



For Canada Day activities see pages

10-11

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Last week's solstice celebration in Ryerson Park drew a good crowd of about 200 people, spread out to enjoy a beautiful evening and sunset. An enthusiastic drummer, Kevin Richard Hotte (centre) helped the crowd get into the spirit on a beautiful although hazy evening. (Sharon Burns)

Secret revealed: hunger strike wasn't what it seemed to be

Mike Balsom The Local

When about a dozen supporters showed up at the site of the Negro Burial Ground to support Toronto resident James Russell's promised 500-person march onto Queen Street on June 18, among the absent were two women who advised Russell and helped with his plans.

The Local reached out to Sherri Darlene of Niagara Falls last week. Darlene is the woman who organized a successful and well-attended June 2020 Justice 4 Black Lives protest in the city of Niagara Falls. It was held in the wake of the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

When Darlene heard about Russell's sit-in hunger strike in April, she paid him a visit to find out more about his push to have the gravestones of Niagara-on-the-Lake's

black settlers excavated from the cemetery grounds.

The activist and racism educator told The Local that a family emergency in Buffalo was what kept her away from the planned protest last Sunday. At the time she spoke to The Local, Darlene said she knew very little about the tepid turnout for the rally.

"I had full intentions of going to support James," Darlene said. "Even though I feel it's in vain. Based on what I've seen, the town is not going to comply with James. They have moved forward with this other group (The Friends of the Forgotten) and I don't think they're going to dig up the stones. I'd like to see it done, but I think we have to pick our battles here."

She added that she wasn't surprised to hear that the plans for the march had fizzled out.

Continued on page 15

Friends, family feeling helpless, waiting for search to end

NOTL man disappeared in Twelve Mile Creek

Penny Coles The Local

On Sunday evening, every parent's worst nightmare and were expected to re- might be found alive, that became Barbara Worthy's turn to Twelve Mile Creek he had made it to shore. She reality: a knock on her door Tuesday afternoon. Worthy knew he had lost his phone, waiting at 8:30 a.m. again at night, the police reporting was at Henley Island, sur- and he wouldn't have any by the Henley boathouse. that her son Liam Neumann rounded by friends, waiting way to call for help, she said. was missing, believed to have by the rowing boathouse for disappeared into the water of police to arrive and contin- her and the small group of Twelve Mile Creek.

ing someone in an inflatable none of it was true, that it reraft go under the water, and ally was a nightmare. not come up again.

She was also hanging on Police searched Monday, to the possibility that Liam

Most frustrating for ue their search. She told The friends was the lack of action They had a report, she Local she was still hoping and communication from was told, of people witness- she would wake up and find the Niagara Regional Police.

Sunday night, and on Mona Zodiac had been scouring ing until noon.

Tuesday, Worthy was am's identification. but after saying they would it. Liam had a tent with him for Liam. be there, first at 11 a.m. and and may have set it up, and arrived by 1:30 p.m.

Perrin said, was that Liam said Perrin.

Carol Perrin told The Lo- had been in an inflatable raft never leaves his side," and to figure it out on our own." day morning two officers in the raft, with Brodie safe in it, eventually floated towards

might have been able to lo-What they had learned, cate it, but they hadn't yet,

"We don't know a lot, and cal the police had searched with his dog Brodie, "who we are now basically trying

he had sent an email to a rowing coach to see if he the water, from early morn- Henley, and the police were could help, and was told able to recover it and find Li- the coaches had all received emails about the search, and They had recovered his some had been out early phone but couldn't unlock Monday morning looking

"We're frustrated by the then by 1 p.m. they hadn't with the phone working they lack of communication, the lack of urgency, the feeling

Continued on page 9



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June 28, 2023

THE NOTL Gocal

Pride garden a reminder to accept others and be kind



Mitchel Durksen and his grandfather Ray Rempel, and the Pride garden they designed and



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Penny Coles The Local

corner of Elden and Pen- for his son. ner Streets.

work for him — he jokes world that at his age, in his earpart.

Rempel couldn't be children. more pleased with the result — a garden of colour- early on in his quest to ful stripes, and a sign with help the brain-injured that a peace symbol and words there are people who can't that proclaim: Be Kind.

in town a long time will any reason — in Jeremy's know Rempel for his ac- case, due to a disability tivism in support of the as a result of his accident brain-injured, going back as a child, or for others to when his young son because of religion, race, Jeremy, now in his 50s, culture or anything else was hit by a car while riding his bike.

time when not a lot was about the Pride crosswalk known about how to help in town and those who him, so Rempel embarked oppose it are just more on a journey that contin- reminders to him of what ued for many years, and we still need to learn as a led to the establishment of society. the Ontario Brain Injury Association.

ments, going as far away experts, and introducing seems like we fear and pel says, of acceptance.

He also established homes for clients in Virgil and Ray Rempel and his across the province, helpgarden in Virgil, at the their loved ones, as he had

Jeremy ended up win-Rempel says it was his ning many awards in grandson who suggest- wheelchair racing comed it, and did most of the petitions, including eight championship golds, and several world ly 80s, he mostly stands, records. He is now on hoe in hand, and lets the Niagara-on-the-Lake 28-year-old do the heavy Sports Wall of Fame, and is the father of two adult

Rempel says he learned understand or accept any-Those who have lived one who is different, for — differences that should be seen as insignificant. The collision left Jer- That has stayed with him, emy brain-injured, at a and the recent discussions

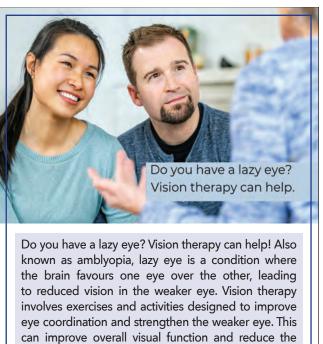
Rempel says he's seen people ostracized for their Along the way, he sexuality, and made a consearched for those with scious effort to befriend the most progressive treat- them, to show them em-

their methods at home. therefore are unaccepting of those who are different. That doesn't make sense to me. There has to be room grandson, Mitchel Durk- ing families who sought for everybody. I like to be sen, have created a Pride out the best treatment for accepted by others. I'm sure everyone likes to be accepted for who they are, for their own self-worth.

"If we don't leave behind us the prejudices that we learn growing up, as we mature, those prejudices handicap us and those around us in a variety of ways," Rempel believes.

"My prejudices can have a devastating effect on those who are the object of those attitudes. I like the idea of each of us being an accepting and decent neighbour. And when we refuse to be that person, we handicap ourselves, and those around us. Letting go of whatever is handicapping us, limiting us," he says, "is a life-altering experience."

Next year, adds Rempel, "wait 'til you see this garden. This is just new, but there is lots of room for it to grow." In his mind, he's already planning the expansion. This season's Pride garden faces Elden Street, which doesn't get a lot of traffic, but next year, he will make sure it also fronts on Penner, a much busier road, where it will get more attention from traffic and passersby. And pathy to make up for the bring more awareness of as Texas to learn from the lack of it in others. "It the importance, as Rem-



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Devil is in the details, still to be determined for caleches

Carrie Gleason The Local

After raising several points of clarity, councillors have made a decision about who might operate caleches in the five King Street spots outside the Prince of Wales Hotel this season — but there are still details to be worked out.

The question of who will town became a matter of discussion last month when

cil to ask to operate with two the inception of the horsefor caleches. It was discovered by the town at that time that she had been operating under the licence of Queens Royal again this season.

be granted the five spots in es for carriages, and the five road, and the Wiens family, Rhonda Cave came to coun- of the Sentineal family from sion.

licences out of the five allotted drawn carriage business in Street spaces and the licenc-Niagara-on-the-Lake. Laura Sentineal recalls discussions between Fred and Jackie Sentineal, parents of her husband Tours, owned by Jeff Sentin- Fred and his brother Jeff, with eal, for the past couple of sea- lord mayors and councils gosons, and that he had no plans ing back to the '80s and '90s. to operate his own business The region was also involved — in the early days, she says, The original five licenc- King Street was a regional spaces for them on King owners of the Prince of Wales Street, have been in the hands hotel, were part of the discus-

es to operate the horses and carriages have been shared by brothers Fred, of Sentineal Carriages, and Jeff, who established Queens Royal Tours.

But with Jeff not currently operating his business — and not saying whether he will in the future — that left two spots open. The town discovered that Jeff had suspended his regional licences and had no plans to operate this year.

At that earlier meeting, a motion was put forward by town explore the opportunity to allow Rhonda Cave to operate for the 2023 season if there was an opportunity

Jeff, in his delegation at last Tuesday's special council meeting, explained that as he is working through health issues, he would not be able Region — a caleche busito operate his business this ness licence, caleche operaseason, and instead wished to tor licences, and licences for sublet the two spots on King Street he traditionally has held to his niece, Meagan Sentin-

as well, and "avoid any conflict," he also suggested that council add an additional spot for Cave to operate in rural areas servicing tourists wishing to The Local that although to visit wineries.

However, council decided like his licences for two spaces

In recent years, the King that it would only permit the to go to his niece, Laura exfive licences currently available and for this season, they would allow Jeff to keep one of the spots to sublet it to his niece. They also decided to allot one spot to Cave.

Although the discussion and resolution has seemed complicated, even to Laura and Fred Sentineal, one of the issues is there are two kinds of licences up for grabs, the one the region gives to those who are operating the service, and the licence the town offers, which, as CAO Marnie Coun. Nick Ruller that the Cluckie explains, is not a licence to operate but a licence to lease the standing areas on King Street that the town owns, and the carriage operwithin the current five-spot ators use to park and wait for customers.

caleches operate in Niagaraon-the-Lake requires a series of licences from the Niagara each carriage and each of the horses. Once those licences have been obtained from the eal, Laura and Fred's daughter. region, it is council's decision To allow Cave to operate as to which caleche operators can occupy the five townowned spots at King and Queen Streets.

> Laura Sentineal explains Jeff has said publicly he would

pects she will be able to lease four spaces, the three she has always used and one extra, without using Jeff's Queens Royal licences. She explains with Queens Royal not operating, there is one spot left for standing on King Street, and she has a fourth set of licences she requires from the region to operate a caleche, which she typically uses for weddings and other events. Five parking spots on King Street is all that is needed to serve tourists who want a tour in a caleche, she says.

Meagan's job, Laura says, is to train horses and drivers, look after the horses, and also drive carriages, which she loves to do.

Laura told The Local she The process by which the is grateful to the community and the town staff for the support shown the carriage companies over the years, and for all their help.

Cluckie says council is committed to supporting the caleches, and hopes to see them continue.

Although councillors made a decision about who would use the five spots, Cluckie says, there are still details to be finalized, which will include conversations with Sentineal Carriages and with Jeff Sentineal as to his intentions, before council has the final say.

Numbers are in for public input — and they're not great

Strategic Plan survey didn't garner very much public engagement

Carrie Gleason The Local

At a recent committee of the whole planning meeting, Victoria Steele, the town's strategy and government relations officer, presented the results of the community engagement phase of the Strategic Plan.

This phase involved a survey that was available on the town's website, as well as at six public information centres held across the community from May 23 to 30, including at spaces such as on the street beside the Court House and in the Virgil sports park pavilion by the splash pad, and other open areas in parks.

Just 177 surveys were completed by residents of the community, which did not impress Coun. Gary Burroughs. "Of a population of 18,000, and with such an important issue that we're dealing with, it does seem like a very low number. We are an engaged community normally — if something goes wrong, they (the public) are dents ranked most important 10 per cent from St. Davids,

While 453 people visited only 132 residents completed responsibility, asset manage- ages of 50 to 69, 23 per cent the online survey, which was ment planning and updating were 70 or older, and 22 peravailable on the town website of bylaws. from May 18 to June 1. "Two

weeks wasn't a very long survey and seek responses time to get that feedback,"

About 98 people engaged information centres, where another 45 people completed hardcopies of the survey. The centres were a new inistaff to try and further engage the community. "We haven't been out in the community since before the pandemic, so those were some of the ways we tried to get more people engaged," said Victoria Steele.

The respondents' number one priority for council was the environment and protecting green space, followed by heritage and managing development. When asked what's missing or what they would like to see more of in the Strategic Plan, respondents said funding for arts and culture, protecting heritage, and planning and implementing climate change adaptation and the Old Town, representing mitigation plans.

from the strategic pillars were and nine percent from Virgil. guidelines for development, Forty-eight per cent of rethe strategic plan webpage, sustainable budget and fiscal spondents were between the

To raise awareness of the and 49.

from the public, the town also commented Coun. Sandra ran a social media campaign and printed notices in the local newspapers, in addition to with town staff at the public the public information centres. "A lot of effort was put into reaching out to the community. Having attended a lot of conferences lately, there is a tiative by council and town real lack of engagement from communities across the entire province," Steele said.

> Coun. Adriana Vizzari was optimistic that the public information centres are something that can be built upon for the future. "This is a first stab at being out in the community. If we are consistent with this over the next four years, and we are at these outlets and people expect to see us there and they know the days, then I think we will build a following. This is a starting point, and it's really hard to start something new."

The top respondents of the survey were residents of 59 per cent of the 177 com-The priorities respon- pleted surveys, followed by cent between the ages of 30



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Planning director Kirsten McCauley, longtime NOTL resident Ingrid Regier, and Coun. Wendy Cheropita talked about the Strategic Plan at a kiosk set up in the Virgil sports park. (Mike Balsom)

June 28, 2023

Training was tough but firefighter grad wouldn't give up

Penny Coles The Local

Being a firefighter is a tough job, mentally and physically.

Just ask a 5'3" woman who recently became a volunteer with the Niagara-on-the-Lake department, and she'll tell you it isn't intended to be easy.

Tayler Rodrigue is an insurance broker, and in her spare time, a cheerleading coach for girls aged three and up.

She is also one of the 11 recruits who recently graduated Niagara-on-the-Lake's 300-hour, nine-month training program for volunteer firefighters.

Rodrigue was selected to give the graduation speech to family and friends gathered the day the volunteers gave up their yellow helmets for black ones, when their training was complete, allowing them to move inside a burning building.

of their course is about exterior situations, such as a vehicle collision, and for those, the recruits are allowed to ride on the truck and be part of the response team.

It isn't until they're finished that they can move inside a burning building, she explains, something she hasn't done yet. "But I know I'll get there." And she knows when she does, she'll be nervous — but there will be others beside her to help, and as

she's been told, being nervous is missed the deadline. part of what will keep her safe.

CAO Marnie Cluckie was at the graduation ceremony, and says she was very impressed by all the recruits, and by Rodrigue, who spoke for her fellow grads. "We were all very touched by her words," says Cluckie.

It's a tough training regiment for all recruits, she adds — they receive the same training as professional firefighters.

The most recent graduates, she says, brought the town to its full complement of 110 volunteer firefighters.

Cluckie says not only was she impressed by this round of recruits and the quality of the training they receive, for the safety of the community and for the volunteers themselves. "I'm just awestruck by all the firefighters in our community. It's such a tremendous responsibility," she said.

She says she's touched that She explains the first half the recruits, with full-time jobs, families and friends, are willing to give up their time for the safety of the community, "going out in the night to very dangerous situations." The graduation ceremony "is a moment when fitness exam. they are acknowledged for making that sacrifice."

Rodrigue, 28, says she was living in Fonthill and working beside a volunteer fire station when she first thought of volunteering, but once she made the decision to apply, she had

She was dating a Niagaraon-the-Lake firefighter, and one night when they were out in NOTL, they came across a vehicle collision. "He knew exactly what to do, and I didn't," she says. "I wanted to help, but I couldn't."

In 2022, she was living in Niagara-on-the-Green with her boyfriend, and decided to apply for the local department.

Before she did, though, she started training. She was already pretty fit — she had been a runner, and as a cheerleading instructor she was active, but she knew she needed to increase her fitness level. She started going to a gym, bought a weighted vest to help develop strength, and did tire drills. "My boyfriend's parents had an old tractor tire on their farm. I would do tire flips, and I would also attach a rope to the tire and drag in on the grass."

The first hurdle to being accepted for training was an aptitude test with a room full of people, she says, and that narrowed down the number significantly who made it to the

She passed, in a class of "6-foot-tall, 200-pound men," she says, explaining it's the same physical fitness test for full-time departments, only they have to complete it within a certain time limit. "It's modified for the volunteer department. For us there



The class of 2023 graduates included 11 volunteer firefighters. (Photos supplied)



Tayler Rodrigue (centre) is proud to have graduated and to be able to help her community.

was no time limit — we just had to complete it."

Then there were interviews with questions such as "why do we feel we want to do this, why do we feel we can be of benefit from each other and we learn to this program, what are our with each other. We are only as goals," she recalls.

When the group came to-11 of them left, she says, 10 of them men.

it was announced they were to choose the grad to make a speech at the ceremony, "everyone instantly turned and looked at me. I'm not good at public speaking. It's actually a real fear of mine."

the men offered to help. Together they came up with a list show them there aren't just fireof questions for the other grads so she could incorporate their answers, and be sure she was says, her district chief pulled ter. There really is a sense of speaking for all of them.

"When we first started, none of us knew each other. We walked into a room full of strangers and I saw that we all wanted to be the best recruit of our class. But the more we got into scenarios, we quickly realized that trying to be the best meant

best is to make sure your brothers and sisters going through that door with you are also the best. There's no competition, there's no winning, we learn good as the rest of our team."

Rodrigue says she knew gether for training, there were what she was getting into when she signed up, "but I didn't know I'd be giving up every other And at the end of it, when weekend. Some days were easy, some were more difficult than others. When the mental fatigue made me wonder if I could keep going, there was always the support of 10 guys to help me. I knew at 5'3" I was small, but I didn't want to walk away. But she agreed, and one of I wanted to prove that someone like me could do it. I wanted to men, there are firewomen."

In her speech, she says, thought she could do the job. She said she wasn't sure.

> "He said, 'don't let anyone tell you you can't do this. You can.' And that stayed with me."

When parents at her cheerleading class now say to their daughters, 'do you know Tayler's a firefighter?' Rodrigue nothing. The only way to be the loves to hear the girls say, "that's

so cool. I want to do that when I grow up.' That's why I'm doing this. That's what I hope for."

Because she lives in Niagaraon-the-Green, she's a member of that station — a small one — with two other women. "They've been good mentors throughout the program," she says. And she brings to the station "a sense of pride and of accomplishment."

That the pager can interrupt her home life — she and her boyfriend have left family and friends behind to head out to a call, and had to change their plans when they got a call as they were on the way to a wedding — but everyone understands that's what the job entails.

"And I'm happy to go, even if it's the middle of the night. I know I'm going to make During her training, she someone's bad day a little bether aside and asked if she accomplishment when you're helping your community."

> To others who might wonder about becoming a volunteer firefigher, Rodrigue's answer is to explain why it was her choice, and that of others in her training class.

"Many people don't understand why a person would choose to voluntarily put their lives at risk for someone else, someone they don't even know," she says in her graduation speech. "When posing that question to the class, the reasons were clear. We want to do something to give back to our community and to make a difference. Should we do nothing else significant with our lives, we want to leave our mark by helping people when they need it most."

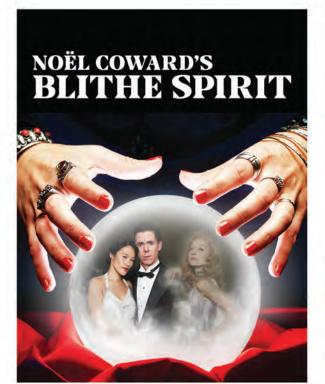






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BY NOËL COWARD

Comic Gem! Nothing can come between Charles and Ruth. Except maybe the ghost of his first wife.

1pm - July 23 | 2pm - July 1, 6, 13, 18, 20, 25 7pm - July 9, 16 | 8pm - July 27, 28

PLAYBOY ESTERN WORLD



BY J.M SYNGE

Town hero? Wanted criminal? Or both? J.M. Synge's classic comedy of rural life in Ireland.

1pm - July 2, 30 | 2pm - July 14 7pm - July 16, 23 | 8pm - July 4, 11, 22, 28

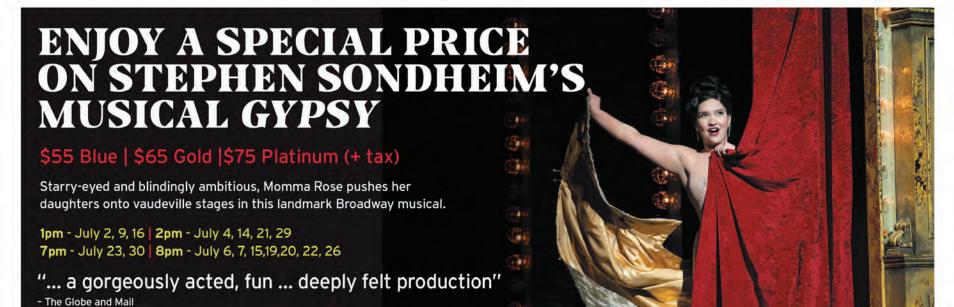
THE APPLE



BY BERNARD SHAW

It's just a crown. Until your prime minister tries to take it away. Shaw at his satirical best!

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News about hunger strike startling, but let's not lose focus

sell, the former journalist who came to town one day and saw a wrong he needed to right, and what he has done since.

When he first arrived in town on business, he came across a small green grassy patch with a blue historic marker proclaiming it a cemetery of Black people. The plaque explained this town was where the first ant-slavery legislation in the British Empire was introduced, and says "a long tradition of tolerance attracted refugee slaves to Niagara, many of whom lie buried here."

This plaque, dating the cemetery from the 1830s, and located in a highly visible spot near a busy intersection, had not received much attention other than grass-cutting by the town, owner of the property,

First, a recap of James Rus- and as some report, the theft of by his own passion and comsome of the tombstones.

> However, that lack of interest was about to change. When Russell came back years later he had decided it was time to investigate who was buried beneath that patch of grass, and give them back their names.

> He received permission to operate ground-penetrating radar, which he paid for himself, and when it revealed there were likely 28 graves and 19 buried headstones in the historic cemetery, he embarked on a mission to unearth and restore those stones as a step toward discovering who is buried at the site, thus giving them the dignity they deserve in death.

> This newspaper and other media outlets, including TV news cameras, have followed

mitment to his cause. That put him at odds with the town although he began by working with town staff, he became impatient, and what had been a project endorsed by others became a one-man charge, a man frustrated by the many rules and regulations from the Bereavement Association of Ontario and the province that legislates cemeteries. Those are rules the town must follow, and we know government works slowly. He wasn't going to wait.

He also walked away from a town committee that was formed to fundraise for this and other inactive cemeteries, saying it was the town's responsibility to fund what needed to be done. It seemed a shame they couldn't all work together, with

game for the town is not certain. his cause should not be forgot-

Russell's impatience, and a desire to tell his story to a larger audience, led to a hunger strike that we reported to have lasted about 30 hours. Next came a protest march that did not attract the kind of attention Russell had hoped for.

The Local learned recently that Russell's hunger strike was not what we and others in the media reported it to be. He admitted to spending some time warming up in his car during the one night he was apparently chained to that historic blue marker, and when he indeed became hungry, as one is expected to during a hunger strike, he visited Tim Hortons for sustenance.

While this may cloud any further attempts to continue his his progress, which was fuelled similar goals, although the end efforts in Niagara-on-the-Lake, are only occurring because he

ten. He has done the town an important service by bringing the neglect of this historic cemetery to our attention. Although there are other inactive cemeteries in town, this is a significant representation of early Black history and community, and if and when the stones are restored, will help add to our knowledge of early Black history, and tell the story of some of those who escaped slavery to

The town is soon to release an archaeological report that Russell instigated. It will be based on research that only came about because he fought for those buried in the cemetery to be given back their identity. Whatever discussions that ensue about what is to follow

find a save haven in Niagara.

initiated this project.

Without his intervention, NOTL residents and visitors would have continued to pass by that grassy patch without a moment of thought for the freedom-seekers who crossed the river to a land where they hoped and expected to find tolerance, where they lived out the remainder of their lives, died, and were buried. Hopefully one day their headstones will be unearthed, cleaned and restored, so that we may know who they are.

We can't condone Russell's actions, but we recognize he has been fighting for something he is passionate about, acknowledge what he has accomplished, and hope the job he started will be finished.

> **Penny Coles** The Local

American horse fly a part of Canadian summers



Owen Bjorgan **Special to The Local**

It was a classically hot and muggy Niagara-on-the-Lake afternoon. Alongside my friends Matt and Tyler, we ventured straight into 'The Swamp' across my street the moment the school bus dropped us off. Although not that long ago, these were the good old days when students could board any bus to go home with their friends after school. "My mom

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I've alluded to this wetland area near Queenston where I grew up multiple times in previous articles for The Local, as I declared how it shaped me into becoming intrigued and later involved in protecting our local ecosystems. Alas, this wetland has since been cleared, unlike the memories it once gave me. These stories include what I perceived as a horrifying incident on this particular summer backyard outing with my pals.

We marched out to what we called the 'Pipe Creek,' where a stream passes under the historic railroad trail through a mas-

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said I could," would suffice for sive metal pipe. As kids, it is by the menacing horse fly, and family, and there are said to long, finds itself at home impossible not to be fascinated by the mystery of tunnels and what may lurk inside them. It was also an excellent way to cool down on days where the sun was sucking the sweat out of you.

> Something wanted to suck my blood that day, though. Not leeches, and not little mosquitoes. Rather, a big black horse fly who decided to terrorize us in the tunnel. We were young kids, and this was something new to us. It didn't help that an adult once told me that they "bite chunks out of you, and then lay their eggs inside the hole they chewed," which is wildly untrue yet vividly nightmarish for children.

Walking ankle to knee deep in through the pipe, I was suddenly face to face with the gargantuan black insect in the tube. It droned near my head, so I panicked and smacked myself in the face like a buffoon. In hindsight, I don't even think the horsefly had made contact with me. But my hand certainly did, and it hurt, to the point where I convinced my oung mind that I was bitten

that's why my face was red and be 144 species in Canada. The around here, and nowhere

We all screamed and left the tunnel, promptly leaving The Swamp and heading back outdoor space. From that moment on for the next couple of years, I recollect my sincere fear of horse flies at public pools, farms, and especially by Pipe

Fast forward to 2023, and now I intentionally get up close to them with students and hikers to educate them about these

smaller and more common deer fly is also a member of this group, and Tabanids are found across Canada, except for high home to the comfort of a tame arctic islands. One species of Tabanid deer fly was once clocked at flying 145 km/hr in pursuit of a female — the fastest insect speed ever recorded.

With NOTL being part of the ultra-biodiverse Carolinian Forest zone, we often think of nationally rare trees and birds in the area. However, the largest horse fly species fascinating insects. Horse flies in the world, the American are part of the Tabanidae fly horse fly, more than an inch

else in the country.

Continued on page 7



American horse fly (Shutterstock)

View from the couch

Donald Combe Special to The Local

Over the 40 episodes of the Never Have I Ever series (Netflix, 2020-2023), the viewer lives life along with Devi, an only child of Indian parents living in Sherman Oaks, Los

to the sudden death of her beloved father. This teenaged, bright and engaging girl clumsily pursues her crushes and life, discovering her true self only after many heartfelt esca-

The series has been justimaking a new life in a strange because it breaks stereotypes,

land, being an adolescent, and but perhaps more importantly as it sees the world through the eyes of a teenager.

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" ex-Angeles. She is adjusting to fiably widely praised, not only clusives, of Netflix series and movies for the Local.



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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 there were no answers from readers as to Ben's location — he was beside a small house at the corner of Irvine and Lakeshore Road.

The opinions expressed in submitted commentary, and letters to the editor, are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of The NOTL Local.

per, to be relevant, should be prepared to show balance in its reporting. This is not the case with the NOTL Local, where bias in support of a minority group has been shown many times.

Consequently, the minority group (whose values are represented and displayed permanently on public property, which is

In my opinion a newspa- taxpayers) has with the help willingness to publish. of this newspaper deliberately silenced the opinion or viewpoint of others. This ignores the democratic process which is obviously not conthis newspaper.

This does not reflect well on the editorial control of assertions above, we have viewpoints and opinions are opinions our editorial posiequally owned by all NOTL not heard because of an un-

Derek Collins

A note about the demothat we are all entitled to and cratic process — we too are allowed to express opinions, sidered of any importance by in the proper place — the editorial section of our newspaper. And contrary to the the NOTL Local when other published many letters with tion may not support.

Newspaper stifles opinion, reader says Letter-writer hopes to lower NOTL taxes

How lucky are we, maximum building height it forces us. the people of Niagara- limitation of 10 metres is on-the-Lake, that we have perfection. We're not ca-Gordon, John, David and pable of seeing that the to lowering taxes in NOTL. David Parker to tell us what 18.2 metres we desire is "good design" and "ap- an abomination. In fact, propriate projects" are for we need the government NOTL. We, as individuals, to force us to suppress our would never be able to fig- desires because we can't ure that out for ourselves.

If it weren't for them their immorality. and previous councils' divine providence we couldn't may "urge" council, but

be trusted or convinced of

But let's be clear, they possibly understand that a council doesn't "urge" us —

That's why I've started an organization dedicated NOTL4LowerTaxes work hard to let you keep your hard-earned money so that our government doesn't waste it restricting what you can and cannot do with your property.

> **Alexander Evans** @NotI4LowerTaxes

Ted's thoughts on Canada Day: proud to be Canadian



Ted Mouradian Special to The Local

Well, it's almost July, the time we celebrate Canada Day. So, here are some thoughts on why I love Canada and some concerns for where it might be heading.

In the U.S. they use the term "melting pot." In Canada we use the term "mosaic" which I like a lot better. In the U.S., the idea of a melting pot suggests that you sort of meld your identity, your ethnicity and your heritage into this big mix to become a U.S. citizen first and your own culture second.

In Canada when we say you concerned at the direction the

gests that we value who you are as an individual and celebrate your history, your background, ethnicity and your heritage.

The funny thing is when a person describes who they are in the U.S. they say that they are an African American, an Italian American or a Native American. In Canada we usually say that we are Canadian of Armenian heritage. See the difference? Canadians are proud to be Canadian, but also celebrate their heritage at the same time. People from the U.S. celebrate their heritage before their citizenship, because individuality is important to everyone.

Please let me be clear, I am

not trying to put the U.S. down, I am simply making a comparison. Having said that, I am

are part of a mosaic, that sug- world is going and I see issues Canadians are normally not interested in are now becoming mainstream. I believe COVID your gender, your sexuality, your is part of the cause, but I also think the visceral clashes between elected officials, and the way social media feeds the conflict, also contribute to the dysfunction.

As Canadians we need to stand up to extremism on all sides. This is not a right or left issue. This is fundamentally who we are as Canadians. I have travelled the world and there is nothing that makes me more proud than when someone from another country notices I am Canadian, and they comment on how nice Canadians are. We are known worldwide as a good country with good people, and we cannot take that for granted.

History shows we general-

ly follow what is happening in included and celebrated as part As long as you want to obey the U.S., and right now that divisiveness and the antigovernment rhetoric is seepcome a long way with women's rights, LGBT rights, ethnic rights, Indigenous rights, gender rights and individual rights, but we can't sit back and believe it is done. There is always much of these areas we have still fall-

For a number of years I was chair of the Mayor's Committee on Community and Race Relations in St. Catharines, and ensure that all Canadians felt what country you came from.

of this wonderful mosaic that we call Canada. We developed a badge that we gave out on ing across the border. We have Canada Day. It was very simple — a white button with a red maple leaf on it. The words on the badge were simple as well, but powerful in that simplicity.

'My Canada Includes YOU.'

Yes, my Canada includes more work to do, and in some you with no exceptions, no conditions and no 'yeah, buts.' It doesn't matter where you come from, what your politics are, what your religion is, who you love, what colour skin you have, what gender you are or one of our mandates was to want to be, what age you are or

Canadian laws and respect each and everyone's right to exist, then you are a welcome part of this wonderful mosaic that we call Canada. The mosaic that includes you.

So, let's stop the divisiveness, let's stop the tribalism, let's stop calling each other names and let's get back to being all-inclusive, all-caring and all-Canadian.

Ted Mouradian is an author and professional speaker. He is president of the 2% Factor Inc. and his videos can be seen on TikTok and Instagram. Ted can be reached at ted@the2percent-

Bite little worse than mosquito

Continued from page 6

Only the females bite and require blood for nutrition and the development of their eggs, much like the needs of mosquitoes. Males and females alike are unsung pollinators who also appreciate the sweet juices found oozing out of aphids, shrubby plants.

Speaking of such plants, stems and leaves are where fe- thirsty females to get up close they land. males deposit their egg masses and land on a mammalian brutal horror movie. Some insects in other areas of the world their notably massive eyeballs the beautiful summer weather do this, but that's a whole oth-

meantime, we can thank the horse fly's larvae for acting as population control for the lar-

er story that Canadians don't of mind, waiting for females to need to worry about. In the visit them at quiet mating sites, such as open hilltops or sunny lakesides.

When you see the horse vae of worms and other insect flies at your local pool, cottage, or on the trails, there is no need Anyone who has seen to be alarmed. The bite is only those chunky black horse flies a notch worse than a mosquibuzzing around by the lakeside to bite and may itch a little bit which are found attached to dock might have noticed how longer, and they often take remarkably silent they are in several seconds to sink their flight. This allows the blood- mouthparts into the skin after

On that note, don't let this — not inside your skin like a body — hence the name horse impressive insect stop you flies. Meanwhile, males and from sinking your teeth into are typically out of sight and out that has officially begun.

Kittens, kittens and more kittens

Niagara-on-the-Lake Rescue is having a pop-up bake sale to help support spay and neutering, microchipping, vaccines, and costs associated with purchasing kitten food and corn litter. They are currently caring for 16 kittens — all as adorable as Penelope and Paislev and four adult cats, and veterinary costs have increased. The sale is at 456 Line 2. behind Crossroads School, and items that will be available include strawberry jam, cookie pops, banana bread, coconut meringue tarts, chocolate walnut tarts. blueberry scones and an assortment of cookies and muffins. Cash donations are also appreciated. For information email notlcats@cogeco.ca



FULL-TIME JOURNALIST WANTED:



The Local is looking for someone with excellent writing and communication skills, and who is interested in covering Niagara-on-the-Lake news. The ideal candidate should be able to work independently, ensure accuracy and balance in stories, and work to deadlines.

If you feel you are a suitable candidate for this position, please send your resume and a cover letter outlining your experience to **penny@notllocal.com** We look forward to hearing from you!

June 28, 2023 THE NOTL Pocal

Outdoor event features symphony musicians

Penny Coles The Local

Lauren and Vaughan Goettler love the Niagara Symphony Orchestra — Lauren describes a dinner out at their favourite restaurant in St. Catharines and an opportunity to follow that at the symphony as a perfect evening for them.

But there are many people who are missing out on the magic of the symphony, says Lauren, and she and Vaughan are determined to do what they can to help. That includes welcoming about 125 guests to Willowmere Haven, their rural farm on Line 6, for a live performance by members of the orchestra.

"I want to bring more awareness of the symphony to this town. We have so much to offer here. I hope to also open some eyes to the beauty of the symphony," she says.

This will be the second year the Goettlers have hosted an event for the NSO on their charming rural property, but this one will be different — she is aiming for elegant and sophisticated. "It will be very impactful," Lauren says, "with a real 'wow' effect. The symphony is fine music, and the event will be very classy, as a symphony event should be. Even though it's outdoors, the tea will be served in china cups and saucers, and we're hoping everyone will wear their certificate for Casa Mia Risbest hats."

Guests will be welcomed



Lauren Goettler, with Breanne Miller, who helps manage the farm at Willowmere Haven, has organized an event to showcase the Niagara Symphony Orchestra and raise funds for its educational programs and summer camps. (Penny Coles)

wine, more bubbly, a selecof sweet and savoury sandto be found.

lent auction with some in- steps from the beach. teresting items available, torante, also in the Falls.

with a glass of bubbly, and clude "experiences" offered time to stroll around a large, for the 2023-2024 season, the afternoon will include by the Goettlers — time on their yacht is one for tion of teas to enjoy, towers the winning bid and their it home, and for those who chestra's educational and guests. Also up for auction choose to, an opportunity wiches and the best desserts is a chance to enjoy the to visit a myriad of farm the NSO's Summer Music Goettlers' California home animals, including sheep, Camp. Families from Niag-There will also be a si- for a week, in La Jolla, just goats, horses, chickens and ara and beyond get to work

The event is a unique including a treatment at the experience to see the Goet-Elixir Beauty Mixology Spa tlers' rural property, and in Niagara Falls, and a gift to hear the symphony in a picturesque outdoor envi-

beautifully landscaped even pigs.

The bubbly, Lauren exand their new series of sparperform in camp concerts. kling wines.

says he's grateful to have pond with swans who call funding directed to the oryouth programs, including with professional musicians jokes. and music educators, make plains, is from Lailey Winery, friends, attend recitals, and

He explains it's become Bradley Thachuk, in the responsibility of culronment, surrounded by his 14th season as artis- tural organizations such A live auction will in- nature. There will also be tic leader and conductor as the symphony to ensure bubbly-tea-symphony/.

the next generation receives education in the arts, with so little musical education available to them. "It's important that they are offered some level of music education. Kids do better with music in their lives," he says, "yet many don't have access to it."

The symphony is committed to its music camp, and although there is a charge for it, there are also bursaries for those who can't afford the cost, and the Goettlers' event will help send more children to camp.

Thachuk has selected three ensembles to perform at Willowmere Haven.

He has chosen the musicians, he says, but they will choose what they play, with a goal of having the music front and centre, garnering the full attention of the audience — it's not meant to be played as background music off in a corner.

And he's pleased with the attention to detail that has gone into the planning of the afternoon.

"This is a great event," he says, "for a great cause. I'm really impressed by what Lauren and the committee have put into it, taking it to the next level."

"It's the kind of event I would want to go to, even if I wasn't obligated to," he

Bubbly, Tea and Symphony is July 29, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$125. For more information and to order tickets visit niagarasymphony.com/event/

Nyanyas helping next generation of African women





The Nyanyas of Niagara raised \$1,800 thanks to support from the community and Ironwood Cider, where they held their recent event. Five lucky winners went home with draw prizes and enjoyed a short ride with Will Halpenny in his 1938 Ford Sloped Back, 'Slopey'. Nyanyas, still trying to build up their membership post-COVID, support women of Africa who are working to change the lives of other women, including tackling health issues, through the Stephen Lewis Foundation, where Nyanyas fundraising efforts are directed. For more information about the group or the foundation email Nyanyas2018@gmail.com. Posed in front of Slopey at Ironwood are Heather Hall, Peggy Hooke, Cindy Grant, Dianne Marshall, Marlene Bridgman, Sandra Hardy, and Linda Carleton, the steering committee for the event. As part of the event, Sandra Hardy shared Nyanyas history in NOTL. (Photos supplied)

Creek turbulence makes it difficult to search

Continued from page 1

that they're understaffed, resources."

Debi Pratt and Louise Howe, and other friends and neighbours are providing clusters of support, preparing food and whatever else they can do, "but we really feel helpless. We know the likelihood that it's a recovery situation, but we just want to afternoon.

Worthy was going through periods of despair, Perrin says, and then would need to do something, and was spending time on her phone with friends who were calling.

Jordon Meyer, who grew up with Liam in NOTL their mothers were friends — took a moment during in tears on both sides. the wait for the police to room

He's super smart, really well educated, and has allife, said Meyer.

frustration of just waiting of their kids?" for the police to arrive. He had contacted the Canadian Coast Guard Monday night, asking for help, and was told they couldn't get involved now this." without an official request er said he asked the police to Whirlpool Jet Boats, and he Creek, he said, and a drone

reach out to the coast guard, had left Lewiston and had but by Tuesday afternoon already been out in a kayak that hadn't happened.

"We've walked along the waiting for a boat."

He mentioned the heavy current by the fire tower in were doing to find Liam. Twelve Mile Creek, and the area around it that is used to train for Olympic-level white ed to an assistance call for water rafting, which is making the search difficult.

find him," she said Tuesday that he got out of the water somewhere, he's lost his phone and can't call for help. Worst case scenario is he's trapped underwater somewhere. And not knowing is beside herself. She feels helpless. We all feel so helpless."

> Worthy also took a few minutes to talk to The Local, in a conversation that ended

describe him, saying that to do. It's so hard. The police vice personnel." Liam's smile could light up a were supposed to be here and they're not here."

that police are considering it ready done so much in his a recovery, "but they should be here. What do you think He too was feeling the they'd be doing if it was one gan conducting water and

> She used to row in that day and Tuesday, he said. area, she said, and was very familiar with the water. "I just loved the water. And (wind, rain, lightening)."

from the police. Twice Mey- contacted John Kinney of line searches of Twelve Mile

searching Monday.

Just as The Local was goand the lack of emergency shore, but you can only walk ing to press Tuesday, Const. so far," he said. "We're just Phil Gavin of the NRP responded with answers to questions of what the police

> He said that on Sunday at 8:50 p.m. officers respondservice along Twelve Mile Creek. The initial investiga-"Best case scenario is tion determined that a man had entered the water. When the man exited the raft, it began to float away. The male attempted to recover the raft that still contained the dog.

"The water in that area the hardest part. His mom is of Twelve Mile Creek is fast-flowing with rapids," Gavin said. The man became distressed in the water, submerged and was not seen again. "The raft and dog were located and recovered "I just don't know what by St. Catharines Fire Ser-

Police conducted shoreline searches that evening, he She said she understands said, "but were called off due to darkness and hazards in the area."

> Marine unit officers beshoreline searches on Mon-

"At times officers' efforts were hampered by weather

Officers have also been Worthy said she had deployed to conduct shore-



Liam Neumann with his dog Brodie, who never left his side. (Photos supplied)



Barbara Worthy with her son Liam, on holiday.

deployment was planned to next of kin. It is important to the search efforts, members search the shoreline, "when us that we continue to comweather permits."

Mile Creek can be quite our efforts and the investigatreacherous and, in some areas, negate the use of police divers," he said.

and we empathize with the desire to attend and assist in

municate with the next of kin "The currents of Twelve and our detectives regarding tive process," he said.

"This is an ongoing police investigation, and while "This is a tragic situation, we recognize there may be a

of the public should avoid the area due to its land and water hazards."

At about 5 p.m. Tuesday, Perrin told The Local the police had arrived at 2:45 p.m., searched for about an hour and a half, and said they would be back Wednesday.



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*** ** Celebrate CANADA DAY in

SIMCOE PARK

11:30 AM - 3 PM

ROTARY CLUB OF NOTL BBQ LUNCH

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

FORT GEORGE

FREE ADMISSION

10AM - 10PM AND ALL DAY ACTIVITIES

4PM

Food Services at Fort George

6:30 PM - Evening Program Begins

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

QUEEN STREET

3 PM

THE GIANT "CAKE PARADE"

featuring the

41ST REGIMENT FIFE & DRUM CORPS

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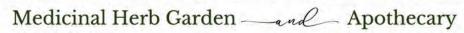




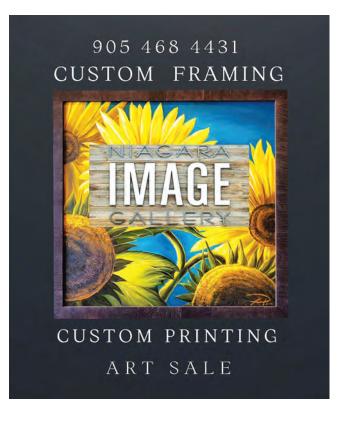








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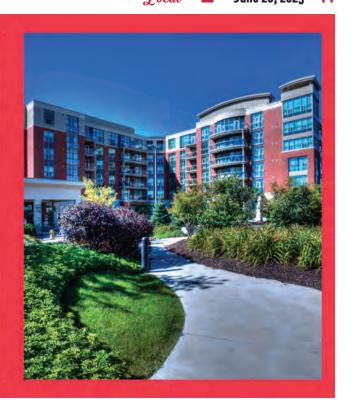
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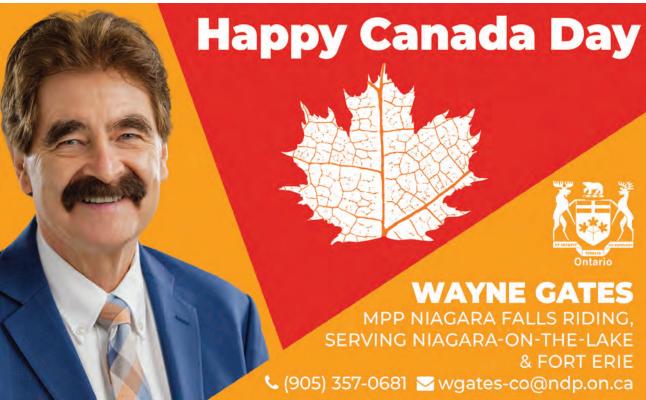
TROPHY HUSBANDS 4 - 7 PM













THE NOTL Pocal 12 June 28, 2023

Fort renovation revealed, but makeover isn't finished

Mike Balsom The Local

Parks Canada could not have chosen a better person than Chris Zoetewey to lead the Fort Mississauga restoration project.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake-born technical services officer's enthusiasm was palpable Friday as he and manager of external relations Sarah Quinlan Cutler led a handful of media representatives through a tour of the tower, which was built be-

stroyed the town.

itary before joining Parks holes. Canada, shared stories of his days as a student at Parliament Oak and Niagara District Secondary School with The Local. Fort Mississauga was constantly there, at the time actually in play as part of the second hole on the NOTL side, and brick on the inside, Golf Club. He winced a bit and the middle is filled with when explaining that the bars rubble," explained Zoetewey.

tween 1814 and 1816, largely closing off the fort's embra- "It's speculated that the limeusing bricks left behind after sures, out of which muskets stone rubble actually came Americans burned and de- once fired, became necessary because his contemporaries Zoetewey, who was a lo- back then were constantgistics specialist in the mil- ly throwing refuse into the

> And Zoetewey exuded pride as he touted the Fort's invincibility, built with twometre-thick exterior walls designed to withstand explosions by absorbing force.

"There's brick on the out-

from the demolition of the lighthouse that used to be on this site."

Because of the heritage value of the fort, restoring the brick is a painstaking process. Each brick that was restored had to be removed and cleaned separately. In the cases where bricks had to be replaced, the restoration experts had to source the proper materials to best match the historic quality of the building. The demarcation line between old and new brick can be seen clearly on the exterior of the fort.

Ironically, the rubblefilled design of the wall is also what has forced a delay in the completion of the fort's restoration, which began in 2010 but progressed in earnest in 2019 through a Federal Infrastructure Investment Program that infused \$7.3 million into the project.

"Because it's rubble-filled," Zoetewey explained, "if water gets into it, it expands. We had the entire tower evaluated and had a heritage recording done. Based on that, we discovered we were getting water into the entire facility between the brick walls."

The new roof, built to replicate the First World War era of Fort Mississauga when it was used as Camp Niagara, was installed to seal off the top and allow the water to seep out over the next five to 10 years. The roof is designed to be easily removed and restored to its original design.

"The water has already begun to dry up," said Zoetewey. "When we go inside, you can see that the walls are definitely drying. It used to be humid inside, that was every experience I had in this building. Now that's gone. I'm very happy that it's drying out."

Zoetewey unlocked the new metal grate exterior door, designed to allow for air flow to promote further drying of the water, and led the group

had both an exterior and tario grasses. an interior door, brought to light just how thick those exterior walls are. And immediately Zoetewey's assertion about the absence of humidity was evident. In fact, there was a gentle breeze blowing through the fort Friday, surely aiding in the drying out of the water inside the walls.

The group was led down along a new wooden platform, while Zoetewey pointed to the floor many metres below us.

"We found the original floor," he marvelled. "Totally by accident. We were removing the brick on the bottom, then we removed the sand, and below the sand we started encountering (original) features. So this platform was extended into both rooms so



Chris Zoetewey points to the features inside the fort, including walls two feet thick.



It's clear to see where the new brick has been used, and the new roof designed to help water run off and away from the fort.

the original features from the rebellion period."

It's a fascinating experience to walk inside the historic fort, the only one of its kind remaining in Canada. Questions arose about life inside the structure, and Zoetewey explained that every attempt was made to keep the work area separate from the living area. He pointed out latrines were built just outside the fort, but chamber pots would have been a necessity while under any kind of attack.

Besides the restoration of the structure itself, other improvements were made to the earthworks surrounding it. Since 2019, crews have removed non-native and invasive trees and shrubs that had overgrown the slopes, restoring the views of Fort Mississauga's prominent position at the mouth of the Niagara Walking through the River. They then seeded the doorway, which at one time earthworks with native On-

> Repairs were also made to the sallyport, which Zoetewey said was once walked through by naked soldiers training on the site on their way to bathe in the river. The shoreline was also

> stabilized with 600 metres of breakwall to combat erosion and protect the historic site. and the public walkway was created, including the addition of a boardwalk, to allow safe access to the fort and to protect the NOTL Golf

> Because of the need for the walls to dry out for at least five more years, Quinlan Cutler says the doors to Fort Mississauga will most likely remain closed to the general public until that time.

> > "The plan for the future is

you can look down and see to be able to lead tours inside," she explained. "This work was really about restoring the fort, so we can give our past a future, to see what we can do with it, so that people can really connect with the history of the area. And not just this era, but all eras of this site."

Consideration, Quinlan Cutler, will be given to the best way to welcome visitors inside while protecting the integrity of the building. She also promised there are no plans to have a visitor's centre at the protected site.

And though he's not named along with Jonathan Dee, Sean Leigh, Stefan Gingras and John Cook for their award-winning work on the conservation project, Zoetewey expressed great pride in the restoration efforts having won a 2021 Award of Excellence in Conservation-Engineering from the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals.

It's clear that both Zoetewey and Quinlan Cutler can't wait to open the doors of Fort Mississauga to the public, but both accept the necessity to wait out the drying of the water between the walls.

"The first phase of the restoration is done," Zoetewey summed up. "Now we wait for the column to dry. If we were to jump on the restoration immediately, the water in there would just destroy any work we do. Once it's all dry, we'll maybe apply for more federal funding to finish the work."

"It's been a long haul," said Quinlan Cutler. "It involved a lot of complications, a lot of thinking and collaboration. Today we wanted to showcase what's been done and also what still needs to be done."



Chris Zoetewey and Sarah Quinlan Cutler of Parks Canada on a platform inside Fort Mississauga built to allow visitors to walk safely around the interior. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

It's Peach Season at the Spa!



Peachy Keen Scrub Includes a soft sugar scrub exfoliant followed by a rich, creamy body lotion.

\$145* | 50 minutes

Peachy Keen Wrap Includes a soft sugar scrub, a rich, creamy body mask and a mini brightening facial.

80 minutes



SECRET GARDEN SPA at Prince of Wales



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Legion offering Canada Day activities

Local Staff The Local

This Canada Day, the Niagara-on-the-Lake branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will host its annual community celebration with an eye on the past.

The yearly celebration on the front lawn of the branch hall at 410 King Street will also be a day to raise money to restore the town's 100-year old cenotaph.

The cenotaph-style clock tower was chosen by a vote of the town, says legion president Al Howse, which at the

than 2000. "The cenotaph truly belongs to all of us who call Niagara-on-the-Lake home."

The cenotaph committee, which includes the legion and a few other townsfolk, was gathered together by Coun. Gary Burroughs in November 2021 to celebrate the centennial of the landmark, says Howse, "and once we had a good look at it top to bottom, it was obvious that repairs were needed celebration begins with a barto restore it. Discussions led to the idea that we want to ensure the townsfolk have a chance to 4 p.m.

time had a population of less donate to the restoration fund, and not just look to corporate donations. It belongs to all of us. We should all feel involved in its upkeep."

> The legion will be making a donation on behalf of everyone who has donated at the branch, says Howse. Businesses have also donated, and the legion will be looking for a federal grant as well.

> The legion's Canada Day becue at 1 p.m. with music by Trophy Husbands beginning at

Terry Fox shirts available **Canada Day**

The Pillitteri family, Lucas, Gordy (the dog), Mike, Sophie, Sarah and Leo, model this year's Terry Fox T-shirt. Joan King, organizer of the run, will be at Simcoe Park Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. selling adult sizes at \$25 and youth sizes for \$20. Bracelets (as Gordy is wearing) are free with a T-shirt purchase.



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14 June 28, 2023

THE NOTL Pocal

notllocal.com

Artists paint surrounded by rose gardens

Maria H. Klassen **Special to The Local**

The first weekend of the summer was the perfect time for local artists to gather with their paintbrushes and palettes to capture the beauty of the scenery en plein air. This is a French term which means painting entire finished pictures outdoors.

Under blue skies, with the odd raindrop, the roses in the gardens of Ronald Boaks and Lenore Richards were an inspiration for many painting this weekend. Boaks planted these roses eight years ago, shortly after he and Richards moved to their Niagara-on-the-Lake property.

About a dozen artists, members of the Niagaraon-the-Lake Arts Collective, gathered for one, two or three days to paint outdoors or in the art studio or gallery.

This is the second year Boaks Arts Centre in August. and Richards have hosted the different varieties of rosthe gardens.

including Boak's paintings, collages, photography and sculptures. Most of the finished work is done with

and Debbie Whitehouse has included some pottery. Nancy Wardle was painting portraits in the art studio. Her goal is to complete 60 portraits and she has almost reached her goal. These are portraits of family, friends, and of photos sent to her. She will have a solo show

Boaks has many talents this event. The subjects for aside from his artwork. He many of the paintings were has renovated the former cow barn into an art gallery. es found in various areas in He has done brickwork on the house, rebuilt the back The gallery is filled with entrance, done stonework artwork by participating on the patio, and built the members of the collective, fence in the backyard from random sticks and branches found in his yard. The property houses a welding studio, a painting studio and a mixed media, oil or water workshop. Most of this is not visible from the road as you Julia Kane has some drive by. Boaks and Richfused glass pieces on display, ards welcome anyone to stop by and view the artistic and natural beauty to be found at Ronald Boaks Fine Art, at 1823 Niagara Stone Road.

When asked why he opens his yard to other artists, he says, "It brings everyone together. We get to know each other better. I enjoy sharing my space with othat the Niagara Pumphouse ers, and they enjoy sharing techniques and stories."

> Although the Artists in the Rose Garden event has ended this year, please look for it next year at the same time and the same place. Ronald Boaks Fine Art remains open all year, so take the time for a leisurely drive Niagara-on-the-Lake, stop to visit with Boaks and Richards — and take time to smell the roses.



Debbie Whitehouse paints in Boaks' art gallery. (Mike Balsom)



Julia Kane painting en plein air. (Maria H. Klassen)





St. Andrews Presbyterian Church would like to express our appreciation to the Niagara Community and Visitors for making our Festival on June 17, 2023 another successful event. We would like to make a special mention to those businesses and organizations that gave a helping hand to the Festival Committee in preparation for this important fundraising event to maintain the upkeep of the historic Church and Manse.

The 2023 Strawberry Festival Committee from



The Local **Harvest Barn St. Catharines** St. Davids Lions Club St. Vincent de Paul Church **Rob & Sharon Van Noort Tigchelaar Berry Farms** Seaway Farms Niagara-on-the-Lake Tiny Museum **Independent Grocer Queen Street NOTL**

Simpsons Pharmacy Christian Assembly Hall Jack Custers from Your TV The Source & The Cogeco Team The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake The Region of Niagara And all of those who so graciously donated to our Silent Auction and **Granny's Attic.**



Ron Boaks in the rose garden he planted surrounding his artist's studio and gallery. (Mike Balsom)



Nancy Wardle paints in Ron Boaks' artist studio. (Maria H. Klassen)

Celebrating half-century of 'pickin' an' grinnin'

Jane Andres The Local

Fifty years ago I shared a stage with a number of local musicians for a children's camp fundraiser organized by John Wiebe at St.Catharines United Mennonite Church. I was especially excited to be playing with Bill Koop, an extraordinary musician and master of any stringed instrument.

As a teen, Koop went to live and work on his uncle's peach farm one summer in 1947. The small farmhouse was shared with his aunt, uncle and 13 cousins. He felt lucky to have not only his own bed but the privilege of having a large battery-powered radio in the bedroom.

After a hot, humid day of picking peaches he would listen to exotic bluegrass tunes drifting in from a radio station far away in Wheeling, West Virginia. He fell in love with the music he heard, a world away from the familiar Mennonite hymns he had grown up with, and used his peach money to buy a \$2 guitar from McKey Music store on King Street in St. Catharines, the beginning of teaching himself some of the tunes. He hadn't heard of guitar picks, so for the first two years he pulled teeth out of his pocket comb and used them as picks.

He began writing tunes based on those long, hot days in the peach orchard.

"We'd go to work at the break of day

Life was hard at a dollar a

But work and music's what it's all about

When the sun went down we'd play our misery out."

When he met kindred spirits Eric Goerz and John Harder, they formed the Peach Pickers, bound together by their love

of bluegrass music and their day to jam. The well-known shared experience of hot humid days suffering the trials of peach fuzz in the orchards. They began singing at local church socials and recorded their first song direct to disc in 1949 at a tiny recording studio under the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls.

The Peach Pickers continued to evolve after Koop left for teachers college in Toronto, eventually recording the hit Niagara Moon, which soon hit the air waves across several states in the U.S.

new genres of music that year in Toronto, and found himself playing bass at folk gigs despite the fact he had never played bass before. His mottos, 'Why not?' and 'Never say no,' - expanded his musical horizons exponentially during that time.

Employment opportunities were unlimited in the '50s and upon graduation he accepted a position teaching woodshop at St.Catharines Collegiate. It was there that he met Terry Pothier who taught music at the high

Pothier was a vivacious, vibrant vocalist whose enthusiastic leadership created one the best school choirs in Niagara. Pothier is still fondly remembered as the pianist leading the sing-alongs at the Oban Inn and later Riverbend in Niagara-on-the-Lake for almost three decades.

By the late '60s, Terry Pothier began adding contemporary songs to their classical repertoire and Bill formed a folk band to back them up. The band was a big hit when the choir toured to Florida, New York City, Expo '67, Vancouver and Kentucky. Koop's woodshop became the unofficial headquarters for the musicians, with students dropping in at the end of the school

brothers Rob, Jeff and Stuart Laughton from Lakeshore Road took turns playing guitar and standup bass.

By then Koop had expanded his musical skills to play banjo and mandolin, as well as building instruments in his shop room.

In 1971 I was in Grade 11, and had just been granted my freedom after years of doing hard time with my piano teacher. My dad was a fan of the TV show Hee Haw, and despite its corny humour, I became in-Koop began soaking in trigued with the unique fresh sound of bluegrass banjo.

Randy Scott, a teacher at a local music store in the Grantham Plaza, gave me a few lessons as I struggled to play a warped old banjo that refused

The turning point for me was an invitation from him to meet Bill Koop at the St. Catharines Collegiate woodshop. I skipped my last class at Laura Secord high school and rode my bike to the collegiate one afternoon, greeted by an intoxicating blend of fresh cut wood and solvents when I entered the room. Randy guided me across the shop floor and introduced me to Koop, a 39-year-old shaggy, bearded teacher who immediately made me feel at home. The room was filled with laughter and a sense of anticipation as a few enthusiastic students gathered around a drafting table, tuning up their guitars. A tall, lanky student named Jeff Laughton lugged in a large standup bass.

Koop patiently taught the students the finger patterns of bluegrass-style picking as they followed him with rapt attention. I marvelled that his sturdy carpenter fingers could navigate the slender fretboards and

fly over the strings in incredibly complex patterns.

Following the session, he invited me up to his office overlooking the shop, and introduced me to his latest creation.

Laid out on his worktable rested a tenderly-crafted blonde maple banjo with a brass resonator, translucent skin and a slender neck. He picked it and played a few bars producing a pretty sound as bright and clear as a Kentucky warbler.

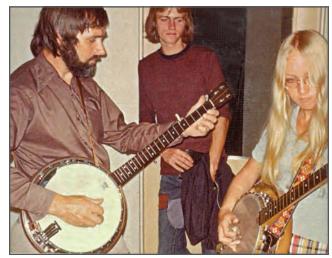
I was smitten — it was love at first sight.

He sold me the blonde banjo a few weeks later on the condition that I wouldn't sell it to anyone else. I devoted every spare minute to practising, much to the annoyance of family who had to listen to me repeating the same patterns an hour at a time.

It was pure joy to sit in on the sessions every week until the school year ended.

Two years later, on the last weekend of June 1973, I played with Koop and his young friends at the fundraiser concert. Someone took a photo of us playing after the concert, which included a young man watching intently from behind. A conversation with Brian Andres followed at the end of the evening, and after a few banjo lessons he decided to stick to guitar. We began playing music together, along with his brothers Larry and Ron and a few friends. Koop took time out from his busy schedule teaching and touring with The Torchmen, a gospel quartet, to play at our wedding three years later.

Koop has had an illustrious musical career, spanning seven decades, his face still popping up on the cover of music magazines. On several occasions his band Sweetwater has played at the Saturday Farm Market at the Vil-



Bill Koop, Brian Andres, and Jane, who met her husband through Koop and the music they played together. (Photos supplied)



Jane and Brian Andres, with Bill Koop and John Wiebe, celebrating 50 years of music.

lage, the tunes drifting over the and musicians over the years. neighbouring peach orchards close to where it all started on Niven Road.

At 91, he travels to Cambridge to play a weekly gig with friends. His son Richard does the driving and plays standup bass, also a treasured creation from his father's woodshop.

This weekend marked the 50th anniversary of the concert where John Wiebe, Koop, Brian and I were introduced to each other. It was a rare opportunity for us to play and reminisce about the incredible influence he has had on students

Koop amazed us as his fingers flew once again over the fretboards of the banjo he built

"Gimme a minute," he would say, and pause, reaching deep into his memory bank before retrieving a few bars and then launching into a song from 70 years ago.

Our bodies and joints may be getting a little rusty, but the instruments he lovingly crafted can still sing out the beautiful tunes fused in the heat and humidity of the peach orchards of

Bombshell dropped about night of hunger strike

Continued from page 1

"This was really new ground for James," she said. "He had a lot of great ideas, but they were very large. He had no idea how to facilitate something like that. I tried to explain that I didn't do all the things that he was doing, like applying for permits, chartering buses. I didn't do any of that for my rally."

Darlene went on to affirm that she admires Russell's passion for the cause, but feels that it would be better served if he worked along with the Friends of the Forgotten, because that's who the town seems willing to work with.

"It's unfortunate, but that's the reality of the situation," she added. "I would have liked to have seen James work with them, instead of demanding a whole separate thing, which we know is not going to happen."

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Yvonne Bredow was also part of a WhatsApp chat through which Russell shared his plans with her and Darlene.

organizing a protest rally, attracting more than 400 people to a peaceful anti-racism demonstration in NOTL just cut short his planned weekdays apart from Darlene's Ni- long stay at the burial ground agara Falls event.

Similarly to Darlene, Bredow had heard of Russell's hunger strike in April and went to the cemetery to give him support, even deciding to accompany him for what turned out to be only an overnight stay at the historic heritage site, after making a show of setting up a chair, chaining himself to the plaque on the site, and saying only his wife had the combination.

Bredow dropped a bombshell when she spoke to The Local.

"His hunger strike wasn't a hunger strike," she said. "He said his wife was the only one who had the combination to the lock. He had the combination. He opened the lock and we sat in the car and warmed up overnight.

"He went and got food at Tim Hortons in the morning too. That ruined any credibility

stayed that night, I would never have known."

Nevertheless, when Russell joined Darlene on the group chat to offer advice in his planning for the Father's Day rally.

"But something just never sat right with me after that," added Bredow. "He dropped off a stack of flyers, and I think I only put one up. I just couldn't do it. And once I found out that the Stage One (archeological assessment) had been completed, I didn't think the march was needed."

Bredow opened the chain of messages on her cell and read her text to Russell, sent June 7.

"After careful consideration and finding out that council has completed the first stage of getting the ball rolling and making progress, I really don't see the need for a march, so I am bowing out gracefully. They are making progress, and it can't happen overnight. I wish he had in my mind. He said it you the best of luck in your en-

Bredow also had experience was just our secret. If I hadn't deavours," said her message.

Russell replied by saying, "thank you very much for letting us know."

The Local reached out to Russell Monday and informed after only 30 hours, Bredow him of Bredow's allegations. The line went quiet for a short period of time.

"All those things are true," Russell admitted about Bredow's allegations. "But I'm wondering why she would go public with this now. I can't offer any excuses as to why I sat in the car, or why I ended up having a breakfast sandwich at 7:00 in the morning, after 48 hours of not eating solid food. I don't really know what to say."

He seemed genuinely concerned that her revelation would mar Bredow's reputation as much as it would his own.

"I don't want to make her look bad," said Russell. "I don't care what people think about me. And she never mentioned any of this when she bailed out on the march, either."

Russell remains disappointed with the turnout for



Yvonne Bredow, who kept James Russell company through the night of his hunger strike, reveals he unchained himself, spent some time in his car, and went to Tim Hortons for breakfast before chaining himself back to the plaque at the Negro Burial Ground. (Mike Balsom)

the march, and though he has no concrete plans to return to NOTL soon, he is broadening the scope of his efforts, as reported by The Local last week.

"I have 124 letters ready to go to every MPP in Ontario," he said. "I just incorporated the Canadian Unmarked Graves Project, and I will turn that into a non-profit. We are going to identify and catalogue all the unmarked graves across Ontario."

"It will include Indigenous

graves, the military, every unmarked grave," he promised. "There will be an interactive website and a map. Each dot will be clickable, and it will tell you who was buried there. If we don't know who was buried there, it will still be marked, but as unknown."

For her part, Bredow concluded, "I believe in a lot of the things he wants done. I just don't agree with the way he is doing them."

THE NOTL Spocal June 28, 2023

3choolout for SUMMUNET



Crossroads Public School grads pose for a photo on their graduation celebration day. (Photos supplied)



Royal Oak Community School grads are Preston Bowslaugh, Ben Van Veghelwood, Roxis Agate, Leila Ridesic, Mia Philips, Ruby Elltoft, Diego Rey, Joshua Chaudoreille and Elijah Mezon.



Ayla Keskin, Royal Oak grad, was absent when the group photo was taken.

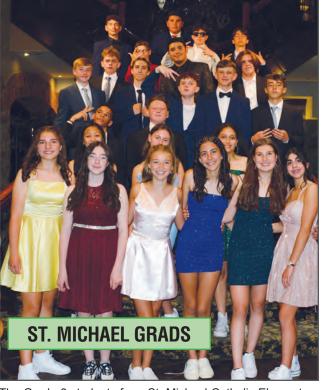


Crossroads celebrates Indigenous Day

On National Indigenous Peoples' Day, the Grade 2 and 7 classes sent a cheque for \$650 to Water First as part of Crossroads Public School's ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. These 'Learning Buddies' classes donated to this organization that helps ensure sustainable access to clean, safe drinking water in Indigenous communities in Ontario, and across the country. A Downie Wenjack Legacy Fund School, Crossroads has been following the advice of Chanie Wenjack's sisters during their visit, last year: Do Something. All classes in the school throughout the year use the Ontario curriculum and DSBN Indigenous Education Department's resources and recommendations to learn the truth and take action.



St. Davids Grade 8 students celebrated their graduation at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery — owner Paul Harper was himself The Grade 8 students from St. Michael Catholic Elementary a St. Davids grad.



School celebrate their graduation.

Kinder Tough Mudder for kids and parents



mudder course. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Adriana Vizzari races her daughter Gigi through the tough Gigi races her mother through the wet mudder course.



Just enough rain fell at just the right time to make St. Davids Public School's very first Kinder Tough Mudder competition interesting. All four Kindergarten classes, comprising about 100 students, gathered on the back lawn to take on an obstacle course set up by the school's Grade 8 students. There were 18 obstacles in each run, and students faced off against each other before some had a chance to take on their parents just as the rain began to fall once again. The event was organized by teacher Kailey Monaghan. Educational assistant Madison Delaney told The Local she was amazed with how well the afternoon activity went, and was even more pleased with the number of parents who turned up to watch, support their kids, and even to take a run at the course themselves.



St. Davids teacher Lindsay Paravacino takes a crack at a race.



Bernd Christmas was trounced in his race with his son Ekkian. Ekkian had no trouble beating his dad.

THE NOTL *Spocal* June 28, 2023 17 notllocal.com

Music Niagara takes over winery tent for four days of concerts

Mike Balsom The Local

As far as takeovers go, Music Niagara Festival's upcoming four-night siege of Chateau des Charmes for its new Pops Series is far from hostile. On the contrary, the stretch of evening performances from Monday, July 3 to Thursday, July 6 would most definitely be classified as a friendly invasion.

The series kicks off with a performance by the high-stepping, fiddle master family The Fitzgeralds, followed by festival favourites Quartetto Gelato the next evening. Steve Mc-Dade brings his Jazz Quintet along with pint-sized but powerful jazz singer Barbra Lica to the winery's tent Wednesday, and the series wraps up Thursday with Music Niagara mainstay Heather Bambrick.

"Chateau des Charmes

Lade, the festival's general supporting Music Niagara since 2019, and their through COVID. We are so 25th Anniversary."

were spaced out by a day or two each," says Colin Maier, along is something to mar-Music Niagara's production manager. "We saw an opportunity to push them oboe and step into his othtogether as a series, or festival, over a minimum of as the leader of the popular three days to capitalize on Quartetto Gelato. an available grant."

performance recorded at Tunes) together to draw

is an amazing partner of Niagara College. They re-Music Niagara," says Karen turned for a guest slot in an episode of The Not So Late manager. "They have been Show, Music Niagara's live talk show, last November.

"We're thrilled to have support was instrumental them back," says Maier. "They are so much fun. excited to be back in their They have such a huge folbeautiful vineyard for our lowing, people really like them. They are so entertain-"Originally the concerts ing. And the fact that they are all siblings and they get vel at, too."

Maier will pick up his er role on Tuesday evening

"I'm pretty sure Quartet-Maier is thrilled to be to Gelato has been part of hosting Ottawa Valley sib- the festival since its beginlings Tom, Kerry and Ju- ning," he says. "We've been lie Fitzgerald once again. through some changes that Along with guitarist Alanna started in 2018. We know Jenish, the brother and sis- now that we have a solid ters helped Music Niagara group of musicians, and we ring in 2021 with an online have an album (2021's *Tasty*



Everybody loves The Fitzgeralds.

from. That's really exciting for us."

The last couple of years Maier's quartet has stepped in to fill Music Niagara Festival slots vacated by other acts. Because of that they performed some very different shows, tailoring their repertoire to the theme of the evening.

They appeared at Chateau des Charmes in a 2020 production billed as Music performance. and Comedy, sharing the stage with local comedian Joe Pillitteri. That actually became the impetus for the Not So Late Show, which saw Maier playing Doc Severinsen to Pillitteri's Johnny Carson. They later stepped in for a tango-themed show and an Oktoberfest event.

"This will be our first time where we'll be able to play our own show featuring music from the new album," says Maier. "We're really looking forward to that. Matti (Pulkki), our new accordion player, has been with us a number of years now, and he fit in right away. He has a very authentic, natural way about him."

The quartet will be accompanied on a couple of numbers by dancers Andrea Ciacci and Luke Opdahl.

Toronto-based trur peter and flugelhornist Steve McDade leads his jazz quintet into the Chateau tent Wednesday. Long-time Niagara-on-the-Lake residents may have seen Mc-Dade many, many years ago when he was a young member of the Burlington Teen Tour Band, which often performs at parades across Niagara, and is an annual favourite at the NOTL Santa Claus Parade.

Since then, McDade has become one of the most in-demand trumpet players in the country. A member of both Manteca and Rob McConnell's Brass Band since the 1980s, he's also played with the likes of Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin,

Transfer and Doc Severin-

His quintet will be filled out by Tom Szczesniak on piano, bassist Duncan Hopkins, Brian Barlow on drums and John Johnson on saxophone. Barbra Lica, whose latest seven-song EP Imposter Syndrome released last October combining pop and jazz styles, joins them on vocals for part of their of jazz musicians."

phenomenal," Maier says. "She does the array of some of the best standards, and there's elements of the classic female jazz singer when she does that. But she really adds her voice. She's not a copycat. She makes it her own."

The four-night pops series wraps up Thursday with singer and Jazz FM radio personality Heather Niagara.

"People who saw her last year will definitely want to come and see her again," Maier says. "She's another example of someone who brings her own thing to her performances. With her radio work, she's really at the epicentre, the foundation of, if not Canadian jazz, then certainly Toronto jazz. She's an inspiration for a lot

It's four straight evenings featuring a diverse Canadian musical talent set amongst the vineyards of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

All four performancown unique sound. As an es in Music Niagara's Pops artist, you want to find your Series start at 7:30 p.m. in the tent behind Chateau des Charmes. Tickets for each show are \$40 plus HST. Better yet, save \$20 and see all four of them by purchasing a four-pack at \$140 plus Bambrick's return to Music HST. Tickets are available at musicniagara.org.



It's Peach Season at the Spa!



Peachy Keen Scrub Includes a soft sugar scrub exfoliant followed by a rich, creamy body lotion.

\$145* | 50 minutes

Peachy Keen Wrap Includes a soft sugar scrub, a rich, creamy body mask and a mini brightening facial.

\$170* | 80 minutes



SECRET GARDEN SPA at Prince of Wales



100 FOUNTAIN SPA at Pillar and Post

*Per person, plus taxes & gratuities. Available July 1 - August 31, 2023. See website for full details.

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Diana Krall, the Manhattan Heather Bambrick is a regular for Music Niagara.

YocalSPORTS

Eden grad heading to Boston on rowing scholarship

Mike Balsom The Local

When Ingrid Eshuis finished Grade 6 and her mother suggested that she sign up for a summer rowing camp, the daughter of Mari Shantz and Mark Eshuis had no clue it would eventually result in a Canadian championship, a scholarship to an NCAA Division One university and a potential chance to represent Canada.

In October, Eshuis signed an agreement to accept a rowing scholarship to Boston University, after also fielding offers from the University of Minnesota and the University of North Carolina.

"It was the team environment and the coaching staff," says the recent Eden High School graduate about choosing Boston. "I just thought they were fabulous. It's a really supportive environment. They're in the same conference as U.S. Navy. The two go back and forth between winning their conference championships."

Eshuis is fresh off of winning the open women's single category at the Canadian Secondary School Rowing Association Championships (commonly referred as "Schoolboy") on the Henley course on June 4. It's quite an accomplishment for someone who really only considered the sport a fun diversion for a number of years.

"That first summer, my mom signed me up (at the St. Catharines Rowing Club, or SCRC) and I loved it right away," says Eshuis. "I went back for two more summers. But I didn't get serious about it until I got to high school. It was a huge jump to actually think about competing in my Grade 9 year."

Eshuis says she filled the four-seat in Eden's second best of two women's eights



races. (Photos supplied)

"We really weren't very group." good," she laughs. "I'd like of promise, though. And then when COVID hit, school rowing shut down."

The secondary school championships were cancelled that year. Eden's rowers were allowed to train, but only in singles.

skill set than what Eshuis had experienced to that point in an eight, using one actually racing competentoar, or 'sweeping.'

emailed her St. Catharines race, because they all grad-Rowing Club coach, Michele Romak-Fisher, and learning how to scull.

"That was the biggest

The secondary school to think I showed a little bit championships were cancelled in 2021 as well, but she continued to train with Romak-Fisher in the single, and paired up in the summers in a double (sculling) with Sir Winston Churchill student Makeda Harrison.

The Canadian rowing To row in a single, two association championships oars are used in what is returned in 2022, and Eshreferred to as 'sculling.' It uis entered the open womrequired a much different en's single category. She finished sixth last year.

"It was my first season ly," she says. "I think I was That summer Eshuis the youngest girl in the

Undaunted by her last expressed her interest in place results in 2022, Esh- da on the Junior National uis focused on her training Team. and stormed back to her game-changer for me," first place finish this year. you have to row in either says Eshuis. "I improved Because of unsafe weather a single or a pair, which is so much when I joined her conditions, there was no

final race in her categories this summer, as the team is that weekend. Because Eshuis had rowed the fastest ara. time of all competitors in both heats, she took home says Eshuis. "If we get to the gold medal.

Eshuis credits her coach Romak-Fisher, who doubled as her coach at Eden, for getting her to where she is today.

'She has really dedicated herself," Romak-Fisher said in an email to The Local, "and has reached the highest level in the sport."

sweeping," says Eshuis. "We (she and Harrison) made a decision after last fall to switch over to the pair for the trials. We felt we could have success in that since we row so well together in the double. And we actually won the Small Boat Trials. It was super rewarding for us."

is and Harrison followed that finish with a trip to the Junior National Team's selection camp. They both await final word on who will fill the seats for the Junior World Championships in Paris, France, this sumreach these heights in rowing, Eshuis is quite humble. "Honestly, no," she says.

considered that she could

"I'm really grateful for these opportunities, because I really stuck with it. I just love the community and the teamwork. I was really just average, I wasn't that athletically gifted. Only when I started working harder for it, then people told me that those things could be options for me. It became super real, super fast when the recruiting process began at the start of my Grade 11 year."

Eshuis, who divides her home time 50-50 between Mari's house in St. Catharines and Mark's in NOTL. credits her family for their support as well.

'They've been incredible," she says. "It's definitely a lot, with practice every day. They've been so encouraging through all of it. It was easy for me to get discouraged at the start, but they pushed me, and they were so amazing through

And Eshuis admits adjusting to life in Boston away from family and friends will be a challenge, but she claims she is up to it.

"I've been thinking about this a lot," she admits. "It will be an adjustment. Even though I'm nervous and I know I'm going to be homesick, I'm ready for it. I'm so looking forward to

scheduled to train in Niag-"We're super excited,"

go, we'll actually be on the

course that will be used in

the Olympics the following

year. We'll be like the guinea pigs for that course." When asked if she ever it."

The 18-year-old's work with Romak-Fisher has built up her confidence enough that this year she competed at the Ontario Small Boat Trials for a chance to represent Cana-

Two weeks ago Eshushe won't have far to go women's single.



mer. And if she is chosen, Ingrid Eshuis with her plaque for her first-place finish in the

oeal WORSHIP



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Across:

- Turnpike exit
- 5 Reverential
- 9 Frown
- 14 60% of us live here
- 15 Of sound judgment
- 16 Carried
- 17 Former CIA director Porter ---
- 18 Electrical devices
- 20 Goals
- 21 Central
- 22 Reactor safety overseer: Abbr.
- 23 Crimson
- 25 Shuns
- 29 Kvetch 30 Hot air
- 31 Street guide
- 32 Severe
- 34 Spark generator
- 35 Scotch companion
- 36 Perfectly
- 37 Take pictures
- 38 Egyptian solar deity
- 39 Legs it 40 Throw
- 41 Corrosive chemicals
- 42 Since 43 Canter

- 47 Dearths
- 50 Rider Haggard romance
- 52 Narrow road
- 57 Otherwise
- 60 Morose
- 61 Specifically

- Together

- 6 Rubbed off
- Spot 7
- 8 Destructive computer key
- Stiffener
- 11 How some stocks are traded (Abbr.)

- 44 Surrealist Jean ---
- 45 Short musical passages

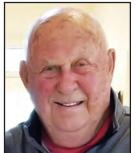
- 51 Clash
- 53 The Queen City
- 58 Oil well firefighter Red ---
- 59 Terrible Russian leader
- 62 Fencing stake
- 63 Storm centers

Down:

- Fumed
- Minor crime
- Travel documents
- Get up

- 10 Shell which can be blown
- 12 The --- small hours
- 13 SLC church

- 19 One way to preserve food
- 24 Scurried
- 25 Poet whose work led to "Cats"
- 26 Passionately
- 27 Walked knee-deep through water
- 28 Crosses
- 30 Fillip
- 32 Bag supporter
- 33 Knotty
- 34 Total confusion
- 35 Blasphemy
- 37 Filter out
- 41 Ambition 43 Collarless short-sleeved
- top 44 Devil dog
- 46 Computer information
- exchange code
- 47 Deadly
- 48 Follow
- 49 Appears
- 51 Programming language 53 Twin-hulled vessel (Abbr.)
- 54 Statement of agreement at the altar
- 55 Rural negative
- 56 Small drink



READ, DONALD "DON" GORDON-It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear husband, father and papa, Donald Gordon Read on June 22nd 2023, in his 90th year.

Beloved husband of Sally for 66 years, loving father of Jacquie and the late Calvin (d. 1980), and adored papa of Daniel and Calvin. Don will be sadly missed by his beloved dog Jasper, and many friends and family.

As per Don's wishes, cremation has taken place, arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home. The

family will receive friends at Caroline Cellars- 1010 Line 2 Rd #358, Virgil, ON LOS 1T0, on Thursday June 29th between 2pm and 5pm for refreshments, and a time of fellowship and sharing of Don's memory. A private interment to occur at a later date.

OBITUARY

As an expression of sympathy, those who wish, in lieu of flowers may make a memorial donation to the Niagara Peninsula Childrens Centre or Red Roof Retreat.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www. morganfuneral.com



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

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62 Pale, 63 Eyes. .59 Ivan, 60 Glum, 61 To wit, Cincinnati, 57 Else, 58 Adair, 50 She, 51 Jar, 52 Lane, 53 Miro, 45 Phrases, 47 Famines, 41 Acids, 42 Ago, 43 Trot, 44 38 Aten, 39 Runs, 40 Cast, Soda, 36 To a T, 37 Shoot, 31 Map, 32 Stem, 34 Coil, 35 Eschews, 29 Moan, 30 Blah, 22 N R C, 23 Deep red, 25 Appliances, 20 Ends, 21 Key, 16 Toted, 17 Goss, 18 9 Scowl, 14 Asia, 15 Wise, Across: 1 Ramp, 5 Awed,

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