



Coyotes,  
art and  
music  
collide  
**page 11**

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## Anything for a good cause

Kate Fish, principal of Crossroads Public School, wraps up a Rankin Run fundraiser Tuesday by agreeing to have her head shaved — for a price. Vice-principal Melora Brewster watches as Grade 8 student Claire Friesen wields the razor. Fish also good-naturedly agreed to have a pie tossed in her face the day of the Rankin Run. Although the donations were still coming in at press time, the school had raised more than \$13,000. For photos of the Rankin Run event see page 24.

## Where do you want to see Pride crosswalk?

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The town is planning a survey to determine where a rainbow crosswalk should be located in town, as well as preferable sites for five rainbow benches.

There will be a choice of three locations offered for the crosswalk, and an opportunity to offer an other alternative.

In January, during the town's 2022 budget discussions, it was agreed that \$15,000 be put aside for a Pride crosswalk, to be located somewhere outside the heritage district — at one time, the intersection of King and Queen Streets was discussed but dropped.

During budget discussions Coun. Gary Bur-

roughs asked that the rainbow crosswalk be deferred until 2023, to allow for more public discussion. Although there was public consultation on social media, "it didn't have a huge response," Burroughs said, and there had been no discussion with the public about where the crosswalk would be located. Burroughs intended his motion to defer the decision until budget discussions of 2023, "once we have more detail on location." Instead, his motion was changed to include consultation about the location of the crosswalk, as well as five rainbow benches, to be scattered around the municipality, but not to put off installations until 2023.

**Continued on page 2**

## Shaw hits home run with *Damn Yankees*

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Actor Drew Plummer received a promotion this weekend, from the supporting cast of the Washington Senators to starter. Taking advantage of the opportunity, he knocked the ball out of the park.

Plummer, slated to be part of the ensemble in the role of Vernon in *Damn Yankees*, stepped into the lead as Joe Hardy in place

of James Daly Saturday evening.

The Sheridan College graduate played Hardy with a convincing sense of wonder at finding himself the talk of the town for his prowess at the plate and in the field. Of course, Hardy should feel in awe of his own abilities, as he only recently morphed from 40-something Joe Boyd, a fan so dedicated to the Washington nine that he would, in his words, "go to hell for his

team."

Plummer wowed the audience from the moment he made his entrance during the musical's second number. To the sound of the orchestra playing *Goodbye Old Girl*, Plummer's Hardy magically replaced Boyd, played by Shane Carty, and confidently danced his way to the edge of the stage. His face beaming with ebullience, Plummer pushed his baritone to its limits and received a loud ovation from

theatre goers.

Plummer's was one of a number of standout performances in the Faustian musical about a dedicated fan of the hapless Senators. Frustrated with his team's continuous futility, he sells his soul for a chance for his beloved Senators to beat the New York Yankees for the pennant.

It is the mysterious Applegate with whom Boyd makes the deal to transform into the slugger Hardy. The

sly, oily Applegate, the devil in human form, appears out of nowhere to offer the real estate agent a chance to save the struggling Senators. Boyd takes the deal, insisting on an escape clause, and he leaves his wife Meg to join the team.

Hardy quickly finds a spot on his hometown team, impressing Senators manager Van Buren (Jay Turvey, in a performance that seemed to come right out of a 1950s baseball film) from the mo-

ment he steps into the dug-out. Hardy's new teammates are equally excited at the prospect of the team finally adding a long-ball hitter good enough to take on the hated Yanks.

Mike Nadajewski ate up the stage as Applegate. The veteran of eight years at Stratford Festival played the role with unbridled glee. His spotlight performance in *Those Were the Good Old*

**Continued on page 3**

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# Survey offers three locations outside heritage district

Continued from page 1

Monday night's council meeting included a brief discussion about the crosswalk and benches, and it was agreed the survey will be launched in June and available for two weeks, since most responses come in that time frame, soon after a survey is posted and advertised, councillors were told.

The town has received a grant to fund one rainbow bench to be installed in the Queen Street area. The bench and paint have been purchased according to the requirements of the grant. Funding is available within the operations department operating budget to fund the other four benches, and the \$15,000 was approved for the rainbow crosswalk, a staff report says.

As directed by council during that January 2022 meeting, a public survey regarding the placement of the rainbow crosswalk and benches has been developed, through consultation between staff and the town's Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity Committee.

The survey questions are:

1. The following locations have been suggested as potential areas for a rainbow crosswalk. Please select all of your preferred locations.

- a) Intersection of King Street and Front Street
- b) Intersection of Niagara Stone Road and Anderson Lane
- c) Intersection of Wellington Street and Picton Street
- d) Other: (please specify or leave comments)

The intersection of Queen Street and Mississauga Street was originally a fourth potential location, but was dropped due to the upcoming construction work in that area, the town staff report explains.

2. The following locations have been suggested as potential areas for rainbow benches in Niagara-on-the-Lake: Mary Street and King Street (Old Town), Centennial Park (Virgil), Queenston Firehall (Queenston), Sparky's Park (St. Davids), and Niagara on the Green Park (Glendale).

Are you in favour of these locations?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Other: (please specify or leave comments)



Town CAO Marnie Cluckie, Emily Klassen, Lenore Klassen and Steven Hawkins from TD Bank, Pride Niagara's Darryl Dyball and Lord Mayor Betty Disero raise the Pride flag at the town hall to celebrate Pride Month. (Town photo)

The survey also gives instructions for those who are interested in making a donation toward these projects.

After the two-week survey, staff is expected to report on the results and move forward with the

installation process soon after.

The town expects to use the same rainbow crosswalk design as in other municipalities, the report said.

Burroughs questioned whether staff is knowl-

edgeable about creating surveys — he indicated that it asks where the crosswalk should be located, not whether people agree there should be one, although that was not what council directed staff to do — and after assur-

ances from CAO Marnie Cluckie, said "I think we should spend some time getting a good, unbiased survey, whatever the topic." He added he knows that will be the case with the involvement of the CAO.

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# Plummer as *Yankees* starter shows depth of ensemble

Continued from page 1

*Days* was a comic tour de force. Nadajewski drew in the audience, lying cross-legged on the stage by the end of the number, leaving them begging for more.

And Nadajewski had great evil chemistry with Kimberley Rampersad as Lola, his female assistant whom he enlists to ensure Hardy is unable to enact the escape clause, set to expire near the end of the baseball season, on Sept. 24.

Rampersad's Lola is the temptress, ensuring her co-conspirator Applegate she is up to the challenge he has set for her. Rampersad takes the spotlight on *A Little Brains, A Little Talent*, outlining exactly how she plans to woo the hapless Hardy. And she returns for the Latin-inflected *Whatever Lola Wants*, her response to Hardy's rebuff of her initial advances.

Rampersad brings the right amount of sexiness and seduction to the role of Lola. Whether dancing triumphantly on a bed or reclining sultrily on a divan, it's easy to feel Hardy is doomed to miss the best-before date on that escape clause and spend the rest of his days in a fiery domain, far from his wife, who is still pining for her lost love.

As the musical enters Act 2, it's Plummer's Hardy who pines for Meg. As the long baseball season drags on he misses her more and more. Plummer brings a sweetness to his scenes with Patty Jamieson's Meg, pulling at the audience's heartstrings.

As well, the duet between Hardy and Lola on *Two Lost Souls* is a show-stopper. Plummer matches Lola one fleet-footed move after another, with the ensemble providing support throughout.

The set design by Cory Sincennes is like an extra character in *Damn Yankees*. From the opening set, a wall of old magazine ads placing the musical clearly in the middle of the 1950s, to the stunning, fluidly-flowing baseball stadium, it's a marvel to watch the actors interact with their surroundings.



The cast of *Damn Yankees*, on stage at the Shaw Festival Theatre until Oct. 9. (Photos by Michael Cooper)

One has to give stage manager Beatrice Campbell and her crew much credit for the way everything comes together with perfect timing.

As well, the choreography by Allison Plamondon is wonderful, especially on the large ensemble numbers, such as *The Game*, when the nine members of the Senators gather in the clubhouse to sing of their exploits with the opposite sex.

For its 60th season, Shaw Festival has hit a home run with *Damn Yankees*, right down to its choice of understudies such as Plummer, who was able to pinch-hit for Daly and capture the pennant this weekend.

*Damn Yankees* runs at the Shaw Festival Theatre until Oct. 9. For information about Shaw Festival tickets, please see shawfest.com.



Mike Nadajewski as Applegate and Kimberley Rampersad as Lola in *Damn Yankees*.

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# NOTL short a nurse practitioner at hospital site

Intended to provide service to those not in family health team

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Coun. Sandra O'Connor is concerned about the lack of a nurse practitioner in town to look after residents who are not members of the Niagara North Family Health Team. O'Connor raised the issue at a recent committee-of-the-whole meeting,

saying she had been asked by residents whether that role would be filled. However, she was quickly shut down, told there are two nurse practitioners in town, Erin Jarvis at the former hospital offices, and Jane Carson in Virgil. Doing some follow-up research, she realized there is some confusion about those two nurse

practitioners, who only look after patients who are members of the family health team and have doctors in town. Those who don't were in the past able to see a third nurse practitioner who had an office in the former hospital building, but who was employed by Niagara Health, not the family health team. She could see anyone on a walk-in basis, including those who didn't have doctors in town, as well as



Coun. Sandra O'Connor said at Monday's council meeting she wants councillors to advocate for a nurse practitioner funded by the Niagara Health system. (Screenshot)



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visitors, but she went on maternity leave and didn't return. Niagara Health has never filled that position, O'Connor explained.

At Monday's council meeting, O'Connor did her best to clear up the confusion.

"There is a waiting list to get a doctor in NOTL, and to have access to their nurse practitioner, and there are over three million tourists a year that visit our town," she said. While some council members were confused because they regularly see Jarvis or Carson, that's because they're rostered members of the family health team, O'Connor said.

"We need additional medical services in NOTL."

She brought up the issue in the first place because NOTL pays a tax levy to the Niagara Health system, primarily as funding the St. Catharines hospital site.

"To my knowledge," said O'Connor, "NHS has not informed the community of the withdrawal of this service. There is nothing on the NHS website about this service. We pay a specific tax to the Niagara Health system, but we don't have any services in town."

What is the town getting for its money, she asked, and while health care is not the jurisdiction of municipalities, and should not be providing health care, "we should advocate to ensure that our town has the appropriate health care infrastructure that we need to thrive."

Municipalities have a role to play in advocating for the health-care needs of their community, she added. "This is what we need to do."

O'Connor told councillors she will be making a motion next meeting regarding municipal advocacy for the restoration of the nurse practitioner formerly provided by the Niagara Health system.



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# Farm worker advocates looking for WSIB changes

## Local Staff

On Injured Workers Day, June 1, Niagara residents are calling on Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) to take urgent action, to bring an end to the destructive practice of "deeming," and to ensure proper compensation for injured migrant workers and their families.

Local advocate Jane Andres has told the story of Jeel Stewart in The Local — in May, 2008, he was employed for his second year at Mori Nurseries in Niagara-

on-the-Lake when his left hand was crushed by a forklift in a workplace accident. He was sent back to Jamaica, where he received physiotherapy and was partially compensated by WSIB for two years. In 2010, WSIB terminated his compensation and physiotherapy on the basis that he could conceivably find work at a gas station in Niagara because he still had one working hand, despite the fact that he lives in Jamaica.

While employers received billions of dollars in rebate funds from WSIB this year,

injured workers like Stewart and their families continue to suffer, unable to afford even the basic necessities, says Andres. Except for a brief period, the Stewart family has had no income for food, rent, or school for their children.

Unable to work or provide for his family of seven, Andres says, he has struggled with severe depression. Due to constant pain and stress, his health has deteriorated significantly in recent years. He has developed diabetes and cannot afford adequate nutrition. He has de-

veloped serious cardiac issues and has been hospitalized three times in the last two months, which has added to the severe stress he has faced daily for the past 14 years.

"All migrant workers are valued members of our community. They deserve the same rights as Canadians, which is impossible under these temporary programs," says Andres, creator of Niagara Workers Welcome, a local organization that works to connect local migrant farm workers with a caring community through wel-

come bags and events. "We are asking WSIB to end the harmful practice of deeming and to provide proper compensation to Jeel Stewart and his family immediately. This is about creating healthy, safe communities where all neighbours are welcome and valued, without exception."

Andres and other local residents who support Stewart are sending a letter to WSIB president and CEO Jeffrey Lang, as well as local representatives, to call for immediate, urgent, and life-saving changes.

To donate to the Stewart family and learn more about how to support migrant workers injured in Niagara, visit [neverlosehope.ca](https://neverlosehope.ca)

For more information about Stewart, visit <https://notllocal.com/2022/04/15/husband-father-friend-more-than-a-migrant-worker>

There are also two YouTube videos available that share the story of Jeel Stewart, which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/pyDB1UxymR0>, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtXirXyAn18>

## Bike shop back in business



George Schachtschneider and Ken Eden show off the 40 bikes received at last Saturday's drop-off in Virgil. They will be refurbished and made available to farm workers as soon as possible, says Eden. (Photos by Jane Andres)



The Virgil Bikes for Farmworkers shop received a special trike during their drop-off Saturday morning, and when Jane Andres saw it, she knew who would appreciate it, and called Colin, who was able to pick it up on his lunch break. After using it for the season he will take it home to St. Mary, Jamaica, for his wife to use when going to the market.



Jeel Stewart after his 2008 injury. (Photo submitted)

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# EDITORIAL

## If you haven't already voted, it's time for a decision

It's all over but the voting. Thursday is the day we vote for a provincial government. Hopefully everyone has received their voting card — it tells us where to go to vote. If you don't have a voting card, visit the Elections Ontario website at <https://www.elections.on.ca/en.html> to find your polling station. Go there on Thursday, between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., with identification that shows your name and address, and you will be able to vote. That's the easy part. Although most voters likely

already know how they will mark their ballot, for some, there may be last-minute jitters about doing what is best for the province, and for them. We have choices. Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford wants to remain the premier of the province, and is being challenged by NDP leader Andrea Horwath, Liberal Steven Del Duca, and the Green Party's Mike Schreiner. Del Duca and Mike Schreiner were pretty much unknown before the lead-up to the election, although they've

both worked hard at overcoming that. They've spoken in public more than Ford, as have their riding candidates. Ford's favourite slogan is get it done, and he tells us as often as he can he and his PC candidates will get it done. As for what that "it" may be, he has promised housing starts, new hospitals across the province — not so much about where he will get the doctors and nurses to work in them — as well as new highways and more public transit. Del Duca has had to work at getting voters to forget the

debacle of the last provincial Liberal government led by Kathleen Wynne, a difficult history to overcome. He too is promising more new homes, and says he plans to hire more doctors and nurses. He will scrap any plans for new highways, instead offering \$1 rides on public transit across the province. Andrea Horwath also promises more housing builds, both affordable homes and rental units, and help for first-time purchasers in the form of loans for those who qualify. She

has focused on health-care improvements, including hiring more nurses, and she would also bin the new highways Ford wants to build. Mike Schreiner has fared well in debates and public appearances, coming across as committed, smart and articulate, but can only hope for a party win of a few more seats than last election. He too talks about affordable housing, health care and transportation, including building more bus lanes, and not surprisingly has a comprehensive plan to address climate

change, an important topic pretty much absent from most election discussions. So those are our choices in a nutshell, but that doesn't help us know who is most likely to keep their promises. We'll know soon who will be given the opportunity to try. At this point, all that's left for us to do, if we haven't already, is get out and vote. To borrow the words of Doug Ford, get it done.

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

## Places of biodiversity, important ecosystems can also be dangerous



**Owen Bjorgan**  
Special to The Local

During small talk with someone last week, I asked the question, "what is something that scares the daylights out of you, but you have always wanted to do?" This individual's answer was skydiving, and fair enough. When the question was deflected back to me, I pinpointed certain areas of the world I want to travel to for ecotourism and nature documentary

purposes, but the countries are deemed just too unsafe due to the human factor. A large proportion of the world's most naturally spectacular and biodiverse areas are located in developing countries closer to the equator. Sadly, many of these countries do not have impressive track records with sound governance. Such corruption and societal instability fuels what the public and visitors see at ground level: higher rates of poverty generally correlating with a higher incidence of crime. Kidnapping, disappearances, sexual assault, theft, and scamming can all run rampant where people are struggling to make ends meet.

For an example to answer my own question, take the Ondo-Pacific nation of Papua New Guinea. Sitting snug on the equator, this steamy tropical landscape contains towering mountains, lush tropical rainforests, 15 active volcanoes, massive mangrove rivers and coral reefs. The island is known for its bizarre and endemic collection of showy, impossibly colourful birds known as birds of paradise. There are still isolated tribes of people up in the forested mountains, remarkably uninfluenced by the effects of westernization. What's not to love about such a wild and precious travelling frontier? Look no further than Canada's government website, where the far-away land of Papua New Guinea has been labelled as "Exercise a high degree of caution" due to the level of serious crime. The website goes into great detail about the different types of crime, and how it can occur in both the capital city and deep in national parks. In my research of this country, I spied a curious and invig-

## Local VOICES: Nursing through COVID

**Jayne Serluca**  
Special to The Local

As I reflect over the past year, and my career as a nurse, I can see that COVID has dramatically changed my life and relationships. During the first few months of the pandemic, community healthcare shifted its assessment methods to minimizing close contact with patients. Some services may have been impacted throughout homecare as staffing shortages increased, forcing patients requiring care to be waitlisted. That being said, community nurses continued to triage, assess and support patients in any capacity possible. About a year ago, I shifted from my career as a rapid response nurse to a casual RN in pandemic response (mass immunizations). The opportunity to vaccinate the public introduced me to amazing people, and a whole new scope of practice. That was temporary, which can be seen as a very positive change because that means most of the population base is vaccinated. While one door closes another opens, and I have returned to working full time in the community as a rapid response nurse where I am an integral part of community healthcare. Fast-forward to one year later, our roles have expanded and our work load has changed. We are taking on more complex patients, and the age range of the patients we see has expanded significantly, reflecting the needs of the community. With these changes additional education is encouraged and a special level

of direct provisional care required. Although it seems like communities are returning to some sort of normalcy, patients continue to wait for tests and appointments as the system has become even more backlogged and wait times increase. Certainly, the negative impact ripples through many of my colleagues. Our profession makes up a large proportion affected by COVID. The numbers in health care are changing dramatically, and we are in more of a health care crisis than ever. Just yesterday, I was having a conversation with a mother about her daughter who is leaving the nursing profession after only four years, because she is constantly working short-staffed, without breaks, and has been put in situations where her safety (and the patient's) have been compromised. Sadly, this is becoming a common theme, and we are losing nurses at an exponential rate.

The pandemic has brought about some positive changes, and my work-life balance has improved. I have learned to place more emphasis on the needs of my family and the importance of spending quality time together. Personally, I have also come to enjoy a lack of social obligations, and no longer feel the pressure of saying yes all the time. Uncertain as to what the next year holds, I hope we see more change in a positive light. The pandemic has made our community stronger, and in some ways, more unified than ever. There has been a growing trend to support each other and continue to move forward as a whole, one positive result of very challenging times. Jayne Serluca was a Local Voice in June, 2021, when she had joined Niagara Region's immunization program to vaccinate people in our community.



Jayne Serluca spent part of the last year vaccinating people in the community, including her niece, Marla Serluca. (Photo supplied)

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake  
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## View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

Mum, a Prime series (2016 to 2019), begins with a funeral and a widow left to contend with the fragments of her life. She hopes to live more fully

even though she is surrounded by dysfunctional friends and family who are too selfish to consider the widow's needs, let alone her dreams. Your time will be well spent if you persevere till the end of the series. Donald Combe is a re-

tired 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.



Local LETTERS

## Subdivision plan does not respect heritage, reader says

I expect that to the ordinary resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the ongoing controversy and arguments concerning this complex development proposal by Solmar (now revised and under immediate appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal) and its impact on the surrounding neighbourhood and the heritage aspects of the Rand Estate are probably both very confusing and seemingly interminable.

In my opinion, the basic cause of this situation has to be that what has been proposed by the developer so far is in his self-interest only and is totally unsuitable for this site and the

immediate surrounding area, and in the opinion of most people a very poor fit that will inevitably destroy the historic property that is seen by many as both important and iconic.

Anybody who has observed Solmar and its cavalier attitude toward important heritage preservation over this issue in the past two or three years would agree that preservation of these important heritage assets is simply not part of the development plans. In the event that this developer were to be given a free hand without restraint, the Rand property would likely be razed completely to accommodate the

construction of a high-density residential development (191 units now revised and slightly reduced to 172 units) and the six-storey hotel currently on hold and any heritage value that exists would be gravely diminished and eventually disappear forever.

I am sure that this is not what the residents of NOTL would want, and it is not in the public interest as claimed by the developer. Every voice is important and needs to be heard by council and by Solmar.

Derek Collins  
NOTL

## Kidnappings, guerrilla warfare prevent economy boost

Continued from page 6

orating hiking trail named the Kokoda Trail, but its natural wonder comes coupled with trail attacks that occur in the middle of nowhere, with specific mention of rogue gangs with machetes.

Curiously, on the flip side of the world and closer to home, the same violence can happen on America's famous Appalachian Trail. So I ask, at what point does your perception of one place become the deciding factor of whether you go or not, and based on whose perception? Is the Kokoda Trail statistically safer than certain neighbourhoods in St. Catharines, Toronto, or Los Angeles at night?

Jumping continents again, there is a giant blob of green in the middle of Africa. The Congo rainforest is the second-largest region of tropical rainforest in the world, second to the Amazon. It is full of unknown species and wild rivers. It is the home to gorillas, but also guerilla warfare. Entire families and villages can be brutally wiped out overnight by inter-tribal conflicts and unofficial militant rebels. Kidnappings are common, and as a visitor from another country, it is generally a no-go zone on the international stage.

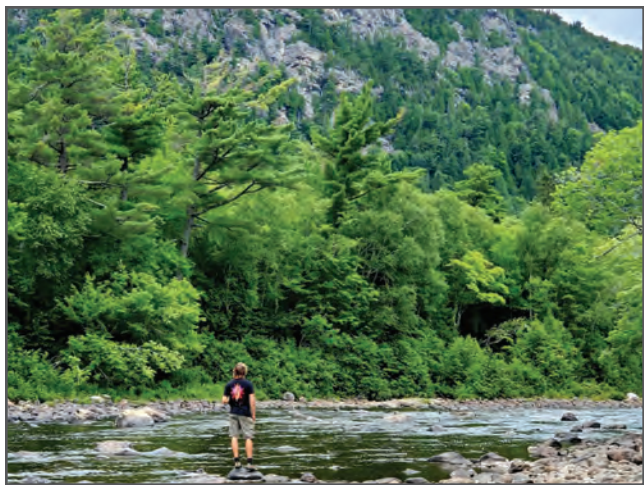
This is a sad reality and a shame to the innocent locals who live there. I am a firm believer that 99 per cent of people in the world, in any country, are inherently good and harmless. For conversation sake, the one per cent of criminal behaviour keeps a potentially healthy ecotourism industry at bay, an industry which could economically help such impoverished countries.

To play some global hopscotch for a moment, we can consider that Peru has areas of the Amazon where Indigenous tribes can attack visitors and park staff, while we also have to be mindful of dangerous drug smugglers who are trying to not be seen on the back rivers.

In China, people can simply

be detained or disappear without question due to aggressive government behaviour, which is not something I am exactly keen on. However, I would definitely be keen to explore China's sub-tropical mountains and Yangtze River gorges, containing an endangered species of dolphin and a rare type of alligator.

Full circle and back to Canadian soil, we can feel grateful that we generally live in an area of the world with social and cultural stability. We are not perfect, as human dangers can exist in Canada's wild lands, too, but on the scale of relativity, I would wager our country scores very high in the positive correlation between peaceful people and peaceful forests.



Owen Bjorgan, exploring the remote and rugged Lake Superior shorelines and canyons without any worry of human trouble.

Local LETTERS

## Brewmaster apprentice experience explained

Why would I, Wade Taylor Davis, a retired chemist and dentist, venture forth from a life in Cincinnati, and come to the Great North?

The brewmaster program at Niagara College was the bait, of course. Arriving in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I visited my old high school friend, Professor Dr. Mary Kilmer, who took me to the brewery at Niagara College, where I met several very enthusiastic professors and students. I was persuaded to apply, and was accepted into the brewmaster program, thus starting my new Canadian life in September, 2017. This also provided me with many anecdotes for my book, *The Story with Many Disasters*, to be published in the future.

When I first thought of the word "brewmaster," Bram Stoker's *Dracula* came to mind. I'm not sure why that word brought the demon into my conscience, but maybe as I write this story, it will be revealed... or not.

Possibly it's because *Dracula* was an interesting, scary creature, not unlike a brewmaster-professor. That thought came to reality in my very first class, when the professor-brewmaster noticed me and said I wouldn't be able to wear my Crocs in the brewery. Hmm, I may have known that anyway, so I stopped after the class to tell him I understood about the Crocs.

I started off by addressing him as "Jon, son." Oops! I was certainly older than him, but when I realized that I had called him son, I fumbled for an answer to make me seem less of an idiot and avoid getting off on the wrong foot, or Croc, as it happened to be. Oh, well. On to the next class, brewing ingredients or computer science. If you wonder why brewers need to take many of these different classes, I'll explain later.

You might now be thinking that this two-year, intensive program to become a brewer was all classwork and little else. Much of it involved hands-on, practical applications.

One thing, however, seemed perfect for breaking the stress of chemistry, computer science, math, and microbiology, among several other classes. That was an opportunity to visit many breweries, taking bus trips with the other 17 members of my class every

few weeks. That was something to look forward to and turned out to be a great learning experience.

A college instructor always joined us because we were students, and needed a representative from the college. Our assistant brewer, George, also came along, and brought his music to enjoy, or not, depending on your appreciation of '80s rock. My music preference was more tuned to the '60s, but I would never admit that to this group. None of them would know Jack Scott, Frankie Laine or even Gene Autry, much less what they sang. Oh, well.

The one thing that really struck me about the students was that they were all university or college graduates. In fact, as a group, they were the smartest young people I've ever known. They were there because of their passion for brewing and science, not just drinking like my college friends (not me, of course). Moreover, they accepted me as just another student on the same path they were on. I really appreciated that, and being the eternal optimist, I expected that's how it would be.

One young student was an athlete and graduate of McGill University, possibly the top Canadian university, along with the Universities of Queens and Toronto. After every exam, he would finish first and leave. I thought I should be able to be the first one finished. So, on the next test, I raced through it and was ready to get up and leave first, but you might know it, he got there a few seconds before me. I never did that "get up first" thing again.

Another amazing student was also an athlete and graduate of Queens University, with a master's degree in GIS from Edinburgh University in Scotland. He was a mapping expert, the guy you want to know when you're hoping to find that large oil deposit in Texas. He was more like me as far as the "get up first" thing; he and I would finish exams about the same time, and be the last to leave.

I could continue on about my impressive classmates, but you get the big picture; these young people were the top of the education pyramid, all 17 of them.

That brings me back to the brewmaster, the real one, named

Jon. He was English, from Birmingham, and was the son of a British diplomat. His brewing career started there, and to this day, the very first brew he created is still the best beer we make at the college; it's called English Bitter. I always have some sitting in my fridge for dull, cloudy days. Surprisingly, Jon doesn't have an English accent. He sounds like anyone from Canada, who strangely sound like me, even though I'm from Cincinnati. Go figure.

Besides English Bitter, we also made dozens of other types of beers, using recipes from German, Czech, Belgian, English, and American breweries. The French make beer, also, gracing it with a cork, but it tastes really bad. We never would make any French beer, even with a cork. Take it from me. It was horrible. Stick with their wine; it also comes with a cork.

As far as explaining what I had said earlier, about brewing students taking other non-brewing courses, I can understand why you might have to design a brewery or take a marketing course. Others, like sensory class, where you learn the tastes of various raw materials and styles of beers, are essential. History and psychology are general education courses that help broaden accumulated knowledge over time.

By the end of brewmaster training, *Dracula* does not seem so scary. He just demands and expects perfection. After all, we wouldn't drink any beer that tastes like it was made in France, would we?

Wade Taylor Davis  
NOTL

About the author: Dr. Wade Taylor Davis is a retired chemist, dentist, and brewer. He was raised in Corning, NY before attending Ohio University (B.S. in chemistry), Ohio State University (Doctor of dental surgery) and Niagara College, the only two-year graduate level brewmaster program in the world. He had an active dental practice in Cincinnati for 48 years (including two years as a U.S. Navy dentist in Holy Loch, Scotland). After migrating to Canada he now lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with his high school friend and retired Spanish professor, Dr. Mary Kilmer, his editor. Comments can be directed to him at foxteeth@gmail.com

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# Beau Chapeau celebrates 25 years on Queen Street

Mike Balsom  
The Local

All business owners wear many hats, but few can say they have done so both literally and figuratively for 25 years.

That's the case for Kevin Neufeld, whose Beau Chapeau Hat Shop celebrates its 25th anniversary as a Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake mainstay. Neufeld, his family and his staff held a celebration last week to mark the occasion, and to officially open their expanded Queen Street store, complete with a fedora room and a new custom hat shop and vintage vault acquired from a legend-

ary Toronto hat-maker.

In the mid-1990s, Neufeld and his wife Jana had been living in British Columbia. With Jana pregnant with their first son Tanner, the couple decided to move back to Niagara and were considering opening a sports memorabilia store in town. A chance stop in Seattle gave them the seed of a different idea.

"While we were there we went into a costume shop," Neufeld remembers. "I started playing around with a top hat, pretending I was Abe Lincoln. Then I was Indiana Jones, then Paul (Crocodile Dundee) Hogan. I was amazed at how

much fun it was without even having to buy anything."

Once back home, Neufeld took a job at the Pillar and Post, learning all he could about the customer experience from Si Wai Lai, who he credits for her early mentorship.

"She was a perfectionist," says Neufeld. "She taught me all about perfection, and I absorbed everything."

In 1997, a store front facing valu-mart became available. The sports memorabilia market had begun to fizzle out at that time, so Neufeld accessed his memory bank for that visit to the costume shop and the fun he had trying on hats.

Some research showed that no one locally was selling much beyond ball caps.

The self-professed country bumpkin, only 25 years old at the time, booked a trip to New York for Fashion Week and purchased his first array of men's and women's hats for the store.

Business quickly grew, and within six months Beau Chapeau had moved into a bigger space in the site of a former chocolate store at 126 Queen St.

"The two locations actually shared a bathroom," Neufeld laughs. "We closed at 5 p.m. on a Wednesday and opened at 10 a.m. the very next day. We moved everything from one store to the other through the bathroom. We were so tight on cash I couldn't afford to be closed for even a day."

A second store in Banff opened in 2001, but Neufeld says they had to close that one after 9/11 happened. They got out of Banff by the skin of their teeth, and were able to stay afloat by returning fixtures and retracting their Alberta inventory.

Four years later the NOTL store moved to its current location at 42 Queen St.

With his mind ever on expansion, when an opportunity came to double the size at his current location, Neufeld took the plunge despite the eco-



Meghan Harrison steams the brim of a fedora.

economic downturn driven by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I talked to my wife, and my staff," he says, "and I said we could either bunt, hunker down and be careful, or swing for the fence and hope for the best. So we signed the lease and began to figure out how to fill it."

Conveniently for Neufeld, The Hatter on Avenue Road in Toronto, run by the Catleugh family since 1936, was closing its doors. Neufeld called George Catleugh Jr., who along with his brothers Len and Steve were the second generation of the family in the hat business, offering to take his equipment and inventory off his hands.

"We want to continue their legacy," Neufeld says of The Hatter, whose signage and collection of old historic hats he also acquired. "George Sr. start-

ed it as a hat service in 1936. He would crisscross Toronto to pick up hats, he'd block and clean 500 to 600 hats a day. It evolved into The Hatter, and became Canada's premier men's hat shop."

Stepping into Beau Chapeau's new custom hat shop is like stepping back in time. Working steam lines and gauges line one wall, while a vast array of hat shapers and bands in every colour imaginable line the others. A sewing machine built in 1893 is still operable, while hanging overhead, a domed hat press awaits its next shaping assignment.

As enthusiastic young hat-makers Meghan Harrison and Sarah Olsen ply their trade, tourists and townsfolk stop to gawk in awe through



Kevin Neufeld displays a collection of vintage and miniature hats purchased from The Hatter of Toronto and restored using the vintage equipment newly installed in his Queen Street store. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Continued on page 9

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# Anniversary comes with expansion of services, space

Continued from page 8

the Queen Street window. The Catleughs have visited Beau Chapeau to train Harrison and Olsen on how to use the equipment.

Neufeld shows off a glass case, holding gems such as an Italian admiral's hat from the mid-1800s, a hat belonging to an Olympic gold medalist from 1928, and top hats from the turn of the twentieth century.

"We're restoring them, and trying to carry on the stories that come with them," Neufeld says. "Many of them were made with this same equipment that we have right here in our store."

"These are the very first gift cards," he continues, pointing to a set of miniature men's and women's hats and hat boxes. "If you wanted to buy someone a

hat, you bought one of those, gave them to your loved one, and they brought it back to cash in for a hat."

Neufeld says the new equipment makes the shop not just a destination for tourists, as it has been for 25 years, but also a destination for true hat-lovers and collectors.

"It's kind of like restoring a rusty old '68 Mustang with no floor boards," Neufeld explains. "We completely disassemble the hat, bathe it, clean it, steam it and re-block it back to its desired shape. Then we'll put a new band on, a new binding on the edge and a new inner lining. When it's done it is in showroom condition."

Neufeld is visibly excited about the new direction being taken by Beau Chapeau. He's committed to preserving and telling the story of the history

of hats through the restoration and hat-making process.

At the anniversary and grand opening celebration Friday, Neufeld was quick to thank his staff and his family, including his father Elmer, who during the pandemic put in eight-hour days to disassemble, sand, restore and refinish much of the cabinetry and vintage machinery. He also recognized former staff members from the store's early days who came to take part in the event.

A behatted Neufeld also gave much credit to many of his neighbours for their mentorship.

"It's the anchors," he tells The Local. "Just Christmas, Irish Design, Greaves Jams. They know what they are doing. They are pros, with a high pedigree in retail. And I've been really impressed with the Chamber over the years, too. They've been invaluable. And the way the town takes care of the gardens, they've been top notch."

For any business to make it through a quarter of a century it has to build a relationship with its customers or clients. Hats are a very personal purchase, and it's common for Neufeld to receive feedback from happy hat-wearers.

"We have so many people who post photos of them wearing their hats on our website," he marvels. "We have some people who come back year after year to show us their photos personally, too."



Jana and Kevin Neufeld cut the ribbon on their Beau Chapeau expansion with Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

As well, through 25 years he's weathered some of the highs and lows of the hat trade. He expects women's hats to have an uptick this year with Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee and the return of polo to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Commons in September.

For men's hats, there's been nothing like the resurgence that came with the popularity of the AMC Network's Mad Men from 2007 to 2015. Fedoras were flying off the shelves in droves as men emulated the suave Don Draper, played by Jon Hamm. It's also the go-to hat for Neufeld himself.

"It is the easiest hat for me

to wear," he says. "I've tried a couple of other things, but it's a dynamite hat that looks really good on most men."

On the women's side, Hayley Atwell's Agent Carter, who wore a red fedora in movies and a TV series from 2013 to 2016, increased the demand for that hat. Neufeld says Beau Chapeau became the top seller of Agent Carter fedoras in the world during that time. A new Indiana Jones film scheduled to be released in 2023 should bring its own surge on the men's side, too.

Before helping Kevin and Jana cut the ribbon to welcome visitors into the custom

shop, Lord Mayor Betty Disero reached up for a fedora and dropped one onto her head, wanting to be the first to buy a hat from the now officially-open fedora room. And she was touched by Neufeld's humility.

"All the thanks you have just given everybody," Disero said, "without talking about 'we've done that, we've done this,' it makes me know why this is such a welcoming place. You are so grateful for all the help that you received. Your humility is contagious."

Though he's not likely to brag about what Disero said, that compliment is surely one more feather in Neufeld's cap.



Sarah Olsen uses the steam iron to press a hat band. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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# Rezzas meet Filomena, become her people

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Filomena Pisano didn't think anything good could have come from her daughter's chance encounter with a coyote in late April.

You've probably seen the video by now. Pisano's daughter trying to fend off a lunging canid as it tries to attack Charlie, the family's Shih Tzu. Local resident Tim Balasiuk running full speed at the coyote, chasing it away. The video went viral and garnered national news network attention.

Pisano was shaken, scared and angry. She posted the video from the security camera in her nearby home to a local Facebook group and the conversation about what to do about the Old Town's coyote problem was on.

Adrian Rezza joined the conversation, worried that he and his young family may one day have to fend off the same animal near their Karsam Court home, just a stone's throw from Pisano's house.

The very next day Rezza had his own close encounter.

"I took my daughter to the bus stop," he says, "the bus driver told me there was a coyote at John and Victoria Streets. I got in my van, and I saw this coyote lunging at a woman. I picked up my birch walking stick and got out of the car. Me and an-

other guy chased it down Simcoe Street."

Rezza says he didn't even stop to think about what he was doing, perhaps emboldened by having seen Balasiuk's success in Pisano's video.

Rezza posted the details of his own incident on the same Facebook group and it garnered Pisano's attention.

"If you look at it (his post)," says the visual artist, "there were no periods, no spaces. I thought he was having a panic attack. I reached out to him to make sure he was okay. We ended up talking on the phone for over two hours."

Rezza and his brother Lucas are rappers, songwriters and producers who work under the name of 80 Empire. They create their songs out of Lucas' Old Town home, Adrian writing lyrics, rapping and singing, with Lucas composing the beats and backing tracks.

The brothers found a kindred spirit in Pisano, whose stunning visual art has captured much attention in recent years. All three are of Italian heritage and moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake from the Toronto area. Gathered at Pisano's Virgil studio, they are loud, boisterous and energetic. Pisano could easily be mistaken for the boys' long-lost sister.

Lucas and Adrian had booked a trip to Brooklyn, New

York to shoot footage for three of the songs on their upcoming new record *Intermission*. One of those songs, by coincidence, is called *Paintings*.

Things went well for the hip hop artists in New York. Their quest was to shoot everything they needed in their 48 hours in the borough, but some poor weather left them needing more footage for *Paintings*.

On the flight back home, they came up with the idea to call Pisano.

"I said, Adrian," Lucas chips in, "why don't we hit up Filomena to use her studio?"

"You know why I said 'yes'?" Pisano laughs. "Because I had just had my hair done at Bliss."

The brothers rolled in with their videographer Fatty Soprano just two and a half hours later that Monday. To their surprise, Pisano was blasting their 2021 album *Anthems & Icons* when they arrived.

"Her art, her charisma, her kindness," Adrian says about Pisano. "She looked amazing. We were working without a storyboard, but it all came together. Artists, music and painters, just make it work."

The song, says Lucas, is about "politics and bull\_\_\_\_. It uses paintings as a metaphor."

He plays part of the track, featuring Adrian singing rhythmically in a falsetto over a slow, brooding beat provided by Lucas.



Lucas Rezza, with Filomena Pisano and his brother Adrian, are in the artist's Virgil studio, where some footage was filmed for the rappers' new record. (Mike Balsom)

"Life is like a painting and the colours change, depending how the light is," he sings on the hook, before moving into a rap that drops names such as Salvador Dali, Lars Ulrich from heavy metal band Metallica and tennis player Maria Sharapova. It features a guest appearance from Brooklyn rapper Nejma Nefertiti, who free-styled her own lyrics to drive home the metaphor.

During the shoot, which lasted about three hours, Pisano grabbed her palette and went to work on one of her creations.

"He (Fatty) asked me what I do to get started," Pisano says. "I just rolled everything into the middle of the room, and started to paint. I didn't know he was going to videotape me. At that moment, I left my body."

"She was in a zone," Adrian agrees.

80 Empire left the Virgil studio with all the footage they needed for the video, which debuts Aug. 1, two weeks after *Paintings* will hit all streaming services. The full *Intermission* album will follow shortly after that.

And Pisano got what she needed a month after the har-

rowing experience with the coyote.

"Through this event I have met my tribe," Pisano says today. "I have met the people who are kind, the silver lining in this mess. I regretted posting that video at first, and I got a lot of negative comments."

As the track continues to echo in her high-ceilinged studio, she beams with pleasure.

"I'm so happy," Pisano enthuses. "This healed it. These two guys and Fatty coming into my studio, the moment they entered, the coyote story was healed."

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# Youth committee holds mental health conference

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The teen members of the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee have had some help learning how to deal with stress and look after their mental wellness.

Now they're ready to start sharing what they've learned with others.

The Mind Over Matter wellness conference, hosted by the LMYAC and Learn & Live, a series of wellness sessions, was held at the community centre Friday. Pathstone Mental Health councillor Kristen Schroeder was on hand to lead a two-hour discussion about teen issues and mental health. There were also activities about mental health and wellness, as well as pizza and snacks on offer for the teens.

Terry Mactaggart, one of the organizers of the Learn & Live sessions, usually held at the NOTL Public Library, says it was "a wonderful two hours," and although it was directed at teens, "even I learned a thing or two." The LMYAC worked hard to make it a success, she says, and Learn & Live wouldn't hesitate to partner with the youth council again next year.

LMYAC chair Michaiiah Ivri, a Grade 10 A.N. Meyer Secondary School student in Niagara Falls, says they plan to host it again, and have learned



Kristen Schroeder of Pathstone Mental Health, A.N. Myer students Riyanah Degazio and Brianna Keselman, and Lord Mayor Youth Advisory Council members Julia King from Eden High School, Michaiiah Ivri from A.N. Myer, town staff member Marah Minor, Ezekiel Ivri from A.N. Myer, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and Mateo Gruosso from St. Paul Catholic High School, were at the mental health conference held at the community centre Friday. (Photo supplied)

the importance of advertising — the event was well-organized but not well-attended, other than by their own committee members and some friends. Those who were there, however, felt they came away with very helpful and important information.

This was their first in-person initiative since COVID, Ivri says — all their meetings have been virtual, except for one project to clean up garbage along York Road, which the

teen council members did in conjunction with the St. Davids Lions Club.

They also did a live Black history project on Instagram, and tried to get a skating party organized, which fell victim to a warm spell when the ice melted.

The group, which has a town staff member as an advisor, had posters printed to advertise the mental wellness conference, but not in enough time to get them posted in schools. "We weren't able to

get the word out," Ivri says, but will instead try to get the message across to their friends, and hope they will help spread it.

"Often in society we talk about self-care, but it's usually after something has happened," says Ivri, a St. Davids Public School graduate who joined the LMYAC this year.

Schroeder gave them a list of about 100 easy ways they can make changes in their lives, and spoke to them about the importance of building their resilience before something bad happens by making small, incremental changes in their routines. That can make a big difference in how they handle stress, and prepare them to deal with it when it happens. She asked them to build 30 minutes into their routines to try some of those measures.

Her many suggestions were

all designed to turn the teens' focus to something positive, such as watching or playing a sport, getting off their phone or avoiding Instagram, spending time with a friend, making new friends, or reading before going to sleep.

She also spoke of accumulating positive experiences, building mastery of something by focusing on a new skill, avoiding mood-altering drugs, including caffeine, balancing activity with sleep, and getting enough exercise.

"They were all things we can incorporate into our routine, but it doesn't have to be the same thing all the time," says Ivri.

She believes Schroeder's tips are already working for her. The feeling of having to make a big change in routine, and doing it daily, can be overwhelm-

ing, "and if you fail just one day, you may give up," she says. But if she decides, as she has, to read before going to sleep, even three nights a week, it makes it easy for her to incorporate that into her routine. "Hearing that changed my mindset, and made it less overwhelming."

She says she has had similar discussions with friends, and while it doesn't help to have someone say you have to do something, a suggestion to start by doing something small is easier.

"We talk a lot about mental health," she says of her conversations with friends. "If someone is going through a rough time, we'll all chip in to help. When I see my friends this week, I feel we can have this discussion, and it will make a difference. This is a good learning experience. When you go to a therapist, it seems like you have to change your routine completely. But doing things incrementally, changing just a small thing, helps you on your path to mental well-being."

Although Ivri says she and her friends have conversations often about mental health, "there is still a stigma. Talking about it is not fun. But this is actually a topic that can be fun, not draining or heavy. I can tell my friends, when we do it next year, 'you should come as well.'"

She feels the conference last week was a good format, and they will do something similar next year, but will ask those interested in attending to register — they had people say they would come, but then didn't show up, she says.

She has high hopes for a great year for the LMYAC next year. They had 10 members this year, but meetings were virtual, and some members had never met other than through Zoom. Returning members will be able to meet in person, and have time to rebuild as a council, she says.

A wrap-up meeting was planned for this week, "and we'll talk about what we've done, and focus on what we can do next year to improve."



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# Looking back on 25 years of B&B industry in town

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Twenty-five years after the Bed and Breakfast Association was formed in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the town has changed, and so has the accommodation industry, but maybe not as much as residents might think.

The number of visitors coming to NOTL was often quoted in the 1990s as being around the three million mark each season, a number which is still used today.

Minerva Ward, president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, says she has heard that number since she accepted her position with the chamber, but won't use it, or any number, because there is no scientific basis. Data has never been collected that could accurately state the number of tourists coming to town, she says. One of her goals is to determine an accurate number as a base, to track growth and help make decisions about the tourism industry.

Although B&Bs are still a popular choice for many visitors, there are fewer of them than there were 25 years ago, with

more alternatives for visitors, including more hotel rooms, and the growth of other kinds of accommodation rentals.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce was once a source of B&B reservations, some of them coming from an early website, others from people who walked into the office looking for a place to stay. Likely the biggest change in the industry has come about because of the proliferation of reservation systems, making online bookings easy for visitors before they leave home.

The chamber is not involved in taking reservations, says Ward, but the NOTL B&B Association is a member of the Chamber and is represented on its board. B&Bs are listed on the chamber website, with a link to accommodations.

Lynne LeGallais and Kenn Moody are two former B&B operators involved in the early days of the association, as it broke away from the chamber. Speaking to The Local during a Zoom meeting, Moody explains in the '90s, not all B&B owners thought they were getting their fair share of reservations through the chamber, and pulled away to create their own

official association. They used one of their member's website to advertise, with captains who would take phone calls, matching visitors' needs to B&Bs.

The captains, says Moody, also did inspections to ensure B&Bs were up to their standards before they would take bookings.

That system didn't last long. Operators, says Moody, "tend to be competitive, contentious and curious," and the association transitioned to a third-party booking website, run by someone who did not own a B&B.

LeGallais, with a B&B on the Niagara River Parkway, recalls the chamber still had its website and continued to have operators who participated through the chamber website and also became very active members of the B&B Association.

The town licensing process was quite arduous, she says. "Every property was inspected, and it was expected they would give you advice whether you wanted it or not, such as 'you want to change the colour of this room because people won't like that.' We had lots of input from the town."

John Foreman, a current

B&B owner and president of the association, joins in the conversation, saying with a laugh, "I would say they're still on that path."

Moody says there were inspections by town bylaw officers, the fire department, and the regional health department.

At that time, there were just over 300 licensed B&Bs, presenting people with a more affordable option than hotel rooms, but also making more rooms available for tourists — before the growth of B&Bs in town, many visitors would stay in Niagara Falls hotels, says Moody. Having rooms in town meant guests would stay longer, and take advantage of local restaurants.

The number of B&Bs is now down to about 150, says Foreman, but including other kinds of vacation rentals, there are about 300, all with inspections by town bylaw officers, and to ensure homes are up to fire and electrical codes. The B&B Association also includes other kinds of rental accommodation, including cottages, country inns, and villas.

Although there has been talk in recent months about harsh penalties for those operating without a licence, or not follow-



John Foreman is the current owner of the Apple Tree B&B, and president of the B&B Association. After talking to two former owners of B&Bs in the early days of the association, he says he was pleased to learn the reasons for wanting to operate a B&B have not changed. (Photo supplied)

ing other rental protocols, B&Bs of 20 years ago caught breaking rules also faced tough punishments, although there weren't many, says Moody. As president of the association, he visited two, and those were the only two he knew of during his years with the association. Both were offered an option by the town — a \$25,000 fine or a one-year licence sus-

pension, and they both chose to pay the fine, he recalls.

Moody and his wife Peggy ran their B&B on Lakeshore Road, by Bayberry Lane, from 2002 to 2008, selling in 2008 and moving to St. Davids.

"Peggy and I started coming to NOTL in '70s," he says,

**Continued on page 23**

## Tennis, anyone?



(Tady Saczkowski)



(Mike Balsom)

NOTL Tennis Club members got together for their first social event of 2022 — and the first in more than two years — with some games being played, and some time for fun, organized by Natalie Early and Nancy Marchese, with more than 100 members participating. Activities were organized by club professional Shawna Macfarlane. Former NOTLer and tennis professional Charlotte Patrick (right) was on-hand to enjoy some time on the court.



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NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT AND PUBLIC  
INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 1  
BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT  
MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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

THE BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT  
MASTER PLAN WILL BE  
DEVELOPED TO:

- Meet the unique needs of Niagara Region and its customers, including treatment requirements, land uses and users, and environmental features
- Meet future needs associated with population growth, new regulations, climate resiliency, and energy efficiency
- Provide greater flexibility and reliability for biosolids management, both in the short term (i.e., 5 years) and long term (to the year 2051)
- Improve biosolids marketability; and
- Address community expectations regarding level of service, odour, air/noise, water quality, protection of the environment and aesthetics



THE PROCESS

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



GET INVOLVED

Public feedback is an important part of the process. Information about the project will be available on Niagara Region's website as part of Public Information Centre No. 1. You can learn about the project, strategies being considered and how you can have your voice heard.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE  
NO. 1 DETAILS

Information about the Biosolids Management Master Plan will be made available on the project website beginning **Wednesday, June 8, 2022**. This will be followed with a two-week period to submit

Public Information Centre No. 1 related comments to the Project Team.

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

[niagararegion.ca/projects/biosolids-master-plan](https://niagararegion.ca/projects/biosolids-master-plan)



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

**Albert Succi, Senior Project Manager**  
Water & Wastewater Engineering  
Niagara Region  
3501 Schmon Pkwy., PO Box 1042  
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7  
905-980-6000 ext. 3308  
Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215  
Fax: 905-685-5205  
[niagarabiosolidssmp@niagararegion.ca](mailto:niagarabiosolidssmp@niagararegion.ca)

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

If you require any accommodations in order to participate, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the **Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Coordinator** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or [accessibility@niagararegion.ca](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca).



# Popular Saturday farmers' market back



Market visitors sample some honey from B & E Honey Fields.



Idanda Catanzariti displays fresh greens at the Saturday Farmers' Market @ The Village.



James Cadeau and his almost 15-year-old son Liam offer up some treats from Sweets & Swirls.

The much-awaited Saturday morning Farmers' Market at The Village opened for its 16th straight season Saturday, and is expected to run for 20 weeks, until Oct. 8, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with many of the favourite vendors from previous years on-hand with their fresh produce and crafts. The popular Wednesday SupperMarket is still a question mark — while COVID restrictions are no longer a factor, there is construction on the property that affects the market area. Organizers are saying there is a possibility there could be a SupperMarket later in the summer, but it's not a certainty. Check the market website for updates on both markets at <http://marketatthevillage.ca/2022/05/30/farmers-market>. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Kyra Simone and Gregory Ford of Kiwi's Curios offer hand-made jewelry.



Ken and Rose Bartel are back with a fresh batch of their popular rhubarb.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Niagara Region Proposed Development Charges (D.C.) By-law and Underlying Background Study

Niagara Region will hold a virtual statutory public meeting pursuant to Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended, to present and obtain public input on Niagara Region's proposed Development Charges By-law and underlying background study.

A statutory public meeting is being held under the provisions of Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, as follows:

**Date: Thursday, June 30, 2022**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: This meeting will be held virtually**

A copy of the background study and proposed by-law is available at: [niagararegion.ca/business/property/background-study.aspx](http://niagararegion.ca/business/property/background-study.aspx)

The background study and proposed By-law is exclusive of Transit Development Charges which will be provided at a later date. A public meeting will be held at a later date with respect to Transit Development Charges.

Due to the efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, the council chamber at Regional headquarters will not be open to the public to attend meetings until further notice. To view live-stream meeting proceedings, without the ability to provide oral submissions, please visit [niagararegion.ca/government/council](http://niagararegion.ca/government/council)

#### Have your say

Public input on the proposed development charges by-law is welcomed and encouraged. During this time written comments are the preferred method of receiving public input. Written comments may be sent by mail or email. You can also provide oral input by joining the electronic meeting.

**Written submission:** To provide written input, please mail your comments to the Office of the Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7 or [clerk@niagararegion.ca](mailto:clerk@niagararegion.ca) by **4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.**

**Oral submission:** To provide input orally at the virtual public meeting, please submit your delegation request to the Regional Clerk by completing the online form at [niagararegion.ca/government/council/speak-at-committee.aspx](http://niagararegion.ca/government/council/speak-at-committee.aspx) or to [clerk@niagararegion.ca](mailto:clerk@niagararegion.ca) before **4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.** For more information, visit [niagararegion.ca/government/council/speakingatcouncil](http://niagararegion.ca/government/council/speakingatcouncil).

If you require any accommodations in order to participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the **Accessibility Advisor Coordinator** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or [accessibility@niagararegion.ca](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca).

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Date issued: June 2, 2022

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program Various locations throughout the Niagara region Commencing Spring 2022 - weekdays

Motorists and the general public are hereby advised that Niagara Region's Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program has commenced. For updates on this project please visit [niagararegion.ca/roads](http://niagararegion.ca/roads). This project is required to increase the lifespan of the road sections by improving the structural integrity.

The proposed work includes:

- Replacing selected cross culverts
- Milling off the top course of asphalt or doing a cold in place strategy of the road section
- Repairing cracks in the base course asphalt and replacing concrete curbs that are in poor condition
- Paving new top course asphalt, line marking and adding granular to shoulders

Please expect traffic delays and that daily road closures and detours as identified will be required for paving operations during construction. The contractors' anticipated hours of operation from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**, weather permitting.

Businesses and residents will have access during the closure but may be directed to take an alternate route to get to their destination.

Emergency services will also have access if required.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Niagara Region Dispatch at 905-984-3690 or **Melissa Tomascik, C.E.T.**, Project Manager Transportation Engineering, at 905-980-6000 ext. 3189.

Your co-operation and patience during this period of inconvenience is appreciated.

Bruce Zvaniga  
Commissioner of Public Works (Interim)  
Niagara Region





# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

## Actively Engaging our Community

**Submitted by  
The Royal Henley**

Royal Henley is looking forward to presenting our Art Gallery featuring works of Dr Ron Clavier and residents. We are thrilled to showcase this exhibition featuring “Coming of Age” and the talents of our residents, with 50% of all proceeds from the sale of artwork being donated back to community care.

“Aging” is a word that conjures images of infirmity, and calls into question our ability to contribute meaningfully to society. A far more positive phrase related to getting older is “coming of age” – we use it to signal that a person has lived a certain number of years and is now mature enough to engage in adult behaviour. It is unfortunate that we reserve “coming of age” for young people when coming of age happens every day of every person’s life, no matter how long they have lived. To learn more about the artist, visit [www.ronclavier.com](http://www.ronclavier.com)



Youth Remains by Dr Ron Clavier

Social gatherings are an important part of life and our calendar is full of fun. At Royal Henley Retirement Community, you can connect with fellow residents and develop genuine friendships while enjoying all kinds of interesting things to do.

In order to keep things interesting, we regularly rotate the types of activities that are available to residents and outside community members. Each week, our residents have various options to choose from. We understand the abilities and interests of

residents may differ from person to person and this allows us to tailor events and activities to our residents needs. For example, we have a variety of physio classes based on one’s ability level. These classes are great for balancing, strengthening

and stretching. With the events and activities, we offer, you can find something to spark your interest. From cooking demos, exercise, social hours, cards and more you’ll have a wide range of fun activities to choose from. And the best part— you can join all these activities under one roof, even when the weather can be challenging. You could stop by the men’s coffee club, join a group for a game of Bridge or Euchre, or even go to the movies. We have some great Senior Friendly events

planned for the upcoming summer months. Come out for a visit and explore retirement living. The Royal Henley Retirement Community offers events that are open to the public, but we do ask that you RSVP to let us know you would like to attend. For the month of June, we are featuring an Art Gallery and Classic Car Show. Call Krista or Jessica for further details at 905 935 1800. Follow us on Facebook or our [www.RoyalHenley.com](http://www.RoyalHenley.com) website to see the events you can look forward to.





# JOIN US FOR JUNE EVENTS



## Royal Henley

Retirement Community *by Signature*



### ART GALLERY COMING OF AGE

Come out and enjoy an Art Exhibition Featuring original works of Dr. Ron Clavier and Royal Henley Residents. Meet the artists, enjoy a treat in our bistro and live music in the lounge. Royal Henley Tours Available. Support our Fund Raising efforts for Community Care.

### CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Take a stroll down memory lane as you take a walk through our Classic Car Show. Have a visit and enjoy an ice cream on the patio. Royal Henley Tours Available. (rain date June 26th)

## RSVP TODAY 905 935 1800

582 Ontario Street, St. Catharines [www.RoyalHenley.com](http://www.RoyalHenley.com)





# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide



## 3 ways to keep gardening with back pain

Gardening is a favourite leisure activity for many of us, providing hours of relaxation, de-stressing and outdoor enjoyment. But if back pain, mobility issues or a health condition is getting in the way, don't be discouraged. There are many things you can do to continue your hobby.

### 1. Start with a warmup

While it may not always feel like it, gardening is a physical activity, so just like any exercise it's good practice to warm up before you start. A five-minute walk and some light stretches will help prime your body for

extended periods of sitting and squatting. Be sure to consult your health care provider for warm-ups best suited to you.

### 2. Use the right tools

Simple things like cushions, kneelers and chairs can help you move and sit more comfortably and reduce the strain on your back and knees. Specialized tools like garden scooters and long-handled trowels and cultivators can help you when bending forward.

### 3. Check in with an expert

A health-care professional like an occupational therapist can assess your

needs and help you develop strategies to adapt so you can continue doing the activities you love. They'll work with you to find the right approaches to help you keep tending to your flower beds, plants and produce.

You can find an OT through the College of Occupational Therapists. The College works to protect you and your family by ensuring all licensed OTs in Ontario are trained and qualified to offer safe, competent and ethical services. Find more information at [coto.org](http://coto.org).

[www.newscanada.com](http://www.newscanada.com)

## 5 tips for gardening with sore joints

The days are getting longer, the temperature is getting warmer, and many of us are itching to get our hands dirty in the garden again.

Whether you choose to grow colourful blooms or nutritious veggies, gardening can be great for your mind and body. But, if you have arthritis, it can also be hard on your joints.

"There are many benefits that come with gardening, but it's important to remember to avoid pushing yourself too much," says Trish Barbato, president and CEO of the Arthritis Society. Here are some tips she shares.

### 1. Start low and go slow.

Gradually increase the amount of time you're active and the effort you make while gardening. Schedule tasks like weeding, mulching or pruning over several days to avoid overexerting yourself.

### 2. Use the right tools.

Tools with larger grips or extended handles can make many tasks easier for those with arthritis. Use a seat or kneeling pads to avoid putting stress on your knees.

### 3. Bring the garden to you.

If working at low levels is difficult for your joints, consider raised planters or an elevated container garden.

### 4. Build in breaks.

Set an alarm at least every hour to take a 10-minute pause. This will help you avoid stiffness and pain the next day.

### 5. Avoid the heavy lifting.

Carry smaller loads, or better yet, delegate more challenging tasks to family and friends. Find more information and resources to help you garden at [arthritis.ca](http://arthritis.ca).

[www.newscanada.com](http://www.newscanada.com)



## Whether a Biker or a Baptist



It doesn't matter if you're a Biker or a Baptist. If you prefer a church, a garden, or a pub. If you want stories and laughter or silent tranquility. A procession or a party. No matter what your budget, the only thing a funeral absolutely has to be is *whatever you want it to be*.

When your time comes, are you prepared? Will you burden your family with planning your funeral after you're gone? Or will you pre-plan your funeral and have it done your way? You can help your family, even after you've passed.

You buy insurance in the event something might happen to your home or vehicle, you plan your finances, and you create a Will and Powers of Attorney

to handle your affairs. Doesn't it just make sense to pre-plan your funeral arrangements?

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# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

## What not to forget when planning your estate

(NC) When it comes to planning your estate, there's more to consider than you might realize. Luckily, knowing the most common mistakes can help you avoid them. Whether you're creating your first estate plan or updating an existing one, here are some things to consider.

### Digital assets

We live in a technology-driven time, and that makes digital estate planning a must. From online banking and automatic billing to emails, social media accounts and even digital currency, digital assets are worth looking after. As you would with other parts of your plan, name a Digital Executor who can ensure all digital assets are

handled properly. **In case of emergency file** This file places all critical documents in one place, so executors have direct and easy access to the will, bank statements, insurance policies, birth and marriage certificates, the cemetery deed and so forth. Other important information to include are funeral preferences, real estate deeds, property taxes, tax returns and computer user IDs and passwords.

www.newscanada.com



## 4 easy-to-remember tips for managing fatigue

(NC) Fatigue is a common symptom that affects people with chronic conditions such as arthritis. It can be hard to manage since it can affect most areas of your life. But there are strategies that can help.

"We've found the 'four Ps' is one of the best techniques to help people cope with fatigue," says Trish Barbato, president and CEO of the Arthritis Society.

### 1. Prioritize

Keep a list of all your activities for one week and arrange it in order of importance. Then determine what you can skip, do differently or delegate. By only taking

on your top priorities, you can conserve your energy.

### 2. Plan

If you usually feel better in the mornings, schedule your more demanding activities then. Just don't overdo it. Something big coming up? Book rest time before and after.

### 3. Pace

Break up your daily activities so you're not overdoing it. There are several ways to do that. You can take regular breaks and alternate activities so you don't put too much strain on one part of your body. You can also give a nod to the "two-hour pain rule" which suggests you

overdid it if you feel pain for more than two hours after an activity.

### 4. Posture

Correct posture distributes weight over your larger muscle groups, helping you conserve your energy. To check your posture, align your ears over your shoulders, chin tucked in, shoulders down and back, tummy in, seat tucked under, and knees unlocked. When driving, sit close to the wheel with your knees bent and use a supportive pillow at your lower back.

Learn more tips for managing fatigue at arthritis.ca.

www.newscanada.com

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# *Celebrate Seniors* Golden Years Guide

## Downsizing tips for happiness in a smaller space



Downsizing for retirement can relieve stress and help you focus on what is truly important. Whether you feel ready for the change or you're a little nervous to plant roots somewhere new, here are some tips for a smooth and easy transition.

### Start decluttering now

Even if you don't plan to move for some time, it's worth cutting down on your clutter. Begin thinking about items you really want to keep forever, such as your mother's china. If those antique dishes mean a lot to you, keep them for your next place and plan to actually use them. If they are just taking up space, recognize that and don't feel bad

about finding them a new home. Beginning to tackle this step now will save you last minute stress and guilt when it comes time to move.

### Consider your lifestyle

Are you looking to leave behind the hustle and bustle of city life? Or, are you excited by the option of walking to nearby shops and activities in an area where you don't have to rely on a car? Will your new pad be the home base for a rotation of visiting family or are you planning to live the more nomadic life of the frequent traveller? Consider your physical, social, and personal needs as you think about how and where to live in retirement.

### Use all tools available

There are many options and considerations when creating a retirement plan, so use all the resources available to help you make an informed decision for your golden years. For example, you can use free census data to learn about a potential new community before moving there. You can find useful details on population, age and types of dwellings in different places. Specifically, you'll be able to see if there is a higher concentration of seniors or lots of young children, along with the type of housing in your target area. It's a great way to learn more about a place before you move there.

Find more information at [statcan.gc.ca/census](http://statcan.gc.ca/census).  
[www.newscanada.com](http://www.newscanada.com)



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# Learn & Live to explore local cultural gems

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

The Learn & Live program, an initiative that arose from one of the recommendations in the town's Community Wellness Committee's report to council, is turning its attention to local culture for its next session.

A small steering committee of people, separate from the Wellness Committee, began meeting in the spring of 2021 to develop this initiative, which since then has presented themed sessions on a variety of topics to small groups of about 25 people at the NOTL Public Library.

Terry Mactaggart, one of the organizers of the series,

says they choose different subjects for the community information sessions that will be of interest and meet the needs of locals. The upcoming discussion will focus on three cultural institutions in town, with presentations from Sarah Kaufman, managing director and curator of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, Caitlin Wooll, director of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, and Debra Antoncic, director and curator of RiverBrink Art Museum.

"We know people are crazy to get out of the house, and ready to learn or see something new," says Mactaggart, "and these three different institutions in town are some



Willowbank, a historic estate now operating as the School of Restoration Arts, nestled among the trees on a hill overlooking the village of Queenston. (Charlie Porter)



RiverBrink's current exhibit is photographer Danny Custodio's *Labour of Love*. (Josh Bellingham)

of the best-kept secrets that should spark some interest in people."

Wooll plans to show a video and some photos of Willowbank and its students, in an informal presentation for those who are interested in the background of Willowbank, how the school came to be and what it offers. Showing photos of what the students do at the school would be a good way to share its success with locals who might not know about its history and the adaptive reuse of not

just the main building on the property, but the Appel Barn and an adjacent chicken coop, which were originally part of the Queen Street Phillips Estate.

It's been a while since they've been able to hold an open house or tours, to show the public how the students are able to use and learn from and in those buildings, although Wooll says they now are looking forward to opening to the public this fall.

All three will talk a little of the history of their cul-

tural organizations in town. Antoncic, of RiverBrink, says that will be a brief part of her presentation. The art museum, located on the Niagara River Parkway as it turns by the Queenston cenotaph, is not always recognized as such, she says — it's easy to drive by, focused on the turn, and not see it. Situated in a large home with a beautiful view of the Niagara River, it features changing exhibitions from the renowned art collection of Samuel E. Weir, as well as art on loan from

other collections. The museum gardens are sometimes a place for people to stop and admire, says Antoncic, without knowing what goes on inside the building.

The Learn & Live presentation will provide the opportunity for people to look at art, she says, as she plans to show slides of the art work at the museum. She envisions the presentation to be "somewhat interactive," with participants looking at art work,

Continued on page 21

## SIZZLING Summer ACTIVITIES

# Beyond the stage at the Shaw

**Warren Bain**  
**Submitted by**  
**The Shaw Festival**

This year, the Shaw Festival is bursting with opportunities to engage with The Shaw with their Beyond the Stage programs!

Saturdays in June feature the **Teen Workshops**. These high energy, hands-on sessions are open to all experience levels, and free local transportation by Niagara Airbus is available. Top hats and parasols are provided during Acting Attire

on June 4, when Embedded Artist Travis Seetoo teaches insights on acting in a period play. The June 11 Music Theatre workshop is led by Ensemble member Kevin McLachlan and Music Intern Paul Rodermond, and simulates a professional musical theatre rehearsal experience with singing and dancing. The Teen Workshops conclude on June 18 with Stage Combat led by Ensemble member Shane Carty, who will delve into the secrets of staging authentic combat scenes. Sign up for one, two,

or get a discount by signing up for all three workshops, but hurry – spots are limited!

Back by popular demand, the **Monologue Derby for Teens** runs from August 15-26, and features an opportunity for teens to engage in mentorship, training, and performance. This program was developed last year as an answer to limited performance opportunities for high school aged youth in Niagara during the pandemic. Travis Seetoo, lead instructor, has noticed the difference. "We've seen first-

hand how our program has opened the hearts and minds of our participants. Building on last year's success, we plan to continue giving young people the performance opportunities that could change their lives." The response from the first year of the Derby was overwhelmingly positive, as one participant said: "Everyone was very welcoming, the instructors made me feel special and really listened to what I had to say. I also learned a lot in such little time! Would definitely recommend this program."

Suzanne Merriam, Senior Manager of Education at the Festival, is excited. "We've unofficially dubbed this year the Season of Fun! We want to create a space where audiences and the wider community can engage with the Festival and our 60th anniversary season. Our Beyond the Stage favorites for all, like the **Shaw Seminar** and **Continue the Conversation**, are returning as well as new exciting experiences like **What Comes Next?** and the **Art of Ideas**. Really, I'm looking forward to inviting young



people back to the Shaw Festival after such a long time for our workshop opportunities with the Teen Workshop and the Monologue Derby for Teens. It's going to be so much fun!"

The Shaw Festival be-

lieves in real human connections, and that philosophy is at the very heart of the Beyond the Stage programs. For more information, visit [shawfest.com/beyondthe-stage](http://shawfest.com/beyondthe-stage) or call the Box Office at 905-468-2172 to register.



Photos by Cosmo Condina Photography



# Tiny Museum to take history out into community

Continued from page 20

and engaging in a discussion about what they see.

Kaufman, curator of the NOTL Museum, will also talk a little about history, with Memorial Hall Ontario's first purpose-built museum. In addition to the changing exhibits, she can also talk about the many programs it offers, providing "a life-long education component for the community, where people can learn their local history."

That includes the current exhibit that promotes Niagara-on-the-Lake's waterfront and Lake Ontario, talks about the impact of climate change on the area, the walking tours and theatrical shows, all ways of sharing local history with residents, newcomers to NOTL, and visitors to town.

The Tiny Museum is one of the bonuses that will be used to go out into the community and share stories of local history, but it was finished and ready for use just as the pandemic hit, says

Kaufman. Now, as people are drawn to events and festivals that are back on track after two years, she is anticipating a busy season ahead for the Tiny Museum.

The Learn & Live session on the three museums is Monday, June 13, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the NOTL Public Library.

There are a limited number of spaces. Register for the event by calling 905-468-2023 or visit <https://notlpubliclibrary.libnet.info/events?v=grid>



The Tiny Museum, parked outside the NOTL Museum on Castlereigh Street, is expected to be in demand this summer.



The School of Restoration Arts class of 2023: Josh Chan, Sean Blank, Dawn Chan, Mackenzie Campbell, Rémy Bles, Johanna Keus, Casimir (Sean's dog often found at Willowbank) and Caitlyn Wooll. (Charlie Porter)



RiverBrink Art Museum is at the juncture of Queenston and the Niagara River Parkway. (Josh Bellingham)

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# Shaw Guild promises spectacular garden tour

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The 16th Annual Garden Tour is featuring eight spectacular private gardens to view in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

a self-guided tour, with master gardeners on site to answer questions while participants enjoy creative and unique gardens.

Garden tour committee chair Jane Catcher, determined to make the event even more memo-

orable, has ensured there will be something extra in each garden, with either a musician or artist on site.

“Like any event, we’re always looking for ways to tweak or change things up,” she says.

The 2021 garden tour

was held late in the season due to the pandemic, so the twist was the beauty of fall gardens, as well as a little extra in the way of musicians or artists in each.

This year, there will again be a “special treat,” either a local artist, possibly painting the garden, or a musician providing some entertainment as guests stroll through. All are giving their time and talent to the event, says Catcher.



A Prideaux street garden on the tour includes a fire pit, a cutting garden and a small vegetable plot, and provides shade, structure, colour, privacy and food for bees and butterflies.



This Niagara Boulevard garden on the tour was created to complement the colonial-style home, with stone pathways and steps, softened with geraniums and perennial grasses, ornamental trees to provide shade and colour, and a back garden featuring Annabelle hydrangea, Russian sage, and more, encouraging visiting bees and butterflies. (Photos supplied)

“This was one of my goals, something I’d wanted to do,” she says, and last year was so well-appreciated she wanted to do it again.

Last year, she added, was a “picture perfect day,” and hopefully will be again this year.

The guild looks for new and different gardens to feature each year, but will occasionally repeat one after a five-year span.

This year there is one repeat, but it was newly planted five years ago, and as gardens mature, they change. “It’s a completely different garden, and we didn’t hesitate to include it,” says Catcher.

New this year is a garden magazine, beautifully

put together for the event, and something participants will be happy to keep. It’s free of charge for patrons who book before the day of the event, but donations will be welcome, with all money raised from the garden tour going to the Shaw Festival.

Last year’s proceeds

sponsored the *Christmas Carol* production.

Tickets are on sale through EventBrite until June 10 for \$30 per person.

On June 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., tickets will be available at any of the gardens for \$30, cash only.

For more information, visit <https://www.shaw-guild.ca/garden-tour/>

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# B&B guests become friends, say operators

Continued from page 13

usually staying at the Pillar and Post. But by the 1980s, “the Pillar and Post was out of our price range. We called the chamber looking for a B&B, and once we tried one, we never went back to hotel rooms.”

When they decided to retire to NOTL, he and Peggy decided they would run a B&B for five years, and re-evaluate. After their five years was up, Peggy said she wasn’t ready to give it up, but by the end of year six she had had enough.

Running a B&B “isn’t hard work, but it’s long work. You needed to be there, and she found the pressure of changing a room at 11 a.m. to get it ready for someone coming at 12 was starting to get to her, so we said it’s over,” says Moody.

The house was too big for the two of them, and they decided to sell it. The people who bought it didn’t reopen it as a B&B immediately, but did eventually, he says.

The LeGallais purchased

a large property on the Niagara River Parkway, beside the Grand Victorian, in 1998, built the house to run as a B&B, and opened in 1999. They kept it for seven years before also selling, when they received an offer they couldn’t refuse, and moved to St. Davids, and then just up the hill to Niagara Falls.

When she and her husband Randy had retired, they knew the one part they would miss about their careers was meeting people, so the idea of a B&B for them was ideal, she says. She had no plans to give it up when a local real estate agent asked if she could show the house to a couple who had been visiting NOTL for three years, looking at houses. They had their eye on the LeGallais home, and the real estate agent asked if they could see the house, hoping it would persuade them to look more seriously at something else. Instead, the couple made an offer. LeGallais says she couldn’t handle the idea of selling, but when they returned a couple of months later, Randy

had convinced her they could do more with their free time if they sold, and that was the end of their seven-year run.

Foreman says five to seven years is about average — he and his wife have had their B&B for five years, and he thinks they will probably give it another two or three, although he expects they will stay in their home.

Most end up selling, finding “they have more house than they need,” he says. And when B&Bs come up for sale these days, there aren’t many takers. He attributes that to the high price of housing. If you have to spend \$1.5 million, he says, “It’s kind of hard to make the math work.”

For those who want to run a B&B, the chief attraction is the interaction with people. “The highlight of running a B&B is the conversation around the breakfast table, but maybe younger people aren’t interested in that,” Foreman says.

Moody and LeGallais both agree that although they enjoyed the freedom of hav-

ing more leisure time once they gave up their B&Bs, they missed the people, and the friendships that developed with return visitors. “People used to talk about the clients from hell,” says Moody, “but we never had one, not even close.”

LeGallais recalls one couple, Shaw patrons, who came to stay at her B&B. When they made arrangements to return a few months later, she asked if they were coming to see another Shaw play, and they said no, they were planning to get married. They asked Lynn and Randy to stand up for them, and arranged for an officiant to marry them in the backyard.

Moody says the town has changed a lot since the early days of the B&B Association, with 75 per cent of the visitors in town to see Shaw Festival plays. When he and his wife left it six years later, it was down to about 40 per cent, and the number of wineries had grown astronomically from what was called the group of seven plus one in the early 90s, and wine

wineries and agri-tourism “had pretty much taken over top spot. Shaw still had a hard core group of repeat clients, but the downtown core had changed quite a bit, with a lot of new businesses, he says.

Legallais agrees that the Shaw was the foundation of the tourism industry, but patrons who had stayed in hotels wanted to try the B&B experience. The wine tours were an added experience, particularly among the young people, she says.

Looking back, Moody says he doesn’t think the B&B owners of the early day thought of themselves as a destination, but rather a way to keep tourists in town instead of having them drive to and from a hotel room in Niagara Falls. “The impact was more exposure for attractions and restaurants here, including hotel restaurants. We saw ourselves as providing quality accommodation, good advice about attractions in town, and a local perspective for visitors seeking that type of information.”

“I am proud of the work we did (as an association) and the organizational strength that we passed on to future boards,” he adds.

LeGallais says running a B&B was like having friends visit, giving the operators an opportunity to recommend local restaurants and shops. “If someone asked where she should go for shoes, I’d get a pair out of my closet and tell her where I bought them. We shopped local as much as we could.”

Guests came to bond with their B&B owner, and trusted their advice, she says, which was good for local businesses. “It’s just not the same as a cottage rental. We would go out of our way to make our guests feel special creating a different environment.”

Foreman describes B&B owners as ambassadors for the town, and agrees that guests often become friends. “When someone stays with you for two or three days, there are hugs all around when they leave, and talk about when they’re coming back. It’s more than a hotel room.”

## Marking graves of early Black settlers



James Russell and his wife Marilyn spent the day in NOTL Tuesday marking out graves discovered by ground-penetrating radar — some also by Howard Bogusat’s dousing rods — of Black Canadian settlers in Niagara-on-the-Lake’s 150-year-old Negro Burial ground, a one-acre cemetery that holds the unmarked remains of folks who came to Canada to escape slavery. A scan of the cemetery conducted on May 4 found 28 graves, which will be marked with small Canadian flags and grass-friendly paint. The location of 19 buried headstones are to be marked for future excavation by a professional archeology company, says Russell. The remainder of this project will involve the research necessary to identify the people buried on the site, searching through any municipal documents, census records, Baptist records and deeds he can find — many have been lost, damaged or destroyed. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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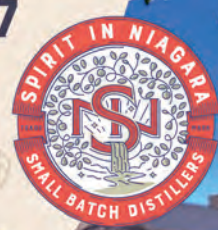
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# Coyotes run for Rankin cancer fundraiser

**Kate Fish**  
Crossroads principal

Crossroads Coyotes laced up for a hugely successful Rankin Cancer Run last Thursday . . . and what a day it was!

Students and staff collected donations for the month of May, and by Tuesday had totalled more than \$13,000, with more donations coming in. In addition to supporting an extremely important

organization in Niagara, students had a great afternoon organized by the staff and Grade 8 students. After students finished their run or walk, they were able to play games led by intermediate students,

participate in impromptu karaoke and dancing, have their face painted, and write messages of hope, inspiration, and gratitude in sidewalk chalk all over the tarmac.

The day was a joyful

event that brought everyone together outside for the first time in years! Students and staff were also fortunate to wear a Rankin Cancer Run T-shirt designed by our very own Grade 3 Coyote, Olivia Rapone.

While the event itself only lasted a few hours, the impact of working together to support such an important cause will last for years to come. We couldn't be more proud of our Coyotes!



At the end of the day, Crossroads principal Kate Fish and vice-principal Melora Brewster very good-naturedly participated in a pie-tossing event. They both said the pies were delicious. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Kate Fish and Olivia Rapone show off the Rankin Run T-shirts Olivia designed. She won a design contest for the T-shirts that were intended to be used for the Rankin Run in 2020, but it and the 2021 run were cancelled, and the T-shirts were distributed this year for the 2022 event. Every student at the school received a free T-shirt, says Fish.



Jon Velsink and Emmett Edgecombe show off their painted faces, arms and hands, one of the fun activities of the day.



Grade 7 teacher Andre Thames got into karaoke with some of the students dancing and singing along with him..



Principal Kate Fish signs T-shirts for students Maddy MacPherson and Vivian Flear.



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The Step Challenge runs from June 6 to 30.

Visit [notl.com](https://notl.com) for details and to register.



# KIDS SPORTS

## A great day for young soccer enthusiasts



More than 300 kids aged three to 14 descended upon the soccer fields in the Virgil Sports Park Saturday for the NOTL Soccer Club's opening festival, a perfect day for the start of a new season. (Photos by Mike Balsom)





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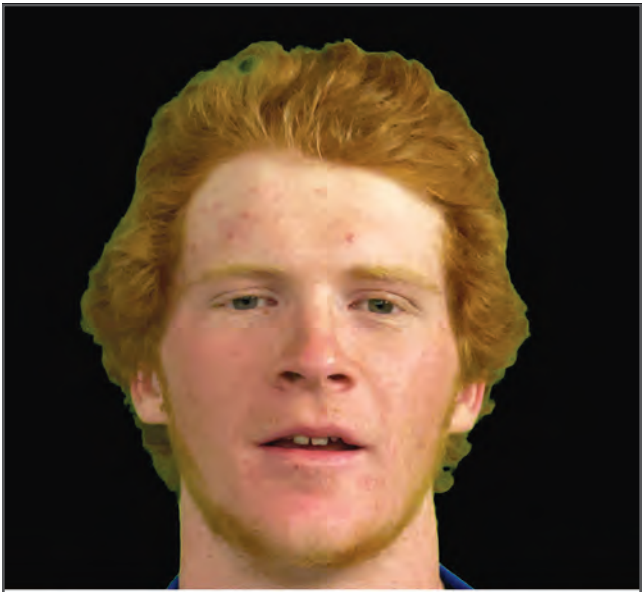
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# LocalSPORTS

## For Thunderhawks, good things come in threes



#5 Noah Ostromecki  
Defence



#77 Hunter Ostromecki  
Offense



#89 Colby Ostromecki  
Defence

**Andy Boldt**  
**Special to The Local**

It's often said bad things come in threes, and for the Thunderhawks U22 Lacrosse team's opponents, this is true.

The Ostromecki brothers are often a thorn in the sides of their opponents because of their three-pronged attack — an attack the Hamilton Bengals were unfortunate to experience during last Thursday's con-

test which saw the Thunderhawks finish with a 6-4 win.

Colby, the oldest Ostromecki and the newer player to the game, often provides the stoic, do-my-job defence that most teams look forward to having on their team. He often provides a spark on the bench, which rallies his teammates to step up for the next play. At 20 years of age, Colby is hoping to be successful in winning a

provincial championship in his last year of eligibility.

Hunter, the offensive brother and the second oldest, has the most experience and success of the three. Hunter has won a provincial championship with the Thunderhawks in the U15 division and played up for the Niagara Jr B Thunderhawks during his U18 season. Recently, while playing for the Brock University field lacrosse team, he was able to be one of a few players to win the CU-FLA championship with help from a winning goal by Aiden Buis, a Niagara alumnus, winning the 2021 national championship.

Noah, the youngest of the three brothers and rookie to U22 play, has forged a position as a face-off specialist. Winning a majority of his face-off draws has provided the all-important ball possessions for the Thunderhawks, a key aspect of the game. His quick feet and highly aggressive defence often limit his opponents to poor scoring opportunities, and provide some transitional breakouts from the defensive zone.

Although a number of

brothers have suited up for the Thunderhawks, the Ostromeckis are not the only three-pronged attack that has been seen in NOTL Thunderhawks recent history. The VanderZalm brothers (Isaac, Malcom and Saul) shared similarities to the Ostromeckis.

Isaac and Malcom were both defensive juggernauts for the Thunderhawks, while Saul, also a good defender and a Brock field lacrosse member, was the offensive player of the trio.

Check out the NOTL Thunderhawks minor lacrosse website for game

schedules, and plan to attend the July 9 Alumni Day where the U22 Thunderhawks will be hosting the Milton Mavericks in a double header. Games start at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Meridian Credit Union arena.

Go Thunderhawks!

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### Young lacrosse players put up a good fight



The U9 Niagara Thunderhawks (in white) played in the Saturday lacrosse tournament at the arenas in Virgil, giving Toronto Beaches a good fight, but lost the game 9-7. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

## LocalWORSHIP



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OBITUARY



**WALL, JACK FRANK** — October 6, 1924 - May 16, 2022

Due to a debilitating bout of pneumonia as a young adult, Jack Frank Wall was not expected to see thirty years of age. While anticipating his last breath with his widowed mother by his side, he committed to being an advocate for the outcasts of the world if God would spare his life. God took him on and Jack’s script was written.

He married a woman that believed in him. He refused jobs that required him to not hang out with society’s delinquents. His pay checks were given away before he got home. Five years into their marriage, he and his wife, Anne, became houseparents for 20 boys at Ailsa Craig Boys Farm (now Craigwood Youth Services). They founded Parkhill Girls’ Home (now Teen Girl’s Home) and Ausable Springs Ranch which became the largest private group home program in the 70’s. He founded The Missing Piece Coffee House in Grand Bend as a creative venue to keep kids off the streets. He established the first continuum care home in London, Ontario (now Chelsea Park Oxford). He renovated homes into apartments for Laotian refugees post Viet Nam war. He created residential homes for post-psychiatric patients. He believed in integrated communities. He believed all people deserved to know the fullness of God’s creation.

In 1984, he and Anne sold all they had and moved to Haiti. They were 60 years old. His intent was to empower the poorest of the poor to “become masters of their own destiny”. This became his last “hoorah”. Today, the Foundation for International Development Assistance (FIDA) stands true to providing resources to men and women who are motivated to become invested shareholders in their own agricultural cooperative. His oldest grandson, Jason, who lived with them in Haiti, recalls seeing his grandfather literally give the shirt off his back on more than one occasion. He says on his passing, “ He left big shoes to fill... at least those he did not give away.”

Jack died as he lived. He fulfilled his purpose... passing on the one remaining thing he held: his God-given vision. All else had long been given away. His last breath was granted at 2:57 p.m. on May 16th, ironically due to complications with pneumonia. Funeral service has been held.

In memory of a man who made such a difference in our world.

Not only as an Uncle but as a role model whom he touched and changed many people’s lives for the better.

All our love always and forever to our Uncle Jack.

Richard, Cathy, Brandon, Thea and sister-in-law Helen Wall.  
Predeceased by younger brother David Wall.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

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Across:

1 Sizable  
4 First Lady before Mamie  
8 Speedy  
12 Flintstone pet  
13 Large international show  
14 "I am just --- boy, though my story's seldom told..." (Simon and Garfunkel, "The Boxer")  
16 North of Tex.  
17 Take --- Train (Duke Ellington song)  
18 Upper story  
19 Totters  
21 European mountain system  
23 "Copacabana" showgirl  
24 Tucson time  
25 Barrier  
27 Holler  
29 Sheet of glass  
30 Computer interconnection system  
31 Higher degree  
34 Marzipan base  
37 Tomb Raider --- Croft

38 Not ordained  
39 Undiluted  
40 Big Blue  
41 This place  
42 Sawbuck  
43 Chemical pollutants banned in 1975  
45 Leftovers  
47 Space viewed from below  
48 Play on words  
49 Computer brains  
50 Some foreign Government heads  
51 Tree with a partridge at Christmas  
52 Adult female pig  
55 Interlock  
58 --- Silvers or Collins  
60 Singer/songwriter --- Mars  
62 Thespian  
64 Line about which rotation occurs  
66 M --- mouse  
67 Formerly the Gold Coast  
68 Model and actress --- Suvari  
69 Liquor measure  
70 Adhere to  
71 Toboggan

72 A T M ID  
Down:  
1 E.g. Schwinns  
2 Arm of the sea  
3 Target  
4 Gamble  
5 Breathe out  
6 Incantation  
7 Cleaner  
8 Aviation safety grp.  
9 Fittingly  
10 "Licence to Kill" Bond girl Talisa ---  
11 Labor strenuously  
12 Campus housing  
15 --- Building, now the Comcast Building, N Y C  
20 Graceful waterbird  
22 Lasting mark  
26 Logical operator  
28 Viral genetic material  
29 Mary Jane  
30 Flee  
31 Court statement  
32 Heavenly instrument  
33 Fabric colors

- 34 Hill dwellers
- 35 Emblem of Wales
- 36 Large number
- 37 2,000 to a ton
- 40 Arabic "son of"
- 41 Slugger's stat.
- 43 Common measure of pollutants
- 44 Turning point
- 45 Health club
- 46 Edge of a street
- 49 Singer --- Dion
- 50 Ring
- 51 Screen dot
- 52 Osaka fish dish
- 53 Aromatic bulbous vegetable
- 54 Habit
- 55 Journal
- 56 Reverberation
- 57 Dagger thrust
- 59 Overactors
- 61 Coarse file
- 63 Flat fish
- 65 Down

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

**Across:** 1 Big, 8 Bess, 8 Fast, 12 Dino, 13 Expo, 14 A poor, 16 Okla, 17 The A, 18 Attic, 19 Reels, 21 Alps, 23 Lola, 24 M S T, 25 Wall, 27 Cry, 29 Pare, 30 L A N, 31 Ph D, 34 Almond, 37 Lara, 38 Lay, 39 Neat, 40 I B M, 41 Here, 42 Ten, 43 PC BS, 45 Scraps, 47 Sky, 48 Pun, 49 C P Us, 50 PMS, 51 Pear, 52 Sow, 55 Mesh, 58 Phil, 60 Bruno, 62 Actor, 64 Axis, 66 As in, 67 Ghana, 68 Mena, 69 Shot, 70 Obey, 71 Pixel, 52 Sushi, 53 Onion, 54 Wort, 55 Mag, 56 Echo, 57 Stab, 59 Hams, 61 Rasp, 63 Ray, 65 Sad.

**Down:** 1 Bikas, 2 Inlet, 3 Goal, 4 Bet, 5 Exhale, 6 Spell, 7 Soap, 8 F A A, 9 Aptly, 10 Soto, 11 Toll, 12 Dorm, Sled, 72 P I N.

**34** Hill dwellers  
**35** Emblem of Wales  
**36** Large number  
**37** 2,000 to a ton  
**40** Arabic "son of"  
**41** Slugger's stat.  
**43** Common measure of pollutants  
**44** Turning point  
**45** Health club  
**46** Edge of a street  
**49** Singer --- Dion  
**50** Ring  
**51** Screen dot  
**52** Osaka fish dish  
**53** Aromatic bulbous vegetable  
**54** Habit  
**55** Journal  
**56** Reverberation  
**57** Dagger thrust  
**59** Overactors  
**61** Coarse file  
**63** Flat fish  
**65** Down



LocalSPORTS

Cycling fundraiser to provide aid to Ukraine

Penny Coles  
The Local

Along with a group of avid Niagara cyclists, Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Christyna Prokipchuk is organizing a fundraiser to help the people of Ukraine.

She is hoping for 100 cyclists who will ride to raise money for Help Us Help, a registered Canadian Ukrainian charity that has been helping in Ukraine for a long time.

The July 23 cycling event is called Steppe Up for Ukraine — the steppes are a region in Southern Ukraine, an area of natural green space with the longest growing season, not unlike our Niagara region, she says, with its farmland and vineyards.

Not only does the name symbolize something important to the people of Ukraine, the cycling distance does as well.

The route is a very scenic, self-guided loop beginning at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church

in Niagara Falls, and will begin with a brief ceremony and blessing, says Prokipchuk.

It has been organized like a group ride, with cyclists choosing a 19-kilometre or a 91-kilometre tour of the Niagara region — 1991 was the year of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, when Ukraine became independent, she explains.

The route will stop by notable Ukrainian sites along the way, before ending the loop

back at the church, with some home-made Ukrainian food, including cabbage rolls.

With a goal of raising \$30,000, Prokipchuk says the event will be coupled with a silent auction, and already has some great items to be auctioned, including an original, 36" x 48" oil on canvas painting by local artist Ron Clavier, called *Sunflowers*.

Prokipchuk, who will soon be welcoming a Ukrainian refugee family into her home, is desperate to do whatever she can to help the people of Ukraine as they flee their homes, fearing for their lives and their children.

Since the beginning of the invasion, Help Us Help, a Canadian registered charity founded in 1993, has been responding to urgent requests for medical supplies in Ukraine, and is supporting the relocation of Ukrainians from high-risk areas to safer locations, including support for residential institutions and orphanages.

For more information, register for the ride, to donate, offer silent auction items or to volunteer or sponsor the event, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/team/STEPPEUPforUkraine>



Christyna Prokipchuk is an avid cyclist, and has organized a fundraising cycling tour to raise money to send to Ukraine. (Photos supplied)

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