



Don't miss
Pride bake
sale Sunday

page 5

notllocal.com JUNE 21, 2023 Volume 5 • Issue 25



Town shows its pride

Couns. Maria Mavridis and Nick Ruller, April Jeffs representing MP Tony Baldinelli, MPP Wayne Gates, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, inclusivity committee members Jamie Knight, Richard Mell and Niki Walker, CAO Marnie Cluckie, Coun. Gary Burroughs, Regional Coun. Andrea Kaiser and Coun. Wendy Cheropita cut the ribbon on the new Pride Crosswalk at Anderson Lane Tuesday afternoon. (Supplied)

Butterfly release 'magical' moment of relief for bereaved

Penny Coles
The Local

This year's butterfly release was pure magic, says Bonnie Bagnulo.

It was the second year for the very emotional and moving tribute organized by the The Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service.

Held at the NOTL community centre again, with a few slight changes, it was every bit as helpful to those going through a grieving process, having lost a loved one, some recently, others

in the past — all were welcome.

"It was so well-received this year," says Bagnulo.

"There were such touching, meaningful, heartfelt moments for all."

There was a brief service outside first, during which the names of the loved ones who passed away in 2022 were read, then, as a group, the indignant painted lady butterflies were released.

Those who know Juliet Dunn of the Niagara Jazz Festival, a beautiful person with a beautiful voice, will

understand she has been through a very difficult time, with the loss of her sister, her mother, and then her beloved partner in life and music, Peter Shea.

As part of the release ceremony, she offered to sing at the butterfly release, says Bagnulo, and chose *Some-where over the Rainbow*.

"The song was for Peter," she says, and although Juliet's pain was obvious, "and we had to bring out Kleenex boxes, it was beautiful. I was shocked that she got through it, but she did. That song — that

was what we were there for. We could feel the spirits around us."

About 125 people attended, and almost 100 butterflies were released.

Even the bereavement councillor, there to help others, was able to talk about his own bereavement — he had lost his mother a year ago, on the same day as the butterfly release, says Bagnulo.

Doug Mundy, who often plays with Dunn at Jazz Festival events, was back-

Continued on page 15

Asylum-seeker walks into RiverBrink Museum and asks staff for help

Mike Balsom
The Local

When Janet Zylstra, River Brink Art Museum's administrator, fellow staff members, volunteers and vendors arrived at the Queenston Street facility at 7 a.m. Saturday to set up for their first ever juried art show and sale, they received a big surprise.

"When we got there, a gentleman approached us

on-site," Zylstra told The Local that morning. "He was saying 'I'm here, I'm seeking asylum. Could you please call the authorities for me?' So we did."

Zylstra says the man, described as tall and lean, Caucasian with blue eyes, appeared cold and a little shaken. He told her he had made the dangerous journey across

Continued on page 5



DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR HOME IS WORTH?

CALL GREG TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION

905.329.3484

GREG SYKES



WHEN YOU CALL GREG, YOU GET GREG!

‘I’ll get down on my knees’ to beg for through-road

Penny Coles
The Local

A small group of St. Davids residents gathered at the corner of Hickory Avenue and Tanbark Road Friday afternoon, hoping to convince town planners a new development could create a serious safety hazard on local streets.

Those living in Courtland Valley Estates say they already have a traffic problem, one that is too late to be corrected, but they fear the current plan for Tawny Ridge Estates, in the west end of the village, will exacerbate the issue.

Meeting with the residents were town planner Mark Iamarino and planning director Rick Wilson. Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa was invited to attend, along with town councillors. Zalepa met with the residents for a short

visit, and Coun. Sandra O'Connor, the only councillor who took residents up on their offer, stayed to listen to what they had to say.

Krahn was told councillors were advised not to attend, because if five or more showed up, it would be a quorum and considered a meeting. He had hoped for better attendance — despite discussions about the situation, he felt councillors would have a clearer understanding if they could see it for themselves.

The problem, residents say, has an easy solution. They are asking, “pleading,” says resident Bruno Laliberte, for a road they call Street A to be connected to Tanbark Road to provide additional access for Tawny Ridge residents.

It would reduce an increase in traffic for those in the nearby

Courtland Valley subdivision, who say they feel the traffic flow is already a problem.

“There is going to be an increase in traffic” when Tawny Ridge is built, says resident Bill Krahn, “and this (extending Street A) would make it a lot safer.”

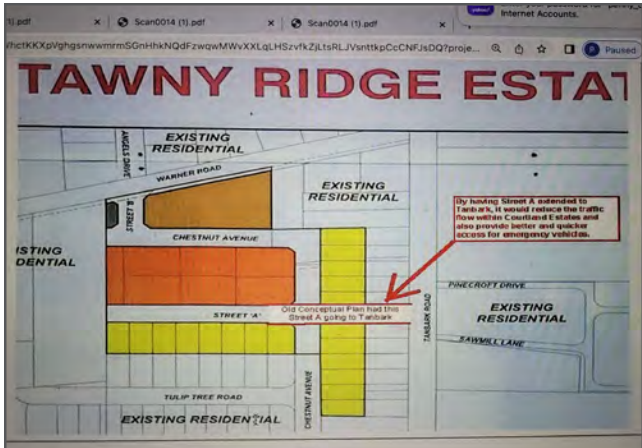
There have been many group emails from Krahn and Courtland Valley residents to town planners and councillors. In his most recent, sent after the meeting, Krahn again simplified residents’ request: “As we stated, none of us are against the Tawny Ridge development, or any development in St. Davids for that matter. We are just very concerned with the impact the increase of traffic will have at an already-compromised intersection which does not meet today’s safety standards.”

That situation, he clarified Friday, is a reduced setback between a driveway at the corner of Tanbark and Hickory Avenue. The intersection was not constructed as originally planned, or according to existing standards, and reduces visibility for vehicles stopping to turn from Hickory on to Tanbark. Standing at the corner for the meeting, the residents pointed out three cars parked in the driveway on one side of the road, obstructing the view for drivers turning.

“We understand that this intersection cannot be resolved and made compliant with zoning bylaws, however I hope we clearly and unequivocally demonstrated that this inevi-



Bill Krahn, Coun. Sandra O'Connor, who said she attended a meeting in St. Davids to listen, Sharon Taylor, Bruno Laliberte and Konstantine Mandrapilias are at the corner of Tanbark Road and Hickory Avenue, to talk to town planners about traffic in their neighbourhood. (Penny Coles)



This diagram of Tawny Ridge Estate shows Street 1 ending, with two lots between it and Tanbark Road. St. Davids residents see Street 1 extending to Tanbark as a solution to their traffic problems they expect to get worse when the subdivision is completed. They fear town staff is leaning toward a pathway, although no decision has been made. (Supplied)

table increase of traffic at the corner of Tanbark and Hickory can be somewhat mitigated by simply extending Street A of the Tawny Ridge Subdivision through to Tanbark Road.”

Wilson and Iamarino both explained to the residents gathered at the corner that no decision has been made, that staff have made no recommendation to council, and that there are still two possible options: extending Street A, or having a walkway for pedestrians.

Residents’ concerns were heard at a public meeting and an open house, and will be taken into consideration when making a recommendation to council, Wilson and Iamarino both pointed out.

But because of discussions in the past, the residents are afraid staff are leaning toward the pathway, which is advantageous for the developer — opening the road would eliminate two housing lots.

Laliberte referenced an urban design committee that says St. Davids urban design guidelines suggest a maximum block length of 250 metres. The block along Tanbark Road, between Hickory

Avenue and Warner Road, is approximately 340 metres in length. In such cases with longer block lengths, he feels the committee, by the nature of its discussions, is recommending a pedestrian walkway instead of Street A.

Laliberte and the other residents say they are not fighting the development. Earlier this year there was opposition at a public meeting and an open house as to the density of the project, which includes some single homes, an apartment building and town houses. The developer has asked for an Official Plan amendment to increase the density on the site and for other exceptions, including for building heights and yard setbacks.

But the group gathered Friday said they have given up on that and accept the subdivision will go ahead — they just want the planners to understand their concern over safety issues due to increased traffic through their neighbourhood.

“Please, I beg you, I plead with you, I will get down on my knees for you,” Laliberte said to Wilson and Iamarino, referring to the extension of Street A. He acknowledged town staff have

asked for residents’ opinions, “but I’m afraid you don’t listen.”

Iamarino said staff do take residents’ input into consideration, the developer is aware of the Street A discussion, and council will make a decision based on staff recommendations.

Sharon Taylor explained residents understand the process, “but we need to voice our concerns. We need to be proactive. This is not right,” she said, referring to the Hickory/Tanbark intersection. “We don’t need to make it any worse than it is now.”

Wilson and Iamarino both spoke of a professional traffic study which has been completed, and the operations department of the town which will also be consulted, but Laliberte and resident Konstantine Mandrapilias told them they don’t believe the study was conducted as it should have been — the traffic at the corner of Hickory and Tanbark was not counted, they said, and should have been.

Mandrapilias too said he was uncomfortable that a pathway was even discussed, and said given the traffic, which he considered significant, “Street A is what is going to mitigate the situation.”

“You have so much power,” Laliberte told the planners. “Whatever you say, council will rely on you. And there is so much at stake here.”

The planners listened, and assured residents public comments would be considered, but didn’t give any hint of what their recommendation would be.

DEADLINE
TO BOOK:
JUNE 21*

the IRISH HARP pub

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

TEE-OFF AT
9:00 AM

JUNE 29

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

\$200/Person or \$700/Foursome

- Tournament will be played at Peninsula Lakes Golf Club.
- Buses will pick-up and drop-off golfers at The Irish Harp Pub.
- Prime Rib Dinner, Pint of Choice, Live Music, and Prizes.

Limited Space Available • Taxes & Gratuities Extra

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM

(905) 468-4443 • TAXES & GRATUITIES EXTRA

Credit Card Required To Reserve Your Spot • 72 Hour Cancellation Policy In Effect

June is Cataract Awareness Month

Millions of people worldwide over the age of 40 are currently living with cataracts. As the eyes age, the lens inside becomes cloudy. The lens focuses light on the retina at the back of the eyes to produce a sharp image of what we see. When that lens gets cloudy, light cannot pass through it, making the image blurry. Lower the risk of cataracts by eating healthy, avoiding smoking, wearing sunglasses, and getting your yearly eye exams.

DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES
OPTOMETRY

— Sight for Life —

Care for all ages, infants to adults

358 Mary St., Unit 7, NOTL | 905.468.8002

8 Secord Dr., St. Catharines | 905.682.9119

www.theeyedoc.ca

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
DENTAL

Dr. Kevin Clark and
Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark
Dentists
and their registered
Dental Hygiene Team

369 MARY STREET
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
www.niagaradental.ca

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE

905-468-3009

Residents speak out over three planning issues

Carrie Gleason
The Local

On Tuesday, June 13, residents spoke at a committee of the whole planning meeting regarding Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments for three Niagara-on-the-Lake properties.

240 Nassau Street resident welcomes new neighbours

An application has been received to sever the lot on the corner of Nassau and Johnson streets in Old Town into two separate parcels. Property co-owners Susan and Cathy Russell wish to retire to the Chautauqua neighbourhood and live side by side in two homes that will have a “new home, old charm” style.

Nassau Street neighbour Mark Wheaton says that he and his wife, Marilyn, are “looking forward to having their block complete” and “having neighbours rather than an empty lot” next door.

At a previous open house about the lot severance, a question was raised about why one of the proposed homes will have its driveway on Johnson Street rather than Nassau, which, as planner Nicholas Godfrey from Better Neighbourhoods explained, is to retain the existing old trees on Nassau Street and avoid having a driveway near

a stop sign for safety. Drawings of both proposed homes showed large front porches, with the corner home also having a pergola on the Johnson Street side.

The application also includes site-specific amendments of a .08 per cent increase in lot coverage for the corner dwelling and a decreased interior side yard setback by .31 metres for the home on Nassau Street.

Coun. Gary Burroughs questioned whether these allowances were necessary, saying that the “variances are so minor, could the developer not fit them into the existing bylaws?”

61 Melville Street looks good, but is too large

The proposed development at 61 Melville Street was also questioned in terms of variance from zoning bylaws.

Currently zoned marine commercial, the developer is seeking to rezone this Dock Area property to medium density residential to allow for a 12-unit, three-storey condo building. If built according to the proposed plan, the building would have a 67 per cent lot coverage, with 12 per cent used for a paved outdoor parking lot, and 21 per cent for landscaping.

Three longtime Delatre Street residents, Jim Reynolds,

Barbara Worthy and Paul Shepherd, although in support of the rezoning and the general look of the proposed building designed by local architects Wayne Murray and Connie Tintinalli from Chapman Murray Architects, opposed the amendment for a building that would have a 17 per cent increase in lot coverage over the 50 per cent allowed under the bylaw.

They also opposed the one-metre side setbacks of the building from Delatre and Lockhart streets, saying that the building would create a “canyon-like” effect on the side streets.

The zoning bylaw requires a 7.5 metre setback. As Delatre Street resident Barbara Worthy said, “the current development does not ‘breathe,’ with the neighbourhood . . . yet,” in the hopes that the developer and the property owner will take their concerns about the size and setbacks of the building into consideration in a future site plan.

Concerns were also raised about the need for an eight-spot outdoor parking lot, given that there will be 16 spaces in an enclosed lot at the rear of the building, more than enough to meet the parking required under the zoning bylaw.

John Kinney and Chrys Kaloudis spoke about the



Cornerstone Community Church would like to sever a portion of their Virgil parking lot and the former manse. (File photo)

need to preserve the remaining NOTL waterfront so that it can be enjoyed by both residents and visitors and whether the rezoning is appropriate for the Dock neighbourhood at all.

1570 Niagara Stone Road, community programs safe

Also on the table for discussion was an application for rezoning at 1570 Niagara Stone Road in Virgil, which would allow Cornerstone Church to sever and sell the north part of the property.

Cornerstone Pastor Kevin Bayne spoke at the meeting to say that the church would be retaining the current building, out of which its mid-week youth program, a health clinic for seasonal agricultural workers, other youth programs and The Farmworker

Hub currently operate. “We think it is an asset to our community, so we would like to keep on operating it as such,” he assured the committee.

However, since the church now has its services and offices at its Hunter Road location, it no longer needs such a large parking space or the former manse. If the zoning amendment is approved and the lot sold, Bayne said that funds received from its sale would allow the church to continue to fund some of the community uses at the site, as well as to help with renovations and expansions planned at the Hunter Road location.

Neighbour Kenneth Enns, who lives at 681 Penner Street and is a member of Cornerstone Church, asked council members if there could be any assurances given as to a new

development on the severed lot, adding that he supports the church’s proposal. Kirsten McCauley, the town director of community and development services, responded that any future development on the site would require a planning application and public meeting.

Comments made by residents at the public meetings will be relayed to the property owners and developers by town planning staff for consideration before recommendation reports are prepared for council to make its decisions at future meetings.

All three proposals can be viewed on the town website at notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notice. Residents wishing to comment on the proposals can do so via email to clerk@notl.com.

JULY 1, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Celebrate Canada Day 2023

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF FORT GEORGE AND PARKS CANADA





Cake donated by: Willow Cakes & Pastries

SIMCOE PARK

11:30 am - 3 pm
Rotary Club of NOTL BBQ Lunch

- Live music and kids entertainment, including face painters and balloon artists!
- Antique car display, Tiny Museum

FORT GEORGE

FREE ADMISSION 10 AM-10 PM & ALL DAY ACTIVITIES!

4 pm
Food Services at Fort George

6:30 pm - Evening Program begins:

- Kiddie Militia and drill
- The 41st Regiment Fife & Drum Corps
- Musket Demonstrations

QUEEN STREET

3 pm
The giant “Cake Parade” featuring the 41st Regiment Fife & Drum Corps which will accompany the cake back to Simcoe Park to be sliced and served at approx. 3:30 pm.

For more information visit: niagaraonthelakerotary.ca or call: 647-686-9793

Musical entertainment: The Howling Horns

10 PM SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY!

For more information visit: friendsoffortgeorge.ca or call: 905-468-6621









NPCA helps plant pollinator gardens



The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority was recently onsite at the Village on Harvest Creek, on Four Mile Creek Road at Creekside Drive in St. Davids, to plant thousands of pollinator plants and provide some erosion control on the edge of the creek. The idea to beautify their backyards and see more pollinators came from residents who approached the NPCA, and helped with the planting. To learn more, listen to David Rusch on www.KWWradio.com (Photos supplied)

A march that wasn't, but Russell won't give up

Sharon Burns
The Local

James Russell was hoping 500 people would march from the Negro Burial Ground to the steps of the Court House on Queen Street in an effort to get the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to take action in uncovering buried headstones. However, this past Sunday, Father's Day, only a handful of people were in attendance.

"You make time for what's important," said Rus-

sell. "There are fathers buried here who have been rendered anonymous. An hour march isn't going to take a big part of someone's day."

Russell, a Toronto area resident and former photojournalist, first became interested in the burial site during a work trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was just over a year ago that he became invested in unearthing the headstones.

Ground penetrating radar, commissioned and paid for by Russell, has revealed 28 graves and 19 buried headstones on

the historic site on Mississauga Street near John Street West.

That led to Archaeological Research Associates providing a quote of \$59,000 for the unearthing, cleaning and restoration of the headstones.

Russell had hoped that the march would convince the town to find the money "to restore the Negro Burial Ground, now," he said, emphasizing the word 'now'. "Only then can we find out who was buried here, and begin to find out what their story was."

"They have no names, they have no stories, they have no history," said Russell.

His wife, Marilyn, and son, James, were also in attendance, having driven from Toronto that morning. Desmond Brown, his wife, Alice Abbott, and son, Felix Abbott, also drove from Toronto to join the march. In early May, Brown interviewed Russell for his podcast Sold in the 6ix. The episode with Russell is titled The Burying and Cover-up of a Proud Black Canadian Past.

In the podcast, Russell stated that a town employee told him that, in the '80s, town employees laid down the headstones to make it easier to cut the grass. Russell's contention "is that they buried them."

Also supporting the cemetery, with the town behind them, is a group of local citizens, Friends of the Forgotten, whose goal is to bring the same level of attention, care and respect to this burial ground as is given to other important historic sites in town.

On March 21, town council voted unanimously to support the work of this fundraising committee in principle. The town has endorsed it as the official fundraisers for the burial site.

In a press release earlier this year, CAO Marnie Cluckie said that "the town is committed to honouring those buried at the cemetery and preserving heritage in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Staff is working with the committee concerning next steps, she said, and at that time was conducting a stage one Archaeological Assessment through funding raised by them.

Alice Abbott said she was "massively disappointed" with the turnout for the march on Sunday. "People are familiar with the idea that there might be something below the ground that should be known. People are getting used to the idea of uncovering difficult pasts, learning about it, embracing it and atoning for it. And then making it part of our present."

"The town has their head in the sand," added Abbott. "There is nothing wrong with someone on council putting their hand up and saying, 'you know what? The time has come.'"

"We essentially have no march," said Russell, as the group dispersed from the burial ground around 2 p.m.



James Russell and his wife Marilyn at the Negro Burial Ground with their signs.



James Russell, organizer of a march he hoped would attract hundreds, says he will not stop until he is successful in seeing headstones at the Negro Burial Ground unearthed. (Photos by Sharon Burns)



Messages on the car were meant for a crowd that didn't appear.



Alice Abbott came from Toronto to support Russell and the event he had organized.

without having walked to the Court House. "But the good news is that I am never going to give up."

This week, Russell plans to contact all 124 MPPs to give an overview of the Ne-

gro Burial Ground Project, which he plans to turn into a non-profit called the Canadian Unmarked Graves Project to focus on "educating and lobbying cemetery owners about the ethical, legal and historical importance of maintaining their properties in the condition mandated by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario and other provincial and federal legislation," said Russell in a copy of the letter he shared with The Local.

"Our first campaign is to restore the 19 headstones of Black freedom-seekers buried in Niagara-on-the-Lake's Negro Burial Ground."



25 CANNERY DRIVE, NOTL

\$1,200,000

MLS# 40425254

364 WILLIAM STREET, NOTL

\$1,099,000

MLS# 40394057





35 FRONTIER DRIVE, NOTL

\$839,900.

MLS# 40413864

61 HENRY STREET, NOTL

\$849,000

MLS# 40417791





3 COMFORT COURT, PELHAM

\$2,350,000

MLS# 40346192



HELEN MOSCA
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
DIRECT: 905-650-5669



AARON CHERNEY
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
DIRECT: 905-401-7915

ROYALLEPAGE

NRC Realty, Brokerage, Independently Owned & Operated

125 QUEEN ST.,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

DIRECT: 905.468.4214



HONoured
TO BE YOUR
VOICE IN
OTTAWA

TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.

NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE: 905-353-9590
FORT ERIE OFFICE: 905-871-9991
TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA • TONYBALDINELLI.MP.CA

Pride bake sale fundraiser this Sunday

Sharon Burns
The Local

Tara Rosling was pretty disheartened by the vandalism to Niagara-on-the-Lake's Pride crosswalk, which had been defaced twice in early June and has since been cleared up by town staff.

"The best thing to do is take positive action, as opposed to going down a rabbit hole of despair," said Rosling, town resident and actor at the Shaw Festival Theatre.

So Rosling and her 14-year-old daughter Eliana McManus will be hosting a Pride bake sale fundraiser this Sunday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 23 Shakespeare Avenue.

McManus strongly believes that everyone deserves to be treated equally. "After hearing about the Pride flag crosswalk being defaced in our community, I think it is important to step up and support the 2SLGBTQI community," she said.

No strangers to advocacy work, in the past two years the mother/daughter duo raised funds for both survivors of the war in Ukraine and for survivors of indigenous residential schools.

This year's recipient is

Egale, a charitable organization whose mission is to improve the lives of 2SLGBTQI people in Canada, and to enhance the global response to 2SLGBTQI issues.

Previous bake sales were largely successful due to the contributions of the community, said Rosling. "So far we've received contributions of bread, focaccia, muffins, and squares. Somebody is baking something gluten free."

The bake sale will also have a kids' component with Pride tattoos and face painting, and a silent auction. "We've had handmade soaps, donated ceramics,

tickets from the Shaw Festival and from the Foster Festival. Willow Cakes has donated a certificate. A local woman who does artisanal crafts is donating a pillow that she's made," said Rosling.

Rosling and McManus plan to make a rainbow layer cake as well as Pride cupcakes and cookies.

Community members can contribute by donating something for the sale and auction or by baking. Email Rosling at tararosling@hotmail.com.

Those who would like to donate, but cannot attend the bake sale, can do so through canadahelps.org/en/pages/tara-eliana-pride-bakesale-fundraiser/ or by emailing Rosling for the link.



Tara Rosling and her daughter Eliana McManus are organizing a bake sale to help the LGBTQ+ community. (Supplied)

"No matter gender, sexuality, or race, everyone deserves to be treated equally," said McManus.

Man turned over to Canadian Border Services

Continued from page 1

the Niagara River on a raft of some sort, though she was not sure where that raft was or at what point he came to shore.

"We got him a seat, a blanket and some coffee," Zylstra said. "While we were waiting for the authorities to arrive he told us that he had had a lot of struggles in the States, that he didn't feel that he was being supported through their judicial sys-

tem, and that was why he was coming to Canada."

Zylstra said he didn't seem agitated or overly distressed, but wondered if he had some kind of mental instability.

She teared up often while describing the situation.

"It's hard to see someone displaced because they don't feel supported by their country or their community," she said. "I think it would be a pretty death-defying trip to cross the Niagara River. It may look calm out there,

but I know it's not. It's sad to think that someone feels they have to go to those extremes to find what they feel to be safety, or asylum."

When The Local arrived at RiverBrink Saturday morning at about 10 a.m., the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were still on site. Shortly after that, their SUV pulled out of the parking area, presumably with the asylum seeker in the vehicle.

The Local followed up with both the Niagara Re-

gional Police and the RCMP.

Stephanie Sabouring from the Niagara police replied to an email from The Local, suggesting that because there was no arrest involved, the situation was not a police matter, and that any further information would come from the RCMP.

Constable Christy Veenstra of the RCMP's media relations office then told The Local Tuesday afternoon that because the situation was an immigration matter, the asy-

lum seeker was turned over to the Canada Border Services Agency.

An RCMP car leaves RiverBrink Museum after picking up a man who said he was from the U.S. and was seeking asylum in Canada. (Mike Balsom)

At press time attempts to reach the border agency were unsuccessful.



A Home Grown SUCCESS

REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS

CARRIAGE TRADE LUXURY PROPERTIES

ROYAL LEPAGE

ROYAL LEPAGE

NRC Realty, Brokerage. Independently Owned & Operated

CANADA'S REAL ESTATE COMPANY

www.NRCREALTY.ca

OVER 20 LOCAL REALTORS®

Find us at nrcrealty.ca/realtors/notl

125 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Royal LePage NRC Realty, Brokerage

Independently Owned & Operated

(905) 486-4214 | www.NRCRealty.ca

@royallepagenrc

EDITORIAL

Pride for all involved in rainbow crosswalk

Town CAO Marnie Cluckie described the Pride crosswalk ribbon-cutting ceremony that took place Tuesday afternoon as quiet and informal, with a smattering of representatives from the town, including Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and a few councillors, a representative from MP Tony Baldinelli's office, and MPP Wayne Gates.

There were a few passersby who stopped to watch, but all in all it was over quickly, with little fuss, the pylons removed and the road reopened in time for nursery school pick-up.

Almost anti-climactic it seems, in relation to the outcry over the vandalism that took place — twice — after it was

installed.

Cluckie spoke, as did the Lord Mayor, along with two members of the town's diversity, equity and inclusivity committee, and although the defacing of the crosswalk shortly after it was installed was mentioned, it was in the context of having brought the community together in its disappointment, and the following rally of support.

It was the inclusivity committee that originally recommended a Pride crosswalk two years ago, Cluckie reminded the audience of about 20 people gathered on Anderson Lane and Mississagua Street, and a motion of council in July 2022 that got us to this point where

a ribbon-cutting could be held during Pride month.

It truly does seem that the vandals, and what was likely on their minds when they decided it would be a good idea to deface the vibrant colours of the crosswalk — in addition to its symbolism, it really is pretty — represent a very small minority of the town's population.

We've also learned NOTL is not alone, that these incidents of destruction to Pride flags, crosswalks and other symbols of inclusivity are common, still happening in other communities in Niagara and across the province.

What seems most disturbing of all is nobody seems sur-

prised it happens or by the anger that leads to such destruction.

In NOTL, that is behind us, thankfully — hopefully — and the ribbon has been cut with pride for a town that now openly displays a symbol of being inclusive and welcoming to all.

That's a huge goal, as well as an ongoing one, so kudos to the inclusivity committee members who not only recommended the rainbow crosswalk and fundraised for it, but have committed to continuing their chosen task of making Niagara-on-the-Lake a town that welcomes everybody — all its visitors, its residents, and most importantly, all its young people. It seems momentous that young

people growing up in town now have a symbol that might help them feel the love and support for who they are that every child should experience.

That Cluckie is also supportive of creating a visibly inclusive community has also been obvious, from the time the crosswalk was approved and installed, through to the difficult days of dealing with the vandalism, right up to today's ceremony, where she was pleased to cut the ribbon with her own gigantic, "bedazzled" scissors she brought along just for the occasion.

This is a big step, but just a step, for the town and for all of us. We know we should be kind,

and accepting and welcoming of others without requiring a day or a month to remind us, a crosswalk or a flag to show that we care, or special town committees or clubs at school to ensure everyone feels welcome. When that day comes, when not one letter is written to local papers in opposition, when we can have rainbow crosswalks just because they are pretty, when we don't need to proclaim our inclusivity, we will be so much closer to that goal than we are now.

That being said, it feels good to have come this far.

Penny Coles
The Local

Local LETTERS Hotel would have significant impact on residential neighbourhood

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the new hotel development pro-

posed for the Parliament Oak School property at 325 King St. We understand that devel-

opment is inevitable in the Old Town and we support good design and appropriate projects

that will respect our heritage and build upon and strengthen the existing fabric of our community. We appreciate the time and effort of our town council in serving our town and hope that our attached comments might assist them in their review of the development proposal for the Parliament Oak School property.

The proposed hotel will have significant impacts on the existing Old Town quiet residential community which surrounds the site on all four sides. The proposed design drawings define the potential of 700-plus guests on the ground floor including approximately 129 hotel rooms (258 persons double occupancy) plus approximately 100 staff for a total potential 1058-plus people onsite.

The drawings submitted show underground parking for only 189 vehicles. The potential for severe disruptive street parking and traffic on the adjacent residences seems inevitable without even considering larger delivery vehicles and associated traffic throughout the day.

The current zoning bylaw for the area has a maximum building height limitation of 10m/32.8ft.

The proposed hotel asks to be permitted to be 18.2m/59.8ft in height which would make it the tallest building in the town including the Queen Street commercial area. In fact, at 59.8 feet it is the equivalent of a six-storey building with 3m/10ft floor to floor dimensions. The design indicates only four storeys but the ground floor is 6m/20ft high.

Previous councils have worked hard to preserve the existing scale and fabric of the town and have demonstrated stewardship in this regard, having worked constructively with new developments to respect the existing height restrictions. The recently completed new infill 124 on Queen Hotel, has been built with a maximum height of 9.6m/31.5ft. This development is surrounded by the existing commercial buildings along Queen Street.

The proposed hotel for the Parliament Oak property is 8.6m/28.2ft higher and set in the midst of existing one- and two-storey homes.

In comparison the Prince of Wales hotel is three storeys and 10.6m/34.9ft high (7.5m/25ft shorter than the new proposed hotel). In fact,

the apartment building previously proposed for this same property was contested because it was proposed to be 12.4m/40.6ft in height, a full 5.8m/19.1ft shorter than the new proposed hotel. If this proposal (a six-storey equivalent) is approved it will set a dangerous precedent for all future developments.

We applaud former councils for their diligence and stewardship in preventing the height of new buildings from gradually creeping higher than the existing historic building fabric, thus preserving the scale and feel of the town which, even if they do not fully understand it, is what makes the town so attractive to the millions of visitors each year.

People come to escape the canyons of our large cities and enjoy the human scale of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We urge council to continue to support the respect and stewardship demonstrated by former councils and their efforts to preserve what makes our town unique and the place everyone loves to visit.

Gordon Stratford, Architect
John Gartner, Retired Planner
David Parker, Architect
David Anthony, P. Eng.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

In *Here Today* (Netflix, 2021) Charlie Burnz, played by Billy Crystal, forms an unlikely friendship with lounge singer Emma Payge, played by Tiffany

Haddish. Charlie has dementia and is struggling, and Emma becomes his best friend and soulmate. Some might think it an imperfect film; however, its powerful message of love and trust makes it perfect for me.

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



Where's Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Last week, Ben was in Virgil on a rainy day during construction.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Village Media Regional Publisher (online sales)
John Hammill
John@villagemedia.ca
905-988-5599 ext 1157

Advertising Sales:
Joy Sanguedolce - NOTL
joy@notllocal.com
416-817-0920

Julia Coles - outside NOTL
julia@notllocal.com
905-934-1040

Graphic Designer: Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

News Tips: news@notllocal.com

notllocal.com facebook.com/notllocal instagram.com/thenotllocal @thenotllocal

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

DISTRESS CENTRE
For depression, distress and crisis.
24 hour help line:
905-688-3711

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS
(Toll Free)
1-866-550-5205

GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS
905-351-1616

KIDS HELP PHONE
Service for youth
416-586-5437
1-800-668-6868
(Crisis Line)
kidshelpphone.ca

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
St. Mark's Parish Hall
41 Byron St., NOTL
or find a meeting
905-682-2140

ASSAULTED WOMEN'S HELPLINE
Mobile calls to:
#SAFE (#7233)
1-866-863-0511
(Toll Free)

CRIME STOPPERS
1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)
niagaratips.com
Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip

COMMENT

Local LETTERS Don't blame the tree or the road

Lakeshore Road is a scenic, leisurely drive. Yes, approaching from the east, the tree does look like it is in the middle of the road, as do other trees and houses along other curves in the road.

However, the yellow centre line, and two white road-side marker lines are clearly visible. An attentive driver, at 60 km/h, should be able to

follow them and remain on the road, especially on a clear, dry roadway. A larger tree, on the same side but closer to the cemetery entrance, claimed the lives of three or four (can't remember) lads in the 1960s, as did a tree at the entrance to the cemetery, claiming two young ladies (both trees bear the scars).

All three of these were in

the west-bound direction. The last two had speed as a contributing factor; this recent one, judging from the displacement of the left front wheel to the interior foot well, suggests, to me, that speed was a factor. A medical emergency may have been a factor in this crash. The road in this area, as in many along its length is a curve, so maybe a "curve

ahead" sign would be appropriate, but not the removal of a beautiful tree.

I have sat on a friend's porch and watched as vehicles, very obviously speeding, passed by along Lakeshore Road, as well as passing in a "no passing (solid centre line)" zone.

The four-way stop sign at Concession 6 and York Road

does make crossing north-south easier. However, the stop sign that had been there was clearly visible with high beams when on the level by Colinari Winery, and even in daylight, to an attentive driver.

I have seen many vehicles, mostly on York Road but also on Concession 6, do a "rolling stop" through the stop sign, even with a vehicle, me, ap-

proaching the same intersection.

All the safety features available will not protect the inattentive, self-absorbed, driver. The only reasonable explanations are a medical emergency, or a mechanical breakdown; stop making excuses for inattentive drivers.

Madis Tambre, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Local LETTERS War continues, and so does need for help

I am writing this heartfelt letter today to you, the reader. I am writing to ask for your support once again in providing Humanitarian Aid to those in Ukraine.

We all know the war is still going on in Ukraine. We also know that a major dam is now broken, and more people are being forced out of their homes. More people are dying senselessly. We know the need is growing in Ukraine. And we all know that this war is not only taking its toll on the Ukrainian people, but it is also taking its toll on us. Globally,

This is where I need your help. As parishioners of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church, we are once again stepping up our continued efforts to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine to those affected by the destruction of the hydro-electric dam in Nova Kakhovka.

St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at 91 Lakeshore Rd., St. Catharines, is holding a donation drive on Thursday, June 22 and Friday, June 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

How can you help? There

are many ways.

Monetary donations: This will help with cost of shipping/buying needed larger supplies. They can be made directly at the church office or online at: www.stjohnnuc.com

E-transfer at: stjohnukrainian@bellnet.ca. (Please provide name and address for income tax receipt)

Physical donations: We have created an Amazon link where you can buy items that will be shipped directly to the church: amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/1MN67FGUVI9FD?ref=wl_share.

If you can shop, here is a list of the top urgently needed items new, unused, unopened please. For full list go to www.stjohnnuc.com:

- Children's cold/fever medicines, vitamins for ages 1-10
- Polysporin, trauma bandages, gauze
- Ibuprofen (400 ml), Immodium, Gravol, Benadryl
- Diapers, sizes 5 and 6 especially
- Men's, women's and children's calf-length socks.

Women's feminine hygiene products

- Canned meat, fish, pasta, instant coffee, chewing gum
- Water purification tablets
- Hygiene products
- Home care supplies: Unused, unopened, and not expired medical supplies that are no longer needed.

We at St. John's want to thank the NOTL community as well as the whole Niagara region for your ongoing support. Because of your efforts our church

has shipped over 4,500 boxes of donated items to Ukraine since the war began. But sadly, we are not finished yet.

All items can be dropped off either at the church, or after June 23, at my home at 18 Confederation Dr., NOTL, in Garrison Village. If you have any questions, please call or text me at 905-327-5202.

I sincerely thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I thank you for any help you can provide.

Chris Wormwell NOTL

Beautiful grounds of museum host to juried show

The RiverBrink Art Museum held its very first juried art show and sale June 17 and 18 on the beautiful grounds of the site of the former country home of art collector Sam Weir. Programming and curatorial assistant Asta McCann was excited for the museum to take the step into the new adventure. She told The Local that the 20 spots for vendors filled up quickly with local artists and artisans, many of them, like Kathy Thomas and Yim Lei "Molly" Yep, who live right in the village of Queenston. Fellow Queenston resident Tony Dekker entertained the crowd with his Juno and Polaris Prize-nominated band Great Lake Swimmers. Food and refreshments were on hand as well from new NOTL business Plant No. 01. McCann is hoping that the art show and sale becomes an annual event and a new must-see weekend for art lovers.



Jerome Godboo, Darcy Yates, Asta McCann and Debra Antoncic of RiverBrink, Tony Dekker and Ryan Granville-Martin of Great Lake Swimmers, local singer Laurel Minnes and Janet Zylstra of RiverBrink. (Joy Sanguedolce)



Artists on the beautiful grounds of RiverBrink. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Old Town artist Mel Hughes showcasing his unique fused glass creations, each with a deep, often political message.



Kathy Thomas of Queenston was offering her decorative and accurate maps of historical buildings in NOTL villages.

Grocery store chats lead to treasured friendships

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

It was an appreciative congregation who met on Sunday night for the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project church service, with only one more to come this season.

Hosted by Bethany Mennonite Church for decades, it has found a new home at the Hunter Road campus of Cornerstone Church the past few years.

Rev. Dave Pritchard, retired from Grace United Church, used the occasion to express gratitude to three individuals who have shown extraordinary dedication, serving the practical, social and spiritual needs for many years.

Nancy Howse has been extensively involved in many levels of organizing outreach projects for more than two decades. It started when she met farmworkers coming in to MB

Foods (now Phil's Your Independent) where she worked as a cashier. Casual conversations at the store lead to friendships. Her family began inviting them over for meals or taking them on excursions to Niagara Falls or other area attractions.

Getting involved with the outreach project's Sunday night services connected her to a supportive network that organized popular annual events

attended by hundreds — the Caribbean dinner, the dominoes tournament and the cricket match. Members also travelled regularly to Jamaica to visit the families of their friends who worked on the farms, as well as their churches and schools.

It's amazing to see years later how those initial casual conversations in a grocery store have led to so many treasured friendships. Although Howse is retiring from her official position on the committee, the friendships will continue!

Pritchard also extended his thanks to two very dedicated Jamaican members of the outreach project — Brian Burton and Elijah Steele.

Steele is usually known as Prophet, perhaps for his uncanny way of prophesying his winning streak over the past 27 years as coach of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Clippers cricket team.

Brian Burton has been working at Langendoen Nurseries for a little over

a decade, and bubbles over with enthusiasm when talking about his involvement with the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project. His contributions are many — leading in worship at the church services, organizing the dominoes tournament held at Niagara United Mennonite Church, and refereeing at the annual cricket match.

Pritchard also spoke of new opportunities to partner with organizations that are supportive of its mission, thereby encouraging the committee to make plans and welcome new volunteers for 2024.

Although three members of the outreach project received special recognition on Father's Day, there have been many locals who have steadfastly shown up and contributed over the past three decades, providing rides, friendship, after-service snacks, organizing dinners or fundraising.

Percival Sutherland, who arrived for his first time in Niagara just a few

weeks ago, was grateful to receive a warm welcome, sing songs from home and make new friends. He was introduced to Uton Bell, who provided some words of encouragement.

Bell one of the first farmworkers on the program who was able to bring his family to Canada, thanks to his employer, Abe Epp, sponsoring him in 1973.

From the newest face in the crowd to men like Bell who have been attending the church service for 35 years, it was a fitting reminder of how vital the presence of the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project is in our community.

This Sunday, June 25, will be a concert and the final night of the spring/summer season. It's a lively, fun night when neighbours on the farms are welcome to share a favourite song. Starting at 7:30 p.m., everyone in the community is welcome to come and enjoy a casual evening of friendship and music, Caribbean style!



Brian Burton, Elijah Steele, Nancy Howse, Dave Pritchard and Donna Brown at the recent Caribbean Workers Outreach Project church service. (Photos by Jane Andres)

Bound and Determined

Chloe Cooley, Enslavement, and the Fight for Freedom



Images courtesy of Canada Post

NIAGARA ON THE LAKE MUSEUM

EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY JUN 2 - NOV 13, 2023

ADMISSION IS FREE ON JULY 1ST

43 Castlereagh St.
Niagara-on-the-Lake
notlmuseum.ca
Open daily

Co-Curated By:
Rochelle Bush
Natasha Henry-Dixon
Sarah Kaufman
Shawna Butts



Percival Sutherland arrived in Niagara for the first time just a few weeks ago, while Uton Bell is one of the first farmworkers who was able to bring his family to Canada, thanks to his employer Abe Epp.

Health fair back for farmworkers

Local Staff

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19 safety measures, Positive Living Niagara and Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group are organizing the return of the popular health fair for migrant agricultural workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It takes place this Sun-

day, June 25, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the NOTL community centre on Anderson Lane.

The health information fair provides information tables for 300 migrant farmworkers about community organizations and service providers.

Living and working in a rural area presents a number of challenges including access to health services,

says organizer Kit Andres, including transportation, and social isolation.

One of the goals of the health fair "is to highlight and bridge some of these gaps, while providing a safe social space to connect with friends on other farms and meet new community members."

Health fair attendance in previous years was as high as 500 workers, says Andres.

A berry good day was had by all



Kathy McHoull, Connie Cristovao and Kay Turnbull had a popular booth at Saturday's Strawberry Festival at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, selling luscious, sweet strawberries.

Kathy Hunter and Nancy Nichols go through a lot of strawberry jam.



Twins Beatris and Amelia, 7, and Paulina Balan, 6, enjoy strawberry frozen yogurt and crepes, and get a lot of attention in their strawberry outfits. (Penny Coles)



MPP Wayne Gates stops to chat (and have a photo taken) with locals Johanna Bevington, Lois Cranston and Debi Pratt. (Joy Sanguedolce)



**Niagara
on-the-Lake
Realty**
1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

*The Highest Total Volume of
Local Sales for the Past Decade*

Highest volume in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 01/01/2011 to 09/21/2021. Source MLS.



724 LINE 3 ROAD
\$2,498,000

MLS 40431140 • Randall Armstrong



26 BALMORAL DRIVE
\$1,650,000

MLS 40425586 • Victoria Bolduc



382 WILLIAM STREET
\$1,448,000

MLS 40411333 • Viviane Elltoft



230 ANNE STREET LOT
\$1,249,000

MLS 40434780 • Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia



4 LUTHER AVENUE
\$729,000

MLS 40375616 • Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia



229 VICTORIA STREET
\$1,595,000

MLS 40424099 • Nicole Vanderperk and Christopher Bowron



32 THE PROMENADE
\$1,189,000

MLS 40411099 • Thomas Elltoft and Ricky Watson



188 FRONT STREET
\$4,498,000

MLS 40358103 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller



187 QUEEN STREET
\$3,695,000

MLS 40374714 • Nicole Vanderperk and Christopher Bowron



5 JORDAN STREET
\$999,000

MLS 40400867 • Nicole Vanderperk



45 STONERIDGE CRESCENT
\$1,799,000

MLS 40397020 • Randall Armstrong



8 SETTLERS COURT
\$2,395,000

MLS 4034839 • Nicole Vanderperk and Christopher Bowron

Christopher Bowron*** 905-327-6704
Kim Elltoft** 905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong** 905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc* 905-941-3726
Philip Bowron* 905-348-7626
Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585

Viviane Elltoft* 905-988-7494
Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012
Jane Elltoft** 905-988-8776
Cheryl Carmichael* 905-941-0276
Sarah Gleddie* 905-685-2458
Linda Williams* 905-401-4240

Caroline Polgrabia* 289-257-6063
Patricia Atherton* 905-933-4983
Weston Miller* 289-213-8681
Ricky Watson* 905-246-3387

***Broker of Record ** Broker *Sales Representative

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. Davids Office 905-262-6996

Forum addresses economic recovery

Penny Coles
The Local

A business forum hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce drew an audience of local business owners and tourism operators, who were presented with a wealth of information.

The first-time event was intended as an exploration of the state of the local economy, how it affects Niagara-on-the-Lake businesses, and how to create a better future for businesses without negatively impacting residents.

Town CAO Marnie Cluckie and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa both spoke, and participated in a “fireside chat” moderated by Paul MacIntyre, vice-president of operations at Lais Hotel Properties. The chat also included Chamber of Commerce CEO and president Minerva Ward, and was an opportunity for questions from the audience.

The forum was held at the Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery conference centre, with lunch provided, and although local comic Joe Pillitteri was on-hand to emcee the afternoon events, his time to entertain was cut short due to speakers running late.

Cluckie spoke of the town’s time during the pandemic as one of survival, and went over all the town did to help local businesses get through it, including a ShopNOTL website that included 260 businesses in the first two weeks it was online, and the development of a temporary patio program to help local restaurants.

“We were in a survival state — the whole world was for a time,” she said. “We banded together as a town for our survival.”

After survival came a time of striving to recover, she said. “It’s been less than a year since things opened completely, and we’re still in that striving stage, shifting over time.”

Cluckie spoke of town initiatives to move forward out of the pandemic, including achieving a sustainable budget, increasing capital programs, addressing provincial legislation such as Bill 23, and economic development initiatives such as a tourism strategy, a municipal accommodation tax, and focusing on a strategic plan that will develop “a road map for this term.”

Cluckie also spoke of a business retention and expansion program, designed to “keep existing businesses growing,” she said. The program allowed per-



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, Chamber president and CEO Minerva Ward, town CAO Marnie Cluckie and Paul MacIntyre of Lais Hotels, during a fireside chat at the business forum. (Photos by Penny Coles)

sonal visits with business owners in town to see how they are doing, she explained. “Now we have to act on what we heard, and integrate that information into the tourism strategy.”

She also mentioned the many projects underway, including the Glendale Secondary Plan, and focusing on strategic growth and the development of a complete community. Creating a diverse and inclusive community with accessibility enhancements is also on the list of priorities, with youth and family programming, and a Recreation Master Plan.

And to help “pull it all together” are the strategic plan, the tourism strategy, the transportation master plan, and the Official Plan, all to “get to where we want to be. We have an excellent council, committed to taking you there in the next four years.”

“We choose to thrive,” she added. “That’s where council is taking us.”

Zalepa followed Cluckie, echoing her enthusiasm for the future of the town and all that is being planned to get it there. He spoke about the early people on the land, thousands of years ago, “including on this property,” he said, referring to the Ravine conference centre surrounded by vineyards, “and we’re the stewards of it now.”

“As we look at climate change we can see the challenges of managing it,” he said, using that as an example of a “challenge all levels of government have to look at.”

Zalepa is a strong proponent of working with upper levels of government, and spoke of the importance of developing government relationships and working with them on issues

such as irrigation, Bill 23, heritage, the airport as an important tool in economic development, and climate change.

At meetings with other levels of government, he said, “Niagara-on-the-Lake is not hard to sell. People ask where you’re from, and there is immediate recognition — that’s something we sometimes take for granted. Let’s not take that for granted. Let’s leverage it. And let’s not forget how perfect we have it here.”

He admitted that “people’s eyes glass over” when strategic planning is mentioned, but explained it’s important to the community, and important for council to know where it should be going. “It gives us a chance to see what people want,” he said, and reduce that to a list of priorities “that everyone wants.”

Having a strategic plan helps council to stay focused on that list, “and not be distracted by pet issues. We want to be responsive to the majority of the community by getting those things done.”

The development of the tourism strategy, involving stakeholders, means that “at the end of it we’ll have a robust, clear set of items” that will help the town “manage the tourism sector properly,” he said.

Zalepa is in favour of “a shared delivery of services, and local people making local decisions.” But not amalgamation, he quickly adds. “Any time I see amalgamation, it doesn’t work well. And I convey that every chance I get.”

He spoke of economic development and all the possibilities he sees, including in the marine industry.

“We are all blessed, but I think we really need to push

forward . . . to build on what we have here today.”

Ward was next to speak — her morning presentation was about all the chamber does for the town and local businesses, including several events and support for the Ambassador Program, as well as its goals for 2023, which includes a “street level,” accessible space.

In the afternoon, she spoke of Niagara-on-the-Lake as “the small town with the power to lead,” specifically in its growing role in the wine industry.

The town faces challenges: an aging population, labour shortages, workforce development challenges, infrastructure and affordable housing needs.

But at the same time “we have a huge competitive advantage,” she said: Its location near the border, scenery, charm, the Shaw Festival and Heritage District, the airport, shopping — from “whimsical boutiques to the outlet mall” — and not only wineries, but the growing brewery and distillery businesses.

She also referenced the culinary scene, the many festivals and events, the arts, accommodations and capacity for business events.

While day visitors are essential, “and every tourist is welcome in town,” she said, the chamber’s focus is on marketing to those who come and stay for a few days, and building on business events, especially during the shoulder season and on weekdays.

She stressed the gift NOTL has with its wine industry, and the town’s ability to attract people because of it. It can be a useful tool to increase tourism, she said, while being sensitive to residents, and a way to grow with less impact on those who

live close to the tourism area.

“People in NOTL live in a fish bowl,” she said. “Their actual heritage homes are part of the attraction for visitors. Tourism has to be respectful of that community.”

One of the fireside-chat questions addressed that point — why are there not members of the public on the tourism strategy committee?

The answer, from both Cluckie and Zalepa, is that the committee of stakeholders is for governance, but there have already been three focus groups, and the committee will be looking at many months of data collection from public input.

Residents, Zalepa said, and all stakeholders in the process, “won’t be impeded by not having a role on the committee.”

Another question concerned building tourism without losing “the sense of character of the Old Town,” and that continued building and expanding tourism “will make it less desirable.”

Ward said the town has to act responsibly, understanding that residents live in the midst of tourism. “We have to be very careful how we grow, in keeping with what we already have.” Growth has to be “a measured

response, and it has to be managed carefully, but we also can’t stand still as a destination.”

When asked if there was an ‘aha moment’ when looking at the results of public input for the strategic plan, Zalepa says his came when he realized how closely aligned most of the comments were.

“Everyone is on the same page. Certain things emerged, with similar challenges, such as public transportation and skills gaps. And with everyone on the same page,” he added, “we can really make this happen.”

At the top of the list is reliable transportation to get people to work. “I’m comfortable supporting public transportation, and will continue to do that,” Zalepa said.

MacIntyre also addressed the labour shortage, saying while residents have the impression the town is busy, and it is rebounding, it hasn’t reached pre-pandemic levels. Many restaurants are not open full time, some just five days a week, he said, when previously they were open seven days a week, “because we can’t meet the demand” due to lack of staff.

Ward agreed. “We’re better

Continued on page 11



Joe Pillitteri emceed the afternoon session, providing some comic relief during a day of serious business presentations.



Wine industry entrepreneur Erin Henderson shares some tips for starting a successful business.



Chamber board chair Andrew Niven addresses the audience of last week’s business forum at Ravine Vineyards Estate Winery.

NOTL'S FAVORITE REALTOR® FAMILY TEAM



ROYAL LEPAGE
NRC Realty, Brokerage, Independently Owned & Operated

FREE HOME EVALUATION
CALL OR TEXT WILL
289-687-9455

CALL WILL MILLER

#1 RLP TEAM NOTL 2022



**ANDREW'S LAW
PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION**
Barristers & Solicitors

905.468.0081
info@rjwandrews.ca

REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS

Mostly good news for Niagara businesses

Continued from page 10

off than many other destinations but we're not at pre-COVID levels yet."

Tim Jennings, CEO of the Shaw Festival, said tickets aren't going as fast as they would have pre-pandemic, with people still hesitating to make travel decisions. He asked about partnerships that might help the town, and was told by Zalepa that Parks Canada and Niagara Parks Commission "are really strong partners, and offer lots of exciting opportunities."

"We are having those conversations all the time, and they are a huge part of it."

In the afternoon, Blake Landry, an expert on economic research and analysis of the local economy, presented information that showed where Niagara has improved in recent years, and where it is lagging.

He talked about interest rates, and the importance of getting them back down, and said when it comes to GDP (gross domestic product), the best measure of the economy in a region, in the past Niagara has typically lagged against the rest of the province. "But now that's starting to go up, which is very positive news in Niagara."

Housing prices are also a plus for Niagara, with the

cost of homes lower than the GTA and Hamilton. "Niagara is more affordable than other areas of Ontario," and is attracting more young people with families, "in numbers we've never seen here before."

While people have stored-up income from the pandemic that they could be spending now, he said, "an incline in interest rates causes a decline in the retail sector. But interest rates will change and the retail sector will improve, and Niagara will catch up with the province over time."

Construction has seen growth in Niagara, "especially with all the people moving

here. We need more houses."

Niagara is also seeing "a gradual improvement" in construction in institutional and industrial sectors, he said.

"Companies are running out of space in the GTA and Hamilton, and are moving to Niagara."

And more good news — during the pandemic, "Niagara was growing in exports, supplying other areas of the world," with 90 per cent of its exports in manufacturing products.

Although there is a labour shortage in retail and hospitality sectors, there are more people working in Niagara than there have been for many years,

with an unemployment rate that is "outperforming the rest of the province."

Niagara is still an older demographic, and during the pandemic many people made the decision to leave the workforce, while others found better jobs. Locally, there are still 1,000 jobs that have not filled, "mostly across hotels, hospitality and restaurants."

The final speaker of the day was Erin Henderson, founder and chief sommelier of The Wine Sisters, a Toronto sommelier services and wine events company.

She spoke of a career path that led her to start her own business, the time during the

early days of the pandemic when she didn't think it would survive, and some of what she learned along the way that helped her survive. She used every opportunity she could to promote her business, and spoke of the importance of respecting every single client, and being open to learning lessons from failures.

Also important, she said, is "listening to yourself, being true to yourself," and suggested avoiding short cuts, "which are actually taking the long way. They always backfire."

Do what is right the first time, "or it will come back to bite you," she said.

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

Flavours of the week

Strawberry Dark Balsamic
50% off June 19th - 23rd
(limit 2 per customer)

Jalapeno Extra Virgin Olive Oil
50% off June 24th - 30th
(limit 2 per customer)

OLIV
TASTING ROOM
NIAGARA

SHOP IN-STORE OR ONLINE
Monday - Sunday: 10 - 6
118 Queen St., NOTL | 289.868.8898
olivniagara.com

SPIRIT IN NIAGARA
SMALL BATCH DISTILLERS
FABULOUS FOOD
AWARD WINNING FARM TO GLASS
SPIRITS & COCKTAILS
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK
JAZZ, BLUES & PIANO TUNES
MONDAY & THURSDAY
NO COVER CHARGE
FEATURING:
ED PIZZO
THOMAS NELSON BAND
WILBER JAMES BLUES BAND

OPEN 11AM - 8PM DAILY
SPIRITINNIAGARA.COM | 905.934.1300
458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

THE FARMHOUSE CAFE
Open For Lunch Daily
Reservations Strongly Suggested
Online Booking Now Available!
Or give us a call to book
905-468-8814
Bring this ad in for 10% off lunch on any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in June

Serving Niagara Since 1977

SIMPSON'S *Mark Your Calendars!*

Customer Appreciation Day
Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, everyone saves...
20% off most products*

Seniors' Day
Every Last Thursday of the month, over 60s save...
20% off most products*

*Regular-priced products only. Excludes prescriptions, sale items, codeine products, gift cards, phone cards, special orders and pharmacy services.

Visit one of our two convenient locations!
Medical Centre • 905.468.2121 • 1882 Niagara Stone Rd, Virgil
Old Town • 905.468.8400 • 233 King Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Shop online at www.simpsonsparmacy.ca | FREE local delivery

CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY
WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR
Open 7 Days a Week
Wine Tastings Offered Daily
Reservations Strongly Recommended for Wine Tasting
1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com

Celebrating 20 Years in Business 2002-2022

YES! WE'RE OPEN

LET YOUR CUSTOMERS KNOW YOU ARE OPEN TO SERVE THEM SAFELY!
RUNNING EVERY WEEK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

To place your ad, call or email Joy at:
416.817.0920 ✉ joy@notllocal.com

Shaw's *On the Razzle* a hilarious adventure

Mike Balsom
The Local

For Shaw's production of Tom Stoppard's *On the Razzle*, on now until Sept. 2 at the Royal George Theatre on Queen Street, it's all about the timing. That's established from the moment the curtain rises. The opening scene is a graceful slapstick dance of avoidance, as

characters busily rush to ready Herr Zangler's upscale Vienna grocery store for the day's business dealings. It's a marvel to watch as each actor hits his or her mark, punctuated by the ringing of shop bells. Sacks of flour fly across the room to find their rightful place below the counter, narrowly missing the actors. And as the play progresses,

it's the impeccable comic timing of the actors that makes director Craig Hall's *On the Razzle* a hilarious comedy of errors, mistaken identities, malapropisms and sexual innuendo. Leading the charge is 20-year Shaw veteran Ric Reid in the role of Zangler, the self-centred, over-protective and often befuddled shopkeeper. Reid brings the right amount of blus-

ter to Zangler, a man who loves to prance around in his shop in his military parade uniform. In Stoppard's script, Zangler has the propensity to mix his metaphors often, and this is where Reid's comic timing shines. When Sonders, the hopeful suitor of the young Marie, declares that he loves the shopkeeper's niece, Zangler is taken aback at the younger man's fondness for his "knees."

"My niece and I are not to be prised apart so easily," says Zangler. "And nor hers." *On the Razzle* is full of such clever plays on words. And Zangler also specializes in muddling up common turns of phrase. Staples such as "cock of the walk" become "cake of the week" in his voice, and the laughs come hard as Reid's Zangler continues to botch the phrase, groping comically for the correct words.

Zangler is also impatient and perpetually annoyed, if not angry. Besides his niece's par amour he also lambastes his tailor, his new servant, a waiter and his housemaid Gertrud. He's also prone to excessive preening. The sight of Reid squeezed into a military uniform two sizes too small elicits much laughter from the Shaw audience.

As Zangler leaves to meet his fiancée, Madame Knorr, owner of a Vienna dress shop, the audience is introduced to his head clerk Weinberl (Mike Nadajewski) and his junior clerk Christopher (Kristi Frank). The casting of the female Frank in a male role, by the way, was common in the early 20th century, when Stoppard's 1981 play is set.

Frank is great as the clueless but affable Christopher. And the

always great Nadajewski is perfect for the role of the sly, sneaky Weinberl. He nails the character's impishness with his glances to the side and the greasy handlebar mustache he wears.

Nadajewski marvelously delivers an eloquent soliloquy about his place among the merchant class, before convincing Christopher to close up shop and go "on the razzle," out for a good time to Vienna while the boss is away.

Of course, according to Murphy's Law, nothing goes right. The second act sees Weinberl and Christopher continuously finding themselves in compromising positions, as they hit Vienna and somehow wind up at Madame Knorr's shop and, later, at the same restaurant where Zangler plans to meet his fiancée.

There, they sit with both Madame Knorr (Claire Jullien) and Frau Fischer (Elodie Gillett), who of course think they are each someone they are not. Gillett's Fischer, though, knows of the ruse, and gleefully tricks the pair into going deeper into the charade. Some of the best sex-

ual innuendos in the play come through these mistaken identities.

With the city in the throes of a Scottish highland fashion craze for some reason, there's a ton of tartan flying around. The capes and hoods, of course, are just large enough to conceal the true identities of the two shop assistants as they work their way into a series of pratfalls in an attempt to have a good time while avoiding their blustery boss.

Patrick Galligan makes two show-stopping entrances during this act, first as a lascivious, derriere-obsessed coachman and later as a loud, obnoxious Scotsman. They are both small roles, but Galligan's performance in them elicits some of the loudest, heartiest laughs of the evening.

On the Razzle promises a great night, or afternoon, of ribald, escapist entertainment. There's so much cleverness in Stoppard's script that it's easy to miss one or two of Zangler's zingers. If that's the case, it might be pertinent to see it a second time.

For tickets visit shawfest.com.



Kristi Frank as Christopher and Mike Nadajewski as Weinberl in *On the Razzle*. (Shaw Festival, Emily Cooper)



Jonathan Tan as Melchior and Ric Reid as Zangler in *On the Razzle*. (Shaw Festival, Emily Cooper)

Shaw artistic director Tim Carroll gives tips on play-watching

Sharon Burns
The Local

Tim Carroll, artistic director at the Shaw Festival Theatre, shared suggestions on how to watch a play at the largest Learn & Live event of the season held Monday at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

The hour-and-a-half event was not about how to be an

audience member, Carroll explained, but about the rules of theatre that we all want to understand. He used examples from ancient Greek tragedies, George Bernard Shaw, Tennessee Williams, William Shakespeare and Tom Stoppard, to name a few.

Carroll contended that we go to the theatre to see the hidden connections between

things, and to see the order that's lurking beneath the chaos.

There is a spectrum of what the audience would say they look for in theatre, suggested Carroll. For most people, the answer is entertainment. A few would say enlightenment. Philosophers throughout history have said moral education, "when clearly," said Carroll, "that is not what playwrights have been doing, almost ever."

Others say they want to feel uplifted. Carroll said, "you can feel uplifted at the end of *King Lear*, with bodies strewn about, going 'wow, I like living now.'"

The magical process of understanding the rules starts when, for example, a playwright can compress five years of events into two hours.

Next, the audience likes to know that the end is always implicit from the very beginning of a play. "The denouement, the reveal, must be surprising," he said, "but with hindsight, inevitable. It's quite a tricky thing to pull off," said Carroll. "It gives the restoration of order."

As a member of the human race, suggested Carroll, we look for patterns in the world to un-

derstand more about ourselves, and how the world works. The same is said of an audience member, who "wants to see revealed the order lurking behind the chaos in the universe." Another truth about theatre is that soliloquies always tell the truth. "It's a contract with the audience," said Carroll. Also, "protagonists who have committed a crime will pay for it, and the point of a play is to demonstrate the hidden patterns in life."

A relevant factor, noted Carroll, is that as audience members, we do have an idea, probably before the curtain goes up, about the genre of the play we are about to see. "We're quite grumpy if we feel that the genre is being fooled around with. So if you go to a farce, for example, you don't want it suddenly to become a devastating piece of social commentary. You will get grumpy about that. But we have to bear in mind that writers, if they're really good artists, are absolutely addicted to messing with what they've inherited."

The next thing for the audience member to take in is the

production itself. "Places like Stratford or Shaw," said Carroll, "produce a lot of plays, some of which come round on a treadmill," such as Shaw's *Major Barbara* and *Arms and the Man*.

"One of the glories of a festival like this is that you can see Christopher Newton's production and then Jackie Maxwell's production and then Peter Hinton's production of the same play, and realize the rather extraordinary extent to which theatre is a unique form."

Also, stage directions "can really mess you up as a director, until you realize, right, this is not the author's instructions to you, the director. This is the author describing the original production for you."

For example, a director can't get too hung up on a playwright's description of a man "indeterminately in his forties; there is an air of gay weariness about him which lurks beneath an exterior that is debonair and yet strangely haunted." You can't give that to an actor," said Carroll.

Because "we want the rules of the production to be laid out in an orderly fashion that makes sense," anachronism in a

production can be jarring, said Carroll. He gave an example of how disturbing it can be to have sword fights throughout the play only to have, in the final scene, a gun fight.

And by the rules of the game I'm talking about the production."

Carroll noted, however, that some elements, such as music, "can be incredibly anachronistic. 'I've almost never known any audience to notice when the music is one hundred years too early or too late for the play.'"

"We look for a play to show us the organizing principles of life," he continued, "and we look for production to have its own organizing principle, to which it sticks to, and reveals something about the organizing principle of the play that maybe we haven't noticed."

The final Learn & Live session for the season is presented by J.B. Hopkins, parks supervisor for the town. He will explain how Niagara-on-the-Lake became The Prettiest Town in Canada. Visit the NOTL website to register for this Monday, July 17 event.



Tim Carroll at the NOTL Public Library. (Sharon Burns)

Regional program keeps seniors active, mentally and physically

Sharon Burns
The Local

A recreational social-based program at the Community Centre helps seniors “to get connected, stay active, and keep learning.”

Terri Fedorchuk, program manager for the Niagara Region's Adult Day Program,

explained their programming is based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give.

An open house at the community centre last week was designed so that the curious could walk through several activity stations to get a sense of what to expect in a three-hour session.



Seniors drop in to the open house to see what the daily three-hour regional program offers.



The adult day program flyer is available at the community centre.

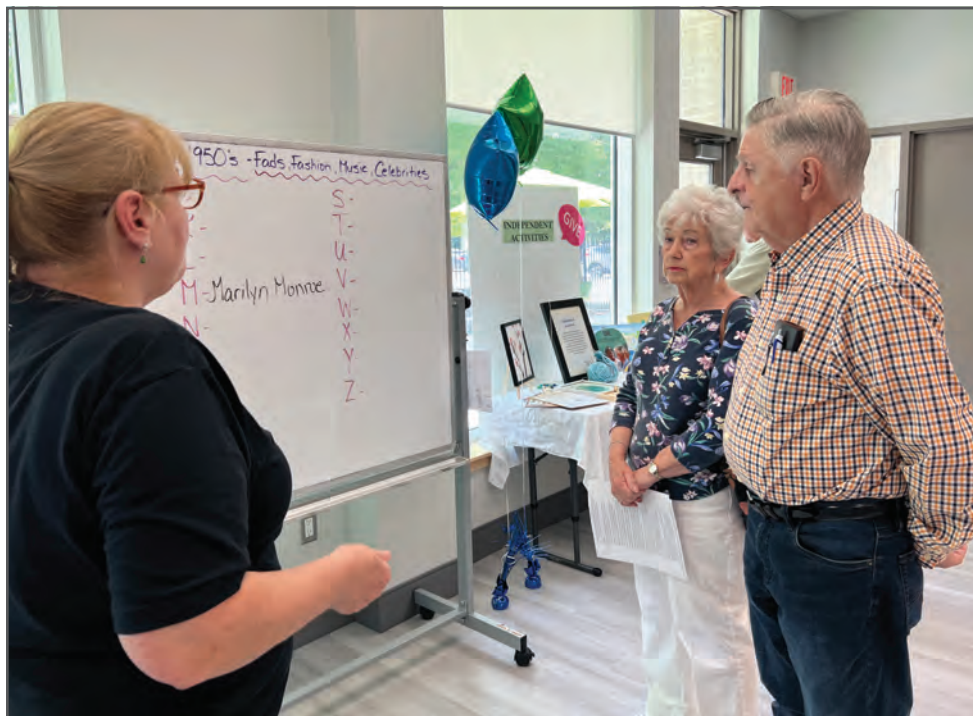
“We start with independent activities, then go into the brain game,” said Fedorchuk. “We will do different types of games that help people with cognitive issues and with memory.”

Participants can be seniors over 60 years old, and they can be physically or cognitively challenged, socially isolated, or have early to moderate memory loss. They “come here and are actively engaged with us and enjoy their time,” said Fedorchuk. The three-hour session also allows a break for the caregiver.

All the staff have been trained in SAM STEPS, an exercise program designed for seniors to exercise safely, which they do for 45 minutes. A social break follows, giving people the opportunity to engage with each other over a snack.

The bathrooms are equipped with rails and staff are trained to provide assistance.

The last hour of the session, Stay Connected, explores weekly themes in visual, social and active ways. Participants can take a tour of China through videos and slideshows, learning about famous people, history, and experience art and music. The hour concludes with an activity, such as creating a painting of a branch of a cherry blossom.



Tammy McIsaac explains the program to Anita and Willard Miller. (Photos by Sharon Burns)

The program, run in seven Niagara region municipalities, has been in Niagara-on-the-Lake since July 2022. It is offered five days a week with nine sessions available. All still have openings.

Darlene Jackson, program coordinator, explained that each week is theme-based, for example the theme may be birds. Under the music category, a correct answer to a jeopardy-style ques-

tion might be The Eagles.

“The games are also conversation starters,” said Jackson. Recreationists, such as Tammy McIsaac, are trained to develop and implement appropriate social recreation programming for a diverse group of seniors. They use some of the games as a starting point to get seniors to stay connected and to keep learning.

Willard and Anita Miller, from Virgil, attended the open

house. “I think he would find it interesting,” said Anita of Willard. “There is a lot of variety,” she added, with 84-year-old Willard Miller agreeing.

The Adult Day Program runs Tuesday and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Monday through Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Clients must attend at least one session per week. A daily user fee of \$16.20 is incurred for each session.

Doughvine treats are ‘showstopping’

Mike Balsom
The Local

As a frequent visitor to Niagara-on-the-Lake from her previous home in the Ottawa Valley, Jessica Millet felt there was something missing.

“I felt that Niagara needed a ‘doughvine intervention,’” says Millet. “I thought, let’s make a fun spot with awesome, organic food, comfortable seating and really good coffee.”

So when the veteran of many years in the restaurant industry moved to NOTL with her husband, Norman, the couple looked for the perfect place to start their new venture.

Doughvine, Millet’s new cafe located on Victoria Street, just a short hop north of Queen Street, is a bright, cheerful shop complete with that comfortable seating and really good coffee and espresso, brewed with beans from the Happy Goat Coffee Company in the Ottawa Valley.

It’s all in line with Millet’s commitment to offering doughnuts, breads, Montreal-style bagels and beverages made from truly Canadian, organic sources, with a focus on local ingredients when they are in season. She even sources her flour from Tottenham, Ontario’s artisanal K2 Milling.

Visually, her doughnuts are showstoppers. Doughvine’s Oreo donut has giant chunks of the namesake cookie embedded on top of a dark chocolate drizzle. The Boston

cream is topped with large beads of white chocolate. If you’re a fan of The Simpsons you will recognize the Homie, even if you’ve never encountered that exact doughnut anywhere other than in front of your television.

And they are scrumptious. Doughvine’s honey-dipped doughnuts are made with real local honey, as evident from the very first bite. Their Coffee Crisp brings the rich flavour of the chocolate bar to a soft, doughy pastry. The birthday cake comes complete with a soft, tasty ball of dough in its centre.

“A lot of my ideas come from nostalgia,” laughs Millet. “I guess I’m reliving my childhood a bit through doughnuts. And I learn a lot by getting feedback from people. It’s important to listen to your customers’ advice. I always pay attention to what’s going on locally.”

When the annual Strawberry Festival is taking place at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church on Simcoe Street next week, it’s likely that Millet will be whipping up batches of doughnuts filled with locally made strawberry jams.

True to her adventurous nature when it comes to the culinary world, Millet has plans to experiment a bit with different flavours and styles. Doughvine is the kind of place you may want to visit frequently, as the menu may be different from day to day.

Millet does offer vegan options, and she plans to also

make gluten-free doughnuts, though she cautions that those would be made in an environment where they may have come into contact with regular flour.

And she will soon offer a traditional Polish paczki stuffed with a spiced plum filling.

The doors to Doughvine opened just before June 1, a sort of soft opening to get things going and to train her staff, who are as enthusiastic as

Millet is about the offerings in the bakery. Two of them told The Local that they quietly pray they don’t sell out each day so they can snack on the leftovers after the doors are closed.

Having sampled a few of Doughvine’s doughnuts, The Local is pretty sure those employees will be going hungry — Millet and Doughvine might soon see lineups of doughnut lovers snaking around the block.



The new doughnut shop in town is on Victoria Street. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Jessica Millet of Doughvine.

How can you resist?



NOTL Cats Rescue volunteers will have Rocky, Rosie and mom Raveena at Virgil Pet Valu Sunday, June 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rocky and Rosie, born April 5, must be adopted together. Applications for adoption will be available. (Supplied)

Paul Tobey to entertain at Spirit in Niagara Distillery

Mike Balsom
The Local

It was a perfect confluence of events that led to Paul Tobey's upcoming jazz trio concert at Spirit in Niagara Distillery on Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

First, the accomplished jazz pianist and his wife, Nancy Houle, bought a house just outside of the Old Town not long after the COVID-19 pandemic started. It was a bit of a semi-retirement move, as the couple were winding down their Toronto consulting business and looking for a new, slower-paced location to set up Paul's piano and recording studio.

NOTL was the perfect choice as the couple's son Adrian and his fiancée had bought a house in nearby Niagara Falls.

Shortly after Tobey and Houle made the switch, Arnie Lepp opened his Spirit in Niagara Distillery. On the urging of a friend in town, Paul and Nancy decided to check it out. They immediately fell in love with the atmosphere, and especially the food.

"We come here all the time," Tobey tells The Local. "At least two or three times a week."

A big factor in the atmosphere at Spirit in Niagara is based on the nostalgia of the roaring 1920s and the rum-running bootleggers who followed during the Great Depression of the following decade.

That era also marked the beginning of the jazz age. So it made sense in December 2021, when the distillery became the home of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival's "Jazz and Blooz" series. To accommodate the series, Jazz Festival co-creators Juliet Dunn and the late Peter Shea moved a grand piano into the space at Spirit in Niagara.

Fast forward to January 2023. That very same Juliet Dunn booked Tobey for a "comeback" Jazz Festival concert at The Hare Wine Co. Tobey, whose profile in the jazz world was rising with his Juno-nominated album *Street Culture* more than 20 years ago, had suffered a career-ending injury to his forearms,



Pianist Paul Tobey will be making an appearance at Spirit in Niagara, to the delight of owner Arnie Lepp. (Supplied)



Arnie Lepp shows off the piano he bought for the distillery to entice Paul Tobey to perform. (Mike Balsom)

along with tinnitus. He didn't play the piano at all for many years before the NOTL move.

Part of the reason for the move to the area was to slowly ease his way back to the piano bench. He set up his studio and from his new home dug in to host his regular YouTube series called "Jazzmentl", during which he conducts jazz piano master classes. The show at The Hare was the next step in his jazz piano comeback.

The sold-out show was a

triumphant return for Tobey.

In the meantime, the piano that had been moved into Spirit in Niagara had been returned to its owner. Lepp had heard about Tobey's performance at the Niagara Stone Road winery, and the next time he saw him at the distillery with Nancy, he asked Tobey when he was going to perform there.

"I was flattered," Tobey says, "but I told him that I play piano. I don't play key-

board. There is a big difference between playing a piano, especially a concert piano, and playing an electronic keyboard. I told him I couldn't play there because he didn't have a piano there anymore."

It should be fairly obvious what Lepp did next. Yup, he bought himself a piano.

It's a shiny, beautiful Samick baby grand piano, acquired by Lepp with the help of a local piano tuner and consultant. As he opens the

lid to show it off to the The Local it is clear that Lepp is happy with his purchase.

"I was shocked when he told me he bought it," Tobey laughs. "It's a really, really good piano. It's perfect for the space here."

"We were so lucky to find this beautiful piano," Lepp says. "I believe it was owned by someone in the Fort Erie area. Since we got it, we've had Eddie Pizzo, the piano player from the (St. Catharines

restaurant) Blue Mermaid on Thursday nights. I've heard Paul play it a few times, too, and it sounds amazing."

Tobey has assembled a great trio for the July 29 concert, including Shaw Festival bassist Ross McIntyre, who has shared the stage with the likes of Matt Dusk, Emilie-Claire Barlow, Guido Basso and Laila Biali, among many others. Joining in on drums will be Joel Haynes. The Burlington, Ontario resident has appeared on over 30 recordings as a side man with artists such as Seamus Blake, Russell Malone, David Braid and Denzal Sinclair. He also has two albums under his own name to his credit.

Tobey promises a set packed with standards, including well-known jazz numbers "The In Crowd" (Ramsey Lewis), "My Funny Valentine" (Chet Baker) and "My Favorite Things" (John Coltrane).

"They're all going to be on an album I'm hoping to release later this year," says Tobey, looking forward to potentially the third step in his "comeback" process.

He'll also throw in "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes", the tender theme song from the classic Disney version of *Cinderella*, and a jazzed up version of an original classical piece he wrote to commemorate his walk of the Camino in Spain. The trio will also perform the Oscar Peterson ballad "You Look Good to Me", among other numbers.

"It's a journey through the Great American Songbook," Tobey adds. "Songs you know and love. It will remind us how lucky we are to have an evening filled with good friends, good food and great music."

And his good friend, Arnie Lepp, is over the moon with excitement to host Tobey for the second step in his comeback.

The Thursday, June 29, show begins at 7 p.m., with the audience welcome to gather for dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets for the concert only are \$45, while dinner is a la carte.

Lepp wins best new business award

Mike Balsom
The Local

The awards keep coming for Arnie Lepp's Spirit in Niagara Distillery on Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The just over two-year-old distillery and restaurant was named Niagara's Outstanding New Business at the Niagara Business Achievement Awards last Thursday.

It's the third region-wide award for Lepp, fol-

lowing a 2022 Award of Excellence for Architecture at the Niagara Biennial Awards and a 2021 Award of Merit from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for the small batch producer's commitment to using otherwise discarded, damaged fruit to make its spirits.

Add those awards to the dozen or so that have been won for specific products in Spirit in Niagara's lines of gins, vodkas, bourbons and eaux de vie,

and the trophy shelf at the entrance is filling up fast.

"This one is the most rewarding on a personal level," Lepp tells The Local about the outstanding new business in Niagara award.

"A lot goes into starting a new business. I think all those in the category were worthy of the award. I know we are making some great products here, and we are offering some great food at our restaurant. It's really a team effort that led to this one."



Arnie Lepp wins a local business award for best new business in Niagara. (Mike Balsom)

Palliative care service has much to offer

Continued from page 1

ing her up, and played the Beatles' *In My Life*, a favourite of Bagnulo's brother — she said it was his loss that led her to palliative care, and for whom she was releasing a butterfly. And before she knew it, she says, she was crying, Juliet was crying, "everyone was crying. It was so magical. We were choking

up, we were crying over our losses. Sometimes other people get tired of listening to us, but on a day like this, we all have something in common, the need to witness our grief. That release of grief, of bereavement, surrounded by people who understand, for that one moment of the day, can be freeing. It's a letting go of just that little bit of bereavement, just for

that moment." This event has become an important one for the palliative care service, but they can help in so many other ways, with programs to offer those suffering a serious illness and their families, and bereavement support for those who have lost a loved one. They have a psychosocial consultant who adds a level of support for those grieving, and they

provide equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, shower seats, transfer benches, cushions and comfort items — almost everything anyone during an illness might need, including room monitors for caregivers. Anyone looking for more information can call 905-468 4433, visit notlpc.com or email notlpc@bellnet.ca.



The painted lady butterfly is indigenous to our area, says palliative care executive director Bonnie Bagnulo.



Riannon Bagnulo and Agnes Feren with volunteers Melissa Nixon and Jessika Powel.



Three generations, Riannon Bagnulo, her mother Bonnie Bagnulo, and Bonnie's mother Agnes Feren released butterflies for Bonnie's brother. (Photos supplied)



Mark and Monica Gaudet release a butterfly for their son.



Juliet Dunn sang for her mother, her sister, and her husband and music partner Peter Shea.



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa attended and released a butterfly for a family member lost last year.



Dee Trivett and Mary-Beth Blackman release their butterflies.

Three bell concerts coming up at St. Mark's

Penny Coles
The Local

You can't miss the excitement and enthusiasm in Bernadette Secco's voice when she talks about plans for three chiming concerts coming up at St. Mark's Church this summer.

Secco has been playing the bells at St. Mark's for 14 years, she told The Local, and she loves what she does. She also loves to share the music of the bells with others.

"I've loved being around music all of my life," she says, "and I had a wonderful piano teacher," but she had absolutely no experience chiming bells until she climbed the stairs up to the chime stand at St. Mark's. "I had just dreamed about doing it one day," she says.

Ruth Boulton was the one who introduced her to the idea — Boulton and local historian

Jim Smith had been looking after the bells, but they needed someone to take over.

"I put my hand up," says Secco. "I told Ruth I'd always wanted to do that."

Boulton can hear her from where she lives, not too far from the church. "I still consult with her," says Secco. Other than that, she's on her own, with nobody to share the job with — although she doesn't mind at all.

The bells of St. Mark's, with 19 bells and a chime stand only 36 inches long, "are fascinating," says Secco.

Her ability to read music and apply it to the bells, to play with both hands, knowing if a note is flat or sharp and having a sense of rhythm, all helps, she says, and she can arrange piano music for playing the bells.

"I've loved bells since I was a kid, particularly the bells of St. Mark's," she says.

The chime stand is in a very small space right below the bells, and the door between her and the bells is open when she plays, she explains. "When I'm up there, I laugh, I sing along, I talk to the bells. When I hear the sound coming down, I feel like I resonate with it."

There is one in particular that is her favourite — #18. "I love that note. I toll with that note — to me it sounds better than the others, it's just got that extra warmth to it."

Secco explains there is an art to not letting the sound become muddy — she has to be conscious of timing her chiming so that one bell doesn't muddy the sound of the one before it.

While she loves all kinds of music, not all translate well to chiming. She can't play much rock and roll, although she'd like to. There has to be an interesting melody, since that's all she can

play — songs that depend on a good rhythm section behind them don't work well when played on bells, she says.

She can't wait for the opportunity to provide a free concert to a large audience of everyone close enough to Byron Street to hear the bells for a 30-minute concert of music from her extensive repertoire.

"I like to play much that makes you smile, that makes you hum."

The concerts will take place on Sundays of the three long weekends: July 2, Aug. 6 and Sept. 3.

Sunday, July 2, from noon to 12:30 p.m. will feature familiar songs by Canadian artists she has chosen that will appeal to all ages, with kids' music from Raffi, including *Baby Beluga*, to songs performed by Gordon Lightfoot, Anne Murray, Joni Mitchell and Bryan Adams — and what could be more Canadian than the *Log Driver's Waltz*, Secco says. "These are songs that every adult knows."

In August, she will highlight music about summer and summer activities, and Labour Day Sunday will be music that's just plain fun.

"My chiming philosophy is 'make the bells swing, let people sing.'"

She wants to see family parties surrounding the church and in the park, and people having fun together.

The concerts are rain or shine. The audience is encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for the casual concerts and sit in the churchyard at St. Mark's Church at 41 Byron Street. All of them begin at noon.

In providing some history of the bells, local Timothy Taylor says "they have grown in number and stature" at St. Mark's "to become one of the three largest chimes in Ontario, and are certainly the largest in any small



Some of the bells of St. Mark's. (Donald Combe)

parish church."

From the original bell in 1828, the chiming set has grown to 19 bells, with the addition of a final bell to commemorate the war of 1812 in 2012, Taylor says in a news release about the concerts.

The total weight of all 19 St. Mark's bells is 5,852 pounds — almost three tons. The largest of the St. Mark's bells is 1,240 pounds; the smallest is 92 pounds.

They have a long and colourful history, part of a centuries-long international tradition, says Taylor.

"It wasn't until 1877 that the original 1828 bell was replaced by six new bells, financed by two local widowers in memory of their wives. The 1828 bell was given to St. Saviour's church in Queenston."

In 1917, the St. Mark's Ladies Guild added three more bells as a memorial to parish sons killed

in action in France during the First World War. They then provided a full octave range of nine bells.

In 2006, all nine bells were removed for tuning and reconditioning to carillon standards. At the same time, the aging belfry was repaired, reinforced and readied for the return of the original nine bells and nine more.

In 2012, a single bell was added: The Brock, so named to commemorate the 1812 war hero and the bicentennial celebrations.

There are about 2,600 sets of tower bells in the world, says Taylor, including 48 in Ontario.

"The largest Canadian carillon is at the Rainbow Bridge (55 bells and 43 tons) in Niagara Falls. Fully refurbished in the 1990s, this carillon has not been played since the tragedy of 9/11. It is still considered a security risk."



Chimer Bernadette Secco climbs up to the belfry to play the bells of St. Mark's. She explains she hits the two layers of levers with the heel of her hand, and says it involves moving around a lot, can be physically exhausting, hot in the summer and cold in the winter. But she loves it. (Supplied)

St. Mark's Haute Emporium returns with Wine & Wears event

Penny Coles
The Local

While a St. Mark's emporium is traditional for the church, it evolves every year as organizers find different ways to stage the annual fundraiser, as it has this year.

It continues to be an opportunity to find hidden treasures:

vintage, upscale clothing; accessories, jewelry, and purses; and other items. It will be held in Addison Hall on the day of the Anglican church's Cherry Festival — but first there will be an elegant shopping event, as well as a catalogue of items for sale online, leading up to the festival.

Wine & Wears will be held Thursday, June 29, at the

church hall. It's an advance sale, with wine and nibbles to be enjoyed while shopping. Addison Hall at St. Mark's will be filled with designer clothing, much of it vintage, including two Laura Ashley dresses from the 1980s.

Other items are available by Armani, Prada and Chanel; there is some clothing in large sizes; handbags have designer names such as Louis Vuitton and Cole Hann; there is some men's wear, although limited; and also fashion accessories, antiques, artwork and collectibles, including 85 Royal Doulton figurines.

Admission is \$10, and the intent, say organizers, is for a less-crowded opportunity to shop at the advance sale.

All items have been donated either by church members, or friends in the community, said organizer Trudy Watson, and packed up, stored in homes waiting to be transported and displayed in the church hall.

A Haute Emporium catalogue has been painstakingly put together so those interested can see some of what's available and purchase ahead of the Cherry Festival event, on Saturday, July 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Organizers, including Watson and Sally Mitchell, have had to respond to changing times — the popular event was at one time held in the lead-up to Christmas, in the historic Byron Street rectory.

Then came the pandemic, and the sale moved completely online.

Now, the rectory is occupied by the Rev. Leighton Lee, who came to St. Mark's from Calgary in June 2021, and the organizers have Addison Hall to spread out their selection of items.

They are anticipating more treasures arriving to add to the emporium before the Cherry Festival event.

There are also some "experiences" available through the catalogue, the kind that would be

included in a silent auction, says Mitchell, that are now available through the catalogue. Some are already sold, such as a gourmet dinner for six people with Leighton Lee at the rectory, Lee sharing his culinary skills with a dinner and selected wines; and Conversations with Donald Combe, for 10 people to join the historian, archivist, sexton and raconteur of St. Mark's over refreshments and nibbles.

The catalogue will be updated to indicate what's sold, and more items will be added to it, says Mitchell. Appointments can also be made to view and purchase items at the rectory by emailing her at semitchell@cogeco.ca. She can also email the catalogue — it will be available online soon, but isn't now.

The merchandise for sale has all been donated by parishioners and members of the community, says Watson.

"A lot of it comes from the community — it's very much a

community event," adds Mitchell.

Volunteers also do their research to learn the value of items, she says. "We're not just giving them away."

Lorraine and Geoffrey Joyner, the former president of Sotheby's Canada, are helping to value the artwork included in the emporium.

In the past, the emporium has attracted about 2,000 people, "pretty spectacular for what was a one-day event," says organizer Elizabeth Jamieson.

This year, by holding a pre-sale and offering the Haute Emporium catalogue, organizers are hoping the sale the day of the Cherry Festival will be less crowded, allowing for more leisurely shopping, hopefully with little left over at the end of the day to store until next year.

The money raised will be used for the general operation of the church, she says.

Wine & Wears is at Addison Hall, 41 Byron Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Elizabeth Jamieson, Erin McKinley and Andrea Douglas model clothes available at St. Mark's Haute Emporium. (Sally Mitchell)

Record-breaking ride for prostate cancer

Mike Balsom
The Local

It was a record day for the Ride For Dad Niagara Saturday, with \$63,000 raised to support awareness of and research into prostate cancer, one of the biggest killers of men in Canada.

Co-chair of the Niagara chapter and national chapter advisor Matt King of Niagara-on-the-Lake says a record 210 motorcycles roared out of the parking lot at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 on King Street at 9 a.m.

The great turnout was also a fitting send-off for Niagara Health urologist

Dr. Ian Brown, who has been involved in the Niagara ride since its beginning 13 years ago. Brown and his wife Tina, both members of the Niagara executive, are retiring from his practice in Niagara to move to British Columbia. Not a motorcycle enthusiast himself, Brown rode in the Batmobile as the pace car for the Niagara ride for the last time Saturday.

The ride was one of 35 such events scheduled between May and September across the country to raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Fight Foundation, a leading investor in cutting-edge prostate cancer research.



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, Dorothy Soo-Wiens, Erwin Wiens, organizer Damien Parrent, and co-chair Matt King before Saturday's Ride For Dad, which began from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Royal Canadian Legion on King Street. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Dr. Ian Brown rides in style — in Andrew Goodwin's Batmobile.



Urologist Dr. Ian Brown addresses the crowd before they leave.



Father and daughter Cameron and Emily Toles of Thorold rode together in the Ride For Dad.



Dorothy Soo-Wiens and Erwin Wiens prepare to take their Harleys for a ride for prostate cancer.



A large crowd of riders prepare to start their ride.



Lori and Guy McPherson of St. Catharines.

Foster Festival relaunches Local Heroes charity program

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Foster Festival refers to Shawn Rahbarian, owner of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Hypnotic Hair Lounge, and Christos Rigas of the Old Firehall Restaurant, as two of its Local Heroes.

They're both sponsors of the arts organization's heroes program that provides free access to Foster Festival plays to those otherwise unable to attend due to social or economic barriers.

"Community is an important part of any theatre," says Jamie Williams, the festival's artistic associate, "that sense of the community being a part of a theatre. And the community is much larger than just the people we imagine that go to the theatre."

The Foster Festival, based in St. Catharines, is dedicated to presenting and helping to develop the plays of Prince Edward Island resident Norm Foster, one of Canada's most beloved and most often produced playwrights.

The former radio announcer's plays are renowned for their ability to shine a spotlight on regular life with a combination of comedic and serious moments. His characters are often relatable, everyday people interacting with friends and family members, each



Shawn Rahbarian, owner of Hypnotic Hair Lounge and the new York Road Barber Shop, is one of the Local Heroes program that allows those who might never get to the theatre to attend a Foster Festival play. (Mike Balsom)

discovering something about themselves and in turn, about each other in the process.

"He really writes stories that we all can identify with, across the board," says Williams. "He deals with general issues, whether it's getting old, or facing death, or looking at a second time around with

relationships. These aren't exclusive to any social demographic, or even any age demographic."

Of course, it costs money to produce a play. There's the rental of the performance space, the cost of promotion, the salaries of the professional performers, the copyright costs of the material and so on. A not-for-profit professional theatre company, the Foster Festival needs to cover these expenses. It all adds up.

"The live arts are not necessarily accessible, cost-wise, to a portion of our community," Williams explains. "Our prices, at \$42 including tax, are inexpensive comparatively speaking. But still, for a portion of our audience, whether it's seniors, or people experiencing economic hardships, \$42 can make a significant difference in a weekly budget."

So the Foster Festival has joined with Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, the Walker Family Cancer Centre, Pelham Cares, Project Share and Community Living St. Catharines to make seats available to their clients for the Foster plays *Outlaw* (on now until July 2 at the

Century Barn at Ball's Falls Historic Village), and *Jenny's House of Joy* (Aug. 9 to 20 at Ridley College's Mandeville Theatre).

"We make the tickets available to those agencies for them to distribute to their clientele," Williams says. "For instance, Bethlehem Housing and Support Services have a direct line to their clients. And with the Walker Family Cancer Centre, we felt with what people are going through there, perhaps they can step out for a couple of hours and forget about things, have a communal experience where laughter is involved."

Those who have seen Foster's plays know that it's difficult to walk out of one without reflecting upon how much one has laughed during the proceedings. For someone who is experiencing hardship on a daily basis, that experience can have a major positive effect.

"And there's been studies done," Williams says, "that have found that when an audience gets together for a live theatrical event, their heartbeats synchronize. They're watching the same story in the

same space, the pace of the story seems to allow them to sync up. It's an interesting symbol about how connections are made. It creates a sense of communal well-being."

The Local spoke to Greg Lewis, president of Pelham Cares, a food bank and social services agency serving that community. Lewis had already had a chance to distribute tickets to some of the organization's clients.

"We were excited to have a chance to offer them this opportunity," Lewis affirmed. "It's not the usual thing someone might expect when they visit a place like Pelham Cares. But we thought it would be a great way to bring some joy and sunshine into their day."

The festival's Local Hero program was actually begun by its artistic director Emily Oriold prior to the pandemic. With the number of people still experiencing food insecurity and other issues that were exacerbated by COVID-19, Oriold felt the time was right to bring the program back.

Rahbarian and Rigas were two of the first sponsors to support the relaunch of the initiative. They each donated

\$250 that will make four tickets available to one of the partner agencies. Those agencies can then present the tickets to two families of four for them to enjoy one of the Foster Festival's upcoming performances.

Williams' goal is to line up 100 Local Heroes, bringing laughter to 400 people who are using the services of the five partner agencies. Recently, Meridian Credit Union stepped up as the title sponsor for the community-minded program.

"If we can meet that target," Williams adds, "we may be able to facilitate transportation, too. For some of the clients, just getting to the theatre can be an issue. It would be great to be able to grow the program to a reasonable size where we can help shuttle people to the theatre and back."

For Rahbarian, who recently also opened the York Road Barber Shop, giving to the program was something he couldn't turn down.

"I feel like everybody deserves to have a little taste of that joy," he says of those who may benefit from his donation, "even in their worst of times. Personally, I think if you can help, you should. In the end, the money that I gave doesn't change anything in my life, but it will change something in someone else's life."

And in tough times, adds Williams, it's important for the clients of those five non-profits to feel that they are a part of their community.

"It's about a sense of belonging," Williams says. "When people don't have access to the culture of a community, then they stand outside of it. When you bring them in, that has an impact on their sense of belonging. That's not a small thing. That can be a really significant moment for them."

LocalHAPPENINGS

We will be donating \$1 per order on Thurs June 22's fish fry to the Niagara Regional Native Centre in honour of Indigenous month.

FISH FRY

Every Thursday
4 - 7 p.m.

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT
CASH ONLY

1 piece \$11 2 piece \$15

with fries and coleslaw taxes included

Legion
BRANCH 124
NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.,
905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

Canada Day CELEBRATION

SAT JULY 1ST BEGINS AT 1PM

BBQ, licensed front lawn, fundraising for Cenotaph

Live music by Trophy Husbands
4 - 7pm

All welcome to join us!

Legion
BRANCH 124
NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.,
905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE

With or without a border, colour graphics optional.
Prices starting at \$25. Deadline: Monday 3 p.m.
Call Joy 416-817-0920 or email: joy@notllocal.com

LocalWORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, June 25th

9:45 a.m.
Kids Ministry Sign In
(Nursery - Grade 8)

10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering
Online & In-Person

Message:
Kevin Bayne
Jesus on Making a Great Investment
(Matthew 6:19-24)

www.ccchurch.ca

To advertise your
Worship Services
in this section, please contact:

joy@notllocal.com

Local

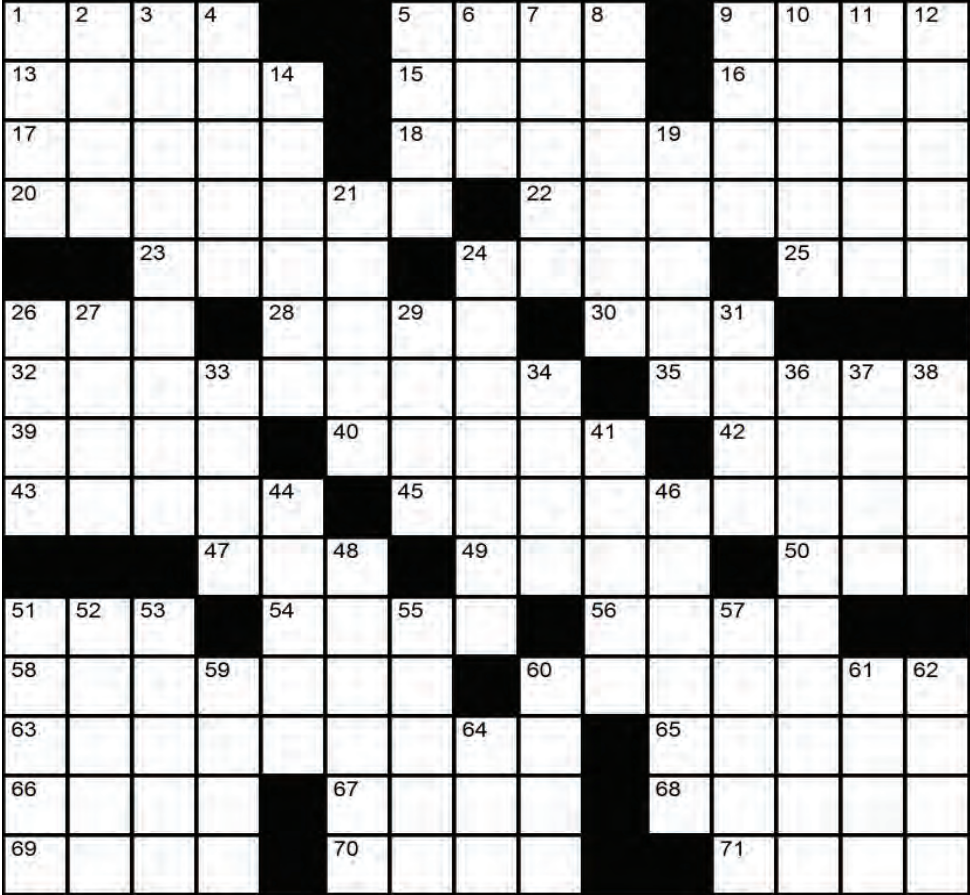
CLASSIFIEDS

classified@notllocal.com



Compassionate
Transparent
No Pressure
www.morganfuneral.com

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



- Across:**

 - 1 Maker whose cars go up and down
 - 5 Unfortunately
 - 9 Old Indian coin
 - 13 Individualist
 - 15 --- Marlene
 - 16 Turns
 - 17 Weighty
 - 18 Thought transference
 - 20 San ---, California
 - 22 Correction
 - 23 4th largest Great Lake
 - 24 With regard to
 - 25 Place
 - 26 Contains Jets and Texans
 - 28 Composure
 - 30 Small cell
 - 32 Paces
 - 35 Common subjects in life classes
 - 39 Zits
 - 40 Delhi wraps?
 - 42 S M S
 - 43 Additional clause
 - 45 Financial holdings
 - 47 Doze
 - 49 Calf meat
 - 50 Tennis player's org.
 - 51 Drop in value
- Down:**

 - 1 "Quantum of Solace" actress --- Kurylenko
 - 2 Ripped
 - 3 Very soon
 - 4 Cut
 - 5 Either a male or a female voice
 - 6 Recline
 - 7 Filmmaker Woody ---
 - 8 Jagged mountain range
 - 9 Turkish rulers
 - 10 Asleep
 - 11 Long narrow jacket with a high collar
 - 12 So far
 - 14 Ancient artifacts
- 54 Small pool lining slab
 - 56 Burrow
 - 58 Unworldliness
 - 60 Storm
 - 63 Truce
 - 65 Ace golfer --- Els
 - 66 Amount
 - 67 "Born Free" lioness
 - 68 Lucifer
 - 69 Was completely certain
 - 70 Raised platform
 - 71 Thanksgiving dish
 - 19 Song of praise
 - 21 E.g. venison, beef, pork etc.
 - 24 Better
 - 26 A long way off
 - 27 An ellipse has two
 - 29 Spring
 - 31 Not manual (Abbr.)
 - 33 Person between 12 and 20
 - 34 Father
 - 36 Dominican-American fashion designer Oscar ---
 - 37 Way out
 - 38 Cease
 - 41 Not fresh
 - 44 Assesses
 - 46 Online attacks
 - 48 Pockmarked
 - 51 Nibble
 - 52 Moses' brother
 - 53 Easy putt
 - 55 Bizet's priestess in "The Pearl Fishers"
 - 57 Start of a divine appeal
 - 59 Perspective
 - 60 E.g. Oolong, Darjeeling
 - 61 Now Thailand
 - 62 Sawbucks
 - 64 Long-running Ted Danson show

OBITUARY



HODGINS, JOHN B.

After a short illness, at NHS-Niagara Falls, on Thursday, June 8/2023, loving husband of Cecile (nee Lopushenski) for 69 years. Devoted father of Dennis (Karen) Lori and Reg (Karen). Proud grandfather of Shanayde (Dylan) Llord and Regan (Ro) and great-grandfather of Rhett and Ellis. Survived by brother Donald (late Pat), Joyce (late Harry) Breadman, Bob (Linda). John was predeceased by his siblings Ken (Anne) and Patti (Reg) Drake. He will be missed by his many nieces, nephews and their families.

He was a sincere, smart, logical, dedicated, kind, gentle, quiet man. He was devoted to his wife, his kids, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Any time we needed him, he was always there. His heart and soul were always full of kindness and sincerity. He was a loyal employee of General Motors for 47 years and was dedicated to his craft that many found hard to follow. His passion for gardening showed and took pride in everything he did.

He had a few nicknames, such as "Rocky", "Atlas " and, "Silent John ", which the later was so fitting. He rarely voiced his concerns/opinions but led by his actions which were deafening. Anytime any of us would reach out, he was there. Always supportive, always there, always a hello, or a wave, always a smile and always had time.

He was a man you could turn to for knowledge or advice, for help, and always there to give a gentle nudge forward.

We were all truly blessed to have him in our lives. A gentle kind soul and a true gentle man. The space that now exists will never be filled but will always be remembered and will always be so deeply missed. His love will remain like an eternal glow and we love him more than words can ever say.

A special thanks to Dad's support team: Dr. Ahmed, Erin Jarvis, Flo Palmer-Butler and her team, Juleigh Z., Dani Davison, Dr. Rohani and Unit D at Greater Niagara Hospital.

In honouring John's wishes cremation has taken place. Interment will take place in a private family service. Memorial donations to Parkinson Society or Hospice Niagara would be appreciated.

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



PLEASE
RECYCLE THIS
PAPER

FRESH PRODUCE

LOCALLY GROWN ASPARAGUS
Fresh Daily

Open Monday
to Saturday
11 am - 5 pm,
and Sundays
11 am - 3 pm

1984 Townline Road/Firelane 11, NOTL

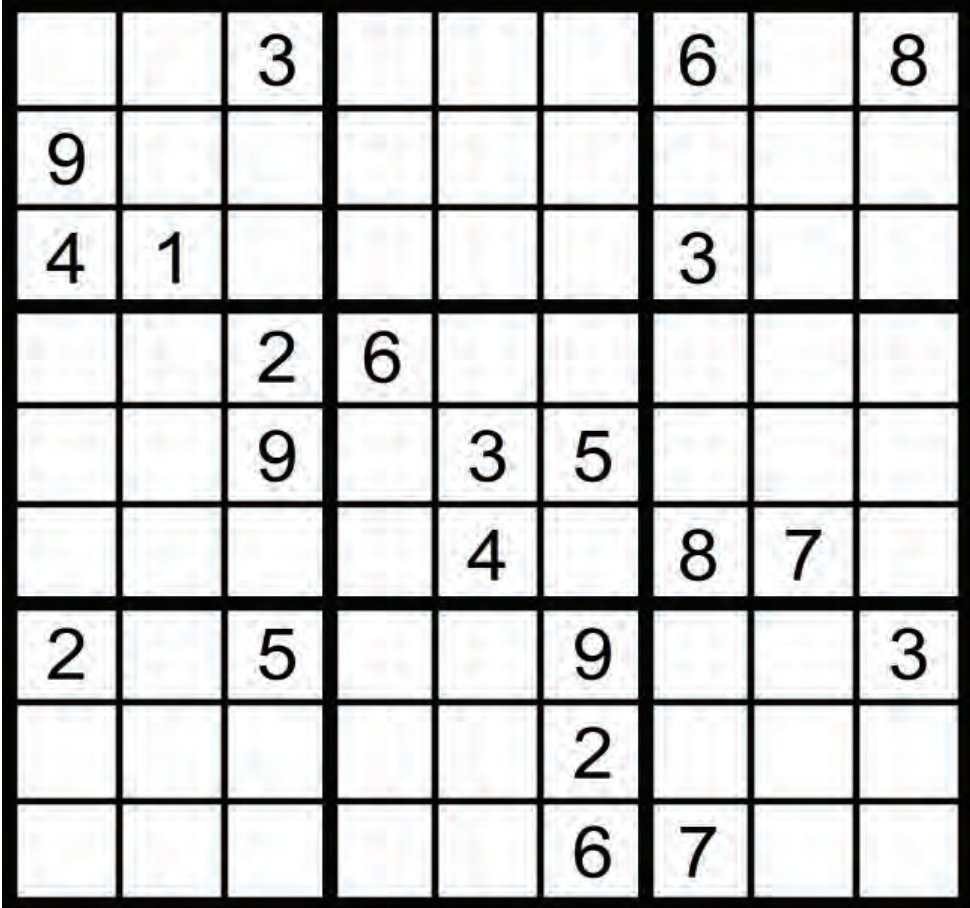
FOR SALE

Mahogany table
with four leaves,
12 chairs.
Price negotiable.
Call 905-468-0552

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1 Otis, 5 Alas, 9 Anna, 13 Loner, 15 Lili, 16 Goes, 17 Grave, 18 Telepathy, 20 Anselmo, 22 Erasure, 23 Eire, 24 In re, 25 Put, 26 A F C, 28 Calm, 30 AAA, 32 Footsteps, 35 Nudes, 39 Acne, 40 Sais, 42 Text, 43 Rider, 45 Portfolio, 47 Nap, 49 Veal, 50 A T P, 51 Sag, 54 Tile, 56 Latir, 58 Naivete, 60 Tempest, 63 Armistice, 65 Ernle, 66 Come, 67 Elsa, 68 Satan, 69 Knew, 70 Dais, 71 Yams.

Down: 1 Olga, 2 Torn, 3 In a second, 4 Sever, 5 Alto, 6 Lie, 7 Allen, 8 Sierra, 9 Agas, 10 Not up, 11 Nehru, 12 As yet, 14 Relics, 19 Paean, 21 Meats, 24 Improve, 26 Afar, 27 Fool, 29 Leap, 31 Auto, 33 Teen, 34 Sire, 36 De la Renta, 37 Exit, 38 Stop, 41 Stale, 44 Rates, 46 Flames, 48 Pitted, 51 Snack, 52 Aaron, 53 Glimme, 55 Leila, 57 I pray, 59 View, 60 Teas, 61 Siam, 62 Tens, 64 C S I.



Angelika & ASSOCIATES
LUXURY REAL ESTATE

★ FREE ★
HOME EVALUATION
CALL 905.468.8777

<div>\$1,749,000 WATerviewS</div> <div></div> <div>41 RICARDO ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE</div>	<div>\$929,000</div> <div></div> <div>6 CIRCLE ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE</div>	<div>COMING SOON - THIS PARADISE WILL SEIZE YOUR HEART</div> <div><div></div><div></div><div>TAKE A PEEK! </div></div> <div>41 COLONEL BUTLER CRESCENT, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE</div>
<div>NEW PRICE! \$949,000</div> <div></div> <div>31 WINDSOR CIRCLE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE</div>	<div>\$2,575,000 AMAZING LOCATION</div> <div></div> <div>93 WILLIAM ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE</div>	<div>\$4,950,000 270 FT- PRIME WATERFRONT 5.5 ACRES</div> <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div>515 SANDY BAY RD, DUNNVILLE</div></div>

CHAMBER of COMMERCE
VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



JUNE 22 2023 | 12 PM
ROYAL NIAGARA GOLF COURSE
NIAGARAONTHELAKE.COM/GOLFTOURNAMENT

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF TOURNAMENT
LEAD SPONSOR



W100
CANADA'S TOP FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

MCGILLIVRAY™
Trusted

Angelika Zammit is proud to have been recognized as the exclusive McGillivray Trusted Agent in the Niagara-on-the-Lake market.

Angelika & ASSOCIATES
LUXURY REAL ESTATE

T. 905.468.8777 C. 289.214.4394
www.angelikazammit.com
496 Mississauga Street
Local Office: Niagara-on-the-Lake

RIGHT AT HOME
REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

#1 BROKERAGE in the GTA.
The largest independent real estate brokerage in Canada - 6,000 Agents across 10 branches in Ontario.

listglobally

 60+ COUNTRIES  150M+ MONTHLY CONSUMERS  UP TO 100 GLOBAL PORTALS



HGTV Celebrity, Scott McGillivray