The Niagara-on-the-Lake





Fabric masks available for residents page 4

The trusted voice of our community.

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Wilma Morrison leaves a community in mourning

Penny Coles The Local

Wilma Morrison was bestknown across the Niagara Region for her tireless efforts to educate the public about local two of the people closest to Black history.

She was a highly respected historian, speaker and educator, but to many, she was also and sense of humour.

tle with COVID-19. She had Having just recently moved to duo behind Bravo Niagara! spent the last year or so living in Lundy Manor in Niagara unaware until then of Niagara's Falls, where she contracted the disease.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, Morrison were Alexis Spieldenner and Chris Mori of Bravo was a fledgling organization that Niagara!

They met her in 2014 at

Canada from the US, we were significant Black history. Meeting Wilma changed the trajectory of Bravo Niagara!, and our lives," she says.

At that point, Bravo Niagara

spent many hours talking with her, learning about Black history, and visiting with her at the Nathaniel Dett Memorial Chapel of the British Methodist Episcopal Church in Niagara Falls, where former slaves were known to gather after had presented only a couple of escaping to Niagara via the Unconcerts, "but with her encour- derground Railroad, Morrison demolition, and also as a result of her efforts, saw it declared a heritage site.



Morrison died last Thursday, April 23, at the St. Catharines Hospital site, after a bat-

a dear friend, known for her a Niagara Investment in Cul- agement, we decided to create helped save the church from warmth, kindness, humility ture meeting, says Spieldenner. the Voices of Freedom Festival "Wilma gave us a brochure of in 2015. Wilma was instrumen-Niagara's Freedom Trail, and tal in guiding us and supporting was eager to share with us the us every step of the way." incredible history of the region.

The mother and daughter

Wilma Morrison was passionate about sharing her knowledge **Continued on page 3** of Black history. (Bravo Niagara!)



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Residents of all communities in NOTL had fun banging on pots and pans - even a garbage can - Saturday evening, shouting, and enjoying seeing their neighbours outside, while respecting rules of physical distancing. Photos in top and bottom rows are Chautauqua residents, by Penny Coles; middle row photos were taken by Rene Bertschi of his neighbours on Shaw's Lane.















Niagara-on-the-Lake Escalates Deterrence of Visitors

Niagara-on-the-Lake has escalated efforts to deter out-of-town visitors from coming to Town during its State of Emergency. These measures became necessary because it was clear there were some still ignoring the Town's consistent message to "Stay Home."

The Town closed its public washrooms on March 17, yet Staff have been receiving recent reports of people urinating and defecating in public parks. This is simply not acceptable.

Residents may still walk within Town, but our consistent message of "Walk from Home" remains - exercise, don't socialize. Those wearing masks or gloves are reminded to dispose of these properly. It is never OK to leave home health care waste on the ground.

Town staff 'all essential workers'

Penny Coles The Local

Following a discussion about the Town's staffing levels during the COVID-19 pandemic, Coun. Erwin Wiens spoke passionately about the work employees are doing to maintain services, and suggested councillors might give up their salaries before any further need to deliver services." lay-offs are considered.

In Lord Mayor Betty Disero's update at the start of Monday's phone-in meeting, she outlined the number of full-time and contract staff, which total 76 per

cal municipalities is not to push to make cuts too quickly — this will cause an even greater problem in years to come, she said.

If there were to be any discussion of laying off staff, said interim CAO Sheldon Randall, it would require direction from council about what services should be cut. "Our staff complement right now is what we

Coun. Allan Bisback suggested the Town could communicate to residents what services are being maintained and running efficiently, including provincial regulatory requirements cent of the Town's normal full- related to services such as water time complement. Of 44 con- and sewers, and what they're tract or seasonal employees, 24 doing above their regular seris extra stress and more activities being put on staff.

sending out a "mixed message," thanking staff for all they do while also talking about laying off full-time staff and reviewing what they're doing.

The Town is already working with a skeleton crew, he said, short a CAO, and with other staff off with long-term illnesses.

Employees are moving from one position to another without hesitation, yet they are continually hearing lay-off discussions, he said.

Councillors have asked the interim CAO if all staff are essential, have been told they are, "and we have to take him at his word," said Wiens.

"We could reduce our costs by reducing what we're paid about \$12,000 to \$15,000. That would show leadership right off the bat," he said. "Before the Town starts laying off the guy who is cutting grass, we should look at ourselves." The Town is one of the few that has a collective bargain instead of a union, and on average NOTL employees get paid less than everywhere else, with staff ratios lower than everywhere else, "so where other places may cut five, 10, 15 people, we can't cut because we've already cut," said Wiens.

Visitors, we respectfully ask that you, too, walk from home and come back after our State of Emergency is lifted. Residents of neighbouring municipalities may still enter to quickly drop off essential supplies to vulnerable family members.

Please note that these signs have been strategically placed in areas that typically attract a high volume of visitors. This decision is in no way meant to slight any particular hamlet. "Local Traffic Only" applies to all of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents. We are all locals.

To review all Town updates related to COVID-19, read answers to frequently asked questions, and see up-to-date information on the status of Town services, please visit www.notl.com/COVID-19, or call 905-468-3266. Town Staff will continue to assist and serve citizens online and over the phone between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday. For immediate alerts, follow the Town on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

have not been hired back for the vices. If anything, he said, there season, and nine have been laid off, she said. There are currently 87 full-time employees and 12 contract staff.

Under the rules of the Town's collective bargaining agreement with staff, contract employees would have to be laid off first, with every department except the fire department having contract staff, councillors heard.

"Every employee is essential to our operations," said Disero., adding the Town is "working really hard" at maintaining the essential services it has promised to residents.

The Region has reported it has not laid off any staff, she said, and is redeploying as many people as possible. One of the messages from the Region to lo-

Coun. Clare Cameron said she's heard comments from residents wondering what staff at the Town are doing, and if they're working from home, what they're doing there.

She agreed that communicating the work of employees could be an opportunity to express to the public how much activity is going on at the Town.

In a motion made by Bisback, to have council approve all decisions made on its behalf by the emergency control group since the declaration of a state of emergency March 23, he also asked that all staff be thanked for their efforts toward protecting residents during that time. Erwin Wiens said that is

"If we're going to send out a message, we've got to mean it."

Without commenting on Wiens' suggestion to give up their salaries before employees are laid off, councillors voted to approve emergency group decisions, and to thank all staff.

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THE NOTL LOCAL

Historian also warm, funny, and humble

Continued from page 1

"She was a true trailblazer, and her lifelong dedication to preserving and sharing this important part of Canadian history continues to be an inspiration," says Spieldenner.

Although it was Morrison's knowledge of Black history that initially brought them together, over the years, says Spieldenner, "Wilma also became a great friend and mentor. I'm so grateful for the time we were able to share with her. Wilma had a beautiful spirit and a heart of gold. She and my grandmother shared the same birth year, and I always felt a special connection to her. Wilma was incredibly kind, full of love, and had a great sense of humour."

Added Spieldenner, "we were so distraught to hear about the outbreak at Lundy Manor in Niagara Falls. We are heartbroken to lose such a dear friend and mentor."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero worked with Morrison on the establishment of the Voices of Freedom park. Morrison was the co-chair of the founding committee.

"I was so disturbed to hear she had been taken to the hospital because of the virus. A relative of hers called from California to let me know," says Disero.

It's been an emotional time, with a range of feelings, she says. "It's so meaningless, so

and angry, everything at one time, because of how this virus is playing out. It's taking so many loved ones. I was praying she would make it. She was such an inspiration to all of us."

Morrison had an interesting life, and has accomplished a lot for her culture, says Disero, including what she has done for NOTL.

"

awful. It makes you both sad did it with humility and grace." NOTL resident Nancy But-

ler, a local historian and author of a book on Black history, also contributed to the Voices of Freedom project. She often shared research with Morrison, getting to know her well and considered her a close friend.

Butler was often called on to speak on Black history, "usually because Wilma wasn't

She was a " true trailblazer ... Alexis Spieldenner

"We would not have the available," she jokes, and any Voices of Freedom park here money she was paid for speaktoday without her."

up the cause," says Disero. "You look around and ask who can replace her. That's a tough question. We have so much rich history in our Black community. It would be a shame if we don't carry that forward."

Morrison's body may have started to fail recently, "but her mind was as sharp as a tack. She was funny, witty, always quick with a response. And she was creative in her thinking. She was also warm, welcoming, and very, very humble. There was a lot of pushing needed to get things done, but she always

ing was donated to Morrison to She inspired people to "take help build up her chapel library.

Butler had visited her at Lundy Manor, and says Morrison seemed happy there happy to have someone cooking her meals, she would say. "I could tease her and she could tease me," says Butler. "She respected my research and I respected hers. She accepted me and I accepted her. We had a good working relationship we were kindred souls. And she was always very generous with her time and her knowledge," says Butler. "She was an amazing person. I'll really miss her." Sarah Kaufman, manag-



Wilma Morrison in front of the British Methodist Episcopal Church in Niagara Falls, which she helped save from demolition and had designated as a national historic site. (Bravo Niagara!)

NOTL Museum, worked with her on several occasions. "She was the pillar of Niagara's Black history," she says. "It's hard to imagine what will happen now that she's gone. She contributed greatly to our understanding of Black history. She was such a wealth of knowledge."

Morrison for guidance with the hibits and programs, Black Voices of Freedom park, says history is one of the subjects Kaufman. And in recent years, Morrison has ensured Black history in Canada has been given the attention and discussion it deserves. "She has been one of the museum's main resources." She was a delight to work

ing director and curator of the with, says Kaufman, very her work." warm, kind, and really funny. "Every time I talked to her, she'd make me laugh. And she was so passionate about her work. She wanted people to understand, to know how the Black community contributed to the history of Niagara."

The museum looked to museum space, for more exto be given more attention, says Kaufman, and Morrison would have been called on to help. There are "a few others," some who were mentored by Morrison, "who will have to carry the torch and carry on

That her life was taken by COVID-19, says Kaufman, "is awful. Losing Wilma in such a way, it's just awful. She's gone too soon."

Morrison lost her husband Lorne in 2001.

She leaves many nieces, With plans to expand the nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, several godchildren, and many friends and admirers across Canada and the U.S.

> A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Memorial donations to Nathaniel Dett Chapel BME Church, Niagara Falls would be appreciated by her family.

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Hand-crafted fabric masks available for residents

Penny Coles The Local

More residents are appearing around town in masks, as the message to the public has changed in support of the benefits of wearing them outdoors.

Many doctors and top medical health officials are encouraging the use of masks, not so much for personal protection but as a way to stop the spread of COVID-19 to others.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is recommending wearing non-medical masks out in public.

But as one senior, who contacted The Local, said, "we're being asked to wear a mask when we go out, but where are we supposed to get them?"

Fran Boot, co-founder of Niagara COVID-19 Masks, first organized a group of sewers to make masks for front-line health care workers to fill in the gaps until supplies could get to them.

The group was launched March 21, led by Boot, her sister in Grimsby, and Julia Buxton Cox. With a group of 60 volunteers, they designed, sewed and distributfour weeks.

Orders have slowed

sonal protective equipment says Buxton Cox.

for migrant workers to wear in a few days. Volunteers are when they go into town, the women read about a woman in Iowa who was tying masks to the tree in her front yard, says Buxton Cox. "Fran rigged up a bird feeder pole looking for fabric masks can at her house and voila!" In be found at "the equivalent no time they had set up several mask trees around the community, to make masks available for residents who loves bright, colourful fabneed them.

from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., although some are taken inside if it's raining, she says.

The group is asking for a donation of \$10 to \$20, and 100 per cent of the proceeds will be split between three organizations: Shelter in St. Catharines, which provides essential services such as food and shelter to people in need; The Raft in St. Catharines, which helps youth throughout the Niagara Region with shelter, support services and programs; and Night Light Youth Ser- home doing nothing," she vices, a Niagara Falls shelter says. "I decided to make for homeless youth.

Mask trees can be found ed more than 3,750 masks in at 2252 Four Mile Creek Rd., 2002 York Rd., 607 Simcoe St., 387 Simcoe St., 474 as frontline workers have William St., 43 Colonel But-

masks now, and official per- ler St. and 13 Kirby St.

As masks sell out, some is making its way to them, trees may be inside or empty, but those looking for masks After donating 150 masks are encouraged to try again continuing to sew, with a main goal of getting masks into the hands of NOTL residents, says Buxton Cox.

> On Bay Berry Lane, those to a lemonade stand," says resident Monique Kruppa.

She loves to sew, and she rics. For several years, she The trees are outside and her sister owned two fabric and yarn stores, one in the Old Town and one in Virgil, and although the stores are closed, she still considers herself a collector and hoarder of beautiful fabrics.

> She also likes to keep Southridge busy, and so, while self-isolating, with a job of painting houses and refinishing and painting furniture and kitchen cabinets on hold, she decided to go to work making bright, cheerful masks for anyone who needs them.

"I was sitting here at some masks for my family, and then I made some for neighbours, and for neighbours' friends." She also made some for a business contact in Queenston, and



Fran Boot (right) drops off masks for Jane Andres to deliver to migrant workers to wear when they go into town for supplies. (Photo supplied)

now, she says, pretty much elastic, she makes fabric ties, be wearing her masks.

and is donating \$5 from each one sold to Gillian's Place, which provides shelter and resources for women and children living with domestic violence. She donated the includes her husband, a apply to those who may be total sales from the first 100 masks she sold, she says.

She is selling them from porch, she says, with a coffee can for people to deposit their cash, and a good view on the porch.

everyone in the village must which take more time, and that allows her to have a suf-She sells them for \$15, ficient supply on her porch, more than she had any idea she would be making when she first began this project.

Kruppa is staying at teenager, and a young adult son with his girlfriend. "We're very fortunate we can her 55 Bay Berry Lane be home with loved ones, and we're all getting along with each other," she says.

But not everyone is so from inside to keep an eye fortunate, she adds. A lot in need of help, call or text of people are forced to stay She can sew about 20 a home with people who are day — without a supply of not treating them well, who

are abusive, which is why she has chosen to donate to Gillian's Place, which continues to help women and children during a time when the need to help is greater than ever.

And as a word of caution, home with her family, which physical distancing rules purchasing a mask. Kruppa is concerned about being unable to police that from inside her home, so she asks, please, to follow guidelines and stay safe.

> To women and children the Gillian's Place 24/7 crisis support line at 905-684-8331.





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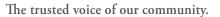






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NOTL Businesses contact Karen at 905•641•5335 at karen@notllocal.com

Businesses outside NOTL contact Julia at 905•934•1040 at julia@notllocal.com

Monique Kruppa shows a selection of masks she has crafted and is selling from her Bay Berry Lane home. (Photo supplied)



One of the mask trees is on York Road, with others scattered around St. Davids and the Old Town. (Photo supplied)

Local pharmacy opens online store

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

If there is one thing all businesses around the world have had to learn in the COVID-19 era, it's how to adapt.

Locally, one of the first businesses to adapt to physical distancing guidelines was Simpson's Pharmacy. Recognizing the vulnerability of his senior customers, owner Sean Simpson instituted seniors-only hours from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., the first hours his store was open. That decision was made March 15, and implemented the next day.

Not long after, to protect the safety of both staff and customers, the store itself closed its doors. Customers were offered free delivery or parking lot pick-up, in lieu of browsing the shelves.

Which brings us to their

macy launched online ordering

directly from their website. It's an innovation Simpson says had been in the works for years, with no concrete plan in mind for a start-date. The current climate of physical distancing, however, prompted the longtime family-owned business to push the plans forward much more quickly than anticipated.

"We had been investigating, and looking at options, and this had been a goal," says Simpson. "The retail trend would indicate that people were doing more of their shopping online, so we knew it would be good for us to do."

month ago, when we realized the need for physical distancing and protecting our staff, we knew we had to keep people out of the store. That was the seminal moment that said to also available for purchase via

Last week, Simpson's Phar- how to do that right now."

Simpson says the Pharmasave organization to which his pharmacy belongs has been working on an online platform for its 600 independent owners, but it isn't fully complete. Simpson's new online platform was made specifically for his store.

"It's a Shopify-based store," he says. "The platform is very intuitive. They give you an opportunity to engage with a Shopify expert. I put out a job, summarizing what we were hoping to do, and they connected us with someone out of Mississauga who helped put it together."

A work in progress, the on-"That day a little over a line store continues to fill out. Simpson says he chips away at it every day, adding new products that can be purchased online. His goal is to have every product available in the store,

A quick perusal of the website reveals a well-organized platform, with 21 different categories. Clicking on a section reveals the items available, each represented by clear, bright photographs. Facial tissue, for instance, falls under the Household Essentials category, while Tylenol and other painkillers can be found under Pain Management. Some brands is also an easy-to-use search function.

Some of the categories currently have very few options, as Simpson is still in the process of populating the menu.

Due mainly to privacy concerns, prescriptions can't be directly ordered and paid for via the same platform. Customers can, however, enter prescription numbers in another area of the website to place those orders. Prescriptions can then be bundled together with the store orders for pickup or delivery.

For those who prefer to place orders by phone, Simpson says that, of course, is still an option. But he would encourage customers to visit the website if they can, to first find what they are looking for.

"The online store helps to recreate the shopping experience that we're not allowing people to have right now," explains Simpson. "As we get



have their own sections. There Sean Simpson of Simpson's Pharmacy was able to order a supply of energy bars at a discounted cost for the Town to give to local long-term care homes as a thank you for the work they do. Simpson helped load a vehicle Tuesday morning for Ray Hunter, the Town's lead hand in the road department. Simpson's also ordered 10,000 bars for United Way to distribute through local agencies, and donated 500 bars to Newark Neighbours. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

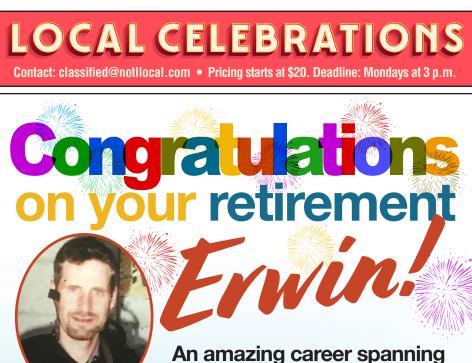


Ann Koppel of St. George's Anglican Church also picked some up for the church's breakfast program.

to tour and see all the different per cent off a customer's first things that we do have to offer."

The new web store accepts payments via all major credmore and more product on it cards and PayPal accounts. there, it gives people a chance And Simpson's is offering 20

online purchase using the discount code StayHomeNOTL. Visit the website at simpsons pharmacy.ca or simpsons pharmacy.store.



latest adaptation. me that we have to figure out the website. Shaw struggling with 'difficult measures'

Local staff

Based on provincial and federal regulations regarding mass gatherings and physical distancing, the Shaw Festival has ceased all business on-site, including cancelling all public events and performances, with the intention of resuming on July 1.

Two weeks ago, the festival's executive director and CEO Tim Jennings announced the Shaw was exploring "every possible new program and idea that can enable us to support our company members as long as possible. During this time, we are continuing to rehearse while developing some online content to keep our audiences entertained while they practice physical distancing."

"It is clear that further changes will require us to significantly rethink our 2020 season and contingency planning is well underway for that possibility," he said.

Last week, he said "further,



Tim Jennings, executive director and CEO of The Shaw Festival, is doing his best to balance looking after staff and keeping the festival afloat. (David Cooper)

per cent of their wage, he says, but those who cannot work at a distance have had their wages cut to 75 per cent.

jobs, we have been forced to lay off about 20 people for whom their contracts. We hope to exa reduction to 75 per cent of tend the notice of termination their normal wage did not each week as we explore every make sense. This decision has possible new program and idea primarily impacted part-time to keep us all under the same more difficult measures" were and seasonal personnel. The umbrella," Jennings says. executive team has also chosen to donate 50 per cent of their incredibly difficult and we own salaries back to the Shaw hope we are able to provide the in solidarity, and to help stretch dollars in some small way."

Independent contractors, which include the acting ensemble, will continue to work and receive pay at 100 per "While this has saved most cent, but with "rolling twoweek notice of termination of

required, although he was still "looking forward to a time when we can return to the stage."

Those who are able to work at a distance are receiving 100

"These decisions have been softest possible landing for everyone in the Shaw family."

WORSH



Sunday, May 3rd

Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 10:00 am on Sundays.There will be no in-person church service.

www.ccchurch.ca

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as a police officer with 5 years at Peel and the rest with Hamilton Police Service. He worked in Foot Patrol, Bicycle Unit, Surveillance and as a Bomb Tech on the Tactical Unit.

Love Dorothy, Brianna and Daniel, Mackenzie, Taylor and Jessica, friends and family.

EDITORIAL

Lessons from pandemic could include doing a better job for society's vulnerable in the future

There is good news this during Monday's council meet- consider school their one safe week, for all those residents who feel they want to wear a mask when they're out in public, but haven't been able to find one.

There are locals working busier than bees, using their time in isolation to put together fabric masks, with filter pockets, for residents. Hopefully they can keep up with the demand, because the message is changing, and public health experts are recommending non-medical masks could cut down on the spread of COVID-19.

As the talk has begun to turn to re-opening of non-essential businesses, with the Province putting plans in place — but no dates yet — it's sounding like the message may be to wear masks when going out. Hopefully stores will be carrying supplies to accommodate the demand.

With all the many events cancelled, one was the National Day of Mourning, a day to remember those who lost their lives from a workplace accident or illness. A ceremony is traditionally held at the little monument in front of the entrance to the Centennial Arena, and has in recent years been attended by Niagara high school students. It's a reminder to them of their right to demand safe working conditions when they enter the workforce.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero asked for a minute's silence ing to remember "all Canadians who lost their lives contributing to our society," and to also remember Fire Department volunteer and captain Mike Vriens, who passed away in 2019 from the abused who feel trapped at an occupational illness.

During that moment of silence, it was impossible not to be drawn to the thought of not only of the deaths of health care workers during this pandemic, across the country, but of the risks they take every day they go to work. They too have a right to a safe work place, but we know that hasn't always been the case in recent weeks.

Or the workers in a meat plant out west, whose safety has been totally disregarded, but who have to go to work because their finances are so marginal they can't risk losing their jobs.

On April 28, 2021, we'll be remembering those who died of COVID-19 because of the lack of protection at their workplace.

We could consider this year's day of mourning a reminder that as a society, we have to do better, for the seniors, our most vulnerable in society, who live in conditions deteriorating to such a degree that we've witnessed soldiers called out. We have to do better home, learning that we can live for workers who care for them, more simply and happily than and for all those who risk their we could have imagined. And lives protecting the health of out of gratitude, many want to all of us. For the children who reach out to help those in need.

place, and often where they get their only meal of the day. For our Indigenous people, who are in isolated communities where health care is not assured. For home, which should be their safe place, and instead is the place where they live in dread of the next attack of physical or mental abuse.

Last Saturday evening, residents in all communities of town showed their support to the frontline workers and essential services. They went out and made noise, dancing, shouting and waving at their neighbours, and having fun. Their pleasure was contagious — they showed gratitude, for those who are keeping us safe, and for living in a community that feels safe.

As angry as we may be about visitors coming to town who shouldn't, residents going out who shouldn't, we have so many reasons to feel fortunate. While bylaw officers were looking after our protection by ticketing those who were parking where they shouldn't — apparently about 40 in a couple of hours Saturday morning, most, but not all, of them visitors to town — some of us were at gets a vacation from the harm we do, and we'd like it to continwe've done.

It's really a lot to ask, to ex-

PATRICK LAWLE

ON STE ZIMME

AUG. 1887

AARTINI MARY & AM

PATELOR & MAI

LAWLESS

BURNER

We can also see the results of these lessons can carry on to celebrate the end of the panon our environment, as nature after this is over. We'll be out enjoying the sunshine, the outdoors, and being with family ue to recover from the damage and friends, but for many, the old normal wasn't so great, and the new normal might not be

pect or at least hope that some any better. Maybe when it's time **The Local**

demic, we could also think, as a society, of doing a better job of caring for those who have so much less to celebrate.

Penny Coles

LOCAL FINDS Watchman 'enveloped in flames' by Donald Combe **Special to The Local**

Patrick was the watchman on the steamer Zimmerman when it burned at the Niagara Dock on the night of Aug. 21, 1863. He was "enveloped in the flames and was burned to death." This monument stands alone in the east corner of the cemetery of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

PATRICK LAWLESS BURNED ON THE STR ZIMMERMAN AUG. 1863.

MARTIN, MARY & ANDREW CHILDREN OF PATRICK & MARY. LAWLESS.



GREEN TIP from the **Crossroads Coyote Eco Club**

GROW YOUR OWN

Despite the fact that we humans are in a bit of a lockdown, nature is uncontainable and doing her thing - spring is springing! We all have time on our hands ... so, what better time to grow your own? Plant a wee garden!

Put some seeds in the ground and watch the magic of nature. It doesn't get more local than harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers and kale from your own backyard. Stay well & healthy, the Crossroads Covote Eco Club Eliana McManus, Fiona Bell and Ella Edgecombe





Canadian Société canadienne du cancer

For information about services the Canadian Cancer Society continues to provide during the COVID-19 pandemic,

call 905-684-6455, or 1-888-939-3333. Online donations are needed more than ever, and can be made at **Cancer.ca**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

The trusted voice of our community

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LETTERS

Treading water, trying to stay positive

will continue, to adhere to both our federal, provincial and municipal guidelines when it comes to self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There will always be exceptions in every community where you will see or know people who have returned from outside of Canada, and do not conform to the guidelines, or individuals who just generally ignore the guidelines set by our government and medical experts.

So, let's all agree, most of us are doing what was asked of us, and we can see and hear what is working in other countries.

The people on the front lines are all performing far beyond expectations. You name the profession and they are performing at 100 per cent-plus, on behalf of the Canadian people and their country.

So, here we are treading water, and struggling to stay positive, knowing that thousands of people are getting infected each day, and hundreds dying each week.

Now I ask you, what exactly is our government (at all levels) doing to present a strategy to the Canadian public that will address months?

What are they doing to provide us with hope and confidence in order to gradually bring this country back is in our Niagara region, I Ontario, yet the Niagara Re- on almost all of these beauti-

We Canadians have, and to some status of work and end up with the total num- gion only constitutes three productivity?

> the countries that have succeeded in getting their economies started and partially growing again?

> Just look around and see what Taiwan, South Korea, Iceland and Germany are doing. Testing, testing, testing and more testing.

They are keeping a tight handle on their borders, enforcing self-isolation, and working with industry, medical specialists, scientists and the experts in other countries to develop their longterm strategy.

Every day that goes by, our Prime Minister performs his duties, but does not say where we are going and how we are going to get there. The Canadian people need hope, and a map of where we are going to be in three, six, and 12 months.

are so fearful of, but rather laying out a plan of hope and light.

We don't need to look back to see how we got here. We need to be clear when we Ontario. ask our government to come up with a plan.

the next three, six and 12 I look at the results of the status of COVID-19 in Canada and the world.

Is it so difficult to look at breakdown by age. Nowhere, ulation. on our Niagara Regional website, can I find statistics by town, city or community of the active number of cases es(8.2) versus Canada (5.4), and deaths.

> Apparently, our officer of health for the Region believes in privacy over transparency.

> On the other side of the border you can access Niagara County Department of Health and they provide detailed information by each municipality available, by mapping and daily tracking for each county.

> From Sunday's statistics on Covid-19 in our region: Niagara Region:

Total cases - 51, total deaths - 37, translates into 8.2% ratio in the Niagara Region.

City of Toronto:

Total cases - 3,682, to-This is not drawing a line tal deaths - 181, translates in the sand that governments into 4.9% ratio in the City of Toronto.

Ontario:

Total cases - 14,432, total deaths - 835, translates into 5.7% ratio in the Province of all the landlords and store

Canada:

Total cases - 46,644, total One last point. Each week deaths - 2,560, translates into 5.4% ratio in Canada.

When I go to find out constitutes approximately 4.4

ber of cases, deaths, and a per cent of the Ontario pop-

Bottom line, Niagara Region has a considerably higher ratio of deaths to total cas-Ontario (5.7), and Toronto (4.9).

Again, while these numbe large relative to the overall population in Canada, it continues to hit home no matter where you live.

Each of you must defor Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting medical officer of health (905-688-8248 ext 7338) publish more detailed reports by community and locale, rather than leave it up to informed.

Good Samaritans providing masks, helping homeless

Recently the scientific and medical community recommended that everyone should wear a face mask when leaving their residence due to the COVID-19 problem.

Good idea, but just try and find such an item.

All retail stores who have bers may not appear to a supply of masks carry the professional type which are properly reserved for hospital staff etc. An employee at Shoppers Drug Mart who was wearing a "basic" mask cide whether it is important told me her mother got it for her from "a volunteer" who sewed masks at home. After exhausting my search at retail stores, I then searched the internet without success.

I finally telephoned Penour media to keep the public ny Coles at the NOTL Local newspaper to see if maybe Finn Madsen she was aware of any local **NOTL** volunteer groups who may be

making masks. Within a few hours Penny called me with a local address and I was surprised to find the Good Samaritan lived only a few short blocks from me.

This lady is part of a volunteer group who sews these masks and all donated proceeds go to a local homeless shelter. While the masks are very well made and include a filter, they are meant for the regular population and not for professional use such as hospital staff.

This group of volunteers should be congratulated for the time and effort spent in not only helping locals with protection, but also raising funds for the less fortunate.

My personal thanks to the volunteers and Penny and NOTL Local newspaper.

> D. Todd NOTL

Queen Street in need of sprucing up

owners on Queen Street, the help. main street of what was once voted The Prettiest Town in er than ever, but Niagara-Canada.

Please take the time to When you take it a step walk up and down this grafurther, the Niagara Region cious street and look carefully at the poor condition of the what the status of COVID-19 per cent of the total deaths in paint work on the storefronts

Hopefully this will reach ful heritage buildings. At least the clean, well-maintained 90 per cent are in dire need of buildings and stores, in which

> Obviously times are toughon-the-Lake will flourish again, as it did after the SARS virus.

Visitors will return and when they do, they should leave impressed, not just by the beautiful flowers but with

the owners take obvious pride. They must not leave with the impression that our best days are now behind us.

It's an old expression, but it still holds true . . . "You only get one chance to make a good first impression."

Hamish and Leslie Kerr



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



Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local

While the pandemic of The Local, Auchterlonie on no, no, no. Fortunately, a Switzerland.

Leo, and they together form World Wide Web, begun 4:38 p.m.

shrinks the number of pages yes, yes. The other part says search scientist working in

a perfect 90 degree angle at April 30, 1989 by Thomas Berners-Lee – a European One part of you says yes, Organization for Nuclear Re-

words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. The deadline is Monday at noon.

Astrology will also downsize clever idea later this evening to one paragraph.

Sun is in stubborn Taurus, door to tomorrow! and the Moon is in luxurious

opens a door that was pre- terlonie on Astrology on the Thursday, April 30: The viously invisible. This is the notllocal.com Thursday, and

Watch for the full Auchon The NOTL Local Facebook

Happy birthday to the page.



NOTL Golf Club 'ready to go'

Penny Coles The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course is busy these days, but with walkers, not golfers.

The course was in good shape and set to open March 25, with owner-operator John Wiens expecting a great start to the season.

He was ready for it, after two years of disappointing spring weather, but this year, "the way the spring was unfolding, we were excited to get going and to have the club house open."

Of course that hasn't happened, but members have been "overwhelmingly supportive," Wiens says.

Fortunately, the club "has put some money aside for a rainy summer, never expecting on the course, but walking is

would be needed for, he says. The club is also taking ad-

vantage of a couple of federal subsidy programs, and is able to have management employees back at work, including course superintendent Mike Magwood.

"We're allowed to do maintenance on the golf course and keep it healthy," says Wiens. "The course looks great."

Although they've occasionally had to deal with people on the course hitting balls, which isn't permitted, "there have been a tremendous number of walkers and dog-walkers on the course. We don't mind having the community out there walking," he says. "I could have put No Trespassing signs

home, and the walkers are being very respectful."

Some members regularly walk the nine holes, to get in shape for when the course opens, he says, and he and staff are also preparing for that day.

"We're waiting patiently, and we're talking about how we can open up, with physical distancing," he says. "We're going over the protocol, and we're all for it."

When the Province moves toward opening up non-essential businesses, golf courses are expected to be among the first to be allowed to open.

Cleaning would be regular and important, although rakes and ball-washers wouldn't be available, says Wiens. Couples who live together would be the

Bottle drop-off for cadets a permanent fixture

Penny Coles The Local

Scott Ruttan has the perfect set-up to help out local cadets in their bottle collection fundraiser.

The owner of J&S Performance has a large, visible property on East and West Line, at Niagara Stone Road, busy at this time of year with sales and service of mower equipment. But one corner of the property is also busy with locals dropping off bottles and cans that represent a significant amount of cash for the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron.

About 15 years ago, when his son Jeff was a cadet, Ruttan came up with the idea of a bottle drive as a fundraiser.

"We were always looking for a way to make money," he says. The collection involved parents and cadets picking up bottles around town, and the first time, collecting \$1,800 for the squadron. The next year there were two drives, and that has continued every year since, with one the Saturday after New Year's Day to take advantage of the holiday empties, the second the first Saturday after Labour Day. Last week was intended to be the first bottle drive in the Virgil area, he says, but that was cancelled due to COVID-19. Some people seem to be confused about the drop-off also being cancelled, he adds, but that is ongoing, year-round, and is turning out to be a good

add-on to the drives, which make about \$4,000 to \$4,500 each time, and "go a long way towards running the cadet programs," says Ruttan.

While he is no longer part of the cadet squadron, others over the years have taken it over while their kids were involved, including Tony Hendriks, the Van Noorts of Van Noort Florists, and now Cory Abt.

The Van Noorts donated a large trailer, which sits yearround on the J&S property.

Bottles and cans are sorted at the Ruttans and Van Noorts, and now the The Beer Store sends a truck to pick them up, says Ruttan.

"Over the years, the money raised has given the cadets a lot of opportunities for field training, and for March Break trips."

The bottle collection site is at 901 East and West Line. Look for the J&S Performance sign. The business and bottle drive are open, adhering to provincial COVID-19 protocols.



it would be a virus summer" it important, and walking from only golfers allowed to share a cart, and tee times would be 20 minutes apart instead of 10, with all golfers required to respect physical distancing.

> He doesn't expect to open the club house at first, he says, but once the course is open, they're considering offering take-out.

> "As soon as we're allowed to open, with protocols in place, we're ready to go."

Harry Huizer, club member and avid golfer, plans to be ready to go as well. He's itching to get out on the course, and in the meantime, he's out in his back yard every day, with five or six golf clubs, practising his swing, and chipping balls.

"I'll be so ready when golfing starts, I'll be way ahead," he says optimistically. "I feel like my game is going to be pretty good."

Swinging a club, he says, helps the body loosen up, and as he swings, "I can visualize how great I can be. I'm working on things I've learned over the years, and hopefully I'm improving."

But then golfers tend to be an optimistic bunch, he says.

"When the season begins, I always have great hope. But then golf is a game full of hope."

Village markets may open, but will look different

Local staff

brightly coloured picnic tables along Niagara Stone Road by The Village, and wonder whether the popular weekly markets will return this season, co-ordinator Sharon Brinsmead-Taylor has some information to share.

Public events are on hold until June 30 at this point, and "if and when things do begin to open up, we know that the SupperMarket will not be able to run as it has in the past."

What that means, she "we really are not says,

regional health department place for our farmers and food to have the Farmers' Market open on the scheduled date of For those who drive by the May 23. "The provincial government has deemed farmers' markets as an essential service, but it will by no means be business as usual. The health of our customers and our vendors is our number one priority."

> There will be strict social distancing and food handling rules in effect, in accordance with the guidelines of the public health department, says Brinsmead-Taylor. "As an alternative to grocery store shopping, we will offer an open-air 'food less touched' option."

Getting local food into losure. We are working on a few cal hands, while supporting the says Brinsmead-Taylor, on the scenarios to attempt to salvage farming community, is more im- weekends leading up to the some type of a season, and sup- portant now than ever, she says. "However, the uncertainty of the SupperMarket in 2020 presents us with challenges in operating our Farmers' Market

> this season. The income that The Market @ The Village has

realized from the SupperMar-

ket over the years has been

vendors to sell their goods."

The costs incurred to run the weekly seasonal market are not covered by the reasonable rates the farmers are charged, she says.

"This year, we will need the help of our community more than ever. Several local businesses have come forward, offering us cut-rates on their services, and donations. We truly appreciate their support. If there are any local businesses that feel they could be of assistance, please ask them to reach out directly to me."

Also, to give people something to brighten their days, opening of the Farmers' Market (May 1, 2, 3; May 8, 9, 10; and May 15, 16, and 17), Niagara Flower Growers will set up at the site with "contactless sale" of their hydrangeas and Boston ferns. They will be open those days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To reach Brinsmead-Taylor, email notl.market@ gmail.com.



Harry Huizer is practising in his back yard, visualizing a great season when the NOTL Golf Course opens. (Photo submitted)



the beautiful NOTL Golf Course while it's closed, but she will

be happy to walk the course again with a golf club when it is

allowed to open for the season. (Penny Coles)

notllocal.com



Charlie Rate drops off bottles at J&S Performance on East and West Line, in an area set aside for a permanent drop-off to raise money for the local air cadet squadron. (Penny Coles)

port our vendors."

That will depend on getting approval from the Town, and the Niagara Region public health department, she says, promising to keep the public 'updated as things transpire."

The good news, Brinsmead-Taylor says, is that she used to subsidize our Farmers' is working closely with the Market, making it an affordable



Young couple walking for Canadian Cancer Society

Penny Coles The Local

Adrienne Keller and her husband Matt, a young couple living in the Old Town, like to walk, and getting outside has become even more important now, with them both working from home in close quarters.

Adrienne says they feel very fortunate to be able to go out their front door and head towards the Commons and the Niagara River Recreation Trail, two beautiful places to walk, getting some exercise for themselves and Ernie, their energetic puppy.

when Adrienne realized it was Daffodil Month, and all fundraisers, including the door-to-door campaign, and many oth-

er events, had been can- the Hamilton office of the celled due to COVID-19. Canadian Cancer Soci-She calls herself a "cancer ety, they have committed fighter," and has partici- to walking 20 kilometres pated in several Relay for along the Niagara River Life and Rankin Cancer Recreation Trail this Sat-Run fundraising events. urday, May 2. That takes Realizing this year that them, and Ernie, from wouldn't be possible, home to Queenston and she wondered what she back again, says Adrienne. could do to help out with such an important cause, also helping to promote "without breaking any their walk, and they are rules of this lockdown."

ful to be living in a small similar. cottage on Platoff Street, It allows them to live in and support is greatly aping close enough to her ready to get walking." Earlier this month, to check in and make sure she's okay. Although the https://support.cancer.ca/ cottage is small, there is a site/TR/IFE_ON_Event/ definite advantage of be- IFE_ON_General_?px ing close to walking trails. =13404939&pg=personal With support from &fr_id=27159

The Hamilton office is hoping others may think They are very grate- about doing something

There is a Cancer Sowhich belongs to Matt's ciety fundraising page for 90-year-old grandmother. donations, and any help the Old Town, while be- preciated, she says. "We're

To donate, go to





Adrienne and Matt Keller, with Ernie, will walk 20 kilometres along the Niagara Parkway Recreation Trail Saturday, hoping to raise money for cancer research. (Photo supplied)







The Farmhouse Café is currently closed due to COVID-19.

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Closure hard on Red Roof clients, families

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

For Dani Botbyl and her family, the past seven weeks have been challenging ones.

Her son Devon, 16, was born with a rare chromosome condition that leaves lievably understanding and him with global delays and autistic tendencies. For more than a decade, Red Roof Retreat has been Devon's "happy place." Since the COVID-19 pandemic became a reality, though, he hasn't been able to attend the various programs he usually enjoys.

staff made the difficult decision on March 13 to close all locations of Red Roof Retreat. The shutdown was necessary, as the first Niagara person reported to have contracted the virus was a resident of Ina Grafton Gage Village in St. Catharines.

That complex houses one of three locations for Red Roof Retreat, including the therapeutic swimming pool, a five-pin bowling alley, and activity rooms where Red Roof's adult day program, teen night, Saturday camp and Dad's Swim are held.

The services and activities provided by Red Roof Retreat become a major part of the lives of families

tivities and gatherings, and their families and caregivers camp today?' And still, sevwho rely on these programs en weeks later, he's asking 'is for much-needed rest and there a Red Roof program recharging.

"Our families were unbesupportive," says Bjorgan. cial young man, she says, who "At the end of the day, they want to protect their own loved ones. It is hard, though, when you're providing a service that gives those families him for a loop," adds Dani. a break, and now . . . they're getting no break at all."

The Botbyl family (par-Steffanie Bjorgan and her ents Dani and Scott, Devon at the knees. His social netand his 15-year-old sister Elise) live about five minutes by bicycle from Red Roof's Concession 6 Ranch location. Devon's connection to Red Roof began informally. "We'd go and enjoy the outdoor space there," says Dani. "We'd visit the animals, play Dani can work from home, on the playground equipment, use the walking trail the pandemic, but will soon around the pond."

> became involved in every program that was appropriate for his age.

With all those programs currently on hold, his mom Devon, because he needs admires Devon for being a care 24/7. We'll have to jug-"trooper."

"He's coping better than is going to work." what I had anticipated," says

special needs, for the par- has been calm, right from the Devon usually attends for six ticipants who enjoy the ac- beginning he would wake weeks, is also on hold. up and ask, 'is it Saturday today?' So he misses it, and we all miss it too."

> Devon is an extremely sothrives on his connections with others at Eden High School, and at Red Roof.

> "This has really thrown "It's heartbreaking to see the programs that bring so much joy to your child being cut off work has been cut off. And we depend on a lot of the services at Red Roof to give us an opportunity to rejuvenate and get things done around the house. Now those things are on hold as well."

Luckily for the Botbyls, and Scott is off work during be heading back to work as As Devon grew older, he a carpenter with the District School Board of Niagara.

> "We're going to have to problem-solve how we are going to manage to care for gle a few balls to see how that

with children or adults with Dani. "Though his behaviour Roof's summer camp, which ers, and that situation is still

"Right now, knowing that we might not have Red Roof Retreat's summer camp, it's throwing us into a bit of a tailspin," laments Dani. With few alternatives for Red Roof clients, Dani says, "What are we going to do in the summer months, both for Devon's enjoyment and for us to be able to carry on with our work lives?"

Says Bjorgan, "The impact of (our clients) being home, I'm not sure how each family has managed to do it. They're getting no break at all. For some of our families, if you're an aging parent, and you're doing lifting and personal care, the pressures are huge on your body, your mental state and your emotional well-being.

"And when I picture some of our clients who are very physically active, or who have autism, they need to move, they need to get out, and they don't deal well with change. They don't deal well without a structure. It just breaks my heart."

Bjorgan experiences all of this first-hand with her own son, 26-year-old Garrett. She adds. "One of our nurses beand her husband Moe share Garrett's care with nurses For the time being, Red and Personal Support Work-

Devon Botbyl, with his sister Elise, is missing his Red Roof Retreat programs. The cancellation of programs impacts families as well as clients. (Photo supplied)

happening for the family, to ture, Bjorgan still can't say a degree.

It's hard to know what to do, she explains. "To take him out of his routine is very stressful, and some of those workers want their jobs. We have been super diligent, cleaning, disinfecting, and communicating really well with each other."

"We did have a scare," she came ill, but she tested negative for COVID-19. Every day you just keep your fingers crossed." Looking to the near fu-

how Red Roof Retreat will get back to business as usual.

"When we look at all of our programs," she says, "our most essential ones would be our daily programs and our respite. We would probably get those going first. We would do a slow start, we wouldn't just open our doors and say let's go. We don't know whether or not this virus is going to spike back up, and I'd hate to open all of our doors and then be shut down again."







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KNAUER, LOTTE— Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 with complications of a stroke. Predeceased by her beloved Rudy. Mother to Andrew (Karen) and Phoebe (David). Cherished Oma of Max and Jason. Predeceased by her sister Wanda and brother Kurt of Germany. Lotte was born in Romania in 1934. She came to Niagara-on-the-Lake in the 1950's to marry the love of

her life Rudy. They built a legacy of love and laughter together. Lotte will be sadly missed by her furry sidekick "Schnitzel". The main street of Niagaraon-the-Lake will never be the same without her smile. A special thanks to all of the kind and caring front line workers at Niagara General Hospital who went above and beyond to make her passing peaceful.

OBITUARY

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

JO-ANN CUDMORE



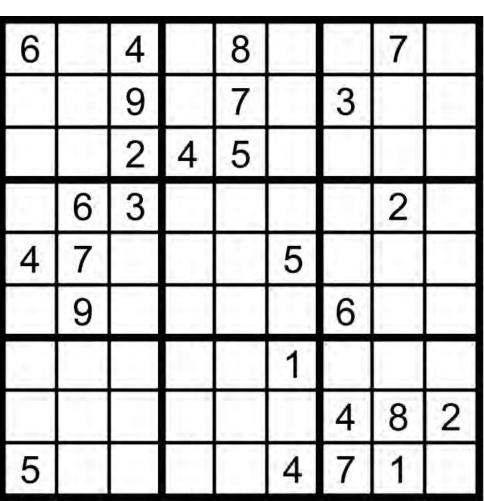
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SUDOKU PUZZLE



12 Weeding implement 13 Molten rock 15 Deceive 16 Letters after business names 17 Colorist 18 Merkel or Lansbury 19 Inaction 21 SNL network 23 Stage 24 Enter 25 Boil 28 Indicate 30 Happening 34 Jekyll's alter ego 37 Cereal grain 38 Outcry 39 The Emirates 40 Ft. divisions 41 Hit 42 NASDAQ debut 43 Vino selection 45 Heated argument 46 Ran off 47 Detect 48 Ship 50 Some music storage media 52 Tars

"Before Abraham was, -66 (Jesus) 67 Farm fertilizer 68 Yesteryear 69 Chest bone 70 Ooze 71 Theater for some vets, briefly 72 Double helix molecule (Abbr.) Down: Egg beater 2 Spanish card game 3 Rot 4 Type of Venetian type 5 Howls at the moon 6 Hail --- Solo (Harrison Ford 7 character) 8 Heart test 9 Careen 10 Vitriol 11 Catch 14 "Arrested Development" star Will --15 Sensitivity 20 Team 22 Social gathering

33 Stepped 34 Centers 35 Connecticut university 36 College head 38 Intimidates 40 Chilled 41 Top banana 44 White House defense advisory grp. 45 Medicament 46 Tire problem 48 Promise 49 Regard 51 Speed 53 Scottish land proprietor 54 Clemens' pen name 55 Rio de Janeiro dance 56 Hemispherical roof 57 Lizzie Borden took ---, ... 58 Restaurant card 60 Southern soup ingredient 62 Chum 63 Wrath 65 Distant but within sight

31 Track legend --- Zatopek

32 Informal negative

Sudoku solution from April 23, 2020 2 6 1 5 3 9 7 4 8 7 8 4 6 2 1 3 9 5 3 4 9 8 1 7 2 6 5 9 2 3 8 6 5 1 4 7 5 3 7 9 4 6 8 2 1 6 8 4 1 2 5 3 9 7 1 5 9 7 3 8 2 6 4 2 7 6 4 1 9 5 3 8 9 3 6 2 5 8 4 7 1

.am, 67 Manure, 68 Yore, 69 Rib, 70 Exude, 71 Nam, 72 DNA. Salts, 56 Dam, 59 Awe, 60 Ottawa, 61 One bit, 64 Dyke, 66 I 45 Row, 46 Fled, 47 Sense, 48 Vessel, 50 C D R-O Ms, 52 38 Clamor, 39 U A E, 40 Ins, 41 Bop, 42 I P O, 43 Blanco, 24 Key in, 25 Seethe, 28 Denote, 30 Event, 34 Hyde, 37 Oat, in, 16 Inc, 17 Dyer, 18 Angela, 19 Stasis, 21 N B C, 23 Leg, Across: 1 W M D, 4 A B A, 7 Herbs, 12 Hoe, 13 Lava, 15 Take

57 An ax, 58 Menu, 60 Okra, 62 Bud, 63 Ire, 65 Yon. 49 Esteem, 51 Rate, 53 Laird, 54 Twain, 55 Samba, 56 Dome, 40 Iced, 41 Boss, 44 N S C, 45 Remedy, 46 Flat, 48 Vow, Emil, 32 Nope, 33 Trod, 34 Hubs, 35 Yale, 36 Dean, 38 Cows, 20 Side, 22 Bee, 25 So as, 26 Help, 27 Eva, 29 No-no, 31 7 Han, 8 E K G, 9 Reel, 10 Bile, 11 Snag, 14 Amett, 15 Tact, Down: 1 Whisk, 2 Monte, 3 Decay, 4 Aldine, 5 Bays, 6 Ave,

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 - Decorative Hardwood
 - Four Seasons
 Pine Mulch

Decorative Stone

- Gold Stone
- 1/2" Beauti-Drive
 - Silica Pebbles
 - 1" Terra Stone
 - River Rock
 - Soil
 - Top Dressing
 - Topsoil
 - Triple Mix

Gravel

- 1/2" Clear
- 3/4" Clear
- Traffic Binder
- Masonry Sand
- Concrete Sand
 - Screening

Delivery Available

