



**Hey, kids!  
Make sure to  
enter the Easter  
colouring  
contest!**

**page 21**



### Stare-down

Two brazen wild turkeys crossed Lakeshore Road and were captured in a photo as they stopped briefly, seemingly to psych each other out. (David Gilchrist) For more, see page 11.

## Stone Eagle Winery details revealed

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

Call the wine high-end, top-shelf, ultra-premium — those who know the Stone Eagle brand will understand the new winery planned for Niagara-on-the-Lake must be top of the line, doing justice to the wine to be produced and served there.

Councillors at Monday's planning meeting got a look at the design of what was described as a \$40 million investment, co-owned by Two Sisters' Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli and Angela Marotta, proposed for the corner of Niagara Stone Road and Niven Road.

Marotta told councillors Stone Eagle will offer "a premium winery experience," continuing an elevated level of education provided at Two Sisters Winery. The restaurant, she said, is intended "to enhance the wine experience," with food curated for that purpose.

Two Sisters sommelier Dieter Unruh referred to the Stone Eagle brand, developed at Two Sisters, as "an experiment of what it is possible to create in Niagara." The wine has proven to be very popular with customers, he said, and led to the idea of Stone Eagle Winery, confirming they are ultra-premium wines.

The winery property is actually three different lots totalling 40 acres, with more than 80 per cent to be planted in grapes — more than 30 acres are already planted, councillors heard at Monday's virtual public meeting required under the planning act.

The town is now in the midst of processing the application for a site-specific zoning amendment to permit an estate winery and all its secondary uses on a rural property.

Attending the meeting

**Continued on page 3**

## NOTL Golf Course set to open Friday

### Club dining room opened March 23

**Mike Balsom**  
**The Local**

Avid golfers are lining up to be chosen to be in the first foursome teeing off this Friday morning at 8 a.m. as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club reopens for 2022.

"I don't know exactly how we'll make the choice," laughs NOTL Golf Club owner John Wiens Monday. "There are quite a few people who have requested it already. We may

do some kind of a lottery to choose the first group."

Wiens and his wife Jill opened the restaurant on March 23 and had originally targeted Monday, April 4 as the opening day for the golf course. But Mother Nature had different plans.

"We had that snow two weeks ago, and it stayed quite cold for the whole week," he tells The Local. "We couldn't get much work done out there other than blowing twigs off

the course. Then it was so damp, we'd be making ruts on the fairways, so we had to stop. And then last week we had quite a bit of rain."

Wiens credits course superintendent Mike Magwood and his team of five for working as much as they could around the poor weather conditions to get the course ready for golfers.

With Monday's sunshine, the full crew was out working on final preparations to bring

the course up to the standard for which it is known. Before Friday morning they still needed to rototill and edge the bunkers, continue to roll and blow the greens and remove loose branches left by winter's harsh weather.

Members and others who frequent the nine-hole course will notice the absence of a large old elm tree near the sixth green. The tree was removed by a crew last Tuesday.

"Our arborist told us last fall that it had to come down," Wiens confirms. "We were

going to take it down this winter, but we had too much snow and couldn't get the trucks out there. It's wet again now, and we still need to get the stump and some bigger branches removed there too."

Plans were afoot to cut the fairways Wednesday and the greens on Thursday.

All that's left for Friday morning, then, will be to put in the pins to open the season.

And it will finally be business as usual on the course, after two years of COVID protocols forced the remov-

al of rakes from the bunkers and ball washers at each tee box. Those will be back this summer, and missing on all golf courses will be the pool noodles and strange-looking ball-lifting contraptions attached to the flagsticks.

"Everything is back to normal," Wiens says. "People can finally lift the pins when they are putting, and we're putting the rakes back in the sand traps."

Following the first major

**Continued on page 11**



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# Mask up, pleads Hirji as infections rise

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The best solution to an increasing number of COVID infections remains in our control, says Niagara's acting medical officer of health — just mask up.

With the province now officially in its sixth wave, numbers of infections and hospitalizations are on the rise, which, he says, was predictable after restrictions were lifted.

He views what is happening in the province as

“a car crash in slow motion” — you can see it happening but you can't stop it.

He is frustrated the province didn't choose to extend mask restrictions, and also that even as cases increase it won't take a firmer stand on wearing masks voluntarily — if the province and all public health units had the same message, it might be more effective, he said.

While the province says it's up to us to weigh our own risk level, Hirji reminds us masks also help to protect others, who may

be more at risk due to age or underlying medical conditions.

He said Monday he is thinking about a local order, but isn't ready to act on it. He's hoping that as we see cases rising, and with some stronger messaging from the province, it might not be necessary.

“I would like to see a true effort of voluntary activities, with stronger messaging in place,” he said. “That is my hope.”

He is seeing outbreaks in public health, he sees staff

absenteeism, either because they have COVID, they're in isolation, or they have child care problems, and although he doesn't have hard data, he is certain, with no restrictions in place, not even physical distancing or separating cohorts, the same is happening in schools.

Although it would make sense to restore some of the restrictions to keep students and staff safe, the province has pushed back by telling boards who wanted to keep mask restrictions in place

that they couldn't, he said.

Parents can submit information about their children testing positive on the region's website, and from what he sees, he knows at least half the schools in the region have active cases.

“It's so much worse than before,” he said, “it's impossible not to notice.”

In addition to masking and vaccinations, Hirji asks that people stay home if they're sick, and use rapid tests every couple of days to see if it's COVID. He also reminds those 50 or over,

or are at risk due to other medical conditions, to talk to their doctor about a treatment that could keep them from becoming seriously ill with COVID. Paxlovid can be taken in pill form, with a doctor's referral, but it needs to be started in the first few days, and other factors have to be considered, such as how it reacts with other medications.

Hirji suggests having that conversation with a family doctor even before getting sick, or at least as soon as cold symptoms begin.

# Students want 'no means no' taught in classrooms



The group protesting at Eden was led by Bronte Ibbotson (left) and Fечи Onyegbule, from Holy Cross, and Jenna Meier and Marin McLaughlin from Eden. Students from several high schools walked out Monday to protest sexual assault in school, and ask for curriculum changes to include classes about preventing sexual assault. The photo on the right was from outside Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate. (Photos supplied)

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Monday morning, about 50 students from St. Catharines high schools walked out of class to protest against sexual violence, and to demand a change in the curriculum at both school boards.

Bronte Ibbotson, now in Grade 12 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, said there were three protest sites in St. Catharines Monday, Eden High School, Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Denis Morris Catholic High School.

The former St. Michael Catholic Elementary School student called it a national protest, organized and recorded at @walkout4c on Instagram, and referred to herself as one of the organizers.

At 10 a.m. Monday, “students walked out of school to protest against sexual violence and demand a change in the curriculum,” she said.

“Students gathered to raise awareness about sexual assault and harassment. This protest was a call for action and change

in our education systems. Consent education needs to be mandated in elementary and high schools.”

Students from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, Eden High School, Laura Secord Secondary School, and St. Francis Catholic Secondary School joined forces in front of Eden, she said. She led the group, along with another student from Holy Cross, and two from Eden, and said they were the leaders in the online Instagram movement created last May, @projectbreakaway.

“This account was created to raise awareness about gender-based violence and empower young students. It was also used to spread the word about the walkout,” she said.

“Our four main calls to action are: safe learning and living environments for all students; responsive and accountable administrations; mandatory consent education from Kindergarten to postsecondary; and to collect and publicize data on sexual assaults in educational institutions,” she said.

“Students just need to feel

safe and heard,” said Ibbotson.

She told The Local students were coming and going from other schools, and given that it was put together quickly, “I was really pleased with the support we received.”

She was also pleased with the respectful behaviour of those protesting.

Last October, hundreds of students protested outside Sir Winston against a reported incident of sexual assault at the school, and what they felt was an inadequate response from school or board administration.

That protest, which was much larger, got out of hand, said Ibbotson.

Jennifer Pellegrini, communications officer for the Niagara District Catholic School Board, said Tuesday, “We understand a number of our Niagara Catholic students attended a protest at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School in St. Catharines yesterday. We are unaware of any other students participating.”

Niagara Catholic values student voices and encourages students to speak out when they see injustice, she said, adding,

“It is our expectation that when students choose to participate in protests, they will conduct themselves in a way that appropriately represents their families and their schools, and are respectful of others.”

Pellegrini said she hadn't heard of anything disrespectful or inappropriate at the protest. “It's just a regular reminder that students are out in public, and that is the expectation.”

Ibbotson said she didn't think there was inappropriate behaviour at either school. “I didn't see anything vulgar at all. We just all came together in support of the cause, and it seemed like a really positive, peaceful event. We're just asking for change.”

Although she wasn't at the Sir Winston protest, she saw photos and signs, and talked to students who were there, and said she believes they too were respectful.

Another Holy Cross student at Eden's protest spoke of a powerful message. “Today we stood together as students, and more importantly as a community, who have been directly and

indirectly affected by the taboo surrounding SA awareness. It was so powerful to lead this movement,” said Fечи Onyegbule, in a statement to The Local.

Another also spoke about change. “I believe that when people come together as a community to implement change, it happens,” said Eden student Jenna Meier. “We might be younger, but that doesn't mean we can't use our voices.”

Eden student Marin McLaughlin said students “have experienced second- and first-hand the underlying culture of disrespect in our community. We are not here to attack anyone or ‘out’ any abusers.”

And they didn't, said Ibbotson, reiterating there was no shaming or outing on signs or in chants.

Ibbotson says the students hope to continue to raise awareness and fight for consent education within schools across Canada.

She's been working on this since she was in elementary school, knowing students who suffered some degree of assault, she said.

“We are tired of being silenced. We just want change.”


Carolyn LoConte, communications officer for the District School Board of Niagara, said Eden principal Sharon Burns talked to the students outside her school.

The DSBN, LoConte says, supports students' “democratic right to share their voices in a variety of ways, including holding a safe and respectful walk-out like students did yesterday.”

When Burns went to check on the students, they told her they appreciated her support, and talked about how they were showing their support for part of a national movement, LoConte said.

“At the DSBN, we are continuously working with students, staff, and external partners on ways we can take action to confront sexual violence in the community and in schools. We have and are implementing programs and strategies that are working towards building and sustaining positive school cultures.”

Ontario school curriculum is determined by the Ministry of Education, she added.



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NIAGARA - ON - THE - LAKE

# ‘Ultra-premium’ wine will always be the focus

Continued from page 1

to describe the project were NOTL town planner Josh Salisbury, and representing the applicant, architect Bill Hicks, planner Mary Lou Tanner of NPG solutions, the two co-owners and the sommalier.

Councillors were told the proposal meets all provincial and regional legislation and land-use policies, including the Greenbelt plan, and the town’s own official plan policies, which require site-specific zoning for an estate winery.

Secondary uses include a retail sales area, a restaurant also to be used for special functions, a kitchen with commercial cooking equipment and a dry-food area (described as a pantry), two large covered terraces, and a wine-tasting area. Some of those are larger than secondary use square-footage allows for, Salisbury explained.

The winery will face Niagara Stone Road, with a long, meandering driveway, and a complete onsite production facility at the back of the building, where there will be space for crushing, barrel storage, aging of wines and bottling, as required by the town for an estate winery.

The 142-space parking lot is in front, but will be heavily landscaped with trees, Hicks said.

Councillors asked questions about the height of the building, and were told the main section is not going to be as high as Jackson-Triggs Winery, not including the cupola at the front, but will be higher than Stratus Vineyards — the two near-by wineries.

“The main part of the building is consistent with other wineries,” explained Hicks, with an increase in height coming from the cupola at the front and the screened mechanical equipment. There are windows “tucked into the facade, so it doesn’t look like a two-storey building.”

The hotel planned for The Village property across Niven Road will be taller than the winery, Tanner

told councillors.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked about the plan to connect the winery to the municipal sewer system, although wineries on rural property are expected to build their own septic system. He was told the owners have applied to the region for permission, hoping to connect to the Niven Road system, which takes sewage to the Lakeshore Road treatment plant. Waste from wine production would be trucked off-site.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero’s concern was for the residents of Perez Road, off Niven Road, opposite the entrance to the production facility. The route from Perez to Niagara Stone Road will be busy, she said, and could be noisy with the big trucks travelling that route. Turner said she would ask that another look be taken at the alignment of the roads, to see if a change could be made.

When Coun. Clare Cameron asked for a more defined explanation of what was described as the restaurant/function space, councillors were told it would likely be open to the public at least five days a week, but could be used for functions such as a gathering for a wine club, or a winemaker’s dinner, on other days.

The two terraces outside will be used for wine-tasting, and when asked about plans for weddings and other events which might be noisy for nearby residents, Marotta-Paolicelli said the focus will always be on the wine, and if there are such events, there would be no music.

Salisbury told councillors the town has received letters of support from the public, and although Monday’s meeting was an opportunity for residents to ask questions or express any concerns about the project, there were no members of the public in attendance to speak.

The next step in the application process is for a staff report to be prepared and presented to councillors at a future committee of the whole meeting.



The winery will face Niagara Stone Road, with the entrance to the production facility at the back, opposite Perez Road. Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she is concerned about noise from trucks entering the facility bothering nearby residents. (David Gilchrist)



The 142-space parking lot at the front will be heavily landscaped, the architect told councillors. (Screenshot)



Architect Bill Hicks said the winery has been designed to compliment the historic look of Village homes, with windows set into the facade so that it won’t look like a two-storey building. (Screenshot)



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# Old Town residents concerned about coyotes

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Carol Perrin is becoming increasingly frustrated with the coyote problem in her neighbourhood — again.

It's certainly nothing new — it has been a subject of concern for many years, but seems to have increased in recent weeks.

Perrin doesn't have a pet, but she has had several residents who do have small

pets come to her, hoping for help dealing with their concerns.

She is conflicted, she says, knowing subdivisions such as Garrison Village and The Village were once part of the coyotes' habitat, and that residents are encouraged to learn to live with them safely. But she is also concerned for her neighbours and their pets.

A meeting at the community centre in the spring of 2019 brought up some of

the issues of residents, and there has been much said since, but Perrin says she's lived in The Village for 20 years, and she feels the situation is worse now than it's ever been.

There are three videos circulating, she says, one showing a coyote following — looking like it's chasing — a woman dragging her dog to her front porch, screaming.

A second, like the first captured by a front door camera, shows a couple sitting on their porch. A coyote went right up onto the porch, as the couple grabbed their dog and hurried inside.

The most recent shows a coyote at Lower Canada and Confederation Drive, on Sunday. Perrin says she's only heard the story, not seen the video, but apparently a coyote followed a woman walking her small dog. There were two cars honking, and four people yelling, trying to chase it off, but the noise didn't deter it. The coyote got hold of the dog, but it was wearing a coat, "and it flew out of the coat while the coyote had it in its mouth, shaking it."

Another neighbour came out of a nearby home, managed to distract the coyote, and the woman and

her dog got into one of the cars, to safety.

The coyote made its way down Confederation Drive, went into a few open garages, got into some garbage bags, and disappeared into a backyard.

"It is pretty standard these days to walk in the neighbourhood and end up speaking to someone who has had to deal with coyotes, both in sightings, and 'stalking,'" says Perrin. "It seems to be all we talk about these days in the hood."

And rightfully so, she adds, "as some coyotes have become more brazen."

Perrin says some of the locals have been able to determine that it may be two particular young male coyotes "who appear to be the most brazen and courageous with people and pets (not to mention garbage)."

A recent Village Community Association (VCA) newsletter mentions that there have been several recent sightings of "an aggressive coyote approaching residents, both day and evening," and asks residents to be aware of their surroundings, keep their dogs on a leash, and cats indoors.

It says the association is working with the town and Coyote Watch Canada "to find ways to ensure our

safety in The Village."

Mona Babin, president of the VCA and author of the newsletter, says she hears mostly from members of the VCA, as opposed to the older subdivision of Garrison Village.

Although her newsletter is only distributed to The Village residents, she is reaching out to friends in Garrison Village to help distribute it to their neighbours, who are also concerned about the coyotes.

Having lived in The Village for about six years, Babin has heard stories of coyotes before, but saw her first when out for a walk last Sunday. She admits to feeling uncomfortable — she didn't have a dog or a stroller with her, but still felt she needed to keep her distance.

"It's a beautiful animal, not massive, but everything I've heard has make me uncomfortable," she says.

Babin understands why residents are nervous, and she wants the current situation to end "as quickly as possible."

But she finds herself coming at the problem from a different direction.

"We know what the solution is. We just have to do it."

She believes the town is doing what it can to help ed-

ucate people, as is she. The solution lies with what is attracting the coyotes to their neighbourhood — a food source, which in this case is garbage bags they can rip open, and the mice and rats attracted to the many bird feeders.

Garbage needs to be put in bins with lids, and as the town asks, put out the morning of garbage day if possible.

There are no bylaws requiring that, Babin says, so the town can't enforce it, but it would be the best way to eliminate that food source.

"I know people love to watch birds at their bird feeders," she says, but as an alternative, she suggests instead residents could add plants to their gardens which attract birds, but not the mice and rats.

"And there is never one mouse, there are more likely to be 100," she says. People who have bird feeders say they don't have mice, she adds, but likely they do — they just don't know it.

The third problem is well-intentioned people who like to feed wildlife, believing they're helping the animals.

"Animals can figure it out for themselves. They



This photo was taken Sunday morning in the area of MacDonell Road and Kirby Street. (Photos supplied)

Continued on page 5

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# Eliminating food sources the only solution

Continued from page 4

don't need help," she says.

Without food sources in the two subdivisions, they'll go back to eating what they find in the fields where their dens are, and where they should be staying.

"If a coyote knows he can find his breakfast on a porch, that's where he'll head. That's his Starbucks. And that's exactly what is happening."

Babin adds, "we can live together well," but it is going to be an ongoing problem if residents don't eliminate food sources.

During Monday evening's committee of the whole meeting, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and CAO Marnie Cluckie spoke of the coyote situation, and Cluckie said, as she did last week, that safety is of the upmost importance, and the town is taking the concerns very se-

riously. She listed the steps they are taking, including reaching out to the Niagara Regional Police, the Lincoln County Humane Society, and Coyote Watch Canada. This week, she added the Ministry of Natural Resources to her list, and said there is talk of holding a community meeting.

Cluckie's message to residents was to make a lot of noise when confronted by a coyote, and call 911 in a situation such as a coyote cornering a human, or showing signs of rabies.

She said more extreme measures, such as shooting or relocating a coyote, are not legal, except in the case of an extremely aggressive animal.

Disero told Cluckie although she knows the town is doing everything it can, "I'm not sure the perception of the public is that we're doing everything we

can. I know you and staff are working hard and trying to come to terms with what we can and can't do with regards to coyotes, and I appreciate the extra hours," she said, but the public perception remains that it's not enough.

Her calls are coming from a larger area than Garrison Village and The Village, she added, taking in John and Centre Street.

She also told Cluckie in her walks, she has noticed town parks don't all have lids on their garbage cans, and garbage is overflowing, asking that staff "do something in our own house" that they are asking residents to do.

Cluckie says the town has a letter coming out, with a new educational package that will be distributed through the VCA, and that she will ask staff to ensure garbage cans have lids.

## Bunny needs a name

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The popular annual Bunny Trail event is back after a two-year absence, and is expecting a visit from the Easter Bunny.

"Keep an eye out for our new bunny friend that will be hopping down to enjoy some fun at the Niagara Nursery School Bunny Trail, and Kinsman egg hunt," says nursery school executive director Candice Penny.

But before the bunny arrives, she's looking for some help from the community. "Our new friend needs a name," says Penny.

If you think you have a good name in mind, please submit your suggestions to the Niagara Nursery School board at [niagaranurserydirector2@gmail.com](mailto:niagaranurserydirector2@gmail.com) by April 14.

The winning name will be announced on social media on Friday, April 15, the day before the event.

The Bunny Trail is April 16, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Niagara-on-the-Lake community centre.

The morning will include a bake sale, touch-a-truck, balloon animals, an Easter photo booth, and the always popular Kinsmen Easter egg hunt.

NNS is hoping for support, and is accepting cash donations, or baked goods for the bake sale table. Please contact [niagaranurserydirector2@gmail.com](mailto:niagaranurserydirector2@gmail.com) for more

information.

Ken Slingerland of the NOTL Kinsmen Club, explained the two events are separate, "but we have run them on the same day and at the same place for about 20 years."

The egg hunt starts at 10 a.m. sharp Saturday morning, he says.

"We missed the last two hunts due to COVID-19.

This is the 45th annual Kinsmen Easter Egg Hunt," he says.

"We have three age groups: three and under, four to six, and seven to 10. There will be three special eggs, in each age group, for a special prize," says Slingerland.

"We are hoping for good weather, and a good turn-out."



Niagara Nursery School wants help naming the bunny who will visit the Bunny Trail April 16. (Photo supplied)

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# EDITORIAL

## Please listen to what our kids are saying

Last year, there was a protest at a St. Catharines high school following a reported incident of sexual assault.

The walk-out was because students didn't feel there was much of a response from the school administration or the school board.

It seems across the country students are reporting similar situations.

In 2019, CBC conducted an anonymous survey to investigate the prevalence of sexual assault among high school students.

The results were disturbing, and it's difficult to see that anything has changed to protect them.

More than 4,000 students across Canada between the ages of 14 and 21 answered questions online about school-related physical and

verbal abuse, as well as about sexual harassment and assault, CBC reported. They were asked to reflect on their experiences from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Fifteen per cent of female respondents said they have had a sexual act forced upon them. Many reported such incidents had occurred before they reached Grade 7. The majority of assaults were on girls, but boys also reported experiencing sexual assault.

A StatsCan report says a majority (71 per cent) of students at Canadian post-secondary schools witnessed or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a post-secondary setting in 2019 — either on campus, or in an off-campus situation that involved students or others associated with the

school. Among students, 45 per cent of those who identified as women and 32 per cent of those who identified as men personally experienced at least one such behaviour during their postsecondary studies.

A quick look online indicates two common threads — students reporting incidents of sexual assault, and students and their parents saying schools and school boards are not responding appropriately. Students feel their experiences are being swept under the carpet to protect schools' reputations, and the offender goes unpunished.

If this is what is happening to our young people in elementary and high school, it's not surprising that it continues through post-secondary education and beyond.

The students who protested at St. Catharines high schools Monday were eager for attention for their cause. And they are actually offering what they believe could be a solution.

If sex education includes teaching 'no means no,' if it talks about inappropriate behaviour, beginning in elementary school, maybe it will begin to sink in.

Better still, as difficult as it is to prove sexual assault, if teaching how to prevent it also drilled in a sense of responsibility, and punishment at the hands of the law, rather than allowing some kids to think they can get away with it, maybe we won't be hearing these same heart-breaking stories over and over.

The school boards point out curriculum change has to

come from the province. And the province knows the problem exists — it has a brochure detailing what it is, how to prevent it and how to respond to it. It refers to sexual harassment, not assault, which sounds like an effort not to acknowledge it exists, but the top examples of harassment listed are asking for sex in exchange for a benefit or a favour; repeatedly asking for dates, and not taking no for an answer; demanding hugs; and making unnecessary physical contact, including unwanted touching. None of those behaviours will be tolerated, it clearly states, so hopefully anything unstated but more forceful or violent will also not be tolerated.

Ontario also has policies for quickly dealing with sexual assault when it involves an educator. Students are asking

that it be recognized and treated as seriously if it is a student assaulting another student.

These students are not asking for anything unreasonable. They want educators, those responsible for what happens to them during a big chunk of their lives, to not only acknowledge it is a serious issue, but to find ways to prevent it. It would seem teaching kids how not to behave should be within their parameters, if they choose to try.

These are our kids. Our grandkids. They're going through many challenges in their young lives.

To those who have the power to do so, please listen to what these kids are saying. They deserve to be heard.

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

## Biking in NOTL close to biodiversity



**Owen Bjorgan**  
Special to The Local

Spring is performing its usual dance involving a series of teases, shocks, and back-and-forth moments.

While nature moves forward with bird and frog calls in uniform motion, seem-

ingly unbothered by the shifts in temperature, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents may have the temptations to get their bikes out.

This is what relatively warmer weather does to Canadians across the nation. The jet stream is going to divide the cold and warm in strict and abrupt measures for the next month or so, with huge swings of T-shirt weather and moments of putting the toque back on.

On the days we appre-

ciate, do you think about getting your bike out? I know I do.

The pinholes of agreeable weather will eventually become routine, and this is when NOTL's locals and visitors alike get their bikes moving.

I have been fortunate to have published some articles on where to hike, and even where to canoe or kayak here within our municipal borders. Given the change of season, now I'd like to talk about how you can bike among the biodiversity.

These spots are based on bike routes that can get you closer to our wildlife, unique ecosystems, and environments that can give you a healthy sense of escapism.

Let's start off with some family-friendly areas, the kind where you could even take the kids with their training wheels.

Two Mile Creek Conservation Area features an agree-

able paved path through a forested floodplain that takes walkers and bikers alike close to the banks of NOTL's second-largest watershed. While taking note of the small hills leading down into the valley from both directions, once you are down there, the trail is perfect for families and first-time bikers who want to see rainbow trout, herons, eastern garter snakes, and the occasional beaver. This all takes place among humongous water-loving willows

and a rare stand of elm trees.

Take it from a kid who grew up here. I tip my adult hat to Queenston and the surrounding areas for being an adventurous but excellent area to cycle about. A creek carves its way through a heavily forested valley near Willowbank Hill, and there are two public access points to the wondrous Niagara River. There are paved and gravel hills alike, with flat stretches in between to enjoy both the history and natural heritage

of this now quiet village.

Keeping the wheels spinning with the family-friendly theme, let's consider some approachable trails that may involve a bit of gravel or dirt, but wouldn't be considered an unsafe environment.

There's the Heritage Trail starting near the corner of John and King Street, leading southbound to East West Line. This public trail is enjoyed by bikers, hikers,

Continued on page 7



When biking, you can share the same magnificent view as this ancient oak tree gets along the Bruce Trail. (Owen Bjorgan)

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### View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

*The Accidental Husband* (Prime, 2008) is a beyond-silly-romantic comedy which I shamelessly admit loving. Uma

Thurman, Colin Firth, and Jeffrey Dean Morgan are beautiful and charming. Right now I feel better about happy endings, no matter how improbable.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who

loves to go to 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.

Local LETTERS

Let's see something positive

Re: (Number of infections and hospitalizations rising, The Local, March 30)

Very true. But let's stop this false narrative that vaccinations stop the spread. It's has already been prov-

en that they don't stop the spread, but hospitalization and death cases.

We do have lot of immunity from vaccination and natural immunity, which keeps being ignored.

If it's difficult to know

what's happening in school, let's not assume it must be something bad.

Let's have some hope and see some positives.

Agata Surowka  
NOTL

Lots of great biking trails for all ages and skill levels

Continued from page 6

and dog-walkers. It follows a narrow but invaluable habitat corridor also utilized by coyotes, deer, and foxes as their surrounding rural habitat is developed. Its entire duration is flat, and the wide trail can get you close to nature without making a major exit out of the town.

Virgil Conservation Area also offers a surprising length of bike trials. Never far from Four Mile Creek or its associated reservoir ponds, it is teeming with turtles and bird-life. This is one of my favourite locations for beaver and snapping turtle sightings in NOTL.

Now, for those who are reading this and thinking, "I want some adrenaline," well, considering how flat the municipality of NOTL is, our south end is entirely bounded by the rugged Niagara Escarpment and its associated trails.

Mountain bike owners can casually ride the rim of the UNESCO-listed Niagara Escarpment along the Bruce Trail. By casual, I am referring to the sublime yet approachable nature of the Bruce Trail from Queenston to St. Davids. Of course, you can expect a few hills, roots, and rocks along the way, but nothing a bike with front suspension can't handle.

However, this is where I and my dorky teenage buddies used to develop our essential mountain biking skills. In the same area, and at users' discretion, a mountain biker can find ferociously steep downhill sections through Canada's richest forest ecosystem, and sometimes, this downhill route is combined with various jumps and berms created by enthusiastic locals.

In summary, keep an eye on that forecast. All outdoor activities are upon us, and with a little dose of temptation from the weather gods, you may find yourself biking NOTL in a way that is waiting to happen.

Local LETTERS

Thanks for Ukraine support

I would like to first of all, thank The NOTL Local for putting a call out to NOTL residents asking for donations of medical supplies to be shipped to my cousin Maksym, who is now helping the army in Ukraine.

A special thank you to

those who donated the medical supplies requested. I delivered the box Thursday evening to the MEEST courier agent in Niagara Falls who was driving it and other boxes to Toronto Friday morning.

Even though articles in-

side the box were to be medical supplies only, I did sneak in a T-shirt I purchased at the St. John's Ukrainian Church in St. Catharines, which said, 'Make Borscht Not War.'

Shirley Madsen  
NOTL

Local doctor trusts public health figures

In last week's letters (Reader takes exception to COVID numbers, NOTL Local, March 30) a letter writer castigates information in an earlier letter by Dr. James.

Evidently she has no medical background, blaming the co-morbidities as skewing COVID-19 deaths, COVID-19 causes pneumonia — needing extra oxygen


support and maybe ventilatory support. Oxygen lack causes ischemia of the heart. Respiratory and heart failure are the end results.

I trust our public health doctors to judge the illness and death numbers as they occur. I accept that our Canadian death rate from COVID-19 is half or less than that of the U.S.

I do agree that our more

successful vaccination rates are better than the U.S. and applaud the vast majority of Canadians who obey public health rules, or mandates, including masking, distancing and extra sanitation, for our current standing in the world.

Elizabeth Oliver-Malone MD  
(retired anesthesiologist)  
NOTL



### Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.

Winter's last gasp



Photographer Dave Gilchrist came across these ice accretions along the walking path below the NOTL Golf Course last Thursday. The ice accumulation along the shore during a bitterly cold few days turned opaque, dripping and disappearing with the following days' higher temperatures and rainfall.



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# Award announced to help Indigenous musicians

## Local music producer offers \$10,000 award

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Long-time Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Mike Denney spent much of his life unaware of the culture and struggle tied to his own Indigenous roots.

His mother Gloria was Lower Mohawk of the Six Nations. As a family, he says, there was little talk

in their Garrison Village home about Indigenous issues and customs.

She did tell him, his brother Joel and sister Ginger that when she was growing up in the Cayuga/Hagersville area, she had been instructed that if anyone ever stopped her on the street to inquire about her nationality, she was to say 'anything

but Indigenous.'

"I always thought that was a really weird comment to make," he tells The Local, from his new home in Grimsby. "And I didn't know how to dig further to ask the right questions, to find out more."

On the day last May when ground-penetrating radar revealed the bodies of 215 children on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, he realized one of the reasons behind that instruction.



Mike Denney has learned more about his heritage recently, and wants to mentor Indigenous musicians, with a financial component. (Photo supplied)

"My mother never attended any of the residential schools," he tells The Local. "But it opened up the conversations to questions that I have had for her. I never have really spoken about my own Indigenous background. It was always there, but it was never a talking point. But with everything that is going on in this country I began to educate myself about my upbringing and who I am as an Indigenous person."

"And it had a profound effect on me as an Indigenous business leader," continues Denney. "As someone in a certain position in the music industry I wanted to create something that could help give some Indigenous artists a chance."

That chance will come via the new Henry Armstrong Award, announced online last Wednesday at a virtual press conference from his home. The successful Indigenous applicant will receive \$10,000 and a year's worth of mentorship by Denney and other principals involved with his record label, MDM Recordings.

Denney named the award in honour of both his grandfather, Lloyd Henry, and his mother, whose surname was Armstrong.

Denney's career in the

music industry began back in the 1980s when he was hired as a disc jockey working for Lorne Bjorgan, a local who owned Design Electronics, a company that specialized in audio-visual system sales and installation, and also ran a DJ service at that time. Denney's role was to DJ weddings and dances, which led to him buying his own DJ service, Mr. Music, which he ran for a number of years out of his parents' NOTL home.

While operating Mr. Music, he took a job as a rack-jobber, dropping off CDs at department stores for the Handelman Company. That inspired him to enrol in the Trebas Institute of Music, and then the Harris Institute, to learn the business side of the music industry.

He learned enough to begin bouncing around the Toronto entertainment scene, first with Polygram Filmed Entertainment, and then Sony Music for almost five years. After losing his job due to cutbacks there, he caught on with the newly formed Universal Music Group, then left to join the independent label Justin Time.

In 2008, he incorporated MDM Recordings, and began signing established artists such as Melanie Doane and Julian Austin. A year later he discovered

former NHL player turned country singer Chad Brownlee, and MDM took off as a successful independent record label itself.

Today he guides the careers of young artists such as Tyler Joe Miller, David James, the duo Five Roses, and the Black Mountain Whiskey Rebellion collective. Last month he and others from MDM spent two weeks squiring the label's successful singer-songwriter Jess Moskaluke across the U.K., where she was featured in the C2C Festival in both London and Glasgow.

MDM is also the home of three-time Juno Award nominee singer-songwriter Don Amero. The popular and successful Amero is of Cree and Métis heritage.

Beyond his music, Amero has become known for his advocacy work within Indigenous communities, acting as a youth mentor for the Winnipeg Jets and True North Youth Foundation's Project 11, a cross-curricular prevention program aimed at improving Manitoba's English Language Arts and Physical and Health Education outcomes. He also serves as the first ever advisor and chair of the Canadian Country Music Association's (CCMA) Eq-

Continued on page 9



## SPORTS WALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Sports Wall of Fame was established in 2003 to honour and recognize men and women who have made a significant contribution to sports in the Niagara-on-the-Lake community. Be they an athlete or builder in nature, their leadership and accomplishments have enriched us all. It is with great pride and satisfaction that we are again able to share in their achievements. With this recognition, we ensure their efforts are not forgotten, and they remain an inspiration.

The recipient must be an individual who, through his/her energy, enthusiasm, and talent, has made a significant contribution to the Niagara-on-the-Lake sporting community or has attained a significant athletic achievement. The individual must have been a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake while initiating his/her athletic endeavour. Nominations can be submitted in two categories:

- **Athlete** - Athletes to be considered for admission must be or have been outstanding in their athletic field of endeavour.
- **Builder** - Builders are trainers, coaches, officials, or executive members whose volunteer work for Niagara-on-the-Lake sport over an extended period has been outstanding.

For those individuals and groups wishing to submit a nomination for this year's Niagara-on-the-Lake's Sports Wall of Fame, the deadline is **May 6, 2022**. Nomination forms are available on the Town's website [www.notl.com](http://www.notl.com), at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre (14 Anderson Lane), or at the Town Administration Building (1593 Four Mile Creek Road).

Each year a committee selects a maximum of two individuals to be honoured on the Wall of Fame at the Meridian Credit Union Arena located in Virgil. Recipients of the award remain on the wall permanently, and a ceremony takes place in August of every year.

### For more information, please contact:

Kevin Turcotte, Manager of Parks & Recreation  
905-468-3266  
kevin.turcotte@notl.com

# Award application portal opens April 19

Continued from page 8

uity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

When the idea for the award came to Denney's mind, he ran it by Amero and others in the MDM family, and they loved it unanimously.

"I am really excited by it," Amero says. "Especially in country music, there hasn't been a lot of space and elevation for Indigenous people. Mike sees the need and in some ways he's answering the call of the TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission). It's a big deal that I'm part of a label that sees the value in that."

Denney insists he hasn't created the award in an attempt to find his next important country music signing. In fact, he anticipates that most of the applicants will not be country music performers.

"It's open to all genres by Indigenous musicians," he says. "We're going to probably see more from the hip hop, folk and roots areas. I'm not looking to sign a new act to MDM, I'm looking to help the winner along in their career."

The \$10,000 is to be split into two payments, the first \$5,000 coming at the start of the men-



MDM Recordings is home to singer-songwriter Don Amero of Cree and Métis heritage, who is also an activist for Indigenous communities. (Photo supplied)

torship program. For a year, the winner will meet with MDM experts once a month to learn about radio promotion and tracking, social media use, media publicity and other important aspects of a successful career in music. The second \$5,000 payment will come at the end of that year.

"The cash award is my own personal money,"

Denney explains, "and the mentorship part with the various people under the MDM umbrella is a really important piece. It's exciting to see just where this award can go. The response has already far exceeded what we thought we would get right out of the gate."

The portal at [henryarmstrongaward.ca](http://henryarmstrongaward.ca) opens for submissions on

April 19 and will remain open until May 13. A jury composed of music industry professionals will then vet the submissions. The goal is to announce the winner on National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21.

Denney is thinking bigger in the long run, too. His goal within five to seven years is to increase the amount of the award to

\$100,000, with the support of some of the bigger players in the music industry. To that end, he plans to apply for charitable status for the Henry Armstrong Award.

Amero, who says he still faces racism regularly as he tours around the country, sees the announcement of the award as a big step toward forcing change in the industry.

"It's hopeful that people like Mike are making an effort to be sure that there are these spaces," he says, "and that the voices in those spaces are valued and allowed to be part of the change."

"I understand that I can't change what happened in the past," says Denney, "but maybe I can be part of something positive going forward."



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# Golf Club anticipating a great season

Continued from page 1

wave of the pandemic, golf courses were one of the first activities allowed. The outdoor nature of the game, combined with the vast landscape of a golf course, meant that physical distancing was still possible to maintain. That led to Wiens seeing some interesting statistics over the past two summers. “We generally have a 60-40 split between members and green fees on the course,” he says. “The last two years we were up to 82 per cent member play, and had very little green fees play. We have quite a social membership here. The golf club became sort of their home away from home when they couldn’t do much else.”

He adds that junior membership (ages 11 to 18) shot up. Where most years the club has around 20 junior members, that doubled last year, and most of them seem to be returning for 2022. Wiens will be breaking in the club’s new head professional, Keith Vant, this summer. The 29-year-old from Niagara Falls is taking over from Billy Simkin, who left for a head teaching professional role at Peninsula Lakes in Fonthill. Vant, a graduate of Niagara College’s professional golf management program, comes to NOTL with seven years of experience working at Legends on the Niagara. He’ll be joined by assistant pro Cam Zeppa.

“Keith knows the industry and he knows how to work the leagues,” Wiens says. “The members are talking to him already, and he’s fitting in very nicely. We will roll out the league stuff the next couple of weeks. We can get back to shotgun starts again and we’ll be able to gather for prizes after too. We’re all excited about that.” As the season is set to begin, Wiens is asked whether or not he puts much stock into predictions about what this summer’s weather is expected to be like. The Farmer’s Almanac predicts a warmer and rainier than usual April and May, followed by a summer a bit cooler and rainier than normal. September and Octo-

ber are expected to be warmer and rainier than normal. “I do read as much as I can about the weather,” he confirms. “I check the weather between eight and 10 times a day. Things can change quickly. Most of the summer we’re

in a nice little pocket here, with the river and the lake, and the escarpment behind us keeping some of the moisture and bad weather away. It’s the east winds we have to look out for — they can cause trouble.” East winds be damned,

Wiens is anticipating a very successful summer on the course, in the dining room and on the patio. “I really think people will be wanting to travel and be on the move,” he says. “It’s going to be a good year.”

## Wild turkey scuffle made for great photo

David Gilchrist  
Special to The Local

On occasion in town, one is able to catch sight of wild turkeys, especially at this time of year. In the past, we have had wild turkeys causing problems for people walking or riding their bikes, and there have been news-worthy articles about folks being chased by them. If you happen to be driving by the former Department of National Defence property on Lakeshore Road, you can usually see a number of them in the grassy areas. I believe some of the townsfolk on neighbouring properties feed them during the long winters. With the

bordering wooded area, this is an ideal location for them and there appears to be a healthy population. In Ontario, the original wild turkeys were extirpated by habitat loss and over-hunting about 100 years ago. Since then, however, thanks to hunters and conservationists, they have been reintroduced and once again inhabit wooded areas throughout the province. I happened to be driving in this area on Monday and two males were running along the fence line, one seemingly chasing the other. I pulled into the entrance area, but by then they had joined some others a distance away, closer to a wooded area. Next, I

heard a car honking and, realizing the turkeys may have been sighted, headed back. Sure enough the two males had taken flight and crossed Lakeshore Road. One had trouble finding its way through the fencing on that side of the road, but eventually was successful. Both then began to fight it out a bit, flapping their wings and fanning their tails before launching themselves at each other. A great photo opportunity presented itself. Recently, I posted a video of deer running across Lakeshore Road and jumping the fence into the DND property in the early morning. During this season, we should be aware of the turkeys in the area too.



The NOTL Golf Course crew, Andy Vaccaro, Jim Marino, Paul Debon and Jim Clark in the cart, Mike Magwood with Bogey, Vic Martens, and Jordan Wiens, prepare to head out early Monday morning to get to work on the course. (Photos by David Gilchrist)



The course maintenance crew had a beautiful sunny Monday morning to prepare the course for opening.



Two brazen wild turkeys chasing each other across Lakeshore Road gave photographer David Gilchrist an opportunity to capture their scuffle.



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# Wayside Chapel to hold sunrise service

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Although the Living Water Wayside Chapel was still roped off last weekend, the guest book inside shows about 20 visitors have stopped in during the last couple of weeks, some of them travellers who have come a long distance.

Comments are written by people visiting from far away places — one in Arabic, others from Spain, the U.K., Antigua, Columbia, and Canadians from coast to coast.

That's not unusual, and is evidence the tiny white chapel on the Niagara River Parkway is providing its intended service.

Rick Meloen, a member of the Faith Fellowship Christian Reform Church in Niagara Falls, is one of the locals occasionally called upon to do maintenance work on the chapel, which was built in 1965.

Although he is too young to have been part of the discussions around its conception, he says, 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."

The location is on an appealing corridor well-travelled by visitors to the area, especially during

the summer, giving them 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."

Most years, says Meloen, the guest books indicate they have more than 10,000 visitors stop by.

"I remember one day when a few of us were working, a couple asked if they could sit inside for a moment. He was a minister, his wife said, "and he has always wanted to preach to a full church."

It was kept open during the last two years of the pandemic, with the hope that visitors would respect COVID restrictions. A jug of hand sanitizer beside the guest book is a sign of the times.

Fortunately, there has been very little vandalism over the years, he adds — most maintenance is routine, carried out by a small group of church volunteers.

About 50 years ago, a decision was made to hold an Easter morning sunrise service at the chapel, outdoors, of course — the inside pews would accommodate about eight people, and the annual event typically draws about 50 participants.

Occasionally visitors

passing by will stop, but most participants are local, some coming back year after year.

The chapel closes for the winter, and is opened to signal the Easter season. This year's service is Sunday, April 17, at 7 a.m.

Meloen usually plays a role in a brief Easter morning play, and then minister Dr. Brian Ross offers a short service, followed by tradi-

tional Easter hymns.

From beginning to end, it is held to about 20 minutes, for the comfort of those who are gathered, standing the entire time, on what can be a very chilly morning.

"We've done it surrounded by snow, in wind and rain," says Meloen. "The most memorable services are when we get here, the sun starts to rise in the

east, the birds are singing, the weather is good, and we can watch the sun come up. Those are the perfect mornings, the ones you want to remember."

Many will remember the chapel at a different spot, on the parkway but further south, beside what became a private home. That was actually its second home, says Meloen — it was originally on the

property where it is now, closer to Line 2, on the site of what is now Walker's Country Market. When the move from Line 6 was necessary, about 10 years ago, Meloen says, Jim Walker generously offered the site, and has been a helpful steward, ensuring the area around it is kept tidy. "It's very good of him to allow the chapel to be here."



Rick Meloen is looking forward to welcoming people to the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at the Living Water Wayside Chapel on the Niagara River Parkway. (Photos by Penny Coles)

The chapel doesn't accommodate many people inside, so a perfect outdoor service would be watching the sun come up on a clear and warm morning.

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## Patrick Brown coming to NOTL for meet and greet

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Marlene Gallyot, an employee of the municipality of Markham and a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, has experience organizing political campaigns — she ran as a Conservative party candidate herself in a federal election in the riding of Scarborough-Rouge River.

She is a mother of four, a former immigration consultant, and also a wedding officiant and planner.

Her role this Satur-

day will be that of a campaign organizer, as part of the Patrick Brown team. Brown, running for the Conservative leadership, will be at her home on Line 3 for a two hour meet and greet, which she arranged. She has other locations planned for the coming weeks, but first, she wants to introduce him to locals.

Gallyot says she has met each one of the leadership candidates, and has decided Brown is the best man for the job.

She knows him well, she says, and believes his

background, both with the Conservative party and as mayor of Brampton, a large municipality with a diverse population, makes him the right choice.

She is opening up her large yard, which she also uses to host weddings, and is hoping for good weather. To hedge her bets she's also cleaning out her barn, her workshop for wedding decor items, in case it rains.

The meet and greet with Brown is at 972 Line 3, this Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

# IT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME!

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**Submitted by  
Nine Lives Custom  
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As with any piece of cabinetry or furniture, after years of use, the finish can look worn or dated. With scratches, stains, knicks, paint peeling, out of style hardware or finish, or maybe it is just the wrong colour, there are many reasons to consider refreshing a project. At Nine Lives Custom Refinishing, we have spent the past 5 years painting thousands of kitchens and pieces of furniture to give them a refreshed look and extra life.

When the company started out of a garage in St. Catharines over 5 years ago, owner Kevin Coyle had always envisioned Nine Lives becoming a leader in the refinishing industry. What started out as only furniture refinishing and naturally evolved to include kitchen respraying, a mobile spray truck capable of painting exterior projects like man/garage doors and shutters, and in the past 6 months, added an umbrella company called Niagara Custom Refinishing that offers automotive spray finishing as well, they have quickly

become Niagara's Leading One Stop Custom Refinishing Shop through steady growth and expansion.

Kevin believes the key to the company's success is the dedication of the team to keep customers happy with the end result, "The business of refinishing kitchens and furniture is not an easy job nor is it a glamorous one," says Coyle, "We are constantly striving to improve

and to make the customers experience a pleasurable one, and the option of refinishing not only saves the client money, but also keeps old kitchens and furniture out of landfills."

Nine Lives now boasts a 5000 sq. ft. facility at 2136 Allport Road in Thorold that features a full showroom, offices and a large shop with a full production line to meet the demand for this ever-expanding

business. They also have a separate 1200 sq. ft. shop with a full automotive spray booth, pro paint mixing system and two lifts for the automotive work and metal projects. To keep up with the demand, they also house a staff of twelve talented specialists including spray finishers, installers, preppers, administrators, and consultants and operate a fleet of six vehicles to complete multiple

kitchens, numerous pieces of furniture and many automotive projects each week.

What really makes them a unique company for your kitchen renovation though is that on top of offering refinishing, they also offer door re-facing, new hardware, quartz countertops and appliances, all from their one-stop shop. They have also partnered with many great companies to be

able to offer numerous options for custom doors, a large variety of materials and styles of countertops, custom upgrades from carpenters and so much more.

On top of all of that, Nine Lives Custom Refinishing started offering a new service last year for custom trailer and RV Refinishing! That's right, they will even take your home away from home and modernize it to give it that residential feel! They can transform those dated looking kitchen cabinets, built in cupboards and vanities into modern spaces. With professional spray equipment and high-end paint, their expert team will give your space a like new, factory finish for a fraction of the cost of a full renovation. As with kitchens, they also offer customization for counter tops, upholstery and exterior vinyl wrapping.

To finish this up, if you want to give your kitchen, dining room table, built in entertainment unit, garage door, shutters, golf cart, sports car or even your RV some extra life or an update, give Niagara's Leading One Stop Custom Refinishing Shop a call today. You won't be disappointed.



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# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

## Tips for seniors returning to the skies

After skipping a year due to lockdowns, many seniors are facing the challenge of having lots of family to visit and just one holiday season in which to do it.

It's a nice problem to have, but it might mean taking a plane to quickly

cover more ground, even if it's not something you do very often. Fortunately, following just a few quick tips before hitting the airport can help you up move through security screening with ease and make flying a breeze.

Remember your mask:

Even with vaccinations in place and some measures being lifted, you still need a mask when you get to the airport.

Pack your liquids properly: Liquids going in your carry-on bag should be in containers of 100 millilitres or less and should all

be able to fit in a single resealable one-litre bag. Prescription and non-prescription medications are exempt, but you should make sure they're clearly labelled. Either way, they should be removed from your carry-on when going through screening.

Understand allowable extras: You can also bring medical supplies, equipment and mobility aids on board with you in addition to the two carry-on bag limit.

Find more tips and information from the

Canadian Air Transport Security Authority. You'll find a page dedicated to seniors and special sections for people with limited mobility or medically necessary equipment on their website at [catsa-acsta.gc.ca](https://catsa-acsta.gc.ca).

[www.newscanada.com](https://www.newscanada.com)



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**Luncheon & Handmade Soap Workshop**  
Luncheon starts at 12:30pm followed by event.  
*Limited Spots Available*

**THURSDAY**  
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# *Celebrate Seniors* Golden Years Guide

## How to protect yourself from fraudsters targeting seniors

From telephone calls to suspicious emails or text messages, fraudsters take advantage of the pandemic to prey on consumers' fears, often targeting seniors. But, like the old saying goes, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is."

It's important to be very cautious when receiving any kind of message that appears to be from a bank or financial service asking for personal or financial information. No matter how official it may look, Canadian banks do not ask for this kind of information by email or text. Staying in touch with your local branch is a safe way to verify your concerns.

If you suspect that a call, email or text is not legitimate, call your branch and let them know.

Here are some tips from the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada on what else you can do if you think you may have been the target of financial fraud:

- Change your online banking and email account passwords.
- Ask the bank to place a fraud alert on your account.
- Review credit card and bank statements for unknown charges or ask a trusted loved one to do so.
- Order a free credit report and carefully check for anything unusual.
- Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

Find more information and resources to protect yourself at [canada.ca/money](https://canada.ca/money).  
[www.newscanada.com](https://www.newscanada.com)



## Did the Canada Revenue Agency really contact you?

Last year, about 100 Canadians a day were victims of a scam! Many of these scams imitate the CRA's programs and services to gain access to your personal and financial information. So, how can you avoid getting tricked?

Here are three tips to avoid being scammed by someone pretending to be from the agency:

- 1. Know how to recognize a scam**
  - Scammers may insist they need your personal or financial information, such as your SIN or credit card details, to send you a refund or collect a payment. Beware when you get any message, whether it's by telephone, mail, text or email, that requests this information.
  - Callers may use threatening or coercive language to scare you into paying a phoney debt. Know that the government will not demand immediate payment or threaten you with arrest.
- 2. Protect yourself from identify theft**
  - Fraudsters may urge you to visit a fake website where you're asked to verify your identity by entering personal information. The CRA will not email you a link asking you to fill in an online form with personal or financial details.
  - Monitor your tax accounts by registering for My Account or My Business Account. Once registered, sign up for email notifications, which will notify you of changes made to your accounts or if paper mail from the agency was returned.
- 3. When in doubt, check your online account**
  - Use unique and complex passwords for your CRA and online banking accounts. You can set up a personal identification number (PIN) in My Account or with the help of one of the CRA call centre agents to help confirm your identity for future calls.
  - If you receive a call, letter, email or text saying you owe money or have received a refund, check your My Account or call the CRA at 1-800-959-8281.

If you think you may have been the victim of a scam or have been tricked into giving personal or financial information, contact your local police service.

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# Pink Pearl helps young women with cancer

## Anchor Niagara! a huge supporter

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

Elise Gasbarrino can remember as if it was yesterday, sitting in a waiting room at the Juravinski Can-

cer Centre, a terrified young woman diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The waiting room is full, the other women considerably older, with their own fears, but of a very different kind. She also remembers going through chemotherapy, a 21-year-old with an uncertain future, again the youngest in the room, surrounded by others also battling

cancer, but at very different stages in their lives than the young university student with so much ahead of her.

"It's a time when you're making life-defining decisions," she says, finishing university, maybe living at home and thinking of going out on your own, deciding on a career path, all while having fun with friends. And so much at stake, including fertility issues, and emotional relationships.

"The conversations are very different than for someone at a later, defined time in their lives."

She looks back on that time, feeling fortunate that at least she had her mother with her, to comfort her and to be a second pair of ears, through everything from diagnosis, chemotherapy, to follow-up appointments, always hoping the news would be good, fearing it might not.

She also says she had a great group of friends who often accompanied her, especially welcome when she was going through eight hours of chemo, five days a week.

She becomes emotional thinking about what it must have been like for the many young women going through similar experiences during the last two years, on their own, without a mother or friend by their side to provide support during doctor's appointments, or for company during the long, lonely hours of chemo. Heart-breaking to even imagine, and yet the pandemic made it necessary.

As Gasbarrino recovered from cancer, her parents Mary and George — all Chautauqua neighbourhood residents — and her sister Melaina, along with many friends and family members, helped organize a fundraiser for Juravinski, the first one a gala dinner for 250 people at Casa Roma. But along the way, Elise began to think about the elements that were missing when she was going through her diagnosis and treatments — a way to connect to women her own age going through a similar experience, facing the same fears, at the same stage of their young lives, and a way to help each other understand and face those fears together.

"There were support programs for women with cancer, but for those who are younger, there was no peer support," she says.

The Gasbarrinos' annual fundraiser became support for Pink Pearl, a charitable organization formed by Gasbarrino with a small team focused on bringing young women affected by cancer together, through the



George and Mary Gasbarrino, with Maria Mavridis, and Elise and Melaina Gasbarrino, celebrate a successful Pink Pearl fundraiser with a cheque for more than \$16,000. Mavridis feels strongly about the good work of the organization, and says, "I wish I could have added another zero."

Continued on page 17

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# Cat & Nat event to raise funds for Pink Pearl

Continued from page 16

kind of peer support, social gatherings and innovative programs that Elise envisioned, but until then, were not available.

It was also before the day of the many networks and support groups found on the internet, which now bring women with similar stories together, offering a kind of support, but not the programs Elise offers.

There have been many fundraisers since, as the organization has grown, providing effective and fully-funded programming, mostly through community fundraisers and with no government support, for young women between the ages of 18 and 40, battling cancer of any type.

The very first program was a wellness retreat, Gasbarrino says, with just 10 women, each able to bring along one person for support, with the program also addressing the needs of the caretaker.

The retreats continue, now hosting 40 women for overnight stays, although they have had to be virtual for the last two years. One-on-one programs, just in

the imagining stages pre-COVID, have been developed over the last two years, including counselling sessions, which have become even more important during the pandemic. Although there is a cost to them, they are available to all who need them, with financial assistance for any woman without benefits and unable to cover the costs.

And, Gasbarrino adds, without statistics to back up what is a strong feeling, she believes there are more young women being diagnosed with cancer than when she was going through it. She hears the stories from people close to her, and from friends of friends, not just in Niagara, but even during a 10-year career in New York City, without knowing why there is such an increase, but feeling sure there is.

She is very fortunate that hospitals will distribute the information about the programs Pink Pearl provides, she says, that doctors, nurses and social workers will share what is available — that doesn't typically happen with organizations such as Pink Pearl. But her programs were developed with help from medical personnel, and she has a

doctor, and nurse and social workers on her board. They understand how little help is available for young women with cancer, and how badly it's needed. They are willing to hand out support packages, with information that has been developed with the help of health care professionals.

"We've really grown within the hospital system," she says.

Gasbarrino was at Cork's Wine Bar and Eatery last Friday to celebrate a cheque of almost \$17,000 from Anchor Niagara, an organization Maria Mavridis of Cork's has developed to create fundraising events that not only help fund charities such as Pink Pearl Foundation, but support the local businesses where they are held. This most recent event was at BarBea and Ruffino's.

Anchor Niagara has been a great source of funds for the foundation, with regular Purse Bingo events, and an annual dinner at Ravine Vineyards.

There are more coming up. Mavridis has one in Niagara Falls organized for June 11, featuring Cat & Nat, two women who are known for using their comedy to bring women together

through entertaining dinner parties and other events. A portion of the proceeds from that event will go to Pink Pearl.

The fall gala dinner at Ravine Vineyards, Eat, Drink, Pink!, held last November with pandemic restrictions, has become Anchor Niaga-

ra's signature event for Pink Pearl, and will be held again this fall, as will a neighbourhood run in support of Pink Pearl this summer.

## Empty shelves a good sign



John Hawley, with his daughter-in-law Brianne Hawley, stand in an almost-empty warehouse space, where the collection of furniture and accessories accumulated over decades by Liz Hawley were stored. A sale held last Saturday was a successful fundraiser for her favourite charity, Rising Angels. (Photo supplied)

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# Anchor Niagara raises funds for Niagara Charities

## Pink Pearl Foundation will always be supported

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Maria Mavridis, a busy businesswoman and mother, continues to fulfill a promise made to her mother many years ago.

That promise motivates and energizes her, she says, but those who know her understand her passion and drive to help others also comes from her own strength, and from her heart.

Maria's mother Vera was diagnosed with breast cancer in her early 30s, and lived through the progression of the disease for 13 years. During that time, Maria recalls, Vera volunteered for organizations that raised money to fight cancer, promoted awareness of the disease, and offered support to others who were going through treatment. She was a young mother then, battling cancer herself with three young daughters at home to care for, and helping other women mostly in their 60s and 70s. Before she died, she asked Maria to carry on her volunteer activities.

Maria's mother was her inspiration for Anchor Niagara, a local events company Maria founded to promote partnerships and sponsorship throughout the Niagara Region, raising money for local charities.

Her position as a Niagara businesswoman with many friends and contacts in the hospitality industry, and her drive to organize charitable events came together, allowing her to help offset costs for fundraisers, festivals and other events, while at the same time promoting and supporting local businesses.

Maria says many people attend fundraisers assuming

items such as food, venue and entertainment are donated. Often they are not, and especially during the pandemic, both not-for-profits and businesses in the hospitality industry have suffered.

With restrictions lifted, it has become easier to begin planning events, and Maria has a long list of applications from charities looking for assistance.

She goes through each one, meets with applicants, and looks at "what they've done so far, what they have, and what they need. I also look at whether they are as passionate about their charity as I am about Anchor Niagara. I don't want it just to be about some fundraising job they've been given to do."

When Maria heard about Pink Pearl, which helps young women with cancer, and met founder Elise Gasbarrino, who was treated for ovarian cancer in her early 20s, some of the stories Elise shared brought back memories of Maria's mother and what she had gone through.

Maria recognized she and Elise shared a passion to help others, and she became part of the team supporting Pink Pearl.

When she was invited to attend one of the retreats for young women battling cancer, she realized "everyone's raising money for cancer research, but not to help these women when they need support to live their lives. That's when it hit home for me."

Through her friendship with Elise and Elise's sister Melaina, they have all developed friendships with some of the young women they've met through Pink Pearl, "and we've lost a couple of them. It's really tough."

It's also made Maria wish some of those support programs were available for her mother — when she was sick, nobody her age could relate to what she was going through or the kind of support she needed.

"She was part of a program then to make women feel better, by making them look better. That meant wearing wigs so they didn't look like they had cancer, not helping them to look or feel better with cancer."

Much has happened in Maria's life since then, always with the knowledge that she would carry on her mother's work, fundraising for cancer organizations and programs.

After her mother died, Maria, the middle of three sisters, had the BRCA blood test that uses DNA analysis to determine an increased risk of breast cancer. Since then, Maria has continued her own journey of tests and regular checkups, including mammograms, ultrasounds and biopsies, at the Juravinski Cancer Centre, where they follow her carefully and study what they find, knowing her mother had cancer so young, and that was so progressive.

She knows what it's like to sit in the waiting room alone — her sisters were at home, going through their own bereavement — she knows the fear of wondering what news the appointment will bring, and how hard it is to process information as it's given to you. She has also learned the importance of making each and every day count, she says.

That includes helping her community, and especially Elise and her parents, Mary and George, who have homes in the Chautauqua area, and Melaina, who lives close by, all involved in Pink Pearl programs and the foundation which helps fund them.

Maria believes together the two women are accomplishing something positive and im-

portant, and that she is setting a good example for her daughter Hope to follow.

"Pink Pearl hits all the reasons Anchor Niagara was started," she says,

"Elise knew what was needed in the way of programs and support. They do so many amazing things quietly, but she needed someone to shout it from the roof tops. That's what I do."

The Pink Pearl Foundation is not the only charity on her radar. She has a Boyz II Men concert coming up on June 4 at White Oaks Resort and Spa — another of her partnerships, and often a venue for her fundraisers.

This is a special concert for her, she says. "They have always been one of my faves, and it was always a dream of mine to see them, but I could never get tickets."

They have one song in particular that has special meaning for her. *A Song for Mama* — about a mother who was a guiding force for her children, and always there for them — was played during her mother's funeral, and it will always remind Maria of her mother and her importance in her family's life.

Maria says she may have gone out on a limb with this one — her love for the band made her think a concert in NOTL would be a sell-out, but she is discovering it isn't as easy as she thought it would be, at least not yet.

She remembers the day she had to ask Bob, her father, for \$80,000 to cover the cost of the band upfront, and says he has always been her biggest supporter, a financial backer when she needed one, and has never said no when she asks for help — he agreed instantaneously that day, as he always does.

Fortunately, he trusts her business sense to make it work, and she reminds herself there is still time for ticket sales.

The concert is a fundraiser

for the Hotel Dieu Shaver Rehabilitation Centre, she says, and she has another event coming up, one of her popular Purse Bingos, for Pathstone Mental Health.

There are other fundraisers for Niagara charities in the works, she says, but while she helps other organizations, it's clear Maria and Anchor Niagara will always be there for Elise and the work she does to help young women with cancer.

Maria has raised more than \$176,000 for Niagara charities through Anchor Niagara, and the need continues

to grow, however each time she organizes an event, she gives back to the community in some way. Last fall, she was presented with the Community Impact Award, given out by Women in Niagara, a council of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

She was humble in her acceptance — she doesn't do what she does for recognition — but accepted that it would not only raise awareness for her own organization, but could help in her promise to raise money and awareness for other community charities.



Pink shirts Scott Epp, Dan Plomish, Paul Harber (there is pink in his plaid) and Julian Lustig pose with Maria Mavridis at the 2019 Eat, Drink, Pink! event at Ravine Vineyards. It will be held again this fall as a fundraiser for Pink Pearl. (File photo)

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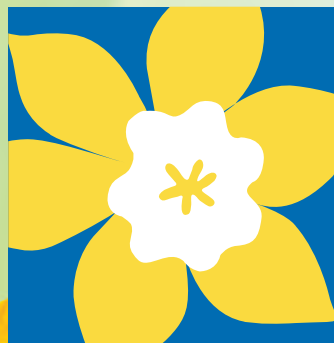
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Actual Kid-Friendly News

# Kids

GAZETTE



April 2022 Volume 2 • Issue 6

FIND THE SMILEY FACE HIDDEN ON THIS PAGE!

## Local News

The kitty featured in the last issue of the Gazette has gone missing. Jack Jack Jr. (Aka Squishy) has been missing since March 26 by Line 4 and Concession 6. If anyone sees this grey beauty please email joyousnotlkids@gmail.com.



## Hometown Happenings

If you're out for a walk around town keep your eyes peeled for positivity rocks like this "kindness" one found at St. Mark's Church!



- Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?**  
**A.** A music producer or something like that. Something with music.
- Q. What is your ideal day in NOTL?**  
**A.** In the summer I'd go to WildPlay Niagara Falls Whirlpool Adventure Course then go to Bistro 61 for dinner. And maybe Cows for dessert. I'd also go shopping at Hot Topic at the Outlet Collection.

- Q. What is a fun family tradition you have at home?**  
**A.** We used to go to Algeria every year for the end of Ramadan/Eid. The whole family would come together, at that point it was about 35 cousins. The funny thing is that only a few of them speak English.
- Q. What is your favourite book?**  
**A.** This is a movie and a book, it's called *Five Feet Apart*. It's mostly a drama but it has all the genres. All the characters are likable.
- Q. What do you do to help others?**  
**A.** I am a p.a. (program assistant) at the skating club. And, in school, I help out

- in the ukulele club. I also used to help my mom with some of her younger music therapy clients.
- Q. What is your favourite travel adventure?**  
**A.** With citizenship in three countries, and having lived in the Kingdom of Bahrain, we used to travel a lot. There are two trips that stick out. One is when we went to Disney in Tokyo when I was seven, that was a lot of fun. The second was when we went to Moscow. We went to a concert there with a lot of big music names. We also spent some time in a park in Moscow, then we went to get pizza.

- Q. How did you keep yourself busy during COVID lockdowns?**  
**A.** I watched Netflix and I played instruments. I started playing piano when I was five, but I also play the ukulele, guitar, and drums. But singing is my favourite.
- Q. How would you change the world if you could?**  
**A.** I'd have more music festivals. I'd also get rid of COVID.

- Q. What's that certain something that makes**



Elina Moussi, II

- you special?**  
**A.** Music. I've basically been singing since I was born. My mom checked my sense of rhythm when I was 10 or 11 months old. And, I started singing at just under two years old.
- A while ago I did a cover of a song by my favourite band, Pierce the Veil, and posted it on my Instagram. The singer of the band commented on the post. My Instagram handle is elimoussi.

## Poet's Corner

Poem: Spring is Here  
By: Taleah Bucci, II

Spring is here!  
Let out a cheer!  
Even if the weather is slushy and wet,  
Don't let the chill make you forget  
That a warmer time is coming soon  
And the birds will come out to sing a tune.  
Animals will emerge from holes, dens, and nests,  
Waking up from long Winter rests.  
Flowers will bloom, plants will grow,  
So say goodbye to all the snow.  
It will melt and disappear  
And that's because spring is here!

### SPRING FUN FACTS

- Honeybees are most likely to swarm in the spring. Even though it sounds scary, they are actually at their friendliest when they are swarming.
- Nobody knows for sure, but it is thought that April Fools' Day began in France in the 16th century when New Year's Day changed from April 1 to January 1. Anyone who still celebrated it on April 1 was called an April Fool.



### RIDDLE

Submitted by : Nathan E.

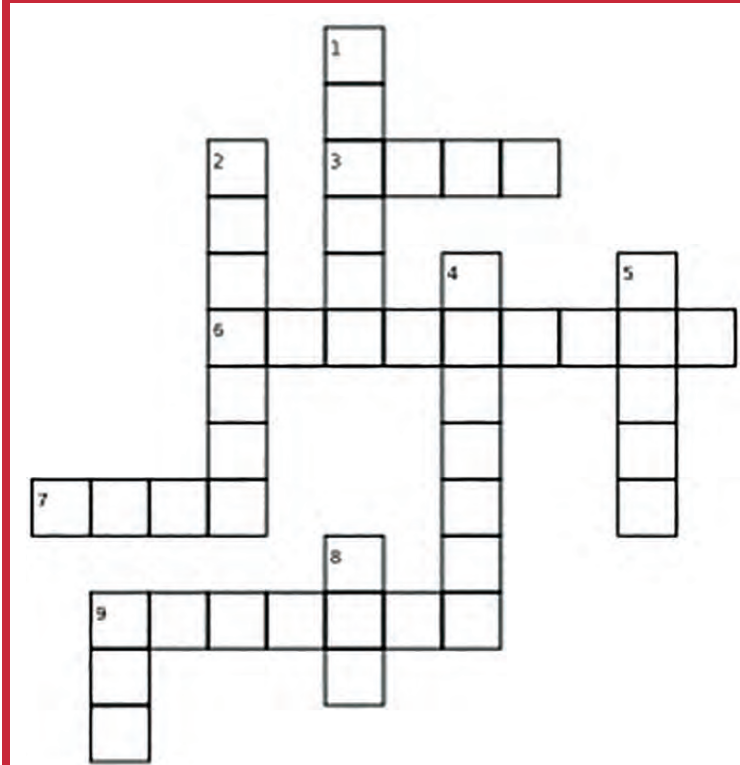
Q. Why did the cow cross the road?

A. Because he likes to Mooove!

### CHARITY

We are looking for charities in which kids can participate. If you would like your organization to be highlighted here, please send your information to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com.

## Crossword: FLOWERS



- Down:**
- Yellow powder made by flowering plants
  - The time or period of flowering
  - A person who grows and usually arranges flowers
  - This grows out from the flower head
  - A swelling on a plant that can grow into new parts, such as leaves or a flower
  - An insect that has four wings, hairy, and often has a stinger

- Across:**
- A green and flat part of the flower which grows out of the stem
  - A tall yellow flower with edible seeds
  - Supportive part of a flower that grows up from the ground
  - A bunch of flowers

Answers: 1. Pollen 2. Blossom 3. Leaf 4. Florist 5. Petal 6. Sunflower 7. Stem 8. Bud 9. Bouquet

### SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and interacting with the community in a positive way. We welcome submissions for all categories from kids of any age. Please keep the reviews positive and all submitted content appropriate for kids of all ages. Please send all submissions to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.



## HOP ON DOWN TO THE BUNNY TRAIL!

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 11.30am

**WHERE:** Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane, Niagara-On-The-Lake



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Age categories are, 5 & under and 6-10 years old.

Contest closes Tuesday, April 12 at 5 pm.

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# LocalSPORTS

## Predator owner, coach names top players

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

When the Niagara Predators announced their team awards last Saturday, it was no surprise that the one-two punch of Reese Bisci and Dante Massi led the way, with five awards between them. And their top goalie award went to a Swedish phenom who hadn't laced up for Niagara since late November.

To choose the award winners, team owner, coach and general manager Robert Turnbull consulted with his assistants Connor Shipton and Samantha Marson, as well as one of his U.S. scouts who spent a lot of time at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena watching the Predators play. Following is the list of honours.

**Reese Bisci - Best Defensive Forward, Most Improved, Rookie of the Year**

The 5'9" Welland native

was a shoo-in for Rookie of the Year. Playing in his first Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League season, Bisci notched 13 goals and 19 assists, his 32 points in 36 games making him the sixth highest scoring Predator this year.

"He started at right wing on the fourth line," Turnbull told The Local. "We moved him to centre, and he worked his way up to the first line. He started making players around him better. He killed penalties and won faceoffs at a 75-percent clip."

As well, in game after game all season the 20-year-old was regularly the first forward back in the Predators zone to help out the defensive corps. And he certainly earned the Most Improved award as he stepped up late in the season when Swedish forwards Emil and Jesper Eriksson didn't return to the team following the Christmas break. Ten of his goals came in the final 13 games of the Preda-

tors 38-game season.

"I'm hoping he's coming back next year," Turnbull adds. "He told me it was the best time he's ever had playing hockey, so that's a promising sign. He skates, he back-checks, he by far was our most improved player."

**Dante Massi - Heart Award, Most Valuable Player**

Massi finished the season with 74 points, leading all Predators with that total. His 59 assists placed him in the top 10 in the GMHL. The Niagara Falls native, just 5'7" tall, played like a much bigger skater, throwing his shoulders into opponents while fighting for the puck in both the offensive and defensive zones. Massi played every shift all season with 100 per cent effort, earning him most valuable honours.

"The Heart Award is for the guy who puts their team on his back," Turnbull explained. "Dante is the guy that made this thing go all season. When he was at his best everyone was at their best. He grew as a player and as a person this season."

At 21 years old, Massi will be ineligible to play for the Predators next year.

**Alexander Insulander Leadership Award**

Insulander was the Predators' leading goal scorer, with 31, and ended up second to Massi in total points with 57. Originally playing on a line with fellow Swedes Jesper and

Emil Eriksson, his production dipped a bit when those two left the team. The now 22-year-old Insulander was often seen encouraging the other Predators before, during and after games.

"He did so much, both on and off the ice, arranging extra practices and other things," Turnbull said. "He was runner-up for MVP and a couple of other awards too. He talked to the players on the bench, in the dressing room, on the ice. All the things you need from a leader on a daily basis, Alexander brought it."

**Brenden Morin Best Defenceman**

This award came down to 21-year-old Welland native Morin and Swedish defender Pontus Madsen. Though Madsen was given a little more ice time all year as a pure defenceman, Turnbull said Morin shone in the one-on-ones and did all the little things right. Madsen outscored Morin, with 31 and 26 points respectively, but Morin was a stalwart presence on the blue line all season.

"Pontus carried the puck a lot, but he got caught a lot, too," Turnbull said. "When I went through all the strengths and weaknesses, there were actually three guys that could have won this award, but Morin edged out the others."

**Oskar Spinnars Nordin Best Goalie**

In the short time he was with the Predators, Oskar Spin-



Alexander Insulander, leading scorer, received the Leadership Award.



Brenden Morin was named the best defenceman.

nars Nordin built a reputation as one of the GMHL's best goalies. Before leaving for the Bismarck, North Dakota Bobcats of the North American Hockey League, the Swedish import had a record of seven wins and three losses, a 1.90 goals against average and a 0.952 save percentage in 10 games between the pipes. Though Niagara used six other goaltenders during the season, Spinnars Nordin was by far their standout. With him in the crease, the team, who played with a short bench early in the season, always had confidence their goalie would give them a chance to win.

Following his late November departure, it took some time for the Preds to truly find their groove again. In Bismarck, Spinnars Nordin amassed 17 wins,

three losses and two shootout losses, along with a 2.88 goals against average.

**Dawson Walker Coaches Award**

Forward Dawson Walker played in 36 games for the Predators this year. The 19-year-old from Niagara Falls scored two goals and eight assists, but it was his attitude and work ethic that earned him the recognition.

"I always award a player that works their butt off," Turnbull explained. "He may not have gotten the same amount of ice time, but he supported the players on the bench, never complained, and asked for additional help when needed. He skated hard at every practice, arrived early, stayed late. Dawson by far stood out."

**Noah Caperchione Most Sportsmanlike Player**

Through 21 games with the Predators, the 21-year-old Port Colborne native had a single penalty for a total of two minutes spent in the box.

"Considering the number of goals he got," said Turnbull, "and the areas he had to work in to get those goals, he played smart as a power forward and stayed out of the penalty box."

Though he joined the team about a month into the season, Caperchione immediately



Reese Bisci is a triple award-winner. (Photos supplied)



Dante Massi named most valuable player.

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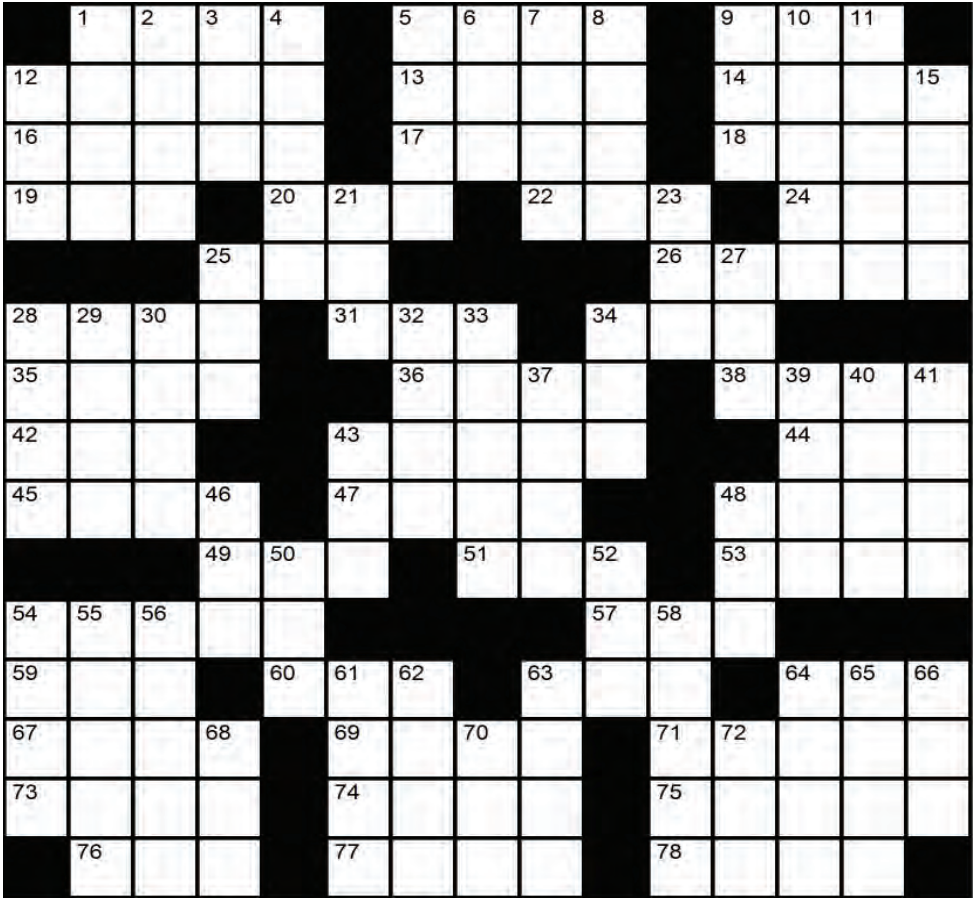
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19 Negative  
20 One coming out  
22 Big beer can  
24 --- Grande  
25 Solar system center  
26 Casing  
28 Electrical connector  
31 Passed away (Abbr.)  
34 Old card game  
35 "Would it be ---?" (Presley: "Can't help falling in love")  
36 Father's sibling  
38 Physicians  
42 So far  
43 Sour-smelling  
44 Sticky stuff  
45 Junction  
47 Not us  
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49 Rotational speed measure  
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54 Harsh treatment
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60 Bench with a back  
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from  
March 30, 2022

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

Across: 1 Hash, 5 Chat, 9 I S P, 12 Dubai, 13 Roma, 14 Stat, 16 Allan, 17 Atop, 18 Moth, 19 Nay, 20 Deb, 22 Keg, 24 Rio, 25 Sun, 26 Armor, 28 Wire, 31 Dec, 34 Loo, 35 A sin, 36 Aunt, 38 Docs, 42 Yet, 43 Achid, 44 Goo, 45 Seam, 47 Them, 48 Orca, 49 R p m, 51 Shy, 53 Peak, 54 Abuse, 57 Apt, 59 Fun, 60 Pew, 63 H M S, 64 P D A, 67 Rein, 69 Paco, 71 Yearn, 73 Onto, 74 Inns, 75 Canon, 76 A-S-W, 77 Cent, 78 H t t p.

Down: 1 Hula, 2 Ably, 3 S A, 4 Hindu, 5 Crab, 6 Hot, 7 Amok, 8 Tape, 9 Ism, 10 Storm, 11 Patio, 12 Dan, 15 Thor, 21 End, 23 G A O, 25 Sen, 27 Rod, 28 Ways, 29 I see, 30 Rita, 32 Each, 33 Cures, 34 LTD, 37 NI-M-H, 39 Ogre, 40 Coca, 41 Soak, 43 A T M, 46 Mrs, 48 Opt, 50 Pep, 52 Yam, 54 Afro, 55 Buena, 56 Units, 58 Psych, 61 Epic, 62 Wane, 63 Host, 64 Pant, 65 Drop, 66 Ann, 68 Now, 70 C N N, 72 Eat.



PLEASE RECYCLE  
THIS NEWSPAPER

The Niagara-on-the-Lake  
*Local*  
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# LocalSPORTS

## Tough job for coach to narrow down choices

Continued from page 22

made an impact. He finished the year with 22 goals (including five game-winners) and 13 assists. His experience with the Pelham Panther and Caledonia Corvairs of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League (GOJHL) was a boost to the Predators roster.

### Durham Roadrunners win the Southern Division

After knocking the Predators out of the second round of the Russell Cup playoffs three

games to one, the North York Renegades faced the first place Durham Roadrunners for the South Division title. Throughout the seven-game series the home ice advantage seemed to be a factor, with the hosts winning each of the seven games. The final two games went to overtime, and Durham won the seventh game, a 3-2 thriller on their home ice to clinch the South. They now face the Northern Division winners, the Temiscaming Titans, in a seven-game series for the Russell Cup title.



Noah Caperchione was named most sportsmanlike.



Dawson Walker received the Coaches Award for his work ethic.



Oskar Spinnars Nordin was the best goalie. (Photos supplied)

### Sailing season has started

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club kicked off their 2022 season Sunday. With ice flowing down the river it looked like it might not happen, but an ice jam upstream in the gorge kept the river open. Afternoon Delight (Rob Vanderperk with Andy Berti, 909) and Rampant (1012, Levi Harper) came first and second respectively in two races last weekend, Sunday afternoon and again on Monday. (Photo supplied)



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