# The Niagara-on-the-Lake

# 



**Local woman** wins battle against post office

page 10

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### **Volunteers** make festival a **success**

Rosamund Hennesey, Wendy Cheropita, Terry Mactaggart and Kathy Taylor sell sweets at the St. Mark's Cherry Festival bake table. The weather brightened after an early rain, and the festival turned out to be the best yet, with cherries and pies selling out in record time. (Fred Mercnik)

### Region expects to close Upper Canada Lodge in 2020

### Pleasant Manor's new facility should be finished in time for NOTL residents

**Penny Coles** 

homes, so too was the process and timeline for the clo-It's been public knowl-

With just 80 beds in the long-term care. sure of Upper Canada Lodge. lodge, which sits on proper-

edge for some time that the a redevelopment to bring it

ty owned by Parks Canada, were expected, plans were to a developer or leased.

laid out Thursday that will allow designs to move forward for a new and expandlast week for the expansion of ra-on-the-Lake, but little in- services, before last Thurs- property on Garrison Road, a mix of residential units, two regional long-term care formation has been available day's regional committee of and will build a three-storey about a timeline for closure. the whole meeting to discuss residence, with room for a mix of housing on a portion Although no approvals of the site that could be sold Lodge are from NOTL, al-

Linhaven in St. Catharines will have a new six-storey building, on property ed Gilmore Lodge in Fort where it is now situated but Erie. It is expected to accomin a different location, exmodate 160 seniors instead panding its number of beds Region did not intend to up to provincial standards of 80 the current facility has to 261 from 248. A portion expected to accommodate renovate its only long-term isn't feasible, said Henri space for now. The Region of that property is expected NOTL residents — it will be As details were rolled out care residence in Niaga- Koning, director of senior has purchased a former mall to be sold to developers for required for Fort Erie seniors. said Koning.

> While less than half the Pleasant Manor in Virgil, residents at Upper Canada most 100 per cent of those at

Gilmore Lodge are from Fort Erie, with a waiting list of residents who would like to be there. On paper, Fort Erie is getting the beds NOTL is losing, but that space is not

The Region is able to make that decision knowing

**Continued on page 3** 

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July 11, 2019

### Protesters lay wreath at Cenotaph, then take day off

### Counter-protesters out in numbers Sunday

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

Sunday's Occupy NOTL, a threat by the protesters against horse-drawn carriages, fizzled after an early start, when members of the group placed a wreath on only to have it quickly re-tion of the memorial. moved by town staff.

on the street. They ended their day Saturday, June 29, by projecting videos on the Cenotaph, angering car- increased their presence in residents over the disrespect to show up in numbers. the Queen Street cenotaph to war veterans and desecra-

AWFAN (At War for media and counter-protest-Animals Niagara) warned ers their Operation Anvil they would be ramping would include a day they reup their protests in Niaga- ferred to as Occupy NOTL,

locations," over the Canada would include "large-scale Day long weekend, with a action against speciesism," number of protesters out which they define as using property."

But Locals for Carriages

held a brief ceremony at The group had warned the Cenotaph and laying a wreath early Sunday morning, without permission from the Royal Canadian Legion, they disappeared for the day.

Adam Stirr, the leader of AWFAN, said he hadn't intended any disrespect to veterans, choosing the Regent Street side of the Cenotaph for the video projection.

The following night he projected the images on the side of a private building, angering the owner, who had not given permission for the protesters to be on his property and who said

ceremony and laying of the wreath, which he made available in a video on You-Tube, was "in response to concerns regarding the Tower." He said he didn't

gion for permission because they'd be gone." "our grievances were from the people of NOTL." The bigger than what is happenwreath, he said, "was simply "non-human persons as a public showing of respect eal — the protesters want to make things right with to shut down farmers who the citizens of NOTL."

riage supporters and local response, asking supporters ty Disero heard about the carry animal and dairy wreath early Sunday, she After the protesters quickly had town staff remove it. She said it could only be laid with permission police and the courts, she from the legion.

> "If they had permission from the legion we will bring it back. But nothing goes on the Cenotaph unless it goes through the legion."

hopes to have Insp. Jim Mc-Caffery of the Niagara Regional Police revisit the pro-

She planned to update council on the protests Monmeeting will be continued Wednesday.

chosen to stop observing Stirr said this Sunday's the agreement reached in August 2018 during meetings with the Niagara Regional Police and the Town ties, trying to find a solution she said. to maintain peace.

Laura Sentineal of Senprojection upon the Clock tineal Carriages says AW-FAN members have ways to make it look like Locals are breeching the protocol.

For instance, she said, one of the protesters following closely behind her, trying to get her attention, then can't come too soon. Sentinbegan filming as soon as she turned around to face him, making it look like she was getting too close to him.

She says she's not sure what use an agreement is if it's not going to be enforced by police, who don't lay charges.

for trying to help.

"I know she genuinely wants to help, for our sake and for the sake of the town. We've had some meetings, seeing her riding around and she's hoping there are town in a horse-drawn cart. some things that can be done. I know if she had a Fred, one of three Sentin-

ask the Royal Canadian Le- magic wand she could wave, eal brothers, inherited his

The problem is much ing in NOTL, said Sentinhave animals, and retail out-When Lord Mayor Bet- lets and restaurants which products. The solution will have to come from higher more horses, carriages and levels of government, the said.

Disero was on Queen lice, who spoke to both sides, reminding them of the agreement, which in-Disero said she also cludes not impeding people from access to the sidewalk. The job of the police, she said, is to ensure protests repolice are doing their job. They're doing their best."

Disero said the NRP day, but time ran out and the were planning to lay charges against the protesters for projecting videos on the Stirr charges members Cenotaph over the Canada he does not support their of Locals for Carriages have Day weekend, but after they talked to the crown attorney, "no charges were laid."

> Disero said she has researched other municipalito help control the protests, found nothing helpful to

> "The Charter of Rights and Freedoms say they have every right to be on the sidewalk for a peaceful protest."

> Whatever the solution, it eal relates the story of how the family's involvement in

Her late mother-in-law Jackie loved horses from the time she was a young girl, hanging out at Jack Green's stable on King Street during there in exchange for being allowed to ride. Later, Jackie married Fred Sentineal Sr., and locals will remember

Laura said her husband

mother's love of horses, and had been giving carriage rides for friends and neighbours as a teenager just for fun. One day the Sentineals were contacted by the Pillar and Post with a request to provide carriage rides for weddings.

The Sentineals bought obtained licences, and Fred and Laura became part of that business.

On Canada Day one year Street Sunday, as were po- in the 80s, they had a horse and carriage on Queen Street for training purposes, when some visitors to town asked for a ride. That began the second phase of their business, Laura said.

"We built it up from tocol agreement from last main peaceful. "I believe the there. Two of our children are now actively engaged in the business, and we haven't got any grandchildren yet, but hopefully one day we will and they might be as well. This business is part of the history of the town and we want to keep it that way."

The protesters present themselves "as somehow morally superior, but they don't understand horses,"

Research on working including Toronto, but has horses pulling carriages shows it keeps them physically and mentally healthy, she said, and her veterinarian agrees.

The protesters are using feelings and ideology to try to persuade people of their views, "based on opinion, not fact."

Not every horse wants the horse and carriage trade to pull a carriage, and when that happens, she said, they work out what would be best for the animal, "never, ever, ever" taking any horse to slaughter.

And while they are not She commends Disero the 1940s, and working a rescue organization, they have bought horses headed for slaughter. "We've given them a good life, a job and lots of love."

> "When this is all over," said Laura, referring to the protests, "we're going to be having a party."



Carriage supporters Janis Peters, Travis Cherney, Austin Gould and Margie Andres were downtown Sunday, trying to spread a positive message. (Fred Mercnik)





# 5 WILBERFORCE AVENUE

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### **Regional seniors programs** to continue after lodge closes

#### Continued from page 1

owned by Radiant Care, has provincial approval for a facility that will accommodate 160 people. This new build has an anticipated opening date of 2022, which is expected to align with the completion of the two Regional facilities and the closure of Upper Canada Lodge.

The new homes will be designed as campus-style developments, now considered to be not only more economical and efficient to operate but also able to provide better care for seniors in a community-hub setting.

"We are excited about what we will be able to offer seniors as a place to live, Koning. The three existing buildings, Upper Canada Lodge, the current Gilmore Chateau Gardens) and Pleas-

new facilities are completed

The budget for the two been pegged at \$175 million. With \$15 million approved by the Region and \$66 million to come from the Province, the remainder is expected — although not approved — to be included in future regional budgets, said Koning.

The Region will continue to provide resources in NOTL for seniors and will offer adult day programs, at a location yet to be determined, once Upper Canada Lodge closes, she said.

sooner rather than later," said two long-term care homes remaining in NOTL, Chartwell Niagara (the former

Lodge and Linhaven, are ex- ant Manor, is determined pected to operate until the by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and is and ready to be occupied, no different from Regional homes, said Koning.

Placement of clients on regional redevelopments has a waiting list for all not-forprofit long-term care homes in Niagara, whether they are owned by the Region or privately, is handled by Home and Community Care, and is determined by need, not by ability to pay or other affiliations, said Koning. Efforts being made to accommodate a client's preference for location when possible, including looking at first, second and third choices.

Long before Upper Canada closes, she said, "Home The fee structure of the and Community Care will begin working with residents and families and looking at where they would prefer to

### NRP to revisit protest protocol

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

Phil Gavin, the media relations officer for the Niagara Regional Police, says there will likely be a meeting between the groups involved in the horse and carriage protests to review a year-old protocol agreement.

Last summer, Insp. Jim each other. McCaffery met with then-Lord Mayor Pat Darte, Laura Sentineal, protesters of horse-drawn carriages and counter-protestors who support the local carriage business, to work out a protocol that would keep demonstrations on Old Town streets peaceful and safe for all.

Gavin explained such an agreement is a set of guidelines arrived at with input from

both sides and intended to being made to bring all parwork for everybody involved.

Insp. James McCaffery, reached an agreement between groups on issues such as not blocking the sidewalk, giving protesters a set location, asking them to keep an agreed-upon distance from carriages, and both sides keeping a set distance from

one in NOTL, said Gavin, people on both sides are passionate about their beliefs and "not everybody gets what they want." The goal is to balance the needs of both sides and "try to find a middle ground."

Protesters have a charter right to be there, he said, and the job of the police is to try to keep the peace.

He says there are efforts the war memorial.

ties involved to the table for talks "in a neutral location" to review the protocol set a

"It's a good-faith document, not legally binding," he said.

The difficulty in keeping to those guidelines is often because of the number of people who get involved in the protests, who may not In a protest such as the abide by the protocol in dayto-day situations, he said.

As for the police pressing charges in the incident involving projecting photos on the Cenotaph, he explained, "they reviewed the evidence with the Crown, and also had a look at intent."

They came to the conclusion that the intent was to educate the public, not to cause any damage or mischief to

### Laughing to help others



MPP Wayne Gates, Pat Darte, Nancy Bailey, Debi Pratt, Paul Chapman, Janice Thomson, Lois Chapman, Mike Berlis and (crouching) Ellen Berlis, attended the Joe Pillitteri Comedy Night at the community centre, which raised money for the Niagara Community Foundation's Vince and Margaret Pillitteri and Family fund. The interest on the capital will be split three ways between the Terry Fox Foundation, Red Roof Retreat and KidSport Niagara. (Penny Coles)

### Garden of the week



This week's Garden of the Week winner is 14541 Niagara River Parkway in Queenston, owned by William and Bonita Leslie. The beautifully maintained garden has a well-planned balance of colour, shapes, and textures, the judges said. "Their effective arrangement of plants and colours leads the eyes of viewers across the entire garden, from the arbor through a hedge of Annabelle hydrangeas at the side of the house to the two hydrangea standards that frame their front entrance, and across the driveway to another bed of perennials, shrubs and rocks. They have chosen colour combinations that work well together and contribute to the flow throughout the garden." The Town, the Communities in Bloom Committee and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticulture Society are running the Garden of the Week program over the summer months. Residents are encouraged to submit nominations of phenomenal front gardens and winners will receive a lawn sign recognizing the home owners. Nomination forms are available on Join the Conversation. (Photo supplied)



July 11, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL notllocal.com

## Councillors hear strong opposition to winery rezoning

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

With a rezoning application before councillors for a small winery on a large Queenston Road property, they have been given lots of information to mull over before their Wednesday meeting, when a decision is expected.

Several presentations were made at Monday's committee of the whole meeting by business owners and residents, cautioning councillors about what they consider a precedent-setting issue. Queenston Mile Vineyard, now operating as a farm winery, is looking for rezoning to an estate winery. In addition to producing and selling wine, the rezoning would allow food to be served. The winery owners

al market as a secondary use on the 50-acre site.

A committee decision was expected Monday, but public presentations on the winery application and other issues took more than four hours, and the remainder of the meeting was rescheduled, to be concluded Wednesday, beginning at 5 p.m.

Maria Mavridis, whose family owns a restaurant on Queen Street, told councillors take their time in reviewing as the number of wineries serving food has grown, downtown restaurants have seen a decline in business.

"Queen Street businesses pay astronomical property taxes and rents," she said, and employ year-round staff although business is a seven-month season,

are also asking for an agricultur- while wineries such as Queenston Mile have the advantages of free parking for their customers and tour buses, controlled wage costs, and much lower agricultural taxes.

> "We are asking for fair advantage," she said. Wineries looking to open restaurants, run events and offer venue space should pay commercial taxes,

> "We are asking council to every aspect, prior to making any decisions that may result in becoming a detriment to our downtown business area," said

"Whatever decision is made with regards to the Queenston Mile application, it will set precedent to all future applications to town planners and this council."

Maria Hassebroek is a Queenston Street resident who lives across from the winery. "I cannot tell you how disappointed I am by staff recommendations for winery," she told councillors.

"Staff says it will not impact us. I can tell you it does," she said, citing issues with noise from customers and bus traffic problems.

Hassebroek touched on concerns mentioned by others, saying the winery "is not playing by the rules." She maintained the farm winery is selling a 2016 vintage of wine it is not allowed to sell, and also referred to the expensive commercial kitchen equipment in the building that she believes indicates weddings and other events will be held, creating more noise and traffic for neighbours close by.

No amount of buffering would be sufficient, she said.

"This is not the proper location for an estate winery."

Lawyer Tom Richardson, representing several clients opposed to the rezoning, charged the winery owners are attempting to "create a restaurant where a restaurant is not permitted."

He referred to the kitchen equipment and large washroom facilities as evidence the intent from the beginning has been for a restaurant onsite.

He also said no crushing, fermenting or bottling has taken place on the property, as required of a farm winery, which can only sell wine made onsite from grapes grown on the property.

'The proposal is not an agricultural use, it's the smuggling-in of an urban use in an agricultural area," he said, suggesting if councillors were inclined to approve the zoning, they should request

a deferral until they have a site plan before them.

Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery also cautioned councillors against rezoning, saying if they do, "anyone can buy a barn and put anything in it," including "all kinds of uses that aren't agricultural."

He said because the winery opened just seven months ago, it hasn't been through a full harvest, and there is no way to access the full impact on neighbours. "This might be a precedent-setting case of upsetting the neighbours."

Ravine's winemaker Martin Warner also warned against allowing an estate winery in the small building, saying there is no room for the production that is expected to process 39 acres of grapes, while also having a hospitality area and kitchen.

Former NOTL town planner Stephen Bedford suggested the winery building should have been located in the centre of the property. He said while a small portion of grapes may be processed onsite, "the application is for a restaurant and washrooms for 250 people. Applications like this give me pause, with respect to the future direction of the town."

Rezoning the property could potentially make it cheaper to buy a winery and open a restaurant, and could drive up the price of agricultural property, he said.

But when lawyer Steven O'Melia had his chance to speak on behalf of Queeston Mile, he praised the staff recommending zoning approval, and refuted the arguments against it, which he said were not about planning issues. The application conforms to all relevant agency and town planning policies, he said.

Richardson's

about the construction of the kitchen are "inaccurate and extremely unfair," he said. The kitchen equipment is not hooked up — it was "optimistically purchased" for the day when it could be used.

Contrary to claims about processing onsite, he said, "there is crushing, fermentlng and bottling occurring. It's a fact."

The sale of a 2016 vintage was permitted when the farm winery opened, he said — that is typically allowed because it's anticipated wine made on the property won't be ready.

The issue of restaurants paying higher taxes, and neighbours' concerns, are also not planning issues, he said.

As for traffic, the owners have already agreed to a driveway off Concession 6, as neighbours have requested.

Alison Zalepa, general manager of Queenston Mile, also addressed some of the points made by those opposed to the rezoning.

She said the business plan for the winery is to produce 2,000 bottles to sell at Queenston Mile, not to process all 39 acres of grapes onsite.

The kitchen equipment, she said, was purchased for the future, so it wouldn't be "shoehorned in" later, and is not for a restaurant, but to serve food with tastings and at events.

She said she has been transparent from the beginning about plans for the winery, and told the planning department she would apply for a farm winery first and then would be back for rezoning for an estate winery.

"We've not been shy about saying we want to do events. Show me a winery that doesn't have events and food and I'll show you a winery that doesn't have cars in the parking lot."



The owners of Queenston Mile want estate winery zoning so they can sell food and hold events. There is opposition from some residents and business owners. (Penny Coles)



### Plans underway for NOTL's first outdoor cannabis crop

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

With an extended interim effect, the Official Plan review and the Niagara-on-the-Lake agricultural committee diswanted to notify councillors of plans for a "sun-grown, opensoil" seasonal cannabis operation for 930 Airport Rd.

has helped plan outdoor canother municipalities in Ontario, although this might be

ity would "do some home- prevent it being "an eyesore" work" about outdoor crops.

He spoke of the "shifting An outdoor cannabis farm sand of procedure" from the is in the works for Airport federal government regarding

Dell said an outdoor crop control bylaw on cannabis in should be considered "a boon to the community," one that would keep good agricultural land in production and that cussing the issue, Dell said he meets provincial and regional planning policies.

He described what he called a more "gentle" operation than greenhouse-grown He said his planning firm cannabis, with no light, no noise, limited security renabis operations set up in quired and odour mitigation when necessary.

Although he described his the first in NOTL. He wasn't client's plans as an outdoor asking for anything from operation, the crop would be councillors at this point, but grown in a hoop house — a was appearing at Monday's temporary structure for the client's intentions, and with area would be fenced, and the hope that the municipal- buffered by landscaping to in September.

to neighbours.

Dell said smell has been identified as having the biggest impact on neighbours, but is Road, planner Nicholas Dell the growth of marijuana, with much less of a nuisance with of Mississauga told councillors "municipalities often left in an outdoor facility and a single crop, which begins in April and is finished by October. The outdoor growing period is from June to August, when the plant grows to 15 feet. The early planting stages and harvesting and drying — when odour would be regulated - takes place indoors, said Dell.

> He said the operation being planned wouldn't "harm or threaten" neighbours' enjoyment of their properties.

Last month council approved a year's extension of the interim control bylaw which prohibits new or expanded cannabis operations, pending a land-use policy review.

A bylaw to control cancommittee of the whole meet- growing period — and plant- nabis facilities in NOTL is ing as a formality, to share his ed directly into the soil. The expected early next year, with public consultations expected

notllocal.com THE NOTL LOCAL July 11, 2019

# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: HEARING

Your Hearing Health *Matters: A Call to Action* 

The crunch of snow beneath your feet, the punchline of a joke, the around us? whispers of wind through church, the tune of a faof a child. As you read these words on the page, you can hear them, and that is how powerful hearing is. To quote Wilwho listen."

Doctor for an eye exam. When we no longer hear tune of that song does not sound quite right, who do we seek for assistance?

Our hearing gets neglected. We have regular eye exams, dental exams, rarely does hearing become part of our health routine.

Society is putting an increased effort on wellness with a strong focus

the trees, the sermon at not always a particularly to optimize, suffers. kind one. Nonetheless, When the words on can control, and that your health routine. the newspaper become is how we are going to as possible.

we stay connected to the lead active lives that rejoy. If we are unable to munity we live in.

on active aging. After all, hear properly, commuwe are all living longer nication gets disrupted, lives. Why not strive for our relationships strain, the best quality of life and we start to disengage by utilizing the supports from the things and people we enjoy. Thus, qual-The journey of aging is ity of life, the life we wish

So what is the call miliar song, the laughter it is a journey we are all to action you may ask? buckled in on. Along Well, if you have not althis journey, we all find ready clued in, or the ourselves at different frequency of advertisepoints with frequent ments has not given you reminders that things the gentle nudge, the liam Shakespeare, "the do not work or are not call to action is, get your world has music for those as they use to be. Alas, hearing tested. Be proacwe do have a choice we tive and make it a part of

Come visit Hearingblurry or the colours of adapt to these changes Life for a free hearing test the world dull, we seek we face to optimize our at our new office in Virgil, the assistance of the Eye quality of life for as long Niagara-on-the-Lake, and have an honest con-Hearing affects many versation about hearing our loved ones, or the facets of our lives-one health with me. Who of the biggest being our am I? Just your new, ability to communicate friendly-neighbourhood with each other and the Audiologist. My name world around us. It is an is Vanessa Vani, born integral part of the evo- and raised in St. Cathalution of our society. It is rines, resident of Niagaand physical exams, but how we share ideas and ra-on-the-Lake, and I'm exchange information-- excited to be an advocate how we build and main- of hearing health with tain relationships, how the goal to help residents things and people we en- flect this beautiful com-



Vanessa Vani BA., AuD., Reg CASLPO Doctor of Audiology



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NSP-RETH-LOCA

# EDITORIAL

### Attention to protests increases tension levels

focusing on an issue doesn't get a lot of attention.

But add a group of passionate counter-protesters in a small community, supported by the majority of residents against a pretty radical bunch, and the interest level can be off the charts.

Radical protesters are defined as those with extreme opinions. Animal rights are not extreme. But the group targeting Niagara-on-the-Lake, although focused on saving horses pulling carriages, is not

ness and damaging the local tourism industry, it is extreme in that it refers to horses and all animals as non-human people with the same rights as humans, and wants to eliminate working roles but as pets, assistance guides to those with disabilities, and in any kind of food product. While there are people who support the cause, there are many more who obcan fairly be considered radicals trying to eliminate the pelled to respond.

A peaceful, legal protest only targeting a popular busi- ability of others to make such choices.

Protesters need attention to spread their message, and it's not unusual for them to stage dramatic activities to gain that attention. In the the use of animals not only in small town of NOTL, with seems both sides taking up their positions on busy street corners would be dramatic enough, but in recent days activities have ramped up, and ject to having a group of what as one side acts to increase attention, the other side is com-

this as well. However, sometimes it can be a struggle to decide where that responsibility lies, especially knowing that publicity fuels the passion on both sides.

One responsibility is that a protest, we should include both sides of the story, regardless of our personal opinions.

But the other issue hard to ignore is that publicity sides, and no matter how responsibly mainstream media and escalating tension to ahead of us.

The media have a role in such a degree that it seems spill over onto the streets.

It's tempting to think if the media refused to bite when the protesters threaten to increase their drama, if we pulled back in the attention strong counter-protesters, it if we are going to report on given the protests, they might at least scale back their activities. But that doesn't address social media, over which there is no control.

So far nobody has come fuels the passion of both up with a solution to put a stop to the protests, which are legal and guaranteed by our tries to handle such reports, human rights charter as long protesters and counter-pro- as they remain peaceful, and testers can have a field day though the police have been on social media, going way reasonably successful to date Niagara-on-the-Lake. beyond merely articulating at keeping them peaceful, their respective opinions, there is still a lot of summer Penny Coles

The goal of the protesters inevitable it will eventually in NOTL is to put an end to horse-drawn carriages. They pointed in a recent press release to the success of horsedrawn caleche being banned in Old Montreal, which will take effect at the end of 2019. It didn't take a lot of research to see that while there were animal rights activists pushing for the ban, there were also concerns other than ideology - horses had been injured in traffic incidents on busy streets, and there were several reports, one media outlet saying several hundred — of mistreatment of the horses.

That is far from the case in

The Local

### Listen to the voices



A good crowd of committee representatives, dignitaries and the public celebrated the launch of the Voices of Freedom Black History Walking Tour app, sponsored by the Niagara Historical Society Museum, at the Voices of Freedom Park Tuesday morning. It can be used to learn about local Black history by walking to different locations noted on the app, or sitting at home or in the park. For more information visit https://www. vofpark.org/about-voices-of-freedom. (David Gilchrist)

The NOTL Local acknowledges the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous peoples.

### The Niagara-on-the-Lake

#### The trusted voice of our community

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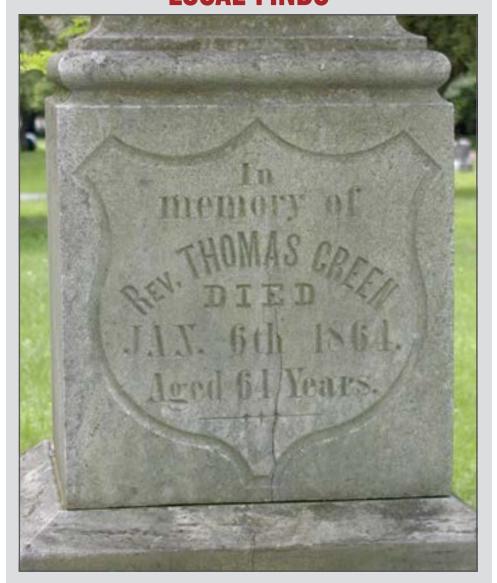
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### **Suspicions explained**

**Donald Combe** Special to The Local

In memory of Rev. Thomas Creen died Jan. 6th 1864, Aged 64 Years

Thomas Creen was born in Ireland, educated in Scotland, arrived in Niagara as a Presbyterian minister, became a teacher, was "persuaded" by Archdeacon Strachan to become Anglican, became assistant to Robert Addison at St. Mark's and in 1829 became the second rector of St. Mark's. All went well in the expanding community of St. Mark's until 1848 when there was some suspicion about the amount of sacramental wine being consumed, the misuse of church funds and inappropriate correspondence to a married lady of the parish. We now understand that this respected man was suffering dementia or Alzheimer's.

### Lots of activities for kids this summer



**Debbie Krause Special to The Local** 

We've waited a long time, but summer is finally here with all of its sunshine and humidity. July is not yet half over and we've already enjoyed two festivals, strawberry and cherry, we've honoured Canada Day, and here at the library we continue to celebrate summer everyback garden for hotdogs, castle, Reptile Kingdom and numerous activifun and to all those who make it a success.

Since then the summer

the library's website.

Although much of the

programming has been summer programming gaining momentum. Pro- is geared to children, the grams have been full of most significant event of excited children learning the season is exclusively to code, participating in for adults. On Aug. 18 at 6 the maker movement and p.m., the library is hosting "crafternoons", listening its Annual Garden Party to stories, reading to Jas- Fundraiser. This evening per our favourite golden is definitely a highlight of retriever, and conduct- the year. We are fortunate ing science experiments. to welcome the executive Something new this year, chefs from the Vintage the library is going on Hotels who always delight the road. Once a week, us with amazingly delion Thursday afternoons, cious food, local winerchildren's librarian Kasia ies generously donate the Dupuis will meet kids and wine to be enjoyed, and their families at a different The Blythes will provide location around the town. the live music. This year Last Thursday 11 children we will also be holding a day. The party began with came out to Chautauqua silent auction. The affair a bang on June 22 at our Park for a story time and takes place in the library's Annual Summer Kickoff interactive activities like beautiful community garwhere approximately 250 the collaborative cotton den and gazebo, a very people joined us in the ball paintings that will be appropriate venue condisplayed in the library sidering proceeds go dicotton candy, a bouncy at the end of summer. rectly to the maintenance This Thursday, July 11, of this stunning commu-Kasia will be at Niaga- nity space and continuties and crafts. The day ra-on-the-Green Park and ous library programming. was perfect — sunny and after that she will be at Me- Please consider supportwarm — as was the mood. morial Park, Willowbank, ing us by attending this Thank you to all who Centennial Park, St. Da- unique and special evecame out and enjoyed the vids Lion's Park, and finally ning. Tickets are limited at Garrison Village Park. and only available through volunteered their time to For full details, please visit the library website and Eventbrite.

I hope to see you soon.



Kasia Dupuis is taking children's programming on the road to local parks, providing fun things for kids to do. (Photo supplied)

### Jet boat buses drive residents indoors Not all workers are invisible

Floral Clock on the Niagara River Parkway and transport them down to Niagara Parks Commission land to the jet boat by the jet boat company.

which is significant, and tion due to the noise. the diesel fumes these

Dumfries Street in Queen- buses. They are old and on our potato salad. How ston and from there, the fumes are awful. Her appetizing. around a hairpin turn on family is unable to sit on their deck.

Other residents have to operation at what was the remove themselves from Queenston Sand Dock on their front porches when

buses emit (have they been Canada Day, St. Saviour's own properties. tested?) residents are un- Church on Princess Street, able to sit outside on their approximately 200 feet front porches and back from the bus route, had

The buses for jet boat decks. Last year one wom- a barbeque outside the tours are two old, die- an counted 76 bus passes church hall and those atsel-spewing vehicles that in a single day. There is a tending were treated to collect customers from the bus going past her house noisy bus passes and one approximately every three particularly heavy emission of diesel that made These are not quiet everyone exclaim. Diesel

The jet boat company has been running these buses for years, but this must not be allowed to continue as it's significantly affecting the the river, and is now used the buses start at 10:30 quality of life of everyone on a.m. because people have the bus route. It is a health Because of the noise, trouble having a conversa- hazard, a continual source of frustration and a denial of Last Sunday, to mark residents' enjoyment of their

> Vicki Lowenberger Queenston

May I offer a gentle admo- you see." nition to everyone who read (The Local, June 20):

this article: Migrant workers things we read. When we my circle interact with the have names, like the rest of us amplify the negative experiences we also neglect all the are well received. Edgar Allan Poe has positive and amazing ways been quoted as saying, that local folks have shown "Believe nothing that you kindness, friendliness and hear and only half of what generosity to our workers.

My experience is that This is also true of the the majority of workers in community very well and

> **Nancy King Caribbean Workers Outreach Program volunteer**

### **Letters! We want letters!**

We have an opinion page put aside just for residents - we know you have opinions and we would love to share them. If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal. com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. The deadline is Monday at noon.



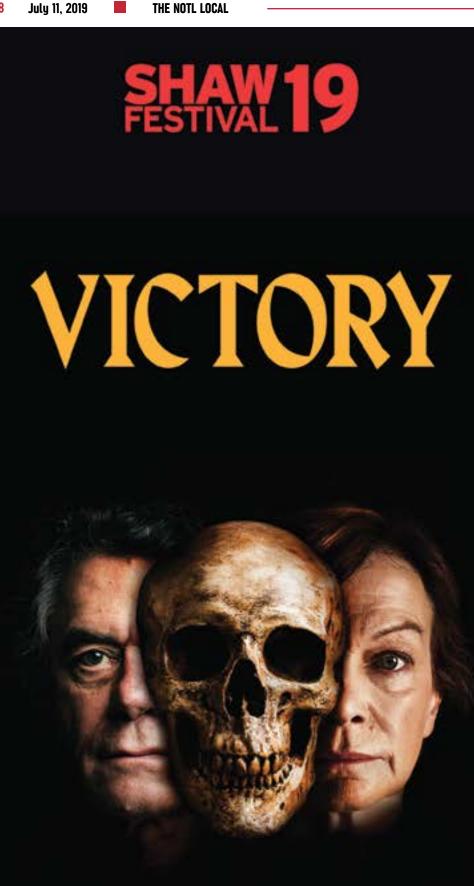
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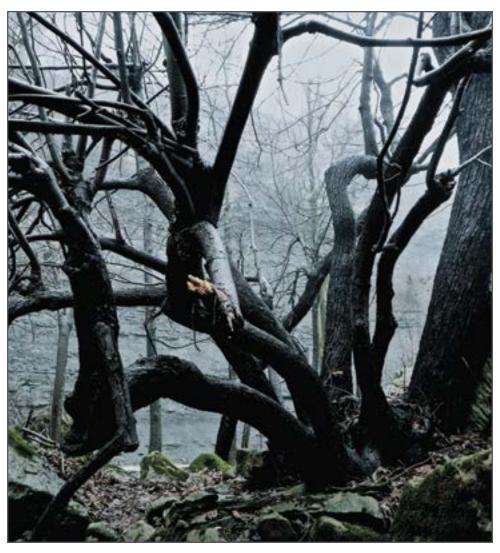


What must one woman lose in order to win? The most offensive play ever written, and not for the faint of heart. Howard Barker's controversial and shocking play is also considered one of the greatest plays of the 20th century.

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Owen Bjorgan asks, "what is it about this tree, and this area, along the Niagara Escarpment that makes people feel the darker touch of nature?" (Owen Bjorgan)

### Nature can have its dark side

#### Owen Biorgan Special to The Local

know how many hours I've logged under the canopies carrying a backpack.

I'm 26 years old, and I know the hour count is insanely high. And it continues to grow, like the trees visit to our beautiful forests. themselves.

graph, the majority of the connection with nature, pie would show me using and how we can pick up on my spare time outside in nature. I can't help but be atypical in terms of what aspects many hours spent outside, I have felt and seen some unusual displays of force from for miles. the forest.

been very uncomfortable, feeling to interpret someand not in ways you're likely thing as creepy. We share the crawl a little. imagining.

hiking, and I suddenly feel just sees something. overwhelmed by the darkness of the place.

not alone.

Right here in Niagaraon-the-Lake, we offer moments were joyous, but a ghost tours and celebrate few were contemplative and our haunted history. One uneasy. I couldn't put a finpub in town has a notoriously haunted downstairs es of trail made me feel I washroom.

counted paranormal stories? black flies and flooding was

nerving spots out on the straight. Fun side question: trails, away from the buildings and sometimes civiliza-I would be curious to tion altogether. Some spots are right here in NOTL.

I won't tell you where I of trees, in rubber boots, or believe they are, as that is up to your own interpretation haunted? and experience. I'm not trying to rile your thoughts and discourage your potential

Rather, I'm inviting us If my life were a pie to think about our human things that are unique human experiences.

For example, I have felt of nature I like to present patches of woods and hills to others, because after my where the vibe was decidedly creepy. But there was nobody around, sometimes

When you think about A handful of them have it, it is an exclusive human ability to be scared, startled, quitoes — I'm talking about doesn't see an ominous huthose times when I've been man silhouette as creepy; it

These moments hit me hard when I hiked 890 It can be paralyzing. The kilometres on Ontario's lighting is kind of eerie, the Bruce Trail in 2014. Over have it lucky. trees contort and contrast the course of 37 days, I I walked into.

The majority of those ger on why certain stretchwasn't the only one in the And what about Fort woods, when I knew I cersome pretty weird and un- saw nobody for four days er to nature.

what is the longest stretch you've ever gone without seeing another person in your life?).

I now propose the question — can nature be

I think you know my answer. When in these zones, I wonder — were lives lost, or heavily influenced, in this area of forest? In areas around NOTL, that is certainly true for both Indigenous and colonial lives lost on our soil.

I also wonder, do the very aesthetics of nature speak to people in ways other animals don't perceive, to an extent where we find certain scenery and ecosystems scary?

I just think it is amazing how we don't need old buildings, intense history, or scary basements to make our skin

When this happens in I'm not talking about and defensive, like our ani- nature, I think it is a healthy cold, rain or relentless mos- mal counterparts, but a dog and humbling feeling. Our woods and trails in NOTL are generally safe of dangerous animals and mischief — take it from someone who has hiked all over Ontario, and the world. We

The purpose of this artiagainst each other, and may- was blindsided by certain cle is to present the idea that be you even feel like you're moods of the environment the depths of our wild places can carry a certain energy, as do people, as do towns. They have a vibe, and there is no denying the feeling.

You know when someone enters a room, and you just go, "this could get interesting?" I live for that in the great outdoors, because it George and its famously re- tainly was (believe me; the is a sensation our ancestors must have experienced all I have been subject to so atrocious at times, I once the time, when we were clos-

### Shaw gives back to community



The Shaw Festival Theatre handed out cheques to local organizations Tuesday, an annual Shaw event. The money was raised through ticket sales to specific performances. Receiving money for their organizations were (back row, left): Bonnie Bagnulo, NOTL Community Palliative Care; Susan Weaver, Canadian Cancer Society; Rhys Beak, Royal Canadian Legion; with Tim Carroll, Artistic Director, Shaw Festival and Tim Jennings, Executive Director, Shaw Festival; and Jayme Campbell, NOTL Soccer Club; (front row) Andorlie Hillstrom, Yellow Door Theatre Project; Kasia Dupuis, NOTL Public Library; Jane Andres, Niagara Workers Welcome; Kristin Mechelse, Upper Canada Lodge; and Lise Andreana, Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. (David Gilchrist)



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#### THE NOTL LOCAL

### Local woman's 'polite' activism pays off

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

If you pick up your mail at the Queen Street post office, drop in Saturday and say hi to Anthony.

He's the new person behind the counter, hired when the decision was made to extend the post office hours to include Saturdays, after a battle fought — albeit very politely — and won Buxton Cox.

She isn't looking for who are happy about the improved service to say thank you to the post office staff.

It's been two years since the local woman began challenging the federal agency with arguments based on logic, which seemed in slim supply at times, and the reasoning that expanding the hours of operation would not only provide better service for residents and visitors, but would also increase revenue.

When she learned she had been successful — with the help of many others, she adds — "I did a little happy dance around the kitchen."

Niagara-on-the-Lake resi- it up, just a few steps away dents using a post office box, from the post office. was notified in a letter dated July, 2017, that staff would "return to sender" any mail without a box number on it.

them mail of their box numwho will be sending you mail, force the policy. said Buxton Cox.

by Old Town resident Julia to Betty Disero, then a town mail to continue being decouncillor, for help.

thanks. She suggests residents NOTL Today, a popular Facebook page to share news with locals, Buxton Cox learned in her research that Canada Revenue and banks wouldn't send certain mail with a box number on it, for security reasons, but post office officials weren't swayed by the information.

> She personally discovered the impact of the policy when also rejected. she had a credit card compromised and cancelled. She was told by her bank a replacement would be sent in the mail. When she offered her post office box number, she was advised it could only be for Queen Street. mailed to a civic address.

She also learned the return to sender policy without a box number wasn't new. Staff had for years been put-Residents were told they ting mail in the correct boxmust notify anyone sending es as a convenience to their customers. Staff turnover on ber. That's pretty difficult Queen Street had resulted in when you can't anticipate a directive from above to en-

Boxton Cox started an She went to the press, and online petition asking for livered, box number or not, The administrator of and also created a website to draw attention to the issue. She researched community mail boxes such as are available in other areas of town, but was told that wasn't a viable option. She also offered to have volunteers go through whatever security procedures necessary to help sort mail and add box numbers where necessary, but that offer was

> During her many conversations with residents, she discovered St. Davids and Virgil post offices had Saturday openings, and decided to add to her request

Wanting to help, Disero drew up a resolution in May, 2018, supported by council, that was sent to Canada Post head office, saying that given the number of people who shop online and would like to be able to pick up their parcels, but couldn't get to the post office weekdays before 5 p.m., and also due to the number of tourists who would buy stamps to send postcards home, council supported Saturday openings.

When Buxton Cox had received no response by last February, she chose a different route, and sent an online chat request to the customer asking for Saturday hours.

"We have 2,000 P.O. boxes here, and it's a tourist destination. It wouldn't only be for residents, it's a good opportunity for revenue from bank, where she could pick open — it just doesn't make cision made in Ottawa."

Julia Buxton Cox battled with the post office and won, resulting in extended hours and better service for customers. (Penny Coles) He has heard since that open on Facebook about sense that Queen Street isn't. If you arrive at the post office opening Saturday was a her ongoing medical issues,

up, you're out of luck until very well. And it's not just Monday." tacted Coun. Allan Bisback, Street where tourists can who retired from a career buy postcards and then expressed how much she apwith Canada Post, hoping mail them."

he might be able to "ruffle

at 5:01 Friday afternoon to

find you have a parcel to pick

some feathers." he retired was general manager of retail operations across Canada, and he contacted the address and is required for person who took over his job mail to be sorted properly. her bathroom.

NOTL is a tourist town, and but with the turnover of staff there would be increased revenue from opening Saturdays.

in Ottawa.

would have been made with fice staff are doing their best input from local staff.

service department, again phone calls and sent some provide good service. emails, but I'm not sure I can take the credit for this. I think it was Julia and the mail being returned did remany citizens talking to the sult in fewer pieces of mail lead hand at the post office, and discussions both at the without box numbers — it's

good move.

"I'm told they're doing the post office — it's good More recently, she con- for businesses along Queen

As for mail being returned without box num-Bisback's position when bers, he said, the policy hasn't changed. That information is part of the mailing In the "old days," staff would and the number of new people moving to town, it's not Bisback said the decision that easy. However post ofto accommodate residents,

Buxton Cox has been told the initial disruption of arriving at the post office only about 10 per cent of

which slowed her down temporarily but will not stop her activism for NOTL residents. She says she will share her story when she has more conclusive information, but preciates all the well-wishers wanting to help. She has received offers to provide rides, weed her garden, she's had food delivered, a Canada Day planter dropped off — and even an offer to clean

"It's been overwhelm-He pointed out that know who mail belonged to, ing. Some of the people who reached out I'd never even met — I just knew them through Facebook."

Buxton Cox says the extent of the outpouring of support was a surprise, and yet "I made a couple of Bisback said, in a desire to one more reason to love living in a small town.

> In response to one gentleman, a long-time NOTL resident, who commented on the decision of the post office staff to direct mail even without box numbers as a return "to the good old days," Buxton Cox responded, "these are the



Coun. Allan Bisback

This from the woman who had never been an activist, but couldn't resist trying to change something that made no sense to her, and that had a negative impact on a lot of people.

When Buxton Cox moved to town, she had no choice but to sign up for a post office box where she would receive her mail. She was fine with that until she, along with all

The person on the other end of the phone suggested it could be sent to the local branch of her bank, where she could pick it up — until the employee realized the bank also had a post office box. The solution, said Buxton Cox, was for the credit card to be sent through an tourists. The post offices in head office level and locally. inter-branch courier to her Virgil and St. Davids are It would not have been a de- what it used to be.





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### **Raising money for Pink Pearl Foundation**

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

A fundraiser for the which gives 100 per cent of the money it raises to helping young women fighting lives to cancer." cancer, was held at Ravine Friday.

organizer Maria Mavridis, mainly thanks to the generous items auctioned off by Ravine's Paul Harber.

when addressing the crowd of 150 people gathered for food, wine, musical entertainment and a beautiful evening overlooking the St. Davids vineyards.

"We're the people we are Pink Pearl Foundation, because of the people who raised us," he said, "and too many of them have lost their

He has lost several family Vineyard Estate Winery members, as Mavridis has, and her mother was also a It raised \$10,500, said big influence in his life, he said — the two have been friends since high school.

He likes the work of Pink Pearl, which tries to make He became emotional life better for those who are fighting cancer, he says, to make them feel better while they deal with the disease.



One of the tables of happy guests supporting the Pink Pearl Foundation.



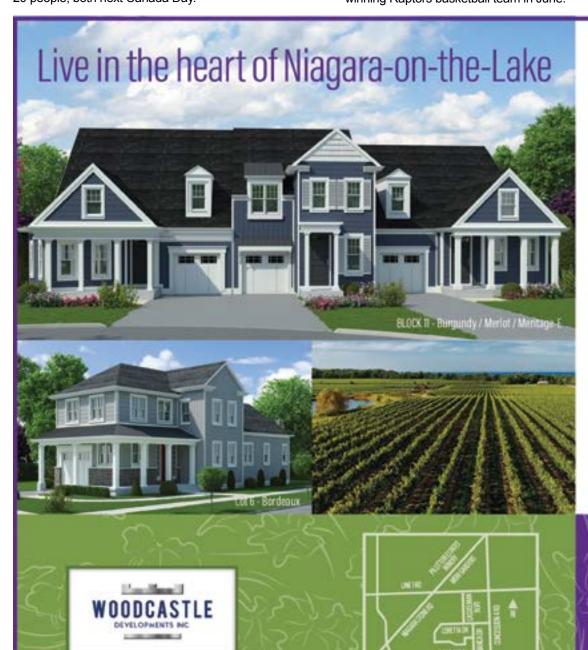
Maria Mavridis stands by nervously as Paul Harber auctions off the main prize, a dinner for 30 people on Canada Day, plus wine and some other goodies. When the bid was up to \$5,200, Pat Darte stepped in and suggested Ravine provide two dinners, and by agreeing, Harber was able to raise more than \$10,000 through the auction. The first dinner went to Jessica Gale, the second to Bob Mavridis, his a dinner for 20 people, both next Canada Day.



Pat Darte, Mark Goldrup and Paul Harber in the vineyards of Ravine Friday night at a fundraiser for the Pink Pearl Foundation. Thursday evening, Harber bid on and won a guitar signed by Great Big Sea's Alan Doyle, who had performed at Jackson Triggs. Friday, Harber presented the guitar to Goldrup, a Virgil resident who is general manager of the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel. Goldrup opened the doors of the hotel to 1,500 people panicking as reports of gun fire and stabbings reached them during the celebration held for the winning Raptors basketball team in June.



Pink shirts Scott Epp, Dan Plomish, Paul Harber (there is pink in his plaid) and Julian Lustig pose with Maria Mavridis at Eat, Drink Pink, an event to raise money for the Pink Pearl Foundation. All went to Niagara District Secondary School together except for Lustig, who married a friend from District, said Mavridis, and drove up from North Carolina to attend the event. Harber says he looks forward to doing the same next year, in Ravine's new social and corporate conference centre. (Photos by Penny Coles)





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July 11, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL



### Sunshine cherry on top for St. Mark's





Judy MacLachlan holds a plate of cherries, the last available for the day. She said the St. Mark's Cherry Festival broke a record this year, selling out cherries and cherry pies in less than an hour.



Linda Brooks, one of the many volunteers at the St. Mark's Cherry Festival Saturday, dishes up cherry pie.



Sue Baxter pours cherry juice with help from her granddaughter, Whitnie Baxter.



Billy Swan and Eiveta Sobol colour some pictures at St. Mark's Church. (Photos by Fred

notllocal.com — THE NOTL LOCAL July 11, 2019

### Beekeeping made easy



Joanna Paul of the Niagara College commercial bee-keeping program displays a busy bee hive during the Horticultural Society garden tour at NOTL Historical Society Museum Saturday. She will be holding classes for kids aged 10 to 14, to introduce youth to the role of bees and beekeepers. Call 905 736 2487 for more information. (*Fred Mercnik*)

### **Garden tour**



Home-owner Trish Anthony shared her beautiful Andrew Logan House gardens on Ricardo Street with interested visitors Saturday during the annual NOTL Horticultural Society garden tour, which featured eight Old Town homes. This garden featured ponds, waterfalls and lots of colourful perennials. (*Fred Mercnik*)



July 11, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL

## 25th anniversary to be celebrated at Rotary Rocks

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

Rotary rocks.

Those two words symbolize everything about the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Jolanta Kudlats, in charge of fundraising for the club and one of the organizers of Rotary Rocks, the main event recognizing the club's milestone, says the name was chosen because it will take place at Queen's Royal Park, the location of the club's gift to the town also to acknowledge its anniversary. Working with the Town's parks department and contributing not only funding but some labour as well, the club built a limestone seating area on the beach to give locals and visitors a place to enjoy a beautiful view and tranquility as they rest on the rocks, with the gazebo behind them and Fort Niagara across the mouth of the river.

"It's one of the most significant and picturesque locations in NOTL," says Jolanta.

The name is also appropriate, she adds, because, "well, after all, Rotary rocks. That says a lot about the club."

It rocks because of all the lion internationally. good it does every year, locally and internationally, with a list of causes it supports far too long to mention.

She and her husband Howard, Rotary treasurer, sitting on the patio of their historic home, built in 1835 and overlooking beautiful English gardens, speak with pride of all their club has done, and continues to do, supported by the hard work of its members.

All the money raised — more than \$100,000 last year — is given to various sored student exchange will be set up for guests to causes, she says.

Over the last 25 years, says Howard, the club has donated more than \$750,000 locally, and probably \$1 mil-



Howie Kudlats, a co-chair of the Rotary Rocks Picnic and John Boot, president of the Rotary Club of NOTL, look forward to the club's anniversary picnic on the rocks. (Cosmo Condina)

years, they mention Hospice ris Awards were given in Niagara, to which Rotary has recognition of outstanding donated \$150,000; Niagara contribution to the commu-Health, \$100,000; RedRoof, nity to three Rotarians and \$86,000, Community Care, two community members, \$30,000; and Well of Hope, handed out at a gala black \$220,000.

A project in Kenya to bridge Room. build water systems received \$85,000, the Gift of Life ing, the club wanted to program \$50,000, Doctors do something where they without Borders, \$15,000, could include the public, so and the Shelter Box program \$50,000.

The club has also sponprograms with clubs in other countries, fostering international understanding, and supports Rotary's global By Design, Strewn wine will program to eradicate polio.

In celebration of its 25th, Big Head wine for \$20, and friendly, Rotary is asking outdoor event, be prepared Looking back over the this spring Rotary Paul Hartie event at the Royal Cam-

But with limited seatan outdoor picnic dinner will be held July 30 at the Queen's Royal Park. Tables bring their own picnic dinner. Live entertainment will be provided by local band be available at \$15 a bottle,

Oast beer at \$5 a glass — all for food to be in non-disalcohol to be ordered ahead of time, by July 23 — and tery-operated candles and Firemaster will wrap up the evening some on your table," no real with what is expected to be candles or lanterns allowed a spectacular fireworks dis- as per fire regulations, and table of six, are available play at dusk.

To be environmentally

posable containers. Bat-Productions tea lights "will look aweno outdoor cooking.

"As always during an hkudlats@gmail.com.

for Mother Nature's surprises. Umbrellas, sunscreen and mosquito repellent may be needed," the Rotary website advises.

Tickets, at \$150 for a at 905-468-2297 or email





Marlo Saganski (centre) of Pedal Pub Niagara presents a cheque for \$2,000 to Shari Hartwick of KidSport Niagara and Steffanie Bjorgan of Red Roof Retreat. The money was raised through a Pedal Pub fundraiser that offered NOTL residents rides for \$20, with all proceeds donated. Pedal Pub owner Tony Visca matched \$1,000 raised so each organization received that amount. Hartwick and Bjorgan said they rode the Pedal Pub with some of their staff, and had a ton of fun, enjoying the music, and a stop at the Wednesday SupperMarket, which they requested. (Penny Coles)

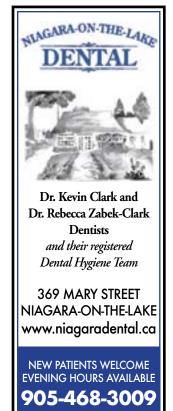




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notllocal.com THE NOTL LOCAL July 11, 2019

# Health, Beauty and Fashion

### Keke Boutique planning outdoor shop for summer

#### **Submitted by Keke Boutique**

Keke Boutique is a women's boutique located inside Penner Building Centre, in the loft area above the paint and giftware. department.

a quaint shop with lots of beeke say opening a bouselection and style. There tique has been something are many brand names in this mother-daughter duo store for all styles and price have wanted to do for some

ranges, such as Dex, Gentle time. Both have a strong Smash & Tess, Priv, Piperwest, Quay and more. They have a great selection of jew-

This stylish boutique is and Kelsey Penner-Over-

Fawn, C'est Moi bamboo, passion for clothing and fashion, and are excited to share that with their cuselry, clothing, accessories, named after Kelsey — Keke ra-on-the-Lake is home Owners Marcia Penner by her brother as a young Owned and operated by nickname stuck, and she has professional, it offers a been Keke ever since.

one shopping, and lots of and botox and fillers. knowledge of materials and

fashions to arrive.

on sale.

### Full range of treatments, safety and professionalism tops

#### **Submitted by** In Touch Day Spa

The charming, histomers. The boutique is toric town of Niaga- new clientele to experience book and Instagram. is a nickname given to her to In Touch Day Spa. child, when he was unable Niki Claus, a certified to say her full name. The aesthetician and born full range of treatments, Keke Boutique strives to from the newest admake their customers' shop- vanced skin care treatping experience nothing less ments, hand and foot than amazing, with one-on-care, eyelash services,

Niki's education products. They promise to through Sheridan Colmake sure you are getting ex- lege, combined with her actly what you are looking for! 28 years of experience, All-new spring and sum- has elevated her passion mer fashions are making and dedication for the their way into the store. This beauty industry, earning year, the trends are bright her the credibility and yellow, mauve, and navy, as loyalty of her clients. well as beautiful florals. We With a spotless, relaxing are so excited for this year's and calming studio, Niki insists on the highest During the summer, standards of safety, pro-Keke Boutique will be hav- fessionalism and proding an outdoor shop every ucts. Her goal, with her Saturday (weather depend- team of professionals, is ing). Come stop by and to continue to provide shop your favourite styles exceptional services for her clients and ensure

905.980.1547

comfortable and enjoy- find her spa and services, as able as possible.

their spa experience is as her services, and you can well as promotions through Niki happily welcomes social media, such as Face-





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 Quay Sunglasses
 Bella Buddha
 Dex Clothing Women's Clothing Keke Boutique • Well-Crafted Jewelry • Excellent Giftware Selection Lofttan Jewelry 700 Penner Street, Virgil | 905.468.3242 | kekeboutique.ca Located inside Penner Building Center in the Loft



Niagara-on-the-Lake

niki.intouchdayspa@gmail.com

**July 11, 2019** THE NOTL LOCAL

### Chooi to play rare Stradivarius at Music Niagara

**Nancy Smith Special to The Local** 

Timothy Chooi, 25-year-old-violinist from Victoria, B.C., has just accomplished what no Canadian musician has done before him: he won second prize at the internationally prestigious Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels.

This is an extraordinary accomplishment, given the competition was founded in 1937 and is the oldest, most established and difficult competition in the world. Winning one of the top prizes is an extraordinary achievement for any violinist, anywhere.

Playing in front of the most discerning crowds and judges at the competition, Chooi delivered an impassioned and intimate performance that was described by the media as "breathtaking" with "completely deserved standing ovations."

I was able to speak to Timothy soon after he returned from Brussels. He was excited about winning not only the Queen Elisabeth Award, but also the 2018 Joseph Joachim violin competition in Hanover Germany. These are the two most prestigious competitions in the world, and he won both of them within one year.

awards.



Timothy Chooi (Photo supplied)

I play the violin the way it wants to be played.

Timothy Chooi

nicate, tell a story. It is re- ing conductors and orches-

"Audience reaction is im- warding to get an emotional portant. It is different than response. The profile and re-I asked Timothy what sports, but you want to feel spect lets me perform at the it meant to him to win the appreciated. You commu- highest levels, with interest-

tras. It opens opportunities dience experience and chose in Europe, North America, simple classic pieces. Keep it won't want to miss include: even Asia, helping build my simple because for audienccareer."

ence when you're playing as prepared as I can be, as classics and British patriotic the rare 1717 Stradivarius sincere as I can be." loaned to you by the Canada Council Instrument Bank? Mark's Church in Niaga-

life-changing moment for portunity to hear an extraorme as a violinist. To have dinary talent play a rare and it with me, along for the beautiful violin. He is already journey, has helped me be a YouTube sensation, attractsuccessful in the events. The ing more than 500,000 views, violin and I have a similar and now you have a chance approach for sound, there is to see him in person. a reciprocal reaction. I play the violin the way it wants to be played."

What attracted you to the violin as a child?

"My brother is five years older and was already playing the violin and that's why I started. I was not a prodigy growing up. So many people could play difficult pieces that I couldn't handle. One thing that set me apart was that I never gave up, and with the help of my parents I gained consistency. Through slow but meaningful work I created a stronger base, didn't take my talent for granted. My priority was work, I never gave up when it came to school life and violin. I'm still a slow learner."

Tell me about the July 27 Music Niagara concert with you on violin and Benjamin Smith on piano.

"I'm focused on the au-

Timothy's concert at St. "It was the most ra-on-the-Lake is a great opUpcoming concerts you

Last Night of The Proms, es, less is more. Winning the the most famous annual Do you feel a differ- awards raises hype but I'm concert of the year featuring pieces played by the Niagara Proms Orchestra.

> Elmer Iseler Singers, back by popular demand they're set to shake the rafters at the Niagara Mennonite Church through the power of twenty exquisite voices united in song.

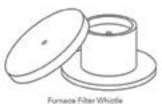
For more information go to: musicniagara.org.

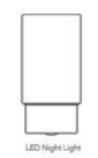


Inga Filippova-Williams will perform Vienna to Broadway, the July 15 Oast Cabaret concert. (Photo supplied)

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Niagara on-the-lake

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notllocal.com THE NOTL LOCAL July 11, 2019

# Local group celebrates 50 years of camping LOCAL HAPPENINGS

#### Randy Klaassen **Special to The Local**

A group of Niagara-on-the-Lake friends and family members with a shared history celebrated 50 years of camping together on the July long weekend.

During the 1960s there was a succession of family migrations of Mennonites from Uruguay to NOTL. These people had left Germany in the late 1940s, after the Second World War, seeking refuge from violence, and hoping for opportunities in education and meaningful employment. Many of these families joined Mennonites of other backgrounds at the Niagara United Mennonite Church (NUMC).

After immigrating to Niagara, Joachim Regier initiated a discussion with friends about the desire to have a getaway experience in the "flavour" of the Uruguayan culture they had acquired. Gunnar Doerwald recently recalled that conversation of 50 years ago during the first "Uruguayan campout" weekend at the Elora Gorge Park. In the early 1970s, the group's annual campout moved to Pinehurst Lake, between Cambridge and Paris.

The first year the Pinehurst group campsite had small trees and little shade, whereas currently the tree canopy is more than 20 metres high. The site serves the group well, as it has large areas for tents and trailers, with an open space for the bonfire to fuel grills for the Uruguayan-style barbeque, known in Spanish as an "asado."

While a core group of about 50 camp three nights, the highlight of the weekend is always the barbeque on Saturday evening, when the group size swells to about 100 adults, plus many children.

The event begins in the morning, with specially-cut beef ribs being set out on a table. The assigned grillers (asaderos), keep basting the ribs in a specially-made Uruguayan marinade (salmuera). Early afternoon the asaderos light the fire to prepare charcoal for grilling. By mid-afternoon the thick-cut ribs are laid out on a



que. (Randy Klaassen)



Nancy Woelke, one of the asader- Dinner's served once the ribs are ready, with os, prepares the ribs for the barbe- salads and buns to accompany them. (Randy Klaassen)



Sunday morning the campers gather for their morning matey, before a church service is held. (Randy Klaassen)

three-metre length grill, to begin their slow roasting. Leaning over the grill and using hands to check the temperature of the coals, the asaderos the fire. The ribs are given a cook evenly.

perfection, salads are prepared, then tied to a tree, symbolizing along with vegetables and buns their memory. to complete the dinner menu.

following year's event.

business agenda, NUMC Pastor Renate Klaassen offered recognition of the 50th anniversary, and shared a memorial of those from the group who maintain a constant watch, have passed away, including and apply more hot coals from Joachim Regier who first initiated the event. Participants constant baste of salmuera, were invited to take a yellow and are occasionally turned to ribbon, upon which to write the name of a loved one who When the ribs are nearing had died. The ribbons were

After the rib feast, camp-Before the meal is served, ers sit around a campfire in a The message acknowledged a brief business meeting is large circle. In years past, Kurt God's protection and proviconducted to report the year's Wiens and Siegfried Regier sion. And while the group attendance, and volunteers (recently passed away) lead the focuses on their Uruguayan are requested to organize the group in singing German folk experience, there is much dissongs. The singing lasts long This year, in addition to the into the early morning hours.

Sunday morning, the group gathers early, again around the campfire, to drink the traditional Uruguayan tea, Yerba Mate (pronounced mateh). There is a brief break for breakfast, before gathering again for a worship service. This year Pastor Renate shared a message reflecting on the harrowing escape from what was then East Germany, to the West, from the perspective of children, who are now the grandparents at the campsite. cussion of thankfulness to the blessing of being Canadian.

### **AA MEETING**

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### **BATTLE OF FORT GEORGE RE-ENACTMENT**

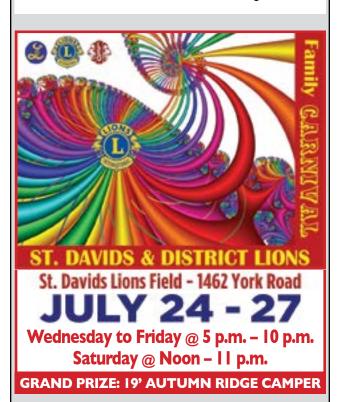
July 13 & 14 @ 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The 206th anniversary of the Battle of Fort George. Re-enactors from all over North America will descend upon Fort George as they re-enact one of the pivotal events in Niagara during the War of 1812. Battle re-enactments will be scheduled throughout the weekend. 1812 programming including musket firings, cannon firings, music presentations and more will be happening both days inside Fort George. A special event rate applies. For more information, call Parks Canada at 905-468-6614.

### **ART & FASHION LECTURE SERIES AT THE MUSEUM**

July 18 @ 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Collecting Fashion: What and Why the Fashion on History Museum Collects - Jonathan Walford. Tickets are \$10 for the general public or free for Niagara Historical Society Members. Please reserve at contact@nhsm.ca as seating is limited.



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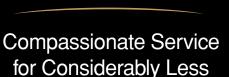
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### **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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#### Across:

- Distant
- Apex 6
- Jobs 9
- "ER" actress --- Tiernev
- 15 "--- Believer", Monkees hit
- **16** Start playing!
- **17** Tap
- 19 "Fear of Flying" author --- Jong
- 20 Snow runner 21 Less common
- **22** Buoyant
- 23 Old-fashioned cab
- 25 Lightweight tropical hats 27 Elite group
- **28** Gene Pitney was only
- 24hrs from here
- Downloadable program
- 32 Small lake
- **34** Natter
- 35 Tenor --- Bocelli **37** Sidestepped
- **39** Splendors **40** Demeanor
- 41 Total
- **42** Capital of Norway
- 43 Source of formic acid
- 44 Jambalaya ingredient
- 46 Little one
- 47 "Band of Gold" singer

- Freda ---
- **48** Miscreants 51 Economizer
- **54** Succeed
- **56** One of New York's finest, perhaps
- 57 Nautical fastener
- **58** To
- 60 Carroll's rabbit-hole explorer
- 61 Wyo. neighbor
- **62** Extended area of land
- **63** Waterproofed as many showers are
- 64 Affirmative vote
- **65** Solemn promises

#### Down:

- 1 Pennsylvania Mennonites
- Sri ---, formerly Ceylon Ahead of the field
- Mineral source
- Litter of pigs
- **Bracket** 6
- Stimulus
- Security detachment
- Anna Paquin won an Oscar for this film, aged 11
- 10 Spanish winds
- 11 The pen
- 12 Recoil

- **13** Remain
- **18** Rotating engine part
- **24** Welcome
- 26 Old Testament song
- **28** Sliver
- **29** Nobleman
- 30 Rind
- **31** --- doble (dance)
- **32** One of the Three Bears
- **33** "--- Almighty", in which Morgan Freeman played God
- 34 Nixon's successor, informally
- **36** Drivel
- **38** At peace
- **39** Rev up
- 41 --- Todd, barber
- **45** Chest pain **46** Am disposed
- 47 Serenity
- **48** Pro
- 49 Gun handle nick
- **50** Notices
- 51 Get outta here!
- "--- want is a room somewhere..." ("My Fair Lady")
- 53 Bridal wear
- 55 Start of a Hamlet soliloquy
- **59** Geological time composed of periods

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### **SUDOKU PUZZLE**

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9			3	5	4		8	1

### **PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**49** Notch, **50** Spots, **51** Scat, **52** All I, **53** Veil, **55** To be, **59** Era. 38 Departed, 39 Gun, 41 Sweeney, 45 Angina, 46 Tend to, 47 Peace, 48 For, **28** Tad, **29** Aristocrat, **30** Peel, **31** Paso, **32** Mama, **33** Evan, **34** Geny, **36** Drool, 9 The piano, 10 Aires, 11 Stir, 12 Kick, 13 Stay, 18 Cam, 24 See in, 26 Psalm, Down: 1 Amish, 2 Lanka, 3 Out in front, 4 Ore, 5 Farrow, 6 Tier, 7 Impetus, 8 Patrol,

57 Cleat, 58 In order to, 60 Alice, 61 Meb, 62 Tract, 63 Tiled, 64 Aye, 65 Oaths. 43 Ant, 44 Prawn, 46 Tot, 47 Payne, 48 Felons, 51 Saver, 54 Get on, 56 Cop, 32 Mere, 34 Gas, 35 Andrea, 37 Avoided, 39 Glories, 40 Manner, 41 Sum, 42 Oslo, 20 Ski, 21 Rarer, 22 Perky, 23 Hansom, 25 Topis, 27 Few, 28 Tulsa, 29 App, Across: 1 Aloof, 6 Tip, 9 Tasks, 14 Maura, 15 I'm a, 16 Hit it, 17 Intercept, 19 Erica,

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### Broga great for meditation, fitness and bonding

Mike Balsom **Special to The Local** 

"It's not yoga, Mike, it's broga."

Those are the words of Keith Simmonds, host of weekly broga sessions above his garage in Queenston.

Once a week, a rotating cast of about 15 men, mostly business leaders in the Niagara-on-the-Lake communipower breakfast, but instead with an hour of stretches and flexibility exercises led by one of five certified instructors.

It's a gathering that has taken place at least once a week for about three years, started by Simmonds and his wife, Toby, a certified yoga Maria Cerenzia, the lone instructor herself.

According to the Collins English Dictionary, broga can be defined as "a trademarked exercise regime for men that combines fitness exercises with traditional variations on the name joga and yoguy are a couple of them — but basically what it amounts to is yoga for guys. In St. Catharines, Yoga by Sarah runs an eightweek beginner men's broga class, but the group in Queenston is a more informal affair.

purest form is as much about the meditation as it is about the fitness. And with that in mind, the setting for this broga group is ideal.

The room is large, 450 square feet, with pitched ceilings on either side, and a sliding glass door that looks directly out onto the escarpment. The scent of incense hangs below the peak, and it's just hot and humid enough on this day to set the mood perfectly.

The eight in attendance (thankfully none clad in lycra) arrive just before 8 a.m., and get busy setting down their mats and doing some preliminary stretching.

As you can imagine, in a group of eight men who all know each other fairly well, there is some friendly banter and gentle ribbing that takes place at this time.

Del Rollo, director, Eastty, begin their day not with a ern Estates and Government Relations at Arterra Wines Canada, talks a bit about the Alan Doyle concert the previous night at Jackson Triggs, while humorous stories of mutual acquaintances and some absent members of the group are shared.

Then, today's instructor, female in the room, takes control. She quickly sets the tone with her calm, relaxed vocal delivery. She leads the men through some general light stretches, guiding their yoga postures." There are bring mind and body together for the session.

the meditation and mindfulness involved in these translate to our interactions, I work with, or customers. us to be better at whatever class and this broga group. we are doing."

Simpson. "Feedback from but I teach the same, bethe guys is, if we don't do a cause I feel the challenge is class this week I'm going to good, and with challenge be hurting, and it's first the you progress more quickly. meditation side of things. You clear your head, and you're more relaxed. It defi- ent levels, but they are doing nitely helps with any other the same exercises." sport you do."

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breathing in an effort to Instructor Maria Cerenzia with Gord Statham (front, left), Steve Deboer, Sean Simpson, Keith Simmonds (back left), Del Rollo and Josh Wiwcharyk. (Mike Balsom)

Sean Simpson, owner of is cycling. Cerenzia has clear- Deboer, owner of Zoom Simpson's Pharmacy, credits ly tailored today's workout to the flexibility needed for spending hours on a bicysessions to helping him with cle. A certified yoga instruchis state of mind. "It does tor for 12 years, she's been working with this group for whether it's with the people roughly 12 months. She says there's not a huge difference Of course, yoga in its There's a sense of calm and it between what she would do clears our minds, and helps with a women's or mixed

> "In general, most men Simmonds agrees with aren't as flexible as women, They do just as much as the women do, maybe at differ-

When it comes to fleximost of today's participants this class are obvious. Steve culty with the positions.

Leisure and a long-time avid and competitive cyclist, is at the higher end of the flexileads the group through a series of hip-opening exercises, Deboer is able to twist his body into shapes more commonly seen in a bag of pretzels.

The names of those on from." the lower end of the flexibility spectrum will be left out of this article for their own protection. Suffice to say, there was a lot of groaning coming from certain move, even the most comindividuals as the stretches became more complicated. And a few times, the silence was broken by some friendly "chirping" at those who may The "other sport" for bility, the different levels in have been having some diffi-

most likely, where broga differs from your common, everyday yoga class. Cerenbility spectrum. As Cerenzia zia says, "we get a lot more groaning and moaning in bro-yoga for sure. Men just seem like when they are in group together, they do get a little competitive, and I think that's where it comes

> Despite the struggles for some, and the talks of a "fractured ego," none of the participants shy away from at least attempting every plicated ones.

Before the session comes to a close, Cerenzia walks through the room, stopping at each "bro," placing her hands on their foreheads and imparting positive energy to

These are the moments, each participant to take with them for the rest of the day.

> When the hour is up, it's clear there is a general sense of well-being, and of accomplishment, from each of the participants. And there is certainly a sense of camaraderie at having completed this workout together.

> A post-session gathering in the Simmonds kitchen is a chance for the guys to further bond and, today, to celebrate the birthday of one of their own, Gord Statham, who, Deboer tells me, is a "beast on a bike."

> After a quick espresso and some healthy muffins in celebration, they are all on their way to their daily jobs, relaxed yet energized, and ready to handle all that comes their way.

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