

# The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Artist posts  
30 sketches  
in 30 days

page 4

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David Galloway can often be found relaxing on his porch with friends at the end of the day, including Gary Zanner in this photo, taken by another friend, Donald Combe.

## Garden and gardener represent hope, joy, and true friendship

Penny Coles  
The Local

Behind a smallish house on Victoria Street, the one with the porch overflowing with house plants and an antique bicycle fastened to the porch overhang, is a beautiful garden brimming with gorgeous flowers and lush greenery.

It exudes the joy of the man who tends it, reflecting his love and precision attention, a man as much of an inspiration as his garden.

David Galloway, a former landscape horticulturalist, came to Niagara-on-the-Lake in pain, leaving behind a dissolved marriage that led to dissolving a business, a garden centre in Listowell, into which he had poured his heart for 25 years.

"I came here in complete depression," he says. He wanted to be with a

friend who was also hurting, grieving the death of her husband, a man who was a long-time dear friend of Galloway's. He felt it would be helpful to grieve together, and it was.

"We helped each other through it," he says.

Although he had only planned to stay a few weeks, that turned to years, and he ended up buying his Victoria Street home and putting his heart into the garden.

He also did some work for others, and made connections and friends in the industry, but six years ago, he began a battle with leukaemia. In February, after his last radiation treatment at the Juravinski Cancer Centre, he was told there were no further options for treatment. The prognosis was three weeks to three months, and plans were

Continued on page 3

## Councillors agree to workshop on racism, report on diversity

Penny Coles  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake's councillors have agreed the Town should hold a workshop to give diverse community leaders a chance to be heard, and should also look at the diversity of town staff and steps that could be taken to improve it.

These decisions, supported unanimously by councillors, came in response to a statement made against

racism by Counc. Stuart McCormack, who was explaining why he wouldn't sign last week's message from town council and staff denouncing racism. In his statement made to councillors Monday, he condemned racism in all forms, and said he believes the issue merits more discussion in council than the signing of a letter.

"We exist in a democracy which at its essence requires freedom of speech and open discussion. To fail to have that

open discussion robs everyone of the opportunity to reflect and grow," he said.

The message released last week was signed by senior staff, and all councillors except McCormack.

In his statement, McCormack quoted human rights lawyer Anthony Morgan: "What we want is substance over symbols. We want the substance of your commitments." McCormack echoed that sentiment, adding action is required, and "merely ex-

pressing disapproval is inadequate."

His former law firm, he said, provided "training for unconscious bias, fostered leadership development and outreach to diverse communities, and worked continuously on enhancing inclusiveness and support for those communities in our working environment."

McCormack referenced a Law Society of Ontario report, with 13 recommendations to "build a community

of support" and to "monitor and assess internal policies, practices and programs to promote diversity, inclusion and equality," as "obvious and substantive efforts not to simply recognize an issue, but more importantly to deal with it."

McCormack questioned whether the message from councillors and staff "was even the right first step."

The message says, "Perhaps more importantly, we must step away from our

privilege and listen, and exercise silence to make way for the voices of Black people and people of colour."

If council wants to listen, McCormack suggested, "isn't it incumbent on us to first have their voices at the table for the purpose of crafting this type of message, and more importantly, the path forward?"

He also suggested there is not much evidence of diver-

Continued on page 3



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# Virtual town council meetings going well

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The transition to electronic committee and council meetings in Niagara-on-the-Lake has gone well, with a few small glitches that were quickly rectified, says town clerk Peter Todd. The Town had already been using Microsoft Teams for some committee meetings, allowing some members to participate virtually, so when the pandemic forced council to move to online meetings the process was already in place, he says. When group gatherings became risky and provincial guidelines limited them to five people, town councillors joined other levels of elected officials, corporations and agencies that moved to employing technol-

gy for online, virtual meetings. Until mid-March, when so much around the province shut down, municipal legislation allowed for electronic participation in public council meetings, but those who took part virtually did not count toward the quorum necessary to make decisions. That rule was changed during the pandemic to allow councils to continue with the necessary business of running their municipality. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the process has been improved and refined since the first virtual meetings in March. IT staff and deputy clerks and the Town's emergency control group were all involved in setting up the meetings, Todd says, ensuring councillors had the necessary technology. In

some cases, staff visited councillors' homes for brief training sessions. One councillor, Erwin Wiens, is usually in the town hall during meetings because of the quality of internet he can receive in his rural home, the others all participating from home. Those who watched the earliest meetings in March would have only heard the council discussions. "Our major issue when we first became involved was to decide not to get into video conferencing," says Todd. "We wanted to ease council into the technology, and allow them to become more comfortable with it." There were a few issues with the sound cutting out during the first meetings, but that has been resolved "and it's running pretty smoothly," says Todd. Video has also been added, although not all councillors choose to use their webcam. Council meetings now could be run entirely remotely, Todd says, but a few staff members are usually in the office, including interim CAO Sheldon Randall. Councillors are getting the hang of adding their names

# Businesses need financial aid, and they need it soon

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

A group of 45 merchants, represented by Kim Gauld of Sunset Cafe on Queen Street and Terri-Lynn Woodhouse, of One Earth on Victoria Street, made their ask clear for councillors at Monday's committee meeting: they need immediate help. Their 10-minute presentation was loaded with information about their high taxes, and some discouraging statistics as a result of the pandemic: 20 per cent of the businesses pay more than \$50,000 a year; rent per square foot can be up to \$200 on Queen Street, compared to the average commercial rent in Toronto of less than \$27; more than 200 people have been laid off or lost their job since the start of the pandemic; and only 50 per cent of landlords are taking advantage of the federal rent subsidy program. Their mantra: We all survive because of each other. Visitors don't come to Queen Street to see empty storefronts, said Woodhouse. And they may not all sur-

vive, she added — there are a small number of empty store fronts, but they "desperately depend on the five-month high season," from May to September, to get through the year, and while there are a number of cars coming to town and people coming to Queen Street, that hasn't translated into sales, Woodhouse told councillors. There was discussion about the need for municipal representatives to lobby for federal and provincial support; there was talk about the immediate need to institute the heritage tax rebate program, which the majority of councillors have supported implementing next year; about closing Queen Street to allow more room for restaurant patios; about free parking; and other ways to help businesses, but there were no decisions made. Following the meeting, Gauld clarified the group's main asks: implementation of the Heritage Tax Relief program in the quickest manner possible, without hiring a consultant, which would save time and money; lobbying for assistance both at provincial

and federal levels; and a plan for Queen Street reopening to be re-evaluated to ensure it's meeting the needs of businesses and residents, while keeping everyone safe. Lord Mayor Betty Disero suggested having Coun. Wendy Cheropita take the recommendations from the business group to the Province in a presentation she is making Thursday, and said she will talk with councillors about the report to see what can be done, possibly looking to the Province for reduced market assessments, and including the cost of helping the business community in what the municipality will be asking the Region and Province to cover as part of the costs of the pandemic. Following Monday's meeting, Cheropita told Gauld and Woodhouse the speech she is making to the provincial Standing Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs Thursday is closely aligned with what the merchants are asking. "The purpose of my speech is to show the impact COVID has had on the business community and to ask for Provincial support," she said.



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Continued on page 4

# Next stage of recovery for Niagara

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The Province has announced Niagara can begin stage two of recovery Friday, with more businesses and services permitted to open. Community, recreational and outdoor spaces are also allowed to open, but all must be done according to provincial safety measures and public health advice. "Although we seem to be heading in a positive direction, COVID-19 remains a very real threat to the Niagara-on-the-Lake community at large; therefore, we remain under a State of Emergency," says Lord Mayor Betty Disero in an announcement from the town hall Monday. The Town continues to ex-

ercise caution while embracing recovery measures being rolled out by the Province, she says. Town staff have already begun preparing for the reopening of municipal buildings and facilities, and have also been working with restaurant owners to accommodate patio extensions as permitted. Applications for restaurant patios were expected to be available online today, and restaurants are being asked to apply as soon as possible. Maria Mavridis of Corks on Queen Street says they won't be allowed to open — they have a patio, but it is covered, and that, she learned, disqualifies the use of the patio. Orzo's, across the street, will also remain closed, she

said. With only 50 per cent capacity allowed, it doesn't make business sense to open for the six tables they would be allowed. Their pop-up barbecue will continue, while they wait for restrictions to loosen. Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery is working on its patio opening, said owner Paul Harber, who is anxious to get his staff back to work. This time last year he had about 120 employees working, and at the moment he's down to 20. Ravine is fortunate to have outdoor acreage that can be used for seating, and he's looking at how best to use that space, expecting also to have very tight control over numbers, with a limited amount of time for dining, and reservations only. In addition to restaurants and bars serving customers outdoors, Niagara can now also open shopping malls, barber shops, hair salons and tattoo parlours, swimming pools and campgrounds. Municipal buildings, pool, splash pad and wading pool "will soon reopen," the announcement says, but no dates have been released. Physical distancing and sanitation measures must be followed to avoid the risk of new COVID-19 cases. The breakdown by municipality of statistics from public health, which was first released May 21, showed NOTL had 21 cases, and up until Tuesday, no new ones. There is now one new case, an employee at the Outlet Collection McDonald's, bringing the town's total to 22.



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Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery is working on how best to use the property surrounding the restaurant as an outdoor patio. (Photo supplied)



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# Fortunate to have a ‘little bubble’ of friends

Continued from page 1

made for palliative care to start at home.

That was around the time COVID-19 changed life as we knew it, and Galloway says he has not heard from or spoken to a doctor since.

He has nursing care every morning, has his vitals checked — his blood pressure has been out of whack, he says — and friends come regularly to check on him and help him out, mostly in his garden, but also in the house.

“I would much rather be outside, in the garden,” he says. “I’m not very good at keeping up with things in

the house. I just want to be outside.”

For a man dealing with serious health issues, he pushes himself hard in his garden, going out to work in it every morning. He plans to work until lunch time, but it is sometimes 2 p.m. when he quits, knowing he has pushed past his limits. “There is so much I want to get done,” he says. He finds himself stressed by all he would like to do, without enough time or energy to do it. “Just the watering alone is enough to kill me.”

This week, he was hoping to get more plants from a good friend who works at Niagara College — a man he calls “his calm.” Both rabbits and deer have been nibbling,

and some begonias in planters in front of his house have been destroyed, nothing left but a few little green stems, creating more work for him to do, hopefully with more begonias delivered by his friend. It’s a huge source of frustration to Galloway that he can no longer drive, and must rely on others to bring him what he needs.

His afternoons are spent napping, and if he is able, he likes a glass of wine on his porch with friends in the evening, before a late dinner, watching TV to get caught up on the news, before heading off to bed. He has strong opinions on the issues of the day — the pandemic and how it’s being handled, and racism and protests. He talks of working with Jamaicans and Mexicans, and how much he learned about them and from them. “I loved working with them. I feel I became a different person through them. I was given a new way of looking at life. It makes me sad to see what’s happening. I don’t know how we’re ever going to fix it.”

He admits to being a perfectionist in his garden, and needs to be outside when friends are doing some work to his specifications — he has a list for them when he arrives, but he likes to oversee their efforts.

“If a job is done perfectly the first time, there is no need to go around and do it twice,” he says.

When he walks in his garden, he explains, “I see everything. Every little tree, branch, flower or weed, everything that’s coming in the garden. Others can walk right past a weed and miss it.” He loves to walk alongside his friends, teaching and sharing his knowledge, he says.

He has started to have problems with his balance, and has fallen a couple of

times, but he manages to move along the narrow grass pathway between two very lush and abundant gardens, and bends down to pull a small, offending weed tucked away behind tall plants. He works slowly and precisely, “always the way to win the race,” he says. He has a cane he sometimes remembers to take with him, and a cell phone, which he seldom remembers — he says there will always be something to grab hold of if he falls.

After his first fall, it was suggested it might be time for him to go into hospice care. But because of the pandemic, he would only be allowed one visitor, just that one person chosen to visit him during his stay.

“How could I pick one person? I can’t do that. I can’t choose. I don’t feel I’m ready to go.”

Galloway appreciates how much he must rely on his friends, and admits to having a “little bit of a different attitude” toward the pandemic.

“I can’t survive without people. If I couldn’t see my friends, I might as well be dead. I still follow all the rules, but it breaks my heart that I can’t see some people. I’d rather see my friends while I’m still alive than af-

ter I’m gone.”

He feels fortunate to be in his own “little bubble” with friends who are able to come to see him, he says.

Gary Zanner is one of those friends.

“In these days of lockdowns and social distancing, many can find strength for mind and soul in their gardens,” Zanner says. “The act of planting in the ground gives one hope for the future.”

Galloway has hope, and he has a passion for something he clearly loves.

Despite his news from Juravinski, he planted seedlings in the shed and under grow lights in his basement earlier this year, and his plans for this garden haven’t stopped since.

Now, with help from close friends, neighbours and family, says Zanner, “the garden thrives with four-foot high peonies, brightly coloured irises and other lush plantings.”

The rest of the time, Zanner says, “you often find David resting on his eclectic porch, surrounded by his house plants that he lovingly cared for over the winter, and an antique bike decoratively hung pointing to the sky as if ET is about to make lift off.”

Galloway says what he

misses most about the pandemic is hugs.

“I’m a hugger. I always feel there is energy coming from people when you hug them. I miss that.”

Virus or not, he’d be happy to receive some of that energy, “but I’m not going to put that on someone who might be uncomfortable with a hug.”

Although he is alone in his house most nights, he says, if he needed anyone, he could call them in the middle of the night and they’d be over in no time.

His friends, he says, naming some of them he sees often, including Sally, Virginia and James, Gary, Donald and others, “are the kindest, most incredible people you could ever meet.”

For now, he takes life each day as it comes, the mostly good days, and the truly awful, when he is unable to do anything but sleep. He will stay at home as long as he is able, with the help of his mother, who has come from Listowell for a visit, and the dear friends who come regularly.

And he will do as much as he can in the garden that gives him a great deal of pleasure, focusing on what he can accomplish this season. Next summer, he says, “is just a dream.”



David Galloway shows off his salmon-coloured peony, which produced five blooms this year — four more than last season. (Penny Coles)

## Report on diversity requested

Continued from page 1

sity on council or town staff. “Surely this must change,” he said.

“Diversity must never be an afterthought. It must be a thoughtful and purposeful approach to ensure that we get the right talent and the right mix of talent that will represent the Town.”

McCormack said he has been subjected to “vitriolic” comments on social media as a result of his failure to sign the message, to which he did not respond.

He doesn’t typically answer questions from the media, he said, but he did send a copy of the response he presented to councillors to local

media outlets.

He put forward two motions, one that council ask the inclusivity committee to convene a workshop with members of council, staff, and diverse community leaders to give them the opportunity to be heard; the second, that town staff, in particular the head of human resources, be requested to provide a report to council “on the numerical extent to which the town staff is diverse, and advise on all steps the Town can take to improve its diversity, including but not limited to outreach and mentoring.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she has been in contact with the organizers and speakers of the peaceful protest held in town recently,

offering them the opportunity to make a presentation to council. She said she felt bad she wasn’t able to attend, because of the banning of gatherings of more than five people. The letter was what she had written to them, and was distributed to members of council and senior staff to sign “as individuals.” She was pleased that so many were able to sign, she said.

Disero said she supported McCormack’s motion to have a workshop with the inclusivity committee, but also hoped the organizers and speakers at the recent rally against racism would make their presentation to council.

Both of McCormack’s motions passed with unanimous support.

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# Artist tackles historic buildings for 30-day challenge

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

With the pandemic has come a resurgence of hobbies — new crafts attempted, jigsaw puzzles resurrected, ambitious forays in the kitchen, and extra time spent in the garden.

One local woman has rediscovered her love of drawing, and with it, her connections to the community she has always called home.

Nicole Vanderperk is a sales representative with Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty. She is also a graduate from the Sheridan College interior design program, a natural for someone who began sketching when she was very young, and which has been a good background for her work as a realtor.

In the early days of the pandemic, as socializing was severely restricted and evenings at home pretty much the only option, she set herself a challenge. Beginning May 1, she began sketching historic buildings and landmarks in NOTL, using what she describes as rendering markers, used for perspective drawings, she explains, which she had purchased for her interior design work.

“When COVID hit, I decided it was time to stretch my creative muscle, and get back into it,” she says.

She made a list of the sites, and was hard-pressed to narrow it down to the top 30, which was her goal. Some buildings were recommended to her by friends and colleagues who had heard her plan. During the day, she took reference photos of the locations she had picked, and sketched one

each evening, posting them on Instagram when she was done.

“I wanted to post them for people who would see them, and think, ‘I know that building.’”

Her father, John Vanderperk, is also a talented artist, and Nicole says she grew up with him always doodling, always with a pen in his hand. He still is often sketching something, either people around him or some machine he says he’s going to build some day, she says.

To some locals, he is remembered as the cartoonist for the old Niagara Advance, and his humorous approach to controversies of the day.

Nicole says with him as a role model, drawing seemed to come naturally, and she would take any medium she could get her hands on and give it a try.

“It’s a great hobby,” she says. “I’ve always wanted to do something like this, and what better subject than NOTL, the town I was born and raised in.”

Before beginning each drawing, she looked up the history of the building to learn about it. One that really surprised her was the Junior Commissariat Officer’s Quarters on the Butler’s Barracks property. Built in 1816, it originally housed commissariat officers, and at one time, in the latter half of the 20th century, was used as a community centre, with many other uses during the years in between. It is nestled not far from the Memorial Park playground and baseball diamond, yet many locals are unaware of its presence.

Nicole was one of them, until someone suggested it as a subject.

“I didn’t know it existed,

even though I’ve been to the pool and park many times in my life. It was a shock to know it was there.”

It was also an eyeopener to learn about some of the buildings and their history, she says. She’s enjoyed it so much she still has a list of buildings she’d like to tackle, such as the former Romance Gallery on King Street, and The Apothecary on Queen Street.

As a future series, she says she’d love to draw buildings “once there, now gone,” such as the Anchorage Motel and Restaurant.

The most fun she had in the series she has just finished was Parliament Oak School, which she attended. While the building “doesn’t translate as well as some of the others,” as she was drawing it she thought about good friends and good times there, and attempted to remember details now covered or gone. She also contacted a friend to ask about it. “It’s so overgrown right now, I was trying to remember what it looked like when I was there, and that was fun.”

The NOTL Sailing Club was another favourite. Her family has always been involved in sailing, and she took lessons there as a youngster with the junior sailing program. Drawing it brought back memories of good times with her family, she says.

She also enjoyed drawing Fort Mississauga, which she portrayed with its original flat roof. “We used to go there all the time as kids. We would go after hours, when there were no golfers. As teenagers, we would walk around the fort and hang out there. It was just a place to go.”

Did she and her friends tell ghost stories? “No, but we felt the ghosts.”

When she was drawing, she says, “I had my music on, I was relaxing, and I really enjoyed my evenings. Other people have been baking bread or taking up new hobbies, like knitting. For me, this was a way to bring some joy to this situation.”

And by putting them on Instagram, she was hoping to



Nicole Vanderperk set a goal of 30 drawings in 30 days. She accomplished that, but she’s not finished drawing. (Photo supplied)

spread some joy.

Although she has been working throughout the pandemic, with the real estate mar-

ket still moving, drawing has brought pleasure and comfort to her, along with the memories of many special places.

“I just wanted to do a few little sketches that might make people happy. And it made me happy doing it.”

## Delegations can join virtual meetings

Continued from page 2

to the queue when they have a question, although with two tools for notifying the chair they want to speak, occasionally they will be missed — some are more “tech savvy” than others, says Todd.

Given that range of comfort with technology, he adds, “I think one of the biggest surprises is how everyone has adapted to the new process. We’re all pleased with how well it’s going.”

Although anyone asking to make a delegation is encouraged to submit their comments in writing, they can appear at a virtual meeting, and there have been some presentations during recent meetings, and they have also worked out well, says Todd.

Monday’s meeting, with the controversial cannabis control by-law on the agenda, attracted some delegations from the public.

He usually asks the presenters to go through a dry run on the Friday before the meeting, just to be sure they are comfortable with the technology. Some presenters are already engaging in virtual meetings, but may be using other platforms, such as Zoom, as the Region does.

There are also processes in place for in camera sessions, and councillors who declare a conflict of interest.

Todd explains that while provincial legislation has always permitted virtual participation in meetings, the municipality has to allow that through its procedural bylaw.

The previous council had in-

cluded the ability for online participation, and councillors had taken part remotely on occasion. But the current council removed that as a choice when revising its procedural bylaw.

At Monday’s committee of the whole meeting, councillors approved a report recommending several changes to the current procedural bylaw, including electronic participation in meetings.

Once the state of emergency is lifted, as council returns to physical meetings, electronic participation by some councillors could assist with physical distancing, says Todd.


Changing the procedural bylaw in that regard could help by providing some options during the recovery period, he adds.



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### Saturday farmers’ market expands



With the public health department allowing non-food items, the Farmers’ Market at the Village will be welcoming more vendors this Saturday, including Wineroute Antiques, Neufeld Farm, and Canalside Soda. Tara Rosling and her Little Green Shop will also be at the market with her sustainable, eco-friendly products. There will be more vendors added in the coming weeks, including Smooth Edge Sharpening Services onsite June 27 to sharpen knives and scissors, but will not be servicing garden tools this year. (Photo supplied)



# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: CHAPEL HEIGHTS

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## Pioneer Elder Care is proud to present Chapel Heights, a Sedona Senior Community

Chapel Heights is the first of its kind in the heart of Niagara offering retirement living for today and onsite care for tomorrow. Wellness and specialized support programs for our independent seniors as well as assisted living and enhanced care is being offered for residents along with optimum amenities, under one roof and all on 4.7 acres of unparalleled grounds for senior living and opening this summer.

While recent times have been difficult, our seniors can take comfort in knowing that it's still a great time to be in Canada. We enjoy the highest life expectancy in the world and we may enjoy vibrant lives at eighty and well into our nineties. Despite this, living alone later in life, is difficult.

Moreover, periods of ill health or medical events, may threaten recovery and longevity and may lead to life changes made by choice or by circumstance. So researching and planning your future is wise. Then, we can simply make decisions by choice or by circumstance. This is why Chapel Heights may be your answer. We are a resort inspired choice if a vibrant senior community lifestyle is hoped for and a solution by circumstance if care is needed.

Chapel Heights is coming to Niagara Falls in large part due to the experience and leadership behind Pioneer Elder Care of St. Catharines, a committed leader for dementia care. Mary Ellen Spear, one of the principals of both companies, said,

"too often she hears heartbreaking stories of couples having to separate because one spouse is experiencing declining health and has to move to a residence with care, while the other spouse is too well to qualify for residency. At Chapel Heights, couples can stay together with the help of support staff, personalized care, nursing twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and regular visits with our Doctors". Another example of why we will be so popular by choice and by circumstance.

Speaking of couples, love is in the air. We have heard in many of our inquiry calls from seniors who share they have enjoyed the very best love story of their lives and those who hope that maybe they could enjoy a second

chance at love. Well, we too believe in love, and if love blossoms among our residents, we can also host the wedding or the renewal of vows right here in our own historic Chapel.

So, when considering senior living, especially in these current times, look to the experience of the Chapel Heights' team because comfort and care, safety and security comes to mind first. However, let's not forget about hospitality and lifestyle opportunities. This is often true for widows and widowers or those caring for a loved one. Yes, having the peace of mind that excellence in care assures, but it's not what makes us who we are, it's our way of life.

Children of senior residents will tell you they are thrilled when they call their parents

and they are never in their suites. For residents, there are far more exciting things to think about like the next bridge game, a billiard tourney, swimming in the indoor salt water pool, listening and dancing to live entertainment, gardening, or watching a movie with friends in the theatre. Most importantly for residents, is a sense of autonomy over when to seek out a conversation, and when to take advantage of solitude on their own terms. That should be the basis of deciding where to live at any age, through the lens of possibility. It serves everyone to consider any transition in that light and we are here to highlight the possibilities at Chapel Heights. Finding a residence should not be about finding a place to

stay, but finding a place to live, a place to continue living a life with meaning and dignity. We believe everyone deserves no less.

Chapel Heights is enjoying inquiries from prospective residents and their families from all across Niagara, the Golden Horseshoe and large city centres. Given that the hometown of Chapel Heights is Niagara Falls, the most popular leisure destination in Canada, it goes without saying that our residents' lifestyle will be amazing. Residents' interests, hobbies, pursuits and passions will be woven into all of our offerings.

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*"How is your Dad?"*

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# EDITORIAL

## Kudos to Coun. McCormack for his stand on racism

Coun. Stuart McCormack is not your typical politician.

If asked, he would probably say he's not a politician, but he won't say that to the media, because he's made it very clear he doesn't talk to the media.

He's much more lawyer-like in his caution about what he says, which is not surprising, because he is a lawyer by profession.

He has also said he doesn't read newspapers, especially not the local ones, so it feels this is a little like talking behind his back.

The fact that he sent his statement regarding racism to the media is an indication how important that statement is to him.

As it should be. It's an important issue, possibly one of the most important this council will address, and so it's important to get it right.

He got it right. That's an opinion, of course, and we hope it somehow balances in some small part the fact that he was vilified — his word, and a good one — on social media, for not signing a message sent from the town condemning racism. Of course, that's what social media is best at, never letting a good vilification get in

the way of the facts.

Some may have wondered, when he said he would explain his reasons for not signing it, what he could possibly say that would make his lack of support for the letter justified.

What he said was exactly what we needed to hear. He wasn't at the recent racism protest — Coun. Allan Bisback, by the way, was the only one to choose to ignore the ban on gatherings and attend — but McCormack showed that he gets it, echoing one of the most important messages to come out of the rally. "What is required is action, merely expressing disapproval is inadequate," he said to councillors Monday. And he issued a call to action on the part of the municipality.

Thank you Coun. McCormack. I don't expect you to read it, but maybe one of your friends will pass it on. You have done the municipality a huge service, by taking a necessary step toward examining racism, talking about racism, and hopefully doing something about racism.

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

*Although some of his response is quoted in a story about Monday's discussion, since he sent it to the media, and since he took such care in crafting it, it deserves to be shared in its entirety.*

*Here is Coun. McCormack's response to last week's message from town councillors and staff on racism, with the exception of the motions he made, which are reported in The Local story:*

"Let me start by saying I condemn racism in all its forms.

As a lawyer I and every other lawyer in Ontario file annually with the Law Society a declaration stating that I respect the requirements of human rights law and undertake to honour the obligation to not discriminate.

And as reluctant as I find discussing my personal life in a public forum, let me add that I may have a heightened sensitivity to the issue of racism. My late mother-in-law, who I loved dearly and helped care for during the last 10 years of her life, was a Holocaust survivor who managed to survive the

horrors of Auschwitz. So on a purely personal level I understand how pernicious racism can be.

So why wouldn't I sign the Message from the Town Council Condemning racism?

There are a number of reasons.

Firstly, in my opinion the issue itself merits far more discussion in the open public forum of council, not simply "sign this message." We exist in a democracy, which at its essence, requires freedom of speech and open discussion. To fail to have that open discussion robs everyone of the opportunity to reflect and grow.

Secondly, what is required, and borrowing a recent quote from the human rights lawyer Anthony Morgan: "What we want is substance over symbols. We want the substance of your commitments." I echo that sentiment, with all due respect to the signatories, what is required is action, merely expressing disapproval is inadequate.

My former law firm has been engaged in diversity efforts for decades. We had training for unconscious bias, fostered leadership development and outreach to diverse communities and worked con-

tinuously on enhancing inclusiveness and support for those communities in our working environment. The firm has been recognized as a multi-year winner of diversity awards.

The Law Society of Ontario produced a report, Recommendations on Equity in the Legal Profession, amongst its 13 recommendations was a requirement to "build a community of support" and to "monitor and assess internal policies, practices and programs to promote diversity, inclusion and equality."

To me these are obvious and substantive efforts not to simply recognize an issue, but more importantly, to deal with it.

Thirdly, I query whether the message was even the right first step. The message states, "Perhaps more importantly, we must step away from our privilege and listen, and exercise silence to make way for the voices of Black people and people of colour." If we want to listen, isn't it incumbent on us to first have their voices at the table for the purpose of crafting this type of message, and more importantly the path forward.

Let me raise another concern which may be shared by others on council in the context of the Town itself. As I look at

the Town staff, the signatories to the message, and myself, I do not see much evidence of diversity. Surely this must change.


Diversity must never be an afterthought. It must be a thoughtful and purposeful approach to ensure that we get the right talent and the right mix of talent that will represent the Town.

After the message was published I received vitriolic messages for my failure to sign. I did not respond to those messages.

Hopefully the foregoing explains my position on this matter. As to why I did not respond through the media on this issue, I did not wish to open a potential debate with my fellow councillors through any form of media. As I have stated, the proper forum for a discussion on a subject as important as this is through the democratically constituted body that is this council.

I would ask you not to personalize this issue. Rather reflect and think how you would respond if your child, family member or member of a minority community expressed these views to you."

**Stuart McCormack**



### 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](mailto:penny@notllocal.com). Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. The deadline is Monday at noon.

## NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

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## The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



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## LETTERS

### Let's support each other

For some-time I have been trying to understand how the Town has been addressing the social distancing issue. A couple of recent incidents have left me confused.

Nina Gelateria and Pastry Shop for example - As a frequent customer, I noted that the owners had taken appropriate steps to mark out and ensure proper distancing for their customers coming into the store. Yet, Nina has been issued a sizeable fine/ticket by the Town's bylaw officers. This action seems a little harsh and unnecessary for a business that was only trying to stay open and provide a pleasing service during a challenging time.

Another example that surprised me was a situation in which our friends, also residents of Old Town, got a substantial parking ticket. And all they wanted to do was get some exercise and enjoy their daily walk together.

Seems like the parking authorities were being somewhat overzealous.

**Carol Greenwood**  
NOTL



### Views from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

I got hooked on the award winning twenty-six episodes of The Marvellous Mrs. Maisel and will tell you that Midge Maisel is a sunny, energetic, sharp, Jewish girl whose middle name must be Hutzpah. She moves abruptly, but easily from housewife to standup comedian and her antics will thrill you. Amy Sherman Pallidino, created this series, as well as Gilmore Girls; you will love both.

*Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to the movies. But with movies unavailable for now, he has agreed to share his opinions on what he is watching on TV, with "short and sweet" exclusive reviews for The Local.*



### Looking Up With Bill

**Bill Auchterlonie**  
Special to The Local

This week on Looking Up with Bill, short edition, Sunday June 21: Today is the new Moon in her home sign in Cancer. It's also the Annular Solar Eclipse at 2:41 a.m.

This solar eclipse is visible from parts of Africa, including the Central African Re-

public, Congo, and Ethiopia; south of Pakistan and northern India; and China. Weather permitting, people in these areas will see the characteristic ring of fire. North America will not see the eclipse but it will affect our values and bring a surprise in three days' time. The new Moon always signals the start of new beginnings and this one promises new beginnings with home and family and values. Make a list of what you want. Figure out how to make these things happen. On this day in 1788, the U.S. Constitution comes into effect when New Hampshire was the ninth state to ratify it. The full week is on The Local Facebook page and on the Podcast at [www.lookingupwithbill.com](http://www.lookingupwithbill.com).



# Look to Hong Kong for examples of 'new normal'



**Dr. Larry Chambers,  
Eva Liu and  
Hanna Levy  
Special to The Local**

One of the uncertainties in the current environment is how long the COVID-19 lockdown will last, how effective will we be preventing new cases and how long will it take to bring the virus under control? Whether months or years, the new 'normal' will be different in different communities. What new behavioural and social interventions will we adopt? What will they look like?

As officials decide when to abate certain measures, NOTL businesses, schools and child-care facilities will then have to balance their activities with recommended physical distancing measures.

Hong Kong may be a good example of our future response to COVID-19. About 40 per cent (286/700) of all deaths around the world during the 2003 SARS pandemic occurred in Hong Kong. Since then, Hong Kong's new 'normal' has included:

- Promotion of universal

precautions, the practice of avoiding contact with patients' bodily fluids, by means of wearing nonporous articles such as medical gloves, goggles, and face shields.

- Use of technology, such as improved computer applications for contact tracing of infected people.
- Establishing a 'high alert' system to inform the public about infectious disease outbreaks.
- More than 90 per cent of the population uses masks when they become ill.
- Systematic controls to improve hygiene include disinfecting high use areas, such as elevators, every two hours.
- Because the level of bacteria on elevator buttons is 40 times greater than on toilet seats, elevator buttons are covered with plastic sheets and people use tissues to touch them.
- Before the SARS epidemic in Hong Kong, dim sum places used to serve food on trolleys that weaved between tables. Diners selected dishes as they came to the table, and the wait staff circled or stamped a ticket with their order. Now in Hong Kong, dim sum places use a ticketed system,

where patrons fill out cards beforehand, writing down the quantity of each dish desired.

- Hong Kong patrons in restaurants use two pairs of chop sticks – one pair to take the food off the serving plate and another pair to put food in their mouth.
- Workplaces shut down when multiple staff are sick.
- Everyone uses hand sanitizers regularly.

These practices may be implemented differently in NOTL due to cultural differences, but the underlying principles will hold true.

After the present emergency orders are phased out in NOTL, the following five preventions for COVID-19 and spread of other infectious diseases will need our support.

## 1. Education about prevention and containment:

We will need information about how long we should voluntarily quarantine ourselves at home (14 days), as well as advice on how to avoid and contain possible super-spreader events. When we are out and about in NOTL, we will need to know when and how to practise physical distancing, whether through use of face masks or other prevention behaviours – don't panic, just be careful, wash your hands,

don't touch your face, and stay at home if sick.

## 2. Better access to testing and health care:

In hospitals and care homes in Niagara, COVID-19 cases need to be readily identified and isolated, and their contacts traced. This requires a combination of local health teams and digital tools. We must ensure transmission is suppressed in hospitals, care homes and workplaces through the right equipment, testing, distancing and hygiene.

## 3. Legislation and regulation:

Under existing public health legislation in Ontario, local public health offices need to implement 1) fast, widespread testing, 2) limit large gatherings, and 3) track infections. In addition, we need to ensure the most vulnerable people, both socially and medically, are fully protected through access to a basic income, protection from discrimination and safety for those affected by domestic violence.

## 4. Measurement and feedback:

Public health involvement and digital surveillance are needed to see where the cases are continuing to spread, so that we can learn more about the epidemic in NOTL.

This transparency is essential to inform lifting the lockdown while shielding the population from hotspots of transmission. This also informs how to build community resilience to support the vulnerable, who are affected negatively by the virus, and the negative impact of control measures.

## 5. Role models:

NOTL Lord Mayor Betty Disero and other community leaders have been exemplary role models in the COVID-19 pandemic. They must continue to be a positive voice of evidence-based information on social media, be champions of #COVIDkindness by supporting high-risk individuals in NOTL, and encouraging family, friends and colleagues to follow the advice of public health officials and model healthy behaviours.

Do not get obsessed about exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Everything in life is about managing risk. Not crossing a road is less risky than crossing it, but this does not mean we never cross a road. There is a balance of risk and reward in everything, including changing our behaviour to avoid infections.

Speak to your physician or pharmacist and research COVID-19 online. There are

some good websites that are factual and written in plain English, such as Medline Plus, produced by the National Library for Health in Washington DC.

In the year 1150 AD, the visionary female theologian poet and scientist, Hildegard of Bingen (Germany) published Causes and Cures. Her recommendation to boil drinking water made a huge contribution to human health. She believed cures for a wide variety of diseases can be found in the plants and minerals found in nature. In these uncertain times, her statement about life's mysteries is reassuring: "Humanity, take a good look at yourself. Inside you've got Heaven and Earth and all of creation. You're a world – everything is hidden in you."

*Larry W. Chambers has authored articles and books on disease prevention, improvements in long-term care homes, and innovative approaches for continuing professional development. He is research director of the Niagara Regional Campus, School of Medicine, McMaster University. Eva Liu and Hanna Levy are medical students at the Niagara Regional Campus of the McMaster University School of Medicine.*

# Newark opens new dropoff location at Cornerstone



**Laura Gibson  
Special to The Local**

We are excited about our latest news!

Pastor Jeff Martens of Cornerstone Church in Virgil has graciously provided us with temporary space to use for accepting and sorting donations over the next few months. This will allow us to start receiving donations of clothing and small household items beginning, this Wednesday, June 17.

Our operating days and hours at Cornerstone Church, located at 1570 Niagara Stone Road, will be Mondays,

Wednesdays and Fridays between the hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. only. There are no donation bins at this location, therefore please do not leave any donations at the church other than the days or hours we are open. This is a sorting location only, and customers are not allowed to enter and purchase goods.

Our thrift store, located at 310 John St., remains closed, and we are not able to accept any clothing or household donations at this location. However, we are making the necessary changes to the store that will ensure everyone's health and safety when we are back in full operation. We continue to use this location to serve our food clients and accept food donations.

Our thoughtful and caring community continues to strongly support us. Sincere gratitude to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, NOTL Lions Club, TD Bank in Virgil, Rob Robinson & Son Construction, Pauline Bedard and Family, Gateway Church, Cornerstone Church and the many others who have provided us with food and monetary donations.

Our friends at the Rotary Club of NOTL are helping us with two special community donation days. On the next two Saturdays, June 20 and 27, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., teams are available to come to your home to pick up clothing and small household donations. We know everyone has had time to clean

out their homes and are ready to donate. Email us at [newark-neighbours1@gmail.com](mailto:newark-neighbours1@gmail.com) or

call 905 468-7498 to register your pickup. We appreciate your support.

For up-to-date information, please check our website at [www.newarkneighbours.ca](http://www.newarkneighbours.ca)



Pastor Jeff Martens, and Newark Neighbour volunteers Suzanne Vaillant, Pat Fryer, Marilyn Rickard and Cindy Grant announce a partnership that will allow donations from the public to be dropped off at Cornerstone Church. (Penny Coles)

## NOTL LOCAL Front and Editorial Banner Bookings

There are just a few dates left for these premium positions for 2020! Contact us today!

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or email [karen@notllocal.com](mailto:karen@notllocal.com)**

**outside NOTL: call Julia at 905.934.1040  
or email [julia@notllocal.com](mailto:julia@notllocal.com)**





# Ride Alone — Together this year’s theme for fundraiser

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

There may not be a large group Ride for Dad this year, but those who want to take part in the annual fundraiser can still do so. Saturday’s 10th annual Ride for Dad in Niagara, a motorcycle event to

raise money and awareness for prostate cancer, has been postponed. And the rescheduled date of August 22 is also not looking promising, says local organizer Mathew King, while the need for fundraising and education continues, as does the fight against prostate cancer.

To allow an event to go ahead, permitting physical distancing, the theme for this year’s event is Ride Alone — Together. King will do just that. At 49, he’s at an age where he has friends and colleagues who have fought and are fighting now against prostate cancer. “It’s definitely

personal,” he says. He rides for them. Prostate cancer, he says, is curable if caught early. That’s why awareness is so important. The annual ride is an opportunity to get that message out, to advocate that men be checked, and to raise money for research. “What’s most important is telling guys, ‘you need to get tested. If it’s caught early, you have a chance to do

something about it.” All the information necessary to register, and participate in a Ride Alone — Together route, is available online at [ridefordad.ca](http://ridefordad.ca). In Niagara, the route is similar to other years, beginning at the Royal Canadian Legion hall on King Street. Riders are encouraged to ride out alone, or with a few registered friends,

follow the route, and at specified locations along the route, stop and take a selfie to post on social media. Participants can ride the route as many times as they like, collecting pledges right through the summer and into the fall. “Have some fun in a group of up to 10 riders, stay safe, and stay within the guidelines provided,” says King.

## Local student recognized with Kristen French Scholarship



Peadar Nolan, a graduate of St. Michael Catholic Elementary School in NOTL and now in Grade 10 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, has been given The Kristen French Scholarship, awarded in memory of Kristen Dawn French, a former student of the high school. This award is presented to a student in Grade 10 who has maintained honours standing in Grades 9 and 10, been active in co-curricular activities, and shown school spirit and demonstrated leadership qualities. (Photo supplied)



On last year’s Ride for Dad, local organizer Mathew King had his photo taken in front of Niagara Parks Police headquarters on the Niagara River Parkway. This year, participants in Ride Alone — Together, are asked to take selfies and post them on social media. (Photo supplied)

## Library reading program aims for kids to have fun

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

This year’s Summer Reading Program is going to be one for the books, says children’s librarian Kasia Dupuis. The Niagara-on-the-Lake public library is again encouraging children to take part in the program, and since it has to be online, Dupuis is doing everything she can to make it fun and engaging for young readers. She’s concerned, with schools closed since March and all instruction done since online, that this year’s summer slide may be a bit more steep than other years. She’s also worried kids will associate anything online as too much like the school lessons they’ve been doing, “thinking of it as online learning, instead of fun. I’m really trying to make it as enjoyable as possible,” she says.

And she wants to keep kids connected to the library, “even though they can’t come in.” She is also trying to keep the online work as child-friendly as possible, to limit the need for parents’ involvement. To add to the fun of reading, she has put together kits for kids that can be picked up curbside. Each child who registers will be given a book, chosen with their age, reading level and interest in mind, that they get to keep. They will also be given material for STEAM and art activities, as well as beads and tags to continue with last year’s popular Read for Beads program — rewards earned for reading. Last year the reading program attracted about 100 kids, and Dupuis says she’d like to see more this year, because of the circumstances.

“Virtual programming is taking main stage during the summer, but just because you can’t come to the library doesn’t mean you won’t be able to connect with us,” says Dupuis. And reading, she says, can provide a good, stimulating indoor activity when kids need a break from the outdoors. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is missing revenue during the pandemic, and locals are missing their SuperMarket. Next Wednesday, the

The reading program will include daily activities that children can participate in — both on-screen and off — to keep them engaged in their reading and learning over the summer months. The program will use an online book tracker called Readerzone so readers can track their books, read to earn badges, and reach reading goals. Through Zoom, library staff will also be available to read with kids through books on the Epic! Online library, and kids can earn a special tag to add to their Read for Beads necklace. Dupuis says the reading program also includes a virtual mini-camp focusing on learning coding through Micro:bits, pocket-sized computers that are transforming digital skills learning. Register at [www.notlpubliclibrary.org](http://www.notlpubliclibrary.org), beginning Thursday, June 18 for children of all ages, 0 to teen, she says. For more information, contact Dupuis at [kdupuis@notlpl.org](mailto:kdupuis@notlpl.org).



## Niagara-on-the-Lake Kicks Off Photo Contest

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is inviting hobby photographers to highlight the community through photos. Submit your best snapshots from around Old Town, Queenston, St. Davids, Virgil, and Glendale through [jointheconversation.org](http://jointheconversation.org) now! Whether your photos were taken recently or years ago, in Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, we’d love to see them all!

Photo submissions are being accepted in the following five categories: *Amenities and Places, Arts, Culture and Events, Innovation and Economy, Nature and Parks, and Recreation and Sports.*

At the end of the submission period, Town Staff will shortlist the top photos in each category for the public to vote on. Please note that all submitted photos will be considered available for use on the Town’s website as well as in reports, on social media, in future Community Guides, and other promotional material.

The five winning photos will be professionally framed, with credit given to their respective photographers, and displayed in a prominent location to be determined at a later date.

Visit [jointheconversation.org/photo-contest](http://jointheconversation.org/photo-contest) for full contest details. Happy snapping!



## Pop-up PigOut fundraiser to support museum

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

museum is teaming up with PigOut, a popular staple at the market, to bring in some much-needed revenue. PigOut will be set up at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2027 Niagara Stone Road, and will be delivering orders to cars drive-thru style. It is recommended that food be purchased in advance online, for pickup between 5 and 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 24. Portions can be pre-purchased through the Museum’s online shop for \$10 each at <http://notlmuseumshop.square.site/>.



# Masks available downtown, Mori Gardens, and Creek Road

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

The Community Mask Campaign is winding down, after raising \$21,000 for homeless shelters and food banks.

An additional \$12,000 matching grant for the same causes has been donated to the United Way by the Humeniuk Foundation.

Boot, one of the volunteer mask campaign organizers, set up a mask tree near the Old Town post office Saturday and Sunday afternoon, from noon until 4 p.m., and sold about 40 masks each day, in a space provided by a store owner.

The streets were busy, says Boot, but not so busy so as to make physical distancing a problem — it was good to see people out, enjoying the fresh air and a walk on the main street. Some stores are requiring masks for shoppers, she added.

The group is asking for

a donation of \$10 to \$20 for their masks, and recently made a donation of \$12,000 to Niagara homeless shelters for adults and youth, and to the Community Care food bank in St. Catharines.

Encouraged by the enthusiasm of new and continuing volunteers, they have now raised another \$9,000, and are hoping to find a matching grant for the second phase of their campaign, says Boot.

She says special mention must go to Laurie, who lives in Welland. The local volunteers have never met her in person, and are grateful for the 940 masks she sewed, some of which were part of their initial campaign for frontline workers, to whom the group gave more than 4,700 masks, before turning their attention to the growing need in the community, as more and more residents choose to wear masks in public.

Volunteers will be out again this Saturday, June 20, at Mori Gardens and at their sidewalk site in Old Town near the post office at Victo-

ria Street.

Masks will also be available “by appointment or by chance,” says Boot, at 2252 Four Mile Creek Road.



Mask campaign volunteers Fran Boot and Elaina Vanderberg will have cloth masks available near the Old Town post office Saturday. (Photo supplied)

# One new case of COVID-19 in NOTL

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

Niagara-on-the-Lake recorded its 22nd case of COVID-19 Monday.

Since Niagara Region Public Health began releasing numbers by municipality May 21, there had been no new cases in town until this week.

A McDonalds employee

at the Outlet Collection mall tested positive, and the store closed temporarily Monday night for cleaning and sanitizing. It reopened Tuesday at 11 a.m.

The employee last worked June 9, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and customers at McDonald's that day are asked to visit PublicHealthOntario.ca website for instructions.

# Celebrate solstice in your backyard

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

The Summer Solstice celebration, which traditionally includes Drumming Down the Sun and Yoga in the Park at Ryerson Park, has been cancelled.

With the limit to gatherings due to the pandemic, the annual celebrations at Lakeside

Park and Charles Daly Park are cancelled as well.

Carla Carlson, organizer of the events, is hoping folks will celebrate the longest day of the year at home, and send in photos for a contest, to her Niagara Nature Tour's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/niagaranaturetours/>.

For details see Carlson's Facebook page.



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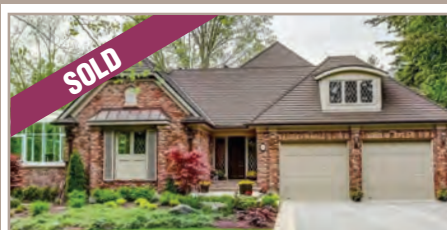
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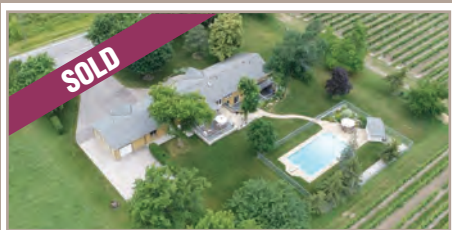
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**1409 CONCESSION 2 ROAD**  
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**678 LINE 2 ROAD UNIT #307**  
**\$555,000**

MLS 30813229 • Victoria Bolduc



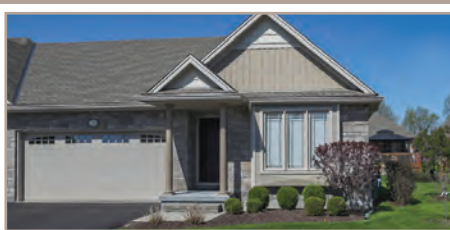
**839 LINE 6 ROAD**  
**\$1,498,000**

MLS 30813608 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



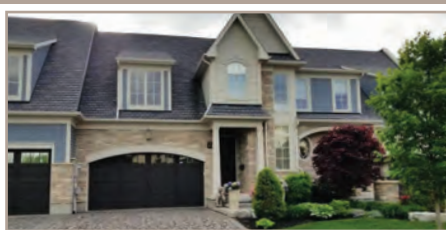
**18 COOLEY LANE**  
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**70 ELMWOOD AVENUE #28, WELLAND**  
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**114 PAXTON LANE**  
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# Couple feel fortunate to be recovering from COVID-19

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

As Leslie and Bud Moulson sit on their backyard deck, the greenspace of the Virgil Sports Park spread out in front of them, they say there was a time when neither of them were sure they would enjoy that view again.

Both are on the rebound from serious cases of COVID-19, and each of them had their moments of doubt they would recover.

"I dreamed about getting back here in the nice weather," says Leslie, "although there were times when I thought we wouldn't."

Bud, 83, doesn't remember a lot of what happened when he was in the hospital, but he knows the doctors were asking Leslie to make decisions for him about intubation, ventilation and resuscitation. "I guess I was in bad shape. From what they were telling Leslie, they were looking at the worst that could happen. I'm very lucky, I guess. And I thought she was worse than I was."

"We were both very sick," she says.

Leslie is a note-taker. She became accustomed to being an advocate for Bud when he began having heart problems years ago, and that has continued. She says one of the most distressing parts of being so sick with the virus herself was that she was unable to advocate or help care for Bud.

However, she does have notes that take her through some of the events leading up to their hospitalization, and what unfolded after that.

She knows it was March 13 when they both began feeling sick. Shortly before that, she had taken two trips to Toronto, March 5 and 12, on the GO Train to attend a ballet with her sister and two friends. They also had lunch at a restaurant each visit. The others were all coming from Georgetown, and so took a different train, and none of them contracted the virus, says Leslie.

On March 10, she and Bud drove to Niagara Falls, NY for a few hours to shop at WalMart and Wegmans Pharmacy. They may have eaten at a restaurant that



Leslie and Bud Moulson, at home on their back deck, both experienced severe cases of COVID-19. (Penny Coles)

day, but she's not sure.

The only other possibility she can think of was a trip to the emergency room for X-rays in mid-February for Bud, who had broken a rib. She doesn't remember COVID being on her radar, but she does know they asked for masks when they got there.

By the time they realized they were both sick, Premier Doug Ford had just shut down schools and some businesses.

Leslie, a fit and active 71-year-old, had all the typical COVID symptoms: fever, cough, and eventually, extreme shortage of breath. Bud's symptoms were different. He had no fever or cough, but also no appetite or energy. In the days that followed the onset of their illness, they both slept a lot, Leslie in their bedroom and Bud on the couch, "and we would meet occasionally in the kitchen for toast and something to drink." That was about all they could manage, she says.

Bud's health continued to worsen — his blood pressure was low, and he was difficult to rouse. At one point, he fell and twisted his ankle in the house.

By then, Leslie was also quite ill, "but I had no idea how sick we were," she says.

When she called her doctor, she was asked to call public health to ask for testing, but when she did that, was told she didn't meet the criteria.

Their friends, Judy McHattie and Pat Fryer, had been calling regularly, says Leslie, and on March 25, McHattie recognized how

would come that week, but McHattie said no, he needed to come right away, Leslie says. He did, and when he arrived, he took Bud to the St. Catharines hospital site, where he was admitted to a medical floor.

Leslie, who has an extensive background in nursing and health education, says because of his symptoms, she thought he might have congestive heart failure. "I

rough night.' That was all I knew."

In addition to discovering his ankle was broken, he had fluid in his chest, pneumonia, and was receiving oxygen by mask. Leslie, who was at home and still very sick herself, was asked by a doctor about a 'do not resuscitate' order for Bud, and whether to use a ventilator, which is reserved for the sickest of patients. She said no to a ventilator. The doctor was speaking in terms of "the next 24 hours," and another doctor, new to his case, told her there was reason to be "concerned and vigilant," making her realize Bud was very sick indeed.

Four days after their son arrived to take Bud to the hospital, he was experiencing a high fever and body aches, says Leslie. He sought testing and was confirmed positive. He had already planned a two-week vacation, and used it to isolate at home during his illness. Their daughter-in-law, a nurse, had tested negative at her place of employment. She ultimately developed pneumonia but continued to test negative.

Bud tested positive for

COVID April 6, two weeks after being admitted, and was moved to a COVID floor.

On April 9, Leslie went to see Dr. Karen Berti at the former hospital medical offices, and nurse practitioner Erin Jarvis. She says they were both suited up in gowns, gloves and masks, and they whisked her into an office. "I couldn't breathe," she says. "Dr. Berti told me I really needed to be in the hospital. I tried to talk her out of it. I found out later Judy had called her and said I was really sick."

She says she later wrote a note to apologize to Berti and Jarvis for her reaction when they insisted she go to the hospital, and called an ambulance — she has never been admitted to a hospital for anything as an adult, and really did not want to go. Looking back, she says, she's convinced she would have died in her bed, at home and alone, if that ambulance hadn't been called.

At the hospital, she was given her second COVID

**“ If Judy hadn't called, and his son hadn't come, Bud would have died. ”**

*Leslie Moulson*

sick they were. She didn't have any contact numbers, so searched Moulson in Toronto on 411, and found a number for Bud's ex-wife, who put her in touch with their son and daughter-in-law. "That's one lesson to come from all of this," says Leslie. "Make sure someone has contact numbers for family if they need to be reached."

Their son said he

called that wrong," she says.

She realizes now, "if Judy hadn't called, and his son hadn't come, Bud would have died."

Once he was admitted, she was getting little information from the hospital, and Bud was unable to talk to her. She would get phone calls from nurses who spoke in generalities. "I'd be told, 'he's having a good day,' or 'he had a

Continued on page 11



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# With earlier testing 'this might have been a shorter story'

Continued from page 10

test — the first was at her doctor's office — and before those results, when an X-ray and CT scan showed severe pneumonia, she was admitted to a COVID floor. But the next day, when the results of both tests were found to be negative, she was moved to a medical unit.

She was then given a third test, quite different from the first two. "This time, it felt like they were scraping off brain tissue," she says. And this time the result was positive. Back she went to the COVID floor, just down the hall from Bud.

It was difficult for her to know how close he was, and be unable to see him. Connecting with him by phone was hit and miss. Some days, he couldn't reach the phone — it would get moved, and he couldn't get out of bed to get it.

Other times, he wouldn't be able to hear it ring. He is hard of hearing, and although he had his overnight charger for his hearing aids at the hospital, some evenings a nurse would take them out for him and leave them on the night stand, not realizing they had to be plugged in, and give them back to him in the morning, useless.

"It was so frustrating. We desperately needed to talk to each other," says Leslie.

During her eight-day stay, she was given oxygen, until her oxygen levels improved, and antibiotics by IV for pneumonia. "Generally, I didn't feel too

badly," she says. She was able to get up to shower, sit in a chair, and was starving, eating everything she could get her hands on. She even found herself hoarding bits of food, such as the bun that came with dinner, for later in the evening, because she knew she would be hungry. She believes when she was home she was too ill to eat anything, and was making up for it in the hospital.

She says she once mentioned her evening hunger to a nurse, who brought her some yogurt, but she really didn't want to bother the nursing staff with extra requests. "They were so busy, trying to save lives. I couldn't ask them to bring an extra pat of butter for my bun."

As well, she explains, with all the personal protective equipment that had to be put on and then removed for each room staff entered, asking for something minor required too much time and trouble on their part. "There was no just popping in to check up on you, to see if you needed anything," she says. "They couldn't do that."

On April 17, a little more than a week after being admitted, she was discharged.

Bud was not so fortunate. By then he had been in the hospital for more than three weeks, and still he had another couple of weeks left to go. He was being given IV antibiotics and oxygen, and required help getting from bed to wheelchair and bathroom without putting any weight on his ankle. He was very weak, and unable to do it

himself.

During the middle stages of his hospitalization, he was depressed, and ready to give up. He says the days were long and confusing, and he remembers very little from about two weeks of his hospitalization, although Leslie says they did have some conversations that made sense. He felt very isolated, especially from Leslie, unable to talk to her many days, unable to even turn on the TV, and when hospital staff came in dressed in their PPE,

to add some kindness and humanity to a difficult situation, but both very much appreciated he says.

Eventually, "he came around to being cranky and eager to be home," says Leslie. And finally, he was deemed strong enough to go home, on May 1.

Once there, when he had his first shower, Leslie noticed two pressure wounds that hadn't been seen or attended to in the hospital — one on his ankle, where it had rubbed against the cast, and a large

tivity she enjoyed before the coronavirus put an end to it. She's to have a follow-up X-ray in August.

Her biggest and most obvious question now is what would have happened if she had been tested the first time she called to ask for an appointment.

"This might have been a different story, maybe even a shorter story," she says.

There is no doubt the experience has changed them.

Leslie says she has noticed a difference already in their priorities. Little things that would have mattered no longer seem important.

And although they have always known NOTL to be a caring community, the depth of love, care and support they have been shown is overwhelming to them both.

When Bud was "down in the dumps" in the hospital, Leslie sent out an email appeal for cards and messages to boost his morale. By the time he was discharged, he had a shoebox full to take home with him. They even heard from one woman they didn't know, a member of the British Car Club they belong to, who said she was praying for him.

"That brought me to tears," says Leslie.

Neither of them are religious people, but there was definitely a spiritual element she felt in the enormous outreach from the community, that helped them both recover, she says.

A leader of a Sparks group in NOTL, Leslie received cards made by the young girls in the group, and a bright green piece of bristol board with photos of

the girls and their cards.

"And Pat (Fryer) made arrangements with all the guiders to make us meals when we got home, one every two days, and always enough for two meals," she adds.

"I'm convinced all of that outpouring made us better," she says. "All the prayers and the love and the cards contributed to our recovery."

"Undoubtedly," agrees Bud. "How can you not appreciate it, and not take something from it. We can never thank them enough."

The experience, says Leslie, "has increased our strength. Our inner strength."

They assume they are no longer able to catch or spread the virus, but there is still much that is unknown. They are not taking any chances, still staying at home, with friends dropping off what they need. And they are really looking forward to the time when they can gather with their friends at The Sandtrap Pub and Grill, a regular Monday night gathering, or get out with their car club friends. They both miss seeing people, and are grateful visits are permitted in small groups, as long as there is physical distancing.

"We are so fortunate to have such good friends here," says Leslie. "We always knew this was a great community, a caring community, but it's different when you are the recipients."

"I've lived in Toronto all my life and never knew my neighbours," adds Bud. "Here, everyone is your neighbour."

**"All the prayers and the love and the cards contributed to our recovery."**

*Leslie Moulson*

he didn't know who they were. He was still very sick, but also sick of being in the hospital.

"Everyone who came in looked the same to me, in their protective gear. They all had the same blue gloves, yellow gowns, and masks." He says he had no way of knowing whether they were doctors, nurses or cleaning staff. If they told him their names, he often couldn't hear them.

He had one nurse who realized he couldn't hear much of what was said to him, and would write things down. Another wore a protective shield with her name written across the top of it in marker — both seemingly minor attempts

blister on his heel. She's looking after those for him. "Overall the care we both received at the hospital was good, but when I saw those sores, they sent me into orbit." They were both large and painful, and she questions how they could have been missed.

Bud now has a boot cast, which he is excited to get off this week.

Leslie has had a chest X-ray showing atelectasis — collapse of the little pillows at the bottom of her lungs — and scarring on her lungs. She is active, back to cooking and gardening, but still coughs from exertion, she says, and finds her legs get tired. She hopes to start walking soon, an ac-

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# Lawn bowling club suspends its season

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The NOTL Lawn Bowling Club has decided to suspend its season. Its traditional May opening had to be cancelled, with the community centre facility closed.

Since then, says long-time member Paul McHoull, It has taken a while to come to a decision. "After a Zoom meeting, and further discussion and voting by means of email, we have decided to suspend the season," he said Monday.

In a message to the members, club president Ron Gourlay said, "the risks of opening far outweigh the need to open. Many of our bowlers value the

bowling experience and the interaction with other members. With there being no jitneys, pairs league, 4-3-2-1 or afternoon teas, a great number of our members would likely take the summer off from bowling."

It's a decision "that sits very heavy with everyone on the executive," he said. "We all want the interaction, the camaraderie and the thought of having somewhere to go. But safety and prudence tell us that it would be foolhardy to open under the present circumstances. Heading into the heat of the summer and with no benches or shade umbrellas, it becomes even more complicated."

The situation may change when the restrictions and requirements laid out for opening

the club have been removed or reduced significantly, Gourlay said.

The restrictions would bar members from using some of

the equipment such as mats, rakes, umbrellas and benches.

The requirements would involve sanitizing, booking times

of play, limiting the number of players, tracking attendance, and maintaining social distancing.

"We will continue to closely

monitor developments as they occur and provide updates to all our members if things do change significantly," said Gourlay.

## Town to offer fun-filled day camps

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The Town has announced details of day camps to be provided this summer, with two regular, themed camps running at the community centre, and a sports camp at the Centennial Arena in Virgil.

The Town said back in May it would be offering camps for kids this summer, but couldn't provide details at that time.

They will look different than previous years, but staff are promising a "fun-filled summer camp schedule" for kids ages six to 12.

For updated information regarding registration, camp requirements and pricing, visit [notl.com/content/camps](http://notl.com/content/camps).

The decision to open day camps, once permitted by the Province, was made to provide children with a safe and inclusive camp experience, while also

helping parents with their work schedules and day care needs.

The camps will run from Friday, June 30 to Sept. 4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with before and after care available for an additional cost.

Camps will include cooperative games, sports, arts and crafts, science experiments, and outdoor adventures.

Each group will include eight campers and two staff members.

Unlike previous years, camp registration is for full weeks only, with no single days.

There will be different themes for each of the 10 weeks of camp.

"Camp activities will be modified to ensure appropriate physical distancing measures are maintained. Camp staff will also be diligent in ensuring enhanced cleaning measures are adhered to," the Town website says.

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### MINECRAFT CLUB MINI GAMES

June 19 @ 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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June 20 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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# One migrant worker's experience when he arrived here in Niagara

Jane Andres  
The Local

There has been much in the news lately regarding the systemic racism which most of us who have grown up in a white dominated culture have been blissfully unaware of, yet benefited from.

We have a lot to process, especially when the institutions which we relied on for education and spiritual guidance have remained silent, insisting that there was no such thing as systemic racism in Niagara. I was fully convinced as well, trusting in educators and church leaders who were never to be questioned. That unquestioning trust began to unravel though through a series of events.

This is just one of them. I remember the day we first met back in August 2009. Driving down Penner Street, I saw locals enjoying live music, peaches and ice cream at the Peaches Café, an annual celebration of the peach harvest.

Across the street, Jamaican men from a nearby farm were watching everyone enjoying the fruit they had meticulously pruned, thinned and harvested. There was a new face among them, so I parked the car and went over to welcome him to our town.

Jermaine was new to the farm work program, having arrived three months earlier. We chatted briefly and he was eager to accept an invitation to a concert with Newworldson, a popular local band, the following Sunday at the Henley grandstand.

The next Sunday afternoon I picked him up early, listening to a story unfold on the drive in. It was an animated conversation, his first real interaction with a local since arriving, and he was excited to finally see beyond the confines of the farm.

He came to Niagara on the farm work program recommended by his personal mentor, the Rev. Oliver Daly, a prominent figure across the Caribbean.

Jermaine had not had an easy life, growing up in an orphanage.

He was ambitious, not afraid to work hard to support his wife and three-year-old son back home in Mandeville. It was his first time being away from his son and he found commu-



Kyon Dunkley on drums, Jermaine Clarke, Delroy Myrie, Courtney Mitchell, Winston Green, Claudeen Bell, Paul Chambers and Steve Samuels at a Cornerstone Community Church concert held a few years ago. (Photo submitted)

nicating with him a few minutes a week was no substitute for the close relationship he longed for. Although he had graduated with good marks in high school, moving on to college or university was an impossible dream.

Now that he was in Canada, he was hoping he could find a man named Pete, whom he had met in Jamaica, although he had no idea where he lived.

"Well, Canada is a pretty big country," I remember saying and laughing.

"I do know a man called Pete Moffatt, who went to Jamaica with our church (Southridge) years ago."

Jermaine stared at me incredulously.

"That's his name," he said.

I began to piece things together. A group of members from the church I attended, Southridge Community Church, had made a trip to Jamaica to help rebuild an orphanage and church that were seriously damaged by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. After the initial trip to do the structural repairs, Pete Moffatt, his wife Linda and others from Southridge continued to travel back to the island to set up computer labs at the school affiliated with the orphanage. Twelve-year-old Jermaine was an enthusiastic participant, eager to learn from his Canadian friends. They remember him as a very sociable and studious young boy, carrying his books wherever he went. They loved watching him interact with a pet goose that followed him everywhere.

I promised I would connect him with Pete and we marvelled at how ridiculous these odds were.

We arrived that day at the

Henley grandstand in plenty of time, and picked seats halfway up the steep amphitheater overlooking the water. He scanned the crowd below us, and within minutes exclaimed, "I know that girl!"

He pointed to a young teenage girl about 10 rows down.

He didn't wait to hear my patient explanation that it was impossible, but started clambering over the empty seats below us.

The young girl turned around and squealed, "Jermaine," with obvious delight.

The woman beside her laughed, her eyes wide with disbelief and seconds later they were embracing like long lost friends.

By the time I navigated my way to their seats they were oblivious to the curious crowd around them. The woman was my good friend, Claudeen Bell and the young girl next to her was her niece, visiting from Jamaica. They had met Jermaine outside of a grocery store in Kingston, Jamaica years earlier. He had left the orphanage when he had reached the maximum age, and was trying to get by on his own in the big city. They had invited him to their house for supper, where he became a regular visitor until Claudeen moved to Canada.

It was a joyful reunion, and one more amazing coincidence.

The concert that night was just the icing on the cake, especially when the band started jamming on some of his favourite choruses from back home. It was also a great opportunity to meet other Jamaican men who worked on farms and their Canadian friends who had invited them.

When he attended Southridge Church in St. Catharines the following week, it felt like coming

home to him. Reuniting with some of the people whom he had come to know as a young teen was an extraordinary experience.

Jermaine had told me he had no photos of growing up at the orphanage. Team members sent me photos to print, and I was able to surprise him with an album of their time together as a keepsake when he left later that fall.

In February, Jodie Godwin and I attended his church in Jamaica. It was a privilege to meet his mentor, Rev. Oliver Daly, and spend the afternoon with his family. We could only imagine how hard it would be to leave that little family behind for eight months.

Jermaine returned to Niagara earlier the following spring. Chris Fowler, a youth leader at Southridge who helped with the reconstruction, invited Jermaine to speak at a large youth gathering for teens on a Friday night. A few weeks later, Jermaine was on the stage, sharing a remarkable story of his faith and the determination to improve his life that brought him to Niagara on the farm work program.

His engaging message introduced the audience to a faith so many of the men on the farms share — a faith that keeps them pressing on through the isolation, long hours and homesickness.

I was impressed with his earnest message, but would he be able to sustain that enthusiasm if he returned in the coming years?

Next week, I'll share Jermaine's journey since then, one that has required every ounce of courage once he decided he would try to apply for permanent residence here. That story will lead up to the present.

## LOCAL WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE  
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Sunday, June 21st

Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 10:00 am on Sundays. There will be no in-person church service.

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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17					18					19				
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51						52				53			54	55
					56			57		58				
59	60	61	62							63				
65							66					67		
68							69					70		

- Across:**

1 Able was I ere I saw ---

5 The Paris subway

10 4 qts.

13 Underhand political revelation

14 Relating to birds

15 Set of three

16 Isinglass

17 Hunters' cabin

18 Radicals

19 Hard durable wood

20 Birthday party essential

21 Said to photographers

23 Inclination

25 G M builder Alfred P ---

26 Scarcely

28 First Gospel

31 Usual type of switch

32 "I miss my ---, my --- miss misses me"

34 "Halt! --- fire!"

35 Burden

36 Some embers

37 Former Georgia senator Sam ---

38 Great weight

39 Legion

40 Oater baddie chasers

41 Firefighter's water source
- 43 Captivates

44 Paws

45 Russian prison camp

46 South American cowboy

48 Little Dickens heroine

49 Plugs

52 Twice-baked bread

53 Come together

55 Chop-chop

56 Tennessee state flower

57 Happen again

58 Greek goat's cheese

59 Lobbying gp.

60 Measures

61 Old Russian ruler
- 10 E.g. methane and water vapor

11 Supports

12 Fail to win

15 Hallowe'en option

20 Bovine baby

22 Strong attraction

24 Sports officials (Abbr.)

25 Look happy

26 Kiosk

27 Bug

29 Physicist --- Mach

30 Fermented grape juices

32 Varieties

33 Bundle

36 Topographical outlines

37 Cosmic bang

39 Hell --- no fury like a woman scorned

40 Tab

42 Haystacks

43 Top dogs

45 Arrangement

46 Suitcase

47 Migraine feature

48 Pleasant

50 Collection of facts

51 Pole at sea

54 Butterfly catcher

55 Astern

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

OBITUARY

**MACDOUGALL, PATRICIA ANNE (NEE LOWREY)**—It is with profound sadness that the family of Patricia Anne MacDougall announce her passing on Sunday, June 14th at St. Catharines General Hospital in her 77th year.

Beloved wife of Donald for nearly 54 years. Dear mother of Allen (Andrea) MacDougall, Elizabeth (Ray) Lamb, and Nancy (Finlay) Keir. Cherished grandmother of Gavin and Claire MacDougall and Adam Lamb. Dear sister of Norma Jane (Blair) Harber and Howard (Wilma) Lowrey. Predeceased by her parents Howard and Norma Lowrey and her sisters Lonna (Edward) Andrusiw and Nancy (Ron) Dunn. Much loved by many nieces and nephews and sisters-in-law Mary and Mavis.

Pat enjoyed spending time with her family, friends and pets (especially her cat Furgus). She took a special interest in the athletic and artistic activities of her children and grandchildren. Pat had the ability to light up a room with her smile and her laughter was contagious. She had a passion for cooking, baking, canning, and gardening; she loved to entertain friends and host family gatherings.

Pat was a lifelong resident of St. Davids and faithful member of the congregation at St. Davids-Queenston United Church where she also served on the Board of Session. She was also a past member of the St. Davids Lionesses. Her inspiration, dedication, guidance, and love of life will be missed by both family and many friends.

There will be a celebration of Pat's life to be held at a later date. Cremation has taken place. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the St. Davids-Queenston United Church or to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Special thanks to Dr. Robert Mackett, Dr. John Nolan, and the cardiac care teams at the St. Catharines and Hamilton General Hospitals.

Arrangements entrusted to Morse & Son Funeral Home, 5917 Main St., Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Memories, photo and condolences may be shared at [www.morseandson.com](http://www.morseandson.com)



PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from June 11, 2020

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 Elba, 5 Metro, 10 Gal, 13 Leak, 14 Avian, 15 Trio, 16 Aura, 48 Nice, 50 Data, 51 Spar, 54 Net, 55 Alt. Nova, 39 Hail, 40 Pill, 42 Ricks, 43 Rulers, 45 Getup, 46 Grip, 47 27 Annoy, 29 Ernst, 30 Wines, 32 Sorts, 33 Wad, 36 Contours, 37 12 Lose, 15 Treat, 20 Call, 22 Hots, 24 Fets, 25 Smile, 26 Booth, Evoked, 7 Tide, 8 Rag, 9 One-class, 10 Greenhouse gases, 11 Aids, 20 Leia, 3 Background music, 4 A k a, 5 Malady, 6 A C, 60 Steps, 61 Tsar. Ads, 52 Rusk, 53 Unite, 55 A s a p, 56 Irs, 57 Recur, 58 Feta, 59 P Or, 1, 35 Onus, 36 Coals, 37 Nunn, 38 Ton, 39 Horde, 40 Posse, Grade, 25 Sloan, 26 Barely, 28 Matthew, 31 On-off, 32 Swiss, 34 Mica, 17 Lodge, 18 Reds, 19 Oak, 20 Cake, 21 Cheese, 23

**Down:** 1 Elmo, 2 Leia, 3 Background music, 4 A k a, 5 Malady, 6 A C, 60 Steps, 61 Tsar. Ads, 52 Rusk, 53 Unite, 55 A s a p, 56 Irs, 57 Recur, 58 Feta, 59 P Or, 1, 35 Onus, 36 Coals, 37 Nunn, 38 Ton, 39 Horde, 40 Posse, Grade, 25 Sloan, 26 Barely, 28 Matthew, 31 On-off, 32 Swiss, 34 Mica, 17 Lodge, 18 Reds, 19 Oak, 20 Cake, 21 Cheese, 23

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