Help from upper levels of government welcome

Councillor continues to offer assistance locally, but repeats, he needs names

**Penny Coles**
*The Local*

Farmers have been put on notice by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and in Ontario by Premier Doug Ford: they must do a better job of protecting the health of their migrant workers.

Farm communities continue to have COVID-19 outbreaks, and Saturday, a 55-year-old Mexican man, a father of four who had been coming to Norfolk County to work for the last 10 years, died in a London hospital. He is the third migrant worker to die of the virus in Ontario.

There has been one outbreak on a St. Catharines flower farm, but nothing new there, or elsewhere in Niagara. Monday, both the federal and provincial leaders called for more inspections of farms, where close living quarters allow the disease to spread quickly. Ford is also calling for more testing of workers on farms where there have been outbreaks.

Locally, Councillor Erwin Wiens, also a farmer, says he welcomes the news that upper levels of government are sending inspectors to visit farms and check bunkhouses.

Wiens has said he would look into any complaints of the mistreatment of workers by local farmers, and has called for anyone who knows of mistreatment to call him, saying he would do his part to stop it.

That did result in some complaints of specific farms, and he did follow up on them and speak to the farmers, he says.

He wouldn’t say whether he had reported them to the proper agencies, although that is what he is encouraging the farmers to do.

While some of the complaints were about workers hours, most were housing-related. And while there are farmers he would like to see do better by their workers with the housing they provide, they have all been inspected within eight months of the arrival of their temporary help.

“If there are issues, Public Health should be addressing them,” he says.

“We’ve spoken to a couple of farmers already today,” he said Tuesday, “but their homes have all passed inspection.” If there is concern about cramped quarters and too many people sharing a bathroom, it is the system approving those conditions that needs to be changed, he says.

Any farmer who applies through the seasonal worker program has to have had an inspection by the public health department in that time period before submitting his application, otherwise it won’t be successful.

“Do I wish some farmers would do more? Of course I do. I like the adage that if you wouldn’t want to live in those conditions, you shouldn’t expect others to,” he says.

“But if you want to change

**UPS Store closes after 16 years**

Neeti Mehrotra, owner of The UPS Store on Mississauga Street, says after 16 years, she and her husband Vinay have had to make the difficult decision to close.

She has been in the store the last week or so, packing up, and helping the occasional customer who has knocked on the locked door — she says she couldn’t turn them away.

The Garrison Plaza store was full of stock she ordered in February to get them through what should have been their busy season, and she’s been sorting it and getting rid of what she can. Like the Mississauga Street store, other UPS outlets are not doing a booming business, and she has offered them the stock at whatever price they can pay. “What else are we going to do with it,” she says.

Although the pandemic has created a downturn for the Mehrotas, they’ve continued to see many of their regular customers, she says.

But they have had a significant increase in their rent, and also in the common area charges. They also need to replace the air conditioner and pay for it over two years, taking their monthly payment to a cost they can’t afford.

The landlord, offered a chance to respond to The Local about the rent increase, did not do so before deadline.

“This is the kind of business that relies on many small things that add up,” says Neeti. “There was definitely a drop because of COVID, but at least we were open. We had people sending masks to family and children, and we had some of our regular customers, but there weren’t that many people coming around.” A good part of the UPS

Continued on page 3

**New! Seated Tastings**

Enjoy 3 samples of wine in our spacious tasting hall served table-side by a senior wine consultant.

$10/person. Book online. Reservations only.

konzelmann estate winery

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Council asks staff to move forward with heritage tax rebate

Penny Coles
The Local

Councillors came close to spending $35,000 on a consultant to help design a heritage tax rebate program that has been studied and discussed for years.

But just as a vote was to be called Monday night, Coun. Allan Bisback questioned whether the work could be expedited by asking town staff to make recommendations to council on the design of the program.

It is still for implementation in 2021, and the money will have to be found to pay for it, he said.

Pedal Pub owner looking for council support

Penny Coles
The Local

Tony Visca hopes to be able to begin his Pedal Pub tours through Niagara-on-the-Lake soon, but was looking for council to endorse the two popular routes used last year.

The group and the vehicle got lots of attention as it travelled the streets of NOTL last year, with the driver avoiding Niagara Stone Road whenever possible and keeping to the town.

But it received some negative attention from the Region, with concern about it travelling a short distance on the regional Niagara Stone Road, Visca told NOTL councillors Monday night.

The business needs a licence from the Region to operate.

It also drew some complaints from residents over noise.

Visca says his pub pilots play music at lower volumes in residential neighbourhoods, and turn it up when they move away from homes.

“The Pedal Pub has two popular tours, but one’s a short stretch along Niagara Stone Road, and Visca says he’s not sure how that can be avoided.

He says his pilots stay to the side of the road, and obey all the same rules as motorized vehicles.

“The bikes can accommodate up to 15 people, 10 of whom pedal, plus the driver, who steers and operates the bike.

Five more people can just sit and enjoy the tour, or take turns pedalling.

Visca says there will be fewer people on the rides this summer, to allow for physical distancing.

He said by partnering with wineries and restaurants, the tours bring revenue to the town and help local businesses.

Lord Mayor Betty Ducey, who lives close enough to the downtown merchants even to see the Pedal Pub tours bring their music onto the streets of NOTL last year.

She moved away from homes.

Lord Mayor Betty Ducey, who lives close enough to the downtown merchants even to see the Pedal Pub tours bring their music onto the streets of NOTL last year.

She moved away from homes.

Pedal Pub tours have not started up yet this season, but were popular last year. (File photo)

serious allegations being made, councillor says

Continued from page 1

the housing regulations, then that has to come from the top.

He doesn’t ask to see living quarters or carry out inspections himself — that’s not his expertise.

He can call the health department, and will, but can anyone who has a concern, he says.

Farmers are also supposed to ask about the health of their workers every day.

He asks them if they are doing that, and they ensure him they are.

“Can’t be sure they are actually doing that,” he says, “but nobody wants an outbreak on their farm.

He has been criticized in letters to newspapers and on social media for not doing more, for being “disingenuous” by appearing not to know that mistreatment exists in NOTL, and where to find it.

With his background in farming and the farming community, some seem to think he does know and isn’t doing anything about it.

He says he accepts criticism, and hopes to learn from it, but stands by his assertion that he can’t do anything to help if he doesn’t know where the problems are, and he doesn’t know unless someone tells him.

There are serious allegations being made, by people who have no reason to fear for their jobs, he says.

“You tell me, what am I supposed to do? How can I take it on if I don’t know where it is? It’s easy to write a letter to the newspaper or speak out on social media, but if you know something, call me.”

A recent report on mistreatment, but also naming the farms where it takes place, calls for workers to have permanent resident status, and if that is the answer to the current problems, it’s not enough to put it out to the media — change will have to come from the federal government, he says.

There are concerns that workers who are being mistreated won’t speak up for fear of being sent home, and resident status would protect them from that, he agrees, but wonders how they will go if they leave their job on the farm, unless they can find another farm to take them on. Otherwise, they will end up with minimum-wage jobs and no housing.

The majority of men and women working on farms have cell phones, and if they don’t, one of their friends will, he says, believing the best answer is for them to report abuse. They are given a package on arrival that gives them numbers to call, and there are posters in the bunkhouses also telling them who to call with complaints.

While newcomers to the program might be afraid of reprisals, “I think those who have been coming for a number of years would have the confidence to speak out.”

And if organizations wanting to help improve the conditions for workers know where the mistreatment is occurring, he adds, it would be much more helpful to share that information so those who are in a position to help can do so.

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Local business ‘so much a part of the community’

Neeti Mehrotra of The UPS Store says she and her husband have decided to close the business. They had a significant increase in their monthly charges and a downturn in revenue due to the pandemic. (Penny Coles)

Continued from page 1

income was among other local businesses, said Mehrotra. Restaurant owners sent her their menus to be printed, stores brought merchandise purchased by tourists to be shipped home, and the hotels depended on UPS to return forgotten items to their owners.

“And then everything was gone all at once, and we just couldn’t keep going,” she says.

Although her landlord says he is making sure he takes advantage of any government assistance programs during the pandemic, Neeti says the rent subsidy would be for a short time only, and would not be enough to help them stay open.

Ali and Homei Khalili, Neeti’s next door neighbours in the plaza, say the rent for their Subway franchise has also increased significantly, first with the hike per square foot, and then with the common area charges for the plaza. Ali says he tried to negotiate with the landlord, but the resulting monthly charges will make it tough. “I know the property taxes are high in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” he says, “but give us a break. This will make it hard to survive.”

The Mehrotras “are good people,” he says. “This is very sad news. We didn’t get a chance to talk to them much — we were both busy working. But I remember when we first came here, they said this is a good place to be. They were so happy to

and they would come to the store after school.”

They are both in university now, one at the University of Toronto and the other in Waterloo. “This is the only home they know. Customers still ask about them.”

As distressed as she is, she is determined to put on a brave face.

When the pandemic began, “there were others so much worse off, businesses that couldn’t even open during this. I felt we were in a better place than many others,” she says.

Two of her regular customers, local musicians Penner MacKay and graphic designer Mary Tribe, told The Local how sorry they are to see the UPS store closed.

MacKay, a drummer and drumming instructor who has been teaching local kids for more than 30 years, says he has used the copying service extensively for his music, putting pages together for his students. He also used it to print posters for local concerts. But the store, he says, “wasn’t just about photocopying. It was about the people. It was a community thing.”

He remembers seeing Mehrotra’s boys at the store after school, “and before I knew it, they had grown up. Sure, people will miss the service,” says MacKay, “but they’ll miss the people more.”

Mary Tribe, a graphic designer who has used the UPS service for years, remembers how pleased she was when it opened in town. She lives within walking distance, and has used it for photo enlargements, sending parcels and other services. “I’ve known Neeti for a long time. Her kids went to school with my grand- children. I went to the store Tuesday to do some photo-copying, and found Neeti there. ‘Oh Mary,’ she said, ‘we’ve had to close the business.’

Tribe says she’s usual- ly in the store a couple of times a week, and sees people coming in and out all the time, “not only Queen Street merchants but resi- dents as well. There are a lot of people who are going to miss the business.”

And she will miss Neeti, she says. “She’s ador- able. She is so sweet. And I can’t even give her a hug.”

Tribe says she made a hugging motion, “and I told her to consider herself hugged. It’s so sad. She worked so hard. A very local business that was so much a part of the community is gone.”

Neeti laughs when she says she’s going to have to look for a job now. “I can’t imagine what I’ll put on my resume. This is all I’ve done for the last 16 years,” she says, sweeping her arm around the dark, empty store.

“We’ll be okay. I don’t want anyone to worry about us. I still feel there are many who are worse off than we are. This could happen to anyone, not just us. And we’re not going anywhere. This is the village that brought up my kids.”

Mehrotra says she wants to thank all of their custom- ers, “for their support and for their friendship. This is what I’ll miss, my friends.”

NOTL flags help local cadets

Coun. Allan Bisback, and air cadets Spencer Ablt and Shay Vidal helped hand out a pre-or- dered NOTL flag to resident Jim Flyer. Coun. Norm Arsenault ordered and sold the flags as a fundraiser to help out the cadet squadron. He sold 500, and raised $3,500. (Penny Coles)
**Memorial Park pool and Virgil splash pad open Monday**

Both open with limits and restrictions to prevent against spread of COVID-19

Penny Coles

The Local

The splash pad at the Virgil sports park is opening Monday, June 29, along with the pool in Memorial Park.

The St. Davids pool will not open this summer, says Kevin Turcotte, the town’s acting director of operations.

The provincial announcement last week of the stage two reopening includes public pools and splash pads, which took effect in Niagara Friday, June 19.

“Town staff are looking forward to seeing residents and visitors utilize our town pool and splash pad again this summer,” says Turcotte in an announcement from the Town.

Only swimmers from the age of 13 and up will be able to swim in the pool at this time, says Turcotte, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. until noon, in individual lane swims.

A booking and payment system is expected to be online by Wednesday, June 24. Use of the splash pad will be open for the future.

“The decision to leave the St. Davids Pool closed this summer was made by the Town’s emergency control group, based on cost,” said Turcotte in an announcement with his contact from the Province, that he believes the grant applications are still being examined, and those that are successful will be forwarded to the federal government for a final decision.

He says he hasn’t any reason to think the number or financial level of successful grants will be reduced due to the high costs of programs to deal with COVID-19.

Although a fundraising committee has been struck, a meeting has not yet been held.

There was one on the calendar for May, Turcotte says, but he decided to hold off until he knows the result of the grant application, which could kick-start the fundraising campaign.

He’s also being “sensitive to the climate of the town,” he added, explaining that he doesn’t want to be asking for money when some businesses and individuals are struggling financially during the pandemic.

With a donation from the St. Davids Lions Club, the proceeds from the Town’s golf tournament, which included $100,000 for the pool. A staff member will be on site ensuring rules and regulations are adhered to at all times, and encouraging appropriate physical distancing.

Use of the splash pad will be permitted in 25-minute intervals, on the hour and half-hour, each interval followed by five minutes of sanitization prior to the next use.

Space will be limited, and use will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

A staff member will circle around the splash pad area, reminding guests to maintain physical distance from those outside their group. The public washrooms by the splash pad will be open.

**St. Davids pool will not open this summer**

Penny Coles

The decision to leave the St. Davids Pool closed this summer was made by the Town’s emergency control group, based on cost.

Interim operations director Kevin Turcotte says once the group began talking about how to proceed when the Province allowed pools to reopen, they decided to focus on the Memorial Park pool and the splash pad in Virgil.

Operating the Memorial Park pool “has been consistent year after year,” he says, and is more reliable than the St. Davids facility, which is expected to be replaced for the 2021 summer.

He can’t be sure how the pool in the St. Davids Lions Park has overwintered until the filtration system is turned on, and the pool is filled with water. By that point, a lot of money will have been wasted if it can’t be opened without expensive repairs, Turcotte explained.

“If it weren’t for costs relating to the pandemic, “I would open it and deal with mechanical problems, if there are any,” Turcotte hasn’t heard whether a grant to help finance a new pool in St. Davids has been approved, but said Friday he is hoping for an answer “any day,” likely sometime this summer.

He says, from his discussion with his contact from the Province, that he believes the grant applications are still being examined, and those that are successful will be forwarded to the federal government for a final decision.

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With a donation from the St. Davids Lions Club, the proceeds from the Town’s golf tournament, which included a $5,000 donation from St. Davids resident Andy Panko, the fund was at about $45,000 in February.

The pool is expected to cost $5 million and the Town has asked for $4.74 million in the infrastructure grant application. The 2020 budget includes $100,000 for the pool.

The fundraising campaign goal has not been set, and will depend on the grant and other factors, Turcotte says.
Meals on Wheels delivery includes gift box

Penny Coles
The Local

Meals on Wheels has continued to provide a much-needed service to Niagara-on-the-Lake residents throughout the pandemic. Like everything else, though, meal delivery has been adjusted to ensure safe dropoffs.

Erica Lepp has been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels for 14 years, and sees first-hand how the delivery of nutritious hot meals to those you love, that may not be safe to visit.

Volunteers drop the meals at the door in a single-use bag, watch from the car to ensure recipients receive them. We give them a wave from the car, instead of the usual hello and small talk we used to enjoy with them.

Meals on Wheels are available for delivery to anyone in NOTL. Lepp says, “Meals on Wheels has been offering the same great hot meal and frozen meal deliveries, direct to homes, but they have adapted their protocol so the delivery is contactless and safe. It is a great way to get meals to those you love, that may not be safe to visit!”

Frozen meals can also be ordered, and will be delivered on Tuesdays, around noon.

There is always a need for volunteers to deliver meals in NOTL, Lepp says. Volunteers take about two hours, and those interested in helping can sign up for as little as once a month.

“This week, with a little help from her friends, Lepp was also delivering gifts to her 11 clients. It began with David Watt of The Garrison House, wanting to do something to help seniors asking her about delivering some gifts to long-term care homes. Lepp learned that wasn’t possible — nothing was being allowed in the homes because of COVID-19. So I suggested we offer the gifts to the seniors in NOTL who receive Meals on Wheels.”

Through her years of volunteering, she has come to know her clients, who are experiencing the feeling of isolation, unable to have family visits, or even chat with volunteers delivering their meals. “The goal of our delivery was simply to brighten the day of members of our community who may be feeling isolated during this time of COVID, and let them know we are thinking of them.”

The gift boxes included blankets, activity books, preserves, toques, dental products, teas, lotions, a signed novel from a local author, tea towels, frozen meals, products, teas, lotions, a signed novel from a local author, tea towels, fresh baked bread, banana bread and more. Some of those who have donated gifts are Watt of The Garrison House, Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, Ryan Crossford of Ruffino’s Pasta Bar and Grill, Del Rollo of Arterra Wines, Dr. Kim Johnston of Stone Road Dental, J’Neene Marchese of Hero Products, Catherine O’Donnell of Willow Cakes and Pastries, Betty Wong, Emily Fieguth, Helene Carriero, and Andrew Harber and Shawn Spiewak of Abatement Technologies.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Meals on Wheels can contact the Niagara Falls Meals on Wheels office. For more information visit http://www.mealsontowheelsniagara.ca/niagara-falls/.

Meals on Wheels delivery includes gift box

The Four Mile Creek Road eatery is fortunate to have a good-sized patio to welcome visitors, and is “over the moon to be able to do so.” The restaurant is taking reservations for time slots of an hour and a half. Check online at https://bricksandbarley.ca for more information. (Photo supplied)
LETTERS

Let’s not get too relaxed during stages of recovery

For more than three months, our lives have been dominated by the impact of the pandemic. Every day, even every decision, seems to be influenced in some way by COVID-19. And that’s not going to stop any time soon. At least it shouldn’t.

In The Local, every story we tell seems to be impacted by the virus in some way. We don’t go looking for those stories, they come to us.

Council, which is now getting back to important business that is not COVID-related, is still spending the majority of its time on dealing with issues that are.

There has been a lot of time spent figuring out how to safely expand space for restaurant patios, with a process that began last week and will continue. For that, for our restaurant owners, and those of us who look forward to eating out, we are grateful.

Just about all our entertainment now is digital — we have virtual library programs for kids and adults, virtual music concerts, even virtual ghost tours.

And we have, thank you Donald Combe, our own view from the couch. Combe is sharing his favourite Netflix shows with our readers, but aren’t we all sharing our views from the couch? Aren’t family members and friends spending a lot of time talking about what they’re eating, what they’re watching, spending a lot of time talking with family members and friends.

How many of us hugged family members this weekend, for the first time in months? How good did that feel? The memory of it will likely keep some of us smiling until our next opportunity for a hug.

We were allowed to hug, weren’t we? There was some confusion, with families seeming to choose to do whatever seemed comfortable for them, which is what is guiding many of our decisions.

Father’s Day fell a whole lot different from Mother’s Day, and a whole lot better. Many families are already looking forward to getting together again on Canada Day.

Next week, we will have virtual Canada Day celebrations, here in town and across the country, including the traditional day-long event from our national capital. It seems to come at a good time, when we’re more ready than ever to spend time with our expanded circle and have something to celebrate.

We’re still being encouraged to wear masks, and there is lots of talk about whether or not wearing them should be mandated. Lord Mayor Berry and his team also said rather that decision be at the regional level, and for now the Town is simply encouraging the use of masks, although Durro said she was disturbed by the number of people in the crowd at this weekend’s rally of few of whom were wearing masks.

As restrictions are relaxed, we relax, but that is what is likely to get us in trouble.

The best way to ensure the reopenings, and expansion of our social circles, continue, is not relax. We need to be just as vigilant as we were in March, if not more so, while we’re enjoying our new, baby steps.

We need to keep physical distance in public gatherings, and stay within our own bubbles.

The problem is going to be convincing the younger crowd, who can’t wait to get back to socializing.

Older folks, with a better sense of our mortality and a stronger fear of putting others at risk, may be mindful, but younger people may be too excited to see their people, and that could set us back about three months, back to square one.

Let’s all enjoy every moment of our newly created social circle, let’s remember how much we all have to be grateful for as we celebrate Canada Day, and let’s do what we can to keep ourselves, and each other, safe and healthy.

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Mega stars Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland do their best to rescue this flawed film. The Measure Seeker is a documentary that examines the difficulties of end of life struggles with cancer and dementia in relationships. The title is odd, as the characters in this film are looking for some peace and fulfilment, and neither is seeking leisure. For me, the French title, L’Echappée Belle is more suitable. You will find this film well worth investing some of your time to view.

Bill Auctcherlonie
Special to The Local

This week on Looking Up I look at the week of June 25 through July 1, including the first quarter Moon in Libra on Monday, June 29.

This is the short edition. The full week is at The NOTL Local on Facebook and at lookingupwithbill.com. Thursday June 25: If today is your birthday, count your lucky stars, because today is the day that Venus turns from retrograde to direct at 2:48 a.m. This means the frustrations since May 13 are over. More important things to happen with a ‘super Venus’ energy of superb values and quality. This continues for years. Even for those whose birthday is not today, everything has an added bit of good. And for some time to come! The Moon is busy, first in Leo in the morning and then in Virgo for the rest of the day. British comedian Ricky Gervais celebrates birthday #59 today. No doubt he’s vegetarian cake will be washed down with plenty of -up drinks. As Joni Mitchell said: ‘Smile on.”

The entire Looking Up With Bill is also on The NOTL Local Facebook page and also on my Podcast. www.lookingupwithbill.com.

Looking Up With Bill

Letters! We want letters! If you have a letter to the editor you’d like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won’t publish anonymous letters. The deadline is Monday at noon.

Let’s not get too relaxed during stages of recovery

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The problem is going to be convincing the younger crowd, who can’t wait to get back to socializing.

Older folks, with a better sense of our mortality and a stronger fear of putting others at risk, may be mindful, but younger people may be too excited to see their people, and that could set us back about three months, back to square one.

Let’s all enjoy every moment of our newly created social circle, let’s remember how much we all have to be grateful for as we celebrate Canada Day, and let’s do what we can to keep ourselves, and each other, safe and healthy.

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Mega stars Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland do their best to rescue this flawed film. The Measure Seeker is a documentary that examines the difficulties of end of life struggles with cancer and dementia in relationships. The title is odd, as the characters in this film are looking for some peace and fulfillment, and neither is seeking leisure. For me, the French title, L’Echappée Belle is more suitable. You will find this film well worth investing some of your time to view.

Bill Auctcherlonie
Special to The Local

This week on Looking Up I look at the week of June 25 through July 1, including the first quarter Moon in Libra on Monday, June 29.

This is the short edition. The full week is at The NOTL Local on Facebook and at lookingupwithbill.com. Thursday June 25: If today is your birthday, count your lucky stars, because today is the day that Venus turns from retrograde to direct at 2:48 a.m. This means the frustrations since May 13 are over. More important things to happen with a ‘super Venus’ energy of superb values and quality. This continues for years. Even for those whose birthday is not today, everything has an added bit of good. And for some time to come! The Moon is busy, first in Leo in the morning and then in Virgo for the rest of the day. British comedian Ricky Gervais celebrates birthday #59 today. No doubt he’s vegetarian cake will be washed down with plenty of -up drinks. As Joni Mitchell said: ‘Smile on.”

The entire Looking Up With Bill is also on The NOTL Local Facebook page and also on my Podcast. www.lookingupwithbill.com.

Looking Up With Bill

Letters! We want letters! If you have a letter to the editor you’d like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won’t publish anonymous letters. The deadline is Monday at noon.
Physical activity has many benefits, including fighting disease

Larry Chambers, Hanna Liu
Special to The Local

Many policy makers and other individuals in our communities focus only on two solutions to the coronavirus: a vaccine and an antiviral agent.

The pharmaceutical industry, academia and government have redirected their resources to this challenge, but we do not know how long this will take. In the meantime, months of isolation at home have an immense deconditioning effect of epidemic proportions, affecting millions of people.

Lockdown policy decisions were aimed at people over 70, and people under 70, with long-term conditions, but we now know that the older you are, the more activity you need, and the more long-term conditions you have, the more activity you need.

In response to the pandemic, the medical profession has given them names as though they were diseases like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), hypercholesterolaemia, type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

These conditions, hypercholesterolaemia and hypertension, are just the consequence of lifestyle factors. They are not prompt over-diagnosis, unlike intensive screening looking for disease. Proponents of this type of screening are referring to the use of new technologies, such as genome analysis, and other ‘big data’ and machine-learning technologies.

The proponents argue that these technologies enable unprecedented monitoring of the human body. The proponents of these plans, which are still largely theoretical, ignore accumulating evidence that they come with a high risk of over-medicalization and over-diagnosis – taking another pill is not always the best prevention or treatment solution for what ails us.

“Living is not merely living, but living in health.”

Marital wrote this epigram in the first century.

The understanding of the importance of physical activity to increase health reserve will lead people to rethink what is happening to them as they live longer, and take action in this new coronavirus infection era. It will reduce their risk of dementia, frailty and death from any cause.

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

LETTERS

Thank you, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Throughout our great region of Niagara, our communi- nity is working hard to support one another during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

In this new environment that is changing on a day-to-day basis, the Education Foundation of Ni- agara continues to support our students in need with nutritional support and basic household needs.

Our Foundation has been challenged to meet the needs of all the children who are at risk for developing or existing things worse if we have long-term health conditions, including heart disease, stroke, cancer, dementia and depression.

Physical activity has been called a miracle cure by the American College of Physicians (ACP).

Physical activity research reveals that any level of activity is better than none, and more is better still. Furthermore, the evidence that activity is good for both body and mind is impressive.

Physical activity keeps arteries healthy, both directly and indirectly. The direct effect is only now being understood, but it does appear that physical activity can prevent inflammation in the arteries, and inflammation leads to atherosclerosis and the forming up of the arteries with a protective substance made up of fat and inflammatory tissue. The fat and inflammatory tissue cause some of the heart and blood vessel disease. Our foundation. Please know in your heart that your support has made a difference, and brought a tremendous amount of happiness and joy to those who through no fault of their own, have had to reach out for assistance. You have given them hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Over the past several weeks we have seen the impact that both the stress of uncertainty and the loss of social connec-
thieves to control a mechanism in the brain.

So how can we be more active? Any contact communica- tion opportunity, newspapers, social media and per- son-to-person conversations are opportunities to raise the issue, discuss it, and pass on information about our weekly physical activity.

The following physical activity checklists outline how much activity, benefits and sample exercises for each of the three essential types of physical activity: aerobic, strength and endurance.

Flexibility activities: How much? Four to seven times a week.

Benefits: gentle reaching, bending and stretching.

Sample exercises: Stretching, dancing, yoga, martial arts, and other activities that make you bend and stretch.

Strength activities: How much? Two to four days per week.

Benefits: Activities against resistance strengthen mus- cles and bones.

Sample exercises: Lifting weights, carrying heavy things, climbing stairs, moving furniture.

Endurance activities: How much? Four to seven times a week.

Benefits: Continuous ac- tivities benefit your heart, lungs and circulatory sys- tem.

Collectively, we are all champions of the common purpose of helping children in need. We have never, and can never do it alone. Together we will get through this.
Local students handle graduation during pandemic

Bethany Pottl Special to The Local

COVID-19 has brought many questions regarding school and the future to the minds of everyone, and youth and teens are no exception. At the beginning, the questions were: What will the rest of the school year look like? Will we go back? How will online learning affect our studies?

Now that these questions have been answered and teens are learning to adapt, getting back on track with online, distanced learning, the next questions are coming from the grad classes of 2020.

Grade 8 students moving to Grade 9 and Grade 12 students moving on to university are wondering what September will look like. Indications from education minister Stephen Lecce are that elementary and secondary students will be back in the classroom, in some format, come September, while many universities across Ontario and Canada have moved most of their fall semester courses online.

I asked some of our local Grade 8 students for their thoughts on the end of this school year, and online learning as they transition to Grade 9, many of whom shared their academic concerns and disappointment over missing out on graduation.

Mykayla Brown says she finds the current situation difficult, without direct, face-to-face contact with her teachers. The transition to high school will be weird, different from both current learning situations, she says, "so it’ll be hard but not too bad."

Grade 8 feels unfinished, says Tannin Driedger-Bradshaw. "No one could ever have expected what happened these last couple of months, but because of it we weren’t able to fully enjoy our last year in elementary school, or those last few days of school with your friends before we go onto high school." She says she will really miss the opportunity to get ready for graduation. "Some of our greatest friends we have had for most of our lives will be moving on to different schools. This is a big step in our lives and it’s sad that we can’t be with our friends and family during it. We can talk to them online, but it’s certain-ly isn’t the same."

Online learning is new for all of us, she adds. And some might be finding it a struggle. One of the biggest challenges is being very organized and conscientious to ensure the work, assignments and tests are done on time, with-out having teachers’ daily re-minders of what is due. Another issue is learning on your own, as teachers aren’t always able to help students face to face, although zoom chats are always available. When Grade 9 starts, I’m not sure what is going to happen but I do feel online learning will become even more difficult for many of us. It’s one thing to go from elementary school to high school, but it is another thing to have to learn in a whole new way."

Grade 12 graduating students have similar thoughts and concerns. As a graduating Grade 12 student, I question what university will look like, and how an online universi-ty classroom will work. The university sent me a welcome letter and is encouraging me to secure my residence for the year, they have prepared single rooms, and special small group sessions for get-ting to know others, and so I know there is some plan. But will I be safe? Should I stay home first semester? In this unpredictable time, teens are searching for answers.

My friends and Grade 12 graduates have similar ques-tions. I asked them how they are feeling about the end of Grade 12, and their thoughts are feeling about the end of Grade 12, and their thoughts

Continued on page 9
University will bring challenge of online learning

Continued from page 8

on September. As always, I can rely on my friends to provide insight and perspective.

Genny Moncion says while it is not the send-off she envisioned, and she is excited about acceptance at Queen's University for media and performance production, but is considering whether to defer it for a year, or start online courses, “but because the future is so uncertain due to COVID, I haven’t made any set-in-stone plans.”

Brett Butler says although online learning will create some confusion for first-year post-secondary students, but hopefully some of the flaws are polished out.”

“The end of high school is always a time of transition and I know that it has been made more difficult by this pandemic for all of us,” says Clara DeMunnich. “Personally, however, I have felt reconciled to the reality of the situation for a while now. I am currently deciding whether I should participate in online learning with my university or request a deferral. Her decision must be made soon, she says, but she’s waiting to see whether there are any changes to the situation.

If I were to give one piece of advice to any graduate, it would be to know, “you are not alone, and if you are feeling overwhelmed or alone please reach out. I know schools and universities have extended open communication to help.”

Calling all NOTL high school, college and university grads

Penney Coles

The Local

Attention NOTL high school, college and university graduates and families we would love to help celebrate your 2020 graduation in The Local in our July 2 issue.

This is a difficult year for post-secondary students, but is necessary. “He thinks participating in online learning with my university or request a deferral.

There is no charge for this event – it’s our gift to you.

Happy graduation to all!”

Bonnie Grimm* ..................905-468-1256
Philip Bowron* ...................905-348-7626
Victoria Bolduc* .................905-941-3726
Randall Armstrong** ..........905-651-2977
Kim Elltoft** ........................905-380-8011
Nicole Vanderperk* ............905-941-4585
Viviane Elliott* .......................905-468-2142
Thomas Elliott* ......................905-380-4012
Cheryl Carmichael* ..................905-941-0276
Sarah Glediee* .......................905-665-2458
Christine Bruce* ..................905-348-7626
Linda Williams* ...................905-401-4240

THE NOTL LOCAL

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Happy graduation to all!
Teenie H moving to town property as next temporary home

Penny Coles
The Local

In 1939, a fisherman by the name of Joe Hand, also considered a meticulous builder, selected a white oak tree he found along the Niagara Escarpment, and had it milled in Grimsby. From there the oak went to the Morris Boat Works in Hamilton, to become the ribs and transom on a frame of cedar and pine for a boat custom-made for Hand. The pine was for the stringers, the pieces of wood that run the length of the boat to give it strength.

This boat, which is considered by experts one of the best of its era, was to help earn a living for his family. It was christened the Teenie H, after his daughter. Eighty years later, after changing ownership a few times, as well as locations, the boat is ready to move to another new home Monday, in the municipal yard behind the arena, where it is to be protected and safely stored until its next, hopefully permanent home is found. Those vested in its preservation as a legacy representing the commercial fishing history of Niagara-on-the-Lake are hoping its final resting place will be for the history of the town, and Teenie H’s family has ties to the fishing industry going back several generations. He can remember helping to roll the fishing nets back on his family’s boat as a young boy.

They have both put their hearts into the continued preserv-ation of the Teenie H, with Boulton taking the lead on dis-nasurions with the Town.

Moving the boat to Town property is significant, he says, “and a relief. It’s a load off my shoulders.”

It had been tucked away, safely, in storage at the NOTL Sailing Club for 14 years, first at no cost, initially supported by Glen Stewart from ATL Trucking, who was commodore at the time. In recent years, the Town has contributed to the storage cost. ATL provided the equipment to move the boat to the sailing club, and is doing the same now, again at no cost, Boulton says.

Monday, after a week of preparing the boat for its move, Boulton says the Teenie H “once again defied her age (at 80-plus) and was easily moved onto what should be her last resting place, her own, specially adapted cradle. It has been seven long, tiring days to get her moved onto her own cradle, but now she should be set for as long as she remains. She has newly constructed framing overhead, a very workable tarp and a low slung cradle which should work well in any display.”

Before being moved to the sailing club, it had been on the Ball property, beside Balls Beach, and when that property was to be sold, the boat had to be moved. It was sold to Allen in 2006, and he and Boulton became involved in its preservation.

It had been purchased by Goring Ball in 1949, and remained in use until 1975, when it was pulled from the water beside the house, where it sat until its move to the sailing club. Ball purchased the boat from Bill Rook-er, who bought it from Hand in 1943 or 44, with all the fishing gear, for $1,500. He and his brother fished out of Port Dal-housie for a few years, travelling to Four Mile Creek for whitefish, until they sold it to Ball.

Boulton and Allen make that point, that on the advice of ex- perts, the boat will not be restored. It will be cared for in its existing condition, which is far superior to what would be expected of a boat its age, experts have said — doc- umented in updates prepared by Allen in his efforts to have Town take ownership of the boat and its future.

His efforts became more pressing when the sailing club wanted to use the space for other purposes, says Boulton, and a new home needed to be found. He has struggled to find a solution, and is relieved to see the next step in a final plan that will take place Monday.

And Allen has worked ex- haustively in recent weeks to prepare for a safe move, once again on a crane specifically designed by ATL. Trucking for the Teenie H.

Boulton is happy to give the reins over to the Town, knowing the future of the Teenie H is now in the hands of the municipal-ity, hoping any decisions to be made will reflect his and Allen’s input, along with the advice from experts such as Smith.

Town documents, including a 2017 official plan amend-ment, indicate the Dock Area should recognize its significant history in commercial fishing, and should support its cultural heritage, including a display of the Teenie H.

Since the current council was elected in 2018, Couns. Al-Ian Bisback, Norm Arsenault and Stuart McCormick have been supportive in getting the boat onto town property, as a step toward the Town becom- ing involved in preserving it.

Bisback says he appreciates the importance of saving and displaying the Teenie H, and would like to see a plan put for-ward that would include funding from other levels of government.

He would also like to get the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, which has helped by holding funds raised for the preserva-tion of the boat, involved in the next steps, although he notes such large artifacts are not part of the museum mandate.

Bisback says he will en-courage council to agree on the preservation and future loca-tion of the Teenie H. In addi-tion to the need for a complete plan for the Dock Area, flood-ing issues have of necessity taken front and centre recently, he says, with the emphasis on waterfront preservation, pre-vention of future flooding, and the funding to pay for those important initiatives.

“We’re still working on a comprehensive plan for the wa-terfront,” says Bisback. “Then we need a report formalizing what the Town is going to do with the Teenie H. We don’t want it to just sit there.”
The Lack of Interacting with Expansion of Our Bubble After

cially evident with the “ex-

September 10, 2022

the focus on the importance

The Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada are ready to host a virtual Canada Day celebration this year, with the cancel-

ation of traditional events at Simcoe Park and Fort George.

“During a regular year, Fort George estimates between 7,000 to 9,500 visi-

tors pass through the front gate throughout the day, but this year will be differ-

ent,” says Tony Chisholm, president of the Friends of Fort George. “We are work-

ing hard to bring as many aspects of Canada Day to the community to help cel-

brate the 153rd anniversary of family, says Andrew.

“It’s been difficult for them to celebrate what is import-

ant to them.

It’s been difficult for them to celebrate what is import-

ant to them.

It won’t be a typical Can-

ada Day for Cassie and An-

rew Niven and their two

children, but it will be a day to celebrate what is import-

ant to them.

The Friends of Fort George want Canada Day photos

Cupcakes from Willow Cakes and Pastries are part of the package the Friends of Fort George have put together to celebrate Canada Day. (Photo supplied)

Canada Day celebrated ‘as if it’s someone’s birthday’

It won’t be a typical Can-

ada Day for Cassie and An-

rew Niven and their two children, but it will be a day to celebrate what is import-

ant to them.

The couple have enjoyed going to Ravine Vineyard

Estate Winery on Canada Day, but this year, will likely celebrate at home.

They realize they are very fortunate to have fami-

ly close by, in NOTL and Ni-

agara Falls, and to live in a

neighbourhood where they feel secure, bringing up their kids in a safe community.

And that, he says, is something they want to pass on to their kids.

“I can’t imagine anything better, to live in this coun-

try and this town, and have

our family around us, in one of

the safest places in the world.”

As difficult as the pandem-

ic has been for the local cou-

ple, both continuing to work, the one good to come of it is the focus on the importance of family, says Andrew.

Penny Coles

The Local

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Local family celebrates life in Canada, and NOTL

Penny Coles
The Local

When Neeti and Vinay Mehrotra came to Canada as 26-year-old newlyweds, they had no idea what to expect.

“We didn’t know a soul here,” she says. “We had two suitcases each, and $1,100.”

Many people have asked what made them decide to come to Canada, she says, and she finds it a difficult question to answer.

There wasn’t the amount of information available online that there is today, but they knew they were looking for opportunities, and thought they would find them here.

They are both engineers, and they had seen an advertisement in a newspaper saying that Canada was looking for professionals.

“We were young, and we really didn’t know what we were doing. We didn’t think too much about it. We just felt that the world was our oyster.”

Looking back, she says, they are grateful it turned out to be a good decision, although they didn’t have a lot to base it on.

They had no friends or family in Canada, but Vinay’s brother was living in the US, then in Texas and later in California.

“We thought, well, Canada is next door to the US. We’d be able to visit. But we’ve been back to India more than we’ve been to the US.”

With both sets of parents and siblings still in India, Neeti says she’s tried to return once a year, usually only for a week, because of the UPS store they operated on Mississauga Street until this month, when they were forced to close.

“I love going home, I love the nostalgia, but I could never live there again. The person I have evolved to be is a Canadian. This is who I am, I belong here.

Looking back, I am glad we didn’t move to the US.”

When they came to Canada, they lived in Mississauga for eight years, but it never felt like home. Although there was a large population of people from India, “they had their own groups, their own families,” says Neeti. “We had no friends. Nobody ever talked to us.”

The day they moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake, she says, “I told my mother I’d found my place in this world. Within a day or two, I had spoken to more people than I had in all the years in Mississauga.”

They had come from a small community in India, “at least small by India standards,” she says.

“Some friends of ours were behaving nicely. It’s that kind of community.”

In Canada, and here in NOTL, she says, they are richer in this country and this community than she ever could have imagined. “Not richer with money. Our lives are richer.

We have so many friends, and this is such a great community. The friendship and support we found there, that will never go away.”

Mehrotra had done her share of giving back to the community. She volunteered at Parliment Oak while her kids were at school there, and felt fortunate to have great teachers and families at the school. She recalls taking about 15 women and their kids to her temple in Niagara Falls to celebrate India’s major holiday, Divali. She found sari’s for the women to dress in, lots of bangles for them to wear, and off they went to have dinner at the temple. At Parliament Oak, the school celebrated national days and cultures, so that all children would feel at home. “It was such a great school. My boys had a wonderful childhood here. We were blessed to have such a great school for them.”

Her older son is attending the University of Waterloo, where he is studying astrophysics.

Her younger son is studying computer science at the University of Toronto. Neeti says she couldn’t imagine a better place to have raised her children, who now have a world of opportunities before them.

Neeti also volunteered with the local branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, lining up canvassers for the annual April door-to-door campaign.

And she joined the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, for many years handing out burgers for the Rotary barbecue on Canada Day.

That won’t happen this year, but she is delighted that their two sons will be home with them, that she will be able to celebrate the day with them, and the life they were able to make for the family in Canada, and especially in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“When we visited the U.S., it seemed everyone was trying very hard to be American. In Canada, you can just be who you are, and be proud of it. You don’t need to change who you are to be Canadian.”
Business owners value freedom from fear

Penny Coles The Local

When Ali and Homei Khalili decided to leave their home in Tehran, the capital of Iran, they had options. Ali has two brothers who had already left to make their homes in Toronto. Homei has three brothers in the U.S., and a sister in France. They also had good jobs in Tehran. Ali was a certified independent auditor, and Homei an office administrator. They were making a good living, but they did not consider it a good life.

They were looking for a “good place to live,” one that would get them out from under the restrictive government of Iran, and the punishments that could occur from just walking down the street. All makes the point that it doesn’t matter how much money you have if you are living under those conditions. “Money doesn’t help when you are concerned about your kids.”

They both said they believed money was less important than having a good life and a future for their kids. They were looking for a land of opportunities, which Ali found in his first visit to Canada. He first came to stay with his brother in Toronto to see the country, and to see how his brother lived. He very quickly decided he loved it. “I told my wife, this is a great place to live. There is lots of opportunity.”

They arrived in Canada in 1998, going first to live in Hamilton. They felt that to “adapt to a new situation,” they wanted to study at Mohawk College, Ali for software engineering and Homei network hardware.

They successfully completed their courses, “but the market wasn’t there,” says Ali. “After sending out 1,000 resumes, I got one interview, and I didn’t get the job. But you have to live, so we starting searching for any kind of business. We came to this, and we’re still here,” he says, sitting in their Subway restaurant on Mississauga Street, open only for pickup at the moment, but still a popular place for locals during the week, and visitors on the weekend.

They first opened a franchise in Niagara Falls in 2004, and in 2010, opened their second location in Niagara-on-the-Lake. “We have made lots of friends, here and in Niagara Falls,” says Homei.

Although family is still what is most important to them, what means the most to them about their life in Canada, they both agree, is the freedom they found here. There are no regrets about their decision, they say. “We really appreciate what Canada has to offer,” says Ali. “When we go out for a walk, it’s good to be able to breathe. We don’t have to be afraid of anything.”

He says it’s hard for those who have never lived in fear to understand what it’s like to live that way. Homei agrees freedom is what they sought, and what they found in their new life in Canada. But as well, like any parent, she says, “I love when I see my kids growing their talents, able to get what they want and what they need, being whatever they want to be.”

They have good friends, and good neighbours, they say, and love the Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Canada Day events of past years, especially the fireworks. “We’re not sure what they will do this Canada Day, but they do know that it’s a day to be grateful.”

“We feel very fortunate to be here. We are really happy we chose this country,” Ali agrees. “We’re really fortunate we picked this country.”

Homei and Ali Khalili love their St. Davids neighbourhood, the opportunities Canada offers their grown children, but most of all, the freedom they enjoy. (Penny Coles)
Fort George ghost tours go viral

Kyle Upton has been leading ghost tours at Fort George for 27 years. This year the tours are going viral. (Photo supplied)

The events of these past few months have been surreal, or otherworldly, and many of us have been experiencing life in a more virtual way, like virtual school, virtual work and virtual entertainment. The Friends of Fort George have found a way to combine a bit of school and entertainment with a different type of “otherworldliness” in the virtual world. Last Friday evening, just as dusk was descending outside, Kyle Upton was inside hosting a virtual tour of Fort George’s haunted spaces.

Tickets could be purchased through The Friends of Fort George website. After purchasing the $5 ticket, the coordinator sent an email with meeting ID and password to join the Zoom platform. In total, 12 participants had exclusive access to Upton, and were able to ask him questions about his 27 seasons of experience as a ghost guide at the Fort. Upton’s wife Sonja enhanced his presentation by supplying viewers with photos and videos of the various buildings and areas on the grounds. Upton took participants on a virtual “tour” while answering questions, which included Kyle’s own supernatural encounters, the history of the ghost tours and the Fort itself. The question and answer period gave participants a rare opportunity to ask Upton questions beyond the regular ghost tour speech.

One of the first he was asked was about whether the paranormal activity has increased or decreased over the years. Upton explained the ghost tours originally started as a “hook” to bring people into Fort George, and a fun and unique way to introduce people to the history of the area. He said he first heard a few ghost stories as a young participant in the Fort’s reactional and historical programs. When he began working at the Fort, he thought it would be fun to share his love for history at the same time as entertaining an
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11:30 AM - 8 PM DAILY
Overlooking the Vineyard
& Four Mile Creek
Reservations Recommended
905-468-1222 or visit
olivtapasnotl.com

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Restaurant Located in Strewn Winery
1339 Lakeshore Rd., NOTL
Farm worker struggles to get permanent resident status

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

It never gets easier. There is a price to be paid for families that are sepa-
rated for eight months of the year.

Three of those season-
al workers will not return
home, having died from
COVID-19 contracted while
working on farms in other
areas of Ontario. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, workers have so far re-
mained safe.

The men and wom-
en working here on the
temporary foreign work-
program can be away from
their loved ones as long as two to four years
with only a few short hol-
days to visit loved ones
during that time.

Over the last 15 years, I have talked to hundreds of men and women work-
ing under temporary con-
tracts in agriculture, and
it is a painful experience they all share.

“I can’t even tell my kids when I’m leaving be-
cause there is too much
stress in the weeks lead-
ing up to it. They can’t sleep, they can’t concen-
trate in school, they’re so
worried because I’m leaving. There’s no good
way to do it. Everyone has a different way of trying
to manage,” Peter, one of my neighbours down the
road said. “I’m so anxious to just hold them when I
finally get home. But when they’re small they
just want to run and hide. I’m like a stranger mov-
ing into the house. Man, it breaks my heart.”

Some of the Mexi-
can women leave their
children as young as one
year old, while they work
in our greenhouses and
packing barns for eight months. They are afraid
if they take a year off they will lose their place on
the program.

It never got easier for Jermaine, when it came
time to leave his family every year.

“Having grown up at Mt. Olivet orphanage, I
was always longing for a family. When I grew up, I
wanted to be the best dad ever. I didn’t plan to be on
the farm work program long, just long enough to
get enough money to start
and run my own business
in Jamaica.

He started a business
	twice, but with no inves-
tors and the impossibility of a business startup loan,
he says it was impossible.

Trying to balance his
personal life when he was
spending three-quarters of
every year in Canada
was a struggle.

“Sad to say, my rela-
tionship with my wife got
rocky after a few years
away. For farm workers
being gone so long, it’s a
very hard thing to deal
with, even if you are re-
ally committed. You have
no control over what hap-
pens in Jamaica when you
are gone. There was no future in Jamaica for me
so I had to make a deci-
sion. Canada was my only
option.”

Jermaine started the
process for permanent residency in 2016.

“The last four years has
cost me a lot. They make
it very hard to get the nec-
essary documents. It all
has to be employer-based
for you to get your docu-
ments. My employer has
helped me a lot for which
I am very grateful.”

Jermaine says that
although he graduated
from high school in Ja-
maica, he was required to
have a Canadian diploma.

“So I started taking
night school classes. I
studied after work some-
times ‘til three in the
morning, and would get
up for work by 7. It took
me two years. I took a
truck driving course and
got my AZ license. I got
my GED. The government
can look at me and say ‘hey, this is a productive
guy, here’s a guy to con-
tribute to this country.’ It
was a big investment fi-
nancially, but I stuck with
it, with the help of my
employer.”

One of his greatest
challenges has been to
have his son come for
a three-week visit. He hasn’t seen his 13-year-
old son, Eric, in the four years since he started the
process.

“It cost me almost
$4,000 in legal and gov-
ernment fees for an
application for him to come
here just for a visit. I can’t
going to see him unless
I am a permanent resi-
dent. That is why perma-
nent residence status is so
important.”

I thought recently of
Thomas, one of my neigh-
bours who has been com-
ing up for eight months
of the year for almost
30 years.

He has been paying
into employment insur-
ance, CPP and taxes, the
same as a Canadian for all
of those years. His only
daughter, her husband
and children live in Ham-
lton, yet he is unable to
stay on to visit for a few
weeks when his season is
over. She grew up with
him absent eight months
of the year. He put her
through university and
now they still cannot be
together. He would love
to spend time with his
agricultural industry con-
sidered less human, less
deserving?

We benefit in so many
ways from a system that
depri ves 60,000 families
of the opportunity to grow
together.

Will Jermaine make it?
I believe in him, as do
many others who have
been impressed with his
integrity, honesty and his
determination to care
for his “brothers” on the
farms. He has a strong
network of support, tutors
like Marie Lapointe who
coached him through his
final exams at Mohawk,
people at Gateway Church
and those whose lives he
has inspired in his journey
here.

Jermaine adds, “I have
to say a big thanks to Lepp
farms, because they stood
by me and helped things
to move forward.”

Next week, in part
three, I will talk about
Jermaine, and the impor-
tance of status on arrival.
Shebl Haddad gets some physical activity in by pumping those legs on a backyard swing.

Christine Colling gets creative with her message to frontline workers: Thank you for all you do! (Photos supplied)

Aine O’Neill celebrates science week by making yucky slime.

Nello and Dean Pagnotta build a neighbourhood, including the famous Sesame Street, with their toys.

Sienna, Ella and Micah deSouza attempt an ice block rescue, each using different tools to see whose works best.

Lucy Collins celebrated her sixth birthday with cupcakes at home.

Emilio Kauzlaric is pretty excited to be given a driving lesson on an excavator from his dad.

Ava Miele has her own idea of how to rescue a little toy from an ice block, requiring only her imagination.

Shebi Haddad gets some physical activity in by pumping those legs on a backyard swing.
**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

### FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

KAREN@NOTLOCAL.COM

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FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Thursday, June 25 @ 7 p.m.

Yellow Door Theatre

Sunday, June 28 @ 4 p.m.

Lori Cullen & Kurt Swinghammer

View via PAC's Facebook and YouTube channels

www.FirstOntarioPAC.ca

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**THE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum presents a series of online talks in the month of July. All presentations start at 4 p.m., are free and require registration.

**July 2 @ 4 p.m. | Rick Meloen**
The History of the Chautauqua Neighbourhood in Niagara-on-the-Lake. [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VaNL1FEYSe-R2vGbbo3kn1A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VaNL1FEYSe-R2vGbbo3kn1A)

**July 9 @ 4 p.m. | Ted Rumble**
Ordnance Boundary Stories of Niagara-on-the-Lake [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/BN_F-DvY1XtRfrmakUxDssGqCTA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/BN_F-DvY1XtRfrmakUxDssGqCTA)

**July 16 @ 4 p.m. | Shawna Butts**
Some Women in Niagara-on-the-Lake’s History [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/BN_Ew87B7Rym7Gh3jBIa](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/BN_Ew87B7Rym7Gh3jBIa)

**July 23 @ 4 p.m. | David Hemmings**
Was your grandmother a British Home Child? [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/BN_W-PwuNHQ8-uaH04zkTSg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/BN_W-PwuNHQ8-uaH04zkTSg)

**July 30 @ 4 p.m. | Sarah Kaufman**
Ask the Curator [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__v3mQBSTCokq_PUuRHbeA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__v3mQBSTCokq_PUuRHbeA)

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**NIAGARA PUMPHOUSE BEGINNERS’ TIPS IN ACRYLICS ~ A VIDEO SERIES**

June 26 @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you are looking to start your artistic journey, Niagara Pumphouse is presenting a video series of helpful tips to novices in the art world that cover a variety of topics both informative and practical. To view these videos, please donate to the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre to benefit our programs and initiatives. A suggested amount of $10.00 per video is greatly appreciated. But if you are interested in the entire series, a $50.00 donation is requested. A password to watch the video will be emailed to you after a donation is received. Your contribution supports the Niagara Pumphouse mission and provides opportunities for future programming. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to making it through this difficult time together! Please visit: [https://niagarapumphouse.ca/events](https://niagarapumphouse.ca/events)

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**MINICRAFT CLUB MINI GAMES**

June 26 @ 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Here’s how to join our new REALM! 1. Send your MineCraft Username to notllibrary@gmail.com and we will invite you to join our realm. 2. To accept the invite, choose Minicraft Realms at the title screen. 3. Click the flashing envelope at the top next to the Minicraft Realms’ title. 4. Click Accept! We will be leaving the realm open as a creative world 24/7! Please note: there will NOT be a Library Moderator present online at all times. Mini Games will take place twice a week.

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

 Across:
1. School org.
4. Emit
8. Tendon
13. In case
15. Tennis ace --- Sampras
16. Fault
17. A law --- himself
18. Behavioral and learning problem
19. Refractor
20. Resident of Rabat, perhaps
22. Fragile
23. Sis sib.
24. Faith
26. E.g. United Way
28. Frightening
29. 1/1000 inches
32. News exclusives
35. Alliance of some former Soviet countries
36. Buffalo Bill
37. Where we all started
38. Consequence of driving over a nail
40. Baking chamber
41. Copies
42. Female deer
43. Resident of Damascus, e.g.
45. For each
46. Boring
48. Lyric poem
49. Foliage
51. Navigational aid
52. Highways
53. Remains
54. Annoying person
55. At No
56. Left
58. TBA
60. Lee

 Down:
1. Exactly vertical
2. E.g. Pavarotti
3. Stargazer
4. Room
5. Foot controls
6. Type of war crime
7. Espionage
8. Arrange in battle formation
9. Utah senator --- Hatch
10. Dismal
11. Rolling stones lack it, but the Rolling Stones don’t
12. Ground forces
14. Also
21. Trim
22. Groundbreakers
25. Earth goddess
27. Sailors
29. Cinema buffs
30. Naxos
31. Coal Miner’s Daughter, Loretta ---
32. Exchange
33. Manage
34. More morose
36. Volume of wood
39. Golfer’s shout
44. Up-and-down toy
46. Inviting smells
47. Lou --- baseballer who gave his name to a disease
49. Angry stare
50. Highways
51. Renaissance cherub
52. Putto
53. Stays
54. Pain
57. Shoot-out
59. A-team
60. Lira
61. Beta
62. Infra
63. Enid
64. Arty
65. Notes
66. Eggs
67. SOS.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

 Sudoku solution from June 18, 2020

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Practice physical distancing. Stay two metres away from others

Wear a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge

Wash hands thoroughly and often

Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.

Learn more at ontario.ca/coronavirus
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