



Region must
choose
environment
page 10

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Firefighters attended a training session Saturday at the Niagara District Airport on the mobile system used in rural areas. Each NOTL Fire Department tanker truck holds 11,500 litres of water, says Fire Chief Nick Ruller. The portable ponds used in rural areas are slightly larger to accommodate offloaded water. (Photo supplied)

Experts investigate aggressive coyote

Penny Coles
The Local

The town is acknowledging there have been many coyote sightings in recent weeks, and some unusual and aggressive behaviour exhibited by at least one animal in the Virgil area.

If anyone finds themselves in an emergency situation, approached or cornered by an aggressive coyote, call 911 immediately, says CAO Marnie Cluckie.

The town has been working with Coyote Watch Canada, the police, a trapper, and others, monitoring and tracking coyotes this past weekend, says Cluckie. She is expecting a report from Coyote Watch this week.

"The best defence is not to habituate them," she says — don't feed them, put lids tightly on garbage cans, pick up any fallen fruit, and don't allow bird seed, which attracts rodents and coyotes, to

accumulate on the ground.

Also pick up small children and small pets if you see one, but don't turn your back to run — back away.

Yell loudly, make lots of noise and throw something to scare them off, says Cluckie.

A few hypotheses have been put forward as to why there are more sightings this year, she says, including people feeding them, and with COVID-19 keeping people indoors, their boundaries are being expanded.

Mark Cherney is the first to say people should be encouraged to learn about co-existing with coyotes.

But his wife Carrie's recent experience was one of those that can be considered unusual, and possibly one that requires some intervention, he suggests.

"If there is a problem, it needs to be taken care of," he

Continued on page 2

Rural fire protection requires costly investment

Penny Coles
The Local

There will be no cost spared when it comes to ensuring the safety of residents and its firefighters, councillors decided Monday.

Thanks to extensive research by Fire Chief Nick Ruller that brought to light a weakness of fire protection in rural areas, councillors were convinced that money needs to be spent on two more tankers.

Ruller described the challenges and time delays in fighting fires in several large rural areas and some smaller pockets that have no town water service or hydrants.

"We're surrounded by water," Ruller told councillors Monday, with the lake and the river, but even with water close by, such as in some areas on firelanes, there are other problems that make accessing water difficult, and there are also other areas of concern inland, he said.

Firefighters underwent a training operation on mobile water supply operations, which involve using the department's two tanker trucks offloading 11,500 litres of water in areas with no water-mains, such as firelanes and many other rural areas.

It takes time to offload the water into portable tanks, which is then used up very quickly fighting fires, while the tankers head back to refill sites to fill up before heading back to the fire to deliver

more water.

Historically, the town has relied on a mutual aid agreement with Thorold, the closest municipality with tankers, to supplement mobile water tanker shuttle operations at fires, he explained, but it takes time for its volunteer department to arrive at a fire.

The town has required support from Thorold only once in the last two years, "however the frequency of occurrence doesn't necessarily equate to the level of risk or

the potential future locations that are at risk," he said.

For us its about managing our capacity in these situations

While there are other options, such as cisterns, they are costly, and have limited capacity, while the mobile system allows tankers to fill up from pressurized hydrants, he said.

"It's efficient once it's set up, but it takes a little bit to set it up and coordinate operations," he explained. It also

becomes more time-consuming when the fire is further from hydrants to use as fill sites, and flow rates also become more challenging, he said.

The problem is growing as more large homes and businesses are built on rural properties, Ruller explained. The number of agricultural operations, including wineries and distilleries, and the density of residential areas,

Continued on page 3



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Town looking at options with animal experts

Continued from page 1

says.

They were outside last Thursday evening, when a coyote entered their Virgil backyard. Carrie saw it, called to Mark, and then as she turned to go up the steps into the house, the coyote grabbed the back of her leg.

It's not the first time they've had one in the yard, but it's the first time there has been a problem, he says.

Mark took her to the St. Catharines site of Niagara Health. Public health was called, and Carrie has started on the lengthy process of rabies injections, with eight needles to start with, and several more over the coming weeks.

She has a puncture wound on her leg, and she's shaken up and a little nervous of going into their backyard, but otherwise she's fine, says Mark.

He's concerned about this particular coyote and its behaviour, which seems to him unusually aggressive, and was hoping to hear the town would be doing something about it, "before little children get hurt."

Another report of a similar situation comes from grape farmer Jamie Slingerland. One of his seasonal

workers was attacked Friday evening, sitting on porch steps where he lives, on "a grape farm a few hundred metres east of a Virgil urban subdivision." The farm worker was talking on his phone about 8 p.m., says the grape grower, who learned of the situation Saturday morning and took him to see a doctor.

"The worker was shocked, as the attack was unprovoked." He had only seen the animal at the last moment "as it lunged toward him, biting him on the front of his calf. He escaped by running into the house, and the animal then ran away. This was witnessed by a second worker."

This coyote has no fear and is dangerous, says the grape farmer. "The authorities need to trap this animal and put it down. The farm workers are not feeding it. But we have been made aware that some urban people have been feeding it."

Some people may not realize how dangerous a wild animal can be, especially to local children, he says.

"If a 50-year-old adult male can be attacked while sitting on the steps of his porch, no one is safe."

Rabies can be a life-threatening virus once a human has been bitten by an infect-

ed animal, he says, although at this point it has not been confirmed that the animal is rabid. The farm worker is also now going through the regimen of rabies needles.

Slingerland says he fears for his grandchildren, and great-nieces and nephews who play in their yards a short distance away.

He recalls days gone by, when farmers, including his father and grandfather, would join hunt parties to clear bushes where skunks, foxes and coyotes lodge during the day.

"For over a 70-year period NOTL and the province had placed bounties on fox, then later coyotes, to protect the human population. This was not a public sporting event, but for community protection. Rabies used to kill local residents years ago. It is time for a coyote hunt to return. I would wish the public could realize that this is a serious public safety concern."

Another report comes from Robert Alexander, the father of Cohen Alexander, about what he believes to be the same animal that has been seen in Virgil, and is known to have left a puncture wound in a local teen, Billy Pillitteri-Smith, who was attacked in the Virgil Sports

Park last Monday, June 7. He too is going through the rabies regimen. The fourteen-year-old described the animal in the sports park as white (although not all white), and large, like a big German shepherd.

The following night Cohen, who was one of the boys in the sports park with Billy, had what looked to be the same coyote chase him and two other friends down Line 2, and then frighten some children playing outside their home on Line 2 and Annemarie Drive, says Robert.

"Parents in the area are very concerned," he says.

It may be the same animal that picked up a small dog in another Virgil backyard, belonging to Timothy Tranter, and left a puncture wound in the dog's back leg.

Rick Mills also called The Local to say his dog, a seven-year-old shizhou, was taken into their Virgil back yard "to do her business before bed. I was standing two paces beside her."

While walking back to the house and calling her to follow, he heard a rustle from the side hedges, he says. "I looked back just in time to see a coyote (described exactly in the article about Billy), run at her and attack." The yelp from Tia and yell from Mills chased the coyote away, he says. Tia was punctured on her side, and after an emergency visit to the veterinarian, she is healing, with a positive prognosis, "but in fear. She still won't go into the backyard."

Alexander goes out for a bike ride every night, and has seen several coyotes in recent days, including in the Virgil Sports Park. Since the incident with his son and other children, he's been watching for that particular animal, hoping to get a photo of it. He hadn't been successful as of Sunday. Although he's seen about 15 coyotes in his hunt, he's sure none of them are the animal that attacked

Billy, and possibly others, and is hoping someone will have a photo to share. He's been working with others trying to track down this animal, and a photo would be helpful, he says.

The Local has received a few photos, but they are not believed to be the aggressive animal seen in Virgil. There is one large coyote that has a lot of white and has been seen in the Old Town, but Alexander says he is sure it's not the same one that is terrorizing people in Virgil neighbourhoods.

After receiving calls from concerned residents, town staff have recently set up a webpage at <https://notl.com/coyotes> and are "working closely with and deferring to the expertise of Coyote Watch Canada regarding appropriate next steps," says community engagement coordinator Lauren Kruitbosch.

"The town understands there has been concern about coyotes in Niagara-on-the-Lake," she says.

"Staff take these concerns very seriously and have taken several steps to investigate, including but not limited to reaching out to community partners for assistance such as Niagara Regional Police Service, Niagara Humane Society, municipal partners, Coyotes Watch Canada, and a trapper. Investigations are ongoing," she said in an email Friday.

"In addition to working with expert partners to locate the coyote(s) and address the threat raised, a communications plan is underway."

The town has also designed and launched notl.com/coyote-sighting-form to assist staff in tracking the general location of coyotes and their potential increase of activity throughout the town, says Kruitbosch. "The information provided through this form will be supplied to the appropriate authorities, as required."

Information has also

been posted to the town's social media pages advising people of what to do in a coyote encounter, and signs to this effect should be up in various parks by now.

"Staff is working to respond efficiently and effectively to every concern raised."

From the town's website, with information from Coyote Watch Canada:

Co-existing with coyotes:

Coyote sightings are not uncommon in the Niagara Region.

They have been a vital part of our ecosystem for many years. By applying common sense, preventative techniques, and being aware of the diversity of wildlife that we share our living spaces with, we can minimize human and wildlife conflict. When coyote sightings increase, many times these sightings are due to humans intentionally or unintentionally providing a food source. An overflowing bird feeder, mishandling of compost, and fallen fruit attract a diverse range of prey species such as rodents, squirrels, chipmunks, insects, which coyotes will utilize as food. Consider that the birds and small mammals that frequent bird feeder stations are potential prey food for other predator species.

Please note that data collected through this form is used to assist staff in tracking the general location of potential coyote sightings and any potential uptick in coyote presence in town. Town staff will engage the proper wildlife authorities if necessary.

This form is not monitored in real-time. If you are in an emergency situation, please call 911.

What to do about a coyote that frequently visits your backyard:

Check your property for wildlife attractants.

Continued on page 3

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Getting water to rural areas time-consuming process

Continued from page 1

have increased over the years.

On long, tight laneways, especially on firelanes that have a small, narrow bridge to cross, fire protection becomes even more difficult. The pumpers can't get close enough, said Ruller, describing a situation where one tanker will be set up every 700 feet to create a watermain, relaying

water from the portable tanks.

When questioned by councillors about the large expense of two new tankers, one that will arrive next year, and the other likely in 2023, Ruller explained once he did his research and identified the risk, his request became a priority. The department, he said, needs to either increase its capacity for safety, or alter operations accordingly, and it's up to council to decide

what to do about it.

While there was some concern over the cost, estimated at \$425,000 for each new tanker.

Ruller explained the department has more than \$600,000 in its budget for new vehicles for this year, and \$300,000 for a replacement vehicle in 2027 that could be moved up.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and other councillors made

their support known, despite the cost.

"We have an extraordinary fire department, predominantly volunteers, with a wealth of knowledge they bring with them," said Disero.

She thanked the department for the research they did "to find these gaps in the system and the best solutions," and added, "as a council, now they've told us about

this issue, we need to provide the best and safest fire protection for our residents."

Coun. Erwin Wiens also spoke of the need to support the fire department.

He mentioned the pollution factor when pumping water to fight a fire in a rural area, and by getting it under control in the early stages, the environmental impact, especially to drainage ditches used for irrigation, which is

extremely expensive to remediate, is lessened.

"When it comes to safety, especially in the rural area, we need those tankers. The most important thing in a fire is water, and if we don't have water, that's a problem."

Councillors voted to approve the purchase of the two tanker trucks, one that will be ordered this year for delivery likely in 2022, and one for the following year.



The fire department was given approval by councillors to order two more tanker trucks to use in rural settings, when town water is not available. The system is time-consuming, and at the moment the department has just two tankers. Two more will speed up the process and make fire protection more safe and efficient. (Photos supplied)

Town website offers tips for dealing with coyotes

Continued from page 2

Human indifference is not an appropriate response to a coyote getting comfortable around areas that people frequent. Never allow a coyote to linger or bed down near your home or business. Print and follow the Wildlife Proofing Quick Tips available below.

Applying simple low-intensity hazing techniques will send a clear message to a coyote that they are not welcomed.

- Yelling in a firm voice while outdoors "Go away coyote!" banging pots, spraying a water hose (in warmer months), throwing objects towards but not at the coyote, using a shake can, popping open an umbrella can be effective deterrents to safely move a coyote away.
- Battery-operated flashlights, tape-recorded human noises, and ammonia-soaked rags may

deter coyotes from entering your property.

If a coyote is near

- Pick up small children and pets
- Never run from or turn your back on a coyote/domestic dog
- Wave your arms above your head
- Be BIG and LOUD! Yell "Go away!"
- Slowly back away
- Use hazing techniques such as shaking car keys, popping an umbrella, throwing an object in the direction of the coyote
- Always be prepared and aware of your surroundings when enjoying the outdoors. Be a good visitor and leave no trace. Carry out leftover food, garbage, and dog feces.

Seasonal behaviour that may elevate coyote sightings

Winter during mating periods (Jan-Feb), Spring

during den selection/pup rearing (Mar-June), and Fall during the dispersal of pack members will also affect the number of sightings a resident observes a coyote. By promoting respect, compassion, and safety education throughout our community about these intelligent, adaptable keystone species, we can safely coexist with coyotes. Adhere to important By-Laws for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, including the Animal Care and Control By-law, which prohibits its feeding or attracting any animal or animals in such a manner or place as to cause material discomfort or annoyance to any neighbouring person or persons, and prohibits placing any food or water on any public or private property for the purpose of attracting or feeding animals.

- Never feed coyotes. Our best defense is not to habituate them. We need

to keep them wild and wary of people. This is the best way to protect our pets and ourselves. The few documented cases of coyote-inflicted wounds on humans occurred as a result of humans feeding a coyote.

- Keep pet food and water bowls indoors. Pet food will attract coyotes to your yard.
- Keep trash cans covered.
- Pick ripened fruit, and clean all rotted fallen fruit off the ground.
- Do not allow a large amount of wild bird seed to remain on your lawn. Birdseed not only attracts birds, but rabbits, squirrels, and rodents, which are prey for coyotes.
- Keep pets under strict control. Coyotes are most active between the hours of dusk and dawn. Therefore, leash all dogs and accompany them for walks. Keep pets indoors at night or enclosed in

kennels.

- Owls, hawks, eagles, foxes, including coyotes, can prey on smaller pets such as cats and dogs. Accompany your pets outdoors after dusk, especially in backyards (unfenced and fenced) and on a leash, minimizes such encounters.
- Cats may become prey for coyotes. Pet owners should protect pets and not let them roam. Our pets are at risk of many environmental dangers when they are not under our control. Coyotes may prey on small domestic animals as food and to eliminate a threat to their territory or pups. Domestic dogs can be considered competition for food items at locations where humans are feeding coyotes.
- Keep cats indoors. Letting cats roam can actually draw coyotes into the area.

- Keep chickens, rabbits and other small animals in covered enclosures, constructed with heavy mesh wire. Coyotes, raccoons, and weasels can break through chicken coop wire.
- Neuter pets. Although a rare occurrence, coyotes may mate with domesticated dogs.
- Do not approach coyotes. Avoid coyote dens, and do not interfere with pups, even if it appears the parents have abandoned them. Coyotes will do their best to avoid human contact but may attack humans when provoked, sick, or injured.
- Teach children about wildlife and how to safely respond to coyotes (or dogs) nearby.
- Respect, compassion, and education are common-sense tools that nurture safe and healthy human and wildlife families.

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Good news, finally, for Shaw Festival

Penny Coles
The Local

As of last Friday, after eight weeks of Zoom rehearsals, Shaw Festival performers were able to move outdoors to prepare in-person for the coming season, although with no more than 10 performers in one location.

Locals may have seen tents springing up around town to provide rehearsal space for plays expected to begin opening next month.

Tim Jennings, Shaw executive director and CEO, is keeping tent locations close to his chest, trying to avoid attracting gatherings. "Spectators are not permitted" at this stage, he says.

Some tents are more visible

than others, he says, although several are on festival locations, including parking lots. "We're creating spaces that are different from anything we've done before."

The news that step 1 reopenings were to start last Friday, three days ahead of the original schedule that was to begin Monday, came from the province in response to declining infection rates and an increasing percentage of people with one or both doses of vaccination.

Step 1 allows concert venues, theatres and cinemas to open outdoors for the purpose of rehearsing or performing a recorded or broadcasted concert, artistic event, theatrical or other performance, with no more than 10 performers, among other restrictions.

It also allows non-essential retail to operate at 15 per cent capacity, outdoor dining with a maximum of four people per table, and outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people to take place.

Leading up to last week's announcement, performing arts organizations were lobbying the province for fairness, having originally been left out of the step one regulations regarding outdoor activities.

While the ability to rehearse outdoors was welcome news, says Jennings, and plans for performances are underway, there are still many unknowns as to what restrictions there will be with regards to capacity.

To ensure safety for all, rapid tests are being used onsite under the guidance of McMaster Health Labs, which is working with large groups of people in

congregate settings, says Jennings. Results so far have been all good, with no case counts.

The testing is important to alleviate some anxiety and concern about being together in person, after so long a time of isolation, says Jennings.

"We're all wanting to do this well and do it safely," he says, adding it means working at a much slower pace than normal.

With the exception of a few ensemble members who are not back this season by choice, all have roles to play, he says, and although there is a little nervousness about a very different season, "there is also huge excitement to be back."

For some ensemble members, specifically those who were to be cast members in *Gypsy*, the Broadway musical that was intended to be the highlight of last season, cancelled, on the bill again for this season and then cancelled again due to COVID restrictions, it means being part of some new outdoor events, concerts and shows that are being planned in addition to those who have been on the schedule for indoor performances since the season was announced.

All shows expected to be performed this season are in rehearsal, and although there are question marks that remain about how the season will proceed, he says, "if there are hoops put in front of us, we'll jump through them. We'll figure it out."

It may be a cliché, but it's one that's more appropriate than ever, Jennings adds, "that the show must go on."

While at the moment — and that could change — Jennings is looking at audiences of 100 people outside, and 50 inside, although the industry is pushing for percentage capacity, he says.

A tent that could seat 400 in normal situations could have 100 audience members physically distanced, he says.

"That's our starting point, and we'll adapt if necessary."

With the Shaw's charitable framework, the theatre is fortunate to be able to operate under those circumstances, with more than 50 per cent of its costs typically subsidized by grants or donations, "and this year, a lot

more than others."

It may still mean ending up with a deficit, "but hopefully we can manage that," with the continuation of theatre important to all those involved, the audience, and the community which benefits from all those who come to town to see a Shaw production, or stay to see several.

"Others will benefit, the restaurants, wineries, hotels, and all businesses. It is an eco-system for sure, with everyone working together to create this brand experience that is Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The season will begin with *Charley's Aunt*, by Brandon Thomas, directed by artistic director Tim Carroll. Previews are scheduled to begin July 9, for a July 25 opening.

Andrew Lawrie as Charley and Peter Fernandes as Jack are two eager young men hoping to court their sweethearts. Mike Nadajewski is wild-card Lord Fancourt Babberley, whose turn in fancy-dress just might save the day.

Charley's Aunt also features Neil Barclay, Patrick Galligan, Alexis Gordon, Claire Jullien, Marla McLean, Ric Reid and Gabriella Sundar Singh.

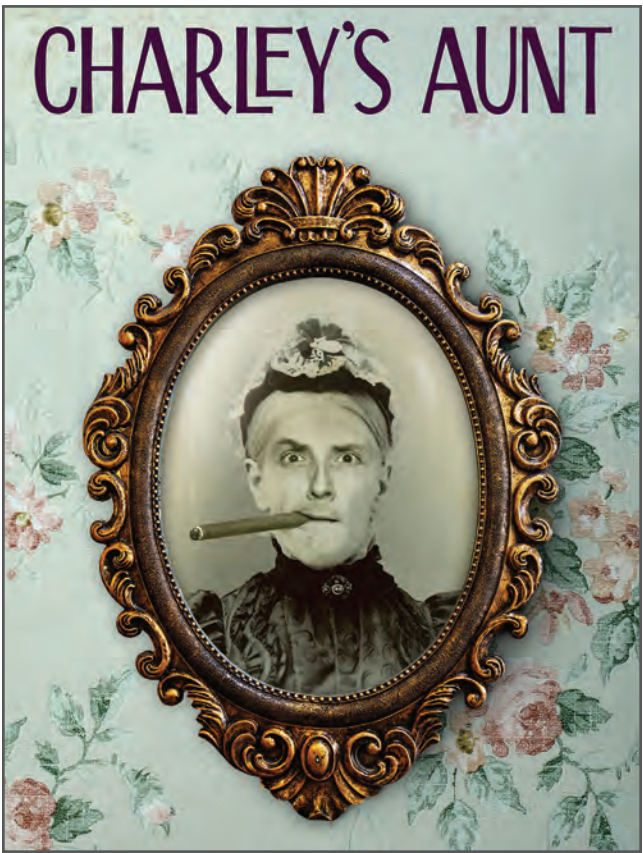
Flush, based on the novella by Virginia Woolf and adapted and directed by Carroll, featuring Julie Lumsden, Drew Plummer, Jonathan Tan and Jacqueline Thair, opens in previews July 10.

Next to open in previews on July 14 is *The Devil's Disciple*, by Bernard Shaw, directed by Eda Holmes.

Martin Happer is scoundrel Richard Dudgeon in Bernard Shaw's first theatrical hit featuring his unique blend of dark comedy and melodrama. Verbally sparring with Happer are Katherine Gauthier as Judith Anderson and Graeme Somerville as Reverend Anderson.

The Devil's Disciple also features David Alan Anderson, Damien Atkins, Kristopher Bowman, Fiona Byrne, Julia Course, Tom McCamus, Peter Millard, Chick Reid, Johnathan Sousa and Shauna Thompson.

Opening July 23 is *Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse*, directed by Craig Hall. Damien Atkins once again dons the deerstalker as Sherlock Holmes



Mike Nadajewski is wild-card Lord Fancourt Babberley in *Charley's Aunt*, the first Shaw production to open this season, on July 6. (Photo by Peter Andrew Lusztyk)

and reunites with Ric Reid as the incomparable Dr. Watson and Claire Jullien as the long-suffering Mrs. Hudson. It also features Jason Cadieux, Katherine Gauthier, Marla McLean, Mike Nadajewski, Chick Reid and Donna Soares.

Also coming later this season are *A Short History of Niagara*, commissioned and presented by the Shaw Festival, and directed by Carroll. The 30-minute presentation features puppet theatre that brings to life the rich history of the Niagara region. Its preview opens July 29.

Next, on Aug. 8, comes *Trouble in Mind*, directed by Philip Akin. Nafeesa Monroe is Wilet-

ta, the Black actor at the centre of Alice Childress' unflinching look at privilege and race in the theatre community. Appearing alongside Monroe is Kiera Sangster as veteran actor Millie Davis and Graeme Somerville as director Al Manners.

Trouble in Mind also features Kaleb Alexander, David Alan Anderson, Neil Barclay, Kristi Frank, Patrick Galligan and Peter Millard.

Desire under the Elms will be shown in the fall, opening Oct. 15, at the same time as the Shaw's regular holiday productions.

For more information visit shawfest.com.



One of the outdoor stages is on the Commons, for Shaw Festival rehearsals and performances. (Andrew Broderick)

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COVID spreads in NOTL, but good news across Ontario

Penny Coles
The Local

While Niagara-on-the-Lake has a relatively few number of COVID-19 cases, by population, it's the second-highest in the region at the moment.

There are currently 16 active cases in town. That's an active infection rate of 8.5 per 10,000 people, the statistic used by the region to break down the number of cases per municipality.

The only Niagara city with a higher percentage is Niagara Falls, with 9.7 cases per 10,000.

The current cases are from spread within households, the region reported Monday. "An initial case brings infection to the home, which then spreads to one to three other members of the household. Over 80 per cent of NOTL cases have been part of households with multiple cases," according to information provided by Dr. Mustafa Hirji, the region's acting chief medical officer of health.

Several people have spread COVID-19 after social gatherings with friends, he said, and that has spread infection between households, sparking the pattern noted in NOTL.

That information came the same day Hirji reported encouraging news of the falling number of new cases in Ontario. Hospitals are clearing out COVID patients, although the number of those in intensive care has not seen a corresponding drop, he said.

Although Niagara numbers are "a little less positive" than provincial daily cases, the region recorded only six new infections Monday, and the reproductive number is still below one.

However, as provincial restrictions ease, Hirji said he's not ready just yet to rescind his

Section 22 order, which, unlike in other areas of Ontario, allows only four people who live in the same household, with some exceptions, to sit at a patio table together. He is waiting for a seven-day average of new cases to drop.

"My sense is they're disappointed," he said of Niagara restaurant owners. "But most of them are going to follow through, given they are responsible operators."

Comments on social media, on the other hand, offer mixed opinions, with some people wanting the reopening to proceed cautiously, while

others question why restrictions are more strict in Niagara, he said.

He still has a number of concerns, chiefly among the younger age groups, who are not getting vaccinated as quickly as he would like to see. He is also worried that not enough of them are being tested, "which is how we are going to control COVID-19," because it allows for contact tracing to stop the spread of infection.

The good news is he's not seeing the increase in the more transmissible and more serious Delta variant, a trend he hopes will continue, although he still

fears there is the potential for it to increase rapidly, he said.

As the province begins moving through its reopening steps, it's important to increase the number of vaccinations in the region, both with first doses for younger people and second doses for the older age groups that have already had their first shots, said Hirji.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm on the part of older people signing up for their second dose," and that might be making appointments more scarce for those looking for their first shot.

While he acknowledged there has been some frustration amongst those who have tried but have been unable to find appointments close to home, especially for younger people, there will be increased numbers of vaccines, particularly Moderna, coming to the region, and more appointments opening up. Niagara Health has already added some clinics, and public health will be doing the same. Pharmacies and primary care physicians also continue to offer vaccinations, but haven't been receiving a lot of vaccine, Hirji said.

"Unfortunately at this very moment there probably aren't a lot of appointments," he said, "but my hope is that even a few days from now there will be some more, and a lot more over the summer."

Town day camps, pools set to open this summer

Penny Coles
The Local

It will be a good summer for local families and kids, with the town's summer day camps operating and both pools set to open.

Kevin Turcotte, the town's parks and recreation manager, says he's tried to keep to as normal a schedule as possible, although the pandemic is still putting restrictions on how activities can be carried out.

For example, both Memorial Park and St. Davids pools will open — the York Road pool remained closed last year,

to the disappointment of local families — and both will offer family swims, lessons, lane swims and swim team schedules.

The family swims and pool rentals are currently expected to be limited to a maximum of 25 people, as are group rentals, says Turcotte.

Lessons are private or semi-private, for members of one family.

Each pool is expected to have a swim team of up to 25 kids, each with its own cohort, with swim practices held on alternate days.

The Niagara pool opens for

the preseason June 19, 20, and 26 to 30, and July 1 and 2, before opening for the July 3 to Labour Day season.

St. Davids Pool opens a little later, as it traditionally has, for June 28, 29, 30 and July 1, 2, and then July 3 to Sept. 3.

The aging York Road pool, scheduled to be replaced when financing is available, has had some updating, but the tank hasn't been filled — that will happen later this week, and at that time Turcotte says he'll know for sure that everything is in working order.

The wading pool in Simcoe Park opens June 26 to La-

bour Day.

For more information about pools, visit <https://notl.org/content/pools-splash-pads>.

At the community centre, themed day camps will run for nine weeks, from July 5 to Sept. 3.

Because of COVID restrictions, Turcotte explains, camp registrations must be for full weeks, with each week limited to 25 kids, an improvement over last year's camps when only eight children were allowed.

Provincial restrictions will be followed, he says, with most activities, including swimming every day at Memorial Park, to

take place outdoors.

The day camps are for kids six to 12. Campers will be actively screened upon arrival, and must pass screening before being permitted to enter the community centre. Campers will be required to wash their hands more frequently, using soap and water, and sharing of any food will not be permitted.

Equipment used during activities will be disinfected after each use.

Before and after care is also available.

For more information about day camps, visit <https://notl.org/content/camps>.



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EDITORIAL

Summer ahead seeming almost normal

Finally, some good news that makes it seem almost like a normal summer may lie ahead.

Outdoor dining is now permitted, although with restrictions, and there are several restaurants, as well as wineries and breweries, which were quick to open their patios.

Driving or walking around town and seeing people sitting outdoors, enjoying the sunshine and supporting local businesses, is a welcome sight.

Those of us who feel comfortable doing so can get out, support local businesses and remember how great a pre-pandemic summer in Niagara-on-the-Lake can be.

The temporary patios, with liquor licensing approved by the province and structures by the town, allow restaurants to expand outside of their walls and onto parking lots, or even street parking spaces, wherever there is space for them.

There continue to be pretty strict limits, but at least it's a start toward a somewhat typical and pleasurable summer experience. And it's a start for businesses

and staff, with prospects for some revenue this summer looking up.

It's also most welcome news that the Shaw Festival is planning on some openings, plays, concerts and other events outdoors, with stage performances hopefully moving inside at some point this summer. An open theatre is good for NOTL, and by extension, for all local businesses, and residents who love the theatre, and love to have those businesses to frequent. And that those non-essential businesses we love to frequent are now open for more than delivery or pickup, so we can get inside, talk to staff, and make our purchases locally.

Also good news from the town is that although bylaw officers are busy, there have not been a lot of complaints, businesses and visitors are complying with COVID regulations, at least for the most part, and although parks are busy, they are not overcrowded — at least not yet.

We hear visitors are being good about the new park bylaws, are packing up their barbecues when being asked, and in some cases

moving along to Niagara Parks properties where barbecues are allowed. Except for one irate visitor who apparently decided instead to start a fire in the park this weekend, but that was quickly extinguished, town staff reported.

The declining number of COVID cases in Ontario is also news we needed to hear, although the downward trend is a little more gradual in Niagara, but there are still fewer people currently infected than we have seen for a while. And vaccinations are creeping up, again slower in Niagara, because while the entire province seems beset by an inefficient and chaotic booking system, we also continue to suffer from lack of vaccine. Anyone else reminded of calling for concert tickets at exactly the hour they went on sale, and staying on the line hoping to get through in the minutes before they were sold out? Only more frustrating is this time, if we are fortunate to get a vaccination appointment for our spouse close to home on a convenient day, the next step is to try again for ourselves, to find that appointments are gone, unless

we want to travel to somewhere north of Toronto on a very inconvenient day. Oh well, at least one of us will be protected.

It would be reassuring to believe vaccination appoint-

ments are being snapped up by those who need them most to protect themselves, their families and their co-workers, and help themselves, and all of us, climb our way out of this pandemic.

Let's hope that's the case. Because that is what will really get us closer to the pre-pandemic normalcy we crave.

Penny Coles
The Local

Local VOICES: Nurse switches gears and loves her new job

Jayne Serluca
Special to The Local

Initially when I was informed we were going into a lockdown because of a pandemic, I developed a sense of unease and concern for the health of my children.

As a rapid response transitional team nurse we are a highly sought after specialty team which provides direct patient care provisions to high risk patients in the Niagara Region. Most of our caseload come directly from hospital so it is paramount we see them in a timely manner for effective treatment in the community.

Truthfully, I was not thrilled about the idea of assessing high risk patients coming from hospital even though we were supplied with personal protective equipment. I often thought how unfair it is that general practitioners were closing their doors, and we

were expected to carry on. Although we were encouraged to work from home as much as possible, certain patients required in home assessment for proper care.

Months passed, and we settled into our COVID life just as everyone else had. My job was safe on a daily basis, in that I could work from the safety of my own home for the most part. One day my daughter presented me with a note, stating "Thank you for putting yourself at risk. You are the most bravest person I know. I love you mom."

It was that small statement that really impacted my decision as a nurse to overcome fear and adversity and join in the fight against COVID in a more pro-active role

I joined Niagara Region Public Health mass immunizations, and began vaccinating in our community. This was truly one of the best de-

cisions I have made in my 18-year nursing career. It is one of the happiest places to work!

I have met some amazing colleagues who will remain an important part of my life, both professionally and personally. The majority of the individuals coming in for their vaccines are pleasant, and eager to contribute in the fight against COVID.

I can proudly say that I am contributing to the reopening for society in Ontario, and I am making a mark on what happens worldwide.

I am a part of history and proud to be a nurse.

The Local is asking for submissions to our Local Voices, which we hope to offer as a regular column. Submissions can be on any topic that would be of interest to NOTL readers, and can be up to 1,000 words. Please email ideas or submissions to penny@notllocal.com.



Jayne Serluca loves being part of the Niagara vaccination team, feeling her work will help get Niagara out of the pandemic. (Photo supplied)



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Albert Nobbs (Prime, 2011), biologically female, had spent many years living as a man while working in a posh hotel in Dublin. He had been saving money and dreaming of independence

by buying a tobacconist shop. Hubert Page, a painter in the hotel, discovers Albert's secret and reveals to Albert that he is also living as a man after escaping an abusive husband. That is only the start, as tragedy is heaped on tragedy. Glenn Close's portrayal of Albert is

masterfully haunting.

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

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COMMENT

Gardening can be good for your health



Charlotte Kromberg
Horticulturist, Town of
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Have you ever wondered why you feel refreshed and happier after spending a day outside gardening?

Gardening provides many benefits to help you maintain strong mental and physical health, and contributes to our communities.

Digging through the soil releases healthy soil-borne mycobacteria (such as *Mycobacterium vaccae*) into the air, and your respiratory system. According to *Psychology Today*, the world's largest publication dedicated to human mental health, these mycobacteria help

to stimulate your immune system, and increase levels of serotonin.

In turn, the production of serotonin helps you feel more cheerful, reduces stress and uplifts feelings of depression.

Gardening is an excellent way to stay active and beautify your surroundings at the same time. Pulling weeds, digging holes, watering and mending beds keeps your body moving outside in the fresh air while absorbing vitamin D from the sun.

These activities are known to improve heart health, brain function, memory and your quality of sleep.

Growing your own produce and enjoying food fresh from the garden is part of a healthy diet. And, by sharing your bounty with your friends and neighbours, you form con-

nections and friendships throughout your community.

There are many benefits to gardening, so get out there and plant something beautiful, and improve your health and that of your community at the same time.

In the words of the poet Alfred Austin, *"To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul."*

Visit jointheconversation.notl.org/garden to check out the Garden of the Week Contest, run by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Communities in Bloom Committee, and submit your garden or garden feature for consideration in one of 10 great categories!

This is the fourth in a 10-week gardening column series, organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom Committee



Local LETTERS

Letter to council regarding Old Town landscape project

Letter to the lord mayor and council:

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy takes this opportunity to join Erica and Jim Alexander in their opposition to the recent Gateway private proposal that a 40-foot long by partial eight-foot high stone wall, with a 25 foot high "lighthouse-design" obelisk, be constructed at the entry to town along the edge of the golf course at the corner of Queen and Mississauga Streets.

We feel strongly that the installation of this size is not needed, would obscure the view of our 200-year-old National Historic Site, Fort Mississauga, and be an intrusion into, and distraction from this important Parks Canada landscape.

It is the Conservancy's opinion that visitors come to Niagara-on-the-Lake for

many reasons, but one of the major attractions is the splendour of vistas offered by our open spaces. Views of the lake and of broad expanses of green open land are natural treasures, which exist in the absence of construction. They do not have to be built; they do have to be preserved.


Our wonderful Parks Canada landscape, with its mature trees and its vast exposure to Lake Ontario and to Fort Mississauga, provides visitors and residents with the first glimpse of what makes our town so special. The last thing we need is an artificial piece of construction, a barrier wall, intruding on that unique view, with its decades of history, both built and natural.

Far from evoking praise and admiration, it risks becoming an object of ridicule among the countless

visitors from across Canada and abroad, and residents who wish to preserve the simplicity and dignity of the town we hold dear.

Finally, we consider this proposal to be completely unsuitable for this location, and the process, with the exception of the Communities in Bloom (Committee), has not yet properly involved the broader public. The only information regarding the proposed specifications and visual drawings of the installation has come through recent news articles. Therefore, we respectfully request that council broaden the public's knowledge, involvement and input by way of a public open house before proceeding further.

Gracia Janes,
President,
NOTL Conservancy



Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.



These garden photos have been submitted to the town for the Garden of the Week contest. Gardening can be good for mental and physical health.

ATTENTION NOTL HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY GRADUATES AND FAMILIES!!

We would love to help celebrate your 2021 graduation in The *Local* in our June 30th issue.

Deadline will be Monday, June 21 at noon.

This is once again a challenging year for celebrations, and we would like to make it a little bit better by sharing your accomplishments at no charge — *this is our gift to you.*



If you would like to see your photo in the paper, please email it along with your name and school name to:

karen@notllocal.com

Robots prowling sidewalks of Glendale

Local Staff

Residents may notice sidewalk inspectors look a little bit different this summer.

The town has hired Top Hat Robotics, a Waterloo company, to conduct sidewalk inspections and document any issues using human-operated robots.

The company has completed similar inspections with a number of other municipalities in Ontario.

“Typically, sidewalk inspections are quite labour intensive and take a significant amount of staff time,” says CAO Marnie Cluckie.

Using the robot sidewalk inspection technology will speed up the process, without forfeiting the results, and will allow town staff to be redeployed to other tasks, says Cluckie.

“Also, the robot’s state-of-the-art depth cameras

are accurate to within one millimetre – much better than traditional human judgement.”

According to provincial regulations, municipalities are required to inspect sidewalks annually. Top Hat Robotics began inspecting Niagara-on-the-Lake sidewalks in Glendale Monday, with work anticipated to be completed by Friday, pending weather conditions.

The sidewalk robots will be accompanied by a Top Hat Robotics employee who will identify deficiencies, and who will be happy to answer any questions the public has about the program. Sidewalks will remain open during these inspections. If a pedestrian encounters a robot, the employee will have the robot stop and pull over to the side. Please feel free to say hello, says Cluckie — these robots are quite friendly.



Kevin was operating one of two robots conducting sidewalk inspection from Top Hat Robotics on Wright Crescent in the Niagara-on-the-Green neighbourhood in Glendale. There were two robots patrolling the neighbourhood Monday afternoon, taking readings and looking for sidewalk defects. If the robot detects one, the sidewalk is then marked with spray paint for future maintenance by town staff. Municipalities are legislated to inspect sidewalks annually, which can be very labour-intensive, so using robotic technology will speed up that activity and allow the town to redeploy staff to other tasks. (Steve Hardaker)



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Region needs to choose best option for environment



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

In a section of the Niagara Region's draft Official Plan, there lies a highly debated area outlining that Niagara Region is about to vote on an enormous environmental framework that will change the way Niagara functions for the times to come.

You've got the environmentally beneficial option, 3C, and the half-flexed option of 3B.

One shows more muscle than the other when it comes to seriously protecting, and even enhancing Niagara's Natural Heritage System (NHS). The NHS refers to the collection of forests, wetlands, creeks, and other natural features which serve to house biodiversity and protect our communities.

After this year's May 20 meeting at the Region, it was decided to keep the NHS options 3B and 3C afloat for an additional five to six weeks. It appears those additional few weeks are already ticking away, as councillors and mayors continue to engage stakeholders from all directions. This will be a significant decision once it concludes. The very people who vote on this likely won't see the success or failure of the vote's results in their lifetime.

Both of these options boil down to contrasting how future developments in the



A painted turtle moves safely through a habitat corridor on a tributary of Four Mile Creek near Virgil. (Photos by Owen Bjorgan)

Niagara Region are going to proceed. They focus on subject matters such as habitat linkages, protective ecosystem buffers, and potential enhancement areas. I'd say these are pretty important conversations to be had. How aggressively and quickly are we willing to degrade what remains of our NHS here in NOTL, let alone across Niagara Region? Also, why should we care about developments in Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, or Welland, or here in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Firstly, let's get to the meat and potatoes of NHS options 3B and 3C.

For option 3B, the majority of decision-making takes place at the municipal level without consultation from regional staff, while 3C leans more on the region for input and permissions.

Although 3B identifies and supports natural features outside of settlement areas, as does option 3C, 3B doesn't muster up the idea that you could support natural features both outside and inside development areas. It only sticks to the outside, while 3C has this responsibly covered.

In other words, you would likely see a more severe divide of urban and natural areas with option 3B. If the area is deemed okay for development on the map, you can bet that very little natural heritage will be spared. With option 3C, there is an opportunity to work with nature in these developments, should they come to town.

Both 3B and 3C focus on the large and medium-sized environmental linkages, also known as habitat corridors. However, 3C goes the extra

mile in supporting small linkages as well, which, when added up, provide a subtle but powerful network for our local wildlife species to move around. Biodiversity stays healthy when animals can move freely to ensure their gene pool remains healthy. In addition, 3C could also provide more "inner city" recreational opportunities for people.

Then, there are the buffers, the areas of land which protect an ecosystem like the walls of a building protect what's inside it. You are likely reading this article indoors, so take a moment to look around the room you're in. The walls are your buffer from the elements — a safety and comfort blanket which ensures you remain protected, happy and healthy. This is precisely what significant environmental areas require to function, a sort of gradient that blends them gently into the surrounding developed landscape so residential or industrial influence can't deteriorate its quality.

I was personally and professionally disheartened to

watch new suburbs pop up directly on the edge of protected wetlands in Niagara Falls at the Thundering Waters Forest over the years. Without buffers between the housing and the wetlands, a slew of oil, residential runoff, and dog poop bags make it into the wetlands with ease.

Option 3C states there needs to be mandatory buffer minimums (for example, a 30-metre distance as currently prescribed by the province), versus merely suggesting a minimum option inside developed areas. In my experience, something that is suggested becomes a topic with a lot of wiggle room for decision-making, which is what option 3B would open the floor for.

So, why does this vote matter on the day it comes? Why should we rally to vote for NHS option 3C?

Like ecosystems, municipalities are all connected. Ecosystems don't know boundaries, unlike the fabricated lines that humans draw all over the maps. The inescapable, and

hopefully convenient truth is that what we do in one municipality can have direct or indirect impacts on the neighbouring township. For example, what Niagara Falls does on top of the escarpment has implications for just about all of NOTL's major watersheds. What Pelham develops along Hwy 20 will affect the health of Short Hills Provincial Park and St. Catharines. How Port Colborne and Welland treat their creeks is how we treat the Niagara River.

I honestly don't care whether the region or a local municipality calls the shots. If someone leaves the restaurant table messy, it doesn't matter whether the waiter or the manager gives it a cleanup. Aren't we all part of the same team under the same roof?

What matters most is this: we put a natural heritage system first, we listen to the science, and we think about long-term gain.

This will ensure the next few generations of people and animals alike don't wake up to a bad dream.

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Pumped for a creative, artistic summer

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

Exciting things are happening at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

“Everyone is so excited that the in-studio summer art camps are now available,” exclaims Aimee Medina, marketing coordinator at the Pumphouse. “We’ve added a week in July and two weeks in August.”

Medina explained the arts centre has been able to start offering these in-studio sessions in light of the recent easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Ontario. The first session added is July 26 to 30, followed by Aug. 9 to 13 and Aug. 23 to the 27. This full-day art camp is for children and youth ages six to 12. Spots are still available for the new sessions.

Online now, the Pumphouse is offering a Connecting Seniors through Technology series, Medina adds.

The origin of the Connecting Seniors series, she explains, began as a response to the lockdowns over the past year. Volunteers and staff of the Pumphouse made a point of connecting to their members through Operation Care Calls, checking on their members to see how they were doing and letting them know of courses or sessions available online. The

goal was to keep the members connected to the centre, and to provide social support.

Pumphouse staff found that since many of their members fall into the older adult category, they were happy to receive the call but told staff they were unable to join the online workshops because they did not have the technical knowledge needed to participate.

When they conducted the second round of care calls, they found the same issues. Older members lacked the knowledge to register online and to access the Zoom platform in order to participate. The Pumphouse then applied and received a grant through the Canada New Horizons program for seniors. With this grant they have been able to secure funding to launch this series.

The Pumphouse was in a great position to provide the series to their senior members, since they already had a Zoom subscription and tech savvy instructors who have been using the platform for the past year to present their courses.

Medina said they then developed a program specifically for seniors. “We thought it was just logical for us to offer technology training, because we have the tools already.” Initially, Medina envisioned the series as an in-person program

because, she says, it is easier to teach seniors in a hands-on learning session, but changed the direction of the program when Ontario entered another lockdown. They are hoping that as the restrictions continue to ease, they may offer the series as an in-person program.

Another advantage of the program is that seniors will be teaching seniors. The thought behind this is that since the seniors will be of the same generation, they have a clearer understanding of the challenges and limitations that others may face.

Medina highlights that the Pumphouse director, Lise Andreana, is going to be one of the instructors for the course. “She is very patient. I think if there’s going to be an instructor for this, she is going to be perfect for it.” This series of courses is being offered throughout July, free of charge thanks to the grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program.

In addition to this grant, the Pumphouse also received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Through this grant they are able to offer free online workshops for children and adults delivered by professional art instructors. “We just want to make art accessible, especially during this time of lockdown when people are looking for a diversion. Art



Artist Julie Ponesse is the interviewer and host of the Friday Fun Artists on Artists series. (Photo supplied)

provides mental healing, and is a creative outlet. That’s why we think it’s very important to continue to deliver these programs to the community at this time,” adds Medina.

While some classes like the Street Drawing, Old Town Watercolour and Botanical Art in Coloured Pencil have filled up quickly, there are spaces left for the Soul Collage workshop and for the Friday Fun! Artists on Artists series. This production is a pre-recorded series which features artist Julie Ponesse interviewing other professional artists in hour-long features, in

an opportunity to get to know the artist.

According to Medina, “It’s perfect for a Friday date or Friday activity. You can bring out your wine and cheese and watch it. It’s something interesting to members of our community, because they learn about the artist, their journey, their style of artwork and how they got started.”

This four-part series features artists Jessica Masters, Suzie Baker, Lisa Daria and Marjorie Hicks.

As for Canada Day plans, the Pumphouse will be hosting

an Art Scavenger Hunt, with participants using a Bingo-like card to spot artworks around the Old Town, with the grand prize an artist gift bag filled with donations from the Pumphouse and local artists. Stay tuned for more details on this event.

The Pumphouse is looking at offering more workshops in August. And they are hoping they will be able to go ahead with the long-awaited Robert Crosby exhibition in the Joyner Gallery in August. For more information call the centre at 905-468-8888 or visit niagarapumphouse.ca.

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Local search unit learns drone technology

Randy Klaassen
Special to The Local

Based at Niagara District Airport, the Civil Air Search And Rescue Association (CASARA) Niagara has been at the forefront of developing operating procedures for the use of drones for search missions.

A drone is technically classified as a remotely piloted aircraft system and as such is federally regulated. As with general aviation piloting abilities, there are additional skills involved in flying a drone for search and rescue.

Gord Tessier, CASARA pilot, and drone pilot, has been

involved in a number of trial operations to develop standards of using drones for search and rescue. Tessier programs the drone to fly a search pattern, while taking video which is transmitted to a computer monitor. In addition to the pilot, a spotter watches the monitor for the search object, while another visual observer watches the drone from a different position, should the pilot lose visual sight of the drone.

The drone flown by Tessier is equipped with high-definition camera with electro-optical infrared imaging, a powerful spotlight and speaker system to communicate help is on the way.

Recently, members of Roy-

al Canadian Air Force were given a drone demonstration, with a simulated search for an aircraft crashed in dense forest.

While CASARA aircraft typically search vast areas, the addition of drone capabilities allows them to rapidly search an area

of high probability.

As a volunteer organization, CASARA Niagara depends on donations for equip-

ment and operations. For more information on CASARA, see the website www.caresniagara.ca.



The local air search and rescue unit, with Rick Kaczkan at the Niagara District Airport recently, learned drone technology to aid in searches. (Photos supplied)



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Hollywood comes to Chateau des Charmes

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

As amazed as he was at how quickly Lima Papa Production Services set up at Chateau des Charmes to shoot scenes for a new TV series, Paul Bosc was just as astonished at how quickly it was all taken down.

On Thursday, a few members of the crew were busy packing up the last remnants of a garden set for *The Kings of Napa*. The new drama about a successful, multi-generational wine-making family will air next year on OWN - The Oprah Network. The Niagara-on-the-Lake location fills in for the Napa Valley on the

hour-long drama series.

Bosc explained that a location manager, Bryn Garrison, visited the winery some time in the winter to scope things out for filming, before the recent lockdown was anticipated.

"I wasn't expecting a third lockdown at the time," Bosc said. "We signed a contract, and it was very detailed in terms of our own access to the building, including which of our employees could work. They were adamant that there was to be no public access to the facility. We had to be prepared for that. It ended up being a moot point as we're only opening now that they're gone."

The castle-like building

serves as the exterior of the King family home for the Warner Bros. production. The series stars Ebonee Noel as August King, who winds up in a power struggle with her two siblings to take control of the business after the family's patriarch suddenly decides to vacate his post at the top. Co-stars include Karen LeBlanc, Yaani King Mondschein and Rance Nix.

Though Bosc had no interaction at all with the cast members, he and his 14-year-old son Alex had a chance to spend some time on set with the director. Matthew A. Cherry is a former professional football player who spent time with the NFL's Jacksonville, Cincinnati, Carolina and Baltimore systems. He is best known for winning the 2019 Oscar for his animated short film, *Hair Love*.

"He started talking football with Alex," Bosc said. "Then he let us hang out at his side. We were looking through what he was looking at, which was the view from the drone. They had an \$80,000 drone with a \$50,000 camera mounted on it. It was doing all these incredible sweeping shots of the building."

The setting and architecture of Chateau des Charmes is what sealed the deal for the production company.

"One of the factors that played into our hands," explained Bosc. "is that the pro-



The winery property, which would have been shut down for filming, was closed for COVID while the production crew was on-site. They cleared up and left earlier than expected, but just in time for the winery to reopen. (Mike Balsom)

ducers said of all the wineries they looked at, this is the one that's closest to being residential. In fact, many times over the years we've been asked if we live here.

"This location is just so sweeping," Bosc continued. "There's no neighbours, no buildings, nothing to give away that this isn't California. The building itself becomes sort of a character. It reminded me of *Dallas*, and Southfork Ranch."

On Wednesday, a fleet of luxury cars, including McLarens, vintage Rolls Royces and Land Rovers dotted the Chateau des Charmes parking lot,

as cameras filmed them arriving at the front of the building. Each car was fitted with a California licence plate, including a custom tag on a Porsche Carrera that read King CFO.

Another scene featured a City of Napa police cruiser. It was shot at the entrance to the building, where a member of the King family was being arrested and dragged out of the house. Bosc said the police car had its lights on all day as the shoot continued.

The crew also transformed the back of the chateau, distmantling a 4,000 square foot tent capable of holding 250

people in Michele's Courtyard, named for Bosc's late wife. A few scenes were shot with the King family interacting back there.

"It became a very elaborate formal garden," Bosc described, "with an outdoor dining room, and a big fountain that looked like the real one out front. They built these low walls that matched the stonework of the chateau, out of some kind of light material. They held fake flowers that, if you took a step back, looked so real. My dad asked me how the masons

Continued on page 15



Alex Bosc gets to sit in a McLaren, one of the vehicles used during filming. (Photo supplied)



Drive Thru Tulip Bulb Sale

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre
14 Anderson Lane


Tuesday, June 22, 2021
10:00 am Until Sold Out
\$5.00 per dozen - cash only
bring your own bag

All Proceeds Go To The Town Tree Fund



Senior Citizen STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Afternoon Tea



Niagara-on-the-Lake citizens, 65+, are invited to participate in this year's drive-thru and delivery style Strawberry Social. All participating senior citizens will receive an individual box full of baked treats, tea, and of course, fresh strawberries!

- **Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021
- **Time:** Pick-up/delivery available between 1:00 - 3:00 PM
- **Pick-up location:** Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane

Registration is required by **June 22, 2021.**

Please visit notl.com/strawberrysocial to register online or call 905-468-3266.

Spirit in Niagara distillery echoes roaring '20s

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

If, as many have predicted, the pandemic gives way to a modern version of the Roaring '20s, Arnie Lepp and his self-described “dream team,” are set to be on the forefront of fuelling the party.

Finishing touches are being put on Lepp's new Spirit in Niagara Small Batch Distillery. Located on his Lakeshore Road property, the new structure built in the style of an 1800s era Queenston manor house is set back from the road amidst Lepp's peach orchards.

When its doors are thrown open, visitors will be greeted by a wide open retail space and invited to step up to the tasting bar. There, they can sample at least seven different spirits all distilled from fruit grown by A.J. Lepp family orchards, an operation now in its fourth generation, as well as other farms in Niagara.

Lepp explains that the idea behind opening the distillery is to cut down on the 10 per cent of Niagara tender fruit that is wasted every year.

Lepp and his family tend to more than 200 acres of peaches, nectarines, pears, plums, apricots, cherries, seedless grapes and vinifera grapes. They are also the owners of the largest single family tender fruit shipping company in Ontario, and so connected to farmers across the region to buy their fallen fruit.

“It's over-ripe, bruised fruit, thousands of tonnes,” Lepp says. “There's nothing wrong with it, It's just not retail sellable. And there's a lot of it.”

“It's really difficult to deal with,” Lepp adds about the waste. “It doesn't go in the orchards. Most of it gets dumped in open places, places where it probably shouldn't be dumped.”

Andrew Cieszkowski, director of sales and marketing and part of Lepp's “dream team,” says “having grown up in the tender fruit business, Arnie is absolutely passionate

about reducing the amount of waste. The idea to help out local farmers by reducing the amount of product that is wasted is really the impetus behind starting the distillery.”

The other members of the Spirit in Niagara team include neophyte Kacey Lang, a recent graduate of the Niagara College distillery program. She is responsible for marketing and online sales. Industry veteran Joshua Beach, who some may remember as the man who helped get the Wayne Gretzky Distillery off the ground, rounds out the team as master distiller and blender.

Lang is excited to bring a fresh set of eyes to the business.

“In the last few years we've seen a lot more small craft distilleries come into the market,” she enthuses. “We've seen the wine boom, we've seen the beer boom, now is the time to really get into distilling. Cocktail culture has really exploded, coming back into the mainstream. And I think people want to buy a product that is sustainable, using fresh local ingredients.”

For Lang, hired by Lepp in April, being able to immerse herself in the distillery business from the ground up is a unique opportunity.

“I literally left class to go to the job interview,” she tells The Local. “A lot of people were trying to find jobs in the industry everywhere, and COVID made it hard. So it's really cool to find a job in an area where I'm already living.”

Besides launching Gretzky's distillery in 2016, Beach, who holds a master's degree in distilling, started an operation called Odd Society Spirits in Vancouver. He also began the whiskey program at Collingwood's Georgian Bay Spirit Company.

“I wanted to come back to the Niagara region,” Beach says. “My wife's from here, and I've got the opportunity to work with some excellent fruit, and also use grains. It's great to be back.”

Lepp, who admits he him-

self is not a distiller, has given Beach total creative control over production.

“With the fruit, you get what you get,” Beach explains. “When you take that in, then what you produce with that, that's the creative aspect. We've started with eau de vies (distilled beverage made from fruit other than grapes), and we're branching out to a gin and a vodka. Arnie and I both love whiskey, so we're going to do a bourbon style and a rye and a few other things as well.”

The production facility sits in a glass-walled area behind the event space/cocktail bar. Beach has been able to apply his information technology background from his pre-distilling days to automate much of the process. He points to what he calls his workhorse, the continuous column that reaches up to the second level of the structure where it is visible from inside a 1,600 square foot special event/meeting room, which also overlooks the orchard. Fermentation tanks and a press are situated in the packing area of the large, open warehouse space.

The retail space is currently stocked with three varieties of eau de vie: Juicy Peach, Sun Ripened Yellow Plum and Sweet Pear. Each bears the distinctive Spirit In Niagara label, which Lepp says was designed with a purpose.

“I wanted to recreate the '20s,” he explains. “We're in the '20s, there's a lot of interesting stuff that went on 100 years ago. We wanted to bring that whole thing forward 100 years and pass it off as something new. It's an old-style label with an innovative, new perspective.”

This reporter was invited to step up to the tasting bar, which is framed with salvaged beams from an old barn recently dismantled on the property. Beach poured a shot of Juicy Peach, a perfectly colourless liquid. It's fragrant and subtly sweet, but not overly so upon sipping. It rolls over the tongue with a satiny feel, and leaves a dry, fruity

aftertaste. It would be perfect on ice, or as the Spirit in Niagara website suggests, in a peach tea cocktail.

Still to come are Juiced Up Gin and Vodka and a Pleasure Me Plumincello. Beach adds that they are currently aging their Canadian Brrrbon (sic), barrels of which will line that upstairs event/meeting room.

The name of the business, by the way, was partly chosen for its natural acronym. Spirit of Niagara, of course, shortens to “sin”, or “SiN” as Lepp likes to use. The word makes sense

in light of Lepp's theme of how sinful it is to waste good fruit.

As well, the distribution of alcohol was prohibited in Canada during the First World War, and that lasted until the early '20s. In the U.S., prohibition ran from 1920 to 1933. So it was a sin, so to say, to sell alcohol during those times.

So the acronym fits in with Lepp's fascination with the Roaring '20s, and if prohibition does by chance show up once again, he jokes that he has a 1926 Ford Model T on the premises to do a bit of rum-running. In

all seriousness, he actually does have the car.

Taking the legal route for now, Cieszkowski is in early talks aimed at getting Spirit in Niagara products into LCBO stores. And he has also approached local restaurants to encourage them to add the company's product line to their drinks lists.

For now, the fruits of the dream team's labours can be ordered via their website, spiritinniagara.com. Just don't expect flappers to deliver your order to you.



Owner Arnie Lepp, Kacey Lang, responsible for marketing and online sales, Andrew Cieszkowski, director of sales and marketing, and Joshua Beach, master distiller and blender, are part of the Spirit in Niagara team. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Joshua Beach, experienced master distiller and blender, has creative control over Spirit in Niagara products.

Filming done by opening

Continued from page 14

worked so quickly to build the walls.”

Bosc said they also shot in the barrel cellar.

Shooting was scheduled to continue until at least Thursday evening, but by 2 p.m. that day only a fleet of golf carts and a few crew members remained.

Martin Lundqvist, the winery's director of hospitality, was informed by the crew that a call had come in at 11:30 p.m. the previous evening.

“They had to get to the studio (in Mississauga, at the International Centre) to shoot,” Lundqvist said. “They had to make a call whether or not they were going to be able to finish up some shooting there that was

going to be crucial. The studio at this point took precedence.”

Lima Papa location manager David Korchok said that with studio space at a premium right now, they had to take advantage of its availability. Most of the interior scenes for the program will be shot there, while there are also plans to use Toronto's Varsity Stadium and potentially a location in Port Hope for other scenes.

Conveniently, the decision to pull out early made it easier for Bosc, Lundqvist and their staff to prepare to throw the winery's doors open to the public last Saturday. Also convenient, in a way, was the fact that all of the filming took place during a time when the winery was closed to visitors.

Lundqvist said the production company is planning to return in August, but final details have yet to be approved. Korchok also told Bosc that he might expect a call within six months or so for Lima Papa to return once again next year, if a second season of *Kings of Napa* is approved. And Bosc, for his part, looks forward to those future interruptions.

“They found lots of different points to shoot from, which is why I think they're going to have to come back in the future,” Bosc told The Local. “They can't shoot everything inside the studio. There's going to have to be outdoor scenes. If it's about wine country, some of it has to take place in the great outdoors.”

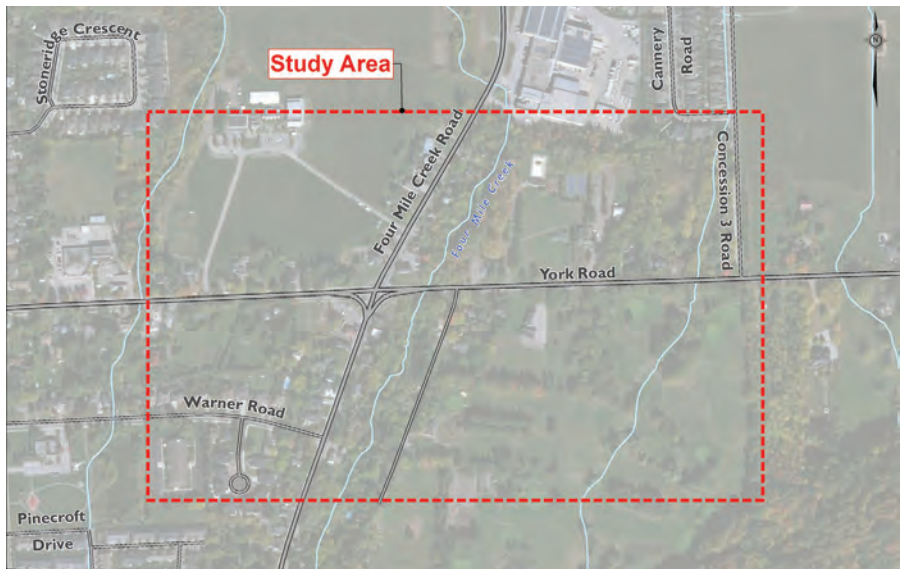


The Spirit in Niagara Small Batch Distillery on Lakeshore Road is set back from the street amidst Arnie Lepp's peach orchards

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Virtual Public Information Centre #2
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment
York Road and Four Mile Creek Road
Intersection Improvements, St. Davids, Ontario

Niagara Region is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to address and improve conditions for all modes of transportation at the intersection of Regional Road 81 (York Road) and Regional Road 100 (Four Mile Creek Road), St. Davids. Public Information Centre #1 was held on March 25, to introduce the study. A summary report documenting the comments received from Public Information Centre #1 and the study team’s responses are provided on the project webpage niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-100



The second Public Information Centre will be held in an online format on **June 23, 2021 from 6 - 8 p.m.** As part of this event, the study team will deliver an online presentation at 6 p.m. followed by a Q&A. The purpose of this Public Information Centre is to share information about the study, the evaluation of alternative solutions, and the preferred solution.

Information about the online Public Information Centre #2 will be available on the project webpage by **June 23, 2021**, and comments are welcome through one of the project managers, until **July 7, 2021**.

If you would like to receive future notices via email, or have any questions or comments, please contact one of the project managers identified below:

Maged Elmadhoon, M.Eng., P.Eng. Manager, Transportation Planning Regional Municipality of Niagara 905-980-6000, ext. 3583 maged.elmadhoon@niagararegion.ca	Phil Weber, M.Eng., P.Eng Senior Project Manager CIMA+ 905-695-1005, ext. 6732 phil.weber@cima.ca
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Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)**. The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

This notice was first issued on June 9, 2021

A shell of a journey



About a week ago, Dan Plomish was driving over the new Mewburn Bridge connecting NOTL to Niagara Falls along Concession 6, and stopped to help some painted turtles cross to lay eggs on the other side. He counted nine flattened adults that didn’t make it, and posted on Facebook to ask drivers to look out for the turtles and help if they could. The town was asked what it could do. Apparently, the turtles are crossing on the Niagara Falls side of the bridge, but drivers were asked to pull over if safe, and carry turtles to the side of the road in the direction they were headed. Plomish, whose son Max is holding one of the tiny painted turtles, says it’s a short-lived annual situation, and he just wanted to bring some attention to it and save a few turtles. (Photo supplied)

Older Memorial Park courts to be upgraded for games

Penny Coles
The Local

Having to “reimagine” the Canada Summer Games, which were originally scheduled to be held in 2021, has turned out to be a benefit for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Games CEO Barry Wright spoke to councillors Monday night about a proposal to improve the tennis courts at Memorial Park. The tennis competition was originally planned to be held indoors at White Oaks Resort and Conference Centre, but with the change in date, there was “real enthusiasm for moving the games outdoors.” When they looked at sites around Niagara, the tennis courts in NOTL came up high on the list of possibilities, he said.

However, the courts need to be brought up to Canada Games standards, he said.

After discussions with Canada Summer Games representatives, town staff have recommended spending \$50,000

on the Memorial Park tennis courts, and the games organization will contribute \$40,000 for the upgrades that are required.

In August of 2022, the Memorial Park courts will be used for about two weeks to host the tennis competition.

The tennis club has recommended new lighting and poles on the expanded courts be a legacy project, and the older courts will be resurfaced and painted. Upgrades will include some minor park upgrades such as parking lot improvements and repainting the pavilion. The privately-owned Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club will also be a venue for the games, but no money for upgrades has been requested. Town CAO Marnie Cluckie said she would be in touch with the club to see if any improvements are required.

Simcoe Park will also be host to an event, the Niagara-on-the-Lake 13 for 13 Cultural Festival Program, each representing the culture of a

province or territory across Canada. Each municipality, as well as the Niagara Region, is being asked to hold a special one-day celebration of the games, said Wright.

Each event will rotate nightly, changing from one municipality to another, to celebrate each province and territory’s cultural heritage and identities through entertainment, food, art, dance and more, with NOTL’s event planned for Simcoe Park.

Although no costs have been identified yet for the 13 for 13 event, the town is expected to provide parking and grounds, for the exclusive use of the event, as well as signage installed at the entrances and throughout the park. Any costs for the event will be included in the 2022 budget, said Cluckie.

Councillors approved the town staff report, agreeing the games will be something exciting to look forward to as we come out of the pandemic, with a positive impact for NOTL.



Parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte and NOTL Tennis Club president Hugh Dow check out the new courts at Memorial Park, which will be used for the Canada Summer Games. The older courts will be resurfaced in time for the August competition, and painted blue to match the new courts. (Mike Balsom)

Enjoy music, dinner, and Mozart debate

Mike Balsom
The Local

We're often warned to not debate politics or religion over dinner. But when it comes to music, debate and dinner go hand-in-hand.

On July 13, Music Niagara Festival presents The Great Debate and Dinner. Supporters of the festival will have the rare chance to hear prominent experts taking sides on Mozart. The discussion will be interspersed with musical illustrations from Victoria Kogan (piano) and founder and artistic director Atis Bankas (violin), while diners will choose between gourmet appetizer, entree and dessert offerings from The Garrison House, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery and Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill.

The fundraising event will be moderated by longtime WNED radio host Peter Hall. The impressive lineup of debaters includes music journalist, writer, teacher and broadcaster Robert Harris, soprano and host of the CBC Music program *TEMPO* Julie Nesrallah, music critic and speaker William Littler, and author and CBC broadcaster Tom Allen.

Allen is the current host of CBC Music's *About Time*. A veteran of more than 30 years with the national broadcaster, listeners will also be familiar with his storytelling and music selections over his time hosting *Music and Company* and then *Shift*. Allen is a long-time supporter of Music Niagara and was part of their 2020 Beethoven debate as well.

Though Mozart, like Beethoven, is generally considered one of the greatest composers of all time, Allen says there are a surprising number of people who are not huge fans.

"I have learned over the years that an appreciation of Mozart can be elusive," he says from his Toronto home. "There are people who are thrilled by the athletic violence of a Beethoven or Tchaikovsky symphony, and Mozart is a very different kind of listening."

In contrast, Allen says Mozart's music is very refined, very contained, originating as it does from a period of history where there were very specific conditions of what constituted acceptable music.

"Mozart wrote for a very, very small group of very wealthy noble people in Vienna," he explains. "He wasn't writing for the masses, with the exception of maybe *The Magic Flute*, which was presented in a more public theatre. But there wasn't much of a public concert life in Vienna. He had to be really careful about writing in minor keys, for example, because this very fickle, very powerful audience might not like it. And that would be it for him."

Allen's role in next month's debate is to take the nega-

tive view on Mozart's oeuvre. Though he admits he loves the composer's work, it's clear he has been preparing to play devil's advocate.

"It was a very, very narrow field that he was walking," Allen adds. "Those that complain about Mozart say that you can hear him following the rules, elegantly and beautifully staying within the lines. But when it comes to inspiring musical imagination you could go further afield. He was a product of a very emotionally restricted time."

In comparison, Beethoven, who came a generation after Mozart, broke the mould by redefining what music could be about. Beethoven, says Allen, was more able to break rules, and be an individual. The societal shifts brought about by the French Revolution made a huge difference in what each of the two renowned composers could accomplish.

Allen refers to his fellow debaters as a "dream team" of thinkers in the music world.

"Robert Harris is a hero of mine," enthuses Allen. "He produced *Music and Company* for about five years. He's a joy to work with, so giving, smart and funny. Julie is wonderful company. She's my friend. Normally, when we're in the office, she sits 10 feet away from me. Peter is a long-time friend, and William Littler is the master of the bon mot."

He and Harris will go toe-to-toe, backed up by contributions from Nesrallah and Littler.

He also looks forward to the musical selections chosen for the program.

"Victoria is a wonderful pianist," he raves. "She and Atis play so well together. It's a beautiful thing for us to be able to illustrate these debates with such great musicians. I won't know what selections they will choose until probably early July, but I know it will be fantastic."

The Great Debate and Dinner, along with the Big Online Auction which wraps up this Sunday, June 20 at 6 p.m., take the place of the usual major fundraiser, the Big Night Gala. Normally held in June, this is the second straight year the pandemic has made that event impossible.

Music Niagara Festival general manager Karen Lade credits a great group of volunteers for securing more than 40 amazing items for the auction, which started June 5.

"Even though our volunteers are not in the spotlight, they are the backbone of each and every event at Music Niagara," she tells The Local. "We are forever thankful for the time and dedication that our volunteers have given us."

With Father's Day approaching, she makes special mention of wine selections



Author and CBC broadcaster Tom Allen will take part in The Great Debate and Dinner, a Music Niagara event. (Photo supplied)

from Lailey Winery, a rental from eSkoot Niagara, the Peninsula Lakes Golf Package, a test drive with GTA Exotics, a vodka tasting for eight with Music Niagara's Atis Bankas and a Watercolour in Glass of hole number 8 at the NOTL Golf Club. These items will close before Father's Day, on Saturday, June 19 at 6 p.m.

As The Local was heading to press Tuesday, Lade was putting finishing touches on the Music Niagara website in preparation for this Friday's announcement of the summer concert lineup. The delay was necessary due to the earlier uncertainty about the province's reopening plans.

Allen is looking forward to actually being in town on Aug. 5 for one of the upcoming concerts, information for which he leaked to The Local.

"It will be an outdoor live production," he explains, "based on a John Cage story, about a time in 1965 when the American avant-garde composer spent 15 hours lost overnight in the remote Saskatchewan woods. I'm very excited about that. Niagara has been a great community for us to bring stories and music together to welcoming audiences."

Entitled *Being Lost*, it will include Allen, who will be joined by multi-instrumentalists Lori and Peter Gemmell, Juno-award winning clarinetist Jeff Reilly, and soprano Patricia O'Callaghan. The venue and other details have yet to be finalized.

Tickets for the Great Debate and Dinner are \$140. The price includes a \$50 tax receipt, a bottle of Jackson-Triggs wine or non-alcoholic beverage, a Music Niagara insulated bag, and an entry for a draw to win 40 bottles of wine. The video link to the debate will be sent on July 13, and dinner can be picked up at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery between 1 and 4 p.m. that day.

For tickets or information on Music Niagara Festival's 2021 season, visit musicniagara.org.



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Bank swallows return to Niagara Shores Park

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

Many of us have heard the legend of the Swallows of Capistrano, how each year these swallows travel 10,000 kilometres from their wintering place in South America to the small town of San Juan Capistrano in California, specifically to the Mission Church located there. In fact, it has become a widely known international tourist attraction for many years.

Fortunately our small town, a major tourist destination already, does not have to depend on this type of attraction, but we do have a similar occurrence at the Niagara Shores Park. A lot of locals are familiar with this occurrence and, it may, with Parks Canada's plan to re-open the park to automobile traffic, become more generally familiar to a wider group in the future.

Each year, a species called bank swallows also migrates from Central and South America and arrive at the shore of Lake Ontario to nest and breed for several months of the year. Bank swallows (*Riparia riparia*) are a small swallow that feed on flying insects. They have brown upper parts, white underparts and a distinctive dark breast band. Anyone who has walked the area along the shore will be aware of the dense clouds of flying insects that emerge there in early May. Bank swallows, when they arrive, find an abundance of their favourite food. They catch their prey on the wing, and it is fascinating to watch fairly large numbers of these swallows flying out over the shore and the lake to feed. They perform amazing aerial acrobatics in flight, making them quite difficult to photograph when in the air.

Another reason for their return to this location, however, is the high bank that exists along this section of shoreline. Unlike their Capistrano cousins that build

nests out of mud, our bank swallows create a nest by digging into this bank of soil along the shoreline. The bank best suited to this endeavour has a slope of greater than 70 per cent, which is found at Niagara Shores. To the casual observer, walking along the shore of the lake, the holes along the bank are quite obvious and numerous. Bank swallows are referred to as colonial nesters because of the large numbers of nests created in a particular area. The nest, or occupied burrow, on average, is 71 cm deep. The nest itself will have twigs, feathers, grasses, etc. in a small chamber at the end of the burrow. The eggs and the chicks are protected from heat changes, predation and harsh weather.

Although I'm sure many of these nests would be re-used on a yearly basis, some swallows have been observed pecking away at the bank to create a new nest, while the majority seem busy cleaning out the old ones, kind of like opening up the cottage for the season. It's quite humorous to watch a swallow enter the hole, and then see the dirt being swept out as they prepare the nest. This is supposedly accomplished with their feet, sweeping backwards.

Bank swallows are on the protected list and, according to Parks Canada, "the bird has lost 98 per cent of its Canadian population over the last 40 years." Because of this protected status, it will become one of the factors about how the area will become more open to visitors. As most of us who frequent the area are aware, the banks along that shoreline have been subject to a high degree of erosion. They are constantly collapsing. This is easily observed with the number of large trees that have been brought down along the shore by the collapsing bank, and the ones that now appear delicately balanced and soon to fall. The collapsing banks also contribute to the possible decrease in suit-

able nesting sites.

As the swallows are most active between mid-April and August, any increase in visitation during that period may have an effect on the future numbers of bank swallows at the site. Concern due to human activity can already be seen with some visitors seemingly finding it necessary to carve their initials, names or symbols in the banks near the swallow holes.

There are two other species of swallow that I've observed in the area as well. The one that I spotted earlier in the spring at Niagara Shores was identified as a northern rough-winged swallow. It also breeds in holes or crevices along banks but is not a colonial nester like the bank swallow.

The other species, the tree swallow, I have seen quite commonly in the area of the Niagara College ponds. There, you can see them using the nesting boxes that have been constructed and placed specifically for them.

Two other species found locally would be barn swallows and possibly cliff swallows, on sections of the Niagara Escarpment. Definitely something else to be on the lookout for in our area.



Bank swallows dig holes to nest on the high bank along a section of Lake Ontario shoreline. (David Gilchrist)

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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60						61					62			
63						64					65			

- Across:**

1 Depositors' protective grp.

5 Fruitcake

10 Jane Austen matchmaker

14 Bind

15 Uma Thurman's ex --- Hawke

16 Give temporarily

17 Arabian chieftain

18 Lightweight cord

19 Breathtaking organ

20 Against

21 Large bundle

22 Lamp scam?

23 Bit of broken pottery

25 To do with mail

26 Strainer

29 Whisky distiller --- Walker

31 Appears ominously

32 --- Chanel

33 Actor and rapper Mike ---

37 Wheat flour in India

38 For example, brogues

39 Harvest

40 Hits lightly

41 High-efficiency lights, briefly

42 Enigmatic quotemaker Yogi ---

43 Corpse
- 45 Luxury accommodations

46 Dozing

49 Wet season

51 Place

52 Work the land

53 Records

57 Cookware

58 Military blockade

59 "... sting like ---" (Ali)

60 Therefore

61 Kofi ---

62 Brief message

63 Red light gas

64 Office in training

65 Writing table
- Down:**
- 1 Type of market
- 2 What Rhett didn't give
- 3 Brenda Lee's "--- True?"
- 4 Yuletide
- 5 Home beverage center
- 6 Fighting an enemy
- 7 Old acquaintance
- 8 His last word was "Rosebud"
- 9 Unity
- 10 Large landmass north of the Canadian mainland
- 11 Launch
- 12 Passion
- 13 Theatrical backer
- 22 Smallest Indian state
- 24 "--- So Fine" (old Chiffons number)
- 25 Advantages
- 26 Fuss
- 27 Scintilla
- 28 Former Mississippi senator Trent ---
- 30 Summer refreshments
- 32 Top cook
- 34 Cheeky
- 35 Shave
- 36 Health farms
- 38 Thin potter's clay
- 42 Top and bottom of a hamburger
- 44 Senator --- Cruz
- 45 Noiseless
- 46 Colorado resort
- 47 Stockpile
- 48 Dismiss
- 50 Pond problem
- 52 S N L comic --- Fey
- 54 Double-reed woodwind instrument
- 55 Obtains
- 56 Search
- 58 Cold War U S A F arm

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

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Sudoku solution from June 9, 2021

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

Across:

1 F D I C, 5 Wacko, 10 Emma, 14 Lash, 15 Ethan, 16 Loan, 17 Emili, 18 Twine, 19 Lung, 20 Anti, 21 Bale, 22 Genie, 23 Shard, 25 Postal, 26 Filter, 29 Hiram, 31 Looms, 32 Coco, 33 Epps, 37 Atta, 38 Shoes, 39 Reap, 40 Pats, 41 L-E Ds, 42 Berra, 43 Stiff, 45 Suites, 46 Asleep, 49 Rains, 51 Stead, 52 Till, 53 Logs, 57 Pots, 58 Siege, 59 A bee, 60 Ergo, 61 Annan, 62 Note, 63 Neon, 64 Cadet, 65 Desk.

Down:

1 Flea, 2 Damm, 3 Is it, 4 Christmas season, 5 Wet bar, 6 At war, 7 Childhood friend, 8 Kane, 9 One, 10 Ellesmere Island, 11 Mount, 12 Maria, 13 Angel, 22 Goa, 24 He's, 25 Pros, 26 Flap, 27 Iota, 28 Lott, 30 Ices, 32 Chef, 34 Pert, 35 Pare, 36 Spas, 38 Slip, 42 Bun, 44 Ted, 45 Silent, 46 Aspen, 47 Store, 48 Let go, 50 Algae, 52 Tina, 54 Oboe, 55 Gets, 56 Seek, 58 S A C.

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