



Video tells story of Robert Addison  
page 14



NOTL resident Jonathan Rolph removes a brake line from a chassis to ready it to be retrofitted with an electric battery for conversion into an electric vehicle. He's at Niagara College attending an apprenticeship program. Watching him are Niagara Center MP Vance Badawey, Jeff Murrell (Associate Dean, School of Trades), Niagara College President Sean Kennedy, Federal Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan, St.Catharines MP Chris Bittle, and Wayne Toth (Automotive Professor/Program Coordinator). O'Regan was at the college to check out the skilled trades and apprenticeship programs. For story see page 7. (Mike Balsom)

# 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 commu-

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 Niag-

ra Falls at an event hosted by the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and met with NOTL Local columnist Owen Bjorgan and others in Grimsby later that afternoon to discuss Bill 23's impact on Ontario's Greenbelt.

The NOTL sit-down was held in a classroom at Royal Oak Community School, which has operated out of the building since 2017.

In early March, Royal Oak board member Robin Ridesic, Shaw Festival's Tim

Jennings, and Tim Johnson of Indigenous cultural organization Plenty Canada, asked town council to support their vision of retaining the facility to bring their organizations, along with Yellow Door Theatre, Music Niagara Festival and a new nursery school, under one roof.

Niagara Health closed 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 under lord mayor Betty Disero opened a request for expressions of interest, but dropped the process prior to October's election.

"They are doing a review now," said the founder and CEO of The Exchange Brew-

ery, a local business. "The new council wants to take a look at the inventory of properties. My gut feeling, and everyone's, I think, is of course they are going to have 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.

"By bringing these non-profits together," she ex-

plained, "we hope to strengthen social networks, strengthen 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-profit organizations that are currently siloed working together, and thinking about how they can benefit from one another."

Murray pointed out that


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# Step forward for heritage district gateway project

**Zahraa Hmood**  
The Local

The gears are in motion again for the makeover plans at Queen and Mississagua Streets, considered the gateway to the main street, with the town awarding the construction project to an Ancaster-based 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 Mississagua 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 a recent staff report from parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte.

"We have gone out to tender and these are the tender results," Turcotte said during council's March



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. (File photo)

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 \$15,000 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 re-

quest 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 fund-

ing amount.

The report did not share when construction will get started. Turcotte wrote that staff will work with the successful contractors and the landscape architects to create a build schedule, and will share an update on jointtheconversationnotl.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 crosswalk 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.

Alternate routes from Four Mile Creek Road to Line 1 are being provided for motorists driving on this main road, with signs indicating delays placed at the limits of construction.

"Being more proactive will help us to mitigate those impacts," she said of the traffic interruptions.

The goal of this project is to increase the road's capacity and conditions; reduce issues with congestion; and enhance its infrastructure, streetscape, and urban design.

At the same time, NOTL

Hydro will be converting their overhead transmission lines to underground between Four Mile Creek Road and Penner Street.

Coun. Maria Mavridis advised Kaiser to also keep businesses in Virgil that are not part of the Chamber of Commerce in the loop.

"I think we all know the result is going to be a better one," Mavridis said, "but (it'll) be a little bit painful in the meantime."

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 crossover constructions 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 crosswalk construction should take, but according to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, "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 Anderson Lane across from St. Andrew's 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 a 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.



Niagara Stone Road is down to one lane from Line 1 into Virgil. (Penny Coles)

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# No date yet for next, maybe final budget meeting

Continued from page 1

nity centre labourer and a heavy equipment machine operator.

It also means the town will not be hiring a digital records coordinator, who would have been in charge of digitizing municipal files, particularly for the planning department, saving them \$18,572 — this employee would have been paid \$41,270 this year.

Instead, the task of dig-

itizing municipal files will be distributed throughout the town's departments.

Discussion on these changes took up the full hour-and-a-half allotted to the meeting, leaving no time left for final budget approval. Council approved its 2023 capital budget at a previous meeting on March 28 at \$9.96 million — they also ran out the clock on that meeting.

Time also ran out before treasurer Kyle Freeborn could provide an

end-of-meeting update on what the \$100,022 savings found would mean for the municipal tax levy.

The motions on the five contract jobs were supported by all councillors except Coun. Erwin Wiens and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

Wiens argued for the importance of retaining full-time employees in a competitive job market, where remaining in a contracted position is less favourable.

"We have a lot of people that work for this town that have been on contract for an awful long time," he said. "We need to start filling these roles, especially in the operations level."

On the other hand, the councillors who voted in favour of these decisions shared their justifications, including that it would be favourable to wait until this new term of council has completed its strategic plan, outlining how they would like to allocate the

town's financial resources.

"Until we have the opportunity to set the direction for this time of council I'm not interested in taking five contracts and turning them into positions," said Coun. Nick Ruller.

Couns. Ruller, Tim Balasiuk, Maria Mavridis, and Adriana Vizzari are serving their first terms with Niagara-on-the-Lake, and are participating in their first strategic planning sessions this spring.

"We should respect the fact that new ideas are coming forward," said Coun. Gary Burroughs. "Several of us have already had our first (strategic planning) session and I think the rest of us need to be a little patient while the rest of us try to get this right."

Council did not determine when it would resume the meeting to continue its discussion and put the final budget to a vote.

# 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 up-

date from the town's regional councillor.

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.



Upper Canada Lodge is still on track for closure, with residents being given choices about future locations. (File photo)



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# 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, fi-

nancial and practical challenges of a cancer diagnosis can feel overwhelming. Sometimes, simply planning travel to cancer treatment 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 volun-

teers to come forward.” “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.



Walter and Sue Weaver have both volunteered for Wheels of Hope.(Supplied)

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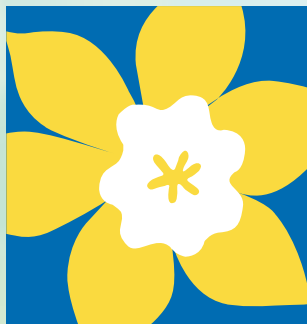
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# EDITORIAL

## To replace or repair: it isn't a simple question

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 will remember when council had to make a decision about both pools, back in the '90s. Memorial Pool was replaced, al-

though 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 the final decision, aren't there yet. Just a few sunny days, and summer doesn't seem so impossibly far away. 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 were shown didn't look anything like the second version on display shortly after, which is the \$5 million design residents are still waiting for. They were told construction might begin as early as the end of the 2020 swimming season, but the elusive grants

have still not materialized. Pool fundraising committee members attended meetings during the last term of council, but were never actually given the opportunity to raise money, told instead to wait for that grant. Now they have been asked to go back to the drawing board, but still not to fundraise. To repair or replace, that is the question now being asked, and it's a big ask of the nine-member committee who signed up to come up with fundraising events

and ask people for money. Coun. Adriana Vizzari, also a mother of four kids who like to swim, wants to be sure the right decision is made, not only for her kids and their friends, but for future generations. That's her goal, to ensure kids in St. Davids to have access to a pool for safety's sake, where they can have affordable lessons. If the committee and councillors agree the town needs a new pool, it could be years before money is avail-

able 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 endeavour. Penny Coles The Local

## Niagara's demographic diversity showcased in forest



**Owen Bjorgan**  
Special to The Local

Aside from my local outdoor adventure company, I also work full time for the District School Board of Niagara. The school board job allows me to quietly observe patterns in youth behaviours that seem

to correlate with their neighbourhoods. 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 analyze 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 gaps in economics and income. The lifestyles and communi-

ties 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. Fort

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 programming 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 TikTok. Some kids can take a bonk on the head, and others openly admit they are scared to enter the forest at Woodend Conservation Area.



A school trip with Owen Bjorgan. (Owen Bjorgan)

cate 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 obtain something valuable

from this day, regardless of their upbringing, home life, or community they come from. Some are going to grow and learn something new about themselves and their big backyard. Others get a chance to exercise their strengths and comforts outside of the pent-up classroom routine. This variation in relationship styles with the outdoors is reflective of Niagara's demographic diversity, and truly highlights the microcosms of lifestyles that exist across the region. Although this diversity is something to celebrate, I would also like to see more inner city lives healthily changed by nature exposure with their friends, family, and classmates alike.

## View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

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 nations 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.

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Where's Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Last week, Dennis Rizzuto correctly identified the Niagara Regional Native Centre.



# COMMENT

## *Local* LETTERS Council is doing its best

I believe that the members of council are doing their 'best to try to get it right' as it pertains to the 2023 budget (The Local, March 29).

It is a tough job, particularly 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 editorial that the council did not provide appropriate direction at the beginning of the budget process. Many people are struggling to make ends meet because of the high level of in-

flation and I would suggest if there was ever a year that specific direction was needed, this was the year. I would also suggest the direction should have been clear and unequivocal: the budget increase must not exceed the rate of inflation.

2. Even in the absence

of such direction, surely the CAO and her leadership team should have realized that a budget increase above the rate of inflation was unacceptable, and should have planned accordingly. I think that's part of the job.

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. Everyone is struggling right now with high inflation, and 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.

Jon Household  
NOTL

## Now is not the time for new hires and spending

With most financial experts predicting that Canada will experience a recession this year, it concerns me that Niagara-on-the-Lake plans to significantly increase its workforce and program spending.

It also worries me that the town is considering imposing a substantial tax increase on residents in a time of extraordinary inflation, with the prices of essentials such as food and fuel remaining stubbornly high despite the efforts of the Bank of Canada to bring inflation under control.

I strongly believe the town should defer all new hires and

all increases in its discretionary operational spending until inflation is under control, and there is more economic certainty in Canada. Especially when the proposed new expenditures represent long-term spending increases and financial obligations (including the need to provide benefits such as health and dental plans, disability plans and pensions). Deferring would make economic sense and be fairer to residents in this time of high inflation, economic uncertainty and potential recession.

It surprises me that a tax increase of the magnitude

being considered in NOTL's 2023 budget is even on the table, given the new revenues the town has at its disposal from the municipal accommodation tax. Perhaps the town should reconsider how these revenues can and should be used. A key intent of the tax, as I understood it, was to avoid residents having to bear the brunt of the costs associated with the high volume of tourists who visit NOTL each year. It wasn't all about promoting more tourism.

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

ing revenues decline this year, should the anticipated recession take hold. That would

constitute good planning, which I have yet to see from the current council despite all the

talk around it.

Terry Davis  
NOTL

## Watch Spencer Sisters to catch a glimpse of NOTL

I don't know whether anyone in the area has had a chance to watch The Spencer Sisters on CTV on Friday nights. They are actually mother and daughter — the mother, an internationally renowned mystery novelist and the daughter a former police officer, become detectives in a small fictional Canadian town.

A communications person of Etone Group confirms shots of Niagara-on-the-Lake are used to capture the small-town charms of the fictional town Alder Bluffs. The car they drive displays Ontario licence plates!

So far, in most of the shows, they show clips of Queen Street in NOTL as part of the small town in which they live.

We are thoroughly enjoying the show. It is well-written, well-acted and just fun to watch.

We are enjoying the Canadian aspect of this show, especially exciting to see main street NOTL as we live near and hope you will tune in and watch too!

Brenda Wawrinty  
NOTL

## The need for skilled tradespeople is dire



Mike Balsom  
The Local

Some of the recent federal and provincial announcements lead me to believe that both these levels of government are finally starting 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 employers to create the job openings that they can be hired for, and it looks like it may well be moving in that direction.

In my experience as an instructor with the Tools in the Trades Boot Camps run out of Niagara Falls, there is no shortage of people of all ages desiring a career in the apprenticeable trades, so it was heartening to see Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan at Niagara College Tuesday.

His visit to the Welland Campus was on the heels of an announcement of new support for Canadian business and workers in the federal budget last week. College officials es-

corted the former broadcaster through a tour of the campus, where he had a chance to meet students preparing for a future in trades and apprenticeships.

Rachel Vonk is a student in the two-year carpentry and renovation technician program at Niagara College. The 28-year-old, originally from Bradford, Ontario, moved to Niagara to enrol in the program.

"I've learned everything from framing, walls, floors, foundation concrete, roofing and millwork," she told The Local Tuesday morning. "Also soft skills like project management and AutoCAD."

Vonk espoused the importance of the college's cooperative education program as she spoke to O'Regan Tuesday. She spent a semester working with Timber Frame Solutions based in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"It was great working with (owner) Mark Williams," said Vonk, who is hoping to secure a position working at the college or go back to work for Williams when she graduates this spring. "We did pergolas, front porches, back porches, and we did exterior structures and then tongue-and-groove sheathing on top for roofing."

O'Regan met students in the electrical apprentice program

as well as automotive students, including Jonathan Rolph, a NOTL resident. Rolph and a team of students were stripping back a chassis from a gas engine powered car in preparation for it to be retrofitted for conversion to electrical power.

"We're removing all the brake lines and other tubes," said Rolph, who enrolled in the program with aspirations to become a vehicle technician in the Royal Canadian Army.

"Now, I think I want to own my own garage," he told The Local. "I'm looking forward to continuing to get training even after my college program. I'm learning a lot. I'm so much more focused when I'm doing 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 province. With major growth in population expected in the next two decades in the Niagara Region, and in NOTL specifically, skilled workers in the construction trades will be key.

Currently the average age of a journeyperson, or skilled tradesperson, in Canada is the mid- to late 50s. And the average age of a current apprentice is between 26 and 28 years old.

O'Regan's visit was an attempt to draw attention to a part of the budget that a press release from his office says will help ensure fair pay and apprenticeships for workers who build the clean economy.

"The budget announces additional details on the labour requirements for the clean technology and clean hydrogen investment tax credits," says the press release. "To be eligible for the highest tax credit rates, businesses must pay workers the prevailing wage. At least 10 per cent of the tradesperson hours worked must be performed by registered apprentices in the Red Seal trades. These labour requirements must be met to receive the full clean electricity tax credit."

The changes in the press release are to take effect on October 1, 2023.

Already in effect as of April 1, Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans, including those currently being repaid, are now permanently interest-free, and new enhancements proposed in the federal budget will allow students to access up to \$14,400 in federal 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. ESDC offers a \$5,000 grant to businesses for each eligible new 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 announcements. Last week Doug Ford's government promised to invest an additional \$25 million over three years in its flagship immigration program. They expect the infusion of cash to double the number of skilled immigrants the province can welcome to tackle the labour shortage.

In addition, provincial Minister of Education Stephen Lecce announced early in March that future high school students will have to earn a mandatory technology credit in order to graduate. That announcement followed two days after another that revealed a plan to allow students to transition into more skilled trades apprenticeships starting in Grade 11 while also earning a high school diploma.

The bootcamps I've attended as an instructor feature a day of activities introducing aspir-

ing tradespeople to tasks in the electrical, HVAC, automotive, plumbing or millwright fields. In addition, they have an opportunity to network with local employers and to learn important job search skills.

Our first year was spent bringing the program to high school students across Ontario. In year two, however, funding from the provincial government hinged upon the program being delivered to an older target audience.

Since that change the age range of participants looking for an entry into these skilled trades has ranged from 17 to 60 years old.

While the pandemic certainly threw things askew during this time, it's amazed me how the issue of supply and demand has started to turn itself on its side. When we began the boot camps there was a huge shortage of people who wanted to work in the skilled trades. It now seems that more and more want to pursue these opportunities, but the employers need the right incentives to take them on, and fortunately it is beginning to look like that is indeed occurring.

Fortunate because only then will the supply meet the demand, and only then will Niagara's, and NOTL's, expected growth become a reality.

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# Ridesic announces donation from Burton family foundation

Continued from page 1

the building itself came about in 1950 through the fundraising 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 buildings have been sold off to 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 Canada 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 building 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 Ridesic, "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 attendees, who also included Karyll Justo, the potential operator of the proposed nursery school, that making



NDP MPP Wayne Gates, Royal Oak Community School's Julia Murray, NDP leader Marit Stiles, Robin Ridesic, local business owner and school board member, and Karyll Justo, who hopes to open a nursery school, talk about plans for the former Niagara-on-the-Lake hospital building. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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 community. I think there's a really strong economic argument here."

Ridesic impressed both Stiles and Gates when she informed them that \$2 million had already been raised, including a large sum from the James A Burton and Family 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 collaboration, 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 DSNB closed in 2015. "Then, when we were going down that road, one of the things we



NDP leader Marit Stiles in a Royal Oak classroom at the former hospital building.

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 community."

Murray and Ridesic explained how the non-profits housed under one roof could bring unique opportunities for collaboration, including Shaw actors and crew members and Music Niagara musicians working with Royal Oak students. It would also offer opportunities for local 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 Canada's Indigenous 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 offered help to the hub proponents in navigating the sometimes 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," Ridesic said, "I would want to continue to own the land but get rid of the burden of the building. I would say in our long-term community planning, we don't know what our needs will be 50 or 100 years from now, so we'd like to continue 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 Ontario for community projects such as the 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 concept," 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 access resources that we need is great."

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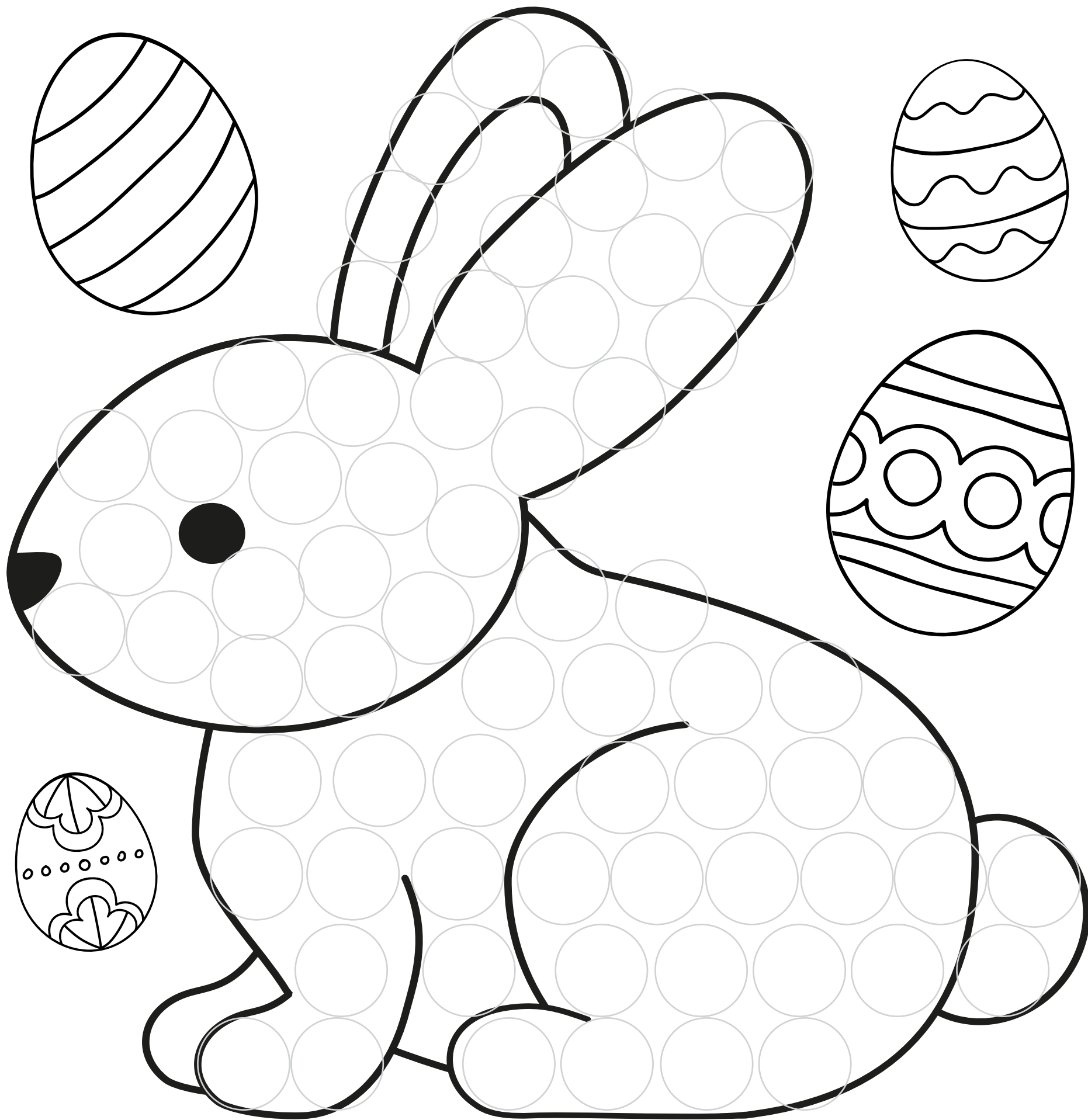
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# Queenston 'a village in shock' over death of friend, neighbour

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Those who knew Louise Leyland describe her as warm, caring, compassionate, and a great storyteller with a wonderful sense of humour.

A Queenston resident for many years, Louise loved walking — at 81 she was fit, strong and active. "She walked every day," says her good friend Sandra O'Connor. "She said she felt that helped relax her and ground her."

Louise died suddenly and tragically Sunday afternoon when she left her home for a walk, stepping out to cross Queenston Street, and was struck by a 64-year-old cyclist.

Jim and Marilyn Armstrong, who live just up the street from where Louise was hit, called Queenston "a village in shock." The word Jim said he was hearing more than anything is "devastated," adding that "People are beyond shocked."

Louise had lived there for more than 25 years, was very well-liked and respected, and involved in community activities, volunteering in many of the events put on by the Queenston Residents Association and other organizations.

"I don't think she ever missed a QRA meeting," said Jim.

"She was passionate about the village, about heritage and history, and very much concerned it stayed the quiet, heritage village that it is."

Jim says Louise walked all the time, sometimes with a friend, but often alone, when she'd wonder into a treed area where she enjoyed the quiet of nature.

Saturday, when she stepped out to cross the street, he believes two cyclists were coming down the hill, and one hit her.

"She was just out doing something she'd probably done 10,000 times before, and in a split second, everybody's life changes."

Two Niagara Parks men were nearby — he isn't sure why — and went right to her, gave her CPR and comforted her, until the first responders arrived.

Local Queenston firefighters would have been there quickly, "and they would have known her and provided comfort for her. It has to be very difficult for them," he said.

O'Connor's memories of Louise go back to when she was just three years old, and Louise became the family babysitter.

O'Connor grew up in St. Catharines, and recalls Louise — she was Louise Romeo then — "lived partly in St. Catharines and partly in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where her father owned a shoe repair shop on Queen Street."

"Louise became part of our family," she adds. "She called my parents Mom and Dad, and to them she was like another daughter. I considered her a sister. When I got married she was my matron of honour."

To this day, O'Connor says, "my daughter calls her Aunt Louise."

"Louise loved to travel, and we had on occasion travelled together," she says, citing some of the places Louise loved: exotic locales such as Hawaii, Ecuador and Columbia, and she loved Vancouver Island.

A little-known fact about Louise, O'Connor says: In the summer of 1955, when an international Boy Scout Jubilee was held in NOTL — for the first time outside of Europe — there were 11,000 Scouts in town. Louise, then 15, volunteered at the jubilee, and made friends with the sister of one of the boy scouts, who was there with her family. They lived in Tennessee, and they kept in touch, inviting her for a visit.

"Louise met June Carter (a musician and singer) while she was there, and she became the summer caregiver for June Carter's children. She met Johnny Cash (who Carter married in 1968) and all the big names with country hits from Nashville."

O'Connor has lived in Victoria, British Columbia, and Louise would visit her there. More recently — before she moved to NOTL — O'Connor lived in Ottawa, and Louise would take trips to see her there as well.

"We were always connecting throughout the years, but we became especially close when I moved here. Louise had retired from teaching — she was a fabulous teacher," says O'Connor, "and then she became involved with the Friends of Fort George as a heritage interpreter."

Louise "had a way of talking about history like she was telling a story, and people loved to listen to her. She would just capture their imagination. She had a wonderful connection with people when she was talking to them."

She was very physically fit, says O'Connor. "I was sure I would go before her."

When Louise was working mostly at Brock's Monument, "she would walk down the trail from Queenston Heights to the rudan, going half way down the escarpment and back up again, and she would sometimes climb up the monument stairs. Closing the monument at the end of the day was usually a student's job, but sometimes she would do it."

O'Connor says she and Louise talked daily by phone. "We would talk about anything that was on her mind that day. It might have been whatever was in the news — Louise was part of a group interested in current affairs — and sometimes she would talk about that."

She was also a reiki master and offered reiki sessions at Wellspring Niagara, which provides programs to those with cancer. "Louise herself was a cancer survivor, and that was her way of giving back, helping others with cancer."

Louise's death has been difficult for many people, says O'Connor.

"It was so unexpected. I talked to her that day. The day before we'd had a wonderful time

together playing cards. There were four of us who meet at each others' homes, playing a game called 500 — not as serious as bridge but a little more complex than euchre. We played for fun, and we always had lots of laughs."

"I still can't believe she's gone," adds O'Connor. "Every time the phone rings I think it's Louise. And then I remember..."

She says she will always remember Louise "for her generosity of spirit that shone through. She had a passion for any project she undertook. She was always trying to do things for people, and her beauty was inside and out."

Amanda Gamble, executive director of the Friends of Fort George, remembers Louise not only as a heritage interpreter for the group, but as a friend.

When Gamble started working for the Friends, Louise was already semi-retired, filling in for students and helping out when they had days off.

She worked at the monument and at the gift shop, and at special events such as Canada Day and the Fife and Drum Muster. She had joined the board in 2016 — she was pulling back from her work as an interpreter, and was looking for another way to stay involved.

Having worked at monument and the gift shop, says Gamble, "Louise brought a different perspective to the table, and gave good advice. She knew the monument so well."

She was always willing to help out with anything that needed to be done — at the end of the day, when it was time to clean up, she adds, "Louise would sweep down the 235 steps of the monument. Whatever it was, Louise would say 'I can do it.'"

But she was really there for the storytelling — she loved being at the monument and sharing her knowledge of history, "and she had a way of drawing people in," says Gamble. "Wherever people were from or what they were interested in, she could talk to them about it. And she loved talking about the Indigenous contribution. She would walk people over to the Landscape of Nations and tell them about it."

Louise had been part of the Landscape of Nations educational committee, says Gamble. "She was very interested in teaching about Indigenous Peoples and their role in our history."

Gamble has been working on some new programs for this season, and Louise was helping her plan them. One involved Black history, the Coloured Corps, women in war and the indigenous contribution to the war. It's tailored to school groups, but can be adapted for anyone and will also be offered once a day during the summer, says Gamble.

"I was always bouncing ideas off of Louise. She understood what we needed to include for school programs."

But her real legacy was the way she treated the summer students and the Friends of Fort



Louise Leyland at Brock's Monument with Alexander Salton, one of the many summer student interpreters she worked with over the years. (Photos supplied)



Louise Leyland (right) with Kelly and Sandra O'Connor on one of their adventures.

George "like a family."

She has had touching emails from many of the student interpreters Louise worked with, helped and even mentored over the years, says Gamble.

One email from someone who visited the monument said "Louise was our family's guide through many tours of Queenston Heights. We truly enjoyed listening to her passionate talks about the Landscape of Nations. We will miss you Louise."

"She had a real presence," says Gamble, and even after working at the monument for years, when with the students, "she'd say to them, 'tell me what you want me to do.' She made a huge impression on them. They've been reaching out to me, sharing stories about what they remember of her. She lived in the village, and she would often invite them over for breakfast before work, and make them pancakes. She was just a very loving person, almost like a grandmother to them. That was her legacy up there."

Louise will also be remembered for her warmth, her great sense of humour, and her compassion, says Gamble.

Finding it difficult to speak for a moment, she says she has lost not only that person she leans on for advice, but "she was a good friend. I'm feeling it from both sides. It's very hard to process what happened. I saw her on Tuesday, and she was happy,



Neighbours have started a memorial at the Willowbank Estate plaque, where villager Louise Leyland died after being knocked to the ground by a cyclist.

asking about when the students are coming back, and about the training schedule for spring. It will be very hard to go back and

envision her walking along the path to the monument, but she won't be there. She'll be missed, that's for sure."



# Ken Reid looking for man who helped him

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

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

He says he was attacked by a man much younger and bigger than him on Friday, March 24, about 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 says the man hit him on the head with a garbage can lid and knocked him down, but drove off when a man and two women walking along Regent Street approached. According to Reid, the man and two women helped him up off the ground, and offered to call an ambulance. Reid says he told them he was okay and not to bother.

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 has since knocked on doors in the area but has had no luck finding the gentleman who helped him.

Reid indicated that in his discussions with the police, he was told that they had identified the alleged assailant, but that he told the police a different story — that Reid was the aggressor and that Reid came after him.

"All this because that man said my dog ran out in front of him. I'm a 70-year-old with medical problems. There is no way I would have run at him with a stick. It was a dead branch. It would have snapped in half."

"It's he said-he said," Reid told The Local, add-



Ken Reid, formerly the town's canine control 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)

ing the police told him they couldn't lay charges because they didn't know what really happened — or else they could charge both of them.

Reid is asking locals if they might know who these three people who helped him are, and if so to please

let him know by contacting The Local — he doesn't want his phone number in the paper.

Reid would like to identify the three individuals so witness accounts would be available to assist with a police investigation. He advised that "he'd be happy

knowing he isn't going to do this to anyone else."

Contacted by The Local with a request for information about the incident, Const. Philip Gavin of the Niagara Regional Police said on March 24, at approximately 6:40 p.m., "police attended 407 King Street

in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in regard to a disturbance that just occurred."

Paramedics from Niagara EMS attended the scene to assess one of the involved persons, he said.

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



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# 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



This was the design presented to residents in the fall of 2019, and they've been waiting ever since for news of a grant to fund a new pool. (File photo)

skill set than fundraising."

The makeup of the pool committee is still the same, with a total of nine people, two of them councillors, 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 Voegel, a retired contractor living in St. Davids, spent a lot of his 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 without removing it, and can be again if necessary.

"I question why the pool needs to be replaced," says Voegel. "It just needs some TLC, because it's been neglected."

When the last term of councillors were discussing the possibility of repairs, Sheldon 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 small, does not meet current code standards, and does not meet current requirements for universal accessibility. Shower facilities are located on the outside of the building. Problems with the pool filtration and drainage systems cannot be repaired; interim solutions have been put in place, but these do not solve the primary issues. With regards to usage of the pool, Town staff noted and provided data demonstrating that the facility has not been operating near its potential capacity level for a number of years. With this information in mind, potential alternatives to continuing to repair the outdated facility were discussed. The options include removing the existing pool and building entirely and constructing a new pool and changeroom building that would include modern pool features and code requirements or removal of the existing pool with the building and installing a splashpad and pavilion in its place."

St. Davids residents have noted that the village is growing, with young families moving in. St. Davids School, says Vizzari, is bursting at the seams, with several portables.

When a splash pad was first discussed, that was a definite 'no' from villagers, and the town then hired a company to design a pool, which resulted in one that came in at an estimated \$5 million — a cost that could have tripled by now, says Voegel.

Vizzari says she will take her place on the com-

mittee — at the moment as a resident, not a councillor, although there is one councillor position vacant — and will go into meetings with an open mind. "The good thing about this is in St. Davids we have people who really care. We'll look at the mandate council has given us. We'll look at both sides, what's best for the town and the residents."

But it will definitely be a different discussion than what the committee has tackled to date, she says.

"Council is aware of the deficiencies of the pool," says Vizzari. "Town staff will have to provide the information we need to make an informed recommendation to council."

One definite cost in the coming years will be to meet accessibility codes by 2025. An accessibility report pegs the cost of that at \$37,000.

When it was last inspected, Niagara Region Public Health didn't find any health issues that needed to be addressed.

To Vizzari, a mother of four, what is most 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 Wineries 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 farms," 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 shouldn'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 and 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, 77 planters were sold, several hundreds 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 Kauzlaric

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.



Rick Meloen will officiate at the Easter Sunrise Service. (File photo)



The planters were sold out at Saturdays cat rescue fundraiser, but donations of cash and cat food are still needed. (Supplied)

# 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 recommended 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 Denise Horne's report on the applications, published March 29, she recommends approval of eight alterations the Solmar group proposed, and refusal of 15 others.

This includes demolition 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 remove a white ash tree on the property, restore the swimming pool garden according to the original Dunington-Grubb drawings, remove the concrete swimming pool structure, restore the Tea House and the Whistle Stop structure, and install interpretive signage 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 require archeological assessments be completed before any demolition or other disturbances take place on the property, along with salvaging of demolished structure materials.

However, Horne recommended 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 subdivision beside it, in 2018.

Save Our Rand Estate (SORE), the community 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 important 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 conserving the important heritage attributes of the subject properties."

Horne's report, they wrote, "appears to embrace much of the approach embedded in the SORE concept plan."

As a party in associated litigations on the development, SORE will give a presentation 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.

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# 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 architect 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 Combe.

He did most of the research, much of it from a book written by Fred Habermehl in 2012, with Combe's help. *Robert Addison: Scholar, Missionary,*



Donald Combe and Peter Babcock discuss the books brought to Niagara, now stored in the Addison Library. (Screenshot)

*Minister*, is one of several books they co-wrote about the history of St. Mark's.

But, as the video points out, "History sometimes forgets to speak about the unremarkable, the ones who struggled for their daily existence, cleared the land, quietly shared the burden and healed the pain, the ones who had no time to consider their now legacy," and they "are often the unsung heroes and heroines."

Robert Addison was a humble man, and one of those unsung heroes, "a missionary, a scholar and a man of deep, unbending faith. He baptized the innocent, married the hopeful and buried the faithful."

He came to Niagara when it was not much

more than muddy roads, log huts, bushes and wild fruit, says Combe. When he arrived, shortly before John Graves Simcoe and his family, there was neither church nor minister. There were, however, well-laid out lots, cultivated farms, lumber and grist mills, and a strong military base on the east side of the river at Fort Niagara.

He came because "a clergyman is thought essential to establish a moral compass within a community," we are told, leading Addison to leave his wife Mary and three children in England. Although two children join him later, his little son died, and Mary never was well enough after that to make the trip.

Addison wasted no

time in building his parish, which would have involved a lot of travelling, from Niagara to Grimsby and Fort Erie, to Ancaster, the Six Nations of the Grand River and Long Point. He travelled by foot, by canoe or by sleigh, and only "after much pleading, he was given a horse."

Although he would have had little time for reading, he came to town with "this magnificent library of 1,500 books," says Combe.

A scene of dialogue 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 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 Mundy, 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 Sentineal Carriages.

The video is something Combe says he 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=pk-bYerQw2Y](https://youtube.com/watch?v=pk-bYerQw2Y).



Rick Meloen plays Addison in some of the opening shots of the video, with Cinderella, loaned by Sentineal Carriages for filming. (Screenshot)



Donald Combe, narrator and researcher, strolls through St. Mark's Cemetery. (Screenshot)





# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

## Seniors can keep on smiling with good oral health

(NC) 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.

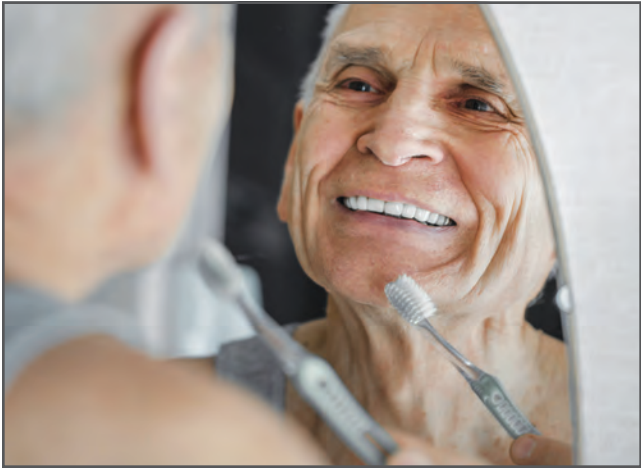
Dental hygienists recommend that all older adults brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and clean be-

tween 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 of-

fer 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](http://dentalhygienecanada.ca/seniors).



## 3 tips to get active in your golden years

(NC) 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 men-

tally 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](http://inspection.gc.ca/dog-decision).

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# *Celebrate Seniors* Golden Years Guide

## Southern Africa – The World in One Country

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. Re-



siding 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 be-

fore 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 pro-

vide 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 surrounded by bush, is just minutes from one of South Africa's best parks. The grand his-

toric 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.

But South Africa is all about the variety of experiences that we will encounter; experiences that amaze and delight us. From the magnificent gardens of Kirstenbosch to the wine estates of Stellenbosch; from the heights of Table Mountain to the ostrich farms of Oudtshoorn; from the beaches and forests of the Garden Route to the birdlife of Lake St. Lucia; from the startling displays of the Zulu to the enormous wildlife varieties in Mkuze, Kruger and Chobe; from the magnificent scenery of the Eastern Transvaal to the awe-inspiring experience of Victoria Falls in all its glory. This is a journey that takes us continually from one highlight to another; just when you think it cannot get any better...it does!

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!

Article by  
David Craig





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**Islands to Indochina, January 28-February 12, 2024 - RIVIERA**  
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# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

## 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 do 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](https://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.

In fact, 86 per cent of respondents to a 2022 RBC survey say they're worried fraudsters will increasingly target seniors as they are online more. There has also been a greater number of online scams and phishing attempts against seniors.

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.com/privacy-security](https://rbc.com/privacy-security)



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## 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/privacy-security](https://rbc.com/privacy-security).





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# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

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(NC) 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 germier 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](http://coto.org/ot).



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# 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 Welland."

"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 turkey 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.



Lions (top) Deborah Chagnon, Hannah Peter, Glenn Miller, Penny Trapnell, Ted Burrows, Susan Snider, Martin Forster, and (seated) Shirley Burrows, Marge Merritt, Linda Kenny, Christine Honsinger (volunteer) and Betty Snider helped put together the meal kits to be distributed. (Supplied)



Bradd Anderson and Deborah Chagnon, St. Davids Lions members, organize meal kits to go to those in need. (Sharon Burns)

## Newark Neighbours preparing for Easter and beyond



Donated food is stacked and ready to be boxed for delivery Thursday. (Supplied)

**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 Christmas and donated by Avery

London, a young boy who asked on TikTok for food for Newark Neighbours instead of gifts on his 10th birthday, the food bank's shelves will be depleted once the Easter boxes are filled, says Grant.

Another food drive coming up this Saturday, organized by Dorothy 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 we'd 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 obviously uncomfortable when heads are turned her way, she has had a lot of it lately.

Carr was recently handed two awards as the minor hockey season wound up, in an arena filled with fans regardless of which team they were supporting, making as much noise as they could to acknowledge the recognition.

One award was for best sportsmanship on her Under-13 team. Coach Matt Unruh says she was chosen by the coaching team to receive that particular award not only because she was tied for the fewest penalty minutes for the whole season, but for her spunk, and the “grit and dedication she showed in coming back to hockey after such adversity.”

She took it in stride being the only girl on the team, he continued, and “didn't ever let that bother her,” and as he joked when giving her the award, “for putting up with all the knuckleheads.”

The other award she received was a trophy created just for her, a decision made by minor hockey representatives who recognized that what Ariel had overcome to return to the sport she loves. “It was an extraordinary situation, unlike anything we've seen before or ever will again,” explains James Cadeau, who coached her during her atom years.

The journey that led to her stepping back on the ice in Virgil last September after a three-year absence is one many NOTL parents and kids know about, and have followed for as long as they have known her and her family.

Ariel was born two-and-a-half months premature in Hamilton, weighing just three pounds, 15 ounces. She had no movement on her left side — it was determined she had a stroke before she was born — and spent more than three months in the hospital before her parents, Denise and Ace, could bring her home to a household of seven siblings.

They were given the devastating news that Ariel would probably never walk — but they soon saw signs of her strength and determination as she crawled, stood up, and eventually began taking steps, although with a limp.

She also had trouble with movement in her left hand and fingers, but despite her challenges, with seven siblings who all played hockey, and a dad who has coached the sport for 18 years at every level, Ari-

el was determined 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 then was she forced to take a break. She was facing and then recovering from surgeries to straighten her spine from a candy cane-shaped curve caused by scoliosis, a condition that caused her pain, restricted her movement and her lung capacity, and made her tire easily.

She was expected to be at Sick Kids Hospital for five to six months for two surgeries, beginning with a halo traction application. In a two-and-a-half hour surgery, eight bolts were used to attach a halo to her head, and over the ensuing months in the hospital weights were gradually added to help strengthen and straighten her spine for her second surgery.

It was then that the halo was removed, and two metal rods were attached to either side of Ariel's spine to straighten it, each about a foot long. She also had three ribs removed — at 47 inches and 43 pounds, she was small for her age, and they had grown into one of her hips and were pressing against her lungs.

There may be more surgeries necessary as she grows, Denise explains, to lengthen the rods.

Her surgery took place just as hospitals became aware of COVID and began preparing for it, earlier than expected, but the surgeon who was performing it had called her parents and told them he wanted to do it before the hospital began filling up with COVID patients. Denise and Ace had to deal with COVID restrictions, taking turns staying with Ariel, and there was no Ronald McDonald House open for them to stay nearby — they were both driving back and forth to be with her.

The good news was Ariel also ended up going home much sooner than expected. Although she had some post-surgery complications, Denise says the doctor explained he had drugs to help Ariel with what she was going through, which included pneumonia, but no drugs to treat her if she contracted COVID, and she was already having problems with her lungs.

It was March 25, 2020, that she had her surgery, and the doctor sent her home March 30 after being in the hospital for about two months.

And, as Denise points out, “it was March 30 that she received her awards” last week, after the final game of the season — an exhibition game her team won, although it was clear at the arena that night the



Ariel Carr is presented with a trophy by Phil Leboudec and James Cadeau after the U13 Wolves exhibition game last Thursday. (Supplied)

kids on both sides of the face-off were out there having fun.

In the time before Ariel was able to return to hockey, she and her family would often be seen in the stands, cheering on her former teammates while she waited to recover and rejoin them.

She was given her doctor's okay in September for the 2022-2023 season, and Phil Leboudec, NOTL Minor Hockey convenor, made the decision to allow her to play one age group below, partly because of her size, but also due to the challenge of her not having played in the intervening three years.

“Everybody could tell she loved hockey and was just pleased to be able to play again after her multiple surgeries,” says Unruh. “To be honest, I was a little nervous when she would skate aggressively toward the boards and win a puck battle. She not only worked hard, but was glad to help her teammates shine as well, more often than not passing the puck and looking for assists more than goals. Tenacity — that's the word I would use to describe Ariel.”

Her father Ace has said that from Ariel's early days on the ice “her hockey IQ was amazing,” and Cadeau agrees it still is — 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 it to.

“We didn't know how it would work out — she had to catch up,” explains Cadeau. “We didn't know what to expect. She's playing the game really well,” he adds, mentioning

a great wrap-around goal she scored. “She's back.”

Denise admits to being nervous watching her play. There was one game, she recalls, when Ariel was pushed into the boards and dropped, and Denise was very frightened. Ariel was unhurt, but her mother says she still worries when she sees Ariel chased into the boards, adding, “that's why I don't go to many games. I still don't like the hits. It's just too hard to watch.”

But Ariel got through the season without injuries, and she tells The Local she really enjoyed being on the ice again, playing without pain or fear. At the beginning the boys ignored her, she adds, but once they realized she could play, “they began treating me just like part of the team.”



Ariel Carr, centre, at the boards, with the U13 Wolves this season after coming back from two extensive surgeries to straighten her spine, and three years of not playing hockey. (Penny Coles)

“She likes beating the boys,” Ace adds, proudly noting there are many times when she has stopped a goal for them.

Ariel says she wants to play next 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 definite 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 from the first year he coached her in atom, and even more so now, knowing what she has been through. When he handed her the trophy, he said, “I don't think she even knows the words ‘I can't.’”

“You are so inspiring,” he said to Ariel. “When people see what you've done, what you have accomplished, 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 many years he coached, tears up when he talks about all Ariel has been through.

“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.”

Once Ariel was out of the hospital and on the road to recovery, he admits to missing the father-daughter time they spent together through hockey. He laughs and says in or-

der to spend time with her, he would tell her he was ready for a pedicure, and take her to the nail salon so they could both get their nails done — he has the photos to prove it.

Because as much as Ariel loves playing hockey and being on the ice with the boys, she allows a glimpse of a little bit of the girly girl in her. She loves nail design, she says, and going to the salon or doing her own. She likes to be creative, and might even consider nail design as a future, she adds — but her very favourite thing to do is shop for shoes.

She shows off her black and pink Air Jordans, which match her sweatshirt, and says she has 10 or 12 more pairs at home, in different colours. And after taking the time to talk to The Local Saturday morning, asked what she was going to do for the rest of the day now that hockey is finished, she said, “go home and buy another pair of shoes online.” There was a colour she was missing and hoped to find.

Ace has one more message he wants to pass on from the family, which is to thank the community for being so supportive. During the time Ariel was in the hospital, with siblings at home and parents taking time off work to drive back and forth, many people stopped by with cookies and food, and everyone was calling and asking after Ariel. One neighbour dropped off a cheque for \$500, he says. Denise jumps in with a reminder of the kids who wrote letters to Ariel to cheer her up when she was in the hospital.

“I can't say enough about the people in this community and all they did for us,” says Ace. “I want them all to know how much we appreciate it. It just blows me away thinking about how great this community is.”



# LocalSPORTS

## Wolves celebrate house league success with awards week

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 Hockey 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.



Gary Friesen's U13 house league team.



Pete Flynn's U13 house league team.

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## Under-13 awards

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 being 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 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)

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# LocalSPORTS

## 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 Leafs 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 beef-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. But overall an atmosphere of camaraderie and celebration permeated the air in Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. Hockey was being played on the ice, but friendships were being cemented elsewhere.

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 loose organization from Ted about seven years ago.

"The group is a lot younger right now," said Litke, who moved to a different league this year because its games are played in the afternoons. "I'd say about 50 per cent of the league is in their early 50s. I'm glad for that, it's exactly what I wanted to see."

The Line Three resident admitted that he's not a local, though he married one and has been living in NOTL since 1991. He began playing in the Hot Tub League in 2003 and has seen it evolve over



Hot Tub executive members Carl Glauser, Tom Greenough and Mike Harris. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

the last 20 years.

"This is a lot more competitive," said Litke. "It's really stepped up with all the younger guys the last two years. You're seeing a lot better players coming out to play."

Last fall, 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 year.

"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 whipper-snappers 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 shinny hockey, but with the equipment on. I'll be back next year for sure."

Participants pay \$350 a year to play once a week 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 Canadiens 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

Bruins won the consolation championship.

"The guys in the league are great, and it's fun," Den Besten said. "We have a couple of pops afterward. We have a lot of laughs. It's something I really look forward to."

When he joined the league at 49 years old, Den Besten thought his age would give him an advantage.

"Guys are still aggressive at this age," he laughed. "They're competitive. That's why they're still playing. But there's a rule, you know. If you get a hat trick, you have to buy a case of

beer for the team."

Den Besten's teammate Ron van der Zalm said he would miss the usual night at the arena this week as the league wrapped up Wednesday and the town began removing the ice Sunday evening.

"I've been playing for five years now," he said, "and two years as a sub before that. I love it for the camaraderie and the cardio. It's great to play with local guys. It's really been great for the friends I've made over the years."

"The love of the game was instilled in us during our younger years playing

minor hockey in Niagara-on-the-Lake," Glauser said. "Many of us have been playing hockey together for about 50 years. You would think we'd have better chemistry on the ice, eh?"

Following the championship game, Tom Greenough made his way over to the Leafs dressing room with the Mike Moore Memorial Cup. He begrudgingly passed it on to Rob Anderson, the captain of this year's winning team.

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 overstate 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 hottubhockey.notl@gmail.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."



The Leafs and Canadiens can be pretty competitive on the ice.



Rob Anderson receives the Mike Moore Memorial Cup — Moore was instrumental in establishing the league — from Tom Greenough.



# LocalSPORTS

## 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 three 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.

And to top it off, Nichols even had to stop a Thorold penalty shot in the first overtime period.

"What a wild ride," said head coach Joe Pagnotta. "You name it, that game had everything you expect in a great hockey game, other than a fight, of course. They experienced something that a lot of adults never experience as far as a sporting event is concerned."

The first period saw end-to-end action, with the Wolves getting the best chances to score on a couple of scrums in front of the Thorold net. At one point the puck was sitting behind Black Hawks goaltender Kole Maritane and just out of reach of NOTL's Ben Bayne's stick when a Thorold defender reached out and batted it out of the crease.

Nichols came up with some huge saves in the second period, including a few that left Pagnotta, the rest of the coaching staff and most of the fans in the stands with mouths agape. But the Hawks finally scored the game's first goal with just over three minutes remaining.

When the buzzer sounded to end the second with the Wolves down 1-0, Pagnotta had a scrum with his team to keep their spirits up.

"I told them on the bench that if they won the third period they would most likely win the game," Pagnotta said. "The kids were playing well. I thought we had the upper hand in the game, even though we came out a little flat at the start."

But 56 seconds into that period the Black Hawks scored on a breakaway to make it 2-0.



The Under-11 Wolves win after three overtime periods and a shootout. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

"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 Maritane to close the gap to a single goal.

Shortly after that, the Wolves killed a penalty without 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 Perng 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 in the cards. Early in the 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 splayed 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 fanned on his shot and his try was whistled dead.

Next up was Simpson, who skated up to Maritane, 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 Maritane stopped the penalty shot by James Froese, leaving it up to Nichols to shut the door on the Hawks. And that's exactly what he did, stopping the puck with his chest and kicking 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."

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 cham-

pionships 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 OM-HAs," 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."



Luke Simpson scores the winning goal.



The Wolves celebrate after winning the league championship.



Ben Froese takes a shot.



# LocalSPORTS

## 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 coach 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,"



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)

trainer Jeff Dyck told The Local. "Theo VanderKaay played a great game in goal and was selected as NOTL's player of the game by the opposing coaches."

Friday afternoon the Wolves took on a physical Napanee Stars team at the Peggy Hill Team Community Centre. The Stars were assessed a total of 46 min-

utes in penalties, including five for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"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 graduate from the 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 record and the provincial title.



Wolves' Griffin Dyck in the recent U18 game against Fort Erie.

### Easter Sunrise Service

## LIVING WATERS WAYSIDE CHAPEL

Niagara River Parkway at Line 1  
Sunday, April 9th at 7 am

Outdoor service, please dress appropriately

## LocalHAPPENINGS

St. Davids and District Lions Club

### Friday Fish Fry

Last event of the Season

**Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:30 to 7:00 pm**

**1 Pc Dinner - \$13.00**  
**2 Pc Dinner - \$17.00**

**Haddock & Chips or Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Tartar Sauce, Bread, Tea or Coffee**

**EAT IN or TAKE OUT**

Refundable Bottle & Can Drive  
**EVERY FISH FRY FRIDAY**  
St. Davids LEOs will be on hand to receive your empties!

**PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE**

With or without a border, colour graphics optional.  
Prices starting at \$25. Deadline: Monday 3 p.m.  
Call Julia 905-934-1040 or email: [julia@notllocal.com](mailto:julia@notllocal.com)

## LocalWORSHIP

**CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Sunday, April 9th  
Easter Sunday**

**9:45 a.m.**  
Cornerstone Kids Sign In  
(Nursery - Grade 6)

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

Message:  
Kevin Bayne  
Come & See (John 20:1-10)

[www.ccchurch.ca](http://www.ccchurch.ca)

### Easter Concert

*Celebrating the Extravagant Love of God*

featuring  
the Seasons Chorale  
Niagara Bethany Handbell Choir  
JuBELLation Handbell Choir

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2023 • 3 PM**  
**HANDBELL PRELUDE AT 2:45 PM**

A free offering will be taken for local food banks, or please bring a non-perishable food item.

**Bethany Mennonite Church**  
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OBITUARY



**LEYLAND, LOUISE CARMEN (NÉE ROMEO)**—While enjoying her much loved daily walks around Queenston, she was fatally struck by a bicycle on April 1 at the age of 81. Loving wife of Don, beloved mother of Sean and Tyler, and sister of Joseph (Mary). She will be sorely missed by her family, cousins, nieces, nephews, and a multitude of friends.

Louise will be remembered 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 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.

Louise touched the lives of everyone around her. She made a positive impact on her community and everyone she met. We will miss her dearly and remember her always.

Memory comments may be left on the website of George Darté Funeral Chapel (GDFC) 585 Carlton St., St. Catharines. There will be a gravesite ceremony for immediate family, which may be viewed on the GDFC website. A Celebration of life is planned for mid-May and details may also be found on the GDFC at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, if desired, please consider making a donation in honour of Louise to the Wellspring Niagara <https://wellspring.ca/niagara/> or Project Share Niagara Falls <https://projectshare.ca/>



**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 and best friend 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, her

husband's sister Barbara and her husband Bala and their two daughters Sita and Sumithra and their families all living in Australia, also much loved by Lynn. In addition, Lynn leaves behind many close friends including dear friends Sylvia Humber, Keri Humber, 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 and falling 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.

NOTICES

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.

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**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 (Eddie). Super special and beloved grandpa of Aven and Caelan. Ed will be missed by his sisters and brothers-in-law Barbara (Chuck) Hamilton, Marian (Gerry) Dobson, Wally 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 SUNY Buffalo 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 Kinsmen 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 Reilly. 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, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., with Memorial service at 1 pm 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. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)





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