Moving, untold stories of Indigenous history

Sharon Burns
The Local

On a day when local schools cancelled field trips and kept children indoors for recess due to smoke from wildfires, Rick Hill, a renowned educator of Indigenous culture, suggested that “may-nucator of Indigenous cul-
ture, suggested that “may-
to smoke from wildfires,
indoors for recess due
trips and kept children
schools cancelled field

There were six pickleball courts on the go Saturday at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Cogeco’s YourTV had cameras set up to record and broadcast the games. For more photos, see page 20. (Mike Balsom)

Arenas transformed into pickleball palace

Mike Balsom
The Local

If the goal of this weekend’s Pickleball Classic tournament in Virgil was to put Niagara-on-the-Lake on the sports map for all the right reasons, then it was mission accomplished for John Hindle and the NOTL Pickleball Club.

With nearly 300 competitors vying for medals in a number of different categories based on skill level and age, the Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arenas were converted into a pickleball palace for three straight days.

And the efforts of Hindle and more than 100 volunteers were certainly appreciated based on the rave reviews The Local heard from visitors to the town and local competitors alike.

Referee Steve Hast came all the way from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to officiate Friday night’s pro exhibition. An in-demand pickleball ref who first took up the game in 2016 while on an Alaskan cruise, Hast says he was on another cruise in January when he met some members of the NOTL club. They mentioned the tournament, and he offered to come up and help work with club members who volunteered to officiate on the 12 courts this weekend.

“I am really impressed with this tournament,” Hast told The Local Saturday. “Especially for a first time effort, we ended up with almost 300 players, that’s an incredible turnout. And the attention for the pro night was fantastic.

Hast, whose home club boasts a whopping 1,500 members and 19 courts, referees matches all over Canada and the U.S. He’s scheduled to work the Canadian Nationals in Regina, Saskatchewan and the U.S. Nationals in Dallas, Texas, where 3,500 people will compete. His expertise on officiating was invaluable for the volunteers.

Competitors Jim Kostin and Mike Boscowitz were visiting from the Toronto Pickleball Club. They were competing at the 3.5 skill level, the highest at this weekend’s tournament, in the 50 to 64 age group.

“We’ve been playing in a few tournaments,” Kostin said. “We just played up in Barrie and won that tournament. We love the location of this one. We usually come here twice a year, so it’s great to come here and get a chance to play pickleball.”

Kostin and Boscowitz were playing in the same men’s doubles category as NOTL players Enzo Mancuso and Ron Pychel, who went on to capture the gold medal Saturday against fellow club members Ian Sutherland and Peter St. It was a close game,” says Mancuso. “We went back and forth a few times. It was a good battle between the two teams, but we ended up winning 15-10.”

Mancuso also played in Sunday’s mixed doubles event in the same skill level and age categories, paired up with Christine Bozek. They lost in the semi-final to Shirley Atchler and Colin McAdoo-rey, and went on to capture bronze with a relatively easy 15-5 win over Dale Anne

Continued on page 10

Continued on page 20

Sotheby’s INTERNATIONAL REALTY
Canada

Ali Booth* 905.650.7092
Erikha Esposo* 905.650.8601
Andrea Solis* 289.697.2242

Unlock your dream home with us: where excellence meets real estate. Contact The Booth Team today.

PAGE 10: Sotheby’s International Realty Canada, Brokerage is a member of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, A Real Estate Brokerage. *Terms Representative.
Bjorgan explains impact of forest fires, climate change

By Penny Coles

Owen Bjorgan, an outdoor teacher for the school board, had his Woodend Conservation Area cancelled for a couple of days last week, while Environment Canada warned residents in several areas, including Niagara, to stay indoors due to the very high risk posed by poor air quality from forest fires in other provinces, including Alberta and Quebec.

Friday air quality was listed as modestly bad, and by Saturday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.

By early this week, forest fires were raging across northern Ontario, causing air quality warnings up north, but on Tuesdays, and predicted into Wednesday, warnings up north, but on Tuesday was considered a low risk in Niagara.
Popular patios may become permanent

Carrie Gleason
The Local

At last Tuesday’s municipal heritage committee meeting, town staff made recommendations for the 2023 temporary patio program along Queen Street, originally put in place to give restaurants an increase in capacity during the pandemic, and an initial discussion with committee members took place about what a permanent program might look like.

Staff has recommended that a height restriction for patios be put in place for 2023 so as to avoid obstruct views of heritage buildings along Queen Street. After discussion with committee members, it was also decided that decorative greenery be a “requirement” rather than “encouraged” on patios, and that umbrella colours be muted.

Committee members seem to have been paying special attention to patios in other towns in their personal travels, with several members describing both the atmosphere of towns with patio dining and the streetscape aesthetics, and comparing that to Niagara-on-the-Lake. St. Catharines, for example, has potted plants supplied and maintained by the city that patio owners can rent to give the streetscape a more cohesive look.

Some committee members voiced concerns about the visual clutter that patios will create on the street, and whether to limit the number of patios that will be allowed, along with the possibility of establishing rules about the distance between them. Town heritage planner Denise Horne said that, due to “a number of new restaurants moving in,” the town expects to receive a higher number of temporary patio applications this year.

Horne also said that in the fall, town staff will be preparing a report with recommendations for a permanent seasonal patio program. While it is too early to say what that program will look like, committee members discussed some issues they would like to see included, such as pedestrian safety, right-of-way for traffic turning off side streets, the need for better building materials, pest control, access to drainwater grates and accessibility.

Some committee members commented that they don’t feel the look of the current temporary patios is pleasing, and that part of a new program would be to ensure that patios fit in with heritage character of the town.

Members agreed that patios add a vibrant, lively feel to Queen Street, and that aesthetics will play a major role in any future permanent seasonal patio program.

Lakeshore Road, site of recent fatality, a dangerous stretch

Penny Coles
The Local

A 49-year-old woman has died after hitting a tree on Lakeshore Road across from the cemetery Saturday morning.

Niagara Regional Police, Niagara paramedics and Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters went to help around 11:40 a.m., but when the woman, who was alone in the car, was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, she was deceased.

The police are not releasing her name.

A photo taken for The Local shows the car severely damaged and Monday.

She had an interesting experience Tuesday, she says, driving from the Old Town to her home. “It was just the way the light was on the road, and coming around the corner, it appeared like the tree was in the middle of the road. It looked very strange, almost making me want to go back to take a picture.”

In a letter to The Local, she lists the many incidents she recalls, finding details online to confirm dates, that paint a picture of the danger along that part of the road, beginning where it meets Four Mile Creek Road and continuing into Old Town. She calls on the town and the region to consider ways to make it safer, she says, believing there have to be solutions, some of which have been used in other areas of town. Most recently there has been a stop sign to slow traffic on York Road at Concession 6, but in past years and at other locations, larger signs and flashing lights have also been installed to warn drivers of danger, she says.

Detectives assigned to the collision reconstruction unit are appealing to members of the public who may have been in the area at the time to contact the lead detective at 905-688-4111, option 3, badge 1009170 with any relevant information.

Members of the public who wish to provide information anonymously can contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-8477.

Town lifts fire ban as risk recedes

Penny Coles
The Local

Due to improved air quality, the town’s Fire & Emergent to Services Department is lifting the open-air burning ban this morning, Wednesday June 14, at 8:30 a.m., CAO Marlie Chuckson told The Local Tuesday.

The town will also notify the public that the burn ban has been lifted through the town’s website and social media channels Wednesday morning.

It comes as other municipalities in Niagara Region are lifting their bans, after some rain over the weekend and Monday.
Pillitteri family celebrates winery’s 30th anniversary

Penny Coles
The Local

The story of Pillitteri Estates Winery began generations ago in the heart of Sicily, but continued in Niagara-on-the-Lake when Gary Pillitteri arrived in the Niagara area with his father in 1948.

He and his family spent some time on Lakeshore Road, but Gary and Lena, married in 1960, “extended our family roots,” bought the Niagara Stone Road property and opened a farmers’ market 70 years ago, and then Pillitteri Estates Winery 30 years ago.

“But first,” Gary said, “my wife and I had to clean up the pig farm here.”

Gary shared the story of their family, the hard work that led to the winery’s success and its 30th anniversary, with a small crowd of friends and family gathered in the BarrelHead pizza patio Friday.

“The tractor parked on the grass beside the patio was all I had to work with then,” he said. The winery, he added, was designed to fit into the community, “because this is what we’re all about. I never dreamed 30 years ago that we’d be where we are today,” with Pillitteri wines sold in 30 different countries.

“And that’s not because of Lena and I, it’s because of our kids.”

Next for the couple, he said, is retirement, and spending it right here in the community they call home.
All you have to do is call Help Me Rhonda, and she will. It’s her passion, and has been for as long as she can remember. Rhonda HOLLOWAY of HMR — Help Me Rhonda’s Interiors — has been interested in design since she was a child, rearranging friends’ bedrooms before a sleepover began.

Her parents were both very creative, she adds, so her talent came naturally. “My mother could design a room on a dime, and that’s how I started as well, on a dime, although I don’t do it that way any more,” she jokes.

She got her start selling furniture, and quickly discovered her customers trusted her design advice, asking her to come to their homes to help with colour and fabric selection. Starting her own interior design business became the next obvious step, which she did, in the Durham Region in 1992, offering consultations on interior decorating, and specializing in furniture, blinds, custom draperies and accessories.

In 2005, with her husband John’s help and skills, they expanded the business to include full renovations, doing the most amazing kitchen and bathroom makeovers — check out Help Me Rhonda’s online photo gallery to see how amazing — and relying of the best contractors and suppliers available to make sure they delivered great service and top-quality results.

Rhonda says she often had clients call on her for help when contractors had gone over budget, or in some cases, hadn’t even completed the job they had promised. Clients were finding themselves without the resources to finish the work.

By offering renovation and decorating services, HMR can ensure the job gets done properly, within budget, and with the results clients are expecting.

A decision to move house and business to Niagara-on-the-Lake was both “scary and exciting,” she says, but she and her husband John have adult children in the region, and an expanding number of grandchildren they wanted to be closer to. “We really didn’t want to miss out on spending more time with them,” she says, “and we love it here. People are very warm and welcoming, and we feel very much at home.”

They bought a fixer-upper on Concession 6, and they are both immersed in making it into their dream home, but they are hard-working and motivated, and interested in taking on the dreams of others.

While Rhonda brings a keen design sense, taste and style to help fulfill her clients’ wishes, she also understands the fundamentals, and considers herself to be open and direct, saying what she thinks. If she believes a client is headed down the right path with her design ideas, Rhonda says so, but she’s not afraid to tell a client if she disagrees. What matters to her most, she says, is that her clients are happy with the results — and they are. “We’re every customer-oriented,” she says. “We do a great job, and we make sure we have happy clients. Renovations are hard to live through, but I make sure they turn out beautiful in the end. The client gets something they love with the budget they have, everyone is happy, and it’s all been worth it! The end result is all that matters.”

HELP ME RHONDA’S
COMPLETE RENOVATION AND DECORATING SERVICES

Help Me Rhonda’s Interiors HRM has been involved in beautifying homes since 1992 in the Durham region and now Niagara-on-the-Lake. We specialize in complete home decorating and design services. From kitchen and bathroom renovations, draperies, blinds, upholstery, furniture accessories, color consultation, furniture — basically anything you need inside your home is what we do! Celebrating our year anniversary here in NOTL and totally loving it! Making wonderful friends and new clients over the last year. Has been such a reward.

– Rhonda and John

helpmerhondas.ca | 905.391.2499 | info@helpmerhondas.ca
Owen Bjorgjan  
The Local

I remember my first time golfing at what was formerly known as Peach Trees golf course, a delightful nine-hole course off of Queenston Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake. I was likely around 10 years old, and I thought it was a real treat to swing some clubs with my dad, Moe, for the first time.

There is an ongoing internal debate as to whether my golf skills have actually improved since then. Thankfully, my biology skills did, though. It was at an early age by golf that I realized I was destined to study the natural world instead of making the PGA tour.

I teed off the day by immediately walking over to one of the numerous ponds that dotted the course. I absolutely had to know what could be swimming, floating or slithering around in there. I was not disappointed to see a dozen bullfrogs the size of a shoe. At this point, my dad was likely attempting to tell me when the appropriate time to use an iron versus a driver was, but instead of a club in my hand, I wanted to grab one of these amphibious behemoths for myself. The frog was so big that it could barely be contained in my two hands. Some golfers wear a white glove, and I was wearing a mitten of algae and pond shodge. I released Ontario’s largest frog back into the water, and then proceeded to hit a few balls in various directions.

In this moment of youth, I couldn’t fathom why these ponds were called water hazards. What an insulting name, I thought. They were joyously dotted the course. I absolute-ly had to know what could be swimming, floating or slithering around in there. I was not disappointed to see a dozen bullfrogs the size of a shoe. At this point, my dad was likely attempting to tell me when the appropriate time to use an iron versus a driver was, but instead of a club in my hand, I wanted to grab one of these amphibious behemoths for myself. The frog was so big that it could barely be contained in my two hands. Some golfers wear a white glove, and I was wearing a mitten of algae and pond shodge. I released Ontario’s largest frog back into the water, and then proceeded to hit a few balls in various directions.

Given the desired peaceful nature of the game, most golf courses are located away from roaring highways, and our local wildlife would generally prefer to avoid the traffic. Given some of the local hostility directed toward the LGBTQ2 community recently, it must have taken some courage to write his appeal for all and heartfelt thanks to Ted Mouradian for his reflections are closely linked with my own. I join Ted in his appeal for all of us to embrace diversity, live and let live, and engage in the behaviours toward all others, especially those who are marginalized, that we would like others to demon-strate toward ourselves. Life is short. Let it be gracious.

Donald Combe Special to The Local

The Ruling Class (Netflix, 1972), a black comedy, is un-shamedly and outrageously theatrical, and starts with the accidental death, by asphyxiation, of the cross-dressing 13th Earl of Garnet, his son and heir, Jack, a paranoid schizophrenic, becomes the 14th Earl. Jack believes he is Jesus Christ, and so the drama con-tinues. This is a well-crafted film, unusual though it is, with brilliant performances by Peter O’Toole and Alastair Sim.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to the movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through “short and sweet” ex-plorations of Netflix series and movies for the Local.
In last week’s editorial, Councillor Erwin Wiens asked to explain the effects of a forest fire smoke that blanketed our area. He may be a competent viticulturist and municipal politician but he is not a meteorologist, as he admits. At this point, the Local should have consulted a qualified meteorologist for an explanation of the climatic conditions responsible for the delivery of this smoke. The facts can be easily found online (but no one uses the internet to look up facts anymore!).

Ordinarily, winds are directed by the jetstream to move from west to east. This would take wildfire smoke from the west, northern Ontario and northern Quebec to Labrador and Newfoundland and out to the Atlantic. Periodically, a system called an Omega Block sets up across the continent. The Greek letter omega looks like a curly W. Low pressure, in the Atlantic northeast, together with one in the Rockies, blocks in a high-pressure area around the Great Lakes. This pattern can last for days or even months (remember the summer of 1975 and the implementation of the Planning Act, official plans zoning bylaws. In fact, the profession of planning would be obsolete, the concept of planning becoming an oxymoron.

I read with interest Anthony Ornato’s Letter (the Local, June 7) and while he makes some valid points, some clarification is needed. An article in the Globe & Mail recently stated that some 3,000 Canadian students enroll in foreign medical schools each year — not 1000 — but less than 500 make it back to Canada for a post-graduate residency training position. The number of residency slots needs to be dramatically increased, particularly in specialties which are under-resourced and where positions are readily available in public hospitals. Private healthcare has no control over creating additional training positions — this comes from the medical school programs. This will take time but is vastly cheaper than building more medical schools. It should be pointed out that unfortunately there are slots in family practice training programs that are filled up with so-called ‘cradle to the grave’ family practice is becoming less and less popular. The reasons for this are complex — remuneration is one, but too many family physicians feel isolated not being part of a family health team where they have access to nurse practitioners, social workers, physiotherapists, pharmacists and dietitians. The provincial government has all it but abandoned creating new family health teams or expand- ing existing ones.

I would like to acknowledge Ron Sicnais for his dedicated efforts in safeguarding his home and neighbourhood against the recurring threat of forest fires. Over the past decades, he has demonstrated commendable commitment to achieving adequate protection for the community. The parkette restorations he has advocated for serve an important purpose.

However, it is crucial to remem- ber that this parkette is known for many years. Council Member-minister that this parkette is intended for the enjoyment of all townsfolk — public property, intended for the enjoyment of all townsmen and visitors, and it can serve multiple purposes. Prior to the installation of rock reinforcements at Balls Beach, citizens were invited to provide input on its design. As an avid kayaker myself, along with a fellow enthusiast, we were assured that we would have access to the water at Balls Beach for launching our kayaks. I find it rather perplexing that Mr. Sicnais suggests that the parkette be a passive space, expressing concerns that people might expect to be able to kayak with full-fledged park facilities at this level. In reality, we all seek is a relatively calm area where we can launch our kayaks without risking injury. A recent article in The Local highlighted that not too long ago, the town placed a sign directing kayakers to a kayak launch at the beach.

Dear Lord Mayor and members of Council, The area surrounding the Parliament Oak school site is a very important established residential neighbourhood in the Heritage Character Area of Old Town. Would anyone have the audacity to propose or support a large commercial hotel and event space in the middle of Rosedale in Toronto? In Forest Hill? In The Beaches? I would think not. Then why is it being considered here in the middle of an established residential neigh-

Reader offers explanation of climate change

Support for hotel proposal would be throwing away planning tools

Private healthcare clinics not an ideal solution

Please leave Balls Beach accessible for local kayakers

I found it rather perplexing that Mr. Sicnais suggested that the parkette be a passive space, expressing concerns that people might expect to be able to beach with full-fledged park facilities alain to Mabou. In reality, all we seek is a relatively calm area where we can launch our kayaks without risking injury.

In fact, we feel it is important to preserve the historical name of one of the few water access points in town, and continue referring to it as Balls Beach as it has been known for many years.
By now several have seen the posting on Facebook regarding the fatality on Lakeshore Road which occurred Saturday morning, June 10. A single vehicle had crashed and the front body of the car was wrapped around a tree on the north side of Lakeshore Road, opposite Niagara Lake- shore Cemetery. The road was closed for six hours.

On Sunday I walked over to leave a bouquet of flowers cut from my garden. I noticed a note and another bouquet someone left. What a tragedy to lose a loved one in such an in- stant. How that family’s life will be changed forever.

Prior to this accident, I had noticed that there were a few trees several weeks ago had the bark at the base of the tree removed. Later we heard from someone in town that a person who works at a local establishment had removed. Later we heard from someone in town that a person who works at a local establishment had removed. Later we heard from someone in town that a person who works at a local establishment had removed. Later we heard from someone in town that a person who works at a local establishment had removed. Later we heard from someone in town that a person who works at a local establishment had removed.

What I found startling on Saturday was that there was a large sign at the intersection of Four Mile Creek Road and Lakeshore Road stating ‘Closed by Police Order’ but that did not make a difference to some. Cars were still going close by the sign until they got further up the road and saw the police cars with flashing lights. They then had to make a 360-degree turn on Lakeshore. I noticed some were getting to the event at Lakeshore. I know some police cars with flashing lights were still going around the area.

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Their crime? Nothing I local.com

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.

Local

Letters

Too many serious, fatal collisions on Lakeshore Road

On a single night 40 people met at the police presence or ride the road. I witnessed this near Lakeshore and Niven Road, as well as at the entrance before the Four Mile Creek Road to Old Nab Road, a young man was dead, and badly injured. Road was closed and the hydro was off for several hours.
Crossroads strives for inclusivity for all students

When the Pride flag was raised at Crossroads School, it was a message to all students, "You belong here.

Not just for Pride month, or for certain kids. The goal of the school, says principal Kate Fish, is to ensure every one of the 454 students who enter the doors of Crossroads School knows it is a place where they belong, where they are safe, and where they and their families are all welcome.

It’s a message that will be hard to miss, with the school in the process of having a two- and a half meter banner made for the front hall that says “You belong here.”

Raising the Pride flag and all it represents is just one small part of the big picture of what the school does all year.

“It’s a message that is embedded in everything we do,” Fish says, recognizing that every student has a place here, and recognizing the diversity of our school population.

“It’s also embedded in our curriculum,” she continues, “like talking about Black excellence, Indigenous history and Truth and Reconciliation, all things we do that revolve around social justice are embedded in what we teach, based on the curriculum and age-appropriateness, so it looks different in every classroom.”

Inclusivity as part of the curriculum includes acknowledging days of significance and celebration for all kids, she says. “It’s just who we are. We get to know who the students are when they arrive in Kindergarten and continue until they graduate in Grade 8. We make sure they are recognized. We acknowledge the value of every single student at Crossroads.”

She and staff all continue to work on that on a daily basis, getting to know and understand the “bits and pieces” of every child, “their skills, their talents, and what makes them unique.”

“It’s about really knowing who our learners are when they’re here,” she adds, “and making sure they know this is a safe and comfortable place to be.”

Inclusivity is also a direction of the school board, Fish says, and has a trickle-down effect to its schools. Each year, the goal is to always move in the direction of equality and inclusivity. “It’s in everything we do. It’s hard to miss, and it’s ongoing. We really love our kids and we want everyone to feel safe here. It’s what we all set for ourselves, what the board sets for us.”

Fish began her role as principal of Crossroads just as the pandemic was shutting down schools, she says, arriving on the very first day of virtual learning.

“For a couple of years we all missed that sense of community. It’s really important to me and to all of us to foster that sense of community. When we were able to go outside and see the smiling faces and kids running around, it was super heart-warming.”

Fish says from the moment she walked into the school, she felt how welcoming it was, with its strong sense of community. For the flag-raising, teachers brought their students who were available and wanted to be part of the celebration, organized by the Brave Space Club, which is formed and run by students who want “a forum and opportunity to really be themselves,” says Fish.

She found it a moving ceremony — once the flag was raised, “all the kids turned to each other and said ‘you belong here.’ It was lovely to hear, a really heart-warming moment, with hundreds of kids saying that.”

About two-thirds of the students were there, representing every grade in the school, she says.

Continued on page 12
Ordnance boundary stone #1 a triumphant find

Ordnance boundary stone number one has been found just in time for the 200th anniversary of its placement as per the order of E.W. Durnford, commanding officer of the Royal Engineers on June 19, 1823.

Ordnance boundary stones, used to mark the boundary between town land and military reserves, are some of the oldest historical artifacts in the Old Town. To date, 19 of the 37 stones have been found. Just last week, Richard Larocque, an Ontario land surveyor, and Ted Rumble, board member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, found stone #1 on the Niagara Parkway, just past the John Street parking lot. Rumble posted the find on social media: "Eureka! Ordnance Boundary Stone 1 found! Placed near the river walking path in 1823, 200 years ago this year. So exciting!"

Local residents John and Liz Vanderperk first heard about the stones through Rumble’s 2019 posts. "During COVID, John and I would get on our bikes and off we’d go” looking for these stones, said Liz. "I have always known about these stones, but never knew what they were until I started following Rumble on Facebook,” said John. “The stones mark the beginnings of our town.”

As fortune would have it, the Vanderperks went looking for that first stone and found Rumble in the brush on the parkway this past rainy Sunday. John took a waypoint reading to identify the stone’s GPS coordinates.

Historically, after the War of 1812, townspeople were afraid of another attack, explained Rumble. After a series of land swaps with private owners, the town had four military reserves “which made it a heavily militarized town.”

John Vanderperk shows the GPS coordinates of stone 1. Continued on page 11.
Stones ‘a matter of international significance’

Continued from page 10

The town owned an area designed for a hospital bordered by Johnson, Nassau, Queen and Dorchester Streets. This ‘hospital block’ was swapped with the military and became a military reserve, marked by four posts, all of which are still there today.

The stones are made out of Queenston limestone from the Queenston Quarry. The Royal Engineers Workshop, which was where the stones were made, was located at Queen’s Royal Park.

“Stones ‘a matter of international significance’

The town owned an area designed for a hospital bordered by Johnson, Nassau, Queen and Dorchester Streets. This ‘hospital block’ was swapped with the military and became a military reserve, marked by four posts, all of which are still there today.

The stones are made out of Queenston limestone from the Queenston Quarry. The Royal Engineers Workshop, which was where the stones were made, was located at Queen’s Royal Park.

“All the stones are the same,” explained Rumble. “They are nine inches square, made of white limestone. A broad arrow is the mark of British property and is carved over the initials B.O., which stands for Board of Ordnance. On the other side a number indicates which stone it is.

Some of the stones have been pulled out by the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company while others have dropped below grade. Some have sidewalks or roads paved over them.

Rumble’s interest started with his home’s proximity to OBS 23 at the corner of Simcoe and Prideaux. “This stone was here for 200 years and was intact,” he said. Since then, however, the stone was broken by a sidewalk snowplow. The top of it is currently sitting in the town offices.

Frank Racioppo, owner of Queenston Quarry, and business partner Joe Lamanza, are making a duplicate stone to replace OBS 23.

“The recognition and re-pair of these ordnances is a matter of historical importance,” said Racioppo. “This is internationally significant. The Royal Engineers installed and marked land with this emblem all over the Commonwealth. The BO marking is so distinctive, Joe and I are thrilled to see it engraved on our prized Queenston limestone.”

“Queenston Limestone is 400 million years old; hence, a new stone made 200 years later is not new at all, as the old and new stones will appear the same about 100 years from now,” said Racioppo.

“Special thought has to be given to the tooling and style of the markings on new stones,” he explained. “These are very important archaeological artifacts that you want to know and distinguish between the stones that were cut and finished 200 years ago versus the stones that are cut and inscribed today.”

“The 200 year anniversary makes it even more special, and I encourage our community to get behind it,” Racioppo said. Joe, Ted and I will do our best to engage the local community with the goal to complete this special task at no cost to the town.”

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa says he is aware of the importance of these stones. “Residents came forward several months back and updated the council on the background and significance of the ordnance boundary stones. Council agreed in principle, and asked our heritage staff to work on bringing some suggested next steps for the community,” he said.

According to Rumble, the best-preserved stone is OBS 26, at the inner corner of the Charles Inn and best approached from the ninth tee of the NOTL Golf Course.

“Queenston Limestone is 400 million years old; hence, a new stone made 200 years later is not new at all, as the old and new stones will appear the same about 100 years from now,” said Racioppo.

“Special thought has to be given to the tooling and style of the markings on new stones,” he explained. “These are very important archaeological artifacts that you want to know and distinguish between the stones that were cut and finished 200 years ago versus the stones that are cut and inscribed today.”

“The 200 year anniversary makes it even more special, and I encourage our community to get behind it,” Racioppo said. Joe, Ted and I will do our best to engage the local community with the goal to complete this special task at no cost to the town.”

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa says he is aware of the importance of these stones. “Residents came forward several months back and updated the council on the background and significance of the ordnance boundary stones. Council agreed in principle, and asked our heritage staff to work on bringing some suggested next steps for the community,” he said.

According to Rumble, the best-preserved stone is OBS 26, at the inner corner of the Charles Inn and best approached from the ninth tee of the NOTL Golf Course.

“Special thought has to be given to the tooling and style of the markings on new stones,” he explained. “These are very important archaeological artifacts that you want to know and distinguish between the stones that were cut and finished 200 years ago versus the stones that are cut and inscribed today.”

“The 200 year anniversary makes it even more special, and I encourage our community to get behind it,” Racioppo said. Joe, Ted and I will do our best to engage the local community with the goal to complete this special task at no cost to the town.”

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa says he is aware of the importance of these stones. “Residents came forward several months back and updated the council on the background and significance of the ordnance boundary stones. Council agreed in principle, and asked our heritage staff to work on bringing some suggested next steps for the community,” he said.

According to Rumble, the best-preserved stone is OBS 26, at the inner corner of the Charles Inn and best approached from the ninth tee of the NOTL Golf Course.

“Special thought has to be given to the tooling and style of the markings on new stones,” he explained. “These are very important archaeological artifacts that you want to know and distinguish between the stones that were cut and finished 200 years ago versus the stones that are cut and inscribed today.”

“The 200 year anniversary makes it even more special, and I encourage our community to get behind it,” Racioppo said. Joe, Ted and I will do our best to engage the local community with the goal to complete this special task at no cost to the town.”

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa says he is aware of the importance of these stones. “Residents came forward several months back and updated the council on the background and significance of the ordnance boundary stones. Council agreed in principle, and asked our heritage staff to work on bringing some suggested next steps for the community,” he said.
And then they went inside and had freezies, a fundraiser organized by the Brave Space Club, with the proceeds going to Quest Community Health Centre, says Fish, which provides healthcare to the vulnerable, including the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

The principal herself obviously has a deep personal sense of social justice, but while it comes from within, she says it extends to all teachers, who take it very seriously, because it’s so important to the students.

“You can’t access the academic piece of your education if you don’t feel a sense of comfort and confidence in who you are,” she says. And she credits Crossroads and everyone involved, including the community, for creating that environment long before she arrived.

“I was floored by it at the time, and we continue to work on it every single day.”

“Certainly this place has a deep feeling of community,” she says.

“And every single supply teacher, supply secretary, visitor or volunteer who comes into the school says the same thing, that this place feels different. It feels happy and warm, it feels engaging. It’s a really nice place to spend eight hours a day.”

And what Fish sees in the symbolism of the Pride flag, she says, is not just for those kids it may resonate with, “but also for their allies, who stand up for them, and for human rights and social justice. You see that activism in 11- and 12- and 13-year-olds, and we want to continue that as much as we can.”

“I think,” she continues, “that’s the message as we move toward the end of June and the school year: there are wonderful things happening in our schools today that are moving us forward to a kinder and gentler society.”

Continued from page 9

The NOTL Museum held their members launch for the new exhibit Bound & Determined last week, and were pleased to have some special guests. Pictured are Sarah Kaufman (co-curator), Dorothy Abbott (Ontario Black History Society), Rochelle Bush (co-curator), Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine, Natasha Henry-Dixon (co-curator), Wayne Moore (commissioned artist), and Shawna Butts (co-curator). Dr. Augustine was the first African Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons and is credited with putting forth the motion to establish Black History Month. (Supplied)
A rainy Monday was the perfect setting for an elementary school chess tournament at the community centre.

The District School Board of Niagara tournament, designed for students in Grades 3 to 8, allowed entry to four students from each grade, per school. All students were guaranteed four rounds of games.

Debbie Peters, who teaches intermediate French at Crossroads Public School, was coaching Grade 7 student Jackson Dodridge through a final game of the day.

“This is our first chess tournament for the DSBN since COVID finished,” said Peters. “We are pretty excited to be back at it again. There are about 250 students here today, and I brought 22 from Crossroads.”

Madelyn Josiak, a Grade 6 student at Crossroads who learned the game in Grade 2, said she “got to know quite a few people from different schools.” As for her games on Monday, “I would say I did okay-ish. I lost twice, won once and got one draw,” she said.

Matthew Cater, a Grade 4 student at St. Davids Public School, started learning the basics when he was five years old.

“Chess is a hard game. It’s complicated,” he said. But he went on to win all four of his games for first place in the Grade 4 division.

“I went four for four here,” said Cater. “I did my best. I accomplished my goal and I think I am going to do well. I was the only kid who won all four of the games in Grade 4 today.”

Josh Bateson, organizer of the tournament and teacher at St. Davids, and St. Davids principal, Carl Glauser, were on hand to make sure everything ran smoothly.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa presented opening remarks and handed out awards at the end of the day.

“It was a very good day,” said Bateson as the competition wrapped up. “It marked a return to pre-pandemic customs, with 274 students engaging across tabletops.”

“The community centre bent over backwards to make our day a success,” he added. “The successful partnership between the town and school board celebrated students with sharp minds, in a brief phase of life that seems to award all its attention to muscles.”

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Invitational Chess Tournament, said Bateson, involved students from 12 schools, from NOTL, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and as far away as Stevensville.

Bateson also noted the exploding interest in chess among young people in recent years. A search of the internet shows the popularity of chess increasing for players of all ages. Chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen has over one million Instagram followers. The website Chess.com, one of the largest chess platforms in the world, had 100 million users on Dec. 16, 2022. In January 2023, due to an influx of traffic, chess databases crashed.

Local students are also showing an interest in the game, and becoming skilled at it. James Froese, from St. Davids Public School, came in third place in the Grade 4 division.

In the Grade 5 division, first place was earned by Kian Rahbar from St Davids. Zuzanna Bator, from Crossroads, won third place.

St. Davids students in the Grade 6 division were Hanlin Guo, in first place, and Aleksandar Keda in second place.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa offered opening remarks to an auditorium full of kids. (Photos by Sharon Burns)

Madelyn Josiak looking triumphant — she did okay, she says, winning one game.

Organizer Josh Bateson with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and St. Davids principal Carl Glauser. (Adriana Vizzari)
March might help name freedom-seekers

Penny Coles
The Local

James Russell, the man from Toronto who first introduced Niagara-on-the-Lake to the need for restoration of the Negro Burial Ground, is continuing his quest to see his vision fulfilled.

Although he began working with the town more than two years ago, receiving permission to carry out ground-penetrating radar at the cemetery, he is now on his own.

He paid for the radar himself, and discovered there are likely 19 grave stones below the surface of the cemetery, established by the Baptist Church in 1830, and 28 unmarked graves "of Black freedom-seekers," he says in a news release sent to The Local this week.

He has also put markers in the ground to show where they are.

A town fundraising committee, first formed to help pay for the work he hoped to see completed, is going in a different direction from Russell, who believes the unearthing of the stones and their restoration is the responsibility of the town, the owner of the cemetery.

"That's the main difference," he said, but it also concerns him that the town hasn't said what its plans are for the future — it is leaving several options open, including a memorial wall based on research, says Russell, while to him the end goal has to be unearthing the stones and restoring them as the only way to be sure who is buried there.

"I'm not giving up on that."

This Sunday, he's hoping for about 200 people to join him, including locals and activists like himself, on a march from the Negro Burial Ground at John and Mississagua Street to the steps of the Court House.

"The marchers," he says in his news release, "are gathering to tell the politicians of the town council to commit the $59,000 quoted by ARA, the company that has just finished Stage 1 of the project, which has been only research so far.

That is the cost of future stages, including unearthing, cleaning and restoring "the 19 headstones the town's employees buried back in the 70s and 80s, to make it easier to cut the grass."

The town has said their maintenance crew only laid down headstones that were broken, which eventually sank beneath the ground, with grass growing on top of them over the years.

The ARA research and report, now completed, is unlikely to have any more information than he has now, Russell says — anything further, such as the names of the people buried there, "would be a guess."

Anyone wanting to join Russell should meet him Sunday, June 18, at 1 p.m. at the cemetery.

Niagara Foundation announces next Living Landmark

Local Staff

The Niagara Foundation has two important announcements: the next Living Landmark, and the three new directors.

The foundation has chosen Ward Simpson to be honoured with the 2023 title of Living Landmark.

"Ward has played a significant role in our community, whether through founding and operating Simpsons Pharmacy, or his positions with the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Arena Fundraising Committee, Community Centre Fundraising Committee, Red Roof Retreat or the Christmas Parade Committee," said Lyle Hall, Niagara Foundation chair.

The Living Landmark award has been given annually since 2006 to a person or group who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the quality of life in Niagara, says a recent news release.

Taking on the new board positions are Bruce Caughill, Clare Cameron and Weston Miller. They join Albrecht Seeger, Gabe Takach, Jane Dagg, Lyle Hall, Michael Fox, Paul Shepherd, Richard Merritt and Sam Risdesic as confirmed at the Annual General Meeting held May 30.

"Speaking on behalf of my fellow directors, we are thrilled to welcome Bruce, Clare and Weston to the board. Each of them brings a unique set of skills and experiences but, above all, a love for our community and an appreciation of its heritage," said Hall.

This year's Living Landmark dinner will be held at the Court House Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. To purchase tickets please contact Jane Dagg at jdagg.notl@gmail.com.

The Niagara Foundation, established in 1962, is a charitable organization whose mission is to preserve the built and natural heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake and surrounding communities, quietly and effectively advocating for preservation, undertaking innovative partnerships, fostering knowledge and appreciation, and securing and advancing the qualities that are now so strongly associated with historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Enjoy life in this sprawling 3-bedroom BUNGALOW situated on one of the quietest, neighbour friendly streets in Fonthill. Close to town, golf courses, and biking/walking trails. Listed for $749,000

Gary Snider
Broker
905-988-2205

Bosley Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage does not intend to solicit the contracts of its competitors.

Ward Simpson, the next Living Landmark (Supplied)
Moe’s Golf Tournament brings friends together
An annual fundraiser for Red Roof Retreat

Sharon Burns
The Local

For the past 29 years, Moe’s Annual Family and Friends Golf Tournament has raised between $8,000 and $20,000 for Red Roof Retreat, which provides respite and recreational programs to people with special needs.

This past Saturday, 25 foursomes, some dressed in matching shirts and fake mustaches, played for bragging rights of closest to the pin and longest drive at the Niagara Falls Golf Course. “Some players have never missed a year,” said Moe Bjorgan, the tournament organizer. “The golf is great, but the fun and camaraderie is what really makes it. And everyone knows why we are there — it’s for the kids.”

Matt Dietsch, co-owner of Sandtrap Pub and Grill and longtime golf tournament sponsor, said, “My son Dylan utilizes a bunch of the amazing programs that Red Roof Retreat has to offer, so I know first-hand how important they are and how lucky we are to have them in our community.”

“We are so thankful at Sandtrap to have so much support from our locals, and we want to make sure we give back. We had an amazing time, and Moe and the crew did a fantastic job.”

The group of golfers and volunteers, many of them returning year after year to help Red Roof Retreat.

Moe Bjorgan, with Chris Beggley, shows off the money the event is raising for Red Roof Retreat.

Mike Balsom
The Local

Local resident Matt King expects up to 200 motorists to gather at Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 this Saturday morning. They’ll be at the King Street location bright and early, rolling in to register for the Niagara Ride for Dad beginning at 7 a.m. It’s one of 35 such events scheduled between May and September across the country to raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Fight Foundation, a leading investor in cutting-edge prostate cancer research.

King, co-chair of the Niagara ride, tells The Local that 2,294 riders have helped raise $708,000 in the region over 13 years of the event. Money raised locally gets earmarked for Dad 13 years of the event. Money raised locally gets earmarked for Dad.

“Some fellow officers knew that I had a bike so they asked me to come out to the ride. The next year I was on the volunteer committee and two years after that I became the co-chair.”

King also sits on the national chapter advisory committee, where he connects with Ride for Dad chapters across Canada. He recently rode his Harley Davidson Electra Glide up to Kitchener to participate in the Grand River chapter’s Ride for Dad and will also take part in the Hamilton region’s Golden Horseshoe event in September. An enthusiastic King says a dream vacation for him would be to take part in the Ride for Dad Yukon chapter one day.

Kickstands will be raised and riders will roar out of the legion parking lot at 9 a.m. on June 17, rolling down King Street to Queen Street, where they will head toward the Niagara Parkway on their way to their first stop at Kingsbridge Park in Niagara Falls.

There, they will draw the first of five cards for their poker hand, which could earn them prizes at the end of the 172-kilometre trek that also takes them through Thorold, Pelham, rural St. Catharines and Virgil before wrapping up at Club Italia back in Niagara Falls for a spaghetti dinner.

The legion in NOTL has long been the starting point for the Niagara chapter’s annual event. “They’ve been a partner for several years,” King explains. “It kind of came about because of the relationship between police and military. They’ve opened up their arms and invited us to have the kick-off there in the morning. It’s a fantastic spot and close to the Parkway.”

This year’s local sponsors include Thorold Auto Parts, Paul Davis Restoration, Gales Gas Bars and the Niagara Regional Police Association, as well as the national sponsor, BMW Motorrad, which has contributed to this year’s goody bag for each chapter’s ride.

“We make stops at each of our major local sponsors,” King says, “to thank them for their support. It’s a time to stretch and take a bathroom break, too. But more importantly, that’s where we get the conversations going. Guys ask others why they’re riding, and they share their personal stories.”

Over the years King has been heartened to see and hear so many usually tight-lipped men talking about their own experiences. Some of them are prostate cancer survivors themselves. Others have family members who have fought the disease.

In an average year almost 25,000 Canadian men are diagnosed with it, while more than 4,500 will succumb to it. “For so many years men didn’t talk about prostate cancer because it can be embarrassing,” King claims. “It’s actually more embarrassing to not talk about it and to end up in a hospital bed instead of walking your daughter down the aisle, or going golfing or riding your bike.”

“The start,” he continues, “is just a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) test. It’s a little blood test. The chances of survival go way, way up with early detection. If you leave it, those chances go way, way down. Prostate cancer tends to be a gateway to cancer spreading. If you find it early, you can get treatment.”

The Niagara Ride for Dad is always held on the third Sunday in June. “It’s Father’s Day weekend,” King explains. “That increases the significance of the event. We make it a great family day. My son Dawson has come along for the ride year after year. He’s 18 now, and too tall to ride on the back of my bike this year. Maybe next year he’ll ride along on his own bike for the first time.”

King has also been impressed to see more and more women joining the ride. “They’re affected as much by prostate cancer as men are,” he says. “It’s taking their men away, and forcing them to become caregivers.”

With the local goal of $25,000 already surpassed more than a week ago, King is hoping to double that amount by the end of Saturday’s ride. There’s still time to contribute online with a pledge at re dford.ca/chapter/niagara, and if you have a bike to ride, late sign-ups are still being accepted.

“People are out there raising money and spreading the word about prostate cancer,” King says. “I’m hoping we get over the $50,000 mark. It would be a really nice number to reach.”

Matt King is an organizer of the Niagara event, and rides every year, usually with his son Dawson. (Mike Balsom)
Music Niagara season begins on Father’s Day

Mike Balsom
The Local

If Dad’s a choral music lover there may be no better way to celebrate Father’s Day than with tickets to the first concert of Music Niagara Festival’s 2023 season this Sunday.

Artistic director Zimfira Poloz is bringing at least 90 young singers, all members of Toronto Children’s Chorus ensembles, to St. Mark’s Anglican Church Father’s Day afternoon for a performance entitled Reflections of Life.

About 50 members of the Toronto Youth Choir, consisting of singers between the ages of 18 and 30, along with another 40 members of the children’s chorus Main Children’s Choir, aged 12 to 18, will be filing in to the church. They will perform music from Bach, Brahms and Debussy, as well as a diverse selection of compositions from around the world. "We will sing some Arabic music and some Malaysian songs," says Poloz on the line from her Toronto home. "Also some Canadian composers, a song from Slovenia, one in Estonian and one final piece with both choirs together."

Besides the fact that all 90 singers will perform that final number, its origins may make it the most fascinating of the day’s repertoire. "It's a Samaean song," Poloz explains. "It's called Su Manus La'iti'iti. Translated it means 'little bird. We sing it in the original language'."

As well, the Youth Choir program includes a song by Indigenous composer Sherryll Siewepagahman, who hails from northern Alberta’s Little Red River Cree Nation. "The story of the song is about Mother Earth," says Poloz. "It includes some body percussion, too. We feel it is important to honour the origins of the music that we sing. When we do our Malaysian song (the traditional children’s song ‘Iban Kekak’) we perform the body movements. Each movement has a meaning."

It’s all part of the rich program of learning that each of the young singers experiences as part of the Toronto Children’s Chorus. Poloz, who took over the role of artistic director in 2021, says that she works with people from these countries to ensure the choirs present the music in an authentic way. "We try to connect with the real culture," says Poloz. "Children learn so much from learning the movements. It’s more than just music."

Poloz, who teaches choral conducting at the University of Toronto, calls her young students “very special kids.” With children as young as six studying singing with the chorus, she works to develop the leadership potential in her students as well as their singing voice. "It takes a lot of care and commitment," she insists. "We rely on our older singers to help take care of our younger choristers, to help them feel safe and comfortable."

If it sounds daunting to get 90 young singers from Toronto to Niagara-on-the-Lake this Sunday, just think of the planning that goes into trips further afield. Now in its 45th year, the Toronto Youth Choir has performed at the Sydney Opera House in Australia, London’s Royal Albert Hall and the Dom in Salzburg, Vienna. They also perform an annual Christmas recital at Toronto’s Roy Thomson Hall.

In July, Poloz will be travelling with her choristers to Washington, where they will connect with three other children’s choirs to perform together at the University of Maryland. Then, all four choirs move on to New York City for a date at Carnegie Hall. "Each choir will have a 20-minute solo set there," says Poloz, who established her musical credentials in Kazakhstan as the founder of that nation’s first choir school. “Then we will all perform together with the New York City Children’s Orchestra.”

As one might imagine, performing in such esteemed halls demands a certain level of professionalism. "Working as a team and exploring these experiences,“ Poloz says, "brings us to a high level of expectations for us. The people who invite us to perform expect quality. We work hard toward those goals together.”

Poloz will be conducting the choirs, while Dakota Scott Digout will play piano. She will be joined by percussionist Jamie Drake and violinist Gloria Verhovsky, a former singer with the Toronto Children’s Chorus and now a student of Music Niagara Festival founder and artistic director Atis Bankas.

With a start time of 4 p.m., you will still have time to take Dad out for a Father’s Day dinner following the concert.

Tickets for The Toronto Children’s Chorus performance at St. Mark’s at 41 Byron Street in NOTL are $40 and are available at musicniagara.org.

The Toronto Children’s Chorus will be singing at St. Mark’s Church Sunday afternoon. (Supplied)
Jazz in the Park returning to NOTL

Mike Balsom
The Local

The TD Niagara Jazz Festival will kick off its summer lineup with a bang on Saturday, July 15.

In front of a group of supporters, board members and sponsors at Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate, co-creator and executive artistic producer Juliet Dunn announced eight shows over nine days, with five events taking place in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Understandably, Dunn became emotional a number of times during the announcement, with this summer being the first without her husband, Peter Shea, by her side. Shea lost his battle with cancer last August.

At the other end of the emotional scale, Dunn was excited to introduce the crowd to her father and sister.

"It's the first time they've ever been here for a media launch," she said. "They've been at a lot of events. But Dad has moved here now. Maybe we'll have an after-party at Dad's house one of these nights."

Jackson-Triggs was a fitting venue for the announcement, as the first concert, billed as Jazz Under the Stars, features Juno and Canadian Jazz Award winner Laila Biali and her band at the winery's amphitheatre.

"As Dunn explained, the July 15 kick-off is a bit earlier than usual. That's because the indefatigable Dunn was determined to open the summer at the amphitheatre to mark the festival's 10th anniversary. As well, the choice of Biali is a tribute to Peter Shea, the pianist and drummer who began the festival with Dunn years ago."

"During the pandemic, Laila was one of our live-streamed events," she explained. "Peter was in hospital that day. Laila didn't even know that Peter was ill. He emceed from the hospital in Hamilton, while I was in our studio at home, and Laila and her husband Ben were at home in Toronto. I know it means a lot to Laila, as it does for Peter and me, for her to be here for our 10th anniversary."

Jazz Under the Stars will also feature opening sets from the John Sherwood Trio and another pianist, Nicholas Mustapha, winner of last year's Jazz 4 the Ages youth contest.

The very next day the festival moves to the Willowbank School for the Restoration Arts. Sponsored by Andrew Humeniuk and the Brown Homestead, an historic home in rural St. Catharines, the entertainment will be provided by Alex Pangman, known as Canada's Sweetheart of Swing. Catering for the picnic will be provided by Treadwell Cuisine.

Pangman will take the stage with Grammy-nominated violinist Drew Jurecka and a rhythm section which includes Peter Hill on piano, Glenn Anderson on drums, and Chris Banks on bass.

The scene shifts to St. Catharines three days later for Fusion Jazz on the Roof, where the Wojtek Jusyn TreeOh! appears atop the Niagara Artist's Centre on St. Paul Street. Visiting from Poland, the TreeOh! fuses funk-jazz and world music with sonic explorations incorporating traditional African instruments and throbbing synth bass lines.

It's back to Niagara-on-the-Lake the next day, July 20, for Soul Jazz in the Vineyard. Gospel, blues, jazz, pop and R & B singer Cinnamon Jones headlines the concert accompanied by the Quincy Bullen Trio.

"We kind of have a soft spot for Cinnamon Jones," Dunn said. "She just brings the house down, gets everyone up dancing. She's just a riot."

Friday, July 21 features Berlin, Germany, musician and composer David Friedman at Henry of Pelham Winery in St. Catharines. Friedman is one of the most influential vibraphonists in the history of the instrument, having recorded and played live with the likes of Joe Henderson, Horace Silver, Jane Ira Bloom and Ron Carter.

Friedman will be joined by the cream of the Canadian jazz crop, with Lorne Lofsky on guitar, Neil Swainson on bass and the legendary Terry Clarke on drums.

It all wraps up back in NOTL, the following day with Music in the Park, though final venue details were being ironed out at press time. As well, later that night, Randy Stirtzinger and his trio will move the party over to the Irish Harp as the weekend house band for the first of two nights of Late Night Music Jams.

Stirtzinger will be inviting musicians and singers to join him on stage both Saturday and Sunday. Dunn says you never know who will show up. There is no admission fee for the Irish Harp shows.

Information and ticket prices for the summer series performances can be found at niagarajazzfestival.com/schedule.

Alex Pangman will perform at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts. (Supplied)

Laila Biali: opening the festival at Jackson-Triggs is a tribute to Peter Shea, Juliet Dunn’s partner, who passed away from cancer last year. (Supplied)
Continued from page 1

Rick Hill, Tuscarora Nation, told the packed house a few creation stories, including one from the Anishinabe people who camped out by Niagara Falls 12,500 years ago. In this story, the Musk-rat dove to the bottom of the river and his life took up a little ball of mud. “He put it on the back of a turtle and that became our world,” said Hill.

He also explained the One Dish One Spoon concept. “Everything that grows on the back of this turtle is a huge dish full of plants, medicine, food, and trees; all the sustenance that makes a good life,” he said. “In that treaty, we make peace by saying that everybody has a right to take from the dish. We are not going to fight each other, but there are some simple rules: you take what you need for today to heal yourself or to feed yourself. Always leave something in the dish for people who follow, and you keep the dish clean.”

“I have to admit we haven’t done such a great job keeping the dish clean,” said Hill. “We can barely breathe the air.”

“As long as there has been a waterfall here,” said Jim Hill, whose career path includes Parks Canada, the Friends of Fort George, and the Niagara Parks Commission, “there have been people here over 12,000 to 13,000 years ago.”

“Every step you take away from the brink is about one year in history,” said Jim. “It’s like the rings of a tree. You only have to walk about three football fields, 300 metres, and you’re done with European history.”

You have to walk another 12,000 metres to cover our human history here in Niagara, emphasized Jim.

Historian Ron Dale concentrated his presentation on the early 1600s and the first encounters between Europeans and the Indigenous peoples in this area. His formal studies focused on the Seneca Nation from 1754 to 1783. “The word ‘Niagara,’” said Dale, referring to the river, “comes from an Iroquoian word that means the straight or the neck, which describes this area very well.”

“In the past,” said Rick, “we were brothers, we were great traders of peace. However, there were a couple of times when that peace was hanging by a thread, and one of those times was during the war of 1812.”

Rick explained that his father’s relatives fought against his mother’s relatives during the War of 1812 and the revolutionary war. In 1815, leaders from Six Nations, Tuscarora and Senecas made a pledge “never again,” said Rick.

“A significant part of the reconciliation took place in the commons,” said Rick. They performed a Ceremony of Condo- lence where the Indigenous leaders wiped each other’s tears with the blood that was shed and they replanted that tree of peace that had been planted a thousand years ago, explained Rick. “It was quite moving when you read the minutes because you can see where these men were hurt from the loss in the war and also hurting because why were we fighting each other?”

Jim referenced Norton’s Grove in Fort Erie. John Norton, whose Mohawk name was Teyonihokarawen, wrote the best account of the conflict, he said. “He basically saved the British army. He left a couple hundred men in this little low ravine and the British and Canadians were all running away at one point. They got beat up very badly, and it was Norton’s men who covered for them, allowing them to get away.”

Karl Dockstader is an advocate for Indigenous peoples and co-hosts the radio program One Dish, One Mic. He was born in Buffalo and raised in Fort Erie. “On paper I could be both a Canadian and an American,” said Dockstader. “People say you’re lucky — you are a citizen of both nations. I am not. I am not a Canadian. I am not an American. I am a sovereign. Six Nations, specifically Onondaga of the Iroquois. Before there was a Canada, before there was an America, there were First Nations people.”

The Jay Treaty, explained Dockstader, signed by Canada and the U.S. in 1794, allowed Indigenous peoples the right of free passage between the two countries. “For 12,500 years we had the right of free passage,” explained Dockstader. However, eventually the Crown and the U.S. made new laws, making it difficult to honour that treaty.

“Because of the Jay Treaty,” said Dockstader, “every time I go see my dad in Lockport, they ask where I am from. I say Six Nations, and they say okay, on your way, because they are honouring the Jay Treaty. When I come back, it is a different story.”

Dockstader told about a time recently when he bought a carton of cigarettes from the Senecas in the U.S., and was told by Canadian customs agents that he had to pay duty. He explained about the Jay Treaty and added that “tobacco is our traditional medicine. I am not paying for my goods from my people. I am Onondaga. I bought it from Senecas. These are your lines (re- ferring to the border). You put your lines through my territory. This doesn’t af- fect me. The blood of my people spills on these lands so that you can have freedom.”

Rick talked about the rededication of Brock’s Monument in 1912. “My great-grandfather was there as part of this delega- tion to share this message with the people in 1912. The message was very simple: we were staunch al- lies to the crown, we shed our blood in defence of our treaty and now we are wondering when you are going to fulfill your treaty obligations to our people.”

“In 2012, at the Land- scape of Nations, I repeat- ed those words but also added, I hope that in a hundred years from today, my great-granddaughter isn’t going to be standing here asking for the same thing.”
Shaw Guild Garden Tour shows off nine gardens

Sharon Burns
The Local

The 17th annual Shaw Guild Garden Tour, Saturday, June 24, showcases the gardens of nine privately-owned homes in the Old Town this year.

“We are very excited about the gardens, because we have a good variety,” said Jo Ann Ely, marketing convener for the Shaw Guild. “We go from a condo courtyard all the way up to a recently planted estate garden. It’s a nice mixture and there is something for everyone.”

The Shaw Guild is a large group of volunteers who support and promote the Shaw Festival. “We will have entertainment at all of the gardens in the form of either musical entertainment or an artist,” said Ely.

Experts from Master Gardeners, Niagara, will be in each garden to answer questions about the plantings. Those on the tour will receive a booklet outlining the details of the plants in each one of the nine gardens.

The event is held rain or shine and tickets are available at shawguild.ca/garden-tour for $30. Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the event, Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for $35 cash only, at any of the nine homes.

More than 100 volunteers will be actively working on the day of the self-guided garden tour. “Plan your day,” said Ely. “Come for the day, go for lunch, go to one of the wineries, and make a day of it.”

Get ready to drum down the sun at Ryerson Park

Local Staff

The seventh Drumming Down the Sun event celebrating the Summer Solstice, hosted by Niagara Nature Tours, is returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake after a three-year hiatus.

It will take place on Wednesday, June 21, at Ryerson Park. It will kick off with gentle yoga in the park from 7 to 7:45 p.m. led by Ara Ribas, of On & Off the Mat Yoga, a newcomer to the area by way of Miami. Experience the magic of Ara’s harmonium as you gaze out over Lake Ontario.

Afterwards the drumming circle will be led by Kevin Richard Hotte of Circular Motion who has given his time and talent in the past to help participants appreciate and revere the approach of summer.

Along with a mat or chair, bring a drum, a pot or anything to shake and rattle. Donations are gratefully accepted to help cover costs. Participants are advised to bike or walk since there is no parking on the nearby streets of the Chautauqua neighbourhood.

For more information, call Loretta at 905-468-0062 or visit niagaranaturetours.ca/niagara-summer-solstice.asp.
Pickleball competitors ‘given exactly what was promised’

Continued from page 1

Courtney and Ken Forstinger.

When asked if his shoul-
ders were sagging from wear-
ing both a gold and a bronze
medal from the weekend, 
Mancuso said no, but his 
thumbs were feeling a little
tight. He played a lot of games 
over the two days.

“Overall it was a great tournament,” Mancuso add-
ed. “Everybody had a great 
time from Friday night
through Sunday. The play,
the sportsmanship, it was all
great. Everyone was pleased 
with the tournament, with
the grab bag, and with the Fri-
day night exhibition as well.”

After Mancuso and Py-
chel made quick work of Pau-
lo Melo and Jorge Lujambo 
of Mississauga in their first 
game Sunday, The Local chat-
ted with the visitors briefly.

“We’ve been playing a lot 
of tournaments this summer
so far,” Melo said. “You end up 
seeing a lot of familiar faces in 
all of them. This is a big one,
there’s a lot of people here.”

“And they’ve got a nice 
set-up with the sponsors,” 
added Lujambo, “one of the
nicest I’ve seen. The loot bag,
by the way, is the best one
we’ve had in any tournament 
we’ve been in.”

Mancuso and Pychel were 
not the only local players to
top their categories. At press
time the club was working on 
compiling a list of members 
who medalled.

“Our members repre-
scnted the club very, very
well,” said Hindle, the club
president. “It will be interest-
ing to see what percentage of
club members won medals. 
A number of folks from out
of town came up to me and
mentioned how competitive 
our club was, how high their
calibre of play was.”

The weekend also fea-
tured a dinner and party at
the community centre Satur-
day night. Hindle says it was 
an amazing night.

“Great band, great music,
great food,” raved Hindle.

“Everybody was up dancing.
We sent them all home at 10
o’ clock, though, because they
all had to play the next day.
We had 160 people there. It
was an unbelievable night.”

Hindle says the club gave
a few people approached
by teammate Lucas Vetere
which resulted in the game’s only goal. Marco meanwhile,
held down the back end as part of the defence. St. Paul beat Sir Winston Churchill to take the SODSSA title and qualify for OFSAA a week ago. In Bradford, the Pats went
5-0 in the round-robin and playoff rounds to make it to the final. Mateo now moves on
to post-secondary studies at Niagara University in nearby Lewiston, New York, while
Marco returns to St. Paul for a run at another Ontario championship. (Supplied)
Your TV shines spotlight on NOTL Pickleball Classic

Mike Balsom
The Local

Eyes across Ontario were already on Niagara-on-the-Lake this weekend as YourTV’s Niagara broadcasts the NOTL Pickleball Classic tournament across a number of its partner systems.

Cable subscribers in locations as far afield as Windsor, North Bay and Smith’s Falls were able to follow the action Friday through Sunday as a crew of producers and volunteers were on site at the Meridian Credit Union Arena all three days.

To produce Rich Ewtuchovich knowledge, none of the other YourTV systems across the province had attempted to cover a pickleball tournament prior to this weekend.

“I guess that makes us pioneers,” he laughed.

What viewers saw on their television screens was the culmination of over four months of planning and preparation.

“I think it was back in February when we saw the announcement about the tournament,” says Jack Custers, YourTV’s manager of programming and community relations. “I reached out to the organizer, John Hindle, and he was very interested. From that point on we met on a regular basis to go over the details and to figure out where it would be best to shoot from."

With six courts in use simultaneously on each arena floor, it wouldn’t be possible for YourTV to air every game. The decision was made to focus on the lead production with help from fellow producer Anthony Luongo, the two of them visiting the arena with Custers a number of times prior to the event to scope out the best camera angles and figure out how to run cable without disrupting the flow on the floor.

Ewtuchovich created the mounts for six robotic cameras. Five were mounted on top of the spectator tier; the fifth one was mounted in the corner, affixed to the glass above the boards. There were three mobile cameras, including one on a jib, while two were manned by volunteers. A 10th camera was fixated on the score clock for Friday night’s professional pickleball exhibition match.

“It’s a lot like doing a tennis match,” Ewtuchovich tells the Local. “With tennis, you usually have one main shot looking down from the end. That’s why we set up a jib. The rest of the cameras shot from the side of the court. Most of the action in pickleball is closer to the net, so there’s not a lot of long shots. Our camera operators were getting most of the action in the kitchen (the centre area on either side of the net).”

The crew had a chance to test out their angles and their technical specifications about two weeks before the tournament when Hindle agreed to organize a practice tournament with NOTL club members on site.

“It gave us an idea as to how the game was played,” says Custers. “The guys were able to get familiar with the rules, too. It also gave us a chance to talk to some of the organizers and local club members, who were all so helpful.”

Ewtuchovich and Luongo spent the weekend at the arena taking on various technical jobs, with Custers spelling them off on Sunday.

Volunteers Josh Bluth-Whittle, Connor Croft and Zachary Williamson operated the cameras, while another volunteer, Bob Clemes, took the role of the ever-important floor director, communicating from court side back to the mobile production truck and to the play-by-play desk. That desk was set up at the top of the spectator deck.

Niagara College broadcasting student Noah Vogel was responsible for calling the play-by-play with help from Hindle, pickleball consultant Mike Robinson, NOTL club president Adam Eaton and others with connections to the sport.

Luongo confirms that the broadcast went on without a snag, other than a few moments when there were gaps in action on the TV court and they had to fill the air time with pre-recorded material.

“We’ve gotten some feedback from a few people who said the YourTV coverage was excellent,” Hindle says. “And the fact that it was shown in other areas helped us to use this tournament as an ambassador for the sport. It was all about growing the game.”

YourTV will be replaying the pickleball action later this week. Check the schedule on their website at yourtv.tv/niagara for days and times.

Penny Coles
The Local

As the popularity of pickleball grows exponentially in Niagara-on-the-Lake — and this weekend’s tournament well exemplified it — there are plans underway for more court locations for those who want to play.

They are a couple of years away, but the demand for the sport isn’t going anywhere but up.

At the top of the escarpment, Queenston Heights Park offers trails, picnic areas, pavilions and a great playground and splash pad for kids.

It also has beautiful gardens, the Landscape of Nations Memorial, and the Brock Monument.

Nested within the park, surrounded by mature trees and picnic tables, just steps from one of the pavilions with washrooms are five duplicated tennis courts, unused and ignored for a long time in a park that is otherwise welcoming and immaculately maintained.

Coun. Erwin Wiens, a board member of the parks commission, says the decision was made recently to resurface and restore the courts, providing three completely new tennis courts and four specifically for pickleball.

He told The Local Friday “we will be within the original footprint of the tennis courts there now, with the cost in the 2024/25 budget, to have them ready for the start of the 2025 season.”

It has been confirmed by the David Adams, CEO of the parks commission, Wiens says.

“Those courts are very dated, in very poor condition. They will be all new,” he says, and within 100 feet or so of washrooms.

“There are details to be worked out, but right now it’s definite they will be replaced. This is something that has been on the radar of the Niagara Parks Commission for a while.”

The discussion and decision to include both pickleball and tennis courts, he says, “is to give people options.”

The courts, needing to be resurfaced and restored, are in a beautiful area of Queenston Heights Park with a playground, pavilion and washrooms nearby. (Penny Coles)
The Niagara Clippers and the Lions play to what looks like a close finish, but actually wasn’t — it was 22 notlocal.com

The festivities are a huge event on the social calendar for the many seasonal employees who work on farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Vineland each summer. Besides the 30 participants playing cricket on the pitch, there were another 70 friends, coworkers and farmers there to enjoy the afternoon.

Rev. Dave Pritchard of Grace United Church got the event started with the ceremonial first bowl, then the park for the game each year.

With reggae music blaring from the sound system provided by a former Nemberhard of Brampton, emcee and toaster Joseph Hamilton took to the microphone, entertaining the crowd and setting the party-like atmosphere.

The cricket match organized by outreach program volunteers has been an annual event for nearly 30 years, since it began at the old Colonel John Butler School on East and West Line. It moved to Memorial Park on King Street many years ago, with the town contributing rent-free use of the park for the game each year.

Volunteer organizer Nancy Howse tells The Local that for a few years there was some consideration to shift from cricket to soccer. But with the former being Jamaica’s national sport, and many of the seasonal workers having played the game growing up there, they have been reluctant to make that change.

As well, about seven years ago, Anjum Aziz, a cricket enthusiast and the owner of a number of area Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen franchises as well as a Baskin-Robbins location, began generously contributing resources to the two teams.

With Aziz’s support, the participating teams who once played the game in their work or street clothes now take to the field in impressive professional-looking cricket uniforms. The Clippers, who played the field first, donned maroon-coloured uniforms with the Popey’s logo. The Lions, meanwhile, wore crisp whites emblazoned with the Baskin-Robbins trademark as they took to the wickets.

Aziz also donates trophies for each team, gifts for the players and the 66-by-8 foot cricket mat where the bowler and batsman stand during the match. Howse also points out that win or lose, everyone goes home happy and stuffed full with a chicken dinner provided by Aziz and served by volunteers.

As well, about seven years ago, Anjum Aziz, a cricket enthusiast and the owner of a number of area Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen franchises as well as a Baskin-Robbins location, began generously contributing resources to the two teams. Aziz also donates trophies for each team, gifts for the players and the 66-by-8 foot cricket mat where the bowler and batsman stand during the match. Howse also points out that win or lose, everyone goes home happy and stuffed full with a chicken dinner provided by Aziz and served by volunteers.

Aziz’s brother Jay was there Sunday, excitedly posing with each team before the start of the match. During the proceedings he could be seen following the action eagerly, taking the time to graciously explain the game’s rules to some of the uninitiated on the sidelines.

“We are big cricket fans,” Jay told The Local Sunday. “We always try to take this game to a different level, in terms of training, in terms of practice and in terms of the equipment. They tell us what they need and we help them get it. Some of this equipment is quite expensive.”

He added that many of the players express their appreciation to him and Anjum, and he often sees them at their restaurants where they will stop by and say hello.

“Cricket is known for its nail-biting matches,” Jay said. “This is something that I grew up playing as a kid (in Pakistan). It’s a sport we love, a sport that we live.”

Coach Prophet Steel had Niagara working well on both sides of the game, dominating Brian Burton’s Lincoln squad. Steel and Burton, both farmworkers themselves, also officiated Sunday’s game.

Though the 55-54 score may suggest a close contest, the Clippers, made up this year entirely of employees from Tregunno Farms, actually dominated the Lions. The Niagara squad took the lead with seven overs left to go, but both coaches and all players agreed to end the game after about two hours and 30 minutes.

It was, after all, dinner time.

The Clippers and the Lions play to what looks like a close finish, but actually wasn’t — it was called for dinner.

To advertise your Worship Services in this section, please contact: joy@notllocal.com
TAYLOR, RONALD “RON” WAYNE – In Loving Memory of Ron Taylor, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully in his home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, on June 6, 2023, at the age of 82. Born to parents Nos and Thelma Taylor in Sudbury, Ron had the North in his heart from the very beginning. He was predeceased by his three older brothers, Jim, Glen, and Chuck. And by his Brothers-in-law Walter (Donna) and Victor Kochowiec. He will be fondly remembered by his niece Tammie and family.

Ron was a devoted husband to his wife, Raisa. She thanks you (Ron) for cutting in on Fred Hardy twice so that you could build a beautiful life together filled with love, laughter and cherished memories for over 60 years. 50 of which were spent constantly remodeling their home. A wonderful travel companion, they enjoyed such wonderful vacations as an African safari and Alaskan Cruise. 39 Countries total by their grandson’s count.

Ron provided unwavering support throughout the lives of his children Ryan and Rhonda (Murray Saramak). He coached many minor soccer games. Some of their favorite memories were mornings of coffee and contemplation where Ron would impart simple words of wisdom. Or watching nature, both birds and The Maple Leafs.

One of Ron’s greatest joys was spending time with his grandsons Jack, Sam, and Luke. He adored them with all his heart and was their number one fan in everything they pursued, whether it was hockey, soccer, or academics.

Ron’s passion for the outdoors was evident in his love for fishing and spending peaceful moments looking at Georgian Bay from the window of his condo in Collingwood. In 1984, Ron moved to Niagara to pursue a 35 year long career as a Printer at the St. Catharines Standard, where he cherished his pre-work coffee sessions with his workmates, and post-work beers. Post Early Retirement, he was a proud owner of Looney Lottor dollar stores in Niagara Falls and Welland.

Ron loved to host a good party, and he was famous for ending it with his “happy dance”. He was a life-long member of dinner “Gourmet” club that started with his close friends that has lasted for nearly 40 years. He was the glue that held long friendships together. Annual Bocce tournaments were eagerly attended by these friends for over 20 years.

An avid music fan, Ron had an impressive vinyl record collection that brought him immense joy. When the world went digital, we still couldn’t get him to work coffee sessions with his friends.

Ron’s love for golf extended beyond the sport itself; it was an opportunity for him to bond with his buddies, children, and grandchildren. The golf course became a place of camaraderie and laughter. He loved arm chair football, especially CFL and hosted annual friendly Grey Cup games and parties for over 20 years. He enjoyed his time with the St. Davids Lions Club, particularly the years of co-running the Clam booth at the Carnival.

One of Ron’s most remarkable qualities was his ability to instantly connect with everyone he met. He had a warm smile, kind heart, and genuine nature. Ron’s optimism and love for life were infectious, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Special thanks are given to the outstanding palliative care team that was put in place and to Dr. Chum and Dr. Murray. Their kindness and care were exceptional. Arrangement entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Special thanks to Jocelynn Rodgers, Funeral Director.

Cremation has taken place and a private interment will follow at Parklawn Cemetery, Sudbury, Ontario, at a later date. Celebration of life to be held on Saturday June 24, 2023 at 2pm at Ron and Raisa’s home. 1772 York Rd, N-O-T-L. All welcome, casual, and please bring your own lawn chair. Instead of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial donation to ALS Canada (for Niagara) at www.als.ca

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com. Thank you for your support and understanding.

--- and her Sisters“ (W Thesman)

1. Across:
   1. Arabian Ruler
   2. Following
   3. Some providers of wood for furniture
   4. Prepare
   5. Larry – “The Loman Comedy”
   6. Largest island in the Marianas
   7. Stage accessory
   8. Fire pecoder
   9. A single time
   10. Wadown
   11. Overhaul
   12. Aeronautics group.
   13. –Larva
   14. Round Table leader
   15. Baseball official
   16. Lowest of the low
   17. Eye defects
   18. Notes
   19. Heat
   20. Shielded spots
   21. Short written reminder
   22. Ethical capital — Abaia
   23. “The — Donors” Jean Thesman
   24. About the eye
   25. Dit, once
   26. — and her Sisters” (Woody Allen movie)

2. Down:
   1. Smartphone programs
   2. Brandy made from pressed fruit
   3. Mahnri idol — Nobel (1951)
   4. Desavou
   5. Egyptian cobras
   6. Roman flower goddess
   7. Consider
   8. Garden west of hoil
   9. Go over again
   10. Self-eéstam
   11. Middle meal
   12. Former Portuguese territory in China
   13. Shander
   14. Comedian Piosonne —
   15. Intriguing group
   16. Annie (“Okaylahoma”)
   17. Battalion/CO, often
   18. Moves causiously forward
   19. Names
   20. Author Evelyn —
   21. It replaced the French franc
   22. Noted scat singer — Rogers
   23. Boredom
   24. Former Mrs David Bowie
   25. Move
   26. Palm tree fruit
   27. Sports defeat
   28. Want
   29. Funny fruit
   30. Up
   31. Painter
   32. Argue
   33. Jana
   34. Sumo, Addis, 46, Last April, 48, Optic, 50, Used to, 51, Hannah, 54, Cabal, 56, Ado, 33, Asks, 35, Coi, 37, Nerd, 38, Emit, 39, Solo, 42, Stub, 45, Spam, 47, As an, account, 8 Eden, 9 Reread, 10 Ego, 11 Lunch, 12 Macau, 13 Smear, 21, Barr, 23, Writ, 26, Lean, 28, Trompe l’oeil, 29, U C L A, 30, Maid, 31, PT S D,

CROSSWORD

PLEASERE CYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER