

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Sandra
O'Connor to
fill vacant
council seat
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notllocal.com JULY 16, 2020 Volume 2 · Issue 29



St. Davids families who depend on their community pool as a summer gathering place, for swimming lessons and swim programs, are hoping the Town will reverse its decision to keep the pool closed for the summer. (Penny Coles)

Families protest St. Davids pool closure

Penny Coles
The Local

After a long hot spell and a taste of the reality of summer without a place for families to gather and kids to cool off, St. Davids residents are protesting the Town's decision not to open their community pool.

Most of the kids have taken lessons at the pool, many joined the swim team, and families made use of the open and lane swims.

Several said they were hop-

ing for increased swim times at the pool this summer. The summer has been so hot, other communities are keeping their pools open longer hours so residents can cool off, and instead, they're looking at an empty pool.

"All we need is some water," says Adriana Vizzari. "We're hoping they'll try to open the pool and see what happens," she says. "We've already asked for the pool to stay open. We've raised community support and we've raised money. We've al-

ready fought this fight. I don't know why we have to do it again."

Once the Province cleared the way for pool openings, the Town announced it would be operating the Memorial Park pool and the Virgil splash pad. The decision to leave the St. Davids Pool closed this summer was made by the Town's emergency control group, based on cost.

Interim operations director Kevin Turcotte says the Old Town pool "has been consis-

tent, year after year," and is more reliable than the St. Davids facility, which is expected to be replaced for the 2021 summer.

He says he can't be sure how the pool in the St. Davids Lions park has overwintered until the filtration system is turned on, and the pool is filled with water, and by that point, a lot of money will have been wasted if it can't be opened without expensive repairs."

If it weren't for costs relating to the pandemic, "I would

open it and deal with mechanical problems, if there are any."

But Vizzari says once the Province announced municipalities could open their pools, there was no reason to keep St. Davids closed. "Pools were allowed once we were in phase 2. We're not asking for anything that isn't safe."

The plan all along was to open the aging pool for one last season, she says, and that shouldn't have changed.

"Old Town has Memorial Park. Virgil has the splash pad.

St. Davids is once again overlooked for any family recreation," said Vizzari.

"The second they need to cut costs, they cut from St. Davids."

During such "incredibly hot days" in past summers, the pool would have been full, she says.

Vizzari points to a recent statement of the Life Saving Society, which has called on municipalities to open their pools

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Councillors to debate making face coverings mandatory

Penny Coles
The Local

A special council meeting has been called for Thursday to discuss making face coverings mandatory in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero told councillors Monday she would have preferred for regional council to make that decision, but at a special council meeting called for that reason, the decision was

deferred.

“I was quite disappointed when regional council chose not to deal with it on Wednesday. I would have actually preferred a yes or a no, rather than a deferral,” she said.

Disero has been an outspoken supporter of face coverings, and says she has been receiving emails from residents and store owners saying “they feel very uncomfortable and are afraid.”

Store owners tell her they can’t make it mandatory without the support of legislation, she said.

She called for the special meeting for the purpose of approving a draft bylaw with respect to face coverings in indoor spaces. Face shields, bandanas or scarves, and also the plexiglass in front of cashiers, would also be considered face coverings, she said.

She told councillors she has support from the Cham-

ber of Commerce chair, the Virgil Business Association, the CEO of the Shaw Festival, and representatives from the wineries.

“It seems to me this is probably one of the major ways that we could assist our businesses and help Niagara-on-the-Lake move towards phase 3,” she said, as well as controlling the potential for COVID to spread.”

On Monday, some areas of Ontario were given the

green light for moving into phase 3 of recovery, with more business reopenings, but Niagara was not included.

“If this was something where people decided they were not going to protect themselves, and the masks were being worn to protect themselves, maybe we would think differently, but if we don’t put in a bylaw, this allows people to affect others, and that’s the most concern-

ing to me,” said Disero.

“We need to protect the health and safety of everyone. The decision not to wear a face covering for five, 10, 15 minutes when you go into a store doesn’t affect the person making the decision, it affects others.”

A draft bylaw will be available for councillors and the public to see by Wednesday. The time of Thursday’s meeting had not been announced at press time.

Truck driver makes masks when he’s not on the road

Penny Coles
The Local

Denzil Coleman is an essential worker during the pandemic, with a sideline.

A truck driver who makes regular trips from Niagara into the U.S., he understands the importance of wearing a mask. He doesn’t go anywhere without one — one that he has made himself. And when he’s not on the road, he’s sewing them for others.

Coleman has an interesting story. He first left his home in Jamaica, and a career as a tailor, in 1987, to come to Niagara-on-the-Lake as part of the offshore farmworkers program. He spent three seasons here, returning home in between, before deciding to apply for a work permit that would allow him to stay.

“I had met a woman here, and I decided I wanted to stay here,” he says. “The relationship didn’t work out, but the decision to stay did.”

Obtaining permanent resident status was a different system then, and wasn’t as dif-

ficult as it is now, he explains.

He got a job in a greenhouse in Fonthill, where he stayed until it closed, and then decided to get a licence to drive a truck, which he did, in 2001. After about 10 years driving for Challenger Motor Freight, he now works for John Deere, picking up parts in the U.S. and delivering them to Niagara.

And in the meantime he met a woman and developed a relationship that did work out, with NOTL native Amy Coleman, a Welland transit driver.

While she’s been laid off from work during the pandemic, she’s helped pick up supplies for the masks, although Denzil gets much of what he needs in the U.S.

“I had the trade,” he says, “and I can put it to good use helping out. I want to help keep everybody safe.”

He can whip up about 50 in a day when he’s not driving, and then he delivers them to the Husky Travel Centre where he’s been a regular for 23 years, and where he leaves his truck



Amy and Denzil Coleman make a trip to the Husky Travel Centre Monday mornings to drop off a week’s supply of masks. Tracy Palleschi says they sell out quickly. (Penny Coles)

when he’s not on the road.

“I get home Saturday night, and I spend Sunday sewing,” he says.

He and Amy make a regular Monday morning trip to drop off a week’s supply,

and pick up some breakfast for “a truck picnic.”

He makes the masks in three sizes, for adults, youth and kids, and enjoys looking for interesting fabrics.

The Husky’s co-owner,

Tracy Palleschi, has known Denzil for years, and looks forward to seeing the Colemans with their mask delivery. At \$7, the face coverings have been very popular, “and everyone loves the different fabrics,” she says. A batch he made with a Harry Potter design was snatched up in no time, the adult sizes as quickly as the kids, she adds.

“I have to find some more of that fabric,” Denzil says.

Congratulations class of 2020

Congratulations grads!

The Local, and all the proud parents and family members of 2020 high school and university graduates, are happy to congratulate you on your success and accomplishments.

This has been a difficult year for graduations, for parents, family members and students, as you celebrate this milestone as best you can, but certainly not how you have envisioned.

We speak for the community when we say well done, and we wish you all the best next year.

If we’ve missed anybody, email a photo, name and high school or university, to karen@notllocal.com

Mayah Cousens
A. N. Myer High School

Amber Harwood
Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa

Sandra O'Connor expected to take vacant seat

Penny Coles
The Local

With very little discussion, councillors voted Monday to appoint Sandra O'Connor to fill the seat left vacant by Stuart McCormack.

Quick off the mark once the seat was declared vacant, Lord Mayor Betty Disero

said she supported the staff report option for appointing the ninth-place finisher in the 2018 election.

"I think we should be appointing Sandra O'Connor," said Disero. "I think we should get it done."

Councillors all agreed, although the appointment isn't official until it's ratified at

Monday's council meeting.

Clerk Peter Todd affirmed Monday that he had contacted O'Connor before the meeting to confirm she would accept the position if appointed, which she did.

Typically, Todd says, it's the next regular meeting following the decision where the new member is sworn in,

so it will likely be the August council meeting that O'Connor will be sworn into office.

There was a brief discussion amongst councillors about a by-election being more democratic, but it was quickly dismissed as being difficult to run a campaign or hold an election during a pandemic.

O'Connor was surprised to hear the news Tuesday morning.

"I wasn't expecting anything to happen until next Monday's council meeting," she said.

Since hearing her ap-

pointment was a possibility, she's been spending her pandemic time at home catching up on council and committee meetings, getting up to date on current issues, "and there are a lot of them," she said, including the most recent audit committee, to bring her up to speed on budget discussions.

O'Connor graduated from Brock University, where she studied physical and urban geography, and worked for a variety of organizations, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering

Research Council.

In addition to running twice for NOTL town council, she also represented the Green Party in the last federal election.

She is accustomed to working with research and data, and that won't change as a member of council, assuming the appointment goes ahead.

"I'm used to getting the facts before I make a decision," she says.

And she understands there will be difficult decisions to make. "These are challenging times."

'Huge part of community'

Continued from page 1

and waterfronts to allow the public to cool off safely while continuing to adhere to all current COVID precautions.

The society is a charity that seeks to prevent drowning and water-related injuries by providing training programs, education and safety management services. It has said during the pandemic that swimming lessons are key to preventing drownings, and can be taught safely by implementing COVID protocols.

Jasper Schouten, a father whose kids have grown up using the St. Davids pool and would like to be able to swim there this summer, says "we have more residents in St. Davids than ever before. Why are we neglecting an asset we are already paying for?"

His daughter Leah, now 14,

took lessons at the pool, joined the swim team, and when she was 11, trained with her brother Noah, then 14, to swim across Lake Ontario to raise money for Red Roof Retreat. Along with two friends, they reached their goal of \$10,000, bad weather and a swimmer who went missing forced the event to be called off.

"We trained at this pool," says Leah.

"We swam here. This was the place to be. I don't understand how they can just close the pool and stop kids and teens from swimming."

Although Memorial Park is open for lane swimming, it's not an option for kids unless they can get a ride, she says.

She has taken advantage of the lane swims once, but the time has to be reserved and she's found it very difficult to book a spot online — it's always full.

"I've been there when people have shown up to swim, and there are no openings," she says.

Jasper Schouten recalls the years of families going to the pool after work on weekdays, and would make plans to meet there on the weekends.

"We'd say 'we're going to meet at the club.' That's what we called it."

"It's been such a huge part of the community," says Vizzari. "It's how we met friends, and how our children met their friends."

It seems even more important now with the cancellation of school and all events since March, she says, when the kids are missing the opportunity to make those connections.

"Niagara Falls has pools open for public swims," says Vizzari, "but is going to Niagara Falls really the answer?"



Sandra O'Connor will likely be sworn in during the August council meeting, barring any change of direction during Monday's council meeting. (Photo supplied)

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Residents' group says no to overtourism, yes to sustainability

Chamber president agrees on sustainability, and collaboration with residents

Penny Coles
The Local

There's a new group in town. The concerns and goals of Residents for Sustainable Tourism are not new, but the organization of residents to form a united voice is. Bruce Gitelman, spokesperson for the group, says members are not against businesses or tourism. They enjoy all the amenities the town has to offer, that wouldn't exist without tourists. Their goal is to prevent overtourism and create sustainable tourism in its place, which supports the economy while adding to, rather than diminishing, the quality of life of residents. They have used the recent street closure of Queen Street as a symbol of what they stand against, that's only one issue, Gitelman says, admitting it has been an effective tool for drawing attention to their goal of sustainable tourism. Street closure, he says has had a negative impact

on nearby residents. "It is tragic and sad what COVID-19 has done to the merchants of Queen Street. We can only pray that they get access to federal and provincial programs designed to help them," says Gitelman. "The experiment of closing Queen Street has been harmful to them. The majority of merchants we have heard from say business is down when the street is closed. The purpose of the closure, according to the chamber was to improve social distancing, and that has not happened." Residents for Sustainable Tourism members, says Gitelman, support traditional Queen Street closures for the Peach Celebration and Santa Claus Parade, which are enjoyed by both visitors and residents. But ongoing street closures are an issue that has been polarizing to residents and businesses, with decisions of Town council aimed at trying to do the best it can by both. At Monday's meeting, interim CAO Sheldon Randall

said the recent closing of Queen Street was a success in that it allowed for physical distancing, but not for window shopping. In the surveys that were received from the two-weekend trial period, he says, "there were more positive than negative for the businesses, more negative than positive for the residents." This weekend, the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and the Town have worked out a different plan, to close off some of the parking spots on Queen Street to allow more room for pedestrians, while keeping the street open to traffic. Sustainable tourism, says Gitelman, "is what sustains a healthy vibrant town, not day-tripping gawkers who drive dangerously through narrow streets, some without sidewalks. Without sustainable tourism we would not have great shops, restaurants, theatre and wineries." While his group warns of the dangers of overtourism, he says it's understood this is a difficult year

for businesses, but as they plan for a recovery stage, it's a good time to look at what they want to build for the future, and that's not an economy based on day-trippers. The first step, he suggests, is to allow parking on the main street while providing welcoming parking areas on the fringes of the Old Town, and offering incentives to those who are staying longer in town to park there. The former hospital property or Fort George are possibilities, he says, allowing for access to the Shaw Festival (he's a board member), and to the downtown core, with a shuttle to take visitors to the downtown core, similar to what happens with bus tours. In his vision for the future, buses stopping for short visits and filling the streets with visitors who don't stay long enough to support businesses would not be encouraged. Bus tours "do not add to sustainable tourism. We're not anti-tourism, we just want smart tourism. There are ways to nudge people to come and there are ways to nudge people not to come. Having parking at the entrance to town is going to nudge people to stay and

shop and see a play," says Gitelman. "We don't want to deter shoppers on Queen Street. Merchants, especially the clothing merchants, need to have parking in front of their stores. But traffic should be redirected from the Old Town and residential streets." This is the time, as businesses start planning their recovery, for the Town to start planning for the infrastructure that will encourage sustainable tourism, he says. "We recognize it will take many years for Niagara-on-the-Lake to return to pre-COVID normal. All we ask is that the safety and quality of life of residents who pay the vast majority of taxes, and elect town councillors, is first and foremost in the minds of elected officials as we rebuild tourism in a sustainable way that benefits both visitors and residents." Much of what Gitelman says echoes the message of NOTL Chamber of Commerce Eduardo Lafforgue, who began talking about sustainable tourism when he first took on the job. He was then focused on attracting tourists who will stay longer, as opposed to the bus tour visi-

tors who stay for less than an hour, as being beneficial not only for businesses and the economy, but for the community. His other goal from the beginning, he says, has been collaboration. "Niagara-on-the-Lake is a mature destination. If we don't do something, after maturity comes decay. We have to create sustainability. And we need to do it together, working together to preserve the essence of what we are, going forward instead of backwards," he says, adding, it has to be a collaboration with residents as part of the conversation. Right now, he says, the focus is on the pandemic, "and we need to think differently. We are in survival mode." That means a time to be flexible, he says. The survey results of the last two weekends are in the hands of town staff, he says, so he doesn't know what the numbers will say about the street closure. He hopes they will be made public. While at the moment the merchants are trying to survive the short-term, Lafforgue says, "I couldn't agree more that in the medium and long-term, we will be planning for sustainability."



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Cyber-Seniors ready to teach technical skills

Penny Coles
The Local

When Cindy Grant, recommended ways to improve the health of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, one of them included lifelong learning.

That was before the pandemic highlighted the isolation of seniors, especially those with little in the way of technical skills, says the chair of the Town's wellness committee.

When she reported the committee's findings to council in January, she was envisioning lifelong learning as what might be available through Niagara College and Brock University. She is now looking at it through the lens of the impact of COVID-19.

She recognizes that seniors, many already suffering from isolation and loneliness, may also find it difficult to access information readily available online.

Pre-pandemic, there were courses offered by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, available for seniors who were interested in increasing their knowledge of technology.

But since the cancellation of all such programs, seniors, some of whom are cut off from family members, may feel they have no one to turn to for help.

That help is now a phone call away.

During a Zoom meeting organized by the Age-Friendly Niagara Network, Grant was recently introduced to Nancy Siciliana of Cyber-Seniors, a program that matches tech-savvy students with seniors looking for help.

Whether they want to learn how to order groceries and do their banking online, or enjoy a video call with fam-

ily and friends, Cyber-Seniors tech mentors can help.

Siciliana began aiding seniors acquire computer skills in Beamsville in 2016, through a computer lab project.

Her goal from the beginning was to make tech classes available and eliminate barriers to learning, and by 2019 was bringing together students and seniors through Cyber-Seniors, a program that trains students to become technology mentors for older adults. The students gain practical experience while earning volunteer hours, and develop job skills that enhance opportunities for future employment.

The program began in the U.S. with two sisters, who wanted to earn their high school volunteer hours by teaching technology to seniors in retirement homes, says Siciliana.

With support from a documentary filmed by their older sister featuring their accomplishments, Cyber-Seniors has become an international program.

It trains students to mentor seniors, teaching them to operate their own devices, such as laptops, tablets and smartphones.

Siciliana also hopes to train seniors with some tech skills, who would be comfortable teaching technology to other seniors.

She was trying to get the word out and make the program more accessible when the pandemic struck, and she realized there was an even greater need for seniors who had suddenly become more isolated by COVID-19 than they had been before, when "everything went virtual, and they had no one they could turn to."

Reaching out to seniors,

she emailed flyers, and had them slipped under the doors of those in retirement or long-term care homes.

Many seniors have been given such devices as gifts from their families to help them keep in touch, she says, but they don't know how to use them.

Seniors can call to be set up with one-on-one help from mentors, who will teach them to order groceries and manage their finances, she says, or even see their doctor during a video call.

Young mentors also offer instruction on how to use video calling and video conferencing apps for connecting with family, says Siciliana.

"It allows them to see and interact with other people. We've made it easier to alleviate the isolation and loneliness, with a tech mentor who will know the device the senior is using."

For example, she says seniors with iPads can be taught to use FaceTime, an app built into the tablet which is easy to use.

There is no fee for the program, which is funded by grants and donations.

Mentors can also teach how to join a Zoom meeting, which will provide access to Cyber-Seniors webinars.

"They can go on the website, choose a topic that interests them, and click on it to

join it," says Siciliana.

If there is something they don't understand the first time, they can watch and practise until they learn to use the technology, she says.

The young mentors are also taught specific skills to teach a community of seniors, says Siciliana.

"When you are working with tech mentors who are doing this for the first time, they may have a fear that seniors might not understand them, or that they might not know enough to teach them. The training helps them to learn."

They are also given the opportunity to work with other tech mentors who teach them to "connect, listen and problem solve. They help demystify working with seniors so mentors can focus on teaching them."

By teaching through virtual programs, "we are able to serve a lot more seniors than we ever did before. We can reach those living in remote areas, and those who find it difficult to get out or don't have freedom of mobility. We've eliminated those problems."

Even before the pandemic, Niagara presented transportation problems, for seniors and for high school students who might have chosen to be mentors. Now, in addition to college and



When Cindy Grant of the Town's wellness committee presents its report to council, lifelong education was one of the priorities for a healthy community. She hopes Cyber-Seniors can help locals become more tech-savvy, more important than ever during the isolation of COVID. (Penny Coles/File photo)

university students, more high school students are signing up to volunteer.

"Virtual platforms make the transportation problem disappear, and make it easy to bring seniors and tech mentors together in a way we couldn't before."

Grant supports the Cyber-Seniors program, which seems especially useful in a community such as NOTL with its senior demographic, and even more so during the pandemic. "I think this is our solution," she says.

She and her committee will do what they can to help

spread the word about Cyber-Seniors, a job the library would likely have taken on under different circumstances. "They do a good job of promoting these kinds of programs, but if people aren't online, they're not going to see it. Connecting with the program now means making that first phone call."

Anyone interested in receiving help from a tech mentor, or becoming a mentor, whether a student or senior, can call 1-844-217-3057.

To apply online to be a tech mentor, visit www.cyberseniors.org.

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EDITORIAL

Pandemic seems to be taking its toll on council

Challenging times, said Sandra O'Connor when she learned of councillors' choice to appoint her to fill the vacant council seat.

It needs to be said that it's not official until council ratifies the decision made Monday night, and we all know how quickly things change these days, but it's expected she will be sworn in during the August council meeting.

It will be interesting to see if and how the dynamics change with a new voice at the table. Or face on the computer screen.

O'Connor might find the job challenging in ways she least expects.

There may not be a whole lot of people listening to the virtual meetings — there were 237 tuned in to Monday's meeting — but some who do follow them are beginning to notice a change in the tone of debate.

It's been referred to in oblique and direct ways by councillors during recent meetings. What started out as subtle tones of frustration, with maybe a little tension between some council members during discussions, are now more obvious. Conversations are getting a little snippy. Sometimes it involves taking veiled shots at those outside of council, such as the NOTL Chamber of Commerce.

More often, it's just a tone.

As an aside, and to be clear, Coun. Erwin Wiens did have some words to say about the Chamber, but he says what he thinks. Nothing veiled about it. He may have been misinformed about some of the money that has been paid to the chamber — at press time there was still some ambiguity and a difference of opinion on that — but his point, during a discussion of road closures, was his expectation that the chamber should take more of a leadership role in decision-making and planning on business-related matters.

He's right, but the relationship between the chamber and the Town is nothing new. They have not always been on the same side of business-related discussions, but they have been civil, and although it was mentioned Monday that the last discussion about road closure went well between the two, there still seems an increased level of tension, and even distrust.

These are strange times. Heightened feelings. For councillors and the lord mayor, there are pressures of important decisions requiring immediate attention, decisions that could have serious repercussions. In some cases, life or death repercussions.

These are times that those

running for council in 2018 could never have anticipated. They would not have expected to face issues that can have such an impact on the health and safety of residents, or the success or failure of their businesses.

In some cases, the regular duties of council are being forfeited to an emergency group that gives control, as was noted at Monday night's meeting, to two people. That alone has to create frustration, when the most important decisions are taken out of the hands of those elected to make them. At least two councillors said Monday it's time for that to come to an end.

However for the most part, decisions are being made, council business is taken care of, and a more normal version of the new normal seems within grasp. Hopefully with it will come a return to the civility and decorum we are used to seeing at council. In the meantime, thank you to the lord mayor, councillors and town staff for tackling these important issues, for giving your best, and for getting through some very tough times that have to be taking a personal toll.

Challenging times indeed.

Penny Coles
The Local



Views from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

When Calls the Heart is a 71-episode melodrama focusing on a young teacher who is accustomed to high-society, but who chooses the life of a teacher in a small coal-min-

ing town in Alberta. It is melodrama complete with large helpings of intrigue, love, envy, dishonesty, passion, friendship, greed, honesty, faithfulness and romance. In spite of this, good acting and perfect scenery make it compelling viewing.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. His Facebook reviews have become popular with his friends and followers, and he has graciously agreed to share his opinions through "short and sweet" exclusives for The Local.

LETTERS

Palliative care is what's needed

Since I received a letter in my mailbox soliciting support for building a new hospital (in the former hospital building) in Niagara-on-the-Lake without a return address or phone number, I'm replying through The Local newspaper.

Since the writer outlined what she sees are the facts about the need to build a new hospital, I'll start with the facts as I know them.

The COVID-19 pandemic is under control with the number of cases declining in all the Niagara Region, Ontario and Canada. As citizens, we have done a great job of flattening the curve and there is no evidence that we will have a second wave provided we keep

things in control.

A state of the art emergency facility is available at the St. Catharines site of the Niagara Health System available to all residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

There are approved plans to build a new state of the art hospital in Niagara Falls to which residents will also have access.

If the need is really for palliative care which I feel can be justified, then we should be working on plans for such a facility and not call it a hospital. In the 25 years I've lived in town, the old hospital building was primarily used for palliative care, X-ray, and labs. I've never used it for anything else.

Should another pandemic get underway across Ontario in the future, we have the plans, staff, and expertise to get it under control and can wait for the new vaccine to finish trials and be ready.

So, do we need a full-service hospital in NOTL?

I'd say no. Even if you fundraise for the capital costs, who's going to pay for the operational cost for the next 50 years? The Ministry of Health has stated it will not be funding any smaller rural hospitals. Let's be realistic about what we ask for. We need more palliative care.

Karen Gansel
NOTL

Consideration for others required

I was very upset with a family's behaviour while I waited in line for a prescription at Shoppers Drug Mart.

A mother and her teenage daughter were being counselled at the cash by a pharmacist. A younger sibling soon joined them. I stepped back to allow more room. Then two tween boys arrived. I moved back to allow more room. The boys started

rough housing and pushing my way. I moved back.

Then the boys amused themselves by picking up and looking at the children's Band-Aid boxes. None of these people wore a mask. None was conscious of social distancing. There was no apparent need for the three siblings to be in the store. This is selfish behaviour that puts many of us at risk.

I don't believe our town is experiencing new cases but the COVID pandemic is not over. We need to maintain social distancing outside our "bubble" and masks are recommended (in some places mandatory) in public indoor spaces. Please be considerate.

L. Moulson
Virgil

Teen disappointed to learn of pool closure

The St. Davids pool has been an amazing place to be during the summer.

I have been swimming and taking lessons there since I was three years old. I was devastated when I heard that the pool was not going to be open at all this season. So when I heard that the Niagara-on-the-Lake pool was reopening but the St. Davids pool was not, I was very confused. Why the NOTL pool and not the St. Davids pool?

I was part of 4 Kids 4 Red Roof Retreat in 2017. We swam across Lake Erie to

raise money for this worthwhile cause. The St. Davids pool was so accessible (I can ride my bike from my house to the pool) when I was training for that swim and also for the summers after that, as I wanted to keep up my training. Now that the pool is closed I don't have an easy way to keep up with my training. My parents can sometimes drive me to NOTL but it's hard as they work, and there are so few spots available to do lane swims at the NOTL pool.

Also, the St. Davids pool

is a great place for kids to get some exercise. Many of the kids who use it regularly can bike or walk there. By not being open, kids don't get that exercise. How come the Niagara Falls pools are open for lane swims and public swims but St. Davids isn't? It doesn't seem fair.

I really hope the mayor realizes that she's not just taking away access to the pool, she is taking away kids' access to fun.

Leah Schouten
St. Davids

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

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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. The deadline is Monday at noon.

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High school teacher questions timing of de-streaming decision



Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Seemingly out of left field, Minister of Education Stephen Lecce announced last week that the practice of placing Ontario's students entering Grade 9 into one of two different streams will be coming to an end.

For those of you not familiar with today's high schools, students begin their studies in either a more practical stream

called applied, or a more theoretical stream called academic. This is true in their core required courses, including math, english, science, French and geography. Conversely, subjects such as business, drama, music and visual arts are taught in open, unstreamed classes.

Ostensibly, the provincial government is making the change to combat racism.

In a statement on Monday, July 6, Lecce said, "students, families and staff deserve an education system that is inclusive, accountable, and transparent, and one that by design, is

set up to fully and equally empower all children to achieve their potential."

Niagara West M.P.P. Sam Oosterhoff, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, claimed in a YourTV interview on July 8 that "streaming has been used in a very divisive and discriminatory way in places, for example to stream lower income and socioeconomic students into particular areas of education with no consideration of their academic abilities, and to create a culture of low expectations specifically for black and marginalized students."

This overt form of discrimination is not something that I have seen in 27 years as a high school teacher, first in Eastern Ontario and then with the District School Board of Niagara. I would like to see statistics that back up these statements, but the government has not been forthcoming with any data. As advocacy groups such as the People for Education are naturally applauding the move, though, I have no doubt that systemic racism via streaming might be prevalent in some areas in the province.

In that same YourTV interview, Oosterhoff confirmed that this September will see the beginning of the phasing out of streams. The following day, Premier Doug Ford confirmed Oosterhoff's announcement when he unveiled plans to introduce a new de-streamed Grade 9 math course to begin when school resumes for the fall.

My colleagues in the classroom and I welcome any change that improves an already fair and equitable public education system for all students. However, I question the timing of this announcement in the midst of the pandemic, and in the aftermath of a school year that ended, as T. S. Eliot might have said, not with a bang but a whimper.

When schools were closed March 13, the Friday before March Break, no one had any idea when they would reopen. As the spring progressed, students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators were all thrown into an unknown world of online learning. All parties grew progressively more stressed out week

by week, as we played a waiting game.

School boards did a great job of ensuring technology was brought to those who needed it. If ever there was a glaring example of inequality, it arose during this process, as staff delivered chromebooks and iPads, and worked hard to help families connect to the internet, some for the first time.

But questions continued. Would we get back into the schools before June? Would students be failed if they don't do the work? Will universities and colleges take Grade 12 marks seriously?

Those questions were finally answered on May 19, when the Ministry of Education announced schools would remain closed until the end of June. It wasn't what most wanted to hear, but at least it was finally something we could plan around.

But the big question now remains: what does school look like in September?

Instead of announcing changes to the Grade 9 math curriculum, would it not have made more sense for the Ministry of Education to use all of its resources to develop a solution for getting Ontario's students back into the classroom?

All we have heard is that it will be one of three options the Province announced in June:

- A full resumption of regular in-class instruction, with strict public health measures.
- A mixed model of students attending class on alternating days or weeks, "cohort-ed" into groups of no more than 15, with online learning for the days they're not in class.

- Online-only learning with live instruction by teachers if the risk of contracting COVID-19 is deemed to be too great.

As we await the decision some time in August, now we add new questions to the mix with de-streaming.

What is the timeline for de-streaming the rest of Grade 9? Will streaming stay in place for the next three grades, or will all grades eventually be de-streamed? How will colleges and universities have to adapt to a de-streamed world? Does the government have data it can share to prove these de-streamed classrooms will improve education for all students?

Furthermore, when will math teachers receive the curriculum for this September, and how will they have enough time to develop lesson plans? Are teachers with recent experience in the Grade 9 math classroom being consulted in the development of this curriculum? What support services will be put in place to ensure students with diverse learning styles have the chance to thrive in the de-streamed class? And after a clash with teachers' unions over class sizes, how many students will be in these de-streamed classrooms?

The focus right now should not be on these questions, but on getting students back into the schools, so teachers can teach, and students can learn.

Mike Balsom is a high school teacher at Laura Secord Secondary School in St. Catharines. In addition to being a regular contributor to The Local, he is also a host/reporter for Cogeco's YourTV Niagara.

LETTERS

Hickory Avenue residents need permanent solution now

Thank you to Bill Krahn for your time and efforts taken in your excellent presentation to Town Council on Monday, July 6, regarding the seven years of an unresolved serious dust issue affecting our residents. Your history, facts, logistics, timeline, existing regulations, bylaws, etc. and possible solutions were well presented.

At this time, I do feel we need to address in more detail the personal impact on the taxpayers/home owners directly affected by an on-going, seven-year issue with repeated efforts to correct, but with no resolution in sight by the town or responsible party.

1. There is an increasing volume of traffic from outside, meaning other than residential traffic, in and out of the laneway by delivery and service type vehicles as well as laneway residents' visitors, most driving at excessive speeds for a narrow laneway, creating even more dust. The laneway was regressed this spring, which has made the situation even worse.

2. Our living space is mainly in the back of our homes and facing the laneway. The decks are just 20 feet away from our fence and the laneway which abuts. Because of the six-foot fence, visitors are not usually aware of the lane, and are shocked when an unseen vehicle barrels through, leaving a 12 to 15-foot billowing cloud

of dust the length of the lane in its wake, and spilling onto our yards, decks and homes. Open doors and windows are not an option at most times, even overnight, because of excessive speeds and unpredictable and increased traffic along the dry, dusty lane. Health issues and air conditioning costs have increased because of this. Enjoyment of our homes has decreased. Must we live indoors in summer as well as in fall, winter, spring?

3. Seven-plus years of increased residential growth in St. Davids, of modest and high-end homes, has significantly added to tax revenues to Niagara-on-the-Lake. All five communities are a part of NOTL and should be treated as such. I feel this situation would never be tolerated in our other communities, and definitely not for seven years. We shouldn't need to beg.

And now, because the issue was not prevented nor resolved by two previous town councils, the current council is faced with spending valuable time and expense, which will have increased over the seven years. This is not where tax dollars should be spent.

One much appreciated short-term suggestion for immediate relief, was made by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, "that the town consider application of calcium chloride as

a dust suppressant." Calcium chloride does work, giving the residents relief, while the Town is exploring options and a permanent solution. However, council felt this action could set a precedent for the town to have helped residents of one firelane/laneway and not all of the many lanes in the town. I do ask, exactly how many fire/laneways does the town have that are 700 feet long, affect 18 homeowners and whose decks are 20 feet from their fence which directly abuts the edge of the laneway? And, whose homeowners have begged for a dust free environment for seven years? I think we may be alone in this.

With all due respect to the Lord Mayor and council, who give careful, knowledge-based and diligent consideration to more town issues than the public ever imagines, while working under past and current laws, bylaws, regulations both regional and provincial as well as budgets, financial restraints, and the present economy, this is probably just one of many issues that you have inherited. However, we do need to stop wasting our time and energy as well as that of the council, work on the solution and not have it be passed on to a future council.

Together, let's get it done now.

Donna Hatton
St. Davids



Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

Again, an abridged version of this week. The full version is on Facebook at The NOTL Local and at www.lookingupwithbill.com.

Monday July 20: Today we look back to Sunday, June 21 (at 2:41 a.m.), the annual new Moon rose in Cancer, the zodiac's sign of home, family, and

nurturing. The 2020 Cancer new Moon was triply charged! Not only was it also a total solar eclipse, but it's the first in an ultra-rare duo of consecutive Cancer new Moons. The way we bond and seek shelter could shift monumentally over the next few weeks. And be prepared: strong emotions can also surface under this potent eclipse, and come back for a second showing with the sequel

new Moon in Cancer on July 20 at 1:32 p.m. So far this month Venus has been retrograde, and now we have the second new Moon in Cancer. These are unusually rare times for everyone.

It was July 20, 1976 that Hank Aaron hit homer number 755. It was his last.

The entire Looking Up With Bill is also on The NOTL Local Facebook page and also on my Podcast: www.lookingupwithbill.com.

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Consensus on enforcement, not contentious noise bylaw

Penny Coles
The Local

Winery representatives have made it clear that noise bylaw amendments currently under consideration could be a death toll for the special events so desperately needed for the continued success of their industry.

At the request of council, town staff have been reviewing noise as it relates to special events and outdoor locations, and how it could be better controlled.

Staff were also tasked with investigating the possibility of including a decibel level, which is missing in the current bylaw, and resources to monitor it.

An open house scheduled for March had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, and last Thursday, a virtual meeting was held, with about 25 people registered to speak to the staff recommendations that would change the bylaw, based on a summary prepared by Couns. Clare Cameron and Erwin Wiens, who interviewed residents and stakeholders on the issue of noise.

Comments from the open house will accompany the draft in a report to council, which is recommending a fine of \$350 for contraventions to the bylaw.

Several residents spoke of the shortcomings of the revisions, while representatives of wineries, along with Tim Jennings, CEO of the Shaw Festival, spoke of the harm it would cause their industries.

Andrea Kaiser, chair of The Wineries of Niagara-on-

the-Lake, pointed out some inconsistencies in the timelines, such as the cut-off for playing musical instruments at 10 p.m., with amplified music allowed until 11 p.m.

Also yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling and singing are permitted until 9 p.m. Kaiser was one of several speakers who questioned including singing with other disturbing noises, and called for some “tweaking” of recommendations, suggesting the timeline should be consistent with a cut-off of 11 p.m.

She also pointed out a revision that refers to types of noise likely to disturb the peace is “quite subjective in nature, and therefore impossible to define when someone is actually breaking the bylaw.”

Another concern Kaiser and others mentioned was a ban on amplified music at 55 decibels affecting abutting properties.

Although staff had been asked to come up with an enforceable decibel level, several speakers said 55 decibels is low, and is also impacted by air currents and weather.

Kaiser said it would “effectively prevent amplified music on winery properties for permitted on-site special events.”

She spoke of the need for a balance to be struck between businesses and residents, saying “the current recommendations don’t strike that balance.”

She said she understands it’s an issue where it’s impossible to find consensus, and can only be achieved with compromise, ask-

ing that parameters for the development of a sustainable community and the local economy be considered.

Aaron Dobbin, president and CEO of the Winery and Grower Alliance of Ontario, echoed some of Kaiser’s comments, and spoke of the wine industry as an “economic driver for the province, the region, and Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

The industry is suffering during the pandemic with the cancellation of weddings and concerts, he said, but wineries continue to show commitment to their customers, and have put practices and procedures in place to safely welcome back visitors.

“We need a noise bylaw that allows wineries to continue to operate and generate revenue from events, while protecting the interests of the border communities,” he said.

The 55 decibel limit is lower than conversational speech, or “a dishwasher in the next room,” he said, adding people who go to a concert “don’t expect to be home for the evening news.”

“Please don’t move forward with a bylaw that will make it impossible to put on events, and in turn hurt local jobs at wineries, restaurants and hotels.”

Del Rollo, representing Arterra Wines Canada, which includes Jackson-Triggs Estate Winery and Inniskillin Winery, spoke of “robust tourism strategies” that include events on patios featuring local chefs and local musicians, and the “ultimate experience” of

live music under the stars in the Jackson-Triggs amphitheatre, while sipping wine with vineyards as a backdrop.

The winery employs hundreds of residents, and gives back to the community through fundraisers, he said.

Jackson-Triggs has tried through sound engineering to give a better experience for patrons while limiting the sound that moves beyond its boundaries, said Rollo.

“The challenge is, like with most things in life, we can’t make everyone happy. We understand this and we try to make revisions each year to solve these problems.”

The revised draft bylaw “would put an end to our amphitheater, and would put an end to outdoor events in general,” he said.

“I would argue that this is creating a whisper bylaw,” which would not allow for even a patio or restaurant to exist, he added.

Firelane resident Bill Auchterlonie, who lives in an area surrounded by farmland, pointed out the wording of the draft bylaw says it applies to residential areas. He asked for a revision that would make it clear it applies to the whole town, as did the original bylaw.

Although he was assured by Rolf Wiens, the Town’s manager of enforcement, that it is meant for the entire town, “it doesn’t say that,” said Auchterlonie.

Marion Hassebroek of Queenston Road agreed the bylaw must be written to cover all inhabitants of the town, and also spoke of the need for more enforcement.

She lives close to a winery, and when there is a party going on with outdoor music and it’s 11:30 p.m. she asked if a bylaw officer would be available.

When told no, there are no bylaw officers on duty at night, and that she should call the police, she questioned the likelihood of them doing anything.

She was told by Wiens that the police often have more important issues to deal with, and that though they have responded a number of times, and are able to hand out fines similar to a speeding ticket, “I don’t know if they have ever been issued.”

He said neither bylaw officers or police officers have decibel metres.

Hassebroek asked that the Town increase the penalties and enforcement associated with the bylaw.

“We’ve made complaints, and none of these fines are actually enforced. What protection do we have here if there is no enforcement?”

Wanda Nord, a resident on the Niagara River Parkway, said she’s contacted the police regarding noise from an outdoor event and has been told that the event organizers have a permit issued by the municipality, “and it is up to them to enforce it.”

Other residents spoke of the need for more enforcement and higher penalties, and whether there is a saturation point for special events.

Municipal lawyer Tom Richardson, speaking for Ed Werner of Lakeshore Road, offered his legal opinion on what he sees as problems with the draft bylaw, chief of which is the issue of the treatment of residential versus agricultural areas. The draft bylaw prohibition of disturbing noises does not apply to the agricultural or industrial area of town, he said, and only protects those in residential areas.

The areas where Auchterlonie and Hassebroek live, in agricultural areas, are not protected. “The bylaw does not regulate noise in the agricultural area unless it impacts residents in residential areas.”

He said there are other conflicting amendments which would make it impossible for the public to understand limitations with respect to noise at special events, and suggested the Town “may wish to create a committee of concerned citizens, reflecting the various communities in town you’re hearing from tonight.”

Tim Jennings, executive director and CEO of the Shaw Festival, said the draft noise bylaw is especially problematic for those in the arts and cultural professions, with a reduced time allowed for music, and singing added to noises such as shouting and hooting. He also spoke to the issue of noise limited to 55 decibels in the proposed legislation.

“The difficulty with decibel readings, and we do a lot of them in my world, is a normal household air conditioner at 100 feet is

louder than a 60 decibel reading. I’m speaking at about 60 decibels. At 70 decibels, we’re not yet at the noise of a TV in the living room.”

A noise could be 76 decibels at source and 60 decibels 15 feet out, but would be impacted by wind changes, he said.

The 50-decibel range “is really, really low. You want to be really careful about the range of noise you’re talking about.”

The 11 p.m. cut-off “is working extremely well. The enforcement of the bylaw is the real issue.”

Jennings said he looks forward to either the draft bylaw being rethought, or a return to the current one with a better method of enforcement.

Eduardo Lafforgue of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce said the restrictions in the draft bylaw will “jeopardize the re-launching of traditional major events, as well as live entertainment and music.” It would be a blow to tourism at a time when the tourism community “is just barely holding on and hoping to survive this crisis.”

Noise from special events is not the only disturbance for residents.

Other issues that were mentioned included bird bangers and short-term rentals.

Yüksel Oren spoke of basic human rights to live at home without unnecessary noise, and the use of “propane-fired cannons” in the vineyards behind his York Road home. He compared the sound generated by the bird bangers to water torture, generating “a terrible noise” every three to 10 minutes, even with doors and windows closed, and said there are alternatives for growers, although more costly.

York Road resident Jim Fisher also spoke about the noise from bird bangers. “We went through 81 continual days in 2019 of howitzer noise, beginning at half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset,” he said.

Although the Town’s position has been that it has no jurisdiction over what is considered a normal farm practice, Fisher suggested a Town noise bylaw could restrict the use of bird bangers, forcing growers to apply to the provincial Normal Farm Practices Protection Board for a hearing to override a municipal bylaw.



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Trying to make the best of a sad situation

Penny Coles
The Local

Trudy Enns is trying to bring joy to her mother, and sometimes the joy spreads.

Betty Enns is a resident of Pleasant Manor. She has been there for 12 years, first living independently, then in assisted living, and for the last eight years, in long-term care.

Trudy visits her every day. But for the last four months, of course, her routine has had to change, with no visitors allowed inside.

“Her room is on the ground floor, so we can see her through her window, fortunately,” says Trudy. She makes sure she visits for about 45 minutes every day.

“But for four months we haven’t been able to go in and give her a hug, four months of no contact with her.”

Trudy is doing everything she can to keep her mother engaged, but it’s difficult to know what she’s thinking.

Betty, 92, has Alzheimer’s. She still knows Trudy and her sisters, and although

she can’t hear much through the window, she can read the messages Trudy writes and holds up to her.

Trudy thinks her mother is “as well as she can be, in this situation,” but she can’t really know how it’s affecting her. She’s looking more lonely, depressed, and more confused than she was, “but it’s the same for everyone. There’s no way of being sure how much of it for her is because of the isolation caused by COVID. I really can’t tell how she’s feeling.”

Trudy, 65, is a familiar face to many in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She worked for MB Foods for 18 years, she says, and is now at the Mennonite-run Christian Benefit Shop in St. Catharines.

She was laid off for a time because of the pandemic, and while at home, picked up a recorder that had been around for a while, and decided she’d learn how to play it. She plays the piano and viola, but although “every child in elementary school seems to learn how to play the recorder, I never did.”

Music has always been a big part of family life, she says, and in the past, after helping her mother at meal time and chatting with her, Trudy would play the piano in the common area, for the enjoyment of other residents.

Now she takes her recorder. It’s a simple instrument, she says, and she’s learned a few hymns and tunes, including German folk songs. She stands outside, in the full, hot sun, and plays through the window. She also chats, is sure to smile, and sometimes makes funny faces, to get a reaction from her mother. Some days, she says, that’s easier than others. But what is most likely to draw a reaction is when Trudy and her two sisters all visit at once. “She loves to see us together. That makes her smile.”

Betty used to be a care-giver and worked with people with dementia, says Trudy. “She used to say it’s such a sad disease. She never wanted to go like this.”

The rules at the long-term care home have relaxed



Trudy Enns chats and plays the recorder for her mother Betty, outside her window at Pleasant Manor. (Penny Coles)

enough to allow outdoor visits. Visitors must have a negative COVID test every two weeks, wear a mask, and sit two metres away from the resident they’re visiting.

“I’m not sure what the right thing to do is now,” she says. “I’ve watched and talked to others who are visiting, and they are quite frustrated.”

Trudy says her mother used to talk about when she was young, and her moth-

er was in the hospital with tuberculosis. Betty’s father would take her and her siblings to stand outside and wave at her mother — they couldn’t go inside.

“I wonder sometimes whether that is in her mind, but we’ll never know. This is such a mysterious disease.”

If Trudy were to ask to visit her mother outside, she still wouldn’t be able to touch her, and she thinks it might be more confusing

and even frightening for her mother to see her in a mask, whereas they can see each other clearly through the window. “It’s hard to know which is better or worse,” she says. “I just wish I could hug and squeeze her.”

In the meantime, she will continue to stand at the window and play her recorder, and if there are other families visiting outside, “maybe it will bring them some joy.”

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<p>LEASED</p> <p>678 LINE 2 ROAD #16 \$2,500 MLS 30807302 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft</p>	<p>SOLD</p> <p>5 MOSEBY STREET \$1,249,900 MLS 30785078 • Adam Hawley</p>	<p>SOLD</p> <p>18 COOLEY LANE \$1,289,000 MLS 30813913 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk</p>	<p>SOLD</p> <p>33 GAGE STREET \$997,000 MLS 30780129 • Thomas Elltoft and Viviane Elltoft</p>
<p>9315 WARNER ROAD \$1,895,000 MLS 30796517 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk</p>	<p>92 ANGELA CRESCENT \$779,900 MLS 30793849 • Randall Armstrong</p>	<p>368 NIAGARA BLVD \$2,295,000 MLS 30809125 • Marilyn Frances</p>	<p>1501 LINE 8 #114 \$139,900 MLS 30792309 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk</p>

Christopher Bowron*** 905-468-2269

Kim Elltoft** 905-380-8011

Marilyn Francis** 905-932-1266

Randall Armstrong** 905-651-2977

Victoria Bolduc* 905-941-3726

Philip Bowron* 905-348-7626

Bonnie Grimm* 905-468-1256

Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585

Viviane Elltoft* 905-468-2142

Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012

Cheryl Carmichael* 905-941-0276

Sarah Gleddie* 905-685-2458

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Old Town resident's view of tiger lilies replaced by sod

Penny Coles
The Local

Elizabeth Martin used to enjoy her view of tiger lilies growing from the ditch near her Old Town home.

Now her view is of a stretch of straw-coloured sod that has taken their place.

In the spring, a water-main was replaced at the corner of Gage and Victoria Streets, and in spite of that work, says Martin, the lilies came up and were healthy.

However, for some reason she hasn't been able to discover, they were dug up in June, and replaced with sod on

July 3.

She thinks the sod was watered once, before someone came to her door, she thought from the Town, to ask if she could water it.

"I'm 85 years old," she says. "I told him I don't think I can do that."

Martin received a letter from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, dated July 9, saying the recent installation of the sod "was unsuccessful."

It blames "the increase in temperature and the inability to provide a sufficient amount of water to promote healthy sod growth."

It says the Town, the consultant and contractor will "review the sod" at the end of the 120-day warranty period and "replace all sodded areas that did not survive."

"The tiger lilies were beautiful. I don't understand why they couldn't have been left where they were," says Martin. "Every year I looked forward to them."

She questions how the contractor and town staff, or whomever was responsible for laying the sod, didn't know it was not a good idea in the midst of a heat wave, especially if water was not readily available.

"I'm pretty sure if I asked my 10-year-old grandson, he'd say you don't put sod down in this heat."

Lauren Kruitbosch, the Town's community engagement coordinator, confirmed the work being done in that area is a public works capital project, and that town staff have followed up with the resident directly.

"The decision to replace the day lilies with sod was made together with town staff, the contractor and the consultant," she says.

"As for watering the sod, the landscaper offered a \$100 incentive to each home-

owner on the street to assist with additional watering in an effort to mitigate the effects of this extreme heat on the growing sod. While the contractor is responsible for ensuring and carrying out watering efforts, the request of homeowners was to provide additional watering measures above and beyond what the contractor is already supplying."

She says further communication was being arranged between the Town and the residents impacted by this change.



The sod was laid July 3, says neighbour Elizabeth Martin, and this photo was taken July 9. (Photo supplied)



Elizabeth Martin doesn't understand why healthy tiger lilies on Gage Street had to be removed. (Photo supplied)

Teenie H in its new home



The Teenie H, an 81-year-old fishing boat to be preserved and put on public display, is now temporarily safely tucked away on Town property until a decision is made about its future. It was moved courtesy of Andrews Trucking. The goal is to safely display it in the Dock Area, possibly on the waterfront by River Beach Drive. (Photo supplied)

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NOTL Town council decided to experiment until the weekend of July 19 closing Queen Street to traffic. It has resulted in NOTL's only commercial street crossing Old Town being closed and as many as 22,000 cars per weekend having to use only narrow residential streets, some without sidewalks, endangering the quality of life and safety of residents and visitors.



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Music Niagara about to start its virtual season

Penny Coles
The Local

Music Niagara was set to launch a series of 30 concerts, including a program to recognize the 250th birthday of Beethoven, when the pandemic cancelled plans that included some new venues.

The festival's Karen Lade says some of those venues will be included in its virtual *At Home* series for its 22nd season.

Music Niagara is known for bringing world-class, diverse music experiences to intimate settings in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and will continue to do so, delivering "great music to you, wherever you are."

"Music Niagara is unique, in that it doesn't have a home base," says Lade. "We make music through partnerships with NOTL venues."

Some of this season's performances are being filmed by Niagara College's Broadcasting team, in locations such as Château des Charmes, Pond-View Estate Winery, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum and Queen's Landing.

Others are being recorded virtually with performers who can't get to NOTL this season, says Lade.

"We're doing it differently for sure," says Lade, but still bringing the "essence" of what was intended for the 2020 season.

Beethoven's milestone birthday celebration will include Tom Allen's production of the *The Missing Pages* — the story of the only Canadian who met Ludwig van Beethoven — and also Music Niagara artistic director Atis Bankas' musical performance of Beethoven's *Hair*, an homage to the book

of the same name. It's an "astounding tale of one lock of hair and its amazing travels from 19th-century Vienna to 21st-century America," says the announcement of the 2020 season.

It also includes "inspirational performances" by Bankas with one of Russia's significant pianists, Victoria Kogan.

New this season is a Music and Laughter series, which this year will include Quartet-to Gelato with NOTL's stand-up comic, Joe Pillitteri.

There will be special performances from Emma Meinrenken on violin performing with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, clarinetist James Campbell's production of *From Beethoven to Brazil: A Joyous Musical Journey*, and the production of the *Last Night of the Proms* performed by members of



Music Niagara artistic director Atis Bankas will perform Beethoven's *Hair*, an homage to the book of the same name. (Photo supplied)

the Niagara Proms Orchestra, conducted by maestro Sabatino Vacca, and hosted by British comedian David Green.

The *At Home* lineup also includes virtual performances by international festival musicians from New York, Am-

sterdam, and Lithuania, who were scheduled to perform in NOTL this summer.

The festival will feature an *At Home* Performance Academy, with a new online curriculum to help young musicians between the ages of

eight and 18 become polished performers.

Music Niagara welcomes donations to support its *At Home* series, which begins July 26. For more information visit <https://www.musicniagara.org>.

Mardi Gras celebration live online Saturday

Penny Coles
The Local

As the Award-winning TD Niagara Jazz Festival began its seventh year, with festival founders and creative directors Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea were preparing programming and fundraising events, the world was stopped in its tracks by COVID-19, says Dunn.

It is more important than ever, Dunn says, "that we unite in healing the world through the arts, as well as through love, joy and compassion."

With this in mind, and with support of the TD Bank Group, the festival is creating a virtual version of the popular Niagara's Summer Mardi Gras on Saturday, July 18, from 3 to 11 p.m.

The festival brings New Orleans to the north, featuring a virtual parade, Cajun

food, New Orleans classic cocktails, with beads, bangles, feathers and fun also recommended.

Here are the steps offered by festival organizers to join in on the fun:

1. Save the date: Saturday, JULY 18, and round up your "krewe" (neighbors, friends and family)!
2. Decide where to celebrate with us, and with your crew (balcony, garden, backyard, living room, etc.).
3. Watch our Mardi Gras session videos to help with steps four through eight.
4. Make (or get) a Mardi Gras mask.
5. Find your funky outfits (beads, bangles, feathers and more).
6. Make your classic New Orleans cocktail.
7. Make your Cajun meal.
8. Get your dance steps,

moves and grooves down.

9. Watch the parade on JULY 18 on the Facebook or YouTube Channel at 3 p.m.
10. Party with us on July 18, and watch all bands on our FaceBook or on our YouTube Channel from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
11. Post your photos on our social media platforms (@jazzniagara) for a chance to win 2021 festival passes.
12. Come out and see us in 2021 when we can celebrate face to face.

The event presents artists from both New Orleans and Canada, and includes performances by Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra, Ecirb Müller's Twisted Dixie, Red Hot Ramble, Big Smoke Brass Band, InstaChoir, The Vaudevillians, The Big Butter and Egg Men, and more.



Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea are ready for a Mardi Gras celebration Saturday. (Photo supplied)

The Big One-Oh!



A musical written for virtual performances based on a beloved children's novel, *The Big One-Oh!* will be offered online Friday, July 17 at 7 p.m. Presented by the Yellow Door Theatre Project and directed by Andorlie Hillstrom, it will feature the 14-member youth cast in the region's first ever livestreaming Zoomsical. Tickets may be purchased for this event at the following link: <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/17279> (Photo supplied)

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Ordnance stones subject of museum lecture

Ted Rumble is still hoping the Town will help preserve the 200-year-old stones

Penny Coles
The Local

Ted Rumble, a retired orthopaedic surgeon, has a long-standing interest in history, particularly military history.

When he moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake, he could see a stone across the road from his house at the corner of Prideaux and Simcoe Streets. "One day, my curiosity got the better of me, and I looked more closely," the board member of the Niagara Historical Society told those who joined the museum's weekly webinar last Thursday. The presentation was his second in a series of lectures which includes a wide range of topics, his relating to his research on what he discovered to be 200-year-old ordnance boundary stones.

The nine-inch square white limestone blocks, engraved with the initials B O and an arrow on the front, and a number on the back, he said, "are some of the oldest historical artifacts in the Old Town."

In 1807, the town was laid out in the typical British grid, with the Garrison Military Reserve and Fort George, known as the Commons today, and the Mississauga Reserve, which is today the golf course, with half of it then privately owned by a wealthy businessman and investor. In 1823, in what Rumble calls "the great swap," the businessman traded his part of the Mississauga Reserve to the British in exchange for some prime land on the Garrison Reserve.

"The first reference to the ordnance boundary stones that I found is in his letter written in 1823," he said.

The stones were placed around the two military reserves by the British army's Royal Engineers, to mark the boundaries between town land and military reserves, explained Rumble.

The arrow was the symbol used by the Board of Ordnance (hence the B O engraved on the stones) which became the

custodian of all British military property around the world.

The origin of the broad arrow is a matter of some discussion, but his favourite story, he said, is that the Royal Navy, sent scouting parties out into the woods to find trees that would be suitable for masts on the navy warships. A suitable tree was marked with an arrow pointing upwards, and there were severe penalties for anyone who cut down a tree that was marked with the board arrow, he said.

There were originally 37 stones, but 21 have gone missing, with 16 left that Rumble has been able to find in the town today.

One of the stones that still exists is number 3, in the middle of Butler's Barracks. "It is very much at risk from riding lawnmowers, and it's also at risk during the Kinsmen car show, which is held every August, when it's surrounded by about 50 cars. It's amazing it hasn't been knocked down by now."

Boundary stone number 4 took Rumble a long time to find. It was placed in 1832, and when the Rand Estate wall was constructed in 1908, it was built on top of the stone, and now looks to be part of the wall.

Stone number 5 was located close to the entrance to Heritage Trail, which was once railway land, said Rumble. "It is sunk down quite far, but it's still in good shape."

Other boundary stones have been found under a hedge also sunk down, another tilted by tree roots but in pretty good shape, and another covered with moss.

Stone number 21, he said, is at the entrance to Queen's Royal Park, with the gazebo in the distance. It's sunk down nearly flush with the ground, "and with a few more years, it's going to disappear, never to be seen again," said Rumble.

Stone number 22, at Front and Simcoe Streets near the golf cart path "is also at risk of damage from riding lawn

mowers, "as it's completely unprotected."

The stone that Rumble can see from his house, number 23, "was struck by a riding lawn mower last fall and is broken across the base. You can lift the top of the stone off. It is in urgent need of repair before it deteriorates any further," he said.

Stone number 26, best approached from the ninth tee of the golf course, is probably the best preserved of the remaining stones, with engraving and bevelling that is easy to see. There is a lot of moss on the north side of the stone, "which confirmed what I learned in Boy Scouts, that moss grows on the north side of trees," said Rumble.

Stone number 27 is also in pretty good shape, after being moved from the property line of the Charles Inn to the junior commissariat near Butler's Barracks, he said. He hasn't been able to discover why it was moved, and would like to see it back on Queen Street where it belongs.

Two of four stones that mark the corners of the military reserve can still be seen, one in a garden in Simcoe Park at King and Byron Streets.

Another stone totally unprotected was recently damaged by a backhoe during obstruction at the corner of Johnson and Nassau Streets.

Rumble has asked the Town to recognize, restore, protect and celebrate the stones, which would require a partnership of the Town, Parks Canada, and the museum, he said.

The Friends of Fort George have already agreed to help.

Although there are British ordnance stones around the world, there is no other place that has 16 of the stones still in place.

The stones, he said, "are a unique historical treasure which shed a light on how our town came to be the way it is today, with beautiful green spaces such as Simcoe Park, Queen's Royal Park and the golf course right in the middle

of the Old Town."

Rumble said it took him more than a year to find the 16 stones. "Like many people in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I like to walk, and would focus my walk on hunting for the stones."

They were hard to find, especially the ones that have sunk down in bushes or hidden under mulch.

He said he doesn't know how deep they go. Some have sunk below the ground. "I'm hoping one day we can get ground-penetrating radar and look below the ground for them."

He is hoping the Town will designate the stones as historically important, and hopefully also restore and preserve them.

He will be making a presentation to council soon to ask for that to happen, he said.

He spoke to council last December, and several councillors indicated support for Rumble's requests, but offered differing alternatives on how to deal with them. One option was to hand the matter over to a committee that was charged with looking into the preservation of Butler's Burial Ground, also on Parks Canada property. Others suggested the Municipal Heritage Committee and town staff should be involved, and the result was it would be discussed with staff how to best move forward with his request.

At the end of his lecture



Ted Rumble discovered this ordnance stone across from his home, and then went on a hunt for information about its history. He plans a second request to town council to have them preserved. (Penny Coles)

a suggestion was made that a walking tour would make a good exploration of the ordnance stones. Rumble says it would be more than a six-kilometre walk, and could maybe instead be a tour of a collection of stones, but the distance would be perfect for a bicycle tour.

Fort George opening this weekend



Fort George and the Friends of Fort George Gift Shop will be open from noon to 4 p.m. on weekends during the rest of July. Although not all buildings will be reopening, and there will be some changes to visitors' experience, Parks Canada interpreters will be on site to answer questions, provide musket demonstrations and musical presentations throughout the day. (Photo supplied)

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Bee therapy to be part of B-Y’s Honey on Concession 6

Penny Coles
The Local

A local beekeeper is counting on a zoning amendment to allow him to operate an apitherapy centre, offering everything from retail bee products such as honey, royal jelly and bee bread, to alternative treatments for medical conditions.

Edward Unger of B-Y’s Honey (bee wise, he explains), is a beekeeper who offers beekeeping classes (or did, pre-pandemic), and rents bee hives for pollination.

In addition to bee hives, his farm includes floral and herbal crops necessary for producing a high-quality honey, which has long been accepted for having therapeutic value.

He also keeps sheep, chickens, guinea hens, and a parrot named Chico who greets those entering his barn, a corner of which is now used to stock bee products.

He has a building permit for his new structure, now well under construction, but he wants site-specific zoning to permit on-farm diversified uses, similar to farm wineries.

He already sells bee

products from the barn on his 30-acre Concession 6 property, and offers some alternative treatments.

“In Europe, apitherapy is well-known and accepted,” says Unger, “but in Canada it’s new.”

He received training in Europe and is certified in Europe to perform alternative treatments, which are not regulated in Canada. He hopes they will be — there are efforts underway to have it regulated here so people can be trained here, he says.

Other treatments will wait until he has his new building finished. “It will be a cleaner setting, like a medical clinic. I won’t be working out of a barn.”

One of the treatments he now offers is bee sting therapy. He takes a bee in tweezers and squeezes it, then applies its stinger to the skin, releasing bee venom into the client. The bee dies after its venom is released.

He says it helps people with multiple sclerosis, arthritis and Lyme disease, alleviating pain and helping them move easier. He also believes it boosts immune systems weakened from chemotherapy and radiation.

He stings himself



Edward Unger demonstrates using bee venom through stinging as an alternative treatment for several medical conditions, including Lyme disease. (Photos by Penny Coles)

whenever he has joint pain, and he says the pain disappears.

There is no research in North America or scientific evidence of the therapeutic value of bee stings, but Unger says there is in Europe and South America. A quick look online shows there are anecdotal reports, but no evidence. There is no doubt, howev-

er that people have been using bee venom for medical conditions for centuries.

Unger says he has people who come regularly from Toronto and closer to home for regular treatments. He also sells a bee hut, that looks a little like a bird house. It comes filled with bees, and he shows his clients how to sting themselves, so they don’t have to make the trip to his barn for treatment.

Craig Rohe, a senior planner with Upper Canada Consultants in St. Catharines, was at the Town’s recent planning committee meeting to explain Unger’s request for site-specific zoning.

The new, two-storey building includes a foyer, and other rooms for housing bees and processing bee-related products, and well as an office and accommodation for farm help.

When asked about the alternative treatments, he described Unger as “one of the pioneers in some of these newer treatments for illnesses such as Lyme disease.”

His treatments are “very leading edge,” Rohe added, saying they would only be administered by appointment and with a trained practitioner on-site. Treatments would be by referral from a doctor, with a letter of consent.

Unger says before bee venom is used, his client would require a letter saying he or she is not allergic to bees.

With site-specific zoning and when his new building is complete, he plans to also offer beehive air therapy — inhaling air from a beehive — to treat respiratory illnesses, which he says requires a cleaner setting than his barn.

There has now been an open house and a public meeting on the zoning amendment, with the comments from both to be included in a staff report, which will include a recommendation to be presented to council.

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Edward Unger, owner of B-Y’s Honey, is certified in Europe to provide bee therapy, and wants to continue his practice in a new building underway on his property.

BarrelHead Patio pairs pizza with premium icewine cocktails



Michael Zappitelli spins pizza dough at Pillitteri Estates Winery's new patio. (Kim Wade)

Kim Wade Special to The Local

As patios pop up across the region, restaurants are trying to maneuver their way through the provincial government's regulations as Ontario opens up for business.

For at least this week, provincial regulations are allowing restaurants in the Niagara Region to serve patrons in outdoor areas only, while waiting for the word to move into Stage 3.

Many local restaurants and wineries have been erecting pop-up patios to serve clientele who want to enjoy the wine and cuisine that Niagara-on-the-Lake has to offer.

The plan to add a patio area at Pillitteri Estates Winery was already in the works when the thought of a global pandemic was still just a concerning idea to health experts and science fiction writers. According to Michael Zappitelli, business development manager and expert pizza dough spinner, the idea of a permanent restaurant at Pillitteri Estates Winery had been in development for the last year.

In the past, the winery has hosted catered events, and it was time to have a

permanent fixture to serve the public. The concept began with an idea to design a space that would serve wood oven pizza, fresh garden salads paired with their VQA premium wines and icewine-infused cocktails.

Zappitelli, who is the spouse of Julia Friesen of the Pillitteri clan, explains that they had certain goals in mind. First of all, they wanted to work to their strengths by highlighting what Pillitteri Estates Winery is known for. As one of the world's largest producers and exporters of icewine, it was only natural they would want to feature icewine at the restaurant. "We want to show that icewine can be innovative," says Zappitelli, and not strictly a dessert wine but can be incorporated into other drinks and cocktails. They have experimented with icewine to create new cocktails and to play with new flavours by adding it to time-honoured cocktails such as the old-fashioned or martini.

One such icewine-infused cocktail that was featured last Sunday afternoon was the Blueberry Mojito, which has become so popular that Zappitelli says he is having a difficult

time sourcing the blueberries to keep up with the demand. Refreshing and flavourful, the cocktail features Reserve Vidal icewine, spiced rum, muddled blueberries, fresh mint leaves, and a dash of freshly-squeezed lemon and lime juice, served over ice in a highball glass.

Because they export their wines to over 39 countries, the Pillitteri family wanted to do something that would cater to the locals, to those who have supported them all the way back to Gary's Fruit Market. "The intent is to do something to give back to the locals who helped us get our start, which helped us to get into the international market in the first place," says Zappitelli. In essence, "to bring us back to our roots."

Their plans for opening the patio were pushed back due to COVID-19. Originally, they had hoped to open in May, which was delayed until July 3, "but we are rockin' now," says Zappitelli.

Staff are minimizing any contact with patrons and aim to make your experience as safe as pos-

As more businesses and services reopen, and with social gatherings increased to 10 people, we all must continue our efforts to protect each other.



Practice physical distancing, stay two metres apart.



Wear a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge.



Continue to **wash hands frequently.**



Get tested if you are worried you may have COVID-19, or have been exposed to the virus.

**Inside or out, stay safe.
Save lives.**

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

THE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum presents a series of online talks in the month of July. All presentations start at 4 p.m., are free and require registration.

July 16 @ 4 p.m. | Shawna Butts
Some Women in Niagara-on-the-Lake's History
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8166666666>

July 23 @ 4 p.m. | David Hemmings
Was your grandmother a British Home Child?
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8166666666>

July 30 @ 4 p.m. | Sarah Kaufman
Ask the Curator <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8166666666>



GARAGE SALE!

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When: Saturday/Sunday July 18 & 19, 2020
Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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NIAGARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM COVID-19 DIARIES

July 17-19 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For those of you who like to write and journal, the Niagara Historical Museum is looking for your insight. You can participate in the recording of our history, today. In 50 or 100 years we may just have an exhibition on the COVID -19 Pandemic and your journals will help us tell the stories of how Niagara-on-the-Lake made it through. Please visit: www.nhsm.ca for details or call 289-719-1918 to record your audio diary.

TD NIAGARA JAZZ FESTIVAL

July 18 @ 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Mardi Gras festival

Events livestreamed at niagarajazzfestival.com

CHESS CLUB TOURNAMENTS – AGES 14+

July 20 @ 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Kids Chess Club is back virtually! How to join our club:
1. Create an account at chess.com
2. Send your new username to notlplkids@gmail.com & we will invite you to join our NOTLPL Kids Chess club
3. To accept our invite, click HOME > MESSAGES > "You have been invited..." > JOIN THIS CLUB NOW
Keep an eye out for the links to join our weekly tournaments! Please note: there will NOT be a Library Moderator present online at all times. Hosted by Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. <https://notlpubliclibrary.org>

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Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-641-5335 or email: classified@notllocal.com

Live entertainment coming to BarrelHead

Continued from page 17

sible. Host Allie Friesen, who also married into the Pillitteri family, explains the restaurant is working to ensure provincial guidelines are being followed. Plexiglass has been installed at the front counter where patrons order their food and drinks. She encourages patrons to take a number card to a table and sit "wherever you feel comfortable." Seating includes individual tables under a large tent, or at picnic tables with large umbrellas. All seating is spaced to accommodate physical distancing and provincial regulations.

Proper signage and sanitization stations are provided for guests needing to wash up and use the facilities. Serving staff wear masks during close interactions with clientele.

Zappitelli and Friesen agree that they feel they have coped well under the restrictions.

The folks at BarrelHead hope to add live music to their venue. At this point, the Niagara Region is remaining in Stage 2 until further notice according to Premier Doug Ford's announcement Monday. However, this will not prevent BarrelHead patrons from enjoying live music as they sip a cocktail and enjoy the crispy crust of

wood fire oven pizza.

"As for our music programming," says Friesen, "we have done research into having live music and have found that we are able to do it with the appropriate physical distancing as per the Ontario government website. We're excited about this information as we have a large space to utilize and can easily keep the live music at the appropriate physical distancing measures. We are in the works with building something for the musicians to play on and can't wait to get in contact with many local musicians to hopefully come play on our patio."

As a thank you to Niag-

ara residents, the Pillitteri family is offering a 15 per cent discount for residents of the Niagara Region at the restaurant.

However, for those who feel more comfortable staying home, but want to enjoy the fruits of BarrelHead's new venture, they are offering a takeout special. Patrons can order any two of their wood oven pizzas and a bottle of either Team Canada Red or White for \$45.

Call 905-468-3147 x333 to order takeout or walk in to pick up.

Further information on the menu or hours can be found on the Pillitteri Estates Winery website at pillitteri.com.



Wood oven pizza and icewine cocktails are on the menu at BarrelHead. (Kim Wade)



CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, July 19th

Message by: Kevin Bayne

Message: Psalm 103: Salvation

Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 10:00 am on Sundays. There will be no in-person church service.


www.ccchurch.ca

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13 --- Bradley, five-star
general
21 Broke
23 Sibyl's power
25 Act of kindness
26 Big banger
27 Jerry Lee ---
28 Collector's list
29 State of high honor
30 Skipper of the Argo
31 Out of favor
32 British W W II general
35 Had eight days according
to the Beatles
36 Residents of Abuja, for
example
44 Gaza Strip grp.
46 World's largest land
47 Reach by air
48 Chap
49 "Dragnet" creator Jack ---
50 Competent
51 Its capital is Vientiane
52 Conceited
53 Scent
54 Diamond team
55 New plant in the making
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1700s: 1 Share, 6 Adds, 10 Hero, 14 Cocoa, 15 Suit, 16 Alum, 18 Sags, 20 Mystical, 22 Tinner, 24 Clay, 25 Fest, 26 Always, 29 Gasp, 30 Jim, 33 Beau, 34 Halve, 36 Nano, 37 Owms, 38 Swoon, 39 I S B N, 40 Mitte, 41 Terra, 42 Goat, 43 B SS, 44 Prey, 45 Trendy, 47 Flak, 48 Four, 49 Wallop, 52 Versions, 56 eBay, 57 Peal, 59 Sadle, 60 Blot, 61 Evil, 62 in one, 63 Beso, 64 Dana, 65 As red.

Down: 1 Scam, 2 Holy, 3 Acts, 4 Root cause, 5 Easily, 6 Assay, 7 Dual, 8 Dig, 9 State senator, 10 Hadn't, 11 Elan, 12 Rude, 13 Omar, 21 Cash-strapped, 23 E S P, 25 Favor, 26 A-bomb, 27 Lewis, 28 Warts, 29 Glory, 30 Jason, 31 in bad, 32 Monty, 35 A week, 36 Niggards, 44 P L O, 46 Russia, 47 Fly to, 48 Fella, 49 Webb, 50 Able, 51 Laos, 52 Vain, 53 Odor, 54 Nine, 55 Seed, 58 EV A.

Art mimics artist: colourful, bold, daring

Continued from page 13

inherent understanding of symbolism and archetypes common in the art world.

Like Pisano herself, much of her work is colourful, bold and daring.

She's not afraid to combine colours and to create works where lines don't converge in conventional ways. Her career as an aesthetician also informs much of her art, especially in her striking images of faces, with a definite emphasis on eyes.



Melancholy is one of the artist's recent paintings. (Mike Balsom).

She collects everything, even saving the hardened paint film from her palettes for use in future creations. Pisano tells the story of a reception at the Victoria Street pizzeria Pieza, the first place to publicly show her art. During the festivities, someone dropped a stack of painted plates that shattered all over the floor. Owners Laryssa and Maurizio Cesta, who continue to be huge supporters, cleaned up the mess, and set aside the pieces in a box. Many months later, they told Pisano they never threw away the detritus. Pisano lugged the pieces home, and many of them now adorn one of her favourite works, *il tempo a venezia*.

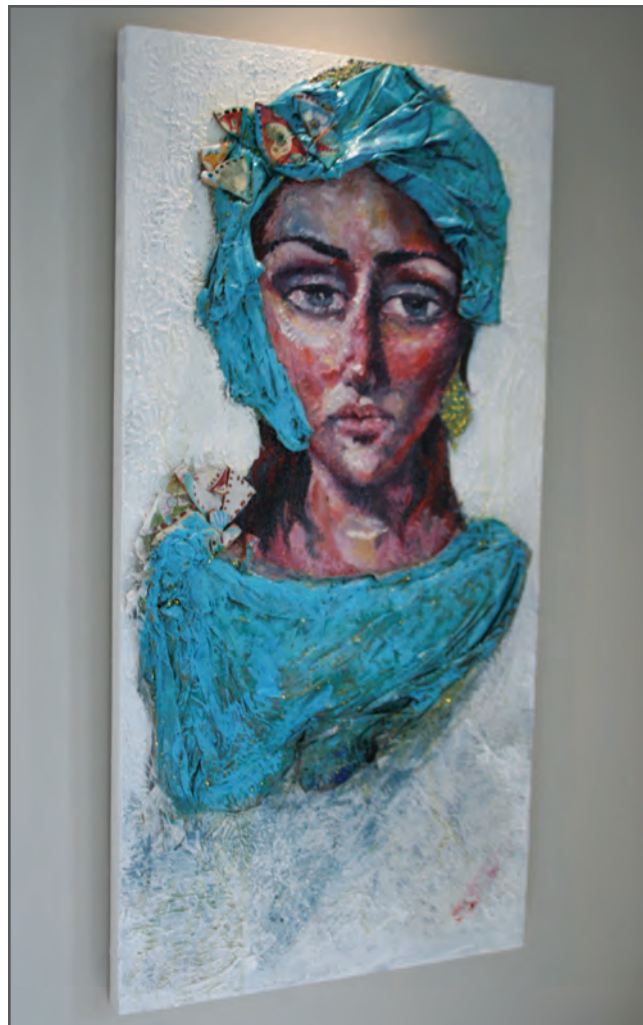
A bout with carpal tunnel syndrome in her right wrist is Pisano's latest challenge. Her fingers went numb about two weeks ago, leading her to consult with an osteopath in Niagara Falls as well as a Toronto sports medicine doctor. She and Joe bought a laser machine so she can

do therapy on the wrist at home. She has already begun to practise painting with her left hand, which surely will open up a new world of possibilities in her work.

Lately she has begun working on large canvases. One of these pieces, *Primavera (in the time of Corona)*, currently sits in her kitchen, awaiting to be shipped to its new owners. In a short time, she has sold many of her works, beginning with about 30 pieces during that original 2016 showing at Pieza.

Since then, Pisano's work has been shown at the University of Guelph-Humber, Artusiasm Gallery in Toronto, and locally at the Niagara Image Gallery on Niagara Stone Road.

Pisano's art continues to be on display at Pieza Pizzeria, as well as at Mikreations in Virgil. She offers private consultations at her home in the Old Town. Visit her website, <https://www.filomena-pisano.com> to find out more.



This is Mary Madgalene, a piece that incorporates some of the Pieza plates as well as some of her mother's old doilies.

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