Inclusivity, diversity sensitive issues that require care

Penny Coles
The Local

In the week since Kiera Sangster, a member of the town’s inclusivity committee, spoke to council about the problems the town is facing, and the importance of the work of the committee, “Things are percolating under the surface in town,” she said. “When you bring them to the surface, people start speaking out both for and against. What we do has to be done with care. We have to take our time—these are sensitive topics.”

Going through the results of the online survey launched by the committee earlier this year, and finalized to be presented to council last week, Sangster told councillors almost half of the people who responded to the Niagara-on-the-Lake survey as neither diverse nor inclusive.

Those who have offered their comments in the survey “are taking a risk letting us into their feelings and opinions. We have to be mindful of that,” said Sangster. “It’s a delicate time.”

The survey findings indicate there is work to be done to improve the diversity and inclusivity of the NOTL community, work that will be done through the formation of focus groups to look at four particular areas of concern as identified by the survey and its accompanying comments.

And in the days since the presentation, she said, she has heard some positive comments, and some very negative ones, reinforcing the need for the committee, the work it is undertaking, and the importance of being sensitive and meticulous with what is presented to council.

Sangster explained the survey, launched through the town’s online Join the Conversation page on its website, was intended “to provide a lens into diversity and inclusion in NOTL, offering insights into people who make up the community, people’s experiences, and inclusion and diversity issues in the community.”

She explained to council members that the results of the survey, which drew 173 respondents, will allow the committee “to develop meaningful, well-defined priorities, and provide informed guidance to counsel staff and council members, with the ultimate goal of making NOTL a more inclusive and welcoming community.”

Only 8.1 per cent of the respondents said they believe NOTL is both diverse and inclusive.

Continued on page 3
The town has now received a complete application for the subdivision planned by Benny Marotta on John and Charlotte Streets, bordering the Rand Estate property.

SORE (Save our Rand Estate) members have been involved in all the legal challenges regarding the three John Street East properties and the one on Charlotte Street, and they intend to be involved in discussions about the subdivision.

Benny Marotta of Solmar first presented a concept of the subdivision in January, 2018, at a meeting about Randwood at the community centre. The current application proposes a density increase to what was originally presented, with 125 single family homes and 66 semi-detached, says SORE spokesperson Lyle Hall.

"SORE definitely intends to fight Mr. Marotta’s latest attempt to flout NOTL development standards," says Hall. "Our focus is and always has been, on the entire Rand Estate."

"We are not opposed to developing the property, but has proposed subdivision is a complete-inappropriate, high-density development that would leave almost every square inch of the backhalf of the Rand Estate covered with houses," Marotta is asking for Official Plan and zoning amendments to remove a triangle of agricultural property so that the complete parcel will be residential and open space. His application refers to the proposal as low density.

In an emailed response to questions, Marotta said this proposal is not high density, and has fewer lots than the previous application.

The complete property is already considered within the urban boundary in the Niagara Region Official Plan.

"We far worse than Mr. Marotta’s original subdivision plan that he showed the community at the public meeting in early 2018", says Hall. "By our count he’s added approximately 30 more houses. This is a bizarre way of showing that."

The next step for SORE is to await the Conservation Review Board in July, says Hall, which will provide advice on the town's intention to designate Marotta properties as heritage, under the direction of the previous council in August of 2018.

SORE is a party to that hearing, and will be presenting evidence, says Hall. "From there, the heritage designation question will go back to council for a final decision. After that, the Marotta companies (Solmar and Two Sisters Resorts) need an official plan amendment, a zoning bylaw amendment and approval of a subdivision plan to proceed with this proposal."

SORE will continue to defend the integrity of the Rand Estate and NOTL Official Plan, says Hall.

"We will be only too happy to see Mr. Marotta at the Conservation Review Board, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, and in the courts, if need be."

We know what we’re doing, and we have lined up and continue to use a team of leading experts to assist us . . . and we haven’t lost a court or tribunal challenge yet to Mr. Marotta. Mr. Marotta should know we are not going away."

Lord Mayor Betty Due- ro says she can’t comment on whether this application will increase in density over what was presented as a concept, because that never came before council.

"We are also waiting to hear the results of the Conservation Review Board hearing, she says, and her goal of preserving the heritage aspects of the properties remains paramount."

"There’s still a long way to go," says Du ero, "and a lot of heritage issues that need to be resolved. My thought is always to figure out what needs to be preserved and protected first!"

The response to SORE’s most recent call to action, says Hall, via emailed alerts and website postings, "has been overwhelming. We are not a voice in the dark . . . there is substantial opposition to Mr. Marotta’s pro- posal."

The next step for the town to address this subdivision application will be a virtual Open House on Tuesday, June 15 at 5 p.m.

That will be followed by a public meeting, Peter Todd at pe- ter.todd@notl.com or call him at 905-468-3061, ext 228.

We recommend you reg- ister now so that your place is secured and you do not forget.

Written comments can be emailed to Peter Todd.

The application is posted on the Town’s website at notl.com/content/public-notices-under-planning-act.

St. Davids residents fed up with dust and dirt

The residents of Hickory Avenue in St. Davids have run out of patience.

Their emails to Lord Mayor Betty Duro and townsfolk denote their frustration, as they prepare to face another summer without a solution to the dust. Disero, then a first-time candidate, said there was no prog- ress during the election, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

Leading up to the 2014 election, Disero, then a first-time candidate for councillor, said there was no prog- ress during the election, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

There has been presenta- tions to town council going back to 2015, petitions signed by the residents, and correspondence repeating their quest for the town to take responsibility for the situation.

In recent emails from res- idents to the lord mayor and councillors, a deadline of May 8 has been set for a resolution. Their frustration is increasing, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

There’s still a long way to go, says Du ero, "and a lot of heritage issues that need to be resolved. My thought is always to figure out what needs to be preserved and protected first!"

The response to SORE’s most recent call to action, says Hall, via emailed alerts and website postings, "has been overwhelming. We are not a voice in the dark . . . there is substantial opposition to Mr. Marotta’s pro- posal."

The next step for the town to address this subdivision application will be a virtual Open House on Tuesday, June 15 at 5 p.m.

That will be followed by a public meeting, Peter Todd at pe- ter.todd@notl.com or call him at 905-468-3061, ext 228.

We recommend you reg- ister now so that your place is secured and you do not forget.

Written comments can be emailed to Peter Todd.

The application is posted on the Town’s website at notl.com/content/public-notices-under-planning-act.

St. Davids residents fed up with dust and dirt

The residents of Hickory Avenue in St. Davids have run out of patience.

Their emails to Lord Mayor Betty Duro and townsfolk denote their frustration, as they prepare to face another summer without a solution to the dust. Disero, then a first-time candidate, said there was no prog- ress during the election, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

Leading up to the 2014 election, Disero, then a first-time candidate for councillor, said there was no prog- ress during the election, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

There has been presenta- tions to town council going back to 2015, petitions signed by the residents, and correspondence repeating their quest for the town to take responsibility for the situation.

In recent emails from res- idents to the lord mayor and councillors, a deadline of May 8 has been set for a resolution. Their frustration is increasing, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

There’s still a long way to go, says Du ero, "and a lot of heritage issues that need to be resolved. My thought is always to figure out what needs to be preserved and protected first!"

The response to SORE’s most recent call to action, says Hall, via emailed alerts and website postings, "has been overwhelming. We are not a voice in the dark . . . there is substantial opposition to Mr. Marotta’s pro- posal."

The next step for the town to address this subdivision application will be a virtual Open House on Tuesday, June 15 at 5 p.m.

That will be followed by a public meeting, Peter Todd at pe- ter.todd@notl.com or call him at 905-468-3061, ext 228.

We recommend you reg- ister now so that your place is secured and you do not forget.

Written comments can be emailed to Peter Todd.

The application is posted on the Town’s website at notl.com/content/public-notices-under-planning-act.

St. Davids residents fed up with dust and dirt

The residents of Hickory Avenue in St. Davids have run out of patience.

Their emails to Lord Mayor Betty Duro and townsfolk denote their frustration, as they prepare to face another summer without a solution to the dust. Disero, then a first-time candidate, said there was no prog- ress during the election, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

Leading up to the 2014 election, Disero, then a first-time candidate for councillor, said there was no prog- ress during the election, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

There has been presenta- tions to town council going back to 2015, petitions signed by the residents, and correspondence repeating their quest for the town to take responsibility for the situation.

In recent emails from res- idents to the lord mayor and councillors, a deadline of May 8 has been set for a resolution. Their frustration is increasing, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

There’s still a long way to go, says Du ero, "and a lot of heritage issues that need to be resolved. My thought is always to figure out what needs to be preserved and protected first!"

The response to SORE’s most recent call to action, says Hall, via emailed alerts and website postings, "has been overwhelming. We are not a voice in the dark . . . there is substantial opposition to Mr. Marotta’s pro- posal."

The next step for the town to address this subdivision application will be a virtual Open House on Tuesday, June 15 at 5 p.m.

That will be followed by a public meeting, Peter Todd at pe- ter.todd@notl.com or call him at 905-468-3061, ext 228.

We recommend you reg- ister now so that your place is secured and you do not forget.

Written comments can be emailed to Peter Todd.

The application is posted on the Town’s website at notl.com/content/public-notices-under-planning-act.

St. Davids residents fed up with dust and dirt

The residents of Hickory Avenue in St. Davids have run out of patience.

Their emails to Lord Mayor Betty Duro and townsfolk denote their frustration, as they prepare to face another summer without a solution to the dust. Disero, then a first-time candidate, said there was no prog- ress during the election, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

Leading up to the 2014 election, Disero, then a first-time candidate for councillor, said there was no prog- ress during the election, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

There has been presenta- tions to town council going back to 2015, petitions signed by the residents, and correspondence repeating their quest for the town to take responsibility for the situation.

In recent emails from res- idents to the lord mayor and councillors, a deadline of May 8 has been set for a resolution. Their frustration is increasing, and the only fall-back is to threaten to withdraw support in the next municipal election.

There’s still a long way to go, says Du ero, "and a lot of heritage issues that need to be resolved. My thought is always to figure out what needs to be preserved and protected first!"

The response to SORE’s most recent call to action, says Hall, via emailed alerts and website postings, "has been overwhelming. We are not a voice in the dark . . . there is substantial opposition to Mr. Marotta’s pro- posal."

The next step for the town to address this subdivision application will be a virtual Open House on Tuesday, June 15 at 5 p.m.

That will be followed by a public meeting, Peter Todd at pe- ter.todd@notl.com or call him at 905-468-3061, ext 228.

We recommend you reg- ister now so that your place is secured and you do not forget.

Written comments can be emailed to Peter Todd.

The application is posted on the Town’s website at notl.com/content/public-notices-under-planning-act.
Shaw moves to outdoor venues with first July performances

Shaw Festival will move forward with focus groups

Committee will move forward with focus groups

Continued from page 1

and inclusive, Sangster said, and 97.6 per cent said NOTL would benefit from diversity and inclusion.

While 72.1 per cent of those who responded said they feel they belong in NOTL, almost 28 per cent feel that they do not belong in town, some or all of the time.

Twenty-four per cent indicated they have felt unwelcome as a customer or an employee in a NOTL business, or have witnessed or heard about discrimination in a NOTL business.

Out of 12 respondents who identify as having a disability, five indicated they have experienced exclusion or accessibility issues.

Thirty-six per cent of those who answered said they have experienced hostility or felt unwelcome treatment as a result of how long they have lived in NOTL and 18.5 per cent indicated their socio-economic status has made it difficult to access programs, courses or events in NOTL.

Eighty-two per cent said they are interested in learning about issues related to diversity and inclusion, including racial, gender, ethnic, impairement, or religious identities.

“arid the stories I have heard

some topics brought forward from

the survey, with eight to 10 members in each group.

From the beginning of her work with the inclusivity committee, she says, she has felt the weight of the responsibility for what the committee is trying to accomplish. She has felt a lack of acceptance herself, and would like to know that others ‘will never feel that way again.’

It’s a huge task, she says, “but if we start now, we’re ahead of the game.” If we don’t, we’ll be waiting, and waiting and waiting. And it will never happen.

Shaw Festival artists and employees by landlords and business owners was the second area of concern. "It is particularly troubling to see the way field workers, Shaw’s artists, hotel workers and our other more diverse local workers are treated by some locals, and how they assume they are not residents or are less as renters, despite directly driving the economy of this town with their work," were some of the comments from that group.

Negative treatment of Shaw Festival artists and employees by landlords and business owners was the third concern, with these comments: "NOTL is a difficult community to ‘get in’ to," said Sangster, "they feel the weight of the responsibility for what the committee is trying to accomplish. They have the support. We’re not just this small town at the end of a street. This is happening around the world.”

Shaw Festival plans to present the rest of its 2021 season as per the revised schedule, however, performances will only take place if deemed safe to do so.

In addition to followings and excluding the directives of local, provincial, and federal governments and their respective public health agencies, The Shaw has implemented a robust Duty of Care initiative. These measures include significant infrastructure improvements and a commitment to ensuring the health and safety of audiences, company members and communities.

For the most up-to-date information, visit shawfest.com.
Coyote sightings a joy for nature lover

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

Those of us who are fortunate to call Niagara-on-the-Lake home are blessed in many ways. For me, living in a town that has some wonderful outdoor areas so close is one of those blessings. With these outdoor areas comes the opportunity to view and photograph a wide variety of wildlife. On one recent morning walk, for example, I was able to take photographs of a muskrat, a juvenile bald eagle, several birds and a coyote minutes from the house.

Then on an early Tuesday morning walk, I was able to get a few photos of two coyotes. It was not the best condition, with low light, but interesting. These were taken in the forested area between the former hospital building and Fort George. They passed by me, and a couple who had been walking on the path. They minded their own business, marking territory, and trotted past the fort toward the river.

In the Old Town, with One Mile Creek running through it, we can often see some of the town’s wildlife without leaving our backyards. Earlier this year, I came across three deer following the creek bed, crossing streets and, like the deer, following the creek bed through town. Often, with sightings like this comes concerns.

I came across the so-called “white coyote” early Saturday morning, as both of us wandered near Fort George Tuesday probably includes the large, ‘white’ coyote residents have been seeing in town. “It’s not really white, as my wife pointed out when she examined the photos,” says photographer David Gilchrist, “but has enough white in face and body to make it stand out from others.”

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources outlines some of the ways this can be achieved.

Prevent encounters with coyotes

How to make your property uninviting: Landowners are responsible for preventing problems with coyotes by limiting attractants and discouraging them from damaging their property.

They may not use poisons or adhesives to kill, capture or injure coyotes, including to protect your property.

How to limit attractants

Properly store and maintain garbage containers to help prevent coyotes from becoming a problem.

Keep pet food indoors.

Put garbage out the evening of a scheduled pickup.

Use enclosed composting bins rather than exposed piles.

Pick ripe fruit and seed from trees and remove fallen fruit from the ground.

Protect vegetable gardens with heavy-duty garden fences or place vegetative plants in a greenhouse.

Discourage coyotes from entering your property

Use motion-sensitive lighting and/or motion-activated sprinkler systems to make your property less attractive to coyotes and other nocturnal wildlife.

Put up a two-metre high fence that extends at least 20 centimetres underground as coyotes may dig under a barrier.

Install a roller system to the top of your fence so animals can’t gain a foothold.

Clear away brush and dense weeds near your home where coyotes may find cover and small animals.

Close off spaces under porches, decks and sheds.

Coyotes use these areas for denning and raising their young. Since coyotes are opportunistic feeders, small pets such as dogs and cats may be seen as prey. It is advised to watch them carefully if your dog is in the backyard and don’t allow cats to wander the neighbourhood. Fact sheets entitled Coyote Proofing Your Property, Encounters with Coyotes and Protecting Your Property can be found at ontario.ca

As more people move to our wonderful town, it is hoped they can embrace the wildlife that, in many ways, enhances our life here. Caution sightings of animals like our ‘white’ coyote in local neighbourhoods should be, with appropriate cautions, a satisfying experience.
Vaccination eligibility expands as NOTL clinics planned

Penny Coles | The Local

The good news about vac-
cinations is there are two days of clinics planned at the Niag-
rada Centre, the NOTL community centre, May 15 and 16.

And apart from the desig-
nated hot spots, where those 18 and older can be vaccinated, those 55 and older can book a vaccination at one of the pub-
lc health community clinics through the province’s online portal at Ontario.ca/book-vaccine, or by phoning 1-833-943-3933, which includes the NOTL clinics.

The age limit is expected to be lowered later this week to allow appointments for people aged 50 and up.

Next week, said Dr. Mus-
afa A. Al-Tehrani, acting chief medical officer, the age is expected to be lowered to 40 plus, then during the week of May 16 it goes down to 30-
plus, and by the last week of May, it should be available to anyone 18 and older.

The number of available appointments will depend on how much vaccine the region receives, he was expecting a good amount to come this way.

Ontario is expected to re-
cieve about 50 per cent more vaccine than originally prom-
ised in the coming weeks, but it will go to the hot spots across the province, said Hirji.

Vaccination eligibility is opening up to include people with some high-risk health conditions, and for caregivers, and will be further opened up in coming weeks for those with some high-risk health conditions.

Also in the coming days, people who work from home and fall into the prov-
ince’s list of essential workers should be eligible. That list is expected to be expanded next week.

For a complete list of who can be vaccinated and when, visit COVID-19.ontario.ca.

The bad news on the vac-
cination front is the shortage of the AstraZeneca vaccine is affecting the ability of phar-
macies and primary care doctors to offer vaccinations, said Hirji.

Sean Simpson of Simp-
sion Pharmacy says he hasn’t been able to make any new appointments for more than a week, and officially used up the last of his vaccine Monday.

He has no confirmation of any on its way, and although that could change, he’s not ex-
pecting it any time soon.

He’s disappointed with the provincial decision from the beginning of the vacci-
nation roll-out, a decision he calls “senseless,” to only offer AstraZeneca to pharmacies based on the ultra-cold tem-
peratures needed for storage of Moderna and Pfizer.

Those vaccines both have a fridge life of five days, and pharmacies can handle that, as well as other medications, says Simpson.

With the possibility of vac-
cinating 50 people or more a day, this could effectively con-
trol appointments to ensure no vaccine goes to waste, he says.

Ontario is now consid-
ering a pilot project to send Pfizer and Moderna to phar-
macies, that could have been done from the start of the roll-
out, as other provinces have done, says Simpson.

At this point, he is playing a waiting game, with no ex-
pectation of vaccine delivery “any time soon.”

Meanwhile, he has a wait-
list of more than 1,000 people, eligible according to their age, for both the Vir-
gil pharmacy and the King Street Apothecary. There may be some overlap, he says, and some who have received vac-
cinations elsewhere, but there are still a lot of people waiting for vaccinations. His message remains, “sign up on any list you can,” and take the first appointment you’re offered.

Julie Dyck of Stone Road Pharmacy is in a similar pre-
clusion, out of vaccines, and with no idea of when to expect her next shipment. She has managed the 380 doses she received, holding evening clinics to accommodate locals, and still has a waiting list.

“It’s really hard to say no to people,” she says. “But they understand.”

Dr. Al-Tehrani says he would love to be part of the provincial pilot project for the other vaccines, and will be happy to administer what-
ever doses come her way, she says.

The outreach committee, manned by local business-
woman Maria Marvradis, has organized virtual events such as a trivia night, one just for youth, the other for families, both well-attended, said Ga-
natra. There will likely be one more this month or in June. That current project came to reach out to youth in the com-
munity and encourage “overall wellness,” is part of a larger evolution of local businesses to put toget-
ther gift packages for kids from NOTL ages 13-18. They hope for “an assortment of items such as gift cards, local vouch-
ers, and small trinkets,” that will help “lift the spirits” of NOTL’s youth during these times.

Local businesses interest-
ed in donating items to go in these packages can contact Lauren Kruftbosch, the town’s community engagement coordi-
nator, at laurenkruftbosch@ notl.com, or Gaanatra at jami-
ganatra03@gmail.com by May 18.

All donors will be acknowled-
ged publicly on the website and Lord Mayor Youth Ad-
vocates’ social media pages, as well as on a donation list included in each package.

The advocacy group, men-
tioned by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, is looking at ways to reduce littering. There will be a survey available on the coun-
lusocial media, for youth to help determine which areas of the town are subject to the most lit-
ter, with a goal of adding more garbage receptacles in those ar-
eas, said Gaanatra.

One of the past accom-
plishments of the council, the Mental Health and Wellness Conference for Grade 8 stu-
dents from all NOTL schools, was held as a virtual series of speakers last year, and this spring will feature videos of speakers who have been part of the conference in the past.

The topics will address mental health issues, but are expected to focus on some of the issues facing youth during the pan-
demic, including social isola-
tion.

With help from Catherine Goorzen from the NOTL RO-
tary Club, the mentor of the wellness committee, co-
chair Julia King says the youth coun-
sel is sharing tips and motiva-
tional advice on Instagram, @ InMyCouns. They are also work-

Youth advisory council projects moving forward

Youth advisory council projects moving forward

Scott Russell, Broker of Record, is proud to announce that Nancy achieved the Diamond Elite Award for her 2020 performance in our Niagara region.

This prestigious award recognizes exceptional service and performance among real estate professionals across the Americas.

Nancy Bailey, CIPS - Engel & Volkers Oakville, Brokerage

236 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville, ON L6J 1G7

Phone: 905-571-4234

Learn more at nancybailey.evreal estate.ca
Vaccinations still the ticket on the road to recovery

Andrea Kaiser Special to The Local

Last week, I was most disappointed to see that the Conservative Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls authored a column that omitted key facts about the federal government’s support for small businesses and the tourism sector.

While I understand that part of the role of the Official Opposition involves criticizing the government’s policies, I do not believe it is appropriate to leave out relevant details in communications to constituents.

In particular, I believe it is worth noting that the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), which has helped keep more than 5.3 million Canadians employed during the pandemic, was set to end in June of this year, but has been extended to September 2021, to help businesses get through the summer. Our Conservative Member of Parliament criticized this extension in his column as inadequate, but then stood up in the House of Commons to vote against extending it at all. His column also failed to mention that the federal budget clearly committed to rapid tests and vaccine procurement. This is a critical investment in our economic recovery but also the mental health and well-being of our communities.

Lastly, I was particularly surprised to see the MP for Niagara Falls spread misinformation with respect to the federal government’s role in vaccine procurement. That, or not. Our choice. But the more of us on board, the sooner we get there.

The town continues to ask us to be kind. Kind people continue to ask us to be kind.

One overwhelming concern, however, is that we are hearing more and more about those who are anxious and depressed, the increased number of people suffering from mental health issues, for whom getting back to normal is too far in the future.

In doing something positive for someone else, reaching out to our friends, and helping our neighbours will lift their spirits. And do a little to reduce the anxiety many residents are feeling during this pandemic. As the saying goes, “if you have a column that excludes critical information, it ought to be evaluated by the Opposition on the basis of facts, not misleading columns that exclude critical details and contribute to the fear and anxiety we are all feeling during this pandemic.”

Although I applaud the town creating a diversity council, one has to ask why there is not a grain of salt the findings of a survey in which the majority of respondents (as indicated in the survey) were white heterosexual women. To then move in creating focus groups on the findings to only push this issue down the road even further when direct action can be taken now, and without a survey or a committee.

The town should create a policy today to allocate a percentage of procurement funds to reach out to certified diverse suppliers like many large and small municipalities have initiated already. In doing so, they should also encourage large employers in town to follow suit, economic equality is one way to create a more inclusive town.

Second, they should work with NGOs like the Canadian Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce in conducting a deep dive on how town services from city hall, public spaces and emergency services can be more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of those this committee was meant to help.

Third, the town should actively engage diverse owned businesses and the tourism industry to help Commerce to develop a year round strategy to promote diversity outwardly. LGBTQ tourism alone is a $12 billion industry per year. This will not only attract much-needed post pandemic recovery dollars, but perhaps illus- trate to someone struggling to be a better community for all within.

Lastly, and perhaps the easiest despite the resistance some may have, is a pride walk. Communities big and small are participating and this can be done for the month of June. I am sure we could organize a fund- raiser to benefit some beneficiary and it would be a wonderful way to walk the walk.

These are a few ideas that I hope will get the ball rolling, if not local.com

DISTRESS CENTRE
For depression, distress and crisis. 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711

MENTAL HEALTH
ACCESS
1-866-863-0511

GAMBLER’S
ANONYMOUS
905-351-1616

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

Letters! We want letters!

between May 3 – 5, 2021.
Local LETTERS

SOME CLARIFICATIONS ABOUT PARK USAGE

At one of its meetings this month, town council will receive and make decisions on the staff recommendations developed in re- response to the Jan. 18, 2021 submis-
sion to the committee of the whole by the Friends of Ryerson Park.

Since our presentation to council there have been countless inaccuracies made by a local paper comprised of 204 households including over 350 residents. The majority of the Friends live in Chautauqua but our numbers do boast a number of resi-
dents from elsewhere in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We are in regular communication by way of social media, teleconferences and on-line visual group discussions. Our objective is to take into its concerns and in full support of the reasonable remedies that have been presented to council.

Chautauqua is a residential area with no public or com-
cercial services. We are fully supportive of visitors and any suggestion to the contrary is an absolute misrepresentation of anything the Friends have ever said.

We are a biracial family hailing from the ‘city that must not be named’. Rather than colour of my skin, and/or the post-

Imagine going to your local park to enjoy time with your family and then being told you can’t bring in anything to eat not to the local council for notllocal.com

I am a friend of the Shaw Festival and was excited to see its return after a year of challenges. However, my excitement turned to frustration when I saw the lack of emphasis on diversity and inclusion in the programming. The festival has a rich history of bringing together people from all walks of life, but sadly, this year’s line-up fell short.

The Friends of Ryerson Park is a very active and growing group, and our membership comprises of 204 households including over 350 residents. The majority of the Friends live in Chautauqua but our numbers do boast a number of residents from elsewhere in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We are in regular communication by way of social media, teleconferences and online visual group discussions. Our objective is to take into account the concerns and in full support of the reasonable remedies that have been presented to council.

Chautauqua is a residential area with no public or commercial services. We are fully supportive of visitors and any suggestion to the contrary is an absolute misrepresentation of anything the Friends have ever said.

We are a biracial family hailing from the city that must not be named. Rather than colour of my skin, and/or the post-

Imagine going to your local park to enjoy time with your family and then being told you can’t bring in anything to eat.

Please keep La Fleur’s efforts going

Just a note to say thanks for the story on La Fleur Fletcher and her husband Claude, and their tremendous efforts to remain in our country in order to become Canadian citizens. Many of us can relate to their struggle and are exhorted for their success.

I learn that our par-

ents have suddenly become homeless and without drinking water must be devastating, as if leaving them behind was not diffi-
cult enough. La Fleur’s humanitar-
ian effort to send a special container to her family and then to have the container back home is both inspiring and humbling.

Regarding the erosion of La Southside, I learned that those wishing to donate goods and services to the town council will receive and make decisions on the staff recommendations developed in response to the Jan. 18, 2021 submission to the committee of the whole by the Friends of Ryerson Park.

Since our presentation to council there have been countless inaccuracies made by a local paper comprised of 204 households including over 350 residents. The majority of the Friends live in Chautauqua but our numbers do boast a number of residents from elsewhere in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We are in regular communication by way of social media, teleconferences and online visual group discussions. Our objective is to take into account the concerns and in full support of the reasonable remedies that have been presented to council.

Chautauqua is a residential area with no public or commercial services. We are fully supportive of visitors and any suggestion to the contrary is an absolute misrepresentation of anything the Friends have ever said.

We are a biracial family hailing from the city that must not be named. Rather than colour of my skin, and/or the post-

Imagine going to your local park to enjoy time with your family and then being told you can’t bring in anything to eat.

Please keep La Fleur’s efforts going

Just a note to say thanks for the story on La Fleur Fletcher and her husband Claude, and their tremendous efforts to remain in our country in order to become Canadian citizens. Many of us can relate to their struggle and are exhorted for their success.

I learn that our parents have suddenly become homeless and without drinking water must be devastating, as if leaving them behind was not difficult enough. La Fleur’s humanitarian effort to send a special container to her family and then to have the container back home is both inspiring and humbling.

Regarding the erosion of La Southside, I learned that those wishing to donate goods and services to the town council will receive and make decisions on the staff recommendations developed in response to the Jan. 18, 2021 submission to the committee of the whole by the Friends of Ryerson Park.

Since our presentation to council there have been countless inaccuracies made by a local paper comprised of 204 households including over 350 residents. The majority of the Friends live in Chautauqua but our numbers do boast a number of residents from elsewhere in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We are in regular communication by way of social media, teleconferences and online visual group discussions. Our objective is to take into account the concerns and in full support of the reasonable remedies that have been presented to council.

Chautauqua is a residential area with no public or commercial services. We are fully supportive of visitors and any suggestion to the contrary is an absolute misrepresentation of anything the Friends have ever said.

We are a biracial family hailing from the city that must not be named. Rather than colour of my skin, and/or the post-

Imagine going to your local park to enjoy time with your family and then being told you can’t bring in anything to eat.
Ontario’s COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

Paid for by the Government of Ontario
I spent nearly four hours trekking around in this mysterious, spellbinding environment with my partner. The weeks prior were demanding with emails and other tasks in life, so I suddenly found myself feeling totally decompresse as I walked beneath a sky of red, white and green buds. The treetops hummed with endless swarms of honey bees, while the forest floor squished beneath my boots. I carefully stepped around the clumps of precious vegetation, fully understanding that rare ferns or mosses are no match for size 13 boots.

An intense, luminous green layer of growth sat at head height across the forest. Spicebush and buttonbush flowers, supporting a constant drone of pollinators around head height across the forest. Spicebush and buttonbush flowers, supporting a constant drone of pollinators flying with artistic layers of pollen which is sometimes coated with water, even those of us who walk here carefully at where we step. The treetops hummed with the fringes of the clouds, and you suddenly find yourself thinking about life, so I suddenly found this place can remain in this state forever.

There is an unwritten law about nature. With regards to certain areas or species, one must be careful not to overly advertise the good stuff sometimes. In some instances, a certain rare species of snake, salamander, or tree may exist in just one remaining area. A part of you wants to yell out, "Hey, come check this out on your next free weekend! There’s something really special out here!" Another part of you says, "the last thing I want is too many people here — it should just exist as it is for as long as possible."

Even if there are no confirmed rare or protected species in the area, the environment itself may be very delicate and complex. Humans are clumsy creatures, even those of us who walk with a "green foot" and look very closely at where we step. "The environment was in a few days ago could have your boot stepping on multiple species of moss, lichen, and fascinating fungi at once if you weren't careful. The fringes of the vernal pools were lined with tadpoles and tiny spring flowers, supporting a constant drone of pollinators around the edges. The connections are small, but numerous and invaluable in their nature. This is not an environment to carelessly ramp and steamroll through. One thing I’m hearing more of these days is, “where can I go where there won’t be so many people around?” Well, not to sound like some sort of empowered secret bearer, but I can’t tell you exactly where this place is for that exact reason! I'll show the people closest to me, maybe some fellow biology geeks, sure. But, in today’s day and age of social media glorification, it doesn’t take long for a quiet spot to become popular quickly. We have seen this theme come to fruition during the pandemic.

As I drove out, I smiled and felt puzzled about the future of such places. I asked my girlfriend, “can you imagine the day where even a place like this has dozens upon dozens of cars lined up outside of it, like we see at Short Hills Provincial Park, Woodend, or the Gorge?” We enjoyed some good dialogue about that as we cruised back home.

This also strikes a healthy drive to find your own special place, of which, there is something intrinsically rewarding when you visit. Can you keep a good secret?
Exceptional volunteer is leading by example

Town is fortunate this volunteer chooses to call NOTL home

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

The Friends of Fort George. The War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee. Communities in Bloom. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. Niagara Falls Community Outreach Soup Kitchen. Thursday breakfasts for the homeless at the Third Space Cafe in Niagara Falls. All of these are just a few of the organizations, events and programs that has at least one thing in common: a tireless volunteer and Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Tony Chisholm has freely given of his time to their efforts.

The retired magazine executive can be considered among those Toronto transplants who have been in the news lately for some of the wrong reasons. His volunteerism since he moved here full time in 2010 is a shining example of the value many of those newcomers actually bring to the local community.

Chisholm grew up in Toronto, where he graduated from all-boys school Upper Canada College in 1963. He looks back on the values he learned there, as well as at Canada College in 1963. He has travelled to Niagara-on-the-Lake permanently just before he made the move here full time in 2010 is a shining example of the value many of those newcomers actually bring to the local community.

After a few years there, he was in the city of Quebec. My territory was most of the U.S, and I was in the area of those newcomers actually bring to the local community. One of those is Chisholm, who has been involved in many of the same initiatives and activities as Chisholm, have been leading tours for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. He current serves as president of its board of directors.

This reporter first met Chisholm during the celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812. He was ubiquitous in the kit, acting as an official spokesperson around town for the many events marking the milestone from 2010 to 2014.

It was fun having the costume, he says. "You could go into character, and not have to worry about being your own self. You could be part of history by pretending you were a character from 200 years ago."

Chisholm, in fact, was the main impetus behind the efforts to put together the movie Niagara on Fire, which commemorated the Americans’ burning of the town. Later, as part of the Canada 150 committee, he was instrumental in bringing the Tall Ships to NOTL.

That ended up being one of the most popular events of the Canada 150 events. For both of these flagship activities, Chisholm used his sales skills to help raise funds. "I have developed a passion for doing good fundraising for important organizations," he says. "I really admire people who can make things happen, who are willing to put their effort behind their ideas. This to me is the important thing, the effect that volunteers can accomplish.”

He is also involved in the Heritage Trail committee, a legacy project of Canada 150, and has enjoyed working with the town on Communities in Bloom for many years.

"I knew nothing about municipal works in my career," Chisholm says. "I don’t know how empathetic the town was in encouraging volun- teers to get involved in things like communities in Bloom. I’m happy to share with you the story of our participation in communities in Bloom and to share the story of how we got involved in these initiatives."

Tony Chisholm can adapt the persona of 1812, as he does often for historical events, or he can enjoy a more casual walk (below) with his dog. (Photos supplied)

"Last summer we were able to have a board of directors meeting outside, having a picnic dinner. We’re very happy to enjoy the weather.

Like so many others, Chisholm is hoping vaccines will soon bring an end to pandemic restrictions, to bring volunteers back together, but also so he can once again travel to the U.K. to visit his daughter Lisa and her four grandchildren. The 76-year-old also has two grandchildren living in Toronto.

Until that time comes, and of course beyond, he’ll continue doing what he does, in whatever way he can, contributing selflessly to the community he loves.
Mike Balsom Special to The Local

Orders for the upcoming History in the Vineyard close next Friday, May 14. That leaves plenty of time to ensure you don’t miss out on a gourmet take-out dinner in support of two local charities.

The Niagara Historical Society and the Friends of Fort George both benefit from the tasty fundraisers each year. The dinner options are provided by Ravine Vineyard, Ruffino’s and The Garrison House, with wine choices offered by Ravine.

Friends of Fort George president Tony Chisholm says the idea for the event arose from a conversation he had a few years ago with Paul Harber, proprietor of Ravine Vineyard.

“He and I met when he was just constructing the new conference centre,” explains Chisholm. “He said to me ‘if you ever have anything you want to do from a fundraising aspect, where you want to use the building, please speak to me.’ That’s when we developed the idea of History in the Vineyard.”

The first event took place in the new conference centre in November, 2019. It featured a three-course meal provided by Ravine, with short lectures in the barrel and tasting rooms about historical topics, including the neutrality conferences, the history of wine, the railway and heritage trail and the history of the Ravine property itself. The event sold out quickly.

The success prompted the organizers to plan a return last year. Like many such fundraisers scheduled after March, 2020, however, last year’s dinner was forced to shift to a take-home version. That’s when chefs Ryan Crawford of Ruffino’s and David Watt of The Garrison House became a part of it, offering menu options from their restaurants as well.

Chisholm says because of the nature of the two organizations supported by the event, it was important they were able to maintain the history element of the fundraiser.

“We developed the idea of putting out a video and putting it on YouTube,” he tells The Local, “and giving everyone who got the meal a preview of the video.”

As the 2020 History in the Vineyard was held in December, it made sense to centre the video on Christmas past, including how it was celebrated in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“This year, we put together a video on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Fort George,” says Chisholm. “We did it with Scott Finlay, who works as an interpreter for Parks Canada. He’s a professional MC (Finlay hosted the inaugural History in the Vineyard). In this year’s video, he’s at Fort George in full costume as General Isaac Brock, talking about the battle, adding a lot of authenticity to the piece.”

Finlay will also be on site in full costume at Ravine on May 20 to greet those diners who opt to pick up their dinners that day.

Chisholm sees History in the Vineyard as a very positive fundraiser for two organizations that help keep the town’s history front and centre.

“It’s an important event for both of these organizations,” he says, “and it provides some work and revenue for the three restaurants as well during a difficult time. On top of it all, it’s really popular, because the food is so good!”

“I’m so glad to see its success as a take-out event,” Chisholm adds. “I would never have guessed it would be nearly as successful as a take-out venture.”

He gives a lot of credit to Harber, a long-time supporter of the Friends of Fort George, for bringing in the other chefs.

“He’s the one who has worked closely with them, he’s the one that has them enthusiastic about it. It’s full-on support from all three restaurants.”

As well, Chisholm can’t say enough about the other members of the committee: chair Mona Babin, Amanda Gamble and Amy Klassen.

“It’s a nice, small committee that works really well together, and we have a lot of fun,” he says. “Each has contributed something that has helped to make this event so successful.”

History in the Vineyard takes place Thursday, May 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets are $100, which includes a three-course dinner and a $40 tax receipt. Wine pairings are optional. Information is available through any of the three restaurants, or via the NOTL Museum or Friends of Fort George websites.

To view the menu and place your order, visit canadahelps.org/en/charities/niagara-historical-society/events/history-in-the-vineyard-at-home-2.
Local artists exhibit work in virtual show

Penny Coles  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Cynthia Rand has exhibited her art locally many times, but she has a special place in her heart for the Pelham Art Festival.

It’s an event that attracts interesting artists and a wide range of art, she said, and it always been fun to meet the other artists and talk about their work.

It’s also been an art show that has a cheerful atmosphere, attracting a good crowd of art lovers.

This year, like so much else, it will be online, and that was a bit of a challenge for Rand at first, having to set up a themed exhibit of her paintings not on a wall, but on a website. That was accomplished with the help of her husband Peter, and Saturday, the virtual exhibit opened online for all to view.

It continues until May 15, and can be viewed at pelhamartfestival.com.

“Some people might find it a little difficult to access the art,” says Rand, who misses talking to the artists and those looking to purchase a work of art, but adds the hard work is done, and she can sit back and wait to see if anyone is interested in her art.

When she chose the 15 paintings she wanted to submit, she had a theme of her own. When she and her husband moved into their Line 2 home about 45 years ago, there was some rope left behind in the barn on the property, which eventually made its way into some of her work. She also likes to incorporate old, twisted vineyard wire or rusty nails she’s picked up — expect to see some of those farmyard connections in her paintings as well.

In her introduction on the festival website, she says, “my work still shows my love ofibre and fabric, and it is strengthened by the flow of acrylics and the occasional addition of old, found objects. In this present series, the objects are those found on our centennial farm.”

This will be Rand’s fourth year at the festival, which is typically an exhausting and intense three-day show over Mother’s Day weekend, she says.

It was postponed a few times last year, and eventually cancelled due to pandemic restrictions, so this is the first virtual exhibit.

She is one of seven artists from Niagara-on-the-Lake who are taking part in the show, which is themed Our Planet, Our Future, and includes 60 artists and artwork in a range of styles and mediums.

A portion of artist sales goes toward fundraising efforts to donate to Pelham libraries, fine arts scholarships, and community art endeavours.

Local artist Julia Kane, also participating in the show, says she loves the in-person exhibit, far more than the virtual events.

“You get a chance to talk to people looking at your art, and the interactions are special. Also, the visitor at an art show sees the actual painting, size, structure and reacts to it. It is that emotion evoked that makes the painting special to each individual collector. I can hardly wait ‘til we can do that again.”

Kane, who lives and paints in St. Davids, is known for her vineyard scenes. “I love living here. I enjoy the atmosphere of Niagara and it’s nature and agriculture,” she says.

This year she has taken an interest in the “fragility of the bee and butterfly populations, and am advocating for the planting of pollinator plants in our gardens and surrounds. Several paintings in this show feature both.”

With so few opportunities for artists to showcase their work, Kane says she hopes the virtual show will encourage art lovers to “buy local.”

Other NOTL artists included in the show are Bev Aldridge, Cathy Cullis, Rick Cullis, Ruth Aspinall, and Tim Sullivan.

Cynthia Rand with Entropy Appreciation, a relic of her scientific days, she says. Entropy, a term in thermodynamics, increases as things decay. The items in the picture are old nails, vineyard wire and decayed sacking, found on their old farm. (Photos supplied)

This year she has taken an interest in the “fragility of the bee and butterfly populations, and am advocating for the planting of pollinator plants in our gardens and surrounds. Several paintings in this show feature both.”

With so few opportunities for artists to showcase their work, Kane says she hopes the virtual show will encourage art lovers to “buy local.”

Other NOTL artists included in the show are Bev Aldridge, Cathy Cullis, Rick Cullis, Ruth Aspinall, and Tim Sullivan.

Cynthia Rand with Entropy Appreciation, a relic of her scientific days, she says. Entropy, a term in thermodynamics, increases as things decay. The items in the picture are old nails, vineyard wire and decayed sacking, found on their old farm. (Photos supplied)

“Some people might find it a little difficult to access the art,” says Rand, who misses talking to the artists and those looking to purchase a work of art, but adds the hard work is done, and she can sit back and wait to see if anyone is interested in her art.

When she chose the 15 paintings she wanted to submit, she had a theme of her own. When she and her husband moved into their Line 2 home about 45 years ago, there was some rope left behind in the barn on the property, which eventually made its way into some of her work. She also likes to incorporate old, twisted vineyard wire or rusty nails she’s picked up — expect to see some of those farmyard connections in her paintings as well.

In her introduction on the festival website, she says, “my work still shows my love ofibre and fabric, and it is strengthened by the flow of acrylics and the occasional addition of old, found objects. In this present series, the objects are those found on our centennial farm.”

This will be Rand’s fourth year at the festival, which is typically an exhausting and intense three-day show over Mother’s Day weekend, she says.

It was postponed a few times last year, and eventually cancelled due to pandemic restrictions, so this is the first virtual exhibit.

She is one of seven artists from Niagara-on-the-Lake who are taking part in the show, which is themed Our Planet, Our Future, and includes 60 artists and artwork in a range of styles and mediums.

A portion of artist sales goes toward fundraising efforts to donate to Pelham libraries, fine arts scholarships, and community art endeavours.

Local artist Julia Kane, also participating in the show, says she loves the in-person exhibit, far more than the virtual events.

“You get a chance to talk to people looking at your art, and the interactions are special. Also, the visitor at an art show sees the actual painting, size, structure and reacts to it. It is that emotion evoked that makes the painting special to each individual collector. I can hardly wait ‘til we can do that again.”

Kane, who lives and paints in St. Davids, is known for her vineyard scenes. “I love living here. I enjoy the atmosphere of Niagara and it’s nature and agriculture,” she says.

This year she has taken an interest in the “fragility of the bee and butterfly populations, and am advocating for the planting of pollinator plants in our gardens and surrounds. Several paintings in this show feature both.”

With so few opportunities for artists to showcase their work, Kane says she hopes the virtual show will encourage art lovers to “buy local.”

Other NOTL artists included in the show are Bev Aldridge, Cathy Cullis, Rick Cullis, Ruth Aspinall, and Tim Sullivan.

Cynthia Rand with Entropy Appreciation, a relic of her scientific days, she says. Entropy, a term in thermodynamics, increases as things decay. The items in the picture are old nails, vineyard wire and decayed sacking, found on their old farm. (Photos supplied)
Continued from page 1

encouraged to call out any questions. They were told workers were trying to keep the German home from being entered and exiting from a separate entrance, and staying on that floor, so they would be able to maintain the three-storey home throughout the three-storey home which might spread in the food.

They also kept starting residents in their own rooms, including at meal time, which was eating with her mom, her mother's dad, who was accustomed to more freedom. “I think they were trying, and doing it on their terms, while Keller kept her siblings out as well, and still driving, when he was coming home. “I think they were trying, and doing it on their terms, while Keller kept her siblings

the patio, and we'd go to the parking lot to visit with him all the time, too. "It was going to be a week, just that one day or an hour, or if it was the second, and she didn't feel like going to the long-term care, that he just needed to be there. She said to the doctor, "you're telling someone to go back to the residence."
The staff were very helpful through that difficult time, and as staff said to Keller, she was doing well, and they could do what they wanted to do, so they would be able to hold it. But they were able to make appointments to call, at that time. Keller and her family had to help him Face-Time.

All five of the siblings and her mom were able to talk to him, to say, to tell him, why they wanted to say goodbye to their dad. It was especially hard on her mother, says Keller. "She kept saying she didn't want him to die alone. She wanted to be with him."

While Keller was at the Greater Niagara Hospital site, on the fourth floor, still fairly independent, feeling he needed the bed, so he was being visited by the home. He was okay on the second floor, and in six weeks there were 13 residents who were discharged.

"He was number one," says Keller.

"We had seen him on Christmas Day, when we sat with him and talked with him and his family. He was still very aware of what was going on around him. He never got to the point where he didn't know his children and grandchildren. He was okay on the second floor, and in six weeks there were 13 residents who were discharged.

"As the vaccinations happened, and just a little sooner, at the beginning of January, it might have been a different story."

But as other residents were being vaccinated, her father, by then separated and in a different wing was dedicated to those already infected, could not be.

Then the family got the call from the home to say he was not doing well, and was being transferred to the Greater Niagara Hospital site, says Keller. Shortly after his arrival, a doctor told her by phone that there was nothing they could do for her father, and they needed the bed, so he was being taken to the third floor. "I was having trouble understanding what he said. I said to the doctor, 'you're telling me he's going to die,' and he responded that her father had a Do Not Resuscitate order, that he just needed to be kept comfortable and that she could be done at the long-term care home.

"We didn't know if he had a day or an hour, or if it was going to be a week, that he was terminal. He was dying, and he told us it would be long."

Because he was dying, her mother was offered the option of hospital care, which she declined, and returned home, but with so many infected residents in those few days, starting to become sick, they decided not to take the chance, says Keller.

"Our father fought, surprising them, living another nine days, while Keller kept her siblings up to date on his condition. At the 24-hour mark, almost simultaneous, she was told he was getting better, and she was told "it could change on the flip of a dime," and meanwhile, he was struggling with his breathing, she thinks he was medicated enough that he wasn't in too much pain. She doesn't believe the end was coming, and he went downhill quickly.

During those days, she was on the second floor, and they wouldn't have been able to hold it, but they were able to make appointments to call, and she had been in the second floor, so they went when she was in the second floor.

The sharing of information, increased awareness, support from government, and the on-going support of our families, our residents, and other long-term care centers, we feel we were able to do better, to prepare, but of course the pandemic did not change the plans that were made. It had a small burial service at Niagara Lorraine Cemetery, no church service, or visitation, with Dorothy, the five siblings and two grandsons to help out as pallbearers, and Pastor Michelle Mercer of Gateway Community Church, who knows the family and her father.

As hard as it was to lose him, she says, they are able to look at it as somewhat of a blessing, saving him from the downward spiral of dementia. But that wasn't the end of COVID for the Keller family. "There was that one day, a couple of days before he passed, but it had been laid off from her job, and isn't expecting that to change in September — if students return, there won't be enough for a full component of ESL students, the says. She used to have a sewing business, and may return to that, says. Gerd has retired from it now, and took a job with the Pillar of Light firm, but it has been laid off from that.

"We are very thankful that we have that, and it was great for our family from the patio of the Wellington Street long-term care home. (Photo by Georgina German Keller)

As hard as it was to lose him, she says, they are able to look at it as somewhat of a blessing, saving him from the downward spiral of dementia. But that wasn't the end of COVID for the Keller family. "There was that one day, a couple of days before he passed, but it had been laid off from her job, and isn't expecting that to change in September — if students return, there won't be enough for a full component of ESL students, the says. She used to have a sewing business, and may return to that, says. Gerd has retired from it now, and took a job with the Pillar of Light firm, but it has been laid off from that.

"We are very thankful that we have that, and it was great for our family from the patio of the Wellington Street long-term care home. (Photo by Georgina German Keller)
The town, along with the Niagara Host Society, announced Monday that the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club, located on Melville Drive in Niagara-on-the-Lake, will be the site of the six tennis courts at Memorial Park, while addi-
tional town resources may be allotted for the project pending approval by council.

Hugh Dow says tennis club members are excited to be hosting the 2022 Summer Games tennis competitions. (Photo supplied)
**THE NOTL Local**

**Support your Hometown Businesses Safely**

**The Farmhouse Cafe**

Open for Takeout

**Open for Takeout**

Thursday 12 pm to 7 pm

Fish Fry all Day!

Friday 12 pm to 7 pm

Saturday & Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

Call to order 905-468-8814

Mother's Day Specials Available

Check our website for menu and ordering details.

**Caroline Cellars Winery**

**Wine Boutique & Tasting Bar**

Open for Curbside and In-Store Pickup

7 days a week

**Free NOTL Wine Delivery**

**NEW HOURS OF OPERATION**: Monday to Friday - 8 am to 5 pm, Saturday 8 am - 12 pm

Orders can be called or texted to 905-329-2077 or emailed to creekroadpaints@cogeco.net.

**Stay Safe NOTL**

1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil

**Serving Niagara Since 1977**

Shop from the comfort of home

www.simpsonsparmacy.ca

We are open in store and online and offer curbside pick-up and free delivery.

We will do everything we can to support you.

Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400

Follow our Facebook Page for Updates | www.simpsonsparmacy.ca

To place your ad, call or email Karen at:

905•641•5335 or karen@notllocal.com

*WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR*

Open for Curbside and In-Store Pickup

7 days a week

**Free NOTL Wine Delivery**

**Mother’s Day Specials Available**

Check our website for menu and ordering details.

**New Gourmet Food Items in stock • Unique Gifts for Mother’s Day**

**SHOP SAFELY IN-STORE, ONLINE OR CURBSIDE.**

118 Queen St. | 289.868.8898 | olivniagara.com

New in our New Location

**Now in our New Location**

**Let your customers know you are open to serve them safely!**

Running every week until further notice.

**Creek Road Paints**

is still mixing things up!

We are offering Curbside Pickup and **Free Home or On-Site Delivery**

**NEW HOURS OF OPERATION:**

Monday to Friday - 8 am to 5 pm,
Saturday 8 am - 12 pm

Orders can be called or texted to 905-329-2077 or emailed to creekroadpaints@cogeco.net.

**Stay Safe NOTL**

1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY**

**SUNDAY MAY 9 • 12PM - 8PM • 905-468-4443**

**DINNER FEATURES**

**ALMOND CRUSTED SALMON** $24

4oz Almond Crusted Salmon | Dr. Brown Butter | Rice | Broccoli | Cauliflower

**PAN SEARED CHICKEN** $22

5oz Chicken Breast | Roasted Red Pepper Sauce | Rice | Broccoli | Cauliflower

**PRIME RIB** $26

8oz Prime Rib | Yorkshire Pudding | Champ | Broccoli | Cauliflower | Gravy Horseradish Available Upon Request | 12oz Cut +$6

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:** Order and Pick Up by 5pm
8oz Prime Rib $22 • 12oz Prime Rib $26

**DINNER PACKAGE FOR ONE** $49

Pick Any Entrée | Bottle of Local Wine | Pecan Tart

**DINNER PACKAGE FOR TWO** $73

Pick Any 2 Entrées | Bottle of Local Wine | Pecan Tart

**Menu available on our website**

**Follow our Facebook page for pop-up specials!**

**STAY SAFE NOTL**

1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil