Car flies from road, lands on Lakeshore Road lawn

Shirley Madsen has been advocating for changes to make Lakeshore Road, between Four Mile Creek Road and the Old Town, safer for drivers — she has witnessed too many collisions involving serious injuries and fatalities along the stretch near her home, which borders Lakeshore Cemetery. On Saturday night, it was Shirley and her husband Finn whose property became the victim of a collision — this time, a car heading from Chautauqua toward St. Catharines spun out, became airborne, and landed on their front lawn beside their home, doing extensive damage along the way.

A Niagara Regional Police report confirmed that at 11:42 p.m. Saturday, a man driving a 2000 Audi sedan westbound along Lakeshore Road lost control of his vehicle, skidded across the oncoming lane, entered the south ditch, went airborne and finally came to rest within the front yard of a home. The Audi, the police report says, “caused significant damage to the property, including trees, grass, and a fire hydrant.”

The report doesn’t adequately describe the scene of devastation, including the damage to a beautiful wrought iron fence along the front of the Madsen’s property, or the flag pole that has flown the Ukrainian flag since that country came under attack from Russia. Shirley, of Ukrainian heritage, has become well-known in Niagara-on-the-Lake and across the region for her efforts to send aid to Ukraine, and to help

Hub serves dinner to 200-plus hungry workers

Mike Balsom
The Local

Dozens of volunteers mobilized on Sunday afternoon to put on a barbecue for almost 300 farmworkers in the parking lot at Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil.

“What’s known as the Farmworker Hub became more of a hive of activity as volunteers, including Niagara-on-the-Lake Lions, were busy flipping burgers and serving homemade cookies and treats to employees from about 40 local farms.

Workers gathered at tables to enjoy their meal and play dominos. Some got up to play a game of cornhole in the parking lot, while others spent some time inside the church building.

“The church was really involved in getting all of this organized,” said town councillor and NOTL Lions member Erwin Wiens.

“When they reached out to the Lions we were more than happy to help.”

“Because of how many people we wanted to serve, and how many people we needed to serve them,” added his wife, Dorothy Soo-Wiens, “we approached them to help with some of the food costs and with volunteering and serving.”

Cornerstone’s outreach pastor and operations director Jeff Martens planned the barbecue to coincide with the bi-weekly seasonal agricultural worker health clinic that was scheduled Sunday for 4 to 6:30 p.m.

“We are already partnering with Quest Community Health Centre for the clinic,” explained Martens.

“So having a barbecue here really fits naturally. And the workers are here for the hub as well. It was just a way to

Continued on page 12
St. Davids residents want drivers to slow down

Penny Coles
The Local

Residents of St. Davids are hoping for a Community Safety Zone along a portion of Four Mile Creek Road, hoping for enhanced safety measures that could include reduced speed limits, improved signage and the installation of pedestrian crossings.

The St. Davids Ratepayers Association is circulating a petition, hoping for residents’ signatures to support their request to Niagara Region, which has already instituted safety zones on York Road as it passes by St. Davids Public School, and Niagara Stone Road from the traffic circle past Crossroads School.

The region considers community safety zones as measures that help change driver behaviour, including speeding and distracted driving, “on certain sections of road where public safety is of special concern.”

“The zones let motorists know they are within an area where fines have increased through a special designation under the Highway Traffic Act,” the region’s website explains.

Don Segal, president of the St. Davids Ratepayers Association, says speeding on Four Mile Creek Road has long been a concern with residents, and there have been discussions with the region about how to calm traffic and make the road safer, especially for seniors and kids.

He refers to the school-aged children from Cannery Park and some of the new subdivisions, residents of Creekside Senior Estates, and many others who find crossing Four Mile Creek Road challenging, given vehicles speeding along the regional road through the village, on both sides of York Road.

The subject of a community safety zone on Four Mile Creek came up in 2017 when it was first discussed, and then installed in 2019 in front of St. Davids School, and has continued to be part of the discussion about safety with the region, says Segal.

As a result of those conversations, “we had those massive bollards,” that came and went, when residents made it clear that wasn’t what they wanted, “and then the sign that tracks speed.”

The goal of the petition, Segal says, “is to take a comprehensive approach, and look at a more holistic way to reduce speeding throughout the community, for residents of all ages.”

And it’s not just about speeding. The petition in the email being circulated states residents have also witnessed an increase in traffic congestion, and disregard for traffic regulations in their neighbourhood.

“These issues pose a significant threat to the safety of our residents,” it goes on to say, “particularly our children, senior citizens and pedestrians.”

Typically, sites that are considered by the region for safety zones include locations which have concerns or complaints near sensitive areas such as schools, retirement homes and daycares.

In considering school areas, the region looks at the number of safety and speeding complaints and violations at specific locations, collision history and the number of students and families walking to school.

“I think we have fulfilled the criteria of the region,” says Segal. “Students would like to walk to school but some parents are uncomfortable with that.”

They choose to send their children on school buses, he adds, “and we want to make sure they are able to walk. We want our community to be as liveable as possible.”

The petition has been sent by email to a list of residents, but Segal plans to distribute it to the wider community to garner more support for the initiative.

Regional staff are likely to be looking at future sites for community safety zones in the fall, he suggests, and he’d like to ensure Four Mile Creek Road is on their radar.

He expects there will be further discussion required about the details of a community safety zone, such as where it starts and ends, and whether the existing speed limit needs to be reduced, or if signage reminding drivers would be sufficient.

“We haven’t been that specific about speed limit reduction. This is more about using the tools that can manage the situation. I’m not necessarily advocating to lower the speed limit. That is more of a conversational thing to come.”

Other tools with the installation of a community safety zone could include improved signage, and the installation of pedestrian crossings, the petition says.

Signs in both those NOTL community safety zones warn that fines for speeding through the area could be doubled. Speed on both Niagara Stone Road and York Road is reduced to 40 kilometres per hour through the school zone.

Residents interested in signing the petition can do so online at stdavidsratepayers.ca.

The region tried bollards as a pilot project last fall, hoping they would be effective at slowing down drivers through St. Davids, but residents weren’t impressed. (File photo)
Poilievre talks housing, slams Trudeau during Niagara trip

Mike Balsom
The Local

Passenbury within earshot of Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre’s recent Niagara Falls visit could be excused for thinking that a federal election had been called.

With the roar of the Horsehoe and the American Falls as his backdrop, however, only the gathered media heard Poilievre’s speech that was chock-full of ready-made platform slogans as well as frequent criticisms of the current Liberal Prime Minister.

At a podium emblazoned with blue and white lettering saying ‘Bring it Home’, Poilievre ditched his glasses and wore a black T-shirt under his Conservative-blue jacket. His talk focused primarily on housing affordability during his visit to the Queen Victoria Place Restaurant.

After eight years of Trudeau, Poilievre said, “an adult looking for an affordable apartment with one bedroom himself, but housing was affordable when he took office.”

To drive home his point, Poilievre pointed out a real estate listing for a $550,000 “tiny little shack” at 3047 Saint Patrick Avenue in Niagara Falls (realtor.ca actually lists the property at $539,900). He compared that listing to one for a larger home across the U.S. border advertised for $217,000 in Canadian funds.

“Why is it you pay twice as much for a quarter of a home on the Canadian side of the border?” queried Poilievre. “The answer is that Justin Trudeau’s policies have inflated the cost of everything.”

Offering an alternative to the current Liberal government, Poilievre promised to incentivize municipalities to speed up and lower the cost of building permits.

“I would require every municipality in Canada to commit to 15 per cent more housing per year as a condition of getting federal infrastructure money,” he said. “I’ll give building bonuses to those cities that build more. And I’ll sell off 6,000 federal acres of rural lands so we can build, build, build.”

He went on to say food prices have risen substantially as a direct result of the carbon tax imposed on farmers and truckers.

“Justin Trudeau’s policies have inflated the cost of everything,” Poilievre said. “Rent has doubled, mortgage payments have doubled, needed down payments have all doubled. It’s double-trouble with Trudeau on real housing.”

“Double-trouble” was only one of the turns of phrase that he dropped during the session.

His next came when he promised that a Conservative government would make daily life more affordable.

“A Conservative government will ‘tax the tax,’” said the stooging Conservative leader, “to lower gas, heat and grocery bills. And we’ll cap government spending to balance the budget and bring down inflation and interest rates.”

“Just like 2016” was another catchphrase thrown out by Poilievre in contrast to what he referred to as Trudeau’s “catch and release policy on crime.”

He also lauded Niagara Falls Conservative MP Tony Baldielli, standing to Poilievre’s left, for introducing a bill to keep murderers like Bernardo, “Poilievre claimed. “I’m calling on this government to repeal C-83.”

Poilievre also visited Port Colborne and Thorold Tuesday. His sojourn in Niagara wrapped up later that evening with a meet and greet with his supporters at the Parkway Convention Centre in St. Catharines, where he delivered a lengthy campaign-style speech to rousing applause.

The following day, Poilievre was forced to issue an apology to Asha Letourneau, the current tenant of the St. Patrick’s Avenue home to which he referred during his visit to Niagara Falls.

News outlets were able to contact Letourneau, who expressed her disdain that the Conservative leader had called her “an风貌 like Bernardo”.

Poilievre admitted that the 1.5-storey house wasn’t much different than the one he himself had grown up in, and reiterated that his point was that houses such as Letourneau’s should be affordable to the average Canadian.
Kris Dube  
**The Local**  
**Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

There is no need to rush to downgrade the regional government’s homeownership, mental health and addiction state of emergency to a crisis, said Niagara-on-the-Lake’s regional Coun. Andrea Kaiser. And the majority of regional councillors agree with her having decided last week to send a recommendation back to staff for more information to be provided.

Last Thursday, staff asked council to move the state of emergency declared in March down a notch, but this was met with criticism from regional politicians.

Welland regional Coun. Pat Choccut raised questions about the reasoning behind pushing the state of emergency to a crisis, citing a lack of data as to why he couldn’t support moving forward with the change.

Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop later made a motion that the matter be referred to public health and social services committee before staff comes back with more information.

Kaiser agrees with the public health council upped taking in this matter.

“If we’re going to change it, we need to understand why we’re changing it,” Kaiser told The Local.

She believes addressing Niagara’s issues with addiction and homelessness as a state of emergency will “shine more of a light” on the situation and create “more urgency.”

Data explaining whether “the needle has moved at all since the state of emergency was declared earlier this year is necessary,” she said.

St. Catharines Mayor Matt Sorbara, a friend and mentor to Redekop, made the motion to Redekop’s motion to table — that the word “changed” be removed from downgraded to accepted this idea.

Steven Soos, a Welland resident who petitioned the region following the decision to declare an emergency, wrote in his letter, which was included as part of last Thursday’s agenda.

He said “until there are actual indicators” that Niagara’s problems with homelessness and addiction are improving the state of emergency should remain in place.

In Soos’ letter, he claims there were 239 “suspected” opt-out deaths between May and June of this year in Niagara.

He also wrote that Niagara “needs to have a higher — that is, a higher than the provincial average”.

Soos thanked regional staff for their work on this issue, but quesstions putting it in the rearview mirror is being consid-
red at this time.

“Steps have been taken above and beyond, so why wait-quall after all that hard work?”

Kris Dube  
**The Local**  
**Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s regional Coun. Andrea Kaiser has uncorked a motion asking the provincial government to create better support for Ontario’s wine industry.

Kaiser asked for more provincial support for the wine industry of emergency to a crisis, says

Region delays decision on downgrading state of emergency to crisis

Kaiser asking for more provincial support for wine industry

**Blue Box recycling to be turned over to provincial agency**

Niagara region staff are suggesting an annual cost savings of about $3 million plus a fuller realization of how the blue box is collected in all 12 lower-tier municipalities is in full swing in 2023 and 2024.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, however, says there will be issues when a new program starts going to the curb next year.

In mid-July, the region’s public works committee voted to opt out of continuing to provide curbside collection of recycling from residences, families and public spaces when a new Producer Responsibility Blue Box Program is enacted on Jan. 1.

Regional council rubber-stamped this move at last Thursday’s council meeting.

This means the responsibility of residential recycling collection is set to be removed from the region and placed solely in the hands of Ontario Circular Materials Ontario, a organization responsible for setting up contracts to collect and receive recyclables in each municipality, such as books and flexible plastics used for food containment, which are currently collected in the Niagara Blue Box program, the region said in its release.

But the region will still accommodate special events during the two-year transition period.

Zalepa said he’s pleased the region will still accommodate special events, but he is “concerned for the future.”

The region’s decision is in line with what the majority of regional properties, a service not available in other municipalities.

She understands there is a “learning curve” for residents, but hopes the system will stick.

She explained the government isn’t “taking a step back” by taking on the provincially.

“When it comes to new programs, there’s never a good thing — especially if we’re talking about something like environmental impacts,” Kaiser told The Local.

A decision about whether the region will continue to collect materials from industrial, commercial and institutional properties, a service not currently the province.

The region will continue to be responsible for residential recycling and garbage collection from residential properties as well as management of its landfills and other diversion programs.

Catherine Habermel, the region’s director of waste management services, said staff will be collecting data as the program rolls out.

“We’ll definitely be monitoring this over time to see the impact,” she said.

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Homeowner continuing advocacy for road safety

Continued from page 1

and heard the loud crash outside, she went out to investigate, and was astounded by what she saw — headlights pointing at her house, a badly damaged car on their front lawn, and the devastation to their property. “It looked like a bomb went off. There were car parts everywhere, all over our front lawn and on the road.”

She was even more astounded when the driver of the car stumbled toward her, she says, and said he wasn’t hurt. When she asked him what had happened, he said he didn’t know, and told the police the same.

The Audi was heavily damaged, believed to be written off, the police report said. And the driver, the only occupant, “was arrested at the scene when the responding officers found grounds to believe he was impaired by alcohol.” Mitchell Wiebe, 35 years old, of Pelham was arrested and charged with impaired driving with a blood alcohol level in excess of 80 mgs per 100 ml. He was later released on notice to appear in court at a future date.

And the Madsens are left dealing with contractors, insurance adjustors and the insurance company. Shirley, who began her advocacy for safety improvements to Lakeshore Road after Jennifer Jackson, a 49-year-old mother of two, was killed when she crashed into a tree across the street from the Madsens last June, says she will continue her letter-writing, hoping someone will take up her cause.
While it is supposed to be a benefit to taxpayers, and hopefully to the environment, that producers of plastics and packaging are going to be responsible for picking up blue box recycling materials and paying for it, the impact is uncertain.

Are environmental organizations doing well? This is a great question.

No, at least not yet. There is support for making producers of plastics and packaging pay the full cost, but also concern.

And to be fair, we don’t know. Impact on the environment doesn’t seem to be much of a consideration in how this has been rolled out.

Circular Materials, the not-for-profit in charge of operating this new system, is reported to be founded by food and beverage companies, big names among some of the giants such as McDonald’s, Loblaw, and Costco.

The benefit of this new model of collecting blue box materials is that the companies producing those materials will be required to fully fund and operate the recycling system, sourcing companies across the province to do the pick-ups, and hopefully incentivizing producers to reduce the packet- ing of things that don’t need it.

Another benefit should be that the rules of what is recyclable through blue box collection will be standard across the province. At the moment that’s the jurisdiction of municipalities, and some do a better job than others.

The risk, of course, is that with the industry accountable for recycling, who decides the targets for what and how much is recycled, and will this change in responsibility reduce the amount of recyclables collected or actually increase the amount going to landfill?

It seems this new model could benefit the producers by lowering the target of collection, rather than stepping up recycling to the benefit of the environment.

The problem is, we won’t know what impact this will have until it’s in effect and there is time to study it, although already it seems in Niagara there will be less material recycled, instead of more.

When collection is turned over to Circular Materials, some items, such as books and flexible plastics used for food containment, which are currently allowed in blue boxes in Niagara, will not be included in the new program.

Circular Materials will also not collect from industrial, commercial and institutional properties, which Niagara does, and whether the region continues to service will be considered at some point in the future.

The region says it will keep a watch over the results of this new collection system is in place, but if the impact is negative, what will be done to change it? The deed will be done, with recycling blue box materials in the hands of the province and the producers.

That’s a scary thought.

Penny Coles
Local
On behalf of Willowbank School, as well as the Grade 11 class of Quenestown, and myself, I wish to pay tribute to John Kor- mors. We offer condolences to his dear wife, Elizabeth, and relations. He was an amazing man — a teacher, school prin- cipal and antique dealer John boughey. He was born in 1898 to Robert Ham- ilton and Catherine Askins first born of a family of 10. Biggery. He was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

As a member of the Quenestown Community As- sociation, he fought alongside Laura Dodson and the NOTL Conservancy and then-Coun.- Rob Copeland and his wife Helena, and then-Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs, to save Wil- lowbank and its 12 plus acres from being a country inn, winery, convention centre, or demolished. Laura recruited him to the founding board of Willow- bank in 2002, and he gave lec- tures to our students.

John inaugurated and led jazz festival fundraisers at Wil- lowbank for many years. Most of Willowbank's early furniture and rugs came from his clients' estates as donations for tax credits, and he did the school’s appearances for many years.

Thank you, John for your friendship and all your good works — truly a life well lived.

Elizabeth Oliver-Malone NOTL

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Camping, hiking on east side of Cape Breton

David Gilchrist The Local

After a stay at the Chet- tern Hill Inn at Ingonish, and some hiking in the area, we decided to continue to the east coast of Cape Breton around Ingonish and Beachie cabins.

For a lot of visitors to Cape Breton, the entire drive on the Cabot Trail can be done in sev- eral hours, but we had wanted to slow down and camp. The scenery and the winding roads are most associated with the Cabot Trail continued to be quite in- teresting and I reminded my wife, Claudia, of an earlier trip with our kids. We had stopped at one time to get our cooler out of the hard-top tent trailer that we had at the time. Con- tinuing on down the road, we were passed by a car with peo- ple shouting at us, and realized we were being chased out - back to our trailer. When we pulled over to see what the problem was, Claudia realized that the bottom appeared to be moving. Then we realized it was eels migrating from the sea up the brook. Claudia let out a scream and climbed on my back at that point!

As we drove the Cabot Trail we observed a lot of boats along the shore. A closer look and we could spot fish flapping the loc- ations of piers. It was crab season, and the folks on board the boats were busy lifting pots, checking them, setting them again and dropping them back in.

As we continued along the trail, we were able to pull over several times at the scenic over- looks that have been added. Many businesses didn’t seem to be open quite yet but, after spotting an OPEN sign, we managed to stop for a break at a delightful bakery and cafe called the Cabot Trail Bakery and Cafe. Home cooked bread, muffins, oat cakes, chocolates and other delightful baked goods are all available with fresh coffee. A lot of loc- als pulled in for breakfast, and to take advantage of the seating outside on the shore and back porch. We left with an armful of baked goods ourselves.

We finished our Cape Bre- ton and Cabot Trail experience at Baddeck with a visit to the Alexander Graham Bell Na- tional Historic Site. This is one great museum! It is well laid out, and the displays certainly expand one’s knowledge of this great man. He was much more complex in his achievements and his collaborations than we generally know.

The museum also describes how his wife, Mabel, his oldest “collaborator and confidante,” played an important part in bringing his ideas to life. We learned that she was also an accomplished gardener who, as suggested, developed this pas- sion because her husband was always on the phone.

On Sunday, July 23, I start- ed to write to the NOTL Local about another collision that happened on Tuesday, July 18, at 6:45 am on Lakeshore Road just past Firelane 1 across from the Lawrence Shore cemetery when she hit a tree and died. That same tree was just hit by a car a few weeks before that. Last week Jenni- fer’s mother came to my house to show me a photo she took and then showed her to me. I wanted to thank her for letting me and my family know. Her husband was there when it happened, “ and he said he was there when he saw a person getting out of the car with no head injury but lost his life. I asked him if the day after the accident we went up the hill and he said yes. I asked him if he was hurt and he said no. I asked him if he saw anything and he said no. I asked him if there was anyone else in the car that might have been injured, and he said yes.

I ran back in the house to call 911 and woke up my hus- band. We then proceeded to contact the police with the information that we had, and were in complete shock and disbelief. It looked like a torna- do had gone through our front yard. It was like something you might see in the movies.

This young man, who I lat- er found out was called Robert, was_diving in this cove. It was quite a dive, with his wife and me look- ing at all the destruction. I kept saying “how did this happen” and I asked them what the problem was, Claudia realized that the bottom appeared to be moving. Then we realized it was eels migrating from the sea up the brook. Claudia let out a scream and climbed on my back at that point! And doing a dive in this cove. It was quite a dive, with his wife and me look- ing at all the destruction. I kept saying “how did this happen” and I asked them what the problem was, Claudia realized that the bottom appeared to be moving. Then we realized it was eels migrating from the sea up the brook. Claudia let out a scream and climbed on my back at that point!

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On July 13, an opinion was expressed in another newspa- per stating that council should approve a monstrous hotel because it’s the only way to justify the price the developer paid on the land. Certainly, council and the community have no responsibility to ensure that the developer will maximize the potential of his investment into the land. Changing the laws might be in Benny Marotta’s best interests but it does definitely not serve the community’s best interests.

As an aside, the editorial writers pointed out the public- interest component as the reason why the hotel has insufficient parking, the pretty little parkette on Regent Street would soon be paved over.

The most environmentally unfriendly act in development is to tear down existing usable buildings, taking huge piles of debris away, and then manufacturing new materials for the new construction which creates more pollution and de- struction.

I think that the developer should consider selling the existing school property and using the profit to re- group to be re-used as a needed community hub and a school. He could then retain the historic 90-year-old former live- ing. This would yield a suitable balance of the land facing Regent, for the new construction which was that was that. People are still wondering why we do not hear more about what caused some of these colli- sions? This should be front and centre in everyone’s mind.

We have many great minds around. We need action today, not tomorrow. Who is going to get the ball rolling?

Shirley Madson Lakeshore Road
Penny Coles
The Local

When the 60th annual St. Davids Lions Carnival opens Wednesday at 5 p.m., it will offer four days of popular food and activities, an extra day of music, and, completely new, a chance for dog lovers to show off their four-legged family members.

The dog show will be held Saturday afternoon, July 29. It’s a family-friendly event, with the only rules being that ‘dogs must be on a leash,’ says Kelly, organizer of the event, ‘and come prepared to scoop your dog’s poop.’

Kelly encourages people to pre-register, and she said ‘okay, let’s do it. You can organize it. ’ It’s meant to make everyone smile, laugh and have a good time, including the dogs,” she says.

“Everyone who has a dog loves them. Bring them out to socialize with other dogs, and have a fun afternoon. And hopefully this will become an annual event.”

Virgil’s Pet Valu is donating some of the prizes, and Minor Brothers is sponsoring a water station. Much of the carnival remains the same as previous years, with what the locals like to call “the world-famous Lions burgers” and other great food, some outside vendors, activities such as the grocery wheel, bingo, raffles, the fish pond and birthday games, and St. Davids-Queenston United Church with the delicious, traditional selection of homemade pies made by parishioners. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the carnival for a trailer, with a second prize of $1,000.

There is also a full lineup of music organized by Ken Lamb for Friday and Saturday with a wine and beer tent, and for the first time, as a special 60th anniversary event, Lions will open the park Sunday from 3 to 11 p.m. The rides and games will be shut down, but the stage will be drawing a crowd for a fabulous country music event.

Also to mark the 60th anniversary of the carnival, Lamb will be presenting six decades of music to celebrate 60 years of Lions’ service to the community.

Friday starts with the Repeats, with music of the Beatles era, followed by the popular Angela Seeger. The evening ends with It’s All Been Done, a tribute to the Barenaked Ladies.

Saturday’s entertainment starts at noon with The Hitmen, followed by Turntable Rock with its ‘smooth classics,’ then the Niagara Rhythm Section with a mixture of country, pop, folk and jazz across the decades. They will be followed by Hungry Hearts, a Springsteen revival, with Cottage Beew promising timeless favours to close the concert.

Country at the Carnival begins Sunday with four bands performing, beginning at 3 p.m. The line-up starts with Silverado, followed by Brad Battle Band from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.; and Country Junkies from 9 to 11 p.m.

Lions food, beer and wine will continue to be served, says Lamb.

The tickets are a $20 donation to the Lions — payable at countryatthecarnival@stdavidslions.ca.

The carnival runs Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 26 to 28, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, July 29, from noon to 11 p.m.; and Sunday, July 30, from 3 to 11 p.m.

In the July 12 edition of the Local, it was reported in error that the trailer to be raffled off is donated by Niagara Trailers. While the local business supplies the trailer, the St. Davids Lions purchased it. The Local apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.
Ben Harpur on the ice, thanking his Rangers fans.

Mike Balsom
The Local

New York Rangers defenceman Ben Harpur has fond memories of attending the St. Davids Lions Club Carnival while growing up in the village.

“It was always a highlight of the summer for us as young kids living here,” Harpur tells The Local. “My siblings (Katie, and Chris) and I used to love checking out the rides and trying a few of the desserts. It was such a great atmosphere.”

That’s why, when Ken Lamb, his former Grade 8 teacher from his days attending St. Davids Public School, asked him to appear at this year’s carnival to pose with fans and talk to kids, he didn’t hesitate.

Harpur will be at the carnival’s opening night on Wednesday, July 26, beginning at 7 p.m. He wanted to stick around a bit longer but first visited with the St. Davids Lions Club to stand up for his longtime friend and former Niagara Falls hockey teammate Kyle Marino at his wedding this weekend.

“Ken reached out and said he wanted to do something special for the carnival’s 60th year,” Harpur tells The Local. “I’ve kept in touch with him through the years and I’m really good friends with his son, Greg. I’m really happy that he wanted me to be a part of it."

The 28-year-old defenceman grew up in St. Davids, attending first Laura Secord Elementary and then St. Davids Public School. When it was time for high school, Niagara District had just closed, so Harpur and his friends moved on to A.N. Myer Secondary in Niagara Falls. Now standing 6’6”, Harpur remembers going through his biggest growth spurt during Grade 10.

“My mom (Margery) was from Australia,” he explains. “I remember the gap between our two times we went for a visit. The first time I was about 5’7”. A year later I was 6’2” or 6’3”. The following year was my OHL draft year. That gave me a lot more confidence, especially after I switched back to defence.”

Harpur left A.N. Myer when he was drafted by the Guelph Storm, but returned a year later to graduate after the Ontario Hockey League season concluded.

The Ottawa Senators took Harpur with the 17th pick in the fourth round of the 2013 NHL draft. He continued with the Storm that year, however, helping them to the Memorial Cup, where they lost in the championship game to the Edmonton Oil Kings.

After closing out his OHL tenure with the Barrie Colts in 2014-2015, Harpur got the call from the Sens for five games, spending most of the 2015-2016 season with the team’s American Hockey League and East Coast Hockey League affiliates.

There were three more years in the Senators’ system, averaging 42 games a season in the nation’s capital city. Two years in the Nashville Predators’ system followed, before he was finally picked up by the Rangers in October last year.

“Last summer was really stressful,” Harpur explains. “I didn’t have a contract, so I ended up going on a PTO (professional tryout contract). I ended up getting hurt, and I came home not knowing if I was even going to have a chance to play anymore.”

He ended up in Hartford, playing for the American Hockey League’s Wolf Pack for four games, before the Rangers called him up. Harpur went on to play in 42 games for New York, the team finishing third in the Metropolitan Division, and lost to the New Jersey Devils in the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

In February, Harpur signed a two-year, $1.575 million contract with New York.

“It gives me and my family such great peace of mind,” he says of the new deal. “It was a crazy year, but I’m so happy to have those two years in place.”

And he says he actual ly thrives on the pressure of playing in the Big Apple’s anything Square Garden.

“I love the atmosphere there,” he says. “It’s probably the most famous arena in the world. Getting to play there for the Rangers is such an honour. Playing for that home crowd is something special. Hopefully there will be many more years I’ll get to play there."

Harpur anticipates some big changes to the Rangers’ lineup this season. After their swift exit from the playoffs in the spring, the team fired head coach Gerard Gallant and brought in Peter Laviolette from the Washington Capitals to take his place.

Harpur is sure some players will follow Gallant out the door before the season opener.

“His home in Niagara-on-the-Lake training hard and skating with some of the same friends from the professional and junior hockey ranks to be prepared for whatever comes his way.”

Ben Harpur, a homegrown St. Davids boy, plays for the New York Rangers. He will be at the carnival Wednesday evening for photos and to sign autographs. (Photos supplied)
Chamber Peach Festival and Shades of Rose Dinner coming up

Trevor Dempsey, Blake Lepp, Brittany Lepp and Jorga Lepp were on Queen Street last year with fresh peaches. (File photo)

Local Staff

Niagara-on-the-Lake is gearing up for the annual Chamber of Commerce Peach Festival, set to take place on Queen Street Saturday, Aug. 12.

It promises to be a celebration of all the fun experiences that make NOTL truly special, says a news release from the chamber, which organizes the event.

"The annual Peach Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake is a delightful celebration of our town’s agriculture base and the vibrant spirit of our community," says Minerva Ward, president and CEO of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"Join us for a day filled with unforgettable experiences, delicious peach-inspired food and the celebration of our peach harvest."

Returning this year by popular demand, the Toronto All-Star Big Band will grace the stage, "offering a nostalgic soundtrack to the festivities," the news release says.

An addition to this year’s lineup will be the talented Soul Jam, "bringing their soulful rock melodies to the chamber's Peach Festival, captivating audiences and infusing the event with an extra dose of musical magic."

Chamber members will have the opportunity to showcase their wares along Queen Street, turning it into a market place visitors can explore, along with shops, boutiques and galleries.

Local restaurant/food vendors will offer a variety of peach jams, delicacies and refreshing drinks. "Whether you’re craving a sweet treat or a savoury delight, there will be something to satisfy every palate. As well as our local peach pie tasting contest to find the best local peach pie."

This year’s Peach Festival also introduces the Sips of Summer drink patio, dedicated to showcasing NOTL’s emerging craft breweries and distilleries. Local brewerises, cideries and distilleries will be serving up their peach-infused craft beverages.

"Mark your calendars for Aug. 12 and join us in Niagara-on-the-Lake for a day of unparalleled fun, delicious food, and memorable moments," the news release says. For more information, visit niagaraonthelake.com/peachfestival2023.

On Sunday, Aug. 13, Queen Street will be turned into shades of pink, with a new twist on the popular Shades of Summer event.

This year, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL are launching the Shades of Rose Dinner, promising the allure of rose wines, says a chamber news release.

Inspired by the desire to unite the region’s thriving wine industry with the vibrancy of the summer season, the Shades of Rose Dinner will transform Queen Street, in front of the Court House, into a wave of pink, with guests seated at tables with pink decorations while indulging in their favourite summer picnics, immersing themselves in the delightful ambiance, the news release says. Guests are also encouraged to adorn themselves in pink.

Guests will be invited to dance the night away to the enchanting sounds of the George St. Kitts band, with live music and pink surroundings creating "an experience that is as visually stunning as it is immersive."

"Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the allure of rose wines, the beauty of summer and the enchantment of all things pink. Embrace the shades of pink and indulge in a truly magical experience that builds upon the legacy of our beloved summer celebration," says Ward.

The Shades of Rose Dinner introduces a new feature that allows guests to pre-purchase a wide selection of high-quality wines, with a special focus on rose, from more than 18 participating wineries, breweries and cideries. Additionally, Spirit In Niagara Distillery will present a cocktail lounge, where guests can savour pink cocktails crafted with their award-winning spirits, artfully infused with locally grown garnishes and juices, the news release says.

The event is being held Aug. 13, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., on Queen Street.

For more information and ticket purchases, please visit niagaraonthelake.com/shades-ofrose2023.
St. Vincent de Paul celebrates 34th annual Peach Festival

Local Staff

St. Vincent de Paul Church, the originator of the Peach Festival, will hold its 34th annual event Sunday, Aug. 13.

Terry Choules and his wife Sharyn have been organizing the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church fundraiser for about seven years. With a two-year gap due to COVID, this year they will again offer the popular tradition, including fresh peaches for sale, donated by local growers.

Choules says not enough recognition is given to local peach growers, many of them now second generation farmers donating peaches.

“We have about 20 farmers who have been donation fresh peaches since the beginning of the Peach Festival. Some of them are parishioners but most are not. They just want to support their community. The parish is very thankful for their support over all these years.”

But they are fortunate, he says, to have a small committee of people organizing the event, and more than 100 volunteers to look after all the booths, including pies cut into slices with ice cream, and all the peach treats of the past, including peach crepes and sundaes.

Choules explains they cut back for the first event post-COVID, thinking there would be still some regulars hesitant to attend, but having seen how quickly the pies went, they aren’t concerned about that this year. As in recent years, with volunteers getting older and not having enough hands to bake pies, they are relying on a St. Catharines bakery to deliver the same great quality fresh-baked pies as in the past.

Last year, 500 peach pies disappeared, and this year there will be 600 for sale, says Choules. He explained they eat back for the first event post-COVID, thinking there would be still some regulars hesitant to attend, but having seen how quickly the pies went, they aren’t concerned about that this year. As in recent years, with volunteers getting older and not having enough hands to bake pies, they are relying on a St. Catharines bakery to deliver the same great quality fresh-baked pies as in the past.

Although the event is popular with locals, Choules says it attracts visitors as well, especially those who come on bus tours and walk past the church from the Fort George parking lot to Queen Street. “They come in droves, and many stop by. They might buy something and ask us to hold it for them, so they can pick it up on their way back, and we do.”

This year the annual raffle has three terrific prizes, including two nights at a Vintage Hotel, with two breakfasts and dinners included; second prize is a spa treatment at 124 on Queen, a hydrotherapy and massage; and the third prize is a Niagara Helicopter ride over Niagara Falls for two.

There will also be some smaller prizes, says Choules. Something new this year is that the festival will be offering the opportunity to pay for food purchases with debit and credit cards, as well as cash.

All that is needed now to make the festival a success is good weather, and Choules says it’s usually a perfect, hot summer day.

“Our priest always says a prayer beforehand, and he jokes that ‘the Lord is on our side’ And he is.”

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13 at the St. Vincent de Paul Church, at 73 Picton Street.

St. Vincent de Paul celebrates 34th annual Peach Festival

Kids popping up all over town

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library is into the third week of its pop-up summer program for kids. Despite the weather Monday, they headed out to the Newark Park Community Gardens on Niven Road for activities, story time, rock painting and a garden tour. Brothers Mark, William and Robert decorate rocks that will help brighten up the garden. (Submitted)

Library staff member Tess Roberts-Ramos reads a story to a captive audience at the community garden.
Health clinic, shopping at hub store also offered Sunday

Continued from page 1

create an interaction be-
 tween them and the com-
 munity and our church.

“One of the primary
 reasons we wanted to do
 this,” added Soo-Wiens, “is
 we wanted the workers to
 know that they are appreci-
 ated, that we want to de vel-
op relationships with them. More than just ‘here’s the
 hub, here’s Quest’. We want it to be a little more person-
al.”

The Quest health clinic
 offers free and confidential
 medical services from vol-
 unteer doctors and nurses
 with no appointment or
 health card required. The
 Farmworker Hub was also
 open Sunday afternoon,
 with many workers lined up
to do some shopping at the
 store.

“We try to max out at
 15 in the store at a time,”
said hub director Julia Bux-
ton-Cox. “It just makes for a
 nicer shopping experience.
From there, some like to
 head upstairs and hang out
 in the lounge, play some
 pool and ping pong, or en-
 joy some free snacks and
drinks.”

However, she adds, men
 are desperate for pants and
 jeans, sizes 32 to 36, which
 can be dropped off at the
donation bin any time, or
 stop in when the HUb is
 open Tuesdays from 9:30
 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Martens says he was re-
 lieved with the timing of
 Sunday’s gathering. Just an
 hour prior to the 3:30 p.m.
 start a torrential downpour
 that saw chunks of hail fall-
ing from the sky threatened
to put a damper on all of the
 plans.

“We were all studying
 the radar,” Martens said.
“This morning it looked like
clear skies all day. Then we
 took another look at the ra-
dar and there was some red,
but it moved north and it all
 worked out.”

Organizers had hoped
to serve as many as 400
 workers Sunday, but with
 the peach harvest currently
 in progress some were too
 busy to get to the church.

Martens and the church
 are in the early stages of
 planning a similar event in
 August. It’s the return of a
 popular gathering that be-
came one of the victims of
 the pandemic.

“We’re planning to bring
 back our Peaches Cafe
 in August,” Martens said.
“We’re going to open it up
to the entire community.
We’ll serve peaches and
 ice cream, and maybe have
 some peach pies for sale, too. We hope to have some
 live music for that as well.”

“We hope that we can
do that one as an evening
 event,” added Buxton-Cox.
“That way hopefully every-
one who wants to attend
 will be able to.”

The line-up for food was long, but worth the wait. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

shades of rose
Niagra-on-the-Lake
tables now available
for purchase!
August 13, 2023
6PM to 11PM on Queen Street

Shades of Rosé Dinner:
A celebration of summer, Niagara-on-the-
Lake VQA rosé wines and all things pink!

www.niagaraonthelake.com/shadesofrose2023

Lebert Dawson, well-known for the popular asparagus he helps produce on Thwaites Farms, with
Jodie Goodwin, a long-time advocate for those who work on local farms.
The former plaque notes of the burial ground: “A long tradition of tolerance attracted refugee slaves, many of whom are buried here.” (File photo)

The rewritten plaques now offer an expanded understanding of the local Black community and congregation that was formed in Niagara, it continued. “The original plaques were created between 1957 and 1966 and may have reflected the biases and terminology of that time. To provide a more comprehensive interpretation of historical events, the Trust engaged prominent historians Natasha Henry and Adrienne Shadd to conduct new research.

The Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground plaque recognizes the significant Black community and congregation that was formed in Niagara,” it said. “The original plaques were created between 1957 and 1966 and may have reflected the biases and terminology of that time. To provide a more comprehensive interpretation of historical events, the Trust engaged prominent historians Natasha Henry and Adrienne Shadd to conduct new research. The rewritten plaques now offer an expanded understanding of the local Black community and congregation that was formed in Niagara, it continued. “The original plaques were created between 1957 and 1966 and may have reflected the biases and terminology of that time. To provide a more comprehensive interpretation of historical events, the Trust engaged prominent historians Natasha Henry and Adrienne Shadd to conduct new research.

The new plaque reads: “The Niagara Baptist Church congregation was established in 1829. A meeting house was erected at this site in 1831 through the efforts of John Oakley, a white former British soldier turned teacher and minister. Initially, the church congregation was mainly composed of colonists, with a small number of Black members. The Black population of the Town of Niagara grew to about 100 due to the influx of freedom seekers after Britain passed the 1833 Slavery Abolition Act and the United States enacted the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. By the late 1840s, the church’s membership was predominantly Black and from 1849-56 was led by Black Baptist minister Francis Lacy. There are at least 15 burials in the churchyard, including Herbert Holmes and Jacob Green, who were killed in the Solomon Moseby Affair that took place at the Niagara jail in 1837. Holmes and Green were among Niagara community members who prevented Moseby from being returned to slavery in the United States. After the 1860s, the population declined, and the church closed in 1878. The burial ground is a reminder of the church and the significant Black community in Niagara.”
Shaw's genius on display in two current plays

Mike Balsom
The Local

Among the many luxuries in which theatre lovers, whether as a visitor to or a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, can indulge, the ability to compare and contrast multiple works of the great playwright George Bernard Shaw within days of each other has to be near the top of the list.

Anyone so inclined could opt to experience The Apple Cart, on now at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre, and Village Wooing, a lunch-time one-act play at the Royal George, on the same day for a self-directed Shaw marathon.

The theatre-goer would likely end the day thoroughly entertained and pondering the ability of one man to have written such very different plays within five years of each other. Admittedly, though, there are similarities.

Both are wordy works, non-stop conversations between characters with rare pauses and little movement around the stage. And both feature a sufficient amount of the playwright’s trademark wit, sarcasm and subtle critique of early 20th century British life to mark them as truly Shawian. And, for some reason, both plays feature green apples as props. Due to the title, it’s an obvious choice in The Apple Cart, where a bowl of Granby Smiths sits on set, and two characters actually bite down on the tasty treats. Perhaps it’s not as obvious in Village Wooing, where an apple is first seen on the deck of a ship. Perhaps there was a sale at Hendriks Your Independent Grocer.

The political cat and mouse game of The Apple Cart is a nearly three-hour showcase of some of the best acting ever seen on a Shaw Festival stage, actually the floor of the Maxwell Theatre in this case.

When he wrote the play in 1928, Shaw set The Apple Cart almost 40 years in the future, in 1967. Many of the ideas he put forth then would have still been relevant in those times, as they are today, with the state of the British monarchy as it is and political chaos reigning across the globe in 2023.

At the centre of The Apple Cart is a sparring match of sorts between British King Magnus, portrayed brilliantly and acerbically by the great Tom Rooney, and his adversary, Prime Minister Proteus, played by a masterly Graeme Somerville.

Subtitled A Political Entertainment, it is exactly that. Proteus rounds up his cabinet to mount an attempt to wrest power away from the king. With much gravitas, Somerville imbues the prime minister with palpable disdain for everything that Magnus stands for.

In return, Magnus’ disdain for his adversary is much more clever and subtle.

“My opinion of you is that no man knows better than you when you speak to others. You are language,” says the king to Proteus, “when to make scenes and threaten resignation; and when to be as cool as a cucumber.”

Rooney delivers Magnus’ lines with a sly nonchalance. The audience can feel the frustration rising up in Somerville’s Proteus as the king continuously outwits him.

The Apple Cart is full of lengthy, intricate monologues delivered flawlessly by almost half of the 14 actors involved in the Eda Holmes production.

There is Rooney’s King Magnus, of course, with multiple soliloquies. His performance in the role is beyond comparison. And Somerville as the prime minister spits out his long sections of dialogue with much emotion.

“One man that has a mind and knows it” warns Proteus to his cabinet, “can always beat 10 men who haven’t and don’t.”

Equally as entertaining are the monologues from Martin Happert as the dim-witted, bumbling trade unionist Bummers, and the wonderful Sharry Flett as Lysistrata, one of Magnus’ two female supporters.

And first-year ensemble member Sochi Fried is comically brilliant as she pressures King Magnus to leave the queen and instead make her his wife.

In contrast to The Apple Cart, Village Wooing written by Shaw in 1933 during the first weeks of a months-long voyage aboard the Empress of Britain, looks instead at the personal politics between a man, identified simply as A, and a woman, Z.

The much friendlier cat and mouse game in Village Wooing begins somewhat autobiographically on the cruise ship. One can imagine the playwright himself sitting on the deck chair as A does, scribbling away in his notebook, while the rest of the travellers spend their time playing games of deck quoits.

A is a travel writer, a contributor to the ‘Marco Polo Series of Chatty Guide Books’. All he wants is to be left alone to submit his 500 words about the cruise. But Z is looking for conversation and, perhaps, companionship. The rapid-fire back and forth instigated by the interloper eventually wears down the writer's guard.

Shaw’s trip lasted four months, and perhaps during that time he was wistfully miss- ing his country retreat in the small village of Aroy St. Lawrence. The second and third ‘conversations’ of the play, as opposed to acts, take place in a similar small village, where the dialogue between the only two characters in Village Wooing continues.

There, A walks into a village shop, seemingly searching for the woman who interrupted his work on the ship. A and Z spend the rest of the play struggling around the issue of whether or not a romance is forming between them.

Selma Dimitrijevic’s production expands the cast to six, the other four actors becoming a silent ensemble, watching the romance between A and Z develop as fellow passengers on the ship and, later, as villagers in the shop where Z works.

On the day The Local attended the Royal George, Kyle Blair and Donna Soares were both wonderful and charismatic as A and Z. On any given day, though, Blair and Soares could instead be part of the ensemble, stepping back while either Michael Man and Julia Course or David Adams and Kiera Sangster take over the roles.

It’s certainly worth a second or third visit to experience what the other pairs bring to the play.

Like The Apple Cart, Village Wooing also has a subtitle, A Comedietta for Two Voices. Again, that’s a fitting description, as there are many laughs to be had over the play’s 50 minutes.

The Apple Cart and Village Wooing are on now until Sept. 12. Visit shawfest.com for information and tickets.


Donna Soares as Z. Kyle Blair as A with ensemble members Kiera Sangster and David Adams, in Village Wooing.

Graeme Somerville as Joe Proteus (right) with Richard Lam as Bumbers and Kelly Wong as Selma Dimitrijevic’s production.

Sochi Fried as Drinthia and Tom Rooney as King Magnus in The Apple Cart.

The Apple Cart’s Tom Rooney as King Magnus and Sharry Flett as Lysistrata. (Photos by David Cooper)
Shaw town preview program assists six non-profits

The Shaw Festival’s town preview program committee meets only once a year, but it has a significant impact on Niagara-on-the-Lake’s non-profit community-based organizations.

Representatives from six local organizations gathered at the Festival Theatre lobby Wednesday to receive their shares of almost $5,000 in donations divvied out by the committee for this year. The funds are generated annually through sales of discounted tickets to local residents.

Local charitable organizations are invited to apply for funding to the committee.

“This program has been running for close to 30 years, supporting well-deserving charitable organizations,” said Shaw director of community engagement and outreach Pragna Desai. “It connects the Shaw Festival to other groups who are our friends and our colleagues. Through these connections we all thrive.”

“This year the committee — Desai, executive assistant Janet Hanna, associate music director Ryan deSouza, senior ensemble member Kiera Sangster, Shaw Guild president Mary Mizen and Jenniffer Annand, senior manager of communications — directed between $500 and $1,300 each to non-profits in the arts, athletics, childcare and cancer patient support.

“We have a really good time going over all the applications,” Hanna told The Local. “We really enjoy learning about all the different projects people have going on. We try to match the amount of funds we have available with the number of applicants.”

“It doesn’t take us too long to do it,” added Sangster, “maybe an hour and a half.”

“We have a lot of organizations that apply every year or every second year,” Hanna continued. “This year, we did not say no to anybody, and typically that’s the case. We do our best to make sure we can help all the applicants because they are always running good projects.”

Among the recipients for the first time this year is the Niagara Nursery School and Child Care Centre. Board president Olivia Fabiani said the $1,000 in Shaw support will be used to outfit the nursery school’s outdoor play spaces.

“Our goal is to have a very naturalized playground,” Fabiani said Wednesday, “something that works on gross motor skills for the kids. We really try to emphasize outdoor play. We have a specific set that we have our eyes on. The toddler area is the space that really needs our attention right now.”

As a sign of appreciation, Fabiani handed Shaw executive director and CEO Tim Jennings, who presented the six cheques Wednesday, a thank you card made by the children of the nursery school.

“Three arts-oriented non-profits were on this year’s list of recipients. Rima Boles was there to accept a $1,000 donation to the Niagara Pump-House Arts Centre. The funds are earmarked to support their family-friendly summer program.

“Two musical events also received $500 each in support. Music Niagara Festival’s upcoming Glory to Ukraine concert on July 30 received a boost from the preview program. And last Saturday’s TD Niagara Jazz Festival’s event at Simcoe Park also benefited by the same amount. The money the Jazz Festival received went toward paying the musicians who play in the Music in the Park in Simcoe Park, said jazz festival co-founder and executive artistic producer of the $500 in Shaw support. “It’s always nice to put this toward the artist fees because that’s what it’s all about, the artists.”

Those artists included Cuban trumpeter Bobby Car-cao, the Poland-based Wótek Justyna TreeOh!, South African-born singer Lorraine Klaasen and drummer Er-nesto Cerini’s TurboPop, all appeared at Simcoe Park this weekend.

In addition, Walter Weav-er accepted a $1,300 cheque on behalf of the NOTL branch of the Canadian Can- cer Society to go toward their Wheels of Hope program that provides cancer patients with rides to their treatment ap- pointments. As well, Jennings handed a $500 cheque to Paul Staz for sponsorship for a NOTL Soccer Club house league team.

“It’s about charities help- ing charities, that’s what I love about this program,” said Jen-nings. “We hope to do more of this in the future as we continue to rebuild. I suspect our numbers will go back up again and we’ll have even more money to share.”

Olivia Fabiani hands Tim Jennings a thank you card from Niagara Nursery School children, who will receive new playground equipment.

The group shot includes Tim Jennings, CEO of the Shaw Festival Theatre (centre, in black shirt), and representatives of organizations which received money from the preview program. (Photos by Mike Balsom)
Jazz Festival’s Music in the Park series wraps up

Mike Balsom The Local

Hundreds of music lovers gathered in Simcoe Park Sat- 
urdays for TD Niagara Jazz Fest-
ival’s Music in the Park. Ten 
manual acts performed across two stages 
during the day-long event, 
with five playing on the Fies-
ta Stage at the bandshell and 
with five playing on the Fies-
during the day-long event, 
Tredway and Antonio Gere-
ty moved across the road to the 
Klaasen and drummer Ernes-
to Cervino.

Later that evening the par-

Talks, with subjects including 
mental health and how to 
play the steel drum, as well as 
fireside chats with trumpet-
pianist Harrison on piano, Ross Mac-
stepmother would have 
loved what you’ve done with 
the family’s life-affirming turning 
point. So I rewrote it through 
Lew’s eyes. “

As Lew narrates the fear 
and tenacity of the three in the 
water, Bowron said, “I wasn’t a big believer before it 
happened, “ Bill said. “When 
the pilot came to visit me in the 
hospital after, it was quite an 
experience to meet the pilot. “

waiting for his float plane, 
was told via his radio 
moves to ensure he omitted 
all of the swear words that were 
found in his previous four works.

For his part, Lipst is in-
credibly grateful to Bowron for 
putting the story on paper. 
“People can talk to you about 
the specifics of the story, 
but this book actual-
ly tells the whole story. In 
a 20-minute chat you can’t re-
ably get the idea across. This is 
the first time that people will 
actually understand what hap-
pened out there and how we 
were rescued.”

Waiting for Morning Time 
will be available for purchase on 
Aug. 5 at Laura McFad-
den’s Old Niagara Bookshop 
on Regent Street, and through amazon.ca.

Bill Lipst with author Chris Bowron, who is holding up the cover, designed by his daughter Molly, of his new book about Lipst’s 47 hours lost at sea. Waiting for Morning Time will be available Aug. 5. (Photo supplied)

The Heather Bambrick Band (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Waiting for Morning Time

Mike Balsom The Local

When former Niagara-on-

Lake resident Lew Lipst 
passed away last spring at 87 
years old, he had survived a 
heart attack, a battle with diabe-

For the next 47 days, Lipst 
remained afloat in the Gulf of 
Mexico, his boat listing to the 
right. 

But there were challenges. 
Wild weather, a raging storm, 
two days without 
contact with the three survivors 
men. It’s easy to look 
back and see the 
water alone miles from shore, 
but this man had 
learned to scuba dive. While on vaca-
tion with his job from a local 
truck company that spring, 
he took his family to visit his 
father in Florida. 
The pair con-
vinced Obendorf to take them 
out on the gulf with his Scarab 
boat, which had just been fit-
ted with two new motors, at 
Obendorf’s request. 

Bill and Lew were on the sur-
face in the Scarab, which in-
explicably took on water and 
...
The Friends of Fort George recently learned more about another prominent Niagara site in the War of 1812.

About two dozen of the group’s more than 300 members visited Old Fort Erie on Wednesday after departing from a coach bus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with the first stop being a presentation about the Battle of Chippawa by local historian Ron Dale.

At Old Fort Erie, a Niagara Parks site, guests learned about the property and its history of being the bloodiest battlefield during the War of 1812, where there were 3,000 British casualties by the end.

“It was nice to see people ask questions and engage with the tour guide,” said Tony Chisholm, president of Friends of Fort George.

One of the primary efforts of the Friends of Fort George is fundraising through various events in the year, which helps to mostly pay for six to eight summer students who work at the fort owned and operated by Parks Canada.

Many years ago, Erin Renfeld started as a summer student at Fort George through this program. She enjoyed a career with Parks Canada for a while, until recently when she became manager at Old Fort Erie.

Fort George executive director Amanda Gamble, who was also along for Wednesday’s tour in Fort Erie, said, “it’s nice to see people like that who started with the Friends thriving like that in heritage,” referring to Renfeld.

The Friends, a group founded 36 years ago, went on a similar bus tour in 2019 to Fort Niagara on the U.S. side of the Niagara River, but hadn’t done anything like that since due to COVID-19.

Gamble said it was nice to hit the road again for a Niagara-focused educational trip — learning about the history of Old Fort Erie, which is “interconnected” to Fort George through both sites’ parts in the War of 1812.

“For us, it’s an opportunity to raise awareness about a different site that played a pivotal role in the War of 1812. It’s a great way for everyone to get together — and there’s lots of camaraderie,” she said.

A number of non-members joined the tour as well, which was a chance to “introduce them to Friends of Fort George and the history of the two areas,” said Gamble.

Kris Dube
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

About two dozen members of the Friends of Fort George toured Old Fort Erie last week, learning about the site from guide Grayson DesRoches. (Photos by Kris Dube)
Art show and sale popular with artists and art lovers

Maria H. Klassen
The Local

The upcoming art show and sale at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is a favourite with both artists and art lovers. On the weekend of Aug. 5 and 6, there will be a celebration of 60 artists and art-sans showcasing their work. Included are paintings, photography, sculptures, woodworking, glass, textiles, jewelry and more. Visitors will be able to view amazing art, talk with the artists and purchase paintings to add to their own art collections.

Talking with the visitors to the show and sale is a highlight for artist Janet Horne-Cozens. “Art at the Pumphouse was one of the first shows that I did, and have continued to do every year. It’s really my favourite show of the season, not only because of its stunning location on the Niagara River, but because of the wonderful staff and volunteers that make it a pleasant experience,” says Horne-Cozens.

“I enjoy chatting with guests that come faithfully every year, as well as those tourists, Canadian and international, that drop in to experience some of the finest products that the Niagara Region has to offer.”

The event is organized by a committee that includes Pumphouse board members, staff and volunteers. Planning starts months in advance.

Artists are asked to bring their own display and sales, and art is hung in the gallery by Pumphouse staff. This event is considered the premier juried art show and sale, now being held for the 16th year.

The jury includes a board member, staff and local artists, all with a visual arts background.

Tim Sullivan is a participating artist at this show. “It is a great pleasure to be able to show my work at Art at the Pumphouse,” he says. “They have been so important to the development of my work through their courses and workshops, and the encouragement they have provided to the NOTL Arts Collective.”

This year’s event features a silent auction, offering those who attend the chance to bid on unique items generously donated by businesses supporting the arts. Donations include original artwork, gift baskets and art experiences. Each item will have a starting bid, with increasing increments, and will go to the highest bidder.

Money collected through ticket sales and the silent auction is used for funding the programs for seniors, children and families at the Pumphouse.

Live musical performances can be enjoyed from the stage in the rose garden. This year’s local talents include the duo Steve Goldberger and Andrew Aldridge, as well as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Ukesters.

Food and refreshments will be provided by Pig-Out Catering. A major sponsor of the event is Chateau des Charmes. A selection of their wine will be available for sale. A beer tent will also provide drinks for a fee.

Admission for the event is $5 for adults, and free for children. Hours each day are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance online, or at the event. An online version of the show runs from July 17 to Aug. 13. Mark your calendars and don’t miss this event on the lovely grounds of the Pumphouse on the Niagara River.

Local staff

The Past is Present Heritage, a Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum community festival, returns this year on the annual Civic Holiday, Monday, Aug. 7. The event is all about tradition, history and community engagement, and will feature historic demonstrations, live music, food, the popular treasures sale and much more, says Amy Klassen, the museum’s marketing and finance director, and organizer of the event.

The event is free to the public, and includes admission to the museum galleries inside.

On site will be Blacksmith Neil Blythin, the Niagara Handweavers and Spinners Guild, the St. Catharines Rug Hooking Guild, representatives from the Mackenzie Printery, a vintage display of firearms, and the Town of Lincoln’s Museum staff offering children’s activities.

As a special treat, museum volunteer Ian King-Watson will also be running one of her amazing Black History tours on the same day, starting at Voices of Freedom Park at 11 a.m.

Artists and art lovers can purchase new or thing vintage.

For lunch, PigOut will have a delicious pig roast available.

“We are thrilled to have live music throughout the day,” says Klassen. “An annual favourite, the Niagara Old Tyme Fiddlers will be performing from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and much loved Niagara musicians Aaron Berger and Nathaniel Goold will be on from 1 to 3 p.m. There is definitely something for everyone.”

The Past is Present Heritage Festival, Monday, Aug. 7, is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the NOTL Museum, 43 Castleleigh Street.

For more information, visit notlmuseum.ca or call the NOTL Museum at 905-468-3912. The museum is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shred-it event coming up to fundraise for palliative care

Penny Coles
The Local

Do you have boxes of documents that need to be shredded?

Consider helping out a local charitable organization — the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service is holding its annual Shred-it fundraiser at Simpson's Pharmasave Saturday, Aug. 19.

The fundraiser helps dispose of documents safely, preventing identity theft, while paying for the many programs and support services offered free by the palliative care service.

The annual tradition, a good reminder to residents to go through their documents and dispose of them in a way that is safe and secure, has been made more convenient over time, says Bonnie Bagnulo, the local palliative care service's executive director.

During COVID, the event was moved to the Simpson's Pharmasave parking lot, where cars could line up, and volunteers would take the boxes of documents to the Shred-it trucks — there was no need for anyone to get out of their cars.

That has continued post-COVID because it's convenient, and provides a better service for those dropping off documents, says Bagnulo.

In its early days, the Meridian Credit Union sponsored the fundraiser, which was held in the credit union parking lot, with its staff volunteering. Although it's moved to Simpson's, Meridian still pays for the Shred-it trucks as it has from its earliest years, and is still very supportive of the event.

However, Simpson's parking lot offers a great set-up, with an entrance and exit, and space for people to stop, and allow their boxes of material to be taken from trunks.

"Volunteers do all the work," says Bagnulo, "just drive up, and you don't need to get out of your car. Volunteers take care of everything. This is the service we want to provide, making it as easy as we can.

But please don't come early, she adds. The event starts at 9 a.m. and goes until 1 p.m., or until the trucks are full. In past years there have been line-ups on the road before that — even before the Shred-it trucks arrive, and some years, when they have arrived, cars are already blocking the entrance.

"The trucks don't start shredding until 9 a.m. so there is no need to come any sooner than that."

The cost for shredding is still $8 per bankers box of documents, and $20 for three boxes.

Bagnulo says there has been a decline in the number of boxes dropped off in recent years, as businesses and individuals move to paperless documents.

"But there is definitely still a market for this service, and we hope we can continue to offer it for years to come. The Meridian Credit Union still believes strongly that this is important, for security reasons, and it's a great fundraiser for us. It helps us to pay for our programs, which are free, and for the first time we're in a building where we have to pay rent."

The palliative care organization moved out of the former hospital building and into offices in the Niagara Medical Clinic building on Niagara Stone Road, a great location requiring palliative care, and to provide a break for caregivers.

"Our program for caregivers is extremely important," says Bagnulo. "We just started it in the spring and we feel it's really effective."

A variety of workshops are offered Thursday at the community centre, including aromatherapy, yoga, art therapy, mindfulness — they are different every week, she says.

There is no need for registration — just show up and have an hour re-Point. "We invite people to come in and open their minds to something new. It's free of charge, as are all our services." For more information call 905-468-4433.

It's kids' day at the Market Saturday — don't miss out

Sharon Burns
The Local

Kids' Day at the Market is back after a hiatus of three years, and there is plenty to get excited about.

"We will have a bouncy house from Niagara Inflatables, face painting, crafts, Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's Tiny Museum, scheduled story times with local authors Kathryn Re-court, Diane Martin and the NOTL Library, and more," explained Sharon Brinsmead-Taylor, the co-ordinator for Kids' Day and for the Farmers' Market, which is held every Saturday morning at 111 Garrison Village Drive.

The Farmers' Market will be operating as usual, featuring local farmers and food producers offering take-home meal options and "eat-at-market" breakfast and lunch options. Artisans and crafters are also in attendance.

"It's a great way for parents to break up the monotony of the sum-mer time, and give the kids a chance to blow off some steam," said Brinsmead-Taylor. "And it's also a great way not to spend a ton of money."

Teenage members of the NOTL Youth Collec-tive will be volunteering their time for Kids' Day, and there will be an opportunity to donate towards the Youth Collective.

Kids' Day at the Farmers' Market starts at 8 a.m. and runs until 1 p.m., this Saturday, July 29. A more detailed schedule will be posted at the market's website: market@thevillage.ca.

Boxes of documents to be shredded can be delivered to the parking lot of Simpson's Pharmasave on Niagara Stone Road. The fundraiser helps to pay for the many programs and support services offered free by the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service. (Photo supplied)
Davis Cup on tennis tour stopping in NOTL

SORES

Mike Balsom
The Local

It's the tennis world's equivalent to a visit by the NHL's Stanley Cup. The International Tennis Federation's Davis Cup, awarded annually to the men's tennis championship team out of almost 140 countries, will be in Niagara-on-the-Lake for four hours on the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 3.

Teams Canada won the international tournament in 2022, defeating Australia in the final in Malaga, Spain. Félix Auger-Aliassime clinched the victory over Alex de Minaur to give Canada their first Davis Cup win in the country.

As part of the win, the victors get to hold onto the prize until the following year's tournament, scheduled for this November. The NOTL stop is part of the Sobeys Davis Cup Champions Tour that has seen the cup travel across the country.

Looking into the storied history of the cup itself, the trophy is 110 centimetres tall, 107 centimetres in diameter at its widest point, and weighs 231.5 pounds.

Another special connection is that the captain of Team Canada, who will accompany the Davis Cup to Front Street next week, is a Niagara native. Frank Dancevic, born and raised in Niagara Falls, was named captain of the men's national team in 2017. Dancevic represented Canada as a competitor in the Davis Cup for more than a decade, beginning in 2002.

“Have the team captain be from Niagara is incredible,” says Goodwin. “We wanted to not only have the trophy, but also have the captain, so that Niagara could recognize him. There were a lot of local people involved in helping him grow into a national-level tennis player. It’s a big thing to have an athlete from Niagara who ends up contributing to a national team effort.”

Goodwin says Dancevic, whose parents, John and Doris, will be in town for the event, as well as local coaches Doug Carter, Leslie Murc and Dave Boland, who all contributed to Dancevic’s development.

“Dancevic players Harry Fauquier and Pierre Lamarche will also be on site, along with Tennis Canada senior vice-president of high performance Haten McDaid.”

“We’ve applied to the town for a special events permit, and hope to have a small portion of Front Street closed to accommodate a celebration atmosphere,” Goodwin adds. “Visitors will have an opportunity to view the trophy up close and have photos taken with the trophy, and with Frank. And we’re thinking about adding a couple of nets on the street.”

The Ricardes, a self-professed tennis family, couldn’t be more happy to host the event.

“My in-laws met on a tennis court, our four kids play tennis, and Sam was a very competitive tennis player,” says Robin. “He played all over the U.S. and Canada when he was a teenager. I play too, though I’m not as good as the rest of them. We appreciate the sport in particular, that’s why we’re honoured to bring the cup here.”

The NOTL visit is one of the final ones on the tour. On Friday, the Davis Cup moves on to Toronto’s Sobeys Stadium, where it will be on display during the National Bank Open. From there, it’s on to Montreal’s Stade IGA on to Montreal’s Stade IGA on to Montreal’s Stade IGA on to Montreal’s Stade IGA on to Montreal’s Stade IGA.

Of all the planning that has gone into the celebration, Ricardo deflects the credit to Goodwin.

“Ricardes has put in a tremendous amount of work for this,” she says. “And it’s going to be lovely for Niagara-on-the-Lake to see the Davis Cup and interact with it, and to celebrate Canadian wins.”

The Davis Cup will be on the Ricardes tennis court facing Front Street this Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. A program featuring an address by Dancevic will begin at 4 p.m. There is no cost to attend.
Young soccer goalie invited to prestigious training camp

Hugo Reis

Mike Balsom
The Local

When Stephanie and Fabian Reis registered their five-year-old son Hugo in a Real Madrid Foundation soccer camp this summer, they weren’t totally sure what to expect. One thing they never could have predicted is that Hugo would be invited to Spain next spring to train at the perennial Champions League powerhouse team’s Madrid facility.

The owners of Ferox Estate Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake have been splitting their time between the winery and a home in Toronto.

Earlier this summer, Hugo participated in a Real Madrid Foundation camp in Toronto, where he caught the eye of the academy’s business there. “The other part was the opportunity to enrol their son at a German language private school,” Stephanie says.

Earlier this summer, Hugo played soccer with Niagara Falls United last summer, with Fabian as his coach. Because the family is in Toronto this summer and planning a long trip to Europe in August, they decided not to register him for a league this year. But he needed his soccer fix, and that’s where the Real Madrid Foundation experience came in.

“I didn’t really know a lot about it at first,” Stephanie says. “They do these camps all over Canada, North America and Europe. It’s a real grassroots effort to spread their methodology around. They really focus on how to play as a team.”

Hugo’s mom was impressed immediately with the way they ran the camp. “It was very organized,” she marvels. “It was very professional. They really teach these kids at a young age how to be disciplined. They come onto the field in a single-file line. It’s discipline, structure.”

The Real Madrid Foundation camps feature professional European football association coaches trained in the methods of the Spanish club. They promote a healthy and fit environment for kids who want to step up their game to the next level. The foundation website stresses game vision, teamwork, and effort in an environment where they can feel like a professional player for a week. “They promote their values of leadership, teamwork, respect and effort,” says Stephanie.

Following the camp, the family received an email from the foundation inviting Hugo to their training facility in Spain for two separate one-week training sessions in March and June.

“They said they only choose one or two kids from each location to invite to Spain,” Stephanie says. “I think Hugo got chosen partially for how he played, but also because he matches with their all-around values. We’re really proud of him.”

While in Toronto, Hugo has been attending the private German International School.

“Both Fabian and Stephanie have German backgrounds, and keeping the language and the culture alive is important to the family,” Stephanie mentions. “And living here right now gives us the opportunity to send him to this school, to give him that cultural experience.”

“Other soccer fans for playing in goal,” Stephanie is a bit in awe.

“There’s so much more in playing that position than either Fabian or I ever knew,” Stephanie says. “Hugo’s not even six yet and he has already learned so much. The way he stands in the net, it shows he knows his stuff. We love to support his passion.”

All three of them plan to be in Madrid for both sessions next spring and summer.

Ken Slingerland
Special to The Local

It was 50 years ago this summer that the Niagara Jr. B Kinsmen Warriors won the gold medal at the Ontario games, the gold medal at the underdogs in the Canadian Jr. B Lacrosse championship, and also the Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse championship, all in the same year — a feat that has never been repeated.

The Jr. B franchise was started in 1969 by Fred Conrad, Peter Conrad and Stan Ignatczyk, and it only took five years to win the championships. The Jr. B Warriors also later won the Founder’s Cup, Canadian Jr. B Championship in 1981.

On Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. there will be a celebration to honour the 50th anniversary at the Kinsmen Hall in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

After winning the gold medal in British Columbia, Jack Gatecliff, sports editor for the St. Catharines Standard, called the Kinsmen Warriors a season “a Rags to Riches” story. The team was rated an underdog in the Ontario tournament to qualify for the Canada Games but eliminated Whitby and then upset number one seed Hamilton to qualify for the trip to B.C.

Co-franchise owners Monty Slingerland (coach) and Stan Ignatczyk (managing) then had to scramble to raise funds to send the team to B.C. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake chipped in to outfit the team with warm-up jackets and T-shirts.

The team won all four games at the Canada Games, including the final game against Nova Scotia to win the gold medal. A newspaper clipping from 50 years ago reported on “their return home to the Toronto Airport, the team was met by Lord Mayor Jake Froese, who left a meeting of the Town Council mid-way to greet the boys personally.” Accompanying them home to a homecoming reception at the Royal Canadian Legion headquarters, the Lord Mayor and the team were greeted by a few hundred residents who cheered their arrival in King Street.

The team still had to compete in the Ontario Lacrosse Playoffs, following the Canada Games. After almost being upset in the semi-finals to Oakville, the Warriors defeated Whitby to claim the OLA Championship.

“Spontaneous enthusiasm was held in late September in 1973 to honour the Jr. B Kinsmen Warriors and other athletes in the community,” Former Mayor Bob Taylor, who was the team’s captain and was awarded the most valuable player award for the tournament.

On Aug. 18, the Kinsmen welcome all NOTL Jr. B players from all teams over the years to a 50th anniversary celebration at the NOTL Legion 124 (905-468-2333) at 410 King St., Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The winning Canada Games lacrosse team: front row, John Wiens, Dave Parsons, Howis Vant, George Moses, Bob Taylor; second row, Ontario Mission Member D.L. Minshall, Russ Hodgkinson, Norm Hope, Jojie Engemann, Mike French, Bruce Morgan, Steve Miller, Coach Monty Slingerland; back row, Ralph Ham, Patbis Mayle, John Skubel, Don Smith, Gary Hill and manager Stan Ignatczyk. (St. Catharines Lacrosse Hall of Fame)
Community shows support for boxer McKenzie Wright

Mike Balsom The Local

Before boarding a flight to Cali, Colombia, Monday, Bud Duerr, a former gold medalist from the 2015 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, had a chance to qualify for the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile in October. St. Davids boxer McKenzie Wright received a send-off fit for a future Olympian. About 40 family members, friends and supporters gathered at the Sandtrap Pub and Grill last Wednesday afternoon for a fundraiser to help offset the cost for Wright’s trip to Cali. It was all over.

Wright won two matches by unanimous decisions at last month’s domestic qualifier event for the Pan Am Games, beating Grace Fahnbuehler of New Bruns
devick and British Columbian Nyousha Nakhjiri to take the Light Flyweight (50 kg) division and punch her ticket to Cali.

“Things happened really quickly,” Wright told The Local. “They sprung it on us in Montreal that we would be leaving for Cali in just three weeks. I had to scramble to find the funding. My mom and dad (Judy and Dow) put this all together. They reached out to the community and secured all these raffle prizes and the Sandtrap to host the fundraiser.”

In addition to the Sandtrap fundraiser, a GoFundMe page had raised just over $10,000 as of press time for the three-time national champion’s quest.

Wright says she gets no funding from any government or governing body involved in the sport. “Other sports get funding, but boxing is very limited,” said Wright, a former kickboxer who started in that sport as a 15-year-old Oakville resident but switched to boxing because she was “more of a puncher than a kicker.”

In 2010, Wright’s gold medal effort in the 46 kg weight class made her the second Canadian to win both the national boxing and kickboxing titles in the same season.

About seven years later Wright says she had lost the enthusiasm to train and picked up and moved to South Africa, finding work at a Safari camp. When the pandemic hit, that job was no longer viable, so she moved back home with her parents, who in the meantime had re
tired to St. Davids.

Then she received a call from a boxing friend back home in Burlington saying he was out of Burlington Bay Area Athletic Club’s Pan American Games 2015 gold medalist Mandy Bujold of St. Davids had invited Wright to spar with her as she was training for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, her second Olympic Games. “I sparred with her when she was training for the Pan Am Games in 2015,” Wright said. “She was getting her sparring ready for Tokyo, and she asked me to be part of her camp. I was thrilled, but I hadn’t been in the ring for quite awhile. I wasn’t sure if I was going to bring enough to the table for her.”

All it took was one sparring session and Wright’s desire to get back into the ring for real was once again sparked. “Her level of competition, just to be in the ring with her, made me want to be better,” Wright explained. “It fired me up to get my own training going. This time around, I’m loving training more than ever, and I feel I have the right team behind me.”

That team includes her trainer Jesse Sallows, who owns City Boxing Club in Niagara Falls, as well as 11-time Canadian champion Bujold, who was at the fundraiser Wednesday.

“She has all the abilities to beat all of these girls,” Bujold insisted. “She has the speed, the footwork, she puts great combinations together. It’s all there, it’s just a matter of ensuring she knows that and that she feels supported along the way. With the community behind her, she can focus solely on training and not all the other things.”

There’s at least one other part of her life Wright has left compelled to focus on the last couple of years. She is just wrapping up her final semester in Niagara College’s nursing program.

“I still have to write my licensing exam,” said Wright. “I’ve completed all of my consolidating (clinical) hours. But I can write that exam any time. Right now I’m going to focus on the Pan Am’s, and I’ll probably write it after that.”

Since that first sparring session with Bujold, she’s thrown herself into her training. She works out twice a day; hitting the gym with Sallows in the evenings after taking advantage of the halls in St. Davids for her road training. And she’s installed a heavy bag in her parents’ backyard.

“When she went to work with Mandy I knew she would get the urge back,” Dow told The Local. “She likes to compete. She’s been doing this a long time now, we’ve been used to seeing her kick and punched. I al

ways joke with her that it’s better to give than to receive.”

At the Sandtrap fundraiser Wright was meeting her supporters, posing for and signing photographs and talking about her quest to fight at the 2024 Par
ol Olympics. There were some familiar faces on the patio, but also many whom Wright was meeting for the first time.

Bud Duerr, visiting a friend in NOTL from his home in Indiana, heard about the fundraiser and decided to attend.

“I’m a boxing fan,” said Duerr. “I think it’s fantastic, the discipline she’s shown in training and every aspect of it is a sheer joy to see.”

“It’s really overwhelming to see how our friends, our families and the community as a whole have embraced what we’ve been asking of them,” Dow said. “They’re supporting what McKenzie is doing. It’s been humbling, to be frank about it.”

Wright will participate with 13 other elite Canadian boxers at a training camp in Cali beginning this week to get ready for the competition in August. Success there will get her a spot at the Pan Am Games in Santiago Oct
ober 21 to 27.

“It’s been amazing how everyone has really pulled through,” Wright said about her supporters Wednesday. “They’ve really joined my team to help me get to these competitions.”

McKenzie’s father, Dow Wright, standing next to the table full of raffle prizes.

Trainee and coach Jesse Sallows, McKenzie Wright, and two-time Olympian Mandy Bujold at the Sandtrap fundraiser.

Bud Duerr of Indiana came out to support McKenzie’s quest to make it to the 2024 Paris Olympics.
CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

Across:
1. Pistols
5. Police heavy brigade
9. Unexpected turn of events
14. Long song for one in an opera
15. Cair o/Pittsburgh river
16. Totaled
17. Of the present month (Abbr.)
18. Traditional knowledge
19. Cosmetics mogul Elizabeth --
20. Monk’s title
21. Job-discrimination watchdog (Abbr.)
22. Traditional knowledge
23. Moonshine maker
25. Liable
27. Journey’s end forecast
28. Swedish air craft maker
30. Astonish
32. Take for granted
34. Hearth
38. Radiation absorber
39. “I shall not find myself so --- die” (Antony, in “Julius Caesar”)
41. One up on a deuce
42. Catholic
44. Accuse
46. Wide river mouth
47. Flying toy
48. Batter essential
51. Fashion reminiscent of the past
53. “What happens in --- stays in ---”
55. Short attacks
56. Web site ID
58. Web site ID
60. Liable
61. The first Mrs. Trump
62. Singer --- Simone
63. Fashion reminiscent of the past
64. Well mannered
65. Center of an amphitheater
66. W ebsite ID
67. Snow vehicles
68. Saucy girl
69. Exalted

Down:
1. Short attacks
2. Ripley’s slogan finisher
3. Firing
4. Posed
5. Only
6. Cry of exultation
7. Fire group main feature
8. Swing in a circus
9. Skin blemish
10. Self-published author
11. Short attacks
12. Surgicaly implanted tube
13. A is the Friendly Islands
14. Gunslinger actor Jack --
15. Duck ---, medieval child’s game
16. A k a the Friendly Islands
17. Of the present month (Abbr.)
18. Traditional knowledge
19. Cosmetics mogul Elizabeth --
20. Monk’s title
21. Job-discrimination watchdog (Abbr.)
22. Traditional knowledge
23. Moonshine maker
25. Liable
27. Journey’s end forecast
28. Swedish air craft maker
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58. Web site ID
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61. The first Mrs. Trump
62. Singer --- Simone
63. Fashion reminiscent of the past
64. Well mannered
65. International trade org.
66. Strip
67. Breaks
68. Raised
69. E.g. Levin, Gershwin and others

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from July 19, 2023

To place an Obituary or In Memoriam in our Classifieds, please contact Julia at: julia@notllocal.com or 905.934.1040
Deadline is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
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