The Niagara-on-the-Lake





Three days of family fun at the Virgil Stampede page 15

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Fun at the fort

Parks Canada's Fort George began its season of events Saturday with the War of 1812 Officers' Day, when re-enactors showed what upper class life was like in the colonies. While waiting outside for their dinner to begin, an officer had a laugh with all the ladies. The evening also included music and dancing. (Fred Mercnik)

Lake levels expected to continue rising Environmental supervisor promises delivered pretty much the same message to council staff will be prepared to handle situation Saturday morning, based on data from Environment

Penny Coles The Local

Dock Area residents have

gineer, has been keeping his the end of June. neighbours, Town staff and

Drive resident and retired en- to rise another 16 inches by

That gives waterfront rescouncil abreast on water con- idents and Town staff time to

Canada. He said he has been told to expect a 10-inch water level rise. He didn't expect to see 2017 water levels again, but has come to realize, with

OPINION E. coli report release delay explained

Penny Coles The Local

when addressing the lack Mile Creek. of communication about

regarding the discovery of bacteria in Lake Ontario at Queen's Royal Beach and It was interesting that other areas, including Two

That issue, of E. coli some necessary work in the getting into the lake, seems Dock Area recently, Coun. more serious. It appears the Town was avoiding telling the public about a

been warned to expect higher ditions throughout the spring. water levels than they experienced in 2017, and the Town to about 100 people Friday the impact.

Ron Simkus, a River Beach

He sent an email message is making plans to prepare for warning the water level, now held Saturday morning, Brett about where it was at its highest point in 2017, is expected environmental

to start on an action plan now. At a council meeting Ruck, Niagara-on-the-Lake's supervisor,

prepare, he said, but they need climate change, this might become a recurring issue, and NOTL has to find a permanent solution. "This could be

Continued on page 2

Gary Burroughs referenced the recent criticism about another issue - the lack of communication

Continued on page 6



Erosion protection will help flooding prevention

Continued from page 1

with," he said.

Ruck mapped out a plan for council to prepare for the rising lake level, making it clear to councillors there are two separate Dock Area issues - flood management, which is immediate, and shoreline erosion prevention, which has been ongoing and will continue over a number of years.

Yet high lake levels make the shoreline protection even more important, he indicated. He spoke of the large white metre bags, which hold a tonne of rocks, and are being used to plug holes and stop soil erosion as part of the shoreline protection program. In 2017, the waves came crashing over the rocks, he said. Shoreline protection breaks the wave action, and although he'd like to get the project finished, "it's about the funding, and any grant opportunities we can find."

There are smaller sand bags available for use by residents for flood protection, and the Town has more efficient pumps to combat water rising through storm drains, he said. There are also plans to look at other options for the future, he went on to say.

"And you'll be ready?" asked Lord Mayor Betty Disero, concerned about whether

bat rising water levels would sured her it would be.

Councillors were also informed about an issue which surfaced last week, when some of the waterfront residents became irate about have to be a decision of counwhat seemed like unexpected path-widening involving heavy equipment. They were later assured by the Town it was necessary, but temporary. The work was part of the shoreline protection project front should be completed as started last year, and is expected to be phased in over a period of years.

In a public notice issued after residents called and emailed their concerns, operations manager Sheldon Randall explained the Town was moving large rocks to the shoreline using the path in Ball's Beach Park, which is the safest access point. "The path became unstable and equipment began to sink. Excavation is taking place to create a stable base for the path. The path will be restored to its original width, with top soil and grass, when the land dries out and weather permits. An its highest point on May 24, update on restoration efforts but this year is expected to will be provided to council at continue to rise until midthe end of June."

That and flood management have become a priority since the flooding of 2017, said Randall, but comple-

project will require about think about it and plan for it," the new norm for us to deal be in place in time. Ruck as- \$165,000, money that is not in this year's budget because the work is expected to be done in stages. Any change to that plan, financing it through debentures or grants, would cil, he explained.

Until further notice, the park remains closed for the safety of pedestrians, Randall said.

Simkus says the work of placing rocks along the watersoon as possible in preparation for the rising water level. Although flooding is a separate concern from shoreline protection, he explained, "the two issues abut each other."

Indirectly, the rocks used to prevent soil erosion are also helpful in flood protection - by breaking up the waves, they lessen to some extent how much water washes up on land.

"The lake is heading for record levels," said Simkus. "Everyone expected a repeat of what happened two years ago. No one expected it to be significantly worse."

In 2017 the water reached June, and potentially to July 1, with high levels remaining until November.

"We're kind of going into unknown territory here. But



said Simkus.

can predict what various water levels will look like on the NOTL waterfront, and help to determine the impact on the shoreline and the neighbouring community. With an additional lake rise of 16 inches, he said, there could be flooding all the way up to Navy Hall.

the reason for the temporary road-widening witnessed by residents last week, and cillors Saturday his first priority

everything necessary to com- tion of the shoreline erosion at least this gives us time to agreed it was necessary, he felt was to get the work done, and the Town could have warned there was no time to deal with residents ahead of time to He referred to a mapping avoid "some of the "kerfuffel" program the Town is using that that resulted from a lack of made the point that commucommunication. The notice nications could be improved. came after residents had seen the heavy equipment and reacted, reaching out to the Town out of concern the path was being permanently widened without them receiving any advance warning. They have made it clear during sev-Although once he learned eral Dock Area studies they want the path left as is.

Randall explained to coun-

communications beforehand.

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But several councillors

Coun. Gary Burroughs compared the situation to the recent revelation that E. coli has been getting into the water at the bottom of King Street in recent years due to aging infrastructure. The message of the "great work" by staff and ongoing remediation of the sewer system was lost to the public, he said, because of the lack of communication.



Residents saw heavy equipment on the Dock Area path last week, and thought it was being widened. it was just being stabilized to allow for the equipment to move rocks to the shoreline. (Photo supplied)

Ban on plastics will begin with Town facilities, events

Penny Coles The Local

An attempt by councilplastics was successful, alforward with eliminating such materials at its own events.

The amendment favoured by councillors means the conversation with private business owners will straws, stir sticks and utenbegin as one of encourage- sils, saying he was hoping ment, rather than dictating for unanimous support.

what they must do.

The change in wording didn't come with approval from Coun. Norm Arselors to "soften" a request nault, who first made his to ban some single-use motion requesting the ban and his case to support it lowing the Town to move during the May 13 council meeting.

However as the meeting facilities, operations and wrapped up, to be reconvened Saturday, it was suggested he reconsider.

> He had presented a plan for prohibiting single-use

Although councillors applauded his intentions and said they agreed with the need to do something positive, several indicated concern with the idea of forcing the ban on businesses in town and suggested he would have to revise the wording of his motion to earn their support.

During a short presentation, Arsenault had told them, "climate change is real," and getting worse, backing

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Ravine aims for sustainability for future generations



The new conference centre, 4,000 square feet, will also have a 4,000 square-foot basement. (Penny Coles)

Penny Coles The Local

Set back — way, way back from York Road in St. Davids, there is a large construction site Jane purchased the properof steel girders, sitting incongruously amongst the backdrop of gently rolling hills of grapevines.

The project is a large, enplanned to ensure the future of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery. The hope is that the business it attracts will protect the 32 acres within the urban boundary of the village from development, and will allow the next generation to continue to farm the land.

Forty-year-old Paul Harber is the frontman for the family-owned winery, although his parents, Norma Jane and Blair Harber, continue to be very much involved. Blair stops in at the end of every business day on his way home from his Fort erations that came before us," Erie manufacturing operation, and Norma Jane is at the winery every day, says Paul, always making sure everything looks as it should — the perfect combination of rustic elegance.

Paul talks of the long family history of the land that goes back to his great-great grandfather, David Jackson Lowrey, who established a family farm on the property in 1867.

It has been passed down through successive generations. His grandfather, Howard Borden Lowrey, operated the farm during which time most of the fruit orchards were removed and replaced with grapes.

ty from her siblings and her mother, and started replanting new vinevards.

But the land is inside the St. closed conference centre, Davids urban boundary, and was slated by the Town for commercial and residential land use. There was pressure to develop it to recoup some of the cost of the new sewer system, said Paul. enclosed conference centre, "The Town wanted the tax dollars. This was never supposed to be winery, it was supposed to be a subdivision."

> Instead the family forged ahead, planting grapes and fulfilling their plans for the winery they hoped would ensure the financial sustainability of the family farm for future generations.

> "If it wasn't for the four genhe said, "and the pride we have for the family farm, it would be hard to do what we're doing."

> This new construction has always been part of the original plan, and although it wasn't foreseen to be undertaken quite so soon, it has become evident the \$4-million investment is a necessary part of that sustainability.

In recent discussions about the Town's Official Plan it was Niagara wineries are making a profit. The Harber family wants to ensure Ravine does not fall ment of a business conference

from the early 1950s until 2001, into that category, now or in the future.

According to Town bylaws, wineries are only allowed to In 2004, Blair and Norma hold 24 outside, under-a-tent events a year, most often wedding receptions, which bring in much-needed revenue.

> The restriction is to ensure neighbours aren't unduly bothered by noise, and the limit allows for two events 12 weeks of the year, which aligns with the weather for outdoor events.

> Ravine's new project, an means it doesn't have to live within those boundaries.

> And the dream far exceeds the boundaries of a tent.

There are two full floors to the building, 4,000 square feet above ground, overlooking vineyards, with large windows facing the vineyards and a wrap-around porch to extend the space. There will be a similar-sized basement with a huge kitchen, storage areas, and underground corridors to the existing buildings - the historic packing barn that was rebuilt as a restaurant, after being torched by an arsonist, and the house that was built in 1802, burned in the War of 1812, rebuilt in 1814, moved in 1969, taken apart, stored and moved again in pieces until it was rebuilt again onsite as the retail centre.

There will be more outdoor revealed only 50 per cent of space in the summer, and a skating rink in the winter, he said.

Paul speaks with excite-

ALAGARA-ON-THE

owned by Google and NASA. The conference filled two Vintage Hotels last year but held meetings at the winery, with plans to return. It has its own university, taking just 30 to 60 students a year with unimaginably high qualifications - being a world leader or inventing technology that will change the world might get you in-and the technology they are working on exceeds what most of us restaurant in their midst. They can imagine, he said.

I'm not sure how. But it was a great shot in the arm, giving us the ability to extend our season. We have 142 employees in the summer, and we want to see 142 employees — or more on our payroll all year long."

He said for financial rea-

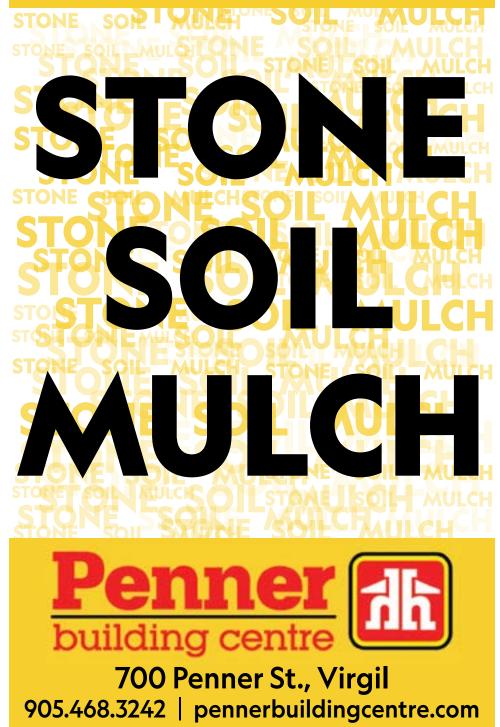
Ravine has already attracted — sons it would have been ad- Davids, Ravine is using left-Singularity, from Silicon Valley, vantageous to wait another over fruit that would have been year before beginning the construction project, but "we knew from the beginning we had to do something more than a winery, to create a business that would defend the property from developers. And we're hoping this will improve relations with the neighbours who have problems with noise." Most of the neighbours

enjoy having a winery and come for coffee in the morning, "They stumbled upon us, where they can sit and enjoy one of the prettiest and most peaceful views in town, and pick up a loaf of fresh bread while they're there, along with wine, cider, barbecue or honey mustard sauce, and other products made onsite.

day thoughts, but I can say, 'over my dead body." Without a cannery in St.



The Ravine conference and reception centre now under construction will have glass windows overlooking vineyards. (Penny Coles)



processed across the road.

The winery makes apple, pear,

strawberry and peach cider, returning to family roots with the

concept of using up every last

press juice operation, possibly

as a cooperative, says Paul, to

ensure unused fruit doesn't go

to waste. Any of the wineries

would be able to use the fruit,

he explains, but not all are set

stone unturned in searching

generation that puts an end

to farming on this property. I

don't like talking about dooms-

out value-added revenue.

He is not going to leave any

"I don't want to be the

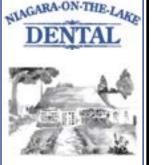
There are plans for a cold-

bit of fruit.

up to press it.



Paul Harber plans to ensure there will be a family farm and winery for future generations. (Penny Coles)



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THE NOTL LOCAL

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Event for migrant farm workers teaches bike safety

Penny Coles The Local

The local safety committee has changed over more than 25 years since it was formed, but what hasn't changed is its goal of protecting migrant farm workers who depend on R's for bikes - they refur- of NOTL for its safety bicycles for transportation.

Each year for almost three decades the committee, originally organized as a liaison with the Niagara Regional Police, has held an event the Sunday after the May long weekend to teach bicycle safety to the bikes for maintenance. men and women who come to each year to work on local bike store," says Gaudet. farms.

ganized by a partnership between what is now the workers come for repairs, NOTL Community Safety they trade up to one of the Committee, and the Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group.

It's become a social gathering for the workers, nization, Bikes for Farmwho are given a barbecued dinner, and provided with entertainment by Enlace, a for the workers to use for who come from Toronto done on the spot and they every year to perform in have to leave their bikes, the Centennial Arena.

But the focus of the is how Mark Gaudet got stations at the event Suninvolved. He and Terry day, and volunteers "will

workers in the former roadworthy Virgil Public School, put- says Gaudet. ting used, donated bikes through a 50-point check bikes" and other prizes to make them roadworthy. to be won, plus two new

bish bikes for safety, they committee to give away. recycle in that bikes too damaged to be fixed are workers bike and safety stripped to recoup useable rodeo is this Sunday, May parts, and they repair the 26, at the Centennial Arebikes for an increasing na in Virgil, from 3 p.m. to number of farmworkers 7 p.m. who bring in their own

"I think we have more Niagara-on-the-Lake parts on hand than any

They gladly accept do-This year, it's being or- nations of used bikes, and Continued from page 2 sometimes when farm better quality bikes, donating their old ones to be refurbished.

The volunteer orgaworkers, even keeps a "small fleet" of loaners group of Spanish dancers a week if repairs can't be Gaudet says.

Bikes for Farmworkevent is bike safety, which ers will set up four repair

ANGING

Weiner, with a group of do what we can" to ensure volunteers, collect and any bikes brought to the restore bikes for farm rodeo leave in safe and condition,

There are 35 "great Gaudet calls it the 3 bikes donated by the Town

The annual migrant



To donate a used bike, These are some of the refurbished bikes that will be raffled at Sunday's bike safety event for call Gaudet at 289-783-1684. migrant farm workers. (Photo supplied)

One councillor opposes plastics ban

up the need for change with alarming statistics.

His motion, he said, would begin the process of of our own making."

On Saturday morning, Arsenault said he would like a vote on his original motion. But first, Coun. Clare Cameron suggested like the motion to remain the an amendment.

this started is if we start with ourselves," she said.

She suggested

senting alternatives to nicipal facilities, operawithin our control."

"correcting a wrong that is consultation with businesses to encourage alternatives, without dictating to them about what they Bisback and Stuart McCorcould do, she said.

the way it was written, in-"The best bet of getting dicating staff would look at municipal facilities first, but eventually, after con-

have staff look first at pre- rials at businesses as well. "This would be consid-

single-use plastics at mu- erably watered down," he hearing staff is stretched said of the amendment, on resources and I questions and events, "anything which was supported by tion whether this should Cameron and Couns. Gary She would then like Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, Erwin Wiens and John Wiens.

Arsenault, Couns. Allan mack, along with Lord Mayor Arsenault said he would Betty Disero, voted against amendment, which passed, and then all but Mc-Cormack voted in favour of duplication, he said, and he the amended motion.

an sultation, would get to the couldn't support it, alamendment that would point of banning the mate- though he found the goal is doing.

ΜΡΑΤ

IIENS

"rather laudable."

"We're continually be a priority for staff at this time," he said.

Since the Province is also looking at the issue of banning some plastics, and has far more resources and legislative jurisdiction to deal with it, having the municipality also looking at a ban would seem like would like to see periodic McCormack said he updates from staff in regard to what the Province



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LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: KEKE BOUTIQUE

en's boutique located inside have a great selection of tomers. The boutique is always looking for ways to Penner Building Centre, in jewelry, clothing, accesso- named after Kelsey, Keke grow and expand their busithe loft area above the paint ries, and giftware. department.

a quaint shop with lots of beeke say opening a bouselection and style. There tique has been something nickname stuck, and she to make their customers' are many brand names in this mother-daughter duo has been Keke ever since. store for all styles and price have wanted to do for some ranges, such as Dex, Gentle time. Both have a strong has been a thriving family Fawn, Cest Moi bamboo, passion for clothing and business for 70 years. Third Smash & Tess, Priv, Piper- fashion, and are excited to generation owners Kevin &

This stylish boutique is and Kelsey Penner-Over-

is a nickname given to her ness. A boutique is another Owners Marcia Penner by her brother as a young child when he was unable to say her full name. The

Keke Boutique is a wom- west, Quay and more. They share that with their cus- his wife Marcia Penner are step in the right direction for doing that, says Marcia.

Keke Boutique strives shopping experience noth-Penner Building Centre ing less than amazing, with one-on-one shopping, and lots of knowledge of materials and products, they promise to make sure you are getting exactly what you are looking for!

They want to give their customers variety and create a one-stop shop for them. Not only is the boutique quintessential to their large women-based customers, but the gentlemen are able to buy their significant other gifts for every occasion, while shopping for their hardware and lumber needs.

All new spring and summer fashions are making their way into the store! This year, the trends seem to be bright yellow, mauve, and navy, as well as beautiful florals. We are so excited for this year's fashions to come in!

We look forward to helping you with all your spring fashion needs, and wardrobe essentials.



THE NOTL LOCAL

May 23, 2019

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EDITORIAL

Communication fosters trust

Continued from page 1

serious health issue, not a matter of a bit of gravel that would eventually be covered over, as in the Dock Area.

The facts may not warrant such a harsh judgement, but it's difficult to say, when we'll never know what was discussed in a closed-door meeting.

In an attempt to be as open as possible about that situation, without disclosing that which cannot be disclosed - especially to the media — CAO Holly Dowd, operations manager Sheldon Randall and town clerk Peter Todd talked to The Local and explained as much as they could about how the process unfolded following the discovery of bacteria in the lake and creek. And they all agreed there was never any indication of risk to the public.

As a report finally made public recently explained, the discovery of E. coli about two years ago was discussed behind closed doors. That was done because of the de-

that the situation could ceeded, the MOE probapotentially lead to litiga- bly would have closed the tion, a valid reason under beach. It continues to test the Municipal Act.

Presumably, during that meeting staff was giv- believe what we will, but en direction to proceed it would seem likely this with what we now know is an honest and sincere, was further investigation two-years-after-the-fact and remediation, which response to questions that continue today.

cision made to withhold lapse and because even that information from the if they could remember, public? Or was it simply a they can't disclose what case of getting on with the was said. job at hand?

dall all said that had there inevitable perception that been any risk to the pub- there was an effort to hide lic, they would have re- something would have leased that information been prevented. But that's immediately, and really, easy to say two years down do we have any reason to the road, with all the facts. believe otherwise?

at Queen's Royal Beach, government, including evalso tested. Dowd says she meeting, would have kept can't remember a time the quiet if there was a health beach was ever posted as risk to anyone. unsafe, and certainly not in the last couple of years. Penny Coles Randall said if the re- **The Local**

termination by the clerk medial work hadn't prowater quality.

We can all choose to are difficult to answer, Was there some de- both because of the time

Should the public have Dowd, Todd and Ran- been told? If it had, the

The more serious ques-The Ministry of the tion is whether people were Environment was test- in danger. It is extremely ing water quality, and unlikely all three levels of which is considered a rec- ery member of council and reational area, the Region staff at that closed-door

LETTERS **Knowing Deb Wiecha 'was a bonus'**

Deb Wiecha was a larger-than-life personality who touched everyone she met with love and kindness. I really enjoyed her sister Jane Andres' story about Deb's life. It's nice to know more about her and her family.

I manage a farmers market at the Wychwood Barns in Toronto, and people here clamoured for Deb's peaches every year. No matter how many other peaches were available, everyone wanted Deb's because they thought they were special. I was skeptical about the hype, but I re-

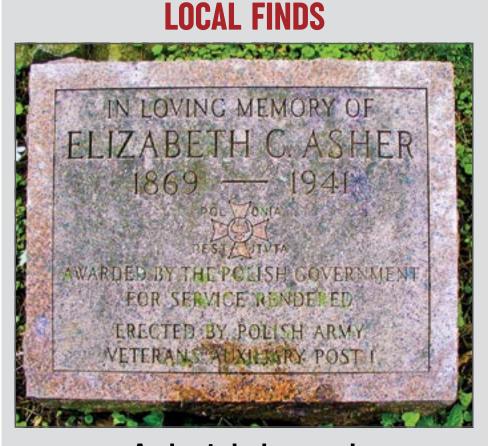
call the first time she arrived come to dying because she and opened up the back of her truck and I could smell the perfume of ripe peaches, and I knew folks were on to that day, and she gave me something special.

was a bonus for me because she genuinely cared for me, too. Once, when I was quite ly knew her, that there was sick, she called me at home more to her than I ever got out of the blue and really talked me into caring more, am so glad she was someone into being my own advocate. She told me about a time she'd been sick with a knee injury that led to a serious infection and how close shed

just didn't want to believe it could be as serious as it was. We talked for over an hour permission to realize how Getting to know Debbie much I was scared and how much I wanted to get well.

I know now that I bareto know, and that's my loss. I who reached out to touch my life. She was a gift and I'll miss her dearly.

Cookie Roscoe



Ascher to be honoured **Donald Combe Special to The Local**

In 1994 the Niagara Historical Society commissioned Fred Habermehl and me to prepare short biographies on some of the more interesting people buried in our cemeteries. This led to the publication Stones, Saints and Sinners. One of the more prominent women buried at St.Mark's was Elizabeth (Masters) Ascher, 1869-1941. (You will note that her name is misspelled on the original monument.) Elizabeth Ascher is the lady to be honoured with a church service and the dedication of a new monument at St. Mark's Sunday. A local resident, she was concerned about the welfare of the many Polish immigrants who had come in 1917 to Niagara to join the army and fight in France. She took care of the young Polish volunteer soldiers who became ill with the Spanish influenza, and she also packed supplies for the suffering citizens of Poland. She became known as the Angel of Mercy and Godmother to the Polish soldiers, and was awarded the Polish Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the highest civilian honour Poland can award to a foreigner.



Fond memories of planting **Daffodil Gardens of Hope**

a delight it was to see the cancer. The youngster was agara Advance over the lovely, cheerful photo of worried about which side years, about the daffodils daffodils in the Garden of the garden he should and many other subjects. I Hope at Simcoe Park on plant them on, so he would loved doing that. the front page of The Local see them when he was coming into the garden one who sees the daffodil and when he was leaving. gardens blooming around In the end he decided he town and appreciates their needed more bulbs, so he message of hope that they could plant them on both sides.

I just want to say what who had passed away from umns I wrote for the Ni-

I'd like to remind everycan always make a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society, to help it keep up all the great work that's being done.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

The trusted voice of our community

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last week.

It brought back wonderful thoughts of how much fun we had when the gardens were being planted, and some of the memories of the people we met.

One that really stayed with me is of a young boy who was planting bulbs in memory of his grandfather, the many gardening col-

It was always such a joy to have children involved in the plantings.

It also reminds me of

Jean Cochrane Upper Canada Lodge

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

COMMENT **Coyotes have become our neighbours**



Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

I fear the day a covote becomes the victim.

Over the past five years or so, I've noticed many articles covering peculiar and sometimes startling coyote encounters.

What makes these stories newsworthy is the fact that coyotes are showing up in our backyards, sometime literally, and more often than they used to.

When we read about a covote experience in an urban setting, it may seem easy to skim the surface and feel like our space has been invaded. Space is the driving factor for the rising number of coyote stories.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, and in southern Ontario, humans have created this situation, which will likely continue to grow. A coyote much prefers the forests, scrub brush, and meadow areas of NOTL, but with those sorts of habitats disappearing, the coyote is losing ideal areas to forage, travel, and rest. The coyote is an interesting creature though, because of its reall of its native distribution, the coyote has demonstrat- Some species will adapt and NOTL was further discon- how to live in NOTL quite lic against the shy canine.

ed it can survive in human-modified landscapes pretty comfortably.

These animals have lost most of their original habitat, so it is no wonder we see them out in open view more often, galavanting across the landscape, or perhaps looking for an easy food source on the outskirts of town. Sometimes, even in downtown, as locals have seen.

We generally don't need to fear the presence of these animals, as they are far more scared of us than we are of them. Give the coyote its space, as it would rather not engage with us in any wav.

Niagara Region has lost 90 per cent of its original forest coverage. That percentage is even slightly higher for the municipality of NOTL. How can we act surprised when these wild animals show up in our backyards? Whose backyard was it to begin with?

This isn't a matter of "speciesism," or debating the superiority of the human and the covote - it's about the modifications to our nautical areas, and how we're now beginning to live with these ripple effects. This is the sobering but realistic theme from all corners of the world.



This photo is a reflection, says Owen Bjorgan. "When coyotes start showing up in human environments, it is a reflection of what is happening to their natural homes. This puddle was in a forested area of NOTL that now no longer exists." (Owen Bjorgan)

carry on in our presence, but sometimes closer than we're used to. In most cases, the other species disappear with their habitat. The coyote is so far proving to be a successful adaptor to the situations unfolding in NOTL.

With the recent loss of The coyote is a cunning forest and scrub near John markable adaptability. In creature that exemplifies Street and The Promenade, shifts in the landscape. the green "ring" around Some coyotes are learning al enough to pit the pub-

dor, an essential travel route for animals like the covote, has been interrupted. The animals also experience more exposure to our domestic temptations. "What's that smell in that garbage bin? Is that a dog in your backyard? Wow, so many rabbits and mice to eat in these agricultural areas."

nected. This habitat corri-

easily, as others continue to live in deeper woods of Niagara and Ontario.

In this equation, we have NOTL's urban growth, habitat loss, and more visitors every year. What do these factors equal as the sum of their parts? I envision a sad day for coyotes when we see that one incident which is alarming and unusu-

What would happen next? Would there be laws and destruction permits against these animals if they are deemed as a threat? I would hope not.

I don't want to see the day when the coyote is seen as the victim. Let's keep our heads up, be aware, be patient, and respect the space of our neighbours as we inevitably move in a little closer to one another.

LETTERS

Copyrights are necessary for artists to make a living

Dear Editor,

The letter "Interlibrary loan problem a symptom is serious. of mercantilism in book industry" (The Local, May 11) seems to approve the provincial government's cuts to the interlibrary loan system and justifies it by a reference to

er has his tongue firmly in need time, a location and mercantilism. his cheek but let's assume he materials — all of which cost

"Imagine...a world without copyright," he writes. Who would produce written works that are unprotected by copyright?

Unrestricted copying of ture, art or music?

into account, writers are they must do more to earn to share their products with

in 2017 versus \$12,879 in worst. Not coincidentally, Some excerpts quoted 2014. That's a 27 per cent money - in order to create from The Writers' Union drop over a short period their works. If they have to of Canada, Income Survey the same period that has resort to some kind of full- 2018, show what happens as seen a massive increase in time paid work to meet these a result of reduced copyright uncompensated educational costs, when do they have protection for creative writ- copying. At the same time, time to create works of litera- ten work. Taking inflation 30 per cent of writers say tistic works are always happy

Canada is also an outlier in the world with regards to the vast amounts of uncompensated copying that occurs in educational settings.

Canadian creators of ar-

American law schools in particular to a confusing definition of mercantilism found in an article in an American legal publication.

It's possible that the writ-

creative works means no infor example, at Charles Dickpressed in Nicholas Nickleby.

Copyright come for the creators. Look, does not create a monopoly they were making in 1998. years ago. and does not restrict anyone In fact, writers are makens' view on copyright as ex- from indulging in creative ing significantly less from and U.K. indicate similar artistic activities. It does not their writing than they did negative trending, but Can-Artists, writers, musicians fit any authentic definition of just three years ago: \$9,380 ada's results are by far the

protection making 78 per cent less than a living than they did three the rest of the world. All they

Studies in both the U.S.

ask is to make a reasonable living from their work as would anyone in any business or trade.

Wesley Turner



Arts in Medicine program helps cancer patients heal Workshops are offered at the they have met who are also going through cancer, receiving they have believed she could paint in a familiar environment they have met who are also go- have believed she could paint cancer. This is a way to relax until she tried it as part of the in a familiar environment, ing through cancer, receiving St. Catharines hospital site treatments as outpatients, or Niagara Health program. She has had to give up her who have come through it and what you're going through." still enjoy the program. job in the Niagara Falls public And it's a good time, for She has spent a lot of time mother of two was in the sun-

Penny Coles The Local

Anne Kelly has survived 30 treatments of chemotherapy.

She received a diagnosis of breast cancer when she was 33, and it returned nine years later. Now 44, her cancer is controlled, but not in remission. Although she is cancer-free, she takes a chemo pill every day, and will for the rest of her life. "I'm termed a progression-free surviver," she says. "That's the stage I'm in, although it's not a term many people know."

at the hospital, and it hasn't all drenched program room at been a pleasant experience. the St. Catharines hospital site Because of the extensive chemotherapy treatments, she's had more than her share of bad days, but she is doing well and cheery flower arrangenow. And most weeks, sometimes more than once a week, she attends an Arts in Medicine program, intended for cancer patients and survivors laughing and joking as they - in any given month it can tried to follow instructions, offer painting, interpretive drawing, music, spirit drumming and one of the most with a friend or family mempopular workshops, carpentry with Lee Valley Tools.

with about a dozen others, being led through some simple steps to produce a bright ment under the guidance of two volunteers from the Niagara Garden Club.

Beside her at the table, was her friend Lori Neufeld - some cancer patients come ber, others come on their own, and many have developed Recently, the Niagara close friendships with those



NOTL volunteer Faye Douglas of the Niagara Garden Club helps Lori Neufeld and Anne Kelly with flower arranging. (Penny Coles)



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Neufeld is the first to admit that although she checks up on Kelly regularly to see if she's having a good day or a bad one, and can certainly sympathize with her friend, "I can't really say I understand what she's going through, when I haven't gone through it myself."

to visiting the hospital as a patient, finds attending the It helps her to have a reason to get out of the house, to have something fun to look forward to, and to establishing a routine that "makes the hospital seem not so scary. It's a wonderful way to be in the place that saved my life. This program makes it a joyful place."

friend, and although Kelly says they are surrounded by oth- Laurie Sadowski says the proers who are also coping with cancer, "we don't dwell on it. I know everybody's story, a little bit of their history, but we don't talk a lot about it. And I know the people I meet here are able to appreciate my story, and the side effects I go through. They understand the nausea, the confusion, the fatigue, and that not so good."

different sessions since she ment between them. A lot Douglas, adding she'll look began attending last October of things change in your life - she said she never would when you're going through

health department, and says the program "has definitely helped. It's a great opportunity to connect with other people." Neufeld says she does the

best she can to be supportive, and "having something you love touched by cancer teaches you to be more sensitive to what they're going through, derstand it, you can't."

Kelly has two teenaged classes a positive experience. children, one in university and one in high school, and her husband "is amazing," she said. "He's been with me every helper or two along. step of the way."

group of cheerleaders," people who are helping her heal, she said, and who have made a world of difference through-She usually attends with a out her treatment.

Program coordinator gram "creates a sense of community. It's welcoming, there is an open door for patients back to the community, and who are still in treatment, and for those who have finished and want to continue. I tell them there is no expiry date," she jokes. "Being together in the same room seems to help. They might talk a little about some days are good and some cancer, they might talk about what to have for dinner. There Kelly has enjoyed several is an unspoken acknowledge-

with people who understand

those who attend the sessions and for the volunteers who offer them. Faye Douglas from Niagara-on-the-Lake was at the floral arranging session recently to help out. She's a member of the garden club, which has a regional membership with a large NOTL contingent.

Leading the session was Kelly, who is accustomed but if you think you can un- Diane Hockey from Niagara Falls. Club members rotate teaching the program, she said, coming up with a design and coordinating the material, and always bringing a

> Douglas says the volun-She knows she has a "huge teer program "is an extension of what the club does. We love flowers, and we love to help others enjoy them."

The May floral arrangement workshop was only her second time volunteering for the Arts In Medicine program, she said.

"It's a way for us to give that is exemplified by what we do here."

It's also an uplifting experience, with lots of laughter, and bright, smiling faces sharing friendships and enjoying the camaraderie, as well as their pride with the finished product.

"It's been a lot of fun," said forward to coming back again when it's her turn.



Lori Neufeld and Anne Kelly show off their finished arrangement at a recent Arts in Medicine program. (Penny Coles)







9

THE NOTL LOCAL notllocal.com Several factors leading to decline in bees

Lauren O'Malley The Local

"With bees you're always learning things. You always get a surprise," says Ron Zimmerman, co-owner of B&Z Honey in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This spring has been no exception. Zimmerman and his B&Z partner Howard Bogusat have found most of their hives survived the winter. Bogusat says they only lost two hives out of 14 this year, compared to the shattering 11 out of 14 lost last spring. He attributes last year's loss to the extreme drop in temperature in the spring, which he says caught the bees off guard and prevented them from being able to ball up for heat retention.

John Pendzinski at JT Farms in NOTL says, "I'm lucky I didn't lose any of my eight hives this year, and the ones I've got are strong stronger than I've ever seen." Temperature swings are a threat to the pollinators, and he thinks we're getting too many of those, he adds.

"So far our members have lost three out of three hives, six out of six, two out of nine.

seemed to fare better," says their health as well. Diseases our delicate winged friends any its components in Canada. But tube and then into the ground. George Dubanow, president of will affect them so much more favours. "This year is the same Bogusat and others in Niagathe Niagara Beekeepers' Association. "I have heard that commercial operations had some tario and are moving north." major losses."

wouldn't surprise me across the ricultural world won't be too board," he adds.

At B-Y's Honey Farm, the losses were significant. "It's not very good," says proprietor Ed Unger. "Last year we lost 30 per cent of our bees. This year it's a 60 per cent loss." He says they have gone from 120 hives to about 60 or 70. "A lot of it is weather. Another thing is pesticides (which weakens bees). They don't get strong enough for winter. Another thing is fluctuation in temperature. Bees uncluster in the warmth, then the cold hits and they die."

"They're not dying for one reason," Zimmerman says. "They're dying for many reasons. It's death by a thousand cuts." He lists parasites, development taking over natural areas, and weather issues.

Unger concurs. "It's everything together. They should be looking after themselves better - if they're being weakened Newbies with new equipment by pesticides they can't control

— mites, and now hive beetles which are new to southern On-

Regarding the depletion "Fifty per cent losses of bees, Dubanow says the agdeeply affected. "Pollination will get done. This doesn't change much. Some farmers might have to seek out new suppliers of pollination bees."

Beekeepers typically have three sources of income from their livestock, says Zimmerman: honey, hive rentals for pollination, and the sale of queens. Smaller operations and hobbyists generally fall into the first camp — larger companies might do all three. Unger is also developing bee-related products for alternative medicines.

Zimmerman and Bogusat collect honey and wax for sale from their hives. "We do it because we like working with bees, and then we get honey," Zimmerman says. The pair collects 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of honey from 14 hives, he adds.

While the loss of bees over the past winter doesn't create a desperate situation, the extremely wet weather isn't doing

as 2017 — rain, rain and more rain," says Dubanow. "When it rains the bees do not collect much nectar because it's too diluted, and the rain washes the pollen out. It affects nectar collection. If we continue to have large amounts of rain we'll have a problem."

they're forced to stay home," he continues, "in which case they can develop certain unique diseases. They can get nosema disease in their midgut, or chalkbrood disease, which is a kind of fungus that can lead larvae to become mummified due to the humidity. Also, if they're not out collecting nectar, they could get a type of confinement starvation."

He points out that a wet spring and cooler temperatures mean the pollination season can be shortened to 10 days from the typical three weeks.

There is much talk of the use of neonicotinoids - systemic agricultural insecticides — being at the root of hive loss. The product has been banned in several countries, and there is talk of phasing out some of

ra's beekeeping world aren't so quick to blame that one factor.

"There is so much emotion on both sides of the coin," says Bogusat. "Two facts that are not much publicized are one, the province which produces the most honey is Alberta. And two, the province using "It's bad for the bees because the most neonics is Alberta. So if the chemical is so bad how is that possible?" But he does admit he has concerns. "The worst is when they plant the seeds. There is a puff of air which shoots the seed into a

If a bee is flying across the path of the wind, even half a kilometre away downwind, that bee dies. This, even though the coating is a dry powder."

"I am not saying I am a proponent of their (neonicotinoids) usage, but I also understand why they were created and became so popular with the farmers," Bogusat says. "For us the problem list remains mites which attack the brood; weather patterns; the environment in which the bees find themselves, and the small hive beetles and wax moths."



Bees on the outside of a thriving hive on Ron Zimmerman's Lakeshore Road property. Their bright orange "socks" are the pollen they've carried back to the hive. (Lauren O'Malley)



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10



Three officers wait for the fun to begin at Saturday's War of 1812 Officers' Day, an event to show what life was like in the colonies. (Fred Mercnik)





Chris McKay gets dressed for Officers' Day at Fort George, with help from batman (an officer's servant) Abel Land. (Fred Mercnik)



The Officers' Dinner at Fort George Saturday, an event with re-enactors organized by Parks Canada staff, was a feast fit for a king. (Fred Mercnik)

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season, which began Sat-1812 Officers' Day, when and displays. re-enactors showed what upper class life was like in Historic Site is now open the colonies.

Fort George Murder Mysbrating the Canadian Royal Regiment of Artillery's Saturdays and Sundays. 303rd anniversary on Saturday, May 25.

23

Parks Canada staff tors from across North at Fort George National America will portray Fort Historic Site have been George in the Great War: gearing up for the 2019 A First World War Commemoration with military urday with the War of training demonstrations

Fort George National seven days a week for vis-This weekend, two itors to explore the periback-to-back events will od buildings, or take in take to the stage with a a musket demonstration every hour on the hour. tery on Friday, May 24, They can also learn some and Artillery Day, cele- fascinating facts during featured presentations on

For more information visit https://www.pc.gc.ca/ Over the June 22 to en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/ weekend, re-enac- activ/calendrier-calendar.

notllocal.com

Parks Canada to fund restoration of historic building

Tony Chisholm Special to The Local

Parks Canada has informed the Friends of Fort George that they are planning the restoration of the Junior Commissariat Officers Quarters (JCOQ) at balanced appearance. Butler's Barracks, starting late summer.

The JCOQ is the oldest of only four remaining 19th century military there in June of 2015. Sev- Heritage Building Review buildings that make up eral thousand dollars were office and more. The esti-Butler's Barracks National Historic Site. It was built restoration of the building. more than \$1 million.

in 1816 by the Royal Engineers and was used by the the restoration and stamilitary throughout the bilization are due to start 19th and 20th centuries.

It is a wonderful example of Georgian era are to evaluate and corarchitecture with its sim- rect structural elements plistic, symmetrical, and such as failing timbers.

George, in partnership is currently under design with Parks Canada, held a review with Resource special fundraising event Conservation, raised to contribute to the mated cost of the work is

The good news is that soon.

The initial objectives

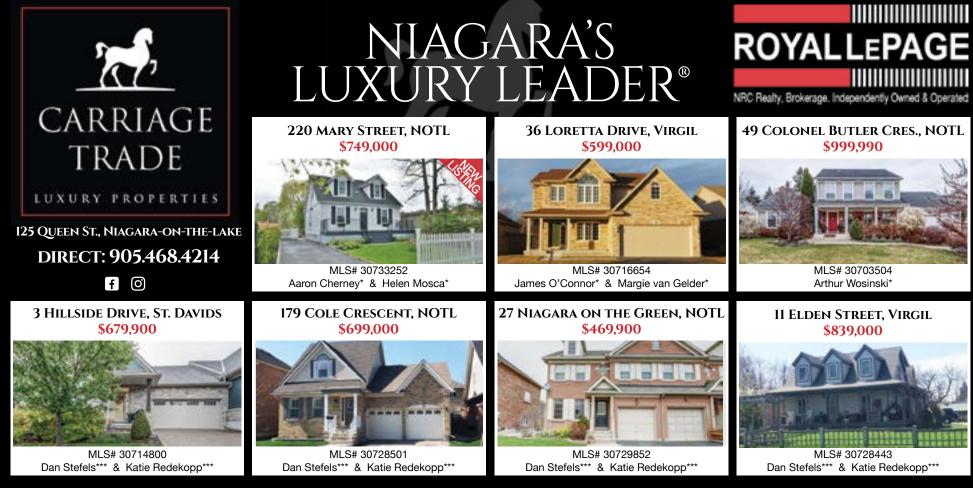
Parks Canada has an-The Friends of Fort nounced that the building Federal

ESkoot for fun and Fort George

On Sunday, May 26 ESkoot is offering the second annual Ride for Fort George fundraiser. All scooter rental fees collected that day will be donated to the Friends to help support their student employment program for the 2019 season. Posing at ESkoot on Mississauga Street are (standing) Colin Tefler and Jennifer Elliott of ESkoot, and Tom Pekar and Tony Chisholm of the Friends of Fort George. Show your support and see the town on a quiet, environmentally-friendly electric scooter. Reserve in advance at eskoot. com, pay when you ride. (Penny Coles)



Parks Canada hasn't decided what the future holds for the JCOQ, but the exterior will be restored to ensure it's structurally sound and will have a future. (Tony Chisholm)





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12 May 23, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL Chicken hobby farm provides food and fun

Lauren O'Malley The Local

"I always like new experiences and adventures," says Virgil resident Jacqueline Stearns.

Which might explain why the busy mother of five kids between the ages of 10 and 18 has a chicken coop in her back yard.

An educational assistant with the District School Board of Niagara, Stearns says, "one school I worked at had hatched eggs they'd gotten from a co-op for the classroom. I thought, 'I've always wanted to try having chickens, so we took in seven 12-week-old meat birds."

"My dad started to help me make a coop with the kids," she recalls. "We were trying to timately wanted laying hens, so and buy it at the grocery store we decided we should start from this is what we're getting. The scratch. As we were building it my husband said, 'that doesn't look like a one-season coop."

The family's original flock wasn't meant to last long. Meat chickens are genetically engineered to mature quickly and in such a way as to make them not viable for anything other than their intended purpose. Their breasts and legs grow so disproportionately large they can't even walk after a certain point. "We slaughtered the meat birds with my dad's help," says Stearns. "I did the whole thing with one bird, I had the tears about this being the other end of it. I thought it was important



Renae with Eliot Stearns play with the chicks that will one day be food on their table. (Photo supplied)

use an old swing set but we ul- that the kids know when we go do that as much as possible and kids took part in the process, in bits and pieces," she says.

> "My son used one rooster for a biology project, dissecting the bird to see how things work."

> They wanted more birds, longer term, and not only because they had a lovely coop to fill. The family had discovered the joys of chicken-keeping. "I've quite fallen in love with it," says Stearns. "It's not too much work - you just have to feed and water them and give them a little bit of love."

> They borrowed an incubator from school, and hatched a friend's chickens' fertilized eggs. "We got a few more off Kijiji from people who didn't want to overwinter them," says Stearns. "Those ones were laying eggs before our little ones started, at Christmas time."

> Evidently the enthusiasm is contagious. "We have started a ripple effect. It's been neat because I've talked to some parents who are thinking about taking hatchlings," says Stearns. "I think it's part of an ongoing trend of people in society trying to eat healthier and take care of themselves. A trend of raising your own food."

> She also believes more people are wanting to know where their food comes from, and are eating less processed food. "We still go out to McDonald's and stuff like that, but I like the idea that I'm making our own food from scratch. I've always tried to

teach the kids to do the same," says Stearns, who now lives in the house her parents brought her to as a newborn. She and her family moved there from Mississauga 12 years ago. "Our property backs onto Four Mile Creek," she says. "I like having the wilds around us, so the kids can go out and play in the conservation area."

Last summer the family shared their passion with an entire camp. "We went to a summer camp as a family, in the role of looking after the staff, which consisted of high school and university students," recalls Stearns. "It can be hard for kids to be away from home for 10 weeks. My husband and I acted like the mom and the dad for the staff," she says.

"We brought an incubator and fertilized eggs to the camp. The campers would monitor the eggs - they were like little mother hens. The last week of family camp, the little kids got to hold the hatchlings. The birds almost became like therapy chickens for the kids who missed their families - they would play with them and cuddle them."

Stearns finds time to try new things often. "We like to experiment like pioneers. We ask ourselves, 'can we do this, how does it work out?" They make bread often, and have taken to sprouting grains and grinding them to make sprouted bread. "Last winter I did some research and learned about sprouting wheatgrass. Now my family complains about the kitchen counter being taken over with my growing experiments."

The family also raises monarchs, and grows their own vegetables, she adds.

In the ongoing spirit of learning and empowerment, Stearns has shared the responsibility of the chickens evenly. "The kids helped out at the beginning, and they still do," she says. Their flock now consists of several different breeds, from the classic barnyard mixes to Silkies; Rhode Island Reds to at me when I cut the grass." Australorps. They tried some fancy Polish Lace birds, known for their "rockstar" hairdos, but they didn't last long. "Their plumage makes it so they can't see predators, so all of ours got eaten by hawks. A neighbour pointed out a Cooper's hawk we could see its nest in the top



Jacob Epp and his grandson Eliot Stearns at the chicken coop Epp made for the family's hens. (Photo supplied)

of the trees."

"We don't keep roosters, to be kind to our neighbours," says Stearns. "Martin Mazza took a bunch of them — and some of our roosters we did eat."

Not far away, Mazza runs a five-acre farm off Hunter Road. He has a barnload of birds, and some that don't fit in the barn at all. His 90-odd chickens have the rule of the roost, and enjoy free-range grazing. They mingle with two Rowan and two Muscovy ducks Mazza says were dropped off on his property. "The birds are interbreeding so I can't tell what the new ones are," he says. "A dozen wild mallards come in to sleep on the pond and are gone in the morning - there is a huge ruckus for 10 minutes at sundown every day, and then everybody settles down and goes to sleep."

The hobby farmer says two Canadian geese have appeared every spring for eight or nine years to nest and have goslings. "Geese make me nervous. They're territorial and they hiss

Mazza has had chickens for about 15 years. "The idea was to keep my dad active," he says. "He checks on the chickens in the morning, collects the eggs — it keeps him busy and engaged. He goes a his 76-year-old father Vince,

a retired peach farmer.

notllocal.com

Ironically, Mazza says, "I don't like eggs; I don't eat eggs. This is just a hobby. Being able to share the eggs is neat. The birds are small and don't eat a lot, and as long as I keep the genders balanced it all works out nicely."

He goes on to further describe his father's focus. "My dad enjoys it — it reminds him of back home in Italy. My mom likes the social aspect," he says. "My mother brings out the cookies to anybody who comes by for eggs. It's costing us money but it gives them something to do."

The owner of Italian Pizza and Subs also grows his own vegetables, using the tomatoes and eggplant on the sandwiches he sells in his local hotspot. Last year he had 45 tomato plants, and between 60 and 80 each of eggplant and pepper plants, he says.

"Last fall, I didn't clean out the 75-foot by 25-foot vegetable garden," says Mazza. "Instead, I made a little chicken door in the fence around it, and in a two-week period, the birds cleaned out the whole plot, eating every last plant. Then I tilled the whole thing, and gave them access again. I'm really looking forward to the garden few times a day," he says of this year, to see if my experiment worked."

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THE NOTL LOCAL

notllocal.com May 23, 2019 Only limit to world of miniatures is imagination

Penny Coles The Local

Linda McDermid, crebe whatever they want it painted. to be.

The two ra-on-the-Lake a larger group, but more that sometime come in recently just themselves, that test their imaginations and provide them creativity.

tiny worlds to life, and ocenough to find somewhere to display them. they call School Daze, was donated to the NOTL holds a few of their smaller projects.

Part of the pleasure of she says. their hobby is scavenging for tiny little bits of materials make is from things peo- library to make some of time explaining why she's and imagining how they can be reused - they find their ter. "Miniaturists are the pump to stand outside a miniatures. treasures in dollar stores, hardware stores, and in regular household garbage.

waste paper basket beside could make with it." For Cindy Carter and the teacher's desk. Look closely and you'll see it's ally have a project they're ating a miniature world one of those little plastic working on together. working on now is a repli- any special skills, we'd be someone at the desk, or is an escape into fantasy, milk packets you get in They'll meet, talk about ca wine barrel, with little interested in learning from call 904-468-2023. where that tiny world can restaurants, which she's the design, and what mice as people.

Niaga- a miniature world, can be brush," says Carter — and finished," says Carter. women made of the plastic pull then they'll go away and "Maybe we can give it to have been meeting week- tabs from a juice or cream spend hours at home, im- a winery in exchange for ly for about a decade, at container. The round plas- mersed in the miniature some wine," she jokes. the beginning, as part of tic disks with little legs worlds they're creating. pizza boxes make great ta- time she spends on her back was donated to Pet working on little projects bles once they're painted, hobby an outlet for stress. Valu as a raffle prize, and says McDermid.

with hours of pleasurable terial called foamcore, a shop is and sit for hours. ety, says Carter. But most dollar store find, which is It's my happy place. I can of their projects adorn Their hobby brings light, easy to work with be upset about something shelves in their homes and and can be cut into what- when I start working, workshops, pleasant recasionally, they are lucky ever shape they require. and hours later, when I'm minders of the fun they've The wooden desks in the done, I'll have forgotten had creating them. school room are foamcore, what I was upset about." One of their favourites, says McDermid, and the a 1950s-era school room metal parts that make the so many different skills online sites devoted to legs are made from card- you learn from making miniatures, and from their board file folders painted miniatures," says McDer-Public Library, and sits on black. Clothing for that mid, who lists dressmaktop of a glass cabinet that project was made from ing, sculpting, painting kits, but mostly we use fabric, but it's just as often and building furniture as our imagination and created from bits of paper, some of the ones she's ac- whatever bits and pieces

> best recyclers. We reuse general store. everything. We see things

For example, in the tive. We look at something she quilts, it's in miniature. school room, there is a and think of what we

each wants to do - "Lin-Or plates on a table, in da is Picasso with a paint we'll do with it when we're

"I can go into the room in earned \$2,000 for the Ni-They also use a ma- my house where my work- agara Falls Humane Soci-

complished. They've even we can find," says Mc-"Almost everything we used the 3-D printer at the Dermid, who has a hard ple throw away," says Car- their minis, such as a gas drawn to the world of



The two women usu- tures," she says.

"I don't know what

An exquisite doll house Carter considers the Carter made a few years

They get their inspi-"I love that there are ration from books, from imagination, they say.

"Sometimes we use

"Remember the Eaton's Carter says she used to windows at Christmas? from a different perspec- be a quilter - now when They weren't in miniature, but they created a kind of fantasy that drew you into another world. Miniatures are like that. They allow you to be anywhere you want to be in your imagination."

> The women would like to build a club again, to have a few members with whom they can exchange ideas and skills, to come up with new themes, and learn from each other.

> "Just having a group theme would be good, and then we can work at home on the pieces," says Mc-Dermid.

They meet Wednesday afternoons at the library, and would like to continue that tradition.

905.984.5522

"Any craft you enjoy, experienced, you just have things. We're not experts suggest contacting the li-

"You don't have to be them," says McDermid.

If anyone is interested you can use it in minia- to be interested in making in forming a club, they The project they are ourselves. If anybody has brary, either by talking to

13



Linda McDermid and Cindy Carter display some of their work at the library, including a flower girl and her cart. (Penny Coles)



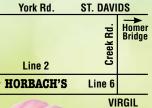
School Daze, one of the miniature creations by Linda Mc-Dermid and Cindy Carter, is on display at the NOTL Public Library.(Penny Coles)



Mini mice, created by Linda McDermid and Cindy Carter, live in a tiny wine barrel also of their creation. (Photo supplied)



Located at 909 Generation 9 -		York Rd.	ST. D
Located at 808 Concession 2 —			
between Line 6 & Line 7	onc.2		
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VEX Robotics Competition 2019

their inquiry and learning through the building and Robotics systems.

Students used their technological skills and learned how to construct and code their personal robot to perform various tasks such as lifting objects and maneuvering itself through a maze course.

To close Catholic Education week, eight students robots.

The Grade 8 students at ventured off to Our Lady of St. Michael demonstrated Fatima Catholic School in Grimsby to take part in the VEX Robotics competition. manipulation of the VEX Students applied their STEM concepts and displayed their skills in working with one another, and alongside other teams to perform various tasks and challenges that require thinking and hands on application.

> Students were successful at the competition and had a fun day working with their

Talent Show

ly held a Celebration of Tal- dances. ents. Grade 8 students Mateo. Theo, and Liam G. emceed through the decades, and the event and every class brought their range of talent off with a classroom 'stomp' to the stage.

The variety of unique performances and talents on well attended with our two display was remarkable. Singing songs, reciting poems, playing instruments such as everyone enjoying the energy the ukulele and the record-

St. Michael School recent- ers, and the dances...so many

The Grade 7s danced Grade 8 classes topped it all and a flash mob.

The talent show was very shows, morning and afternoon. The crowd was lively, **Irish Dancing** This year the Irish a Riverdance-inspired Dance Club at St. Mi- dance which included

ry School was a hit with reel and a light jig. students.

through May.

and excitement of the students. learned and performed tion of the dance.

chael Catholic Elementa- two beginner pieces, a

The junior club mem-Both the primary and bers showcased a more junior members showed complex slipjig, comtheir dedication to Irish bined with Pink's A Dance by attending many Million Dreams, giving practices from January them the opportunity to express their creativity The primary club during a freestyle por-





Attending the robotics competition were Sophie Mc-Clure, Luke Skubel, Jack Friesen and Shay Vidal. (Photos supplied)



Several classes show off their dances in the Celebration of Talents held at St. Michael recently.



big thank you to all who donated. Not only did you help to empower the future generation of youth in learning they can make a difference, you also kept a significant amount of single-use plastic out of landfill. Please help students forge forward as they continue to make a difference in both their own community and the greater global community.





Stevie Pillitteri-Smith and Tommy Wilson display their Make-do project, an open-ended toy construction system employing reusable



tools with cardboard. St. Michael students used their ingenuity to build a cardboard community. (Photo supplied)



Linda Attoe, RP 905·468·0046 | www.lindaattoe.com Walk, cycle, drive to Psychotherapy in the Old Town. Free Parking. Serving the Niagara Region since 2005

Rory Smythe and Dylan Byl show off the milk bag mats made for those in need of a dry place to sleep. (Photo supplied)

notllocal.com

THE NOTL LOCAL

May 23, 2019

15

Fun at the Virgil Stampede



Bill Schulz and Rick Possebon flip burgers at the Virgil Stampede. (Cathy Wall)



Abagail Collison of NOTL has a ride on an Atkins pony at the stampede. (Fred Mercnik)



Alex Olowski holds on to Slick, a blue-tongued skink, for Gabby Froese to pet. (*Penny Coles*)







Four-year-old Nash Funk was having a great time at the Virgil Stampede, but he really wanted to win one of the big pikachu stuffed animals. His mom Amy said that would be expensive, and when Nash saw a group of teenagers later in the day, one with a goat stuffed pikachu, the youngster asked the teen if he had won it. "To Nash's surprise, the teenage boy gave him the giant stuffy to keep," said Amy. And Nash's response, she said, was, "this is the best day of my life." (Photo supplied)







Siblings Emilia and Elliott Epp and their cousin Holly Neuhof visited the face-painting booth at the Virgil Stampede Saturday before posing for a photo for their grandmother Idy Epp.



Cathy Wall, Julie Paul and June Possebon clown around while volunteering at the food booth at the Virgil Stampede. (*Penny Coles*)

THE NOTL LOCAL

Outlet mall great place for socializing dogs

Lauren O'Malley The Local

Doobie is a threemonth-old dog with a lot of responsibilities.

Steffanie Bjorgan, which mastered already. means she needs certain

and visitors at Red Roof Re- at Niagara outdoor mall, stray from their materialis- running conversation with treat, which offers programs where she is exposed to tic endeavours to pat some the puppy as he lets her and respite care to those a wide variety of people with special needs.

The German shepherd to be a delightful family pet, says, "bringing the dog to pup belongs to Moe and which she seems to have the mall has cost me a lot of remember the stores."

Along with receiving liability to be allowed to bie goes on family outings a week. "It's good for the and then he invites them "hang on Mom, I'm just pat-

and situations. Not usually Doobie is also required much of a shopper, Steffanie member the interaction panionably what she smells, monev."

levels of training and re- professional training, Doo- bie to the mall at least once make eye contact with him,

reality," he says.

"People probably re- own path, asking her comwith the dog more than they where she wants to go.

A shopper stops to pat Doobie on a trip to the Outdoor Collection at Glendale, where Moe Bjorgan likes to take the pup to not just people, but other not normally connect, but socialize. (Lauren O'Malley)

sniff around and choose her "Your puppy is ador-

He watches for people able," is heard often. Many Moe says he takes Doo- who look at the dog and stop to comment. One person on her cell phone says, ting a dog."

Noting the predominantly female interest in the puppy, Moe says, "now that Owen (his adult son) is sinpuppy to the mall."

her, Moe answers, "you can. That's why she's here." And they thank him before and after petting the pup. Everyone who stops expresses enormous gratitude, as though patting a dog was needed most.

"We take her to seniors' for example," says Moe, citing other ways they work at socializing the dog and getting her used to any number of scenarios.

resistible.

dogs as well," says Moe, as the dogs are an icebreaker."

fraternize with the residents to the Outlet Collection dog, and good for people to to pat her. Moe keeps up a they approach an enormous grey Cane Corso. The two dogs have a civil sniff, with the other owner saying he, too, brings his dog to the mall for socializing. The Outlet Collection encourages people to shop with their four-legged friends, with the majority of stores boasting a sticker that defines them as dog-friendly.

> Outlet Collection's marketing and tourism manager Carly Rupcic says the mall has been dog-friendly since it opened its doors gle, he enjoys bringing the five years ago. "We like to encourage people to bring When people ask to pet their whole families to the mall," she says, "and for many people that includes their dogs." She also says they didn't want people to feel guilty leaving their dogs at home while shopping, and stresses the safety facjust exactly the thing they tor as well. "We don't want people leaving their pets in cars while they shop, so this homes, to visit my mother, is another way to prevent that." She says their security staff also monitor for pets in cars.

> Rupcic, the owner of two Great Pyrenees dogs, "How can you not pet says she brings them to the that cute dog," asks another mall to socialize, and finds person, leaning into the ir- that extends to people. "You often see people having a "I bring her here to meet conversation who might





underway Gwynne Giles, Derek Sher-

president, and Paul McHoull the Bowling Club, the oldest in Canada. After its 1877 bethe Queen's Royal Niagara Hotel, the club moved to a green at the corner of Regent and Johnson Streets in 1922, where it remained until its move to the community centre in 2011. The new location has the benefit of a regulation-size green with an artificial surface. The club has a full slate of activities, including bowling and socializing. For more information visit notlbowls.ca. (Fred Mercnik)

Horticultural Society members share their plants

Cathy Abbott holds Martha Washington geraniums she's selling at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society plant sale, a fundraiser for the organization. (Fred Mercnik)

Church fundraising

Mattison Innis and Leslie Hockey, students of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, sell plants at St. Mark's Church at a fundraising event that helps maintain the historic church building. (Fred Mercnik)



Lawn bowling

vill, Mary Watson, David Janaszik (who piped in club members), Elly Warren, club celebrate the opening of Niagara-on-the-Lake ginning on the grounds of



FORT GEORGE MURDER MYSTERY

May 24 @ 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Murder most un-FORT-unate at Fort George with a brand new Mystery! Major Blue is looking for some keen detectives to help uncover a murderer in a classic "who done it?" with an historical twist. Explore the Fort to uncover clues and interview suspects with hopes of finding the guilty party. A special event rate applies. For more information, call Parks Canada at 905-468-6614.

THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

May 25 @ 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Community Garage Sale, multiple homes in the Village. Niagara-on-the-Lake: Niagara Stone Rd. and Garrison Village Dr.

FORT GEORGE -**ARTILLERY DAY**

May 25 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Join us to celebrate The Canadian Royal Regiment of Artillery's 303rd Birthday! From the War of 1812 to World War II and beyond Fort George will be celebrating with a BANG! Cannons and mortars will roar to life with firing demonstrations along with specialized programing that will highlight the "Heavy Metal" from past to present.

25 YEARS OF STYLE & BEAUTY FASHION SHOW

May 26 @ 12 - 5 p.m.

Celebrating Niagara Pumphouse's 25th anniversary at the Hilton Garden Inn, 500 York Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake. This year's fashion show will be recognizing women of ageless beauty. In addition to showcasing fashion, the event will be professionally M/C'd and music will be provided by a DJ. Tickets: \$75. A charitable tax receipt for \$35 will be issued. Reserve a table for you and up to 7 of your friends by calling or visiting the Niagara Pumphouse OR Purchase an individual seat and share a table with new friends.

FAMILY FRIENDLY ART STUDIO

May 26 @ 1 - 3 p.m.







Sunday, May 26

Message: Kevin Băyne Title: This is Church

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Drop in at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre to make your own artwork. An opportunity for the family to explore art and get creative. Families are encouraged to see the exhibition in the gallery and then get their hands messy working on their own artwork in the studio. 247 Ricardo St.

FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS

May 27 @ 2 - 3 p.m.

On the third Monday of the month the Niagara Historical Museum offers a free community day and the popular Famous & Infamous biography series open to all. On May 27 the discussion will be about Theodore Roosevelt.

NOTL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

May 28 @ 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane. Speaker: Darrell Bley. Darrell will explain climate change better than it has been explained before, and what it means for gardening. A speaker not to be missed.

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GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE May 25 & May 26 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 20 Coach Dr., NOTL

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Royal, 56 Shun, 57 Cons. 49 Llama, 51 Burst, 53 Algal, 54 46 Timers, 47 Mists, 48 A shot, Cod, 40 Urn, 43 Ret, 45 Clever, 33 Slop, 34 Reinforce, 35 Ive, 36 ent, **30** Remy, **31** L C D, **32** Out, **25** Lon, **27** A-T V, **28** The pres-11 Diana, 12 Ogden, 13 Needy, Dans, 9 Abstinence, 10 Deputy, O'Hara, 7 Aerobic exercise, 8

Legendary, 4 Know, 5 Treble, 6

(Abbr.) Hall amphibian? 9 Enhancement **50** Batter's stat. 14 Country singer/songwriter

- 45 Thin pancake **46** The Volunteer State
- **47** Wooden hammer

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12 Poet --- Nash 13 Wanting

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8 Aykrovd and Quayle

10 Second-in-command

25 Wolf Man --- Chaney

30 --- Martin, cognac

31 Flat panel TV type

9 Teetotalism

27 Off-roader

28 Now

11 Actress --- Rigg

MASONRY

lake ---**15** S American flightless bird **16** Light gray-brown 17 How to start a pudding race? 18 Bring in **19** Garden tool 20 Slant 21 Marx or Warners, e.g. 22 Adjusted 23 Longing 24 Place for experiments Series of church 25 intercessions 26 Prom partner

29 Sarcastic praise

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ACROSS

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Pitcher's error

- 33 Ugly encounter
- 34 Oil well equipment
- 37 Arc
- 38 Apollo 11 lander
- **39** New in Tijuana
- 41 Arid
- 42 Stand-in
- 44 Wept

52 A long way **55** Castaway locations **56** Bathtub residue 57 Where to find Pikes Peak (Abbr.) 58 Trim 59 Rent 60 Saturnalia **61** "Peace on earth, good will --**62** Aka C C C P 63 College sporting org. **64** Commence **65** Court dividers 66 Unload for cash

DOWN

1 Dictatorial **2** Up Fabled 3 4 Recognize Junior's voice 5 Vivien Leigh's G W T W 6 role 7 Strenuous activity

32 Belonging to us 33 Pigswill **34** Strengthen "--- Got No Strings ... " 35 (Pinnochio) 36 Deity 40 Gravetop vase **43** On a pension (Abbr.) 45 Brainy 46 Stopwatches, e.g. 47 Light fogs 48 --- in the arm **49** South American ruminant 51 Pop 53 Kind of pond bloom 54 Kingly 56 Ostracize 57 Drawbacks



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LOCAL SPORTS

Spring racing continues despite weather



Afternoon Delight, sail number 909, won the opening Furline Series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club. Afternoon Delight is owned by Chris Bowron but skippered by Rob Vander Perk. The cool, wet conditions did not hinder any races, but one race was cancelled due to too much ice at The River's mouth.

Furline Series Results:

- First:
- Afternoon Delight – skippered by Rob Vander Perk

Second:

- Cap'n Crunch – skippered by
- Josh Wiwcharyk

Third:

- Rampant
- skippered by Levi Harper
 (Photo supplied)

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