# The Niagara-on-the-Lake



Rita Brown to talk about underwear page 11

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MAY 9, 2019 **Volume 1 · Issue 17** notllocal.com



The Battle of the Atlantic, the longest battle in Canadian history — 1939 to 1945 — was commemorated at Navy Hall waterfront this weekend, at an event organized by the Royal Canadian Naval Association. A stirring ceremony was held at water's edge, as Shipmate George Williams for the Canadian and Allied Armed Forces and Shipmate Nigel Purvis for the Canadian and Allied Merchant Mariners cast carnations onto the Niagara River, one for each of the 26 ships lost during the Second World War. Aiding them are Cadet Matthew Power and Cadet Kayla Lavoie. (Fred Mercnik)

### Councillor wants Town ban on some plastics

### Conversation about eliminating single-use plastics begins Monday

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

expects to start slowly with a ban on single-use plastic straws, stir sticks and plastic utensils, but he doesn't expect to stop there.

a motion he plans to make pal buildings. He chose to to council Monday, which start with them because Coun. Norm Arsenault will open the conversation they are easily replaced about reducing the use of straws can be made of paplastic, he says. He is asking for a staff report, hoping it will lead to a bylaw

He has given notice of three items from municiper, stir sticks of wood, and utensils of metal.

"I'd like to start with that will eliminate those those, and I'd also like to

work with retailers and need to do something."

Arsenault was one of clean up the town waterfront Sunday, he says, and the amount of garbage, especially plastic, "was a real started on this."

other businesses. I'm not Act, the Town has the right Niagara Falls and St. Cathrushing into this but I'm to ban use of plastics if it arines, and have included putting it out there that we chooses, as is happening municipal facilities and across the country, he says. events, but not businesses.

"This isn't something the volunteers who helped new. We might be the first motions on the ban unanmunicipality in the region, imously. Niagara Falls though. Somebody's got to take the leadership role."

Other Niagara mueye-opener. We need to get nicipalities have banned single-use plastic straws

Under the Municipal and stir sticks, including

Both cities approved recommended regional council be encouraged to endorse it as well.

**Continued on page 3** 



www.sunshine-express.ca

THE NOTL LOCAL

### Mother's experience leads to teaching mental health aid

#### Lauren O'Malley The Local

Twenty-two months ago Lisa Daugharty lost her son, Shaw actor Jonah McIntosh, to suicide. This weekend she's coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake teach a mental health first the police force. aid course.

just felt like I needed to do something to help people. I just felt like this is something he would have wanted me to do," says Daugharty. "I wanted to honour his memory by doing something positive."

Out of curiosity and professional interest, the Bowmanville-based, full-time police officer participated in a mental health first aid course offered by Mental Health First Aid Canada not as akin to CPR for the psylong after her son's death. "Afterwards I spoke with the instructor and she said, 'you were so knowledgeable would you consider being giving reassurance; knowan instructor?"

ed the idea, and ultimately went through an arduous and expensive application say; and general awareness structors course in Ottawa," ing through dos and don'ts, negative."

in domestic violence — and losing my son to suicide." She says she also had the to credibility of 21 years on

"When Jonah passed, I to improve education and awareness, and to reduce the stigmatization of mental reason people don't get help for mental health issues is shame. If I can get the word out that it's okay to talk I'm helping people."

> person not go through what ed. Daugharty says Gilchrist my family did, then I've found out about the course done something right."

che. "It's like physical first aid, but for mental health." The course will teach participants about assessment; ing when you can help, and Daugharty contemplat- when you need to call 911; communicating effectively - what to say, what not to

gram. I went to school for According to Daugharty, she continues. "If you picnursing, and then became this one is the basic course, a police officer specializing with the addition of two hours of instruction specifalso had the life lessons of ically directed toward people who interact with youth. "One hour is dedicated to deliberate self-injury — "Now I teach. My goal is and one hour is dedicated to eating disorders — also common in youth."

The course will be held at illness," she says. "The main the Shaw Festival Theatre. Megan Gilchrist, the Shaw's education coordinator, reached out to Daugharty and asked if she would be willing to come about mental health, then to NOTL to teach Girl Guide leaders, as well as any Shaw "If I can just help one staff who might be interestthrough a mental health sup-She describes the course port Facebook page Daugharty started after her son's death: The Book of Jonah; Mental Health First Aid Education and Public Speaking.

Returning to the Shaw will likely be a challenge. "Some days it's really hard to teach this, but something just makes it worthwhile," she says. "A lot of people ask how I can do this. It's someprocess. "In June 2018, I of mental health issues. She thing positive I can do to

well-adapted to the pro- a series offered by MHFA. portant as physical health," ture a triangle of health, one side is physical, another is emotional, and the third is social. You need strength and stability on all the sides, or all the sides suffer."

> "We need physical, which is common in youth; emotional and social support or we're not well. Any one of the three suffers, and it affects the others. They are all part and parcel of what we do."

She warns of sensitive content in the course. "We do talk about someone who might be thinking about suicide. I want to make sure people understand the content, and won't be traumatized," she says. "I'm setting an example for other people: it's okay to talk about suicide."

At the end of the twoday course, participants will be given a mental health first aider certificate from MHFA, says Daugharty.

The fee is \$125 per person, and includes the ac- Aid - Adults Who Interact We all have to make it comcompanying says she is willing to sub- 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both our physical ones," says sidize a small number of days. Anyone over 18 can Daugharty. spots for people who want participate. To register, or was accepted to take the in- will use case studies, work- make a positive out of the to participate but can't af- for more information, con- anywhere I can help. Not to

After losing her son, Lisa Daugharty began teaching a mental health first aid course. (Photo supplied)

ect," she says.

The Mental Health First

mgilchrist@shawfest.com.

"I'm going to speak up. participant with Youth course will be monplace to talk about all manual, valued at \$45. She offered May 11 and 12, from of our problems, not just

"I'm happy to do this ford to pay the full fee. tact Daugharty at lisamac5@ be selfish, but this helps me "Mental health is as im- "This is my passion proj- rogers.com, or Gilchrist at too: it's very therapeutic."



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# Region should come onside with plastics ban

**Continued from page 1** 

Arsenault wants to talk to retailers about raising the cost of plastic bags used by businesses, and possibly instituting a fee on plastic cups. Any extra revenue above what is already being charged would go into a fund to be used on environmental issues, he says. But the Region would have to be onboard — he doesn't

want NOTL restaurants and nesses. He hopes Lord Maythat discussion with the other Niagara municipalities.

Arsenault says he out the ban in several stagthose involved.

When he makes his retailers to feel they are at a presentation at council disadvantage in their busi- Monday, he says he has some "serious numbers" to or Betty Disero will begin offer that will back up what he is saying, and will highlight the need for change.

"We can't say this is would prefer to educate someone else's problem. people rather than force It's not. I don't want to them to change through a leave this up to our chilbylaw, and he plans to roll dren or our grandchildren. We created this mess es, after consultation with and we should work on fixing it."



Maddi LeBlanc of Paddle Niagara, Chelsea Brash, Rochelle Byrne and Ariel Archibald of Cleaner Future, and volunteer Stephanie DiMatteo picked up garbage along the waterfront Sunday. (Fred Mercnik)



Tim Balasiuk, the owner of Paddle Niagara and one of the cleanup organizers, went along the shoreline by boat to pick up garbage collected and bagged by volunteers. (Fred Mercnik)





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## Palliative care service 'best-kept secret'

#### Lauren O'Malley The Local

Bonnie Bagnulo says when she tells people what she does for a living, "their doe in the headlights. They say 'Oh,' and seem kind of dumbfounded. But then they do start to ask questions, and it does start a conversation."

Bagnulo is the program manager at Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service. She is also a professional bereavement counsellor, with a degree in thanatology (the scientific study of death).

It might sound like grim work, but Bagnulo sees it otherwise. "I'll just go to a home and people are overwhelmed and joyful that we're here to go alongside them," she says.

The service is a local resource to help anyone with a life-limiting or life-threatening illness, from diagnosis straight on through, "whether they return to health or not, whether they regress or not," says Bagnulo.

"I always say we're the best kept secret."

Life-limiting issues include dementia, stroke, cancer, heart disease and others. Bagnulo wants to make it clear that "palliative" in this case is not just end-of-life — "it's also emotional support, and of-

fering help with anticipatory from NOTL," says Bagnulo, illness," she says.

with many people coming and going, and little chance for real connection — we like to remove that revolving door."

number of services, including volunteer home visits - or phone calls, for those who would rather not see or be seen by others. There are groups for people who want some understanding peer support, and two different lending libraries. The first is a collection of medical equipment, including walkers, wheelchairs, canes, shower benches, lift recliners, sheepskins and more. All of the equipment is available for free.

The second library is a thorough selection of books, CDs and DVDs on a wide range of topics, and is available to anyone who might ing); and grief and bereaveneed some help navigating the medical or emotional issues involved in complex diagnoses.

Compassionate house, home or hospital visits are community centre. made by a squad, 30-strong, of trained volunteers, says Care Ontario provides online and in-person training for visiting volunteers. "Ninety per cent of our volunteers are adding the palliative care ser-

grief — felt when a loved one adding they are always lookhas been diagnosed with a ing for more. She points out life-limiting or life-threatening there is no more palliative care service in NOTL, since "These situations can be the hospital closed, so visitresponse is generally like a a revolving door of services, ing palliative care has become that much more essential.

> "We always need and welcome more volunteers. Anyone with a warm and caring The local resource offers a heart is encouraged to take our training course," she says. "The more lives we can touch, the more lives are enhanced."

The service has decided another way to enhance the lives of people in NOTL is to offer education. This comes in the form of their library, and also through a series of workshops. It begins on May 16 with a session about advance care planning, led by a palliative pain and symptom management consultant. Upcoming session topics include caregiver relief (May 23); elder care Alzheimer's; MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dyment, with a death doula. The workshops are free, and the auditorium at the NOTL

"We've partnered with the Niagara North Family Health Bagnulo. Hospice Palliative Team for these sessions, which is a step in a very good direction as far as building partnerships," Bagnulo says,



Office administrator Erica Moncion, volunteer Joyce Loewen, and program manager Bonnie Bagnulo wrap candles with a poem written by Moncion's sister for an annual celebration of life ceremony. (Lauren O'Malley)

vice will be moving with the to various manuals and cata- with your soul family." team to their new facilities.

Bagnulo says her bereavement journey began in 2002, with the death of her brother. "I had a lot of death in the family," she says. "I saw that people tend to fall apart just when they should be falling together."

The mother of two nowrun from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in adult children decided to do start with any life-limiting a deep dive into how to solve the pain for others in similar situations. She went from managing a jewelry shop to working in churches and a funeral home, and had a private business as a bereavement counsellor. "People are not wanting to think about job when stalwart leader Terdeath and mortality. Death is a taboo discussion," she says, adding her goal is to change that. "We're living at a time tion uses so many of the skills when people are kept alive and services I have developed as long as possible, despite in other careers," says Bagtheir quality of life. Then they scoop up the body and take it has Mactaggart "in my back away, hide it, don't talk about pocket" whenever she needs it — hush hush."

One of the services offered by the group is "death cafes," where people can discuss all things death and dying in a comfortable, supportive group. "We also offer palliative massage, and a battery of other services we can refer to: hairdressers, Heart to Home meals, advanced care planning and more," she says as she points

logues. "We like to be thought of as a broad resource."

The Niagara Falls native and resident says the service is the answer to the question, "I'm overwhelmed. Is there someone who can put me at ease in this moment of crisis?"

"This is a good place to or life-threatening issue," she says. "If it's beyond our scope, we'll guide them, and move along with them all the way through, at the very least as a the maze of long-term care. sympathetic ear."

Bagnulo was one of 153 people who applied for the ry Mactaggart stepped down from her position last year. "I feel so blessed. This posinulo. She is happy to say she an answer she can't find herself, and says the business was "a well-oiled machine" when she stepped into the full-time, paid position.

The stress and weight of the job can occasionally be overwhelming, and Bagnulo says sometimes she can't help but be angry at the "stupidity" of disease and death, particularly among the young. "Every one of my clients touches me. We have to have a healthy line of detachment, but every one of our clients touches us," she says.

about the job is that my house is 20 minutes from the office," she says. "I have a great playlist, and I crank it in my car. I also love to walk and do yoga. I'm also blessed to be surrounded by a huge team of loving, caring beings — it's like being Bagnulo.

The service currently has approximately 94 clients, says Bagnulo. "Some we have had for five or six years."

It's also serving three longterm care facilities with teams of volunteers who go in for one-on-one visits. "They go in to check up on people, ask them how they are, pop in for 15 minutes to an hour."

Pertinent to NOTL's demographic, another service provided is guidance through "If there's any way we can offer comfort and calm, we will," says Bagnulo.

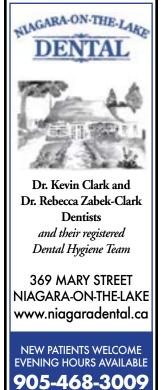
As Bagnulo says, "once you know the need, you'd like to help. Once you've had an experience without support and someone to help you sort out what's going on around you, you want to get involved."

If you're feeling this, there are ways to do so beyond the compassionate care visits. "We always welcome help with light office work, fundraising, or contributions to the lending library," says Bagnulo. "People are welcome to do their own fundraising efforts. We can negotiate how we can help with them," she says, adding that Rev. William Roberts of St. Mark's church conducted his own fundraising bike ride around town as part of the Healing Cycle Foundation.

"The funds go to sourc-"One of the things I love ing more equipment, as well as providing education," says Bagnulo. They also contribute to having volunteers trained, office administration costs, and building the library.

"No one is immune: death touches every single life," says







### LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: AUDREY WALL FOOT CARE CLINIC

been credited with saying, "The human foot is a masterpiece of engineering and a work of art."

In art form, these are clinic room of Audrey operator of Audrey Wall Nursing Corporation.

nursing foot care clinic, and not very imaginative, jokes Wall. In fact, Wall states she had another, catchier name picked out, but was informed by the College of Nurses of Ontario that in order to operate as a nursing corporation, there is no allowance for an operating name. 'Audrey The Foot Nurse' is so much easier to remember, says Wall.

Audrey Wall, NOTL born and raised and an RN for more than 25 years, has worked as a nurse in a number of capacities, and it was during her time at a Family Health Team that Wall was presented with an opportunity to add advanced nursing foot care to her resumé. Never one to turn down an offer for

pleted the education and ly, but the real beneficiary found a passion for an is the client I'm working area of nursing she hadn't with." before considered.

Leonardo da Vinci has more learning, Wall com- sonally and professional- offers full regular and di- harmful ways to remedy tion process following

"I've always loved the care clinic is the first of its and clipping toenails by good idea but using these vides a novel, successful the words you're greeted hands-on clinical aspect kind in the Niagara area, feel can be a risky propwith when you enter the of nursing, really val- and focuses on bringing osition; the potential for dangerous. These tools ue health education and advanced nursing foot Wall, RN, owner and health promotion, and care to Niagara residents. for me, nursing foot care So what does a foot nurse often become frustrated Professional provides an excellent way do? Wall provides care with thick calluses, corns medical-grade, state-ofto bring these together. for calluses, corns, thick or toenails, and look to the-art instruments, and It's a long name for a It's rewarding for me per- or ingrown toenails, and creative, but potentially utilizes a steam steriliza-

and care. "People may injury is quite high."

Adds Wall, "People on living tissue."

abetic foot assessments the situation. Grinding or Public Health Ontario cutting tools found in a and Infection Prevention be unable to see or reach hardware store or in your and Control guidelines. Wall's nursing foot their feet to care for them, garage can seem like a Additionally, Wall proon one's feet can be very treatment for toenail fun-

Wall's clinic uses only

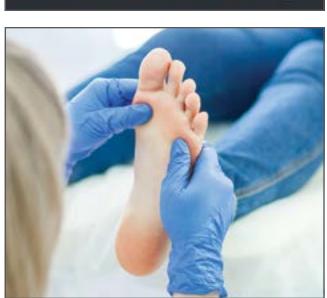
gus, and offers a carefully aren't designed to be used curated selection of compression hosiery, bunion socks and high-end foot care products.

> As a regulated health professional, Audrey The Foot Nurse functions within the practice standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario, and is responsible to bring safe, reliable and affordable nursing foot care to her clients.

While not generally covered by OHIP, nursing foot care is often covered by private insurance plans, and may be included as a medical expense on income tax forms.

"People are surprised when they find out I work with feet all day - and enjoy it. So many people don't like their feet, or don't like to touch or look at them. But if your feet hurt, it's hard to be in a good mood. Great-feeling, healthy feet can make a big difference in how you feel."







# EDITORIAL

### Time to say thank you

read in The Local newspaper about friends and neighbours who do meaningful work in town because they want to give back to their community?

What is best about this town is its people, so many of whom use their time to make a difference for others.

Each has his or her own reasons for choosing to volunteer, but in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it is often about talented, skilled people who want to put their abilities to good use. Often people are passionate about certain causes, such as cleaning up the environment, or lending a helping hand to those less fortunate, and putting such caring into action is rewarding. It's also an opportunity to meet new people, socialize, and, for those new to town, learn

and feel more a part of it.

Volunteerism long-standing history in town, but this year marks the first annual Lord Mayor's Volunteer Awards. They acknowledge the accomplishments of residents who have chosen to give back to their community, and to show public appreciation for all they do. It is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on those who step up to the plate and get things done. And while we know the many people who are active in helping others in town don't do so for thanks or recognition, it is important to reinforce their efforts and the value in what they accomplish. They are the ones who will motivate others to become involved and continue the legacy of volun-

How often do we hear — or a little about their community teering, which contributes so much to making NOTL a great place to live, work and serve others.

If you work alongside an incredible volunteer who goes above and beyond what is required, or know someone who inspires others with their passion and dedication, take a moment to nominate them for public recognition. The deadline to submit a nomination form is 4:30 p.m. this Monday, May 13. The form can be submitted by email to Victoria Steele at victoria.steele@notl.com or it can be dropped off at the town hall.

For more information or to find an application form, visit https://notl.civicweb.net/document/13890.

**Penny Coles** The Local

#### We've grown again



The Local has settled into its new home. We are delighted with our new office in Virgil. We don't have regular hours, but we're here most days. We're at 1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., in the former Hope and Harder office, across from the town hall. Thanks to all of you who have helped us get this far. We're so appreciative of all the support we're receiving. We don't have a sign yet, but we will soon! - Karen Skeoch and Penny Coles (Photo by Helen Arsenault)

The NOTL Local acknowledges the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous peoples.

### The Niagara-on-the-Lake

#### The trusted voice of our community

1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil (former Hope & Harder office)

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### **LOCAL FINDS**



#### **Beautiful monument endures Donald Combe** Special to The Local

Marble was always considered the perfect stone for both beautiful and enduring monuments. However, acid rain and other pollutants have not been kind and most of the marble monuments and markers in our cemeteries are so eroded they are no long legible. At the end of the 19th century, granite became the usual material for monuments, because of its durability. Now almost all stone monuments are granite. Here is an exception, apparently impervious to acid rain. This touching and beautiful monument to an enduring love remains and its message speaks powerfully. It is ironic that William Bartlett died on Valentine's Day.

### Many visitors to town enjoy the privacy of renting a home

impact neighbours (The Lo-wouldn't either. cal, May 20), a letter which needed to resolve issues.

Tourism and agri- regulations. culture are the number one industries in Niagaare closely linked.

25 short-term rentals in

Re: Short-term rentals and very likely the town town as a local.

says, "a new short-term should be followed and all rental bylaw with teeth" is short-term rentals should purchase food from a local adhere to fire and safety farm stand, use the barbe-

I don't agree that all short-term rentals should properties (B&Bs) would ra-on-the-Lake, and they be owner-occupied. There are over 100 homes li-My wife and I are the censed as cottages in owners of Niagara Holi- NOTL. That brings a lot of day Rentals. We manage tourist dollars to the area.

Old Town. We also own to host guests in their NOTL's economy. a bed and breakfast in home, and many guests Old Town. Without tour- want the privacy and the ism, we wouldn't be here, chance to experience the

Having access to the en-I agree local bylaws tire home allows someone to sit on the front porch, cue and cook a local meal.

Only allowing hosted exclude families and many people from coming and experiencing the town and the history. And that would take away a lot Not everyone wants of tourist dollars from

> **Jason Clements Niagara Holiday Rentals**

# COMMENT

## Listen to nature this spring and learn



Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

My shoes are caked in mud, sitting by the vent, again. The little pieces of from the tread, and are now polka-dotting the tile floor.

day for me since I've been back from Australia this March — between working at Heartland Forest on weekdays and running my hiking tours on weekends, I'm outside seven days a week. Those who know me can guess if I have a day off, that's where I'll be as well.

what's going on out in the these plants, one by one. woods.

pop up following winter's same time, or shortly afpart is that although each gins calling. spring is a little bit different to consistently.

Small

shrivelled umbrella, and corner. then spreads like a wavy later. If you pay close attention, there is a whole other when the berries appear, or I haven't missed a beat the flowers open up. It's an this spring, so here is a unseeable driving force of don't all of these plants, report "from the field" of natural cues that wakes up

The tiny western cho-At the start of May, we rus frog is one we have nice day of the year? To anare just past the halfway here in NOTL's wetlands. point for new plant mate- Its call resembles a finrial to make itself known. gernail running through As the season is changing a comb, but reverberates right and culturally acwhile you read this, an or- with a high pitch that can cepting of our competitive

Leopard frogs and in Niagara-on-the-Lake, wood frogs are next in frogs to obtain ade- much competition for the earlier, keep an eye and there is still a code that the line — one sounds like an quate water, sun, nutri-necessities. It's almost as ear out for spring's fleeting plants and animals adhere old man laughing at his ents, shelter — whatever if nature, like a teacher, magic before it's gone. herbaceous quacking duck. In a couthe gunk are breaking free plants, like wild leek, will ple of weeks, the green give way to trout lilies, and frog (truly, that's what it that means the trilliums is called) will start filling It has been just another and blue cohosh aren't far NOTL's irrigation ditches with loud bellowing nois-Mayapple pierces up es in the night. It's the sign through the mud like a summer is around the

I've always been fasciminiature palm tree a week nated with these events in nature, and how they transpire right before our eyes code to follow in terms of at this time of year without failure in sequence.

> We might wonder, why frogs, and insects just explode out of the ground at the same time on the first swer that, we need to look at our human world.

Humankind is forth-

imagine what would hap- in line, and said, "wait quitoes.

der of events is set to un- dominate in wet farm nature. We can't forget the pen if every living thing your turn." fold. There is an expected fields and swampy forests subtle competitions that came out at the same sequence of species to at this time of year. At the happen in nature every time and tried to feed, er to us in so many ways, day, and how some forms breed, and plant a seed? if we listen to it. It's also icy grip. The remarkable ter, the spring peeper be- of competition are just The ecosystem wouldn't about listening to the scimore low-key than others. be able to handle it, ence. Spring isn't over yet, For the plants and and there'd be way too but as I challenged you own joke, the other like a it may be — could you has assembled all the kids

Nature can be a teach-

And then, hello mos-

### Interlibrary loan problem a symptom of mercantilism in book industry

King of France beheaded by "screw you," and the rest, as guillotine during the French they say, is history. Revolution, made a surprising and unexpected cameo have to do with the interappearance recently in Ontario politics when protesters set up a guillotine on the good question; I am glad lawn at Queen's Park.

draw upon 18th century allusions in order to make political points in 21st century Ontario, then I would sug- icans from getting ahead gest we look at King George economically, and mercan-III instead of Louis XVI.

has something valuable to ahead in doing their job of teach us about our current freely disseminating inforinterlibrary loan crisis.

Contrary to the history textbook version of events, King George III knew there If we lived in this amazing were 26 — not 13 — colonies in the Americas at the time of the American War of Independence. Almost everyone today forgets to count all the Caribbean islands on which a small and molasses.

The mainland Ameritried to beat the British sysfrom the British Caribbean could then be shared with islands, they decided to buy all library patrons. the much cheaper sugar islands.

bunch, said, "no way! You tachment to another library. must buy your sugar from This solves the interlibrary

King Louis XVI, the us!" The Americans said, loan problem because now

So what does all of this library loan problem in Ontario in 2019? That's a you asked. The answer is Now if people want to simply that mercantilism is what gets in the way of progress. Mercantilism is what blocked the Amer-King George III actually our librarians from getting mation.

Imagine, if you will, a world without copyright. world (which, by the way, actually did exist at one time in the United States), then we could easily solve the interlibrary loan problem.

People like myself could voluntarily agree to allow number of planters made the public library to scan a fortune producing sugar our physical book collection into a new digital library. If most people in Nican colonists got smart and agara-on-the-Lake agreed to do so, we could stock up tem. Instead of buying the the library with a giganextremely expensive sugar tic collection of books that

The British, an obstinate emailing a copy as an at-

we remove the need for delivery vans or trucks when shipping books from one library to another one.

Now my argument is based on the assumption that the problem facing public libraries can be described as a mercantilist problem. I believe this is a fair assumption to make. I am certainly not the only one to make this assumption.

Just like the Americans tilism is what is blocking who smuggled in sugar from the French Caribbean islands, I have smuggled in this idea of mercantilism from American law schools. See for example Glynn S. Lunney Jr., "Copyright's Mercantilist Turn," Florida State University Law Review 42, no. 1 (Fall 2014). It is free to download, so "smuggling" this article into Canada is 100 per cent legal.

In conclusion, I hope readers see there is a much bigger problem in existence than simply a cutting of provincial funding for interlibrary loans. The public libraries are handicapped by a system that prevents them from cheaply and efficiently sharing information. The copyright laws Better yet, a library have turned mercantilist. from the French Caribbean could share its electronic And that is the thing peobooks or e-books by simply ple in Ontario need to have guillotined.

**Neil Tokar** 



Owen Bjorgan shows off a Dekay's Brownsnake he caught this weekend. Like other animals and plants, there is a phase of spring when he expects to see more of them out. This harmless snake lives in NOTL, and enjoys eating slugs and insects. (Photo supplied)



### PATIO WILL BE OPENING **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH**

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May 9, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL

## St. Davids newcomer looking for volunteer work

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

When Kyle Verhulst moved to Niagaramonth ago, he left behind a life of routine, contentment, and a volunteer job that shaped his days and gave him a feeling of purpose.

The 36-year-old loves misses all he left behind.

His parents, Dianna, 69, and Adriaan, 70, made the move from their hometown of Windsor for his welfare, and hope now to replace some of the activities he has left behind.

Kyle was born with Down syndrome, and although he is fairly independent and self-sufficient, they have to think about his future, when they're no longer around to look after him, said Dianna.

His sister Katherine Sykes, a pilot, has settled here in NOTL with her husband, Jeff, of Sykes Landscaping. She will one day be Kyle's legal guardian, said Dianna, "and we wanted to be here closer to her, and to help her with her baby. It was important from high school named to us that Kyle get used to David, a paraplegic, who hard-core cyclist — he is still living here now, instead

road, when we're no longer here to look after him."

Kyle is missing his rouon-the-Lake about a tine, which in Windsor be- a volunteer job in NOTL, gan each day with a walk something that would get through his subdivision him out of the house and to an Extendicare long- meeting people. Although term care residence — he he loves his new Cannery proudly displays the 15- Park home with the view he left. His duties would street, and his own space his new home, but he start at 9 a.m., when he downstairs, he misses getto the rooms of those who ple. He likes to watch TV lived in the home.

> who smiles readily and that. loves to chat — he likes to ask questions of those he first meets, and listens participated in a two-day, intently to the answers and it's easy to understand raise money for MS from why he loved to leave the Grand Bend to London house each morning to go and back, always with a to a job he took very seriously, and thoroughly en- end of the ride. joyed.

came to visit, he said.

was an Extendicare resi-

of it coming as a shock dent, and Kyle spent some sometimes cycles from there to him one day down the time every day with him. to NOTL, with an over- bowling — he belonged like to begin volunteering "I miss David," he said. "I night stop — and Kyle be- to a league in Windsor miss Extendicare."

Kyle would like to find year pin he earned before of the vineyards across the would deliver newspapers ting out and meeting peoand listen to music, but Kyle is a social fellow he wants to do more than

He loves to cycle — for the last 12 years he has 150-kilometre ride to family celebration at the

"When he was young, His final job of the day I was aways determined was to clear off the tables for him to learn to do the after lunch. When that was things other kids could do, finished, he'd head home including riding a bike," for the day. In between he said Dianna. That didn't would visit with residents, come easily for him, but and became friends not by the time he was 10, we only with them but with were coming to Niagatheir family members who ra-on-the-Lake and riding along the parkway. We did He also had a friend that for six or seven years."

> His father is a pretty working in Windsor, and

gan riding with him. It was — and Dianna is looking something he enjoyed doing for a league he can join with his dad, and he got to in Niagara. And since the the point where he could family skies, he skies with Dianna is happy to provide do the two-day fundraising ride without training — he would just get on the bike added, "he needs a job. He er doing some volunteer and go, said Dianna.

part in the MS ride from feel useful again." Fort Erie to NOTL, as part of Kyle's Krew, with his father riding as well.

Kyle also likes five-pin them, she said.

But most of all, she needs something that gets This year he will take him out and makes him

social, loves to talk to people, and he's very capable."

Kyle said he would again — it doesn't have to be in a long-term care residence, although that's what he is used to — and transportation.

She would even considwork with Kyle.

If anyone has a parttime volunteer opportuni-"He's independent, very ty which might be suitable, Dianna and Kyle can be reached at 905-262-7958.



Kyle Verhulst hopes to find a rewarding volunteer position that will give some structure to his days and make him feel useful again. (Penny Coles)



If you like sitting on a wrap-around porch with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and are looking for a home that is manageable and also offers space for visiting family, this may be just what you are looking for!

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#### All that jazz

An event recognizing International Jazz Day was held at Corks Winebar and Eatery Thursday, featuring Juno award-winner Stacie McGregor, Lauren Falls, Peter Shea, Kylie Somerville, a Canadian World Champion tap dancer, and Juliet Dunn, thanks to Shea and Dunn, founders of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival. (*Photo by Joan King*)



#### Be well

The annual Live Well Health and Wellness Fair, held at Whiteoaks Conference and Resort Spa this weekend, celebrated healthy living with experts and vendors in the wellness industry. McKayla Spinosa from NEOB, dressed up as lavender, was on hand to talk about the health benefits of the plant, used for aroma therapy and in bath oils. (Fred Mercnik)

#### **Hearing help**

Sandy Lapere of Hear Better, Marco Russo, Sonia Faustino and Diana Facey of Starkey Canada, makers of hearing technology, and Gus Koroneos, owner of Hear Better, were at a NOTL Hearing Show at the community centre last Wednesday to help locals hear better. (Penny Coles)



#### **Cheers to Starbucks**

Enya Mortley, store manager Ryan Dawson, and Caleb Jancsar celebrate opening day for Starbucks on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil Saturday. The building "went from an empty space to being a Starbucks in the eight to 10 days leading up to Saturday," said Dawson. (*Penny Coles*)





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May 9, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL notllocal.com



Three days of events, including amusement rides for all ages, lead to a fireworks finale Monday evening. (Fred Mercnik)

# Popular family event returns for long weekend

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

Organizers of the Virgil Stampede are gearing up for another spectacular celebration of the May long weekend.

It's the 53rd annual family event since a neighbourhood fireworks display for locals took place in Virgil, and grew to become a popular threefrom across the region.

Each year organizers blend a mix of the favourites with some new attractions, and all that was best from last year will be back, says Richard Wall, president of the Virgil Business Association, which stages the event.

The smashing and crashing Demolition Derby, put on by Thrill Show Productions, brings in about 2,000 people Saturday afternoon, says Wall, and will put on another great unteer-run food booth nearby. Although the company brings teams of drivers, there is an opportunity for locals to participate. Visit thrillshowproductions.ca for more information.

The Royal Canadian Air Cadets will be inside the arena with a glider Saturday and Monday, says Cory Abt, one of the organizers. There will also be physical challenges, games and activities for kids who are interested in learning more about cadets and what they do.

back, with lots of free entertainment for the voungsters in the crowd. The Ben Show's high-energy comedy, juggling, unicycling and circus stunts

hooting and hollering going public an opportunity to try. on. The kids loved it."

Also back by popular deday event drawing families mand is Tim Holland, the funny stunt ventriloquist, for three performances each of the three days in the Kids' Pavilion.

> And Mike London, a veteran at the stampede, will be back to provide an opportunity to interact and learn about some of his reptiles he brings different ones each year, but usually includes an iguana, a 10-foot python and an alligator, along with an assortment of geckos, chameleons and jumbo tortoises.

Also a favourite in the show this year, with the vol- Kids' Pavilion will be airbrush face-painting, with a family of artists on hand to make sure the line-up is never too long for youngsters to wait. There is a charge for the face-painting.

> Show, always a favourite, will 11 a.m. and Monday, May 20 be back Monday, beginning at at 10 a.m. 11 a.m., offering competitions in 30 different classes.

pony rides for the kids all three days.

The popular nickel sale The Kids' Pavilion will be will be in the Mary Snider Sunday. Room of the Centennial Arena all three days as well.

The outdoor Vendors Market, open all three days weather permitting, will ofwill be performed three times fer about 15 vendors selling

each of the three days. Ben a range of items, including events with large crowds — Burland wows audiences and clothing and jewelry, with checking bags as people enter. makes people laugh, perfect representives from several for a family event. Last year home-based businesses. Also minor incidents with teens was his first appearance at part of the market will be Wolf the stampede, says Wall, "and Starchild, whose business is every time I walked by the archery and axe-throwing, Kids' Pavilion when he was which he will demonstrate performing, there was lots of and will offer members of the

Amusement rides are provided by John Homeniuk all three days, with bracelets for \$45 for all-day rides. Bracelets are available at Phil's valu-mart in Virgil at a discounted price of \$35, until Friday, May 17, at 9 p.m.

The event will wrap up with the traditional Victoria Day fireworks, Monday at dusk.

This year's stampede proceeds will help pay for a new skateboard park and a pump track for bicycles, skateboards and scooters, which will be built in stages in the municipal Virgil Sports Park.

The VBA has committed funds to help pay for what will be an expensive project, says Abt, with the build expected to begin this summer.

Gates open at the Virgil Sports Park Saturday, May 18 The Miniature Horse at 10 a.m., Sunday, May 19 at

Gate admission is \$5 for adults Saturday and Monday, There will also be free free to kids under 10. If a wrist band is purchased in advance, entry is free.

There is no gate fee

New this year, says Wall, is increased security at the gates. The property will be fenced, with personnel from a professional security firm — one accustomed to handling major

There have been some in past years, Wall says, so on the advice of the Niagara

was made to bring in security guards, "to ensure we continue to have a great family event for everyone."

In the decades since the first

Regional Police the decision stampede, when proceeds went to help fund the first arena at the sports park, the VBA has raised more than \$1.2 million to put back into the community.

### **Horticultural society sale Saturday**

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society is holding its annual plant sale Saturday.

Society members and friends donate annuals and perennials, herbs, heirloom tomatoes, ferns and other house plants to sell, says Susan Dodd, a horticultural society member and one of the organizers of the event.

sharpener on site — bring gar- program at the NOTL Pub-

dening tools — and expert gar- lic Library. St. Davids Public deners to answer garden-related questions, says Dodd.

Coffee is free, at what is considered a community event and an opportunity to meet friends and neighbours.

The plant sale, second in fundraising for the horticultural society behind its annual garden tour, raises money to give back to the community, through a bursary for a Niagara College student, a donation There will also be a tool to the Heritage Trail, and a seed

School also receives funding to give students hands-on education for horticulture, such as planting vegetables, and there are other town projects related to horticulture supported by members of the society.

The plant sale is at the Meridian Credit Union Arena this Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. until noon. The event is under tents, and goes ahead as planned rain or shine, "but it's looking like it's going to be a beautiful day," says Dodd.





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### Rita Brown to talk about underwear at museum

#### Lauren O'Mallev The Local

something different," says Rita Brown about her upcoming lecture on under-

Brown has spent a lot garments. She was at the Shaw Festival for 43 years, most of them as head cutter, executing the ideas the stage," says Brown, referring to translating designers' sketches into costumes.

as head of wardrobe. "I was happy to go to work every day," she says of her time at the Shaw.

Between 1996 and 2006 Brown had a fascinating side project, making paper reproductions of actual historical costumes. Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave sought Brown out, and they collaborated on a collection of life-size paper costumes retracing 300 years of fashion his-

"Papiers a la Mode" and Brown travelled to London, New York, Paris, and more. "It was enrichsays of the experience.

"I thought I would do London. One of her paper very patient person." dresses and the original displayed side by side in a handiwork. glass case.

is the original?"

also admits to possibly being overly fastidious. my seamstresses called says laughing, remem- be." bering how she would ask fraction of an inch.

with Isabelle, she once the said," Brown recounts, ments aimed to achieve mimicking a thick French accent, "you know, Rita, tles and hoops, crinolines there is perfection in imperfection.' That thought '20s and '30s, when womkind of gave me a little bit en flattened their chests of leeway."

2007, the 77-year-old has ments were integral to kept herself very busy. For the sculpting of the body the last 30 years she has shape. Sao Paolo, Japan, Belgium been collaborating with designer Martin Kamer, at the Niagara Historical ing beyond anything," she restoring costumes from Society and Museum next

seeing the collection at often spend an entire day — then moving through our collection." the distinguished Victo- stitching one square inch classic Greek, the Roria and Albert Museum in of fabric, she says. "I am a mans, and the 18th, 19th declared Museum Month, the world in a social me-

"This is what keeps me it was modelled on were young," she says of her

Her hands have also According to Brown, been busy at the computof time with foundation the museum's curator er keyboard for the last said, "I know I should decade as well. Brown has know this, but which one written a book, The History of the Lady's Riding "You're always look- Habit, which is complete of others. "I always said, ing for perfection," says and in edits now, aiming 'what's on the page is on Brown of her work. She to find a publisher later this year.

"I've dealt with a lot "I have to say I'm a little of underwear over the OCD (obsessive compul- years," Brown says of her She also spent a decade sive disorder). That's why experience at the Shaw. "You get to know what the me Millimetre Rita," she silhouette is supposed to

them to adjust a seam by a sketches hung about her warm, comfortable, and "When I was working book-laden study show shapes undergarover the eras, with busand more. Even in the and strove for a more Since her retirement in boyish figure, undergar-

and 20th centuries, she says Klassen. She explains says. She will discuss fabric, the shape of garments, and what was thought to be attractive throughout (but not ending) on May the eras.

radically and subtly over free to the public on that cut across Ontario. the years, and the lecture represents two solid months of research, she adds.

"If you learn one thing, wonderful," says Brown. "If you learn five things, even better."

Exposed — A Brief History of Underwear will take place May 16, starting at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10, or free to museum The framed costume members. A question and answer period will follow Brown's presentation.

The museum will be launching a new exhibit at the same time, From Head to Toe, which explores fashion and clothing in the museum's collection. It features about 50 pieces, most having never been previously mounted. Brown was also involved, as a consultant.

"We chose to do a fashion installation, so it was When Brown lectures obvious to call on Rita for advice," says Amy Klassen, the museum's society

May has been officially this is celebrated with unique programming and social media, culminating 18, International Muse-

day, when the local museum joins others all over dia campaign to enhance awareness of the institutions and their importance. Klassen says this is particularly important this year, as funding for Fashions have changed um Day. Admission is cultural entities is being



a collection that travels all week, she will be starting administrator. "She has Rita Brown sits in her book-laden study, holding a book A point of pride was over the world. She will at the beginning — Crete been a great resource for about her paper dress creations. (Lauren O'Malley)



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### Friends helping friends



Colin Telfer of eSkoot has contributed funds to support the Friends of Fort George, and especially volunteer efforts on Canada Day. Tony Chisholm, the president of the Friends, presented a plaque to Colin Telfer and Jennifer Elliott as thanks for their continued support of the Friends' volunteer events. Telfer's generosity has proven to be very helpful to the continued success of the Friends charity — he is always willing to step forward, says Chisholm. For the second year in a row, eSkoot will feature a one-day Friends of Fort George fundraiser on May 26. Telfer and Elliott will donate

# all their profit from that day's electric scooter rentals. (Photo supplied)





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### **Parks commission** spraying trees for gypsy moths

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

those who enjoy an early morning walk or bike ride will be used for the 2019 along the Niagara River application, which is made Parkway may see a low-flying helicopter overhead spraying the Paradise Grove tree canopy.

The Niagara Parks Commission will be spraying for gypsy moths, a non-native invasive insect species that has spread tions will be required. The into central Niagara, including patches in Niagara-on-the-Lake and along 22 and the second May 26 the Lake Erie shoreline.

A notice from the parks and 7 a.m. commission says the sprayducted in the upper Whirlpool Woods in Niagara Whirlpool Golf Course could begin May 19, weather permitting.

identified by Niagara Parks environment team as hav- 1-877-642-7275.

ing the highest egg mass density of gypsy moths.

The same biological in-In the coming weeks, secticide that was used in the 2008 spraying program of naturally occurring soil bacteria that targets only spring caterpillars and does not harm other insects, mammals or birds, the release from the parks commission says.

> Two aerial spray applicafirst application is tentatively scheduled for May 19 to to June 2, between 5 a.m.

Niagara Parks will be ing, which will also be con- hosting a public information centre regarding the spraying Thursday, May 9, Falls — the area around the at Legends on the Niagara, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Residents interested in attending can register at Ni-These two locations were agara Parks Guest Services, info@niagaraparks.com or



The Niagara Parks Commission will be spraying for gypsy moths, a non-native invasive insect species that has spread into central Niagara. (Photos supplied)



notllocal.com THE NOTL LOCAL May 9, 2019

## **Outdoor living at its best**

#### **Submitted by Regal Florist & Garden Centre**

Our 2019 patio collections are here! It's never too early to plan your garden paradise.

Expanding your living space to the outdoors is as easy as enjoying a stroll through Regal's Garden huge yard, a small balcony or something in-between, Regal has the perfect set for your outdoor oasis. We can help you create a casual seating living room. Regal has a large selection of patio furniture teak) and Woodard, famous ucts at the best prices!

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While it feels like it's room as comfortable as your a little too early to think patio furniture - remem-Conversation, dining and ber, outdoor furniture can is limited. We guarantee the warm weather is coming and you will be out there shelving units, benches and soaking up all the sunshine so much more. Regal carries and fresh air the summer

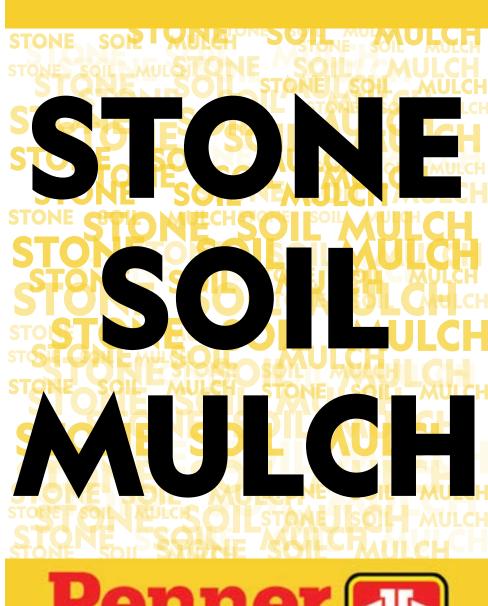
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### Get your backyard all **DECKED** out this summer

#### Submitted by **Andrea New of NewScape Contracting**

We all know that the latest trend is bringing indoor living outdoors. Creating a beautiful outdoor living area not only provides a welcoming spot to entertain and relax, but also adds valuable additional square footage to your home.

Creating the perfect deck for your home adds tremendous value and functionality, not to mention a perfect place where everyone loves to gather over the warmer months.

NewScape Contracting will

meet with you to discuss exactly what kind of deck or patio you're envisioning and will take

The options are pretty much endless when it comes to the specific look you're after. The most traditional option still is a pressure treated wood deck which is a classic look and the can take a tired looking backmost economical choice.

A wood deck typically lasts between 10-15 years. If you're looking for an option that will last for 25-30 years, you would want to choose a Composite built deck. This type of material is composed of plastic and wood

mixed with a binding agent that makes it not only much stronger and heavier than wood, but that and design the deck of your is also UV resistant. This means you can choose from a wide variety of colours, and you don't have to waste any of your summer weekends ever treating it in

> A custom designed deck yard and revitalize it into a fresh inviting outdoor space. It's BBQ season, so let us take care of your dream deck, and you just decide on what you're going to grill.

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### Interiors, exteriors and Moore

#### Submitted by **Creek Road Paints**

No matter the project, Creek Road Paints, Benjamin Moore has you covered. When painting the exterior of your house and other outdoor features, you have two important characteristics to keep in mind: how well it lours, exterior colours shift delasts and how good it looks.

Painting a house is no small investment, so choosing the best paint colour for the exterior surfaces of your house means picking colours that look great and last. Benjamin Moore Aura® has you covered with durable paints that resist the punishing effects of weather—and have a lifetime limited warranty to prove it.

To narrow down your colour choices, build an exterior palette around the elements of the house that won't change, such as roofing materials and stone or brick components. Pick contrasting but complementary colours to highlight architectural elements and add dimension. Similar colour undertones will link the elements together.

The best inspiration may come from simply stepping outside. Select hues that are compatible with

your neighbourhood, architectural style and natural surroundings. For exterior colours inspired by classic American design and architecture, look no further than Benjamin Moore's Historical Collection for tried and true favourites that are perfect for any home.

Just like interior paint copending on how the light hits them-and can look different when applied than they do on a chip. Make regret-free choices by buying a quart of paint and applying it on inconspicuous areas of all sides of your house. Visit your samples throughout the day until you're comfortable with your choice.

Having trouble choosing a starting point? You can also upload photos of your exterior online at www.benjaminmoore. com, to the personal colour viewer, and start exploring your palette options at home.

Colour is only one aspect of an exterior paint choice; sheen is another important factor. Low Lustre finish is a top choice for the main siding colour — the low-reflective finish adds a slight gloss, hides surface imperfections and cleans well. Semi-gloss

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### The Greenest Gift

#### Submitted by **Mori Gardens**

The next time you need a gift for someone special, consider going green in the truest sense of the term – gift them with a plant. Here's why these living, green gifts are sure to be a hit.

Green Gifts create lasting memories. Give mom a flowering hydrangea for a patio container that will blooms. Every time your

one special by gifting them home or workplace. a tree to plant in their name. and then take a photo of high school. Give your partend and harvest with visiting grandchildren. Plants warm a new home. grow with us as we move

aunt makes a pot of cham- your health. Tending plants help you choose the perfect omile tea with the flowers is scientifically proven to plant for the occasion.

harvested from the herb promote calm and reduce garden you gifted her, she'll stress. They help to clean think of you. Help your and purify the air around loved ones honour some- them while beautifying the

Green Gifts are func-Plant a Bing cherry tree on tional. A basket or plantyour child's fifth birthday er of culinary herbs is a perfect gift for that person them under the blossoming who loves to cook, fragrant tree as they graduate from lavender adds beautiful notes to any space and ents some tomato plants to tropical plants create eye-catching vignettes to

Give a gift that will grow bring a smile each year it through the seasons of life. for years to come! Vis-Green Gifts are good for it Mori Gardens and we'll















### Debbie Wiecha: Kind, caring, with a generous heart

#### Jane Andres **Special to The Local**

The police officer leaned in closer to the squad car radio, listening in disbelief. Dispatch was requesting backup for a traffic situation. An excited driver had just reported a woolly mammoth running loose on the Burlington Skyway. A what?

When he and about 10 other cruisers arrived they found traffic backed up and a large truck blockading the way. Beyond was an empty horse trailer attached to a pickup and a woman frantically attempting to catch a very angry four-legged beast. It did look like a woolly mammoth, but didn't those have tusks, not horns?

A second woman informed the officers it was her Highland Bull. The injured bull had now lowered his head, waving its long horns in warning.

Together they cautiously circled the animal. After what felt like an eternity they edged him back toward the trailer where the first woman was waiting inside, trying to entice him back in.

"Jane, I was so scared in that trailer. I really thought that was it. One of us was not going to get out of there alive," my sister exclaimed when she excitedly relaved the story to me the next day.

A year later I was serving breakfast to my guests and was surprised to hear one of them, a Burlington police officer, telling about the time he was called to

capture a woolly mammoth that mour. Since her death in March, was reported running loose on the QEW. Small wonder it attracted so much attention from police — they were still talking about the "mammoth" incident at headquarters months later.

This was just another day in the life of my sister, Debbie Wiecha. Her big heart and her legendary "can do" attitude when it came to helping others leaves a legacy that few can equal in this little town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. She was a jack of all trades and master of many.

Her Celebration of Life took place at Caroline Cellars on March 16. The room was filled with the golden glow of a late afternoon sun reflecting off the pine clad walls. Displays of her lifelike coloured pencil drawings, illustrations and whimsical papier mache animals were interspersed with bouquets of dried lavender and jars of her homemade canned peaches and preserves — symbols of the simple yet eloquent gifts that she loved to share with others.

The stories of love and affection shared by coworkers, neighbours and family members were a testament to the many lives who were touched by her warmth and radiance.

I'm sure she held the record for working 40 years in the St. Catharines General ICU. Nursing was Deb's calling in life and she did it with extraordinary grace and patience, all the while keeping a keen sense of huwe have continued to hear stories from patients or their family members who experienced her compassionate care and the extra attention she provided to make them more comfortable.

Her tender heart became evident at a young age, especially when it involved birds and animals. I remember one summer day a young neighbour dropping off two baby robins with nothing but a few tufts of emerging fluff to warm them. Deb immediately took on the role of surrogate mom, an extremely demanding task because of the little ones' voracious appetites. She stuck with it. Searching for worms became her daily obsession for the first few weeks and they bonded to the point that they were inseparable. We took them along in a hamster cage on a camping holiday to West Virginia at the close of the summer, with the deal that she was to leave them there.

The young birds were free, but remained close to the campsite the entire week. Tears were shed but mom stayed firm when it came time to leave. The robins, however, had other plans and flew along beside us. When we reached the park entrance mom relented, they hopped back in the cage, and travelled with us back to Canada.

They left in fall but returned again the following spring, hopping back on Debbie's shoulder as if they'd never left.



Debbie Wiecha delivers produce to the Dufferin Grove Organic Market. (Photo supplied)

On one of our many bike hikes as teens, she discovered Major McGill, a striking palomino on a farm in Effingham. The elderly owners were glad to let her have riding time in exchange for help with the chores and so began her weekly bike rides out to the farm.

"No horses until you practise piano and get your chores done," mom insisted, hoping to dissuade her. Somehow she would manage to cram her obligations in, and with a final flourish, would leave a warm chocolate cake on the kitchen counter. It was a busy household with four daughters on the go, but when the house smelled like chocolate cake we always knew Debbie was off on her long ride to the farm.

This "can do" attitude and passion for nature permeated her life. She lived with my husband Brian and I while attending Mac School of Nursing back in the early '80s. By then she was also enjoying fishing in the Niagara Glen and developed a keen interest in taxidermy.

Her lifelike displays of salmon and rainbow trout caught in the Niagara River captured a lot of attention at the Toronto Sportsman Show and she soon had more than enough business to pay her way through school. Our home was the subject of much curiosity by neighbours, with strangers carrying in odd shaped bags with feathered legs or fins poking out. I remember Dave Dick Sr. proudly picking up an extremely large Canada goose, and regular visits from Karen Falk, who became quite play with and horses to ride. crashed into her patio doors.

Debbie's fascination with owls intensified when she became friends with Dr. Kay McKeever, who ran The Owl Foundation in Vineland Station. On a few occasions she was given an owl that did not survive its injuries. She had an incredible gift that could seemingly bring it back to life on a perch so that others could learn about these



As a young girl, Debbie Wiecha fed a family of baby robins until they were old enough to care for themselves. (Photo supplied)

amazing creatures.

After being hired as a nurse in the ICU at the St. Catharines General Hospital she started a new chapter of her life. She married Jim Wiecha, whom she had met while working on Fred Pohorly's farm. Together they purchased a small farm on Larkin Road and started building their future together. They saw nothing but potential in the tired little farmhouse and neglected orchard and got right to work renovating and planting peach trees. By the time their third child was born, Jim had transformed a small garage into a two-storey barn and Deb was well-established in her nursing career.

Her children, Jamie, Connie and Scott soon took after their mom's love of all things furred and feathered, and their farm was a constantly evolving menagerie of exotic birds and orphaned wild animals. Kids' birthday parties were way more fun when there were ferrets to a collector of birds which had Pygmy goats, donkeys, horses, a llama or two and dogs for constant companionship. This was truly a kids' paradise.

Debbie loved her children fiercely and encouraged them to be brave and push past their limitations to achieve their dreams. One of her proud moments was when 14-year-old Jamie took his first few solo flights from the Niagara Flying Club — a passion no doubt inherited from

his grandfather — wiggling the plane wings overhead while the family waved from the raspberry patch.Whether their passion was scuba diving, medical missions in developing countries or racing around a moto track, Deb always showed up, helped out, and participated enthusiastically right along with her kids.

Hiking, walking the dogs at Niagara Shores park, quiet time fishing at her secret spring-fed stream continued to feed her soul while she juggled the challenges of nursing and raising a young family. Farming was still a prime focus and after much deliberation a decision was made to go organic. At the time she had no idea of the incredible commitment and intensive labour it would require. Coordinating days off from the hospital during harvest was always a challenge. For 18 years, they loaded up the truck with fresh-picked raspberries, peaches and lavender and brought it to the farmers' markets — the Dufferin Grove Organic Market, the Brick Workers, Cabbagetown and others.

It's difficult to convey how deeply she was loved and appreciated. Her net was cast far with all the people she touched in her lifetime. After losing Debbie, those of us who knew and loved her now have to find a balance — to know how to hold this grief and yet let it motivate us to pursue the life qualities she inspired: kindness, generosity, hard work and humour.

Her love and legacy will continue to grow exponentially in the lives of all those she embraced.

"We hope that Deb's death would not become a void in our hearts but instead drive us forward for us all to continue to chase life and find the sparkle and warmth that we found in her presence." — Connie Wiecha





# SCHOOL UBLIC SCHOOL

### Hat Day at St. Davids helps kids raise money for Rankin Run

**By Lindsay Parravicino** St. Davids Kindergarten teacher

St. Davids school has long been a supporter of the Annual Rankin Cancer Run. Each year, students are challenged to join our school team and work toward raising as much money. money as they can, in order to support cancer research in the zy Hat Day, when students teer and a cherished member Niagara Region. We typically set a school fundraising goal, and if we are able to meet it, the top fundraising students

heads shaved by students.

In the weeks leading up to the run, Mr. Climenhage (our school coordinator for the run), organizes special days to help raise extra from our team are the Dueck

were asked to bring in a donation in order to wear a hat they set a goal for themselves for the day.

are able to throw a pie in their ganized a Freezie Day, when fundraising efforts. We are so May 25.

teachers face! Other years, our students can bring in dona- thankful for you and grateful male staff have even had their tions and enjoy a cold snack at their break time. We will continue to do little things in order to help our fundraising team for helping us be a

family, and Mrs. Winter who We recently had a Cra- was a Kindergarten volunand work to raise big money This week, he has also or- to contribute to our team's

for the work you do to support our community.

We are so proud of our top fundraising school, year A few notable fundraisers after year, and for the huge participation in the run, which usually earns us a top school participation award.

Thank you to Mr. C for of our community. Each year, always making sure we support this amazing cause. We hope to see many community members at the run on

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#### **AA MEETING**

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May 8 @ 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Historical lectures at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to honour their 225th anniversary. Lectures are held Wednesday mornings at 10 am and admission is by donation. Refreshments to follow in the Kirk Hall, 323 Simcoe Street. TOMMY, OWS YER SOUL? - CHURCH PARADES OF THE NIAGARA GARRISON - Ron Dale

#### **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.

### **SPRING FLING @** ST. MARK'S CHURCH

May 11 @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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#### **NOTL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - PLANT SALE**

May 11 @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society welcomes you to our annual Plant Sale. 1565 Four Mile Creek Rd. Meridian Arena Virgil. Come early for the best selection. Lots of on site parking available.

#### **BRAVO NIAGARA!**

May 11 @ 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Bravo Niagara! Presents

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St. Davids students work hard every year to raise money for the Rankin Cancer Run. This year a Crazy Hat Day was organized, to allow students to wear hats in school in exchange for a donation. The Dueck family, including Maya, Rory and Evan (lower left) makes an extra effort to raise money for the run. (Photos supplied)

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#### **PUZZLE ANSWERS**

52 Hide, 53 Oman, 54 Ma'am, 55 Isms, 58 You, 59 Ugh, 60 N R A. 32 Nazi, 33 Oxen, 38 Eats, 39 Were, 41 O'Neal, 43 Lad, 45 Abrams, 49 A-list, 50 Seeps, 51 Chad, 19 Taint, 21 Caterpillars, 24 Gail, 25 Mum, 26 Seas, 28 Truly, 29 Scrap metal, 30 Open, 31 Nuns,

8 2 7 6 4 1 9 5 3

9 2 8 2 4 6 9 1 7

1 5 3 7 9 4 6 8 2

1 8 2 3 8 6 5 1 4

8 UFO, 9 Disconnected, 10 Coolly, 11 Lull, 12 At it, 13 Waco, Down: 1 Lands, 2 Await, 3 Committees, 4 Eke, 5 Yes, 6 Swab, 7 Tips,

65 Sums, 66 Halts.

57 Himalayas, 59 Untie, 61 Adam, 62 Roam, 63 Grasp, 64 Dens, **46** Tarp, 47 Bels, 48 Edemas, 51 Choral, 54 Mid, 56 E-L E, 36 Axel, 37 Reuse, 39 Wren, 40 Zee, 41 Opal, 42 Cleans, 44 Insanity, 26 Soil, 27 Taut, 28 Tennyson, 32 No time, 34 Rant, 35 C P U,  $17\,\text{Names},\,18\,\text{Apostolic},\,20\,\text{Dim},\,21\,\text{C}\,\text{B}$  S,  $22\,\text{Call}$  to,  $23\,\text{Stigma},$ Across: 1 Lacey, 6 Stud, 10 Claw, 14 Awoke, 15 Wi-fi, 16 Outa,



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#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Cagney's partner
- Poker variant
- **10** Nipper
- **14** Got up
- 15 W L A N
- 16 "I'm --- here!"
- 17 Identifies 18 Papal
- 20 Slow-witted
- 21 The Tiffany network 22 --- quarters: precedes
- Taps **23** Symbol of disgrace
- **26** Earth
- 27 Drawn tight
- 28 "Idylls of the King" writer
- **32** The blink of an eye
- **34** Harangue
- **35** Computer brain
- 36 Ice skating jump
- **37** Put back into service **39** St. Paul's Cathedral
- designer **40** Follows why, by the
- sound of it **41** Iridescent gem
- 42 Scrubs
- 44 Mental illness

- **46** Waterproofed canvas (Abbr.)
- 47 Measure of sound intensity 48 Swellings
- **51** Music for voices
- 54 It means "central"
- **56** Globally calamitous happening
- **57** Home to Everest
- **59** Release
- **61** First lady's partner
- **62** Wander about
- 63 Understand **64** Lairs
- **65** Simple arithmetic
- **66** Terminates

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Comes ashore
- Anticipate
- Advisory or decision-making groups
- Scrape
- Agreeable response
- Wad of cleaning cloth

**10** Nervelessly

11 Brief let-up

Fragmented

- Mysterious radar image
- **54** Courteous address to a lady
- 55 Sets of beliefs
- **58** Not me

**12** On the job

**19** Sully

**28** Sincerely

**30** Exposed

**33** Draft cattle

**39** Used to be

45 Tank type

**50** Percolates

**52** Conceal

**49** Top celebrities

**51** Large African lake

38 Dines

43 Youth

**29** Can be recycled?

31 Convent inmates

32 E.g. Speer, Himmler

41 Oscar winner Tatum ---

13 Texas siege city

21 Butterfly larvae

24 Winner of three Olympic

**25** Perform in a pantomime

**26** Large bodies of salt water

partially enclosed by land

golds, --- Devers

**59** Expression of disgust

**53** Persian Gulf monarchy

60 Gun owners' grp.

# Local artist exhibiting at Pelham Art Festival

**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.

fun to see what everyone else has brought.

— it attracts a good crowd ing, she added. of people who seem to really

It's also an art show that the three-day show can be cheons, entertainment, and has a cheerful atmosphere tiring, it's also very reward-

Originating in someone's

It's an event that attracts enjoy the show and there is a backyard, the Pelham Art "communal maple" tree door prize. Anyone interat the festival, and although a lawn to 78 exhibits, luna wide variety of pleasant weekend.

> Meridian Community Cenchair, is ecstatic.

"It's very exciting. It will be bigger, brighter and fresh," she said, adding that all the additional light in the new building gives the event that to be enjoying themselves, "airy feeling."

She noted all these qualities are conducive to a better the music is good, and there's presentation of the vast variety of artistic pieces, mediums, and jewelry in all its ham Art Festival go toward brilliance.

This year, the venue will will be additional booths, with about 37 artisans from School, the Niagara Catholic the Toronto area, eight of District School Board, and whom are new.

One of TeBrake's goals is to continually offer new artwork, and the Pelham art committee has requested that returning artists showcase which requires its particidifferent pieces from last year. pants to seek out and interact The event is hailed by many artists because of the genuine of this game is that children enthusiasm the community

years, there has been a large The winner receives an artsy Katch, Voice of Pelham

interesting artists and a wide lot going on in addition to the Festival Show and Sale has hanging on a canvas for anyrange of art, she said, so it's show and sale of art, she said. grown from a few painted one attending the event to This will be her third year canvasses and sketches on add a few splashes of paint, and collaborate in completing the picture.

> "This show is lots of fun activities to fill Mother's Day for the artists," said Rand. "We can walk around and This year's event, from see a huge variety of art, "in-May 10 to 12, is making its cluding ceramics, paintings of course, sculptures — wood tre premiere, and Heidi Te- turning and items made up Brake, the event's committee of little pieces — really there is lots to see. The artists can make new connections and meet up with old friends," she added.

> > "Everyone always seems both the vendors and customers. There's great food, lots going on."

Proceeds from the Pelthe Pelham Public Library, and also provide \$1,000 dobe set up differently and there nations and scholarships to E. L. Crossley Secondary Niagara College's art design programs.

Appealing to the curiosity of children, the art show is offering a "scavenger hunt," with 10 artists. The end goal and their parents learn more takes in the art itself, she said. about various types of art In the last four or five work, pointed out TeBrake.

ested in this event needs to fill out a form at the show to participate.

The festival is a juried event, and prizes are awarded based on criteria established by a committee of four knowledgeable judges, said TeBrake.

Rand will be showing eight pieces, including one of her favourite acrylics, entitled Be There Dragons? It's large, colourful and impressive, with bits of old hemp rope incorporated into the details of the painting. Rand said when she and her husband moved into their Line 2 home about 45 years ago, there was some rope left behind in the barn, which eventually made its way into some of her work.

"I also like to work with wire, old, rusted, twisted vineyard wire," she says expect to see some of that in her paintings as well.

Rand is not the only local artist at the festival — NOTL visitors will see other familiar faces, as well as some new exhibitors from across the region and the Toronto area.

The festival runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 10, 11 and 12, with a Mother's Day brunch Sunday.

For hours and more information visit www.pelhamartfestival.com.

With files from Gloria



Cynthia Rand will have eight paintings at the juried Pelham Art Festival, including Be There Dragons?, one of her acrylics. (Penny Coles)

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\$238\*

PAYMENT INCLUDES \$2,500^F SPORT CREDIT

2019 RX **350** F SPORT LEASE APR BI-WEEKLY

\$308" \$2.000

PAYMENT INCLUDES \$2,000° F SPORT CREDIT

2019 IS 300 AWD F SPORT LEASE APR BI-WEEKLY

\$228° \$2,500°

PAYMENT INCLUDES \$2,500°F SPORT CREDIT

2019 ES 350 F SPORT LEASE APR BI-WEEKLY

**\$258**° **\$1,000**°

PAYMENT INCLUDES \$1,000° F SPORT CREDIT

**PERFORMANCE LEXUS** performancelexus.ca Offers end May 31st.

262 Lake Street, St. Catharines | 905-934-3336 | 1-800-240-4194

^FSPORT Credits are available on retail purchase/lease of select new 2019 Lexus vehicles from a Canadian Lexus Dealer and will be applied after taxes have been charged on the full amount of the negotiated price. Vehicle must be purchase/leased, registered and delivered by May 31st, 2019. "Lease offers provided through Lexus Financial Services, o approved credit." Representative lease example based on a 2019 RX 350 stx. "G" on a 39 month term at an annual rate of 19% and Complete Lexus Price of \$66,754. Bi-weekly lease payment is \$280 with \$8,890 down payment or equivalent trade in, \$0 security deposit and first bi-weekly lease payment is \$24,891. Representative lease example based on a 2019 INS 300 AWD stx. "F" on a 39 month term at an annual rate of 19% and Complete Lexus Price of \$50,104. Bi-weekly lease payment is \$228 with \$5,250 down payment or equivalent trade in, \$0 security deposit and first bi-weekly lease payment is \$24,891. Representative lease example based on a 2019 INS 300 stx. "F" on a 39 month term at an annual rate of 9% and Complete Lexus Price of \$51,045. Bi-weekly lease payment is \$24,891. Bi-weekly lease pay