



**James Russell reveals plans to return to town**  
page 8

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Alex Friesen takes his first shot of the season on the NOTL Golf Course last Thursday morning. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

NOTL Tennis Club members rotate through volleys on their opening day.

Members of the NOTL Lawn-bowling club enjoy the first day of their season.

## Funding isn't covering student food insecurity

**Sharon Burns**  
The Local

Local schools may have to pause their snack program prior to June because of “a perfect storm of obstacles,” said Jessica Stephenson, program manager at Niagara Nutrition Partners.

The not-for-profit program, established in 1998, is a region-wide initiative offering support and coordination for student nutrition programs in both elementary and secondary schools.

Student nutrition programs are often referred to as breakfast clubs, however, in many schools across Niagara, these programs give children access to breakfast, snacks and even lunch throughout the day.

“Niagara Nutrition Partners has experienced some incredible growth over the last year, just based on need alone,” said Stephenson. “We

were serving 17,000 students every day last year and now we are up to 24,000 in 200 schools across the region, in all four school boards.”

The program has not received an increase in provincial funding, which covers only a portion of costs, since 2014, and they have had to fundraise in the community. “The issue is that the local community is feeling the pinch as well. Those funding pots that we used to tap into are dwindling quicker and there is less money available, with more agencies competing for those same dollars,” said Stephenson.

“Inflation has increased our food cost and delivery cost to a level that we can't maintain the same quality program that we have come to know, and that the kids deserve to have,” she continued.

With the funding they

Continued on page 5

## Many opportunities, many reasons for volunteering

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake “is the volunteer capital of Canada,” says Cheryl Morris, and as one of the busiest volunteers in town, contributing to several organizations, she would know.

The organization she is most involved in at the moment is the Shaw Guild, likely one of the largest, if not the largest, volunteer groups in town, with 320 members who collectively donated 13,000 hours to helping the Shaw Festival in varied capacities last year, saving the

organization a huge cost of paying people to do the work done by volunteers.

The Shaw Guild Garden Tour, one of the two major fundraisers for the festival, alone requires a team of 120 volunteers to coordinate the tour, and be onsite in gardens to greet people, direct and welcome them.

It's an organization that receives inquiries from people all the time, says Morris, with orientations they can attend to learn about the many ways they can become involved.

“There are always people in-

terested in joining because the guild has so much to offer, so many different ways to volunteer. Whatever your interest is, there is something for you to do.”

Mary Mizen learned that nine years ago, when she attended one of the orientation sessions. She had decided when she retired that she wanted to do some sort of scheduled volunteering, she says. “It was my time to give back. When I first came for my orientation, we were having it in the festival lobby, and I looked outside and saw gardeners working in the garden. I love to garden, so

I thought ‘that's what I want to do.’ And that was where I started. I think I've done almost every type of volunteer role you can do at the Shaw.”

She has greeted patrons, done backstage tours, scanned tickets, and facilitated after-the-show chats. And of course there is the all-important job of fundraising, and she has worked on both major events — the garden tour, and the annual Sip, Savour and Stroll, an elegant garden party with refreshments and music, coming up in May.

This is Mizen's first year as

guild president, and as she says, “so far so good.”

Mizen says she and her husband used to visit NOTL every year. They loved the area, and loved going to the Shaw, so it was an easy decision to retire here. “Why would you want to live anywhere else,” she says.

Her first six years volunteering was with Hospice Niagara, serving on its board. It was a very rewarding experience, and the right time for her to be there, for personal reasons — her sister was a client, and it made sense for her to volunteer.

Her next choice to give

back was at the Shaw, which is a natural when you love theatre.

Mizen says she also loves the artistic environment, and that volunteering is a social event — you might go with a friend or neighbour, and you will meet other people.

“And the festival is very good to us, so although we do this as a donation of our time, they allow us to get into things that the average patron wouldn't. Sometimes we're invited to dress rehearsals or we get to go the set designs being built. Sometimes we'll

Continued on page 10



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# Physician recruitment plan needed for Niagara

**Zahraa Hmood**  
**The Local**

It's likely to be an uphill battle to bring new doctors to Niagara-on-the-Lake, as the Niagara Region's specialist in physician recruitment says challenges lie ahead to meet the growing need for family healthcare.

Jill Croteau shared what's in store for the town during last Tuesday's committee of the whole meeting as it looks at filling in the gaps of its local healthcare system.

"Within Niagara, we have very few doctors that are currently accepting patients," Croteau said. "We don't have a lot of options for people."

The Niagara region's shortage mirrors the nation-wide

scarcity of available doctors, with more than 6.5 million adult Canadians lacking a primary care practitioner (a family physician or nurse practitioner), according to a national survey conducted last fall.

"This is a very complicated file," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa of the local healthcare gap. "It's a tough hill ahead."

According to Croteau, there are currently 255 family doctors operating practices in the region, including 11 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. However, with an official population of 477,000 (as of 2021), the region is 91 physicians short of the amount needed to ensure everyone is represented.

For every 10,000 people in a municipality, there should

be almost six doctors, Croteau said, and Niagara-on-the-Lake, which has grown to more than 19,000 and is expected to continue growing, will need to recruit at least three new doctors to meet its population's needs.

"I know speaking to some of the other municipalities, they plan to double their population within the next 10 years, so it's really important for us to come up with a strategy," Croteau said.

During recent operating budget proceedings, Coun. Sandra O'Connor put forth a motion that the town add \$20,000 to its budget this year for physician recruitment, which would go to a newly-hired physician to pay for their relocation (as an incentive in a competitive market).

This motion was approved, and the money has been earmarked in the 2023 budget.

Croteau talked about challenges the region is facing when it comes to physician recruitment and retention, including lingering burnout after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is getting a bit better, but there is still an increased amount of burden," she said, causing many doctors to opt for working in hospitals or public healthcare centres, rather than establishing family practices.

Rules also changed for Ontario's family health organizations this year. Starting April 1, all clinics must have at least six physicians, making it more challenging to form new family physician groups.

There are other challenges in the industry, such as the workforce dwindling as physicians retire. Seventeen per cent of family doctors in Niagara are currently over 65 years old, and according to Croteau, up to seven per cent of the workforce is lost each year due to retirement or relocation.

Last year, for example, 19 physicians joined the workforce in Niagara — while another 19 left.

According to data from the Canadian Resident Matching Service, fewer medical school graduates are choosing to go into family medicine and open primary care practices: 30.7 per cent of Canadian students ranked family medicine as their top choice, versus 38 per

cent in 2015.

O'Connor, who has been working this past year on the recruitment of a nurse practitioner for the municipality, pointed out the town's two clinics have amassed a lengthy waitlist of hopeful patients.

"They're no longer accepting names for their waitlist," she said. "It's much worse than it seems."

One goal for the town, Croteau said, should be to either find a way to expand the current family health organizations or to identify where an additional space, or spaces, can be created.

"We definitely need to work together to develop a plan for clinic space going forward," Croteau said.

# Pollinator plants to be added to heritage trail

**Zahraa Hmood**  
**The Local**

If all goes well, Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage trail should be a hive of activity for the birds and bees — and humans, too — this summer, as the work will include adding more pollinator plants along the recently-restored first section of the trail.

The Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee had its first meeting of the year

on Monday, April 17, to talk about how it will kick off phase two of the reconstruction plan, for which it has raised approximately \$79,000 of the required \$160,000 to create the proper trail.

"We have the funds to go ahead now," said meeting chair Tony Chisholm, adding that the committee has nearly \$19,000 left from fundraising efforts, plus \$60,400 it received in September from the federal government's Healthy

Communities Initiative.

The second phase of reconstructing the heritage trail will take place along Concession 1 from East and West Line to Line 3.

However, the committee still needs to recruit more members to have a full roster and be able to achieve a quorum to vote on and approve major decisions on the restoration work.

According to parks and recreation manager Kev-

in Turcotte, there will be a second recruitment process coming soon.

Chisholm said he hopes to see this take place as soon as possible, to start work on the second restoration phase earlier rather than later this year: "We've got to fill some gaps," he said of the committee.

The main focus of the committee's first meeting of the year, however, was a presentation from Janet Trogon, a neighbour of the heritage trail who's part of a group of locals dedicating themselves to increasing habitats that encourage pollinators.

Two years ago, Trogon and her group spearheaded the creation of a pollinator garden at the trail's entrance at John Street. Now, they want to introduce pollinator plants from John Street to

The Promenade, an idea introduced to them by a local member of the community, Trogon said.

"That got us all buzzing with excitement again," she said.

The committee voted in favour of supporting the projects and asked Turcotte and the parks and recreation department staff to continue working with the group to start setting up the plantings this spring.

Planting natural vegetation that attracts pollinators, including birds, bees, butterflies, or small mammals, enhances the biodiversity of an outdoor space and gives a helping hand in particular to bees and other pollinating insects that face environmental challenges — particularly, these days, climate change.

"We wanted to start some kind of communication and

education about establishing pollinator plantings within our community," said Trogon, through working with local volunteers — many of whom have already signed up to help with the plantings.

"This is wonderful," said Chisholm of the project. "From a public education standpoint I think this could enhance the trail quite a bit."

Meanwhile, the committee is still fundraising to support its work: members will be at the upcoming Paws on the Trail four-kilometre dog walk on Saturday, May 20, to collect donations.

Last year's successful event was a Fun Run/Walk and Dog Walk, but this year the committee's major fundraising event for 2023 is all about dogs. The event includes dog-themed activities, such as dog massages, a dog kissing booth, dog photographer, and dog communicator.

May 20 is also Dog Rescue Day, and there will be a dog rescue organization onsite.

Registration is limited. For more information or to register visit [heritagetrail.ca/get-involved.php](http://heritagetrail.ca/get-involved.php).



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# Stone Eagle gets first nod to move forward

**Zahraa Hmood**  
The Local

Plans for a new \$40-million estate winery — one its developers say will offer a “premium” experience for its guests — has been given the thumbs up from the town.

Council approved Two Sisters’ zoning bylaw amendment request they sought for Stone Eagle Winery, a 16.2 hectare vineyard and wine production site to be built on Niagara Stone Road at Niven and Hunter Roads.

Design details for this new winery were unveiled more than a year ago at a public meeting in April by Two Sisters’ Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli and Angela Marotta. Marotta said Stone Eagle will offer a “premium winery experience,” building off their work at Two Sisters Winery on John Street East.

It was a near-unanimous decision of 7-1 to approve the zoning bylaw amendment on Tuesday evening, April 11, during a committee-of-the-whole meeting.

The amendment is for a site-specific rural zone with secondary uses, including selling wine and offering wine tastings, operating a restaurant and special functions room, and an outdoor hospitality area.

As written in the staff report, the existing zoning bylaw provisions for estate wineries were approved by the town in 1994. Since then, the wine industry has seen “significant change,” including in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“The majority of estate winery proposals exceed the floor

area provisions of the bylaw with wineries providing hospitality spaces and a different wine experience for their patrons,” noting other wineries in the town with similar secondary uses, such as Peller Estates Winery, Pillitteri Estates Winery, and Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor voted against approval due to changes made to the plans, namely, height increases on parts of the estate’s property.

“There has been a significant increase in the three heights from our statutory public meeting, and the public has not had a chance to address these increases,” O’Connor said.

The approved heights at the building’s peak are represented by its parapet, pitched roof, and clock tower, coming in at 12.8 metres, 15.4 metres, and 25.2 metres respectively.

O’Connor put forth a motion that these planned heights be reduced to those presented at the public meeting on the Stone Eagle Winery in 2022, or that an additional public meeting should be held for people to weigh in on the adjustments made.

According to Rick Wilson, the town’s manager of planning, the application has been revised throughout the past year and a half.

“Staff have reviewed those changes and are recommending approval given the size of the property (and) its setbacks,” Wilson said. “There are similar heights proposed directly to the east for a hotel and assembly hall in The Village.”

He shared some of the oth-

er justifications for the staff approval, including the existence of wineries to the south of the property with heights of up to 12 metres, that the height for the pitched roof will only cover a portion of the property to screen mechanical equipment, and the lack of height restrictions in the zoning bylaw for structures such as a clock.

“There has been, if I was to categorize it, fairly limited public interest at the public meetings,” Wilson said.

“Nevertheless, staff is satisfied with the requested height in the different sections of the building.”

O’Connor’s motion to either reduce these three heights or host another public meeting on the application was defeated in a 1-7 vote.

One final amendment was made to the application on April 11 at the request of Mary Lou Tanner, with NPG Planning Solutions, on behalf of the planning applicant, for an existing house at 470 Hunter Road to be used as a year-round accommodation for farm workers, rather than seasonal housing.

This amendment was passed and included in the application.

Work has already begun on the property, including the planting of vineyards and 60 trees, with plans to plant 60 more.

“This is a large investment,” Tanner said of the Stone Eagle Winery plans. “It’s been a complicated process, but we are very pleased with the staff report.”

Council is expected to give final approval at this week’s meeting.



Stone Eagle construction, on the corner of Hunter Road and Niagara Stone Road, is in the early stages. (David Gilchrist)



An artist’s rendering of Stone Eagle. (Supplied)

## REMINDER:

### Special Council Meeting, Monday, April 24 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Community Centre

**Residents are reminded of a special in-person Council meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday April 24 at the Community Centre.**

**The meeting is to enable Council to hear a presentation from staff and delegations from the Marotta group, SORE and members of the public on whether the Marotta group should be granted permits to demolish designated heritage structures and designed landscapes to facilitate a subdivision on the Rand Estate.**

**Staff have recommended that almost all of these requests be DENIED.**

**Assuming Council accepts the staff recommendation, the denial of these requests will then be appealed by the Marotta group to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) and heard together with the Planning Act applications for the proposed Marotta Rand subdivision. That hearing is scheduled for March of 2024. A reminder that it was the Marotta group that took the fate of the subdivision away from Council by appealing directly to the OLT some time ago.**

**The Town has booked the Community Centre for this special meeting in anticipation of a large crowd. A previous public meeting on the Marotta hotel and convention centre proposal for the Rand Estate drew an overflow crowd of at least 600 people to the Community Centre in January of 2018.**

**Given recent events involving the developer in question, concerned citizens hope to see a large crowd at the Community Centre on April 24. A reminder also that any member of the public who wishes to address Council that evening, as to whether Council should approve or deny the Marotta group's demolition requests, must register with the Town in advance.**

**Save Our Randwood Estate**



# Heritage preservation key for Rand subdivision, planner says

**Zahraa Hmood**  
**The Local**

Preservation, not demolition, is what the future should hold for the historic Rand Estate, the Niagara-on-the-Lake municipal heritage committee is recommending.

During the committee's meeting on Wednesday evening, April 12, it voted to accept a staff report authored by heritage planner Denise Horne, which rejected the majority of the requests to either alter, move, or demolish aspects of the estate on John Street East and Charlotte Street.

"The Rand Estate represents a cultural estate with a high value of historical property," said Horne, noting it is a rare example of a country estate in town, representing the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake as a popular spot for summer homes.

The report was published March 29, and recommends approval of eight alterations the Solmar group proposed, including the demolition of the Calvin Rand summer house and the main residence on Charlotte Street, a collection of former stables and barns.

However, Horne's report recommends refusing 15 other proposals, including the carriage house on John Street

East and two smaller sheds on Charlotte Street, and the removal and relocation of heritage elements such as the Mound Garden and the Dunington-Grubb-designed swimming pool garden into the new subdivision.

"Given the unique and rare heritage value of the properties, and the high level of heritage integrity, I have recommended preservation as the primary conservation approach," Horne said. "Preservation involves protecting, maintaining, and stabilizing the existing form, material, and integrity of a historic place."

The committee took it one step further, voting to specifically endorse Horne's recommendation that the carriage house not be torn down.

The team with Solmar Development and Two Sisters Resorts, who are planning to build a residential subdivision on these properties, shared their conservation plan for the historical aspects of the property, some of which they would be incorporating into the new subdivision.

"We, frankly, were rather disappointed with some of the recommendations," said Mark Flowers, a lawyer with SGL Planning & Design, representing Solmar.

Flowers said the team takes issue with the report's asser-



These were the artist's renderings of mixed housing for the Rand subdivision on John and Charlotte Street lots. (Supplied)

tion that further information is required from the applicant. Flowers said the consulting team has been working with staff to provide them additional information since it first tried to submit its heritage permit applications in October, then deemed incomplete.

When they received notice on Feb. 7 that the applications were complete, it included a caveat that additional materials may be required.

"To the best of my knowledge, no such further requests for information were made to the applicant," he said. "Consequently, we were quite surprised

and disappointed that some of the alterations have been recommended for refusal."

However, senior landscape architect David Waverman, with Stantec Consulting, said they are revising their commemoration plan to follow some of the recommendations: for John Street East, restoring the peony gardens, Whistle Stop, tea pavilion/house, all the plantings with the pool area, and for Charlotte Street, restoring the sheds and outbuildings as per the report conditions.

Still, the team argued against planting Austrian pine

trees around the mound garden, reinstating the original walkway with gravel, removing the concrete pool to restore the original reflecting pool, and the refusal to allow more than one tree to be removed from the boundary wall.

Of the carriage house, Waverman said the owner is willing to offer financial assistance to relocate rather than demolish it.


"All of these points are more dialogue with the town and where we can direct things to different options," he said.

During the meeting, residential group Save Our Rand

Estate (SORE) reiterated their position for the preservation of the property and a development that is more sensitive to the heritage value on these sites.

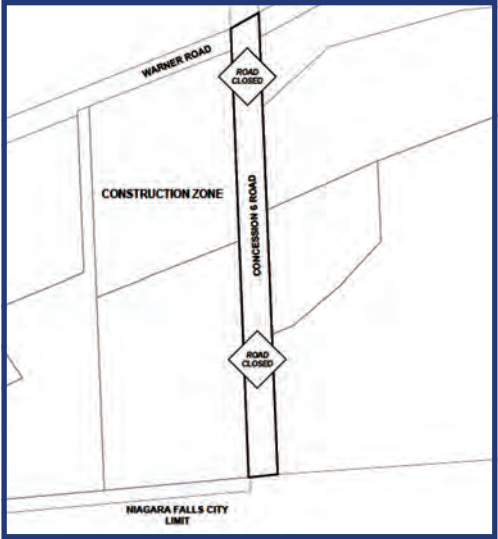
"This is one of the last summer estates surviving in Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Kate Lyons. "The site is literally a treasure and the developer proposes to demolish and alter what remains."

A public meeting will be held on these heritage permit applications on Monday, April 24, which is expected to feature presentations from Horne, Solmar, SORE, and also include public delegations.



## Public Notice

### Road Closure - Concession 6 Road



**WHAT:** The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, through its contractor Walker Construction, will commence with the road reconstruction of Concession 6 Road, North of Mewburn Bridge (Niagara-on-the-Lake / Niagara Falls Limit) to North of Warner Road.

A detour route will be provided around the site for traffic. This closure is necessary due to the narrow roadway and to facilitate a shorter construction schedule for road reconstruction.

**WHEN:** The road closure will begin on Monday, May 1, 2023, and be in place for 16 weeks.

**CONTACT:** Any inquiries concerning this road reconstruction may be directed to Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor, at mike.komljenovic@notl.com or 905-468-3266 ext. 240.

Emergency Services have been informed of this closure and have developed a plan to ensure emergency service to the properties in the area of the closure remains unaffected.



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# Funding needed to meet increasing need



Meghann Riley, Lina Lianga, Jessica Stephenson, Lauren Guay and Lindsay Edgar of Niagara Nutrition Partners are trying to keep up with the need for snacks in schools. (Supplied)

## Continued from page 1

receive from the nutrition partners group, schools can offer breakfast, lunch and snack programs. St. Michael Catholic School, Crossroads and St. Davids public schools all offer a bin of snacks that is delivered to the back of the classrooms, or placed in a hallway.

Lucy Thompson, a teacher at St. Michael, values their snack program. "We have volunteers who run it, and we offer healthy and nutritional snacks," she said.

"Our mandate is to have it accessible to all kids at all times, and if they're hungry there are no questions

asked. We do that in an attempt to remove stigma," explained Stephenson. "We all know that hunger is not isolated to economic issues. There are many reasons why kids come to school hungry. Poverty also doesn't have a neighbourhood and we try to level that playing field. Eliminating hunger is a good way to do that.

"There are many assets to having a full stomach," she added, "including greater attention and focus in the classroom, and less absenteeism."

Stephenson said the group she represents is calling on the local community to help any way that they are able, "whether that be financial

or through a food drive. Advocacy work, too." "Petition local MPPs about provincial funding," she added, "and highlight the fact that even though Ontario has the highest saturation of student nutrition programs in the country, we are the only province that did not receive an increase in funding this year."

Stephenson said that "many schools have reduced their capacity, so instead of serving three food groups, they are serving one. It's an unfortunate set of circumstances to close out this school year."

A 'donate now' button is on their website at [niagara.nutritionpartners.ca](http://niagara.nutritionpartners.ca).

# Legion has some large expenses looming

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The local Branch 124 of the Royal Canadian Legion is facing some expenses, and planning on looking for public support to cover them.

The most immediate concern is the need for a new roof on their King Street hall.

President Al Howse says the legion has asked roofers for estimates, and has received four responses. There is a process to follow, he explains — the estimates are not made public to members. A committee will look at the estimates, and make a recommendation to the board.

Once a board decision is made, he says, due to the cost involved, the branch needs permission from Provincial Command, both for the expense and where the funds will come from, before they proceed.

Once they have an idea of how much the roof will cost, Howse says, there will be discussions about how to raise the money, including organizing some events during the summer. One possibility is for a special concert as part

of their annual Canada Day celebration to be used as a fundraiser for the roof.

Concern has been raised by vice-president Diane O'Donoghue in an email to The Local that the Legion executive is considering a mortgage on the property, and that with the revenue the legion brings in, she worries they couldn't afford the payments, and the King Street property could fall into the hands of a developer.

Although Howse says she did mention her fear at a finance meeting where the expense of the roof was discussed, but her concern is "misplaced." The executive is not talking about or considering a mortgage, he says. He calls the mention of a mortgage "a red herring for members."

Any plan that includes a mortgage would also require approval from Provincial Command, he added. And ultimately, before a final decision is made, "the membership will see the estimate and will vote."

If a new roof becomes an emergency situation, there are other options for financ-

ing it, including money in the bank, Howse says, and a line of credit if necessary.

The other discussion that has been going on for years is the need for an elevator to make the top floor accessible to all. Howse says for a time they had legislation hanging over their heads dictating accessibility by 2025, but that has changed. Now accessibility is part of the building code, which says if the building is updated, it needs to be made accessible.

The branch is looking at the possibility of a grant to fund it, says Howse.

"We want to install an elevator, and we're going to have to do it sometime, but at least we don't have that date hanging over us."

O'Donoghue mentions a meeting and vote next Wednesday, April 26, and urges members to come out and vote.

Howse too would like to see a good turnout, explaining the vote is the annual election for executives.

There will be a time when the members vote on funding for the roof, he says, but that's not next week.

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**TD** **TD READY COMMITMENT**



# EDITORIAL

## In NOTL, every week is volunteer week

The theme of this year's Volunteer Week is Weaving Us Together, celebrating volunteers who create a strong, interconnected, vibrant community by supporting each other.

That, in a nutshell, is Niagara-on-the-Lake. Volunteers share their time and energy, their passion and commitment, connecting the community through their actions. Many are newcomers, and very quickly find they are helping each other and creating friendships as they do so.

NOTL offers a long roster of opportunities for volunteers, and already has a rich community of those who give their time and energy, as the theme says, while weaving the community together.

Each and every week, 52 weeks of the year, The Local tells stories of the organizations and volunteers who make this community one that others covet, and are drawn to as visitors or new residents. There are so many more volunteers we don't know about, and yet there are never enough. Pick your passion — sports, arts and culture, fundraising, working with youth, helping seniors or the needy, addressing food insecurity, preserving heritage, organizing events, or all of the above. There is no doubt that while enriching their community, volunteers enrich their own lives. If you're not one of them, join them. You won't be sorry.

Penny Coles

### Where's Ben?



Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Last week, Doug Hernder correctly identified Ben's location as the Upper Virgil Dam and Reservoir.



### View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

It is both a relief and a joy to sit and watch *Something's Gotta Give* (Netflix 2003), with a good director, Nancy Meyers, taking

on a good script, working with dependable actors Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton and Keanu Reeves, and producing a film that is entertaining and genuinely worth watching.

Donald Combe is a retired

English teacher who loves to go to the movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.



### 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.

### Local LETTERS

## Parliament Oak future should be best for community

Dear Mr. Lord Mayor and council:

I understand the property located at 325 King St. in the Old Town is zoned institutional or Greenbelt and the developer was well aware of this zoning and what he was allowed to build when he purchased the land.

I'm sure the members of council will agree their responsibility is to determine what is the ultimate and best use of this land and what will offer the greatest benefit to the community, and not necessarily the greatest benefit to the developer.

This is simply a land-use issue and at this very preliminary stage, the design of the building in this proposal is totally irrelevant (although it's a building I would expect to see in Paris or Brussels, not in Niagara).

I make the following comments as a resident in the area and as an architect who has been involved in the design and operation of almost every hotel in the Old Town of NOTL. This block of land is surrounded on all four sides by small single-family houses. The reason that one should never impose an intensive use site such as a large commercial hotel and conference centre in the middle of small single-family houses is not theoretical; it's very logical. Any hotel operation requires

a large number of service trucks bringing tons of food, beverages and supplies daily and removing garbage, recycling materials and waste. These trucks will use the shortest and quickest routes to get to the hotel and those routes are Regent Street, Centre Street, and Gage Street. As you can see from the site plans, all servicing and deliveries take place on Centre and Gage Streets. Dozens of trucks will be travelling four and a half blocks from Mississagua Street through narrow village roads to reach these service areas. These are not pickup trucks. If you've seen Sysco or Gordon Food Service trucks, you'll know these are transport trucks and big trucks and small homes aren't compatible. That's basically why a large hotel shouldn't be located in the middle of a neighbourhood consisting only of single-family houses.

But it's not only trucks that are a concern. Cars will also be a problem since the hundreds of staff will be driving from other areas in the peninsula to work at the hotel. Although I commented earlier that we shouldn't pay any attention to the design of the proposed building, I calculated from the drawings submitted that there will be over 700 dining and lounge seats. Yet only about one-third of those seats will be occupied by the ho-

tel guests. Therefore, contrary to the R.V. Anderson report, the parking shown is about one third of what should be provided when staff, dining guests, conference-goers and attendees at meetings are added to the hotel guest parking requirements. These cars will also be travelling not only on King Street but also on Regent, Centre and Gage Streets, where they may be parking, destroying these narrow roads lined with small heritage homes.

In conclusion, this developer has a habit of buying land with specific zoning and then trying to change its use to anything that will maximize his profit. The community and council showed him that he couldn't do that at Randwood and hopefully they will have the same resolve with the Parliament Oak school site.

As tiresome as this is becoming, we are under no obligation to please the developer or to consider a hotel as an appropriate use for this property. The developer should be encouraged to propose a use consistent with the zoning which applied to the land when he purchased it, and he should ensure that any future use will be compatible with the neighbourhood in use, size, scale, and character.

Wayne Murray  
NOTL

The Niagara-on-the-Lake  
**Local**  
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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# COMMENT

## — *Local* LETTERS Restoration of burial ground deserves consideration —

Given the considerable investment Niagara-on-the-Lake made to create its Voices of Freedom Park, I find the town's apparent reluctance to fully restore and commemorate the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground on Mississagua Street (formerly known as the Negro Burial Ground) somewhat surprising. The burial ground dates from the 1830s. It is directly related to a significant and important period in the history of our town and region, when Niagara was a key stop on the

underground railroad that carried enslaved Black people to freedom in Canada. If it was worth creating the Voices of Freedom Park to commemorate this time in the town's history, one we should all be proud of as Canadians, surely it is also worth protecting and restoring the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground. Clearly, the town needs to respect the laws and regulations that govern the restoration and preservation of graveyards, and I commend NOTL for follow-

ing due process in this regard. It's important to ensure the work is carried out properly, in a way that respects the people whose remains are buried in the graveyard as well as their ancestors. However, the town should not use this requirement as an impediment to undertaking the restoration project. Instead, I believe NOTL should embrace the opportunity to commemorate and celebrate the historical role our town and region played in being a place where Black

people could live in freedom. Together, a restored burial ground, the Voices of Freedom Park and the William and Susannah Steward House on Butler Street, would tell a remarkable and valuable story, one we can still draw insight from today. They offer the potential to boost tourism, enhance public understanding of our town's rich history and, I hope, help Niagara-on-the-Lake to be an even more inclusive, welcoming community. In retrospect, it probably

would have made sense to combine the Voices of Freedom Park project with the restoration of the burial ground. Think of how much stronger a statement the displays in the park could have made if they had been appropriately placed among the restored headstones in the burial ground. But that's past history. The way forward is challenging, given the costs purportedly involved to uncover and restore the headstones in the burial ground. I've already

voiced my concerns about what seems to be a significant increase in municipal taxes for 2023, given the high rate of inflation and economic uncertainty that persists in Canada and around the world. From this perspective, the phased approach the town is taking toward the restoration of the burial ground makes sense. But I believe the project is one that the town should ultimately get behind and support.

**Terry Davis**  
NOTL

## — *Local* LETTERS Council, please restore the Negro Burial Ground —

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and council members, I am writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to direct the necessary funds to properly restore the Negro Burial Ground in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The way that

these graves were treated in the 1980s is horrible, and you and your council can no longer turn a blind eye to this erasure of Black history in NOTL. These graves must receive the proper respect and dignity that is due to

them, especially given the historic mistreatment of Black people in Ontario that continues to this day. I find it particularly interesting that the only two graves above ground in this cemetery belong to white men.

As a Toronto resident, I had been looking forward to spending a number of days in NOTL this summer with a friend, but now I am forced to reconsider my plans in light of council's disappointing response to James Russell's campaign

to restore the burial ground, including his protest efforts in the face of a year and a half of indifference on the part of council. I'm sure I will not be the only Toronto resident who will decline to spend their tourist dollars in NOTL if this issue is not

resolved in a way that respects Ontario's Black heritage. I will be raising this issue on my social media platforms with friends who I'm certain will share my concerns.

**Barb Crisp**  
Toronto

## — *Local* LETTERS Niagara Foundation opposes rezoning of Parliament Oak property —

Dear Lord Mayor Zalepa and Council: You will soon be considering both an Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendment for one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's largest and most historic town blocks, and one of the last significant land parcels zoned Open Space & Community Use. Your decision will be a watershed moment and will set the tone for development throughout your term and beyond.

The Niagara Foundation opposes the removal of this block from Open Space & Community Use, let alone the conversion to the commercial use proposed. We plan to submit comments to the May 9 public meeting in this regard. Further, we intend to submit comments with respect to the demolition permit application, and associated commemoration plans, expected to come before council on

April 25, which brings me to the subject of this letter. Why, prior to your decision to permit or deny the change of use for such a large and important piece of property, would a landowner be permitted to bulldoze the structure? A structure with an almost 70-year history of serving this community as a public institution. In our view, demolition is, at best, premature as no work can commence on the site until

after the Official Plan and zoning applications are adjudicated. The demolition seems to have one purpose only: to apply pressure on the town to accept the land use change. If permission to demolish is granted, it wouldn't be hard to envision an unkempt, hoarded-up worksite in the centre of Old Town, adjacent to residences and prime tourist areas. And this could be a situation that

lasts for years. One doesn't need to look far for examples of where it has occurred or is occurring right now: boarded-up entrance gates at the Rand Estate, derelict buildings and landfill at the former Mori Gardens site, and a prolonged closure of the Fan's Court complex adjacent to the post office on Queen Street. Don't let Parliament Oak be the next example of this landowner's modus operandi.

The Niagara Foundation strongly encourages council and town staff to complete their analysis of the Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments before permitting demolition of this heritage building. We look forward to active and full participation in this process over the coming weeks.

**Lyle Hall**  
President, The Niagara Foundation

## — *Local* LETTERS Lack of understanding of need for pools —

The letter 'Don't spend money on under-used pool' (The Local, April 12) was enlightening. It made it clear to me that there is a lack of understanding of the need for aquatic programming locally. Young families with children are flooding into this town. Your suggestion that the Kiwanis Pool in St. Catharines is a sufficient alternative to a local facility is not only unrealistic, but dismaying. Comparing the

commute time to that of a parent living in Toronto is absurd. Swim programs are in high demand, in particular in our post-COVID world. Waitlists exist. Just because a pool exists, doesn't mean it's available, or that we shouldn't offer our own programming. The St. Davids and the Memorial Park pool facilities are indispensable. I would encourage you to get out this summer and see the many residents who

lane-swim daily or the children who take lessons and learn vital lifesaving, water-safety and basic life skills because the town offers necessary aquatics programs. Swimming is not only an enjoyable pastime with many residents cooling off on hot summer days, or meeting friends for a swim in the evening, but more importantly, it is a requirement for the safety of our children. Drowning is the leading cause of death in

young children in Canada. Offering children in our community swimming lessons is essential. The town is also training future leaders and lifeguards with the many certification programs offered. Some come back summer after summer and work at the town pools, while others use these qualifications to get lifeguarding jobs around the world. This is where it starts. So while it may not make a

difference in someone's daily life or meet their current list of priorities, misrepresenting the use of and need for a local facility is disappointing and unhelpful. This is the contribution we need to make for the future and safety of our children, and for the enjoyment of this booming town. If anyone is open to a new perspective, please join me during one of the swim practices for our local swim team,

the Electrifying Eels. The team trains daily and competes regionally all summer long. We are a proud group who would love to show you how well-used and well-loved the pools are to our community. I hope to see you this summer, maybe even in a bathing suit and goggles.

**Adriana Vizzari**  
St. Davids

## — *Local* LETTERS Cemetery, pool important issues —

Two issues in last week's paper struck me as important. Regarding the cemetery: James Russell says he knows where the Shaw Festival is and where the Court House is, indicating that he may bring his ongoing crusade to these areas. I'm wondering if he knows where the 'Voices of Freedom Park' is? He seems to conveniently ignore that the town had found it important to describe, "understand, celebrate, and honour its Black History"

in the creation of this park in the Old Town. "The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has set aside a significant site in the heart of the Old Town to understand, celebrate, and honour its Black history. Voices of Freedom is an experiential art installation designed to engage, educate, and challenge visitors about this most important aspect of our history. Voices from the past will tell their stories, enriching visitors' understanding of how they

shaped our town and nation." (www.vofpark.org) I would like to say that I am heartened by the work being conducted by the Friends of the Forgotten at the Negro Burial Ground. This group is doing an excellent job at working collaboratively with the Town, Bereavement Authority of Ontario and others to recognize those whose final resting place is currently unmarked. On the subject of the outdoor pools in St. Davids and

Old Town, a recent letter (The Local, April 12) indicated suspicion that the pool in the Old Town is underused. Admittedly, during COVID, that may have been true. My wife

and I, however, and many other residents, were able to do lane swims and book the pool for family swims. With COVID behind us, it's important that the pools

be up and running again as they provide great summer recreational and learn-to-swim programs.

**David Gilchrist**  
NOTL

### Correction to St. Davids pool article

Kip Voegel met with The Local and others at the St. Davids Lions Club recently to talk about the St. Davids pool. He was quoted in The Local as saying the cost of a new pool might have doubled or tripled since the original estimate. He commented on the cost of accessibility measures, which would likely have doubled, but not on the cost of a new pool. The Local apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.



# Restored cemetery headstones versus park-like memorial

Mike Balsom  
The Local

The way James Russell sees it, there are some similarities between what he wants to see happen at Niagara-on-the-Lake's Negro Burial Ground and what the Friends of the Forgotten fundraising committee envision for the former Mississauga Road cemetery. But the differences between the two factions are huge.

"We both want to restore respect to the folks that are buried there," says Russell. "My goal is very simple, though. I want the headstones unearthed, cleaned and restored, and I want the town to pay for it. They seem to be waffling as to whether the headstones ought to be unearthed at all."

George Webber, spokesperson of the town committee, told The Local on Monday, April 10, the day Russell chained himself in protest to the plaque at the burial ground, that his group is not interested in digging up what Russell believes to be 19 headstones buried on the site, as suggested from a ground penetrating radar survey he paid for last May.

"We don't want to dig up headstones," Webber said at the time. "That's too expensive. Our approach is to put up a memorial of some kind with the names of the people who were buried here. I would rather

er that we do some thorough research and then create a memorial."

But, as Russell says, that's putting the cart before the horse.

"I don't see the purpose of creating a memorial if you don't know exactly who you are memorializing," Russell counters. "We have to dig up the headstones to learn more about who is actually buried there. And of course, they want to pay for this out of donations from the public." That's another way the two groups seem to differ.

To Russell, it's about righting a wrong. The town has owned the former site of a Baptist church for 147 years, and they've had plenty of time to make right by the people, most of whom are expected to have been Black parishioners, some perhaps freedom seekers, who are buried there.

"It's always been the town's responsibility," he says. "My contention is that it was town staff who buried the headstones back in the '70s or '80s. They've actually created this issue and therefore created this added expense."

Russell arrived on site last Monday at noon and stayed in place until about 6 p.m. Tuesday, when an emergency took him back to his home in Toronto. That forced him to end his plan to continue a sit-in hunger strike at the burial

ground until Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa promised to find room in the town's budget to restore the cemetery to its one-time state, which Russell says Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) has estimated will cost \$59,000.

Many stopped by to speak with Russell over the 30 hours he spent on site, including town councillor Maria Mavridis, who was very sympathetic to the activist's cause. But after requesting more information about the saga that has been ongoing for more than a year from town CAO Marnie Cluckie at last Tuesday's committee of the whole meeting, Mavridis also has a few reservations about the conflict between Russell and the town's fundraising committee.

"Digging deeper into it," Mavridis told The Local this week, "there's more to it than that \$59,000. The stage one archaeological assessment, which is where we're at now, costs \$5,000. Then there's stage two, and stage three. Plus we have to align with the Bereavement Association of Ontario."

But Russell says the three stages of archaeological assessment are included in the ARA estimate. All the town has to do is agree to pay for it, and he feels Cluckie is stalling.

Mavridis came out to visit Russell during his protest as she was concerned about a



Coun. Maria Mavridis spoke to James Russell during his hunger strike, and to other councillors, who she says are not supporting his request. (Mike Balsom)

76-year-old man staying out in the elements indefinitely. She listened to his explanation about his hopes for the site and understands the differences between Russell and the town committee.

"To be honest, I don't want to see a memorial there in a park-like setting either," Mavridis said. "It's a cemetery. If I go to visit a family member there, I don't want there to be a bunch of tourists there."

"A cemetery is an area of respect, of solemn reflection," Russell says. "It's a sacred area, where folks are buried."

According to Webber, the committee has included the Negro Burial Ground in a list of 11 other inactive cemeteries within the NOTL boundaries that are also deserving of added care.

But Russell feels the Mississauga Road site stands out as very different from the others because of who is buried there.

As well, a third group has been looking at what to do with the Negro Burial Ground.

As reported on notllocal.com on April 15, Brock University professor Lissa Paul, artist Quentin VerCetty and PhD candidate Hyacinth Campbell have been working since 2020 to memorialize those buried on the site.

Like the fundraising committee, which was formed long after Russell's first communications with the town in 2021, when Webber offered to help him, this group is proposing some sort of physical memorial to restore the memory of Niagara's African diaspora community to the landscape.

"They want to make it into an educational destination," Russell says of that group. "I have no problem with that. But it would seem to me that the first step would be to restore the names of the people buried there, and for that you have to unearth the headstones. And I'm adamant that it returns to its appearance as a cemetery."

Since heading back to Toronto last Tuesday, Russell has been very vocal that he would return to NOTL to fight for his cause. He announced the following day that he was planning a rally of supporters, who will march from the burial ground

all the way to the old Court House steps on Queen Street on June 17.

He has formed a committee with local Black activists and has begun regular meetings to plan their march. He's also reached out to the First Baptist Church of Toronto to ask for their parishioners to join them.

"Their congregations have always been traditionally Black," he explains, "and of course, they're Baptists. I'm hoping they have some inclination to support where another Baptist church once was, and to support the parishioners buried there."

He says he's halfway through filling out a special event application form required by the town and has been in conversation with the Niagara Regional Police about the route to the Court House.

"As far as I know, no permits are required by them unless we actually go onto the street," he says. "I am a bit concerned about porta potties, though, and we may have to ask the town to place some along the route."

He's expecting about 500 people to take part in the peaceful protest that will start at 1 p.m. and wrap up at 3:30 p.m. at the latest. There will be speakers at their final destination, and he's busy trying to line up well-known celebrities or Black history experts to take to the microphone.

"What is the march for?" Mavridis, whose family owns and operates businesses on Queen Street, asked. "How much more can the shops here in town take?"

Saying she doesn't want to get caught in the middle of the conflict between Russell and Webber's group, Mavridis acknowledges both sides of the disagreement.

"I can respect that the group wants to raise money and make it a park or an attraction," said Mavridis. "But we have the Voices of Freedom park that a lot of people don't even realize is there. And with James, he's brought some negative attention to the town without all the facts being out there."

She added that she's frustrated, and even after Cluckie's explanation of what has

happened since Russell first approached the town in November, 2021, she's not 100 per cent clear where the situation stands.

And, having just gone through her first budget process as a new councillor, Mavridis is frustrated with how difficult it is for the town to keep up with the current demands on its tax base.

"Everybody was upset with our budget," she added, "but we don't have enough staff to keep up with the list of things we need to get done. When we get a proposal for new positions, we're left to decide what is more important. We cut as much as we could, but it's a small team down there. It will take them another two or three years to get everything done, and this was already on that list."

Looking back on her visit to Russell during his sit-in hunger strike last week, Mavridis added that many of her cohorts on council were less than enthusiastic with her request for help in supporting Russell's demands.

"They advised me not to engage with him," she explained, "but I went down there anyway. And when I continued to reach out, they asked why he didn't contact them directly. One said he was doing it for a film project. Others said it's been in motion for a long time, and they didn't understand why he chained himself to the post."

"I think James has turned off a lot of people with his actions," added Mavridis.

"I think he's driving a bigger wedge between him and the Friends of the Forgotten, and even between him and some residents."

Russell is pleased that Mavridis asked Cluckie for clarification at last week's meeting, and acknowledges that his efforts have brought a lot of attention to his cause. At the same time, he also recognizes he may be seen as an outsider to those in town with any kind of interest in the Negro Burial Ground.

"Perhaps it's because an outsider has called attention to this neglect that they have been living with for umpteen years," he speculates.

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# Local woman hopes her prayer can make a difference

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

Melanie Scott has a prayer for the people of Ukraine she wants to share.

And she has chosen to share it in a unique way: when she saw a torn Ukrainian flag flying from a light post as she rode her bike through the village of Queenston, the flag intended as a show of support, she decided she wanted to mend it.

Scott says if something is broken or torn, when it's fixed or restored, "it is stronger and more beautiful because of it."

Like people, she says, who have gone through times of adversity, are made stronger by their struggle, and are able to help others going through difficult times.

And that, she decided, applies as well to the flags that remind people of Ukraine that we are behind them, thinking about them and praying for them.

She quotes Corinthians, that love is kind, love is patient, it never boasts, and is not quick to anger.

To show her love, she felt that in the case of the flag, the special care and attention she could give it would be "out of love. That flag was torn, much like the country. I gave a lot of time and attention to that flag," says Scott. Showing love and support "is what we need to do for mothers, daughters, fathers, and sons that are in Ukraine, and who have come here from Ukraine."

Last spring, Jim Armstrong and the Queenston Residents Association worked with the town to have Ukrainian flags flying from town light posts, but one was badly ripped after the winter, he says, having caught on a snowflake on the same pole, the town's contribution to Christmas decorations.

J.B. Hopkins, the town parks supervisor, recently took it down and gave it to Armstrong.

Later that same day, Armstrong says, before he could figure out what he should do with it, Scott came knocking on his door.

She knew exactly what she hoped to do with it, and Armstrong was pleased to hear about her project.

"I thought it was a great idea," he tells The Local. "I had been concerned about it when I saw it in tatters, and when she asked if she could repair it, and explained the symbolism of repairing it, I was happy to give it to her."

She knocked on his door again last week, saying the flag was ready to fly again.

"I was very impressed with the amount of work she put into it," says Armstrong.

Scott added material to the places that were ripped to make the flag stronger, and over one hole, she sewed

a piece of fabric decorated with a sunflower, the national flower of Ukraine.

Armstrong showed her which post she could hang it on, and with the help of her father-in-law, David Scott, and his ladder, it was flying once again.

"When it's still, you can't really see where it was mended," she says. "But when the wind catches it, you can, and you can see the sunflower."

She laughs about the mending job, saying she has over the years enthusiastically undertaken many DIY projects, "but none of them ever worked out."

However that didn't discourage her from sitting down at her sewing machine, and while the stitching on the flag might not be perfect, that's not the point — it's the message she hopes her story tells that is important to her.

Below the flag, she put an 8"x10" framed photo of it when it was flying, in pieces, and to the photo she added the words, "A torn flag: A sign of defiance or hope. The country, though battered and torn, is still standing and will survive."

Below that she has posted these words: "My prayer for the war-torn people (mothers, children, sisters, brothers, fathers) of Ukraine, is that love triumphs, that the unthinkable harm done to your souls does not turn into hate and resentment. I humbly ask God to allow forgiveness into your hearts."

The meaning of the mended flag, she adds, is that "although you can see it was torn, ravaged, severely damaged, it is stronger. This can only be the case if love prevails. This is my prayer."

On Monday morning, the flag, photo and prayer were gone, Armstrong says, removed due to the bad weather expected this week and concern for the fragility of the repair.

He and Scott talked about



Melanie Scott and Rachel stand below the mended flag, along with a poster and photo on the light post to share what it looked like when it was torn, and her prayer for the people of Ukraine, as symbolized by the repaired flag. (Photos supplied)

it likely not lasting long, and what would happen to it in the future.

He thinks a fitting place, at least temporarily, might be to display it in the Queenston Library and Community Centre, and Scott says she can put the flag in a large frame to hang it on a wall.

The future of it after that will be up to Scott, he says.

At the moment, she has it at on display at her Red Brick Church, but her plan is to put it back up on the post when the weather is nice, for a short time at least.

A mother of three young children, Scott took Rachel, one of her daughters, with her to Queenston when the flag was repaired and ready to fly again.

To help Rachel understand why this was so important to her, she explained that "if you think you are too small to make a difference, get in bed with a mosquito. It's very small, but it can make a very big difference."

Scott feels her contribution was small, but hopes her message can make a difference.



Melanie Scott at her sewing machine, adding bits of fabric to make the torn flag stronger.



The photo of the torn flag that Melanie has framed.

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# To all NOTL's dedicated volunteers, we say **THANK YOU**

## Newark Neighbours benefits from community gardens

**Sharon Burns**  
The Local

Cindy Grant knows that many families in Niagara-on-the-Lake are experiencing food insecurity.

"Currently we have about 80 families that are registered with us, representing 150 individuals," said Grant, a volunteer at Newark Neighbours who manages its food bank. "Since January, we have registered 15 families. There are more people in Niagara-on-the-Lake that we could be helping that have just not come to us yet."

Newark Neighbours has been in operation for about 50 years and has had a thrift store and a food bank for most

of that time, she said. "All the profits from the thrift store go into our food bank."

Newark Neighbours is a member of Feed Ontario, a food bank network, and Feed Niagara, which is made up of the 10 food banks in the Niagara Region.

Three gardens donate produce to Newark Neighbours. The garden behind the Community Centre is tended to by a group of volunteers. Another community garden on Niven Road will be donating two plots to families registered with Newark Neighbours, and produce from two more plots will also be donated to the food bank.

Lifepointe Bible Church recently announced that produce

from its new plots will also be donated to Newark Neighbours.

"We are going to be well and truly stocked with vegetables all summer," said Grant, who started volunteering at Newark Neighbours one summer day in 2015 when she noticed how busy the thrift store was.

"It was chaos there that day and I said, 'oh, I have a couple of hours, let me help.' I started volunteering here and one thing led to another and I got asked to sit on the board. Then I became the food bank manager and haven't been able to leave ever since," she laughed.

Helping others is a large part of Grant's life. Besides her work at Newark Neighbours, she is the treasurer for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service and is on the board of directors for both the Niagara North Family Health Team and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society.

She is also one of the "Nyanyas of Niagara," a branch of over 240 grandmother groups across Canada raising money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign. Funds provide food, housing, school fees, grief counselling and more to grandmothers raising their grandchildren orphaned from AIDS in 15 sub-Saharan African countries.



The entire group of Newark Neighbours doesn't get together often, but they enjoyed a Christmas lunch together. (Supplied)

"Volunteering keeps me busy," said Grant. "And I need to stay busy. It's my way of giving back to this community. This community is so amazing, generous, active and engaged. I had a busy career for almost 40 years and didn't give back to any community that I lived in, so this is my way of paying forward and staying busy and active."

About 40 volunteers work at Newark Neighbours. "We are completely volunteer run. The volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization and we literally couldn't do it without them," said Grant. "We are so grateful for our volunteers."

According to the Newark

Neighbours website, "all our food bank clients must be residents of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, whose boundaries include the Old Town, Virgil, Niagara-on-the-Green, St. Davids, Queenston and everywhere in between." Registration information is also available on their website.

Vicky Downes is the lead volunteer for the community centre gardens and the two plots on Niven Road.

"I enjoy helping," she said. "I love gardening. I met wonderful people in the past 20-plus years I have been in town. You get wrapped up into things — just connecting and finding oppor-

tunities and wanting to be a part of all of that excitement."

Downes works with nine "wonderful volunteers, and we are a team. I do the organizing and we just work together and make sure the garden is taken care of, food goes where it needs to go, and food is picked when it needs to be picked. It is a team effort."

While Newark Neighbours is a primary recipient of the gardens' produce, The Farmworker Hub has also benefited. "We also put food on the farm stand inside the library for any resident in town at no charge, just donations if you wish," said Downes.



Shirley Levers, Michael Raileanu, Liz Abraham and Daina Meusel volunteer in the community garden behind the library. (Supplied)

## Shaw Guild one organization offering many volunteer options

Continued from page 1

have chat with the head of wigs or head of wardrobe. We can go on backstage tours, and some of us actually deliver the backstage tours, so we're going behind the scenes. They really make us part of the company, and so if you're interested in theatre at all, it's a great way to volunteer."

Mizen adds the guild is well-organized, and has a good reputation in town, which also

helps to attract volunteers, especially those who are passionate about the theatre.

"And it's such a fun place. Perhaps people enjoy it because it's so different from a corporation. It's so creative, it sparks the imagination and gets the juices going. For some of us it's doing something totally different from what we did as a day-to-day job. It's exciting to be exposed to that kind of environment, and to be part of it."

"It's a good volunteer gig, no question," Mizen continues. "I really enjoy doing this. I thrive on being busy and being involved. This is a good fit for me, no question."

And, she adds with a laugh, "I can walk to it from my house."

Morris can't help but agree that the guild is a great place to volunteer, although she has worked and still does to help other groups in town. "I volunteer with several organizations," she says. "It's so much fun it's hard to say no. And I get to use my skills from a previous life."

After retiring from a career in communications with IBM, she moved to NOTL, and in 2012 began volunteering with the Niagara PumpHouse Arts Centre.

Although the Shaw Guild is what keeps her busy these days, she helped organize the ambassador program that has locals greeting visitors on Queen Street — it began as a Shaw Guild offshoot during the pandemic, primarily to share information about restrictions to people as they arrived in town, and quickly became so popular it has been taken over by the town. About 50 volunteer ambassadors will greet visitors, answer questions about the town and direct them to whatever sites and attractions interest them.

Morris doesn't put on a T-shirt and volunteer on Queen Street any more, but she

helps them with other things such as communications, marketing and their website.

I really enjoyed it, but I found the guild is a really good fit for me, the bet fit for my communications skills.

She is also on the Heritage Trail committee, the fundraising committee for the Negro Burial Ground, and during the pandemic, volunteered at vaccination clinics.

"I like to be busy," she says. And there are so many organizations and volunteers, everybody overlaps. You don't just volunteer for one organization. You meet other people and you help each other out. It really builds community, and it helps you become part of the community."

"I only knew one person when I moved to NOTL," she says, "and once I volunteered at the PumpHouse it mushroomed from there. I have friends here, and I really feel like part of the community."

A community Morris will soon be leaving, and one where she will be missed.

She is planning a move to France in May. She spent a time in her life living there three months a year, she says, and loved it, always planning to return one day.

This is the time in her life to do it, she's decided, and as accustomed as she is to working remotely, she can stay involved

with NOTL organizations, not only those in which she is actively involved, but a host of others for which she does behind the scenes work such as communications and websites.

And she already has a plan to become involved in her

community when she moves.

"There is a festival every summer there, with music and theatre and art, and I definitely want to get involved in that. I really do want to get involved. It's the only way to get to know people and feel part of the community."



Mary Mizen has volunteered for most Shaw Guild positions, and is now president. (Photos supplied)



The three volunteers in the blue ambassador T-shirts are Cheryl Morris, Kim Mustill and Brenda Weafer. The others in the group are visitors to town.

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To all NOTL's dedicated volunteers, we say **THANK YOU**

‘You get far more than you can give’

Sharon Burns  
The Local

Marc Bertrand and Glenda Edgar are partners both in life and in volunteering. They volunteer for the same three organizations: Red Roof Retreat, Wish House in Welland and Project Share, a food bank in Niagara Falls.

The Local spoke to Bertrand as he was leaving Wish House, which offers short-term residential housing for women. He had just completed some maintenance. Later the same day, Edgar spoke to The Local as she was arriving at Wish House for her volunteer time.

“We are at the same places on different days. This works for us so we aren’t in each other’s

hair everyday,” laughed Edgar. Wish House is “a really old house and there is always something breaking. I do the maintenance there on Mondays and then I do maintenance and garden construction at Project Share,” said Bertrand. “Then, I am at the farm a couple of times a week.”

Bertrand is referring to Red Roof Retreat, which provides recreational, educational and respite services to children, youth and young adults with special needs and their families. When Bertrand moved to the area in 2010, he had to give up his work training horses. Edgar introduced him to Red Roof at a time when they needed someone to work with the horses.

While Bertrand is humble when it comes to talking about his volunteer commitments, he is exuberant when talking about Red Roof Retreat. “I had no idea what I was in for. My heart ...” he paused, “It’s just unreal. When I see the horses with children, every time, without fail, my heart just melts. I had no idea how much kids would enjoy the connection between a horse’s spirit and theirs. It just locked me in, and I said, ‘I know what I want to do.’”

About his many volunteer commitments, Bertrand said, “I am just doing what I am supposed to be doing. I come by this honestly. I was raised to give. I saw my parents do it. It’s not that they told me I have to do this, they showed me. And

I have kept this up most my adult life. And now I am retired and I have more time to give.”

Edgar says she will be 74 in July and she retired at 63. “I get bored quickly so I said, ‘okay, I need to find something to do.’”

She has been helping staff “hands-on for almost 10 years now. I can’t think of anywhere else where I walk in and I get a huge smile and a big hug.”

“Volunteering keeps me mentally and physically active,” she added, “and I feel as though I am still a contributing member of my community. It gives me a chance to meet new people.”

“If we can get other retired people interested in volunteering, that’s fantastic. You get far more out of it than you could

possibly give,” Edgar said.

“Experience the joys and rewards of volunteering. It

takes me out of me, and helps others in return,” said Bertrand. “Give, just give.”



Volunteers Marc Bertrand and Glenda Edgar with Garrett Bjorgan, Wonder the horse and Cocotte at Red Roof Retreat. (Photos supplied)

Polgrabia’s priority: a safe place for youth

Sharon Burns  
The Local

Caroline Polgrabia has been on the board of The Niagara Foundation for Family and Children’s Services for seven years. They raise funds and awareness in the community in order to protect, support and strengthen the lives of children, youth and families.

She is currently chair of their board.

Polgrabia is also the driving force behind the Niagara-

on-the-Lake Youth Collective located in Cornerstone Community Church on Niagara Stone Road.

“My volunteer work focuses on youth and youth advancement,” said Polgrabia. “For my job, I’m a community development officer for the government. I work on community development on a day-to-day basis.”

Polgrabia, a Parliament Oak and Niagara District grad, knew that with the closing of the only local high school, the town

would lose a certain community.

The collective is a “safe and accessible space for kids to start to rebuild that community within our community in the absence of a high school,” she said.

“No one ever volunteers for anything unless they have a passion for it. When you have kids, you’ll do anything for your kids, and I passionately believe in this community as well.”

“What motivates me,” Polgrabia adds, “is being able to contribute my skills and experience to be able to build this

community, which is a blend of my work-life and my passion.”

However, one of the challenges with volunteering with young people is that the volunteers always tend to be parents, “the most time-strapped portion of the population,” said Polgrabia.

“How do you engage that broader community who believes in youth? They’re out there. Niagara-on-the-Lake has an unbelievable brain-trust of retired folks. Our next consideration is getting the community in to get some of



Caroline Polgrabia

the time pressure off the most time-pressured group, which is parents,” she said.

“I always encourage people that if you see something and you’re interested, reach out.”



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# To all NOTL's dedicated volunteers, we say **THANK YOU**

## Animals at Red Roof a joy to look after



Kathy Mann at Red Roof Retreat

**Sharon Burns**  
The Local

Kathy Mann joined Red Roof Retreat as a volunteer five years ago, feeding and caring for the animals. "I have a set day, every Wednesday morning, and that centres me," she said. "I love that time."

Mann describes the sounds of her chores: "a chorus of meowing cats, the whinnies from Wonder the horse, the oinking from Wilber the pig, and

the braying of Murray, the donkey, all wanting to be fed. It's hard to figure out who to feed first, as they are all so vocal."

She was looking for a place to volunteer, hoping for something that would be "a perfect fit" for her. "I contacted Steffanie Bjorgan (executive director of RRR), and when she gave me the volunteer position, she seemed surprised when I said I had no problem working with the animals and clean-

ing the manure out of the paddock. It is a job all year round — winter, summer, rain, sunshine or snow. It's perfect for me."

"Red Roof Retreat is all about the kids," Mann continued. "I feel that by volunteering there, I am giving my time to help keep the animals healthy for when the kids come to visit them. It's the look in the kids' eyes when they pet the animals and give them a carrot. It's truly a win-win for everyone."

## Connections an important part of volunteering

**Sharon Burns**  
The Local

Perry and Shari Hartwick are no strangers to the concept of volunteering.

In 2009, they started the Niagara branch of KidSport, an organization which provides grants to help cover registration expenses so that youth aged 18 and under can play a season of their favourite sport.

"We stopped running KidSport Niagara when the COVID pandemic hit. It became too difficult to administer funds with the uncertainty of when participating in sports would be

safe again," Shari said.

One of KidSport's major fundraisers was an event called Monster Bash, held at Willowbank in Queenston every Halloween.

"After Perry and I decided to close up the KidSport Niagara chapter after 10 years, we wanted to continue with our Halloween fundraiser, and Red Roof was our logical recipient last year," said Shari.

Shari, whose background is in special education, met Steffanie Bjorgan, founder of Red Roof Retreat, while working at Parliament Oak School. "I was an educational assistant in her classroom

before Red Roof Retreat started," said Shari.

"I worked with Red Roof when the summer camp first started," she said. "The concept was unique for the area, and I knew it would be a huge success because of the passion and commitment to the cause," explained Shari.

"There was and still is a huge need for respite and fun camps for people with special needs."

"During the pandemic," she added, "Perry shifted his energies to getting another not-for-profit, the UNESCO Aspiring Geopark, going."

Perry is chair and resident geologist and chair

of the Geology Working Group. According to niagarageopark.com, "the Niagara Peninsula Geopark is a region-wide effort to manage and protect Niagara's geoheritage, while simultaneously developing well-managed tourism experiences that improve local livelihoods."

"Most people volunteer in order to positively affect a community," said Perry. "For me, there are a lot of extra perks. Helping to create the Niagara UNESCO Global Geopark has appealed to my entrepreneurial spirit and I have learned a ton."

"Also," he added, "even

as we are just getting this project started, I have met a myriad of people and have

formed some very meaningful relationships. That might be the best part."



Shari and Perry Hartwick have made community and volunteering part of their lives.

## Rotary Club of Lewiston/NOTL celebrates 85th year

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

This Thursday, the Rotary Club of Lewiston/Niagara-on-the-Lake will celebrate its 85th anniversary.

It was once one of the busiest clubs, says Lewiston member Thomas Gerbasi, who reached out to The Local to chat about the club's history and accomplishments.

There are more than 46,000 Rotary Clubs around the world, and more than 1.4 million members, but only a few that draw their members from more than one country, he says, and the Rotary Club of Lewiston/Niagara-on-the-Lake is one of them.

"It is the only one in the world in which meetings are held in two separate nations," he says.

It was founded on April 20, 1938, when there wasn't a Rotary Club in the area on either side of the river, and crossing the border was as easy as walking across the suspension bridge that connected Lewiston and Queenston. Residents of both towns did that regularly, he says, to shop at a particular store or have a meal out.

In Canada, the club met at

various places, mostly at the Queenston Heights Restaurant in the early days, and was considered an "enormous club," with about 100 members.

"The binational nature of the club epitomizes Rotary's international fellowship at work right at the club level," Gerbasi says.

"Speakers from both nations have provided lively and thought-provoking programs that encompass a wide diversity of thought."

Rotary "has always valued diversity. Members are not only welcomed from all ages, all genders, all fields of endeavour, all socioeconomic strata, all political opinions, all national origins and all races, but are actively sought after."

Eventually, some Canadian members who either wanted a lunch instead of evening meeting or didn't like the travel broke off and formed the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, he explained.

The remaining Canadian members of the binational club are mostly long-time local members.

They will be meeting to celebrate their anniversary in Cat's Kitchen, a Thorold restaurant. One of their long-time members and incoming

club president, Greg Lidstone (the club rotates between an American and Canadian president each year) lives in Thorold, and is hoping to establish a Thorold satellite club.

Gerbasi says their Wednesday dinner meetings draw about 10 people, and it's difficult to get a reservation for a meeting room in NOTL for such a small group, at a price their members are willing to pay.

It's also difficult to establish a new small club — Rotary regulations require a minimum of 25 members to have a charter club.

"We understand there are people in Thorold who are interested in a Rotary Club and want to be involved, and Rotary allows satellite clubs. Members are autonomous, with a chairman who would run that group, but we can all work together on service projects, or for hands-on projects, pull members from both groups. You have the backing of both clubs," says Gerbasi, "and you get the benefits of scale, with the independence of doing your own thing, plus benefiting from the experience of older members."

The Lewiston/NOTL club holds events and fundraises on both sides of the border.

Many locals will remember them selling hot dogs at the annual Terry Fox Run in Simcoe Park, but that was interrupted by COVID, and hasn't started up again — Gerbasi says the club is working on re-establishing that tradition for this September's run.

Over the years Lewiston/Niagara-on-the-Lake initiatives have included donations to worthy causes not only on both sides of the border, but also around the world, such as life-saving surgery for children with congenital heart disease, feeding starving children after natural disasters, providing scholarships for students, adopting and maintaining trails for recreation, cleaning up portions of the Great Lakes Watershed, providing necessary equipment to hospitals and civic organizations and sponsoring concerts for members of the communities the club serves, says Gerbasi.

The re-opening of the border to continue meeting and holding fundraising events has been key for the club, he says, and members now pass back and forth with little complaint, although it's still a little easier for the Americans, he believes. For those on this side



The binational club has traditionally cooked hot dogs in Simcoe Park on the day of the Terry Fox Run, but missed the COVID years and couldn't make it work for last year's run. The club hopes to be back in the park this September. Proceeds from sales go to the local run. Cooking hot dogs are Rotarians Greg Lidstone, incoming president from this side of the border, and John Cich from Lewiston. (Supplied)

of the river, having a Nexus card is helpful.

"We live in border communities, and the culture of our members is being accustomed to crossing back and forth."

He notices that when he comes to NOTL, he still isn't seeing as many American licence plates as he used to, nor does he see as many Canadian plates in the U.S. parking lots.

"I have so much fun when I come to Canada. It's so dif-

ferent. At home when you go to work or out with friends, everyone on this side hears the same news, has the same thoughts and opinions. When you go to Rotary, you hear different thoughts, different opinions, different ways of looking at things. I really enjoy that."

Anyone interested in joining, Gerbasi says, can call him at 716-754-2464, or email Lidstone at mglidstone@gmail.com.



# Local woman travels to Philippines to learn about coffee project

**Linda Friesen  
Special to The Local**

Earlier this year, after a lengthy flight via Toronto, Vancouver, Seoul, and finally Manila, Dorothea Enns from Niagara-on-the-Lake arrived in the Philippines.

She was travelling with her cousin Anita Dong from Toronto, and seven other participants in the Mennonite Church Canada (MCC) Philippines Learning Tour — a tour they say was an experience that left them resolved to take part in making a capital project, Coffee for Peace, come to fruition. It was impossible to miss the enthusiasm in their voices as they shared some of what they had seen and experienced.

When Dorothea decided to join the tour, totally spur of the moment, she asked Anita if she wanted to go along, and soon they were booking their flights. Dorothea said when they saw the itinerary for the first time very shortly before their arrival, they realized it really was an intense learning tour about the Coffee for Peace project, which works with local coffee farmers to ensure a fair return for their product and responsible environmental practices.

From Manila it was off to Davao, on the south island of the Philippines, in the Mindanao province. Here the tour participants met up with the founders of Coffee for Peace, Dann and Joji Pantoja. This couple had already returned to Canada after some years in the Philippines with MCC, but felt compelled to go back. Their ministry is peace building, and Joji had opened up a coffee shop to sell Philippines coffee to support it, calling it the Coffee for Peace Cafe.

Dann and Joji are teaching Indigenous farmers how to grow quality coffee to be

sold and exported, in conjunction with the PeaceBuilders Community Inc., founded by Dann and Joji to teach and train farmers how to peacefully co-exist with other tribes, various political parties and corporations also competing for the land. PeaceBuilders Community encompasses 80 Indigenous tribes.

This area of the Philippines has historically been an area of high conflict. Dorothea explains Coffee for Peace is helping the Indigenous Peoples, the poorest of the poor, who are located in conflict zones. When the project started 15 years ago, conflict was especially high — it was at that time that Ferdinand Marcos was plundering the country.

The training and teaching of how to grow the best coffee using best practices, is already successfully underway. The point of the tour was to visit the Indigenous farmers, and see how and what they were doing with their coffee bean crop, to understand what MCC is accomplishing there and to get a list of what is needed. The needs are buildings, vehicles, storage and coffee roasting machines. If the farmers want to export their coffee, Anita said, they need to build a facility that allows their product to be inspected. Currently, much of the roasting is done under plastic cover, which does not allow for the necessary inspections.

So on to the itinerary. The group visited three Indigenous tribes, each one some distance from Davao, involving an overnight stay before the return trip back to Davao. The hotels were very, very simple and basic accommodations.

The first excursion was to the Talaandig tribe. Dorothea described the settlement as mostly small houses constructed of bamboo or a form of wo-

ven siding, and because it is a tropical climate, it's not necessary to have glass windows. The pastor in this settlement is part of the PeaceBuilders Community.

The second excursion, a teaching day, took place at the studio resort of artist Kublai Millan, the Balay Kalipay Art Centre which is very famous in the country. The group was shown the peace-building materials used to help and teach Indigenous farmers work through any conflict that may arise. The materials included information on how to promote community development, coordination with other tribes and communicating with authorities. Dann is highly regarded and the materials are regarded as valuable, resulting in requests from some high-ranking army people for their use in training.

The third excursion was to the Obo Manobo tribe located in mountainous terrain with lush and tropical valleys. Here the tour group was dropping off learning materials pertaining to growing coffee beans, but the stop was also about peace building, in this case between the Indigenous tribe and a large corporation, the Energy Development Corporation. Dorothea explains the Indigenous peoples have needs and the corporation has needs. Can they work in harmony, each achieving their goals? There were some deforested areas here, an indication why it's important to make peace between tribes and corporations.

When the group arrived at the Bagobo Tagabawa tribe settlement, the third tribe on the itinerary, they were greeted by school children who performed some Indigenous dances along with modern dances, with several young boys drumming on Indige-

nous instruments. Anita said they are trying very hard in these communities to have Indigenous cultural teaching.

Here they met one of the women whose husbands were killed in the Rano Massacre on June 25, 1989 by Communist rebels that had entered into a church and killed all the worshippers — 38 members of this tribe perished in the massacre that day while they were gathered for worship in the United Church of Christ.

The tour group enjoyed the most authentic food here, chicken cooked in a bamboo tube, fresh coconut and frog, among numerous other dishes. Dorothea and Anita said they themselves refrained from indulging in the frog dish.

And finally, the group visited the area where the Coffee for Peace project is located, where they roast the coffee beans. Indigenous farmers have learned to grow in the best possible way, to produce a high quality product. Called the Malipayon Peace Hub, near Mount Apo, this will be the central loca-

tion for the project. The last bit of road to the Peace Hub was unimproved and the group walked this final stretch to the buildings, on Indigenous lands where Coffee for Peace is paying a fair lease.

Coffee for Peace is already established as an organization and business model selling coffee to sustain itself and the community. The completion of this capital project will help raise up many farmers from the deep level of poverty they are currently experiencing, and give them hope, a means to a better quality of life and education for their children.

As Dorothea and Anita explained, the tour was setting the stage for fundraising by helping them understand Coffee for Peace, teaching and training farmers to grow the best coffee. They saw how hard the farmers are working, what has been accomplished, and what is still needed to make the facility fully operational. One building has been completed. Another one is needed, along with vehicles, storage

and coffee roasting machines. There are many challenges left to reach the final stage of the Coffee for Peace capital project, but with funding they will achieve their goal.

It had been a long trip, flying across the world, Dorothea and Anita agreed. The group of nine tour participants felt inspired by what they had seen and learned, what can be accomplished with some thought and determination, they said. Dorothea and Anita feel passionate about this project and what it will mean for the improved welfare of the Indigenous tribes they were introduced to over the days they were in the Philippines. They are currently planning strategy for their fundraising goals.

For anyone interested in hearing more, seeing photos and meeting Dorothea and Anita, you are invited to join the brunch worship service in the auditorium at Niagara United Mennonite Church, the Red Brick Church, 1775 Niagara Stone Road, NOTL on Sunday April 23 at 10:30 a.m.



Anita Dong and Dorothea Enns at Mount Apo, a volcano and the highest mountain in the Philippines. (Photos supplied)

## Pillitteri Estates Winery welcomes visitors



Brock University President Leslie Rigg and her senior management team visit Pillitteri Estates Winery, named Brock Co-op Employer of the Year, with Debbie Inglis, a local resident, grape grower and director of CCOVI at Brock. Jamie Slingerland, director of viticulture at Pillitteri Estates Winery toured the group along with three of their Brock co-op students. The president and her team met with the 20 full-time Brock graduates that work at Pillitteri Estates. In the photo are Pillitteri employee and Brock co-op student Jacob Gigliotti; Brock vice-president of research Tim Kenyon; Brock dean of math and science Peter Berg; registrar Geraldine Jones; associate VP of government, community and international relations Meaghan Rusnell; president Leslie Rigg; Debbie Inglis; Jamie Slingerland; and Pillitteri employee and Brock co-op student Boris Mihajlovic. (Photos supplied)



Federal Minister of Agriculture Marie-Claude Bibeau meets with grape and wine industry officials from the Grape Growers of Ontario, Wine Growers Ontario and Ontario Craft Wineries in a pre-budget consultation. In the photo are MP Chris Bittle; Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Marie-Claude Bibeau; Pillitteri director of Viticulture Jamie Slingerland; Grape Growers of Ontario CEO Debbie Zimmerman; Ontario Craft Wineries President Richard Linley; MP Vance Badawey; Grape Growers of Ontario Board Chair Matthias Oppenlaender; Wine Growers Ontario Board Chair Del Rollo; Wine Growers Ontario President and CEO Aaron Dobbin; and Ontario Craft Wineries Board Chair Carolyn Hurst.



# Norm Foster's *Whit's End* debuts in NOTL with readings

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Foster Festival fans and supporters have two chances to participate in the creative process with Canada's most prolific playwright this weekend. Norm Foster's new play *Whit's End* will make its debut in reading form this Saturday and Sunday afternoon at the picturesque Shiny Cider and Fresh Wines (formerly Small Talk Vineyard) on Irvine Road. Director Jamie Williams is looking forward to the opportunity to gauge the audience's reaction to the playwright's work.

"Norm will Zoom in for both of the readings," says Williams, the Foster Festival's new artistic associate. "Not only does he get to hear the actors together, to hear those voices come to life, but he also gets to hear the audience's response. That's integral, it indicates whether they're getting the logic of the story, or the logic of the joke."

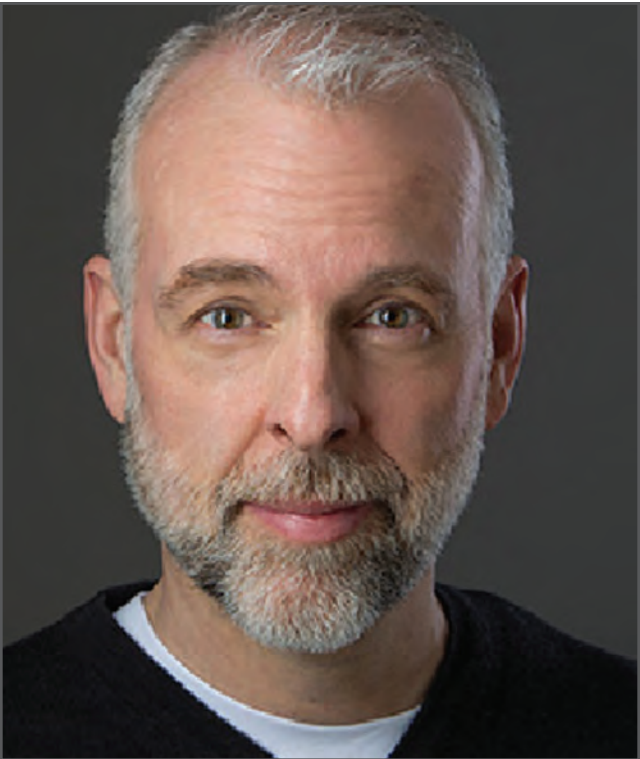
*Whit's End* has yet to be produced on stage, meaning this weekend's audiences will be the first to experience the story that Williams describes as a



Darren Keay will read the part of one of Whit's children. (Photos supplied)

very funny look at family and the assumptions that people take for granted about each other. The main character has flown back into town to drop some big news onto his adult daughter and son. He's accompanied by a woman they have never met, with whom he tells them he's about to embark on a new adventure in his life.

Whit's kids, of course, counter with some big news of their own. The self-absorption of each of the family members and the reactions they have toward each other leads to many hilarious revelations. "It's a comedy of miscommunication," says Williams, who has appeared in and directed a number of Foster's plays through the years. "And it exposes



Jamie Williams is the Foster Festival's new artistic associate, and director of *Whit's End*.

double standards in the way Whit feels with his son versus how he feels with his daughter. It highlights the dynamic that exists in all families, and enables us to laugh at it." Williams also points out that *Whit's End* is just as much a play about commitment. Each character is dealing with new relationships, raising many questions about what com-

mitment actually means to each of them. Williams, who lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 2006 to 2015 with his wife, actor Melanie Janzen, and daughter Sadie Williams, has assembled a perfect cast to embody Foster's characters. Fans of the hit CBC Television program *Street Legal* will recognize C. David Johnson and Sonja

Smits, who played Chuck and Carrie from 1987 until 1994. Johnson portrays Whit while Smits shows up as his new paramour. "We were really fortunate to get ahold of C. David and Sonja," says Williams. "C. David was involved with some of the first plays written by Norm. I reached out to him because I thought he would be perfect as Whit. When he said he was interested, I contacted Sonja." Having two such recognizable actors reading those parts is a bit of a coup for the St. Catharines-based theatre company. Donors will get to see Johnson and Smits up close at Shiny Cider, as they will Mairi Babb and Darren Keay, who read the roles of Whit's children. Keay, who is married to Foster Festival co-founder and artistic producer Emily Oriolds, says he is still putting the finishing touches on exactly who his sarcastic, acerbic character Steven really is. "This is the beauty of getting to do a workshop like this," Keay says. "Even the script I have from

Continued on page 15



# Play about family, with typical Foster humour

Continued from page 14

Norm says right on it 'not the final draft.' I've done enough new play development that I don't impose a lot on top of it myself. To be honest, a lot does get informed at that first read in rehearsal with the other actors."

The play is about relationships, and Keay sheds some light on the brother-sister dynamic between his and Babb's characters. Steven, he says, is a quiet big brother in terms of his relationship with his sister.

"There's some knowing

humour between them," he adds. "In terms of him out there in the world, though, we get a lot of information about Steven from what Whit says about his son dating many different girls. I see him as a quiet guy with a good sense of humour. I get to throw out some zingers here and there."

Keay loves Foster's work for its cleanliness and the efficiency in his writing. He says Foster leaves no fat on his jokes, no extra words, no extra beats or moments. It gives actors room to play, as they can let the words

do the work, bringing humour to human situations in all of his plays.

"Doing a read in front of an audience is a real fine opportunity to find the rhythm," Keay explains. "With a reading you really get the rhythm of the words. With a full production you have movement and props and much more that can add to it. But a straight reading can really serve the script."

Williams adds that a reading can sometimes point out to a director and a playwright those rare situations where logic points

are missed, redundancies creep in or the audience is asked to make too much of a jump. Watching an audience react to the words gives the creative team a chance to ensure the play has the clarity, humour and rhythm it needs before it goes to a full production.

"What Norm does really well is one of the hardest things to do while you're writing," says Williams, himself a playwright, "and that's to maintain the perspective of hearing the words in his mind like a first-time audience. The audience is only going to

hear it once. You have one attempt to bring the audience along for the ride. You have to keep that in mind."

This weekend's two readings may be part of the team's creative process, but it's also an event, and Williams feels that Shiny Cider is a perfect venue.

"There is literally a colourfulness to the place that really suits comedy," he says. "And their product and the experience there will really support the event. Our donors are going to enjoy being in such a comfortable and fun environment, just what we

want for an event hosting Norm's comedy."

*Whit's End* will be read by the actors on April 22 and 23 at 2 p.m. both days. Each \$100 ticket includes a membership to the Foster Festival's 100 Club and a tax receipt for the full amount. A complimentary glass of Sparking Rose by Fresh Wines or Apple Cider by Shiny will be offered to each member upon arrival, and charcuterie or apple and brie boxes will be available for purchase. Visit [fosterfestival.com/support/donate-100-club](http://fosterfestival.com/support/donate-100-club) for tickets and information.

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# Tickets selling quickly for biggest lineup yet

Mike Balsom  
The Local

To mark the 30th anniversary of Jackson-Triggs in Niagara-on-the-Lake this year, the winery is presenting its biggest ever summer concert series.

The lineup features a total of 23 concerts between June 9 and Sept. 15, including amphitheatre mainstays the Sam Roberts Band, Chantal Kreviazuk, Serena Ryder and the Trews. And bonafide Canadian music legends Randy Bachman, Jann Arden and Colin James will all be performing at the Mississauga Road outdoor venue.

“Thirty is a milestone year for us and we’re thrilled to be hosting 18 of Canada’s top artists and bands for a remarkable year in concert series history,” says Sreejith Sasikumar, estate manager at Jackson-Triggs. “Every seat in the amphitheatre offers an intimate concert experience and a night to remember for any music fan. Artists keep returning to this venue because it offers a performance like no other where they can genuinely engage with audiences.”

The series kicks off with its traditional opening weekend of two performances by Roberts and his band, who recently re-



Cover band Dwayne Gretzky closes out the Jackson-Triggs concert season Sept. 15 (Supplied)

leased *Picture of Love*, the first single from their upcoming album to be released this fall.

“Performing at Jackson-Triggs is one of our band’s longest running summer traditions,” says Roberts in a press release. “We keep coming back for that close connection we

feel with the crowd. We’re excited to kick off the series this year and keep the tradition going.”

That connection may be even closer than Roberts thinks. Sasikumar told The Local Tuesday morning that both of the Sam Roberts Band shows sold out in 15 minutes, as did

the Jann Arden and Dwayne Gretzky dates. He is working on trying to get permits to add even more concerts this summer to meet the demand.

Making her debut at the Jackson-Triggs amphitheatre on Aug. 18 is electro-jazz/pop singer Charlotte Cardin, who

won three Juno Awards last year, including Artist of the Year. And St. Catharines-based country singer-songwriter Tim Hicks will take the winery’s stage for the first time on July 8.

“I’ve been to Jackson-Triggs a zillion times,” Hicks tells The Local, “but I’ve never performed there, and I’ve never actually seen a show there. I’m so pleased that I’m included in this year’s lineup. It’s always special to play close to home, an opportunity to play for friends and family I don’t often get to play for. And I get to sleep in my own bed at the end of the night.”

Hicks’ performance, billed as a Campfire Troubadour show, will see him take to the stage in a trio format for an acoustic run-through of some of his biggest hits. The trio consists of Hicks on guitar and vocals, Chris Altmann on banjo and steel guitar, and Geoff Willingham on guitar. It will be a first for him to play a show like this in the Niagara area.

“I tell lots of stories, and the setlist for these shows changes on a whim,” he laughs. “I’ll just call out a song from time to time and the guys just roll their eyes and go along with me. It makes for a fun show.”

Asked who else from this summer’s lineup Hicks himself might show up to see, he immediately lists another first-timer, Donovan Woods (June 24), as his first choice.

“I’ve written with Donovan, but I’ve never seen him perform live,” says Hicks. “I’ve done lots of stuff with the Trews (they perform on June 16; Hicks has toured with the band in the past), and I’m such a fan of them. They are the real deal.”

On April 29, Hicks points out as a side note, he will appear with Colin and John-Angus MacDonald of the Trews at Central Community Centre on York Road in a songwriters in the round performance in support of the Education Foundation of Niagara.

The writer and singer of hit songs such as *Stronger Beer*, *Stompin’ Ground* and *Here Comes the Thunder* says he is humbled to be on a list of shows that includes such big names.

“If you would have told 15-year-old me that one day I’d be included in a lineup of shows with some of these artists,” he says, “I would have fallen over. It’s still surreal, even 10 years in. I’m just thankful that I’m still able to put out records and people seem to be interested.”

Since its first shows in 2001, the 500-seat open-air amphitheatre has hosted more than 150 of Canada’s finest musicians, becoming synonymous with Canadian music history.

“The artists want to come here because we are such a well-known player in the music industry,” Sasikumar explains. “And people love to come here to enjoy the shows. It’s such a great atmosphere.”

When it comes to Canadian music history, there’s probably no one who can match Randy Bachman, whose first international hit with the Guess Who, *Shakin’ All Over*, came in 1965. That’s almost 60 years of rocking and rolling. Bachman is scheduled to play on Aug. 10 and 11.

“When we first approached him he was super-excited,” says Sasikumar, “so much so that we decided to ask him to play a second night. He was down for it immediately.”

Also appearing this summer at Jackson-Triggs are the Strumbellas, the Rural Alberta Advantage, the James Barker Band, Matt Andersen, Bahamas, William Prince and the Reklaws. Ten-piece Toronto-based cover band Dwayne Gretzky closes out the season on Sept. 15. Tickets are on sale now. The full lineup with dates and tickets can be accessed at [tixr.com/groups/jacksontriggs/events/jackson-triggs-summer-concert-series-2023-65319](https://tixr.com/groups/jacksontriggs/events/jackson-triggs-summer-concert-series-2023-65319).

## Shaken, not stirred



AKA organizer Ken Lamb shares a martini at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery with Angela Seeger, who will bring the Songs of Bond to life on April 21. For additional information or to book tickets visit the Ravine website at [exploretock.com/ravinevineyard/](https://exploretock.com/ravinevineyard/). (Supplied)



# Rare fish and temperatures in Niagara; an update from the field



**Owen Bjorgan**  
Special to The Local

April showers bring May flowers, as they say. Funny enough, I have to admit that I have been living a lie for 30 years, as it only occurred to me this weekend that it's not bring 'me' flowers.

Is there a colloquial saying out there about April heat, though? Unlikely. London, Ontario just broke a 140-year heat record with our spring temperature spike. Hamilton also soared over its previous records a few days ago with 28 C registered.

As I sit here and write this Monday, it is now only 8 C with a chance of flurries tomorrow. As discussed in depth in a previous article for The Local, our native trees, frogs and flowers will be just fine. However, farmers and their domesticated crops are something to keep an eye on.

I couldn't believe I could hike, paddle, and do yard-work shirtless and sweating in the middle of April like that! It felt psychologically off, and I believe that stems from all the trees still being bare. On that note, I have a smorgasbord of interesting and intriguing updates for the books about what I experienced during the April heatwave.

Firstly, I was thrilled to have participated in Niagara College's annual BioBlitz at the beautiful and biodiverse NOTL campus. This is an immersive and superbly fun day catered to families getting outdoors and contributing to citizen science.

Along with other experts, I got to lead themed hikes around the campus wetlands and Niagara Escarpment forests, covering



Owen Bjorgan spent part of the beautiful weekend guiding a family-friendly hike at Niagara College's annual 'BioBlitz' citizen science initiative. (Photos by Owen Bjorgan)

everything from insects to birds to general ecology. My particular hike sessions were a family-friendly 'Best of Biodiversity' adventure, and although family-friendly, we did watch piles of frogs and toads aggressively mate with one another, sometimes up to six toads at a time comically trying to clamber onto each other.

The day was also a valuable opportunity for me to get a refresh and upgrade on my bird knowledge. I love picking the brains of other experts and appreciating the years of knowledge they have accumulated and are willing to share with others.

As if nine hours in that toasty sun wasn't enough at Niagara College, I further capitalized on the seasonally bizarre temperatures and got out on the canoe. I'm nearly done picking away at pre-scouting my canoe routes for my eco-canoe tours this year, and while testing out the routes, I have made some rare discoveries that truly fired me up.

That's correct. Encountering certain species and habitat types makes me elated. That is exactly how I felt when I paddled over a couple of spotted gar in Fort Erie this weekend.

There is no other fish shaped like this, so observing one in the wild is unmistakable. This fish has an elongated and narrow face structure, with the rest of its body being built like a cigar. To see two of these alive and in the wild on an unsung creek was a real pleasure, considering that in Canada this species is only found along Lake Erie's shores and small pockets of Lake Ontario.

While paddling back out of this creek and briefly onto the Niagara River, I saw something that we normally hear up north. Loons!

This was a coincidental sighting — or was it? Just a day before, I was asking the professional birders if they have ever seen or heard the iconic bird in Niagara, because I believe I've only seen it once a very long time

ago. Sure enough, two loons floated around and graciously dove under right in front of my canoe, with the uncanny backdrop of giant industrial buildings on the American side of the river.

As if things couldn't get any more Canadian, a guy

on the shoreline was fishing and soaking up the lovely temperatures. He cast his line in the water and called out, "Hey buddy, do you want a hand loading your canoe up?" To which I replied, "I appreciate it, but it's all good man!" The kindness

of both the weather and our Canadian culture made me smile.

I hope all of you enjoyed the friendly sunny days that have just passed us. It really brings out the best Canadian moods, in humans and wildlife alike.



While paddling a lesser-known creek in Fort Erie to prepare for touring season, Owen Bjorgan says he was fortunate to spot a rare species of fish.

## Collectors take note: learn to be a museum curator

### Local Staff

The next series of the Learn and Live program is meant for collectors of handicrafts, art, or other treasures who might enjoy a few lessons on being a curator.

Terry Mactaggart, one of the founders of the series, explains the four-part Tiny Museum Exhibition Course will be offered throughout the month of May.

It offers a "crash course" on what it takes to be a museum curator, and at the end of the four sessions (May 1, 8, 15, 29 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.) participants will

get to install a group exhibit in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's Tiny Museum and show off all their hard work to friends and family.

Space is limited. Call the NOTL Museum at 905-468-3912 to secure your spot.

Although Learn and Live programs are usually held at the library, these sessions are at the museum, and registering is for all four sessions.

For more information on what to expect, see the course schedule on the museum's website under What's Up and Events Calendar at [www.notl-museum.ca](http://www.notl-museum.ca)



The four-session program ends with an opportunity to curate an exhibit in the Tiny Museum. (Supplied)



## Local SPORTS

## Great turnout for first Tennis Club clinic of 2023

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club pro Shawna Macfarlane wasn't expecting 30 members to show up for Saturday afternoon's Serve, Rally and Play clinic. But she was more than ready to handle that many enthusiastic players for the first club event of the year.

Macfarlane was prepared with what she told The Local was "a bag full of tricks," games to get the players to shake off their winter rust and introduce new and returning members to the social aspect of the organization, all while refreshing their skills in the game.

"We have a lot of new people in the club this year," she said, "and we're really excited about that. And we do have a few new things happening, too."

That includes two Live Ball member mixer sessions on May 6 and 13.

"Live Ball is an on-court event with music and activities," she explained. "People are moving full speed for about 10 min-

utes, they take a break for about five minutes, then resume again for another 10. It's a competitive side of the game which really eliminates the serve, a faster, fun game with the ball in play 24/7."

As Macfarlane led the large group through a series of activities beginning with some NERF ball warmups, The Local tracked down club vice-president Hugh Dow, who expects membership could stretch past 400 this year with all the new members.

"Obviously last year's Canada Summer Games was a big factor in that," he says. "It attracted a lot of interest in the game and the club. It was a real banner year for us."

Perhaps it was last year's upgrades, including the opening of two new courts and the refinishing of the four existing ones, that brought about the chance for the Memorial Park facility to host two new events this summer.

"We have the Ontario Senior Games on May 25," Dow explained. "We're sharing the duties for this with Welland, who has the 55- and 65-year old groups. We're doing the 70, 75 and 80-plus groups. It's men's doubles, wom-

en's doubles and mixed doubles. Winners go on to the provincial games from here, and if they win there it's off to the nationals."

Dow is also excited about the club hosting an Ontario Tennis Association Rookie Tournament on Saturday, July 15. That will see kids 12 and under getting their first introduction to competitive tournament play. Boys and girls will arrive from all across Ontario for the one-day event.

"Now that we're more of a high-profile club we realize the importance of junior development," Dow says. "We haven't done it before, but with our six courts and our upgraded facilities we felt we are now much better equipped to do it. It may well lead to other tournaments coming here."

And there are further improvements to the club facilities beyond what was done for last summer's big event. New lights were added to the pavilion, motion detector lights were added to the courts, and a new pad at the north end of the courts was poured. The current bleachers on the west side will be moved there, while a new set will be in-



Shawna Macfarlane gives some instruction to the full group Saturday. (Mike Balsom)

stalled in its place next to the pavilion. All of those changes have been funded by the club.

Marilyn Francis, this year's club president, looked over at the great turnout of Macfarlane's clinic, pointing to it as an example of the value of joining the club rather than just playing on the town's public tennis courts elsewhere.

"There's a huge difference," she said. "Here, people can meet other people who play tennis. You can find people to play at

different levels, whether you're a beginner, intermediate or experienced player. And we offer lots of different organized events."

Dow said almost 100 have signed up for men's nights on Mondays. Ladies night is Wednesday each week, while Friday night is for mixed doubles.

As well, Macfarlane will be running a strong youth program this summer on Wednesday evenings and the club is considering hosting a summer camp for kids

some time in late July.

"I think it's our earliest start ever," Dow said Saturday. "Much different than last year, when so much rain forced us to push our first day back a number of times. The weather has really cooperated this year."

Membership prices run from \$40 for students under 18 years old to \$170 for an adult membership. The family price is \$340. For information visit niagaratenniscub.com.

## Golf course in good shape for opening

Mike Balsom  
The Local

As Marc Forbes stepped to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's first tee Thursday, April 13, he remarked to his playing partners, "this just feels right!"

The co-owner of the club was the very first golfer to tee off for 2023 on a day that was absolutely perfect for golf. Grounds crew members were busily putting the finishing touches on some of the holes as the first foursome hit the links at about 7:55 am, a bit earlier than their scheduled start due to their eagerness.

Forbes was joined by former Niagara Ice Dog Alex Friesen and friends Brett Kerr and Simon McInnis in the first group to hit the links.

Head pro Keith Vant was just as excited to begin his second year running the pro shop, having been hired to replace Billy Simkin in 2022.

"It's a little bit smoother," Vant told The Local Thursday. "We're ready to go. We have a lot of new staff, so we're still training them. But we're just so happy to be open now."

Vant and Forbes were both

pleased with the feedback they had received from the grounds crew prior to the scheduled opening day.

"We're green with all that rain, for sure," Vant said. "We were really wet for awhile, and the date for opening day was up in the air for a while. Mike (Magwood, club superintendent) and his crew have done a great job. It dried up a lot in the wind yesterday, too."

Vant invited The Local into the pro shop, where lots of bright, bold new product was filling the shelves and the clothing racks.

"We'll see what the members like," said Vant, "we'll see what sells, and try to keep them happy moving forward. We have some new staff in the pro shop, too."

Also new this year is the club's online booking system. Forbes said it was a long time coming.

"When we took over the club last year it was one of the first things we wanted to do," explained Forbes, who shares ownership with Eva Reif and Rob DiDomenico. "After running the club for a year we felt it was time. We know it might be a bit of a difficult transition for some of our members, but we'll work them through the change."

"It should make things much more smooth," Vant adds. "It should limit calls to the pro shop, allow the pro shop guys to be able to engage customers and acknowledge them a little more rather than constantly having to answer phones and relay messages. It's a pretty easy system, too."

Indeed, this golfer, a social member of the club, has already found it easier to book a tee time using the new system, which is similar to those in place at most other golf courses around the Niagara Region.

Vant says the junior membership ranks are continuing to grow this year, and the club is finalizing the dates for their popular summer golf camps this week, which will take place during July and August. He's hoping to have enough to run a junior league like they did in 2022. As well, besides the junior championship, he's planning to hold a senior-junior event and a drive, chip and putt competition this summer.

Overall, membership numbers continue to be strong at the oldest golf club in North America.

"There's a long waitlist for full membership, too," he said. "Some people have been on that list for almost three years. We're going to tidy up that list this month and hopefully shrink it down a bit."

## Perfect day for lawn bowling

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Almost 30 people lined up to register with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club Saturday afternoon at the Community Centre. The beautiful afternoon weather prompted most of them to don their Saturday whites to hit the green for their first outside bowl of 2023.

Club vice-president Paul

McHoul said about 51 members had been participating over the winter months in short-mat indoor lawn bowling at the community centre. But it was clear they couldn't wait to get back to the great outdoors.

It was a very early start for the club, with more than 70 members expected to participate this year. The official opening day for the oldest lawn bowling club in Canada is scheduled for May 13, with

afternoon open houses for interested bowlers scheduled for June 4 and 11, both Sundays.

The club runs a traditional bowl every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., with a tea party held between games. Monday and Wednesday jitneys are held at 1:30 p.m. weekly, and Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. they play a 4-3-2-1 match.

For information about the NOTL Lawn Bowling Club, visit notlbowl.ca.



Members take advantage of the good weather to get out the first day of the season. (Mike Balsom)

## Local HAPPENINGS



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Simon McInnis, Marc Forbes, Alex Friesen and Brett Kerr open the season at the NOTL Golf Club. (Mike Balsom)



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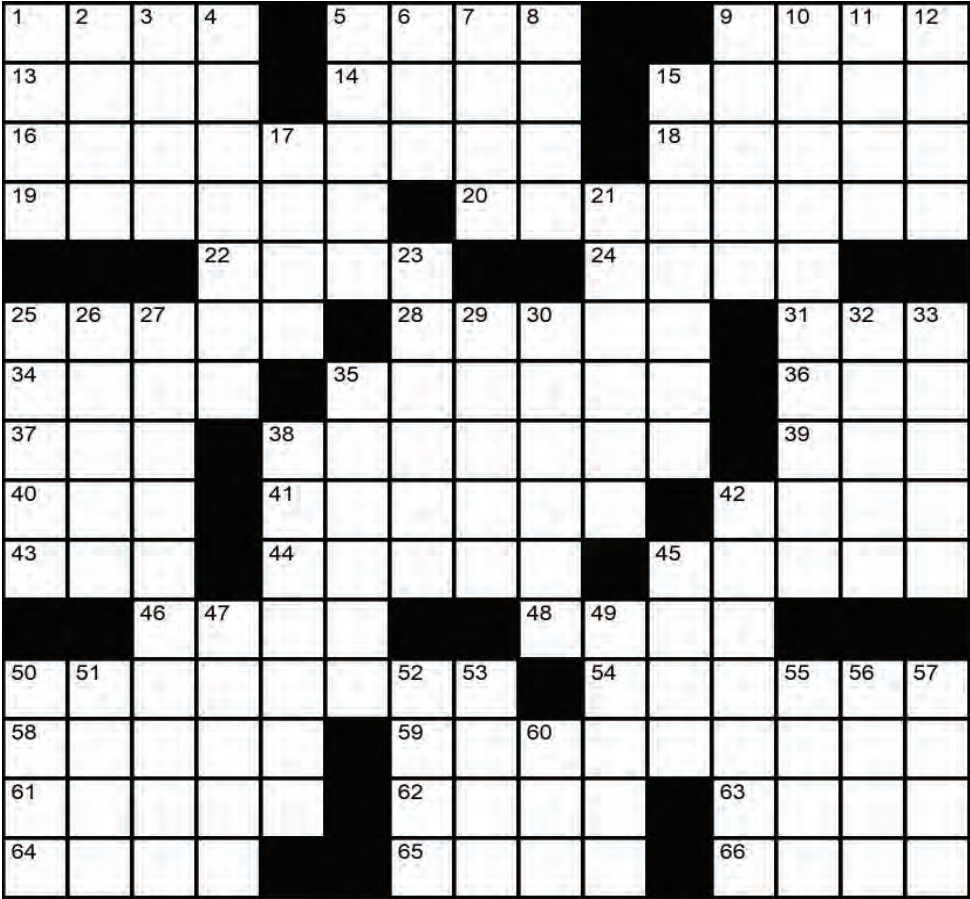
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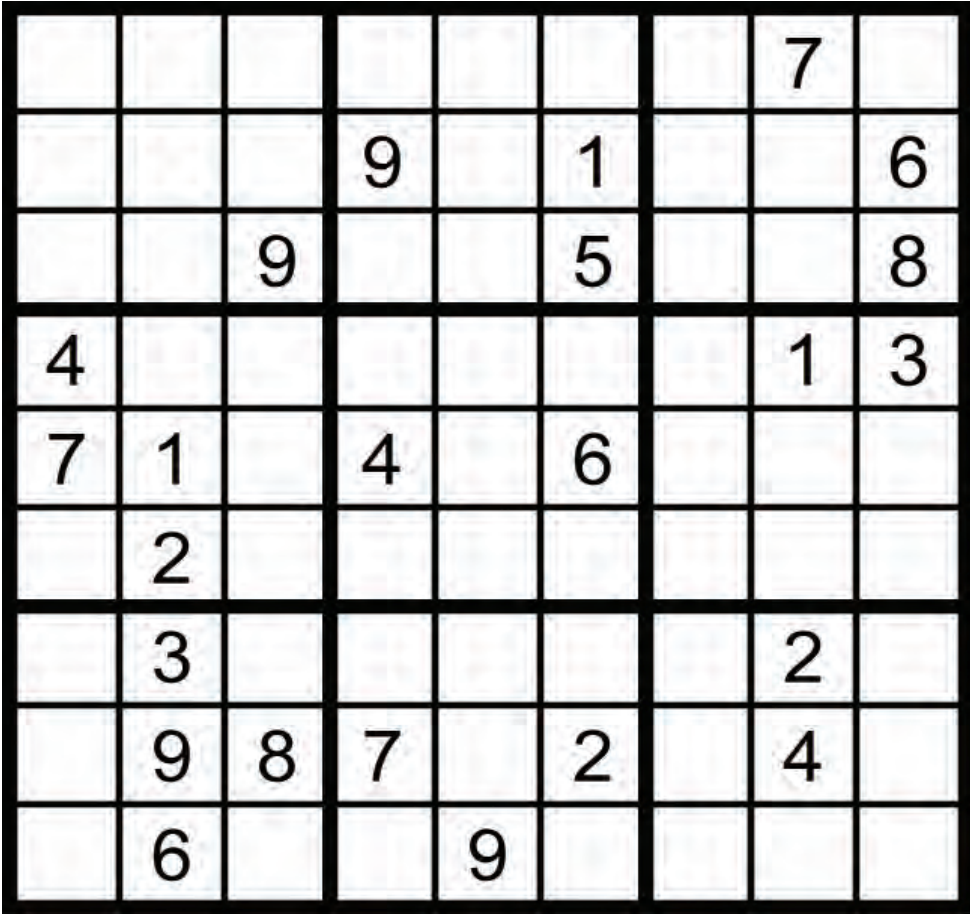


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25 Biological duplicate  
28 Shun  
31 "A very high price to pay for maturity" (Tom Stoppard)  
34 Acquire through merit  
35 Bank link  
36 Strain  
37 Tote  
38 Speaking point?  
39 Little devil  
40 Pitcher's stat.  
41 Requested in exchange for a kingdom (Shakespeare)  
42 Locale of the Viminal Hill  
43 Prohibition
- 44 Colombian cash  
45 Artificial waterway  
46 Matinee favorite  
48 "Chop-chop!"  
50 Magic  
54 Pickle  
58 Chemically inactive  
59 Obsolete  
61 Rocky debris at the base of a hill  
62 Fail to mention  
63 Bean capital of S America?  
64 Decline to bid  
65 Charts  
66 Everyone, down South
- Down:  
1 Employs  
2 Hue  
3 Heavy ordnance, briefly  
4 Author --- Hesse  
5 Sleeping problem  
6 Careful attention  
7 Encounter  
8 Obi, for example  
9 Insulting remarks  
10 Crookedly obtain Thai dwelling  
11 Now it makes sense!  
12 Pigs' digs?  
15 Diversify  
17 Trusted assistant  
21 Homeland leaver  
23 Imelda ---, who had a shoe surfeit  
25 Tabloid target  
26 Spanish saint martyred in boiling pitch  
27 Arrangers  
29 Synthetic meat can be created in this  
30 The Pearl of the Black Sea  
32 Third letter of the Greek alphabet  
33 Eject  
35 Gazed upon  
38 The door in Dordogne, or in Texas  
42 With celerity  
45 Found behind the shin  
47 Ventures  
49 Lends  
50 Small tuft  
51 Machu Picchu builder  
52 Chamber  
53 Where the 3:10 went  
55 Mother of Uranus  
56 Web code  
57 Small dabbling duck  
60 Apex



OBITUARY



**HULLEY, GORDON "DOUG"**  
Doug was a caring partner, father, brother and friend. He passed surrounded by family on April 12, 2023, at the age of 68. Doug will be forever cherished by his partner and best friend, Teresa Debicki, and lovingly remembered by his sons: Logan (Carly), Taylor (Laurel) and stepson, Frank. Survived by his Aunt Pat, siblings: Patricia (Dave), Michael (Karen), and David (Lorrie). He was predeceased by his parents, Gord and Joan.  
Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held from 2-5 pm on Friday, May 12th at Pillitteri Estates Winery, 1696 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake. We invite anyone who knew Doug to attend and remember his wonderful life. We ask attendees to dress casually. Memorial donations can be made to the MS Society of Canada. Arrangements entrusted to Considerate Cremation & Burial Services, 26 Nihan Drive, St. Catharines (between Lake Street & Scott Street), 289-362-1144. Online condolences may be made at CCBSCares.ca



PLEASE  
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IN MEMORIAM



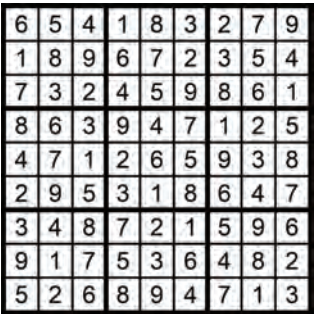
Forever held dear by all fortunate enough to be part of her circle of family and friends.  
Eight years have already passed since April 21, 2015.  
There is a link death cannot sever,  
Love and remembrance last forever.  
Forever missed by John and family, Janice, John (Sue), Jim and the grandchildren, Andrew, Lindsey, Megan, Kaitlyn and James.

NOTICES

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from  
April 12, 2023



**Across:** 1 Utah, 5 A T Ms, 9 Ship, 13 Sire, 14 Plea, 15 Blase, 16 Entrances, 18 Ruben, 19 Stymlie, 20 Theories, 22 Adam, 24 Mast, 25 Clone, 28 Avoid, 31 Age, 34 Earn, 35 Bridge, 36 Tax, 37 Lug, 38 Lectern, 39 Imp, 40 E R A, 41 A horse, 42 Rome, 43 Ban, 44 Pesos, 45 Canal, 46 Idol, 48 A s a p, 50 Wizardry, 54 Plight, 58 Inert, 59 Out of date, 61 Scree, 62 Omit, 63 Lima, 64 Pass, 65 Maps, 66 Y'all.  
**Down:** 1 Uses, 2 Tint, 3 Arty, 4 Hermann, 5 Aprnea, 6 T L C, 7 Meet, 8 Sash, 9 Slurs, 10 Habituation, 11 I see, 12 Pens, 15 Broaden, 17 Aide, 21 Emigre, 23 Marcos, 25 Celeb, 26 Laura, 27 Organizers, 29 Vitro, 30 Odessa, 32 Gamma, 33 Expel, 35 Beheld, 38 La Porte, 42 Rapidly, 45 Calif, 47 Dares, 49 Spots, 50 Wisp, 51 Inca, 52 Room, 53 Yuma, 55 Gaila, 56 H T M L, 57 Teal, 60 Tip.



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