Doctors could be in new building by April

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 allow 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, which faces Garrison Village Drive, is move-in ready, he told councillors. 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.

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

Continued on page 3

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Doctors could be in new building by April

Rebecca Perry performs online

Embracing Indigenous heritage life-changing for young mom

Penny Coles
The Local

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Moving ahead will free up hospital building

Continued from page 1

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 Cherpota, as well as for everyone who will have access to LifeLabs. “When the developer is taking 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.

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

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 deputation 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 collaborating 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 $35,000 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 Babuck 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 pubs, 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.
Continued from page 1

Niagara College program inspires confidence

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

She and her brother Da- kota were then placed in the foster care system as her fa- ther tried to deal with the tragedy. When Cort was six years-old, they returned to her father Cautor’s age. The family resisted with open arms. She has fuzzy recollec- tions of life with either of her parents, but does remember James bringing a new girl- friend and her children into the family home. That new girlfriend never accepted ei- ther Cautor 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, sepa- rating the siblings. Cautor 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 fi- nally apologized for pushing both Cautor and her broth- er into foster care.

Today she calls Dakota, who now works at a Toronto restaurant after graduating from Niagara College’s culi- nary program, her best friend. Cautor’s first foster family was also the first peo- ple to show her that life could be a whole lot better.

She now refers to Karen and Wolf Wiens as Niagara Falls as her parents, and con- tinue to have a close relationship with them. “They were a very reli- gious family, very good people,” she says. “It was hard at first, as I was raising a house 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 had also two daughters of their own, close to Cautor’s age. The family provided Cautor with the same opportunities her new “sisters” had to be involved in dance, gymnastics and sports. “I was very lucky,” she re- flects. “They pushed me to be the best that I could be. They were open and approachable, they brought me to see ther- apiests 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 sec- ondary school at East High.

During that time, she was diagnosed with high-func- tioning Fetal Alcohol Spec- trum Disorder (FASD). “The diagnosis allowed her to have an Individual Educa- tion 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 grad- uation 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 Ninas Gelateria, she met Eli’s father, Ethan Kerr, and they moved into a house together.

Was 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 even addicted to any- thing, but I knew my family all had addictive personalities. They struggled with staying sober during pregnancies.”

“It’s not like I had to re- consider my own lifestyle.” Clau- dette clarifies. “I just came to myself. Eli. ”

Watching the uncover- ing of the residential school nightmare over the past few weeks has been heart breaking for Cautor.

“We 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 al- ways been there. Does it have to take a few mass graves for people to realize it?”

Indigenous people are fi- nally 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 Ni- agara Regional Native Cen- tre, as well as her experience through the Niagara College program and her resulting job with Kakekalanicks, have made Cort committed to en- suing that Eli embraces his Indigenous heritage.

“I got involved with the Native Centre, I became part of their Healthy Babies pro- gram and her resulting job with Kakekalanicks, have made Cort committed to en- suing that Eli embraces his Indigenous heritage. ”

“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 brought her son to work with her, where they have held ceremonies to mourn the lives of the chil- dren whose bodies have re- cently been discovered on the sites of residential schools. “It’s been working with her at drum circles and healing gather- ings. She’s committed to in- stilling 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 abili- ty to push through adversity, and in her success in the cer- tificate program. Claudette’s job with Ka- kekalanicks, a Niagara-based Indigenous arts consult- ing company, came about through a Journey to Success work placement, a chance for Cort to put her skills into practice while further explor- ing her Indigenous roots.

Michelle-Elle Burnett, president of Kakekalanicks and co-founder of Landscape of Nations 360° (LON 360°), invited Claudette to join the company as her executive as- sistant. Since being hired she has helped Burnett, Metis/Al- goquin Bear Clan, develop a number of Indigenous tour- ism initiatives, many of them attracting national attention.

“T’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 much more of a mentor, she’s a great person to go to whenever you have a problem or need advice.”

Her experiences with Journey to Success, Kakeke- lanicks and the Niagara Re- gional Native Centre have helped Cort set some new goals for her future.

“I want to go to school to do the full tourism manage- ment program,” Cort says. “I want to continue to work with Michelle-Elle part-time, too.”

Event management is an- other 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.

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 com- ments on the local businesses that have benefited from it, including one restaurant who had its best day in 15 months because of the Pedal Pub at its busiest recently.

Cheropita said she had spoken with a woman who had been a pedal pub with a group of friends, and said what a great experience it was. There was respect for the environment, no littering and hollering, and the music was turned down when appropri- ate. Cheropita also supported allowing the operation to con- tinue for this season.

But Coun. Gary Burchards had said he had followed a ped- al 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. He consider- ed it to be a safety hazard in the busy traffic, and added that it will only get worse as there are more re-upping and more tourists to town.

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

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

“Indigenous people are fi- nally 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. ”

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It’s taken her to a very, very good place.
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 Marie 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 leadership 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 advisories, the degradation of fish and wildlife populations, contaminated sediment in the watershed, and habitat loss.

A short survey and online 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.

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. 10259. Follow on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter for more updates.

FREE HOME EVALUATION CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT 905.329.3484

This market is wild and the average sale price of a Niagara-on-the-Lake home is now nearing $1,200,000. If you want to know what your home is worth, call Greg now for a free evaluation.
Meet The Mortgage Couple, Roman Mamalyga and Cheryl Blake

When they came to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Roman and Cheryl fulfilled a dream come true. The couple moved here with their office mascot, Gizmo, in February, 2018. They have put down roots and are living their dream and the best life possible here in this beautiful, charming town they now call home.

Who are the faces of the people behind the Mortgage Couple? Besides being your local friendly neighbours, they are huge proponents of doing everything locally, from daily shopping at valu-mart, enjoying morning coffee and treats at Willow Cakes & Pastries, to staying healthy at Simpson's Pharmasave, shopping at the beautiful clothing stores, and picking up unique gifts at Irish Design.

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 you have the right support system behind you.

Celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary, and their fifth year as a mortgage couple, Roman and Cheryl are here to help you reach your goals and dreams.

Partners in life and business
Cheryl and Roman are genuinely the couple that cares. Being partners in life and business allows them, as independent mortgage agents, to work together for you, the client, while having access to more than 50 lenders, helping you secure mortgage financing for all types of situations.

They specialize in alternative lending, private lending and reverse mortgages. When the banks say no, they say yes. Their slogan is ‘we are here to help.’ Not only are they here to help, but they also provide good, old-fashioned, face-to-face and person-to-person service when needed, and wanted.

Cheryl and Roman are the Mortgage Couple. It can be difficult to know which way to turn for the right advice when it comes to mortgage financing, and as dedicated mortgage agents, they have a wide range of mortgage options from institutions to private funding.

They have an extensive network of professionals and contacts to get the best financial solutions for all financial needs, and to empower their clients with unbiased, helpful, and insightful financial advice that you can trust, in a world full of choices and distractions.

They are here to help you with the process, and to make sure you have the right mortgage solution for your particular needs. Whether you are a first-time home buyer, or looking to refinance your current mortgage, or looking to take the equity out of your home with a reverse mortgage, The Mortgage Couple are here to help.

THE MORTGAGE COUPLE
Roman Mamalyga
Cheryl Blake
Mortgage Agents
Expert Mortgage, Lic#12079

OVER 55 AND OWN A HOME?

Get a reverse mortgage NOW and access your home equity TAX-FREE with NO payments!

WHY IS A REVERSE MORTGAGE RIGHT FOR YOU?

✔ Tax-free money
✔ Paying off debt, becoming debt free
✔ Helping your children/grandchildren
✔ No affect on other retirement incomes
✔ Enjoy the lifestyle you deserve
✔ Peace of mind and freedom

Call us NOW and have no more mortgage payments!
Roman Mamalyga & Cheryl Blake
Mortgage Agents
Expert Mortgage, Lic#12079

info@themortgagecouple.ca
www.themortgagecouple.ca
The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us 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, extended periods of isolation, and demoralizing isolation in care homes—this is a national shame. There was a widely publicized care facility 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. Don’t trust the local media to keep you informed. Seniors received inadequate care. Despite the fact that our seniors deserve a good quality of life, they were abandoned, overworked, and underpaid. The home care system cannot be worked off their feet. It is time that our government take responsibility for our history and 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.

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 that I have felt they have been neglected for too long, and no one 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 meeting with Karl Doctator and the Niagara Regional Native Centre, and likely with input from the public, says Lord Mayor Betty Disen. And if there is a name change, there should be something at the park to explain why, she adds.

Is this cancel culture? Or is it just a symbol of what we need to do to correct them.

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

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

More debate coming on John Street subdivision

Penny Coles

Everyone should have a voice in their community, and the development of the Rand Estate next door, the list of objections are long. Town council seems consistently over a barrel, with staff supporting provincial regulations, and residents insisting it must all be stopped. This isn’t 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.

It is no secret that we have been working to oppose the recent government plans to develop in an ever more, a process that makes home care more confusing and expensive for seniors to navigate and plan for their future needs.

Conversely, our plan calls for a billion dollar investment that will allow for the publicly-debted and available home care system, and take concrete actions to support the many parents who want to stay in the homes that they love for as long as possible. We will end wait times, which currently have about 10,000 people, increasing trained caregiving staff, and increasing the access to home care.

Specifically in Niagara, our healthcare system is collegially 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 support the public process that makes home care more confusing and expensive for seniors to navigate and plan for their future needs.

If they don’t have support in the workplace they suffer, and their 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, or 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 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.
As strongly worded opin-
ions are posted regarding the
greens' offer to fund the
building of a new entrance to
Old Town, some opposition
appears to be due to a lack of under-
standing 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 deter-
mine an appropriate way to
honour those who had served
in the war. Leash walks simply
retain optimal exercise for their
bodies. Leash walks are as fol-
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sidered were a new high school and a new sports park.
Sad seeing so many orchards, trees disappear

Growing up on a farm with every type of row crops, plums, pears, cherries, straw-berries, and whatever Mom and Grandma grew in their gardens, we were truly blessed. It’s sad to see most of the orchards around here disappear. All that tender fruit can grow only in certain soil and climate, so I have here, I find these changes so distressing.

Very few orchards can be seen – just rows and rows of grapes. And then there’s the development... just drive along Concession 4 past the former Mort Nursery and Garden Centre. The beautiful, healthy, mature rows of grapevines next to the former garden centre disappear 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? It’s not that he is 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 in the shade?

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

Charlotte Leikemann
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Re: the letter regarding the removal of statues at public sites

Truth and Reconciliation means accepting the truth of genocide. The local, July 7th. I suppose it was inevitable that someone would bring up Hitler and Jewish feelings.

For him the world is divided into darkness and his grace-filled people. Is he not aware that there are times when he is divided into darkness and his grace-filled people? Is he not aware that there are times when he is divided into darkness and his grace-filled people?

And then there’s the designation of 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 vividly because even as a small child I knew he was a monster. As I already knew Hitler had been.

Do people in Reno? I don’t believe he was on my radar, until this year. I’m in no way minimising his actions. But I am stating the fact that many others, did not have the vision to see beyond his time. He was not suddenly made a less a pop culture item for the mistreatment of Indigenous people. He was a player, not an evil genius. North Bay Daily

Re: the letter – I can’t see a culture of cancel culture. 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 exercise.

George Herman
NOTL

Be careful what you wish for

Re: Opposition to development of 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 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 Merton Estate (formerly known as the Rand Estate) and all the opposition to its development, the NMDY mindset of some locals curries the same degree of silence as the attentional attacks on the developer Solmar.

Just warn us profit is what we are, they are cutting down trees on the property, people speak 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 per- ceived infraction they conjure, it would be a lot more produc- tive in my view if they could argue the merits and cease with the sanctimonious ad hominem commentary.

People who purchased homes nearby, 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 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 pro- posed 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 ho- tel. Good grief, should some townsperson, with pitchforks in hand. It seems to me the an- ti-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.

For arguing with a building not as tall or one that main- tains the architectural charac- ter of NOTL is one thing, but objecting to the hotel outright is 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 subdivi- sion is proposed and they ap- parently dislike that idea even more. What happens if that application is rejected? Maybe subdivided housing will be pro- posed next or the go-carts. Save Our Rand Estate (SORE) needs a new name. It is not their estate.

Ted Grinstead
NOTL

Heavy lifting needed for reconciliation

Re: OLT Case No. CRB1824

The Ontario Land Tribunal (“Tribunal”) has adjourned the Hearing for this matter that was to commence on July 15, 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, Paulo De Medeiros: paulo.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 require specific accommodation needs, please let us know so we can make arrangements in advance.

For 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 Fang
Registrar

NOTL
Layering organic material easy way to enrich soil

The first layer consists of either brown corrugated cardboard or three layers of newspaper laid directly on top of the grass or weeds. Wet cardboard or three layers of newspaper or junk mail, pine needles, spent blooms, trimming from the garden, peat moss, and straw.

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

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, being posting, lasagna gardening is a no-till organic gardening method that layers organic materials easy way to enrich soil

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.

Nothing 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 the green layers, but there’s no need to get finicky about this.

The ideal result is a two-foot-deep soil that will settle over the season as materials being layered on top. This layer provides a dark, moist and help them break down faster. By spring, it will be ready to plant with minimal effort.

If made in spring, inter-sperse 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.
Historical society publishes book about women in history

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

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

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 telling the stories 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 Moses, or Catharine “Kate” Smart, a botanist who collected specimens of the pre-industrial flora in Southwestern Ontario.

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 Sever, 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, 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.
Sunday to Friday - 8 am to 5 pm, Saturday 8 am - 12 pm
Place your order in advance and we can have it ready for you. Call 905-468-2412.

Creek Road Paints
1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil

Creek Road Paints is still mixing things up!
Open for in-store shopping (5 Customers at a time)
Monday to Friday - 8 am to 5 pm, Saturday 8 am - 12 pm
Place your order in advance and we can have it ready for you.
Call 905-468-2412.

Support feline rescue organization

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 (notlcats.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)

Support the local community

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FRIDAY
SATURDAY
11:30AM - 9PM

SUNDAY
11:30AM - 6PM

Dine In Specials
Pizza
Wine & Sunshine

Locals receive 15% off

905-468-3147 ext. 333
1696 Niagara Stone Rd, NOTL

See you soon
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 that are too close together well 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 street.

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

Weber, who has volunteered at McFarland House as well, said, “you meet so many new people. Being fairly new to town, it’s nice to have that opportunity.”

The pair stopped to talk to Elisabeth and Diane Warankee 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.

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

As you drive northbound in Ontario, something magi- cal 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 on 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 Su- perior), 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 avail- able 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 small to 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 Riv- er 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 real- ly humbling about a bunch of grown men just pressing their face to the plane win- dow in absolute, unadulter- ated awe at what lay below.

We land on our lake, where we'll be staying for a week. The far north action doesn't wear any time, kick- ing 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 riv- er, 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 enthusi- asm 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.

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 re- fresher on how to clean wall- eye 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 unfettered excite- ment. Some of the guys have never been on a fishing trip before, let alone owned fish- ing gear. Nor have they been so far north that they're off the grid. I've always been a huge advocate for the con- cept that the outdoors can bring people closer together as a sort of camaraderie vec- tor, and that's exactly what happened on this tiny island in a big lake.

The moment the boat leaves the dock each morn- ing, there is a sense that you've rented out a massive, private nature theme park to yourself. Each bay is a differ- ent ride. Every island is an at- traction, 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 consist- ent 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 mosqui- toes, 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 hocking 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 camara- derie. The many bald eagles we watched spent their time watching us, and I'd like to think they saw some humans having too much fun.

This is what Ontario of- fers. 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.
St. Davids Lions donate to Community Fridge

A community fridge in St. Catharines is up and running, thanks partly to a donation by the St. David 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 been itching to get their hands on it.

“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 been itching to get their hands on it. They’re trying out something new and different 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.
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 workshops 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 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 still being delivered online at the back of the library, to keep kids busy this summer. For more information visit https://notlpubliclibrary.org.

The Pumphouse is happy to be more involved with 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 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 technology can be intimidating. They 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)
**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 personas 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.

As 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 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 *At Last*.

Perry runs through a medley of the numbers, many of them well-known standards, culminating in a hilarious coughing fit.

Later, she assumes the role of Bette Davis, Perry runs through a medley of the numbers, many of them well-known standards, culminating in a hilarious coughing fit.

The show then fast forwards to the 1940 Academy Awards, when Davis lost the Best Actress Oscar to Vivien 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 columns, 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 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 Château 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 composer 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 Cavaleri 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 show sheds some light into Beethoven’s attraction to the Russian Imperial family.

Shaw actor Guy Banerman 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 Argentinian composer, Astor Piazzolla. Performers for that show include founders of Payadora Tango Ensemble violinists Rebekah Volkste 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.
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 called "this is the longest break I've had, six months, without a proper show. There's definitely some feeling of shak- ing 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, Saturdays, and holiday Mondays, while on Saturdays, performers from outside of Niagara will be featured.

As a well-known local artist, Gatta is representa- tive 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 Lewczynski, 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 Sherb (Juno nominee from Que- bec City), Julien Taylor (Toronto funk, soul and rock singer-songwriter), and AHI (Ahkinos Habah Izarh, a soul and funk singer from Brampton) have all been lined up"

The Jackson-Triggs web- site also lists appearances by Devon Cuddy (son of Blue Rodeos 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 Srejith Sasikumar added, "as an es- tate, 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 sup- port 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 guidelines for that stage, at- tendance at an outdoor seat- ed concert at any one time must not exceed 75 per cent of the usual seating capacity for the venue, or 15,000 peo- ple, whichever is less.

That would lead one to believe that Jackson-Triggs may begin plans to mount its usual lineup of great Ca- nadian 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, opera- tions 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 hap- py to report that he had been able to recall all employees.

"We called them all back in, and had a week of train- ing," 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 culin- ary and guest services, at both Jackson-Triggs and its sister winery, Inniskillin.

Sasikumar is hoping that as things reopen, Jack- son-Triggs will once again reach pre-COVID sales re- venue 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.great estatesniagara.com/Events/ Estate-Winery-Events
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. Unfortunatly, 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 or 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.

Charlotte Letkemann has captured the images 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.

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Upon their return from Mexico, the monarchs have had many generations. Somehow, 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.

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PEWER, ALEXANDER—Alexander Pewer, 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 Pewer, dearly loved husband of Diane Pewer (nee Krensisz) 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 Pewer 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 Pewer (he never got over losing you). Memories of a darling son fill each and every day and though the heartaches lessen 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, Must be fit and enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions. No education required. Wage $14.25/hr. Own transportation.
- 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.
- Working in Niagara on the Lake / Queenston L0S 1J0
- Contact by fax 905-460-2565 or humelgrapesestates@gmail.com
- Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

**Sudoku solution from July 7, 2021**

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Please recycle this newspaper. The Niagara on the Lake. The local voice of our community.
Angel Inn, filmed in NOTL, available on Amazon Prime

The Angel Inn, filmed in NOTL, 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 support- ers, 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-in- hert a popular local pub, The Angel Inn.”

Many scenes, especial- ly 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 support- ive,” 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- appearing and reappearing prosthetic leg.

There is a long list of familiar names: Perry John- son, Gary Peterson, Tony DeLucas, and several mem- bers 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 Schriefers 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 hurt for extras to make the bar look full, I went out on 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 in- dividuals contributed to the making of the movie by ei- ther 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 cele- brate 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 pre- miere without search lights? You could see them from the QEW.”

The rights were pur- chased by a distribution company, which allowed him to pay off his credit card. It took many more years than he had anticipat- ed to see it available to watch on TV, but he’s thrilled to have it shown now on Am- azon Prime.

“I’m still getting a few pennies for it,” he says.

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

At the time he was hop- ing 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 Hol- lywood to call.” He’s moved on with his life, concentrat- ing on The Pie Plate, he says.

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