



Garden tour
'best ever'
page 10

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Treats galore at Cherry Festival

Rosamund Hennessy holds an almost-empty basket of delicious orange-date muffins made by Nancy Bongard, which were almost sold out by about 11 a.m. With Hennessy at the bake table at St. Mark's Church were Karen Ford, Joy Rogers and Cathy Taylor. (Penny Coles)
For more photos see page 18.

St. Davids Lions Carnival returns bigger and better

Penny Coles
The Local

It's been two years since we've had a St. Davids Lions Carnival to attend, so expect it to be not only back, but better than ever.

The Lions are planning for record attendance, buying extra to ensure they don't run out of food, one of the mainstays of the four-day carnival.

There is also a full lineup of music planned for all four days, beginning Wednesday, July 20, and wrapping up Saturday, July 23, with a wine and beer tent in the evenings for an opportunity to enjoy a beverage while relaxing to the music.

Although alcohol is served, the carnival is still a great family event, says

Glenn Miller, carnival chairperson and incoming club president.

The food booth will once again be offering the "world-famous Lions burger," says Miller, the same popular burger which sustained the club through its successful Friday night barbecues when the carnival was cancelled. Hot off the barbecue 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 — where else do you get it dipped in melted butter?

Townsend rides aimed at kids and young teens, bingo, and all the tradi-

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Engineer isn't buying transportation master plan

Ron Simkus asks residents to comment on flaws in plan

Penny Coles
The Local

Ron Simkus, best-known in town for his concern over water levels in the dock area, is using his regular email blast to more than 100 residents to reach out on another issue — the town's transportation master plan.

The most recent draft of the plan is now available online, and is open for comments from the public for the

month of July.

Once the commenting closes, town staff have a short turn-around time to put those comments together, amend the draft plan if required, and present it to councillors for approval on Aug. 22.

Simkus is concerned about the lack of input to date on a very significant document that broadly addresses transportation issues in NOTL, and that will guide implementation of

its recommendations over the next 20 years.

He says he hasn't met a single person in town "who is up to speed on the process that is being followed to presumably convince our town council to approve the plan."

Nor does he believe there is anyone qualified on town staff to deal with such an extensive plan, to sign off on it, or to work on its implementation, estimated, in today's dollars, at \$64 million. The town has not had a professional engineer on staff since Ewald Kuczera, he says. Kuczera,

who oversaw the creation of the town's first transportation master plan, approved in 2004, retired in 2014 as the director of public works, and has not been replaced.

"The recent Deloitte audit described the shortfall of annual road maintenance at \$3 million per year," says Simkus. "If we can't maintain the roads we have, why are we designing new ones?"

Simkus is a retired engineering consultant, with more than 40 years' experience in the management of skilled operations, maintenance and engineering personnel, including serving as CEO and president of two of the world's largest copper mines.

While his qualifications are impressive, and he wants to help the town by putting them to good use, looking at how best to map out the town's future transportation needs is clearly not his job.

However, he is feeling the responsibility of alerting residents to the importance of the transportation master plan (TMP) under consideration. "I love this town. I may not be here to see the plan im-

plemented," he says, "but my grandchildren may be."

He is encouraging residents to read the document, and to let the town know where they feel it is wrong. If they don't know how to post comments online, write a letter or send an email to the town, he adds.

Some of the recommendations in the plan, which was written during a pandemic, make him wonder if anyone actually went to see the roads they've proposed to

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No easy solution to doctor shortage in town

Penny Coles
The Local

Coun. Sandra O'Connor is pushing to bring a nurse practitioner to town, hoping it will happen sooner rather than later.

She is concerned about the 6,000 residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake who are without a doctor in town, and this is the first step toward improving local health care for them.

With the help of Lord Mayor Betty Disero, a team of advocates that includes Bonnie Bagnulo, the executive director of the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service and representatives of the local family health team, and the backing of council, she is hoping for success. They have run into a roadblock, she says. They were told by Niagara Health at a June meeting that the funding is still in place for a nurse practitioner, but she is now hearing they have to get approval for the funding, and hoping that's only a temporary hiccup and can be worked out — she hopes for some good news later this week.

But that is really just the first step.

This week the country's 13 premiers began meetings

to talk about health-care funding to address a severe shortage of doctors, nurses and other health workers, pointing to a lack of federal funding to increase health care resources.

NOTL is not immune to that problem, but as premiers are well aware, there isn't a simple solution.

O'Connor, in her discussions about the need for a nurse practitioner, has learned how badly NOTL is in need of doctors, and the prognosis for attracting them is not good.

"NOTL has the highest percentage of Niagara residents 65 years of age or older, with over 30 per cent in that category," said O'Connor. "No other municipality in the Niagara Region is 30 per cent or greater."

Dr. Karen Berti, one of the Niagara North Health Team's family physicians, has worked and raised a family in NOTL, and remembers a time 10 to 15 years ago when the town had its own doctor recruitment committee.

That is no longer the case, she says, although the family health team is in need of doctors. They are down one, with the others dividing up the roster of those patients, but in recent years the pop-

ulation of town has grown more than 30 per cent, while health care resources have not, making NOTL considerably under-served.

The Ministry of Health pegs patient rosters at 1,360 per doctor, but that is based on 18 per cent of patients being over 65, says Berti.

Forty-two per cent of her patients are over 65, and even patients over 50 have more health issues, taking up more of a physician's time. The majority of those moving to NOTL are over 50, she says.

"Family medicine has always been complex in nature," says Berti.

But it's becoming more difficult, with the growing number of seniors in NOTL and the complex care they require. "They're not just coming in with a cold and a cough."

O'Connor says when she talked to members of the Niagara North Family Health Team, she was told they have the longest wait list for a doctor that they have ever had.

Berti says she and some of the other doctors don't even keep a wait list. "It just perpetuates the problem. Why would I have a waiting list when I can barely provide care for the number of

patients I have?"

And it's not just family physicians who are struggling, she adds, it's specialists as well, creating issues with getting referrals for patients who need them, and delays for everything from imaging to surgeries.

"It's tough, and it's everywhere," she says. "Every specialty is suffering. Every health care worker is having a difficult time."

Doctors, nurses and all health care workers are exhausted, says Berti. Many were burned out before the pandemic, retiring or choosing to leave their profession, and it's only getting worse. "Retention is as important as recruitment."

Niagara Region has had a recruitment and retention committee since 2001, with a goal of trying to attract doctors to all of the municipalities in an under-served region.

But it's a competition, says Berti, and NOTL, with its high percentage of seniors taxing a doctor's workload, and no extra remuneration as determined by the province, is not attractive to new doctors.

The cost of living, the cost of homes and office space, the gaps in the school system and the issue with transportation to some schools are all factors that discourage doctors from choosing NOTL over some of the other municipalities, she says.

"It's just a lack of a fundamental resource, and everyone competing for it."

But there are some positives in local health care,



Coun. Sandra O'Connor says getting a nurse practitioner in town who can see patients not rostered in the Niagara North Family Health Team is just a first step to improving health care in NOTL. (File photo)

she says.

Given the older population, some people have been sick, and some have died from COVID, but overall, "NOTL has done well during COVID."

NOTL has "a great family health team," she adds, "and great resources. We could just use more of them."

And at some point, as the pressure from the pandemic eases, "there needs to be some time and energy spent on recruiting more health care workers to the town and the region."

O'Connor says while municipal governments are not to get involved in health care, the Ontario Medical Association says municipalities have a role to play in health infrastructure.

In NOTL, the first step is bringing another nurse practitioner to town, who will work for and be paid by

the Niagara Health system, she says.

Health infrastructure can also include an urgent care centre, and that is something else she hopes to advocate for in the future.

O'Connor has recently learned that Fort Erie, one of the municipalities under-served and competing for new physicians, has created a community health care services committee, and a bylaw was passed to allow the town to work on recruiting and retaining physicians. "Fort Erie is actively seeking family physicians to join the existing medical community," the town website says. It lists some of the incentives it will offer doctors, including "an exciting, lucrative" package for new physicians that would include relocation expenses, and adds "we would be happy to showcase our community and the surrounding attractions on a site visit that we will arrange and fund for you and your spouse."

O'Connor says she "would not discount the creation of a committee to help find us some doctors for Niagara-on-the-Lake."

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Public input will mean amendments to plan

Continued from page 1

change, or simply made their decisions sitting at a computer and looking a map.

For example, one of his biggest fears is a recommendation to eliminate dead-end streets and cul-de-sacs, turning them into through roads, such as Ball Street which is recommended for extension “through a public park and a flood zone” to connect to River Beach Drive.

All of the plans to extend dead-ends, he says, will impact residential neighbourhoods, but there is no data to show that will solve any transportation problems.

“It’s supposed to be a roadmap (excuse the pun, he says) for the growth of the entire community, which it’s not.”

The public consultation period is more than a week through its four-week duration, but by Sunday he didn’t think a single person had commented. He has been delaying adding his voice to Join the Conversation on the town’s website, where comments are supposed to be posted, hoping others will add their opinions first. His will be comprehensive and lengthy, and he is hoping for more than comments of “me too,” from others, thus his hesitancy to add his just yet.

He is working on a shorter document that can be used as a template for people to add their names to and submit as their comments.

He is really concerned that without sufficient public input, the document will go ahead as it is now, with no changes.

At the April 25 council meeting, councillors were asked to approve the plan, but expressed concern with some of the recommendations.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor spoke of some specific issues such as the St. Davids roundabout, Ball Street going through a park, a road through a forested area, expropriation of agricultural lands to make some streets, such as Niagara Stone Road and Airport Road, into four lanes rather than two, and the impact on residential, agricultural and cultural resources.

She also pointed out the need for the TMP to be integrated with the town’s official

plan, secondary plans, and those that are meant to protect the town’s environment, heritage and agriculture. She said she sees “somewhat of a disconnect with other plans, including the regional transportation plan.”

“There are areas that need to be reworked,” she said, adding she couldn’t endorse the TMP even in principle, “given what I see as serious weaknesses” in it.

Coun. Gary Burroughs also brought up four plans that specifically apply to the dock area, none of which are aligned with the transportation plan.

“The extension of Ball Street is not what anyone wants, and yet it’s still in it,” he said.

“We don’t want to throw it off the rails,” said Lord Mayor Betty Disero, suggesting council needs more time to study it and make changes.

With councillors agreeing there was a lot to absorb in the plan, they decided to receive it but not endorse it, allowing the 30-day consultation period to go ahead, although they were warned that the summer is not the best time to ask for public input.

Simkus refers to the transportation master plan as a version of SimCity, a city-building video game, and says his update that went out in his recent email blast “describes the mess that the draft MTP is in.”

He calls the plan “an exercise of connecting roads and residential blocks like a video game, offering that as a solution to a crush of additional cars infiltrating every inch of the community.”

Many people still don’t understand what is in the plan, which he says, at \$160,000 paid to the consulting firm for a report almost 170 pages long, is not good value — not through any fault of the consultants, but because there is no one on town staff to manage it.

Another issue Simkus fears is that Stantec, the consulting company hired to work on the master plan, is still involved, but the consultant who worked on it since the hiring of the company, and the one who could answer any questions posed by councillors or residents, is no longer with that firm. “The continuity is gone, and so are

our answers,” he says.

“The Stantec project manager was engineer Brian Putre, but nobody with anywhere near-equivalent credentials provided direction to him from the town. The TMP is the first attempt by town operations staff to complete an engineering master plan, without skills or competency to do so, and it shows.”

He tells The Local his words are not a criticism of the staff, that the issue is the town not hiring someone with the right credentials to do the job.

“All credit to the efforts of Stantec trying to work through the document, but the TMP document is shot full of staff pet projects and SimCity designs from plan-view maps that don’t correctly recognize physical details, environmental impacts and the historical context of the neighbourhoods impacted,” he says.

He also objects to the plan’s intent “to improve traffic flow,” without any data to support its recommendations.

Traffic does not “flow” in Old Town, he says, rather it stops when people get within

a view of the lake and want to take photos.

Increasing Niagara Stone Road to four lanes “will turn it into the QEW,” delivering more automobiles directly into the heart of the heritage district and crushing an already overloaded residential street system.

“The answer from staff to this dilemma is to lengthen and join roads within the Old Town, to compress additional cars onto every square inch of asphalt they can lay down. What possible benefit is this to people who actually live in the homes of Old Town?” he asks. “We have to come up with a better solution than all these cars parking on residential streets.”

He has heard residents say, about the cumbersome Join the Conversation place for comments, that “the town doesn’t want our feedback, just a checkmark on the process punch list.”

He speaks highly of CAO Marnie Cluckie, and says he knows that is not her intent, but that she is operating in a vacuum, and needs qualified professionals on staff to produce a quality document and



Ron Simkus, seen working here to create a trench in the dock area in 2019, wants to be sure the recommendations in a finalized transportation master plan won’t include extending Ball Street to River Beach Road. (File photo)

to make better decisions on behalf of residents.

The lengthy transportation master plan might seem daunting to digest, but Simkus suggests the executive summary at the beginning of the document will provide enough information to allow residents to understand it and make comments.

If enough comments are received they will be grouped together for “theming,” leading to modifications in the draft recommendations before the plan goes to council

in August for approval.

“It’s so important to get this right,” says Simkus. “You can’t put your head in the sand and hope it’s going to work itself out, because it’s not. If you don’t say anything at all, it will be a tragedy.”

To read the draft transportation master plan and to make comments on it use the Join The Conversation link where the document and comments upload is available at: <https://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/TransportationMasterPlan>.

Rotary Rocks



Ten members of the NOTL Rotary Club recently spent the morning around their 2019 installation of Rotary Rocks at Queen’s Royal Beach, shifting 12 tons of sand into place. Led by recently inducted president Greg Fedoryn (shown, right, with the project’s centrepiece stone), and Paul Lalonde, the Rotary Rocks leader, the team raked and levelled the well-loved rest and play area that has a spectacular panoramic view of Lake Ontario and the Toronto skyline. “Much of the sand we put in when originally built the Rocks has been washed out by the higher water levels of the last few years,” says Rotarian Bill French. “Our best guess is that we’ll need to continue to refurbish it every few years.” The centrepiece stone with the engraving, “Have you made someone’s life BETTER today?” and the Rotary International symbol, has inspired many visitors to town, says French. After viewing the NOTL project, Rotary clubs in Monroe Falls and Stow City Center, Ohio are constructing similar designs. The Ann Arbor club in Michigan and two others in New York state have consulted with the local group to start projects in their communities. “This local Rotary Project encourages both locals and guests to rest, reflect and engage in positive actions to make the world a better place. The club is excited to see their message of hope expanding around the world,” says French.



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Laura Secord sold to Niagara Falls developer

New owner promises to respect heritage village

Penny Coles
The Local

Laura Secord Memorial School in Queenston has been sold.

The Willowbank School of Restoration Arts has sold it to Canadian Niagara Heritage Inc. of Niagara Falls, owned by the Shahani family, for \$2,275,000.

“We thank everyone involved for their patience over the past few months,” said Willowbank chair Patrick Little.

In a Willowbank news re-

lease, a spokesperson for Canadian Heritage Niagara said “we are pleased to have acquired this property, and have agreed to permit the school to run certain classes at the site until the end of the year.”

Willowbank will use a portion of the funds to discharge a mortgage and invest the balance to support school operations into the future, says Willowbank vice-chair John Scott.

Willowbank purchased the building in 2012 through a partnership with the town, planning on using it to expand

restoration arts classes. It was put up for sale in February, the board having decided there was no need for it in the future of Willowbank.

“The certainty of annual contributions from the investment will be a welcome supplement to the resources needed to provide our students with the best learning experience possible in restoration arts,” said Scott.

The offer from Canadian Niagara Heritage wasn’t the only one, he says, but it was the one they considered the best fit

for the village. “It seemed this particular group would work well in the neighbourhood.”

When Jim Armstrong, president of the Queenston Residents Association, learned the school would be sold, he said villagers support Willowbank and its survival into the future, and he wouldn’t expect the QRA to block development, although he hoped there wouldn’t be a repeat of the situation with the Parliament Oak residential development proposal.

Now that it’s sold, he says there will be great interest in the new owners and their plans, and he hopes they recognize “this isn’t a town or a city, it’s a village. And some of the people who moved here did so to get away from an urban environment.”

He’s especially concerned with the impact any development would have on residents adjacent to the school property.

“We’ll have to be vigilant, and optimistic that the owner will do something that respects the village.”

“We are excited about the purchase,” Navin Shahani of Canadian Niagara Heritage told The Local. “There are no plans as of yet, however we look forward to working with the town and the community in the near future for an adaptive reuse of the property that is complimentary to the village.”



Sharon Okun and Adam Markovic love their studios in the former school, but are now looking for somewhere to relocate. (Photo supplied)

“Please take comfort in knowing that we value the area and its cultural heritage significance,” he added. “With any potential plans for the future, we shall take into consideration the nature of the area around the site, as well as the impact it may have.”

In the meantime, Sharon Okun and Adam Markovic, well-established visual artists with studios in the school building, may have a few more months in their space — they haven’t spoken to the new owner or been given a timeline — but are scoping out their next venue. “We have fallen in

love with the region and have made so many new friends, so we want to stay close,” said Okun in a recent email blast. They are looking for open-concept space, maybe a barn, to use as an art studio and woodworking space, preferably with some natural light, and would consider renting or purchasing. “Adam is skilled in renovation work and would be willing to discuss the possibility of property enhancement in exchange for a long-term lease in a beautiful place.”

If anyone knows of property that might be suitable, email inquiry@sharonokun.com.

York Road rollover results in fatality

Local Staff

Saturday evening, at 10:34 p.m. Niagara Regional Police Service officers responded with paramedics and members from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department to reports of a single vehicle collision on York Road between Concession 1 Road and Concession 2 Road.

Officers discovered a single vehicle that appeared to have rolled over. An woman was pronounced dead at the scene. A man was extricated from the vehicle by members of the NOTL Fire Department.

Paramedics provided medical care to the man prior to transporting him to a local hospital for further medical treatment. He is currently listed in serious condition.

The identities of the man and woman are not being released.

York Road between Concession 1 Road and Concession 2 Road was closed for several hours to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, as detectives assigned to the Collision Reconstruction Unit and detectives assigned to the Forensic Services Unit conducted their investigation.

Detectives are appealing

to members of the public who may have been in the area at the time of the collision. Residents with CCTV footage that captures York Road between Concession Road 1 and Concession Road 2 and motorists who were in the area with an operational dash-camera, are encouraged to review their footage and contact the lead detective at 905-688-4111, option 3, badge 1009170 with any relevant information.

Members of the public who wish to provide information anonymously can contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-8477.



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With more than 20 years experience as an exercise specialist behind her, Jennifer Olsen has not only the knowledge but a passion for helping others achieve their health and wellness goals.

Since she began her fitness journey, first as a successful competitor and then as an instructor, much has changed in her life. She has been happily married for more than 16 years, and is a busy mother of four children.

Reflecting on the time when she was a young teenager, wanting to emulate women she saw in fitness magazines, and the competitions and accreditations that followed, she knows those years taught her to push through “the hard stuff,” to get to where she wanted and needed to be. And she knows that experience enables her to help others on their personal journeys, whatever that might look like for them, and whatever their goals may be.

That led her to create and open The Training Shed, fulfilling another one of her goals by providing a space for both women and men to feel “comfortable, heard, and supported in their health and wellness journey.”

Those who walk through the

doors of her McNab Road studio, an intimate space in the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake, can expect a personal experience. “We can sit down and chat like old friends,” says Jennifer, “figure out together what it means for you to get to your goal, and work on a plan to achieve it.”

The Training Shed is a secret gem, designed with all the tools on hand to help you get to where you want to be, and to become the best version of you. That is what Jennifer intended when she created the space, and she is passionate about using it to help others reach their goals.

She is also passionate about the new, exciting programs happening at The Training Shed.

One is a monthly workshop series, with topics ranging from mobility, nutrition, mindsets, and how to de-stress. The first workshop is July 20 at 7p.m. at the studio. “You will get tactical tips on how to navigate the summer months, and still stay on track with your fitness and nutrition,” says Jennifer. “And yes, you can have your cake and eat it too!”

She is also excited to announce a brand new program launch, called FALL RE:SET, intended as a summer “hang-

over recovery program.”

“As we all know,” says Jennifer, “we can get a little carried away during the summer holidays, and are ready to turn a new leaf come fall.” This program will include step-by-step meal planning, health workshops, and quick and tactical workouts. It will also help increase accountability, and features a \$500 prize giveaway.

Jennifer has partnered with a nutritionist to allow her clients to not only benefit from her expertise, but that of secondary coaches. Tami will be available to help women navigate the mysteries of nutrition by simplifying it, and ensuring it makes sense to you. She can help you stay away from the fad diets, and see much better results.

Plus, she will be joined by Fran Notarianni, an incredible yoga and pilates instructor, who provides her training with sass and humour!

There is so much awaiting you at the The Training Shed to help you feel welcome and comfortable, and to make your journey to health and wellness a pleasurable experience, along the way to successfully achieving your goals.

Contact Jennifer at 905-687-6220, thetrainingshed.co



Jennifer Olsen, owner of the Training Shed

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Jennifer is passionate about providing a space for women & men alike to feel comfortable, heard, and supported in their health & wellness journey – whatever that journey may look like for them.



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EDITORIAL

Health care has to be our top priority

We don't need premiers from across the country to meet and then tell us how desperately we need a solution to health care.

We know it first hand. If we haven't had our own experience, we've sat and cried with a loved one while they wait for a critical surgery, listened to the devastating stories from friends about family members, from our youngest to our seniors, not getting the care they need and deserve. We hear about delays for appointments, treatment, surgeries, lack of home care post-surgery, and ridiculously long waiting times in emergency and urgent care departments.

And long-term care — the way our seniors have suffered has been a dark

time in our history. We know it's not the fault of our doctors, nurses and other health care workers. They truly are our heroes, doing their absolute best, but you would never know it from the way they are being treated. In Ontario, we still have Bill 124, denying adequate cost-of-living wages that might help keep some nurses working (and teachers, but that's another story). Who can blame them for retiring or seeking other professions where they're respected and paid fairly for the work they do? Of course it's not just the nurses, and the solution isn't just about money. But that would be a start. The shortage of health care workers — doctors, nurses, personal

support workers — was an issue before COVID, but it has become so much worse. The pandemic is not over, and an alarming number of health care workers continue to retire or quit. They are burned out, exhausted in every way. There is no doubt that the solution has to begin with increases in funding for health care, both at the provincial and federal level of government. Do we want our taxes to go up? Of course not. But better our money be spent on health care than on expensive highways we could live without — we won't all live long enough to make use of them if we don't have doctors and nurses to look after us.

Premier Doug Ford

made election promises for new hospitals here and across the province. As much as we'd love to see a new hospital in Niagara, it won't do us any good without doctors, nurses and all

the other health care workers to staff it. We know there isn't a quick, easy solution, but we have to start somewhere, and that has to be an investment in more resources,

attracting more people to health care professions, training them, and holding on to them. It can be done, and it has to start now.

Penny Coles
The Local

Heliotropes a special feature in Garden of the Week

Marla Percy
Special to The Local

The lush garden at 48 Colonel Butler Crescent has a back drop of lovely trees and perennials, but it is the splendid array of colourful annuals that stop traffic. It's a garden that makes you smile. Several of the beds feature a scented plant called heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*), which was a staple of Victorian gardens. It had a revival in the 1980s and now it is hit and miss if you can find it. But it is worth the search.

The purple to lilac blossoms sit primly on the top of their stems with bright dark green foliage. Originally a tree-like plant from

the Peruvian Andes, it was brought to Paris in 1740 and became a plant to be used in perfumes. More compact forms were quickly developed to create smaller bedding plants. Heliotrope is associated with nosegays and courtships — chaste and wholesome.

It has a pleasant fragrance (which has unfortunately suffered from over-breeding) but if you find the sweetest smelling ones you can take cuttings for the following year. It's a gentle plant which holds its own amidst the others, and makes you take a second look.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

There has never been a phenomenon like *Call the Midwife* (Britbox), now in season 11. It is sensitively conceived, written and

performed and can be a life-altering experience for even the most jaded. As the narrator Monica Joan wisely points out: there is pain, there is love and there is hope.

Donald Combe is a re-

tired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

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

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Garden of the week



Marlene and Wayne Penner have a lovely and unique Colonel Butler Street garden showing lots of foliage, colour and texture. Using the large lot, the owners have broken the expanse with numerous gardens featuring annuals, rocks, and even a gargoyle. The garden is extended onto the porch which features ferns and other containers to provide a lovely sitting area. The garden is very well maintained and a visual delight. (Photo supplied)

COMMENT

Local LETTERS

Chamber president, CEO addresses municipal accommodation tax

I write in reference to your article titled Business community weighs in on accommodation tax (June 29). Please permit me some space in your paper to address some conversations I have observed in the public domain regarding said article.

The initial Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) committee was a working group established to guide the rollout and implementation of MAT. This committee was composed of the accommodation sector because it is the hotels and B&Bs of 5-plus rooms who are the ones implementing the MAT in their respective operations. From discussions with the town's CAO, the next MAT governance advisory committee will comprise residents and councillors, along with tourism stakeholders and industry. It is here that the voice of residents becomes important to the discussion on developing criteria and making recommendations about MAT-funded initiatives, and not in discussions on the operationalizing/rollout.

The intention of MAT is for tourism growth. It is not a tax grab on accommodation, it is not meant to reduce other taxes, it is not intended to pay for operational deficits, it is not intended to replace existing funding. It is a tax on tourism, for sustainable tourism growth. One of the key recommendations made by the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is for the legislation to be amended to ensure MAT revenues are used to grow tourism and not to replace existing funding sources in Ontario's municipalities.

The corporate market is a highly competitive marketplace, and while our leisure market is a bit more price elastic, the corporate market is highly price-sensitive. Niagara Falls has a flat fee of \$2 per hotel room per night.

Opting to impose a tax rate (two per cent and eventually levelling at four per cent in 2025) as opposed to a flat fee, puts Niagara-on-the-Lake at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to the corporate market relative to our nearest competitor, Niagara Falls. The corporate market provides the visitation, hotel occupancies, fills local restaurants, wineries, and retail spending that the town needs during the off-peak months, and mid-week. It is a market that we should be pursuing and creating competitive advantages for ourselves, and not the other way around.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's downtown core has some of the highest parking rates in Canada. Parking in the heritage district is paid by tourists, not residents. At \$5.25 an hour on Queen Street, tourists pay higher parking fees to spend money in the local economy than they pay in prime municipal-owned parking locations downtown Toronto and Vancouver. This parking revenue funds tourism costs as well as municipal services.

Additionally, tourism businesses pay property taxes at commercial rates and contribute to municipal revenues. Even without the MAT, tourists pay for tourism, not residents.

The town pays \$70,000 to the chamber a year for the provision of visitor services and for operating the visitor centre at its office. More than half of this subsidy goes back to the town in rent. The chamber (through our membership fees, sponsorships, and events) offsets the salaries of visitor information staff who provide and promote All NOTL's tourism businesses, festivals, and products, not just that of the chamber's members.

We look forward to working with the town on the development of the tourism strategy. The tourism strategy will be a solution-oriented, communi-

ty-involved planning process for tourism and sustainable tourism growth. Through this strategy, future tourism capital projects and tourism initiatives will be identified to be funded by the MAT. Tourism growth, tourism product development, and tourism marketing now have a dedicated funding stream through the MAT.

As the voice of business in NOTL and the local destination marketing organization, the Chamber of Commerce will continue to invest our time and efforts on assisting industry with recovery, sustainable and respectful tourism growth, and advocating on behalf of our members and the tourism industry.

We are pleased that in a recent study to measure resident sentiment about tourism and life in NOTL, Abacus Data found that 85 per cent of NOTL's residents believe that NOTL can both attract a lot of visitors and be a great place to live. This resident sentiment data is an endorsement of tourism and confirms what we already knew anecdotally: that the residents of NOTL understand and recognize the value and importance of tourism to both the economy of this town, and to their quality of lives. We are pleased that the vast majority of residents see tourism in a positive light, understands the symbiotic relationship they share with tourism and the quality of life they enjoy, that tourism funds the amenities available to them right at their doors (restaurants, wineries, the Shaw Festival, festivals, retail), and understands that there needs to be a positive relationship and tone between the community and tourism.

Thank you again for allowing me this space to add to the dialogue about MAT.

Minerva Ward
President & CEO
NOTL Chamber of
Commerce & Tourism NOTL

Local LETTERS

Indigenous authorities can help with wildlife problems

I was heartbroken to read Shirley Madsen's news of the fawn hit by a car on Lakeshore Road, close to where I regularly walk along the Four Mile Creek.

Back in May, I noticed a doe in the woods who had not moved in days. Fearing she was injured, I contacted the Haudenosaunee Wildlife And Habitat Authority to guide me. The Haudenosaunee peoples have been taking care of this land since time immemorial and I received a quick response from

Kedoh Hill, a member of the Mohawk Nation, Wolf Clan.

When I went back to the forest to check on the deer's status, I saw she was not alone. To my delight, bouncing through her legs and nearby trees was a young fawn. I immediately reported back to Mr. Hill and we celebrated the good news.

When it comes to wildlife issues (injuries, over-populations, aggression toward people and pets, etc), I encourage my neighbours to contact Indigenous author-

ities. As settlers (non-native guests on this land), this is just one of many ways that we can move toward reconciliation in the spirit of peace and friendship, as outlined in the Two Row treaty that we're all responsible for upholding here in shared Haudenosaunee territory.

For more details (including contact information), check out haudenosauneeconfederacy.com

Kit Andres
NOTL

Lakeview draws a crowd



On Saturday, Lakeview Wine's Homemade Market, a fundraiser for Red Roof Retreat, captured the attention of those passing by the Niagara Stone Road winery, with artists and artisans displaying their wares on a perfect summer day. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



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Ukesters celebrate 10 years of music, 'therapy'

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Alan Ash can hardly believe that what he and his Village neighbour Doug Widdicombe started for fun is still going strong, in fact getting stronger, 10 years later.

Ash and his fellow members of the NOTL Ukesters celebrated their 10th anniversary last weekend with a special gathering at the St. Catharines Club on Ontario Street. It was a visit Ash paid to the Corktown Ukulele Jam in 2012 that gave him the seed of an idea.

"I saw what was happening there," says the longtime musician, a bass player. "It was at a restaurant called Dominion on Queen. Seventy-five people just wailing on ukuleles, peo-

ple drinking, laughing, letting loose. They were doing classic rock, stuff that everyone likes. I told Doug we had to do something like that here."

He and Widdicombe gathered about five other like-minded individuals, and they started the Ukesters. For the first couple of years the number hovered between seven and 20, but word quickly spread and membership began to grow.

Widdicombe is no longer actively involved, his real estate business keeping him too busy for weekend playing sessions. But Ash says the two still get together and jam when they can find the time. Meanwhile, the NOTL Ukesters continue to gather interest.

"Today, we're at 435 registered members," a clearly happy Ash says. "It really grew during

COVID because we were on Zoom. We even have a member from Australia."

Ash says the instrument has had a bit of a renaissance since a video of Hawaii's Israel Kamakawiwoole playing *Some-where Over the Rainbow* went viral a few years ago.

"The uke is a pretty easy instrument to learn, in relation to guitar, a piano or other instruments," Ash says. "There's only four strings. You can learn four chords and with those you can play hundreds of songs."

The Ukesters range in age from 25 to 86 years old, the oldest member crossing the border from New York state (when that border has been open) since 2018 to join in on the regular Sunday sessions held at the NOTL Community Centre.

"I would say about 80 per

cent of them joined not having ever played an instrument before," Ash guesses. "They're retired, many of them, just looking for something to do. Some will take group or private lessons along the way. For many it's a form of therapy."

Ash, the group's de facto leader, refers to the Ukesters as a family. People get along, there's no toxicity between the members. He says everyone is positive, upbeat, and just happy to be able to get together to play.

And they are also happy to support the community. Each Ukester contributes \$15 a month as part of their membership. That fee goes toward minor expenses, including equipment and the rental fee for the Community Centre. The rest, constituting the bulk of the fees, is donated to non-profit organizations. They have contributed to the Niagara Nursery School, Red Roof Retreat and a Ukraine relief fund, among other causes over the years.

For the special Saturday anniversary get-together, more than 50 Ukesters and their spouses or other family members gathered for finger foods and drinks before squeezing into the largest room at the club for a two-hour session.

Among those playing Saturday was Doug Geddie, a Ukester since December.

"I bought a ukulele to play with my grandchildren at Christmas time," Geddie says. "When they lost interest, I looked up the NOTL Ukesters who I had seen at a winery. I joined one of their Zoom meetings and was captivated by their enthusiasm and the fun they were having."

Geddie credits Ash for making each session fun and easy for everyone to join in. Saturday was only his second chance to participate in person, and he admits he misses the novelty of the online sessions a bit.

"It was kind of fun to see these people from all over Ontario, the U.S., even the east coast," Geddie says. "They're gone now, but on the other hand, the local community is gathering



Sharla Wiens and Alan Ash play a number together.



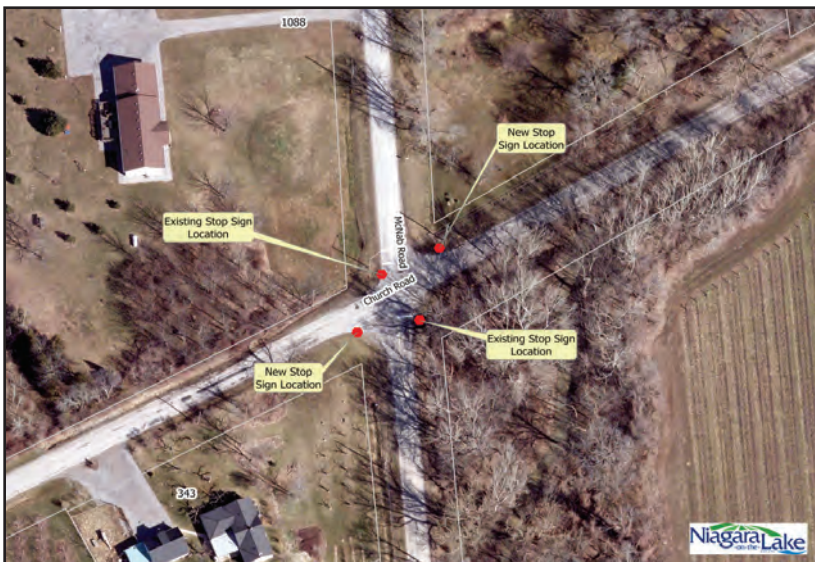
Colin Heydon sings one of his favourites, a John Lennon song.



Ukesters speak highly of the value of their gatherings, especially during COVID. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Niagara Lake
-on-the- EST. 1781

PUBLIC NOTICE INSTALLATION OF AN ALL-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF MCNAB ROAD AND CHURCH ROAD



NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has amended **By-Law 4308-09** to establish an **all-way stop** at the intersection of McNab Road and Church Road.

Currently, only McNab Road traffic is required to stop. Based on the amended By-Law, now drivers on Church Road are required to stop as well.

Drivers are urged to use extra caution at this intersection as traffic on Church Road adjusts to the new stop signs.

New stop signs will be erected on July 20, 2022, and enforcement of the all-way stop will commence immediately upon installation.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by emailing mike.komljenovic@notl.com or calling (905) 468-3266.

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rhythm track and counted the group in for a take on the classic *City of New Orleans*.

That was followed by the Lovin' Spoonful's *You Didn't Have to Be So Nice* and *With Little Help from My Friends* by the Beatles.

There was a decidedly buoyant atmosphere within the room, hence Ash's 'therapy' comment earlier.

"Once, after dropping in, a guy came up and told me he felt like the room was levitating," Ash says. "I thought that was a good description of the spirit in the room when we play."

Following the Beatles songs, Don Peterson and Rob Tripe stepped to the front for the first open mic song. After a bit of back-and-forth banter, sounding a bit like the Smothers Brothers, they harmonized on Harry Connick Jr's *A Wink and a Smile*. When they were done, Colin Heydon took centre stage for a heartfelt version of John Lennon's *Beautiful Boy*.

Later that afternoon, Ash paid tribute to Ukesters who have passed away in the last 10 years. That included Peter Richmond, Don Goodwin, Vicky Beddage and Adam White, with the group playing one of each of the late member's favourite songs, some of which appeared on a Ukesters CD that was put out in 2016.

Earlier this summer the Ukesters had their first chance to perform for an audience in over two years at the return of the NOTL Strawberry Festival at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. But Ash says with COVID still a possibility, they are for the most part avoiding playing outside engagements.

And that's perfectly fine.

"It's all about the music," Ash says. "It's about the music expression. It's that, and the camaraderie, too. I love to see someone's confidence build as they learn more and more about playing the instrument."

Barnyard animal tours close to home



Barnyard animal tours are open at 68 Niagara Street daily from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. except for Wednesdays. No reservations required. The Lakeit family requests a contribution of \$15 per person. Rabbits, chickens, a cow, turkeys, pigeons, quail, pigs, goats, sheep, alpacas, a retired race horse and more can all be found on the 15-acre property. (Mike Balsom)



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Garden tour may have been ‘best yet’

Penny Coles
The Local

Sheila Hirsch-Kalm thrives on sharing her passion for gardening and extensive knowledge with others.

So despite her continuing battle against a progressing blood cancer, one she was diagnosed with more than 20 years ago and has received active treatment for ever since, she couldn't miss being part of this year's Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society's garden tour.

Hirsch-Kalm, an honorary life-time member of the horticultural society, is best-known in town for the indomitable spirit and enthusiasm she has shown since the first Daffodil Garden of Hope was planted in Simcoe Park in 2005, now numbering nine across town, the most recent one in St. Davids.

The daffodils were intended as a symbol of hope when they bloom in the spring, as they still are, for all those affected by cancer, and as a reminder of the importance of cancer

awareness.

Greeting garden tour visitors to her back garden Saturday afternoon, Hirsch-Kalm, who has relied on a walker for years due to a complication with cancer, was in a wheelchair, due to the progression of the disease. But that doesn't dampen her enthusiasm. Her walker isn't far away, and she can still get around on it, although her first-in-Canada, ultra-sophisticated titanium wheelchair makes mobility easier for her. She still drives, she is proud to say, having passed

her third driving test since she turned 80 — she is now 86 — and has a special “robotic arm” device attached to the back of her car that brings the battery-operated chair around to her when she gets out of the car, and replaces it in the back when she gets in to drive.

“If we lose our ability to drive, there is no way to get around this town,” she says. “That is worrying for a lot of people who are afraid of losing their mobility.”

Hirsch-Kalm has represented the town on a regional accessibility committee, but is disappointed in the lack of action over the years, she says.

However, as she learns to live with her mobility limitations, she is also learning to garden with them.

Much of the large acreage around the York Road home

where she and her husband Michael live is graced with a multitude of plants of all sizes and varieties. Sheila says she is concentrating on “transitioning” to container gardening to reduce maintenance and make it easier for her to care for them herself.

She is able to keep her plants healthy, weed- and bug-free, she says, in the containers she has filled with a wide variety of plants, looking for interesting colours and textures. Against the house is a large worktable for her, where she can fill the containers to be placed around the garden.

“I can sit in my chair, hose in one hand and a glass of wine in the other, and water them,” she says, her arm sweeping across a wide expanse of a selection of plants in containers.

“If I can transition, I can

teach other people to as well. I hope I can help others to keep going as long as I have.”

She suggests people who are caring for elderly family members might consider doing the same, to give them the opportunity to continue gardening.

Days like Saturday, when people come to see her and her garden, are her greatest pleasure, she says.

She loves to chat, always has interesting stories to tell, and it's not only the horticultural society tour that delivers people to her garden. She was expecting another group from Toronto on Sunday, and two more this coming weekend. The Toronto branch of the Rhododendron Association never misses an opportunity to visit.

Continued on page 11



Sheila Hirsch-Kalm enjoyed having people come to see her garden and chat — events like the garden tour keep her going, she says. (Penny Coles)



The garden on Front Street, where Lord Mayor Betty Disero volunteered at the home of Kathleen Keller-Hobson, had beautiful views front and back. (Photo supplied)



Wendy and Paul Kent in their front garden on their large Queenston Road garden, one of three in St. Davids that was on the tour. (Penny Coles)



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Number of gardens a plus for tour participants

Continued from page 10

“I really enjoy those visits — it’s what keeps me going, keeps me in touch with people and with life.”

Cindy Grant, the organizer of this year’s garden tour, explains the format was a little different, allowing for more gardens than usual. This year, the host society asked residents to submit their gardens to be part of the tour, which was offered at no cost. That resulted in 25 gardens on the map, most

in the Old Town, but Hirsch-Kalm’s was one of a three on the tour in St. Davids.

Although hers has been on previous tours, the home of Wendy and Paul Kent on Queenston Road was a first. Paul says a few years ago he fulfilled one of the items on his bucket list, to have English gardens planted around the large property, and having achieved that, he was happy to open them up to the public.

Tour participants were asked to pick up bracelets and

maps at the community centre before heading out to the gardens, and Grant says there were more than 700 people on the tour, a little less than previous years but still a great day.

“We keep hearing from people who are telling us ‘it’s the best tour ever,’ she says. “They really liked the format, and the variety of gardens.”

One local participant spoke of it as “a gift,” and a “sheer delight” to wander from one garden to another “never knowing what to expect, other than

something beautiful,” with gardens both designed and maintained by the owner and those professionally done.

Although there was no cost for the tour, there were donation jars at each garden, “and there was a significant amount of donations,” says Grant.

The organizers are grateful to those who shared their gardens, says Grant, and although the format was only intended to be for this year, “we’ll have to talk about it and decide what we want to do next year.”



This sweet little table at a Johnson Street garden, shaded by greenery, was a favourite for many participants. (Karen Skeoch)



There was a wide variety of plants and garden designs in several Old Town gardens on this year’s tour. (Karen Skeoch)

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Shiny Apple Cidery continues Hunse legacy

Penny Coles
The Local

With some work to freshen up the Irvine Road retail store, the Shiny Apple Cidery has emerged to continue the Hunse legacy following the sale of the Small Talk Winery property.

Diamond Estates Wines & Spirits made the deal to take over Hank Hunse's Shiny Apple brand last August, spearheading Diamond's entry into the craft cider market, selling the cider through liquor stores and restaurants, which was produced by Hank Hunse on

Irvine Road. Hunse has recently sold the property, including the vineyards and all the buildings, to Rob Enns, a neighbouring farmer and one of the original Twenty Bees grape growers. Enns is now partnering with Diamond to allow it to continue producing the cider

on-site, and selling it at the retail store, which will sell VQA wines alongside the popular cider, explains Diamond COO Andrew Howard.

The retail outlet will feature Fresh Wines, crafted by Lakeview from 100 per cent Ontario grapes, and available in several popular varieties. It is "the first new wine being introduced," says Howard, and "it's kind of cool" that it will be sold alongside the Shiny Apple brand.

The cider too comes in several varieties, all made from a base of apples, with other fruits, including peach and pineapple, added.

Howard says Enns has continued with Lakeview Estates since it took over 20 Bees. The opportuni-

ty to partner with him on the retail of the cider came up about eight weeks ago. "It all happened very quickly," he says. "It was great fortune" Enns wanted to continue to be involved. "We have a great relationship with Rob, and he wanted to continue the partnership."

"A bunch of the Small Talk staff have stayed on in retail," Howard adds, "and the growler program continues."


When word got out the property was sold, there was some concern the popular growler club at Small Talk, which allowed people to fill and refill their favourite cider from the tap, would come to an end, but it hasn't, Howard reassures those who love their Shiny Ap-

ple, and the club has continued through the period of the changeover.

Last week saw Diamond staff at a "team-building" event, with Howard himself at the store, "hustling to put some added touches on the legacy of the Hunse family. There is so much history of the family, and the family farm," he says, which over the years has included strawberries, tender fruit, a VQA winery, the original Stonechurch Winery, rebranded into Small Talk, and becoming Shiny Apple Cidery July 1. "Hank has been amazing throughout the process," says Howard, "and we hope to do more work with him in the future. "We're excited to continue the legacy of the Hunse family."




Diamond Estates will continue to sell the Shiny Apple Cider brand at the Irvine Road retail outlet that was formerly Small Talk. A team-building group did some clean-up at the store last week. (Photos supplied)



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Music, wine and beer will be back all four evenings

Penny Coles
The Local

It's been almost a decade since Ken Lamb began bringing a new element of fun and entertainment to the St. Davids Lions Carnival, with musical groups performing each evening. He has also introduced a wine and beer tent for people to sit back and enjoy the music, and both will be back in full force next week, with 12 different bands filling 12 time slots over the four days of the 59th annual carnival, beginning Wednesday, July 20 and continuing to the music dies down at the end of the day Saturday, July 23. The highlight is the return of Vinyl Flux, one of

the top rock and roll cover bands in Ontario, appearing Friday evening. They have a strong following and put on a great show, says Lamb. They are Niagara's premiere classic rock band, and multiple winners of the Niagara Music Awards. These talented musicians appear throughout Niagara, bringing more than 40 years of live performance experience and professionalism to each and every show. A Vinyl Flux performance, Lamb says, "drives the sound, feel and emotion of iconic musical legends from an era of songwriting that has never been replicated. Their performances transcend time, with classic rock played as music was meant to be

played, and heard." The concert series and mix of music attracts another demographic to the carnival, says Lamb, providing something a little different for people who will also eat the great Lions food, play some of the games and spend more money — "money which lets us do more for the community." Each band brings their friends and family members, adding to the crowd, and the fundraising success of the event, he adds. Also appearing at the carnival is Cottage Brew, playing classic rock, alt rock, acoustic and country music, led by singer Darryl Freel. Cottage Brew will

bring a "rockin' close" to the Lions entertainment Saturday. Clockwork has been a regular at the carnival for several years, as the band that is always first to sign up for assisting the Lions. Music by Led Zeppelin, Pat Benatar, Blondie, Alannah Myles, AC/DC and more will be on offer, with lead singer Jenn Downie 'bringing huge energy to every show.' The Turntable Rock Band plays all the favourites, from the Eagles, Beatles, Van Morrison, Springsteen, Mellencamp, the Traveling Wilburys, and more. Lead singer Dave Rusch, who also operates KWW Radio, and the band

bring a lot of experience and great music to the carnival, says Lamb. There are talented soloists — Matt Taylor (classic rock and country), Kyle (Ed Sheeran — say no more) Lamb, Randy "Buzz" Busbridge (uber talented guitarist/vocalist with a huge variety of songs to perform) and Brayden Doucette from Grimsby, just 17 years old and booking "all over the place." Duos Jacob D'Souza from Brantford, a young singer/songwriter who will blow you away, and the Bohdivistas, classic rockers under the lead of Jean Marchand, complete the list of talented performers you can expect to hear at the carnival, says Lamb.

"And new this year is an afternoon stage for talented local high school students — Saturday, from 2 to 4 p.m. Come check them out." The Lions couldn't make this happen without the many local sponsors who help, he says, so "thank you to them." And he notes, with the 12 performances, there are extended hours each day for the music from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. There will be beer from Great Lakes Brewery, and Niagara College is also involved, bringing beer and wine, and likely some of their cider as well, he says — the beer and wine tent will be open from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Rides, games and great food will return

Continued from page 1

tional Lions club activities, including the nickel sale and the popular grocery

wheel — if you play, there's a chance you'll take home a basket of groceries. For the young ones, there will be pony rides,

face-painting, and a fish pond. The Leos (the youth branch of Lionism) will be very much in evidence, ex-

pecting to help out wherever needed, likely in the burger and fries booths, selling pop, and in the bingo tent, says Miller.

And St. Davids Queenston United Church will be back in their booth, selling the delicious, traditional selection of homemade pies made by parishioners.

The Lioness organize and run some of their own activities, including a popular game that doesn't seem to have a name — participants choose a cup with a number of squares, varying according to price, starting at 35 squares for \$2 — and then unfold them to see if they've won a prize. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the carnival for a trailer, donated by Niagara

Trailers, with a second prize of \$1,000. Miller explains that tickets sold for the 2020 carnival raffle, which was cancelled, will be honoured this year, for a chance of winning one of the two prizes. Admission and parking are free, with lots of parking, and hopefully a shuttle bus available along York Road — that was still being finalized at press time. The carnival runs Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 20 to 22, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday, July 23, from noon to 11 p.m.



Pony rides for kids will be back this year.



Townsend has promised rides for kids and young teens.



Marianne McRae, Nancy Lang and Bonnie Boyda show off pies made by the St. Davids-Queenston United Church for the 2019 carnival. The popular pies will be back again next week. (File photo)



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6-7:30 pm The Bondivistas	6-7:30 pm Love Construction	6-7:30 pm Kyle Lamb	6-7:30 pm Jacob D'Souza	Saturday 2-4 pm
8-11 pm Turntable Rock	8-11 pm Clockwork	8-11 pm Vinyl Flux	8-11 pm Cottage Brew	

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Collective offers opportunity to learn about visual arts community

**Maria Klassen
Special to The Local**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Arts Collective organized a second annual scavenger hunt recently, to raise the profile of local artists and art galleries in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The collective consists of a group of professional artists, curators and galleries located in Niagara. Six galleries were featured in the scavenger hunt, with participants given clues that led to art galleries throughout town, giving residents and visitors an opportunity to get to know the visual arts community.

Lakeside Pottery, on Lake-

shore Road amidst orchards and vineyards, is owned and operated by Ron and Barb Zimmerman. They have been creating unique stoneware pottery since 1989.

Ron is the principle crafter who works the potter's wheel, Barb glazes and decorates. All items are individually handcrafted at the studio, using their own designs and glazes. Not only is each piece a work of art, but also functional — dishwasher, oven and microwave safe.

Several other vendors have displays of their crafts at the store. Some examples of what you will find include iron work, and different types of glass art,

including jewelry.

Art Space 106 is located on Queen Street. It opened its doors in 2019 and offers a remarkable visual arts collection in its upper and lower galleries. It specializes in Canadian art, many of the artists from Niagara and surrounding area. The impressive art pieces include a diverse selection of artistic style, different materials and equipment. You will find art cards, blown glass work, jewelry, maku pottery, print making, silk scarves, stained glass and wood items. Acrylic canvas paintings, monoprints, fibre art, and photography adorn the walls. Mixed media including cold wax and oil, glass and stone, granite and glass and metal are on display. It is truly a rich collection of art.

Across the street from Art Space 106 is the Upper Canada Native Art gallery, opened by Thomas Chapman in March 2021. He has worked with Indigenous people in various capacities for 36 years, across Canada, in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. All the art pieces come directly from the artists, 85 individuals, from all over Canada, and as close as the Six Nations in Brantford, Ont. The gallery specializes in Inuit and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) sculpture, with an amazing collection on display.

There is also a huge giftware component to the gallery, including hand-made dream catchers, silverware, red cedar bent wood boxes, sequoia candles and soap gift sets, bath bombs, and teas. If you are looking for larger pieces there is intricate metal work, Indigenous prints and originals, ceramic pottery, paintings and frames. Every piece tells a different story.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is indeed the former pumping station which supplied water to Niagara-on-the-Lake from 1891 until 1983. In 1990 an association was formed to restore the building. With help from the community, the visual arts centre opened in 1994. The purpose of the Pumphouse is to provide art opportunities for everyone. Each

month in the Joyner Gallery a local artist (or an artist from a neighbouring town) is featured, including a meet and greet. In the Walker Room classes and workshops are held, and the work of these emerging artists are displayed here. Community care and outreach is very important, and many classes are offered, in-person and via zoom. These include a summer art camp for children, connecting seniors through technology, art kits for seniors in long-term care homes, pottery, painting, sculpting, and urban sketching classes, and outdoor yoga.

Ronald Boaks came to the area seven years ago, establishing his Fine Art Emporium in a refurbished 150-year-old cow barn on Niagara Stone Road. He credits his Grade 4 teacher for his love of creating, when she let him paint after he was finished his work. Boaks works with many different materials and has several studios for his different art forms. He finds metal pieces, such as broken shovels for his sculptures, at flea markets and yard sales. Acrylic and oil painting, prints, collages, and still life photography are done individually or in combination. Abstract duos are pieces that combine several art forms and materials. Wood from trees on his property or upcycled elsewhere is made into furniture and used in sculptures. A wide variety of creative pieces can be found here.

RiverBrink Art Museum is housed in the former country residence of London lawyer Samuel E. Weir Q.C., who bought the property overlooking the Niagara River in 1943. Construction on the house began in the late 1950s and was completed in 1970. Weir was an avid art collector and the majority of the art in RiverBrink is Weir's private collection, consisting of more than 1,400 pieces by Canadian, European and American artists. His home was opened to the public in 1983 as a fine art museum, following his death in 1981.

Currently on the upper floor the work of Stanley Lewis is featured, entitled The Spirit Within

the Form. The main floor display, Labour of Love, shows the work of Danny Custodio. Pieces of the private collection are scattered throughout the gallery. The basement houses a library and archives of more than 4,000 books, maps, personal correspondence, and individual files

of several hundred artists.

Participants in the recent scavenger hunt were given to know the visual arts community. If you are looking for a piece of art for your own home, or as a gift, or if you enjoy and appreciate visual art, these local art galleries have much to offer.



The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre puts together art kits to deliver to seniors. (Photos by Maria Klassen)



Inuit sculptures are on display at Upper Canada Native Art.



Pottery is on display at Lakeside Pottery.



Stonecut prints by Stanley Lewis are currently featured at RiverBrink Art Museum.

Julia Kane's glass work is displayed at Art Space 106.



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Napoleon's army takes over Fort George

A Napoleonic re-enactment was held at Fort George this weekend, with French and British uniforms filling the fort, and lots of demonstrations and battles, muskets and majesty. (Photos by Mike Balsom and Tony Chisholm)



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Music Niagara pays tribute to Christopher Newton

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Music Niagara Festival will pay tribute to the late Christopher Newton, the long-time Shaw Festival artistic director, who died at 85 years of age last December, with a performance of *Enoch Arden* this Sunday, July 17.

Newton himself once recited the 1864 narrative poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson, accompanied by Canadian pianist Robert Silverman, for Music Niagara. Festival founder and artistic director Atis Bankas asked current Shaw artistic director Tim Carroll to honour his late predecessor with this weekend's performance, and he loved the idea.

Carroll, of course, holds Newton, who led Shaw from 1980 until 2002, in high regard.

"When he arrived it was a time when theatres in Canada were going out of business," Carroll explains. "It was a difficult time for the arts. The Shaw Festival was really in the doldrums, there was even talk of winding it up. To go from there to leaving with the Shaw established as one of the great theatre companies of North America, it was a remarkable achievement."

"I really want to get this right," Carroll stresses to The Local. "I'm not really a performer myself, though I have done a lot of work with music in my life, a lot of operas, and work with orchestras, interspersing text with music. I did the narration for *Peter and the Wolf* for the Symphony on the Bay just before COVID."

Carroll will have his first rehearsals this week with pianist Victoria Kogan, who will be playing the accompanying score written in 1897 by Richard Strauss and published as his *Opus 38*. He says his ability to read music will be a benefit in his preparation for the Sunday performance.

Enoch Arden is the story of a fisherman turned merchant sailor who leaves his wife Annie and three children to go to sea with his old captain. During his journey, Arden is shipwrecked on a desert island with two companions, who both eventually die. Arden remains lost and missing for more than 10 years.

When he is finally able to return after his long absence, he discovers his wife, who believed him dead, is married happily to Arden's childhood friend Philip, and has a child by him. Heartbroken by this

discovery, Enoch never reveals to his wife and children that he is still alive, as he loves her too much to spoil her new happiness.

It's a story and theme that has found its way into theatre, film and television many times over the years.

"Pieces like (1982 French film) *The Return of Martin Guerre* come from the same question of what you would do if your husband went missing," Carroll says. "At what point would you get on with your life? It's almost sci-fi in a way, in the same way that (playwright) J.B. Priestley's works play with almost impossible time bends that show something about the real nature of life."

The Strauss score adds to the melodrama of the poem. The sparse nature of the music means that the onus will be on the speaker, Carroll in this instance, rather than pianist Kogan, to drive the story forward. *Opus 38* was never intended to be a stand-alone piece of music but instead a dramatic presentation with musical accompaniment.

Carroll says he admires Music Niagara's Bankas for his creativity and willingness to take risks with his programming.

"I'm a little bit of a fan-boy around musicians," Carroll says, "because I'm a very bad musician myself. Music has always played a big part of my life. It's always a treat for me to get to know a piece and to work with musicians. And Atis is a wonderful man, full of ideas."

Carroll dabbles at guitar himself, laughing that he plays like a

middle-aged man.

"I'm really very good for an amateur," he adds. "The gulf between that and a professional is vast and unbridgeable. Every now and then when I have some time and need to switch my brain off I can learn a new piece. I enjoy all that. But there's no hiding the fact that the gap between me and a professional player is only getting bigger."

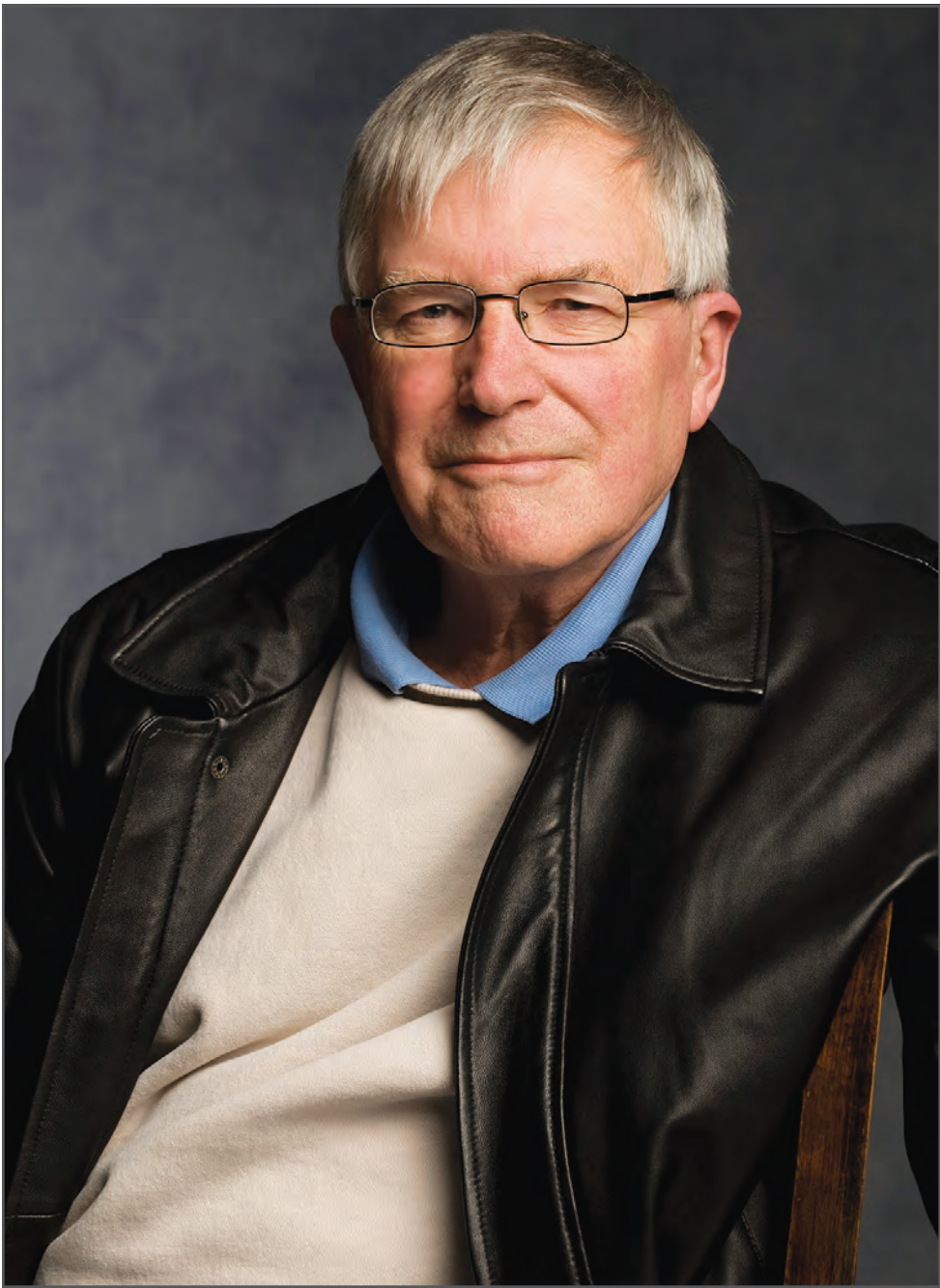
Sunday's event is at St. Mark's Anglican Church, where Carroll remembers Shaw doing a reading of *A Christmas Carol* in 2017, his first season at Shaw.

"It's a lovely space," says Carroll. "I remember thinking what a nice acoustic it has, especially for music. A church is always better for music than speaking, but I'm sure we'll solve that issue."

Sunday's program begins at 7 pm with veteran Shaw actor Guy Bannerman performing as George Bernard Shaw. In keeping with the evening's centrepiece, Bannerman will be reading from Shaw's critiques of Strauss' work.

Prior to the First World War, the two became close friends, often meeting together during the German composer's visits to London. The playwright often wrote of his admiration for Strauss' music and his importance in European culture.

Bannerman's segment will be followed by a performance by the Camer-Atis Ensemble, Bankas' chamber group, before turning the rest of the evening over to Carroll and Kogan. Tickets are \$40 and available at musicniagara.org.



The late Christopher Newton, former artistic director of the Shaw Festival (Shaw Festival photo)



Tim Carroll, Shaw Festival artistic director, will pay tribute to Christopher Newton at a Music Niagara performance at St. Mark's. (Shaw Festival photo)

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Cherry festival a sweet success





Judy MacLachlan and Gil Bryan sell cherries at St. Mark's Cherry Festival — one of the most popular tables at the event. (Photos by Penny Coles)

Saturday's St. Mark's Cherry Festival was an overwhelming success, says organizer Andrea Douglas, with large crowds and perfect summer weather. There is always a lineup of people for the 9 a.m. opening, "but this year the line stretched all the way down Byron Street and around the corner at Wellington Street. That is a first!" Visitors said they were excited to have the festival return, and that they've missed the summer tradition. "They were delighted to be back at St. Mark's. Their smiles said it all!" Douglas says attendance was about the same as 2019. The barbecue was busy all day and almost sold out. And with half the usual number of cherry pies available, they were gone within an hour.



Coun. Wendy Cheropita, after finishing her volunteer shift, enjoys lunch and a chat with friend Jackie Bonic.



Stephen Bedford, Peter Nixon, Gary Zalepa, Benjamin Zalepa, David Roberts, and Bill Mockler barbecue up a storm at the St. Mark's Cherry Festival. Hidden in the back is David Hennessy.



Sarah Chan-Xie, 4, was having fun colouring in a nice and shady spot at the children's activity centre.



The Fort George Fife and Drummers, led by Peter Alexander (right) entertain at St. Mark's. Alexander encouraged young people to come out and join the completely free, federally funded group of musicians, to make sure they are able to keep going.



The book table was a popular place at the Cherry Festival, with lots of people browsing in the shade of some of the large, mature trees on the grounds of St. Mark's.(Karen Skeoch)

Tiny museum begins busy summer of events, festivals

Penny Coles
The Local

The tiny museum has made its debut in the community, and has a busy schedule of events and festivals ahead.

Designed to look like a tiny replica of the NOTL Museum, it was ready to hit the streets when the pandemic hit, but its introduction to the community stalled with no events to attend, explains Shawna Butts, the museum's assistant curator and education programmer.

The intention of the mobile structure, which can be towed behind a pick-up truck, was also for the NOTL Museum staff to take exhibits and programs to local schools, as well as to town events and festivals, where they would be set up with displays that include changing elements of the

museum's collection.

Plans are now back on track, and began with the first trip for tiny museum to Brock University in December. It was an opportunity for Brock students to curate an exhibit that would relate to sports and the upcoming Canada Summer Games, says Butts.

Students were then invited to visit the exhibit, "Backhands, birdies, boats, and bowls: How sport has shaped Niagara-on-the-Lake."

It will be recreated as part of the 2022 Canada Games celebrations.

There is a set number of displays to take to various communities and events, Butt says.

On July 1, more than 550 people visited the tiny museum at Fort George during its Canada Day event, with an exhibit about Niagara Camp during the

First World War.

Its next appearance was at the Cherry Festival at St. Mark's Church Saturday, which saw people of all ages visit its People of Niagara exhibit.

The displays tell the stories of early settlers in town, including Loyalists, members of the Black community, Mennonites, the Rye Girls and the Polish soldiers.

The tiny museum interior was designed to make it easy to curate different exhibits, changing them to suit the occasion, says Butts.

Its next exhibit will be at the museum itself, for its Aug. 1 Heritage Festival.

Then it will travel to Simcoe Park for the Canada Summer Games 13 For 13 event on Aug. 10, showing how sport has shaped NOTL.

It then travels to the Peach Celebration on Aug.

13, with an exhibit called Photographic Memories. "This was an exhibition that was in our memorial hall gallery from October 2021 until April 2022. We shrunk it down to fit into the tiny

museum," says Butts.

And then it's on to the commons during the Niagara Polo event Sept 10, with the exhibit about Niagara Camp during WWI.

It might not be the end

of its itinerary for the year — it was expected to take part in the town's Santa Claus Parade, which was cancelled.

This might be the year for that.



A family visiting the Cherry Festival from out of town had a look at the People of Niagara exhibit inside the tiny museum, learning about the early settlers of the area. Janet Guy and Barbara Worthly with Louie are onhand to look after the museum as it visits St. Mark's.



By Foot and Paddle: NOTL Museum's next lecture

Travis Hill presents Indigenous perspectives of Niagara

Barbara Worthly
Special to The Local

Travis Hill, citizen of the Tuscarora Nation, member of the Beaver Clan of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and a Fort Erie resident, will present next Thursday's lecture at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

Hill has been a part of the Niagara Parks team for almost 20 years, and is the manager of Niagara Parks Old Fort Erie heritage site. Widely respected for his cultural knowledge, Hill will speak about the Indigenous relationship with the Niagara River, its significance, influence, and history.

Since the retreat of the last great ice age, Indigenous

peoples of many nations have arrived, fought, lived, or travelled through Niagara. All have been drawn to its unique natural resources and ease of transportation, by land or water — by foot or paddle, says Hill. Their trails and portage routes provided the basis for many modern-day roads and highways today.

Recent archaeological finds in Fort Erie also reveal the extent of a massive flint-knapping industry dating back at least 11,000 years, and show extensive trading of tools and weapons between Indigenous peoples.

"And when you see artifacts that are in fact pieces of beautiful art," says Hill, "you

know these people were not just at war, or nomadic, they had well-developed communities."

Hill has given presentations on Indigenous culture and interpretation throughout Ontario and the US.

Join the NOTL Museum's lecture series and learn about the astonishing Indigenous history in Niagara, and the centuries-old significance of Niagara waterways to Indigenous people.

The lecture is Thursday, July 21, at 7.30 p.m., 43 Castlereagh St. NOTL.

Registration is required. Call 905-468-3912. Tickets are free for members, \$10 for non-members.

For more information visit www.notlmuseum.ca



Travis Hill will talk about the importance of the Niagara River to Indigenous people during the NOTL Museum's next lecture. (Photo supplied)

Jazz Festival kicks off in NOTL

Mike Balsom
The Local

The TD Niagara Jazz Festival is presenting six events at six different locations over five days, starting Wednesday, July 20. It's an ambitious program, but that's no surprise, coming as it does from executive director and co-founder Juliet Dunn.

"We're so excited to launch the festival," Dunn tells The Local. "Before the pandemic, we did it over two weekends. This time, we're starting on the Wednesday and going straight through for five days."

Niagara-on-the-Lake plays host to the first three performances, kicking off with Dizzy and Fay for a *Late Night in the Vineyard* at Stratus. Then the venue shifts to Hare Wine Co. for *Soul Jazz in the Vineyard* Thursday, July 21, featuring Jillian Mendez and Natural Elements, and Friday with drummer Terry Clarke (formerly of the Fifth Dimension, Rob McConnell and The Boss Brass and Oscar Peterson's band), bassist Clark Johnston and St. Catharines-born pianist John Sherwood.

Dizzy and Fay are the aliases of Mark Lalama and Amanda Walther. On the phone from Toronto's Rex Hotel, where he's playing a four-night set with guitarist Kevin Breit's band Sisters Euclid, Lalama explains the genesis of the duo.

"Amanda is half of the

folk group Dala," says the Welland native. "We were on the same tour, and Dala's other half Sheila (Carabine) came up and told me Amanda wanted me to produce her jazz record. She wanted to record the songs she'd been singing all her life: Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Julie London."

He continues, "She had one original started, and I helped her finish it. When I heard her sing it, I thought it was pretty cool. Then she asked me if the album should instead be a duo record. We wrote some more songs, and it became so obvious that it should actually be a duo."

Lalama, the former pianist, arranger and performer in the *Canadian Idol* band, is more well-known for his pop projects. He's worked with the likes of Chrissie Hynde, Martina McBride, Paul Anka, Anne Murray, Tom Jones and Jon Bon Jovi. It had been awhile since he had seriously worked on his jazz chops.

"It made me get back to really studying jazz piano," Lalama admits. "I've been listening to a lot of Bill Evans, and all kinds of my favourite players. I just love the American songbook. Basically, the songs of Dizzy and Fay are very reminiscent of the American songbook tradition."

Coincidentally, or maybe not, their 2021 debut album is called *Songbook*. Numbers such as *Walk Me Home*, *Maybe Someday*, *One Day Soon* and *Paris*

Rain sound like they could be long-lost compositions from the likes of Richard Rogers, Jerome Kern or Harry Warren.

None other than the incomparable gospel, blues and jazz singer Jackie Richardson has been fooled. She's been a fan of the pair's Dizzy and Fay Dates YouTube series since it began during the pandemic.

"Jackie told me 'every time I hear a new song, I say to myself I have to hear the original version,'" he laughs. "She didn't know every one of those 28 songs is a Dizzy and Fay original. I told her that's the biggest compliment I could ever ask for."

Arranged by Lalama and produced at his Old Sumbler House Studio in Fonthill, the 12 songs on the album feature Walther's breathy vocals accompanied only by Lalama's soft touch at the piano. Walther evokes the aforementioned London, while Lalama's playing is remarkable in the way he leaves wide open spaces for the singer to fill.

"When I play live (with Sisters Euclid or the Mark Lalama Trio) you usually see me with a keyboard as opposed to a piano," says Lalama. "I produced a record with my drummer Davide DiRenzo for Calgary singer Ellen Doty, just piano, drums and voice. I learned just how big notes sound when you touch the piano softly. I brought what I learned from that record to this one."



Dizzy and Fay (Mark Lalama and Amanda Walther) perform at Late Night in the Vineyard at Stratus Winery Wednesday, July 20. (Photos submitted)



Drummer Terry Clarke, formerly of the Fifth Dimension, Rob McConnell and The Boss Brass and Oscar Peterson's band, will be featured at Hare Wine Co. Friday, July 22.

"Amanda and I thought about how we could pull the listener in," the son of a classically trained clar-

inetist and saxophone player adds. "We decided it would be the opposite of screaming at them. Every musician will tell you, when they're playing at a party and no one seems to be listening, they'll start playing very, very quietly. When people hear their own voices, they get self-conscious and turn their attention to the music."

Referring to his partner as her alter ego, Lalama says Fay can get totally lost in the song.

"That's what impressed me when I first heard her sing," he adds. "She gets totally immersed in the song, and it seems completely effortless."

Lalama is looking forward to the intimate outdoor setting at Stratus.

"Once the music starts, I have to have a relationship with the music under my fingers," says the York University graduate. "The setting and atmosphere serves to enhance that. I love to get totally lost in the moment, and the setting can bring me to that point more quickly."

Following the three NOTL dates, the TD Niagara Jazz Festival moves to St. Catharines for the

weekend. The historic Brown Homestead is the location for a Saturday afternoon *Jazz Pic Nic* with singer Tia Brazda. Her 2015 album *Bandshell* debuted at number one on the iTunes Jazz Chart and was also ranked amongst the five best Canadian jazz releases of 2015 by Jazz-FM 91 in Toronto.

Later Saturday the festival moves down the road to Henry of Pelham Family Estate for *Sax in the Vineyard* featuring the Lance Anderson Band.

The festival wraps up with a free *World Music on the Beach* show, starting at Club LaSalle on Arthur Street, then moving down the road to Sunset Beach. The full day even starts at 10:30 a.m. and features the Balkan music of Pulkes Band, the Spanish and Afro-Cuban guitar styling of Johannes Linstead and Canadian reggae band Shine Roc & The Rebels Vibration, among others. Though it is a free event, pre-registration is required.

Dunn reminds The Local that musicians, arts workers and students can access discounted tickets for the other events. Visit niagarajazzfestival.com for information.

Bench dedicated to Terry Fox



Lord Mayor Betty Disero unveils a bench on King Street dedicated to Terry Fox on Tuesday, July 12, the day the town has proclaimed Terry Fox Day. It was that day 42 years ago that Fox was in NOTL, and a reception was held for him at the Prince of Wales Hotel. Joan King and Donna Sattin, Gloria Ghatti's daughter, are at the unveiling — Ghatti was instrumental in bringing Fox to NOTL. (Photo supplied)

LocalSPORTS

Zubin Gatta hoping to wrestle his way to gold

Local teen will compete in Canada Summer Games

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Zubin Gatta will be representing Team Ontario in the wrestling competition at next month's Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games.

The 16-year-old Eden High School student qualified for the 52 kg category by winning two tournaments this spring. His victories over Burhan Ahmad of Matmen Wrestling Club and Evan Liu from TriCity Wrestling punched his ticket to the games.

After winning the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OF-SAA) 38 kg gold medal in 2020, also over Ahmad, the member of the Brock Junior Badgers Club at the time set his sights on this summer's competition.

"My Dad (Kekoo) told me about the Summer Games about two years ago," Gatta says. "It became my goal to make the team. I didn't really understand it

until this year. Leading up to it, I started gaining confidence. I won provincials before, so winning that gave me confidence going into the trials."

Kekoo himself is a former high school and university wrestling standout. He's a longtime coach with Brock's junior program, and besides coaching Zubin, he's guided his children Freddy (23), Farrantina (26) and Cyrus (27) on the mat. Only Farrantina's twin, Syrina, did not pick up the sport.

Brock's head coach Marty Calder gives much credit for Zubin's success to the family's focus on wrestling and hard work.

"He comes from a family of committed people," Calder says. "His dad's a 'no-mess-around' kind of guy, he works his butt off. His whole family has a great work ethic. There are high expectations for Zubin to give a full effort, and he does. He's a great young kid and a really good athlete."

"I don't think I would

be nearly where I am if (my dad) wasn't my coach," the youngest Gatta says. "He definitely pushed me and showed me how to achieve whatever I want in both life and wrestling."

"He's a really tough coach with the kids that he knows can be good," Zubin adds. "He'll invest hours and hours with anybody who is willing to put the hours in to get better."

Calder says despite the pandemic keeping kids like Zubin off the mat for two years, he's seen the young wrestler working hard to continue growing in the sport. And he has grown much — Zubin was seven inches shorter and 14 kg lighter when he won that OFSAA gold in 2020.

Zubin has been wrestling for years, first with Brock's Junior team and now with the university's varsity wrestlers. He values having coaches such as Calder and Tonya Verbeek, both with Olympic Games experience, in his corner, and gives props to varsity wrestlers Jordan Wylie and Garett Saunders for their guidance.

"It's such an amazing team, with amazing coaches," says the youngest Badger. "Since joining the team this year, it's become more of a family. It's a completely different atmosphere."

Between his summer job responsibilities as a construction labourer with his father's Gatta Homes, as well as a host at the Epicurean Restaurant on Queen Street, Zubin sticks to a strict six-day workout regimen to keep sharp for the August tournament.

That includes lifting weights six days a week, five sessions of skills work with the Brock University coaches, and a live match session one day a week at the new Canada Games Park next to the university.



Zubin Gatta has had great success in his wrestling career so far, with a basket full of medals to show for it. (Mike Balsom)

Like the other wrestlers on the Brock squad, Gatta is thrilled with the new facility.

"We moved in two weeks ago," Gatta says. "Our old one had only

two mats, and it was actually a dance and fencing room. The new space has five UWW (United World Wrestling) mats, the same ones we'll use at the Summer Games. It's

really spacious, you don't have to worry about being bumped into."

The home mat advantage might pay off in

Continued on page 24

Preparations underway on NOTL tennis courts



Work started Monday to prepare the Memorial Park tennis courts for the upcoming Canada Summer Games. Club president Hugh Dow says the club will be off the courts until next Monday, barring any unforeseen problem with heavy rains. A spokesperson from Court Contractors said the black acrylic base layer was put down yesterday. Today they were planning to lay down the first coat of the top surface, with the courts painted blue and the perimeter painted green. (Mike Balsom)



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- Across:
1 The Beehive State
5 PIN points?
9 Bring aboard
13 Beget
14 Entreaty
15 Nonchalantly unconcerned
16 Bewitches
18 American Idol winner --- Studdard
19 Block
20 Conjectures
22 --- Dalglish, P.D. James protagonist
24 Pole
25 Biological duplicate
28 Shun
31 "A very high price to pay for maturity" (Tom Stoppard)
34 Acquire through merit
35 Bank link
36 Strain
37 Tote
38 Speaking point?
39 Little devil
40 Pitcher's stat.
41 Requested in exchange for a kingdom (Shakespeare)
42 Locale of the Viminal Hill
43 Prohibition
- 44 Colombian cash
45 Artificial waterway
46 Matinee favorite
48 "Chop-chop!"
50 Magic
54 Pickle
58 Chemically inactive
59 Obsolete
61 Rocky debris at the base of a hill
62 Fail to mention
63 Bean capital of S America?
64 Decline to bid
65 Charts
66 Everyone, down South
- Down:
1 Employs
2 Hue
3 Heavy ordnance, briefly
4 Author --- Hesse
5 Sleeping problem
6 Careful attention
7 Encounter
8 Obi, for example
9 Insulting remarks
10 Crookedly obtain Thai dwelling
11 Now it makes sense!
12 Pigs' digs?
- 15 Diversify
17 Trusted assistant
21 Homeland leaver
23 Imelda ---, who had a shoe surfeit
25 Tabloid target
26 Spanish saint martyred in boiling pitch
27 Arrangers
29 Synthetic meat can be created in this
30 The Pearl of the Black Sea
32 Third letter of the Greek alphabet
33 Eject
35 Gazed upon
38 The door in Dordogne, or in Texas
42 With celerity
45 Found behind the shin
47 Ventures
49 Lends
50 Small tuft
51 Machu Picchu builder
52 Chamber
53 Where the 3:10 went
55 Mother of Uranus
56 Web code
57 Small dabbling duck
60 Apex

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OBITUARY



FORBES, ROBERT (BOB) RAOUL—passed away peacefully at the age of 67 on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at Hospice Niagara. Beloved husband to Elly. Predeceased by his parents Jack and Joan Forbes. Dear brother to Rick (Ellen), Bruce (Kim), Brian (Corinne), Barbara (Darrell) Smart and the late Gary (1970) and Jim (2012). Brother-in-law to Werner (Nancy), Willy (Denise) and Harry (Lil). Dear Uncle and Great Uncle to many nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at Niagara United Mennonite Church, 1775 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, from 6 to 8 pm for visitation. Funeral Service will take place on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 10:30 am followed by cremation. Donations made to Hospice Niagara, or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you, until we meet again, Love Elly.

Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

SUDOKU ANSWER

Sudoku solution from July 6, 2022

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

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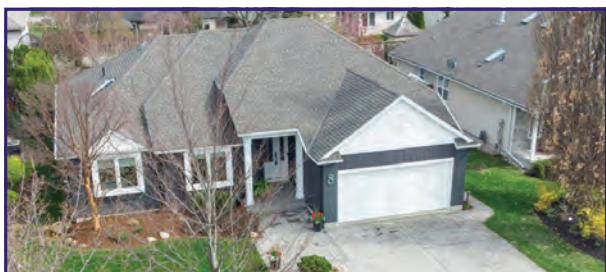
Across: 1 Utah, 5 A T Ms, 9 Ship, 13 Sire, 14 Plea, 15 Blase, 16 Entrances, 18 Ruben, 19 Stymlie, 20 Theories, 22 Adam, 24 Mast, 25 Clone, 28 Avoid, 31 Age, 34 Earn, 35 Bridge, 36 Tax, 37 Lug, 38 Lectern, 39 Imp, 40 E R A, 41 A horse, 42 Rome, 43 Ban, 44 Pesos, 45 Canal, 46 Idol, 48 A s a p, 50 Wizardry, 54 Flight, 58 Inert, 59 Out of date, 61 Scree, 62 Omit, 63 Lima, 64 Pass, 65 Maps, 66 Y'all.

Down: 1 Uses, 2 Tint, 3 Art, 4 Hermann, 5 Aprnea, 6 T L C, 7 Meet, 8 Sash, 9 Slurs, 10 Habitation, 11 I see, 12 Pens, 15 Broaden, 17 Aide, 21 Emigre, 23 Marcos, 25 Celeb, 26 Laura, 27 Organizers, 29 Vitro, 30 Odessa, 32 Gamma, 33 Expel, 35 Beheld, 38 La Porte, 42 Rapidly, 45 Calif, 47 Dares, 49 Spots, 50 Wisp, 51 Inca, 52 Room, 53 Yuma, 55 Gaia, 56 H T M L, 57 Teal, 60 Tip.



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Gatta has hopes for many more competitions

Continued from page 22

other ways, too, as Calder will be helping to run the wrestling competition on Aug. 9 and 10.

“I’m not one of his Team Ontario coaches,” Calder says, “but I’ll be able to give him some feedback between matches. And Heather Swezey, Zubin’s coach on the Brock team, will be there coaching the women. It will be good for him to adjust to new coaches, good for his independence.”

Thus far in Gatta’s career that OFSAA medal has stood out as his crowning achievement. Heading into Grade 12 at Eden next year he hopes to have a chance to capture another OFSAA gold. Taking the Canada Summer Games title next month would be another major step in his development as a wrestler.

In September, 2023, Zubin hopes to attend Brock University to study business and continue his association with a strong program that dominated on the mats this past



Zubin Gatta shows off his medals, and hopes he is not done yet. (Mike Balsom)

year. The Badgers’ women’s team captured its seventh consecutive Ontario University (OUA) championship in April, while the men’s team secured its sixth.

Looking further ahead, Zubin dreams of making the national team in time for the 2028 Summer Olympics scheduled to be held in Los Angeles.

In the meantime, Gatta will continue to hit the weights in his Old Town home, and start a strict diet about two weeks before the Summer Games.

“One week out it’s serious weight-cutting,” he says. “My sister knows how to cut weight. I will waterload the week before, then slowly cut it out the last day or two. She helps me a lot with that.”

Gatta says he hasn’t yet received his Team Ontario uniform, but expects that will happen in the last week of July.

“The whole team is heading to Atlantic City for a tournament,” he says. “I think they want the whole team to be together when we get it.”



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