Local students set up memorial honouring Indigenous children on Canada Day

Penny Coles
The Local

For students of Royal Oak Community School, learning about Indigenous people, including residential schools, is about much more than Orange Shirt Day.

With mixed reactions and emotions leading up to Canada Day, and discussions of cancelling or altering celebrations after discoveries of unmarked graves at residential schools, two Royal Oak students decided they wanted to do something to honour and acknowledge the children who died while at those schools.

Leila Ridesic and Ruby Elliott, both going into Grade 7 in September, chose Canada Day to set up a memorial on the steps of the former Wellington Street hospital, the current site of their school, with a collection of shoes, which have become a symbol of mourning and recognition.

Their school recognizes Sept. 30 as a day set aside to wear orange shirts to honour Indigenous children, they say, and the day is also used as a learning tool to teach students, but at Royal Oak, Indigenous education has been an important part of its curriculum for many years.

The girls mention both head of school Julia Murray and teacher Kristen Koyle have backgrounds in Indigenous education, and students are taught regularly their history and culture.

“They are qualified to teach these subjects.”

They even have a small, special library dedicated to books about Indigenous people, including residential schools, and their feelings about what they have learned. (Penny Coles)

Roundabout ‘preferred option’ for St. Davids

Village’s four corners will disappear

Penny Coles
The Local

As the number of homes and businesses increase in St. Davids, along with its population, infrastructure to accommodate the accompanying spike in traffic has not kept pace.

The need for improved traffic flow at the main intersection, known by locals as the four corners, which has become a significant issue for residents, truckers and those just passing through, with vehicles on Four Mile Creek crossing York Road creating lengthy back-ups, often blocking driveways, says Greg Dell, past president of the St. Davids Residents Association.

Before the 2003 sewer project opened up property for development in the village, including the Cannery Park subdivision, there were about 250 homes in the community. That has grown to well over 1,600 homes, and a corresponding growth in population and traffic.

The regional project is looking at solutions to the traffic problem, says Dell, and recently held its second virtual public information meeting, but the residents association is not yet satisfied with the response to local concerns — he sees a lack in communication and transparency with the way this has been handled.

The two options presented to ease flow of traffic and reduce back-ups, were traffic signals at that intersection will require underground infrastructure for the roundabout. “This will be done at a later stage, once the preliminary design has been finalized,” he says.

Aside from operating and maintenance costs, typical capital costs to construct roundabouts may be higher.”

However this might not be the case in St. Davids, he continues, “since there will be significant changes to the geometric design of the intersection for both options.”

The option of installing traffic signals at that intersection will not be a simple one, he explains.

“While the roundabout, for example will have only one lane approaching the intersection, in the case of traffic signals, there will be one through lane and one left turn lane approaching on each direction. In addition, the signalized intersection will require underground infrastructure for the traffic signals, which will not be needed for the roundabout.”

Residents’ concerns, primarily with a roundabout, were
and are encouraged to read them, the girls explain.

Both mention a book called Fatty Legs, a true story about an Indigenous girl who faced bullying and cruelty at a residential school, that helped them understand what the schools were like, and how Indigenous children were treated.

The main character in the book had actually wanted to go away to school, knowing it was a five-day journey from her home, but anxious to learn. She soon learned it was not what she expected.

The title of the book, explains Ruby, refers to the beautiful red stockings the girl’s mother had made for her, but which she was not allowed to wear.

Leila remembers reading the book as well, and realizing how really awful it was for the children who attended residential schools.

Ruby McManus, a Crossroads Public School student who has been friends with Leila and Ruby since their days at Parliament Oak, before the Old Town school closed, stopped by on her bike to attend the memorial and visit with her friends.

Although her school recognizes Orange Shirt Day, she says, there have been no lessons about residential schools.

“I learned about them from my mom,” she says. “It has never been brought up at school. But I knew about the residential schools. I knew they were never good.”

The girls also mention Anne with an E, a CBC TV spin-off from the Anne of Green Gables tales. In its third season, Anne becomes friends with a young First Nations girl, and the show becomes an opportunity to teach kids about Indigenous issues, and the dark side of Canadian history.

Ellahni’s father, actor Patrick McManus, plays a priest in the series. The girls talk about the irony of a “really nice man” playing a part of someone who is not so nice, but they also found an eye opener regarding Canadian history, and an opportunity to discuss it with their parents.

“It’s important to know what is going on,” says Ruby. “It wasn’t that long ago that this happened,” adds Leila, referring to residential schools, “and a lot of people didn’t know about them. Residential schools were around for a long time, and people didn’t see that they weren’t okay, that what was happening there wasn’t right. It’s very important that we know that now, and that people who don’t know can ask questions,” she says, explaining why they decided to have their memorial on Canada Day.

Throughout the day they had some students drop off shoes, and some passers-by ask them what they were doing, Leila said. “I’m very glad about that. It feels good that at least some people stepped to look at what we were doing, and to be able to do something for the community.”

Leila was also glad to see a number of orange shirts on people who were walking their dogs or cycling by, she said. Ruby’s mom, Kim Elltoft, with the girls on the steps of Parliament Oak, before the Old Town school closed, stopped by on her bike to attend the memorial and visit with her friends.

Murray also shared a note to parents leading up to Canada Day.

“Parents are informed of lessons weekly, and that gives them an opportunity to know what their kids are learning, and continue discussions with them, she explained.

Locally, recent news and an increased awareness of residential schools may encourage the public school board to change their policies on Canadian history and include more Indigenous education in their curriculum, Elltoft added.

As a member of the Landscape of Nations 360 Roundtable, ROCS head of school Julia Murray has helped create curriculum and professional development experiences in Indigenous history for the District School Board of Niagara and independent school teachers across Niagara.

ROCS teacher Kristen Koyle has a masters in education, with a specialty in Indigenous education, and completed a year-long Landscape of Nations educator’s course.

Tim Johnson heads the Landscape of Nations: 360° Indigenous Education Initiative alongside Michele-Elise Burnett, who works as associate director for the initiative, as well as a team of Indigenous advisors and cultural resource specialists.

The Landscape of Nations 360° Indigenous Education Initiative is a not-for-profit organization that creates, designs and implements programs to teach Niagara students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 about Indigenous people, their culture and their contribution to Canadian history and society.

Murray, a lead educator in that initiative, has ensured Indigenous history, perspectives and truth are a priority in the school’s curriculum.

“For too long, children have learned only a partial history, and the experience of Indigenous people in Canada has been purposely excluded from this narrative,” she says in a note to parents leading up to Canada Day.

Royal Oak, she says, includes teaching the truths of Canada’s policies regarding residential schools and Indigenous policies, including current living conditions in many First Nations communities.

The Grade 6/7 class derived from the Truth and Reconciliation report, studied water quality and access in First Nations communities, and as far back as September, she says, included Indigenous experts in their study of the constellations and astronomy.

Younger students learned about the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people, and ways of living in the region, historically and to the present day. Junor grades were active participants in learning about Autumn Polly, a Canadian water activist advocating for clean drinking in First Nations.


Memorial helps raise awareness for passers-by

Leila Ridesic and Ruby Elltoft display the tiny shoes dropped off for their memorial, including a pair of moccasins, but are saddened to think of what they represent. (Penny Coles)
Harbor family fears roundabout ‘a done deal’

The Harber family owns the corner at York Road and Four Mile Creek Road, with the tree the town usually decorates for Christmas.

Continued from page 1

Harbour family fears roundabout ‘a done deal’

addressed in a regional recap of a March open house. At that time the St. Dav- ids Residents Association and others primarily were hoping for lights, as the saf- est and less intrusive option, Dell says, but at the second June 23 virtual public meet- ing, the region presented the roundabout as their pre- ferred alternative.

“We said whoa, wait a minute, let’s take a look at that. We’ve had a concern about it all along that there wasn’t enough engineering done to ensure safety,” Wex- says. “We asked the region to show us what they’ve got. We don’t want to be a close-minded group, we do want to see how this solution is the right one for St. Davids.”

Pedestrian safety, espe- cially for the growing num- ber of children walking to and from St. Davids Public School (200 students), is a high priority. If a roundabout is constructed, the region will launch an educational campaign for the residents in the area, to ensure the safe use of a roundabout for both pedestrians and drivers.

While traffic signals may be perceived as safer for pe- destrians, statistics, the region says, show the opposite — a roundabout is safer than an intersection with traffic lights, for pedestrians and drivers. Lost pedestrians hurt at an intersection are from cars turning at a traffic signal.

Traffic lights have low- er installation costs, but a roundabout has lower life- time maintenance costs, the regional report says.

“The residents’ association is not happy about what they see as “a lack of communi- cation, a lack of transparen- cy, and a lack of listening to what residents are saying,” Dell says.

He doesn’t feel the re- gional roundabout design “is addressing the dynamics of the pedestrian traffic, both for kids and seniors, and the number of tourists who will use it.”

Residents and business owners are also afraid traffic will be backed up on Four Mile Creek Road from Warner Road to Line 9, blocking driveways, he adds. There is still no indication of a community safety zone on Four Mile Creek Road, as was originally re- quested and “forgotten” when the region went ahead with one on York Road, which allows traffic through the school area.

The number of people moving to the village and the associated traffic problems “will only grow in the com- ing years, and the region is just forgetting about us. The region needs to look at the big picture and plan for the future,” Steve Hardaker’s interest in the intersection recon- struction is as a congregation member and board chair of St. Davids-Queenston Unit- ed Church. His concern is regarding the historic cem- etery, with its first grave dating back to 1823. Major David Secord, the founder of the village, is also buried there. Hardaker says he is worried that the project, especially new sidewalks, which are supposed to go as close to the edge as possible, could encroach on the cemetery property.

“Do we want to know about the plan if unmarked graves are unearthed,” he said. “Who knows what is on the outside edge of the cemetery here?”

There is also a mature tree on the edge of the property, and the church has asked the region whether it will need to be removed, and if so, what they will replace it with.

“Despite the delay, they are seek- ing assurances from the re- gion that there will continue to be safe access to the cem- etery and the church parking lot through construction, says Hardaker.

He’s happy to see that bike lanes are being consid- ered for York Road, and for his purpose, which is strict- ly to look after the interests of the church, he says the region has been good about communicating, and quick to respond to their concerns.

Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery says some years ago, his family presented a proposal to the town for a piece of commer- cial property the family owns at that intersection — the one with the plaque, that the town uses for its annual Christmas tree.

The proposal was for a three-storey building, retail on the bottom, offices on the second storey, apartments on the top, and parking in the back. It would be designed “to pay homage to the street- scape of the village,” says Harber, but the family did not intend to move ahead with it until they learned more about the future plans for that intersection.

After a recent conversa- tion with a project manager and roundabout specialist, his father Blair fears the de- cision in favour of a round- about is a “done deal.”

If the roundabout goes ahead, the region will expul- sively take almost the entire front- age of their property, and their development, meant as a convenience for St. Davids residents, he says, “will be rendered useless. And there won’t be much com- munity space left for modern conveniences.”

Paul at the virtu- al meeting to advocate for traffic signals, which would help preserve the traditional look of the historic village, while also providing gaps in traffic for vehicles entering and exiting development along York Road and Four Mile Creek Road, including the small post office parking lot, which is always troublesome, he says.

Other roundabouts the region has designed well, he adds, “but they’re not in the middle of a small vil- lage, and a working commu- nity. It won’t be the four cor- ners any more. And I don’t know of any roundabout in the middle of a community safety zone.”

And what of the large trucks that go through the intersection now, and the trailers being towed by truck from Niagara Trailers — will they all have to find a route around the roundabout?

“I think there is still a need for open dialogues,” says Paul. “This will affect 3,600 residents. I don’t want to see the decision rushed.”

He hopes his wish, but he fears it’s already too late.
Jet boat future at town dock uncertain

Cross-lake ferry operation still in the works

Penny Coles  The Local

Reopening the border to the U.S. can’t come soon enough for John Kinney, president of Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours.

But with an operation in Lewiston, "we’re one of the luckier operators of the boat tours, knowing he’s in a much better situation than most businesses."

"I’d had to rely on domest-ic Ontario business, I’d be really up the creek," he says. "I’m fortunate to be a little more diversified with a U.S. operation. The dichotomy between the two now tells the story."

He can run tours at full capacity from the other side of the border, with every boat full, while the latest stage of reopening is now allowing him to operate his boats from the Queenston dock with just 12 passengers each tour, to continue. Government reg-ulations dictate maintenance is required to be carried out according to the number of hours the boats are oper-ated, and he’s running more boats to accommodate fewer people.

He can take advantage of some of the government sub-sidies, he says, but there are no subsidies for rebuilding en-gines or jet drivers.

"Last year, we did four times the number of boat tours for one-quarter of the number of passengers," he says.

He’s decided not to use the town-owned Melville Street dock this season—the numbers don’t make sense, given he’s operating more boats than one operation in Niagara-ra-on-the-Lake.

In 2019, Kinney says he paid $175,000, the full cost of his lease to the town, al-though he didn’t use it.

In February, 2020, Kinney asked council for some consideration of that amount, saying high water levels drove his operation completely to Queenston.

He made a proposal to the town for a reduced cost for 2020, offering to pay $44,000, and at the end of the year, on Dec. 28, he dropped off a cheque for that amount at the town hall.

"He was later told by his lawyer that council had not ratified that agreement," he says.

All council discussions of lease negotiations have been held in closed session, and recently councillors have been discussing the town dock, but with no information about what was said made public.

Kinney is waiting to hear from his lawyer whether the town is looking for more money from him, so how much, and what is expected of him for 2021.

He says he applauds the way the town has stepped up for restaurants, supporting their outdoor patios, but the jet boat business, off the beaten track from tourism traffic, doesn’t benefit from that.

Although border open-ings will improve his business outlook, he expects it will take three or four years for tour-ism to rebound.

"People think attractions are allowed to reopen, and COVID must be in the rear view mirror. Clearly, it’s not, and it will be some time before tourism recovers." Although he says he hopes his jet boats play a part of the tourism mix, it’s far from guaranteed, he says.

"COVID must be in the rear view mirror. Clearly, it’s not, and it will be some time before tourism recovers." Although he says he hopes his jet boats play a part of the tourism mix, it’s far from guaranteed, he says.

"He’s heard rumours that he may be looking to other suggestions for its use, and that there are other tour companies interested."

His plan is for a cross-lake ferry, a concept he has been working on since 2014. In 2019, he made a presentation to town council, and received support in principle for his proposal, in order to help him move forward with the project. Not a lot has changed since then, and despite some obstacles along the way, he told The Local recently, he hasn’t given up.

"The president of Ontario Lake Express had hoped to have boats running between Niagara and Toronto for the Canada Summer Games, but even with a year delay to the games due to COVID, the best he can hope for now is a boat, similar to a hydrofoil, at a NOTL dock, "if we get permission!," he says.

"He would like it here during the games next sum-mer to demonstrate the tech-nology, and show what he hopes to accomplish when he’s ready to start his tours, which, realistically, by the time the boats are built by a U.K. company, would be 2024.

He’s looking at a kind of hydrofoil, with wings under the keel, which at a certain speed lifts the hull on top of the water, he explains, with no noise, and no wake.

"I’m not interested in conventional boats. I want to show everybody what the fu-ture is like," he says.

Caciagli wants to run two zero-emission boats, 50 or 80-passenger capacity, changing 25$ a ride.

The benefit to a successful water link is chiefly the time it saves for commuters and tourists to Niagara, he says, and also reduces vehicles on the road to provide the envi-ronment and reduce climate change, "to do something for our children and grandchil-dren.

He was asked in 2019 by council whether he has talk-ed to Parks Canada — he was hoping to use the Navy Hall dock. He has not, and is con-sidering the possibility of the Melville Street dock should it become available.

He was also asked by NOTL councillors about the weather, which has plagued other companies with similar ideas, and says he will only run tours during the tourist season, with boats that are built to op-erate in lake conditions.

He has made a presenta-tion to the region’s economic development group, which he says was received with enthusi-asm. “I met with chair Jim Bradley and some municipal mayors, and everyone was supportive." He hopes to come to town council to make another pre-sentation soon, he says, and bring them up to date on what he’s doing.

"So that’s where I’m at now," he says.

Kinney says he has spoken to Caciagli, who has no back-ground in the marine trans-portation industry, about his plans, and tried to help walk him through the maze of government regulations and licences that will be required.

"I’ve helped steer him in the right direction," he says, explaining that regulations for operating in Lake Ontario are very different from running a tour in the Niagara River.

"It’s extremely difficult just dealing with transpor-tation regulations, never mind the business aspects of a transportation operation," says Kinney, “but I do think at some point in my lifetime, there will be a cross-lake ferry.”
Cases decreasing, vaccinations need to increase

Penny Coles
The Local

The downward trend of COVID-19 cases across the province is good news, says Niagara's chief medical officer of health. But Dr. Mustafa Hirji says he's less optimistic about what he sees in Niagara, although the spread of the virus is slowing down as well — just not as quickly as he'd like it to.

The number of cases of the Delta variant is the cause of the increase. According to Monday's numbers, it is thought to be responsible for 62.5 per cent of the new cases reported in the last 14 days, but Hirji is estimating it to be less than that — the lag in screening time for that particular variant makes it difficult to pin down.

Delta variant cases remain a concern, because it spreads more quickly, and causes more hospitalizations, said Hirji.

There were eight new cases in total reported in Niagara Monday, with three active cases in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Hospitalizations are decreasing, with only one person in intensive care due to COVID, Hirji said.

The all-important reproductive number is hovering around 1.0, he added, but is likely higher for the Delta variant, and lower for other strains of the virus.

If it wasn't for the Delta variant, Hirji said, it would already be safe to reopen without worrying about straining hospital resources.

And while the vaccines work against it, "we still need two doses for it to be really effective."

And that is more good news — the number of people in Niagara with their second vaccination is rising quickly, he said, especially among the older age groups, and overall, we've passed the point where more people have had their second dose than those with just one dose.

At the beginning of the week, about 75.5 per cent of those who are eligible have been vaccinated, said Hirji. If we can get over 80 per cent of those eligible fully vaccinated, "we'll be able to reopen without overwhelming our hospital resources."

But he warned that although more social contact is permitted, if we increase our social activity too much, we could see the trajectory of cases begin to rise again.

The majority of new cases are among the 20 to 39 age group, and they are the ones who need to be vaccinated to reduce the spread of the virus.

It's too early to say if the lifting of Section 22 dining restrictions have had an effect on virus spread, Hirji says, but he's not seeing that yet.

What he is seeing are outbreaks coming from indoor social gatherings, people visiting with family and friends, and then spreading the virus to other family and friends. "Personal gatherings seem to be at the centre of allowing the spread right now!"

For some reason, the younger people spreading the virus are the ones choosing not to be vaccinated. Getting them vaccinated will drive down cases, prevent another wave and allow reopening to continue, Hirji said.

Although it may be partly impatience when booking appointments, having to wait a couple of weeks rather than getting one immediately, there may be other causes for their vaccine hesitancy, and that is something the region is going to have a look at.

Doing more to understand why young people are choosing not to roll up their sleeves, and finding a way to convince them to get their shots, will be a priority for the region's COVID-19 task force, he said.

In response to discussions about opening the U.S./Canada border, Hirji urges caution. "We've made a lot of sacrifices over the last few months, with another lockdown and slow reopening. Reopening the border might mean losing all we've gained."

The border will open in the next few months, he suggested, "but we shouldn't rush to do it, not in the next few weeks, when a few months will mean we can do it in a way that's safe and sustainable."

**FREE HOME EVALUATION**

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484

This market is wild and the average sale price of a Niagara-on-the-Lake home is now nearing $1,200,000. If you want to know what your home is worth, call Greg now for a free evaluation.
Leading up to Canada Day there were difficulties — but necessary — conversations to be had, and also decisions to be made. Each of us did what felt comfortable with, or at least as comfortable as we could be.

For some, it was an opportunity to enjoy a little more leisure, socializing with friends and family on a beautiful summer day, and even while doing that, remembering Indigenous peoples who were here long before us, and continue the discussions about what we can do for them now.

On the streets of NOTL, there were orange shirts, there were red shirts, and there was laughter, people just happy to be out. It continues to be a difficult time, with so much going on across the country, our thoughts and feelings with our Indigenous neighbours, and for each child those empty little shoes have come to represent. Many of us are determined that by next year there will be real truth, more reconciliation, and our country is doing a little better in its treatment of Indigenous people. It’s also a confusing COVID time, with stages of businesses reopening, rules about community facilities, outdoor activities, numbers of people gathering, indoors and out, all in flux.

We just sort of figured out the old rules, we’re learning new ones, and we’re hoping for more good news to come. Normal seems so close, but we’re not there yet. We can’t spend it, or become too complacent.

And if we haven’t had two needles in our arm, no excuses. There’s lots of vaccine in Ontario, and appointments available, even if a week or two away. That second shot in the arm is a ticket to more freedom.

While we wait for more vaccinations, we’ve been warned to take a cautious approach to reopening and socializing. And while we’re doing that, the potential for higher caseloads is real and the risk of higher hospitalizations is real.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake is made up of a large agricultural area with five separate settlement areas. Why should the proposed gateway be placed at the corner of Mississauga and Queen Streets as you enter the heritage district? Perhaps a more appropriate location for the proposed gateway be within the Glenoak Avenue/QEW diverging diamond interchange, currently under construction. After all, the vast majority of tourists and visitors will enter Niagara-on-the-Lake via this interchange.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Trusted Voice of Our Community

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, LOS 170

Editor:

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowell
composing@notllocal.com

notllocal.com/facebook/notllocal
notllocal.com/instagram/thelnotllocal
notllocal.com

Advertising Sales:
Karen Skeoch
karen@notllocal.com • 905-641-5335

Julia Coles
julia@notllocal.com • 905-834-1040

Helen Arsenault
Local Business Directory,
Local Happenings, Classified Sales
classified@notllocal.com

Local Letters

Gateway project more suitable for Glendale overpass

I have to agree with the sentiment expressed by Stan Harrington (Please preserve letterhead unlike any other. It is the intriguing story of a single mother who begins an affair with her psychiatrist, while secretly believing he is her mysterious husband. This is a world of very twisted mind games, not twisted area with five separate settlement areas. Why

Local VOICES: Time for Canada to do what is right

Terry Davis Special to The Local

In response to the remains of close to 1,000 First Nations children recently being found buried in unmarked graves on former residential school sites, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised that Canada would do all it could to “reconcile this.”

His statement, and the endless stream of platitudes that accompanied it, seems that Canada is better than its past history of discrimination against First Nations peoples, people of colour, Jewish Canadians, Indigenous peoples, Jewish people and Canadian and of our place in the world when we collectively have stayed silent for so long?

If nothing else, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated what can be done to address serious concerns when the economic power and commitment of government at all levels, with the support of Canadians, is brought to the table.

It is time to insist on action, not just words, to address the many challenges facing Indigenous Canadians today, as well as the many wrongs they have endured in the past. It is time to do what is right, so that some good things come from the tragedy and travesty that made many Canadians pause to look back at our nation’s history in sorrow and shame.

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

DISTRESS CENTRE

For depression, distress around 24-hour help line: 905-688-3711

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

(Toll Free) 1-866-550-5205

GAMBLER’S ANONYMOUS

905-351-1616

KIDS HELP PHONE Service for youth 1-800-668-6686
crisis line)
kids helpline 1-800-668-6686

ALCOHOLICS

CONFERENCE

Meetings every Wednesday at 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark’s Parish Hall, 41 Byron St., NOTL
call 905-682-2140

ASSAULTED WOMEN’S

LINE Mobile calls to: #SAFE (#7233)
1-888-663-0511 (Toll Free)

CRIME STOPPERS

1-800-222-8477

TIPS

niagaratips.com
text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip

If ‘support local’ isn’t your mantra, it should be
Prayers offered for health and justice

Thank you for writing such

wonderful words about the

findings of so many very

children at former residen-

tial schools. So many of

us were kept in the dark for

many years, and through

about my days in

elementary and high school

in the 1940s and 1950s, and

during those years at teach-

ers’ college, not a word was

taught about the Indigenous

peoples in Canada, let alone

the existence of residential

schools. Then came my years of

teaching. During those years,

not a word could be found in

the curricula or readers of

Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 regarding

the Indigenous peoples in

Canada, not to mention those

of residential schools that

were in existence at that
time, in the early 1960s.

It was the same in my
country at home, and my

church family. The people

of Mennonite background

like myself heard little or

nothing about residential

schools. Although lots was

shared about the horrific
times as they managed to ex-

tend those in the 1920s and

when Canada opened its arms to

welcome these refugees.

However, not until I fi-

nally found the Bahá’í Teach-

ings did I come to realize the

beauty in other faith tradi-

tions, including the Indig-

enous traditions, and soon

found true friends at the

Native Centre. That’s when

my real learning began, at

25 years of age! Through

the years I’ve finally come
to realize much of what

went on at those residential

schools. I’ve learned from my

friends, from the many

books I’ve read . . . and am

still learning.

Many tears have been

shed as I imagine my own

children being wrenched

from my arms to be taken

away, to be taken to places

far from home where I could

not visit or let them know

I cared, to learn of the horrific

abuses they suffered, and to
discover they would never be

seen again.

My heart aches as I offer

my humble prayers for jus-
tice and healing.

Keith Buiten
NOTL

Truth and reconciliation means
accepting truth of genocide

I have read with interest

the opinions of several read-

ers in local papers who are

upset that statues are being

removed at various public

places and institutions.

Cries of “we can’t undo his-
tory” and “Ryerson did good
things” are key arguments.

I would simply like to re-

mind people that we had no

trouble bringing down statues

of Hitler or Stalin after the

Second World War.

Hitler and Stalin were

perceived to have committed
genocides against other

peoples. It could also be

argued Hitler did good things,

like building modern

infrastructure in Germany.

Did we change our history

by removing their statues? No?

We should think about how a Jew-

ish person would feel walking

past a statue of Hitler today.

If it would be abhorrent to

us to make them do that, why

would we accept it for our

Indigenous brothers and

sisters?

Truth and reconciliation

means accepting the truth of

genocide of Canada’s Indige-
nous people, and if reconcilia-

tion means taking actions that

hurt and offend them down,

then they should come.

Lyndsay Gazzard
NOTL

Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the
editor you’d like to see published,
please send it to penney@notlocal.com. Please try to keep it
short and punchy, but we welcome
letters, and please stick to the issue at hand, rather than
attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.
Library reopens for in-person book-borrowing

Penny Coles  The Local

Cathy Simpson couldn’t wait to see the staff and greet the public when the library doors opened for the first time since the start of the last lockdown.

The CEO of the NOTL Public Library has been working from home, and will continue to — her office is being used to help staff spread out, she says. But she planned to be there Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. to see who comes through the door first — she’s missed seeing those she works with and the regular library patrons.

In-person library visits restarted after the first lockdown in March, 2021, says Simpson, and were suspended the next month with the provincial stay-at-home order, “so we’ve been closed to visitors since April 8 of this year, and are very excited to reopen.”

The province moved into step two of reopening last Wednesday, which required 70 per cent of adults with one vaccination dose and 20 per cent with two doses for at least one step three, but for now, kids are the priority.

“IT will be really great to see the kids back,” says Simpson. “They’ve been schooling at home, and missing their friends. This is really important for them.”

There will be some revitalization of the community garden when the construction of the nursery school is complete, says Simpson, with non-invasive species planted under the direction of master gardener-in-training Betty Knight, and the addition of irrigation equipment to ensure its low maintenance.

For more information on times and programs, or to order books for curbside pickup, visit https://notlpubliclibrary.org or call 905-468-2023.

“Things are constantly changing, and we’re attached to the community centre, which isn’t opening. But if we close off those doors and operate as a separate entity, we can open,” says Simpson.

There is passive screening with signage, and masks must be worn, she says.

“We were worried we might have to do active screening, which would mean another staff person, but we don’t, although we have to actively screen staff. And we can’t just open the doors, we have to be ready to meet all the government regulations, including the province, the town, and public health.”

When the pandemic began, one of the board members suggested a journal should be kept of what was happening at the library, and it’s been helpful to look back and know exactly what they were doing during previous lockdowns and reopening, says Simpson. It helps to keep track of what has been done in the past, in terms of screening, cleaning, and quarantining of materials.

“It’s like a COVID diary,” she says, and will be something to give to the NOTL Museum for its COVID-19 archives when the pandemic is over.

At 25 per cent capacity, the library can accommodate 30 people, not including staff, says Simpson.

It is not likely to be an issue — they’ve done this before, without lines, she says. Patrons will be encouraged not to browse for too long. There will be no seating, or magazines to read on the premises, and computers will be available by appointment only, for 45 minutes at a time. Tech tutoring appointments are also available.

Other than that, and plexiglass at the counter, it’s business as usual. Curbside pick-up will continue to be available, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with book orders placed online or by telephone.

Although there are plans to start a book club, most of the in-person programming at this point is for kids, says Simpson, using the outdoors as much as possible, including the pergola for shade at the back. There are some new staff members to help with the extensive summer kids’ programs. They meet the youngsters out front, take them to the back of the library building, and return them to the front when they’re done, with parents waiting to pick them up.

The adult programs will likely start up in the fall, with a larger capacity permitted in

Although there are plans to start a book club, most of the in-person programming at this point is for kids, says Simpson, using the outdoors as much as possible, including the pergola for shade at the back. There are some new staff members to help with the extensive summer kids’ programs. They meet the youngsters out front, take them to the back of the library building, and return them to the front when they’re done, with parents waiting to pick them up.

The adult programs will likely start up in the fall, with a larger capacity permitted in

Declan Chow, Nicholas Conte and Addison Mantanakis take advantage of the beautiful outdoor space for the Crafternoon program at the NOTL Public Library.

Ruby and Grace Farnell, with staff member Colin Fellows, were having fun learning during Saturday’s science program at the library.

Staff member Colin Fellows helps Luciano Monegro and Ella Shapley during Science Fun Saturdays at the library.
Dividing perennials makes them multiply in your garden

Joanne Young
Garden Coach/Designer

Here’s one for the math lovers. Gardening is the only activity where you can multiply. Gardening is the only activity where you can multiply.

Dividing perennials is necessary to keep your garden healthy, thriving and under control.

It rejuvenates older plants. As some perennials age, you may see clumps dying in the center with new growth only appearing on outer edges. Or the plant may not bloom as heavily and leaves appear stunted. This means the plant is losing vigour, and needs to be dug up and divided in order to thrive again.

It controls plant size. Some perennials grow more aggressively. Plants like black-eyed Susans and shasta daisies can grow into a bigger clump and take over your garden. Di-viding the clump into smaller sizes can keep size under control.

It propagates more plants. Dividing perennials is an inexpensive way to increase the number of plants in your garden. It’s also a great way to share plants with others.

Some perennials don’t like to be divided: baptisia, bleeding heart, butterfly weed, Christmas rose, lavender, poppies and peonies, for example.

Divide spring and summer flowering perennials in late summer or fall, and late summer and fall blooming perennials in early spring.

How to divide perennials:

• Divide perennials on an overcast day with showers in the forecast. This helps the plant recover from root damage. Thoroughly water plants a day prior to dividing.

• In the spring, wait until new shoots are about an inch tall. In the fall, prune plants back to just a few inches tall.

• Use a spade or garden fork, dig about four to six inches beyond where the shoots emerge. Dig around the clump, then pry up on the root ball. Don’t cut through the roots while the plant is still in the ground or you won’t know how much root you’ll get, and could waste parts of the plant.

• Lift out the entire clump and sit it on the ground or a tarp.

• Using a sharp spade or knife, gently cut through the roots, dividing the clump into as many pieces as desired. Each division should have at least three to five vigorous shoots, and a healthy root supply. If the center has died out, divide the living, outer portions into smaller clumps and throw out dead centre portion.

• Enrich the soil in new planting areas with compost, composted manure or triple mix before planting new divisions. Fertilize new plantings by scattering a handful of bone meal in the bottom of the planting hole. Bone meal is high in phosphorus, which helps stimulate root growth.

• Fill in around the plant roots with triple mix or compost. Make sure the plant is in the soil at the same depth it was previously and water well.

This is the next installment in a 10-week gardening column series, organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom. Committee.
Conservation area reforestation underway

Penny Coles
The Local

A path is cleared into the forest on the east side of Butler’s Creek.

Crews from AECON Six Nations are cutting a swath through hundreds of already-fallen ash trees, using a mobile industrial wood grinder, and taking care to not disturb healthy native species in the forest. The wood chips are to be left on the forest floor, providing mulch and weed protection for the new trees that will be planted, 6,000 of them, next year.

Monday morning, a massive restoration project began in the Two Mile Creek Conservation Area.

Continued on page 11

NPCA forester Dan Drennan guided a Local photographer through the site, pointing out the temporary construction of a bridge using timbers. The temporary bridge will allow heavy machinery to traverse the creek without damaging the permanent structure right beside it. (Mike Balsom)
Plantings to be native deciduous, coniferous trees

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority plans to clear out nearly 400 ash trees, which are being killed by the invasive emerald ash borer.

Dan Drennan, watershed forester with the NPCA, is supervising the project, which is expected to eventually include planting about 6,000 seedlings on native species to replace the forest canopy.

The operation will also address trail-user safety, ecosystem diversity, and creek debris, says a NPCA news release, “while preserving the healthy upland forest in other parts of the site.”

The shiny emerald-coloured beetle was first noticed in North America in 2002, and in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2012, doing extensive damage since.

“A thorough assessment of the Two Mile Creek site indicated that within the treatment areas, the tree composition is dominated by green ash in the overstory (the highest layer of vegetation in a forest) and Manitoba maple in the understory (the layer of vegetation that lays on the forest floor),” says Drennan.

“There is no significant natural regeneration of non-ash native species that could replace the dying and dead ash trees, and Manitoba maple is not a species the NPCA wants to dominate the site. There are scattered groups of willow that will be retained as much as possible.”

The NPCA describes the operation as a stand conversion, where the dominant ash tree forest cover will be removed and replaced with a young forest of mixed tree species, through subsequent reforestation activity.

“The ash tree forest cover will be replaced by native deciduous and coniferous trees appropriate to the site conditions and native to the seed zone. The seedlings are intended to encourage the reestablishment of a healthy, resilient and diverse ecosystem that will support a variety of wildlife, and improve the overall water quality in Two Mile Creek.”

Continued from page 10
Grade 6 student takes second place for French video

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

A love for the challenges presented in solving the Rubik's Cube has resulted in a Canada-wide award for Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Mark Abboud.

The Grade 6 French Immersion student at Dalewood recently captured second place at Concours Virtuel, a country-wide competition organized by Canadian Parents for French. His video, entitled Le cube rubik et moi...histoire de persévérance (The Rubik's Cube and Me: A Story of Perseverance), documents the trials and tribulations he faced in mastering the iconic puzzle.

"You can achieve a lot if you persevere," says the mature 12-year-old. "That's what I found with the Rubik's Cube. I bought it in March, but I couldn't solve it!"

He put it aside, then four months later he discovered The Speed Cubers on Netflix, a documentary which followed the twists and turns in the journeys of Rubik's Cube champions Max Park and Feliks Zemdegs.

Abboud dug up his own 3-by-3 cube and got back to work. Two days later he had solved it.

Encouraged to enter the video contest by his mother, Mireille Salem, a French teacher at Royal Oak Community School, it was an obvious choice to focus on his puzzle-solving journey.

"When he figured out the cube," explains Mireille, "everywhere he would go people would ask him to teach them how to do it. He would start teaching them, and they were pretty smart, but they didn't have the patience to the end."

She admits that when her son tried to teach her, she got frustrated and gave up. Similar struggles ensued during attempts to teach his father Henry, a jeweller. He had more success with his sister Carla. She mastered the puzzle in three days, after overcoming her suspicions that Mark was trying to mislead her into failure.

He realized then that the common thread with all who struggled was the same discouraging feeling he had on his first attempts. He wanted to show, via the videos, that having the courage to push through is key to getting results.

Mireille and Mark worked together to plan and storyboard the video. It took about two months in total from the original concept through to the final edited version. Mireille shot the footage from behind the camera, and encouraged Mark with some pointers on his French grammar and pronunciation along the way.

Participating in this year's Concours Virtuel was not tied to his studies in French Immersion officially.

"It's an individual competition," explains Mireille. "The aim is to promote French among young students. A good level of fluency in French is a main component of all winning videos. I encouraged my students at Royal Oak to submit their videos as well."

One of her students, Violet Yerich, took home first place in the Grade 6 core French category, separate from Abboud's division.

As well, when it comes to languages, one might expect perseverance had a little to do with Abboud's success with the video. French is his third language, after Arabic and English.

His second place finish at Concours Virtuel is just the start of his Rubik's Cube adventures.

Inspired by world champions Park and Zemdegs, Abboud hopes to one day compete for top honours himself.

The world's best can solve the cube in five seconds. Currently, Abboud's average time lies between 10 and 15 seconds, with 10 being his personal best. "His dream is to take part in the worldwide competition," says Mireille. "So he's saving for that, and he's practicing. He wants to realize his dream by December of this year."

That five-second standard is the benchmark he's hoping to reach by then.

"Usually the competition isn't just for the 3-by-3," Abboud explains. "It's for all types of cubes. 2-by-2, 4-by-4, 5-by-5, 7-by-7, and the pyramid. There are 18 events in total. Once I mastered the 3-by-3, I taught myself the 5-by-5, and it wasn't much harder."

Abboud says the secret is to learn the basic method to solve the cube. That involves memorizing the eight basic algorithms in sequence.

"You have to remember all eight in order," Salem adds. "Each algorithm isn't hard, but it takes patience to remember them."

Abboud loves to teach others the Rubik's Cube, and successes with his sister and one of his friends have encouraged him to continue to offer his tutelage. The winning video, now posted on Mirielle's YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/U5v13iKz-kI) offers inspiration and motivation, in French, of course, to those who may feel like packing it in.

"The two secrets to learning are you have to love it," Abboud sums up. "And the second thing is to just persevere through."

Beyond challenging puzzles, that's good advice for life from a 12-year-old who's been there.

---

On a bike ride Canada Day, Susan Snider came across an orange knapsack on a mailbox pole, on Concession 1 near East and West Line, along with Canadian flags, a poignant reminder of the day.

Graham and Claire Staz, with some help from their parents, had fun selling freezies on Canada Day, with the money to be donated to help Indigenous children. (Susan Snider)

---

Mark Abboud has solved the Rubik's Cube, and recently took second place at Concours Virtuel, a country-wide competition organized by Canadian Parents for French. His video, entitled Le cube rubik et moi...histoire de persévérance (The Rubik's Cube and Me: A Story of Perseverance) (Photos by Mike Balsom)
Sherk siblings to appear in Virtual Reality Concert

Mike Balsam
Special to The Local

Siblings Marisa and Ryan Sherk of St. Catharines say they are joined at the hip. They are that rare brother and sister duo who, despite being about two years apart in age, are each other’s best friends. And next week, they will be featured in a virtual concert showcasing some of Canada’s potential future pop stars.

The grandchildren of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents Rick and Susan Sherk will be dancing in the second Virtual Concert Reality program, to be streamed on July 17. In addition to dancing, the pair worked together on the choreography for one of the featured singers, IZZEE, a Toronto native and former member of the Mini Pops Kids ensemble.

Eighteen-year-old Marisa, a recent graduate of Laura Secord Secondary School, has been dancing since she was three years old. She took to it right away.

“My passion for it started growing over the years. I played soccer, and I was kind of into track and field, but dance was always a part of me. It was obvious to me at a young age that this is what I wanted to do.”

Starting off with tap and jazz, Marisa was moved into hip hop. Very quickly she joined the Dance FX competitive team, and began to learn lyrical, contemporary, acro, modern, ballet and pointe styles, some with the Niagara Ballet School.

Watching from behind a studio window was younger brother Ryan, who recently finished Grade 10 at Laura Secord. As soon as he was able to walk, he started to literally follow in her footsteps, emulating Marisa’s dance moves.

“I would see him at home, trying to do what I was doing,” Marisa says. “I instantly felt a connection to the music and the movement,” adds Ryan. “I would watch her, and when I got home I would go to music I had around the house.”

The pair progressed to putting on shows at home. They choreographed dances together, made costumes, invited their neighbours and put on shows for them. This was all before Ryan had even begun to take dance classes with Marisa once he turned four.

The bond through dance continued to grow deeper between the siblings. At the studio, on stage, in competition, at home and at school, Ryan and Marisa were always together.

When the elder sibling moved on to Laura Secord in Grade 9, leaving Ryan behind in elementary school, the daily separation felt strange to them. Two years ago, when he joined her in high school, their talents quickly resulted in many accolades and first place finishes in dance competitions, as both soloists and as a duo.

Second dance teacher Haley Penner says their strong relationship is obvious to audiences when they perform duets together.

“They know each other so well that when they create dances together they are able to build on their strengths, and push each other beyond them,” Penner explains. “They are both highly self-motivated students and they are always looking for opportunities to develop their technique and performance quality.”

Like the Everly Brothers from the music world, siblings whose harmonies were interchangeable, Ryan and Marisa have a certain way of communicating through dance.

“It’s honestly magical,” Marisa says. “There’s a certain trust there. We just mesh really well together, we naturally move in similar ways, and we get along really well. We’re able to dance together, choreograph together. Anything dance-related, everything goes so well.”

Even though we were two years apart, we were always in the same age group in dance,” Ryan adds. “We grew up dancing in the studio together, training together. Dance was always a connecting piece for us.”

“When we’re on stage, I feel like our eye contact, our connection is strong,” says Marisa.

 Asked to recall a moment when they may have had one of those knock-down, drag-out fights that can be common between brothers and sisters, they draw a complete blank.

“There’s really no moment like that that sticks out to me,” Marisa laughs. “Maybe it’s unique for a brother and sister, but I think it’s just dance that has brought us together.”

“The fact that we both have a passion for exactly the same thing,” Ryan concurs, “and we’ve followed it for so long, definitely makes it more special.”

Marisa will be following in the Performance Dance program at Ryerson University (which may soon have a new name. Namesake Egerton Ryerson is credited for designing the model for residential schools). That means the tests will most likely be separated for the second time.

“I’ll definitely miss being around her all the time,” Ryan admits. “But I’ll always visit, and I’m very happy for her. She’s worked so hard and she has such a strong passion.”

He also admits that in two years he may very well follow her into the same program.

Both Ryan and Marisa see themselves making a future life in the dance world, whether it be performing, choreographing or teaching.

“There are so many avenues in dance,” says Marisa. “I can’t pinpoint an exact destination. I think I’m going to see where my journey takes me.”

“We’re so versatile, there are so many open lanes for us,” Ryan adds. “We’ll definitely just see where our future takes us.”

Penner believes they both have the potential to pursue successful careers in dance. Their recent first place win in the virtual Youth America Grand Prix, the world’s largest non-profit international student ballet competition, in the pas de deux category, would suggest that the future for both could include ballet.

For the upcoming Virtual Reality Concert 2, the pair worked with IZZEE to design routines for her mash-up of her own original songs. Ryan and IZZEE (Jazzy Cava- liere) worked together via the group Mini Pops Kids when they were both 12 years old. The group toured across Canada and Ryan was also featured as a singer on their 2017 CD.

The Sherk’s dance with IZZEE for her number, but also appear in multiple performances during the hour-long showcase. The show’s producers have signed talent to agencies, helped kids to book movie roles, and have been contacted by American Got Talent, who were interested in some of their artists.

Virtual Concert Reality 2 is a high energy, slick production featuring more than 12 teen solo performers and more than 35 additional teen dancers from across Canada. The show streams worldwide on Saturday July 17th at 7:30 pm. Tickets are $20 and available at LiveCity.tv.
Lawn bowling club resumes limited play

Penny Coles
The Local

The NOTL Lawn Bowling Club has opened for the season, but with some confusion over what would be available, as the community centre remains closed.

President Paul McHoull says they’ve lost some members — people who have moved or passed away — and some are hesitant to come out given the restrictions, and lack of facilities. But they have had a few new members sign up, and by Monday were up to 50 people interested in playing this season. It’s a far cry from the usual 70, 80 or more of past seasons, but not bad for a pandemic summer with restrictions on the number of people allowed on the bowling green, and no room at the community centre for socializing.

McHoull wasn’t even sure until he got to the community centre Monday morning whether there would be washrooms available — fortunately, there were.

He can schedule up to 24 people to play at a time, half the normal number of 48 if all the greens are used.

And the protocols are “mind-boggling,” with bowlers unable to touch the jack or the mat, he says, and lots of sanitizing.

“We’re all trying to be as safe as possible, and most people are vaccinated or double vaccinated,” he says.

There is no room to make a pot of tea, although members can bring snacks of their own.

“But you don’t want to be bringing tea or drinks if you don’t have a washroom,” he says.

While there is a little shade on the bowling green, there is nowhere for members to meet and chat before or after playing, and they miss the opportunity to cool off inside. “It’s certainly not a normal situation.”

Weather is always a key factor, but even more so this season with no indoor space. It’s been hot and humid, as it was Monday, and McHoull says he looks at the weather forecasts and sends out emails to members, offering them available times when the conditions are best, and asking if they want to sign up. He tends to look at morning time slots, before it gets too hot.

Members might like to bowl in the evening, when the temperature is more bearable, but there would be no community centre staff on hand to even open a washroom for them, he says.

The centre is closed to the public, and is expected to be until at least August, and maybe the end of the summer, says McHoull. But there are staff there in the day for the kids’ summer camps, using the Mori Room, which in the past has been available for the lawn bowlers.

“Kids are a priority, and that’s understandable, with the school situation and lack of contact with their friends.”

Opening day for the bowlers was June 18, when it was raining lightly. “People were keen to get out, like with the golf course,” but it’s been complicated.

“We are operating out of the equipment shed on the green,” he says.

“When the rain stopped, the temperature was higher, but there would be no community centre staff on hand to open a washroom, for them,” he says.

The centre is closed to the public, and is expected to be until at least August, and maybe the end of the summer, says McHoull. But there are staff there in the day for the kids’ summer camps, using the Mori Room, which in the past has been available for the lawn bowlers.

“Kids are a priority, and that’s understandable, with the school situation and lack of contact with their friends.”
PROTULIPAC, GEORGE—George Protulipac, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, passed away peacefully at Upper Canada Lodge with his loving daughter by his side, on July 2, 2021 in his 87th year. Dad fought the long Parkinson’s battle but grew tired and is now free from any suffering.

Dearly loved father of Kim Baergen (Mark Hicks) and stepfather of David Mauger (Cindy), Diane Rusert (James) and Darsi Kindron (Jeffrey). Cherished grandfather of Zachary Baergen (Emma), Josh Baergen (Marnie), Alexandra Wiens (Matty) and great-grandson Benson. George is survived by his sister Helen Prince and many nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his wife Donna, brother Joe Protulipac, and step-siblings Frank Vronick, Michael Vronick, Anne Milner and Katie Avery.

He is also predeceased by his parents Helen and Michael Protulipac and siblings Frank Vronick, Michael Vronick, Anne Milner and Katie Avery.

He is predeceased by his wife Donna, brother Joe Protulipac, and step-siblings Frank Vronick, Michael Vronick, Anne Milner and Katie Avery.

He is also predeceased by his parents Helen and Michael Protulipac and siblings Frank Vronick, Michael Vronick, Anne Milner and Katie Avery.

Everyone who remembers dad is asked to celebrate George’s life in their own way, raising a glass of their favorite drink in his memory would be quite appropriate. Dad was a character full of laughter and jokes. His big laugh will be forever missed.

In lieu of flowers donations to the Parkinson’s foundation would be greatly appreciated.

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

IN MEMORIAM

DR. RON MERGL
DECEMBER 15, 1958 - JULY 4, 2020

Veterinarian "extraordinaire" for 35 years; leader, mentor, philanthropist, friend.

Most importantly, loving father to three sons, and one grandson, and soulmate, husband, and best friend to Dr. June Mergl for 38 years. We all miss you terribly.

"There’s a time that I remember, when I did not know no pain When I believed in forever, and everything would stay the same"

Now my heart feel like December when somebody say your name ‘Cause I can’t reach out to call you, but I know I will one day...

Your heartbroken wife, June

Puzzle Answers

Across:
1. C Bs
2. Drill
3. Span
4. Expurgator
5. Label
6. Mulligan, for example
7. Hawaiian princess
8. Disney TV network
9. Unwilling
10. Shave
11. Tupelo “King”
12. Course launch pads?
14. Hindi dress
15. “Tinny” author --- "Urs
20. Bumpkin
25. Repetitive practice
29. Tibetian priest
32. Middle-age spread
34. Seduced by a swan
36. He started the Teeddy Bear story
37. --- bene: pay attention
38. Coke
41. “Delta ---”, Tanya Tucker hit
44. And not
48. Bidding
50. Comfort
51. Proseg
52. Facilities
54. Top-of-the-line
56. Extinct Mauritian native
57. "NY C fashionista ---" Wang
59. Checks
61. "The New World" symphony was written in this place
62. Religious faction
64. French wine
66. Signal

Down:
1. Martial arts actor Jackie
2. Traffic
3. "Delta" singer --- "Axton
6. Adores
7. "Della and the Dealer"
8. Energize
10. Own way, raising a glass of their favorite drink in his memory would be quite appropriate.
11. Elvis
12. Tees
14. Snow
16. "Delta" singer --- "Axton
18. Nears
19. Whoa
21. Unis
22. Dior
24. Indices
26. Old
28. Roll
30. Act
31. Oils
33. Tall
35. Yarns
37. Vera
38. Tabs
40. E min
41. Dawn
42. Nor
43. Behest
45. Solace
46. Tines
47. Tines
49. Pronunciation
51. Adage
52. Part of concluding
Plein air artists paint on grounds of 13th Street Winery

Kim Wade

Splotches of cerulean blue peeked out from the frothing titanium white clouds on the grounds of the 13th Street Winery in St. Catharines Saturday.

Sheridan was one of a number of artists who set up shop there and took advantage of the finished 13th Street Gallery, which opened in April, having moved from the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre to the grounds of the 13th Street Winery.

The group communicates through a Facebook page where, along with the dates, times and locations of the next painting sessions, they share their day-to-day work. Plein air pieces are usually “small, often completed on the spot, or sometimes they are just thumbnail sketches or studies to work out values, colours, composition, etc. to be used as a reference for future art pieces,” explained Sheridan.

The group is always looking for new locations, and the grounds of 13th Street Winery, which is also home to the 13th Street Gallery, provided a super place for some artistic inspiration. After some initial inquiries by member Carol Anne Diguise, Sheridan and the group were invited to the winery to paint on location. The group was supposed to return for an April 15 event, but subsequent lockdowns due to COVID put a stop to that. The 13th Street Gallery manager, Margie Galata, was happy the group was finally able to return for their Expressions Project event. The winery has launched a new line of Expression wines, and a portion of the proceeds from the wines will go toward supporting Canadian artists.

They have also established the 13th Street Winery Expression Award in honour of artist Karoly Veress, whose beautiful and dynamic sculptures grace the grounds of the winery. The winner of the award will be a deserving student in their third or fourth year at OCAD University in Toronto, in the sculpture/installation program.

Galata was pleased to have the artists at the winery, and loved seeing them set up around in various locations around the property. “It’s so pretty. It feels like you are in Europe with all the painters out there,” she noted. She said she would also like to showcase their work in one of the galleries onsite to promote artists in the Niagara Region.

Ten years after the 13th Street Winery opened, the 13th Street Gallery opened its doors, and now offers guests the opportunity to view and purchase a variety of paintings and sculptures. Exhibitions change regularly, with each drawing the stories and the artists represented in their personal collection.

One of the artists on site for the plein air event was Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Win Henstock, who was elated to be able to get out with the group. “It’s beautiful here. It’s perfect, not too hot. The music is good too,” she said. “It’s a lovely place, and everybody seems to be enjoying themselves. It’s filling up. I’m going to have to add more people into my painting.”

Henstock, continued with the group when safe to do so. “Because you’re outside, and it’s not like you’re on top of one another, so I think it’s pretty safe. I’ve had two shots so I feel a little safer now,” she reasoned.

“The artist acknowledges other instructors managed to teach online through the pandemic using the Zoom platform, but she felt she was not up to using the technology. She prefers to teach in person. “I’ve been getting calls asking if I’m going to start teaching again soon, so I told them as soon as we’re allowed to, I’m there,” she said enthusiastically. “I know that people have been doing workshops over Zoom but I’m not really techy. My husband is in long-term care and he used to help me before. I have a student that’s going to help me with that, so I’m hoping to get more techy. It’s never too late to learn.”

For more information on Henstock and her work can be found at https://whenstock.finertudonline.com.

The 13th Street Winery and Gallery will be hosting Niagara’s Plein Air artists for the next two Saturdays, July 10 and 17. For more details visit: https://13thstreetgallery.com/event/art-in-april-niagara-s-plein-air-painters/.

Niagara Plein Air Artists Facebook group is https://www.facebook.com/groups/294713191510252/.

For more information about the free membership, contact Cindy Sheridan, founder and coordinator through a Facebook message, or at 905-401-1503.