



Polo returns to the Commons
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Tudor Alexis, consul general of France, and Lord Mayor Betty Disero raise the European Union flag at the Court House. (Photo by Mike Balsom)

Gary Zalepa running for Lord Mayor to improve council 'tone'

Penny Coles
The Local

Gary Zalepa believes his ability to set a positive tone and bring people together to work toward a common goal make him the right person to be the next Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Zalepa successfully ran against three other candidates for regional council in 2018, wanting to be a strong voice at a time when it was important to improve the public perception and restore trust in the upper-tier level of Niagara government, which had been seriously lacking.

It has been a good four

years, he says, with a term under chair Jim Bradley that has demonstrated a large number of regional councillors with varying backgrounds and interests could come together to set a positive plan for Niagara, and work collaboratively to carry it out.

Zalepa wants to do the same for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The long-time community resident and businessman, with a background of serving on several local boards and standing committees, as well as municipal experience as a two-term town councillor and one

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It's official: Disero seeks second term

Penny Coles
The Local

Lord Mayor Betty Disero made it official Friday morning, arriving at the town hall to sign her nomination papers to run for her second term, a group of supporters accompanying her.

Although candidates need only 25 signatures to run for municipal council, Disero had a stack of papers with her representing over 1,000 signatures, which she said she had no trouble getting as she knocked on doors.

A news release prepared for the day mentioned three issues that are priorities for Disero: transparency, ac-

countability and accessibility; managing growth; and building a strong, caring community.

Transparency, accountability and accessibility are built into the Strategic Plan, she said, and must be continued to ensure leadership with integrity and responsiveness.

"Everyone should have a voice, and every voice should matter to effect positive change."

Managing growth means balancing the town's heritage, culture, agriculture, tourism and economic growth through compatible development, "with changes to

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'Message of peace spread in this little town'

Mike Balsom
The Local

Members of the European Union Consul General group gathered on Queen Street to raise the EU flag Monday in honour of Canada's relationship with its second largest trade partner.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero opened the proceedings in front of the Court House, deftly welcoming the 20 delegates and their guests in 15 different languages. Monday was EU Day, an important demonstration of common values and goals and Canada's lifelong tie

with Europe in trade, she said.

"This day highlights the harmonious relationship that Europe and Canada have had for centuries," Disero said. "It is truly an honour here in Niagara-on-the-Lake to represent that tie of nations. It is an incredible pleasure to raise this flag signifying the EU's motto, 'United in Diversity.'"

The crisis currently faced by Ukraine from ongoing Russian attacks was recognized by each of the speakers who addressed the delegates and guests. Among the visitors to NOTL Monday was Oleksandr Shevchenko, consul general

of Ukraine, there as an invited guest of the group.

"The town of Niagara-on-the-Lake stands with the people of Ukraine," Disero avowed before requesting a moment of silence. "We extend a plea for peace for those imposing harm and violence against your country. We hope that this horrible warfare brought to your country ends soon, and that life in your country can return to normal."

European Union Day marks the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration of 1950. On May 9 of that year, French Foreign Minister Robert

Schuman called on European nations to unite in the wake of the devastation of the Second World War. Schuman proposed that the community's founding members, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, lift import and export duties to create a common market, with the hope that the agreement would reduce the risk of future conflict.

The treaty governing the original six was signed in Paris in 1951, coming into force the following year. Today, the European

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Housing high on Zalepa's list of must do's



Gary Zalepa (Photo submitted)

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term at the region, believes he can be more beneficial to the community if he runs locally.

He feels he can bring what he learned at the region to the town, "focusing on what needs to be done to change the tone of how the mayor and council work together, and to council discussions."

He has been a coach for minor hockey with kids aged 10 and 11, right up to the major junior-level with 18-year-olds, and both in sports and throughout his career in real estate, he has had that opportunity to "bring people together in a common effort, developing and setting goals and then getting behind them."

"I've been watching the incumbents," he adds, "and what they're going to do, and I'm not sure how happy some of them are with their experiences. At the end of four years, people need to feel they've had good, healthy conversations."

This is a time when a particular style of leadership is needed, "with a lot of angst in a world that feels very separated, with harsh, difficult experiences. I think we can have the debates we need in a healthy tone."

Zalepa was the owner of a real estate brokerage in town for more than 25 years, and is currently the director of strategic growth for Century 21 Canada corporate head office.

He has been considering the possibility of running locally for some time, and

is prepared to file his nomination papers this week, he said Sunday.

He plans to continue his career in real estate, and feels confident he can manage both jobs well. At the region he sits on two major committees, housing and budget, both of which take up a lot of time, which has been manageable along with his job, he says.

He repeats the quote, "if you want something done, give it to a busy person," and says he understands the amount of work that is required, and is being encouraged at work to run for the position.

"I see it as my chance to give back to the town, and I think it's time. I'm putting it out there as an alternative."

The role of the lord mayor, he says, "is to be a chief cheerleader to their town," and to get out in front of the province, advocating for the town and what it needs.

One of the major issues he intends to fight for is "attainable housing," for people at both ends of the age spectrum — young people who want to work in NOTL, who need rental accommodation, whether it's apartments, houses or secondary units, and older people who have lived in town all their lives, want to move to something smaller, but end up staying in their homes because it's the only way they can stay in town. "They don't have that next step to move to," he says. "There is a huge supply problem."

The solution has to start with rentals, and other municipalities are making in-

roads — NOTL should be doing the same, to allow people of all ages to stay in town. "I have 30 years experience in real estate, and I understand the housing market. It's not a one-size solution, a single bullet, it has to be a number of solutions, including secondary suites and how they fit in."

While he sees housing as one important issue, there are several that reach out to the broader community.

"People come here and stay here for a reason. We need to make sure the things we're doing maintain that sense of place."

He speaks of using planning documents to accomplish that, such as how buildings in new subdivisions are set on lots, with guidelines that do a better job of determining how the town is going to grow.

"We need to be advocates for the town, and be recognized by other levels of government," he says. "We also need to be courting businesses for investments that create jobs, better jobs for people who want to live here, and for our kids who want to stay here."

The town needs more of a balance of tourism and residents, so people feel better about their communities, and that includes economic development, and how it fits in with tourism, says Zalepa. Those discussions require a large number of stakeholders involved, both in the tourism industry and residents, and include looking at tourist accommodations and finding a balance of what is acceptable in residential neighbourhoods.

There are other municipalities in Ontario that have dealt with tourist accommodations, "and we need to look at best practices," he says, finding the proper balance, and also remembering "when businesses are healthy, that's good for the community too."

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'Most proud' of community accomplishments during COVID

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the zoning bylaw to preserve heritage, continue protecting against overdevelopment, and ensuring that provincially-mandated secondary suites will be well-planned and a good fit for neighbours and neighbourhoods, while providing diversity and affordability in housing."

The zoning bylaw needs to be finished and passed, to provide more control over mass and heights of buildings, and there may be some issues that residents are not happy with, that will take time to be discussed, she said.

She also told The Local the transportation master plan, which she still hopes to see finished this term, may have to be carried over to the next term.

Negotiating and finalizing the town's new Official Plan, adopted by town council in October 2019, to conform with the region and province, are also on her list of priorities. "We've done what we can do for now," she says.

Continuing to work with residents and community partners to build a complete community means enhancing playgrounds and parks, active transportation, day-care, wellness, age-in-place secondary suites, and further building a foundation and a framework for business to prosper, her press release says.

Finding housing suitable for retirement homes is high on her list, for those who are ready to downsize, but not ready for long-term care.

"I also still really want to see what we can do with the St. Davids pool," she told The Local. "Maybe we can look at repairing it," she said, but it would have to be as a long-term project, not just a temporary fix.

"During her first term as Lord Mayor, Betty has shown effective, honest leadership as she listens and works with residents, businesses, councillors and town staff," said her campaign chair Debi Pratt. "The challenges were many, but so were the accomplishments. Betty brings

her many transferrable skills and experience of 26 years in municipal government leadership: most importantly her four years in Niagara-on-the-Lake as councillor, and her most recent term as Lord Mayor, 2018 to 2022."

"We were dealing with COVID for a couple of years, and we didn't get everything done we wanted to," Disero said. But the community stepped up, and created a Migrant Workers Hub, an expansion of Niagara Nursery School, and the Central Community Church, among other projects. Council worked hard as well, with additions to parks, and the heritage trail, "and not just those on council, but with the community coming together."

"We're really looking at next term to get a lot done," she added.

"I see bright things in our future. I see tourism coming back stronger than ever, and I see the tourism strategic plan helping us interact with residents, tourism, and how we welcome tourists."

In Disero's virtual state of the town address, organized by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, she spoke of the accomplishments of this term of council, which included working hard to provide excellence in customer service, and to provide a vision and plan to "carry us through to the next decade, and to determine the infrastructure necessary to provide a good quality of life for our residents."

Engagement with residents and community members remains an important priority, she said, speaking of much that was learned through the pandemic, including the successful curbside pickup to serve residents.

The pandemic, she said, caused two years of angst, people taking care of themselves and each other, and organizations, businesses and residents coming forward with "such generosity and compassion."

Disero also spoke of council working with the community to provide amenities and infrastructure, ensuring the needs of the com-

munity are met, and quality of life is enhanced — including in parks and recreation, on trails, and with the library and the museum.

The town has enhanced pickleball courts, tennis

courts, basketball courts, added the skateboard park and new playgrounds, and there is discussion of disc golf on the community centre property, she said.

But she is most proud

of how much was accomplished during the past term, even with a pandemic, she added. "Instead of panicking, we planned, and instead of saying, 'no, we can't do this,' we did it."

"We have done a lot, collectively, not just council, not just me, but everyone working together," she said.

"I am so proud of everyone to have been able to do that."



Lord Mayor Betty Disero, with her supporters, arrived at the town hall Friday morning prepared to sign her nomination papers. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Her supporters behind her, Lord Mayor Betty Disero has filed her papers and is officially running for a second term.

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Radar work completed, now research begins

Mike Balsom
The Local

James Russell's quest to identify the names of those buried at the Mississauga Road Negro Burial Ground is a little closer to reality.

Early last Wednesday morning, the Toronto-based owner of film, television and New Media company Manks Productions was standing in the rain anxiously awaiting the arrival of Steve Watson on site. Watson is the proprietor of Global GPR, a Brampton company that offers ground-penetrating radar services to its clients.

Russell could barely hold back his excitement that his efforts to recognize the early members of Niagara's Black community buried on the former church grounds could soon bear fruit.

He had just recently attended an announcement in Toronto to learn the name of the cemetery has been changed by the Ontario Heritage Trust, with a new plaque expected in the coming weeks to designate the historic space the Niagara Baptist Burial Ground. Russell wasn't sure where the church sat on the property, but hoped to find out.

Only two headstones remain standing on the site, which dates back to the 1800s, while some historical records say there are as many as 15 burials there. A recent visit by local resident Howard Bogusat with his dowsing rods suggested there could be as many as 61 (14 in the back, 47 in the front closer to the sidewalk) possible.

"I was a little sceptical," Russell, who walked the site with Bogusat, told The Local. "It took about two hours and

it was fascinating. He had the coat hangers in straws, so he wasn't touching them. And they moved."

Watson and his assistant Don Johnston arrived shortly after Russell. They awaited the cessation of the steady morning rain shower before pulling their rig out of Watson's vehicle.

Watson talked of offering his services at hundreds of cemeteries across North America.

"It's primarily church groups who are managing cemeteries who contact me," he said. "Sometimes it's real estate companies when they are selling the sites, but mostly churches. In a couple of weeks we are heading to Ohio to do a pioneer cemetery." He also does forensic work for police, he says, for developers when subdivisions are planned, for gravel pits to see how deep they are, and in the Arctic, to test the



A crowd of interested spectators, including Bill Ford, Coun. Gary Burroughs, Coun. Norm Arsenault, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, James Russell, and Bob Watson (former member of the town's municipal heritage committee) gathered at the cemetery, waiting for the rain to stop so the work could begin. (Mike Balsom)



Assistant Don Johnston, technician Steve Watson and James Russell, heading the project, stop to look. (Penny Coles)



James Russell leaves flags and markers on the ground where radar detected anomalies. (Mike Balsom)

ice roads.

As Watson explained, using his equipment in a cemetery is probably the easiest part of his work, though he says radar does not actually find and confirm actual burials.

"What we look for are anomalies underground," he told The Local. "If I find an anomaly that is roughly three to four feet wide by seven to eight feet long, chances are it's a burial. If it's in a cemetery, it's pretty safe to say it's a burial. If I'm in a field and I find an anomaly, I need to do an archaeological dig to verify what it is."

"A cemetery will be laid out in an orderly fashion," continued Watson. "Depending on the religion, bodies are laid out in a certain way. The Catholic and Anglican way is to bury the bodies east-west. The idea is to put the head to the east, and as the sun rises, the spirit follows the sun and then goes to the holy land."

Watson expected the Baptist burial ground would follow the east-west layout.

Watson's radar rig looks a bit like a fancy lawnmower, with a yellow box dragging along the lawn as he and Johnston push it. It transmits an electromagnetic wave into the ground, and the signal reflects back on changes in the electrical properties underground.

Those changes show up as wavy lines on a receiver that the pair hold up near the handles of the rig.

"In a new cemetery, we're going to see the caskets," Watson explained. "In one of this age we're going to look for signs where the soil from different strata has mixed. The caskets would have decayed here. Bones absorb minerals from the ground and will have the same electric properties as the soil."

He and Johnston laid out survey tape on each side of the cemetery. Because the cart holding the GPR equipment is 50 centimetres wide, they worked tape-to-tape in 50 centimetre swaths to cover the entire ground.

Throughout the day, curious passersby stopped to check out the proceedings, while retired Parks Canada superintendent Ron Dale dropped by with a list of 10 definite names and 14 more possible ones from the local Baptist Church records to give to Russell.

By mid-afternoon, Johnston and Watson had laid out markers to designate 14 spots where their equipment had found anomalies. Most of those markers were on the front half of the burial ground, and Watson confirmed he found no large anomalies in the back.

At about 2 p.m., Russell walked through the former cemetery with two handfuls of small Canadian flags, dropping one at each of the 14 markers left behind by Watson and Johnston.

Russell was hoping that Watson would return some-

time this week to use 3-D imaging equipment to more definitively reveal where the actual graves may be.

As both Russell and Watson explained, the hard work is still to come. After Watson's approximately three hours on site last Wednesday, he planned to take the data back to his Brampton office and run software to more closely examine the anomalies. The process could take as much as a year to come to any definite conclusions.

Russell, of course, is praying that things can happen faster than that. Though it has been closed since the pandemic began, he hopes to gain access soon to the Baptist Church of Canada archives that are currently housed in McMaster University's Divinity College Library in Hamilton.

"There's gotta be a map somewhere of where people were buried in this cemetery," Russell said. "You don't just dig a hole and drop people in."

As a group of Parks Canada archeologists who checked out the proceedings gathered around Russell, he summed up his reasons for Wednesday's visit.

"This is not respect," he said of the condition of the site. "These people buried here had children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. They deserve to know where their families are buried. This should have been done 100 years ago."

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Dowsing an ancient way to find water, graves

Penny Coles
The Local

Howard Bogusat had not tried dowsing for several years when he decided to see what he would find in the Negro Burial Ground. He had heard about the project undertaken by James Russell to locate the graves of those buried in the cemetery, using

ground-penetrating radar, and he wanted to see how dowsing, once the only method to tell what lies below the ground, would measure up. Residents passing by might have wondered what he was up to, walking slowly in a grid across the cemetery, much as a technician with ground-penetrating radar would do days after-

wards. He explains he first became interested in dowsing about 50 years ago, in his 20s, when he saw a member of town staff trying to find a water line at the corner of Dorchester and Mary Streets. It was a common practice at the time, and is still used in some countries to find water.

Dowsing is most commonly associated with the search for underground water, and at one time, the only way to find it, short of digging, says Bogusat. He says he spoke to the town employee about what he was doing, and then decided to try it himself. He then went home and practised looking for the septic tank, and was impressed with the way the rods he was using crossed over.

Bogusat says that was the end of his dowsing attempts for about 30 years, when he had a plugged eavestrough and wanted to find the end of a blocked water line. He built the dowsing rods and went to work, finding what he was looking for — the place where the water line was filled with dirt. “I decided I wanted to learn more about it, and I started going to weekend seminars. I found there was a dowsing society in Toronto, and learned it could also be used to find human remains.” Just to test out the theory, he says, he went to Christ Church McNab Cemetery — a spot he thought he could experiment without people watching him — and found, as he walked across each grave, it worked. How-

ever, he admits in that case he had the gravestones behind him. When he read about Russell’s project, he called him and told him what he planned to do. “You do what?” Russell said, but he was willing to compare results, and

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Ontario Heritage Trust changes cemetery name

Penny Coles
The Local

The Ontario Heritage Trust has announced a name change for the the Negro Burial Ground on Mississagua Street. A new plaque is expected to be erected later this month or early June, to proclaim the heritage site The Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground. Niagara-on-the-Lake CAO Marnie Cluckie says the town has been in contact with the Ontario Heritage Trust, Ontario Black History Society, and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum regarding the provincial plaques

commemorating Niagara Region’s Black history and the renaming of the Negro Burial Ground 1830. A media release will be issued when the date of the plaque installation is known, she added. James Russell, the man behind the project to uncover how many graves are in the cemetery, and who is buried there, attended the Ontario Heritage Trust ceremony in Toronto on April 28. He said last Wednesday, as ground-penetrating radar was being used to determine where the graves are and how many, that he thought he knew the location of the Baptist church on the prop-

erty, but should have that confirmed in a report expected this week. The new plaque that will be installed on the property reads: “The Niagara Baptist Church congregation was established in 1829. A meeting house was erected at this site in 1831 through the efforts of John Oakley, a white former British soldier turned teacher and minister. Initially, the church congregation mainly consisted of colonists, with a small number of Black members. The Black population of the Town of Niagara grew to about 100 due to

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Passers-by may have noticed Howard Bogusat with his dowsing rods — he was in the Mississagua Road cemetery days before the ground penetrating radar looking for graves, and again afterwards, to give a demonstration on how it works. (Penny Coles)

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EDITORIAL

Looking forward to civil, respectful election debate

So many elections, so many rules and dates to remember.

First up is the provincial election June 2.

Cogeco's YourTV will be airing the debate for the Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Tuesday, May 17, at 8:30 p.m. Repeats will air Saturday, May 21, at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, May 24, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 28, at 12:30 p.m.

As in the past, Cogeco has invited candidates from the four parties currently represented in the Ontario legislature to the debate led by reporter Mike Balsom, who says PC candidate Bob Gale is not participating. Gale's office told Cogeco he was unable to participate, and when an offer was made to change the date, they said he would not be taking part.

The NDP's Wayne Gates, Ashley Waters, representing the Liberal Party and Tommy Ward from the Green Party are expected to take part. Devon St. De-

nis-Richard from a party called None of the Above is running, and Cogeco will allow him to introduce himself in a video.

Next comes the federal PC leadership race, for a vote in September. Although this might seem a ho-hum affair, something to view from a distance — at least for those who would have never considered voting for that party — there is good reason to think otherwise.

One is the question of where candidates stand on abortion, which has become a serious concern to many, after the news surfaced of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that would roll back abortion rights. It could happen in Canada. We know there is a percentage of Conservatives who would like to see that happen, although not what that percentage is.

As in the case of the U.S. justices, we don't know that we can trust our politicians to be open with us on an issue that could mean

winning or losing an election.

PC leadership candidates are weighing in, some saying they will not reopen the abortion debate, one stating she is firmly anti-abortion, and another who has said he will allow MPs to bring forward legislation on the matter if he's chosen the leader of the party.

Pandemic restrictions are also a topic of debate. Although they may be behind us, it's good to know where leadership hopefuls stand on vaccine mandates, and on the legality of the Ottawa protests, issues that may not resurface but tell us something of who they represent.

Also of concern to some, wherever their party support lies, are populist candidates who might be interested in taking the country to the extreme right, who could completely change the tone of our government, or our opposition, and threaten some of the rights we take for granted.

A novel idea was presented to The Local by a resident who

thinks even those who have no plans to vote for a federal PC party might consider paying \$15 for a membership to help shape the direction of our government, or a powerful opposition, in the future, with a choice between the far right, similar to what is causing so much trouble in the U.S., and someone a little less strident. We have more than enough anger, our country is already sufficiently divided — the result of the leadership race could inflame the situation, or provide a calming effect. Just a thought I offered to pass on. The deadline for memberships is June 3, if anyone is interested.

And then, of course, we have our municipal elections coming up. Candidates were able to present their papers and their cash beginning last week, although as of press time, only Lord Mayor Betty Disero had officially declared she is running for a second term.

Coun. Allan Bisback is hoping for a second term on coun-

cil, and Jonathan Fast is again hoping to sit as a District School Board of Niagara trustee.

Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa has announced he is running for Lord Mayor, but as of press time had not filed his papers yet — he said he would do that this week.

In 2018, we had three mayoral candidates, a record 25 people vying for one of eight places on council, and four people hoping to sit on regional council, so we have a ways to go.

Advance polls begin Oct. 8, for an Oct. 25 election day.

For those of you who can't wait for a weekly update on who is running, the town has the info posted on its new website, at <https://www.notl.com/council-government/elections>.

Time and again, The Local has called for civility, kindness, generosity of spirit, all the qualities we expect in abundance in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We see and hear it every day in the stories people share with us,

and we don't have to look too far to realize how fortunate we are.

If there could be one common thread through the elections ahead of us, it would be for civility, for respect and understanding toward others, for the ability to debate differences of opinion without anger or blame.

There are important issues ahead of us, at all levels of government, but if we all remember we are on the same side, we want what is best for our country, our province and our little corner of Niagara, we may be able to have our debates, and our conversations, without anger, without judgement.

That we live in a country where debate is not only permitted, but encouraged as we face election choices that shape our world, and our lives, is enough evidence to prove we already have the freedom protesters were seeking in Ottawa this winter. The freedom to vote.

We shouldn't take it lightly.

Penny Coles
The Local

Local VOICES: Healthcare: what is the real problem, and how do we fix it?

Kim Warkentin
Special to The Local

Growing up, I always had great confidence in our healthcare system. If someone was injured or in need of care, I knew that receiving help was just a visit or phone call away. Maybe it was a heroic kind of fantasy that a team of doctors and nurses are readily available to come swooping in to restore us back to perfect health.

After my recent experience, this mentality of a well-lubricated and tightly woven system could not be further from reality. I would like to clearly state that this is not a complaint about the hard-working staff that have been burned out due to shortages. This is simply bringing light to a traumatizing experience that I hope nobody else has to endure, both as a patient and a caregiver. This is a recount of events that happened after the discharge of my father

who went through cystectomy surgery due to bladder cancer.

Sunday morning both my brother and I were notified that my father was ready to be picked up from the St. Catharines site of Niagara Health. Due to Covid protocols only one person was allowed to go into the hospital. As I was heading to the elevator to go up to his room, I was alarmed to see my dad sitting in a wheelchair in the cafeteria waiting by himself. Someone had dropped him off and left him alone.

To further explain the disturbing significance of this, my dad was showing signs of post-operative delirium. This happens to elderly patients who go through major surgery in which they experience extreme fatigue, agitation, hallucination, difficulty focusing, and overall feelings of confusion. After speaking with my dad, who was noticeably uncomfortable in a sitting posi-

tion, I took him to the van with my brother and proceeded to go up to the fifth floor to talk to a nurse.

The nurse explained that my father was provided with all the information he needed, along with supplies. She said they showed him how to apply a new urostomy bag and that he understood how to care for himself. (Later we would find out that he was not shown how, not able to comprehend regardless, and was not given adequate supplies to do so).

She went on to explain that his apparent signs of post-operative delirium were disturbing enough the day before, that they delayed the discharge by one day. She reassured me that this was no longer a concern and that he was ready to leave. Not knowing the complexity of ostomy care, I left the hospital trusting that my dad had all of the necessary information we needed. My un-

derstanding was that nothing needed to be done until his in-home care appointment. (Later we would find out this was never set up for us).

Sunday evening while sleeping, the urostomy bag came off, pulling ureteral stents out of his body. We hurried to the emergency department in St. Catharines at 8:30 p.m., which had a three-and-a-half hour wait. From registration to speaking to a triage nurse, the staff did not show any empathy or seem concerned with the fact that I had a 74-year-old man newly out of surgery, soaked in urine, shivering and sitting in a chair. I was in shock of this inhumane treatment.

It took five hours before my dad went from the outside waiting room to a private room. The emergency room was operating with one doctor and one nurse treating over 40 patients. Nobody had come to see us yet so I retrieved a gown and warm blankets and proceeded to strip my father of his urine-soaked clothes and dried him off.

We finally were seen at 2:30 a.m. Neither the doctor or nurse were knowledgeable enough about his surgery to give us answers on how to proceed. The nurse did her best in providing us with a new uros-

tomy bag that would tide us over until we could be seen by a urologist or nurse who specialized in ostomy care.

Arriving home from emergency early Monday morning, we began to have leaking problems again. This time we called an ambulance. The paramedics were very helpful, and informed us that taking him to the hospital would mean another five-hour wait in emergency without a bed or stretcher. They assisted us the best they could and advised us to contact CarePartners, who provide the in-home care necessary following surgery. Through endless calls going to voice-mail, we were able to book an appointment for in-home care on Thursday. This left us with four days of no guidance, support or sufficient supplies. We had to find more bags through wellness stores, without anyone educating us on what to buy.

On Thursday we were contacted by an in-home care nurse, in which the visit was only done over the phone due to sickness. When asked if anyone else could come to the house, she said there were no other nurses available, and many were off due to sickness as well. We experienced another night of frustration and leaking.

Friday morning, a nurse

was finally able to make a visit and give us instructions on ostomy care. It took a total of five days from discharge to receive adequate help. Since then, it has been an ongoing battle to receive in-home care.

I want to reinforce that this is not a complaint to the understaffed doctors and nurses. This is a serious concern in regards to how our current healthcare system is operating. What if my father was dumped off in the cafeteria downstairs with no primary caregivers coming to pick him up? Were they expecting him to call his own taxi to bring him home? Who was going to pick up his medication? How was he expected to do this while experiencing post-operative delirium? Should he have been discharged when showing signs of delirium? Why were we not given adequate supplies? Why was in-home care not set up before discharge? How many patients end up in emergency due to lack of support set up at discharge? Could this all have been avoided if proper measures were in place?

It is hard to prepare yourself as a caregiver when you don't know what questions to ask, trusting and relying on the information given to be sufficient.

I have spoken to wonderful nurses in the process and they have voiced their concerns in the undisputed inefficiencies, yet have no true voice in the system to affect the change that is needed. There are many loose ends with many patients falling through the cracks, being left to their own survival like my father. I believe the efforts that were so heavily funded in response to COVID-19 have only brought to surface the true underlying problems that now need the most urgent attention.



The Niagara-on-the-Lake
The Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

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

Julia Coles
Regional Sales and Obituaries
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

Helen Arsenault
Proofreader
Helen@notllocal.com

notllocal.com facebook.com/notllocal instagram.com/thenotllocal [@thenotllocal](https://twitter.com/thenotllocal)

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Local LETTERS

Wildlife in urban settings a complex situation

Hello, NOTL neighbours. I wanted to respond to the growing concern in regards to the Garrison coyote population. I too, like most of you, felt awful after the recent close call. My sincere apologies to those involved.

Having said that, I wanted to address the whys.

Why, after many decades of peaceful coexisting, is this happening?

Many have suggested household garbage, leaving food out, or housing development as the issue. I'd like to suggest that, though those are certainly related, the issue is much more complex.

And the truth is, I don't know if there's a solution.

Our family lives in a rural area of NOTL, on a modest one acre property. While we are surrounded by many commercial orchards and vineyards, our little acre is somewhat unique in that we've chosen a more 'natural' setting.

We are surrounded by a

rich biodiversity that includes worms, songbirds, rats, frogs, squirrels, raccoons, possums, mice, voles, skunks, hawks, toads, owls, eagles, fox, deer, rabbits and yes, many coyotes. We currently have red-bellied woodpeckers raising their young in our fruit tree, and a family of tiny rabbits under the cedars. In the summer the mice enjoy a feast of fallen blackberries and the birds seek shade in the pines. The worms enrich the soil and the birds in turn enjoy the worms. The fox hunts the vole, and so on. They all work together to create a natural ecosystem in which the food sources are abundant.

I'm aware, of course, that this level of biodiversity isn't the reality in Niagara's more populated areas. And I'm equally aware that it's not the life that most NOTL residents have chosen, or even desire.

Realistically, (and on a much broader scale), not all creatures are desirable in all neighbourhoods. As they en-

croach upon our homes and cities, we collectively set up traps, sonar devices, sticky traps, flypaper, ant traps, spray poisons and use pesticides. Understandably, no one wants rats in their garage or critters eating up their vegetable patch.

However, it's absolutely connected to the whys. When our soil is depleted, the fields turn to sidewalks, and all the good hiding spots are gone... the rich, plentiful food sources slowly disappear. In a natural setting, a coyote shouldn't need to hunt a pet, because mice, rabbits and squirrels would be abundant.

It's an ideal that we've moved years beyond and, short of relocating all coyotes to rural areas (which seems an impossibility), I'm not certain there's a way to fix it.

May we collectively be blessed with wisdom and discernment as we try.

Betty Doerksen
A grateful NOTL resident

Local LETTERS

Reader objects to study of vaccinated, unvaccinated

A recently published article in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (jointly written with Dr. Ashleigh Tuite and Aria Amoaco), entitled, *Impact of population mixing between vaccinated and unvaccinated sub-populations on infectious disease dynamics: implications for SARS-CoV-2 transmission*, picked up by The Canadian Press and then by virtually every mainstream news outlet has been found to suffer a number of fundamental flaws, flaws that - once adjusted for - reasonably lead to conclusions opposite to those in the article.

This is an extremely serious matter, given that the dubious-ly-based conclusions could give rise to medically unjustified and socially dangerous policies and opinions. That being the case, it behooves you to alert the public to the above article as soon as possible in order to limit its actual and potential harm.

While the paper's flaws are both multiple and material, perhaps its most glaring and fatal one is its absurd assumption of a mere 20 per cent immunity level in the general population,

when there are well documented studies extant that find as high as a ~90 per cent immunity level in real life- as opposed to some computer-based virtual one.

By replacing just that one assumption in the model with something based, not on mere conjecture, but on real world evidence, its conclusions are stood on their heads, whereby the fully vaccinated are shown to be buffered from infection/reinfection by the presence of unvaccinated individuals in the general population.

In that latter, far more supportable case, the unvaccinated go from being the threats the article makes them out to be to beneficial members of society, instead. And, in a climate rife with finger-pointing and active scapegoating, such a turnaround can spare a beleaguered public the immense error of hurling calumny, abuse and maybe more at undeserving individuals.

I am operating on the assumption that the subject paper was intended to provide a valuable public service. Given its above-noted (and other available-to-be-noted) material

flaw(s), that intended good will be better served by the paper's retraction at the earliest opportunity, something that any person of good will would be anxious, no doubt, to do. Therefore, I have urged both the authors and The Canadian Press to retract these articles without delay; and I urge this paper to help defray the real and potential damage this materially flawed Trojan horse might cause the further from the barn of scientific and journalistic integrity it is allowed to gallop.

Bruce Dickson
Chautauqua

Editor's note: The study was published several weeks ago and there have been no retractions, and for those who trust Dr. Mustafa Hirji, our acting chief medical officer of health, he cites it as another reason to be fully vaccinated.

On request, Mr. Dickson provided links to analyses that demonstrate his point: <https://viralimmunologist.substack.com/p/fiction-disguised-as-science-to-promote?s=r> And <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-models#imperial-college-london-icl>

Singing sisters



Hannah Otto and her sister Sophia sang to the crowd from the Court House steps during the European Union flag-raising Monday. (Mike Balsom)



Local LETTERS

Cenotaph a century old in June

Our Old Town Cenotaph, the clock tower structure that stands in the centre of town, has been our centrepiece for 100 years.

A century ago June 24, the Cenotaph was officially unveiled as a memorial to soldiers from our community who died during the First World War. After the Second World War, more names were added of community members. Each year we gather at this spot to

remember all who sacrificed for us.

To honour this milestone, the town Cenotaph committee, in cooperation with Branch 124 Royal Canadian Legion, will hold a parade on Queen Street, Saturday, June 4, starting at 11 a.m. All veterans in the community are encouraged to join the ranks of the branch to honour all the men and women who have served to secure our freedom over this past century.

All townsfolk are invited to attend this celebration.

Local historian Ron Dale has published short biographies of some of the heroes named on the cenotaph. These are a poignant reminder of the person behind the name.

We are grateful for their sacrifice. We will remember them for another 100 years.

Allan Howse
Cenotaph committee



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Murder in Provence (Brit Box, 2022) is based on the work of Longworth. The stories in the three episodes of season one are set in and

around the magical town of Aix in France. Elegant and beautiful best describe the locale where diabolical murderers are at work. These episodes certainly captured my undivided attention.

Donald Combe is a retired

English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

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Niagara Falls

Volunteers plant trees by Two Mile Creek

Mike Balsom
The Local

More than 50 volunteers got their boots and hands dirty last Thursday, helping to plant hundreds of trees at Two Mile Creek Conservation Area on Butler Street.

Groups from the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce (GNCC), Welland's Notre Dame College School, Trout Unlimited and the Village Community Association, along with individual volunteers and neighbours of the location owned by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), brought their own shovels to assist in phase two of the reforestation project.

Last July a number of ash trees infected with the Emerald Ash Borer were removed from the site. Many other invasive species not native to Southern Ontario, such as Manitoba maples, were also felled.

Adam Christie, NPCA's di-

rector of land operations, says a number of the authority's sites have needed similar reforestation projects in recent years.

"Being able to do projects like this is really exciting for us," he said. "We notice the issue, we notice the negative impact. We did phase one last year (removal of the ash and maple trees). To come here and see everyone working together to plant all these trees to bring back forest health, it's an exciting time."

The NOTL reforestation project was one of many volunteer opportunities provided by the NPCA across the region this spring. Christie says there is never any shortage of interest from residents in helping to plant trees to replace those lost.

Volunteers worked on the south side of the conservation area, while a team of NPCA employees continued on the north side to plant almost 5,000 native deciduous and coniferous trees appropriate for



Christine Earl (right, standing), a member of the town's environmental advisory committee, was pleased to participate in the reforestation project. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

the silty soil conditions along the creek. Nine different species of trees were being planted, including red oak, sycamore,

silver maple, trembling aspen and speckled alder, as well as a number of shrubs.

The team worked with NPCA restoration specialist Stuart McPherson to map out where the new trees would go for the volunteer planting. McPherson spoke to The Local after giving the gathered volunteers a tutorial on how to properly plant the new saplings.

"We came out earlier this morning and laid the plants out," McPherson explained, "so it's a little easier for the volunteers, and so they don't have to figure out spacing. They can just come out and do what they want to do — put the plants in the ground."

With much of Niagara possessing a clay-based soil, McPherson said Two Mile Creek's location near the river will provide an excellent base in which the chosen trees can thrive.

"There will be occasional flooding," he admitted, "but all the trees we chose don't mind wet feet."

Indeed, rain that fell Wednesday had left the soil soft and wet while a long puddle greeted strollers along the paved pathway up toward Garrison Village.

But that didn't stop the group of 10 youngsters from a

St. Catharines-based environmental group, the Green Herons, from having a blast helping their environment.

While one young boy named Dane said his goal was to plant 124 trees Thursday, his friend Henry's target of 12 seemed a bit more realistic.

"I don't want all the trees to be wiped out from the bugs that are destroying the ash trees," said Henry when asked why he was there Thursday.

Lindsay Currie, who runs the Green Herons out of her rural St. Catharines garage, says the group often participates in tree plantings as well as Earth Day garbage pickups. This summer they will be planting a pollinator garden at a senior's home and looking for turtles to rescue on their nature hikes.

"We have about 12 kids who come regularly, and another 12 who show up to our community events," said Currie. "Many of them are home-schooled, but others go to public school and I get them out once a week to go out in the world to learn about our species and nature programming. They are doing great today. They love to get dirty."

NOTL resident Christine Earl is a member of the town's environmental advisory committee. She was pleased to

participate in the reforestation project.

"It's a project that I think is an excellent one," she said. "I wanted to see it happening and to contribute myself because I walk here quite frequently. I have known this area for more than 50 years when I first came here as a teenager."

As a committee member, she was aware of the need for the previous trees to be removed and replaced with the new species.

"I know it looked pretty devastated for a while," she admitted. "It will take a few years, but eventually it will look good. It's the right thing to do."

"It's hard for people who feel emotionally attached to trees, to see their environment change," McPherson told The Local. "But it's really important to educate people why we are doing what we are doing."

McPherson said that the inclusion of shrubbery as well as trees that grow a little more quickly will allow the conservation area to look like a dense jungle within the next five years. That will be good news to many locals who expressed concern last year when the ash and other trees were felled.

"You won't be able to see through here by then," McPherson promised.



Fynlee, with the Green Herons group, came out to help plant trees.



Post-planting, the Green Herons group posed for a photo.



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Gigantic Garage Sale begins Friday

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club's Gigantic Garage Sale is ready to go this weekend, with a preview Friday evening. Rotarians are calling it "the largest ever sale of its kind in NOTL," and with a large indoor space at the Cornerstone Church town campus building on Niagara Stone Road, as well as tents outdoors for larger items such as furniture and sports equipment, it might well be.

The Friday, May 13 preview, from 6 to 9 p.m., comes with a \$25 entry fee, and is an opportunity to beat the crowds and shop early.

There are more than 400 paintings and prints alone, 29 area rugs, sofas, kitchen stools, many dining room and bedroom suites, desks, office chairs, wall units, dishes, kitchen utensils, appliances and electronics, sports equipment, linens, toys, outdoor furniture, and many miscellaneous items.

All proceeds are to benefit local and international children's charities.

Items not sold at the event will be donated to local charities such as New-ark Neighbours, Raft, Habitat for Humanity, Niagara Furniture Bank, Christian Benefit Shop, and the Salvation Army.



Ken Schander and Tim Lutton are checking out the electronics in preparation for this weekend's NOTL Rotary sale. (Photos supplied)



Dianne Smith has a look at the many items spread out on several tables for the Rotary sale.

Lioness gearing up for spring market

Penny Coles
The Local

The St. Davids Lioness Spring Market is back, bigger and better than ever. It is happening at the St. Davids Lions Hall on York Road this Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year, it's been extended outdoors, which allows for more than 40 vendors and artists, says organizer AnnaMarie Warriner. There will also be food and beverage trucks outside. "We're very excited about that," she says. "It will be rain or shine, so we're hoping for good weather."

It's an important fundraiser, after two years of scaling back, and all funds raised will go back into the community. Their donation from this event will support dog guides for those in need. If there is someone local waiting for a dog, that will always be their first choice, says Warriner, but if not, they'll look further afield, hoping their donation stays in the Niagara area.

Parking for the event is free, as is admission to the market.



The St. Davids Lioness Spring Sale, coming up this Saturday, has been organized by marketing committee members Diane Pewer (front) and (back, left) Bunny Rozell, Cheryl White, and AnnaMarie Warriner. Missing from the photo is Lorraine Schooning. (Photo supplied)



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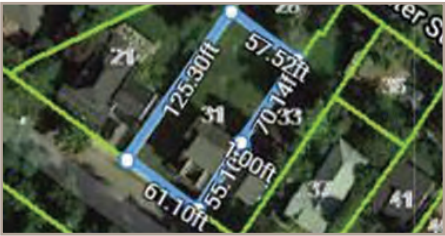
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'Cautious optimism' as COVID trends downward

Penny Coles
The Local

Given recent data, Dr. Mustafa Hirji is "cautiously optimistic" that we are on a downward trend of new COVID cases.

Wastewater testing is showing signs that infections are on their way down "a little bit," across the province, and although we're not quite there yet in Niagara, with numbers varying depending on the location of treatment plants, we could be getting there, Niagara's acting chief medical officer of health said Monday.

The percentage of positive cases is definitely looking better provincially and in Niagara, falling from 20 per cent in recent weeks to 15 per cent, and there have been fewer outbreaks in the region of late, he said.

We're also starting to

see good news in hospitals across the province, but again, not quite so positive in the region, with Niagara Health still struggling with over-capacity. There is still a lot of work for the local health system to deal with in terms of COVID patients who are hospitalized, Hirji said, although those being treated primarily for COVID-19 "is a little flatter," and it is more often a secondary diagnosis for those being treated with other illnesses.

"However, the number of people dying in Ontario and in Niagara is trending upwards, with deaths more frequent," he said. Instead of one death every few days, it's become one or two deaths from COVID every day.

He also spoke of the disparities between those with high and low incomes. Throughout every wave, the people who

have the highest incomes are much less likely to die from COVID-19 than those with lower incomes, he said, having an unequal impact on society. "We really want to make sure our society is a place that is going to be serving everybody, not necessarily just a few who are well off, or who are younger, or who are lower risk."

Hirji again stressed the importance of wearing masks, and of being vaccinated.

He joined his peers

in other public health units in a letter to Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, last week, asking him to broaden his new section 22 order on masking. They expressed their concern for the "children missing school due to isolation, adults missing work due to exposure, employers struggling to operate due to COVID-19 related absenteeism, and people suffering from long COVID-19."

Hirji is urging all residents of Niagara to continue to wear masks voluntarily in indoor spaces around others, and continues to recommend all organizations maintain their masking policies.

During Monday's meeting, he cited a recent study that shows in mixed gatherings, unvaccinated people put those who are vaccinated at risk, while those who are vaccinated provide some protection for those who are not. "The safest place for people to be is around

others who are vaccinated," he said, pointing that out as a reason to bring back the proof-of-vaccination mandate.

Studies also show three doses of vaccine provide better protection against being hospitalized, and also against being re-infected for those who have already had COVID.

On Tuesday, Niagara had 1,445 active cases in the region, and 116 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The highest numbers were in the 20 to 59 age group.



Dr. Mustafa Hirji continues to emphasize the value of wearing masks, especially indoors. (Photo supplied)



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Red Letter Day a winner at New York International Film Awards

Mike Balsom
The Local

Red Letter Day, a film produced by Yellow Door Theatre Project (YDTP) and starring a number of local teens, has been selected as a winner at the New York International Film Awards (NYIFA).

Written by Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Lezlie Wade and Scott Christian, the musical centres around the graduation of the fictional all-girls school High Gate Academy.

While the graduation ceremony is the focus, characters ponder internally about their own personal struggles with identity, sexuality, expectations and loss in the wake of the death of one of their classmates.

NOTL acts as the backdrop for many of the film's scenes. The old Laura Secord Memorial School filled in for High Gate, while other shooting locations included the gazebo at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, St. Mark's Anglican Church cemetery, Queenston Heights, Royal Oak Community School and



A group of students gather outside their academy for *Red Letter Day*. (Photos supplied)

Niagara Shores Park.

The NYIFA is a monthly film and script competition with a public screening event held in Manhattan every three months. Their website lists their mission as to celebrate films and filmmakers from all over the world and to act as the next step in their career.

Wade submitted the film in the category of Best Musical following *Red Letter Day's* April 4 premiere

at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines. It beat Susan Mey Lee Lim's *Teleportation* for the top spot in the category for the month of April.

"I am so pleased for Lezlie to be receiving this recognition," says Yellow Door's founder and artistic producer Andorlie Hillstrom. "The cast were amazing, the music (by Christian) was brilliant.

Lezlie's writing, direction and editing was superb."

Wade handled all the camera work for *Red Letter Day*, which was shot largely outdoors last summer while COVID was still forcing social distancing restrictions. Many of the shooting days were held during the hottest, most humid moments of 2021, but the cast and crew were ecstatic to be involved in a creative project.

Hillstrom describes long, hot summer days when parents drove their children to location and waited around for hours while take after take was completed. Many of those same parents filled seats in the graduation scene in the film.

Wade and Christian have collaborated on a number of projects in recent years, some of which have involved YDTP. Their short film *Dead Reckoning* included many young Niagara actors in roles. And last year they modernized and adapted the classic tale of Hansel and Gretel into a Yellow Door musical which was performed at the PAC.

The cast for *Red Letter Day* included many YDTP regulars, such as St. Davids sisters Hannah and Ayla Jamal, Sydney Cornett (who also served as pro-



Hannah Jamal and Sydney Cornett have two of the leading roles in *Red Letter Day*.

duction assistant), Mariah Rackal, Emily Fulton and Catherine Dubois.

Hillstrom learned about the award from Wade just this Monday. She says the recognition from NYIFA is exciting for everyone involved.

"Film is different from theatre," she explains. "With theatre, you receive an instantaneous response. With film, it isn't like that at all. There's a whole process that you have to go through. Once you apply to these film festivals you sit around and wait."

She describes the genesis of the idea as something that came about over iced coffees in her Old Town backyard. She and Wade were looking for something to offer the teens who were struggling in the middle of the pandemic, unable to gather with friends or, in the YDTP participants' case, perform on stage or take theatre classes with industry professionals.

She credits Wade for running with the idea and coming up with the script, and says none of it would have happened without the financial support of Lauren and Vaughn Goettler through their foundation.

"It wasn't easy to do this (the film) right in the middle of COVID," she

laughs. "It was really stubbornness, determination and persistence that got it done."

Besides the NYIFA, *Red Letter Day* was also named an official selection for April 2022 at the Golden Bee International Children's Film Festival in India.

Golden Bee was established in 2016 as a unique film festival focused on entertaining and informative cinema for children. Over its first five years the festival has covered 21 Indian cities across 12 states and screened more than 280 films. The festival is known for choosing films that take on social issues in a positive way.

Though winning the NYIFA award for Best Musical will not result in a public screening of *Red Letter Day* in Manhattan, the Golden Bee selection will mean that the film will be seen in that country.

"Millions of schoolchildren in India will see this film," Hillstrom says with pure excitement. "And I know that Lezlie is busy submitting it to a lot of other festivals as well. It's just incredible that people are responding to this film."

"I didn't imagine that this could happen," she adds. "It's pretty darn amazing. Our little film has legs."

Second courthouse site gets new plaque

Continued from page 5

the influx of freedom seekers after Britain passed the 1833 Slavery Abolition Act and the United States enacted the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. By the late 1840s, the church's membership was predominantly Black and from 1849-56 was led by Black Baptist minister Francis Lacy. There are at least 15 burials in the churchyard, including Herbert Holmes and Jacob Green, who were killed in the Solomon Moseby Affair that took place at the Niagara jail in 1837. Holmes and Green were among Niagara community members who prevented Moseby from being returned to slavery in the United States. After the 1860s, the population declined, and the church closed in 1878. The burial ground is a reminder of the church and the significant Black community in Niagara."

On the same day, the Ontario Heritage Trust unveiled an updated provincial plaque in Toronto to commemorate The Solomon Moseby Affair, 1837. "Updating this plaque is part of the ongoing work of the Trust to tell Ontario's stories in an honest, authentic and inclusive way," the announcement said.

The bilingual plaque reads as follows:

THE SOLOMON MOSE-

BY AFFAIR 1837

"The second courthouse and jail of the Niagara District was erected at this site in 1817. Several high-profile cases were tried here, including that of African-American freedom seeker Solomon Moseby. In the spring of 1837, Moseby stole his enslaver's horse and escaped, settling in Niagara. A few weeks later, his new-found freedom was threatened when his enslaver arrived with an arrest warrant and extradition papers. Moseby was detained at this jail while awaiting an extradition decision. Over 200 Black community supporters mobilized and camped outside to protest Moseby's possible return to slavery and harsh punishment in the United States. When the extradition order was given, the protestors obstructed Moseby's removal. Two Black residents, Herbert Holmes and Jacob Green, were killed. Moseby escaped, fled to England, and later returned to live in Niagara. For African Canadians, this was not simply about justice for one man. If Moseby's enslaver had succeeded, they could all be vulnerable to extradition and re-enslavement. This incident helped to establish Canadian extradition and refugee policies that are still used today."

As historic background information to the update,

the Ontario Heritage Trust explains, "the second Niagara courthouse and gaol (jail) complex was erected in 1817. It served the Niagara District that was created in 1798 from the Home District and consisted of two counties on the Niagara peninsula – Haldimand County on the north shore of Lake Erie and comprising part of the Grand River Tract granted to the Six Nations in 1784, and Lincoln County, which included most of the Niagara Peninsula and extended west as far as Ancaster Township.

"It replaced the first courthouse constructed in 1795 at King and Prideaux streets (present-day location of Bernard Gray Hall Bed and Breakfast). The first courthouse was a simple blockhouse building. It was burned down by American troops in 1813 during the War of 1812 and resulted in the loss of 300 lives of prisoners held at the facility.

Built near Rye and Cottage streets, the second courthouse was considered to be one of the finest public buildings in the province at that time. It was constructed of red brick with a stylish woodwork interior. The Niagara Jail was the only place of incarceration for criminals in the district until the Kingston Penitentiary opened in 1835."

'Not everyone is open to it'

Continued from page 5

Steve Watson, the expert searching for graves with ground-penetrating radar, said he believes in the practice of dowsing, which Bogusat was pleased to hear — those who are interested in science are not typically open to dowsing as a valid tool for finding what lies beneath the ground, he says.

Dowsing, also called divining, is described as the ancient practice of holding twigs or metal rods that are

supposed to move in response to hidden objects. It is often used to look for water or metal, and sometimes, graves.

However it has not been shown to work in controlled scientific tests. What is at play, scientists say, is "ideomotor movements" — caused by subconscious mental activity.

Bogusat was having fun testing his confidence in dowsing, but knew the proof would be in how his discoveries match up with the radar report.

Whatever is making the L-shaped wires move in his hands, which hold onto a straw that each wire sits in, he likes to think they are reacting to what is below the ground.

It's important, he says, to relax, and visualize what you're looking for.

He believes everyone has the ability to dowse, "but not everyone is open to it."

He calls it a body-earth connection, and "it's a matter of being open to that connection."

Queen's Platinum Jubilee concert at St. Mark's

Mike Balsom
The Local

Retired St. Mark's Anglican Church organist and music director Michael Tansley is hoping the upcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee concert at the church will stand out as something positive, after more than two years dealing with the pandemic.

On June 4, Tansley gathers his Newark Singers with a 15-piece orchestra, including members of the Niagara Symphony, for a loving tribute to honour and celebrate the 70th year on the throne for Queen Elizabeth II.

"That is pretty unique, no one has ever reached that milestone," marvels Tansley. "I felt that nothing locally was happening to celebrate this. We might be the only concert in Niagara as far as I know. This is worth doing, and doing well."

The program will include the four Coronation Anthems written by composer George Frideric Handel, probably best known for his Messiah, a staple of Christmas concerts worldwide.

"He wrote four anthems back in 1727," explains Tansley. "Only one of them, *Zadok The Priest*, is played with any regularity these days. That will be the most familiar to listeners. But the other ones are celebratory, too. Handel wrote for singers. People identify with his style of writing, and choirs love to pull out some Handel."

All four anthems, including *Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened*, *The King Shall Rejoice*, and *My Heart Is Inditing*, were composed by Handel for and performed at the 1727 coronation of George II.

Since retiring from St. Mark's in late 2017, Tansley has continued to work with the Newark Singers, who call the Byron Street church home. Though the pandemic has meant a drastic drop in activity, he was able to organize a Christmas concert at the end of 2021.

"We did a carol concert with readings, called *A Covid Christmas*," he tells The Local. "We did two performances, and about 50 people came to each. It was great to be together again."

He explains that there are still some very strict rules in relation to both using the church and to choir singing itself. Members still must be masked, but he is hoping that by the June performance date those rules might change.



The Newark Singers will perform anthems by Handel, directed by Michael Tansley, to celebrate the 70th year on the throne for Queen Elizabeth II. (Mike Balsom)

"When all this happened I didn't want to stand in front of a choir wearing masks," he remembers. "I dug my heels in, thinking there was no way to produce a good sound with masks on. But I relented for that Christmas show and I was very happy I did."

He was surprised by the quality of the diction and tuning of the choir for those performances, but admitted there were a few limitations that his highly-trained ear could discern. And at times he was loath to stop and correct his singers.

"What one can't do as a choral director is talk to them about quality of sound," he says of directing a masked group, "blending, listening to each other

and trying to put some colour into the music. They'll do it innately, but normally the conductor will say 'I'd like you to do this, or do that'. You have to compromise a bit."

The native of Herefordshire, England spent nine years as music director at St. Mark's, working alongside Rev. Bob Wright. Tansley left his role as assistant music director at Tonbridge School in Kent to come to Canada to be the music director at Ridley College. He spent nine years there, then the same amount of time at Albert College in Belleville, before returning to Ridley for another nine-year stretch.

Along the way he was also the organist at St. Timothy's Church in North York and sang in the Elora

Festival Singers and the Toronto Festival Choir. He refers to his near-decade at St. Mark's as his retirement job, though as Tansley says, musicians never really retire.

Tansley began the Newark Singers in 2015 as a chamber choir of about 16 singers. Its membership fluctuates higher, though, depending on the works to be performed. Newark's repertoire encompasses madrigals, folk songs, part songs and sacred music, which often involves a double choir.

The Handel repertoire for the Queen's Jubilee concert is one of those where the Newark Singers are augmented with additional members.

Handel's music will be interspersed with poetry readings befitting a coro-

nation. These will be delivered by veteran Shaw and Foster Festivals actor Donna Belleville, and Jamie Mainprize, a film and television actor who resides in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Concert attendees on June 4 will be required to wear a mask. Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in person. They are

on sale at St. Mark's Anglican Church's Addison Hall from 9:30 a.m. until noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as between Sunday church services, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., on May 8 and 22.

"It's time to get some good music going," says Tansley. "We need something positive right now."



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Oak Ridges Moraine a beautiful hiking spot



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

We talk and write about the Niagara Escarpment a fair amount, and rightfully so.

It is our most protected ecosystem in not only Niagara-on-the-Lake, but the whole of southern Ontario. Its endless collection of waterfalls and scenic cliff tops are home to some of Canada's highest levels of biodiversity, and provide outstanding recreational opportunities.

For today though, let's look across Lake Ontario to the escarpment's lesser-celebrated glacial cousin, the Oak Ridges Moraine.

This elevated landform runs for approximately 160 kilometres, from Peel to Rice Lake, broadly arching up and around the whole of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). A moraine, like an escarpment, is a geological creation due to the action of glacial retreat.

Essentially, it is a gigantic pile of soil and rock that has been shaped and placed where it is today. The differ-

ence between a moraine and an escarpment is that the moraine is much less severe, and way more subtle, than the sheer drop of an escarpment.

Perhaps the Oak Ridges Moraine's subtlety is its unintentional downfall.

Toronto continues to exhibit aggressive radial growth outwards, like bacteria in a petri dish. With no obvious room to grow south into Lake Ontario, the GTA continues to expand inland and northbound. It has now effectively met up with the ecologically-sensitive and important moraine, but is perceived by many as just a bunch of random hills and pockets of woods.

Both the Niagara Escarpment and The Oak Ridges Moraine are glacial features that sit elevated and tucked away from Lake Ontario's shore, but I would argue the latter faces more pressure to its integrity.

Like the Niagara Escarpment does for citizens of the Niagara Region, the Oak Ridges Moraine is an essential refuge for wildlife, and is the birthplace of many important watersheds.

The Credit, Humber, Don, and Rouge Rivers, and other urban waterways, have their headwaters up in the moraine. These rivers are



Owen Bjorgan has provided a Google Earth snapshot, and has highlighted the Oak Ridges Moraine in blue, and the Niagara Escarpment in red.

fed by not only rainfall, but an essential reserve of aquifer water which sits stored beneath the 12,000-year-old glacial hills. As urban sprawl encroaches on these forested mounds, we run the risk of not only eliminating precious habitat, but also tampering with the city's freshwater quality and quantity.

The headwaters of the rivers are irreplaceable starting points offering cool, oxygenated water, and acting as a sponge for flood protection. As Ontario obtusely

continues to pave over the remaining forested areas of the moraine, the risk of flash flooding will only increase for the GTA's residents.

The current stands of the remaining ecosystem are quite different from Niagara's section of the escarpment. Our forests are technically part of the Carolinian Forest zone, whereas the Oak Ridges Moraine is part of the St. Lawrence Mixed Forest. Although the moraine is slightly less biodiverse, it still contains larger swaths of hab-

itat than the Niagara Escarpment's thin ribbon of green.

My attention was drawn to the moraine as provincial election season is off to the races. As someone who doesn't identify with any particular political party, I wanted to take a moment to objectively point out the Conservative's promises for the construction of the proposed Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass.

I am not anti-development, and I understand southern Ontario is poised

for explosive population growth in the coming decades. I do, however, question how these two highways will impact the Oak Ridges Moraine, and how that impact will influence the lives of those who will soon dwell along it.

If you ever have the opportunity, the moraine is still full of unique hiking and beautiful exploring opportunities, and it is just a short drive away, on the outskirts of Canada's most densely populated area.

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Volunteers needed for LemonAid Day

Event will help send kids in need to camp

Penny Coles
The Local

On Sunday, June 12, children will be helping to send other, less fortunate children to summer camp.

LemonAID Day, organized by Mountainview Building Group and the FACS Niagara Foundation,

will take place across the region, building on an event that started a couple of years ago, with a single lemonade stand set up by two children, Jayden and Kaitlyn — now considered honorary hosts — in their front yard. Their goal was to raise enough money to send a child to summer camp.

Caroline Polgrabia, a

Niagara-on-the-Lake native and president of the Family and Children's Services Foundation board, appeared at town council recently to talk about the event, stressing 100 per cent of the money raised will go FACS Niagara to send kids to summer camp.

The event is planned to "engage families, particularly young people, to get involved in our community," says Mark Basciano, president of Mountainview Building Group.

The goal is to have 100 LemonAID teams set up

stands across Niagara, in every municipality — six are planned for NOTL, although Polgrabia told councillors families can set up their own, and fundraise with the same goal.

"Summer camps give great, lifelong memories while helping kids build social skills and self-confidence," says Polgrabia. "We have a big goal this year, but we know we can reach it. We're excited to create many big smiles this summer."

She told councillors the goal is to raise \$100,000 to send 400 or more kids to camp.

Registration for Mountainview LemonAID Day is now open. Teams will be provided with the essential supplies needed to run the stand, including lemonade concentrate, pitchers, cups, directional signs, instructions, T-shirts and hats, and a re-usable stand to be assembled on a four- to six-foot table. All teams are encouraged to make their stands unique, from choosing a team name to decorating the stand itself.

Kids are asked to team up with their friends and family, and register for their own LemonAID stand, or join an existing team.

In addition to Mountain-

view Building Group, sponsors include Commercial Cleaning, Cotton Construction, Meridian Credit Union, and Silverline as the team sponsors, and Tim Hortons of West Niagara as the lemonade concentrate sponsor.

To learn more about Mountainview LemonAID Day, and to register or join a team, visit facsniagara.foundation.org/mountainviewlemonaidday/



Kaitlyn and Jayden making lemonade to help other children are the inspiration for LemonAid Day. (Photos supplied)



Mark Basciano of Mountainview Building Group, and Kaitlyn and Jayden, are honorary hosts of this year's LemonAID Day.

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Fishing industry stories told by waterfront resident

Penny Coles
The Local

There are some in town who can remember when there was a fishing industry, when fish caught locally was still sold, but not what the industry was like at its peak, when it supported and sustained many Niagara families.

Terry Boulton has some memories of his father and others going out daily in boats, bringing home an ever-diminishing quantity of fish, until there were simply no more. His second book to feature waterfront activi-

ty, *Destroyed — Commercial Fishing in Niagara*, has recently been released, and chronicles the rise and fall of that industry. It incorporates his limited memories of his early years, as a child, and recent conversations with others with similar recollections, but it is much more based on a decade of extensive research.

Boulton, born in 1943, is a retired high school English teacher, and a great source of stories of all kinds regarding earlier days in NOTL, especially of the waterfront.

During his research of the fishing industry, which was also an opportunity to learn

more about his own family history, he came across many reports of smuggling in the area and how NOTL became embroiled in the American prohibition. His attention was briefly diverted, and in 2021, he published *Smuggling on the Lower Niagara River, 1920 to 1933*.

And then he returned to his research, “day after day after day,” a gruelling experience of searching through microfiche, mostly at the St. Catharines library, for information about the ebb and flow of commercial fishing in Niagara, how it came to an end, and why, he concludes, it

will never be revived.

He calls it a labour of love, undertaken because if he hadn’t written about it, that important part of local history would have been lost.

He relies heavily on the writings of Elizabeth Ascher, best known locally for her work helping the Polish soldiers who suffered from influenza while in Niagara training for the First World War. Ascher was also a “Niagara-on-the-Lake correspondent” for the St. Catharines Standard for 37 years, described in her obituary as one of the best they had.

Boulton also read the columns of Joe Masters, author of *Niagara Reminiscences*, which were published in the Niagara Advance, then an independent local newspaper that was first published in 1919. Masters was Ascher’s younger brother.

However, Boulton discovered, as he thought he was finished his research, that John W. Kerr, the Ontario fishing industry overseer from 1864 to 1888, had kept a daily journal of his work. Boulton went back to Kerr’s writings to add to and clarify some of the points he had made in his own book.

As part of his preface, Boulton explains the spelling of his family name, which is also reflected in the name

of the waterfront his family owned, Boulton’s Beach.

Two brothers named Bolton, he explains, Charles and John (Jack), worked together in the mid to late 1800s, and were business partners. When John’s wife died and he remarried, the partnership was dissolved, although the brothers continued to work together. John assumed the Boulton spelling in 1879 to differentiate their businesses, and from then on was referred to by that spelling.

Boulton writes of those who had first-hand knowledge of the early days of the local fishing industry, up to the 1850s and beyond, describing the quantities of fish, including salmon, trout, whitefish and herring, as surprising, and apparently inexhaustible — whitefish so much so they were destroyed in great numbers, considered a nuisance.

By the late 1880s and beyond, the salmon, whitefish and lake herring were by and large gone in many parts of Lake Ontario, but not so — yet — in Niagara. Boulton writes of successful fishing carried out by nets, so important to the industry; the regulations developed to govern commercial fishing, which were often ignored; and the resulting overfishing,

as local men were intent on feeding their families.

In the early 1900s, engines were added to boats which had previously relied on sail or oar, allowing men to travel further for fish, and return the same day.

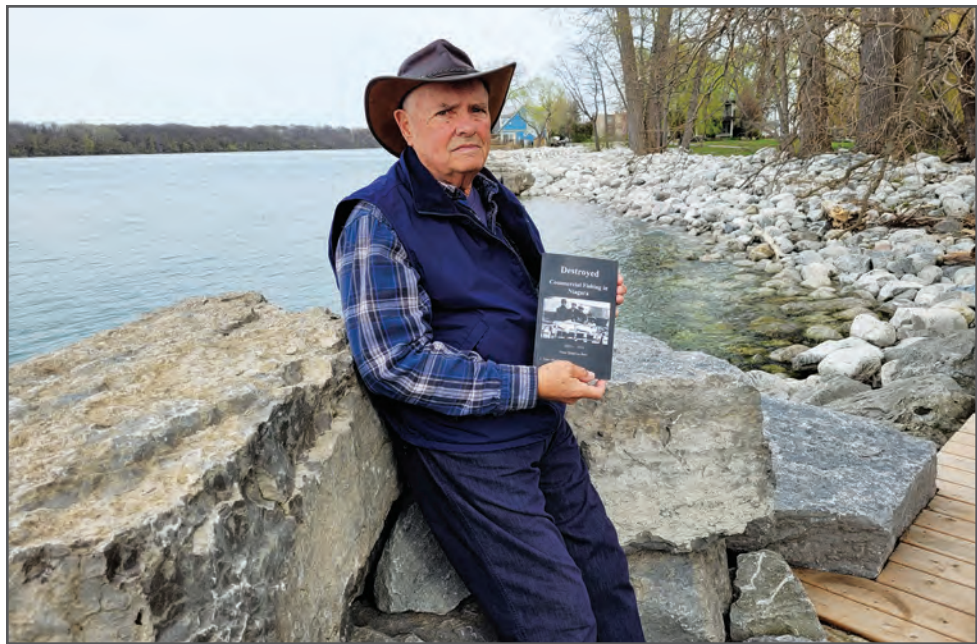
He recalls his memories of passing by the Department of National Defence rifle range. Not wanting to go too far out, his father ignored the buoys marking the danger zone, and he was told to lie down in the boat for safety, on the far side of the engine block, as soldiers fired their weapons out into the lake, bullets flying over his head.

He also remembers being awakened early in the morning by his father, going to his grandfather’s house to meet with other fishermen, and heading out to the lake to set their nets while it was still dark. He would be home in time to go to Parliament Oak, the King Street school he watched being built as a small child.

There were days, he recalls, when his dad picked him up at Parliament Oak to head out on the lake — including during Hurricane Hazel, in 1954.

He was often called on to help with turning the net reels, which released the

Continued on page 17



Author Terry Boulton’s family used to own a stretch of waterfront that went as far as Ball Road, which is behind him. (Penny Coles)



2022 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE INTERIM SECOND INSTALLMENT DUE WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022

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Terry’s father, in front of the boat he refurbished, hoping it would allow him to continue fishing, but it was too late — the fish were gone. (NOTL Museum)



Fishermen in Niagara around 1920 included locals Willam Ball, top, third from right (with moustache), Ed Ball, bottom right foreground, Jim (Pud) Patterson, seated bottom left with pipe, and William Currie, seated left, front with legs crossed.

All Along the Waterfront exhibit opening at museum

Barbara Worthy
NOTL Museum

For thousands of years Niagara's waterfront has been witness to a changing world. Traditional hunting and gatherings, warring nations, settlers and refugees, traders, tourists, and pleasure seekers have all been attracted to the most important river in the largest freshwater system on

earth - the Niagara River.

The NOTL Museum's latest exhibition, *All Along the Waterfront*, opens on May 18 and explores the relationship between Niagara-on-the-Lake and its waterfront, its industries, growth, and its traditions — all of this due to its prized location, overlooking the mouth of the Niagara River as it pours into Lake Ontario.

Except the Niagara River isn't actually a river. It's a 58-kilometre long strait, or connecting channel, that flows north from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, carrying water from the Upper Great Lakes — Superior, Huron, and Michigan.

These same waters provided an economic highway for the lucrative fur trade that dominated the settlement of

Upper and Lower Canada for more than 250 years.

The economic fortunes of Niagara-on-the-Lake have been equally tied to the Niagara River: the rise and fall of a shipping industry that dominated world markets; a flourishing commercial fishing enterprise that saw massive decline in fish stocks; and a dock area that was for decades the noisy, smelly, industrial heart of the town. The environment impact of these ventures is also explored as

today's NOTL embraces the recreational and tourist appeal of the Niagara River.

The waterfront represents much of Niagara's growth, from traditional land to tourist mecca, and the highly developed communities that now occupy its shores.

Without it, Niagara-on-the-Lake would never have even existed.

All Along the Waterfront opens May 18 and runs to Dec. 18.

Complimenting the ex-

hibit is the NOTL Museum's first in-person lecture this year, *A History of C&C Yachts*, on May 19 at 7.30 p.m.

The award-winning global success of C&C Yachts is legendary. They operated their factory in Niagara-on-the-Lake for 30 years, and were Canada's largest builders of sailboats before being destroyed by fire in 1994.

For more information on both these events, call 905-468-3912, or check www.notlmuseum.ca



Museum managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman cleaning the SS Cayuga model in preparation for the exhibit. (Photos supplied)

Author's father one who fished until they were gone

Continued from page 16

nets into the water, and also knocking eel off the transom of the boat.

He writes of the dangers of the industry, chiefly due to bad weather; of the fish peddlers before the arrival of the railroad in 1854, which opened up the ability to sell more fish commercially; the growth of fish markets; the accompanying prosperous times; and the resulting conflicts and turmoil over regulations set to control the industry, fishermen often flouting the law, and the lack of enforcement.

Overfishing continued right up to the 1950s, by his father as well as other locals desperate to pursue the only livelihood they knew, to feed their families, and in doing so, he writes, causing the extinction of most species in Lake Ontario, and destroying their way of life forever.

Boulton tells the poignant story of his father, whom he describes as a kind, gentle man and a wonderful father, buying a new, expensive boat in 1951, as "a last ditch effort to continue to fish." But by those days, the fish were gone, commercial fishing was finished, and he recalls growing up poor, while his father tried to eke out a living as a mechanic.

He also remembers the day he watched his father burn his fishing nets in the

backyard. It became the young Boulton's job to pick up the lead weights that remained after the nets were destroyed, while having no understanding of the magnitude or the reasoning behind what he had just witnessed, he says.

He and Ruth now live in their beautiful retirement home on Delatre Street, with a perfect view of the Toronto skyline. Boulton purposely continues to use the original spelling of the street, named after Col. Delatre, at one time the president of the former current Harbour and Dock Company, which was such an important part of the Dock Area story. In recent years the town has changed the street signs to Delater, he points out.

From the anchoring breakwall that shores up the waterfront upon which their home is built, he can point in one direction toward The Whale Inn or The Elliott House at the corner of King and Delatre Streets, and in the opposite direction to Ball Street, a stretch of waterfront which once belonged to his family. The portion that is now municipally-owned, he traded to the town, keeping a portion of what he refers to as Boulton's Beach — commonly referred to as Balls Beach by the general public — on which he was able to build his home. Those names, Balls Beach and Boulton Beach, he suspects, "are purely anecdotal, the name Balls Beach hav-

ing been introduced when the Ball family moved to town."

Ball Street, he adds, was named after a director of the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company. "I don't believe there was ever such a thing as documentation of either name associated with the waterfront in question."

Local lore, Boulton says, "introduced the name Ball, to what had or has been Boulton property, since 1881."

Boulton is a man of many stories to tell, not just those related in his two books of waterfront activity, but about his knowledge of the town, going back decades, and the people who have made it what it is. He chooses to steer clear of the limelight, focusing on research and writing his stories, so we can only hope there are more books to come — although both he and Ruth laugh when asked, and say an emphatic no to that.

Destroyed — Commercial Fishing in Niagara, which Boulton describes as an "anecdotal account" based on stories and reports as told by locals, presents a fascinating look at an important era in the town's history. It is available now at Simpson's Apothecary on King Street, at The Scottish Shop on Queen Street, and at the NOTL Museum on Castlereigh Street, or call him at 905-468-3765 to purchase a copy.

He is holding a book-signing at the museum on Friday, May 27, from 2 to 4 p.m.



Volunteers Glen Smith and Chris Allen, aided by Sarah Kaufman and Shauna Butts, and watched over by Louis the dog, successfully portage the 100-year-old canoe from the top floor to the main exhibit floor of the museum.



Volunteers Glen Smith and Chris Allen prep a canoe to move it downstairs to the display area.

LocalSPORTS



Excitement already building for polo's return

Mike Balsom
The Local

The sport of kings is returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake Sept. 10.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum announced last week the return of its polo fundraiser to the historic Commons this fall.

Museum director of finance and marketing Amy Klassen expects as many as 2,500 visitors to the Commons between noon and 4 p.m. that day.

"It's a really popular event," Klassen says. "The Friends of Fort George did it in 2014 then passed it on to us as a fundraiser for the museum. We brought in about \$20,000 in 2016, and we doubled that and raised \$40,000 in 2018."

She credits increased sponsorship and community support for the two-fold increase in proceeds. As well, after polo was absent from town from about 1999 to 2014, there was a buzz built when the fundraiser was run every other year for that recent stretch.

As anyone who has attended in the past would likely agree, the Commons is a perfect site for the influx of horses, trailers and tents that arrive for the event.

Klassen explains that in 2014, one of the Friends



of Fort George's sponsors, Rankin Construction, came in with equipment to level the field for that year's event. That has left the area in great shape for future games.

The preparation is a team effort between the museum's polo committee, the Toronto Polo Club, Parks Canada and the town.

"There's quite a bit of preparation needed, but the field there is quite good,"

Klassen says. "Local resident George Dell was a polo player, and he's our connection to the Toronto Polo Club (who will be playing the two four-chukker games). He says that the players love to play there."

Toronto Polo Club manager Karen White says there are more than 60 members in the family-oriented operation that was begun by the Sifton family in 1965. It is one of the biggest clubs in Canada in terms of

members who actually join to ride, not just for the social benefit. The Toronto club also includes an indoor facility for year-round play.

There are eight players in each polo game, and White explains that for each seven-minute chukker (sort of like a quarter in a basketball game) the rider likes to use a fresh horse if possible. She adds that each of the 16 polo players will likely be bringing between two to four horses to NOTL for the day.

Tickets sales began on Monday with an early bird sale, and became available to the general public on Tuesday. Klassen says they have been selling quite well from the get-go.

"I think people are really excited just to get out," says Klassen. "A lot of the annual events are coming back this year, and people are just really excited about that."

Of course, with last week's running of the Kentucky Derby, many sat by their televisions watching derby-goers sip mint juleps in their fancy



headwear while enjoying an equine sport. The timing of the ticket sales couldn't have been any better.

There may or may not be mint juleps involved this September in NOTL, but there will be the traditional divot stomp at half-time. Spectators will be welcomed onto the playing field armed with a complimentary sampling of bubbly to help level the turf.

Klassen points out that there will be a best hat competition judged most appropriately by local sponsor Beau Chapeau. There will also be half-time entertainment, music, prizes and a silent auction.

Ticket options include general admission, as well as two VIP-styled experiences. The VIP dining tent will be set up field-side for sponsors and for spectators at a ticket price of \$150 per person.

"It's for anyone who wants a bit of a fancier experience," Klassen says. "There will be a three-course meal, and your drinks are included. Then

there's the Rotary Lounge, sponsored by the NOTL Rotary Club. It's sort of between general admission and VIP, with a roped off area with patio tables, umbrellas and chairs. They can put together a table of six for \$240 per table."

Food vendors and artisans will be on site for the afternoon, and drinks will be available. All ticket holders are welcome to bring their own picnic lunch to enjoy for the afternoon, minus any alcohol, of course.

General admission tickets are on sale now for \$15, but the price will go up to \$20 as of Aug. 20. Admission is free for ages 18 and younger. For information and for tickets visit niagarapolo.com.

Though Klassen herself may be too busy to don a fancy chapeau, she expects that museum managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman and visitor and member services assistant Barbara Worthy may vie for that best hat title.

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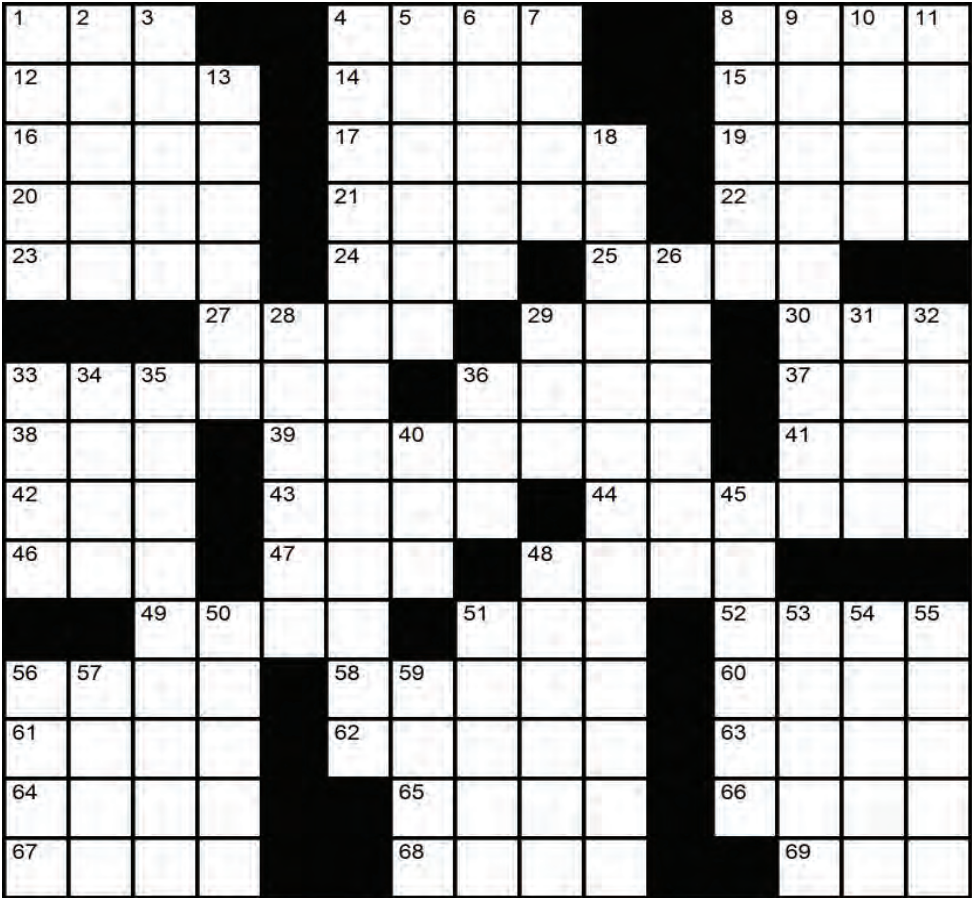
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 - 29 Evil
 - 30 E.g. A O L
 - 33 Four pecks
 - 36 Secret Chinese society
 - 37 Bingo!
 - 38 Time in Boston
 - 39 Merchant ship's capacity
 - 41 Immediately
 - 42 Dentists' grp.
 - 43 "Death --- Expert Witness" (P D James)
 - 44 Is adjacent to
 - 46 Homo sapiens
- 47 Frequently, poetically

48 Mailed

49 Specialty food store

51 Contemptuous exclamation

52 Mantle

56 State of constant change

58 Lily Munster actress Yvonne De ---

60 Not his

61 Captain Jack Sparrow actor

62 Online missives

63 Senses of self-importance

64 Wild about

65 Look after

66 Seedy joint

67 Talks lovingly

68 Singles

69 Could be bobby, red or white
- 8 Destructive Hindu deity

9 Those north of the 49th

10 Curves

11 Police officer's patrol route

13 Snow carriage

18 Wrestling maneuvers

26 Enter stealthily

28 Provide new equipment

29 Long feathery scarf

31 Get lost!

32 Minor chessman

33 Smile

34 Federal farming regulator

35 Confront

36 Channel revived as Heartland

40 --- King Cole

45 Engraved with acid

48 Salty

50 Montreal ---, now the Washington Nationals

51 Gray matter

53 Breastplate of Zeus or Athena

54 Brigham Young University city

55 Antique auto

56 Depositors' protective grp.

57 Longtime "Tonight Show" host Jay

59 Rounds

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Sudoku solution from May 4, 2022

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

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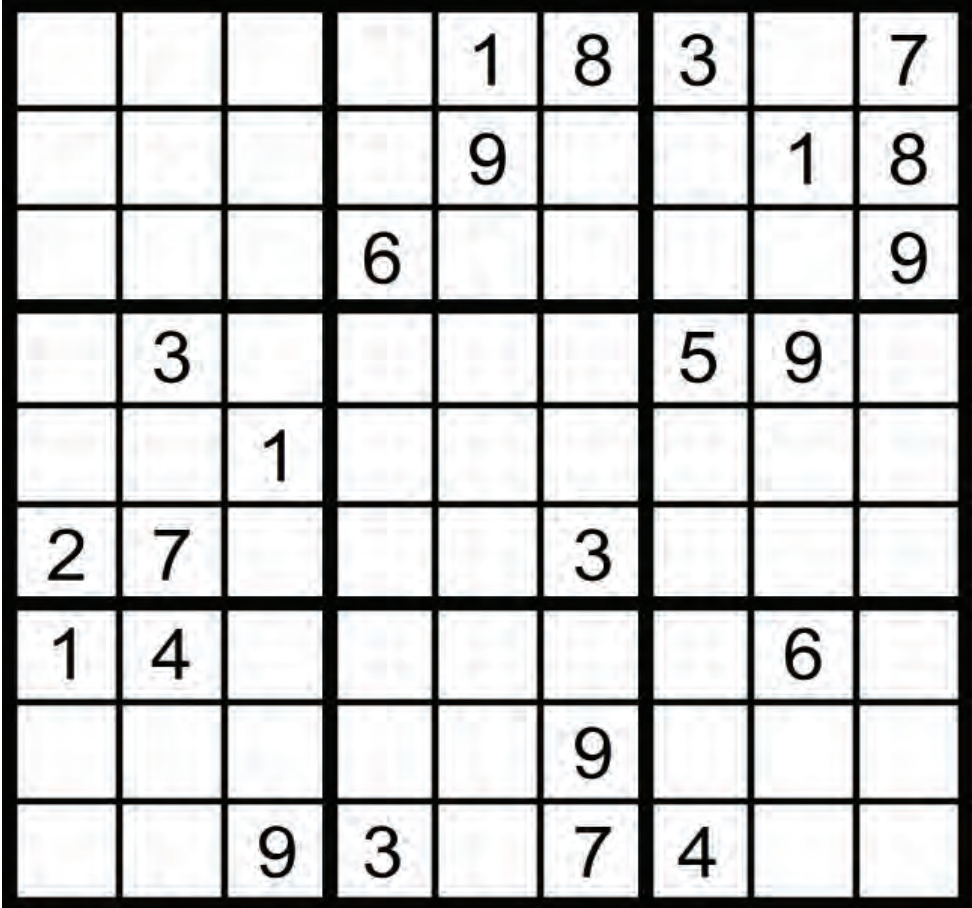
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Across: 1 Ups, 4 Thou, 8 Scab, 12 Naps, 14 Hens, 15 Hare, 16 Idol, 17 Eases, 19 Inca, 20 True, 21 Over, 22 Vest, 23 Yeti, 24 Vet, 25 Read, 27 Gras, 29 Bad, 30 I S P, 33 Bushel, 36 Tong, 37 Aha, 38 E S T, 39 Tonnage, 41 Now, 42 A D A, 43 Of an, 44 Lies on, 46 Man, 47 Off, 48 Sent, 49 Dell, 51 Bah, 52 Cape, 56 Flux, 58 Carlo, 60 Hers, 61 Depp, 62 E-mail, 63 Egos, 64 Into, 65 Mind, 66 Dive, 67 Coos, 68 Ones, 69 Sox.

Down: 1 Unity, 2 Padre, 3 Spout, 4 The Oval Office, 5 Heaves, 6 Onset, 7 User, 8 Shiva, 9 Canadians, 10 Arcs, 11 Beat, 13 Sleigh, 18 Strangleholds, 26 Edge in, 28 Retool, 29 Boa, 31 Shoo, 32 Pawn, 33 Beam, 34 U S D A, 35 Stand up to, 36 T N N, 40 Nat, 45 Etched, 48 Salline, 50 Expos, 51 Brain, 53 Aegis, 54 Provo, 55 Essex, 56 F D I C, 57 Leno, 59 Ammo.



PLEASE RECYCLE
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Invasion ‘atrocious war of senseless aggression’

Continued from page 1

Union has expanded to include 27 countries. Nineteen of those countries, as well as Ukraine, were represented by delegates at Monday’s flag-raising.

“The European Union is

where much of democracy originated,” regional chair Jim Bradley told the crowd. “Democracy really began in many of the countries in the European Union. It’s something for which there were battles over the years, and there is a lot of unity today on behalf of those

who treasure democracy as we do here.”

Bradley also went on to express the Niagara Region’s unity with Ukraine, and commended the EU delegates for their support for that country.

Tudor Alexis, consul general of France and president of the Consul General of the European Union, outlined his original correspondence with Disero back in January, that led to the delegation choosing to celebrate the day in NOTL.

As a loud sports car revved past the Court House, Alexis joked that it must have been a European car, perhaps a Ferrari, generating amused laughter from the crowd.

“Canada is one of Europe’s strongest international partners,” said Alexis. “The communities we have here today are the ones that continue to shape vibrant and diverse relations and represent one of the largest diasporas in the world.”

Alexis spoke of the 655,000 jobs in Canada created by European companies, and the strength of the CETA (Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement), but stressed the relationship between the EU and Canada is about more than economics.

“It’s very much to do with values,” Alexis asserted. “Europe is a project to promote peace and well-being to its citizens. It’s



Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Tudor Alexis, consul general of France and president of the Consul General of the European Union, gather with other delegates on the Court House steps Monday, before raising the European Union flag.

about offering freedom and social justice. Europe is about offering asylum policy for people fleeing tyranny and oppression. It’s about combatting social exclusion and discrimination.”

He went on to outline as an example of Europe’s relationship with Canada that during the pandemic the first vaccines that Canadians received to combat COVID-19 came from the EU.

Alexis also described the invasion of Ukraine as “an atrocious war of senseless aggression that has destroyed cities and the lives of millions of innocent people. People are desperately struggling to determine what their basic right is to determine their own future. The invasion by the Kremlin today shows us why today we

celebrate Europe.”

Alexis spoke of the EU’s unity with Canada to fight oppression and aggression. The inclusion of Shevchenko in the delegation, he added, is a way of showing that the EU’s solidarity must go beyond its own borders to fight oppression and aggression.

“He represents a country that aspires to join our family,” Alexis said. “Our common wish is to continue to work to further strengthen relations with Europe and Canada. It is not enough to just sit in our offices in Toronto and write our reports to our capitals. We have to be here, in this little town, to spread the message of peace, solidarity and unity.”

Petr Burianek, consul gen-

eral of the Czech Republic, also spoke. He will be succeeding Alexis as president of the consul generals when his term ends.

Burianek’s speech was followed by singing performances from Hannah and Sophia Otta, two young members of Yellow Door Theatre Project. Both girls stepped confidently to the top of the Court House stairs to wow the delegates with selections from the musicals *Finian’s Rainbow* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Following those performances, the European Union flag was raised by Alexis and Disero, then the delegates strolled on to the Cambridge Room at the Prince of Wales for a reception.



Tudor Alexis, consul general of France, addresses the crowd on Queen Street Monday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Lord Mayor Betty Disero addresses members of the European Union Consul General group at the Court House Monday.

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