

# The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Jennifer Phipps lived and died knowing she was loved by friends

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notllocal.com MAY 2, 2019 Volume 1 • Issue 16



## Public opinion could impact tree bylaw revisions

Penny Coles  
The Local

There has already been one change made to Niagara-on-the-Lake's tree bylaw, and at least one more amended version is expected as town staff work their way through a new process, learning along the way.

The bylaw was passed quickly in December, within days of the new council being sworn in, and the first revision of it was approved in March. Another town staff report is expected in September, based on information gathered from residents and staff, and more changes are expected to follow.

Bylaw supervisor Rolf Wiens and Warwick Perrin, in charge of the tree bylaw, spoke to about 50 people at

an open house held Thursday at the town hall, and admitted they are still struggling with certain aspects of the bylaw.

Its goal is to preserve healthy trees within the town's urban forest, on private properties in urban areas, and does not apply to rural areas or woodlots, explained Perrin.

Although it only applies to trees larger than a certain size in diameter, and not all trees are regulated, "we would like you to make an application for every tree you want to take down," Perrin said. The request for an application is for "selfish reasons," he added — if the Town gets calls from residents about a neighbour up in a tree with a chain saw, a follow-up will be easier if an application is on file, even

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## Magnolia tree 'spectacular'

Yvonne Pagonis isn't sure how old the magnolia tree on her front lawn is, but it was there when she and her husband bought their Queenston home 50 years ago. She has seen a photograph of it taken in the early 1930s, when it was just a shrub. Both her daughters were married at home when it was in bloom, "and it was spectacular. It's a really beautiful tree, and we've enjoyed it all these years." She's been told it's one of the oldest in town. (Fred Mercnik)

## Options being considered to continue interlibrary loans

Penny Coles  
The Local

Niagara library boards and staff are not wasting any time in looking for solutions that could continue interlibrary book delivery for their patrons.

The Doug Ford Conservatives announced last week they are cutting funding to Northern and Southern Ontario Library Services, two organizations which support public libraries across the province through interlibrary loans, book delivery

and staff training.

SOLS is having its funding reduced to \$1.5 million, from the \$3 million it received last year.

The immediate response to the announcement was that interlibrary book loans were cancelled, but in Ni-

agara that message quickly changed to a temporary suspension of book deliveries.

The loan system is still in place, and library board members and CEOs are on a search for alternatives to get books from one library to another, said NOTL Pub-

lic Library board vice-chair Daryl Novak.

Since the funding cut was announced as a step to reduce the provincial deficit, there have been discussions about potential solutions, he said, first at a local board meeting last Wednesday,

and then this weekend at a pre-arranged meeting for the boards of the 12 municipal library systems in the Niagara region.

The meeting was planned as an opportunity for new

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# ‘Priority is doing what’s best for customers’

Continued from page 1

trustees to meet each other, and the agenda had been set before there was any thought of funding cuts, said Novak, although he expected at least some talk of what was on everybody’s minds — how to continue delivery of interlibrary loans.

“There was some discussion of funding cuts and SOLS, on the importance of advocacy and the need

to make our voices heard,” said Novak. While planned presentations on other topics went ahead, “there was also a fair bit of discussion and concern about the regional review — whether we are even going to exist as municipalities and as separate library systems.”

At last week’s NOTL library board meeting, Novak said, statistics of interlibrary loans were discussed. In “rough numbers,” he said, “of

about 100,000 pieces of various material borrowed last year, the interlibrary loans were in the low hundreds, not all that significant in relation to the total. What was significant was borrowing within the Niagara region, which was close to 8,000.”

However, those items borrowed through the regional library cooperative were delivered by the SOLS courier, he said.

Libraries need to deter-

mine their priorities, and interlibrary loans are more important to some than others, he added. “Some libraries are net borrowers, and some are net lenders. In NOTL we borrow more than we lend, so maintaining the system might be more of a priority for us than for a library that lends more than it borrows. There will be interesting discussions ahead.”

There is no doubt funding cuts are impacting local libraries, which need to be part of any advocacy role to impress upon the Province the significance of the funding cuts, said Novak, “but will the Province say they made a mistake? We can’t put all our energy into hoping there will be a change in provincial policy. We have to come up with a plan B to continue to move items from one place to another, if not across Ontario, at least through a local system.”

It was agreed at the regional meeting that CEOs of Niagara libraries will begin discussing options, and while it won’t happen overnight, it will likely take weeks rather than months to put a solution in place, he said.

A “plethora” of ideas has



Daryl Novak is the NOTL library board vice-chair. (Photo supplied)

been tossed around, including regional libraries purchasing a van together, using Canada Post for books, which is “relatively inexpensive,” or organizing volunteers to provide the delivery service, Novak said. Whatever is decided for the short and long-term, “the end result could make the service even better.”

The next steps will also include discussions about how to pay for any option that is considered, and what

impact that might have on other library programs, he said.

“What is the best option, how much will it cost, and how will we pay for it? Is it more important than other things we’re doing? It’s far too early to predict the answers. The discussion will go on for a few weeks while the CEOs talk to each other,” said Novak.

“Our biggest concern is continuing to do the best we can for our library users.”



## Blossom time

Orchards began to blossom last weekend, and should be spectacular by this weekend. (Fred Mercnik)

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Margaret Huber, a former diplomat, hasn’t used an interlibrary book loan for some time, but said she has found it valuable in the past. She said she’s dismayed for students, who often use the service for their studies. Community libraries are especially important for young people, she added. “I know the local library meant a lot to me as a young person. I can still remember the day I got my first library card.” (Penny Coles)



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# Jennifer Phipps: gifted, loved, with ‘the best smile’

**Lauren O’Malley**  
The Local

A storyteller has departed. So says Beatrice Campbell on the passing of Jennifer Phipps, esteemed Shaw Festival actress. Campbell has known Phipps almost since birth. “Shortly after I was born, my father (Douglas Campbell) played the lead in The Entertainer. Jenny played his wife, and my mother (Moirá Wylie) was awkwardly playing their daughter. She’s always been part of our world.”

The Shaw stage manager continues, “I remember visiting her in the late 70s or early 80s. She was so quirky, and her house was full of ‘objets’ that were fun to look at. Kids were always bestowed with things. Her house was covered in trinkets and she loved to share.”

Phipps’ generosity is mentioned by many, and was a keystone of her personal character, whether in the theatre or out of it. “She was extremely truthful as an actor, and prided herself on being able to deliver some of the essentials of the play. She was extremely generous, on stage and off,” says Christopher Newton, former artistic director of the Shaw. “She knew what she was saying — not all actors do — and she always knew how her part fit into the production.”

Newton continues, “She worked almost to the end of her life, and that was a beautiful thing to see: beautiful, honest, good, real and caring, and with all that experience. She was a great craftsman as well as an artist.”

“I look around my house and remember her,” says long-time friend and fellow actor Nuala Fitzgerald. “She found out early on I like frogs, and now my house is absolutely festooned with them.” She also recalls an abundant correspondence. “Jenny wrote wonderful letters on whatever was handy — I would pull out little torn strips of paper and realize that was page three.”

“Dame Jenny,” as she was known, was also famous for her humour. “She was infinitely watchable, inventive, and very funny,” says Shaw alum Corinne Koslo. “She had impeccable timing, and was a gracious,

kind, brilliant actress. She did things with text you had never seen done before.”

“She drank vodka and I drank whisky and we sat on the porch and smoked cheroots,” says Fitzgerald, evoking a wonderful image. “We laughed so much together. She was just a very special individual.”

“She had a laugh that could crack open the sky,” says Koslo, pausing as if listening to it now. Friendship was another strong quality of Phipps, which Campbell credits possibly to the fact she was sent to boarding school at age five, and would have had to learn to adapt and bond.

Her early life was theatrical unto itself, if somewhat tragic. Campbell recounts Phipps was born out of wedlock in London in 1932, “and was kind of tucked away. She was adopted at six weeks old by two sisters,” she says. “She called one of them Mummy — she was calling for her in her sleep at the end.”

Her birth mother and grandmother were always in her life, but she wasn’t allowed to identify them as such, says Campbell. “She had a very strange life. She never knew who her father was — until she accidentally found out during an audition. She mentioned her mother and grandmother’s names, because they were also in the theatre, and the director said, ‘Oh, you’re Martin Walker’s child.’ She replied, ‘Oh, am I? I hadn’t known.’”

Perhaps as a result of these things, says Campbell, “there was always something of a little girl needing attention and love as a way of knowing she was real.”

Says Fitzgerald, “she had a great deal of courage. She had a lot of adversity in life — she worked through so many situations where a lot of us would just lay down and stop.”

The actress seems to have found ways to use that pain and adversity to her advantage on stage. “She was so gifted, so creative; she had a marvellously quixotic mind,” says Fitzgerald. “That’s why she was such a gifted actor: she never approached anything head-on; she always found a way to circle it and find her own way in.”

“Like everyone who was at

the Shaw with her, Jenny was one of those actors you were always looking up to; she was so impressive,” says Koslo. “You could never see the work in progress. One day she would just show up with a perfectly three-dimensional character. She brought such heart to her roles — she made me care about her character.”

“Jenny was an actor the day she was born. There was not a day when she wasn’t acting,” says Campbell. “And she managed to know every spectrum of people in the business. Her accountant is desolate at the loss. The staff at Valu-mart would give me food for her. An usher gave me a small envelope of cash to help her. She was charming — she was able to make you feel better about yourself when she turned her twinkle your way.”

Phipps had health and financial issues in the last few years of her life. “The thing about actors is there’s no retirement age,” says Campbell.

“You don’t have a pension. You’re focused on different things. Old age most harshly takes people by surprise. The only way to survive in the arts is to have the blind faith that something good is just around the corner. Why else would they subject themselves to this life? It’s a bizarre profession.”

Campbell credits “Doctor Theatre” for boosting Phipps’ career near the end. “People can be unable to walk or speak off stage, and then they get on stage and you would never know there was anything wrong with them. Only in the last year did Jenny admit she was old.”

“Right to the very end she thought the next job was right around the corner,” says Barbara Worthy, one of Phipps’ long-time friends and part of the circle of caregivers.

There were some difficult times, fiscally and physically, toward the end of Phipps’ life, and her friends stood by her and helped her through it all. “It really has been a show of her character that she had as many people to care for her as she did,” says Campbell.

A team of seven friends on rotation cared for Phipps as she went through the process of sell-

ing her house and moving after a quarter century of residency, going through double hip surgery, and more. “There has been a team of people caring for Jenny for the past few years. A really lovely group,” says Campbell. “All of us have known Jenny for decades. A beautiful group of people who made things happen when they had to, especially for the last year as things deteriorated.”

“She had lots of friends, people who were around her purely for socializing,” Campbell continues. “I was a caregiver, a helper — a bossy boots. I went back from London on a day off, took her to a medical appointment, and when we got back, I started to do things around her place, cleaning up, doing dishes. She stopped me, and said, ‘Let’s just sit.’ We had a cup of tea, went through a book of clippings, watched the movie Juno, and had a normal ‘friend’ visit. I’m very grateful for that, because she went into the hospital shortly after that and I never saw her outside of the hospital after that.”

Last year, says Campbell, actor Patrick McManus had an idea to throw a celebration for Jenny that might raise some funds. “When she sold her house the fundraising became unnecessary, so he decided it would be more fun to have a party for her 87th birthday. He got the ball rolling, and it was decided to hold it at St. Mark’s church.”

Campbell continues, “then



Jennifer Phipps lived and died a woman knowing she was much-loved by a large group of friends. (David Cooper, Shaw Festival)

Sis Weld offered to have it at her house, which made Jenny happy because her house is very grand. Then Jenny went into the hospital, sadly, and we had to play a waiting game until we realized she wouldn’t be leaving the hospital.”

“She was moved to Douglas Memorial Palliative Care — lovely people. They offered a room for the party. Two days before, it became clear she wasn’t going to be able to attend the party. She had even chosen the dress — a fabulous sequinned number with a butterfly on the front of it,” Campbell says.

The birthday party went on as planned, with its guest of honour upstairs in her palliative care bed. “It actually turned out to be quite perfect,” says Campbell. “Everybody gathered in the room, Margaret Molokach made two of her famous cakes, Patty Jamieson brought food, Janice Thomson brought juice for the kids.”

“Then one to two people went up to Jenny’s room at a time, and got to have private, individual visits, and give her a hug and a kiss,” says Campbell. “When the pastor came, it was like she was resurrected. He prayed over her and she lifted her arms over her head and sang Onward, Christian Soldiers,” she says, chuckling. Phipps died just days later.

“I feel her around so strongly, and feel we will feel her around here forever. She shall be missed. She was an impish, mischievous, very tactile human being. I miss her already,” says Fitzgerald sadly.

“She was an elder in the theatre community. But we get all the gifts from them — it’s like saplings,” says Koslo.

“The most important thing to remember is she was an extremely fine actor, a terrific actor. I’m happy to say I told her that many times,” says Newton.

“She had the best smile, just the most wonderful smile,” says Fitzgerald.

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# Special council meeting recognizes heritage

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

When Lord Mayor Betty Disero opened and closed the special council meeting to celebrate heritage Monday at the Niagara Historical Society and Museum, her pride was evident.

And she shared that with those gathered to celebrate with her. “I’m thrilled to be Lord Mayor of a town that takes so much care of its heritage and preserving it,” she said. “I can’t tell you how proud I am of that.”

Disero also spoke of the Town and Regional funding that provided heritage grants for more than 100 properties last year — since the inception of the

Niagara-on-the-Lake Heritage Grant Incentive Program in 2005, she said, the Town has processed more than 100 applications to conserve the heritage attributes of town buildings.

“A total of \$54,413 was provided for heritage grants last year. And over the past several years — with combined funding from the Town and Region of Niagara — nearly \$700,000 has been provided for heritage conservation projects within our municipality.”

Pride was what the celebration was all about. Chris Zoetewey of Parks Canada spoke of the restoration of Butler’s Barracks as part of an “unprecedented” \$3 billion federal infrastructure investment

in heritage projects across the country, aimed in part at “halting the loss of significant built heritage.” The restoration earned a Peter J. Stokes Heritage Commendation for the project, which turned the barracks, built in 1814, into a modern-day field unit office.

“Adaptive reuse has been around for a long time,” said Zoetewey, pointing out a photo of his office in a corner of the building, which also now has a reception area and a kitchen — modern amenities in a structure that boasts remnants of its 200-year-old shell.

After being used for many purposes throughout its first 150 years, in 1966 it was slated for demolition, along with some

other buildings on the Commons, Zoetewey said. They were saved by residents who made a case to the Department of National Defence, then in control of the property, that the buildings should be kept. “They remain there today,” he said.

Recognized with heritage plaques were Kathie and Bill Clark for 109 Queen St.; 167 Regent St., a house which has just sold but was owned by Henry Wiens; and 156 Gate St., owned by Christian Martineau and Denis Frenette.

Receiving Peter J. Stokes Heritage Commendations, in addition to Butler’s Barracks, was the Voices of Freedom Park; the restoration of the home of Thomas and

Kimberley Elltoft; Steve Cohen and Joe Carlino for the compatible design of 210 Centre St.; recognition for the adaptive reuse of 1607 Four Mile Creek Rd., once the Virgil fire hall, now Teenie Panini, a bak-

ery with two apartments above it; and 23 Four Mile Creek Rd. for maintenance of the property and its mature trees and gardens, now owned by Creekside Senior Estates Cooperative.



Drew Chapman, vice-chair of the Municipal Heritage Committee and chair Janice Johnston, with Lord Mayor Betty Disero, congratulate Tom and Kimberley Elltoft with their daughter Ruby, on their Peter J. Stokes Heritage Commendation for the renovation of their historic home at 31 Prideaux St.



Celebrating heritage Monday night at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s special council meeting were Lord Mayor Betty Disero; architect Tom Ridout and landscaper Don Dawson, who were presented with a certificate for the contemporary design for the Voices of Freedom Park; Coun. John Wiens; Coun. Clare Cameron; George Webber, Wilma Morrison and Donna Ford, on the Voices of Freedom committee; Coun. Gary Burroughs; Coun. Stuart McCormack; Shauna Butts, assistant curator of the Niagara Historical Society and Museum; Coun. Wendy Cheropita; John Hawley, who with John Wiens led the fundraising campaign for the park; Coun. Norm Arsenault; Coun. Allan Bisback; Kevin Turcotte; J.B. Hopkins, Town parks supervisor; and Amy Klassen, acting managing director of the Niagara Historical Society and Museum. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Philip Hoad of the Municipal Heritage Committee, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Janice Johnston present the Peter J. Stokes Commendation to Chris Zoetewey (centre) and Brendan Buggeln of Parks Canada for the restoration of Butler’s Barracks.



Ron Dale and Janice Johnston congratulate architect Tom Ridout and landscaper Don Dawson for the work they did on the Voices of Freedom Park.

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# Residents question need for arborist's report for ash trees

Continued from page 1

though a permit may not be necessary.

"It's an evolving process at the moment," he said, referring to staff trying to discover who is taking down a tree and if approval has been granted. At one point, it took town staff several hours of investigation following a complaint to discover a tree was being taken down on town property, by town staff.

If a tree is dead or dying, or on the town's list of nuisance and weed trees, residents are encouraged to fill out an application, and will be given a letter of permission at no cost, he said.

When asked how long that would take, he said he didn't know. As the weather gets warmer and people come out to do yard work, the staff work load can be expected to increase. "Give us as much time as you can," he suggested.

Wiens said it will take longer if there are several trees to be removed, due to the required arborist report. "We're still trying to figure this out. I would hope you would give us at least a week's notice — two weeks would be better."

When there are several trees to be removed, a site plan and photos should also be provided, said Perrin. And if there are more than three trees to come down, a replacement plan is also required, along with an explanation of why removal is necessary.

"That's something that's difficult for us," said Wiens. "If you don't like it or think it's too big, it's hard for us to agree to it." Unless it's evident there is a problem with the tree, he added, it would be difficult for staff to approve its removal.

A permit has to be displayed on the property, and is valid for 90 days, said Perrin. If a permit is refused, the applicant has seven days to appeal, which goes to council to decide.

Each tree removed must be replaced, and depending on its size and variety, one tree can require as many as five replacements, he said. If it's not possible onsite, the town will replant on a site of its choice.

The permit cost to an individual property owner is \$50 for one tree and \$25 for each subsequent one, and \$250 per tree if it's a corporation. A security deposit of \$250 is required for every tree under application from an individual owner, and \$500 for a corporation. The deposit is refunded once town staff investigate and confirm replacements have been planted, said Wiens.

Applications can be filled out online at [notl.org/content/private-tree-removal-application-form](http://notl.org/content/private-tree-removal-application-form), and are also available at the town hall.

When asked about a penalty for removing a tree without a permit, Wiens explained town staff would check the list of trees approved, either by permit or letter, and if they don't find it, would visit the site, and as long as it's still safe to do so, would stop it.

The Town has two charges in process for taking down trees without approval, but it's not always easy to prove they were removed after the passing of the tree bylaw, he said.

Can a resident phone in to report a tree being taken down? Although generally bylaws are enforced on a complaint basis, if town staff see an infraction, they are instructed to phone it in, said Wiens. "We're still trying to develop the process."

A bylaw officer will stop, "but it's better to check with the office to see if a permit or letter has been issued rather than go in guns blazing." When it comes to the tree bylaw, staff are told to be proactive, he said.

"We're not tree experts, but we can tell within a few days or a week if it's a fresh cut. We'll be charging," he added, but without proof of when the tree was cut, "we don't know how that will go in court. Photos would be helpful."

Coun. Gary Burroughs told Wiens he's had experience trying to complain — the first question he was asked was if he would be willing to testify in court.

"Was the tree taken down or not — that's the issue, not whether we're going to end up

in court."

An eye witness would help with a court case, and a fine has to be issued by a justice of the peace after taking a charge to court, Wiens said.

With two charges in the works now, he said, "they will give us some idea how it will go in court. Maybe we can keep neighbours out of it if we have experts involved. I don't know that."

Before the meeting was turned over to residents for questions, Coun. Wendy Cheropita said the comments she had heard were valid, and should be considered. "There may be some missing links because we pushed the bylaw through quickly" to get it on the books, she said, suggesting town staff work with arborists and landscapers in the community to ensure they're familiar with the bylaw and how it works.

Coun. Stuart McCormack asked staff to consider "rephrasing this legal document" in language easier to understand, to be posted on the website.

Asked by a resident why a permit is necessary to remove an ash tree, which because of disease is likely either dead or dying, Wiens said it's not easy to tell in the winter when there are no leaves on the tree.

"We're not even sure how we're going to deal with it in the middle of summer."

The Town has an arborist on staff, "but I'm not sure we're going to have time to send him out to check every ash tree," he said.

One of several tree experts representing removal services said it's not that easy to identify an ash tree, and an arborist should investigate before approval is given.

As the meeting wrapped up, Coun. Gary Burroughs said he would like to hear the responses from staff and residents before a final report is presented in September, when the bylaw is expected to undergo its last revision.

But Wiens said he thought it would be better to wait, "to get more experience with this bylaw over the summer, to collect more information and

have a more comprehensive report by September."

Talking after the meeting, Burroughs and NOTL Conservancy member Sandra O'Connor said they have concerns about the bylaw being too lenient in some areas and too onerous on residents in others — especially in relation to requiring permits for ash tree removal, noted O'Connor. In a recent presentation to the conservancy, she applauded NOTL councillors for approving the only tree bylaw for private property in the Niagara region. Noting the number of signs popping up saying, "My tree doesn't need a bylaw," mainly in rural

areas, she said it's important to remember the bylaw only protects trees within urban boundaries.

Regarding ash trees, she said, "a property owner should not need to incur the cost to acquire a certificate by an arborist in order to classify the tree as an ash tree. A designated town representative could declare that it is an ash tree and approve the permit to cut the tree with no costs to the property owner."

She suggested the information on the Town's website could be more user-friendly, and that tree protection language in the Official Plan now under review could be

stronger.

Above all, she said, "transparency is needed in the process and the decision-making. Citizens have to believe that decisions are fair and can see that the process is being applied appropriately."

Burroughs is also concerned about the way residents' input will be treated. "Town staff have the comments. We should be reacting to them," he said. "This is about the Town and the residents working together. It's not about making more rules, it's about taking great ideas and using them to protect trees. The residents are not the enemy."



Coun. Gary Burroughs and NOTL Conservancy member Sandra O'Connor have concerns about the tree bylaw in its current form. (Penny Coles)



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# EDITORIAL

## We shall overcome

With its extensive cuts, which should not come as a surprise from a government elected for its austerity program, Doug Ford's provincial budget is downloading responsibilities.

It is forcing essential agencies and organizations to look for other ways to pay for important services by severely cutting provincial funding. Those dollar amounts were never guaranteed, but were always an indication of the importance of the services provided. That is no longer the case.

With climate change causing more frequent flooding, there are cuts to conservation agencies. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, if it is to continue its significant work on preserving watersheds and ensuring water quality, will be looking at how to fulfill its mandate with funding decreased by 50 per cent. Slash, and it's done. Half its funding gone, but the necessity of the work it does hasn't gone away.

The same is true of libraries, whose boards are reeling from news that funding for interlibrary services would be cut. Slash, and 50 per cent fund gone from provincial library services that help deliver books from one community to another.

The initial reaction was

that the services would be cancelled immediately, but that quickly was changed to "suspended," while library board members and staff scrambled to figure a way to continue the service, which is so important in smaller communities such as Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Libraries in recent years have become about so much more than borrowing books.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library offers a warm, welcoming space, and so much going on within. It is a community hub for all ages, where members of the public can take advantage of the many programs, the computer room and WiFi, the makery space, all offering opportunities to learn about a wide range of subjects, or a place to just sit in a peaceful spot to read a newspaper.

The library is a place to gather information, available to anyone who walks through the door, and it is a place to just gather.

A well-used, much-loved library such as the one in NOTL is the sign of an engaged, healthy community. Take away its ability to offer services, and it becomes less so. This seems especially true in smaller communities, where library patrons may rely on being able to access books from libraries

in other municipalities.

It's especially ironic that funding to a library service designed to amalgamate certain programs such as inter-book lending and delivery, along with staff training, to provide efficient services at lower costs, is being cut.

It's de-amalgamation of a service that was actually working — a direct contradiction to Ford's desire to look at amalgamating municipal services for increased efficiency and cost-cutting.

It seems safe to say our library stewards, the board members and CEOs who are passionate about the services they provide, will find a way to overcome this latest hurdle set by the Province.

That's what people who care do, and we thank them for their passion.

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



## LOCAL FINDS



### Theodore much loved Donald Combe Special to The Local

This tiny elegant marker in the cemetery of St. Mark's intrigues me. After thinking about what was inscribed I finally realized that in third from the last line and in the last line the letters were compressed making, in both cases, three words into one

THEODORE  
????  
DASDEARPET  
AND  
MASPETTOO

The second line is impossible to read; it may be a surname, or it could read "asleep."

The stone sits near the Comer family plot. If Theodore was a Comer then it seems his Da was J.F.R. Comer, a retired member of the military, who died Aug. 2, 1878, aged 68 years, and his Ma was Elizabeth Barbara Comer who died Jan. 12, 1898, in her 88th year. The three others named might have been Theodore's siblings.

Both Da and Ma loved this child deeply and that this simple expression of their grief remains poignant.

## LETTERS

### Garbage collection woes

The discussions with respect to waste pickup seem to me to be short sighted and not resident friendly.

Pickup every two weeks leaves those who are away on garbage day with pickup once a month. Why should that resident have to pay for the additional bags if the pick-up is missed? We pay enough taxes. Why are residents

not issued with 52 extra tags per year?

Making pickup easier should be the goal. Municipalities such as Brampton allow for multiple bags each week, blue and grey recycling material to go in one box, and unlimited garbage bags at Christmas.

Why have we not heard a word about reducing over-packaging?

Why are the recycle bins made from a plastic that fractures much quicker than the plastic used for many garbage pails?

Areas that compost have an increase in rats.

Making it harder does lead to waste being dropped off along the Niagara River Parkway and other communal bins.

**William Hargreaves**

### The Niagara-on-the-Lake

# LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community.

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**Editor:**  
**Penny Coles**  
**penny@notllocal.com**  
**905-246-5878**

**Publisher:**  
**The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local**

**Advertising Sales:**  
**Karen Skeoch**  
**karen@notllocal.com • 905-641-5335**

**Julia Coles**  
**julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040**

**Classified Sales:**  
**Anna Tiedtke**  
**anna@notllocal.com • 905-932-2518**

**Multimedia Journalist:**  
**Lauren O'Malley**  
**lauren@notllocal.com**

**Graphic Designer:**  
**Rosie Gowsell**  
**composing@notllocal.com**

**notllocal.com** **facebook.com/notllocal**  
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## Pumphouse offers variety of weekend workshops



**Rima Boles**  
Niagara Pumphouse

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is offering a number of exciting weeknight and weekend workshops. Whether you are a beginner looking for a fun hands-on art project to try, an experienced artist looking to increase your skill in a particular technique or an art appreciator – there is a workshop for you.

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations this year, we are pleased to launch a new project: Looking Back – Forging Forward, thanks to the generous support of the Niagara Region's Niagara

Investment in Culture program. This project is a series of educational pop-up art-making opportunities and engaging cultural experiences for all ages. It is inspired by Niagara's history and delivered through contemporary perspectives by local artists.

We are working with our partners at Parks Canada for upcoming workshops including Mother's Day Hat-Making (Saturday, May 11), Plein Air Then & Now (Sunday, May 19 and Mon. May 20) and Drawing from History – Right in Front of You (Saturday, June 29).

Other upcoming workshops include Julie Ponesse's presentation and discussion-based workshop, Impressionist Inspiration (Thursday, May 2), followed by Drawing for Painters Workshop (Saturday, May 4 and Sun. May

5). Ponesse will guide participants to set themselves up for success by working through six basics of drawing particularly relevant to painting.

Visit the Niagara Pumphouse Mother's Day weekend to make your own version of an 1812 hat. Register for an exciting opportunity to draw or paint outdoors on Fort George grounds in either the plein air workshop with artist and instructor Sandra Iafrate or Drawing from History workshop with artist, instructor and physiotherapist David Antscherl to capture the splendour of 19th century redcoats in uniform.

For more information 905-468-2787 or email: rima.boles@niagarapumphouse.ca.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is at 247 Ricardo St.



This watercolour by James E. Pay is used as an example of how to paint a good vignette. (Photo supplied)

## LETTERS

### Short-term rentals impact neighbours

In response to some previous letters to the local newspapers, I'd like to focus on the short-term rental issue. As someone who has been directly and negatively impacted by those owners who choose to abuse the system, I feel I have much to contribute.

Short-term rentals cause parking and noise issues in quiet residential areas, but just as importantly they create issues of safety for our children and vulnerable residents due to a continuous stream of non residents/strangers within close-knit, family-friendly areas such as Garrison Village and Chautauqua. It may interest readers to know there are 1,500 school-age children in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and this number continues to grow. NOTL is no longer home to just the elderly and retired.

My personal experience with a short-term rental in our quiet community had my child witnessing a pool party

with amorous, barely-dressed adults sharing unknown substances and drinking. The noise did not cease until 3 a.m. As there are no Town bylaw enforcement officers available in the evenings, the only option to residents is to call the police.

I am very grateful to see our council is taking this issue more seriously and is responding to resident concerns. I read recently two councillors have chosen to spearhead a review of the existing application process and bylaw enforcement. Thank you to Stuart McCormack and Norm Arseneault, who are responsible for taking our concerns seriously. I encourage residents of NOTL to address their concerns with regard to short-term rentals and participate in the creation of a new and improved bylaw.

A new short-term rental bylaw with teeth could resolve the issue of hiring more bylaw enforcement staff, to work

24/7 following up on resident complaints, and resulting in increased property taxes.

Let me be clear that I fully support our licensed B&B community, and am not anti short-term rentals, so I am proposing the following recommendations to resolve this:

1. Short term rentals must be owner-occupied while rented.
2. No more than two bedrooms with two persons per bedroom can be rented at one time.
3. Short-term rentals should be no less than one kilometre apart.
4. Once a licence has been revoked it cannot be renewed for five years.

I believe good fences make good neighbours and good, enforced rules make good sense for all.

I look forward to seeing what council can do with this resident concern.

Lyndsay Gazzard



### Letters! We want letters!

We have an opinion page put aside just for residents — we know you have opinions and we would love to share them. 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. The deadline is Monday at noon.



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**EXHIBITIONS AT NIAGARA PUMPHOUSE – OPENING RECEPTION**  
**May 2 @ 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
Living Desert: Robert Herman  
Exhibition runs May 1 – June 3, 2019  
The Niagara Pumphouse located at 247 Ricardo St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Living Desert, a body of work by Robert Herman, represents a collection of introspective portraits of succulents found in the Coachella Valley of California. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm.  
Website Info: niagarapumphouse.ca/exhibitions

**FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**  
**Saturday, May 4**  
Chorus Niagara presents PETER PAN  
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**FIRST ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC LEVEE**  
**Saturday, May 4 @ 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.**  
Navy Hall, 305 Ricardo Street, NOTL @ 1000  
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To remember the importance of the longest battle in Canadian History to the Niagara Region.

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**May 4 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
Our fourth annual Live Well Health and Wellness Fair is a celebration of all things healthy living! We bring together the best products, information and services from wellness advocates in Niagara and beyond. Come out and experience the best of the wellness industry, shop at vendor booths and hear from some incredible experts in healthy living! Tickets are \$5 via our eshop or \$7 plus taxes at the door. Please visit <http://www.live-wellbywhiteoaks.com/> for details of the event.

**NIAGARA FALLS NATURE CLUB MEETING**  
**May 8 @ 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
Owen Bjorgan shares the adventure of the making of his film "HIDDEN CORNERS FLORIDA"  
Niagara Falls Public Library, 4848 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls. Refreshments and native plant sale begin shortly after 6:30 p.m.. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.



One of the best thunderstorms rolled through NOTL a few summers ago, with water pooling on roads, and creeks doing things Owen Bjorgan says he's never seen them do before. What will this scenario look like after Ford's flood program cuts? (Owen Bjorgan)

## Ford's cuts could leave us awash with trouble

**Owen Bjorgan**  
**Special to The Local**

This article isn't intended to engage a Conservative versus Liberal debate, but I would like to illustrate how politics can directly affect our communities through environmental budget cuts.

Niagara-on-the-Lake isn't out of the woods with this one.

The chain reaction is

simple, similar to a food chain in nature. We have a provincial government that proposes cuts to flood management and studies.

This leaves local conservation authorities in Ontario scrambling to recover the lost funding — where is that going to come from? Perhaps by the time we sort it out, the water will be lapping at our back door.

As the Niagara Peninsula continues to lose key wetland and forest coverage areas, we are also removing the ecosystem services they once provided us.

The spongy forest floors and swampy woods that once covered most of Niagara are fewer and further between. These natural areas act like a sponge to water falls and seeps across the landscape, ultimately slowing the rate of water entering our creeks and rivers.

As more extreme precipitation events are calculated to occur in southern Ontario in the future, all levels of government might want to consider how much

of our surface area is paved. When water hits the pavement, it goes nowhere but sideways. Whereas natural habitat and soils would absorb the water, we have now given it free will to follow parking lots into roads, into gutters, meeting other gutters, and into the creeks which then swell with intensity. Of course we have storm drain ponds and systems to brace for this in some areas, but certainly not everywhere.

We've likely got more rain coming, the appropriate buffers are largely diminished, and we have more pavement than ever before in Niagara.

This is a time when we not only need to ask ourselves, but ask our Premier, why cutting funds to flooding is a great idea.

I hope we don't act surprised when NOTL has its turn for a freak flood. All the right ingredients are in place. I see areas such as Four Mile Creek in St. Davids pushing debris up into backyards beside new

homes.

This spring, I noticed some stretches along the lines and concessions where water in the ditches was so high you could canoe down them, and some were about to burst their banks over the road or driveways. Still fresh on our minds is the year Lake Ontario rose several feet, inundating shoreline properties and beaches, and causing troubles for riverside residents.

Water counts. We drink it. We live beside it. We're made of it. A safe rule of thumb might be that we shouldn't mess with water. It should be cherished and appreciated for its vitality and brute influence.

Parts of central and northern Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick are experiencing unusually intense flooding as I type this.

I can only hope we will be prepared as a community.

And as a community, we should be able to depend on our government to help protect us and our valuable resources.

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# Nyanyas luncheon to help African grandmothers

**Lauren O'Malley**  
The Local

Cindy Grant joined the Nyanyas of Niagara after she attended a Motown concert the group put on at Jackson-Triggs Winery three years ago.

She says they were able to donate \$20,000 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation from that event, and she was so impressed by all of it she decided to become involved.

That's how she found herself on the steering committee organizing a luncheon for May 9.

Grant says Terry Mactaggart and Sandra Hardy started this chapter of the foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in 2007. She explains that when Stephen Lewis went to Africa in 2003, he witnessed an alarming number of grandmothers caring for their grandchildren, because a generation had been wiped out by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. He began the campaign as a way to draw attention to the issue, and to allow people to raise money to

support these people in need. There are now more than 240 groups supporting African grandmothers who care for their orphaned grandchildren.

The Nyanyas (a word that means "grandmothers" in Swahili) of Niagara have raised and donated about \$100,000 to the foundation since their inception.

However, last year was a lean one for them. They held only one luncheon, and were feeling the effects of burnout and disengagement. So Grant, Mactaggart and fellow steering committee member Linda Carleton decided to hold another luncheon with a special focus. They have invited Stephen Lewis Foundation interim executive director Zahra Mohamed to speak, and asked her to address a specific topic. "We have given her the heads-up that we want her to talk about how to reenergize the group in town," says Grant.

She says another way to find new energy is to recruit new members. "We need some new blood, and some new energy and ideas," says

Grant. So encouraging people to join will also be a focus of the luncheon in the Cellar Room at the Old Winery Restaurant. "There are no dues; members just get a newsletter and invitations to become a supporter at events," she says.

You don't even need to be a grandparent. "We call it 'grandmothers and grandothers.' There are no criteria to join — it is mainly females, but everyone is welcome."

Grant enthuses about the foundation's good work, saying, "over the years it has had so much support it has been able to build schools, daycares, create women's groups, and so much more."

The luncheon starts at 11:30 a.m., and will be done by 2:30 p.m., Grant says. There are door prizes to be won, as well as a few items for sale to raise further funds. Tickets are \$45, and all profits go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

If you have any questions about the event or membership, call Linda Carleton at 905-327-1354, or Terry Mactaggart at 905-468-2438.



Cindy Grant is hoping to bring new energy to the Nyanyas of Niagara with a presentation by the Stephen Lewis Foundation interim executive director Zahra Mohamed. (Lauren O'Malley)



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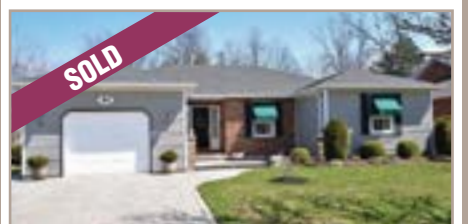
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# Health clinic organized for offshore workers

**Lauren O'Malley**  
The Local

It takes a village, and ours is stepping up to support the thousands of migrant workers who join our midst every year.

Cornerstone Community Church has partnered with Quest Community Health Centre to provide a free health clinic for offshore labourers.

The clinic launched Sunday in the church's Niagara Stone Road location, and will be held there every other Sunday from now through Oct. 6.

Quest has offered a migrant worker health clinic since 2010, when the pilot was held at this same location. "There's a bit of history with migrant workers at the church," says Jeff Martens, outreach pastor. "Quest started out here, so it's nice to see it come back."

In the interim years the clinic was held in the Niagara North Health Team offices, and in St. Catharines. Cornerstone hopes to be able to give it a permanent home. "We would love the partnering to continue for years to come, whether it's in this space or our new location on Hunter Road," says Martens.

The current space seems

as though it had been built for this purpose. "It's interesting how well laid-out the space is for a clinic, with a common space and smaller rooms off it," says Martens, sitting in the bright and colourful waiting area. Patients will enter the lobby and be met by greeters, who will determine their needs and direct them accordingly — generally to the registration area. Once registered, they will go up to the second floor treatment rooms, where health education videos will be playing in the waiting room in Spanish and English, says Briar Wiens, a nurse practitioner and volunteer at the clinic.

Wiens was the person who started this particular ball rolling. She had volunteered at a similar clinic in Vineland, and saw the opportunity for Cornerstone to provide a similar model. Wiens approached Martens with the idea. "Cornerstone is very invested in global initiatives, but in recent years we've been looking to serve the gaps in Niagara-on-the-Lake," says Martens. "Our congregation had moved so we knew there was space to use in a community-focused way." He says by last December they had made it official, and formed a lead team.

There are many other collaborators in this endeavour, including the Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group, Positive Living Niagara, as well as McMaster University and Brock University. The latter two will provide medical students for staffing, and the former will provide support services, including drivers to get workers to and from the clinic. Other staff will include volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, dietitians, physiotherapists, and a variety of other services, says Wiens.

The core staff will be provided by Quest — including a community health worker, Kylee Hunter. Her job will be to debrief with each patient after their clinical visit, to make sure everything is clear, and they know where to go to take the next steps, including accessing medications and being reimbursed for them.

The need for a free, confidential health service for migrant workers is substantial. "The OHIP process can be delayed when workers arrive in Canada," says Despina Tzemis, program manager at Quest. She says this clinic will allow members of the migrant community access to supports they may need, and expects to

see somewhere between 25 and 30 patients per session.

Wiens and Tzemis also see this clinic as a way to raise awareness of this often-overlooked community that joins ours every growing season.

The migrant workers health clinic would appreciate further support from the greater community, in the form of volunteers and donations. They would love to hear from medical practitioners, including allied health services such as chiropractic and massage.

Spanish-speaking translators are also eagerly sought. And donations of funds or medical supplies would be greatly appreciated.

In particular, mental health volunteers would be gratefully welcomed. "There is such a need for mental health support in the migrant worker community," says Jane Andres, an ardent supporter of the community. "Something like this is such an important support for them. It takes so little to fix it. Just to know they can call someone

who can come and talk with them."

To use the clinic, no appointment is needed. Services are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Migrant workers from all countries are welcome.

The clinic will operate alternate Sundays from April 28 (May 5 and 26; June 9 and 23; July 14 and 28; Aug. 18 and 25; Sept. 8 and 22; Oct. 6).

For more information call, text or WhatsApp 905-328-1546 or visit questchc.ca.



Emma Whyte, Briar Wiens, Lauryn Baerg, Brun Gossen, Jeff Martens and Kylee Hunter, health care volunteers, are in one of the clinic's fully-equipped treatment rooms. (Lauren O'Malley)

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# Tour highlights many benefits of recycling

## Reuse of material earns revenue, diverts garbage from landfill

**Lauren O'Malley**  
The Local

While the good work you do to separate your waste into blue and grey boxes may seem like an environmental act, it's also good business.

All the raw materials from the Region's recycling program are sorted, baled and sold to end users. There is an ecological component to it too, of course: the products are reused, thus requiring less production; and they are diverted from landfill.

Recyclables are brought in to the Niagara Recycling plant in 40 to 50 trucks per day. Fifteen trucks of sorted and baled materials go out in that same time period.

"We want to see all resources being reused," says Niagara Recycling chair Bert Murphy on a tour of the facility, while making it clear "this is strictly a sorting facility."

Murphy believes Niagara is in a landfill crisis, so diversion is key. "Last year we recycled 78,000 tons of materials," he says, which means that much waste was diverted.

Murphy explains the two streams — blue and grey boxes — divide into more than 15 others. The grey box provides five different materials, and the blue box at least 11. There are seven kinds of plastic and two types of metal, as well as juice boxes, and glass.

"Each material goes through a baler, then we are done with it — with one exception," he says, pointing out there is only one plant in Ontario making a specific product: "This one. We clean, dry, sort and grind glass down to a product called Niagara Eco-glass, used for sandblasting."

The building is a giant warehouse divided into purpose-built stages of dumping, sorting and baling. The process starts on the tipping floor, where all residential collection trucks dump, as well as commercial and industrial loads

from Niagara, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Haldimand County. The contents are then loaded onto miles of conveyor belts that snake through the facility.

Sorting is done on the loft-style second floor, where each section is perched on islands overlooking the ground floor. The belts move through pre-sorting and secondary sorting, some through cross vibratory feeders and fibre-optical sorters. But most material is separated by groups of hard-working staff, hand-sorting newspapers from cereal boxes, and clear plastic bottles from ice cream tubs. The business has 90 employees, and 63 of them are hand-sorters.

Each person has a chute nearby where they drop various materials; the chutes lead to bunkers below, which are opened to send the contents to balers.

The noise is formidable, and the speed startling. The well-trained staff cull bits and pieces from the conveyor in a blur of productivity.

As workers snag straws from a belt shuttling aluminum cans — one straw can contaminate an entire bale, tour leader Ashley Northcotte says — she explains aluminum represents seven per cent of recyclable content, and 30 per cent of revenue. "It's the most valuable material, and can be used over and over," she says. Murphy calls aluminum cans the "gold" of recycling.

Newspaper can be recycled five times, with the fibres getting shorter each time, until "trip number six is this," says Murphy, holding up a molded pulp piece, like an egg carton or a take-out tray for hot drinks.

Workers pull many plastic bags off the paper-sorting belt, some of them full of newspapers. "Plastic bags are one big problem in recycling — they are the biggest contaminant in the program," says Murphy. The bags also turn up on the other belts, in with blue box products. Murphy says people

need to be aware that single use bags can be recycled, but they must be isolated and contained.

"Don't put things in plastic bags," says Murphy. "What we need people to do is put all single-use plastic bags in one bag, tie it up, and put it in your grey box."

Despite people's misconceptions and mistakes with their recycling, Northcotte says 95 to 97 per cent of the product that arrives at the plant goes out to be recycled, the small remainder going to landfill.

Murphy says at least some of that is take-out coffee cups. "Oh please, no coffee cups," he says with great frustration. "We don't accept them here, but we get millions. Millions." He is quick to point out, though, that the lids are recyclable.

"The biggest problem is the lack of sufficient knowledge being given to the public," says Murphy, a geologist by training.

For example, Northcotte says, "nothing gets cleaned here, just sorted, so the cleaner the better." Many people are unaware of this, and toss dirty food containers into their bins, creating problems for the sorters at the other end. Murphy points out lids should be kept on water and pop bottles. "Squeeze out the air so the bottle takes up less space, and put the cap back on," he says.

On the theme of education, all the recyclables collected from Niagara's elementary schools are shipped to Buffalo. "The schools decided to move to single stream collection," says Murphy, and Niagara Recycling has the two-stream model. Broken glass from a single-stream program is too much of a problem and creates contamination, he adds.

School groups also make up the bulk of the tours of the facility. "Last year there were 55 tours, and 35 of them were schools," says Murphy. Mem-



Miles of conveyor belts snake through the Niagara Recycling plant. (Lauren O'Malley)

## Compost available for food donation

Just in time for the gardening rush, Niagara Region is giving away compost.

Organics bin waste is recycled into productive and useful compost, and from May 6 to 11 Niagara residents are eligible for up to three 20-litre bags per day per vehicle, in exchange for a donation of non-perishable food items or cash in support of Project Share, The HOPE Centre, the

Grimsby Benevolent Fund, and Fort Erie COPE (Community Outreach Program — Erie).

Compost is available at the recycling centre at 5030 Montrose Rd. in Niagara Falls, the Humberstone landfill in Welland, and the Bridge Street landfill in Fort Erie, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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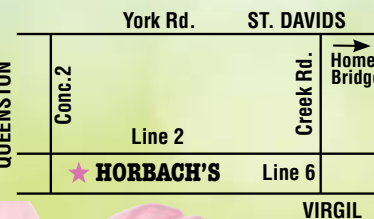
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Ashley Northcotte leads a tour through the Niagara Recycling plant. (Lauren O'Malley)



# Mourning Joel Murray, 20 years later

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

It was a grey, chilly morning Sunday, as a small, sombre group of about 20 people gathered in Virgil to remember those who were injured, suffered illness or died because of workplace incidents. Such services take place across the region and the country every year on April 28, The National Day of Mourning, but in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it is always a reminder of Joel Murray, who was crushed to death in 1998 at the GM plant where he worked.

Every April since his death, his family has gathered at the granite monument at the Centennial Arena, to remember their husband and father who went to work early in the morning that November and never made it to the arena that evening, where he had planned to coach his son's hockey team.

"It's hard to believe it's been 20 years," said his wife Wendy Murray-Nicholson, who was at the service, as she has been, since the first one in 1999.

Yet her daughter and son are proof that it has been that long — Pamela Murray Froese, then in her first year of high school at Niagara District Secondary School, is now a mother of four, and Thomas, a young hockey player when his father was killed, is a mechanic who can't always get away for the service, but was able to take advantage of April 28 falling on a Sunday this year.

Murray-Nicholson continues to attend the service with her family to put a human face to the importance

of workplace safety, and what can happen when rules are bent, leading to tragic losses that should never have happened.

And surprisingly, the crowd heard Sunday, these losses are on the increase.

The number of workplace injuries and deaths have increased in recent years, despite efforts to raise awareness, said MPP Wayne Gates, now the NDP provincial Health and Safety and WSIB critic.

Injuries and deaths have gone up 33 per cent in the last three years, he said, "and all are preventable."

He too has attended the NOTL service every year since 1999, when he was president of CAW Local 199.

As he spoke to the small gathering, mostly relatives of Wendy and Joel, whom Gates knew well, he recalled the November morning when he got the call from GM, and rushed to the plant.

"Joel didn't have a chance to say 'I love you' to his family before he left for work," said Gates.

"He didn't have a chance to say it when he got home, because he didn't come home. He didn't get to coach his son's hockey team. Joel was killed on the job. I walked him out on a gurney at 10 a.m. that day."

It was discovered later that Murray's death was caused by an override switch which had been disabled without him knowing — that morning he had been sent to an area of the plant where he hadn't worked for about a year.

"At a time in this province when you'd think things are getting better, they're not," said Gates. "They're worse. We have to do more. Gov-

ernments need to understand. People have an obligation to show up for work every day, but they don't have an obligation to die on the job. If I killed someone I'd go to jail. GM got fined \$300,000, and it didn't even go to the family. We had to fight for his pension to look after his family."

Joel never got to see his kids grow up, or to meet his four grandchildren, added Gates.

"He never got to see Thomas become a mechanic, all because of a switch that was bypassed. This affects everybody, a wonderful family, and the whole community."

Workplace safety should be a "huge priority," he said, "and hopefully, events like this one, and others across the region today, can help prevent workplace injuries."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero spoke of all the Town does to ensure the safety of its employees, and implored those present to never give up vigilance for the safety of others.

Coun. Gary Burroughs, who has attended every day of mourning for the last 20 years, said he was shocked to hear the grim statistics are not improving.

"I thought I'd hear it's better than it was," he said.

He recalled previous years when busloads of high school students would attend the service, missing this year with it falling on the weekend.

"Many of our deaths and casualties are young people, who have been given no on-the-job training. And there is no follow-up, making it appear that nobody cares," he said. "That's not good enough, not to have safety training for young employees. It's not good enough, not to have training for any workers."

Burroughs said it's also not enough to have one day of remembrance. "We should be getting the message out for all workers, all the days ahead."

Organizer Sue Hutt summarized the reason for the service with these closing words: "We mourn for the dead, but we fight for the living."



MPP Wayne Gates says the number of workplace injuries and deaths is still climbing in Ontario. (Penny Coles)



Murray family members, including Bonnie Backshall, Pam Clarke, David Backshall, Thomas Murray, Wendy Murray-Nicholson with her grandson Lucas, Pamela Murray Froese with Tessa, and Alanda MacLachlan, gathered for the Day of Mourning service outside the Centennial Arena Sunday morning. (Penny Coles)



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# See Spot run — protect lawn from dog urine

**Submitted by  
Regal Florist &  
Garden Centre**

Is your yard riddled with dead spots from your dog's urine? What can be done to stop the spots? This is a job for EVOLVE Dog Spot Prevent Fertilizer, not artifi-

cial turf. Dog urine is rich in nitrogen, which is too much of a good thing when it comes to your lawn. Many dog owners try to combat the problem by using fertilizer, which is rich in nitrogen. They don't realize they are only compounding the problem by adding more nitrogen to the soil. Excess nitrogen is toxic to grass if not digested by the soil. As the destructive cycle of urine-fertilizer-urine-fertilizer continues in a dog owner's lawn, the health of the soil deteriorates. Urine spots appear and growth becomes sparse. Left un-

treated, the damage can be extremely difficult to undo. Do you need to stop using fertilizer? With EVOLVE Organic Dog Spot Prevent, you should be able to cut your fertilizer applications by half or more. You'll save money and have a greener, healthier lawn. EVOLVE Dog Spot Prevent has organic microbes that work in the soil to repair and prevent brown spots. It is safe for children and pets because it is organic. This product is ready to use, and even more important, it is easy to use. EVOLVE Dog Spot Prevent primarily stops the brown from ever happening again and corrects the current brown you already have. After applying the EVOLVE Dog Spot Prevent you won't believe how good your lawn will look. The rest is history. Since dog owners will never be free from pee, we hope this helps.



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# HOME and GARDEN

## CELEBRATE OUTDOOR LIVING



# ‘A-door’ your front entrance again

Submitted by  
**Creek Road Paints**

Refresh your front door with a glossy new coat of paint. It’s the quickest and easiest way to perk up a home’s exterior, extend a warm welcome, and make a lasting first impression.

Aura Grand Entrance is the perfect paint to create that lasting impression. It brings rich, vivid colour and exceptional durability to doors and trim.

Inspired by fine European door and trim enamel, Aura Grand Entrance cures to a lustrous finish that lends your home a look of elegance and luxury. Specially formulated to retain colour integrity and gloss, this enamel is easy to apply, has excellent hide, and is available in thousands of colours.

Having trouble deciding on the hue that’s right for you? Here are some helpful tips from Benjamin Moore:

Most exterior paint colours and materials lean toward neutral shades, so a colourful front door is a chance to express your personal style through a central

exterior architectural feature.

Adding a statement colour to the front door is comparable to what a silk scarf or tie does for an outfit — a small dose of colour can do wonders to uplift the facade of a home while complementing the architecture and surrounding landscape.

Hot shots of red, yellow or orange are naturally warm and exuberant. Vivid accent colours make a strong design statement but mix surprisingly well with most other shades, especially the neutrals most often used as the primary colour of a house.

Take your colour cues from inside the house to pick a paint colour you’ll love. Think about the colours of the space your door will open into. Pull a strong accent colour from those spaces for colour continuity or choose a more saturated shade of a primary interior colour. And don’t worry about fading. Benjamin Moore Aura Grand Entrance is as durable as it is beautiful.

If your front door is not

so grand, then you just may be a candidate for our Ugly Door Contest. The winner will receive a free quart of our Aura Grand Entrance.

Here’s how to enter:

1. Take a photo of your door that needs some love.
2. Upload the photo to Facebook or Instagram.
3. Tag @creekroad-

paints in the photo with the hashtag #upacreek

4. Submit photo before June 1.

For more exterior palettes and projects, visit the design staff at Creek Road Paints, or book an in-home consultation today.

There’s always something Moore to learn in-store.



# Creek Road Paints



## Benjamin Moore® Paints

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# The health benefits of having wood floors

Submitted by  
Imperial Hardwood  
Flooring

If you suffer from seasonal allergies, you may wonder when you'll find relief. People with spring, fall, or even winter allergies might catch a break during their off-seasons, but for those who experience allergy symptoms year-round, it's a constant battle.

But what if we told you that the type of flooring you choose for your home could have an impact? Wood floors may just be the cure for not only your dated decor, but your allergies as well. Wood directly impacts indoor air quality. Wood floors can significantly improve indoor air quality when compared to other flooring options.

While outdoor allergens can be hard to control, there are ways to minimize the impact of

allergens that occur indoors. All the triggers for most air-borne allergens can accumulate indoors. They can gather on clothing, in your hair, on furniture, on window coverings, on bedding, on walls, and on flooring.

Frequent dusting, vacuuming, and washing will minimize many indoor allergies, but these activities also can stir them up. One way to prevent allergens altogether is to eliminate many of the areas where they can accumulate. Flooring is one area of the indoor environment where a number of indoor allergens can be controlled.

Certain types of flooring, such as carpet, are simply better gathering places for allergens. Small microorganisms, pollen, dust, dust mites, mold, animal dander, and other substances tend to accumulate in carpet fibers.

Other flooring types,

such as wood, tend to minimize the accumulation of allergens because there are no fibers to trap these substances. Taking steps to minimize these kinds of allergens can result in improved indoor air quality.

Wood floors, or any other hard surface flooring, such as vinyl or laminate, are hypoallergenic, which is a huge advantage for allergy sufferers. Wood floors do not harbor microorganisms or pesticides tracked in from outdoors as other flooring options can. They also minimize the accumulation of dust, mold, and animal dander, which improves overall indoor air quality.

The benefits of hardwood flooring are remarkable when you think about it. What other flooring option never goes out of style, matches every decor, is so easy to maintain, and can help snooze your achoos? (VIA:NWFA)

# Turn small garden into a cosy oasis

Submitted by  
Catharine Skinner,  
Mori Gardens

Sacrificing square footage doesn't mean you have to give up the idea of a lush and welcoming garden. In fact, with small garden design, many of the basic principles still apply. There are, however, some rules to consider when making the most of a small garden footprint.

Start with the view from inside. Grab a mug of something soothing and take a seat in your favourite chair looking out into the garden. Consider this perspective as you begin to design or revamp your garden, and think about how this view will be impacted and enhanced.

Dream big, then scale down. Small gardens can be just as dynamic as their larger counterparts. While you're dreaming, think about how space will be used. Take note of things like how often you'd like to

entertain outdoors, whether you'd like a water feature, statuary, or architectural features. List everything you'd like your garden to have, and then look for inspiration online or in magazines for how other gardeners have shrunk these classic elements down to scale.

Go easy with colour. Choose monochromatic, cooler colour schemes like greens, purples, blues, or silvers versus a riot of colour so the garden feels more open and your design more cohesive. A bold statement colour as an accent will create more impact than a sea of bright, flashy tones.

Consider privacy. Small gardens often mean closer neighbours. As you begin to dream about your design, take note of where you might be able to create some privacy with architectural details, trees, or shrubs.

Containers are versatile.

Planters and containers can be easily moved and will change the look of your garden. Remember to stick within your colour scheme to maintain the cohesive design.

Come see us. Ask your friendly local expert for advice on the best plants for small gardens. The award-winning Mori Gardens design team can help you select plants that will create maximum impact and suit your level of gardening experience and interest. We will assist you with your garden from start to finish, with a design that works within your budget.

A small garden has great potential to satisfy the imagination of any gardener. Enjoy the process of collecting inspiration, dreaming up your ideal outdoor space, and discovering how to make the most of your personal cosy oasis. Don't forget Mori Gardens is available to help bring your dream garden to life.

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# Waterfront cleanup organized for Sunday

**Lauren O'Malley**  
The Local

As a kid growing up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Tim Balasiuk remembers the local Heifetz family fondly. He says they started an eco-fibre company, and preached all things green.

"There's a picture of me at 12 years old at their plant-a-tree, get-a-tree Earth Day event at Simcoe Park."

He credits the Heifetz's strength in their beliefs for his own passion for the environment — a passion which led to a sense of responsibility. "I remember that stuff from when I was young, but I have found that since then these things have been overlooked," he says.

When he started Paddle Niagara six years ago, Balasiuk spent a lot of time at the water's edge. Unable to ignore the amount of waste washing up on our beaches, he decided to do something about it. He pulled together a team of friends, and they collected shorefront garbage, mainly from near the first hole of the local golf course, he says.

They continued to do

this annually, relatively unofficially. Then two years ago, Balasiuk says he was scoping out the beach at Queen's Royal Park, thinking about where he and his friends might start their annual cleanup, when he stumbled upon a sign that read, "Cleanup in progress, feel free to join." He learned the group was led by the Toronto-based group A Greener Future, as part of their many-stop "around the lake" endeavour. "I joined in, and then I thanked them on Twitter — and that started a relationship."

Balasiuk decided to partner with AGF, with a "better together" viewpoint. "We collaborated; it just made sense," he says.

He praises the young company, impressed by the founder's dedication and success. "They sort, recycle and catalogue everything that gets collected," he says. According to Balasiuk, last year — the first year of the collaboration — more than 50 volunteers turned up to pick up. "We've found everything from bicycles to car parts, even old rebar from old footings and moorings."

While many families climbed the rocks at Queen's Royal Park, pulling dozens of water bottles, straws, and cigarette butts from the spaces between the stones, Balasiuk and his friends went out in a "tinny" — an aluminum boat the kayaker calls his "dirt bike of the river."

They collected trash from further along the shoreline, along the golf course and into Niagara Shores Park, returning with the boat fully loaded.

AGF provides all of the equipment necessary: gloves, mechanical pickers, and bags. This year's cleanup will take place on Sunday May 5, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Balasiuk encourages families to participate, and says, "everyone will know where to go," after the 15-minute orientation talk at the beginning.

"Bring your boat, we'll find you a spot," says Balasiuk about anyone who might want to participate on the water. "And if you have the gumption to go pick up along the shoreline further along, contact us and we'll arrange to bring it back to Queen's Royal Park," he says, al-

lowing that some people may have alternative areas on which they'd like to focus.

"If anyone doesn't want to come to Queen's Royal park but wants to go to Niagara Shores or another public property, contact us and we'll come and find you on the water at about 12:30." He also includes private waterfront property in his offer. Balasiuk can be reached at 905-401-7879.


Follow Paddle Niagara and A Greener Future on social media to watch the progress and learn more about the process.



Tim Balasiuk is helping organize a waterfront cleanup, beginning at Queen's Royal Park. (Lauren O'Malley)





Tim Balasiuk collected a significant amount of litter in 10 minutes along the beach at Queen's Royal Park. (Lauren O'Malley)



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# Drea's Sauvignon Blanc release expected Friday

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

After a period of grieving for her father, Andrea Kaiser now draws comfort from being able to talk about him.

She loves to tell the personal stories that represent the Karl Kaiser she remembers, not as a pioneer of the Canadian wine industry, but as the loving, funny and highly intelligent “grounding force” of the family who loved to debate and discuss all kinds of issues.

To honour those memories of her father, who died in November 2017, to fulfill her dream and carry on a family legacy, she is launching a virtual wine company, with her first vintage expected to be available to the public Friday.

As befitting International Sauvignon Blanc Day, and in honour of Karl and his determination to create the perfect “batch” in his home cellar of the wine he knew was a favourite of Andrea and her mother, the first release of the Drea's Wine Co. is a Sauvignon Blanc.

“I’m dedicating it to my father who, along with my family, affectionately called me Drea,” she said.

One of the stories she loves to relate is the annual ritual that occurred when his cellar wine was ready for tasting. It was so important to him that she and her mother like it he was nervous to see their reactions, and Andrea liked to give him a hard time, particularly about the sugar content. She

would tease him about it, reminding him they liked their wine “bone dry” and without oak, as if he could forget.

Drea's sauv blanc has classic gooseberry notes — her cousin's beautiful gooseberry etchings adorn the label designed by her brother Max — in memory of her father's fondness for the fruit. And it is fermented in stainless steel, of course, with a “very, very” small touch of residual sugar, she said.

Referring to her brother and sister, Andrea says, “we’ve all ended up in the industry, and it was our father's contribution to the wine industry in the early days that allowed us to live here and work here. This has been a wonderful spin-off for us. The amazing foresight of Donald (Zirardo) and my dad have created this economic viability in the wine sector.”

“The most amazing part” of her journey to launch her own wine, she said, is it's giving her the opportunity to talk about her dad, to laugh a little, and to reflect on the good times growing up.

“I think the biggest revelation to all of us after he was gone was how much we relied on him, that this quiet person we knew, and had always appreciated, was such a grounding force in our family. He has been honoured as a winemaker, but as my brother said, it's more important for us that people know what a great father and grandfather he was, and that his family was so im-

portant to him,” she said.

“Our family gatherings were never quiet. There was always a lot of bantering and discussion — sometimes heated discussion. He encouraged us to think and to debate. He was an incredibly intelligent man. That's how we grew up, appreciating that culture of debate. Over the years there were probably 30 different students living with us at one time or another, from different countries. Some were exchange students, some winemaking students from Austria or Germany. My dad loved to share his knowledge, and he was very passionate about learning.”

The opportunity to talk about him is even more meaningful because his personality meant he often took a back seat in his career, said Andrea.

“He was reserved and very humble. For us, this is a chance to celebrate all he did.”

Her foray into winemaking has been supported by her family, and also by Klaus Reif and winemaker Roberto DiDomenico, who have been behind her all the way.

The culture of the wine industry, going back to its earliest days, was one of congeniality and support among colleagues, she said, and Reif and DiDomenico grew up in that atmosphere of mutual respect and working together to build the industry.

“I can't thank them enough, they've been so completely supportive. I feel so fortunate to be there.”



Andrea Kaiser has planned the release of her first wine this Friday, International Sauvignon Blanc Day. There has been a delay with the labels, but they are on track to be completed and affixed to the bottles by the end of the week. (Photo supplied)

## Queenston prepares for annual garden sale

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

A decade-old tradition continues in Queenston with its popular spring garden sale.

It's the sixth annual event, but it has been alternating in recent years with the art show, says Helena Copeland, one of the organizers.

It's run by the Queenston Residents Association, and will take place Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to noon, inside the Queenston Library.

They always have some

good, gently used lawn furniture, gardening tools and plants available, said Copeland — donated by community members and priced to sell.

Anyone with items to donate is encouraged to bring them to the library Friday, May 10, when volunteers will be on hand to set up for the event, she said.

Money raised goes back to the community, but there is no one special need identified yet, said Copeland.

A grinder will be available

to sharpen tools, and coffee and fresh muffins will be sold.

It's a great community event villagers look forward to, and all are welcome, Copeland said. “Like our spaghetti dinner, it's an opportunity for the community to come together.” The spaghetti dinner is Friday night, May 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Queenston Fire Hall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children aged 12 and under.

The Queenston Library is on Queenston Street at the corner of Dumfries Street.



Dorie Barratt, Paulette Peggs and Helena Copeland say items for the sale can be dropped off Friday, May 10, at the Queenston Library. (Penny Coles)

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# Ice in Niagara River attracts attention

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

Vehicles were pulling over along the Niagara River Parkway Saturday to take photos of the ice in the river, a sight not often seen in recent years.

Ed McIlroy, general manager of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club, said the ice boom was removed from Lake Erie Monday, April 21.

The ice boom is put in every December to stop shoreline erosion along the Niagara River, and to protect hydropower operations downstream. It's removed by the New York Power Authority sometime between February and May.

In recent years, there hasn't been a lot of ice makes its way down the river to Lake Ontario — the wind usually blows it back into Lake Erie, McIlroy said.

It's unusual, but not unheard-of to see this much ice in the river, he said. "In the late 80s and through the 90s you'd see it every year, but not recently."

The sailing club puts in its own ice boom to protect boats in the water, he said.

Racing at the sailing club was cancelled Sunday because of the ice.



The view across the Niagara River from Queenston to Lewiston shows how much ice was making its way to Lake Ontario Saturday. *(Fred Mercnik)*



On Saturday, a team of members, including Bill Nicol and Dave Coney, was ready to put the Smugglers Cove docks into the river — but the river was full of ice, with more on its way. Placing the docks has been postponed for another week, to protect them from potential damage from fast-moving ice chunks. *(Lauren O'Malley)*

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**LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

January 24, 2019 • THE NOTL LOCAL

**LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: BRICKS AND BARLEY**

In the bustling town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, there's a new addition to the local business scene. Bricks and Barley, a craft brewery and restaurant, is set to open its doors in the heart of the town. The owners, a local couple, have spent months planning and building this dream project. They are excited to share their passion for craft beer and local ingredients with the community. The restaurant will offer a variety of dishes, including locally sourced meats and vegetables. They are also planning to host live music events and community gatherings. The owners hope that Bricks and Barley will become a central part of the town's social scene. They are looking forward to meeting their customers and hearing their feedback. The opening party is scheduled for Friday, January 25th, from 5 PM to 11 PM. Live entertainment will be provided by Vinyl Flux. The party will start at 9:30 PM. The address is 1573 Four Mile Creek Rd., Notl. The phone number is 905-468-8808. The website is bricksandbarley.ca.

The full page is made up of a  
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and  
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People strolling along the beach at Queen's Royal Park get a good view of the ice chunks making their way from the Niagara River into Lake Ontario. *(Tony Chisholm)*

An unusual amount of ice made its way to Lake Ontario this weekend, causing sailing races to be cancelled Sunday. *(Tony Chisholm)*





Walkers from 10 years old to senior citizens walked for four days last week to raise money for students in need, including some in Niagara. (Penny Coles)

# Students walk to help other students in need

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

When about 75 wet and bedraggled walkers of all ages made their way through the rain to the St. Davids Lions Club Friday, spirits were high, with the end of a long fundraising trek in reach.

Waiting for them in St. Davids, and again later in the day at the bottom of Clifton Hill, were members of the Education Foundation of Niagara, one of the organizations benefitting from the fundraiser.

fore participants headed off to Clifton Hill.

Of the 75 people on the last stretch of the 140-kilometre trek, from students to grandparents, 15 of them had walked the entire distance, staying in hotels overnight. Others had done legs of the journey and were there for the finish, said Katrina Mintis, one of the DeSantos Foundation team members. She was at the Lions hall organizing lunch for the walkers, the youngest of whom is 10, she said, the oldest in his 70s.

week's trek, which saw rain, but wasn't too cold. "Whatever they face, the walkers are always in good spirits," she added.

Greeting arrivals to the York Road hall were Nicole Smith, the education and communications officer of the Education Foundation of Niagara, and Donna Abernethy, the EFN program coordinator. Executive director Laura Byers planned to be at the finish line later in the day.

The vision of the EFN, to create a community where every student has access to all the enriching opportunities school life offers, is closely aligned with the goals for the DeSantos Foundation, said Smith. The Niagara charity receives no government funding, and works in partnership with the district school board to help students across the region.

Last year was the ninth annual DeSantos walk, but the first year a donation was made to the EFN, which received \$3,000 from the event. The money went toward student bursaries for post-secondary education, and helped students in financial need in more direct ways, through the board and local schools, said Smith. A cheque for the same amount was expected Friday.

Parents across the region, including Niaga-

ra-on-the-Lake, may look like they are coping well on the outside but can be struggling financially, she said. "You can't judge need

by outward appearances. Parents can find themselves in difficulty for many different reasons — job loss and ill health among them

— we see some very unfortunate circumstances."

To make a donation, visit [www.desantos.ca/annual-fundraising-walks/](http://www.desantos.ca/annual-fundraising-walks/).

“ Whatever they face, the walkers are always in good spirits. ”

*Katrina Mintis*

The walk has become an annual event organized by the DeSantos Foundation in Toronto, where it begins. Established by the owner of a martial arts school, the foundation supports student needs, providing scholarships, purchasing computer equipment, promoting anti-bullying, and supporting breakfast programs.

The four-day walk ended Friday in Niagara Falls, with a stop for lunch in St. Davids be-

The goal of the fundraiser is \$30,000 — the most raised so far is \$26,000 — and donations can be received until June.

"The route of the walk is always pretty much the same," said Mintis. "It goes from Toronto to Oakville the first day, then to Grimsby, St. Catharines and finishes up in Niagara Falls at the bottom of Clifton Hill."

In past years, walkers have gone through hail and snow, so "absolutely it's been worse" than last

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The Upper Canada Trail follows the old Erie and Ontario Railway line. (Photo courtesy of the Niagara Historical Museum)

# Heritage Trail follows former railway line

## Historic through-way remains important to NOTL residents

**Tony Chisholm**  
Special to The Local

The present-day Heritage Trail in Niagara-on-the-Lake follows the historic line of the old Erie and Ontario Railway, later the Michigan Central Railroad, which provided a connection for steamship passengers coming from Toronto to Niagara Falls, Buffalo and beyond for nearly 100 years.

The Erie and Ontario Railway line, constructed into Niagara (NOTL today) in 1854, was built to compete with the Welland Canal for transporting goods and passengers across the peninsula, until rail service was discontinued in the late 1950s.

The Erie and Ontario actually dated from 1839 as a horse-drawn tramway between Chippewa and Queenston to supplement the Portage Road around the falls. In these early days the rails were of wood, strapped with iron, and the carriages were drawn by two or three horses hitched one ahead of the other. But by the time the line was extended to Niagara, by Samuel Zimmerman in 1854, the train incorporated a steam engine on iron rails. The first steam engine was the Clifton, built in Manchester New Hampshire in 1854. This historic railway — only the third steam railway in Ontario — went through many ownership changes in the 19th century.

During the First World War, a spur line serviced

Camp Niagara, where troops were trained before embarking for the battlefields of Europe.

From the 1880s into the early 20th century the Niagara Navigation Company brought thousands of passengers to Niagara, where the train met them at the docks and then provided the transportation to Niagara Falls. Many people would sail on the early steamer from Toronto then take the train to Niagara Falls for a day trip and return to board the late steamer home.

There is a lot of history connected with this route which has contributed significantly to the development of the town. After the rails were lifted in the 1960s the land reverted to the Region and eventually to the Town of NOTL.

This trail along the old railway line starts at John Street, and is well-defined and well-used until East and West line. From there it travels to the east side, along Concession 1 (Railway Street) and passes by vineyards and the finest farmland in the province, all the way to York Road. The whole trail is 20 metres (66 feet) wide and more than 10 kilometres long.

In 2017, a subcommittee was established as part of NOTL's 150th celebrations committee with the objective of organizing and promoting a significant legacy project for NOTL. During a meeting with representatives from the

St. Davids Ratepayers Association in 2016, it was noted that the trail following the old railroad right-of-way along Concession 1, known as the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, needed rehabilitation and repair. The committee decided that the repair and re-establishment of the trail would be a viable legacy project. Many parts of this trail are unique and beautiful and need to be restored before it is completely overgrown and lost.

The Heritage Trail is used by individuals and groups, including hikers and the local equestrian club, and improving this property fits well with the Town's objectives to provide a route for active transportation and a safe passage along Concession 1. The support for the project has been extremely positive, including among residents from Queenston, St. Davids and Old Town. A Town heritage trail committee has been created to raise community awareness and its need for repair and rehabilitation.

The committee is engaging town council and staff for support for the repairs as well as funding opportunities and sponsorships.

Visit [www.heritagetrail.ca](http://www.heritagetrail.ca) for more information and to get involved in efforts to rehabilitate the trail.

*"Thanks to Rick Meloen and Cheryl Morris for their input and contributions." — Tony Chisholm*



A Town committee has been established to improve the Upper Canada Trail. (Tony Chisholm)



Armour stone was delivered as part of the project to rehabilitate the trail. (Tony Chisholm)



## SCHOOLS

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## Welcome to the Crossroads Makerspace

**Alison Berezcky**  
Crossroads Public School

The Library Learning Commons at Crossroads isn't just a place for great books (although we have many of those).

The Learning Commons hosts a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities during class time and breaks, now for the second year.

Here are some highlights:

**Ozobots:** These are easily the most popular items — little programmable robots that follow a marker line and can be coded with colours or by using the program Ozoblockly. Students have learned a lot about coding and transferring data using these ping pong ball-sized gizmos.

**Snap Circuits:** Another popular choice for all age groups, snap circuits have students exploring a variety of electrical circuits

that can create sound effects and run motors.

**Lego:** This is probably the most versatile item in our Makerspace. We have used Lego for maze-making, stop motion animation and several building challenges.

**Scratch Coding:** M.I.T. launched this coding site and students have used this with great success. Get as simple or complicated as you like, and make your own games (or play some-

one else's).

**Fiber Fridays:** During breaks on Friday, students are invited to join in and use a variety of materials for some low-tech maker magic. We have sewn, knitted, spool-knitted and crocheted.

No Makerspace sustains itself, and we are so grateful for the donations of yarn, fabric, ribbon, craft supplies and beads that families have so generously sent in.



Tyler Nauta works on a marble run. (All photos supplied)



Annie Marriott, Hayden Neufeld and Charlie Gale work on a Snap Circuit project.



John Dixon and Nathan Lambert work on a Lego challenge.



Logan Rossi using Scratch to code.



Lucy Beccario and Sienna Salter dig into a Snap Circuit project.



Haylee Dick makes an Ozobot maze for the Easter Bunny.



Annie Marriott has a solid plan for her marble run.



Benjamin Gray codes an Ozobot playground.



Marty Sherlock sews her own scrunchie.



Daniel Carr attempts a spaghetti tower (harder than you think).



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OBITUARY



MELOEN, Daniela "Ella" Adriana

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Daniela on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at the St. Catharines General Hospital. Daniela was born on November 3, 1942, in Rilland Bath, the Netherlands. She immigrated with her family to Canada in 1952. The family was on the Troup farm for one year before moving to St. Catharines and then eventually settling in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Ella is survived by her daughters Laura Fakla and Christina Michael, grandson Matteo Bombelli, sister Nancy Wilkes and brother Rick Meloen (Janet). She is predeceased by her father Jan (1963), son Michael (1968), sister Ineke (1997) and mother Ida (2002). Daniela was a long-time resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake where she worked for many years in the hospitality industry. A word of thanks to the Oncology Department at St. Catharines General Hospital and the Palliative Homecare Team. A service of remembrance will be held on Wednesday May 1, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Faith Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, 4878 Jepson St., Niagara Falls. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Rankin Cancer Run would be appreciated. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at:

www.morseandson.com



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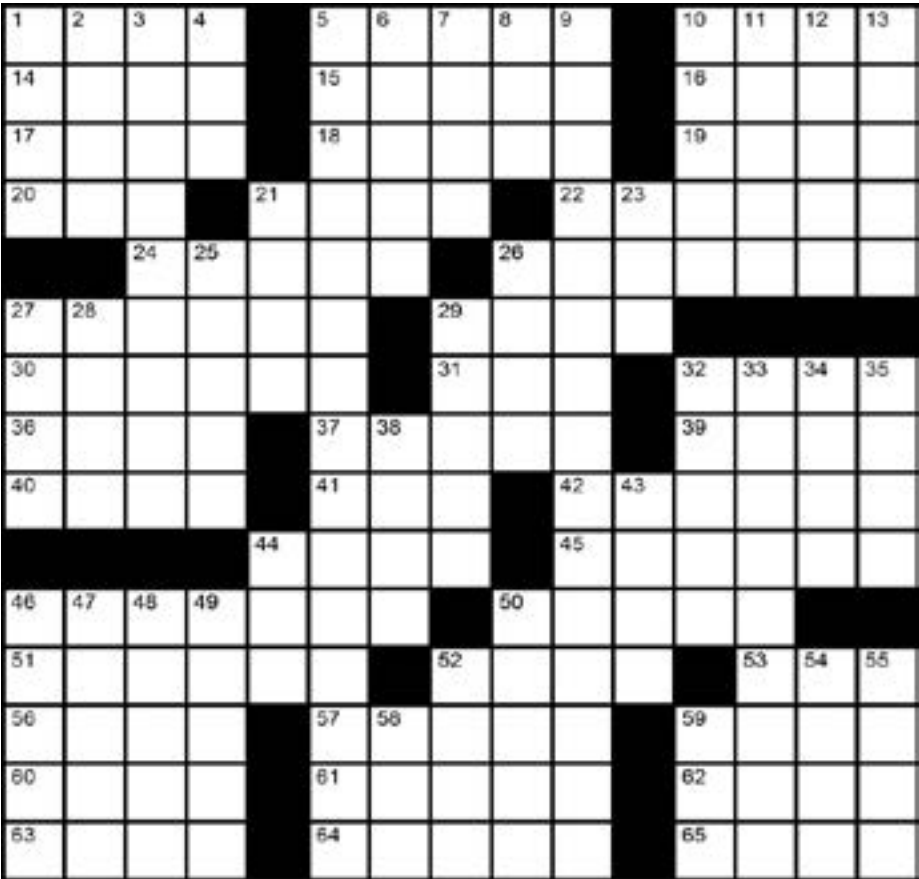
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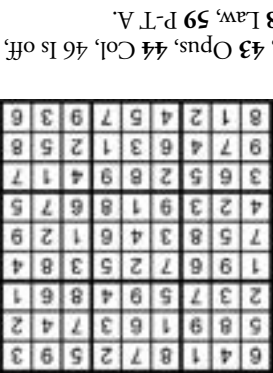
- 1 Scorch
- 5 Constructor
- 10 Antarctic sea
- 14 Trusted assistant
- 15 Handy
- 16 Very dark
- 17 Please answer
- 18 Civil wrongs
- 19 On-screen Bean
- 20 Tire inflation measure
- 21 Close
- 22 Ready to entertain
- 24 Brace
- 26 Circumspect
- 27 Closer
- 29 Prickly seed vessel
- 30 Musical collections
- 31 Type of lamp
- 32 Campus house, maybe
- 36 Troubles
- 37 Inordinate
- 39 Make over
- 40 Sediment
- 41 Short dog with a flat muzzle
- 42 Taken in
- 44 Surrender

DOWN

- 1 Complain
- 2 Convicted spy Alger ---
- 3 Recommended
- 4 Agent
- 5 Convent heads
- 6 Entangled
- 7 "Slaughterhouse Five" author --- Vonnegut
- 8 Time in Boston
- 9 Ability
- 10 Vertical pipe

- 11 Upright
- 12 Edible ray
- 13 Ecclesiastical council
- 21 Appear
- 23 Average golf score
- 25 Tie up
- 26 Recognized leader
- 27 Pin down
- 28 Fashion magazine
- 29 Emblem
- 32 Scowl
- 33 Spiritual
- 34 Yemeni port
- 35 Sweeney ---
- 38 Uncovered
- 43 Literary work
- 44 Mountain pass
- 46 Has gone
- 47 Cell maker
- 48 Well turned out
- 49 Ira ---, Iwo Jima flagraiser
- 50 Small flock
- 52 Prima donna
- 54 Rabblies
- 55 Abrade
- 58 Statute
- 59 Harper Valley org.

PUZZLE ANSWERS



Across: 1 Char, 5 Maker, 10 Ross, 14 Aide, 15 Of use, 16 Inkly, 17 R S V P, 18 Torts, 19 Sean, 20 P s i, 21 Shut, 22 Open to, 24 Steel, 26 Guarded, 27 Nearer, 29 Burr, 30 Alburns, 31 Arc, 32 Frat, 36 Ills, 37 Undue, 39 Redo, 40 Lees, 41 Pug, 42 Fooled, 44 Cede, 45 Upwind, 46 Inshore, 50 Clung, 51 Somali, 52 Dons, 53 I M F, 56 Okay, 57 Olive, 59 Poor, 60 Fire, 61 Raves, 62 Tube, 63 Fats, 64 Sways, 65 Asst. Down: 1 Carp, 2 Hiss, 3 Advisable, 4 Rep, 5 Mother superiors, 6 Afoul, 7 Kurt, 8 E S T, 9 Resourcefulness, 10 Riser, 11 On end, 12 Skare, 13 Synod, 21 Seem, 23 Par, 25 Truss, 26 Gurn, 27 Nail, 28 Elle, 29 Badge, 32 Frown, 33 Religious, 34 Aden, 35 Todd, 38 Nude, 43 Opus, 44 Col, 46 Is off, 47 Nokia, 48 Smart, 49 Hayes, 50 Covey, 52 Diva, 54 Mobs, 55 Fret, 58 Law, 59 P-T-A.



# College teaching students to be good neighbours

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

As Niagara College students pack up to move home, there have been some positive results in the interactions between them and their neighbourhood, says a member of the Glendale Task Force.

Niagara-on-the-Green resident Steve Hardaker says as the college term comes to an end, there have been "good improvements in student/neighbour relations."

The college "deserves a great deal of credit with this," he added, through the Town and Gown Committee, which most universities and colleges organize to provide a forum for finding solutions to challenges related to near-campus neighbourhoods and the community's relationship with students.

There has also been progress through the Glendale Task Force, which has representation from college staff and students.

Lianne Gagnon, director of student services at Niagara College, and the college's student administrative council have worked to improve students' understanding of being good neighbours, and both Gagnon and the head of the stu-

dent group sit on the new Glendale Task Force, reconfigured by the current town council, to further improve relationships with residents.

Having student representatives on the task force, Gagnon said, is new, and something the students wanted. "They said, 'It's not about us, without us,'" she explained.

The Town and Gown committee, she said, which encourages students to be good neighbours, "is not just about looking at issues, it's also considering the benefits of having a university or college in your community."

The college publishes a Good Neighbours Guide for each of the Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake campuses, encouraging students who live off-campus to be good neighbours, respect others' rights to enjoy their property; keep their yards tidy; keep noise to a minimum; party responsibly; talk to neighbours; and offer help if needed.

Gagnon, a resident of Niagara-on-the-Green, said she picks up garbage when she walks through her neighbourhood, and often meets students who offer to help.

In the fall, she talked to students about garbage, recycling, parking and town

bylaws, and in May, when they move out and garbage can pile up, there is a neighbourhood cleanup, with students taking part.

"We want to show the neighbourhood students can be responsible citizens," she said.

"They are often blamed for litter, but it's not always them. We can all take responsibility for cleaning up."

The college is also offering the RentSmart program as part of a pilot project, free to students, to help them learn how to be good and responsible tenants. It's offered to landlords as well, to help them learn their role.

"I've taken it myself. It offers some really valuable information," said Gagnon.

Hardaker said educational materials on neighbourhood relations have gone a long way in providing useful information to both students and home owners.

One of his favourite initiatives is offered by the student administrative council at this time of year.

"It provides free garbage tags to departing students and helps to keep our neighbourhood cleaner," he said.

"It's the bag and tag program," explained Gagnon. Students who are moving out can go to the student

council office to pick up garbage bags and the tags that allow them to put more than one bag at the curb.

"The program has proved really helpful," she said, "and students are always reminded about cleaning up when they move at the end of the term."

Another initiative, developed by the college to help Niagara-on-the-Green residents, is a partnership with the library.

"If residents take out books from the NOTL Public Library, they can return them at the college library. It's a service available to anyone eligible to take out books. It's really important to us to have good relations with residents, and we're doing anything we can to achieve that."

Some of the situations faced by residents, she said, are more due to absentee landlords than student behaviour, and students are not the only tenants. On-street parking issues are also not only caused by students, she added, and that's something the Town's task force is looking at.

She's pleased to be part of the task force, and impressed with its mandate. "I think there are going to be great strides made in the future," she said.



Stephen Kosh, executive director of NCSAC, Lianne Gagnon and NCSAC president Ryan Huckla distribute the Good Neighbour Guide to homes in Niagara-on-the-Green. (Photo supplied)



Ryan Huckla, outgoing president of the Niagara College Student Advisory Council, took part in a cleanup in Niagara-on-the-Green. (Photo supplied)

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