



**Doors tribute:  
Riders on  
the Storm**  
**page 17**



Sweet, sweet cherries

Judy MacLachlan, Coun. Gary Burroughs and Barbara O'Connor sell beautiful fresh cherries from MacSween Orchards at the St. Mark's Cherry Festival. (Penny Coles) For more photos see page 14.

St. Davids Lions  
Carnival returns

Penny Coles  
The Local

St. Davids Lions are wondering if their 60th anniversary carnival can top last year's popular event, which was four days long and the biggest and best yet, after two years of a pandemic. The attendance was higher than ever before, and they made out better financially than any other year, says vice-president Martin Forster. Some of the food sold out, and tickets for the raffle grand prize were gone before the last night was out, says Forster, who is also regional district chair. All that to say this year could be another record-breaker, explains Forster. The Lions have expanded some of the most popular events, and downsized others, such as bingo, which

will still be offered but in a smaller tent. There will be other outside vendors, and the Lioness will be helping with the fish pond and birthday games. "We're trying to get as much back as we can after COVID," says Forster. "The carnival is our most significant fundraiser, and that's what helps us give back to the community." There is also a full lineup of music organized by Ken Lamb for Friday and Saturday with a wine and beer tent, and for the first time, as a special 60th anniversary event, Lions will open the park Sunday from 3 to 11 p.m. The rides and games will be shut down, but the stage will be drawing a crowd for a fabulous country music event, with a \$20 donation, and the Lions food booths will be open. Lions will once again

Continued on page 3

Thrift store finally opens to those who love a bargain

Sharon Burns  
The Local

Board members and volunteers at the thrift store at Newark Neighbours' new location in Virgil greeted customers with warm smiles and warm cookies on Monday as over 25 customers entered through the doors for the grand opening. "We want to be the first here today," said Rebecca Torres who, with her friends and sister, arrived

earlier than the 10 a.m. opening. "We love this store. This is a bigger place. It will bring more people." As for its new location in Virgil, Torres said, "even if it moves to the moon I will be there." "They always have beautiful things, and their prices are so reasonable that it's silly to go anywhere else," said St. Catharines resident Joy Leonard. Newark Neighbours' food bank opened its

doors last week and volunteers have been working hard to prepare the large space in the former Lincoln Interiors building for the thrift store. Items include clothing for men, women and children, kitchen and household items and linens and accessories. Cindy Grant, chair of the Newark Neighbours board, was excited and

Continued on page 10



Susan Sparrow-Mace, project manager for the Newark Neighbours move, is surrounded by board members at the grand opening of its thrift store in Virgil. From left to right: Mariitta Maavara, Marilyn Rickard, Nancy Jackson, Sparrow-Mace, Pat Fryer, and Cindy Grant. (Sharon Burns)



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# Tune in to see NOTL featured on *Amazing Race*

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Season nine of *Amazing Race Canada* debuted on CTV Television last week. The Canadian version of the international reality television franchise had its first season in 2013. CTV introduced this year's contestants last Tuesday night as they gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to begin the nine-episode series arc.

If you aren't already a fan of the program, during which 10 teams of two race across the country picking up clues and completing challenges to win a huge package of cash and prizes, this season is the perfect one for you to jump on the bandwagon. Following are five reasons, in no particular order, why you should watch *Amazing Race Canada* this summer.

## The most diverse cast ever

The producers of the show have certainly made an incredible attempt to reflect the diversity of the country. Only eight of this season's contestants could be classified as Caucasian. The rest represent a number of different communities, including newcomers to Canada and the LGBTQ2S+ community.

Gisele Shaw, racing with fellow wrestler Gail Kim, is

a transgender female wrestler. Another team, friends Jermaine Aranha and Justin Baird, are Black drag queens from Toronto. Fans of Canada's Drag Race will recognize them by their professional names: Anastazia Anaquway and Kimora Amour.

In addition, there are four contestants with Indigenous backgrounds. Deven Condo-Mitchell and Amanda Larocque hail from the Gaspé region of Quebec. They are a Mi'kmaq couple who live off the land. And Shayla Stonechild and Joel Oulette from Medicine Hat, Alberta, are both members of the Naddle Whutén First Nation.

Finally, friends Ben Chut-ta and Anwar Ahmed may have had a bit of a hometown advantage at the start of this season, as they both live in Winnipeg. But Chut-ta is a newcomer to Canada from Ethiopia, and Ahmed came to the country from Somalia as a refugee.

## Stories of courage

As with many past seasons, some of this year's contestants bring with them a very interesting back story.

Comox, British Columbia's Tyler Turner, who is paired up with fellow adrenaline junkie Kayleen Vanderee, is a 2022 Winter Olympics gold medalist para-

snowboarder. Turner lost both of his legs in a skydiving accident. He continues to skydive after his accident and also works as a skydiving instructor. Watching him rappel down the side of a multi-level building in episode one was inspiring.

Ty Smith, a 25-year-old public speaker and mental health advocate, is a survivor of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash in 2018. After losing 16 of his friends, teammates and coaches, he had to deal with survivor's guilt, leading to mental health issues. His partner, Kat Kastner, has also dealt with depression, and works as a mental health advocate as well.

## A chance to learn more about Canada

Episode one took contestants from the crossroads of Winnipeg's Portage and Main to the Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq, an architectural marvel opened in 2021 that houses the world's largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art. That collection played a crucial role in the first challenge.

From there, each team flew to Calgary, where one of the challenges was to rappel down the side of that city's Central Library. The four-storey, \$245 million building was designed by American-

Norwegian architecture firm Snøhetta and Canadian firm DIALOG. The design features an oval-like form and an interior with a large central atrium and a skylight.

And the final checkpoint for episode one was the Bow River Peace Bridge. That's right, another Peace Bridge.

Maybe you've seen some of these architectural marvels in your travels, and maybe you haven't. Knowing how much many Local readers love architecture, though, exposure to some of these buildings may help you plan your next trip.

Episode two, by the way, airing after press time this Tuesday, took the contestants to Smithers, British Columbia, 1,146 kilometres northwest of Vancouver. But check out ways to catch up on the first two episodes if you haven't seen them by visiting [ctv.ca/shows/the-amazing-race-canada](http://ctv.ca/shows/the-amazing-race-canada).

## There's a contestant from Niagara this season

Gracie Lowes, who grew up in nearby Pelham, is competing on *Amazing Race Canada* with her friend from Canning, Nova Scotia, Lily Bateman.

She follows in the footsteps of Erika Casupanan, the young woman from Niagara Falls who won Survivor 41 in December 2021.

As reported by Richard Wright in Pelham Today's online news, the 25-year-old Lowes, who now lives in Toronto, is a former Loran Scholar who met her race partner while they were on an internship in Vancouver.

Lowes told Wright how grateful she was for the



*Amazing Race Canada* host Jon Montgomery took a selfie with locals Tracey Frena and her daughter Rachel, both huge fans of the show, when he was in town for filming. Fort Mississauga in the background is believed to be featured on the show. (Supplied)

experience, and how much of a privilege it was for her to compete with such a diverse cast this season. And she relished the opportunity to see first-hand so much of what Canada has to offer.

Many from the town of Pelham, she said, reached out to her in support of her bid to win *Amazing Race Canada*. The Glynn A. Green Public School graduate told Wright "it does just feel like the whole town is rooting for you. I feel very grateful to be from Pelham and I hope that I do Pelham proud."

## The race is coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake August 15

Actually, the producers shot part of an episode right here in NOTL back in May. But the episode that takes in

the sights of this beautiful town airs on CTV on Tuesday, August 15.

Back on May 10, The Local reported that NOTL resident Tracey Frena and her daughter Rachel, big fans of *Amazing Race Canada*, got word that a crew from the show was seen near the NOTL Golf Club. The pair rushed down to Front Street and eventually saw a camera crew running toward Queen Street. They spotted the crew again near the Starbucks outlet.

Later, when the pair returned to the golf club and walked up the path to Fort Mississauga, they spotted host Jon Montgomery, who happily posed for a photo with them.

If you tune in on Aug. 15 you will most definitely see the prettiest town in Canada play host to whichever contestants are still in the race. You may even see a few people you know.

*Amazing Race Canada* airs on CTV Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m., and can also be watched on the Crave TV app.

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# Country at the Carnival Sunday evening

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

It's been about a decade since St. Davids resident Ken Lamb began organizing a stage, bands and a beer and wine tent to add an extra element to the St. Davids

Lions Carnival. It's been a successful addition to the event, and this year musical groups will be performing Friday evening from 4 to 11 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. Since it's the 60th anniversary of the carnival,

Lamb decided to go for six decades of music to celebrate 60 years of Lions' service to the community. It will feature great music from excellent local bands — something for everyone. Friday starts with the Repeatles, with music of the

Beatles era, followed by the popular Angela Seeger. The evening ends with It's All Been Done, a tribute to the Barenaked Ladies. Saturday's entertainment starts at noon with The Hitmen, followed by Turntable Rock with its 'smooth classics,' then the Niagara Rhythm Section with a mixture of country, pop, folk and jazz across the decades. They will be followed by Hungry Hearts, a Springsteen revival, with Cottage Brew promising timeless favourites to close the concert. The concert series, mix of music and drinks tent was

originally intended to attract another demographic to the carnival, says Lamb. But that's not all for this year's 60th anniversary — Lamb is trying something new and different to celebrate the milestone. "I felt like I needed something really special Sunday," he says, and what he has come up with is Country at the Carnival, with four bands performing, beginning at 3 p.m. The tickets are a \$20 donation to the Lions — payable at countryatthecarnival@stdavidslions.ca. A local businessman is

underwriting the event, allowing every dollar to go back to the community, says Lamb. The line-up begins with Silverado followed by Brad Battle Band from 5 to 7 p.m., Aldershot from 7 to 9 p.m., and Country Junkies from 9 to 11 p.m. Although the carnival itself will be shut down — no rides or games — Lions food, beer and wine will continue to be served, says Lamb. He's hoping the evening will be lots of fun, and is suggesting "country attire — go country or stay home," he jokes.



Turntable Rock will offer the 'smooth classics'. (Photos supplied)



It's All Been Done, a tribute to the Barenaked Ladies.



Angela Seeger, playing music of the '80s and '90s.

## Famous Lion burger back, with rides and games

Continued from page 1

be offering the "world-famous Lions burger," says Forster. Also hot off the grill will be peameal bacon on a bun, and the Great Canadian burger, a combination of beef and peameal. Also back are the fries, onion rings and much-loved corn on a cob. Townsend rides aimed at kids and teens are returning, as are the traditional Lions activities such as the nickel

sale and the ever-popular grocery wheel — if you play, there's a chance you'll take home a basket of groceries. Leos, the youth branch of Lionism, will be helping out wherever needed, likely in the burger and fries booths, selling pop, and in the bingo tent. St. Davids-Queenston United Church will be back in their booth, selling the delicious, traditional selection of homemade pies

made by parishioners. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the carnival for a trailer, donated by Niagara Trailers, with a second prize of \$1,000. Admission and parking are free. The carnival runs Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 26 to 28, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, July 29, from noon to 11 p.m.; and Sunday, July 30, 3 to 11 p.m.

### St. Davids Lions Club

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# New CRA board chair has plans for neighbourhood

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

The Chautauqua Residents Association has announced its new board of directors, with Weston Miller, one of four returning members, elected president. Miller is the third generation to call Chautauqua home, living in a house on Shakespeare Avenue, which brings him great memories of the time he spent in the neighbourhood as a boy. Miller's grandfather immigrated to NOTL in 1965 and has been in the same

log cabin since, he says. "After university I bought the house between my grandfather's and my parents'. That brings me a lot of joy. I'm very fortunate and blessed to have been able to do that." And it's part of the reason being president of the CRA is such an honour for him, and important to him. The Chautauqua Residents Association has been around since 1952, Miller says, "with pretty consistent participation from its residents." While it is noted for its

social events, such as an annual summer golf tournament and the popular September corn roast, it also gets involved in issues that are important to preserving the neighbourhood as a safe, historic community, and supports two other local committees working toward the same goal, says Miller. One such entity is the Friends of Ryerson Park, a group of residents which began advocating for change in their neighbourhood more than two years ago. They were successful

in having parking issues addressed, but at the same time asked for a reduced speed limit on Chautauqua streets, which hasn't happened. Speeding still remains a huge area of concern, says Miller. Also on their list of issues, being tackled by another group, is the threat from developers of changing the character of their neighbourhood. They are advocating for a list of design criteria developers must follow.

Stewards of Sustainability (SOS), the third group, aims to develop an easily-accessible resource base that will provide information to new developers, residents, designers, and planners, Miller explains, "so that development in the Chautauqua neighbourhood can occur in a sustainable manner that keeps the neighbourhood's character and tree canopy in mind."

The association, he says, follows a three-pronged approach: advocating for residents, which this year is focusing on traffic safety and a reduced speed limit, as well as non-owner occupied short-term rentals; neighbourhood preservation; and presenting the social events so important for the community to come together and enjoy.

"One objective close to my heart," says Miller, "and something I'm looking at taking on as president, is highlighting the heritage of the neighbourhood. Chautauqua has an immense historical and cultural value, and I think that value has to be highlighted more clearly. I'm hoping the CRA can develop a plan that will allow us to share its history with residents and visitors alike."

Miller, also recently elected to the board of the Niagara Foundation, is hoping the process will become easier for Chautauqua with the support of the foundation and its aim of preserving heritage in town. "That's one of my main projects," he says.

The continuation of social initiatives that members appreciate so much, and that play a role in keeping the neighbourhood together, are also important to him.

Next up is the annual

golf tournament, to be held in August at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

While Miller says it is great to see Chautauqua residents out on the course playing golf, it's really the dinner afterwards that includes those who haven't played in the tournament "that is really a big laugh-fest. It's an event that brings everyone together, and reminds us we have a great group of neighbours here."

The most popular event of the year, he says, is the "iconic corn roast," which offers food, drinks and ice cream, as well as kids' games. It's on Labour Day, this year Sept. 4, and always well-attended not only by Chautauqua residents but by other community members.

"I can remember when I was a little one, and Tom Braybrook (now moved out of the area) organized all the kids games," recalls Miller. "They were the same games that are played today, and it's fun that we are still playing them. That's one of those things that I hope will carry on to the next generation of kids."

A holiday get-together is a winter take on the corn roast, he says, with carolling, hot chocolate and a Sentineal horse and sleigh to pull the kids around, with Santa making an appearance as well.

In addition, he adds, "our board has been tasked with coming up with a new event. We have some pretty exciting ideas, and we'll be announcing something that will probably be for the spring of next year."

Although every neighbourhood has its charm and sense of community, Chautauqua has its own unique feel to it, "and that's why I'm so eager to do my part to be sure everyone appreciates what we have, and to share that desire to really preserve it for the neighbourhood long-term," he says.

And part of that is advocacy with the town, which the Friends of Ryerson Park have taken on.

Last year there was a presentation to council about non-owner occupied short-term rentals in the neighbourhood, which with its smaller homes has become a target for investors.

There are now 23 li-

censed short-term rentals, he said, and the committee will follow up by presenting some recommendations to deal with that issue.

But the most important problem to solve, Miller adds, is cars speeding through narrow streets, where kids ride their bikes, and where there are no sidewalks for pedestrians.

Cars parking on the narrow streets were also a safety issue, and the town's willingness to put up no-parking signs has been helpful. Residents are adapting to it, Miller says, and for the most part, the people he has spoken to are happy with the results. "It's made an immense difference," he says.

"Slowing traffic down is the most important issue now, more than heritage preservation or anything else. It's nice to see young families coming to the neighbourhood. When I grew up in Chautauqua we all rode our bikes and we had a great time playing on the street. But where I am on Shakespeare I see the cars flying by kids on their bikes. We really have to do something, and I'm happy to see the Friends of Ryerson Park taking the lead on this issue."

Preservation can be an uphill battle he says, "but we're fortunate to have so many members who feel the same. I'm hoping it won't be that much of an uphill battle."

And as residents advocate for development limitations, "we try to be understanding and open to what council can and cannot do, and that they'll do what they can, knowing that what happens in Chautauqua affects the greater Niagara-on-the-Lake area."

The three separate groups working on different issues, all with the best interests of the neighbourhood at heart, will help to accomplish the goals they all support.

"We're all volunteer organizations and it's nice to have the synergy of different groups who can put their energy and limited resources into specific issues to tackle them more efficiently, while communicating together."

Outgoing president Brian Crow "has done an incredible job in creating a more inclusive environment in the CRA, and making sure everyone can have their say and find a way to become involved in it."

Kate Sullivan, Derek Cadman and Kurt Hamm are returning board members along with Miller, joined by first-time board members Mary Kilmer, Ricky Watson and Sarah Begley.



Weston Miller is the new president of the Chautauqua Residents Association.(Supplied)

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# Shaw offers *Mother, Daughter* in outdoor Spiegeltent

Sharon Burns  
The Local

A new theatre space at Shaw Festival, a round wooden tent filled with mirrors, is the perfect venue to reflect the many facets of mother-daughter relationships.

*Mother, Daughter* is about the moment when a child realizes that parents are flawed human beings. Through typically mundane, normal and habitual conversations about a boyfriend, a bath and a cup of tea, Patty Jamieson as mother, and Jade Repeta as daughter, circle around each other both physically and verbally. As many of these conversations can be, feelings get hurt and words

and intentions are misinterpreted, until finally an effort is made to make it right, albeit one wonders, is it too late?

The play is held in Shaw's Spiegeltent, a structure built in Belgium in 1921. It is a circular structure, with a saloon-style feeling, festooned with multiple mirrors ('spiegel' is Flemish for mirror) and rich, dark drapery. Most of the action takes place on centre stage — think theatre-in-the-round — but a final and pivotal scene occurs on a small stage, right next to where a different real-life mother and daughter from the community are seated for every performance.

The 45-minute play, written and directed by

Selma Dimitrijevic, also casts men in the role of Mother and Daughter. The audience does not know which cast members will appear, however, the dialogue is ubiquitous in homes around the globe.

Dimitrijevic wrote the play after reading *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck, in which a child comes to the harsh realization that "adults do not always have divine intelligence, that their judgements are not always wise, their thinking true, their sentences just." Daughter needs to find it in herself to forgive Mother these transgressions.

*Mother, Daughter* plays until Oct. 7. Tickets are available at shawfest.com.



Ensemble members Vinnie Alberto and Shane Carty take on the main character roles in some performances of *Mother, Daughter*. (Shaw Festival, Michael Cooper)



Jade Repeta and Patty Jamieson in *Mother, Daughter*. (Shaw Festival, Michael Cooper)



## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS AMENDING ZONING BY-LAW TO REMOVE HOLDING (H) SYMBOL

**What:** Notice of Intention to Pass an Amending Zoning By-law to Remove Holding (H) Symbol (under Section 36 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990 as amended).

**Regarding:** File ZBA-08-2023

911 Lakeshore Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

**What is this?**



The Zoning By-law amendment application proposes to remove the Holding (H) symbol that applies to the subject lands (see location map) through site specific Zoning By-law 500XH-18.

The Holding (H) symbol requires that the dry fire hydrant on the subject lands is connected to an adequate water source and that the uses on the subject lands are serviced with an adequate septic system. These requirements have been addressed. Upon removal of the Holding (H) symbol, the subject lands may be used for an estate winery and associated secondary uses in accordance with Zoning By-law 500XH-18.

The Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake may pass the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment to remove the Holding (H) symbol from the subject lands no earlier than the **July 25, 2023** Council meeting. However, Council may consider the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment at a later meeting.

Under Section 36(3) of the *Planning Act*, only the applicant has appeal rights with respect to the removal of a Holding (H) symbol. There are no third-party rights to appeal the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

**Town Hall is open for the public to attend Committee of the Whole and Council Meetings, including Public Meetings, in-person. Alternatively, the public will continue to have the option to register in advance to participate electronically.**

If you wish to participate electronically to make an oral presentation or ask questions at the Council meeting, you must register in advance with the Town Clerk ([clerks@notl.com](mailto:clerks@notl.com) or **905-468-3266**). You will receive an email on the date of the meeting with instructions to connect to the meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone.

If you wish to attend the Council meeting in-person, registration with the Clerk is appreciated.

If you wish to view the Council meeting for information purposes, registration is not required. The meeting will be available for viewing at the following link: <https://www.notl.com/council-government/mayor-council/meetings-agendas-minutes>

### For more information:

Please contact **Victoria Nikoltcheva**, Planner II, at **905-468-3266 ext. 253** or via email at [victoria.nikoltcheva@notl.com](mailto:victoria.nikoltcheva@notl.com) if you require additional information.

A copy of the application and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town's website, <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notice> or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, ON).

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, July 12, 2023

Shaunna Arenburg, Acting Town Clerk



# EDITORIAL

## Climate and weather make us feel humbled



**Owen Bjorgan**  
Special to The Local

What blows my mind about the natural world? A lot, quite frankly, and this is probably obvious for those who read these articles. I suppose the sensation

of being wowed by the outdoors is a packaged deal when you're a nature enthusiast, educator and tour guide all wrapped into a human burrito.

I find that some relationships of biotic and abiotic entities on planet Earth create a heightened sense of our place in the world as tiny ants on a giant ball. I like to contemplate how relevant we are as humans, and how we continue to relate to some remarkably intriguing

forces and patterns we see across the globe.

Besides biological studies, I have always been fascinated with weather and climate systems. I once wanted to be a storm chaser or a meteorologist, as the ultra powerful and indifferent forces of nature just operate, supply and destroy the Earth's surface whether we exist or not. When you see a hurricane making landfall in the United States on the news, we are offered only a glimpse of a story that is much longer and truly global.

Most hurricanes actually begin their lives in the steamy jungles of the central west African continent, high above the heads of chimpanzees and hippos. Starting off as mundane thunderstorms, the cumulonimbus clouds will grow as tropical rainforest evapotranspiration and exposed water continue to fuel them. They then drift innocently across the desolate mid-Atlantic Ocean. As they approach the shallow warm Caribbean, some storms

not only grow faster, but begin to rotate as they encounter the new influence of westerly winds.

If all of these ingredients become correct enough, a devastating hurricane slams into the United States, and we get the stormy leftovers as the storm starts to switch back towards the eastern North American coast. Once again, the slightly rotating mess traverses back across the Atlantic, only to bring rainfall to the United Kingdom and Scandinavia. Once the weather system dissipates into drier eastern Europe, we recollect a story of how an everyday thunderstorm in Cameroon could cost lives in Florida and bring drizzly rain to Norway. That story of travel is downright fascinating to me.

On a similar note, dust from one of the driest places in the world, the north African Sahara Desert, can blow across the Atlantic and bring essential mineral nutrients to one of the wettest places in the world, the Amazon rainforest in South

America. A geographically giant storm or dust cloud may literally travel the world, but in an isolated incident, a smaller-sized storm cell can create tornadoes. These sinister yet beautiful creatures produce the highest wind speeds ever recorded on the planet, like the 484 km/hr winds of the 1999 Bridge Creek-Moore tornado in Oklahoma. When I think of that number, I feel myself humbled and puny in human stature. It blows things around, and it blows my mind.

Merely even trying to conceptualize that statistic is both terrifying and wildly impressive at the same time. I referred to a tornado as a 'creature' because it almost behaves like a living thing. It grows, changes, creates waste and can change your life more than a politician. That's why my promised retirement gift to my dad, Moe Bjorgan, is to go to the midwest for a storm-chasing tour one day. We are both closet storm geeks.

Recently, my dad and I

were standing around a backyard campfire at our place. The day was hot, and so was the fire. I got close to the pit to add more wood and cardboard. The flames were appreciably extra toasty, even in their contained microcosm of a fire pit.

As the ashes and smoke ascended into the air, my brain ascended into trying to fathom the wildfires that continue to burn across Canada. That heat, that energy, and that mass of natural fuel being burnt is inconceivable to imagine. My four-foot by four-foot fire pit pales in comparison to the 20 million acres of scorched land in Canada's record-breaking 2023 fire season. It almost makes me feel empathy pain for the ecosystems and communities that have been altered by such forces of nature, and again, makes me feel tiny.

When you step back to think about the big picture of natural forces in our world, I wonder if it makes you wonder!



Michael Slingerland and I investigated a forest fire in 2012 near Timmins, Ontario, as we marvelled at the forces of nature. (Owen Bjorgan)

## Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, here we come

**David Gilchrist**  
The Local

With weather reports indicating two days of sunshine and blue skies in northern Nova Scotia, we decided to leave New Brunswick and the Bay of Fundy area, where we had been camping, and head directly for the Canso Causeway, taking us onto Cape Breton Island.

We made the crossing, and after stopping at the Welcome Centre, planned to head toward Cheticamp and the Cape Breton Highlands National Park campground, also called the Cheticamp campground.

This proved to be the first time that our in-car navigation led us astray. I had programmed it for Cheticamp at the Nova Scotia Welcome

Centre just across the causeway, not realizing there were a few different routes. Leaving the centre and taking the roundabout we were directed to a highway that headed to Cheticamp, but through the interior and not on the Ceilidh Trail, as we had planned.

Yikes! We ended up on Hwy 105 to We'koqmaq on the St. Joseph's Channel of the Bras d'Or Lake. At a gas station we were advised to take the 395 north past Lake Ainslie and onto Highway 19, which would get us onto the Cabot Trail. Lesson learned.

It fooled us yet again on this leg, taking us on the Old Cheticamp Road, which was twisty, turny and bumpy. Lesson learned again, I hope! Check all suggested routes before programming the first one listed.

We had been to Cape Breton a few times before as newlyweds, and again with our young family. We were always struck by the scenic views along the

Cabot Trail and were looking forward to viewing these again. I must say that the opportunities seemed to have increased in the intervening years. There are now eight camping areas in the park. Some can be reserved, while others are first come first served. A variety of hikes are offered throughout the park — 26 in all!

On our first day in the Cheticamp area we decided to do the Skyline Walk. The trailhead is located on the Cabot Trail at the top of French Mountain. This was described as an 'easy' walk of 6.5 kilometres, taking approximately two to three hours. An extra, more rugged, loop makes it 8.2 kilometres in length.

Most of the hike is on boardwalks to protect the surrounding plants, and it's claimed that moose can sometimes be seen. There is a platform that gives views out over the treed area that is slightly off the main trail.



Boardwalk leading to a scenic overlook. (David Gilchrist)

A fenced enclosure, which hikers access through gates, is on the trail. This enclosure keeps moose out and allows the smaller spruce trees to regrow after they were decimated by disease some time ago.

It is the end of the main trail that has the most spectacular views of the rugged coastline of Cape Breton and the waters off shore. Here, a series of boardwalks leading to platforms with benches allows visitors these

views. We, along with many others, sat and took in the sights on a perfect day for visibility and a comfortable cooling wind off the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The walk back, slightly uphill, seemed a bit more strenuous than 'easy' and I was concerned about some more elderly folk doing the hike.

This is a very popular hike and there are two parking lots.

Continued on page 7

### NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

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

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

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### Where's Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Debra Jacobs knew the answer to Ben's location last week — he was at Simcoe Park, the best place to celebrate Canada Day.



Local LETTERS

Vegetarian option at local events would be appreciated

I would like to respectfully suggest that every barbecue that caters to the public has a vegetarian option. I am personally surprised that neither the barbecue at the Strawberry Festival or the one at the Cherry Festival recognized the existence of vegetarians, even though that particular food preference has been with us for a very long time.

There are many food allergies and preferences but you can usually maneuver around

the things that bother you. And if you can eat bread, what do you put between two pieces of it? Meat or meat?

How difficult is it to buy vegetarian patties at the same time you buy beef ones? They sell them everywhere. Isn't it time for everyone to step into the 21st century?

Could not the approaching Peach Festival at St Vincent de Paul Church offer vegetarian patties as an enlightened option?

There are many reasons

that people don't eat meat. It could be for health reasons, a concern for the unnecessary amount of methane being produced by animals that significantly increases greenhouse gas emissions, animal rights, or just psychologically can't do it.

It's time, time it became a staple option like hot dogs and sausages. It's time for a lot of other things too, but this one could be so easy!

Jackie Bonic  
NOTL

Local LETTERS

A need to rant about crosswalk, Pride Month, and Armed Forces

I have been mulling over writing this for a couple of weeks, but now I need to rant.

After spending \$12,000 of taxpayers' money to paint the rainbow crossing, it was interesting to read in the paper that it had been budgeted to repair it. We built something with the expectation that it would be damaged. I understand the first rainbow bench that was installed was also damaged shortly after.

When this was all being discussed I did write a letter to the editor expressing my thoughts that no individual group should be recognized. I do believe that instead of pointing out differences we should all be proud to call ourselves Canadian. I also stated that I thought doing this created a target for people opposed and it would appear to have come true. Flying flags, painting crossings and benches, and having month-long celebrations are not going to achieve what they are meant to achieve, which is acceptance. While I agree with a former prime minister's statement that the government does not belong in the bedrooms of the nation, I also believe that the bedrooms of the nation don't belong in the streets.

This leads me to another point, and that is a month-long celebration for any group. As others have pointed out, we only have one day to honour those that have given their lives in defence of this country and our values. To that I would add another, and that is the one day we have to celebrate our country. Even then it was brought

up of another wrong in our past committed on a group. While all of the faults of the past have been harmful and regrettable, they are in the past. There isn't a country in this world that has not committed injustices against people. Romans, Greeks, Nazis and our friends to the south are all examples. Wrongs need to be taught to hopefully be avoided in the future, but I am not sure the present should be held responsible for them.

Lastly is the state of our Armed Forces. It is a total embarrassment that we are fourth from the bottom for not keeping up with our financial commitment to NATO. While we are not a country of militarism, we punched well above our weight in the two world wars. In the First World War we had 650,000 personnel fighting (out of a population of eight million) and captured many places that others had failed to do. In the Second World War we again punched well above our weight, including having one of the five beaches on D-Day and advancing farther inland than our British or American Allies.

Today we have less than 90,000 personnel, which includes all three services, all ranks and both Regular and Reserve. We have given a lot of equipment to Ukraine (which I don't regret) but are not replacing it. Yes, they have ordered new fighter aircraft but we won't have all of them until 2036.

Our ships are at the end of their life span but the ships that are under construction are way

overdue and way over budget because we insist on making them here in Canada. While this would be ideal, we need them now. Our Army is also in need of new equipment. It was only recently that the Government got new pistols to replace the ones our Forces have been using since the Second World War. Recruiting is totally ineffective. Allowing face tattoos and purple hair is not attracting the right people. We now use the Forces as a labour pool not necessarily for their actual purpose of being capable of defending our country. We have good people ready to do the job but need to make sure they have all the tools they need.

Neglect of the Forces has been going on for some time, despite the party in power. Politicians focus on issues that will get them elected but they also need to look after all their responsibilities. I don't remember any mention by any party in the past elections even bring up the state of the military and their plans to handle defence issues. All you hear are very vague political statements even if they mention anything at all. Believing we don't need to protect ourselves as the Americans will protect us is not the attitude an independent country should have. Next election ask your candidates their party's policy on defence and ask for specifics, not platitudes.

There, I got it out of my system.

Doug Johnson  
NOTL



Trekking on the Skyline Trail near Cheticamp. (Photos by David Gilchrist)



The view north from a scenic lookout along the Cabot Trail.

Parking issues untenable for those with mobility issues

I have a long history with Niagara-on-the-Lake. I moved to NOTL in March 1973, working at the Shaw Festival as it prepared to open the new theatre to new audiences and VIPs like Queen Elizabeth II, PM Indira Gandhi, and the Canadian Prime Minister.

After I left to work at Hamilton Place I still felt a kinship to the town, and to the theatre which I have felt until this day. In the intervening years I've made annual trips back, for

the theatre, to visit wineries, to dine at many of its restaurants.

I've watched the town burgeon almost to the point of sometimes being overwhelmed by the changes and the growth. The town is a terrific tourist destination, even if it sometimes cannot handle all the cars. But that has not stopped town parking officials from issuing parking tickets with a vengeance.

As someone with a handicap sticker because I have

serious mobility issues, the lack of properly designated parking spaces has become a real challenge. And with the town opting out of acknowledging cars with Ontario handicap stickers, it makes visits each year unpalatable. The town has a captive audience, which it treats with disdain. It's a cash grab plain and simple. I'm at the point of never returning.

Brian Stein  
Toronto, Ontario

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# Dylan Rumsey to repeat swim for mental health awareness

**Penny Coles  
The Local**

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Dylan Rumsey crushed two of his goals last summer, and is working on a repeat.

Although not much of a swimmer, last year Rumsey swam from the Queenston boat launch to Queen's Royal Park, and raised \$12,500 for Pathstone Mental Health.

This year he's pushing himself even harder, and making the swim more difficult, by swimming with his hands tied — not to prove he can, but to prove that by working harder, pushing more, he actually makes it easier on himself by improving his own mental health.

Rumsey has struggled in the past with all kinds of issues, including drugs, alcohol and PTSD as a result of a traumatic experience when he was 15 — one he would like to speak of publicly but can't, for legal reasons.

He is open, though, about being treated for mental health problems for the last decade, hospitalized sometimes twice a year, without a lot of progress, he says.

He has had the benefit of a support network in the hospital, and has seen therapists, some through Pathstone Mental Health, but he was told at one point that he needed medication to get better. However, that made him feel like a zombie, without treating the root of his problem, he says.

Instead he found his own way to better mental health, which includes pushing himself even further physically, and that "has 100 per cent changed my life," he says.

He does that by boxing at the St. Catharines Boxing Club regularly. Last year, he began his training by working out at a local fitness club, but then turned to boxing as a better workout for him, physically and mentally, and continues to find that the solution for him.

"If you have the right mind-

set, it can be easy," he says. "I completely changed my view of how I could change my life. Nothing phases me any more. When I'm boxing I push myself until it's so hard I want to quit, but I keep on going. I don't allow my brain to put me in a position of giving up, and that helps me in other ways, makes me believe I can do anything."

Even swimming with his hands tied in front of him, he says.

It was a beautiful, still Saturday morning last summer when Rumsey swam against the natural current from the Queenston dock to the park, and did it much faster than the four to six hours he had estimated — he completed the swim in just two hours and 15 minutes, and raised \$12,500 for Pathstone Mental Health Foundation, far exceeding his expectations.

This year, he says, doing it with his hands tied is his response to friends who accompanied him in boats last year, or those who waited for him onshore, teasing about it being too easy, and suggesting he'd have to make it harder this year.

He's never actually tried swimming with his hands tied, he told The Local, but he's confident it won't be a problem. "I know I can do it."

Last year's preparation for the swim, and its successful outcome, have already changed his life.

"I did that swim to prove what was in my head, that I could do it because of that strong belief in myself," he says.

"After accomplishing those things," he continues, "I got my finances back in order, my friendships, my family life — everything became so much easier."

And it just continues to get better, he says.

"What matters is that what is in my mind can overcome what my body is feeling."

Joe Corrigan of the St. Catharines Boxing Club says Rumsey's success at boxing and his accomplishments out-

side the club are not unusual. "Punching the bag" helps to relieve frustration and clear your mind to deal with other issues that may be bothering you.

"A lot of times if you have something going on in your life, you can come in and hit that bag, and you forget what's going on outside. After a workout you always feel better."

It also helps that the club "is a close-knit family. You come in and people don't care who you are. They just accept you, no judgement. And no matter what kind of a day you've had, you can leave feeling great."

Boxing, Corrigan continues, "is a one-on-one sport. It's something you have to do on your own, and it can be a real accomplishment. If you arrive in a bad mood, you leave in a good mood."

While fundraising, the other element for Rumsey's swim, is important, he says he also wants to raise awareness for mental health issues.

His solution might not be for everyone, but drugs and drug programs did not help him through years of treatment with traditional methods, and he hopes others might find his method might help them.

His swim will once again be raising funds for Pathstone Mental Health, a community-based organization that provides innovative and effective treatment for all children in Niagara struggling with mental health issues. He hopes to raise \$10,000 this year.

Among the group awaiting his arrival at Queen's Royal Park last summer was Pathstone Foundation director of philanthropy Kim Rossi.

"This was about stigma reduction," Rossi said of his swim.

"He really did a great job. We saw this story covered everywhere. He was owning all the things he himself had struggled through. He talked about it publicly. I asked him if it felt therapeutic and he said yes."

By going public with his own struggles, she said, Rumsey gave others the strength to talk about theirs as well.

Rossi said at the time that while the money raised is important, the impact Rumsey made on stigma reduction was potentially much more impactful.

"It spreads the message far and wide in a different way," she said. "Dylan has a whole different circle of people than we do at Pathstone, his friends, family and co-workers, and he's able to engage them at a different level. One in two people will have a mental health struggle. This fundraiser has introduced me to a whole new group of people who may want to find out how they can help Pathstone."

To donate on behalf of Rumsey, go to pathstonementalhealth.ca, click on donate, and for designation, choose Dylan Rumsey's Swim.



Dylan Rumsey working out at the St. Catharines Boxing Club. (Supplied)



# Chloe Cooley celebrated at Voices of Freedom Park

**Sharon Burns**  
**The Local**

At the Voices of Freedom Park Sunday, an event was held to remember Chloe Cooley and the 230th anniversary of the passing of the Act to Limit Slavery. The legislation limited the opportunity for others to bring enslaved people into Upper Canada. It

reached royal assent on July 9, 1793, and was signed by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe after it was reported to him that a woman, Chloe Cooley, had been forcibly taken across the Niagara River into the United States slavery system. Rochelle Bush, trustee and historian of the Salem BME Church, said “we have to commemorate Chloe

Cooley first and foremost, because it was her that started that spark in March 1793.” Sponsored by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, the hour-long event featured speakers representing three levels of government, including Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, and musical performances by Jeremiah Sparks and Alana Bridgewater, from

the Shaw Festival Ensemble. An original song written for the event by Barbara Worthy and Aaron Berger was performed by Berger along with Stamford Collegiate student Tamiya Cox. Wayne Moore, commissioned by the museum, unveiled a piece of art commemorating Chloe Cooley and Black history in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In it, an im-

age of Chloe Cooley is held by a Black hand and is surrounded by aged newspaper articles. “I decided to put two distinctive flowers in her hand,” said Moore. “The African daisy and prim-rose symbolize wisdom, strength and the loss of someone who’s important in time. They also represent a determined attitude, positivity and courage.”



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa speaks about the 230th anniversary of the first anti-slavery legislation. (Photos by Sharon Burns)



An original song written for the occasion by Barbara Worthy and Aaron Berger was performed by Berger along with Stamford Collegiate student Tamiya Cox.



Artist Wayne Moore with his painting of Chloe Cooley, commissioned to celebrate the occasion of remembrance.



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# Big smiles greet thrifters

Continued from page 1

experienced “a little bit of opening day jitters.” However, as many shoppers strolled through the clothing racks and kitchen items, Grant noted,

hopefully, “that this is an indication of our success in our new store.” The food bank opened to the public for the first time in the new location last week. It continues to be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.

Regular thrift store hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., staying open Thursday evenings until 7 p.m. Sunday hours are noon until 4 p.m. For more information call 905-468-3519.



Friends Claudia Quintero, Naime Pemott and sisters Raquel Torres and Rebeca Torres were first in line along with Joy Leonard and Andy Libby.



Newark Neighbours' new Virgil location has more room for furniture, such as this dining set.

## The Village celebrates 25 years



The Village, the award-winning master-planned community in Niagara-on-the-Lake, celebrated its 25th anniversary on Tuesday. The Village Community Association hosted a celebration at Dietsch Park. Some of the original ‘settlers’ from 1998 were introduced. Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa brought congratulations from the town. John Hawley who, along with his late wife Liz, could be regarded as the ‘founders’ of the community, thanked those who appreciated their vision. (David Gilchrist)



### NEWARK NEIGHBOURS FOOD BANK COMMUNITY DROP OFF FOOD DRIVE

**When: Saturday July 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Where: 1534 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil**

Support Newark Neighbours and help us celebrate our new and improved Food Bank! We need your help to restock our new shelves!! Your donation ensures that we are able to support our clients on an on-going basis. We look forward to seeing you then.

**What we need:**

- Canned Salmon
- Canned chili or spaghetti or ravioli
- Canned beef stew
- Chunky Soups - any kind or flavour
- Habitant Soups
- Canned Ham, Corned Beef or Spam
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Beans (kidney, chickpeas, lentils)
- Flakes of Ham, Chicken or Turkey
- Pasta
- Canned Tomatoes
- Pudding cups - any flavour
- Canned Potatoes / Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Sidekicks and Ramen soup packets
- Peanut Butter
- Coffee (instant, regular or decaf) / Tea
- Condiments - salad dressings, mayonnaise, sauces (e.g. HP Sauce, soya sauce, Worcestershire sauce etc.), dried spices, salt & pepper
- Applesauce or Canned Fruit
- Toiletries e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, hand and body lotion, mouthwash, feminine products
- Bottled Juices - any flavour
- Snack Crackers - any kind or flavour
- Soda (Soup) Crackers
- Cookies - any kind
- Cereal and Oatmeal - any kind
- Canned Corn, Peas, Green Beans, other vegetable
- Stuffing Mix
- Cranberry Sauce
- Rice
- Tomato Sauce
- Granola Bars / Cookies
- Shelf stable milk (e.g. condensed, powdered, rice, etc.)
- Jams - any flavour
- Kraft Dinner
- Paper Towels / Toilet Paper
- Household items e.g. dish soap, laundry detergent, cleaning products



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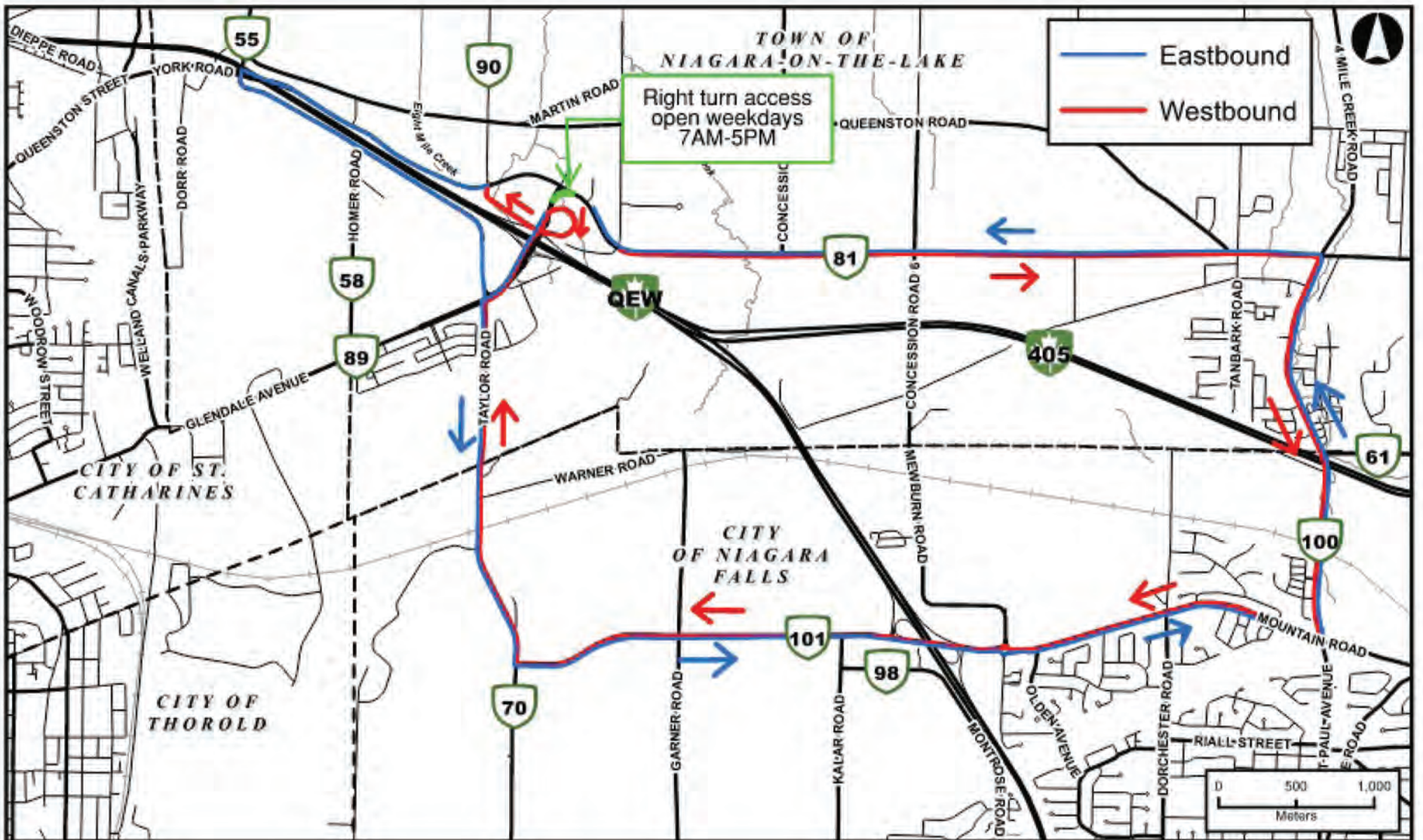


# MOVING ROADS FORWARD

## QEW / Glendale Avenue Interchange Reconstruction Reconstruction of York Road (Regional Road 81) and Glendale Avenue (Regional Road 89) into a Single-lane Roundabout

### Road Closure

Friday July 21, 2023, 9 p.m. - Friday July 28, 2023, 7 a.m.



Motorists and the general public are advised that York Road (Regional Road 81) at Glendale Avenue (Regional Road 89) in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be closed to through traffic starting **Friday, July 21, 2023 at 9 p.m. until Friday, July 28, 2023 at 7 a.m.**

Pending weather the backup dates for this closure are **Friday, July 28, 2023, 9 p.m. until Friday, August 4, 2023, 7 a.m.**

The Ministry of Transportation, in partnership with Niagara Region, is undertaking work on the QEW/Glendale Interchange project. Brennan Paving & Construction and Morrison Hershfield, the Design-Build partners on the QEW/Glendale Diverging Diamond Interchange project, will be starting work on the final stages of construction of the roundabout at the Glendale Avenue (Regional Road 89) and York Road (Regional Road 81) intersection. To complete this work a full closure of the intersection is required.

#### Road Closure and Detour Details

- Glendale Avenue (Regional Road 89) and York Road (Regional Road 81) traffic will be redirected onto the detour route as indicated on the map
- Traffic via Glendale Avenue (Regional Road 89) northbound to York Road (Regional Road 81) eastbound will have access to local businesses 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays
- York Road (Regional Road 81) eastbound access will also be available during weeknights pending there is no construction activity obstructing the eastbound lane
- Businesses and residents will have access during the closure via the posted detour routes, and delays should be expected
- Emergency services will have access through the work zone, but delays may be incurred. Access can be achieved through alternative routes

Please follow [municipal511.ca](https://municipal511.ca) for real-time information on Regional road closures and construction updates. Municipal 511 shares road information that connects directly to Google Maps and Waze and assists Niagara Region, Local Area Municipalities and the Ministry of Transportation to better coordinate local construction projects in order to minimize traffic disruption.

Inquiries concerning this project may be directed to [GlendaleDBTeam@morrisonhershfield.com](mailto:GlendaleDBTeam@morrisonhershfield.com) or by visiting our webpage at [niagararegion.ca/projects/qew-glendale-interchange](https://niagararegion.ca/projects/qew-glendale-interchange).

Your co-operation and patience during this period of inconvenience will be appreciated.

**Dan Carnegie**  
Commissioner of Public Works (Acting)  
Niagara Region

Notice first issued July 13, 2023.



# Yellow Door PAC partnership pays dividends with *Mary Poppins Jr.*

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

After only the first week of the 10-day Yellow Door Theatre Project summer program running out of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, founder and artistic producer Andorlie Hillstrom could already tell the difference.

“We have 55 kids with us this summer,” Hillstrom told The Local Friday afternoon as two separate casts rehearsed numbers from *Mary Poppins Jr.*, which they will perform this Saturday at the PAC’s Partridge Hall.

“This facility is just beautiful,” added Hillstrom. “We have a lot of new faces this summer because we’ve expanded the program. The added space has allowed us to expand our capacity, and I’m having the opportunity to meet a lot of young, new, talented individuals. It feels like our circle is now expanding, and that’s exciting for me to see.”

Until 2023, the Yellow Door summer program has been run out of its much smaller home

in Virgil. When the performing arts centre reached out this winter with the idea of running their own summer theatre program, Hillstrom suggested a better option would be to move Yellow Door’s annual camp there. The performing arts centre management agreed.

The move means that Yellow Door has access to professional sound and lighting and the technicians who operate it, and the students get to rehearse on site and use larger stages. It has elevated the program, and allows the culminating production to be presented in a professional theatre space.

Thirteen-year-old Crossroads student Anwen Marriott of Niagara-on-the-Lake, whose parents both perform at Shaw Festival, basically grew up in the theatre.

“Last summer, the space was very different,” said Marriott, who plays a number of roles in the ensemble of the play. “There were way fewer people last year. You can really, really feel the difference, especially

with the two different casts.”

Diego Rey, heading to Laura Secord Secondary School for Grade 9 in September, has been with Yellow Door for six years.

“I’m a very social person,” Rey said. “I love being with and around people. That’s one of the reasons I love theatre. I’m also in the ensemble, so I’m in almost everything in this play. It’s so easy to be yourself here, to be more into the musical, with everyone here also loving theatre.”

The added space at the performing arts centre also means that Hillstrom has access to a room where the youngest program participants can work with an instructor.

“We have 14 kids aged seven to 10,” she explained. “They have a very different stream, more drama games, more craft-oriented. They have a choreographer who works on their dance pieces for the show, then they join the ensemble. It would be very difficult to expect them to sit through all the rehearsals and the older activities.”

Hillstrom says the perform-

ing arts staff has been welcoming and helpful since day one.

“The children do their music warm-up every morning up in the lobby,” she said. “The staff offices are just above that. They get to hear the music floating up into their offices. They’re just so pleased to be able to have that.”

And the young, future triple-threat actors/dancers/singers are thrilled to know that they will hit the Partridge Hall stage Saturday.

“It’s a big theatre,” she says. “Some of them have performed there before, but most have not. So we’ve been doing little tours, taking them in to see the space. They’re pretty overwhelmed to see all the seats, and to see how

high the proscenium is. It’s very exciting for them.”

All are welcome to come and see what the kids have learned this summer. Two different casts will perform *Mary Poppins Jr.*, presented with the help of the James A. Burton Family Foundation, Saturday, July 15, one at 2 p.m. and the other at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at firstontariopac.ca.



Anwen Marriott and Diego Rey listen to instructions from choreographer Madelyn Miyashita. (Mike Balsom)



One of two different casts from YDTP’s summer program rehearses *Mary Poppins Jr.* in Robertson Hall. (Mike Balsom)

## Support local boxing champ



Three-time Canadian boxing champion McKenzie Wright of Niagara-on-the-Lake is heading to Cali, Colombia, later this month for a Pan American Games qualifying event. Success in Cali will allow her to move on to the Pan Am Games in Santiago, Chile in October for a chance to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

A fundraiser is being held at the Sandtrap Pub and Grill on Mary Street next Wednesday, July 19, from 3 to 5 p.m., to help McKenzie with the cost of the trip. She receives no provincial or federal funding to compete at these games. Admission to the event is \$20. Come out and meet McKenzie as well as two-time Canadian Olympian Mandy Bujold and support McKenzie’s quest.



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# Columnist Jaime Watt launches new book at NOTL garden party

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Jaime Watt is sure that with his new book, *What I Wish I Said: Confessions of a Columnist*, he's done something no one else has ever attempted. Out now via Optimum Publishing International, the columnist and executive chairman of Navigator Ltd., a strategic advisory and communications firm, has collected an assortment of his work as it has appeared in the Toronto Star over the past seven-plus years. But he's done it with a unique twist. As the title suggests, Watt takes a fresh look at 48 of his

own newspaper columns in the rear view mirror, and is openly honest about his hits and misses. As he explained to about 80 admirers at a garden party in Niagara-on-the-Lake Sunday, the book is about what he got right, what he got wrong, and what he wishes he had said. "I find it amazing that people like me who shoot their mouths off on television or in newspapers don't go back and re-evaluate their work," he told the gathering on a perfect afternoon. "If you are given the privilege to speak out, shouldn't you be held to some sort of level of accountability?" The well-known strategist was joined at the home of Lyle

Hall by close friends, family members and associates from his position on the Shaw Festival board of directors, on which Hall also sits. Admirers of Watt's work lined up to purchase copies of *What I Wish I Said* and have the author sign them. St. Mark's Anglican Church rector Leighton Lee had just purchased his copy of Watt's book. Before the launch, Lee had read Watt's latest column in that day's Toronto Star, calling for U.S. president Joe Biden to reform the country's Supreme Court. "I'm a regular reader of his columns," Lee told The Local Sunday. "He's the best. I'm really excited to jump into this

book. And of course, I get it, the idea of things you wish you could have said. After all, I'm a preacher. I'd love to see more columnists and public figures do this kind of thing." Watt has served on Shaw's board for a number of years, but it wasn't until this past winter that he and his partner Paul decided to rent a property in town. Earlier in the week, The Local sat down with Watt and his friend of many years, former television broadcaster Phyllis Bennett, in his backyard overlooking the Niagara River. While sailboats and paddleboards floated by on the water, Watt explained that he started Navigator just over 20 years ago as a public relations, crisis management, lobbying and polling company. Over the years, his team has provided support and direction for high profile companies, celebrities and politicians during times of crisis. Watt's reputation as a strategist quickly led to him being a regular guest of Peter Mansbridge's on CBC Television's *The National*. So it was a natural fit when about eight years ago, Toronto Star publisher John Honderich enlisted him to contribute a weekly column to the newspaper's new politics page. "I hesitated at first," he told The Local. "Even after all this time I still say that I'm not a professional columnist. I always say instead that I'm a professional who writes a column." Through his weekly columns Watt has taken on many issues of the day. About three years ago, he approached Optimum's Dean Baxendale with the idea of compiling some of his columns into a book. "I really liked the idea," Baxendale said Sunday, "but I wanted to make it unique. We talked a bit about it at that time, then we resurrected the idea about a year ago. We brought together a great team and I feel we've put together a refreshing approach, looking at one's foibles, and one's successes." The tome is divided into six chapters which are really thematic collections of eight columns



Jaime Watt reads from his new book *What I Wish I Said*.



Phyllis Bennett, publisher Dean Baxendale and Jaime Watt (Photos by Mike Balsom)



About 80 guest showed up for the launch of Jaime Watt's new book.

each. He begins each chapter with a summary or explanation of what's to follow. Each column within the chapter is tagged with a 'thumbs up' symbol marking it as one he got right, a 'thumbs down' symbol representing an undeniable miss, or a 'thought bubble' to designate a column where he came close but didn't hit the mark. Under the heading Civil Liberties and Human Rights, Watt looks at some of the biggest issues of the day, including LGBTQ2S+ rights and the safeguarding of the right of elderly Canadians to vote. "One of the things I got right was the fentanyl crisis," Watt told The Local. "I called it a public health crisis very early, the way AIDS was. Like with AIDS, people believed it would never be an issue for them personally. Now we know the devastating impact that fentanyl has had. I think I was ahead of my time." Another chapter gathers Watt's columns about the 45th president of the United States. "I got Trump massively wrong," he admitted. "I didn't understand the impact that he would have on the judiciary. I wrote that it was just going to be a speed bump, there was nothing to worry about. I totally missed that, and that was really bloody stupid." It's that brutal honesty that

makes *What I Wish I Said* a fascinating read. Any newspaper contributor can publish a collection of his or her columns. But to take an introspective lens to one's work takes a lot of intestinal fortitude. Other chapters look at Watt's columns on leaders, politicians in power, parties in opposition and the COVID-19 crisis. Even if Watt had not written a 350-word-maximum reflection on each column, this book would be an important document of discourse from the past seven years. At Sunday's gathering, Watt was quick to credit former Canadian senator Andre Pratte and one-time Toronto Star editor Michael Cooke for their support and advice. And he gave much credit to 28-year-old Breen Wilkinson, his co-writer and a consultant and speech writer with Navigator. It was both a great pleasure, and really exciting to work on the project with Watt, Wilkinson said. "I hope I helped him to bring a fresh perspective," she added. "His depth of political knowledge is just endless." Watt ends the book with a 49th and final, very personal column from March 2023. It deals with his struggles with kidney disease, and the way his life changed when his partner donated a kidney to him for a successful transplant in 2022. Watt has promised that all proceeds he makes from *What I Wish I Said* will go to the Centre for Living Organ Donation at University Health Network. It's his personal advocacy mission to make the world a better place through organ donation. That column was the only one that he read from at the garden party. And he's hoping *What I Wish I Said* itself advocates for another one of his personal missions. "This exercise in intellectual honesty," he said, "will be my contribution to hopefully end the terrible polarity that has taken hold the past few years. I'm proud of this book. It has something to say. I care a lot about this country, and I hope this book contributes to more civilized, thoughtful debate."

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# Fife and Drum Corps entertains at St. Mark's Cherry Festival

Sharon Burns  
The Local

Fort George's 41st Fife and Drum Corps has a long history of playing at many events in Niagara-on-the-Lake, including Saturday's Cherry Festival.

On Canada Day they led the traditional cake parade and at Christmas are typically seen at the Candlelight Stroll. On Saturday, four corps members demonstrated their historically accurate instruments, while Drum Major

Peter Alexander gave explanations to the crowd gathered at St. Mark's Anglican Church for the Cherry Festival.

The corps, at 50 members pre-COVID, is currently down to three, plus Alexander. No formal music training is required and Parks Canada provides a uniform, instruction and instrument.

The corps meets on Sundays from 1:30 to 4 p.m. to practise music and marching drills. The only requirements are attendance every Sunday year-round, and three days

a week (Wednesday through Sunday) in July and August. Volunteers can join at any time in the year.

High school students can use their experience in the corps towards their volunteer hours to graduate. When they turn 15 they can then also compete for a paid position in the professional corps at Fort George.

For more information about volunteering with the corps, please contact Peter Alexander at [peter.alexander@pc.gc.ca](mailto:peter.alexander@pc.gc.ca).



The Fife and Drum Corps from Fort George entertained at the Cherry Festival, as they do at many local events, but is down to just three members and their drum major. The corps includes Alex Watt, drummer and light infantry bugler, from Niagara Falls; Will Alexander, fife sergeant from NOTL, 10 years in the program; Sarah Mateus-Jiminiez, drum sergeant from St. Catharines, also 10 years in the program; and Peter Alexander, drum major from NOTL. (Sharon Burns)

# Lots to do for all ages at Cherry Festival



A group of youngsters, with parents and grandparents, have fun at one of the activity tables. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Volunteer Tammy Zalepa shows Edie Ewart how to plant an annual in a little pot, while Rachel Volk, one of the young volunteers, helps out.



Lena Disero and Betty Disero stop to buy some cherries from Judy MacLachlan. Coun. Gary Burroughs was there to sell cherries, as well as much-appreciated home-made frozen dinners.



Coun. Wendy Cheropita, Sarah Burroughs, Anita Miller and Susan Peacock volunteer at the bake table, while customers Peter Mulcaster and Katy Macpherson do some shopping.



Cherry Festival visitors find a cool, shady spot to settle under a tree, enjoying some of the delicious cherry treats at St. Mark's popular annual event.



The Haute Emporium, a sale of all kinds of designer clothes, purses, shoes, jewelry, household items and more, is such a popular event in Addison Hall that there was a line-up to get in, as volunteers tried to keep it from getting too crowded. Those organizing the show were determined to allow browsers space to look around.



A group of men, including David Roberts, Peter Nixon, Bill Mockler, Michel Maisonneuve, Gary Zalepa, Benjamin Zalepa and Charlie Steele in the background, take on the barbecue — a hot place to be on a warm summer morning. Not pictured but also helping during the day were David Hennessy, Nick Ruller, Patrick Bourk and John Scott.





Danielle Grecco, Spencer Grecco, Colin Ferris and Adrien Dubson plan to run for Terry Fox Sept. 17. (Supplied)

# Let Terry Fox inspire us

## Local Staff

It was 43 years ago today, July 12, that Terry Fox visited Niagara-on-the-Lake, having just passed through Toronto on his Marathon of Hope.

Gloria Ghetty, then president of the local cancer society, arranged for him to come to NOTL for the day, and also worked with John Wiens to host an event for him at the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Spencer Grecco first participated in a Terry

Fox Run with his mother when he was just five.

He says he was inspired by watching the Terry Fox movie, and was deeply touched by Terry's story. It has become a tradition for him to keep the dream alive, and he says that no matter where he may be, he makes sure to be part of the run.

Joan King, organizer of the local run, is asking that we think about Terry Fox, the goal of his Marathon of Hope, why he's been such an inspiration,

and consider creating a team to run in this year's event on Sept. 17.

To register visit [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org). To buy this year's Terry Fox Run T-shirt email King at [joankemp10@yahoo.ca](mailto:joankemp10@yahoo.ca), or call 905-468-5898.



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# Jackson-Triggs concert a family tradition for Kreviazuk

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake will truly feel like home for singer-songwriter Chantal Kreviazuk when she comes to town for two shows at the Jackson-Triggs Estate Winery amphitheatre July 21 and 22.

Of course, Kreviazuk has been in NOTL pretty much every summer since the start of the winery's summer concert series 20 years ago. During many of those visits, her three children, Rowan, Lucca and Sal, were in the audience to catch their mom's show, sitting with their father, Raine Maida, frontman of rock band Our Lady Peace.

One year, this reporter witnessed Kreviazuk calling on Maida, who was enjoying the show from about halfway up the amphitheatre's tiered seating area. To the audience's delight, Maida sauntered down toward the stage and joined his wife for a couple of songs.

"Those are some of the greatest memories for us," Kreviazuk says on the phone from the family's Los Angeles-area home. "Jackson-Triggs has given us unconditional love. They made the decision to make us part of their family, part of their organization. They have taken the journey with us."

Kreviazuk says she feels emotional just thinking about it.

"To know that after all this time they continue to put their love and confidence into me," she says. "We've had those little peaks and valleys that make up the arc of life. Just to know that they've embraced me and my family through all of it is incredibly powerful and meaningful. This is such a mutually civil-



Chantal Kreviazuk is coming to Jackson-Triggs, and her son is the opening act. (Photo supplied)

ized thing."

That alone would be enough to make the three-time Juno Award winner and her family feel welcome in NOTL. But this year it gets kicked up another notch. Kreviazuk's oldest son Rowan Maida will be opening both shows next week.

The 19-year-old graduated last May from nearby Ridley College, the same school his father once attended. His parents were there for his convocation this spring and performed in a 2022 fundraising concert for the Ridley Alumni Family Guild.

Rowan Maida released his first single, *Mountains*, in late March. The track is an upbeat, atmospheric slice of R&B, and wears the influences of his parents on its sleeve, begging that age-old question about nature versus nurture. The central instrument is a piano, like most of Kreviazuk's music, and his voice

has hints of his dad's unique countertenor.

"He's been opening some shows for us recently," says a very proud mother. "He's fantastic live. It will be really neat having Rowan open for us at Jackson-Triggs."

Kreviazuk's own music career got a boost from her father when he hired Winnipeg-based composer Danny Schur to write a jingle for his business. She was just 13 years old but had already studied classical piano and voice, and had been winning music competitions in the city.

"Danny just passed away from brain cancer (April 10) at just 56 years old," says Kreviazuk. "My father told him he had to meet me. I called Dan, and he let me audition for jingle singing. I don't think he did another jingle without my help for the following six years. We had such great studio chemistry. He was such a great man."

While working on jingles with Schur, she met musician Chris Burke-Gaffney of the band Orphan. She walked up and introduced herself to him as a musician and singer. Kreviazuk, Burke-Gaffney and Schur were soon collaborating on some demos and Sony Music took notice. Her debut album, *Under These Rocks and Stones*, was released by Sony in Canada in October 1996, and in the U.S. eight months later.

The album made an immediate splash in her home country, eventually achieving platinum status. Kreviazuk was nominated for best new solo artist at the 1997 Juno Awards (country singer Terri Clark won the award). Three years later she took home the Junos for best female artist and for pop album of the year for her second release, *Colour Moving and Still*, also platinum certified. The album topped releases by Bryan Ad-

ams, Alanis Morissette and Joni Mitchell for the award.

Her big breakthrough in the U.S. came in 1998 when her version of John Denver's *Leaving on a Jet Plane*, made famous by Peter, Paul and Mary, was chosen for the soundtrack to the blockbuster film *Armageddon*. That led to more soundtrack assignments, and she began making her name as a songwriter. Over the years, she has penned tracks for or with Avril Lavigne, Kelly Clarkson, Josh Groban, Jennifer Lopez and Britney Spears.

Kreviazuk's most recent release is June 2020's *Get to You*, her eighth full-length. Her voice is as strong as ever on songs such as *Oleander* and *Love Gone Insane*, and her songwriting shows much maturity.

In fact, she's always writing, and loves to test new songs out on her audiences. "Last year I wrote a new

song to bring us up to speed after the pandemic," Kreviazuk says of her 2022 appearance at Jackson-Triggs. "It was funny, a little clever but meaningful. It was called *I'll Write a Song*. It was about all that happened during the pandemic, and instead of crying a river, I just wrote a song."

Two weeks before speaking to The Local, Kreviazuk was in Bordeaux, France. She wrote another new song while there called *You Look Better from Bordeaux*.

"I can't wait to play that for the first time at Jackson-Triggs," she laughs. "In this crazy world, sometimes it's hard to have traditions now. As a compassionate person, I'm happy that I have something like this that is a tradition in my life, this gathering there, to celebrate life, drink some fine wine and enjoy some music."

Kreviazuk isn't saying whether or not her husband, with whom she released a 2019 album as *Moon vs Sun* for a film about their life together called *I Am Going to Break Your Heart*, will be at the shows in NOTL. But a glance at Our Lady Peace's tour schedule does reveal a conspicuous absence of dates between July 15 and 28.

So, if Raine does attend, and with Rowan opening it does seem likely, it will be another Kreviazuk-Maida family affair. And when she hopefully breaks into her 2002 hit *Feels Like Home* next weekend, chances are she really will be feeling it at that moment.

Next Saturday's show is sold out, but a few tickets are still available for Kreviazuk's Friday night performance. Visit [jacksontriggswinery.com](http://jacksontriggswinery.com) for more information.

## Learn & Live: what makes NOTL prettiest town?

Local Staff

What does it take to be named one of the prettiest towns in Canada?

That's a question J.B. Hopkins, the town's parks supervisor, plans to answer in a one-

hour walking tour through the Old Town, for the next in the Learn & Live series.

Those who would like to join the tour are asked to meet at the Court House steps on Queen Street, rain or shine, to hear Hopkins talk about the history of horticulture in

the Old Town's public spaces; his role and that of the town's parks department in the operation and beautification of public spaces; and NOTL's involvement in Communities in Bloom in the 1990s and again more recently.

Hopkins has been parks

supervisor in NOTL for 17 years. He has a B.A. in history from Brock University, a Niagara Parks diploma in ornamental horticulture, and is an International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist.

Learn & Live is a popular

series of lectures, workshops and seminars organized by Cindy Grant and Terry MacTaggart, with a focus on lifelong learning for all ages, generally held at the NOTL Public Library.

The Prettiest Town in Canada: How Does it Hap-

pen, to be held on Monday, July 17, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., is one in the series that moves away from the library.

Pre-registration is required for the series. Visit the library's website at [notlpubliclibrary.org](http://notlpubliclibrary.org) and follow the links on the events calendar.



Public gardens and flower displays on Queen Street and along Queen's Parade are part of what has earned Niagara-on-the-Lake the title of one of the prettiest towns in Canada. (Photos by David Gilchrist)



# Rob Burke's Doors tribute returning to Corks stage

**Mike Balsom**  
**The Local**

It was originally supposed to be a one-off. But Rob Burke's *Riders on the Storm* — *A Live Celebration of the Doors*, hitting Corks in Niagara-on-the-Lake on July 22, has taken on a life of its own.

When The Local sat down with Burke and his friends on the BarrelHead patio at Pillitteri Estates Winery in August 2021 to talk about his upcoming show there, he explained it was basically an extension of his theatre work.

Burke had previously taken on the role of Doors lead singer Jim Morrison for his own presentation of a show called *Club 27* at Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate. It was a tribute to rock stars Morrison, Janis Joplin, Amy Winehouse, Jimi Hendrix and Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, all of whom met an untimely end at the same young age.

For the BarrelHead performance nearly two years ago, Burke assembled a group of talented musicians: drummer Devon Fornelli, bassist Tom DeBatt, keyboard player Ben Phelan and Niagara-on-the-Lake native Jesse Lamothe on guitar.

The show sold out in no time and the BarrelHead audience ate it up. Word got out about their authentic re-creation of Doors classics like *Break on Through*, *Love Me Two Times*, *Roadhouse Blues* and others. Quite unexpectedly, requests for more gigs followed.

"We got such great feedback after Pillitteri," Burke tells The Local. "Then we went off to play

at Lock One in Port Dalhousie. It kept growing, and now we perform almost once a month, with a bit of time off in the winter. The key for us is to keep it fresh."

That freshness Burke speaks of comes from the band changing things up show to show. From the start the singer, whose day job is with the Niagara Region in their child care programs, has been adamant that the band tries to replicate the wild, unpredictable nature of the Doors' live shows.

That means Burke will veer off into a poetic stream of consciousness monologue ala Morrison, or Phelan and Lamothe will replicate a long, intricate keyboard and guitar jam the way Ray Manzarek and Robby Krieger of the LA-based band used to do.

Thus far, most audiences have seen only one version of the *Riders on the Storm* show. Like the Toronto-based outfit Classic Albums Live, Burke and the others haven't previously attempted to look like the band to whom they are paying tribute. Instead, the focus has been on transporting their audiences musically back to the years 1966 to 1971 when the Doors were leaders in that era's counterculture.

But a call from Angela Seeger, who portrayed Janis Joplin in Burke's presentation of *Club 27* and is in high demand around the world for her tribute acts, made Burke think about expanding into other horizons.

"She told me her agent was looking for a Jim Morrison in Mexico," explains Burke. "I

went down there and did three shows in February. It was a dinner show, with no band backing me up. I had a wig, I was in full dress, it was a one-man Jim Morrison show. The audience went crazy for it."

That sparked a new version of the show experience, with Burke fronting a band that is now visually and aurally able to recreate the full experience of a Doors live show. It will make its debut at the Corks show.

"We offer two kinds of packages now," Burke says. "Our original version and our full dress version. The wig is not from Party City. It's from a legit wig store. I even have a wig master who fixes it up for me. When I put it on, I really feel like Jim."

As a theatre performer as well as the frontman of the band, Burke says he often gets lost in the Morrison persona, walking into the audience, speaking to them and tossing off jokes as the man known as the Lizard King.

At a recent performance at Sherkston Shores, a young woman Lamothe says looked like she was about 18 years old, came up to him after the band's first set. She complained to the guitarist that his lead singer didn't fit the group.

"He's clearly on drugs, he's acting like he has a huge ego and he's being super sexual," she told him. "It's all really cringey."

Lamothe explained to her who Jim Morrison was and said he would pass along her high praise to his lead singer.

"When Jesse told me that story, I thought it was so funny," Burke laughs. "When Jim would perform he had so much

confidence. He jumped around, he was wild and spontaneous. I really dig deep into that 'wild child' aspect of his persona. That's my favourite Morrison, when he didn't know exactly what he was going to do on stage."

For the Corks show, Fornelli is unavailable, as he has been busy this summer with his other band, the Niagara Falls-based six-piece Giancarlo and the Scarfones. Ben's father Mike Phelan, a percussionist with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra and instructor at Ridley College, will fill the drum chair.

Phelan is also a veteran of the Niagara music scene going back to the late 1960s. He was a member of long-time party band Jeffrey and the Juniors and the progressive rock band Nightwinds. He and Ben have also produced a series of tribute shows playing the music of Genesis from the band's Peter Gabriel-fronted era.

"He was playing music back when Jim Morrison was still alive," Burke says. "But he had never played in a Doors tribute before. I think this was on his bucket list, because his son is in the band. He's so thrilled to be a part of it and he's a great addition to the band."

Following the July 22 NOTL performance, *Riders on the Storm* will play to what promises to likely be their biggest crowd ever at H.H. Knoll Park in Port Colborne for that city's Canal Days Festivities. They open for their friends in Pink Floyd Niagara on Sunday, Aug. 6.

"We're excited to be playing there, for sure," Burke says. "This

will be great for our resume. We would love to play the Grape and Wine Festival and the rib-fests locally, so this will convince those people we can also play to those types of crowds."

*Riders on the Storm* — *A Live Celebration of the Doors* is scheduled for Saturday, July 22 at 8 p.m. in the upstairs the-

atre space at Corks. Tickets are \$40 plus taxes and are available at [danitix.com](http://danitix.com). Alternatively, tickets can be reserved through Rob Burke by calling (289) 668-0482.

"We plan to keep it as intimate as possible," Burke says. "We're only selling about 70 tickets, so they will go fast."



Mike Phelan on drums and Jesse Lamothe on guitar during a Doors tribute at a Concert on the Canal in Welland. (Photos supplied)



Rob Burke as Jim Morrison in *Riders on the Storm*.

## Niagara Foundation names Ward Simpson Living Landmark

**Local Staff**

Ward Simpson, a long-time respected businessman who has played a significant role in town through many volunteer positions, is the Niagara Foundation's choice to be the recipient of the 2023 Living Landmark Award.

Since 2006, when the award was shared by Norm Howe and Gerry Wooll, two

outstanding citizens devoted to heritage preservation, the Living Landmark Award has been given annually to a person or people who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the quality of life in Niagara.

"Ward has played a significant role in our community, whether through founding and operating Simpsons Pharmacy, or his positions with the Rotary Club, Cham-

ber of Commerce, Arena Fundraising Committee, Community Centre Fundraising Committee, Red Roof Retreat or the Christmas Parade Committee," said Lyle Hall, Niagara Foundation Chair.

This year's Living Landmark dinner will be held at the Court House Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. To purchase tickets please contact Jane Dagg at [jdagg.notl@gmail.com](mailto:jdagg.notl@gmail.com).

"The Niagara Foundation has had a long history honouring residents who contribute to our community in a tireless and selfless way. Ward is one of those people — we're delighted to be celebrating him!" said Dagg, Niagara Foundation director and coordinator of the award celebration dinner.

The Niagara Foundation was established in 1962, and is a charitable organization

whose mission is to preserve the built and natural heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake and surrounding communities. Quietly and effectively, the Foundation has advocated for preservation, undertaken innovative partnerships, fostered knowledge and appreciation, and been responsible for securing and advancing the very qualities that are now so strongly associated with historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Each year since 2006, The Niagara Foundation has chosen a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake to receive the Foundation's prestigious Living Landmark Award. The recipient of the award is an individual or individuals whom the Foundation feels has made an outstanding contribution to the quality of life in Niagara.

Past winners are:

2022 Jim Alexander  
2021 Penny Coles  
2020 The Citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
2019 Gracia Janes  
2018 Judy MacLachlan  
2017 Dr. Richard Merritt  
2016 Norma Jane Lowrey and Blair Harber  
2015 Gary Burroughs  
2014 Debi Pratt  
2013 Jim Smith  
2012 Peter Stokes  
2011 Christopher Newton  
2010 Joy Ormsby  
2009 John Walker  
2008 Calvin Rand  
2007 Donald Combe  
2006 Norm Howe and Gerry Wooll

For more information on the Niagara Foundation please visit [theniagarafoundation.com](http://theniagarafoundation.com).



Lyle Hall, Patty Alexander, Erika Alexander, Jim Alexander, Anna Lee Benjamin and Janice Thomson at last November's Niagara Foundation Living Landmark Dinner, where Jim Alexander was honoured with the award. (Ben Taylor)



Ward Simpson on a golf course — one of his favourite places to be. (Supplied)



# LocalSPORTS

## Patterson, Parker help A's take 2-0 series lead

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Jaden Patterson and Jack Parker, both from Niagara-on-the-Lake, provided a huge boost to the offence Friday night as the St. Catharines Junior B Athletics took a 2-0 semi-final series lead at home against the Elora Mohawks.

Athletics' captain Patterson scored a goal and added three assists, while Parker notched one and added two helpers in the team's 11-9 overtime victory at Canada Games Park. Fellow NOTL native Liam Dietsch added some strong play in the defensive zone in a back-and-forth game.

"It was like that in our first game (a 9-7 win for the A's Thursday in Elora)," Patterson tells The Local. "We get one, they get one. We split the season series against them this year. I definitely think that if we keep playing the way we played in game five against Hamilton, I don't think many teams can beat us."

The A's finished third in the Ontario Junior B Lacrosse League's Western Conference with a record of 14-5-1, five points behind the second place Mohawks in the regular season. In the first round of the playoffs, the sixth place Hamilton Bengals took the Athletics to five games before St. Cath-

arines was able to move on to the semis with a decisive 15-7 victory on June 30.

The Athletics dug themselves into a 2-0 hole in the first period Friday, giving up goals to Keegan Detweiler and Connor Willmets of the Mohawks. But Patterson set Ian Kohut up for the first St. Catharines goal and Cody MacNeil tied it up with just under three minutes remaining.

Elora went up 3-2 early in the second, but Parker tied it up a minute later. Parker then assisted on Levi Roest's goal to give the A's their first lead of the game. The Mohawks scored to force yet another tie, but Drew Kenney got the A's back on top 5-4 to close out the second period.

Elora tied it up again a minute into the third. Colton Armitage put the A's back in the lead five minutes later. But then the Mohawks went on a three-goal tear, capitalizing on some turnovers and defensive lapses. The Athletics' Ryan Andrews closed the gap and then, with 1:23 remaining, Parker set up Trent Mooradian to tie it up and force a 10-minute overtime period.

Patterson pushed his team into the lead two minutes into the extra frame with a gutsy goal. Standing at the side of the Elora net, he received a cross-floor pass from Drew Kenney and knocked it past goalie Sam Forbes as he was taken to the



Jack Parker follows a Mohawks defender into the corner while Jaden Patterson heads toward the Athletics defensive zone.



Liam Dietsch of NOTL held down the defensive end for the Athletics in the 11-9 win.

floor by a Mohawks defender.

True to the night's theme, though, Elora tied it up once again five minutes later, before two late goals by Ari Steenhuis cemented the 11-9 victory for St. Catharines in front of a happy hometown crowd.

Patterson saw floor time on almost every offensive push into the Elora end Friday.

"I'm just trying to play as much as I can, with the energy that I have," says the second-year Athletics forward. "I feel like it's important for me to be out there, to be positive, to just give 100 per cent to my teammates."

Patterson and Parker were the top two scorers for the A's during the regular season, with

76 and 67 points respectively over 20 games. Both forwards also saw time with the St. Catharines Junior A club during the regular season. Patterson tallied four goals and four assists in five games with the senior team, while Parker was called up for one game in which he was held scoreless.

"The game slowed down for me after playing Junior A," admits Patterson. "I get to see a lot more on the floor. It helped me break everything down, it's really helped me improve my game."

Parker also saw major minutes on offence Friday night.

"He and I talked about what we were expecting this year," Patterson recalls. "He's definite-

ly exceeded what we expected. I'm really proud of what Jack has done this year."

Patterson continues to lead all Athletics scorers in the playoffs, with five goals and 20 assists.

Game three goes Tuesday night back in Elora, where the Athletics will have a chance to ice the best-of-five series and advance to the conference finals against either the Guelph Regals or the Six Nations Rebels.

"They get a lot of people, they pack the stands and they're loud," Patterson says of Elora. "We just have to keep our momentum. We have to keep playing the way we're playing. They swept us last year in the playoffs, so I really, really want to sweep them this year."

### LocalHAPPENINGS



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Nico Vanoostveen takes a corner kick. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Left to right in white: Daisha Necakov-Waller, Evelyn Falk, Charlotte Manella and Nico Vanoostveen.

## NOTL's Under-9 girls soccer team continues its winning ways

The NOTL Soccer Club's U9 girls followed up a successful weekend at The Robbie Tournament, where they won both of their games, with another victory in Niagara Regional Soccer League play. The girls beat the St. Catharines Jets 3-1 Tuesday evening on the pitch at Virgil's Centennial Sports Park. Antonia Cater opened up the scoring, while Evelyn Falk and Charlotte Manella also found the net. Lucy Collins played a stellar game in net.

### LocalWORSHIP



**Sunday, July 16th**

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

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

Message:  
Jeff Martens  
Jesus on Our Good Father  
(Matthew 7:7-12)

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1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
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49	50	51					52			53				
54						55			56			57		
58						59						60		
61						62						63		

- Across:**

1 Limerick's second word, usually

4 Delicate

9 Eat greedily

14 Medical insurer

15 Delayed

16 Radio receiver

17 Australian running bird

18 Univision news anchor Jorge ---

19 Make amends

20 Open grassland

22 Preserved

24 Funded

26 Biblical weed

27 Hilltop

28 Not that

29 --- for Charlie

32 Expatriate

34 Rowboat lever

35 The Pope

36 Confined

37 Demand

38 Face protection

39 Affirmative votes

40 Obtain

41 Battle Born State

42 Short numbers

43 Elapse
- 44 High-hat

45 Cheap sensational magazine

46 Perturbed

49 N Y C's --- Park

53 Lexicographer's interest

54 Whiffs

55 Enjoy to the full

57 U S capital once and briefly

58 Pal of Kukla and Fran

59 Dodge

60 Accountant's letters

61 Senses

62 Works

63 Agency which initiated the Waco siege
- Down:**

1 Location question

2 Capital of Jordan

3 Speech snippets

4 Book opener

5 Genetic component of some viruses

6 Pointed

7 Religious painting

8 <

9 Brenda and Ringo

10 Adorable child

11 Author unknown
- 12 Mathematician --- Descartes

13 Adele's dancing brother

21 Pigs out

23 Locks or strands

25 Ram's dam

28 Tip sellers

29 Largest Moroccan city

30 Portable player

31 "Two Mules for Sister ---": Eastwood/MacLaine film

32 Pulitzer winner Jennifer ---

33 Salad sauce

35 Fulcrums

37 Loathed

38 Enterprises

40 Young ladies

41 Intelligence agency

43 Prize monies

45 Hazard

46 Nightclub show

47 Pyramid place

48 Kickless coffee

49 Upper limit

50 Indolent

51 Short-tailed rodent

52 Valley

56 Weird

PUZZLE ANSWERS

51 Voile, 52 Dale, 56 Odd.  
48 Decaf, 49 Roof, 50 Idle,  
45 Pail, 46 Revue, 47 Egypt,  
Gals, 41 N S A, 43 Purses,  
Despised, 38 Ventures, 40  
33 Mayo, 35 Pivots, 37  
30 iPod, 31 Sara, 32 Egan,  
28 Touts, 29 Casablanca,  
21 Gorges, 23 Hair, 25 Ewe,  
11 Anon, 12 Rene, 13 Fred,  
Less than, 9 Stars, 10 Cutie,  
5 R N A, 6 Aimed, 7 Icon, 8  
3 Sound bites, 4 Foreword,  
Down: 1 Where, 2 Arman,  
61 Feels, 62 Deeds, 63 A T F.  
58 Ollie, 59 Elude, 60 C P A,  
Odors, 55 Savor, 57 N Y C,  
49 Riverside, 53 Usage, 54  
Snob, 45 Pulp, 46 Rattled,  
Nevada, 42 Nos, 43 Pass, 44  
38 Visor, 39 Ayes, 40 Get, 41  
35 Papa, 36 Gated, 37 Dun,  
29 C is, 32 Emigre, 34 Oar,  
26 Tare, 27 Brow, 28 This,  
22 Enshrined, 24 Endowed,  
Ramos, 19 Alone, 20 Range,  
ice, 16 Tuner, 17 Emu, 18  
Scarf, 14 H M O, 15 On

Sudoku solution from  
July 5, 2023

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

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