Rain didn’t dampen battle spirits

Mike Balsom
The Local

A little bit of rain wasn’t going to stop the 78th annual memorial service to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic at Navy Hall in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A large crowd, most finding refuge under umbrellas, braved the wet weather Sunday afternoon along with the Royal Canadian Naval Association Niagara Region to remember the 4,400 Canadians who lost their lives in the longest continuous battle of the Second World War.

As emcee Mike Britton said to open the ceremony, the rain was but a drop in the bucket compared to the trials and tribulations faced by the members of the Royal Canadian Navy, the many merchant seamen and Royal Canadian Air Force Squadron members who fought in the campaign that lasted from 1939 to 1945.

After moving the 2022 memorial service inside Navy Hall, the decision was made to remain outside Sunday, although the conditions forced the early departure of the Niagara Falls Concert Band and the cancellation of a flyover from the Southern Ontario T28 Trojan Squadron.

The casting of carnations off the Navy Hall dock next to a moored Coast Guard ship and the tolling of the bell, poignant reminders of the 26 ships lost from the Canadian and Allied Armed Forces and merchant marine fleet, went on as planned.

During her address on behalf of Niagara Falls MP Tony Baldinelli, former Wainfleet mayor and current chair of the Niagara Parks Commission April Jeffs shared a personal story of a family connection to the Battle of the Atlantic.

“My own grandfather, who passed away about 25 years ago, served on the HMCS Skeena, “ Jeffs told the crowd. “It was an escort ship on D-Day, and it helped sink two German U-boats in the time that he was on that ship.

So this has special meaning for myself today.”

Following the memorial service, Jeffs told The Local that seeing the HMCS Skeena on the list of the 26 ships lost during the Battle of the Atlantic on the afternoon’s program really hit home for her.

“I was really blown away when Mike named my grandfather’s ship,” said Jeffs. “He was 18 years old, and he could not wait to enlist. He was gone for about a year and a half, and he never really talked about it.”

Amazing Race celebrity in town agrees to photo

Mike Balsom
The Local

Tracey Frena and her family are big fans of the CTV Television program Amazing Race Canada. So imagine how excited she was when her husband Mike, who runs Castlerock Landscape and Maintenance, called to tell her Friday that he was sure he saw host Jon Montgomery and a camera crew setting up to shoot a segment for the show near the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

Frena and her daughter Rachel jumped in the car and headed down to Front Street to see if they could catch some of the action.

“We sat there near the second tee and waited and waited,” says Frena, “and we were just about to give up when all of a sudden we saw a camera people running and running. That’s when we took a bunch of pictures.”

The pair then drove through town and spotted more camera operators near the Starbucks outlet on Queen Street. She and Rachel were scheduled to help decorate smile cookies at Tim Hortons, so they went and did that, then returned to the golf course at around 4:30 p.m.

“We were walking up the path to Fort Mississauga,” she explains, “and it looked like they were doing filming. Then I saw this

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WHEN YOU CALL GREG, YOU GET GREG!
The town and planning consultants from Urban Strategies are looking for input from residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake following the first phase of a character study presented at an open house.

The character study area includes the Randwood Estates properties, 144, 176 and 200 John Street East and 388 Charlotte Street as well as Brunswick Place (210 John Street East, now known as the McArthur Estate) and the properties on Christopher Street and Weatherstone Court at the edge of Old Town. It also takes into consideration the surrounding area, including the nearby vineyards, the Fort George Historic site, and the residential neighbourhoods.

The purpose of the study is to define the character of the area and identify appropriate policies, regulations and design criteria that will help guide change in the area through the town’s official plan. The objective at the open house was not to deliberate or comment on specific development applications for any of the properties in the study area, but to look at all the properties as a whole.

Two of the lots, on John and Charlotte Streets, are now proposed to be developed as a subdivision, and two John Street properties as a hotel and conference centre, both owned by Solmar and Two Sisters Resorts, although the hotel proposal seems to be on hold.

The study, according to SORE (Save Our Rand Estate), is considered to be relevant not only to the Rand Estate property but potentially to other developments in the Old Town.

As planning consultant Tim Smith explained after one participant asked about the potential to conserve the Rand Estate as a gentlemen’s hobby farm, “the Rand Estate has already been carved up, it has already gone through a number changes. There is no way of going back to what it was. If the desire were to be for what’s left of the Rand Estate to be maintained as a hobby farm without any significant changes, we have to keep in mind that that’s very much up to the landowner. If they want to do that wonderful, that’s great. But if they don’t, they really do have rights in Ontario to propose something else for the land, and we have to respond to that.

Ideally there will be policies in place already to guide that change. We’re playing catch-up, and frankly even what we come up with won’t have a huge influence on any existing development applications, given the timeframe.”

Instead, the character study identifies what is important to protect of the existing cultural and natural heritage features, and will provide guidance for future development of the area in terms of land use, cultural and natural heritage, as well as design.

According to the consultant findings, there are several elements that define the character of the study area, including a setting that is equal parts countryside and historic open space; significant natural features such as watercourses and trees, important historic and distinctive buildings and formal landscapes; concrete, masonry and stone walls, and the more recent neighbours, several of whom raised concerns about the building height allowance for commercial developments and for residences in the future neighbourhood.

Smith explained that “this is an area where something else for the landowner’s interest is being proposed.” Currently, 144 and 146 John have site-specific general commercial and open space zoning while 388 Charlotte and the south end of 200 John are zoned residential development. Policy themes that will guide these developments include protecting and buffering significant natural features, conserving cultural heritage, protecting the countryside for agricultural uses and natural heritage, using lands for development efficiently and promoting intensification, and creating mixed housing types in new communities.

During the question and answer portion of the open house, Smith noted that “this is an area where form, character, and design are fundamental and should be the drivers of what happens here. The density is what will fit within three-storey buildings that are designed and arranged in a manner that respects all the defining features (identified in the character study). Start with form and character and see what density comes out of that.”

In terms of the types of housing that will be allowed in the neighbourhood, Smith said all they can do is “encourage a variety of housing that meets the needs of all incomes and includes affordable housing... we can’t require it under provincial planning legislation, so we can address it but in quite a constrained way. It depends on what the landowner’s interest is in and what can be negotiated through the development application process.”

Other participants expressed concern for the preservation of trees on the property as well as the wetlands. Planner McCauley responded that “one of key principles or directions is to enhance landscaping and natural vegetation within the entire study area. The policy directions will support that and it will be enforced by the town tree bylaw.”

Details of the character study, including a cultural heritage analysis, a physical site analysis, emerging heritage and development framework, and draft policy analysis can be found by viewing the slide presentation on the town’s project webpage at nof.com/node/3011.

NOTL residents wishing to comment on the character study can either complete the survey on the town’s webpage by May 18, or email Kirsten McCauley at kirsten.mccaul@notl.com.

The character study open house, consultants stressed, was not intended to provide comment on any specific development proposals in the area, but rather to identify appropriate policies, regulations and design criteria to guide change. (File photo)
No news on when show airs yet

Continued from page 1

guy who looked a lot like Jon. We asked if he would take a picture with us and he was so nice to us.

It was a big thrill for the pair, who have often discussed how much fun it would be to compete on the show.

The NOTL Local reached out to Insight Productions, the company that produces Amazing Race Canada, to find out when the episode shot in NOTL would be aired, but they are keeping things under wraps until the new season begins this summer.

Contestants were racing to the pit stop near Fort Mississauga, which was closed during filming.

Rachel Frena gets a photo of the pit stop in the distance — for those unfamiliar to the show, contestants are racing to it to meet host Jon Montgomery and stay in the race.

My submarine, the Ojibway, is now a museum in Fort Burwell,” Seburn explained. “We get a week to party together for every June to go and clean it up.

Seburn retired from the Royal Canadian Navy five years ago after more than 32 years, in later years serving in Halifox on the HMCS Charlottetown. He had a number of important roles on the ship over the years, including as a deck officer and also as a boarding officer, inspecting ships for contraband and criminals.

“The navy has a hard time getting any publicity except along the coast of Canada,” said Seburn, who shipped out to the Persian Gulf after the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. ‘Manly don’t realize how important the navy is as an institution in Canada. We have the longest coastline in the world. It’s important for us to protect it!’

Seburn went on to speak of the importance of the 32 Niagara-based ships that usually plied the Great Lakes, but were deployed during the Battle of the Atlantic. More than 200 sailors lost their lives on those ships.

At the end of the afternoon, NOTL Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, whose son Nathan is a member of the Royal Canadian Navy stationed in Esquimalt, B.C., enquired about membership in the RCNA Niagara Region.

At only $35, as Coles said, it’s a real bargain.

Sombre ceremony remembers lives, ships lost

Continued from page 1

it. I’ve done some research on it, and I know that they were involved in a couple of battles. Just before the war ended they were on the coast of Iceland and the ship smashed on one side and it sank. They lost 15 or 20 people that night!” Jeffs speculated that perhaps Jack didn’t talk much of his war experience because of the trauma he had suffered.

“And I don’t think a lot of the family really asked,” added Jeffs. “I was told by my mother, (as) the eldest of the four kids, not to ask him questions. He did tell me that he got really sick on the ship and was quarantined for two weeks. Now that he’s long gone, every time I come to something like this I wish I would have pushed him for more.”

Despite the rain, Jeffs remained impressed with the poignancy of the annual ceremony.

“I’ll be back next year for sure, even if Tony doesn’t send me to represent his office,” Jeffs promised. “And I’ll be sure to bring some of my cousins, too.”

Bob Coles, first vice-president of the RCNA Niagara Region, served as parade marshal, and was pleased with the support shown by those who came to watch the service.

“T’m sure if the rain had held off there would have been even more!” Coles said. “I’m sure many planned to come, but were keeping their eyes on the forecast.”

Coles explained what the RCNA is all about.

“We’re there for the Armed Forces, particularly the naval veterans and merchant marines,” said Coles. “We accept anybody, civilians as well. We donate money to the cadets, we come out for every Remembrance Day ceremony and other memorials.”

Coles said the Niagara Region chapter currently has about 35 active members, with about 75 per cent of them having served in the Armed Forces. They run this memorial every year and also participate in the Battle of Britain memorial in September.

“We’re trying to recruit more members,” he said. “The problem is we’re a small organization, and I don’t think too many people know about us.”

Second vice-president Jeff Seburn said the group was optimistic that the rain would hold out Sunday, but laughed about the fact that it started just as Britton took to the podium.

“It was an easier call (to move inside) last year, because it rained all morning,” Seburn said. “We went really big this year compared to last year, and hoped for the best. We only had to skip a few things on the program.”

The Niagara Falls-born Seburn joined the Navy when he was having trouble finding a job. His original post was as a sonar officer on a submarine.

“My submarine, the Ojibway, is now a museum in Fort Burwell,” Seburn explained. “We get a week to party together every June to go and clean it up.”

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The NOTL Local

No news on when show airs yet

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS
200 JOHN STREET EAST AND 588 CHARLOTTE STREET (RAND ESTATE)
IN THE TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF COUNCIL DECISION

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, at their meeting on April 24, 2023, provided a decision on Applications under sections 33 and 34 of the Ontario Heritage Act for alterations, demolition and removal of heritage attributes on the properties at 200 John Street East (File No. HER-015-2022) and 588 Charlotte Street (File No. HER-16-2022). This serves as notice of Council decision as required under section 34(4.2).

At its meeting on April 24, 2023, Council resolved the following:

Whereas the two previous Councils of Niagara-on-the-Lake both approved motions to protect the buildings and designed landscape of the Rand Estate; and

Whereas this Council wishes to reinforce the previous decisions of Council regarding heritage protection at the Rand Estate;

Be it resolved that the minutes of the Municipal Heritage Committee and all recommendations in report CDS-23-077 be approved, except for recommendations permitting removal/demolition of designated heritage attributes (specifically items 1.1.13, 1.1.22 and 1.2.1), and that such permit applications under the Ontario Heritage Act be denied:

Note items 1.1.13, 1.1.22 and 1.2.1 have been amended per Council’s resolution below.

1.1 With respect to the Heritage Permit Application for 200 John Street East (File No. HER-015-2022), it is respectfully recommended that:

1.1.1 The proposal to remove mature trees and plantings and construct a road and pedestrian pathway through the panhandle at 200 John Street East be refused;

1.1.2 The removal of the White Ash, identified as Tree #5 in Appendix D, drawing L-900A within the Wallace HIA Addendum, be approved, subject to the following condition:

1.1.2.1 Prior to the removal of the tree, a report is prepared by a qualified engineer, at the applicant’s cost, demonstrating that any potential impacts to the boundary wall will be mitigated prior to removal of the tree or its root system to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;

1.1.3 The proposal to remove healthy trees along the boundary wall on 200 John Street East be refused;

1.1.4 The proposal to remove and widen the boundary wall opening and remove the brick pillars at the entrance to 200 John Street East be refused;

1.1.5 The proposal to construct a new Axial Walkway on 200 John Street East with new alignment and the proposed commemoration plans for sunken gardens be refused;

1.1.6 The Peony Garden adjacent to the Tea House on 200 John Street East be restored in situ, that mowing of the area ceases immediately, and that the original (existing) plants be provided ongoing maintenance, and the opportunity to recover in order to encourage the plant’s vitality and ability to grow on;

1.1.7 The proposal to remove the extant circular Mound Garden on 200 John Street East and construct a new mound garden in a new location be refused;

1.1.8 That the existing Mound Garden be retained, and the Austrian Pine Trees circling the mound be restored;

1.1.9 The proposed restoration of the Swimming Pool Garden according to the original Dunington-Grubb drawings be approved;

1.1.10 The proposal to remove any portion of the Dunington-Grubb designed Swimming Pool Garden on 200 John Street East be refused;

1.1.11 The proposed use of Corten Steel plaques and their locations as proposed in the Commemoration Plan for the Swimming Pool Garden at 200 John Street East be refused;

1.1.12 The proposed restoration of the Tea House, in-situ, at 200 John Street East is approved, subject to the following condition:

1.1.12.1 Prior to restoration, a Documentation Report and Restoration Plan for the structure and its context, prepared by a qualified professional member of CAHP at the applicant’s cost, be submitted to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services

1.1.13 The proposed removal of the concrete swimming pool structure on 200 John Street East be refused;

1.1.14 The proposed removal of the footings from the original pergola in the Dunington-Grubb designed Swimming Pool Garden at 200 John Street East be refused;

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1.1.15 The construction of a contemporary pergola design at 200 John Street East be refused;
1.1.16 The proposal to relocate the Bath Pavilion on 200 John Street East be refused;
1.1.17 The proposed removal of trees within the arboretum-like landscape on 200 John Street East, adjacent to the Bath Pavilion, be refused;
1.1.18 Any development within the former orchard area on 200 John Street East includes landscape enhancements through the planting of suitable fruit-bearing tree species;
1.1.19 The proposed restoration of the Whistle Stop structure on 200 John Street East and the reuse of the salvageable wood brackets be approved, subject to the following condition:
   1.1.19.1 Prior to restoration, a detailed Restoration Plan, prepared by a professional member of CAHP, at the applicant’s cost, be submitted to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
1.1.20 The installation of interpretive signage within the Whistle Stop setting be approved, subject to the following condition:
   1.1.20.1 Prior to installation, a detailed Commemoration Plan for the area and a Landscape Restoration & Management Plan for the surrounding naturalized area, prepared by a professional member of CAHP at the applicant’s cost, be submitted to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
1.1.21 The removal of healthy and viable trees within the naturalized area surrounding the Whistle Stop on 200 John Street East be refused;
1.1.22 The proposed demolition of the Calvin Rand Summer House on 200 John Street East be refused;
1.1.23 The proposal to demolish the Carriage House on 200 John Street East be refused;
   1.1.23.1 In light of the unique attributes that the Carriage House exhibits, which demonstrate the disruptive change in transportation from horse and buggy to an automobile on this former hobby farm, the Municipal Heritage Committee specifically endorses the recommendation 1.1.23 to deny demolition of the Coach House.
1.1.24 The proposed removal and transplanting of the Rose of Sharon hedge and Oriental Cedar hedge northeast of the Carriage House on 200 John Street East be refused; and
1.1.25 An archaeological assessment be completed for the entire property at the applicant’s expense, and that no demolition, grading or other soil disturbances shall take place on the subject property prior to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism confirming to the Town that all archaeological resources concerns have met licensing and resource conservation requirements and that a copy of all archaeological assessment reports and Ministry Compliance Letters are submitted to the Town, to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services.

1.2 With respect to the Heritage Permit Application for 588 Charlotte Street (File No. HER-016-2022), it is respectfully recommended that:

1.2.1 The proposed demolition of the main residence (former stables and barn) on 588 Charlotte Street be refused;
1.2.2 Any materials that can be salvaged from the main residence (former stables and barn) on 588 Charlotte Street, such as the cupola, weathervane, horse stall doors, wood half glass door and wood panelling, be re-used on the subject properties, as recommended within the Commemoration Plan, to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
1.2.3 The proposal to relocate the one-storey outbuilding be approved, subject to the following condition to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services:
   1.2.3.1 Prior to the relocation within a Community Garden Park setting on 588 Charlotte Street:
      i. A Temporary Protection Plan, prepared by an Ontario licensed P. Eng. at the applicant’s cost, detailing the specifications for its relocation; and
      ii. A Restoration Plan, prepared by a professional member of CAHP with specialization in buildings for its rehabilitation and final proposed location at the applicant’s cost;
1.2.4 The proposal to demolish the two smaller sheds on 588 Charlotte Street be refused;
1.2.5 An archaeological assessment be completed for the entire property at the applicant’s expense, and that no demolition, grading or other soil disturbances shall take place on the subject property prior to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism confirming to the Town that all archaeological resources concerns have met licensing and resource conservation requirements and that a copy of all archaeological assessment reports and Ministry Compliance Letters are submitted to the Town, to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
1.2.6 The proposal to remove and widen the boundary wall opening and remove the red brick pillars at the entrance to 588 Charlotte Street be refused; and
1.2.7 The proposal to remove healthy trees along the boundary wall on 588 Charlotte Street be refused.

The owner of the subject properties may appeal Council’s decision by giving notice of appeal as required in the Ontario Heritage Act to the Ontario Land Tribunal and the Town Clerk within 30 days of the day the owner received notice of Council’s decision.

Inquiries related to these Applications can be directed to the Clerk’s Department at clerks@notl.com. Further information on the Heritage Permit Applications can be found at the following link: www.jointheconversationnotl.com/rand-estate.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on the 10th day of May 2023.

Shauna Arenburg, (A) Town Clerk
Turtle on its deathbed: a lesson in harsh reality of nature

Owen Bjorgman Special to The Local

One of my favourite aspects of outdoor touring and adventure, no matter where your mind is tiding is that the natural world serves up moments you just can't script. There is no fore- shadowing what will slither, scurry or fly. More than a third (37 per cent) of working mothers said they've put their career on the back burner to manage home and parenting responsibilities. The balance may be shifting from previous generations, but women are still struggling, mostly because of the need to balance work and childcare re- sponsibilities.

And while in some homes, and some cultures, fathers need to step up, the workplace has a strong role to play in alleviating the stress of parenthood by mak- ing policy changes that are bene- ficial to both moms and dads.

And it's not only the moms with partners. Imagine sing- le moms, often financially strapped and afraid to ask for time off work, or those who find themselves caregivers of aging parents and all that entails.

When good staff is hard to find — and that seems to be the case more often than not these days — it is simply about paying them as much as a fair salary is for both genders, em- ployers, including all levels of government, should consider flexible schedules when possi- ble, and encourage open dia- logue to help improve working conditions for all parents and caregivers.

That would make a work- place more attractive to poten- tial employees, and contribute to the retention of good work- ers, not to mention the benefit of having people come to work less stressed. Even when there are part- ners sharing the daily sched- ules, activities, meals, shop- ping, school projects, doctors' appointments and the pleasure of housework, along with all the other daily tasks necessary to keep a family household running — and congrats to all those out there who are already doing that — it isn't enough.

Our society has become one where a second income is most often a necessity for fam- ilies just to afford the basics: a home, bills paid and food shelves stocked.

Now it's time for a societal change in the workplace — which is already happening, but again not quickly enough — and to recognize family responsi- bilities as a priority, to do a better job of accommodating those who sometimes need to look after sick children and parents, and to find creative ways to allow that to happen while maintaining a strong, healthy and happy workforce.

Only then will moms have the time and energy to truly make the most of well earned Mother's Day celebrations.

Happy Mother's Day to all you moms out there, whatever your stage of life — to those struggling with the needs of young kids or caregivers to elderly parents, or bearing a workplace that doesn't offer the gender equity you deserve, and to grandmas who are watching and helping the next genera- tion of women courageously navigate the difficult balance of their lives.

— Penny Coles

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake

Donald Combe Special to The Local

Seven Women and a Mur- der (Netflx 2021) is very op- eratic, very dramatic, very artistic; very good, very stylish, very beautiful, very vol-uptuous, very Italian, very sultry and very worth watching.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to the movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has gra- ciously agreed to share his opin- ions, through “short and sweet” exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

Where’s Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, won- dering what our readers may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notl-local.com. Last week’s photo elicited a correct an- swer: an email from Josh (no last name) identified Ben at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.
Remembering Gordon Lightfoot

The death of Gordon Lightfoot last month prompted many Canadians to reflect on the singer-songwriter’s meaning and importance to our country. As Lightfoot’s biographer Nicholas Jennings wrote in the Globe and Mail on Tuesday, “more than any other singer-songwriter, Gordon Lightfoot personified Canada.”

That is perhaps unarguably true. Consider that there is a purely Canadian feeling, both lyrically and musically, in his earthen recordings. Songs such as Early Morning Rain and Ribbon of Darkness from his debut 1966 album, Home from the Forest and Song for a Winter’s Night from 1967’s The Way I Feel, Prettyyellow, Cat Thief from 1966’s Did She Mention My Name, and If You Could Read My Mind from the 1970 album that was originally called Sid Down Young Stranger until the aforementioned song became a massive hit.

There were bigger hits to come, such as Sundown, Careless Highway and Rainy Day Woman. And is there anyone of a certain generation who wasn’t introduced to The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald and Canadian Railroad Trilogy through a history or music class? So no, it is impossible to deny the Canadian benefits of the Orelia-born bard.

My introduction to Gordon Lightfoot’s music came from my sister Joanne, 10 years my senior, when I was about eight or nine years old. She was a gifted singer and guitarist, with a voice that could stop you in your tracks. Blind since birth, she attended the W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind in Beaverton. I never quite fully understood at that age why my big sister didn’t live with us for 10 months out of the year. But I looked so forward to her visits back to St. Catharines on weekends whenever that was possible.

Imvisibly, she would arrive with a case full of cassette tapes, with music from Elton John, Joni Mitchell and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, as well as a comedy that perhaps I was too young to understand from Chuckle and Chuckle and George Carlin.

And along with the cassette she always brought along her 12-string guitar. Man, could Joanne ever play that guitar! She loved the Beatles, and would play and sing some of their early songs for me. But the one song I always remember her playing for me was Lightfoot’s Better Greens.

I was too young to understand the song’s meaning, but I know that I loved singing along with her to the chorus. Though it is undoubtedly a sad lament, as Lightfoot sings of a woman on the hill “swearing for her master to kiss away her tears,” the chorus seemed joyous, perhaps sincere. Because those days I have always equated his music to my big sister.

Like many, I turned to more rebellious sounds during my teens. I had little use at the time for Lightfoot’s more gentle sounds, and mostly ignored his mid-1970s run of hit albums in favour of heavier music from Rush, Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin.

Then, years later, I was working the evening and overnight shift as a producer (really just a DJ) at CHRE in downtown St. Catharines, now Move 105.7. Back then it might have been re- ferred to as an easy listening, or soft rock station.

I wasn’t allowed to, or to choose the music that was played. Gordon Lightfoot’s songs were a staple at CHRE. At first, I enjoyed spinning his music, but also began to appreciate his genius and remembering those moments with my sister. But after a while it became monotonous. Maybe, too much of a good thing.

One song in particular stands out from this time. Beautiful is indeed a very beautiful song. But the number of times I played it on that station, built up to the many weddings I DJ’d around that time where that tune was requested, turned me off its entire catalogue completely. I couldn’t listen to Gordon Lightfoot for years. Since he passed, though, I’ve had Gordon Lightfoot playing on repeat via Spotify and regaining my appreciation for him. There’s a good reason why the likes of Bob Dylan and Kris Kristofferson sang his praises and covered his songs back in the day. He was an amazing songwriter.

And not all of his songs stand out as Canadiana, either. Some of his music reveals a darker side that I never before realized was there. Have you ever listened to For Lovin’ Me?

“So don’t you shed a tear for me, cause I ain’t the love you thought ’ll be, I’ve got a hunch more like you, so don’t be blue, I’ll have a thousand more I’m through.”

That’s not what most people think of when they think of Canadian, is it?

He often sang of drinking too much. In Baby Step Back, wha- ke and wine help him pass the time. The liquor tasted good and the women all were fat in Early Morning Rain. And the bar he sings of in Somewhere U.S.A. is so cool half like to stay there.

Then there’s Sandown, his biggest hit, written about his girlfriend at the time, Cathy Smeth. She was his former back-up singer who became his mistress. The song documents a tumultuous and complicated relationship. And if you were Cathy Smith rings a bell it’s because she is the same Cathy Smith who later served 15 months in prison for injecting John Belushi with a fatal dose of heroin and cocaine in 1982.

It had been more than 30 years since Gordon Lightfoot had released any music that approached the quality or importance of his work through the 1960s and 1970s, though his last two records, 2000’s Harmony and 2020’s Solo both had their enjoyable mo- ments.

But he didn’t need to. He had long ago earned his position as, if not the most Canadian of all singer-songwriters, certainly on a par with the likes of Ian & Sylvia Tyson, Joni Mitchell and Murray McLauchlan, whose homeland song from 1972 is pure Canadiana. There’s also Stomp- it Tom Connors, Bruce Cock- burn, Gordon Downie of the Tragically Hip and Neil Young, who sometimes gets a bad rap for being less Canadian because of his move to California so many years ago.

A big regret for me is that I never had a chance to see one of Lightfoot’s many shows at Massey Hall. He played the venerable music hall every year since 1967, often for multi- week runs. He was the last to play there in 2018 before its doors closed for renovations, and the first to perform when it reopened three years later. On that occasion, the delay always be a chance to see him there. Lightfoot’s passing is in- deed a huge loss to the country. And though my sister no longer sings and plays the gui- tar, we still talk about music, and her love for Gordon Lightfoot continues to this day. We mourned together last week, as I am sure many did.
Kids help send kids to camp, with simple lemonade stand

Penny Coles
The Local

Caroline Polgrabia is once again doing the rounds of Niagara’s council meetings, looking for help making summer “a little sweeter” for everyone.

She is asking Niagara municipalities to proclaim June 10 Mountainview LemonAID Day, which has become an annual fundraiser to help send kids to camp.

Polgrabia, president of the Family and Children’s Services (FACS) Niagara Foundation board, told Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors recently that last year about 100 lemonade stands set up across the region — eight in NOTL — raised $86,000 to help families send their kids to camp.

Across the region, she said, “families stepped up and parents got involved.”

The foundation has been around for almost 25 years to support FACS, said Polgrabia, by raising funds when they see a need over and above what government funding pays for.

“This is just the second year for LemonAID day — it grew from an idea her two children, Jayden and Kai, had pre-pandemic. They wanted a lemonade stand, planning to buy ice cream with their proceeds. But they also decided to raise money to help other kids, and made a donation to help send kids to camp.”

Last year it became a regional event, organized by the FACS foundation board, with a goal of “kids helping other kids,” Polgrabia said.

Sending kids to summer camp, she explained, helps build their self-esteem critical social skills that they might not have in other settings, as well as creating lifelong memories all kids should have.

Thanks to Mark Bassia of Mountainview, all the supplies, including the stands, banners, T-shirts and hats for kids, and lemon concentrate, is donated to those who participate.

“We didn’t want families to have to do anything — they could just run the stand and have fun,” said Polgrabia.

That meant 100 per cent of the money raised was able to help families supported by FACS who lack the financial resources to send their kids to camp, “and we truly believe children should have that opportunity of these enriching experiences. That’s why this event is so important.”

Some went to day camp, said Polgrabia, others went to overnight, out-of-region camps, and some foster families were able to go on camping excursions that they wouldn’t have been able to do with their foster kids otherwise.

“There were also home baskets put together for those who were still COVID-shy,” she added, that had items such as scooters, skipping ropes and other things “to get the kids out and about. We really tried to serve all the families in whatever way they were comfortable.”

Last year, she said, she drove around to visit local stands, “and there were grandparents sitting there, neighbours sitting there, and the entire family was involved. It was really a fun event. We’re excited to go ahead and do this again.”

There are already 34 stands registered for June 10, and $1,930 raised, said Polgrabia.

She has had a good reception from the municipalities she has been able to visit. NOTL Lord Mayor Gary Zanetti agreed to proclaim June 10 Mountainview LemonAID Day, and councillors congratulated her on the success of last year’s event.

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Jayden Polgrabia, 13, asks Thorold councillors to endorse June 10 as LemonAID Day. They enthusiastically agreed.

“Just wanted to give it a go,” Jayden told The Local of his request to speak to Thorold councillors, “and I thought if one kid or parent was watching, maybe they would want to sign up and help.”

Was he nervous? “At the start, yes, but once I got closer to the end, I started to think I was doing okay and it got fun!”

LemonAID is important, he added, “because some kids don’t get to go to camp like their friends. I think all kids should get to go to camp!”

To register for a LemonAID stand visit facsniagarafoundation.org.
Volunteers cleaning up the waterfront Saturday included Emma Martin, James Bradford-Andrew, Owen Bradford-Andrew, Tim Bala, Hazel Norris, Jasmine Griese and Lauren Albersat. (Photos supplied)

Volunteers cleaning up the waterfront Saturday included Emma Martin, James Bradford-Andrew, Owen Bradford-Andrew, Tim Bala, Hazel Norris, Jasmine Griese and Lauren Albersat. (Photos supplied)

Less evidence of waterfront garbage a surprise

Tim Bala has been cleaning up the waterfront for years, and although he had fewer volunteers to help this Saturday, the good news was there was "considerably less garbage" for them to clean up.

He was surprised, not sure of the reason for it — it could be fallout from COVID, he said, or it could possibly be people are finally starting to realize what they are doing to the environment when they throw their garbage in the lake. "I'd like to hope that's what it is," says Bala, owner of Paddle Niagara, who these days divides his time between the beach, where he's best known as Tim Bala, and sitting at the council table as Coun. Balasuk.

In 2019, he began partnering with a Toronto group called A Greener Future, which stages annual waterfront cleanups from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Kingston. They and some local volunteers were able to cover a long stretch of waterfront, says Bala, from Fort Mississauga to Navy Hall, collecting about "a few hundred pounds of garbage."

And along the way, "we had a blast, with new and old faces." Thanks to Penner Building Centre and A Greener Future, participants were provided with all the supplies they needed, including bags, tarps and gloves.

A Greener Future, he says, also brings along aluminum buckets to eliminate some of the use of plastic bags.

Local Jason Clement "was driving all over, bringing stuff out of the water, throwing it into his truck, and covering a big area," he says. For the most part, there were far fewer water bottles, less fishing tackle, but as heartening as that is to see, "you also realize how much stuff sticks around," says Bala.

About five years ago, they found a lot of clear plastic balls that looked like they were from children's play equipment. They seemed to have blown into the lake on a windy day, and then washed up on the shore. "Every year we pick them up and think we've got them all, and every year we go back and find more," he says. "For five years."
A group of Leos met at the St. Davids Lions hall Sunday afternoon to make sure they are ready for upcoming events to raise money for dog guides.

John Kott, along with his wife Laura Kott are the new owners of Pet Valu in Virgil, which is well-equipped to host the Leos’ dog wash fundraising event Saturday. (Photos by Penny Coles)

The St. Davids Leos have three important fundraisers coming up — two to raise money that will go toward training dog guides, and one to support young people with cancer.

For the first time, the Leos have taken over organization of the annual Walk for Dog Guides, which has previously been an event offered by the St. Davids Lions Club.

Leos turn 19, to St. Davids or partnership.

St. Davids School and the Lions Club, neighbours on York Road, have always had a good relationship, with the Lions funding several projects at the school over the years, and a Leos group was seen as an opportunity to develop that partnership.

It is also a way to attract Lions members when the Leos turn 19, to St. Davids or other clubs, said Anderson.

Leos help out at the Lions Carnival each year, but Anderson has left them to be pretty independent in organizing the events.

The Walk for Dog Guides is May 28. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. The walk around the St. Davids Lions property at 1462 York Rd. starting at 11 a.m. There will be hot dogs and French fries at the park for those who participate — and anyone can walk, with or without dogs.

At a meeting with Leos Sunday to finalize details, Anderson praised them for their work on social media, and for everything they are doing to raise money for dog guides — he has left them to be pretty independent in organizing the coming events.

“I’m so proud of our Leos,” says Anderson. “St. Davids is blessed.”

He also had praise for Laura Kott, who with her husband John is the new owner of the Pet Valu store in Virgil. “I can’t say enough about the support Pet Valu has given us,” he said. The Leos are washing the dogs that other clubs which have held similar fundraisers say they have gone well. If a dog gets anxious, he said, the dog owner will be there to calm it down. Of those he spoke to about the dog wash, “they said they’ve never had an incident.”

Hardi Patel and Maya Duick, both in Grade 10 at A.N. Myer Secondary School, are Leos who have taken on the role of lead organizers for the dog walk and wash.

“I joined the Leos because I wanted to be part of a group of young people doing something in their community, especially in St. Davids. Being a St. Davids Leo is a way to do that,” said Patel.

Lucas Peter, 19, is now a St. Davids Lion who also helps out the Leos, having been involved with the club since 2017 through his sister Hannah, when he began helping out with the carnival and fish fries.

He has just finished his second year at Brock University studying medical sciences, and is also a volunteer at the welcome desk in the Niagara Falls hospital site, so hasn’t had a lot of time for meetings, but he will have more time to help out with the upcoming events and others throughout the summer.

He originally volunteered because he needed the hours for high school, he said, and soon realized he likes volunteering. He wants to continue “to help make a better community, in a leadership role.”

The money raised by the Leos at their dog wash and dog guide walk will go to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, where dogs are trained and matched with those who need them through seven distinct programs: canine vision, hearing, service, seizure response, autism assistance, diabetic alert and facility support.

The Leos have already raised funds to sponsor two autism assist dog guides, partnering with the Meriton Lions Club. One of those dogs is now helping a young Virgil girl, said Anderson.

Coming up is a third fundraiser, this one to support the MacKids Teen Zone Project, which is upgrading a teen cancer unit in Hamilton. The space is for teens during their chemotherapy or other cancer treatments. Lions clubs in the area committed to fundraising for the unit, and the Leos also chose to be involved, said Anderson.

They are planning to sell town tulip bulbs — selling the bulbs planted in town flower beds has become an annual fundraiser. This year former Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who has organized in the past, is working with the St. Davids Leos, said Anderson, although he doesn’t have a date for that yet.

For more information on the dog walk or the dog wash call 905-359-3091 or email walk4DG@stdavidslions.ca.

Organizers Hardi Patel and Maya Duick listen while St. Davids Lion Bradd Anderson explains how much work the Leos have done to prepare for the two upcoming fundraisers.

St. Davids Leos organizing dog wash, dog guide walk
Tips to plan the perfect Mother’s Day

(NC) With mom’s special day just around the corner, dads and partners can use these simple tips to prepare for a day she won’t soon forget.

Create a homemade DIY gift
Moms love receiving a gift with a personal touch from the kids, so spend an afternoon with them making something they’ll love. Thoughtful ideas include a card with the kids’ handprints, a vase you all decorate together or a family picture mounted on a hand-painted frame.

Bake while she sleeps
Think moms dream of breakfast in bed? Many moms really just want time to relax. Instead of waking her up with breakfast, let her do her thing while you keep the kids entertained by cooking with them in the kitchen. A Cuisinart Precision Master stand mixer is a helpful tool for making sweet treats, soft breads and salty favourites. It also comes with a recipe booklet with step-by-step instructions, meaning you can master whatever dish she loves.

Remember – it’s all about her
Just because it’s Mother’s Day doesn’t mean she wants or needs to spend all day with the kids. Make a reservation at a nice restaurant for dinner and let her decide what she wants to do the rest of the time. Whether that’s spending the day in bed with a book, seeing a movie with friends, or going to the spa, let her know you’ll do whatever she pleases. Bonus points if you do extra laundry or fix that thing she’s been asking you to for months.

Flavours of the week

- Berry Blast: White Balsamic
  - 50% off
  - May 8th - 12th
  - (limit 2 per customer)

- Chipotle Extra Virgin Olive Oil
  - 50% off
  - May 13th - 19th
  - (limit 2 per customer)

Embrace your mom’s healthy heart on Mother’s Day

It’s the woman in your life a champion at juggling work, kids, her partner and parents? Do you think she puts everyone’s needs first and hers last? Does she ensure everyone and everything is taken care of at any hour, despite not having enough hours in the day? If your answer to any of these questions is “yes”, it may also be true that she doesn’t find time to pay attention to her own heart health. Heart disease and stroke is a leading cause of death for women in Canada.

This Mother’s Day, families can make sure their moms put themselves first by planning a full day of heart-healthy and fun activities, like these:

- Start the day with a personalized message. Send a heartfelt message on a custom Mother’s Day e-card, which shares how you’re going to help mom make time for her heart—today and every day.
- Serve her breakfast in bed: Mouth-watering breakfast burritos cooked in two minutes and served piping hot in bed could be the perfect healthy start to her day.
- Join her for yoga: Yoga improves circulation, keeps blood pressure levels in check, lowers the heart rate, and improves oxygen supply to the body—a great combination to help achieve better heart health.
- Pamper her with a spa package: There is nothing like relaxing the mind and body to make her feel fitter and more energetic. And a stress-free mind and body is good for heart health.
- Treat her to a healthy family dinner: There are many heart healthy, delicious recipes to choose from, including lamb stew with mini potatoes, salmon BLT or just good old homemade macaroni and cheese.
- Encourage her to seek heart health information: Help your mother learn about prevention tips, warning signs and symptoms, and remind her to ask heart-health related questions of her doctor at her next check-up.

Of course, with mom being mom, she will continue to ensure that groceries are bought, kids are fed and taken to swimming lessons, parents have taken their medication, and she has a stellar presentation for her next meeting. Show her you care on her special day by gifting her a healthy heart using e-cards, recipes and health information from thehearttruth.ca.

www.newscanada.com

Mother Daughter Tea

Monday, May 15 at 7 pm at Bethany Mennonite Church 572 East West Line, NOTL
All women are invited to enjoy Cake and Tea while learning about the Nyanyas of Niagara (Grandmothers helping Grandmothers)

Grandmothers helping Grandmothers
A local campaign supporting African grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren.

Donations collected at the Tea will be given to this project.

To Book
Contact the Spa at spa@124queen.com or call 905-468-4552

Hydrotherapy Circuit

124 Q HOTEL & SPA

Save more than 50% off at our multi-million-dollar hydrotherapy circuit. Buy 5 sessions at our circuit, for only $225.00 (regular price $450.00).

Valid Mondays-Thursdays

The NOTL Good
May 10, 2023
Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Brent Campagnola is now a member of an exclusive club of sorts. As part of Dalhousie University’s international law moot competition team, capturing the Canadian title in Winnipeg, Man., he and his teammates spent 10 days in Washington D.C. in April competing with 138 teams from 90 countries at what is often referred to as the ‘Olympics of Law.’

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition team is ‘almost like a cult,’ Camagnola tells The Local on a recent visit back home in NOTL for his sister’s wedding. In Washington, he says, ‘there were so many people who said they go every year. They come back to judge or to coach teams. We had judges from Afghanistan and Germany, and some who said they’d been coming for 15 years. It’s part of their personality.’

Recognized in law circles around the world, the competition in the Jessup Moot, says Campagnola, can open doors for an aspiring legal professional. In fact, many competitors were offered positions at firms when in Washington last month.

After earning a pre-law degree at Carleton University in Ottawa, Campbellagola applied for law school and wasn’t accepted. So he returned to Carleton, where he finished a Master’s degree in applied linguistics. That led him to a job teaching English in Korea for two years.

When he returned to Canada, he volunteered as a caseworker at Kitchener’s Compass Refugee Centre, helping newcomers to Canada. On this second application to law school, he was accepted and began his studies at Dalhousie’s Schulich School of Law in 2020.

Now in his third and final year at Dalhousie, Campagnola describes the legal community. ‘I love living by the sea, and I love the seafood. ‘I had a feeling pretty early on that I would stay here, and I really enjoyed them,’ he said. ‘And they were my highest grades. The professor (Rob Currie) for my evidence class is the coach for the team. He ended up making personal comments to the team. Campagnola was one of four students to make the cut last fall. Soon, he found himself in regular sessions with Currie and volunteer deputy coach Sarah MacLeod, an associate at Halifax law firm Burchell Wickwire Bryson and a 2020 Dalhousie Jessup alum herself.

The first task for the team was to familiarize themselves with the case as set out by the International Law Students Association, the organization that administers the competition. The 2023 problem was called The Case Concerning the Clarent Belt. (Aqwalwe v. Ragnall), a fictional proceeding dealing with the interpretation of a peace treaty, deadly attacks in an allegedly occupied territory, unilateral economic sanctions and the legal consequences of failing to properly dispose of hazardous waste.

If that sounds complicated, consider the seemingly endless packages of materials the team had to dig into in preparing their written submission, called a memorial, and to later defend their positions at the moot, or mock trial.

That included the Charter of the United Nations, the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the 1966 International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and various other international conventions, scholarly documents and relevant past international cases.

‘It was a really complex case,’ says the 29-year-old. ‘Just with the first issue of four, you have two military objectives being neutralized, and there’s the issue of bringing the military into another country’s demilitarized zone, and the lawfulness of that given that the country bringing the military in is leasing the territory. They try to pack so much into every issue.’

The four team members divided up the tasks and responsibilities, two taking on the role of4

When it came time to go to trial, the Dalhousie team worked extremely well, beating teams from China, Saudi Arabia and Lithuania before losing a hard-fought match against the Honorable Society of Gray’s Inn, a post-grad law organization from the UK. But their 3-1 record in the preliminary round qualified them to move into the final 48, against the Canadian team to do so.

‘Our applicants then went on to compete with George Washington University, a pretty prestigious school,’ Campagnola says. ‘We really felt we would beat them, but the judges came out and found for the respondents. We didn’t win, but we were pretty happy nonetheless.’

The Dalhousie team did return from Capitol Hill with a sixth place prize for their joint written memorial and a ninth place prize for their team memorial. Campagnola’s teammate Arski was chosen as 25th best overall orator, and more than 550 participants at the Jessup.

For Campagnola, it’s an experience he will never forget. It opened his eyes to a number of different possibilities he had never considered for his future in law. Meeting a lieutenant colonel from the Canadian Armed Forces, in Vancouver and Canada’s deputy ambassador to the U.S. in Washington has left him open to the idea of pursuing international law.

‘I was impressed with how enthusiastic the JAG officers were about what they do,’ admits Campagnola. ‘They brought in one day the diplomat test, so I could serve as an agent for Canada in other countries.’

For now, though, as he writes his last final exams and gets ready for graduation in June, he will continue as an article clerk at Burchell Wickwire Bryson, where he works with his coach MacLeod.

‘I do a lot of civil litigation, human rights and employment law. It’s a lot of his current role there. ‘I try to get on some Aboriginal law cases, too. I get to work with a lot of different lawyers on different kinds of cases. It’s a really enriching experience.

Don’t expect him to be representing clients back here in Niagara any time soon.

‘I had a feeling pretty early on that I would stay here, and I really enjoyed them,’ he said. ‘And they were my highest grades. ‘I had a feeling pretty early on that I would stay here, and I really enjoyed them,’ he said. ‘And they were my highest grades.'
Nyanyas social event to help next generation of African women

Penny Coles
The Local

The Nyanyas are holding their traditional spring event this year—although with a difference—but still fundraising for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which supports women in Africa who are leading the way to a future free from AIDS.

Nyanya Linda Carleton says the group, one of more than 260 groups established decades ago in response to the crisis faced by African grandmothers as they struggled to raise millions of children orphaned by AIDS, has changed direction somewhat.

They are still trying to build up their membership post-COVID, but with a focus that has changed, she says, both for the foundation and groups that support it.

“These children—grandmothers have raised are now looking after the next generation,” she says. They are adults themselves, and rather than helping grandmothers, it’s a matter of helping women of Africa who are working to change the lives of other women, including tackling health issues.

Women know that the only way to an AIDS-free future is to dismantle the effects of patriarchy, inequality, and gender-based violence, the Stephen Lewis Foundation website says. Across countries in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls and young women are more than twice as likely to acquire HIV than boys and young men, and those women are mobilizing in their communities. They are educating their peers about HIV prevention, and about keeping girls in school. They are caring for people living with HIV and trying to remove the stigma of an HIV diagnosis.

Groups like the Nyanyas are now helping to support that generation of women, says Carleton, although still through the foundation and the grassroots programs it supports. And rather than limiting themselves as a women’s group, they are planning social events that might encourage community members who have other ideas for fundraising, says Carleton.

“We’re looking at the rights of women rather than grandmothers, and we want to encourage everyone, women and their partners, to get involved, by showing them the work we do for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, helping the next generation, the teens and young women in their 20s.”

Their upcoming event is at Ironwood Cider House at 1425 Lakeshore Rd., Tuesday, May 30 from 5 to 7 p.m., with hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. Everyone is welcome, tickets are $30, and can be reserved by e-transfer to nyanyas2018@gmail.com. Deadline for registration is May 15.

“Ironwood has been so supportive. They want to help any way they can, and they’ve been very welcoming. From the time we first approached them, they’ve been right onboard,” says Carleton. “They helped put it all together for us.”

The plan is for it to be outside, and fortunately Ironwood has a space upstairs that will also work if they have to move inside. She refers to the event as “a fun little soiree,” and hopes people will plan to stop by and enjoy it.
Learn about ‘hysterical’ women and health gaslighting

Mike Balsom The Local

It was while browsing her Instagram feed that Shawn Butts, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum’s assistant curator and educational programmer, came up with the idea for her May 18 lecture, Historically Hysterical: A Look at Women’s Health and Health Care.

“I saw a lot of videos from women whose pain was being ignored by their doctors,” says Butts. “Things would be dismissed as anxiety or depression, and these women would keep pushing until they found out that they actually had cancer.”

And there were women undergoing IUD (intrauterine device) insertion who weren’t being given pain medication. Their level of pain tolerance wasn’t being taken seriously.

Diggging more deeply into these social media posts brought up, Butts discovered that this gaslighting of women’s health has been occurring since the time of Hippocrates, over 2,000 years ago.

“Women’s health has traditionally been defined by the men of Butts. “The real issue is that anything that is causing them is- looks. At even the witch trials. “This has been going on, three thousand years.”

Butts points out that for centuries when a woman presented to a male physician with any kind of abdominal condition, she would have been told it was caused by the ‘animal within an animal.’ Her uterus was a beast inside of her, and she was at the mercy of its whims.

“Throughout modern history, doctors continued to blame women’s pain on errant behaviours, mental weakness, or even sexual tendencies.”

These misdiagnoses and dismissals of women’s health concerns didn’t just happen in ancient times. It wasn’t until the 1980s that women who were actually allowed to be included in health research studies had no choice but to benefit white women. That’s when they found out that women actually present heart attack symptoms much differently than men.

Women get symptoms that are more flu-like, not the chest pain that men experience.”

In her research for the lecture, Butts says she was continually surprised and even angered by how many women were en- couraging people to realize the full transformative potential that museums have for sus- tainable development and well- being, with particular emphasis on global health, climate action and protecting life on land.

The mission of the NOTL Museum is also participating in International Museum Day. Each year, the International Council of Museums uses this day to high- light the role museums play in communities large and small.

Museums uses this day to high- light the role museums play in communities large and small.

The lecture next Thursday will feature Shawn Butts, the Ukrainian-born vocalist, associate professor at the University of Connecticut and professor at the Longy School of Music of Bard College, holds a master’s thesis at Grace United Church is scheduled for June 29, featuring Pergolesi’s masterpiece Stabat Mater, with performances by soprano Katelyn Bird, countertenor Massuci Facchini, and Brittish Canadian baritone Al- exander Dobson. The concert is the final event of the season and will be hosted by Debra Faire and Chopin at the same venue.

An evening of baroque musi- at Grace United Church is scheduled for June 29, featuring Pergolesi’s masterpiece Stabat Mater, with performances by soprano Katelyn Bird, countertenor Massuci Facchini, and Brittish Canadian baritone Al- exander Dobson. The concert is the final event of the season and will be hosted by Debra Faire and Chopin at the same venue.

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Notice of Public Information Centre No. 2
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment
Biosolids Management Master Plan Update

Niagara Region completed a Biosolids Management Master Plan in 2010 to ensure a long-term, environmentally sustainable, reliable and cost-effective biosolids management program for Niagara Region and its citizens. This update will identify and develop a strategy for meeting Niagara’s biosolids treatment needs through to 2051, in a manner that is transparent, sustainable, reliable, environmentally-friendly, cost-effective and flexible.

The Biosolids Management Master Plan will be developed to:
- Meet the unique needs of Niagara Region and its customers, including treatment requirements, land uses and users, and environmental features
- Meet future needs associated with population growth, new regulations, climate resiliency, and energy efficiency
- Provide greater flexibility and reliability for biosolids management, both in the short term (within five years) and long term (to 2051)
- Improve biosolids marketability
- Address community expectations regarding level of service, odour, air/noise, water quality, protection of the environment and aesthetics

Through this study, alternative strategies for managing biosolids were developed and evaluated, considering environmental and socio-cultural impacts along with technical feasibility and cost. The objective of Public Information Centre No. 2 is to present our preliminary evaluation results and receive feedback on preferred strategies.

The Process
The Study follows the master planning process as established by the Municipal Engineer’s Association Class Environmental Assessment process for Master Plans, which is an approved Ontario Environmental Assessment process. The Biosolids Management Master Plan Update will satisfy Phases 1 and 2 of the Class Environmental Assessment process. Public and stakeholder input will be sought throughout the process and a Biosolids Management Master Plan Update Report will be prepared and filed for public review.

Get Involved
Public feedback is an important part of the process. Information about the project will be available on Niagara Region’s website. You can learn about the project, preliminary recommendations, and how you can have your voice heard.

Public Information Centre No. 2 Details
Public Information Centre 2 will be made available on the project website beginning Wednesday, May 17, 2023. This will be followed with a two-week period to submit comments to the Project Team.

You can access the project website using the link below or by scanning the QR code with your smart phone.

You can access the project website using the link below or by scanning the QR code with your smart phone.

If you have questions, comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact:

Jason Oatley
Project Manager
Niagara Region
3501 Schmon Pkwy, PO Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
905-980-6000 ext. 3768
Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215
Fax: 905-685-5205
niagarabiosolidsmp@niagararegion.ca

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations in order to participate, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.
Virgil Stampede offers fun for everyone

Penny Coles
The Local

When the crowd-pleasing Virgil Stampede returns for the May long weekend, organizers say it will be the popular event we all remember, only better. It’s a Virgil Business Association tradition that goes back 57 years, when a family fireworks display for locals in Virgil grew to become first a two-day celebration of the long weekend, and then eventually to three days, drawing people from across the region. And each year it promises to be better than the last, with all the old favourite events and entertainment, and something new to offer. This year, the nickel sale will be back after a three-year absence. It was put off last year — although many events were returning post-pandemic, it requires licensing, many volunteers, and has traditionally been held inside the arena, so with the possibility of restrictions returning, the decision was made to wait another year. "It feels like everything’s falling back into place this year," says association president Richard Wall, "like we’re back to normal. Last year planning had to be somewhat last-minute after two years of no stampede and COVID restrictions, and we didn’t do everything we had in the past." This year, he says, "we increased family entertainment. Generally everything is back with a full slate, plus a little more." Amusement rides are being provided by Albion Attractions, with bracelets for all-day rides at $35 the same price as last year, if purchased at Phils Independent and online ahead of time.

Wall says he’s been speaking to the ride company, which had mechanical problems and staff shortages last year, a common issue post-pandemic, but they have said the rides have been repaired and updated. "We’re hoping everything will run smoothly. There shouldn’t be the long line-ups we experienced last year," says Wall. The Kids Pavilion will be "brilliant with air brush face painting children love, along with lots of entertainment, and pony rides nearby.

The Ben Show’s comedy, juggling, unicycling and circus stunts will be performed three times each of the three days, Mike London will be back with his reptiles, as will Tim Hollands with the Jay Kobbler Show added to this year’s performances. Expect the same great food provided by local businesses and volunteers, with reasonable prices, although there may be a few small increases this year due to the rising cost of food, says Wall. The Niagara Electric Flyers are expected to return, inside the Centennial Arena all three days, as usual performing great demonstrations.

And following tradition, the event will wrap up with Victoria Day fireworks at dusk. Last year’s show was spectacular, says Wall, and the company that provides the fireworks display is promising more of the same.

Last year’s event was a financial success, and while typically the VBA looks for a large project to help fund, usually partnering with the town, they haven’t settled on any one project for last year’s proceeds or for the upcoming stampede. The first year the stampede was held, Wall says the goal was to raise money for the Centennial Arena. There were people who thought that was too ambitious a project for a small town, he says, "but the var majority of the community was behind it, and the VBA was the driving factor.

The committee raised $158,000 in 1967 to add to federal and provincial grants, the arena was built, and Dave Wall, Richard father and then president of the business association, received certificates from both levels of government for the biggest centennial project per capita in the country. Since then they’ve raised more than $2 million to put back into the community for playgrounds, schools, and other projects, including the Crossroads accessible playground. But to the accomplishment the VBA is most proud of, says Wall, is the sports park itself, expanded through the purchase of the surrounding property where many locals today can remember hitting home runs and sending outfielders to search for them in the orchards.

With the stampede less than two weeks away, volunteers are still needed. For those who might have time to give, visit virgilstampede.ca/contact/volunteer-registration. Also needed are volunteers for the nickel sale, in four-hour shifts. Anyone interested can go online to email penny@notllocal.com. The nickel sale also needs prizes. If any businesses can help out with an item or gift card, email Karen Skeoch at karen@notllocal.com and arrange to have donations picked up.

Gates are open at the Virgil Sports Park Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, May 21 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Monday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Parking will not be permitted in the sports park itself. The entrance from Four Mile Creek Road will be open just for drop-offs, says Wall.

Parking will be permitted at the town hall parking lot on Lorraine Street, and from there, it’s a short walk along Lorraine Street or to the Four Mile Creek entrance to the sports park.

Cornerstone Chapel on Niagara Stone Road is offering its parking lot for all three days. The Niagara Credit Union has also agreed its parking lot can be used Sunday and Monday. There is access to Loretta Street from the back, and from there it’s a short walk to the sports park.

Phil’s Independent parking lot is available for parking only on Monday.

Walls says expect three days chock full of entertainment, hopefully good weather to enjoy it, and an opportunity to contribute to making an already great community even better.

For more details visit virgilstampede.ca.
Walk a wagging tail and restore a heritage trail

A four-legged fundraiser for the next phase of rehabilitating Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Upper Canada Heritage Trail will be held Saturday, May 20, offering a opportunity to enjoy the restored portion of the trail.

She and Lake took part in last year’s dog walk, and both enjoyed it. “We walked with people we knew, and dogs we knew. The weather was great, and it was a lovely day.”

The trail “is really a lovely place for everyone to walk,” she says, “providing a good surface and nicely shaded areas.”

Barb Gelb uses the trail regularly with Lake, her energetic four-year-old Hungarian vizsla. She and Lake took part in last year’s dog walk, and both enjoyed it. “We walked with people we knew, and dogs we knew. The weather was great, and it was a lovely day.”

The changes have been positive, she added, making the restored section more accessible, and providing a better surface for all walkers, especially for those with mobility problems who use scooters or canes.

For dog walkers who have to get out every day, it’s a great location. “If you feel like you want to support a local cause, this is a way to improve options for walking your dog, or just for walking, and the event should be fun.”

Ricky Melone, chair of the town’s Heritage Trail committee, says that a group of committee members and volunteers have worked hard to make this event a lot of fun and educational for local dog lovers. There is limited participation so early sign-up is encouraged.

The first 50 dogs get a bag of treats, food and toys. Pre-event outdoor booths will feature a doggie “kissing booth,” dog massage, dog photographer, dog communicators, and much more.

There are great draw prizes — many stores and sponsors have contributed gifts that will be in the prize draw. May 20 is also Dog Rescue Day, and a rescue organization will be onsite.

The cost to register for the walk is $45 (plus a small Eventbrite fee).

Check-in is at 9 a.m. The walk starts at 10 a.m. from NOTL’s Memorial Park on Veterans Way.

All funds will go towards enhancing and continuing the Heritage Trail. Donations are welcome and there will be a prize for the largest donations.

A sponsor form, registration and further details can be found at www.hertagetrail.ca.

Enjoy a mimosa, help a child

With National Mimosa Day coming up on May 16, Andrew Niven, Konzelmann Winery’s director of marketing and hospitality, approached Kim Hughes, owner of Sunset Grill on Queen Street, about holding a Mimosa Day fundraiser for Red Roof Retreat. Hughes liked the idea so much she suggested they extend the fundraiser to four days.

From May 15 through 18, Sunset Grill in Niagara-on-the-Lake is hoping to serve 100 mimosas, made with Konzelmann’s Methode Cuvee Close Riesling, at $5 each, with all proceeds going to Red Roof Retreat, which is changing and shaping lives of those in the Niagara Region by offering quality respite and recreational programs to children, youth and young adults with special needs and their families. Drop in, enjoy a mimosa, and help the local charity. (Mike Balsom)
Petra Zantingh art exhibit: Beauty and Resilience

Maria Klassen
Special to The Local

Petra Zantingh's artwork is inspired by nature, as seen in the many trees and flowers that find their way onto her canvases. Her paintings are on display at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre for the month of May, in an exhibit called Beauty and Resilience. Zantingh says she was influenced by the writings of Dutch Catholic priest Herut Nouwen and American poet Mary Oliver. Their literary works speak about the contradictions in life and accepting and finding joy in transitions. Zantingh sees the dichotomy between urban and natural landscapes, and the many contrasts we face in life: joy in sadness, light in darkness, fragility in strength. She expresses this dichotomy in paintings of hardy and fading flowers—showing the beauty at each stage from the bud to when the flower has died. The way she paints is an emotional response to the spirit and souls of trees. Zantingh says she often goes to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton to sketch or photograph her subject material. She has gone from painting trees, which are confined in space, to painting magnolias, which are larger and more fragile. This interest in magnolias can be seen in the current exhibit. The vibrant colours of her palette for painting flowers is richer and wider, bringing out the warm tones in the flowers.

She uses water, watercolours, ink, gouache, and water-soluble graphite. The paintings are sealed with UV varnish, wax or acrylic mediums. There is a fragile and mysterious relationship between water and pigment and the process requires patient manipulation to achieve transparent layers that create subtle nuances. Her husband makes the wood panels she paints on, and printed every year. An extraordinary feature of the map is a work of art used as the front cover design. Members of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre were invited to submit one of their paintings, and in a juried competition, one would be selected for the cover. This year’s winner was Julia Kane’s A Perfect Day in Niagara-on-the-Lake. John Foreman, President of STAY Niagara-on-the-Lake presents Julia Kane with an honorarium for her award-winning painting. Included are Amy Jodoin, marketing chair for STAY, and Rima Boles, director of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. (Maria Klassen)

Map shows attractions for locals and visitors

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905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

The STAY Niagara-on-the-Lake Tourist Map is now available, and includes information about participating restaurants, shops, wineries, bed and breakfast and vacation rental properties, churches, community centres and more. While it has tourists in mind who are coming to NOTL and is a valuable resource for visitors, it will also be of interest to locals who think they know the area well, but may find a hidden gem they didn’t know about.

The Tourist Map was first printed several decades ago, with an updated brochure each year. The STAY Niagara-on-the-Lake Tourist Map was first printed every year. An extraordinary feature of the map is a work of art used as the front cover design. Members of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre were invited to submit one of their paintings, and in a juried competition, one would be selected for the cover. This year’s winner was Julia Kane’s A Perfect Day in Niagara-on-the-Lake. John Foreman, President of STAY Niagara-on-the-Lake presents Julia Kane with an honorarium for her award-winning painting. Included are Amy Jodoin, marketing chair for STAY, and Rima Boles, director of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. (Maria Klassen)

John Foreman, President of STAY Niagara-on-the-Lake presents Julia Kane with an honorarium for her award-winning painting. Included are Amy Jodoin, marketing chair for STAY, and Rima Boles, director of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. (Maria Klassen)

Tulips, tulips everywhere

Ontario’s First National Heritage District

Tulips are in town flower beds and on residential streets, adding lots of colour to our communities and heralding the warm weather we have been waiting for. (David Glicich)

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THOMSON, JOHN BALLANTYNE
October 22 1934 – May 6, 2023.
Beloved husband to Jessie (2015) for 62 years and Elena for the past 6 years. Devoted and much loved father to Janice, John (Sue) and Jim; proud Papa to Andrew (Tanja), Lindsay (Chris), Megan, Kaitlyn and James. Great grandfather to Carter and Lincoln. Step-father to Marcelo (Ellen) and step-grandfather to Mathew, Robert, Cecilia and Michael. John experienced life to the fullest, sharing his life stories, integrity and strong sense of humour every day. Golf was certainly one of his passions, but providing a positive, nurturing environment for the family was always the #1 priority.

Cremation has taken place. Funeral service to be held on Wednesday May 10, 2:30 pm at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Simcoe Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, followed by a reception in the Kirk Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations to Hospice Niagara or St. Andrew’s Church would be appreciated.

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

GRAY, (MORTON) MARGO, ON
1937 – 2023
Gray, Margo - Passed away peacefully at Upper Canada Lodge, surrounded by her family on May 8, 2023, in her 86th year. Beloved wife to Tom for over 64 years. Loving mother to Rick (Teresa), Holly (Rob). Caring grandmother of Taylor (Ryan), Ryan (Morgan), Heather (Brandon), Kevan, Bryan (Claire), cherished great grandmother to Betty and Joyce and many nephews and nieces.

Margo loved all her fur babies, including her current granddogs, Ellie, Theo, Penny and Luna. Predeceased by siblings Bruce (Nelia), Bill (June), Lois (Maurice), brothers-in-law Keith and Dan.

Margo worked for Dan-Nel Coach Lines where she drove a school bus for 20 plus years and made some wonderful friends. Margo was very involved with St. George’s Homer Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and received the Order of Niagara for her exceptional services to the Church. She was a member of the Eastern Star and volunteered for many organizations such as The Canadian Cancer Society. She also volunteered at the Tuck Shop at Upper Canada Lodge where she helped all of her grandchildren obtain their community hours for high school. Margo’s love for children was so evident by driving school bus and spending time with her grandchildren. Margo received recognition for her volunteerism towards seniors from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2005 and was always willing to help when someone or an organization needed assistance.

Margo had a passion for baking, everyone that knew her, loved her apple pies. She loved baking cookies with her grandchildren. Margo and Tom were great partners in everything they did, from raising their children, caring for ducks, saving turtles and working together in their greenhouses. Margo and Tom traveled in their Airstream for 10 plus years, exploring Canada and many Southern US States. Thank you to Dr. Durocher and Denise Murphy and her team at Upper Canada Lodge for the wonderful care they provided to Margo.

Visitation will take place at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, NOTL, ON from 1 – 5 p.m. on Sunday May 14, 2023. Service to be held at St. Mark’s Church, 41 Byron Street, NOTL, ON on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 11 a.m. A private interment to take place at a later time. Memorial donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Alzheimer Society would be greatly appreciated.

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

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**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**Sudoku solution from May 3, 2023**

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 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4
 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6
 4 5 6 7 8 9 2 3 1
 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 2 9
 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 9 2 3 1 4 5 6 7 8
 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
 6 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9
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