



Rebecca Perry performs online

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A Niagara College program, the birth of her son Eli and a job with a Niagara-based Indigenous arts consulting company have helped change directions for the life of Claudette Cort, a young Indigenous mother. (Photo submitted)

Embracing Indigenous heritage life-changing for young mom

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Enrolling in a Niagara College program has transformed the life of 23-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Claudette Cort.

The young mother of 2-year-old Eli was introduced to the Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board's (NPAAMB) Journey to Success – Hospitality and Tourism Certificate program by her youth service worker who thought it would be a good fit for her. Cort was eligible for several supports including funding for her son's daycare and transportation to classes, making it possible for her to join the program in January 2020.

Though her background is First Nations, Ojibwe, to that point Cort had never truly embraced her heritage. The cultural experiences that were part of the program, such as opening and closing circles, and the inspirational speakers

on topics including intergenerational trauma, strength and perseverance, opened her eyes.

"When I said yes to committing to the program, I guess I was definitely ready for that," she says. "I definitely learned more about myself. I didn't really know who I was besides a mom. Being surrounded by other Indigenous students created a community. For Indigenous people, a sense of community is a form of strength, of having a support system."

Throughout her life, Cort has been a shining example of strength under difficult circumstances. Raised in a handful of foster homes since she was 11 years old, life could have been a lot different for her if she hadn't found a way to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma caused by the residential school system.

Though she never knew them, Cort knows that her

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Doctors could be in new building by April

Penny Coles
The Local

John Hawley is hoping doctors of the family health team will be settled in their new location by next April.

The Village Centre developer was at a virtual planning committee meeting Monday to update council on the new medical building he is planning, and to request permission to al-

low construction to begin before a full building permit is issued.

If he has to wait for the normal process to unfold, including having all agencies review building plans and respond with their comments, it could be fall, 2022 before the one-storey medical centre, with a pergola for LifeLabs, is move-in ready, he told councillors.

A building permit and

set of drawings for the medical centre, which faces Garrison Village Drive, are ready for submission now, Hawley said, assuring councillors that if there is any risk to proceeding with a conditional building permit, it would be for him, not the town. Occupancy would not be permitted until the site plan is finalized and all conditions are met, he said.

He's had several discus-

sions with town staff, he told councillors, and doctors of the Niagara North Family Health Team now located in the former hospital building on Wellington Street, as well as LifeLabs, would like to relocate as soon as possible. That would also free up the hospital as the town tries to find a permanent use for that building, Hawley said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she supported the

request, and was not concerned about a precedent of moving forward with a conditional building permit, with all requirements able to be accommodated without site plan approval.

"I think we're now moving to try to find what we're going to do with the hospital, and holding this up even longer is contrary to what we would like to see, as a town and council," Disero

said. "I'm very supportive of getting the shovel in the ground. It's a win all around for Mr. Hawley, for doctors, for the town and for the residents."

When asked, town planning director Craig Lar-mour said if there is any risk, it's associated with the developer and owner of the property. There is not much

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Moving ahead will free up hospital building

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risk in this case, he added, because of all the work that's occurred on the site already.

"It's a win-win for doctors and the community, and for all the patients who go to these doctors," said Coun. Wendy Cheropita, as well as for everyone who will have access to LifeLabs. "When the developer is taking on all the risks, and all

the benefits are for everyone else, I think it's a wonderful opportunity, and we should thank the developer for being a part of this."

Councillors voted unanimously to support granting a conditional building permit for the proposed medical building that forms a part of the Village Centre site plan, and that the occupancy of the building should not occur until the final site plan is approved.



The one-storey medical centre will be home to all the doctors who are currently located in the former Wellington Street hospital building. LifeLabs will be located in the building shown to the right of the drawing. (Drawing supplied)

Decision on pedal pubs still open for debate

Penny Coles
The Local

Last fall, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors thought they had put an end to the Pedal Pub operation in town, and were surprised to see it back on local streets this summer.

At Monday's planning

committee meeting, they decided to put an end to it again.

A discussion of the business and what to do about it was on the agenda, along with an expected presentation from Marlo Saganski, general manager of the NOTL operation.

When Saganski didn't appear at the virtual meeting, councillors went ahead with

the discussion, again due to concerns about safety on regional and town roads, and about the noise as it operated through residential neighbourhoods.

Councillors learned from the region that to ban the operation, the town should have passed a bylaw outlawing it from NOTL streets. That is



The Pedal Pub has been popular with locals and visitors, but some town councillors don't feel it's safe on NOTL roads. (File photo)

now under consideration, and should be ready for approval in a couple of weeks, said CAO Marnie Cluckie.

She also explained to councillors that the regional licence does not expire until July, and with a one-month grace period, pedal pubs can continue to operate until the end of August. Councillors decided to ask the region not to renew the licence that would allow pedal pubs to operate in town past that point.

Tuesday morning Saganski told The Local that on the application to make a deputa-

tion she asked to speak at next Monday's meeting. She was surprised to learn the discussion had gone ahead and a decision made. She had received an email just six hours before she was scheduled to speak, but was out with tours and didn't see it.

She had planned to tell councillors the Pedal Pub operation has had no road safety issues or incidents since it has been in operation. Pedal Pub pilots operate in strict adherence to the Highway Traffic Act, she said, and all applicable rules of the road, as well as completing in-house and on-road training. The company has adjusted its tour routes according to council's request last year, and no longer tours on residential streets, she said.

They have been collaborat-

ing with many small businesses in the area, including Butler's Bar & Grill, Fournos, The Exchange Brewery, The Budapest Bakeshop, and the performing arts community, and in doing so, they've been beneficial to the local economy.

The company contributed more than \$33,000 of revenue to its partners from its two-and-a-half-hour tours, and that does not include what guests spend before and after, while visiting NOTL, Saganski said.

"Pedal Pub NOTL closing will have a ripple effect that will impact the NOTL economy," she said.

In discussing the future of the operation in NOTL, there were divided opinions of whether it should be allowed to continue.

Coun. Allan Bisback said it seemed to be "jumping the gun" to make a quick decision not to allow the operation to continue, at least until the end of this season, and he wouldn't support a motion for a bylaw that would put an end to it when this season's lease expires.

People are enjoying the ride, the drivers are trained, there is no alcohol served on the pedal pub, and cyclists and scooters on winery tours can be just as dangerous, he warned, calling it a "slippery slope" of other roads to go down if the town eliminates pedal pubs for safety reasons.

Coun. Norm Arsenault said he objected to the operation last summer, but he would support allowing them to continue to operate for 2021, and then reevaluate the situation.

CONTACT SOUGHT:

If you are Kathy B, or if you know Kathy B, please contact winkal@sympatico.ca

This wedding photo taken 35 years ago.



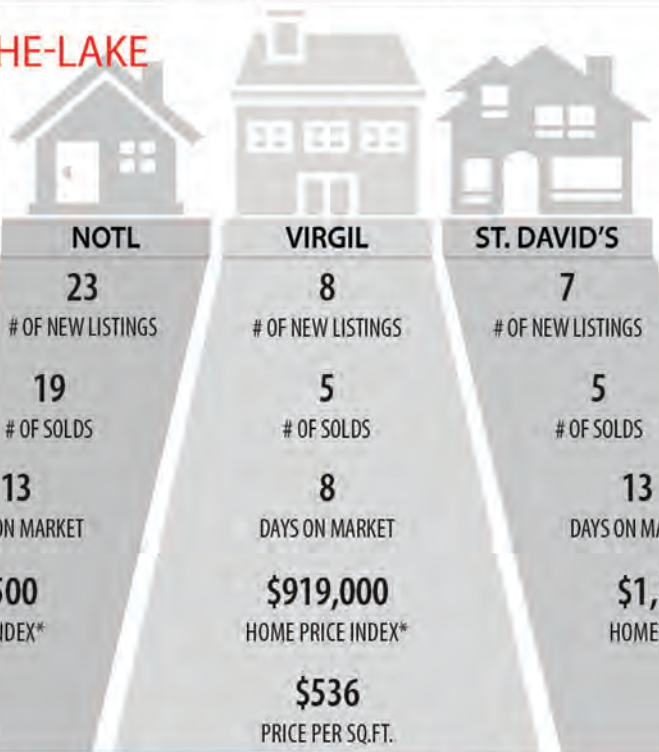
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Niagara College program inspires confidence

Continued from page 1

biological grandparents were products of that system. Her mother's parents lived a life clouded by drugs, alcohol and violence until their deaths at a young age. Her father's parents also lived similar lifestyles.

Cort's mother, Catherine Williamson, died at 26 years of age of carbon monoxide poisoning, discovered in her downtown Niagara Falls garage by Cort's father, James. She was three years old at the time.

She and her brother Dakota were then placed in the foster care system as her father tried to deal with the tragedy. When Cort was six years old, they returned to her father's house, but the reception wasn't with open arms.

She has fuzzy recollections of life with either of her parents, but does remember James bringing a new girlfriend and her children into the family home. That new girlfriend never accepted either Claudette or her brother.

Dakota's ADHD proved too difficult for James and his new partner to handle. A year later Dakota was placed back into the system, separating the siblings. Claudette followed four years later, at 11 years old.

She lost contact with her father until shortly before his death four years ago at 43 years old. At that time he finally apologized for pushing both Claudette and her brother into foster care.

Today she calls Dakota,

who now works at a Toronto restaurant after graduating from Niagara College's culinary program, her best friend.

Claudette's first foster family was also the first people to show her that life could be a whole lot better.

She now refers to Karen and Wilf Wiens of Niagara Falls as her parents, and continues to have a close relationship with them.

"They were a very religious family, very good people," she says. "It was hard at first, as I was coming from a home where there was a lot of neglect and abuse. They had to teach me manners. A lot of different parenting had to happen in those first years."

The Wiens' also had two daughters of their own, close to Claudette's age. The family provided Claudette with the same opportunities her new "sisters" had to be involved in dance, gymnastics and sports.

"I was very lucky," she reflects. "They pushed me to be the best that I could be. They were open and approachable, they brought me to see therapists when I needed it. They included me in family events, too."

She was with the Wiens family until finishing grade 8. Following that, she moved through a couple of other foster homes, and attended secondary school at Eden High.

During that time, she was diagnosed with high-functioning Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

The diagnosis allowed her to have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), which offered

teachers solutions for dealing with her deficiencies in focus and memory, as well as some mild impulsivity.

Cort remains one senior English credit away from earning her high school graduation diploma.

Eventually, at a time when she was in "kind of a bad spot," Cort moved in with a close friend in Virgil. While working part time at Nina's Gelateria, she met Eli's father, Ethan Kerr, and they moved into a house together.

When she discovered she was pregnant with Eli, she was able to reflect on some of her family legacy. She knew she had to break the chain to support her unborn son.

"I was in a phase where I was going out a lot, I didn't have a lot of responsibilities, I wasn't in school," she says. "I quit my lifestyle right away. I wasn't ever addicted to anything, but I knew my family all had addictive personalities. They struggled with staying sober during pregnancies."

"It's not like I had to reconsider my own life," Claudette clarifies. "It just came subconsciously. The focus became Eli."

Watching the uncovering of the residential school nightmare over the past few weeks has been heartbreaking for Claudette.

"You know that there are so many other schools out there left to be explored," she laments. "You know what's coming, and you know it's always been there. Does it have to take a few mass graves for people to realize it?"



Claudette Cort and her son Eli. (Photo submitted)

"Indigenous people are finally getting more of a voice," she adds. "As an Indigenous mom, I couldn't imagine Eli being taken away from me in a year from now. It brings back some of the feelings from my own biological family."

Her involvement today with NPAAMB and the Niagara Regional Native Centre, as well as her experience through the Niagara College program and her resulting job with Kakekalanicks, have made Cort committed to ensuring that Eli embraces his Indigenous heritage.

"I got involved with the Native Centre, I became part of their Healthy Babies program," Cort tells *The Local*. "I was also provided with an advocate, who talked to me about how I was feeling as a parent. I wanted to use all the resources I could through the Native Centre."

She's brought her son to work with her, where they have held ceremonies to mourn the lives of the children whose bodies have recently been discovered on the sites of residential schools. He's been with her at drum circles and healing gather-

ings. She's committed to instilling in Eli a sense that these traditions are normal for him as he grows up.

As well, Cort says she has a great relationship with her mother-in-law, Erica Lepp, who has been a huge support for her. Lepp expresses pride and awe in Claudette's ability to push through adversity, and in her success in the certificate program.

Claudette's job with Kakekalanicks, a Niagara-based Indigenous arts consulting company, came about through a Journey to Success work placement, a chance for Cort to put her skills into practice while further exploring her Indigenous roots.

Michele-Elise Burnett, president of Kakekalanicks and co-founder of Landscape of Nations 360° (LON 360°), invited Claudette to join the company as her executive assistant. Since being hired she has helped Burnett, Metis/Algonquin Bear Clan, develop a number of Indigenous tourism initiatives, many of them attracting national attention.

"I've been working with her for over a year now," says Cort. "She sees where your

strengths are and tries to help you grow in those strengths. She's more than a boss or a mentor, she's a great person to go to whenever you have a problem or need advice."

Her experiences with Journey to Success, Kakekalanicks and the Niagara Regional Native Centre have helped Cort set some new goals for her future.

"I want to go to school to do the full tourism management program," Cort says. "I want to continue to work with Michele-Elise part-time, too."

Event management is another area of interest, and she would like to be involved in the Niagara College Student Administrative Council.

Today, Claudette Cort says she is more confident with who she is, what she can accomplish and where she can go.

Told by her NPAAMB coach and mentor Marie Bowering that she would get out of the program what she put into it, Cort put her heart into it and let it guide her wherever it would take her.

And it's taken her to a very, very good place.

Pedal pub operator will speak to councillors Monday

Continued from page 2

Coun. Wendy Cheropita said she too had had a change of heart, after hearing comments of the local businesses that have benefited from it, including one restaurant who had its best day in 15 months because of the Pedal Pub stop at its business recently.

Cheropita said she had spoken with a woman who had been on a pedal pub with a group of friends, and said

what a great experience it was. There was respect for the environment, no hooting and hollering, and the music was turned down when appropriate. Cheropita too supported allowing the operation to continue for this season.

But Coun. Gary Burroughs said he had followed a pedal pub down Queen Street, watched it pass a horse-drawn carriage and make a U-turn to head back onto Queen Street, and park in front of The Ex-

change Brewery. He considered it to be a safety hazard in the busy traffic, and added that it will only get worse as there are more reopenings and more visitors to town.

The motion made by Burroughs to enact a bylaw to ban the operation on NOTL streets passed by one vote, to be ratified by council on Monday, July 26.

Saganski was told Tuesday she would be placed on the agenda for the July 19 meeting.

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Expression PROJECT

Water quality improving at Queen's Royal Beach

Local Staff

Water quality at Queen's Royal Beach has improved, thanks to local agencies and partners working together on the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

(NPCA), the agency that coordinates the action program with several partners, including the town, is seeking public input on the recommendation to change the status of the Niagara River's water quality indicator related to the beach. This recommendation is based on a

recent report indicating that cleanup actions and goals have been achieved, and affirms progress has been made to improve the river.

Queen's Royal Beach is the only public swimming beach along the Canadian side of the Niagara River, and is a popular place for sightseeing, wading, and launching kayaks and paddleboards.

Historically, the beach has often been impacted by poor water quality due to E. coli bacteria, which in high amounts can make people sick if they swim in it.

"The town recognizes the importance of protecting this beach and waterfront for its residents and visitors," says town CAO Marnie Cluckie. "Queen's Royal Beach is a vital asset that contributes to the health and well-being of our community, the environment, and the local economy."

Bacteria can come from natural sources such as birds and other wildlife, or human sources such as sewer pipes. Previous scientific studies indicated there were human sources of E. coli bacteria coming from a storm sewer outlet near the beach.

Thanks to funding from the federal and provincial governments, and leader-

ship from the Town with other local partners, extensive monitoring and remediation actions were completed. Those initiatives included fixing sewers, preventing raccoons from entering storm sewers, and constructing a nature-based filtration bioswale, channels designed for stormwater runoff, to reduce the main sources of E. coli bacteria entering the Niagara River and impacting Queen's Royal Beach.

"Because of these important collaborative contributions, the water at the beach has consistently met RAP water quality goals for the last three years," says Natalie Green, project manager at the NPCA.

The proposed status

change is a milestone for the community and all action plan partners, and is also another step toward removing the Niagara River from the list of Great Lakes' Areas of Concern.

Since the late 1980s, the Niagara River has been identified as one of 43 severely degraded locations in the Great Lakes, called Areas of Concern, that require a Remedial Action Plan. The NPCA has been an active participant in the Niagara River action plan since its inception, and became the host organization for coordinating activities in 1999. The Niagara River partners continue to work together on remaining actions necessary to address issues related to fish consumption adviso-

ries, the degradation of fish and wildlife populations, contaminated sediment in the watershed, and habitat loss.

A short survey and on-line engagement tool are now available at getinvolved.npca.ca/niagara-river-beach until Aug. 6. Members of the community are encouraged to participate in this process. Accommodations can be made upon request for non-virtual methods, such as a paper or telephone survey.

To learn more about the Niagara River RAP and how to get involved, please visit: www.ourniagarariver.ca/beach or call 905-788-3135 x327. Follow on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter for more updates.



Cole Friesen

graduated from Grade 8 at Crossroads Public School and is attending Laura Secord in the Fall.

Information sought about fatality on Irvine Road

Local Staff

A man walking on Irvine Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake Sunday evening has died, after being hit by a Toyota Corolla.

The Niagara Regional

Police responded at about 9:30 p.m. to a call of a motor vehicle collision.

Police discovered a pedestrian had been struck by a south-bound motor vehicle. The driver, alone in the car, was a 27-year-old St.

Catharines man. The pedestrian, a 41-year-old resident of NOTL, was taken to hospital, where he died.

Police are asking anyone with information to call 905-688-4111, ext. 1025591.



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Cheryl and Roman live in St. Andrews Glen. They are active at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, and in the community. Independently, they are a force to be reckoned with, but together they are an unstoppable team, showing anything is possible when

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EDITORIAL

Ryerson not what we want as current culture

It seems every day we learn more about the many wrongs our country has done to the Indigenous people, and how much we need to do to correct them.

The story of a very brave and strong young mom, Claudette Cort, seems to symbolize so much of the horrific deeds committed, and also recognizes that while there is hope, there is so much that still needs to be done, that we are really only in the very beginning stages, with a very long journey ahead.

One very tiny change, as part of a much larger discussion that needs to be had here in town, will be the renaming of Ryerson Park. There was a brief reference to it during Monday's planning meeting. The town's inclusivity committee has commented on it, and no decision has been made to actually rename the park, but there will be a council discussion and decision.

It will be made after a meet-

ing with Karl Dockstader and the Niagara Regional Native Centre, and likely with input from the public, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero. And if there is a name change, there should be something at the park to explain why, she adds.

Is this cancel culture? Or are we simply saying we are making a conscious decision that this is not what we want our culture to represent? If it is, it won't be the last such decision to be made.

To some, there shouldn't even need to be a discussion of whether it should change, but rather what to?

If the park is named after Egerton Ryerson, the Canadian educator behind the design of not only the Canadian public school system but also the Canadian residential schools — and the town's historians, connected to the museum, have decided it likely is — then it should change.

If it is offensive to a group of people, even traumatic, then it should change.

If it brings back horrific memories of what was done to generations of Indigenous people, it should change.

One really strong point made by one of our letter writers this week, though, is that we must not make such changes and think it's sufficient, that the statue or the name is gone, and so we can move on.

It can't just be a symbol. It has to be a beginning of much, much more.

If Egerton Ryerson was instrumental in taking children away from their families, trying to erase their culture, and allowing them to be abused, he was a monster. That seems pretty simple.

None of us should associate pleasant family afternoons or beautiful sunset viewing in a park with a name that will forever elicit thoughts of the evil that has been done. We

can't erase it, we can't change what was done, but we can take each and every tiny step and huge stride in front of us to

make it better for the future. It's not cancelling culture. We can take responsibility for our history, and reject it as part of our

current culture.

Penny Coles
The Local

More debate coming on John Street subdivision

Those who are following the debate about the proposed Marotta subdivision on John Street East and Charlotte Street, may want to tune in to the livestream. com/notl, tonight, Wednesday at 5.m.

Much about this developer, Benny Marotta of Solmar, has been angering residents for several years.

There are issues about the height, the density, the natural watercourses, the traffic, the trees, the heritage aspects of the site — as

with the development of the Rand Estate next door, the list of objections are long.

Town council seems continually over a barrel, with staff supporting provincial regulations, and residents insisting it must all be stopped.

It's not an easy situation for an elected official, when staff make recommendations based on legislation, and residents object. And there is not a cheap solution if it ends in planning appeals against staff recommendations. While that doesn't

mean giving a developer everything asked for, it also doesn't pay to fight a losing battle, even if the principles are worth fighting for.

There will be more standoffs with this particular developer. As said with parenting children, if you pick your battles, you have a chance of winning at least some small compromises, and that might be the best to hope for.

Penny Coles
The Local

Seniors should be able to stay in their homes



Wayne Gates, MPP
Niagara Falls riding
Special to The Local

I believe seniors in our community and our province deserve respect, dignity, and happiness as they age. It is no secret I have felt they have been neglected for too long, and

the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us this more than ever before. Seniors built this community, and this province, and they deserve to live a good life on account of that.

Long-term care in this province has become a humanitarian crisis, and one that must be solved immediately. Over the past year our seniors have faced COVID-19 outbreaks, extreme understaffing, neglect, and demoralizing isolation in care homes — this is a national shame. There was a widely

publicized care home in Niagara Falls that is a perfect example of the missteps and mistakes taken that have risked the lives of our community members. At that infamous home, over 200 staff and seniors tested positive for COVID-19, almost every staff person and resident. All the while the government withheld support and made promises that they never delivered on, including refusing our local requests for military intervention to take over the home from the management

company. Staff there worked against overwhelming adversity to provide the best for residents, but they can only do so much with so little. Despite cries and pleas from our community, seniors received inadequate care for far too long.

Seniors in our province deserve to be given proper care, and we want to make sure all senior citizens in Niagara are given what they need to age happily and healthily. My team and I have been focused on identifying and fixing the problems with this system, and helping our seniors to have a better quality of life as they age, through legislation. This is the issue that should be front and centre in our Legislative Assembly. And one of the major ways we can reduce the stress on the care home system is by ensuring seniors can stay in their own homes for as long as they want to.

That's why we released a plan to help seniors stay in their homes longer, where they can remain happy and safe in the communities that they love; a plan we hope will win unanimous support and quick implementation. A plan that reduces pressure on long-term care facilities and on hospi-

tals as we strive to keep people healthier and in their own homes. In fact, we are working to improve access to home care to avoid the need for hospitalization, nursing homes or long-term care all together. The plan is called 'Aging Ontarians Deserve the Best,' — and that says it all.

Our seniors have spent their lives working for the future we are now living, and we should fight to make sure they are not left on the sidelines when they need us most. This issue comes down to the fact that our seniors deserve our respect, and should be given the best possible quality of life as they age. The home care system in our province has been overlooked and corroded by successive governments. It has been turned into a money-centered, for-profit system, which is incredibly hard to navigate, understaffed, and which causes stress for our aging population and the families trying to care for their loved ones. Getting old should be peaceful and enjoyable, not a stress that leaves seniors feeling like a burden. It's time for change all across this system.

It is no secret that we have been working to oppose the

recent government plans to privatize home care even more, a process that makes home care more confusing and more expensive for seniors to have access to the care they need. Conversely, our plan calls for a billion dollar investment that will improve the publicly-delivered and available home care system, and take concrete actions to support the many seniors who want to live in the homes that they love for as long as possible. We will end wait times, which currently have about 380,000 people, increasing trained caregiving staff, and increasing the access to home care for all seniors.

Specifically in Niagara, our healthcare system is chronically understaffed and unable to deal with the growing aging population, of which we have one of the highest in the country. We must train and hire new personal support workers and healthcare professionals who will be willing and able to supply the proper care and attention to each and every senior in our community. Those workers cannot be worked off their feet and underpaid. If they don't have support in the workplace they suffer, and our parents and grandparents suffer. Care home staff must be given the respect they earned long before this pandemic began. That respect means more resources to provide better care for our loved ones.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the failures of this system have been brought to our attention, but they have been there for years. It is now time to invest in our seniors, to repay them for the work they have done to raise all of us, and for all they have done to make Niagara what it is today.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

New Amsterdam (Prime 2018), is a believable hospital drama, unlike the others as it was inspired by a real

medical director's experience. I could not get enough of these compassionate human stories and am now very eager for season four.

Donald Combe is a retired 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.

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

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Local LETTERS

Not everyone in NOTL wanted a clock tower cenotaph

As strongly worded opinions are posted regarding the generous offer to fund the building of a new entrance to Old Town, some opposition appears to be due to a lack of understanding that municipal funds are not being used for this purpose. A second group opposes the design based on a perceived desire to preserve things as they appear currently.

It is instructive to go back just over a hundred years to the end of the First World War, when a committee of 27 local citizens was formed to determine an appropriate way to honour those who had served

their country, chaired by later Lord Mayor J.M. Mussen. The committee's recommendation was for the erection of our current clock tower cenotaph, at a cost of \$8,000.

Opposition to the recommendation was led by then Lord Mayor James Maphee, who preferred the construction of a new hospital at the cost of \$10,000. Two additional projects considered were a new high school and a new sports park.

On June 28, 1920, the citizens voted on these recommendations. The results were as follows: clock tower cenotaph - 316 votes; a new hospital

- 237 votes; a traditional cenotaph - 72 votes; new sports park - 4 votes; and a new high school - 3 votes.

Had the vote been between only the clock tower and a traditional cenotaph, a tie of 316/316 could have occurred.

Perhaps, as a result, we would not have our landmark clock tower today, the only war memorial located in the centre of a street in Canada. Yet today, it would be difficult to find anyone who objects to its design or location.

**Mike James
NOTL**

Commons offers only NOTL leash-free walk for dogs

Re letter, NOTL Local, July 7:

Doggies? There are many dog breeds who absolutely love, and need, to run full out in order to obtain optimal exercise for their bodies. Leash walks simply

don't cut it. For fearful people, and 'doggies' who are satisfied by a leash-walk, there are literally hundreds of other places to walk or ride rather than the one, semi-remote, gravel and broken asphalt half-kilo-

metre on the Commons that comprises the one and only off-leash area dogs have. The solution is ridiculously simple. Walk somewhere else.

**Brenda and Keith Lord
NOTL**



The Commons provides the only off-leash walk for dogs in NOTL. (Photo supplied)

Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.



Local LETTERS

System flaw needs to be addressed

A Bell sales rep recently sold us on the new fibre optic cables, offering faster internet speed. The salesperson also kindly offered to have Bell cancel our services with Cogeco, which we gladly accepted.

One of our concerns with signing up with Bell was previous problems we had had with the company. The sales rep's response was if we had any problems we could contact him at the number on his business card. With his offer to be a direct contact, we signed up.

Confirmation of our installation was confirmed, and on that day, a Bell technician came to our house, took a very quick look inside, walked around outside to see where the connection was and then advised us he was here only to connect the fibre optic cable, saying another technician would follow him.

That evening we called Bell to try to get a status update. We were put on hold and 45 minutes later we gave up waiting, anticipating that we would see a technician early the next morning.

Around 4 a.m. the next morning, a quick weather check on our cellphone alerted us to the fact that our internet service (as well as TV) were no longer working, and we realized that Cogeco had terminated our services (at 12:07 AM) as instructed by Bell, although our installation had not happened. We now had no access to WiFi or TV. All we had was our cellphones.

So what does this mean for all of the things in our houses today that operate through WiFi? The smoke detector and thermostat in our house are WiFi connected. Where could we access information on how to override the thermostat (we've never needed to do that before), so we could get air conditioning during a heat wave (which we were experiencing)? Or confirm that our smoke detector would continue to protect us? We had no working outdoor security cameras. How were we to find basic contact information for anything, including Bell, to find out when someone would be at our house? The Bell app they want you to use is useless with no internet.

It became obvious we were facing a significant challenge, but we wanted to believe someone would show up first thing the following morning. We

called the sales representative. He had promised to help us with any issues. We're still waiting for his reply.

In today's world, having no internet service is like living on a desolate island. How does someone make contact without using the internet to get the services or information you need? Our only option that we could see was to call the phone number for Bell that we called the previous evening, when we were put on perpetual hold.

The next morning we started calling Bell at 8 a.m. and called every two hours that day to get someone to understand the situation we were in. We spoke to a number of Bell representatives who were sorry for our situation, but no one grasped the extent of our problem, locked down in our house in very hot weather with no internet or TV, and we could not leave our house as we needed to be there in the event that a technician showed up.

Having lost patience and ending the conversation with one Bell representative who was adamant our service was scheduled for that day, we called again and explained our situation, yet again. He quickly put me on hold, and came back a few minutes later promising me he was sending a technician immediately, which he thankfully did. John was at our house by 4:50 p.m. to make sure we would have working services. Unfortunately, that did not happen because he found an issue at the main Bell box up the road and it was now after 9 p.m. The technical support staff were finished working for the day. We would have to wait until the next day.

The next morning John called us to let us know another technician would be at our house by 10 a.m. Floyd finished the job, got us up and running by 1 p.m., and made sure we were comfortable with using the new equipment. We can't thank John and Floyd enough for their care and concern to make sure we were looked after and that we knew they had our backs. We were also told to contact Bell's loyalty program the next business day.

In the end, we were without internet and TV for a total of 37 hours, and tied to our house each day with little to occupy ourselves other than making

phone calls to Bell and watching nature in our backyard.

At least with the COVID lockdowns you could go for a walk; watch TV or a movie, online shop and keep up with news events. This lockdown has left us somewhat rattled. It took some time to catch up with all of the emails and messages that we received over those 37 hours.

We did call the loyalty department. Their response: call us back when you get your first bill.

It is imperative that Bell review their protocols for cancelling services with another provider to ensure that the installation has in fact taken place, so that no other customer is left in the situation we were in, especially with no internet. TV service would have been nice. It is not an experience I would ever want to go through again.

We also want Bell to know how lucky they are to have those three employees that did everything they could for us to be sure we were finally looked after. And we are just so very thankful there was one customer service representative, out of the many we spoke with that day, who immediately understood our situation and made sure we were looked after. His name was Matthew.

We had a conversation with our daughter after our experience, and it was her opinion that most people will not see it as a problem because they would just use hotspots with their unlimited data plans (although unlimited apparently does have a limit at some point). So I thought I would look online this morning to see where hotspots were in NOTL.

It seems that the NOTL Public Library has a program where you can rent a hotspot device for up to a week for free with unlimited data and take it anywhere (although they have a limited number of such devices). You do need to have a library card. So possibly we could have had internet capabilities if we knew about this. If our TVs were smart ones (which ours are not) we could have had TV too.

I was not aware of this program because I've never been without internet services, so I wouldn't have seen the need for us.

**Michele and Bob Campbell
NOTL**

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Local LETTERS**Sad seeing so many orchards, trees disappear**

Growing up on a fruit farm with every type of peaches, plums, pears, cherries, strawberries, and whatever Mom and Grandma grew in their gardens, we were truly blessed.

It's so sad to see most of the orchards around here disappearing and only rows upon rows of grapes being planted for the wine industry. When one knows that tender fruit can grow only in certain soil and climates like we have here, I find these changes so distressing. You cannot grow peaches and nectarines just anywhere.

I've been told there is lots of money going to the government in

the taxes on wine – is that true?

Are people drinking more and more alcoholic beverages?

In the past year we have been going for long drives through our township. We took many different routes along various lines and concessions randomly turning off one to another. Very, very few orchards could be seen – just rows and rows and rows of grapes.

And then there's the development . . . just drive along Concession 4 past the former Mori Nursery and Garden Centre. The beautiful, healthy, mature row of spruce trees next to the former garden centre disap-

peared almost overnight. Now we look at piles of concrete.

The row of cedars along the other side of the road that used to shelter some of the greenhouses disappeared too. What is it this developer has against mature trees? Is he not aware that they are vital in purifying the air, fighting climate change, sheltering birds and other wildlife – let alone provide some shade for exhausted workers to shelter in the shade?

I have to admit it – I'm feeling very sad these days.

Charlotte Letkemann
Niagara-on-the-Lake

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**NOTICE OF HEARING ADJOURNMENT**

PROCEEDING COMMENCED UNDER Subsection 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended

Owner: Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc.
Objector: Two Sisters Resorts Corp.
Subject: Notice of Intention to Designate
Property Address: 200 John Street East
Legal Description: Lot 145 RCP 692 Niagara Except Pt 1 to 9, 30R8436
Municipality: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
OLT Case No.: CRB1824
OLT Case Name: Two Sisters Resorts Corp. v. Niagara-on-the-Lake (Town)

PROCEEDING COMMENCED UNDER Subsection 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended

Owner: Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc.
Objector: Two Sisters Resorts Corp.
Subject: Notice of Intention to Designate
Property Address: 588 Charlotte Street
Legal Description: Lot 156 RCP 692 Niagara; Part Lot 145 RCP 692 Niagara Part 1 to 9, 30R8436; S/T RO718339, S/T RO413742, T/W RO413742 (PT 13, 30R1792 Except Pt 5, 30R8436)
Municipality: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
OLT Case No.: CRB1825
OLT Case Name: Two Sisters Resorts Corp. v. Niagara-on-the-Lake (Town)

The Ontario Land Tribunal ("Tribunal") has adjourned the Hearing for this matter that was to commence on July 19, 2021.

The event will now be held:

at: 10:00 am

on: December 6, 2021

The Tribunal has set aside 5 days for this matter.

A Notice of Hearing providing full details will be published closer to the new start date.

If you have any questions related to these proceedings, please contact the Case Coordinator, Paul De Medeiros: paul.demedeiros@ontario.ca

We are committed to providing accessible services as set out in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. If you have any accessibility needs, please contact our Accessibility Coordinator as soon as possible by emailing OLT.COORDINATOR@ontario.ca. If you require documents in formats other than conventional print, or if you have specific accommodation needs, please let us know so we can make arrangements in advance.

Pour recevoir des services en français, veuillez communiquer avec la Tribunal au 1-866-448-2248/(416) 212-6349 ou OLT.COORDINATOR@ontario.ca.

For general information concerning the Tribunal, visit our website at <https://olt.gov.on.ca> or you may contact the Tribunal's offices at 1-866-448-2248 or local (416) 212-6349.

DATED at Toronto, this 8th day of July 2021.

Becky Fong
Registrar

Local LETTERS**Heavy lifting needed for reconciliation**

Re: the letter regarding the removal of statues at public sites (Truth and Reconciliation means accepting the truth of genocide, *The Local*, July 7): I suppose it was inevitable that someone would bring up Hitler and Jewish feelings.

For his plunging the world into darkness and his gruesome crimes against humanity, the name of Hitler will for all time be synonymous with monstrous evil. It's hardly just Jewish people who would be offended by Hitler monuments, so to suggest we refrain from dotting the landscape with them just to spare Jewish feelings is neither true nor fair.

By the way, good for mentioning Stalin's name, because many in the west don't know the extent of his evil. I was a four year old in Eastern Europe when he died, and I recall it

ividly, because even as a small child I knew he was a monster. As I already knew Hitler had been.

Egerton Ryerson? I don't believe he was on my radar, until this year. I'm in no way minimizing his actions. But I am saying the fact that he, like so many others, did not have the vision to see beyond his time should not suddenly make him a poster child for the mistreatment of Indigenous people. He was a player, not an evil genius.

I'll state bluntly my problem with cancel culture: it's easy. It's yet another manifestation of the 'safe spaces' philosophy. By erecting fences around history and appropriating emotions, it makes honest discussion impossible. It falls far short of the heavy lifting needed for actual reconciliation. Cancel culture at its best is a dubious exer-

cise in denial, and at its worst, empty grandstanding — or virtue-signaling, the current form of that activity.

Before we find ourselves in Fahrenheit 451 territory, it would be nice to take a step back and listen seriously to other voices such as the letter-writer on the same page (You can't change history — instead, explain it), who has said it as well as it can be said. Thank you for that. You're much more tactful than I.

Or we can save ourselves a lot of trouble and stop erecting statues and monuments and naming streets in honour of real people — because sure as shooting, someone at some time in the future will find that like all of us, they had warts.

George Herman
NOTL

Be careful what you wish for

Re: Opposition to development of the former Rand Estate

My wife and I moved to NOTL 18 months ago. Within the very first week we began hearing all manner of gossip and innuendo about a man who lived nearby. Then the local newspapers began to get delivered and rarely did a week go by without a story involving this man and his local business interests. The level of vindictiveness that unabashedly came out of people's mouths and pens was astonishing. I have never met the man but if I ever do, based on the tittle tattle people whisper to each other, I am sure he will have horns and be carrying a trident.

With respect to the Marotta Estate (formerly known as the Rand Estate) and all the opposition to its development, the NIMBY mindset of some locals carries the same degree of silliness as the personal attacks on the developer. Solmar just wants profit we are told, they are cutting down trees on the property, people spew breathlessly, the interior of one building is being renovated, they gasp! Maybe these people oppose development or think

profit has become a bad thing, or do not understand private property rights? Whatever perceived infraction they conjure, it would be a lot more productive in my view if they could argue the merits and cease with the sanctimonious ad hominem commentary.

People who purchased homes nearby knew, or should have known, that this prime piece of real estate would be developed eventually. This still remains a virtual certainty unless a government entity should purchase it and set it aside as a historic site or parkland. Local opponents of its development could have banded together and purchased it themselves back in 2015-2016, but did not act. Instead, it was purchased by a development company, and then these same opponents apparently decided they knew what was best for what had become someone else's property!

As a newcomer to the area hearing all of the hysteria, I wondered if Solmar had proposed a nuclear power plant or landfill for the site? A go-cart track perhaps? Nope. This developer proposed spending tens of millions of dollars to

build a high-end boutique hotel. Good grief, shouted some townfolk, with pitchforks in hand. It seems to me the anti-development crowd have it exactly backwards. The best possible outcome was the hotel and they rejected it. They had, and of course still have every right to object, but they should be careful what they wish for. Arguing a building not quite as tall or one that maintains the architectural character of NOTL is one thing, but objecting to the hotel outright was short-sighted and contrary to their own self-interest.

Once again, in 2020 the property went on the market and, once again, opponents to development did not purchase it. Now, a residential subdivision is proposed and they apparently dislike that idea even more. What happens if that application is rejected? Maybe subsidized housing will be proposed next or the go-carts.

Save Our Rand Estate (SORE) needs a new name. It is not their estate.

Ted Grinstead
NOTL

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Layering organic material easy way to enrich soil



Joanne Young
Garden Coach/Designer

No. It doesn't mean growing lasagna!

Lasagna gardening is a no-dig, no-till organic gardening method that layers organic materials to cook down over time, reaping nutrient-rich, fluffy soil.

The best part: it's easy. You don't have to remove sod and weeds. In fact, you don't have to work the soil at all.

Also known as sheet composting, lasagna gardening is great for the environment, because it uses yard and kitchen waste.

The first layer consists of either brown corrugated cardboard or three layers of newspaper laid directly on top of the grass or weeds. Wet this layer to keep everything in place and to start the decomposition process.

The grass or weeds will

break down quickly because they'll be smothered by newspaper or cardboard, and the materials being layered on top.

This layer provides a dark, moist area that attracts earthworms to loosen up the soil.

Anything you'd put in a compost pile, you can put into a lasagna garden. Great materials include grass clippings, leaves (disease free), fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea leaves and bags, weeds (if not gone to seed), manure, seaweed, shredded newspaper or junk mail, pine needles, spent blooms, trimmings from the garden, peat moss, and straw.

When building, alternate layers of 'browns' like fall leaves, shredded newspaper, peat, and pine needles with layers of 'greens,' like vegetable scraps, garden trimmings, and grass clippings.

Brown layers should be roughly twice as deep as green layers, but there's no need to get finicky about this. The ideal result is a two-foot-tall layered bed. (This will shrink in a few short weeks.)

You can make a lasagna

garden at any season. Fall is optimum because organic materials like fallen leaves and yard waste are plentiful.

Your lasagna garden can sit and break down all winter. Rain and snow keep materials moist and help them break

down faster. By spring, it will be ready to plant with minimal effort.

If made in spring, intersperse greens and browns with layers of finished compost, peat, or topsoil. Finish off the bed with three or four

inches of finished compost or topsoil, then plant. The bed will settle over the season as below layers decompose.

Caring for a lasagna garden is easy, with fewer weeds, better water retention, less need for fertilizer, and easy-

to-work soil. Your only problem will be finding plants to fill all of those new gardens.

This is the eighth in a 10-week gardening column series, organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom Committee.



Caring for a lasagna (layered) garden is easy, using organic materials to enrich the soil. (Photos supplied)



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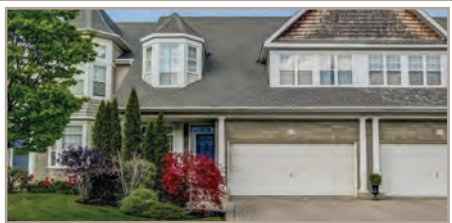
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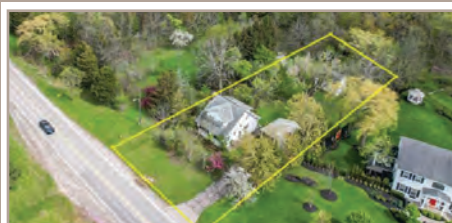
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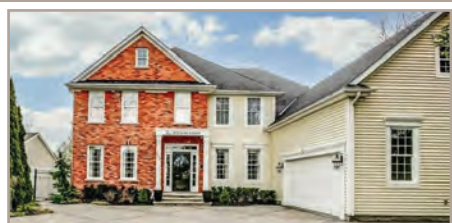
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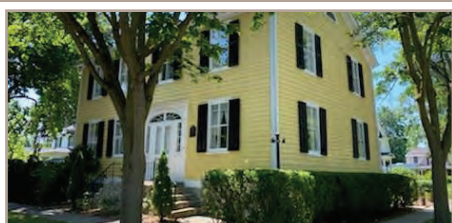
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Historical society publishes book about women in history

Shawna Butts
Assistant Curator
NOTL Museum

I think it's about time that the stories of Niagara-on-the-Lake's women are revived and brought to light. In our town's history, women have not always been featured prominently. However, from the historical record we have, we have come to find some remarkable women who have not only made a mark on our town, but also on our

country. I am excited to announce the Niagara Historical Society has a new book out, *Making Her Mark: The Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake*, that features the stories of over 100 women in our town's history.

The success of this publication is largely due to the 27 authors who came forward to help write these biographies. Many of the authors identify as women themselves, which results in

a publication that is mainly written by women about women, which I hope will be a model for the future of the telling of women's history. But what I love most about this book is that it's a history book for everyone. It presents history in a way that is relevant, comprehensible, and interesting.

The stories featured in *Making Her Mark* include the countless women in NOTL's past who did incredible things, but whose stories have been forgotten, or their accomplishments have not been recognized. Take, for example, Joanna Ellen Wood, who was a feminist author, and former Queenston resident, or Elizabeth Digweed who received a top honour of the British empire for her kindness and service to the military men during the Second World War, and more recently, Margherita Howe, who fought to prevent pollution being dumped into the Niagara River.

Also women like Sally Carter who took vigil outside the Niagara Court House and Jail in 1837 to prevent the extradition of freedom seeker Solomon Moseby, or Catharine "Kate" Smart, a botanist who collected specimens

of the pre-industrial flora in Southwestern Ontario, are featured in *Making Her Mark*.

Until now, the stories of women in NOTL's history have typically focused on women as daughters, mothers, and wives of the men in town. If I mention the names John Graves Simcoe, Alexander Hamilton, William Claus, Richard Woodruff, Peter Servos, or Jack "John" Boulton, how many of you would know the names of the women in their lives that made a mark on our community? By changing the historical narrative, *Making Her Mark* puts the spotlight on the lives of women from very early in our town's history, to the recent passing of significant influencers.

As important as the stories of our townswomen are to tell, it is not just about honouring our past. This book is a reminder that we need to do our best to ensure no one gets written out of our history. The future of history is to be more inclusive and equal to all perspectives. I hope this publication evolves and grows over the years, to include more history and stories as they become available — either through a reprint of



Making Her Mark: The Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake is available at the NOTL Museum or online at www.notlmuseum.ca. (Photos supplied)



Margherita Howe is one of the women featured in the museum's *Making Her Mark* exhibit.

Making Her Mark, or with additional volumes.

I hope that the women in *Making Her Mark* inspire you, in some way, as these courageous environmentalists, heritage activists, artists, scientists, war heroes, teachers, matriarchs, politicians, and professionals show that women can and do achieve great things.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of *Making Her Mark: The Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake*, they

are \$20 and are available at the NOTL Museum, or can be ordered online through the gift shop (<https://www.notlmuseum.ca/>). An exhibition of the same name is also on display at the museum until Oct. 24. This display features shortened biographies of 25 women from the book, and is further enhanced with tangible artifacts pertaining to these women from the museum's collection, and from private collections.

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These three boys, Dewey, Manny and Rusty, are some of the rescue cats looking for homes. NOTL Cat Rescue volunteers are holding a yard sale Saturday, July 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the historic William and Susannah Steward House, at 507 Butler St. All proceeds go to the rescue (notcats.weebly.com). Items already donated include furniture, art work, with some originals, purses, jewelry, crystal, knick knacks, children's clothes, and children's bikes. Food, litter, pet accessories and monetary donations are also welcome. And for those interested in providing a forever home, there will be a meet and greet with one of the boys up for adoption. (Photo supplied)

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Ambassadors welcoming visitors to NOTL

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake ambassadors took to the streets for the first time this summer Friday, a continuation of a program coordinator Cheryl Morris says was very well-received by visitors in 2020.

A group of five ambassadors gathered at the Market Room in the Court House just before noon to prepare to greet visitors to the Old Town, slipping their name tags onto lanyards and gathering up their maps and information sheets before departing.

Barbara Webber and Vlad Haltigin took the first noon-to-2 p.m. shift, walking up and down Queen Street wearing their bright blue T-shirts, which this year are emblazoned with the town logo and the word AMBASSADOR, in all caps.

"We found last year that people didn't really know who we were," Morris says. "So we added identification in the front. Once people found out what we were doing last year they were really receptive, and they found it was a great idea."

The program is staffed largely by volunteer members of the Shaw Guild. With no backstage tours

or indoor performances since 2019, they have been unable to fulfill their usual roles there.

The Ambassadors program began last summer as a joint effort between the town and the Shaw Guild. Participants were supplied with the blue shirts by the town, and tasked with reminding visitors about COVID measures and encouraging compliance with masking and social distancing.

Those goals continue to be front and centre this summer.

"We're not enforcers," Morris tells The Local. "If we see people that are too close together we'll give them a gentle reminder. That did help last year. We noticed a change over the summer, with more people wearing masks."

Webber and Haltigin were excited to get back onto the street. Haltigin especially was looking forward to reacquainting himself with shoppers and tourists, and also to getting a feel for the new tenants who have moved onto the Queen Street strip.

"You have to be a person who loves meeting people," Haltigin said.

Webber, who has volunteered at McFarland House as well, said, "you meet so



Marg Mather, Vlad Haltigin, Barbara Webber, Margot Devlin and Cheryl Morris are part of the Ambassadors program, welcoming visitors to Queen Street. (Mike Balsom)

many new people. Being fairly new to town, it's nice to have that opportunity."

The pair stopped to talk to Elisabeth and Diane Warankie of Welland. They visit once a month to enjoy the scones and coffee at Nina's Gelateria. This was their first time speaking to the ambassadors.

"It's a great program," said Elisabeth. "Every little town should have them. It just shows people from out of town how friendly we are as Canadians and as Niagarans."

Later they were met briefly by Constable Mike Boichuk of the Niagara

Regional Police, who was also walking Queen Street Friday afternoon. The morning drizzle meant that crowds were a bit slow to develop. But all three discussed how nice it was to see visitors wandering from store to store and enjoying lunch on the patios.

Margot Devlin was ready to go for the 2 p.m. shift.

"I love this town," she told The Local. "I did it (volunteered for the Ambassadors program) last season, and it was great meeting people. They were friendly. We ran into a lot of people who were here on

anniversaries, and we had a lot of visitors from Quebec."

Devlin added that she enjoys her purposeful walks.

"I'm an exercise fanatic," she explained. "I am training for the London Marathon in October, so this adds to my training."

Webber and Haltigin also mentioned the exercise as a fringe benefit of contributing to the community.

Morris says there are about 20 volunteers currently involved in the program. They walk in pairs, completing two hour shifts each Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 12 and 4

p.m. The ambassadors will be seen at least until the fall, and Morris hints at plans for a related program that may run after that.

"Some people (volunteers) have been a little reluctant to start again," Morris explains. "Since things have opened up they probably want to do some things with family. So we are looking for more volunteers. We're reaching out to other organizations in town."

Morris invites those interested in becoming an ambassador to send an email to info@shawguild.ca.

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Fly-in fishing trip lands fish, moose, appreciative moments



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

As you drive northbound in Ontario, something magical happens around the Port Severn neck of the woods. You cross into Canada's largest geographical landform, the Canadian Shield. This region of exposed ancient bedrock, moulded by glaciation and erosion, allows pockets of water to collect in the form of lakes, rivers, marshes and bogs en masse.

Surely Muskoka and the surrounds are in the thick of this landscape. However, imagine finding a large lake up north without a single cottage on the shoreline — unless it's your own. Furthermore, imagine that cottage is an outpost on a tiny island which requires a bush plane to get you there.

As you drive well beyond Muskoka and up to White River (just north of Lake Superior), you begin to sense a whole different degree of wilderness. There are signs warning you of how it'll be a long time before fuel is available again, moose crossing signs are regular, and the vegetation begins to morph into a different ecoregion.

I started to notice the loss of white pines and deciduous (leafy) trees. The hills turned to small mountains, and were dominated almost entirely by various species

of spruce. The forest seemed thick, haunting, and impenetrable.

Suddenly, my dad, my friends and I are in a bush plane operated by White River Air. The plane has taken off from the lake surface, and is chugging over an abyss of Canadian Shield wilderness. Unnamed lakes and rivers slice and dice the landscape beneath our bewildered eyes. There was something really humbling about a bunch of grown men just pressing their face to the plane window in absolute, unadulterated awe at what lay below.

We land on our lake, where we'll be staying for a week. The far north action doesn't waste any time, kicking off strong.

The cell phone reception is gone, but the first fish was caught off the dock within a couple of minutes. Within a couple hours, my best friend and I are in a boat rounding the corner of a boggy river, only to come face to face with a female moose.

We idled the motor while we pulled our fishing lines in. I was standing on the back of the boat with wobbly legs and a heart full of enthusiasm as the animal waded through the water, just yards from us. She was beautiful, and gave us about 10 minutes of viewing time as she swam, trudged, and then galloped through the lakeshore area. I will never forget the sound of the splashing hooves, easily the loudest thing around for miles. She would end up being the first of five moose we



One of the many walleye caught in the northern Ontario wilderness. (Photo supplied)

saw all week.

The island camp is ideal for anglers looking to catch walleye and northern pike. Essentially, an average day looks like catching fish while exploring the massive lake and its islands, bays, and shorelines. However, no day up here can be declared average.

We estimated we caught about 100 fish each. The vast majority of these fish were returned to the water instantly, while a select few were cleaned and consumed. My dad gave me a solid refresher on how to clean walleye most efficiently. Every

cut was made with intention and gratitude for the fish, and the transfer of energy in our ecosystem.

I enjoyed the taste of the fish as much as I enjoyed watching my friends catch them with unfiltered excitement. Some of the guys have never been on a fishing trip before, let alone owned fishing gear. Nor have they been so far north that they're off the grid. I've always been a huge advocate for the concept that the outdoors can bring people closer together as a sort of camaraderie vector, and that's exactly what happened on this tiny island

in a big lake.

The moment the boat leaves the dock each morning, there is a sense that you've rented out a massive, private nature theme park to yourself. Each bay is a different ride. Every island is an attraction, and every river is a pathway to a new area of the park. Odds are that you won't be able to do it all before the week is up.

The ambience is consistent with fresh air, leaving behind the humidity, light, and air pollution of southern Ontario. The wall of forest surrounding the lake was spooky and forbidding to look at, as giant spruce trees shielded the view of a forest interior rich with mosquitoes, moss, and trembling aspen. It makes you wonder how moose and black bears navigate such an impressive density of lumber.

While floating along the endless shoreline in search of fish and good laughs, we were treated with epic sunrises, a couple of thunderstorms, a

heat wave, and a night where the entire lake glowed pink with a one-of-a-kind sunset. One can't help but feel wild, healthy, and subdued all at once in these times.

Other than a fishing lure hooking someone else's ear, I am grateful that all the guys and I made it safely back to civilization. This trip was a classic package of all my favourite things about the outdoors: conservation, community, and camaraderie. The many bald eagles we watched spent their time watching us, and I'd like to think they saw some humans having way too much fun.

This is what Ontario offers. This is what nature does for the mind and soul. We are so fortunate to live where we do, in a land of natural wealth and all that it does for us. More importantly, though, the land doesn't owe us anything. When you're that far north, you appreciate that it simply exists, and you get taken along for a ride that you will never forget.



A female moose says hello to my friend and I as we round the corner on a boggy creek. (Owen Bjorgan)

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Bowron's newest mystery novel available Friday

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake author and real estate broker Chris Bowron finally has copies of his latest Koehler Books novel, *Society of Necessities*, in his hands, and he hopes to get them into the hands of local readers this Friday.

Bowron will be signing copies of his fantasy thriller at the Old Niagara Bookshop Friday, July 16 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Originally titled *Almost Immortal*, the novel follows the adventures of Daniel St. Croix, a small-time crook who meets an untimely demise. Somehow, he finds himself back amongst the living, and discovers the journals of his father, Pierre, whom he had thought was his grandfather.

Via these journals Daniel travels through time, first to the French Revolution, and eventually to Egypt in the time of the Pharaohs. There, he discovers that a gold ring he has recently inherited has provided immortality first to his father, and now to him, over thousands of years.

And a secret society is itching to get their hands on it.

The name change for the novel came about at the suggestion of the pub-

lisher, and Bowron sees it as an improvement from its previous title.

"They had a few different ones, but they chose this one, and I like it," Bowron confirms. "A few other things changed from the first draft, including more detail on the science behind the metal of the ring, to make it just a little more believable."

For those familiar with the crime thrillers of Bowron's Jackson Walker series, *Society of Necessities* is a major departure, weaving elements of historical fiction into a plot worthy of best-selling author Dan Brown.

"The Midwest Book Review out of Chicago gave it a really good review," says Bowron. "She (Diane Donovan) said 'people who like *The Da Vinci Code* will be happy with this book.' And Susan Keefe from the Columbia Review said it was more like *Raiders of the Lost Ark*."

Local landmarks find a place in *Society of Necessities*, as well. Readers will recognize The Olde Angel Inn, the cemetery at St. Mark's Church, the gazebo at Queen's Royal Park and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, all featured in an early chapter, preceding the pivotal loss of life that sets up the rest of the novel's journey.

Society of Necessities has



Chris Bowron will be signing books at the Old Niagara Bookshop Friday. (Mike Balsom)

also launched as an e-book, now available on Amazon. Bowron says even with this, his fourth book, he gets a "buzz" seeing it in print, but his bread and butter as an author comes from sales of the e-book version.

"If I sell 200 paper copies here in town, or in Florida (where he has another home) then I'm doing pretty good," he says. "But I'll probably sell many thou-

sands of e-books."

To that end he is busy working the online promotion channels to drive up the interest on Amazon, and has lowered the price to an introductory 99 cents for this week only. It should help *Society of Necessities* climb up the Amazon bestsellers list.

For her part, Laura McFadden, proprietor of the Old Niagara Bookshop on Regent Street, is excited to

host the signing this Friday and to sell Bowron's books in her store.

"He's an awesome writer," raves McFadden. "It's amazing that he couples it with another career. It's a great accomplishment for any writer to get a book in print. He's a local writer, and I wish we had more local writers."

"If you take the entertainment world, virtually everything in it comes

from a book," McFadden continues. "We need writers like Chris, writers in all genres."

Though Bowron says his printed copies are usually reserved for reviewers, he's excited to meet some of his readers Friday at the Old Niagara Bookshop. Books will be available there following this week's signing event, and also at the Steele Gallery on Mississauga Street.

St. Davids Lions donate to Community Fridge

Penny Coles
The Local

A community fridge in St. Catharines is up and running, in thanks partly to a donation by the St. Davids Lions Club.

It's an initiative of the Lincoln Humane Society, in a structure on its Fourth Ave. property.

The concept is simple — take what you need, and leave what you can. It is designed to help people in need of food, no questions asked.

The local Lions Club was one of several organizations that donated start-up costs — other Lions and Rotary clubs also contributed.

Ted Burrows, president of the St. Davids club, says he, like many others, has driven by the cat gazebo many times.

An animal lover who has always had a dog, he is supportive of the work of the humane society, and thought the idea of using their space to help people was a good one.

"They're trying out something new and differ-

ent for them, which will be very beneficial. We had the money, and we wanted to help out."

The outdoor octagonal structure was originally built as a cat gazebo that would provide more room for the feline guests at the humane society, and where people thinking of adopting could go to meet them.

It turned out not to be an ideal location for the cats, and during the pandemic, could be put to better use helping people in need, so the structure was redesigned with electricity, air conditioning, shelving and a commercial-sized fridge. The St. Davids Lions Club donated \$750 toward the project.

The humane society would be grateful for any donations of food that can be distributed through the Community Fridge.

It's open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Items that are needed include produce, commercially prepared foods, canned products and toiletries, as well as monetary donations. For more information visit the Facebook site or online at lchs.ca.



The former cat gazebo on the Lincoln County property on Fourth Avenue has been turned into a Community Fridge. (Photo supplied)

Pumphouse helps connect seniors through technology

**Kim Wade
Special to The Local**

"It's just good to know that we are all in the same boat," says retired secondary school teacher Russell Wade.

He and his wife Glenys participated in the first workshop in the Connecting Seniors through Technology series offered by the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre last Tuesday morning. The virtual workshop on iPad Basics taught participants the fundamentals of how to begin to navigate an iPad. They were taught basic moves such as swipe, touch, tap, hold, scroll and zoom, along with how to make your iPad more accessible to the specific needs of seniors.

The six participants were shown how to adjust the settings to individualize their iPads for their specific needs. For example, they were taught to enlarge or change the font, plus how to magnify apps and change the colour contrast for easier legibility and clarity. They were also taken through the steps to navigate to and between applications, and how to adjust the volume and brightness settings.

The aim of the workshop was to help seniors be more familiar with iPads, and more engaged with technology. They were shown how to access applications such as Hoopla, which enables people to virtually access public libraries to enjoy reading e-books or watching movies on their tablet. The workshop will also serve as a foundation for further learning on how to access email, and social media apps such as FaceTime and Facebook to keep them connected with family, friends and the community.

"One of the big goals is to reduce the isolation and the loneliness that comes with COVID. That's a primary goal of the project," says Lise Andreana, chair of the Pumphouse.

All the workshops in the series are offered free through a federal initiative called the New Horizons for Seniors Program. The Niagara Pumphouse applied for and received a grant that allowed them to purchase six iPad Pros, to train the senior volunteers and to set up the series.

The first task, Andreana explains, was to gather and train volunteers that meet the definition of senior, meaning 50 and above, to help older seniors who are struggling with technology. Now the training of the volunteers is done, they are now into the July sessions, which are still being delivered online. However, in August, the Pumphouse is happy to be moving to in-person classes. They are planning for all

the classes to be small. "It's not about serving 100 or 150 or 200 people, it's about the intimacy and social connection," explains Andreana. They are expecting to have three to six senior students in a class, with three to five volunteers. "It's going to be very informal and very relaxed," she continued. "We just hope to really have a lot of fun, impart some wisdom, and try to take some mystery out of the iPad tablets and tablets in general, for the seniors that have difficulty with this."

Andreana explains she feels this program is another way of supporting the seniors in the community. She says 60 per cent of the population in NOTL is over 50. Many of the seniors here fit into the younger senior category, those who are close to retirement or newly retired, healthy and active, and still able to play golf and chase after their grandchildren. However, as we age, we transition through to the middle and then later senior categories. These people may begin to be plagued with continuing health problems and may have physical or cognitive limitations. Eventually, they become less active, and in turn become less social. In this later stage, Andreana says, "their world shrinks," and they lose the connectivity with friends, family and the community that is so important for mental well-being.

Andreana is very excited about the August sessions, which will feature how to



Seniors are teaching other seniors how to use technology on iPads through a program offered by the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. In August they will move to small, in-person classes. (Kim Wade)

connect to the internet, how to take photos, store photos and create digital photo albums. They will also cover how to create a contact and to use video apps like FaceTime or Zoom. Andreana believes that is important for senior parents to connect with their children and their grandchildren and reconnect with people that they may have lost touch with because of COVID. "That was the purpose behind the grant. They are trying to help everyone connect, because connections have been broken, and to increase the op-

portunities for connection, especially for the seniors and for the elderly."

The Pumphouse is planning for the sessions to continue and evolve over the next year. In September, they are planning to teach sessions on how to use the camera on a phone or tablet. One of the volunteers will be leading sessions on social media.

However, as Andreana highlights, "the involvement of the students is really important to the development of the program. Where they say their needs are is where

you are going to see this go." She would like to see seniors involved with the program, let them know what they are interested in learning, and what their needs are. "As they tell us what they need, then you can see the program developed to meet those needs."

Andreana recognizes the importance of supporting our seniors in the community. She is proud of the program they have developed and will continue to develop at the Pumphouse. She anticipates it will be successful in helping seniors develop

a deeper understanding of technology as a tool for engagement and connection. She also recognizes that using unfamiliar technology can be intimidating to seniors and she believes these workshops, especially the in-person sessions, will help to alleviate some of the anxiety and intimidation by helping seniors recognize we are "all in the same boat."

To register for the online or in-person classes please visit the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre at niagarapumphouse.ca, or give them a call at 905-468-5455.

Summertime fun at the library



London Hrenko, Ella Shapley, and Fiona Jarmillo enjoyed outdoor science fun at the NOTL Public Library Saturday. There are programs daily, mostly held outside at the back of the library, to keep kids busy this summer. For more information visit <https://notlpubliclibrary.org>. (Photo supplied)

One-woman online show recorded at Pillar and Post

Penny Coles
The Local

Though it officially began on June 20, Music Niagara Festival's 2021 At Home Series shifts into high gear July 22 with *From Judy to Bette: The Stars of Old Hollywood*.

Rebecca Perry's one-woman show sees her take on the personae of Judy Garland, Bette Davis, Betty Hutton and Lucille Ball, four trailblazers who broke the mold by pushing back against the studio system that limited what women could accomplish on the silver screen.

It's a show Perry has performed throughout Canada, England and Scotland, including three weeks at the 2019 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and a full run as part of the Sudbury Theatre Centre's season in February 2020.

From Judy to Bette began as a 30-minute play when it debuted at Toronto's Next Stage Theatre Festival in 2016. Perry's success there convinced her to expand it into a full 75-minute production, with husband David Kingsmill providing musical accompaniment on piano as well as an interlude during a 15-minute intermission.

Of the four performers she takes on, Perry says she admires them for more than their talents.

"Lucille Ball was the first woman to own her own studio," exclaims Perry. "Not only were they all talented women, but they had good business heads. It's something that I wanted to share, because as time rolls on, not

everybody my age is familiar with these women. They have so much to offer. I wanted to share that magic."

The 32-year-old Brampton native's fascination with and love for the women of a bygone era was fostered by her grandmother, who would bring over her MGM movie musicals and Lucille Ball videos while babysitting.

A graduate of the theatre school at George Brown College, Perry previously played over 30 different characters in her first full one-woman show, *Confessions of a Red-Headed Coffee Shop Girl*. Besides narrating *From Judy to Bette* as the four Hollywood stars, Perry also takes on the voices of about a dozen others, including studio executives and rival actresses. This month's online performance was recorded last week in the library at the Pillar and Post. The Local was fortunate to watch as the flame-haired actress, wearing a glamorous green dress, imitated the singing voice of Bette Davis.

Yes, in 1976, after decades of smoking, the *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane* actress rasped through a set of 11 songs on the album *Miss Bette Davis*. Perry runs through a medley of the numbers, many of them well-known standards, culminating in a hilarious coughing fit.

Later, she assumes the roles of RKO and Warner Bros. executives fighting over the contract of the Academy Award winner. Davis made waves in the late 1930s when she fought a months-long le-

gal challenge to be released from her studio contract.

The show then fast forwards to the 1940 Academy Awards, when Davis lost the Best Actress Oscar to Vivian Leigh for *Gone With the Wind*. Perry then slides seamlessly into the role of Judy Garland, who was presented at that same ceremony with a special Juvenile Award for her performance in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Perry is a master of moving from character to character, even when the contrast between the acid wit of Davis and the zany antics of Ball might seem to make that a difficult task.

"I've taken great pains to craft this show in a way where the transitions feel fluid and not jarring to the audience," she laughs. "I'm definitely chronicling four very, very different women."

Storytelling, gossip column tidbits, comedy routines and iconic songs all feature into Perry's repertoire. Her powerful voice, costumes and stage presence take the viewer back in time, while Kingsmill's piano accompaniment perfectly frames her singing.

Music Niagara Festival's 2021 At Home Concert Series continues on July 29 with the Toronto All-Star Big Band recorded at Chateau des Charmes. The ever-popular Big Band returns following their well-received holiday program last December.

August will see four concerts, including an Aug. 5 look at a 1964 incident when American avant-garde com-



Rebecca Perry and David Kingsmill in the Pillar and Post garden on John Street. (Photos supplied)

poser John Cage spent 15 hours lost overnight in the remote Saskatchewan woods. The following Thursday, Luke McMaster offers his *Icons of Soul* show, a collection of brand-new tunes, created in collaboration with original hit makers, Felix Cavaliere of the Rascals and Lamont Dozier of Motown fame.

The new gardens at the Pillar and Post create the setting for two August shows. *Garden of Seasons* offers very different sounds of nature by Italian, Russian, and Argentinian composers, while *Paris Connection* features music by French impressionists, as well as the *Jazz Suite* by Claude Bolling. The latter will be performed by harpist Erica Goodman, violinist and Music Niagara founder Atis Bankas, pianist Michael Berkovsky, and a flute jazz trio.

On Sept. 2, Bankas and

Victoria Kogan take on Beethoven's three violin sonatas, Op. 30, dedicated to the Russian Emperor Alexander I. The story sheds some light into Beethoven's attraction to the Russian Imperial family. Shaw actor Guy Bannerman returns to Music Niagara on Sept. 9 as he looks at the importance of music in the life and plays of George Bernard Shaw, who worked as a music critic for a number of London newspapers.

The season wraps up with a look at *Mozart's Legacy* on Sept. 16, and finally *Let's Tango*, a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the music of the king of modern tango, Astor Piazzolla. Performers for that show include founders of Payadora Tango Ensemble violinists Rebekah Volksteen and Drew Jurecka, Atis Bankas on violin, and Erica Goodman on harp. Quartetto Gelato and tango

dancers will also be part of the program.

With the recent announcement that Ontario is moving into Stage Three of its reopening plan, restrictions on live music events have been loosened. That's great news to Music Niagara General Manager Karen Lade.

"Music Niagara will continue to bring great music to our audience through our At Home series," Lade promises. "Now with the reopening, we will be selling tickets to the filming of select performances. Tickets to the filming of Luke McMaster's *Icons of Soul* and Tom Allen's performance *Being Lost* will go on sale online only Thursday, July 15 at noon via www.musicniagara.org."

From Judy to Bette: The Stars of Old Hollywood debuts at 4 p.m. on July 22 on Music Niagara's website and YouTube channel.



Rebecca Perry, with pianist and husband, David Kingsmill indoors at the Pillar and Post Inn & Spa.

Music returns to Jackson-Triggs with outdoor concerts

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The amphitheatre may not be open yet, but music has returned to Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery for the summer.

Welland singer-songwriter Katey Gatta got the ball rolling on the 2021 Summer Lawn Concert Series last Friday. The musician, who also releases music under the name Sleepy Jean, stepped onto the new portable stage just a few yards northeast of the patio, and began her afternoon set with a cover of a song by the Irish band, The Cranberries.

Rob Richardson of Marquis Entertainment, who has been booking acts for Jackson-Triggs for two decades, is excited about the new set-up.

“Last year we did something similar, using a small tent,” he explained. “But this year we had more time to plan. This is actually a demonstration sun room from a company called Lumon. The overhang protects from the rain and the roof is heat reflective. And we added a new state-of-the-art Meyer sound system as well.”

The protection came in handy on a drizzly Friday. Gatta was able to stay dry on stage while getting ready, and continued to be protected when the sun began to shine later in the afternoon.

“We’re going rain or shine,” promised Richardson. “We’ll do our best. If it’s uncomfortable because of lightning, for the safety of the artists, we’ll cancel. But if it’s drizzling, that’s why we brought this stage in. If it’s a rainy Friday, come on down, have a glass of wine, a bite to eat and listen to some great music.”

The 29-year-old was elated to be performing once again.

“Since I started singing semi-professionally at nine years old,” she told The Local, “this is the longest break I’ve had, six months, without a proper show. There’s defi-

nitely some feeling of shaking off the rust, but also the exhilaration you get from playing a song and seeing someone enjoy it physically in front of you.”

Richardson explained that local musicians will be the focus on Fridays, Sundays and holiday Mondays, while on Saturdays, performers from outside of Niagara will be featured.

As a well-known local artist, Gatta is representative of much of the lineup planned for the small stage this summer. Her set of well-known cover songs and folk originals was perfect for a summer afternoon. Other Niagara acts already booked include Nathan Warriner, Joel Lewszynski, Emma-Lee Fleury and the duo Laurel and Hulley.

“I’m just finalizing the details on some Juno Award winners coming down for the Saturdays,” Richardson added. “Gabrielle Shonk (Juno nominee from Quebec City), Julien Taylor (a Toronto funk, soul and rock singer-songwriter), and AHI (Ahkinoah Habah Izarh, a soul and funk singer from Brampton) have all been lined up.”

The Jackson-Triggs website also lists appearances by Devin Cuddy (son of Blue Rodeo frontman Jim) and Toronto-based Ethiopian/Eritrean singer-songwriter Ayo Leilani, known to fans as Witch Prophet. It’s an eclectic line-up that is certainly beyond the usual outdoor music entertainment.

Estate manager Sreejith Sasikumar added, “as an estate, we’ve been supporting Canadian musicians for over 20 years. When we could not handle the concerts in the theatre, we pivoted to the smaller stage version so that we could continue that support for the music industry.”

Just before Gatta took to the stage Friday news came down the line that Ontario was to move into Step 3 of the provincial reopening plan a week later. Under the



Patrons can have a glass of wine, a bite to eat and enjoy the music, even when the weather is less than perfect.

guidelines for that stage, attendance at an outdoor seated concert at any one time must not exceed 75 per cent of the usual seating capacity for the venue, or 15,000 people, whichever is less.

That would lead one to believe that Jackson-Triggs may begin plans to mount its usual lineup of great Canadian musical talent in the amphitheatre this summer. But Sasikumar said it’s a little more complicated than that.

“We would still need at least three weeks to set up the stage,” he said. “Even if the government said ‘go ahead,’ we would need the time to set up, and also the time to get the talent we want to showcase. We would want to make sure we meet the calibre of what people expect from Jackson-Triggs.”

In the meantime, operations at the winery seemed to be clicking along at a rapid pace.

“It’s great to welcome people back onto the estate,” said Sasikumar. “All of us were dying to have some kind of customer interaction. We’re

here to give customers a good time. It’s exciting to be back.”

Sasikumar was also happy to report that he had been able to recall all employees.

“We called them all back in, and had a week of training,” he explained, “to get them refreshed on what the COVID measures are. We went through the whole guest services experience as

well. They were glad to get back. You can see the smiles behind the masks.”

He added that he even has a few openings in various departments, including culinary and guest services, at both Jackson-Triggs and its sister winery, Inniskillin.

Sasikumar is hoping that as things reopen, Jackson-Triggs will once again

reach pre-COVID sales revenue in both retail and at the restaurant. Live music every weekend should make the winery a choice destination for 2021.

For information and the full lineup for the Summer Lawn Concert Series so far, visit <https://www.greatestatesniagara.com/Events/Estate-Winery-Events>



Local Katey Gatta was the first performer of the outdoor series of concerts at Jackson-Triggs this summer. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



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Monarch transformation never ceases to amaze

Charlotte Letkemann
Special to The Local

The monarch season has begun.

As my friends know, I've been fortunate in recent years to raise many monarch (and swallowtail) butterflies and have shared the experience with family, students, friends, residents in long-term care homes and other groups that invite me. So many people have not seen them at the various stages of transformation – something that never fails to excite me.

Upon their return from over-wintering in Mexico (or the west coast ones in California), monarchs usually have their first brood in the southern United States. The next generation may head north towards Canada with perhaps one more stop to breed once again, before heading to our area (or further north). They have had many monarchs as far north as Thunder Bay in recent years. On occasion, a very battered one may arrive in Ontario having made it all the way from Mexico.

This year I've not yet seen any adult monarch butterflies, but I know they're here. About 10 days ago I began finding their recently-laid eggs in sunny places where milkweed has been planted and allowed to grow. Thankfully, many more people are becoming aware and are not only allowing milkweed to flourish, but are planting it in their gardens. Black swallowtails feed on Queen Anne's lace, carrot

leaves, dill and parsley. Unfortunately, many towns, like our own, are cutting down what is growing along the roadside, and many of our pollinators are suffering or disappearing completely. Many farmers use chemicals that are harmful to these delicate creatures. I try to raise awareness, but have hit many roadblocks.

Monarchs generally lay one tiny white egg on the underside of a milkweed leaf and then move on to another leaf. The mother-to-be fertilized butterfly perches on the edge of the leaf, reaches under with her abdomen and deposits her egg. It's exciting to see. After about five days a very tiny yellow, black and white striped caterpillar emerges. It may feed a bit on that leaf and then wander off to find another. It often drops from a thread (that comes out of its back end) and allows the breeze to blow it elsewhere. Somehow, it manages to find other milkweed plants, sometimes wandering quite far from where it was born.

After feeding for about 14 days, it will become very restless, move on quite far away from where it was feeding and try to find a high, horizontal surface on which to transform. Outdoors, it could be the edge of the roof line. Indoors, where I have kept them in a very large jar (or butterfly cage), they will attach themselves to a craft stick I've laid across the top. So they don't escape, I have had the jar covered the whole time with a piece of nylon netting. Remarkably, they find the stick,

attach themselves, and within an hour or so, drop their head end and hang quietly by their tail end. When the caterpillar begins wiggling, the skin suddenly splits open at the bottom and within a few minutes begins to rise to the top and drop off. The pale green chrysalis with its gold specks becomes

visible and takes its final form within the hour.

Monarchs stay in their chrysalis for about nine days as the molecules rearrange themselves to become that beautiful adult creature we've all learned to enjoy. The day before the chrysalis opens, it changes colour – becomes

dark and clear – almost transparent in bright light. That morning, before the sun rises to its peak, the butterfly breaks out of its confined area. It is born head first and hangs there as its wings start to expand. As it cannot fly for the first one or two hours, one can coax it onto a tiny branch

and carry it out to a safe place, perhaps putting it onto a flower branch to allow its wings to dry out completely. If you are lucky enough, as we were, it may even come back to you, land on your shirt as though to say good-bye, and then fly away to find a partner.



Photographer Charlotte Letkemann has captured the stages of a Monarch butterfly, beginning with their return from Mexico, to laying of eggs about 10 days ago, to the time it's ready to emerge from its chrysalis.

Local HAPPENINGS

FISH FRY

Thursday, July 15th
4 - 7 p.m.

TAKEOUT ONLY
CASH ONLY
1 or 2 piece dinner
with fries and coleslaw
Drive-thru to order

We're back! Join us!

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.,
905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

ST. DAVIDS LIONS

DRIVE-THRU BBQ

Friday, July 16th • 4 to 7 pm
1462 YORK RD. ST. DAVIDS

PLEASE WEAR A MASK WHEN ORDERING/PICKING UP

COMBO MEALS: Lions Burger & Fries \$10
Lions CDN Burger & Fries \$12 (topped with peameal bacon)
Lions Peameal Bacon & Fries \$10
Leo's Hot Dog & Fries \$6

All meals come with bottled water. Add a soft drink for \$1

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With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Include your Logo! Prices starting at \$20. Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-641-5335 or email: classified@notllocal.com

Local WORSHIP

Sunday, July 18th

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

Message:
Jeff Martens - Emotions

Our services are also
streamed online Sunday's
at 10 AM. Visit our website
for more information!

www.ccchurch.ca

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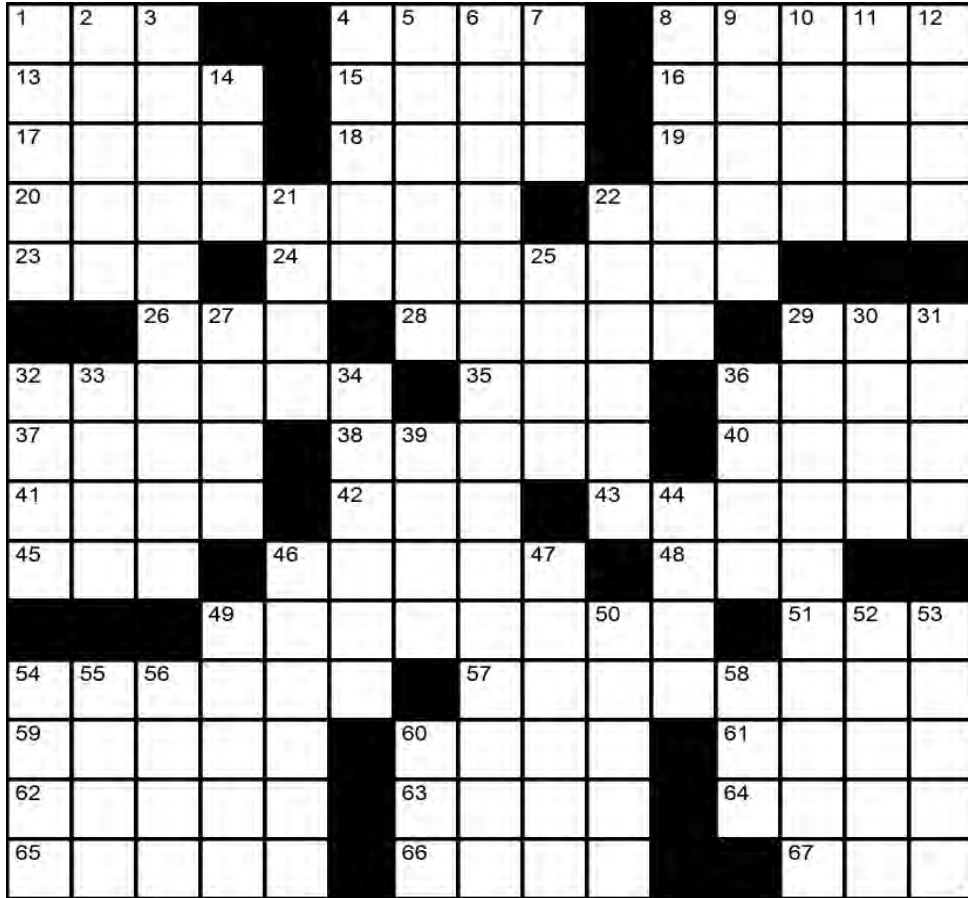
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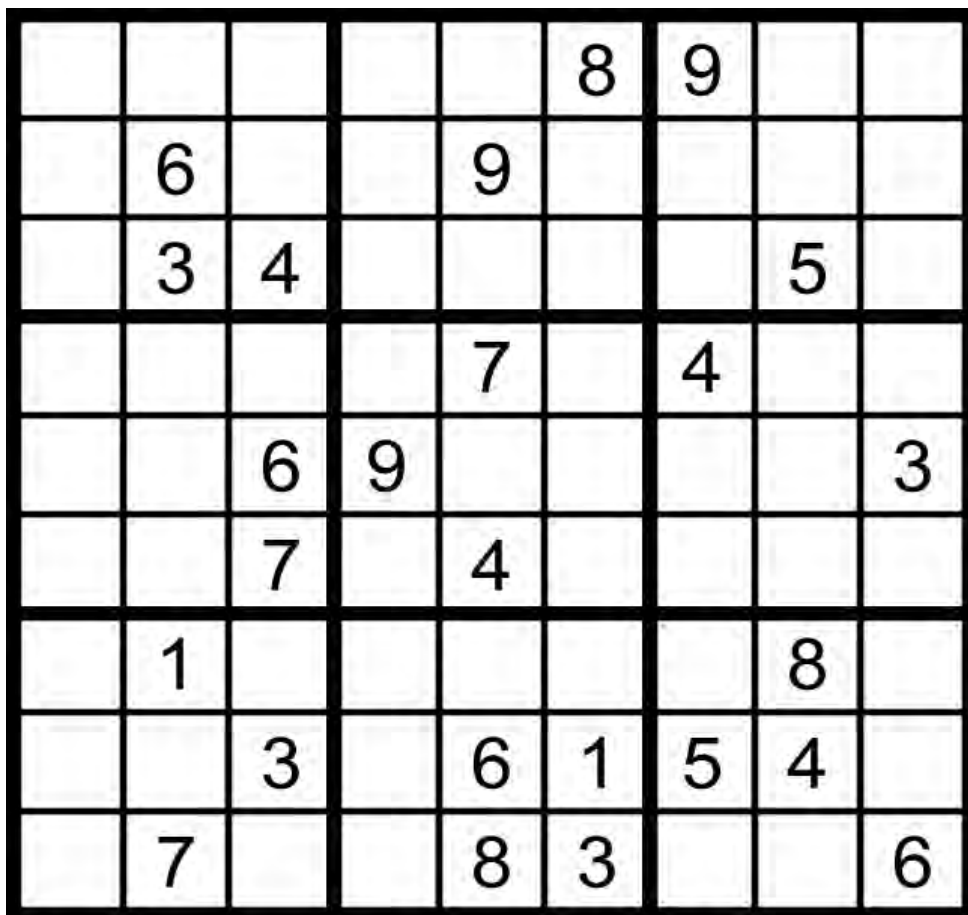


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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



- Across:**
- 1 School org.
 - 4 Emit
 - 8 Tenet
 - 13 In case
 - 15 Tennis ace --- Sampras
 - 16 Fault
 - 17 A law --- himself
 - 18 Behavioral and learning problem
 - 19 Refractor
 - 20 Resident of Rabat, perhaps
 - 22 Fragile
 - 23 Sis sib.
 - 24 Faith
 - 26 E.g. United Way
 - 28 Frightening
 - 29 1/1000 inches
 - 32 News exclusives
 - 35 Alliance of some former Soviet countries
 - 36 Buffalo Bill
 - 37 Where we all started
 - 38 Consequence of driving over a nail
 - 40 Baking chamber
 - 41 Copies
 - 42 Female deer
 - 43 Resident of Damascus, e.g.
 - 45 For each
 - 46 Boring
 - 48 Lyric poem
 - 49 Foliage
 - 51 Navigational aid
 - 54 Wanness
 - 57 Gunfight
 - 59 Elite group
 - 60 Turkish currency
 - 61 Software test version
 - 62 Below
 - 63 Arthurian lady
 - 64 Bohemian
 - 65 Jottings
 - 66 They hatch
 - 67 Distress message
- Down:**
- 1 Exactly vertical
 - 2 E.g. Pavarotti
 - 3 Stargazer
 - 4 Room
 - 5 Foot controls
 - 6 Type of war crime
 - 7 Espouse
 - 8 Arrange in battle formation
 - 9 Utah senator --- Hatch
 - 10 Dismal
 - 11 Rolling stones lack it, but the Rolling Stones don't
 - 12 Ground forces
 - 14 Also
 - 21 Trim
 - 22 Groundbreakers
 - 25 Earth goddess
 - 27 Sailors
 - 29 Cinema buffs
 - 30 Notion
 - 31 Coal Miner's Daughter, Loretta ---
 - 32 Exchange
 - 33 Manage
 - 34 More morose
 - 36 Volume of wood
 - 39 Golfer's shout
 - 44 Up-and-down toy
 - 46 Inviting smells
 - 47 Lou ---, baseballer who gave his name to a disease
 - 49 Angry stare
 - 50 Highways
 - 52 Renaissance cherub
 - 53 Remains
 - 54 Annoying person
 - 55 Periodic Table abbr.
 - 56 Departed
 - 58 Details not yet set (Abbr.)
 - 60 Sheltered side



OBITUARY



PEWER, ALEXANDER—Alexander Pever, born on August 3, 1941, passed away peacefully on July 5, 2021 at the Niagara Falls Hospital. His wife of 50 years and daughters were at his side. Son of the late Adam and Mildred Pever, dearly loved husband of Diane Pever (nee Krencisz) and beloved father of the late Michael (1997), Jennifer Dauginas (Shawn) and Catherine Riley (Scott). Beloved Grampie to his grandchildren Damyn, Joshua, Alyssa, Parker and Nova, and great Grampie to Addy and Verity. He will be deeply missed by his brother James Pever and his sister Barbara Langille (Arnie), his niece Cheryl and nephew Kenny. Alex worked for the Niagara Parks Commission for 33 years. He was a Horticulturalist, and in his retirement, he spent the summer tending to his roses and vegetable garden. He was a member of St. Davids and District Lions Club for 31 years and a member of NOTL Safety Committee. Alex could talk to absolutely anyone, anywhere, at any time. No matter the topic being discussed, Alex could jump in and keep it going for hours. He was so proud of his grandchildren and wanted to see them graduating, he just loved all of them to pieces. They remember his funny jokes and the songs he would sing. He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him. In keeping with Alex's wishes cremation has taken place. A private family service will take place July 18th with a Celebration of Life to follow at a later date. Memorial donations in his name can be sent to the St. Davids and District Lions Club.

IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL A. PEWER—passed away July 20, 1997 (24 years ago). Wishing you were here but hopefully you have met up with your Dad Alexander Pever (he never got over losing you). Memories of a darling son fill each and every day and though the heartache lessens it never goes away. Love and hugs from Mom, Dad, Jen, Cathy and all the rest of the family.

HELP WANTED

THE NIAGARA PUMPHOUSE ARTS CENTRE is looking for a permanent **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
Hours: 24 -36 hrs/week, Tuesdays - Sundays
For details, visit niagarapumphouse.ca
Submit your resume by Jul. 22, 2021 to: rima.boles@niagarapumphouse.ca

HELP WANTED

HUEBEL GRAPES ESTATES is looking for general seasonal full time laborer workers. Duties include pruning, tying, suckering, canopy management and harvesting. Must be willing to work long hours, including weekends from March to November. Must be fit and enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions. No education required. Wage \$14.25/hr. Own transportation. Working in Niagara on the Lake / Queenston LOS 1J0
Contact by fax 905-468-2365 or huebelgrapesestates@gmail.com
Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from July 7, 2021

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

Across: 1 P-T A, 4 Spew, 8 Dogma, 13 Lest, 15 Pete, 16 Error, 17 Unto, 18 A D H D, 19 Prism, 20 Moroccan, 22 Filmmy, 23 Bro, 24 Religion, 26 N-G O, 28 Scary, 29 Mill, 32 Scoops, 35 C I S, 36 Cody, 37 Womb, 38 A flat, 40 Oven, 41 Apes, 42 Doe, 43 Sytan, 45 Per, 46 A drag, 48 Ode, 49 Greenery, 51 G P S, 54 Pallor, 57 Shoot-out, 59 A-team, 60 Lira, 61 Beta, 62 Intra, 63 Enid, 64 Art, 65 Notes, 66 Eggs, 67 S O S.
Down: 1 Plumb, 2 Tenor, 3 Astronomer, 4 Space, 5 Pedals, 6 Ethnic cleansing, 7 Wed, 8 Deploy, 9 Orrin, 10 Grim, 11 Moss, 12 Army, 14 Too, 21 Crop, 22 Firsts, 25 Gata, 27 Gobs, 29 Moviegoers, 30 Idea, 31 Lynn, 32 Swap, 33 Cope, 34 Sader, 36 Cord, 39 Fore, 44 Yo-yo, 46 Aromas, 47 Gehrig, 49 Clare, 50 Roads, 52 Puito, 53 Stays, 54 Pain, 55 At No, 56 Left, 58 T B A, 60 Lee.



Angel Inn, filmed in NOTL, available on Amazon Prime

Penny Coles
The Local

The cast didn't include any really famous names, and the movie was low-budget, but writer/director Kirk Schriefer is thrilled to see his movie available on Amazon Prime Video, more than a decade after filming it.

The Angel Inn, a feature-length independent film, was filmed in about three weeks back in 2010.

At the time his wife Ruth Anne was establishing The Pie Plate, a popular bakery and cafe in Virgil, and Kirk was helping out, while trying to raise enough money to fulfill his own dream, to see his first full-length movie on a big screen.

He found several supporters, family and friends, who invested \$1,000 each, and maxed out a credit card to get it filmed.

The premise of the movie is three life-long friends torn apart by tragedy in their youth, are brought back together through a journey of romance, discovery and forgiveness when they co-inherit a popular local pub, *The Angel Inn*.

Many scenes, especially the outdoor ones, were filmed using the Regent Street pub. Schriefer had planned for the entire film to use the Angel, and had received permission from the owners of the day, to film inside the inn. But long-time owner Peter Ling

had died, and the current owners wanted to help, but only during the hours the inn was closed, which didn't work well with the filming schedule.

Doug Fowler, owner of The Anchorage on Ricardo Street, which at that time had closed but had not yet been torn down, stepped up and agreed the building could be used for the film.

"He was very supportive," says Schriefer, and was okay with turning the large indoor space into something smaller, more suitable for what the film-maker was picturing.

Those who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake may well recognize many of the extras, although some of the cast have moved on, notably Tom Braybrook, propping up the bar as a character named Lachey, with two other men. Braybrook, who is living out west with his wife Jill, was supposed to be Scottish, the other two Irish and English. "They had a lot of fun," says Schriefer, which is apparent in the movie.

Making his acting debut in the film is Rev. Bob Wright, who allowed St. Mark's Church to be used as one of the settings, and who ended up playing a part he is quite familiar with in real life. Affectionately known locally as Father Bob, from his tenure at St. Mark's, he played himself.

The movie also features "eclectic regulars," and a dis-



Bruce Edwards as Donavan, Dave DiFranseco as Basil and Tom Braybrook as Lachey were the three men who spent a lot of time at the bar in *The Angel Inn*. (Photos supplied)

appearing and reappearing prosthetic leg.

There is a long list of familiar names: Perry Johnson, Gary Peterson, Tony DeLuca, and several members of the Schriefer family, some of them musicians, and some other musicians around town — music is a big part of the movie. Some of the Schrieferes are known locally also for working together at The Pie Plate, the beloved Virgil cafe and bakery which has recently moved from Niagara Stone Road to the old firehall building on Four Mile Creek Road.

"At one point I was so hurting for extras to make the bar look full, I went out

on to the street and rounded people up," he says.

It took another three years to bring the film to the screen. Schriefer didn't have the budget to pay for editing, so the project was taken on by some talented people willing to donate their time because they believed in the movie, but to suit their schedules, it took longer than expected, he explains.

Many businesses and individuals contributed to the making of the movie by either providing a location to shoot, scenery, props, acting as extras, or donating meals for the actors and crew, says Schriefer.

The premiere at the Shaw in January, 2013, was sold

out, and was really a party for all those involved, to celebrate what they had accomplished, Schriefer says. It was definitely a highlight for him to see his movie on the big screen, with a large audience that included many of his friends and family.

"Everyone got in the spirit, got dressed up, and we rented a red carpet and search lights — what's a premiere without search lights? You could see them from the QEW."

The rights were purchased by a distribution company, which allowed him to pay off his credit card. It took many more years than he had anticipated to see it available to watch

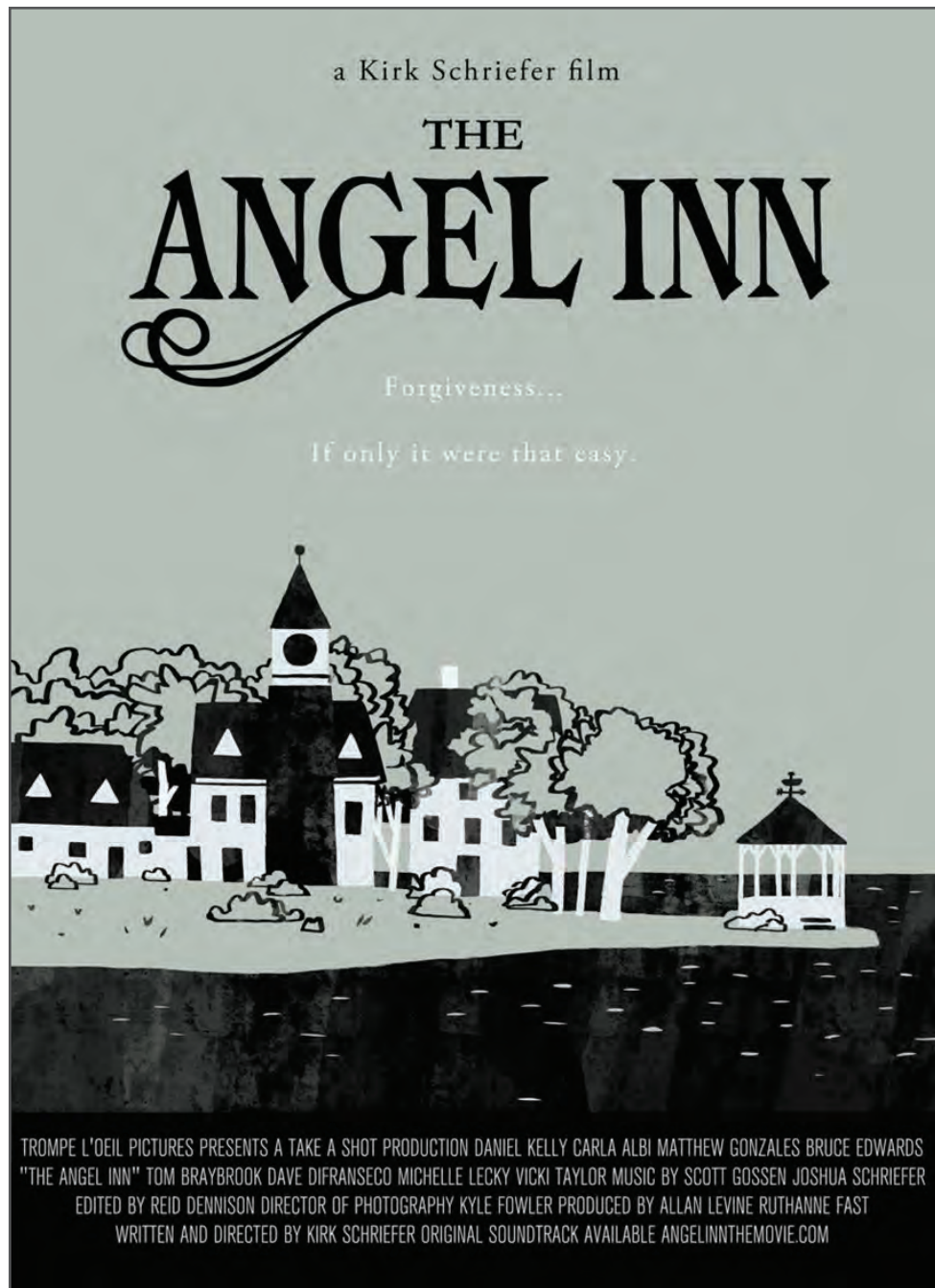
on TV, but he's thrilled to have it shown now on Amazon Prime.

"I'm still getting a few pennies for it," he says.

And he's received texts and emails from friends who have had fun taking a trip down memory lane, watching the video.

At the time he was hoping it would be a stepping stone to his second movie, which was already written. That didn't happen, and he's no longer "waiting for Hollywood to call." He's moved on with his life, concentrating on The Pie Plate, he says.

For more information or to view the movie, visit <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2725744/>



Rev. Bob Wright played himself, the minister of St. Mark's Church.



Kirk and Ruth Anne Schriefer were able to view the movie on a big screen at a theatre at the Pen Centre, in June, 2014, shown as part of a film festival.