street East and the main residence on Charlotte Street, former stables and barns.

For John Street East, approval was given to re-move a white ash tree on the property, restore the swimming pool garden according to the original Dunington-Grubb draw-ings, remove the concrete swimming pool structure, restore the Tea House and the Whistle Stop structure, and install interpretive sig-nage within the Whistle Stop.

For Charlotte Street, they received approval to relocate the property’s one-story outbuilding. Horne wrote in her report that both properties re-quire archeological assess-ments be completed before any demolition or other disturbances take place on the property, along with salvaging of demolished structure materials.

However, Horne rec-ommended the town refuse the request to demolish the carriage house on John Street East and two smaller sheds on Charlotte Street, and does not recommend removing the following: the circular Mound Garden, the Dunington-Grubb-designed swimming pool garden and the footings from the original pergola in that garden.

This proposal has been the subject of debate and litigation for nearly five years, since the public first learned of plans to build a hotel and conference centre on the estate, and a subdivi-sion beside it, in 2018.

Save Our Rand Estate (SORE), the communi-ty group opposed to the plans, has been involved in legal challenges against them. They responded to Horne’s report in an article posted on their website on April 3, calling it "very well done” and thanking Horne for "her diligent and im-portant work.”

In November 2021, the group published a concept plan for what they believe residential use of the two properties in question should look like, while "respecting and conserv-ing the important heritage attributes of the subject properties.

Horne’s report, they wrote, “appears to embrace much of the approach em-bedded in the SORE con-cept plan.”

As a party in associated litigations on the develop-ment, SORE will give a pre-sen-tation following Solmar at both the April 12 and 24 meetings. Members of the public are also allowed to apply to deliver delegations.

After these meetings, council is expected to make its decision on the subdivision plans.
Life of Robert Addison in Niagara subject of video

Penny Coles
The Local

The story behind an 18-minute video about Robert Addison, St. Mark’s first rector, is quickly explained to viewers: he was one of the most significant men in early Ontario history, “yet we barely know who he was.”

Missionary and Minister at Niagara, Robert Addison 1754-1829, is narrated in turn by familiar local voices Donald Combe and Jamie Mainprize. In it we learn Addison came to Niagara in 1792. While others came and left, Addison stayed and ministered “37 long and influential years,” says Mainprize, an actor retired to Niagara-on-the-Lake. “That’s why he’s so significant to our history.”

As sextant and archivist of St. Mark’s Anglican Church, an author and retired teacher, Combe is considered a scholar on Addison. He researched Addison’s life as a missionary, and as St. Mark’s rector from the time the church was built in the early 1800s — it remains the oldest church in continuous use in the province.

Local Barbara Worthy, a writer, director, producer and performer who has worked for the CBC and the Shaw Festival, wrote the script, with many discussions between them to ensure its accuracy, says Mainprize, with many discussions about the books and what they represented takes place between Combe and Peter Babcock, also an Addison scholar heavily involved in what is now the Addison Library, built in a section of the church hall in the 1980s. Designed by Campbell Scott and built by Bill German, the space is light and climate-controlled, the money to fund it raised by donations — it is considered the oldest library in the province, and likely one of the most important.

The books, some dating to the 16th century, would have been given to Addison before he left for Niagara, by friends, clergy members, and some may have belonged to his father-in-law or purchased by Addison himself — he was, after all, on his way to a “wilderness,” where books might not have been easily available.

A scene of dialogue about the books and what they represent takes place between Combe and Peter Babcock, also an Addison scholar heavily involved in what is now the Addison Library, built in 1980. Designed by Campbell Scott and built by Bill German, the space is light and climate-controlled, the money to fund it raised by donations — it is considered the oldest library in the province, and likely one of the most important.

The books, some dating back to the 16th century, would have been given to Addison before he left for Niagara, by friends, clergy members, and some may have belonged to his father-in-law or purchased by Addison himself — he was, after all, on his way to a “wilderness,” where books might not have been easily available.

In the video, Combe says, “I feel very certain that Addison actually held these books. I have a feeling that maybe he didn’t read them all, because 1,500 books is a lot of books to be wading your way through.”

There would have been a problem of free time, and also squinting in the evening by candlelight — some of the books were badly burned, Combe adds, and St. Mark’s is in the process of restoring damaged books, as money is available.

The production is dedicated to Combe, written and directed by Worthy, and filmed and edited by Joe Lapinski.

Andrea Douglas was the project manager, costumes were by Pam Munro, and some of the video was made at Lake Lodge. Addison’s home at the top of Four Mile Creek, now “under stewardship” of Ed Werner.

Rick Meloen as Addison takes part in some of the opening scenes, with Cinderella, a gentle horse loaned to the crew by Sentinel Carriages.

The video is something Combe and others had wanted to do for several years, and attempts to secure a $5,000 federal grant from the New Horizons for Seniors program was eventually successful, allowing the project to go ahead.

Watching the finished product after all this time of wanting to see it happen “was really a joy,” says Combe, who feels the video was very skillfully produced, and finally fulfills the goal of recognizing Addison as he deserves.

To view the video go to youtube.com/watch?v=ptKBrTerQw2Y.
Seniors can keep on smiling with good oral health

The need for good oral health continues as we age, even if we become chronically ill or move to a long-term care residence. Unfortunately, many older adults, especially those who rely on others for care, have poor oral hygiene and high rates of oral disease.

Oral diseases can cause pain, discomfort, bad breath and difficulties chewing and swallowing. They are also associated with more serious health complications like diabetes, stroke and heart and lung diseases. Fortunately, daily mouth care can remove food debris and bacteria that grow on gums, teeth and dentures, improving oral and overall health. Dental hygienists recommend that all older adults brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and clean between their teeth once a day. Denture wearers should remove their dentures at night to clean them and allow their gums to breathe while sleeping. They should also clean any remaining teeth twice daily and brush and massage their gums either with a soft toothbrush or a warm damp cloth. Caregivers must help when these tasks become challenging. A dental hygienist can offer tips on how.

Whether you’re at home or in a long-term care residence, daily mouth and denture care coupled with professional oral care and guidance from a dental hygienist can help prevent oral diseases, reduce the risk of health complications and keep you smiling in your golden years. Find more information at dentalhygienecanada.ca/seniors.

3 tips to get active in your golden years

Staying active as you grow older is one of the best ways to ward off age-related ailments such as disease, muscle and joint pain and feelings of isolation, depression or anxiety. Experts have long known about the connection between activity and longevity, and with 2021 census data revealing one in five Canadians is 65 or older, there are a lot of us who could benefit from putting our best foot forward. Your family, and our health-care system, will thank you.

Here are some tips to help you stay active:

Take advantage of every day opportunities
Listen to your body and find ways to incorporate activity into your routine. You can try taking the stairs more often instead of the elevator, carrying your groceries further to your car or looking for group fitness classes in your community. Many municipalities and community centres offer free or discounted classes for seniors.

Go for cardio and strength
Once you’re up for it, head to the gym to take part in at least 2.5 hours of moderate to vigorous aerobic activity each week. Try using a treadmill, stationary bike, swimming or playing sports. Add muscle and bone strengthening activities at least twice a week, using appropriate resistance such as light weights or bands.

Get out with a buddy
Every step counts so it’s a sound idea to walk whenever and wherever you can. One of the best ways to stick to a walking routine is to go with someone else. Many people also do best with a dog by their side. Dogs of all shapes and sizes need daily exercise to keep them mentally and physically healthy too, so your very own pooch will get you out pounding the pavement regularly.

If you’re thinking of buying or adopting a dog – especially one from abroad – take the time to properly research where you might get the dog from. Ask questions about the dog’s history and health status, what veterinary care they’ve had and what paperwork and health records are provided. Before bringing a dog into Canada from another country, familiarize yourself with the disease risks of that region and ensure you meet the specific import requirements to bring it into Canada. There’s no right way to stay active as you age, but there are plenty of ideas out there. For some, a furry friend might just be all the motivation you need.

Find more information to make an informed decision about getting a dog at inspection.gc.ca/dog-decision.
David Craig, Chairman and former President of Craig Travel, has been designing, operating and leading escorted journeys since 1965. He has just returned from escorting our most recent South Africa adventure. Planet earth definitely has some “dream destinations.” Southern Africa is one of them. In my opinion, dream destinations are those which offer wonderful accommodations, delicious cuisine, excellent transportation and the most memorable experiences...ones that you will remember for the rest of your life. South Africa and its closest neighbours provide all of these and more. I have had wonderful opportunities to explore the southern tip of Africa, most recently in March 2023. It is a region that I would gladly revisit many more times. In truth, this is a world that I visit in my mind at every opportunity, when reviewing the results of previous adventures and when planning future journeys. Without a doubt, this is our most successful exotic journey and one that should be on everyone’s bucket list. An old tagline for South Africa described it as “The world in one Country” – in my mind there is no better description.

Any journey of this type is often only as good as the national guide. Ignatius Potgieter, or Iggy as he is affectionately known, is our National guide. Residing in Cape Town, Iggy brings with him a very long background in the history of South Africa. His ancestors were among the early settlers who partook of the Great Trek and they are still very much of the land. His lifelong love of tourism became a career after obtaining his National Diploma in Ecotourism Management in 2010. Initially, he spent several years working in the adventure market before getting involved in the history, culture, and safari market. But most of all, Iggy enjoys working with people from around the world and sharing his beautiful country’s sites and history. His other interests include anything outdoors, good food, and good wine. He very much looks forward to welcoming you to his beloved homeland.

Accommodations provide a comfortable place to rest each night. On this journey, they are more than just a place to lay your head. They are an experience. Set on the shores of Bantry Bay, the President Hotel in Cape Town offers dramatic views of Lion’s Head and the Atlantic shoreline. The Kruger Gate Lodge, set in a park setting and surround ed by bush, is just minutes from one of South Africa’s best parks. The grand historic Victoria Falls Hotel, overlooking the falls and set in a wonderful park-like setting is a highlight for all visitors. We end this adventure at Chobe Game Lodge, located on the shores of the Chobe River, with game viewing from your balcony. All of our hotels offer their own unique atmosphere and ambiance. And the food...returning guests describe this journey as “eating our way across southern Africa”! Each meal brings exciting highlights and new tastes from across the continent. From the 14 courses at the Gold restaurant in Cape Town to the delightful Boma experiences while on safari at Kruger and Chobe, every meal is a new and special experience.

Dream on but do not wait too long. These journeys have departures designed with small group advantages, with a maximum of 24 members per departure, and have limited-time early booking savings!
Experience Our World

OCEANIA CRUISES®

FREE EXCURSIONS, BEVERAGE PACKAGE & SHIPBOARD CREDIT

BOOK BY APRIL 30, 2023 FOR THESE OLife ULTIMATE FARES
With select voyages to choose from, here are our top picks:

City of Light & Baltic Beauties, September 2-14, 2023 – RIVIERA
Featuring visits to London, Paris, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and more
Veranda stateroom from $7,949 pp double

Maya & Inca Origins, December 3-18, 2023 – MARINA
Featuring visits to Costa Maya, Roatán, Panama, Cienfuegos, Lima, and more
Veranda stateroom from $7,635 pp double

Islands to Indochina, January 26-February 12, 2024 – RIVIERA
Featuring visits to Muiria, Manila, Saigon, Bangkok, and more
Veranda stateroom from $11,049 pp double

Contact Craig Travel
1-800-387-8890 | cruises@craigtravel.com | www.craigtravel.com/notl
1092 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, ON M4P 2M6

OLife Ultimate is valid until 4/30/2023 and available for select categories such as, Marina and Riviera: PH-B; Insignia, Nautica, Regatta, Sirena: PH-G.
OLife Ultimate amenities are per stateroom based on double occupancy and subject to change. Limited-time offer is available on select voyages and is capacity controlled. Rates include roundtrip airfare from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver. Fares are per person in Canadian dollars, valid for residents of United States and Canada, based on double occupancy, include all gratuities for included shipboard services and cruise line taxes and fees. The privacy and protection of personal data is very important to Oceania Cruises, and they collect, use, share and secure that data as described in their privacy policy, which is available on their website at OceaniaCruises.com/legal/privacy-policy. Oceania Cruises reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Ships’ Registry: Marshall Islands.
It’s tax refund time: Where to get free tax help

(NC) Tax season comes around each year. Are you hoping to get a refund this year to help pay the bills? Or maybe you could use benefit payments to help you and your family make ends meet?

In order to get these benefits, you need to do your taxes. If you need some help, the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program may be an option. Through the program, community organizations across Canada host free, in-person or virtual tax clinics where volunteers complete income tax and benefit returns for eligible people.

If you have a low or modest income and a simple tax situation, it can be worth reaching out, since filing your taxes allows you to get benefits and credits like the GST/HST credit, the Canada child benefit and the Canada dental benefit. It’s also how you claim a refund or find out if you have to pay tax.

You and your spouse or common law partner need to file your taxes by April 30th every year to keep accessing benefits and credits, even if you have little or no income. Since April 30th is a Sunday this year, the deadline is Monday, May 1, 2023.

You can see if you’re eligible for free tax help or find a CVITP tax clinic at canada.ca/taxes-help.

7 steps seniors can take to avoid fraud

(NC) While anyone at any age can fall victim to a scam, fraud targeting older adults is on the rise. And that’s a concern for many of us as we all spend more time online.

Fortunately, there are many simple steps you can take to help you stay safe online.

Be aware that fraudsters may pose as government or bank staff, family members, law enforcement or other trusted people. Never give out money or sensitive information to a caller, by text or by email. If you’re not sure about something, call a family member, your financial advisor or your bank.

Never click on a link or download an attachment from an unknown source. Even if it looks to be legitimate, verify the sender before taking any action.

Keep your information secure by using strong, unique passwords and passphrases; and ensure your anti-virus software and internet browser are always up to date.

When online, don’t enter login information or credit card details unless you are sure the site is legitimate. Red flags include poor grammar or spelling errors, a URL that doesn’t match the company’s main site or a lack of a security lock symbol in the address bar.

When shopping online, remember that an offer too good to be true usually is. Trust your instincts, ask questions, do your research and be extra cautious.

Social media provides fraudsters with a large pool of potential victims. Be mindful of the personal information you post online and take advantage of privacy settings.

Stay connected to your finances and set up alerts for suspicious activity on your bank account or credit card.

Find more tips at rbc.ca/privacysecurity.

How financial scams are evolving

(NC) Scammers are becoming more sophisticated. They continually adapt the tactics they use to separate Canadians from their money.

According to Kevin Purkiss, vice president of fraud management with RBC, one recent trend involves fraudsters “coaching” potential victims, especially older adults.

“Over the last year we have seen an increase in the number of fraud victims who’ve been coached on how to lie to loved ones, bank employees or financial advisors about why they are withdrawing funds and what the money will be used for,” says Purkiss. “Ultimately, the scammer’s goal is to make it tougher to spot the signs of a scam until it’s too late.”

Even when Canadians realize they’ve been a victim of fraud and confront the perpetrator, the scam may not be over. Fraudsters are now contacting their victims days after being confronted. They impersonate law enforcement, a lawyer or a government agency and offer to help get their money back for a fee.

Find more tips on how to spot the signs of a scam and keep your money safe at rbc.com/privacysecurity.

Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

April 5, 2023
THE NOTL Local
notllocal.com
Is your home ready for you to age in place?

(CN) Canadians are increasingly hearing about a phrase that could shift how they view home designs—“aging in place.” The point of this concept is to spend your golden years in your family home rather than a seniors’ home or assisted living facility.

People change as they get older, and your house may also need to evolve. A health-care professional like an occupational therapist (OT) can assess your needs and help with the appropriate modifications, so you can keep living independently in your home.

Here are some tips that can help you stay home safely.

**A grand entrance**

Aging in place starts with an accessible entrance. Ideally, you’ll have a well-lit front door flush with the walkway leading to it. If there are stairs, securely fasten railings on both sides. Consider what changes would be needed to install a ramp.

**Future-focused renos**

If you’re planning renovations, make it easier to age in place by considering some minor add-ons. Door replacements should be at least 36 inches (90 centimetres) wide to allow wheelchair or walker access if needed.

A new shower should have no curb for unimpeded access, and consider a bidet for a hygienic, hands-free alternative to a traditional toilet.

**Senior-friendly fixtures**

Lever-style handles on faucets are easier to operate than ones you must grab. Better yet, install motion- or voice-activated ones. They’re convenient for rinsing germy hands during meal preparations, and they’re a pain-free option if arthritis becomes an issue later in life.

**Bright light**

Sufficient lighting is essential to help with fading eyesight. Install plenty of lighting in the kitchen for safely chopping food and other tasks. Smart-home systems make it easy to control the lights and can be voice-activated, so you don’t have to walk into a dark room and risk tripping.

If you’re working with an OT, you can learn what to expect and confirm their registration through the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario at coto.org/ot.
St. Davids Lions distribute meal kits to those in need

Sharon Burns
The Local

Deborah Chagnon’s vehicle was so full of groceries that it took several trips with two carts before it was fully unloaded into the St. Davids Lions Club Tuesday. Chagnon, club secretary, and Bradd Anderson, Lions Club International Foundation coordinator, will be building community meal kits with 11 other club members for distribution to Newark Neighbours, Project Share in Niagara Falls and Westview Centre 4 Women in St. Catharines.

“It started two years ago when Debbie brought the idea from her church,” said Anderson. “She provided us with some recipes that feed a family of four to five persons.”

“One of our global causes is hunger,” said Chagnon. “When COVID hit, my church was unable to continue doing this. It’s a great service project so I brought it here.”

“We started with club funding from monies we raised, and with donations from club members. Because we do it about three times a year,” explained Anderson, “the funding put a bit of a strain on our members.”

The Lions Club International Foundation is a global charity that responds when disaster strikes. Most recently, after devastating earthquakes struck Turkey and Syria, Lions and Lions Club International responded with support for families who lost their homes.

“Clubs and districts can apply for funds when there is a need,” said Anderson. “For example, we provided medical eye equipment worth a couple of hundred thousand dollars to the hospital in Weitnau.”

“Our club is fortunate enough to be able to donate to that foundation. And we can apply to that foundation for a need in the community. And hunger is a need, globally,” he added.

The volunteers plan to assemble 152 meal kits, with recipes such as chicken turky bake and tomato bean soup, which require spice packages to be measured and packaged. A recipe card with step-by-step instructions is included.

“That’s a lot of meals to do three times a year,” said Chagnon. Project Share and Newark Neighbours hand them out as meals but at Westview Centre 4 Women, it’s a little different. “They also use them for instruction purposes. Some young women come in and have never cooked before, so this gives them an opportunity.”

This initiative is also supported through funds raised by chocolate sales at Christmas and Easter. “That provides us with enough funds to do one of the three community meal kit projects,” she said. And word is spreading. “We did get an inquiry from the Newmarket Lions Club and they are doing it now,” said Chagnon.

Newark Neighbours preparing for Easter and beyond

Penny Coles
The Local

Last Saturday, a food drive in Virgil was collecting items to help fill Easter dinner baskets for Newark Neighbours.

The local Jeep Club puts on a food drive several times a year, and they were pleased with the response they were getting at Phil’s Your Independent Grocer, having given out a list of items that were most needed and appreciated, including Easter treats for kids.

Newark Neighbours’ Cindy Grant said the food bank volunteers are very grateful for the load of food dropped off Saturday afternoon.

By Tuesday, they were busy beginning to put boxes of food together to be delivered Thursday, just in time for Easter. And despite the huge amount of food collected at Christmastime and donated by Avery Wiens of the Niagara Lions Club, will be held at both Your Independent Grocers, and will be perfect timing to replenish what are sure to be empty shelves, Grant says.

In addition to special holiday meals, Newark volunteers hand out food to about 150 individuals every two weeks. “It disappears quickly,” says Grant, “so whatever is collected on Saturday will be great to help us stock up again for the next couple of months.”

For those who drive by Newark Neighbours new location in Virgil and wonder when they’ll see some action, the answer is soon. “We have the design finished, and we’re really pleased with it,” Grant says. “We’ve spent the last couple of weeks looking for a contractor and we’ve made a decision on that as well. We’re hoping to meet and sign a contract Thursday.”

Grant is expecting construction to start right away and take about six to eight weeks.

“The work that needs to be done isn’t complicated — drywalling, painting, along with some electrical and millwork, with a nice front desk. The biggest job will be flooring, she says. “And then we have to purchase racks and shelving, and a new fridge and freezer.”

The Newark board has been putting money away for the last 30 years to address this eventuality, Grant says. “We have known well have to leave this location at some point. We’ve been very cautious and conservative with our thrift shop revenue and donations so we do have a bit of a nest egg, and this is what it’s for.”

They also have a budget of everything this move will cost, for the one-time capital costs, the transition, “and all the bits and pieces we might need,” says Grant.

They expect to do some target fundraising in the community as well, going out to individuals and organizations to ask for help funding this big and very necessary expansion.

If all goes as planned, says Grant, we should see that big banner across the former Lincoln Interiors store in Virgil come down in June, and the doors to a much larger and better planned space at the new Newark Neighbours location open and ready for volunteers to get to the business of helping those in need.
Ariel Carr steps back on ice after three years, wins two awards

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

Ariel Carr doesn’t like to be the centre of attention — her mother Denise says she never has. But for a quiet, self-effacing 15-year-old who is otherwise uncomplaining when heads are turned her way, she has had a lot of it lately.

Ariel is a regular of the sport for 18 years at every level, her dad and siblings helping out, she was able to join minor hockey, beginning with the Timbit program. She continued through three years in atom, but there, she forced to take a break. She was facing and then recovering from surgeries to straighten her spine from a condition known as scoliosis, a condition that caused her pain, restricted her movement and her lung capacity, and made her tire easily.

Ariel was determined that she would play as well. With lots of hard work on the ice, her dad and siblings helping out, she was able to join minor hockey, beginning with the Timbit program. She continued through three years in atom, but there, she forced to take a break. She was facing and then recovering from surgeries to straighten her spine from a condition known as scoliosis, a condition that caused her pain, restricted her movement and her lung capacity, and made her tire easily.

Ariel was expecting to be back on the ice the next season, but in September after being in the hospital for a long time, she was not able to. Her surgery was not a success and she was faced with the reality of having to live with scoliosis.

Ariel continued to work hard, doing physical therapy and working with the team. She continued to improve, and eventually she was able to return to the ice.

Her surgery took place just a few months after hers, as hospitals became aware of the need to develop new techniques for treating scoliosis. She was the first patient to be treated using this new technique, and she was a success.

In the time before Ariel was able to return to hockey, she was always thinking about it and was determined to do it. She said, “I don’t know what to expect, but I’m going to give it my all and see what happens.”

Ariel was back on the ice in the fall, and she was determined to make the most of it. She was the only girl on the team, and she had to prove herself. But she did it, and she made it clear at the arena that night the kids on both sides of the face-off were out there having fun.

Ariel Carr steps back on ice after three years, wins two awards. A great wrap-around goal, she scored. “She back.”

Denise admits to being nervous watching her play. There was one game, she recalls, when Ariel was pushed, and her mother says she still worries about it. “I don’t think I could have done what she did, he said. “I watched her with those weights, watched them go up and down, and it was killing me. I don’t think I could have gone through that.”

Ariel was out of the hospital and on the road to recovery; she admitted to missing the father-daughter time they spent together through hockey.

Her father Ace has said that from Ariel’s early days on the ice “her hockey IQ” was amazing, and Cadeau agrees it is still — even after the break from hockey, she seems to have the ability to be in the right place at the right time to get the puck, and to look quickly around her, as Ace taught her to, in order to know who to pass to it.

She likes beating the boys,” Ace adds, proudly noting there are many times when she has stopped a goal. “Ariel says she wants to play year after year. She will likely move up to the next age group — and if she does, she’ll be 16, playing on a team of under-18s, although that hasn’t been decided yet. She is defined that she has no interest in finding an all-girls team — she has always played in NOTL, and that’s where she wants to stay; she says, “I’m just happy for her to be able to play,” says Cadeau, who admits to being her biggest fan. “It’s the first year she was coached in atom, and even more so now, knowing what she has been through. When he watched her the second, he said, “I don’t think she even knows the words I can.”

“Mr. Hockey” says Cadeau, who remembers that when people see what you’ve done, it makes them think there are difficult things they might be able to do too.”

And he repeats what he told The Local when Ariel was first facing surgery. “She may be the smallest player, but she has the biggest heart. Everyone can learn from her.”

Ace, who has been called “Mr. Hockey” for his involvement with the league and the team, says he is pleased to be able to play again. “I don’t know if I could have done what she did,” he said. “I watched her with those weights, watched them go up and down, and it was killing me. I don’t think I could have gone through that.”

Ariel was out of the hospital and on the road to recovery; she admitted to missing the father-daughter time they spent together through hockey.

Her father Ace has said that from Ariel’s early days on the ice “her hockey IQ” was amazing, and Cadeau agrees it is still — even after the break from hockey, she seems to have the ability to be in the right place at the right time to get the puck, and to look quickly around her, as Ace taught her to, in order to know who to pass to it.

Ariel Carr Centre, the boards, with the U13 Wolves exhibition game last Thursday. (Supplied)
Mike Balsom
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves Minor Hockey Association celebrated a resurgence of its house league program this year with a week of in-house championships and team awards.

“The last few years the focus has all been on rep teams,” association president Pete Flynn tells The Local. “We’re a minor-major centre. After the travel teams were chosen, we always heard from parents whose kids were cut that they wanted an AE (Alternate Entry — a level between house league and rep) team. But those teams never did well, so I never understood that.”

This year, when the Niagara District Hockey League did some restructuring, he says, it left little room for NOTL to field AE teams.

“So we weren’t able to have AE this year, and got our house league numbers back up,” Flynn explains. “The OMHA (Ontario Minor Hockey Association) is really pushing house league select now, anyway. That’s the way it used to be.”

Flynn says the change brought increased success to NOTL’s house league programs on the ice, making the game much more enjoyable for the kids involved.

“This year our house league teams were about 30 to 40 games above .500,” he says. “Last year it was the opposite. We’ve had a dramatic turn. All of our house league teams were very competitive. And this year our two atom teams (U11) and our two peewee teams (U13) did well in tournaments, too.”

Case in point — at the March Break House League tournament, NOTL teams at the U13, U15 and U18 ages all played in their respective championship games.

With three U11, two U13 and two U18 house league teams in NOTL this year, it was decided to hold house league championships for those age groups last week. It wasn’t possible for the U15 age group that only had one house league team.

If anyone needed proof that there was parity in the way the in-house teams were selected, the fact that Gary Friesen’s U11 team one edged Flynn’s team two by a 2-1 score Saturday afternoon, while James Cadeau and Phil Leboudec’s U18 team one beat Rob Carroll’s team two that evening 3-2, should suffice.

“We worked together, and really focused on making the teams balanced,” Flynn explains. “That’s the way it’s supposed to be done, and how the Niagara District League wants it done.”

Flynn is hoping the trend toward competitive, fun house league play continues moving into 2023-2024.

“If you’re one of the last kids cut from a travel team,” he says, “you can go to a house league team and be a star. You can also play on a house league select team, and be AP’ed (designated as an affiliate player) to a travel team. You can’t go wrong there.”

Overall, Flynn estimates that almost 400 kids aged six to 18 were involved in hockey in NOTL between house league, rep teams and hockey school in 2022-2023.

“I fully expect us to have the same kind of set-up next year, hopefully with two teams at the U15 level,” he says.
Liam VanGent (right) comes ready to play and work hard, his coach said, at games and practices. He also encourages his teammates on the bench, and for that was chosen to receive the Joel Murray Player Dedication Award, given to an U13 player who demonstrates fair play, possesses leadership skills on and off the ice and shows the desire to be a team player, as well as one who is willing to encourage and praise others, and one who shows a true love for the game of hockey. Liam was delighted for his friend Isaac Rapasso, who received the award for the most dedicated player on his team. (Penny Coles)

Jamie Froese Memorial Award

James Cadeau and Phil Leboudec give Cooper Ostromec-ki the award that is presented to an U18 player who best exemplifies Coach Jamie Froese’s love of hockey, dedication to fair play, respect for all players, coaches and officials; and a recognition that winning costs less than the way you conduct yourself on and off the ice. (Shannon Leboudec)
Hot Tub League wraps up another season

Mike Balsom
The Local

The mood was convivial throughout both final games in the over-50 Hot Tub Hockey League last Wednesday night in Virgil as the Leaf beat the Wings 6-3 to take the Mike Moore Memorial Cup.

Following the consolation game, during which the Bruins dropped the Canadiens 6-2, members of those two squads gathered at the boards with their end-of-season beverage and beer-on-a-bun to watch the championship game.

The Leafs finished first in the season standings, while the Wings finished last in the four-team league. But the Wings turned it around in the playoffs, capturing the second seed behind the Leafs and the right to vie for the championship trophy.

Wednesday’s action was competitive. Clearly, both teams came out to win this night, with an atmosphere of camaraderie and celebration permeated the air in Virgil’s Meridian Community Centre, where hockey was being played on the ice, but friendships were being cemented everywhere.

The Hot Tub League was started by brothers Ted and Art Weins in 2000 as an over-45 league, explained 66-year-old Brian Litke, who took over the management of the league at 49 years old, Den Besten thought his age would give him an advantage.

“Young guys the last two years. You’re seeing a lot better players coming out to play.”

Litke passed the torch to Carl Glauser, who wrapped up his first year as Hot Tub League president Wednesday. Glauser points out that Wilmer Neufeld is the last remaining original player from that first team.

“We have four teams this year,” Glauser explained to The Local. “We used to be six teams. After COVID hit, some people didn’t come back. It’s been hard. We hope to get back up to six teams next year, so we need players.”

Though it is an over-50 league, both Glauser and Litke point out that in the past they have invited a few almost-50 players to take some roster spots. Perry Johnson was one of those young whippersnappers about 10 years ago when he joined.

“It’s a lot of fun,” Johnson said Wednesday. “I hadn’t been playing for a while when I started, but it came back pretty quickly. I love getting out there and playing, and I love the social aspect of it, too.”

“It’s a positive environment,” says 49-year-old Bill Goertz, in his first year playing for the Canadiens.

“The guys just want to skate and play. It’s a bit like skinny hockey, but with the equipment on. I’ll be back next year for sure.”

Participating pay $350 a year to play once a week from September through March, on Monday or Wednesday nights. The teams are chosen via a draft system, and their allegiance to NHL teams means nothing when it comes to which jerseys they wear in the league.

The Wings’ Glauser is a Canadian fan, while Goertz loves the Leafs but happily pulls a Habs jersey over his shoulder pads.

Dennis Den Besten had been playing in St. Catharines until about four years ago. The 53-year-old owner of Niagara Computer Systems was relaxing in the dressing room after his Leafs and Canadiens can be pretty competitive on the ice.

The official passing of the trophy, though, will take place at Kinsmen Hall this Wednesday evening. That’s when all the members of Hot Tub League will gather together to celebrate another successful season, convince each other to come out and play again next year, and probably overtaste the severity of the aches and pains they suffered over the last seven months.

After that, Glauser and the executive will be building their contact list for the league as they begin planning for next year’s draft, which will take place around Labour Day weekend.

“It looks like we will have five retirees this year,” Glauser said. “If players are over 50 and interested in playing next year, they can email us at hothubbockey@notllocal.com. And we do let players who are approaching 50 in, too, if we have open spots. Although we have a few imports, we try to keep the league to NOTL residents as much as possible.”
Dramatic comeback, shootout victory for Under-11 Wolves

Mike Balsom
The Local

It was a packed house at the Centennial Arena in Virgil Tuesday for the Niagara District Hockey League Under-11 championship. There was standing room only, but no one was in their seats by the time the Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves captured the trophy with a 3-2 shootout victory over the Thorold Black Hawks.

The goaltenders’ battle lasted nearly two hours, going into overtime following a 2-2 tie after regulation. Both goalies continued to stymie hopeful scorers through three extra periods, forcing the decision to be made via a shootout. And of the shooters from each team who attempted to ice the victory, only NOTL’s Luke Simpson was able to score, with Wolves goalie Mason Nichols coming up with the final save for the win.

“Nothing’s ever going to take that win away,” Pagnotta told The Local. “But it was a back-and-forth, evenly matched game all period. “At first it was just in practice. We gave him a shot in the dressing room to celebrate tonight.”

Following that scoreless overtime period, another five minutes was played four-on-four, then yet another was played three-on-three, with many in the crowd only able to watch the action between sprawled fingers. When the buzzer sounded after a full 60 minutes of hockey, it was time for a shootout.

Rowaan was given the first attempt and shot wide of the net. Then the first Thorold shooter fired on his shot and his try was whistled dead. Next up was Simpson, who skated up to Maritone, faked to the right then swung over to the left side of the net to put it past the outstretched goaltender. Nichols shut the door on the next Thorold shooter and the Wolves had a chance to lock in the win with their next attempt.

But Maritone stopped the penalty shot by James Froese, leaving it up to Nichols to shut the door on the Wolves. And that’s exactly what he did, stopping the puck with his chest and kickin it away with his left pad before throwing his hands in the air to celebrate the win.

“It definitely was scary,” an exuberant Nichols told The Local after the game. “I just kept it together, and luckily I was able to make the saves. I made some pretty big stops, and I feel really good about it.”

Pagnotta said Nichols, who received a hero’s welcome as he stepped off the ice, only donned the goalie equipment for the first time this January.

“He wanted to give it a try,” Pagnotta explained. “At first it was just in practice. We gave him a shot in a game and he just took off with it. He played amazing tonight.”

Simpson gave The Local a breakdown of his winning goal before heading into the dressing room to celebrate with his teammates.

“I was just trying to get it on the net,” he said. “We practised it a few times. I did a fake shot then went around the other side and shot on the empty net. It was exactly how I planned it. I was pretty nervous, but I overcame the nerves and did it.”

At that time I thought I might have to eat my words,” Pagnotta told The Local. “But it was a back-and-forth, evenly matched game all night. The kids never gave up.”

Just three minutes after the second Thorold goal, Charlie Rowaan took the puck into the Thorold zone and unleashed a slap shot to the upper left corner past a stunned Maritone to close the gap to a single goal.

Shortly after that, the Wolves killed a penalty with out giving up a major scoring chance to the Hawks. Then Thorold took a hooking penalty with four minutes left on the clock. Just as the power play was coming to an end Eli Perkins tucked the puck into the Thorold goal to tie it with just over two minutes remaining.

With the score tied 2-2 after regulation, a 10-minute full-strength overtime period was called. In the early period, Thorold attacked the Wolves’ net and the Hawks thought they scored. The team skated back to their end, throwing their sticks and gloves in the air to celebrate what they thought was their victory.

Instead, the ref called a penalty shot on one of the Wolves for smothering the puck in the crease with his glove. Nichols subsequently stopped the Thorold shooter who tried to trick him by skating to his right before sliding the puck over to his backhand on the other side of the net, keeping NOTL’s hopes alive.

Following that scoreless overtime period, another five minutes was played four-on-four, then yet another was played three-on-three, with many in the crowd only able to watch the action between sprawled fingers. When the buzzer sounded after a full 60 minutes of hockey, it was time for a shootout.

Simpson, though, was quick to give Nichols the credit for the win. “He is the hero,” Simpson said. “He played amazing. It’s unbelievable what he did tonight.”

Prior to the championship game the U11 Wolves had already punched their ticket to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championships this upcoming weekend.

After a final practice on their home ice this past Sunday, the team will get ready to leave for Barrie Thursday. They take on Mount Brydges and Midland Friday and meet up with the top-seeded team from Saugeen Shores Saturday, with the top two teams in their pool moving on to the semi-finals Sunday.

Pagnotta said the exciting league win Tuesday couldn’t have come at a better time.

“Going into the OMHA’s, Pagnotta concluded, ‘this shows the kids to keep battling, to never give up. And I try to remind them that it’s not just in hockey, these are life lessons, never give up on anything you do. We’ve drawn some pretty tough teams this weekend, but our guys work hard, and I’m feeling really good about our chances.”
Wolves play good hockey but end chance at championship

Mike Balsom
The Local

After their final game last weekend, Under-18 Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves head coach Tim Marotta told his team that they played some of their best hockey all season at the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championships in Barrie. And assistant coaches Jim Denham added that for several players it was their best game of the year.

Unfortunately it wasn’t enough to advance to the finals at the provincial tournament and the Wolves, some of whom had just played their final minor hockey games for NOTL, were sent home Saturday with an 0-3 record.

The Wolves opened the tournament Friday morning against the South Muskoka Bears. NOTL started the scoring in the first period on a power play goal before South Muskoka scored three unanswered goals to put the Wolves in the hole 3-1 early in the third period.

Halfway through the third, NOTL closed the gap to 3-2. But despite sustained pressure by NOTL, South Muskoka finished the game with an empty net goal to seal the 4-2 victory.

"Both teams were evenly matched and traded scoring chances throughout the game, " said Dyck. "Our young men represented NOTL well and did not retaliate," said Dyck of the Wolves, who in comparison served only 10 minutes in the box.

Napanee was first on the scoreboard with a goal early in the first period. NOTL tied it up in the second, but Napanee regained the lead two minutes later. They added two more in the third for a 4-1 victory.

"It was difficult for us to find our rhythm," said Dyck. "The game was closer than the score indicated but it was clear that the team needed to find another level of intensity and focus if they were going to win in the elimination round."

To that end, the boys arranged a players-only meeting Friday evening to re-align on their ultimate goal and support each other in the process before taking on Parry Sound Saturday morning in the elimination round. The winner of that game would head to the quarter finals.

After a scoreless first period, the Shamrocks struck first with a goal in the second. NOTL responded five minutes later on the power play to even the score. The Wolves controlled the play for long stretches of the second and third period and goaltender Mateo Gruosso shut the door when Parry Sound had opportunities to score.

The game went to overtime after a scoreless third period. Unfortunately, Parry Sound was able to knock the puck in during a scramble in front of the net with 2:35 remaining, ending the game and the tournament for NOTL.

“We were determined and fought hard to overcome fatigue as the overtime period wore on,” Dyck said. “When Parry Sound scored, it was an emotional moment for our boys, who had given it everything they had and came up just short.”

Surely it was even more emotional for the 12 players who made up the graduating group. Wolves minor hockey system, having aged out of the U18 age group for next year. It was also emotional for Marotta, Denham and Dyck, whose sons are all part of that graduating group.

Looking back on the weekend, Marotta said, "What stands out to me is how each and every player has contributed. We never relied on one or two players for success, all of our players are part of it, and this tournament was no exception as we had important contributions from everyone up and down the line-up, along with the steady, consistent goaltending that has kept us in games all year. We were very close to upsetting some of the province’s best teams throughout the weekend.”

South Muskoka went on to defeat the Dorchester Dragons 5-4 in double overtime to complete the weekend with a 5-0-0 record and the provincial title.

In last week’s game against Fort Erie, Logan Smythe goes down to take a shot to help goalie Mateo Gruosso. Gruosso played a good game but the Wolves lost to Parry Sound in overtime, ending their chance to move on to the next round. (Photos by Mike Balsom)
LLOYD, EVELYN ‘LYNN’ (NEE DIPPEL)—Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at the age of 98 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, on September 26, 1924 to Dr. Albert and Lydia (Isenberg) Dippel. She was predeceased by her parents and by her husband of 44 years Gilbert ‘Gil’ Lloyd, who passed away on September 9, 2014. She is survived by her step-daughter, Annette ‘Tig’ Lloyd, her family in the US including her brother Albert Dippel, Jr. and four nephews Roger, Robert, Richard and Ross Dippel and their families, all much loved by Lynn. In addition, Lynn leaves behind many close friends including dear friends Sylvia Humby, Kari Humby, Zofia Hall, Joan McNulty and the members of the women’s group, Beta Sigma Chi.

Lynn began work as a dental assistant at the age of 21 and then became a medical researcher at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. In 1969 she immigrated to Canada after spending a weekend in Toronto where she fell in love with the city. Shortly after moving to Toronto, she met Gil and knew she would never be moving back to the States. They were married in January of 1973. They moved to Barrie, Ontario where Gil managed a plastic manufacturing plant. Lynn became a part of the May Court Club, a charity group of women who have a shop of gently used women and children’s clothes with the proceeds being used to help the local community. Upon Gil’s retirement in 1988, they moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake and built their retirement home. Lynn was invited to join the lovely women’s group, Beta Sigma Chi, she made many many special friends both through this group and the wider community.

Lynn was first diagnosed with cancer in April of 2020. She received treatment at the Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton and in October of 2020 she was cancer free. Lynn began writing letters to her family when she first entered University and never stopped writing. She made time every week to correspond with her family and friends all over the world. She loved to write and receive letters her entire life. In addition, Lynn loved to read and always had a book or two by her side. She enjoyed photography, knitting and needlework - hobbies she got from her mother and father.

In lieu of flowers, Lynn would appreciate a donation to Doctors Without Borders, May Court Club of Barrie or the charity of your choice.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday May 1, 2023, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0

Lynn’s was a life lived to the fullest.

MCCARTHY, EDWARD PATRICK (ED) 1936 - 2023—It is with the deepest sadness that we announce the passing of Ed McCarthy, surrounded by family, on Saturday, April 1st, 2023, at the age of 87. He is now reunited with the love of his life and best friend, his wife Barbara (2021) of 53 years. Devoted and loving father of John (Hilary) and Rachel (Eden). Super special and beloved grandpa of Aven and Caedan. Ed will be missed by his sisters and brothers-in-law Barbara (Chuck) Hamilton, Marian (Gerry) Dobson, Walfy Clost and sister-in-law Liz Birkby. Predeceased by his sister Marguerite Clost and brother-in-law Andrew Birkby. His loss is also felt by many of his nieces and nephews, extended family, and close friends.

Ed, originally from the Ottawa Valley, received his undergraduate degree from St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish in Pre-Med. He then went onto receive his teaching certificate from Queen’s University in Kingston. Finally, he completed his Master of Science at the University of Toronto while teaching in Niagara. Also, while in University, Ed spent two summers working with the Ottawa Roughriders as a trainer as well as working for the government in Ottawa in the Department of Mines.

He came to the Niagara Region to teach at Niagara District Secondary School from 1962 to 1993. There he taught both Physics and Physical Education, ending his tenure at NDSS as the Head of Phys Ed. He was most known for coaching football, basketball, track and field, judo (level brown belt) and every sport in between. His extensive career at NDSS allowed him to teach generations of families from Niagara-on-the-Lake and surrounding communities.

Ed was the Charter President and co-founder of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Kiwanis Club. He was also a devoted member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, rarely missing a Saturday service. Ed also helped Barb with her philanthropic work with the Canadian Cancer Society as well as supporting Newark Neighbors and PBS.

Ed and Barb travelled the world extensively with John and Rachel while on a teacher exchange in Australia. They also visited every single state in the USA over the years, many of them in their camper van with their dog Rally. Later in life, they even managed an excursion to Greenland and Iceland, two of the many places on their bucket lists.

Ed and Barb travelled the world extensively with John and Rachel while on a teacher exchange in Australia. They also visited every single state in the USA over the years, many of them in their camper van with their dog Rally. Later in life, they even managed an excursion to Greenland and Iceland, two of the many places on their bucket lists.

Ed was generous in every way a person can be. He was a quiet and humble man, quick to help anyone who needed it, a good friend and loved his family above all else. To say he will be deeply missed is the greatest understatement.

Ed’s family will receive friends on Thursday, April 6th from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Tuesday April 11, 2023 at 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., with Memorial service to follow at 1 p.m. at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Inurnment to follow at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, Hospice Niagara and the Lincoln County Humane Society.

To place an Obituary or In Memoriam in our Classifieds, please contact Julia at: julia@notllocal.com or 905.934.1040 Deadline is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

LUCY MURIEL ELLIS (nee Dippel) 1922 - 2023—Passed away peacefully on April 5, 2023 at the age of 101. Born in Baraboo, Wisconsin on May 29, 1922 to Dr. Albert and Lydia (Isenberg) Dippel. Lucy was the middle child of three, her sister Marguerite and brother Don. Having grown up in Baraboo, Wisconsin and spent her early adult years working as a dental assistant, she married Gil Lloyd after meeting him at a family picnic on Lake Michigan in 1948. They were married on June 25, 1950.

Lucy and Gil settled in the city of Toronto where Gil worked in the plastics industry. Together they raised their daughters in the Annex and later in the west end of Toronto. The couple retired to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1990 after sharing a love for gardening, cooking, and trips to Europe.

Lucy’s life and work were dedicated to her family, her community, and her philanthropic spirit. She is survived by her daughters, Annette ‘Tig’ Lloyd and Anne ‘Annie’ (late husband Bob) Birkby and her step-daughter, Arlene ‘Arlie’ Birkby. Lucy’s life was spent serving others in a multitude of roles including: a dedicated member of the local YWHA, Beta Sigma Chi, the Friends of Fort George, and the Political Action Committee (PAC). Lucy was also a devoted member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, rarely missing a Sunday mass with her family. She also volunteered at the Lincoln County Humane Society.

Lucy graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in Home Economics in 1947. She continued her education by obtaining her Master of Science degree at the University of Minnesota in 1956.

Lucy was the mother of seven children: Annette ‘Tig’ Lloyd, Marilyn Gahagan (late husband Mike), Nancy (late husband John), Jennifer Birkby, Anne ‘Annie’ (late husband Bob) Birkby, Mary Birkby (late husband Terry), and Arlene ‘Arlie’ Birkby.

Lucy was known for her generosity of spirit, her dynamism and her passion. A retired teacher and mentor to student interpreters at Queenston Heights, she loved interpreting local history to adults and students alike. She was able to captivate audiences with her energetic tours and explanations that brought history to life.

A long-time resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, she was a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Fort George, as well as the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the Retired Teachers Organization. She enjoyed her book club, current affairs group, and was dedicated to giving back to the community by sharing her Reiki practice at Wellspring Cancer Support Niagara.

Lucy touched the lives of everyone around her. She made a positive impact on thousands through her teaching endeavors and explanations that brought history to life. She had a special bond with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, always passing on her love of learning and history to the younger generation.

Louise was a high school teacher in St. Catharines, specializing in Home Economics from 1947 to 1982. She also volunteered as a mentor to student interpreters at Queenston Heights, helping to capture the history and stories of the area.

In lieu of flowers, if desired, please consider making a donation in honour of Louise’s memory to Wellspring Cancer Support Niagara, https://wellspring.ca/niagara/ or Project Share, www.projectshare.ca/
Angelika & Associates
LUXY REAL ESTATE

SOLD!!!
24 GEORGE MANOR
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
$1,949,888 FORMER MODEL HOME

COMING SOON!
CALL FOR AN EARLY PREVIEW
556 KING ST, UNIT 2
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

STUNNING! $1,949,000
2 PARK COURT, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

LEASED!!!
56 GARRISON VILLAGE DR, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
$989,450 END UNIT/UPGRADES!

31 WINDSOR CIRCLE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

23 LORETTA DR, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
$1,375,000 DOUBLE LOT IN PRIME LOCATION

390 SIMCOE ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

FREE HOME EVALUATION
CALL 905.468.8777

McGILLIVRAY
Trusted
Angelika Zammit is proud to have been recognized as the exclusive McGillivray Trusted Agent in the Niagara-on-the-Lake market.

Angelika & Associates
LUXY REAL ESTATE
T. 905.468.8777  C. 289.214.4394
www.angelikazammit.com
496 Mississauga Street
Local Officer: Niagara-on-the-Lake

#1 BROKERAGE in the GTA.
The largest independent real estate brokerage in Canada - 6,000 Agents across 10 branches in Ontario.

HDTV Celebrity, Scott McGillivray