



Mental health struggles lead to fundraising swim
page 12



Game day in Memorial Park

Cricket action on the pitch Sunday saw some fierce competition, with the Niagara Clippers, undefeated in the annual event, winning over the Vineland Lions. For more photos see page 22. (Mike Balsom)

Local student wins board-wide poster contest

Penny Coles
The Local

A young teen from Niagara-on-the-Lake was recently chosen the winner of a Catholic school board mental health contest.

Gracie Cherney, a 13-year-old in Grade 7 at St. Michael Catholic School, had the poster she submitted in the contest chosen from more than 700 entries in the Grade 7/8 division, explains Jenny Reid, a child and youth worker with the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Students were asked to enter a piece, if they wished, in the contest for a chance to win, Reid says. “The theme for this year was Renew, Rebuild and Restore, which focused on what students can do to improve or maintain good mental health. The

students could submit a video, poster, song, poem, or digital art piece.”

Gracie says her poster submission displays all the activities she and other teens enjoy doing, activities that help to contribute to mental health.

Last year, she says, she had an assignment that used letters to express an idea, and in doing some research, discovered similar posters demonstrating healthy activities.

She put those two together, and came up with the idea of incorporating what she and her friends like to do, that can contribute to mental health, into letters that spell out mental health.

“My idea was that taking some time to do things that make you happy can prevent mental issues, and

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E-scooters not permitted in NOTL

Penny Coles
The Local

Richard Mell, the director of Grape Escape Wine Tours on Niagara Stone Road, asked Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors Monday evening to consider adopting a provincial pilot project to permit electric scooters in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Instead, no action was taken or decision made, and as a result, e-scoot-

ers are not permitted in town.

Mell told councillors he had investigated to see if there was a town bylaw restricting them, and when he discovered there wasn't, he went ahead and purchased 10 e-scooters.

He later learned the provincial program allows municipalities to pass a bylaw approving them, but without that bylaw in place they are not permitted, the opposite to how most by-

laws work.

Mell described the electric scooters as two wheels with a board between them, with handlebars. They must have a working bell and a light, riders must be 16 years or older, with one rider per unit, standing at all times, and wearing a helmet if under 18. Any accidents must be reported to a police officer, he said.

If a municipality joins the provincial pilot project,

it can decide where they can be used, he added, suggesting the town might not want them on sidewalks, or in the busy heritage district.

He also mentioned helmets could be required for everyone on an e-scooter,

Mell asked council to consider implementing a licensing program that would bring in revenue that could fund bylaw enforcement, and also help to

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Gracie Cherney displays her poster, which won a board-wide competition for Grade 7/8 students. (Photo supplied)

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Experts, public weigh in on Rand subdivision

Penny Coles
The Local

Last Thursday’s public information session on the current proposal for the Solmar subdivision seemed to raise more questions than answers.

Town planner Rick Wilson outlined the proposal to date, and explained that a revised application, submitted to the town in March, prompted the session, which was not required under the planning act. It was intended as an opportunity for the public to comment on the changes made to the proposal, which was outlined in a town report made available to the public June 2.

He explained that while councillors would be listening to the comments, they would

not be participating, and that town staff have not submitted any recommendations to council.

“This is not a council meeting,” he emphasized, and explained that the revised application for the Charlotte Street and John Street East subdivision has already been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a decision, which had not been provided by the town within the allotted time permitted under planning legislation for the first application.

He also spoke to the “hierarchy” of plans and guidelines in place, starting with the province, and also involving regional and municipal plans, and the Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments that will be required for it to go forward.

The report compiled to explain the revised proposal sets out the plan to develop a property of about 30 acres, which currently contains two single-detached dwellings, a two-storey carriage house, and other accessory buildings and structures, with a stone wall around the north, west and south perimeter and gates at the entry points. A watercourse, regulated by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, crosses the northwest property line behind Weatherstone Court. Surrounding lands include residential, agricultural and open space uses.

Both properties are designated as having cultural heritage value.

The revisions, Wilson said, include going from a total of

191 single and detached houses, to 172 units, 107 of them townhomes — the region requested a greater mix of housing — plus 39 single family homes and 26 semi-detached.

The original stormwater management plan drew concern from residents about an underground holding facility, and has been changed to a traditional stormwater management pond, with a walkway around it.

The revised plan increases the amount of parkland and open space to include some cultural heritage resources, and to improve access to the Heritage Trail. It includes an open space block at the John Street East entrance of the subdivision with a Whistle Stop Parkette at the south end of the site, where a gazebo is to be reconstructed, and a Heritage Parkette at the other end, with a walkway to connect them.

The proposed access to John Street East remains, but with some changes that include moving the existing pillars, with a re-designed private road right-of-way that eliminates the curbs in the original proposal.

Additional trees are proposed to provide a landscape buffer between the driveway and 210 John Street East, and trees planted along the interior streets and pond, although there was also concern expressed by several speakers about more trees to be removed.

An emergency access is proposed through a community garden to provide emergency vehicle connection to Charlotte Street.

Paul Lowes of SGO Planning & Design Inc., representing Solmar, the land-owner, said the developer listened to

what was said at last summer’s public meeting, and “we made a fair amount of changes that addressed those concerns.”

They include the broader mix of housing by putting townhouses in the centre of the plan, the stormwater management pond, reduced grades, the heritage components that will be preserved, additional green space, and the redesigned entrance from John Street.

But several experts representing SORE (Save Our Randwood Estate), which has been involved in pushing for appropriate development on the Rand property from the earliest Solmar proposals, said not enough has been done, either in undertaking impact studies of the revised plan, or preserving significant cultural heritage features, both built and landscaped.

A new heritage impact assessment was called for as a “critical step in responsible heritage conservation” by Brendan Stewart, a professor of landscape architecture at the University of Guelph.

He said he is really concerned that the new proposal demolishes several significant buildings on the property, and a new study is required to look at the rationale for all the decisions that have been documented, to allow for proper comment on what is proposed.

Dana Anderson, an urban planner representing SORE, said the intensification and housing mix don’t fit in the context of the neighbourhood. She also spoke of the parkettes and pathways, which were put forward as providing connectivity, as instead really just places for “resting at the edges of the subdivision.”

She also spoke to density, saying it “remains unclear what

is included and excluded in density calculation,” and that further clarification is needed.

There was also talk of the removal of mature trees and the destruction of a wetland, proposed to be reconstructed offsite at 144 John Street, and the destruction of habitat for two endangered bat species.

Traffic concerns were also mentioned by another SORE expert, a transportation engineer, who said there needs to be an updated traffic study done — the first was conducted in the early days of the pandemic, and also leading up to a holiday, which can skew the results.

Although the stormwater management pond is considered a welcome modification, a thorough analysis of stormwater management needs is missing, said yet another expert hired by SORE.

Wrapping up their issues was a lawyer who called for development guided by design and conservation excellence, as SORE has proposed, that does not require demolition of heritage buildings, that would save some of the trees, that doesn’t necessitate the removal of the wetland, and that “doesn’t require intensification at all costs.”

Gracia Janes, representing the NOTL Conservancy, said the proposal for the most important heritage estate property in town “is poorly conceived and an unneeded land use travesty that will make it impossible for the town to protect other smaller estate lots in the future.”

It’s not needed provincially, regionally or locally to meet housing intensification targets, she added.

Other residents asked questions, including about process, legal issues, and the project’s impact on climate change, but with no answers offered.

The next step, explained Wilson, is the scheduling of a case management conference with the Ontario Land Tribunal, and once arranged, the date will be posted on the town website.

Housing Mix & Built Form

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Planner Paul Lowes, representing the developer, offered this artist rendering of what the mix of housing proposed for the new subdivision on John Street East and Charlotte Street might look like.

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Councillors put e-scooter decision on hold

Continued from page 1

maintain paths and roads. “You are essentially in control in NOTL,” he told councillors, adding that he would love for the town to become part of the provincial pilot project.

The province says, in its explanation of the program on its website, that municipalities wanting to allow e-scooters to operate on their roads “must pass bylaws to permit their use and set out specific requirements based on what is best for their communities.”

“There are a few benefits and concerns I’d like to raise,” Mell said. Given the cost and how accessible scooters are, “they would be a good mode of transportation for younger people to get to work.” He noted he has already seen people on the path through Virgil to the Old Town.

Also, he added, they would be beneficial for people with accessibility concerns, such as problems with hips or knees, who want to join their friends on bike tours.

He said with 10 scooters, he could envision one tour with scooters, or one person joining a bicycle tour. They would all be guided by tour staff, who could ensure all protocols, safety guidelines and rules of the road are followed.

“I don’t like the idea of hundreds of these whizzing around,” he said, but could foresee having a small number available, at the most 20, “less than 10 per cent of our fleet.”

He also ensured councillors that liability insurance would be covered.

The provincial pilot began in 2020, and sets out requirements for such issues as helmets, minimum age for riders, and speed restrictions. They must also follow all rules of the road.

Coun. Norm Arsenault moved a motion that the issue of e-scooters be referred to staff to review the pros and cons, especially relating to safety issues. It called on staff to review the

provincial requirements for the pilot project and bring back a report to the new council to adequately assess recommendations for a decision in time for the 2023 tourism season.

But without discussion, and before a vote could be taken, Coun. Erwin Wiens said he felt that council has discussed the issue this term, and it was decided the first step would be

to ask staff to investigate whether that is the case.

Mell says he is hopeful for something more positive to come up at next week’s council meeting, although he understands

councillors “have a lot on their plates right now.”

He was disappointed there was no discussion about e-scooters, which he believes to be as safe as any transportation mode.

As far as the 10 he has purchased, just waiting to be used, he plans to hold on to them for now, at least until after next week, hopeful councillors might make a different decision.



Rich Mell of Grape Escape has purchased 10 scooters for his wine tours. He will wait to see if council decides to investigate further and consider a bylaw to permit them before deciding what to do with them, he says. (Photo supplied)

#1

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Ride for Dad supports prostate cancer research

Penny Coles
The Local

Ride for Dad, a group motorcycle event to raise money and awareness for prostate cancer, is back on the road this year in its original format.

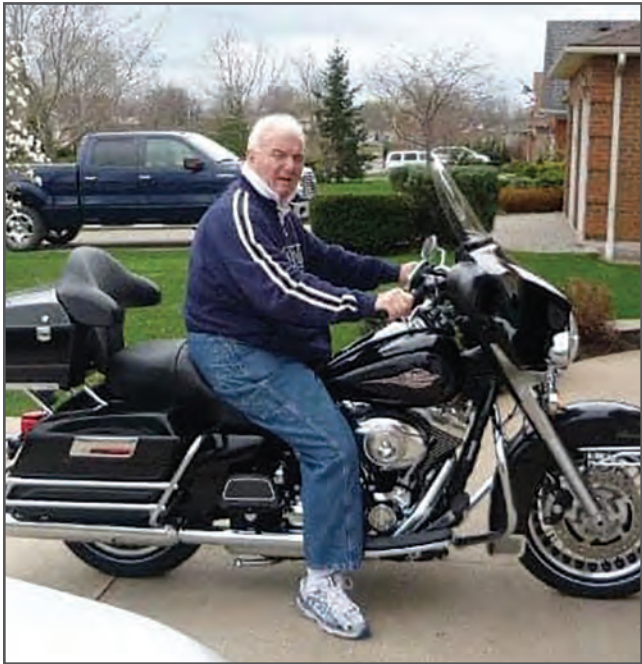
Mathew King, co-chair of the Niagara event, rides for friends and colleagues who have fought, and are now fighting, prostate cancer, he says.

This year's ride is Saturday, June 18 — it's always the Saturday of Father's Day weekend, "because what better way to celebrate Father's Day than ride with your dad," or for your dad, and all men, King says.

Established in 2010, the Niagara Motorcycle Ride for Dad has raised more than \$600,000 for the fight against prostate cancer. The proceeds are invested in groundbreaking prostate cancer research, as well as life-saving public awareness campaigns that promote the importance of early detection.

Money raised in Niagara is invested locally, says King.

Dr. Abby Hallock, a radiation oncologist and the head of the department at the Walker Family Cancer Center, is the celebrity ride captain this year, says King. In 2019, a Ride For Dad grant of \$20,000 supported her study of a procedure to lessen the negative effects of radiation therapy during prostate



Bill Miller, a faithful participant in the Ride for Dad, died of prostate cancer in 2020. Now his friends ride in his memory. (Photos supported)

cancer treatment.

The ride also supported a Brock University research project looking at a plant-based therapy targeting cancer cells, he says.

The last two years were Ride Alone Together events, with small groups of friends or family members encouraged to ride together, safely, following COVID protocols. The need to keep fundraising, awareness and the fight against prostate cancer in the forefront continued during the pandemic, and the ride was able to raise some money for the cause, says King.

"We're thrilled to be back with a group ride," says King, however, during the last two years, "unfortunately, a lot of people have passed away from prostate cancer."

And will die this year — Canadian Cancer Society statistics show one in eight males in this country will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2022, and 4,600 men will die.

"The last few years of the pandemic have been difficult for many," says King, who is optimistic that it's in the rear view mirror, and is looking forward to seeing the "rolling thunder"



Mathew King is looking forward to the "rolling thunder" as riders arrive at the Royal Canadian Legion hall on King Street Saturday morning.

arrive in NOTL at the Royal Canadian Legion hall on King Street, for a day of renewing old friendships and riding for prostate cancer research.

Prostate cancer, King says, is curable if caught early, making awareness essential. The annual ride is an opportunity to get that message out, to advocate that men be checked, and to raise money for research.

Bill Miller of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a regular participant in the ride, wasn't one of the lucky ones. He died of prostate cancer in 2020, and has friends who continue to

ride for him, says King.

This year, prostate cancer also became very real in King's family, when his uncle was diagnosed with it. He was lucky enough to have early detection, and became a candidate for SABR treatment, a highly-focused radiation treatment that gives an intense dose of radiation concentrated on a tumour, while limiting the dose to the surrounding organs, which was also supported with a grant from Ride for Dad. King says he is grateful for the treatment that has allowed his uncle to "still be around for his children,

grandchildren and his extended family."

The first Ride for Dad event was held in Ottawa, and as it spread across the country, was initiated locally by a group of Niagara Regional Police officers, including King.

They continue to organize it every year, for all motorcycle enthusiasts who want to ride and fund-raise to beat cancer, he says. There are many women also taking part, knowing that prostate cancer touches their fathers, grandfathers and partners, and as a result also impacts their lives.

It's about a four-hour police-escorted ride, beginning at the legion hall on King Street, touring through a beautiful area that includes NOTL and Niagara Falls, and ending at Club Italia in Niagara Falls, with a pasta lunch.

For the Ride for Dad route, visit <https://ridefordad.ca/chapter/niagara/niagara-2022-route-map/>

To donate, visit <https://ridefordad.akaraisin.com/ui/RF-D2022/p/2199c546dffc4c1fbcf4d9145f0b6060>

Registration is at 7 to 8:45 a.m, kickstand up at 9 a.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #124, 410 King Street, NOTL.

Registration is \$40 before ride day, June 18, \$50 on ride day, or free with \$100 collected in pledges.

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June 17
Mykola Suk & CamerAtis Ensemble
7 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

Mykola Suk was born in Kiev and gained international recognition as a pianist in 1971, winning the Liszt-Bartok competition in Budapest. His formidable talent has been characterised as demonstrating "an astonishing blend of muscular power, poetry and utter control and a thrilling interpretation which gave one the impression that he was only warming up". He is an avid believer in 20th and 21st Century piano literature. He has premiered numerous works, especially by Ukrainian composers, most of which were composed for, dedicated to, or commissioned by him. He will be accompanied in his recital by the Cameratis Ensemble.



June 20
Mirror Visions Ensemble
7 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

Mirror Visions Ensemble was founded from a desire to explore the relationship between music and text, initially through the creation of "mirror visions" – settings of the same text to music by different composers. Featuring soprano, tenor, baritone and piano, MVE sings its way to far-flung destinations, real and imaginary. Travel songs by Barber, Berlioz, Blangini, Duparc, Haydn, Poulenc and Hugo Wolf share the ride with MVE commissions by Tom Cipullo and Scott Wheeler, as well as Gilda Lyons' "Great Barrier Reef." The poetry of Baudelaire, Joyce and Metastasio is featured, as well as the correspondence of Paul Bourget, Isabella Stewart Gardner and Edna St. Vincent Millay.



June 24
Sweet Hots with Alex Pangman
4 pm, McArthur Estate, NOTL

Vibrant young vocalist, **Alex Pangman**, is proud to be known as Canada's Sweetheart of Swing. With pipes aplenty, Juno nominee Pangman possesses the requisite taste, talent and historical knowledge of an avid record collector to breathe new life into the sturdy standards of the classic jazz era. A superb song stylist with growing compositional chops, the gifted Toronto scenemaker has built a loyal fanbase amongst jazz listeners and dancers alike through her critically acclaimed work with her stacked Alleycats in the studio, nightclubs and concert halls across Canada including three stellar showcases at the Montreal International Jazz Festival.



June 30
Susan Aglukark
8 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

Get ready for on-stage conversations and Q & A interspersed with live music from **Susan Aglukark**. One of Canada's most significant cultural treasures, a beautiful singer and powerful songwriter, Susan provides a significant view to the culture of our northern communities. A musician whose blend of Folk music traditions with Country music and pop songwriting has made her a major recording star in Canada. Her most successful single is "O Siem", which reached No. 1 on the Canadian country and adult contemporary charts in 1995. She has released seven albums and has won three Juno Awards.



July 9
"Heat!" With Julie Nesrallah and Guy Few
7 pm, Navy Hall, NOTL

Julie and Guy present a program that speaks to them personally and figuratively through the imagery of "heat". Passionate, sexual, depressing or violent, this concert, these artists, will not release the audience from their grasp. Join them as they delve into the depths of Heat. Julie is the host of Tempo on CBC Music and the executive producer and star of Carmen on Tap. Guy Few is an internationally renowned pianist and trumpet player. Guy holds a Fellowship from Trinity College, London, England, and teaches at Wilfrid Laurier University.



July 12
Gesualdo Six - English Motets
7 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

The Gesualdo Six is an award-winning British vocal ensemble comprising some of the UK's finest consort singers, directed by Owain Park. Presenting **English Motets** with a beautiful and impeccable blend, the ensemble formed in 2014 for a performance of Gesualdo's Tenebrae Responsories in Cambridge and has gone on to perform at numerous major festivals across the UK, Europe, North America and Australia. Videos of the ensemble performing a diverse selection of works filmed in Ely Cathedral have been watched by millions online.



July 14
Elmer Iseler Singers
7 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

The Elmer Iseler Singers are a Canadian professional chamber choir that has performed and promoted outstanding choral music for audiences worldwide for over 40 years, provincially, nationally and internationally. They present music which inspires and brings people together in a shared appreciation of beautiful vocal sound. The Elmer Iseler Singers are leaders in the development of professionalism in choral music in Canada and regularly seek the creation of new works for performances in Canadian and international choral arenas as well as working with recording companies, music publishers and other arts organizations.



July 17
Strauss' "Enoch Arden"
with Tim Carroll and Victoria Kogan
4 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

Artistic director of the Shaw Festival, **Tim Carroll**, teams up with **Victoria Kogan** to present Richard Strauss' 1897 melodrama "Enoch Arden", scored for narrator and piano. The 1864 poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, tells the tragic story of a happily married forced by financial problems to become a merchant seaman. After shipwreck and ten years on a deserted island he returns home to discover that his beloved wife, believing him dead, has remarried and has a new child. In two parts, it consists of brief interludes indicative of changes of time and setting, with moments of punctuation and commentary.



July 23
From Pergolesi and Bach, to Stravinsky
and Part
7 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

"**From Pergolesi and Bach to Stravinsky and Pärt**", this concert features conductor **Jennifer Tung**, Artistic Director of Toronto City Opera, Conducting Fellow at Women in Musical Leadership program, along with the renowned British-Canadian baritone **Alex Dobson**, **CamerAtis Ensemble** with soprano **Katelyn Bird** and countertenor **Christian Masucci Facchini**. Conductor Jennifer Tung leads a uniquely versatile career as music director and pianist. In 2020/21, she joined Tapestry Opera as a conducting fellow in the inaugural year of the Women in Musical Leadership program, in partnership with Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Pacific Opera Victoria.



July 31
A Fresh Look at Beethoven
with Artur Pereira
4 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

A Fresh Look at Beethoven. Being a Beethoven scholar, Portuguese pianist **Artur Pereira** will present music of the great Ludwig van Beethoven in a new light. Born in Portugal, Pereira studied music in Portugal and South Africa and received a doctorate at the University of Manchester in 2016. His recordings feature historically informed performances of Beethoven's piano sonatas and piano music by Portuguese composers. These recordings are part of his seven-year project to record the complete cycle of Beethoven's piano sonatas and lesser-known music by Portuguese composers. Artur Pereira will also be presenting compositions by Portuguese composer Luis Costa.



August 1
Toronto All-Star Big Band
5 pm, Club Italia, Niagara Falls

One of the most exciting bands around, the **Toronto All-Star Big Band** revives the spirit, style and sound of the 30's, 40's and 50's – that golden age of the big bands. TABB provides an intense and stimulating youth music program in Canada. To achieve their extraordinary standard, they engage cream-of-the-crop young musicians from across the GTA in a rigorous regime of rehearsals, workshops and skill-building performance experiences with such international stars as Clark Terry, Doc Severinsen, Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, Eddie Daniels and Larry Elgart. Sell-out crowds, standing ovations and rave reviews are de rigueur for this all-star ensemble.



August 7
Schubertiade with Todd Yaniw
4 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

Schubertiade Viennese style featuring Canadian pianist **Todd Yaniw**, **Atis Bankas** and the **CamerAtis Ensemble** performing Schubert's "Trout" Quintet, Grand Duo, and two Impromptus. Todd Yaniw is a Canadian pianist praised for his "atmospheric contrast of poetry and power, a hair-raising performance". Since his debut with the Edmonton Symphony at age 13, Mr. Yaniw has performed concerti with several Canadian orchestras including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and has performed with the Afiara Quartet, Rolston String Quartet, and Trio Arkel. Todd was featured in CBC's "30 under 30" list.



August 14
"Moving Pictures"
with Victor Paukstelis
4 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

A Lithuanian pianist and painter residing and working in Vilnius, the ever-expressive **Victor Paukstelis** enraptures audiences with his audio and visual interpretations of classical music. To Victor, the stage is not simply a place to play, but is also an opportunity to pursue a deeper understanding of the art itself. A unique experience, his paintings are paired with his performance, drawing a sensitive connection between the two media. With appearances in Carnegie Hall, the Wiener Musikverein, the Berlin Philharmonic, and the Salle Cortot in Paris, Victor has also participated in the Swedish Music Festival of Pite Alvdal and the International Holland Music Sessions Festival.



August 19
Heather Bambrick
7 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

WholeNote Magazine calls her "one of the finest jazz singers in this country". JUNO-nominated vocalist **Heather Bambrick** prides herself on being an entertainer through and through. She has appeared as a guest performer with numerous Jazz ensembles, as well as with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, the Hamilton Philharmonic, and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. She is also an award-winning broadcaster, hosting and producing shows on JAZZ.FM91 in Toronto, and also co-founder of JAZZCAST, a 24-hour internet-based Jazz station out of Toronto.



August 20
"Glory to Ukraine"
Salomiya Yakhiv, violin
Steven Beck, piano
4 pm, St. Mark's Church, NOTL

"**Glory to Ukraine**" features Ukrainian-born American violinist **Salomiya Yakhiv**, American pianist **Steven Beck**, and **CamerAtis Ensemble**. They will perform works by Ukrainian composers Lysenko, Kosenko, Stankovich and Barvinsky. Recognized for her "crystal clear and noble sound", Salomiya Yakhiv, Honored Artist of Ukraine, has performed solo and chamber music at, among others, Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, and CBC Glenn Gould Studio. Steven Beck continues to gather acclaim for his performances and recordings as an orchestral and chamber musician, having played Beethoven's variations and bagatelles at Bargemusic, where he first performed the Beethoven sonata cycle.



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EDITORIAL

Congrats, council, for moving ahead with Pride projects

Today, June 15, is the last day to complete the town's survey suggesting potential locations for a rainbow crosswalk, as well as rainbow benches.

Thankfully, the installations have already been approved by council. Money has been put aside, some from a grant and the rest in this year's budget, to pay for the projects. It can't have been easy, when we know there has been pressure on councillors to take this issue to voters, or to just drop it altogether.

The Local has and will continue to support a Pride crosswalk in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We fully agree with the efforts of the town to do something that indicates it is inclusive, that says all residents and visitors are welcome, and we applaud council for moving forward with these projects.

The choices in the survey

offered for the crosswalk are the corner of King Street and Front Street, the intersection of Niagara Stone Road and Anderson Lane, or Wellington Street and Picton Street. There is also an opportunity to offer a different location.

We hope the town will tell us what suggestions, if any, have been made, and we also would like to think residents will consider where visitors to town might be most likely to see and appreciate the public declaration a Pride crosswalk offers to a diverse community.

If we want to make a point that everyone, including the LGBTQ2 community, is accepted, respected, and valued in NOTL, it's important to get the location right.

For example, a crosswalk might be helpful at Anderson Lane and Niagara Stone Road, but it would only be used by

residents who live across the street and want to visit the library or the community centre. It's practical, but not exactly a gesture of opening our arms in welcome to all who visit, although at least it's a well-travelled route to the Old Town.

One suggestion that might have covered both would be across Queen Street, close to the grocery store and post office. That's a location that could also use a crosswalk — not that we're traffic experts, but anyone who has driven along Queen Street knows how often people cross there, sometimes acting as if there is a crosswalk and assuming traffic will stop. It would be used by both visitors to town, and locals who are picking up a few groceries and their mail. What a cheery way to start the day!

Hopefully there will be a

good, healthy, positive discussion when the results of the survey are known, and some good suggestions that haven't been considered.

The survey also lists potential locations for rainbow benches in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with all five communities covered: Mary Street and King Street (Old Town), Centennial Park (Virgil), Queenston Firehall (Queenston), Sparky's Park (St. Davids), and Niagara on the Green Park (Glendale), and asks residents if they are in favour of those locations, and if they have other suggestions.

Two of these sites jump out as being questionable. Although people walk along King Street toward Queen Street, both visitors and locals, there isn't a stampede of pedestrians, and how likely are they to want to rest on a bench

and enjoy the scenery at Mary Street? Surely there are places where a bench would be more welcome to sit on, not just to admire its bright colours, such as along Queen/Picton, maybe near Simcoe Park? Or in the park itself, or Queen's Royal Park?

And why the Queenston Firehall? Why not the new park in the village, where people might actually sit? Or even better, on the Niagara River Parkway recreation path, near the Queenston cenotaph, where locals and visitors walk, cycle, and roller blade, and might sit for a minute or two. It would also be a bright, friendly symbol to all who drive along the parkway.

Showing the town is welcoming and inclusive should mean choosing locations that are not only practical, but visible to a large number of people, otherwise, what's

the point?

After the two-week survey, staff is expected to report on the results and move forward with the installation process soon after.

We look forward to hearing the results of the survey, and to learning what other suggestions may have been made, and if they are being considered.

Whatever the results, the fact that we can have this conversation indicates a desire to show NOTL is a town of diversity and inclusivity. These are important gestures, and should be treated as such.

For those who haven't taken the survey, there may be a little time left if you hurry. You can find it at www.jointheconversationnotl.org/rainbow-crosswalk-benches.

Penny Coles
The Local

Looking at interesting regions and ecosystems across Canada



I frequently write about southern Ontario's Carolinian forest, where we live. From a visitor's perspective, this ultra biodiverse deciduous forest is truly nationally unique, so I am always happy to give it the local attention it deserves.

Today, however, we are going to figuratively fly to some mind-blowing surprising spots across the world's second largest country. For example, the east and west coasts get their respective coverage through TV and dinner table conversation. They are popular destinations for Canadians within their own country, rightfully afforded by their mountainous landscapes, ski hills, quaint towns, and oceanside vistas. We also have the Muskokas, Algonquin Park, the Alberta foothills, and the St. Lawrence

Seaway, which routinely take in large crowds every year.

There are some regions and ecosystems that really caught my attention as I journeyed across my favourite piece of software, Google Earth.

Let's begin in Saskatchewan. The northern half of the province shatters the "bland and boring prairies," as sometimes labelled. The upper parts of this huge rectangle are just as remote and wild as northern Ontario or Quebec. This is largely thanks to the Canadian Shield, Canada's largest contiguous

landform consisting of exposed bedrock.

This hardened surface has all of its pockets filled with bodies of water. The lack of topsoil and shorter growing season allow this area to remain relatively untouched compared to the southern parts of the country. It's like our cottage country, but without the cottagers.

There is not only an impressive amount of green, watery wilderness, but there is also an obtuse blotch of white up near the Northwest Territories border that can be seen from space. It is a perhaps unexpected stretch of white sand dunes that spans 100 kilometres in length. These sand dunes are gigantic and otherworldly looking, hugging the southern shore of the large but quiet Lake Athabasca. When I first discovered this on Google Earth, I admittedly had no idea such a feature existed in Canada, let alone the cold north of Saskatchewan, the prairie province.

There are waterways in central Saskatchewan and Alberta which I believe would have Canadians questioning if these places truly existed in their big backyard.

To name a couple, there's the South Saskatchewan River, which runs through both Alberta and Saskatchewan itself. There is also the Milk River. Spotted from above, both rivers' banks are flanked by historically eroded and rugged ravines which cascade into the land below. There are hollow rock outcrops and barren cliffs plummeting into the valley below. It looks like some version of the badlands, or something from the southwestern U.S. deserts.

Although these rivers are found at the heart of Canada's agricultural landscape, a closer inspection reveals they are surrounded by a nationally impressive expanse of wilderness. It's a wilderness unlike the heavily forested Canadian Shield, and more about rocky meadows and marshes polka-dotted the landscape. I reckon it would look eerie for anyone outside of the prairie provinces, or perhaps those who have never seen what the prairies looked like prior to settlement.

It makes me wonder if locals from central Canada acknowledge or fully appreciate these places, as many Torontonians have yet to go north of Muskoka.

On that note, let's talk about the other big 'Up North' from a southern Ontario perspective. Quebec, I always joked, is like northern Ontario, but to infinity and beyond. Also predominantly composed of the Canadian Shield, the ecosystem is largely the same, minus the fact that the province is larger in surface area, is more sparsely inhabited, and has less roads. It is just as wild as Northern Ontario, but nearly twice in size. A haven for moose, black flies, and unnamed lakes.

Consider that Ontario ends at the Hudson and James Bay Lowlands, while at this point, Quebec's border continues so far north that it gets as close to Iqaluit as Montreal is to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The amount of wilderness space in Quebec is both underrated and unfathomable.

To wrap up this virtual journey of Canada's unsung wilderness wonders, we head eastbound from far north Quebec into a low-key, borderline inaccessible Torngat Mountains National Park, which is part of Newfoundland and Labrador. These rugged mountains are hidden out of sight and conversation to most of Canadians, which gives them an even more mystic lore. They are balding, rugged mountains plunging into the sea much like you would imagine the famous fjords of Norway, and they are right here in Canada. Just a little far away, but I promise you a quick Google image search will have you saying, "No way!"

Canada also has true deserts, one of the largest wetland complexes in the world, and don't even get me started on the vastness of Nunavut. The country we call home is truly unique, and thankfully, it is one of the last strongholds of massive wilderness on the planet — a title not many countries can boast in the modern world.

View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Julian Fellows is a master story teller, and in the film, *Downton Abbey: A New Era* (2022) he manages to keep at least a dozen tales unfold-

ing simultaneously, and each concludes perfectly. This is the best of Downton.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies, and is back at theatres after a more than two years' absence. It was great to

see a film on a huge screen again, he said, and to be totally involved. "Certainly Downton was a good way to celebrate being back."

He shares his opinions of what he sees through "Short and sweet" exclusives for The Local.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

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

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

Helen Arsenaault
Proofreader
Helen@notllocal.com

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

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COMMENT

Local LETTERS

Protect your vehicle from gas theft

I would add to your staff report (The Local, June 8) regarding garage break-ins etc.

With the exorbitant costs of gasoline it has been reported that theft from automobile gas tanks are increasing. Reportedly thieves were ob-

served, in daylight hours, syphoning gas from cars at the Outlet Mall. Additionally and more serious, thieves have drilled holes in parked car gas tanks to drain the tank. In these instances, apparently the tank is not repairable and

has to be replaced at significant costs.

Be aware of these events and where possible, park your car in the garage overnight.

Samuel A. Young,
NOTL

Help needed to foster kittens, cats

NOTL Cats Rescue, our only local cat rescue group, needs the community's help.

We are in desperate need of foster homes for many kittens and cats.

What is involved with being a foster? A loving, caring

person or family with a spare room.

NOTL Cats Rescue will supply everything needed to foster — food, litter and litter boxes, scratch posts, toys, etc.

If you can help, please contact: notlcatrescue@hotmail.com or message us on NOTL Cats Facebook.

We will be happy to answer any questions regarding cat care as a foster.

Erika Buchkowsky
NOTL Cats Rescue

Local LETTERS

Yes, this reader is thinking about inclusivity

Regarding Lord Mayor's comments on NOTL's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee (The Local, June 8) four questions were asked, and I would like to address one: "Do we try to ensure everyone is included and has an equal opportunity to all share in the wonderful benefits and beauty of our town?"

My answer: A resounding no.

How can a senior or person using a cane/wheelchair access the restaurants/shops on Queen/side streets if the walks are not shovelled? No they can't enjoy a meal in

town after a snow storm. I need to buy a birthday present for my girlfriend, but no I can't because the sidewalks are not shovelled, and it is noon!

It is just plain rude to a huge portion of NOTL's population (not to mention the business owners) that it is unsafe to venture out for breakfast when it snows overnight.

Lord Mayor, I have a recommendation for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee: at 5 a.m. there should be as many town workers as needed to clear

the sidewalks and the town's budget will pay for it! (Perhaps you could instruct them to start in front of places where locals eat brekky!)

And furthermore, could you assign one of our dump trucks to be idling by to collect snow, if necessary? Snow piled beside the sidewalks invariably melts and causes a slipping hazard.

So, yes Lord Mayor, to answer your last question: I am thinking about accessibility all the time.

Janet Trinder
NOTL

Pop-up library coming to a park near you

Adrianna Polito
The Local

School's almost out and it's time for a summer adventure! Get ready to dive into the pages of your favourite stories. This year's TD Summer Reading theme is Once Upon a Time; Myths and Legends. Register for this fun reading challenge and discover new stories and characters to love. Come and say hi on Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., or in the evening from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and tell us all about what you have read.

Here at the library, we'll have plenty of programs to go along with this magical theme. Have you ever dreamed of becoming a knight? Now is your chance to join the Knights of the Library on special, weekly quests. Has your magic mirror been acting out? No problem. Come make a new one and other enchanted items with our new Mini Magic Makers and Magic Makery programs. Fly into our weekly Superhero club, but don't worry, your secret identity is safe with us.

Bring fairytales and myths to life with our Storybook Theatre program where we create assorted styles of puppets each week and put on a puppet show. Discover the magic of music with our

Once Upon a Tune program, where we explore the many ways to make sound.

If that sounds like fun, just wait until you hear about our weekly parties every Thursday at 2 p.m. The Mad Hatter invites you to a tea party in Wonderland; Just do not carpool with the White Rabbit (he is always late.) Then join Robin Hood in Sherwood Forest and make your own bow and arrow. Sebastian is next to make a splash with his party under the sea. From

under the sea, travel high up a mountain to a party in a Dragon's Lair.

The Little Pigs are excited to invite you to their housewarming party. But keep an eye out for the wolf and do not let him in, no matter how much he huffs and puffs. Then, climb up the beanstalk with Jack for his Giant party, sure to be gigantic fun. Finally, party with the villains you love to hate and let your devious side out to play. Program favourites are also returning

this summer with both the Pokemon Club, and STEAM Explorers.

Can't make it to the library? Let us bring the library to you. Join us at a different park every Friday for our pop-up Library. Sign up for a library card, browse our portable collection, join in for a story time, games, and fun activities.

Program registration opens June 13. Don't miss out on this magical summer at the library.



Summer student Tess Roberts Ramos helps children's library service associate Adrianna Polito with kids' programs. (Photo supplied)

Navy ship docking in NOTL Friday



Local Staff

The HMCS Oriole, the sail training vessel of the Royal Canadian Navy, will arrive in port at Niagara-on-the-Lake Friday.

It will dock at the NOTL Sailing Club from Friday, June 17 to Monday, June 20, and will be open for public deck tours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The Oriole is taking part in the Great Lakes Deployment 2022, which will see the Royal Canadian Navy visiting communities along the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes, providing Canadians with a unique opportunity to tour one of Canada's naval ships and to learn about life in the navy from sailors.

It also provides an opportunity to speak with sailors

and recruiters to find out more about a career in the navy.

Or, if you have already an application submitted online, you can come see the RCN in-person to learn more about your future career in the RCN.

The Oriole is the navy's longest-serving commissioned ship, built for the Gooderham family and launched in 1921. During the Second World War the ship was loaned to the navy for training purposes, and later commissioned into the service in 1954 based out of Esquimalt, B.C. In 2017, Oriole sailed around through the Panama Canal and back to Halifax, where it is now stationed. Oriole has served continuously since 1921 in both private and military roles, and is celebrating 101 years in service this year.

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Activities that make you happy reduce stress

Continued from page 1

that it's super important to take care of yourself." Included on her poster are drawings of some of her favourite activities, including baking, reading, sports, arts, nature, and

one really important to her — music. She also incorporated reminders of help that is available, such as Bell's Let's Talk, a well-known program designed to break the silence around mental illness, and support mental health across Canada;

a kids' help phone line, and a drawing of two kids talking to each other. Gracie says her love of music began when she was a little girl. She can play a few musical instruments a little bit, but listening to music is one of her favourite activities, and helps her

relax, especially when she's doing school work, so it's well-represented on her poster. "I've always loved music," she says. "Music makes me happy," and that is the point of the mental health exercise — to encourage kids to make time

for activities that make them happy. She has a record player in her room, and a collection of vinyl records and LPs, mostly from the '90s, listing Queen, Van Halen, The Killers, an American rock band, and INXS from Australia as her favourites.

Her uncle has a large collection, she says, and they swap records, "so I have a variety to choose from." Gracie also loves sports, which help keep her physically active. She plays soccer with the town's minor soccer league, and has fun playing football with her friends during recesses at school. Because many of the activities she has included on her poster are ones she enjoys, they are naturally part of her life, but there are others she makes a conscious effort to remind herself are important, such as sleep. "I do sports a lot, I listen to music all the time. But sleeping is important too. When I'm doing homework at night, and it's getting late, I tell myself I should probably be sleeping."

Most likely to make her stressed, she says, are studying for tests and big projects at school, "but I get them done," usually with music playing while she works. Because of the range of activities promoted on her poster that make her happy, she explains, "I'm not super stressed. I can get stressed, although not very, and not often."



Andrea Bozza, mental health lead for the Niagara Catholic District School Board, presents Gracie Cherney with a certificate to recognize her win. (Photo supplied)



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No coyote sighting reports in several weeks

Penny Coles
The Local

After months of urban coyote sightings and encounters around town, mostly in The Village but also other Old Town neighbourhoods, the coyotes appear to have returned to their rural habitat.

In an effort to pin down where coyotes are seen and what attracts them to specific areas, the town has an online coyote reporting system, with 200 reports submitted since the beginning of the year.

However, there hasn't been one report of a sighting since May 26, CAO Marnie Cluckie said in her recent updates to councillors.

The uptick began in mid-March and sightings continued until early May, at which time they decreased significantly, says Marah Minor, the town's communications coordinator.

Much of the success of efforts to discourage coyotes in urban areas can be attributed to efforts of the community to minimize wildlife food attractants, she says.

According to Coyote Watch Canada, because sightings have decreased does not mean coyotes are not present in the local landscape. "Coyotes have a home range that they inhabit. Sightings have decreased due to initiatives providing the community with educational information about best practices to minimize food attractants such as prop-

er garbage handling, using appropriate bins/lids, feeding cats outdoors, enclosing compost, and taking down the bird feeders, or at the very least, keeping the ground underneath clear of byproducts."

If the food source is removed, Coyote Watch says, wildlife will not frequent those former locations. "These community outreach approaches are deployed in countless urban areas. Successful wildlife response by a community works closely within Coyote Watch Canada's four-cornerstone wildlife strategy framework: field investigation, education, prevention, and enforcement."

The town implemented a strong community outreach plan that included public education sessions and consistent field investigations to identify attractants, Coyote Watch continued. "Hotspot areas were addressed and residents did their part by making simple adjustments to meet the guidelines set forth by the town and our community partners."

Wildlife-proofing property is a community effort, says Coyote Watch. "Successful outcomes require that everyone contributes toward these initiatives with everyone doing their part; residents and our community partners (Coyote Watch Canada and LCHS) that were on the ground and worked together to achieve these goals. Involving a local community champion that

worked directly with neighbours facilitated effective outreach with residents as well."

Wildlife must forage and/or hunt for sustenance on a daily basis, says Coyote Watch. "Food attractants influence where and how wildlife such as canids navigate throughout their territory (home range). Anthropogenic food provisions impact behaviour; a simple cause and effect relationship. The "cycle" of these unnatural food attractants is what needs to be considered, and how directed removal of these attractants proves successful in mitigating an increase in human-coyote encounters."

Ardeth Staz, president of the Village Community Association, says she gets the sense that residents are feeling more comfortable out walking in the neighbourhood, although she's seen some with their small dogs and still carrying garbage bags, which was one of the tips they were given to scare off coyotes with noise. "They aren't entirely satisfied that it's over and done with," she says.

Residents have been diligent about not leaving food out or putting seed in bird feeders, but they have to continue to keep that up, she says.

The VRA distributes a regular newsletter, and will continue to remind residents about putting out garbage, food and bird seed. "We have to be preventative and proactive," she says.



Rylie Niven understood coyotes were a hot topic in NOTL, and chose it for a Grade 2 school project, after seeing a photo in The Local and becoming very interested, says her father Andrew Niven. (Photo supplied)



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Pedal Pub changes route to suit town



The Pedal Pub, licensed by the region, is changing its route to satisfy councillors. (File photo)

Penny Coles
The Local

The popular Pedal Pub has a new route, although it was approved by just one vote Monday evening. There were concerns raised about the route last season that needed to be

addressed, Marlo Saganski told councillors. The general manager of the attraction said the problem is specifically Queen Street, and the U-turn and parking next to The Exchange Brewery. The solution is to eliminate most of the Queen Street route, the U-turn

and The Exchange Brewery from their tours, “although this was a difficult decision, because The Exchange Brewery and Pedal Pub NOTL have partnered since 2019.” Instead, the Pedal Pub will work with three local businesses, starting at

Selfie Mode Niagara on Mary Street, then visiting Fournos Greek Restaurant and the HobNob Restaurant in the Charles Hotel on Queen Street before returning to Mary Street. The Pedal Pub supports local business, and is introducing new ways to do so — this year, Saganski said, “we’ve already given back \$50,000 to our business partners.

“We’ve also challenged ourselves to make a bigger impact on local economy, encouraging guests to stay in NOTL and visit more

businesses,” she added. “Our team is working hard to deliver a safe, fun and unique experience of Niagara-on-the-Lake while supporting the local economy.” In response to a question from Coun. Gary Burroughs, Saganski apologized for “bad timing,” with a Pedal Pub passing by a solemn ceremony to recognize Polish soldiers who died of influenza while training in NOTL.

She said she would do a better job of communicating with the town to be

aware of events on their route. Also answering a safety concern mentioned by Burroughs of cars trying to pass the slow-moving vehicles, she said Pedal Pubs are being outfitted with new, ‘slow-moving vehicle’ signs, and they also move onto side streets to let vehicles pass safely. The new route was approved by councillors, with Burroughs, O’Connor, Coun. John Wiens and Lord Mayor Betty Disero voting against it for safety reasons.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is returning to an in-person gathering for the Strawberry Social event, with a pick-up option available. Admission is free for all attendees.

WHO? Niagara-on-the-Lake residents aged 65+ years

WHEN? Monday, June 27, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

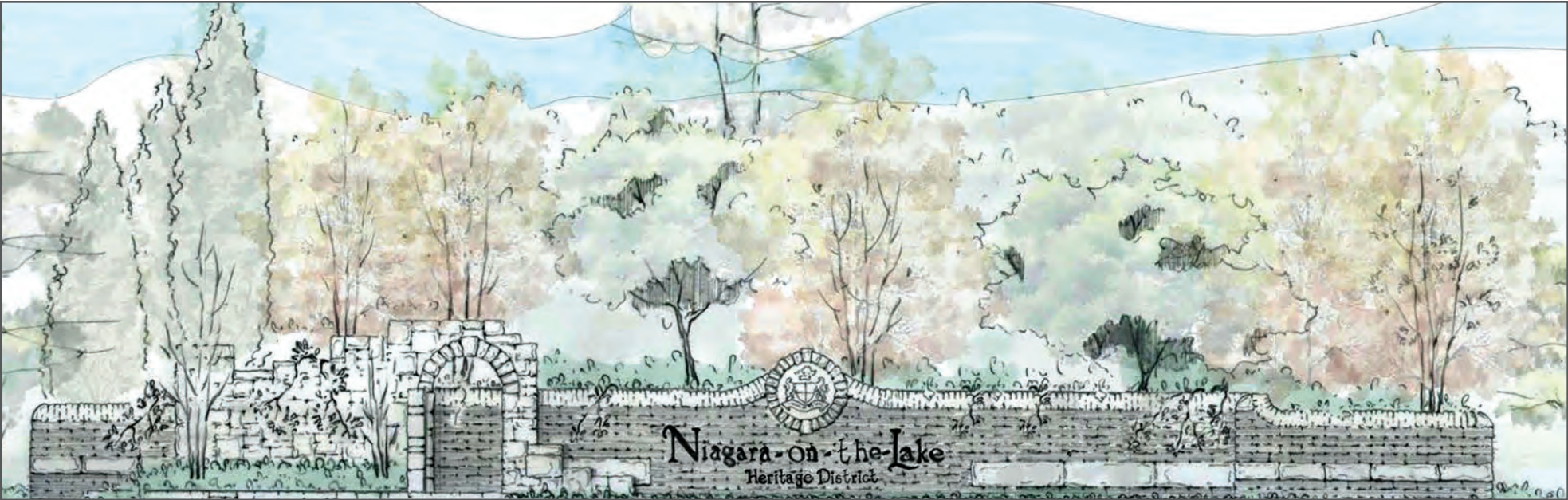
WHERE? Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane

Registration is required for in-person and pick-up options. Please register at www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events

Friday, June 17th, 2022
9:30 am until 11:30 am
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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Gateway project construction to begin in September



With a dry stone wall now incorporated into the design of the gateway project, a qualified, skilled craftsman is needed to build it. (File photo)

Penny Coles
The Local

Gerry Kowalchuk, the resident who has donated the funds and taken a lead in the gateway project at Queen and Mississagua Streets, is anxious for the project to move forward.

He spoke to councillors Monday night about the next step, and got the assurance he needed.

It was the fall of 2019 that he first approached the lord mayor and staff about the project, he said, and now “working plans are

complete, and we’re set to begin construction in September.”

He was asking that Aldershot Landscape Contractors be hired, with approval for the quotation they have submitted to the town, to complete the project in accordance with details contained in the working drawings.

“There are noteworthy benefits if we proceed with this contractor,” he said. The town will have the benefit of a general contractor, he explained, who will supervise all trades.

With very few dry stone masons in Canada, and a dry stone wall planned for the project, he said, specialist Menno Braam has been selected to construct the wall, “which is very important — it’s the focal point of the gateway project.”

Braam’s resume describes 15 years’ experience in dry stone construction, teaching, and being a founding member of the Canadian Dry Stone Walling Association, said Kowalchuk.

“I have also viewed photos of some of his dry stone projects, and it is a defi-

nite advantage to have Mr. Braam as a sub-contractor to Aldershot Landscape Contractors.”

A redesign of the project, which originally incorporated a limestone wall, was approved last fall by council. The final design incorporated a smaller dry stone wall instead.

Last but not least, Kowalchuk said, “the quotation provided by Aldershot Landscape Contractors is within the budget for the project,” and he is satisfied with the overall price to complete the work on time

and within budget.

When asked by Coun. Gary Burroughs about Dean McLellan, a master craftsman and dry stone waller who has worked with Wil- lowbank School of Restoration Arts, parks and recreation director Kevin Turcott said McLellan offered his services, “but when it came to a contract we couldn’t come to an agreement.”

Menno Braam, who has similar experience, will work with the general contractor, while staff will be the general advisor to keep track of budget and time-

lines, Turcott said.

Although councillors expressed reservations about the issue of single-sourcing for the project, CAO Marnie Cluckie explained that while a competitive process is preferred, in this situation it was a benefit for the town to meet its timeline, but more important in this case it was a matter of finding someone with the right skills to do quality specialty work.

Councillors voted to approve hiring Aldershot Landscape Contractors, with Burroughs dissenting.

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Fundraising swim to aid mental health



Scott Paines of NPNG in Virgil is helping Dylan Rumsey prepare for his fundraising swim from the Queenston boat launch to the mouth of the Niagara River. (Ryan Bruce Photography)

Penny Coles
The Local

Dylan Rumsey has two goals to accomplish as he prepares to swim from Queenston to the mouth of the Niagara River in August — to raise money for much-needed mental health programs for youth, and to bring change to the way people with mental health issues are viewed and treated by the health care system.

And he would know how desperate those needs are — he's been treated for mental health problems for the last decade, hospitalized sometimes twice a year, without a lot of progress, he says.

He has had the benefits of a support network in the hospital, and has seen therapists, some through Pathstone Mental Health, but he has been told his brain chemistry "is so out of whack" he needs medication. He has a problem with the health system's reliance on medication that makes him feel like a zombie, without treating the root of his problem, which has been diagnosed as PTSD.

On the GoFundMe page he set up, hoping to raise \$7,500 for Pathstone Foundation, Rumsey is open about dealing with mental illness, and what he sees as a failure with the system in treating himself and others.

He told The Local his problems began with a traumatic experience as a

15-year-old, which led to the PTSD diagnosis. He has been dealing with that ever since, and expects it will stay with him for the rest of his life.

Before that time, "I had always been a happy, outgoing kid," says Rumsey, who turns 26 this year. "That situation really damaged me. I'm still trying to get it back together, to keep my brain occupied and set goals for myself."

He has support from his family, and also from friends, who will reach out to him when he needs them, but once those conversations are finished, he goes back to hearing "the voices in his head," he says.

He spent some time in the hospital recently after a suicide attempt with drugs, and he has lost two good friends from drug overdoses.

"I see it as a huge issue of kids getting lost in the system and having an extremely high rate of falling back in the same hole, over and over again," he says.

"I still struggle every day. Right now, I'm setting goals for myself, keeping busy."

That includes working out at NPNG, and if he doesn't show up, trainer Scott Paines, "will be in touch, telling me to get back to the gym. He knows my story, and understands it. He is an incredibly good trainer, and he knows what I need."

Paines is helping him prepare for the August swim, with NPNG mascot

Mocha, Paines' constant four-legged companion at the Virgil fitness studio.

Rumsey would like to see more advice and encouragement being offered by the healthcare system on eating healthy foods, getting exercise and being in good shape physically, before being released from the hospital, "rather than depending on anti-depressants and other drugs."

He says he's not opposed to taking medication, but would like to also be offered a natural treatment, and have a doctor talk to him about how to deal with the "root problem," the cause of his depression.

Rumsey graduated from Fleming College in 2017 as a heavy equipment technician and works in that field now, but has set himself a goal of going back to school for a degree in social work. "I'd like to be able to help other kids, offer them free counseling."

Pathstone Foundation, the recipient of his fundraiser, works at improving the quality of life for children, youth and families across Niagara who are dealing with mental health challenges. Rumsey says he has seen the difficulties faced not only by young people suffering from mental illness, but the impact on their families, the emotional toll, and the cost of therapy. He feels guilt over the cost to his

Continued on page 13

Therapy helps, as do regular fitness workouts

Continued from page 12

parents, and knows others in similar situations who feel the same.

He estimates he has spent about \$10,000 on therapy sessions, but in the end, any help for him depends on medication he doesn't like taking.

Rumsey says in addition to seeing doctors in the hospital, he has had several therapists, funded by OHIP, but doesn't feel he received the kind of help he needed.

He believes he is finally making progress with the right person, but because of the cost, can manage only monthly appointments, and sometimes not even that. He would like to be able to increase that to once a week, but the cost would be prohibitive.

He knows he has support for his fundraising goals, he says. He has never organized a fundraiser before, and was pleased that in the first 72 hours after posting the GoFundMe page, he had received donations of more than \$4,000.

Nor has he ever swum that stretch of river, a distance of about six kilometres, or been a competitive swimmer, which is part of why he chose that particular activity as a fundraiser.

His swim from the Queenston boat launch to the mouth of the river, he says, will likely take about four to six hours, and he plans on doing it with no breaks.

"I want to show people not to give up, or think something's impossible."

He grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, fishing and swimming, and considers himself a decent swimmer, but there are eddies between coves along that stretch which will create some challenges.

He will have at least two boats and two kayakers out in the water, and people cheering him on, he adds. "I won't be doing this swim alone."

"I'd like to see this become bigger than myself," he says, turning into an annual event every August.

For more information or to donate to his Aug. 13 fundraising swim, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/yb6aqw-mental-health-awareness?qid=73a5d75eedf0b52499804d258aabc34b>

For more information about mental health support, contact Pathstone Mental Health. There is a crisis and support line operating 24/7 at 1-800-263-4944; in-person support



With the help of trainer Scott Paines, Dylan Rumsey feels confident he can complete his swim. (Ryan Bruce Photography)

is available at eight walk-in clinics across Niagara, Monday to Friday; and support via video is also

offered Monday to Friday. For more information, visit <https://pathstone.mentalhealth.ca>



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NOTICE

TO: The Owners of the property known as Part Lot 69 TP Plan 86 Niagara Parts 1 & 4, 30R-5404, t/w & s/t RO576594; t/w RO557430; s/t RO576595; s/t easement over Part Lot 69 TP Plan 86 being Parts 1 & 4, 30R-5404 for the benefit of Lot 69 TP Plan 86 being Parts 2 & 3 on 30R-5404 as in NR172154, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara (PIN 46399-0008LT) and/or the Personal Representative of his, her or their estates or his, her or their heirs at law, and/or RICHARD WILKINSON and MARION WILKINSON and/or the Personal Representative of his/her estate or his/her heirs at law.

RE: Part Lot 69 TP Plan 86, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara (PIN 46399-0160LT) designated as Parts 1 and 2 on a draft Reference Plan, signed by Allan J. Heywood, O.L.S., on the 11th day of June, 2021;

The said Plan is attached to an application registered as Instrument NR585620 and is available for inspection at the Land Registry or the office of the Solicitor for the Applicant:

Land Registry Office No. 30:
59 Church Street
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 3C3

Solicitor for the Applicant:
Sheldon Pettie
Litowitz Pettie & Silver LLP
100 Mural Street, Suite 200
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J3

TAKE NOTICE THAT Tammar Grinberg, herein referred to as the Applicant, has made application registered as No. NR585620 to be registered under the Land Titles Act as the owner in fee simple with an absolute title to the above described land.

AND TAKE NOTICE THAT any person claiming to have any title to or interest in the said land or any party thereof (other than an interest protected by registration) is required on or before July 11, 2022 (which is more than thirty days from the date this notice was published) to file a statement of objection, setting out the grounds for such objection, verified by affidavit, directed to the Land Registrar at the address of the solicitor for the Applicant. If no such statement of objection is filed on or before July 11, 2022, we shall proceed with the application and any interest you may claim in the subject property may be thereby extinguished and you may not be entitled to receive any further notice with respect to the proceedings.

Dated at Richmond Hill this 31st day of May, 2022

Sheldon Pettie
Litowitz Pettie & Silver LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
100 Mural Street, Suite 200
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1J3
Telephone: 905.731.4999 x202

NOTL's Drumming Down the Sun event cancelled

Penny Coles
The Local

The Summer Solstice event, Drumming Down the Sun & Yoga in the Park, is cancelled at Ryerson Park.

It would have been its ninth year if COVID hadn't interrupted this annual celebration of the longest day of the year, Tuesday, June 21, says Carla Carlson, one of the organizers of the event.

Carlson says she and NOTL resident Loretta Pi-

etrobon came to the difficult decision they couldn't host the celebration this year, for a number of reasons — most importantly, they discovered there is no parking near the park now, "which confounds the event," says Carlson.

She and Pietrobon will be searching for a new NOTL location for 2023, a spot along Lake Ontario where the setting sun is visible, not like the first year at Queen's Royal Park, where they discovered on the evening of the solstice the park doesn't have a view of the sunset.

Carlson is inviting residents to join one of the other two locations for yoga and drumming down the sun. This will be the 25th year at Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie with yoga, starting at 7 p.m. and then drumming down the sun until it sets.

At Charles Daley Park in Lincoln, yoga starts earlier, at 6:30 p.m., with The Yoga Vine from Beamsville, for free yoga and solstice tea. Then join mas-

ter drummer Zephie James on the west beach to drum down the sun.

Bring a blanket or yoga mat, lawn chairs, and anything to shake, rattle or drum, says Carlson.

She is asking for donations to help defray organizational expenses, and the cost of park permits, with a portion going to the Niagara Land Trust.

For further information please contact Carlson at 905-562-3746 or www.niagarantourists.ca



The summer solstice event at Ryerson Park hasn't been held the last two years, and this year has been cancelled due to lack of parking, organizers say. (File photo)

Making lemonade for a good cause



In the Old Town selling lemonade are Michael Parniak, Mac Cameron, and Magda, Andrew, Felix, Klaudia and Zuzanna Bator. (Photos supplied)



In St. Davids, Julian Race, Mary Basciano, Vivienne Atwood, Benjamin Marull, Winnie Perng, Kai Clifton, Luca Race, Antonia Cater, Matthew Cater, Coco Perng, Loretta Cater, Asher Pratt and Capri Pratt all got together to raise some money. (David Gilchrist)



LemonAID Day, sponsored by Mountainview Homes, drew a group of fundraisers with their lemonade to raise money to send kids to camp. Adelaide Cameron, Gary Burroughs, Harold Cameron (above) and Clare Cameron and Katrina Boccia (left) enjoy the day, and the lemonade.

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Les Marmitons host international event

Mike Balsom
The Local

White Oaks executive chef Michael Price was nervous addressing the gathered crowd of about 150 to outline the menu for Saturday's Les Marmitons International Gala.

Though Price claimed he just doesn't enjoy talking to large groups of people, one must wonder if the fact that more than half the attendees were wearing their crisp, white Les Marmitons chef's jackets made him a bit more

nervous than usual.

The Niagara chapter of Les Marmitons was hosting representatives of 19 clubs from across Canada and the US for the twice-postponed 2020 International Gala. Eighty members and their spouses from chapters as far away as South Carolina and New Jersey mingled with those from Montreal, Calgary and Halifax.

With eight of their 36 Les Marmitons visiting Niagara, the Sandy Springs chapter from Atlanta, Georgia had one of the biggest contin-

gents. Current Sandy Springs treasurer Jim Sullivan arrived three days before the planned events, which began Thursday, to experience more of what Niagara had to offer.

"We rented a B&B on the Niagara River for the first few nights," the 2017-2018 winner of the Jean-Pierre Jobin Award of Merit, the highest honour in Les Marmitons, said. "We saw 'Damn Yankees' at Shaw, walked the Old Town, ate in some of the very nice restaurants, Treadwell's was one of them. And today we went to a high-end wine tasting (at BarBea)."

Loosely translated, Les Marmitons means kitchen boy. The organization is a gastronomic and social club of gentlemen, all with a common interest in fine food, wine and the culinary arts. They are not professional chefs who work in kitchens, but rub shoulders and learn from them via monthly cooking meetings.

Niagara president Mike Berlis, a former partner in the founding of Oast House Brewers in Niagara-on-the-Lake, joined the local group shortly after he moved to Niagara from Ottawa.

"Food was always an interest of mine, along with wine and beer," Berlis says. "I belonged to Les Marmitons in Ottawa for a few years. When I came here in 2005, I thought it was a perfect place to start a chapter, then I found out it had already started just a year before."

Ross Macfarlane was the one who beat Berlis to the punch. The founding president of the Niagara chapter is now serving as president of Les Marmitons International (LMI) and co-chaired the gala organizing committee, along with his brother Alex, also a past Niagara president, and Berlis.

"They did most of the heavy lifting on it," laughed Macfarlane. "We also had lots of volunteers who were working on the excursions today

and staffing the information desk. We have 14 members (of about 40) here enjoying the festivities too."

Originally scheduled for spring 2020, Macfarlane said attendance was a bit lower this year than it would have been prior to the pandemic, but he was thoroughly impressed with the turnout.

"We had hoped to be over 200 in 2020," he admits, "but in light of the circumstances, particularly because COVID is still happening, it's wonderful to see so many people here."

COVID has also affected the meeting routine of the local chapter. Berlis explains that over the years Les Marmitons had a strong relationship with Niagara College, holding their monthly cooking (and eating) sessions at Niagara College's hospitality, culinary, wine and brewery facilities. In turn, Les Marmitons have supported Niagara College students through bursaries and scholarships.

During the pandemic, however, their monthly events could not be held in person. The group shifted to online sessions, enlisting the likes of Riverbend Inn chef Ross Midgley to lead them through cooking sessions.

In the past they've worked with chefs Ryan Crawford of

Ruffino's and John Vetere of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, among others. They also enlist winemakers such as Ravine's Lydia Tomek to tutor them on the best pairings with each menu.

Membership to Les Marmitons is \$100, and members contribute that same amount each time they participate in the monthly gatherings, which they hope to return to in the fall.

"They enjoy working with us," Berlis says of the chefs and winemakers. "They're not compensated by us, though all their costs are covered. They do it because it's a passion for them as well. They enjoy having 20 or so men who are interested in everything the chef is saying. It's a captive audience that is very interested in learning."

Les Marmitons come from all walks of life and bring to the club a varied set of skills. What is common is that passion for food and wine, and for learning about those pursuits. Many of them are retirees, but there were quite a few younger members milling about at Saturday's gala as well.

Prior to Saturday's dinner, LMI attendees were able to enjoy organized brewery excursions, historic walking

tours, and a visit to Niagara College. There was also a Friday evening welcome event at Ravine Vineyard.

Of course, there was some LMI business to attend to. Macfarlane and other members of the international board, as well as the presidents of each of the 19 chapters present, conducted meetings to discuss business and share plans for the upcoming year.

Niagara last hosted the international gala in 2010, though the Toronto chapter of Les Marmitons hosted the gala at Niagara College in 2004. Next year's event is scheduled to be hosted by the Calgary chapter.

Unlike their monthly sessions, the 80 or so chef's jackets were worn mostly for show this past weekend. Les Marmitons were doing none of the cooking at either White Oaks or Ravine, but instead were enjoying the fruits of other chefs' labours.

"It's an opportunity for us to meet some new acquaintances and to see some old friends as well," Berlis says. "Over the years, when you go to these galas, you see some of the same faces, and get to know people from different chapters in Canada and the U.S. Quite often, a lot of new friendships come out of it."



Lord Mayor Betty Disero attended the gala, congratulating Mike Berlis and local members on the event they hosted. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Ross Macfarlane, and Mike Berlis speak at the gala.



Les Marmitons from Sandy Springs, including Jim Sullivan, fourth from right, who was making the most of his trip to NOTL.

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Brubecks celebrate centennial of famous father's birth

Bravo Niagara! duo brings quartet to PAC

Mike Balsom
The Local

The message from the outgoing voicemail said, “you’ve reached the Brubecks. Please leave a message.”

The caller was left a bit awestruck at how everyday it was, maybe even mundane, to hear Tish Brubeck apologizing for not being able to answer the family’s phone. After all, the Brubecks might be considered the first family of popular jazz.

Tish lives in Connecticut with her husband Chris Brubeck, bassist and trombonist with the Brubeck Brothers Quartet. Chris, of course, is the son of one of the most legendary jazz musicians of all time, pianist and songwriter Dave Brubeck.

Bravo Niagara! Festival presents the Brubeck Brothers Quartet - Chris, his brother Dan on drums, guitarist Mike DeMicco and pianist Chuck Lamb - Wednesday, June 22 at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre’s Partridge Hall. The show, postponed from its original date in 2020, will celebrate the music of Chris and Dan’s famous father to mark the centennial of his birth.

Dave Brubeck was one of the jazz world’s first pop stars. His 1959 album *Time Out* peaked at number two on the Billboard pop chart and became the first jazz album to sell a million copies. That record’s *Blue Rondo à la Turk* and *Take Five*, both played in unusual time signatures, are two of the most recognizable jazz numbers ever.

Chris says the first time he realized how important his father was in the music

world was when he was about 10 years old. The family had stopped at a diner in New Jersey.

“My dad was playing at a concert in New Jersey, and we stopped to eat,” says Chris. “The diner had those table-top jukeboxes. I remember flipping through the pages. It had the Beach Boys, the Rolling Stones, then I saw *Take Five* by Dave Brubeck. I thought ‘holy cow, my dad must be important.’”

Born in 1952, Chris was a teenager when rock and roll nudged jazz out of the way in the early- to mid-1960s, but says he never went through a rebellious stage when it came to talking music with his famous father.

“I was in seventh grade when the Beatles really hit,” he remembers. “My father didn’t understand what all the commotion was about. If you wrote *In Your Own Sweet Way*, or *The Duke*, how are you going to be impressed with the Kindergarten-level harmonic complexity of *She Loves You*. I didn’t like any of the early rock and roll stuff, like *Duke of Earl*, either.”

It was when Dave Brubeck finally heard Ella Fitzgerald’s version of *Can’t Buy Me Love* that his opinion on the Fab Four softened a bit, and Chris remembers the family sitting around the record player listening to *Rubber Soul* intently.

“The first time he heard Michelle and Norwegian Wood, he really, really loved that stuff.”

Chris dabbled in rock music early in his musical career, with bands such as New Heavenly Blue and Sky King. Listening to their records

now, though, it’s clear that their musicality was a step ahead of most contemporaries, combining rock with elements of jazz, classical, blues and bluegrass in their sound.

In fact, it was while touring with New Heavenly Blue in 1972 that the idea of joining his father’s quartet arose.

“We would play places like Oberlin College (in Ohio), where Dave had recorded a record,” Chris says. “My brother Darius had the Darius Brubeck Ensemble, featuring Dan on drums, and within the space of a single weekend his band, my band and Dave’s band would all play the same place.”

At that point, Dave’s most famous quartet — Gerry Mulligan on saxophone, drummer Alan Dawson and Jack Six on bass — had just broken up. A promoter suggested that father and sons get together to do a few numbers as a family.

“We hadn’t even thought of it,” marvels Chris, “because we were each doing our own things. But when we did it, the reaction was crazy. There was this fifth element, the family playing together, that knocked it up a level. Then we thought about touring with just the four of us instead of our three separate groups, and it just made perfect sense.”

Dave, Chris, Dan and Darius became the New Brubeck Quartet, the three siblings immersing themselves in their father’s music while playing together off and on for nearly three full decades, until 2001.

“I played hundreds and hundreds of gigs with (Dave) all over the world,” Chris says.



Chris and Dan Brubeck (Stephane Colbert)

“Dan has played a few less, but we are part of the legacy of Dave’s music at this point.”

As Dave began to tour with other musicians in the new millennium, Chris and Dan formed the Brubeck Brothers Quartet and began touring and releasing albums of their own.

Their father continued to tour and record for more than 10 years, until he died of a heart attack in 2012 on his way to a cardiology appointment, just a day shy of his 92nd birthday.

The Brubeck Brothers Quartet’s 2012 and 2018 releases, *Lifetimes* and *Timelines* respectively, both paid tribute to their father. But the brothers, along with DeMicco and Lamb, put their own stamp on his jazz classics, taking things in different directions at times from where Dave would have gone.

“Dave wrote such great music, and we have fun



Chris Brubeck and his father Dave, who died in 2012 (photo supplied)

playing it,” Chris says. “Jazz is a vehicle to stretch out on. With a number like *Take Five*, we never play it the same way twice. We don’t imitate Dave’s music, and audiences really seem to love what we do.”

As much as he reveres his father for his musical talent, Chris also holds up his service during the Second World War and his subsequent role as an ambassador for the U.S. with his historic 1958 State Department Tour as points of admiration.

He also points out that his mother Iola collaborated with her husband and Louis Armstrong on a musical called *The Real Ambassadors*, which addressed the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, the nature of God, and a number of other themes. The musical had only one performance, though Dave recorded an al-

bum of the songs in 1961.

Surely, if there was a list of those in the jazz world who deserve a tour in honour of their centennial, Dave Brubeck would be near the top of the list. And it’s worth the two-year wait for the Bravo Niagara! Festival show, scheduled appropriately just three days after Father’s Day.

“I’m glad that Alexis and Chris stuck with us,” a grateful Chris Brubeck says. “Dave was born in December of 1920. So all of 2021, it was still 100 years. That gave us an automatic extension. You know Leonard Bernstein’s centennial lasted five years. So it’s not a stretch for us to do it now in 2022.”

Tickets for the Brubeck Brothers Quartet, Wednesday, June 22 at the PAC’s Recital Hall, are available at bravoniagara.org/live. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.



The Brubeck Brothers Quartet is playing at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre’s Partridge Hall June 22, a concert that has been postponed for two years. (Anthony Pidgeon)

Fort George perfect setting for Foster's 1812

Mike Balsom
The Local

Experiencing a Norm Foster play called *1812* on the grounds of Fort George National Historic Site makes perfect sense.

Though the story itself doesn't take place in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Parks Canada property acts as a fitting backdrop to the tale of neighbouring towns split apart when U.S. president James Madison declares war against Britain in an attempt to defeat and perhaps occupy part of Canada.

Ontario-born playwright Foster lives in Fredericton, New Brunswick, about an hour's drive from St. Stephen, a town of 4,400 on the St. Croix River. Across the river sits another small town, Calais, Maine, with a current population of 3,100.

The populations of both towns were much smaller 210 years ago when war was declared. Early settlers on both sides of the border freely crossed the river to visit friends. Most didn't identify themselves as American, British or Canadian. Instead, they considered themselves one community, until the American Revolution brought their differences to light.

Foster had often heard a story about Calais running out of gunpowder while preparing for the town's Fourth of July celebrations in the midst of the War of 1812. The mayor of Calais asked his counterpart in St. Stephen for a loan of gunpowder so they could have a fireworks display. St. Stephen's mayor obliged, and the celebration was held.

That story became the groundwork for *1812*, a play directed by Shaw Fes-



Patricia Yeatman, Edmond Clark and Ellen Denny in *1812*. (Photos by Sandy Middleton)

tival veteran Jim Mezon,, that adeptly and humorously explores the themes of love, friendship, loyalty, racism and patriotism.

At its heart, *1812* is a comedy. David Nairn portrays St. Stephen Mayor Wallace Edwards, who has recently experienced a fall from his trusty steed. Having seriously bumped his head, he has become quite addled, needing constant reminders by his wife, played by Patricia Yeatman, that her name is Millicent.

It also means that Wallace says what he is thinking, often without thinking much at all. That is evident first when he expresses his opinion of Britain's King George, whom he refers to as an imbecile. It is also evident when he meets visitor Ben Strong for the first time.

Strong portrays one of the early free Black settlers in the area, many of whom worked in construction and in local mills. Recent-

ly arrived from England, Strong is sent by his American employer to offer assistance to the Edwards family in light of Wallace's accident.

In his addled state, Wallace asks Ben, played by Foster Festival newcomer Edmond Clark, if he knows he is a Negro, using the term that was common at the time. He utters the word completely without malice, but deserves the dressing down he continues to receive from both Millicent and his daughter Caroline.

Ellen Denny's Caroline is smitten with Strong, much to the chagrin of American Frederick Thomas, who hopes to win her heart. Much humour comes from Strong asking the 30-year-old Caroline why she has yet to find a suitor. It seems her ability and willingness to plough fields, chop wood and dig wells has scared off the eligible bachelors of both

towns through the years.

When war is declared, Frederick, played by Jesse Dwyre, eagerly enlists with the hopes of becoming a Lieutenant in the Massachusetts Militia. In contrast, Wallace refuses to even acknowledge the conflict, and continues to cross the bridge between the two towns, where a bribe of a bottle of booze to the town drunk Gibby, now in charge of the crossing, will ease the passage.

The idea of allegiance to one country over another seems foreign to the Edwards family, and to Strong as well. Only Frederick, who jealously tries to arrest Strong for "consorting with the enemy," seems to have any desire to see the conflict ensue.

Meanwhile, Strong endears himself to the Wallace family, getting closer to Caroline through their frequent rides through the countryside. He also endears himself to the only

servant remaining on the Wallace staff, the ribald and forward Henrietta. Lisa Horner, a Dora Award winner and television actor (*Kim's Convenience*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*) is hilarious every time she bursts onto set, blatantly throwing herself at Strong, who seems confused by her advances.

Nairn portrays Mayor Edwards with a perfect mixture of bluster and confusion. He's a marvel, especially in Act 2. Strong has offered to teach Wallace Italian to help "work out" his memory muscles. Nairn's face can barely conceal Wallace's joy as he eloquently strings together phrases in that language.

And Nairn's back-and-forth with Dwyre about the pivotal battles of the War of 1812, with each bragging about their own country having won, is a tour de force.

Mixed in with all the humour, Foster's play

leaves one pondering the idea of loyalty in general. Is one to be loyal to their country in this time of war, or is one to be loyal to those with whom they share a common bond despite the border that separates them? It's clear where the Edwards family stands on this.

It's also clear that Strong finds himself at a crossroads near the end of the play due to his race. As the war progresses, he announces his plans to leave Calais, feeling that he has not been fully accepted by the townsfolk on either side of the border.

Though *1812* has a cast of only six actors, the seventh principal playing a part in this performance is the fort itself. The sounds of the birds flying by and the blue sky above the barracks, where the stage is nestled, add an air of authenticity to the subject matter.

And it must be mentioned that Fort George staff and members of the Friends of Fort George are perfect hosts for the world premier of one of 10 plays written by Foster during the pandemic. Audiences last Friday were greeted by an introduction from Dan Laroche in full period officer's uniform. Laroche gave a short history of the hallowed grounds and their importance in the battle that cemented the national identity of Canadians.

1812 runs until June 23 at Fort George. Special event packages are also available for some performances, including a Drinks, Duels & Dads, a Father's Day package, and Food in the Fort on Wednesday, June 22. Visit fosterfestival.com for information and tickets.



Jesse Dwyre and Edmond Clark in *1812*, staged at Fort George.



Foster Festival newcomer Edmond Clark and David Nairn portray characters from opposite sides of the border.

Music Niagara's new season at St. Mark's begins Friday

Ukrainian pianist Mykola Suk joined by chamber ensemble

Mike Balsom
The Local

Local lovers of classical and contemporary music are finally able to enjoy performances in the aesthetically beautiful and acoustically excellent St. Mark's Anglican Church this weekend.

Ukrainian-born pianist Mykola Suk kicks off the 2022 Music Niagara season this Friday, June 17 with a performance of works by composers Antonin Dvorak and Ivan Fedorovych Karabyts. Suk will be joined by the CamerAtis Ensemble, led by violinist and Music Niagara founder and artistic director Atis Bankas.

Board chair Richard Baker is excited for the return to Music Niagara's long-time home after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's a fabulous venue for music," Baker affirms. "And Mykola Suk is a great choice to start the season there."

Suk is no newcomer to St. Mark's Church or Music Niagara. Bankas reminded The Local that the pianist performed there in Music Niagara's first season, when the festival was known as the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival.

A professor of music at University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Suk's career has spanned four continents, taking him to prestigious venues such as the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York City. He has appeared as a soloist with numerous leading orchestras, from the Russian National Symphony under Mikhail Pletnev to the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn conducted by Roman

Kofman.

His passion for chamber music has brought him to many distinguished chamber music festivals and collaborations throughout the world, including the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival (Finland), Kiev International Music Festival (Ukraine), Australian Festival of Chamber Music, and International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York City.

As well, throughout his career Suk has premiered numerous works, especially by Ukrainian composers, most of which were composed for, dedicated to, or commissioned by him.

Suk will be joined by a chamber ensemble led by Bankas and featuring Jasmine (Meng Jia) Lin on violin, cellist Dobrochna Zubek, Troy Milleker on bass and violist Emad Zolfaghari. Friday's program includes Dvorak's Piano Quintet Opus. 81 and the Concerto Divertimento for Piano and String Quintet by Ukrainian composer Karabyts.

Music Niagara's second concert follows Monday night at St. Mark's. Mirror Visions Ensemble (MVE) brings their unique combination of music and text to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The group's passion for storytelling will turn its focus on the topic of travel via music by the likes of Joseph Haydn, Benjamin Britten, Cole Porter and Kurt Weill and texts from Henry James, James Joyce and Edna St. Vincent Millay.

"They are really fascinating," an excited Baker says of MVE. "They are absolutely unique and we are fortunate to have them here Monday."

Soprano Mireille Asselin



Monday's concert features Mirror Visions Ensemble, including Mireille Asselin. (Photos supplied)

will be a featured performer Monday. Though it will be her first time performing in NOTL, the Almonte, Ontario resident has visited a few times.

"My husband, Chris Enns, has family in Virgil," she says. "They are coming to the concert and really looking forward to it. We are very excited to have an excuse to come to Niagara-on-the-Lake. We're going to come a few days early and load up on strawberries."

Asselin was born in Ottawa before the family moved to St. John, New Brunswick. They returned to the capitol city for her high school years, following which she earned a degree at Toronto's Glenn Gould School of Music, before attaining her Master's at Yale. She spent 2011 to 2013 as a member of the Canadian Opera Company's Young Artists Ensemble.

The accomplished singer spent five seasons at the Metropolitan Opera, where she debuted as Poussette in Manon.

"It was incredible," Asselin says. "I never saw myself as someone who would end up on the Met stage, so it all felt a little like an impossible, glamorous blur. I covered a bunch of lead roles and sang some small roles as well. It was a wonderful, inspiring place to work."

Asselin has been one of 10 singers with MVE since 2017. She quickly learned that the ensemble's model is markedly different from that of the Met.

"We were always told in school that even though we all love to sing chamber music recitals, there's not a lot of money to be had in that area," Mireille recalls. "We'd likely only do a handful of small recitals over our career. The Mirror Visions model is a rare example of a vocal chamber music group that performs often. I've been able to do so much more recital work than I ever thought I would be able to."

A typical MVE performance sees all performers, including pianist and usually three singers, on stage together for the duration of the recital. It creates a warm, inviting, collegial atmosphere that binds the performers strongly with the audience.

MVE has a roster of sopranos, mezzos, tenors and baritones that come together for performances based on the repertoire and depending on people's schedules. The ensemble's website lists 16 different themed programs, of which Journeys is one.

"Journeys is our most toured program," says Asselin. "It's based on a repertoire about travels, or jour-



Soprano Mireille Asselin will be a featured performer Monday.

neys of a spiritual nature. A big part of our mandate is to perform brand new song cycles or pieces of vocal chamber music. On this program there are about five Mirror Visions commissions by some interesting and wonderful American composers."

Amongst those commissioned works are composer Tom Cipullo's *Windermere Hotel*, which sets an Edna St. Vincent Millay poem to his original music, and Scott Wheeler's *Isabella Letters*, an original song cycle based on letters to and from Isabella Stewart Gardner, a leading American art collector and philanthropist

from the Boston area.

MVE's journey to St. Mark's Church may influence Monday's performance as well.

"We always have a moment when we come into the space collectively and figure out how we want to present that show in the space for these people," explains Asselin. "All three singers and pianist make the show whatever feels right to us in our surroundings."

Tickets for the recitals by Mykola Suk (Friday, June 17) and Mirror Visions Ensemble (Monday, June 20) are available at musicniagara.org. Both performances begin at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's.



Pianist Mykola Suk opens Music Niagara's season at St. Mark's Friday.

Shaw garden tour a ‘picture-perfect day’

Penny Coles
The Local

This season’s Shaw Guild Garden Tour might just have been the best yet. Jane Catcher, convenor of the tour, gives the weather a lot of credit. “It was an absolutely picture-perfect day in every way, from a weather standpoint,” she says. “It couldn’t have been any better if we’d ordered it.” She is also confident that it was a record-breaking total for cash ticket sales the day of the event, at least in part thanks to the weather. The lifting of COVID restrictions also likely brought out a good crowd, and her marketing team took advantage of every opportunity to spread the word about the event, she says, reaching a lot of peo-

ple and giving the garden tour great exposure. Catcher says she wanted to create a walking tour, and some people did walk it. Gardens were spectacular, with a really good variety to view — a couple were professionally-designed, perfectly-groomed gardens, and others were labours of love by homeowners who have planted, grown and nourished their gardens for years. Her initiative to add a special touch to each garden, bringing an artist or musician into each, was also very much appreciated. And finally, Catcher credited her volunteers, in every aspect of organizing the tour, for its success. “I don’t say this lightly,” she emphasized. “I really could not have done it without my team.”



Butler Street (Photos by David Gilchrist)



23 Bayberry Lane



A good crowd enjoys the gardens at 25 Bayberry Lane



Emily Lukasik and Patrick Bowman entertain at a Prideaux Street garden.



Artist Julia Kane set up and painted in the Butler Street garden.



Winnie Tam enjoyed painting the garden at 23 Bayberry Lane.



Artist H. Adele Campbell at 25 Bayberry Lane

Irish Harp scavenger hunt partners with businesses

Penny Coles
The Local

Sunday morning was a time to gather friends and monocles for the Irish Harp Pub's scavenger hunt to help promote local businesses.

The pub partnered with dozens of local businesses for its event, says owner Jovie Joki, with businesses generously donating prizes

to be won by the top teams. "A variety of businesses participated in profiling their establishment in this event," says Joki. "What was entailed from each business was some creativity in providing a question or task."

One of the tasks performed was doing 10 jumping jacks while reciting something, others included naming two types of animals

in the pen at Frogpond Farm Organic Winery, or writing down the answer to what the heart sign says at the Butterfly Gallery — the answer is 'happiness is like a butterfly.'

"The ultimate goal was to highlight each establishment and their products," says Joki.

There were about 10 teams participating, maximum four people to a team,

and 30 businesses within and outside the Old Town involved.

Prizes to the scavenger hunt winners were provided by The Irish Harp Pub and most of the participating businesses, with many generous gift donations, such as \$100 gift cards from Irish Design, Ara shoes and accessories, and Glamour Jewellery; certificates to Spa at Q, Sentineal Carriages, Beau Chapeau, eBike Niagara, Neob Lavender, Tour de Vine, and Sunset Grill; gift baskets from No-

laa's Keto Bakery, Cheese Secrets, Creek Road Paints and a variety of tastings and samplers from businesses, including Chef and Bub Gourmet Ice Pops, Spirit of Niagara, Niagara Oast House Brewers, The Exchange Brewery, Inniskillin Wines, Silversmith Brewing Company, Lailey Winery and Ironwood Cider House.

"All of these charitable donations will help promote future visits to these establishments," says Joki.

The Harp's first scavenger hunt to promote NOTL

businesses was attended by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who kicked off the event promoting local tourism and business growth. The NOTL Chamber of Commerce assisted with advertising and also participated in the event.

Joki says The Irish Harp Pub is grateful for the relationships created to stage the event, and hopes to grow "a new NOTL tradition to highlight all entrepreneurial ventures and small businesses within our community."



Kristen Bastien (centre) with Kya and Dylan Bastien settle in for the Irish Harp Scavenger Hunt. (Photos by David Gilchrist)



Participants wait for tabulation of answers to see who wins the prizes.



Lord Mayor Betty Disero thanks participants for supporting local businesses, while Irish Harp owner Jovie Joki prepares to explain the rules.

Sean Kennedy chairing United Way Campaign

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara College president Sean Kennedy has been named chair of United Way Niagara's 2022 campaign.

The announcement was made via a press release last week.

"As a loyal contributor for many years, Sean has a deep understanding of community needs and is well-positioned to lead the campaign, especially as our community continues to recover from the effects of COVID-19," said Frances Hallworth, CEO of United Way Niagara in the press release.

"Sean's personal commitment to United Way is exceptional," she continued, "but his leadership as campaign chair also exemplifies the car-

ing spirit of the Niagara College community. The college has been one of United Way's top 20 employee campaigns for decades, and we're really looking forward to continuing that partnership through this upcoming campaign."

As a workplace, Niagara College has raised more than \$850,000 through employee contributions and events since their first campaign in 1991. That ongoing commitment earned the college both the 2020 Long Standing Community Service and 2015 Workplace Campaign of the Year Awards.

"I am incredibly proud to be leading the 2022 Campaign for United Way Niagara," said Kennedy. "It is an honour to step into such an important role that many dedicated community leaders

have held over the years. Niagara College is firmly committed to building a stronger community for all who live here."

"Supporting the United Way has never been more important," he added in a video posted to United Way Niagara's YouTube channel. "We know the need for the social services programs they fund has more than doubled since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Kennedy pointed out in the video that Niagara College's support of the organization goes beyond raising funds. He said the college joins the United Way in supporting the community by providing access to education and supports that ensure everyone in Niagara has an opportunity to pursue

their dreams.

"Together, we can continue to support the over 120,000 people who rely on United Way funded programs every year," Kennedy said.

That number actually came in at 123,000 Niagarans who benefitted from United Way's investments in programs and initiatives in 2021. Niagara Regional Police Chief Bryan MacCulloch led last year's campaign, during which \$4.75 million was raised to support a network of 126 social services agencies at 46 partner agencies.

With COVID-19 restrictions easing, hopes of in-person events have returned for United Way. Plans for an in-person campaign kick-off are underway. The 2022 campaign led by Kennedy will launch in September.

Kennedy concluded his video presentation with an appeal to Niagara's 450,000 residents.

"Please join me in sup-

porting the 2022 United Way campaign in whatever way you are able," he pleaded. "Let's keep our community strong. Please give."



Sean Kennedy (Photo supplied)

LocalSPORTS

Spectators, players enjoy game despite rain

Local Staff

The weather forecast for the annual cricket match promised sun and thunderstorms Sunday afternoon, and the suspense was enough to keep the organizers and participants praying under their ponchos and

umbrellas, says Jane Andres, at Memorial Park to enjoy the day. "The cricket match was a community event full of faith and hope," says Andres, "despite a fairly lengthy deluge when the storm clouds rolled in." "When the sun finally broke through, the joy and relief

swept through the entire crowd and game kicked off. Thanks to the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project (CWOP), the annual event has become more than just a cricket match, evolving to a celebration of community and friendships with our neighbours on the farms." After a two-year absence

due to COVID, the CWOP brought together teams of workers from NOTL and Vineland farms for an annual cricket match, says organizer Rev. David Pritchard. "Up to 200 people enjoyed visiting and watching a great game." The final score was 105 to 81 in 15 overs for Niagara Clip-

pers over Vineland Lions. After the game and trophies and prizes had been given to players and referees, everyone was treated to chicken, biscuits, coleslaw and rice and peas provided by CWOP from Popeyes Louisiana Chicken and Charms Jerk House. Popeyes also purchased new uniforms

for the Vineland side, says Pritchard. The Farmworker Hub, and Quest Community Health Centre and Occupation Health Clinic for Ontario Workers provided resources and displays, and Simon Bolle provided music and lively commentary for the afternoon.



Enjoying chicken after the match are Ken Eden and Prophet Steele, one of the Clippers. (Jane Andres)



The Clippers, NOTL's cricket team (David Gilchrist)



The NOTL Clippers take some batting practice (David Gilchrist)



The cricket team from Vineland (David Gilchrist)

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Setting up the pitch on a rainy day (David Gilchrist)



Volunteers Ella and Buddy Andres, Louise Werner Rogaski, Margie Enns and Lebert Dawson prepare to serve watermelon. (Jane Andres)

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Lord Mayor Betty Disero greets cricket Prophet Steele (Jane Andres)

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NOTE OF THANKS

Ann Evelyn Gallagher (1928-2022)

Ann’s family would like to thank Irene Cook for her loving friendship and support while Ann was at home. We will never forget your kindness and compassion.

OBITUARY



HAWLEY, DENNIS JOHN—Passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at the age of 94 years.

Dear husband of the late Mary Hawley (nee Ryan) for 63 years; she passed away on October 24, 2017. Dennis subsequently found companionship and married Barbara Lane (nee Teague) on March 19, 2020.

Dennis was the father of five sons: John (late Liz), Ransom, Chris, Adam (Julia) and Mark (Teresa).

Dennis was also the proud grandfather of ten grandchildren: Adam (Brianne), Ransom (Whitney), Jay (Samantha), Casey, Cody, Claire (Matthew), Erica, Stephanie, Melissa, and Nicholas and nine great-grandchildren: Merritt, Malcolm, Easton, Callie, Addy, Ransom, Levi, Joshua and Henry.

Dennis is survived by his sister, Daphne Kinnaird (nee Simmance) and predeceased by brothers, Cecil Simmance and George Hawley.

In keeping with Dennis’ wishes, cremation has taken place. There will be a memorial service held at 2:00 pm on Friday, June 24, 2022 at **Redeemer Bible Church**, 3017 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls. A private family graveside service will be held in Markham at a later date.

Memorial donations can be made to the following non-profit charitable organizations; For the Needy-Not the Greedy Medical Equipment & Supplies of Niagara Falls or WEC International of Hamilton.

Arrangements entrusted to **Considerate Cremation & Burial Services**, 26 Nihan Drive, St. Catharines (between Lake Street & Scott Street), 289-362-1144. Online donations & condolences may be made at CCBSCares.ca



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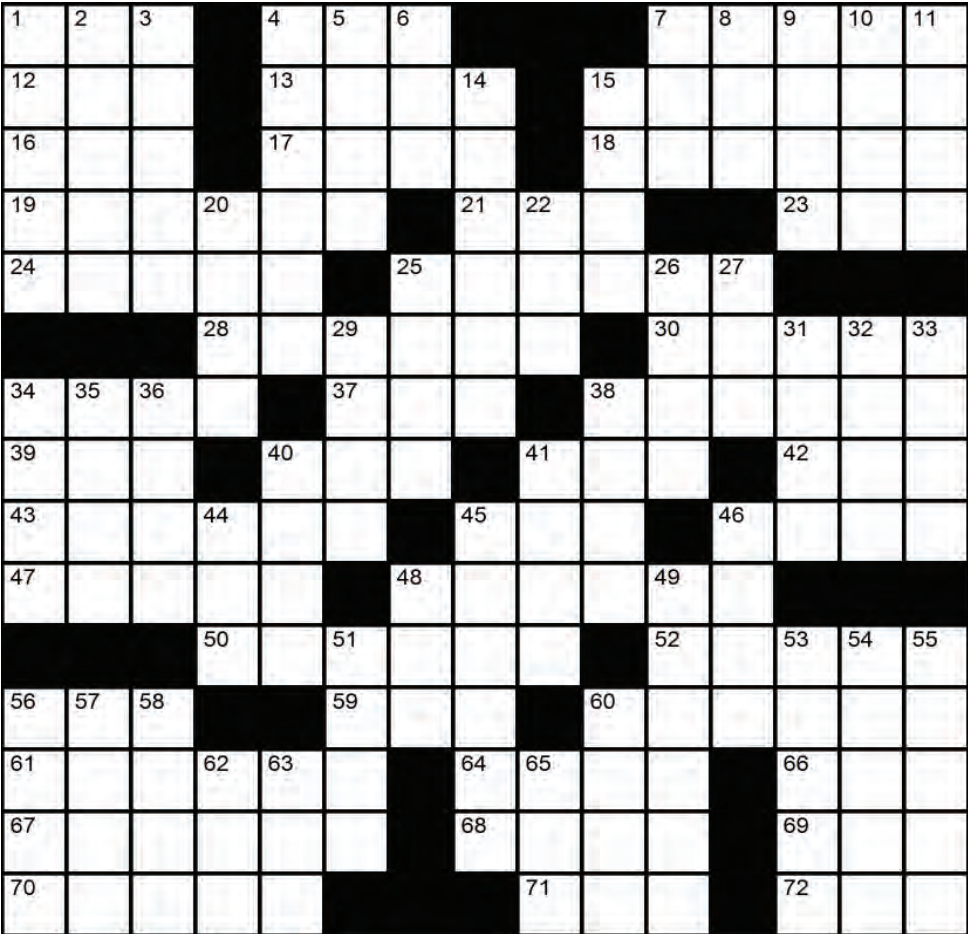
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CROSSWORD



Across:

- 1 Cited as cause of 2003 Iraq war
- 4 Lawyers' grp.
- 7 Chef's seasons
- 12 Weeding implement
- 13 Molten rock
- 15 Deceive
- 16 Letters after business names
- 17 Colorist
- 18 Merkel or Lansbury
- 19 Inaction
- 21 S N L network
- 23 Stage
- 24 Enter
- 25 Boil
- 28 Indicate
- 30 Happening
- 34 Jekyll's alter ego
- 37 Cereal grain
- 38 Outcry
- 39 The Emirates
- 40 Ft. divisions
- 41 Hit
- 42 NASDAQ debut
- 43 Vno selection
- 45 Heated argument
- 46 Ran off
- 47 Detect
- 48 Ship
- 50 Some music storage media
- 52 Tars

- 56 Retains a reservoir
- 59 Admiration
- 60 Canadian capital
- 61 In the slightest
- 64 Levee
- 66 "Before Abraham was, ---"
- 67 Farm fertilizer
- 68 Yesteryear
- 69 Chest bone
- 70 Ooze
- 71 Theater for some vets,briefly
- 72 Double helix molecule (Abbr.)

Down:

- 1 Egg beater
- 2 Spanish card game
- 3 Rot
- 4 Type of Venetian type
- 5 Howls at the moon
- 6 Hail
- 7 --- Solo (Harrison Ford character)
- 8 Heart test
- 9 Careen
- 10 Vitriol
- 11 Catch
- 14 "Arrested Development" star Will ---
- 15 Sensitivity
- 20 Team
- 22 Social gathering

- 25 In order
- 26 Aid
- 27 "The Locomotion" singer Little ---
- 29 Forbidden activity
- 31 Track legend --- Zatopek
- 32 Informal negative
- 33 Stepped
- 34 Centers
- 35 Connecticut university
- 36 College head
- 38 Intimidates
- 40 Chilled
- 41 Top banana
- 44 White House defense advisory grp.
- 45 Medicament
- 46 Tire problem
- 48 Promise
- 49 Regard
- 51 Speed
- 53 Scottish land proprietor
- 54 Clemens' pen name
- 55 Rio de Janeiro dance
- 56 Hemispherical roof
- 57 Lizzie Borden took ---, ...
- 58 Restaurant card
- 60 Southern soup ingredient
- 62 Chum
- 63 Wrath
- 65 Distant but within sigh

Puzzle Answers Across: 1 W M D, 4 A B A, 7 Herbs, 12 Hoe, 13 Lava, 15 Take in, 16 Inc, 17 Dyer, 18 Angela, 19 Stasis, 21 N B C, 23 Leg, 24 Key in, 25 Seethe, 28 Denote, 30 Event, 34 Hyde, 37 Oat, 38 Clamor, 39 U A E, 40 Ins, 41 Bop, 42 I P O, 43 Blanco, 45 Row, 46 Field, 47 Sense, 48 Vessel, 50 C D R O M S, 52 Sals, 56 Dam, 59 Awe, 60 Ottawa, 61 One bit, 64 Dyke, 66 I am, 67 Manure, 68 Yore, 69 Rib, 70 Exude, 71 Nam, 72 D N A. Down: 1 Whisk, 2 Monte, 3 Decay, 4 Aldine, 5 Bays, 6 Ave, 7 Han, 8 E K G, 9 Reel, 10 Bile, 11 Snag, 14 Arnett, 15 Tact, 20 Slide, 22 Bee, 25 So as, 26 Help, 27 Eva, 29 No-no, 31 Emil, 32 Nope, 33 Trod, 34 Hubs, 35 Yale, 36 Dean, 38 Cows, 40 Iced, 41 Boss, 44 N S C, 45 Remedy, 46 Flat, 48 Vow, 49 Esteem, 51 Rate, 53 Laird, 54 Twain, 55 Samba, 56 Dome, 57 An ax, 58 Menu, 60 Okra, 62 Bud, 63 Ire, 65 Yon.

Newark Park Community Garden gets top marks

Penny Coles
The Local

The community garden in Newark Park is officially open, it has a great-looking sign, says organizer Julian Trachsel, and gardeners are frantically getting plants in the ground.

There was a “soft opening” Saturday to celebrate the garden and give the gardeners a chance to meet each other —

socializing is one of the benefits of a community garden.

The garden plots were fully booked, but with one couple backing out, there is one more plot available, Trachsel says.

About 25 to 30 people were in attendance Saturday, including Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and J.B. Hopkins, the town’s parks supervisor, who was a great help in getting the garden established.

Keith Bullen and his wife Mary Webster were two who attended. They have a plot, and are growing butternut squash, turnips, leeks, cauliflower, peppers and marigolds. He says they had a community garden plot elsewhere last year, and “this is heavenly luxury” in comparison.

Trachsel, he says, “has done an exceptionally good bit of work here.”



Gardeners turned out to celebrate Saturday, and to work.



Keith Bullen, Mary Webster, Jane Locke and Ruth Denyer were at the community garden for its opening, and to admire the new sign. (Photos supplied)



Town staff ensured the new Newark Park Community Garden had its sign in time for Saturday’s celebration.

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