



Upper Canada Lodge outbreak over

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Siblings and cousins Robert Stewart, Madelyn Stewart, William Stewart and Cullen Teichgraf, riding in the car, and Mark Stewart and Brendan Teichgraf on motorcycles, enjoy the carnival their St. Davids family members have been attending for generations. For more carnival pictures, please see page 14. (Penny Coles)

Nolan family passing on love of hockey

Indigenous children learning from the best

Mike Balsom
The Local

Former Buffalo Sabres head coach Ted Nolan discovered his love of hockey growing up in Garden River First Nation, just outside of Sault Ste. Marie, playing on his backyard rink.

With his sons Brandon and Jordan, both former National Hockey League players, the St. Davids resident is now on a mission to ensure Indigenous youth across the country find that same joy in the game.

The trio has developed their fittingly-named 3Nolans Hockey school as a way to reach and impact the lives of First Nation youth. Beyond the love of hockey, their sessions aim to teach them the importance of living healthy active lifestyles, how to be positive role models, and how to become future leaders in their communities.

Nolan created an Anishinabe Hockey School many years ago, before either of his sons were born, and ran it for 10 years.

He enlisted Indigenous NHL players such as Chris Simon and Gino Odjick, and also Kahnawake Mohawk Alwyn Morris, a gold medalist in canoeing, to do some off-ice training.

Ted gives credit to his older son Brandon for reviving his outreach efforts to Indigenous youth in 2013. While working on behalf of a Native organization, Brandon attended a youth symposium, where the idea dawned on him.




“He came back and asked me what I thought about us

starting our own camps,” Ted says. “He came up with the name 3Nolans. It’s his brain-child, and he runs everything, organizing where we’re going and what we’re doing.”

Brandon is now 39 years old. He was chosen in the third round of the 2001 NHL entry draft by the New Jersey Devils. He opted to stay for two more years with the Oshawa Generals, and went to Vancouver in the fourth round after scoring

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Orchard fire



Some serious dark smoke filled the air over Virgil Tuesday morning in an orchard near Four Mile Creek and East and West Line, with the fire department responding. (Photos supplied)



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Bisback has files he wants to close

Penny Coles
The Local

Expect more, says council candidate Allan Bisback's website.

More accountability, more transparency, and more results are what he promises if elected to a second term of council.

In 2018, Bisback was one of 24 candidates running for one of eight council seats. Only four incumbents were in the race, and of those, John Wiens, was the only one re-

turned to the council table. Niagara-on-the-Lake voters were ready for a change, and Bisback was seen as one of the candidates who could deliver.

It seems likely there will again be four seats to be filled, although that could change before the nomination deadline of Aug. 18.

Gary Burroughs and Sandra O'Connor are taking another run at a council seat, and newcomers — to politics, not to town — Maria Mavridis and Tim Balasiuk, have both announced they

are running.

Bisback comes from a background of retail and customer service, as vice-president of sales for Sobey's, and as the national general manager for retail operations for Canada Post, Canada's largest retail network.

When nominations opened May 2 for the October 24 election, Bisback was the first to officially declare his intention to run.

"Once you make a decision, you may as well declare it," he says, "and I knew there

were a few things I wanted to get done, so I'm giving it another four years."

While "a bit of a turnover on council is good," he says, referring to the expected number of empty seats, "there are still some major files, and it would be good to have had them finished" during the current term of council.

He says although 2018 was definitely seen as a time for change at the ballot box, this doesn't seem a "change issue," and he believes the current council is one voters

would have been okay with for another four years.

Council, he says, has had some good discussions, and occasionally some tension, "but the one thing I've learned is that even though tempers can get a bit frayed, sometimes councillors do change their minds after listening to their colleagues. The diversity of opinions has made for a good council. And in most cases once a decision is made councillors will stand behind it."

Over the last three and a



Allan Bisback

half years, Bisback has contributed in many ways, and on several town committees, but perhaps the most important-

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Burroughs brings experience to council

Penny Coles
The Local

Gary Burroughs is hoping for a return to the Niagara-on-the-Lake council table.

In choosing to seek re-election Oct. 24, Burroughs is hoping to continue his long service to the town — he was first elected and served one term as what was then called an alderman from 1989 to 1991.

He took a break from politics after that term, he explains, because he was still a business owner and running the Oban Inn. He had realized during his term on council how different

the needs of residents and businesses were even then, and the difficulty balancing those needs as a politician.

His next foray into local politics was after he had sold the Oban. He completed three terms as lord mayor from 2000 to 2010, when he then ran to represent Niagara-on-the-Lake at the region, where he was voted regional chair. He served a second term as regional councillor from 2014 to 2018, when he decided he could do the most good in town at the NOTL council table.

And he's not finished.

There are some important

issues that still need to be addressed, and he'd like to be at the table for those discussions.

He will not only be the longest-serving local politician, but one who knows the history of the town, its issues, politics and people. He says it's good to have a mix on council, to have new ideas, but also experience.

As a chartered accountant, he's always had an interest in town budgets, and as an owner-operator of the Oban Inn for three decades, which he took over from his parents, he has an understanding of what Old Town businesses face, and the importance of maintaining that balance

between tourism and residents.

One reason for choosing to run again, he says, is his optimism for the next four years of council.

His confidence comes from the appointment of CAO Marlene Cluckie. Council has already seen her strength at helping to steer them in the right direction through the changes she has implemented, and will continue to, he says. He also trusts she will ensure the town has the right staff on board.

"I just feel we're going to have a great four years as a council."

He's disappointed that some members of the current council

are not returning — Clare Cameron, Norm Arsenault and John Wiens have all said publicly they won't seek another term, and they will be missed, says Burroughs.

Erwin Wiens has also said he won't run again, but Burroughs is hoping he'll change his mind, because of his knowledge of the agricultural community.

"It's tough for a new councillor — they have a lot to deal with. Those of the remaining bunch who are running again have done a great job and come a long way, but it's always a bit of a learning experience," says Burroughs. "For me coming back to council was a learning experi-



Gary Burroughs

ence."

Burroughs says he is still unclear how the municipal accommodation tax, just recently approved by council, will help the town. It will pay for mar-

Continued on page 3

O'Connor hopes to find resolutions to current issues

Penny Coles
The Local

Sandra O'Connor is taking her second run at a seat at the Niagara-on-the-Lake council table after stepping in to fill a vacant spot halfway through this term.

She was appointed in July, 2020, when Stuart McCormack resigned. After a brief discussion, council took the customary route and appointed O'Connor, who had come in ninth for the eight seats up for grabs in the 2018 election.

She says she has felt honoured to serve the town, has listened to the issues, done her homework, and has "tried to bring a balanced, respectful and researched

approach to their resolution."

She is excited at the possibility of having another four years to serve, she says, and has enjoyed being able to work for the benefit of residents.

She feels in her time on council she has been instrumental in pushing forward certain issues, and hopes for the opportunity to see through to resolution others not yet completed.

Her goals are to: develop a climate of trust with all of the communities, including the rural areas, by being inclusive and responsive; be responsive and accountable to all constituents; ensure what makes NOTL special is maintained and enhanced; and serve with integrity, honesty and transparency.

O'Connor identifies the environment, sustainable development, healthcare infrastructure and sustainable tourism as priorities for the next term of council.

O'Connor graduated from Brock University, where she studied physical and urban geography, and worked for a variety of organizations, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. She also represented the Green Party in a previous federal election.

She is accustomed to working with research and data, and to "getting the facts before I make a decision," she says.

Protecting and improving

the health of the environment is an issue that is close to her heart.

That includes maintaining the boundary of the greenbelt and protecting agricultural land, increasing the town's tree canopy, ensuring adequate green spaces in urban areas, implementing the NOTL Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and other issues, including creating "environmental policy based on evidence."

She would like to see each town report on current issues before council include the impact of staff recommendations on the environment, she says, such as the transportation master plan, which does not address whether its recommendations are good for the environment, whether roads are going to "destroy a forested area or go through a park."

Those issues should have been addressed "at the time we're putting the transportation master plan together."

Sustainable development, another of O'Connor's priorities, to her means balancing growth in town "with the natural resources and ecosystems upon which our economy is based."

In addition to finalizing the official plan and completing secondary plans, the town needs to develop "strong and clear zoning bylaws to implement our OP objectives," including reducing the maximum height allowed, increasing minimum setbacks, and reducing built lot coverage.

The OP, she says, "needs to be reviewed again to align with the regional plan. I'd also like to see more focus on the environ-

ment, and have another look at the plan, such as where we will have increased density, look at zoning heights and setbacks, and make sure all our plans are complementary."

In recent discussions at council about the draft transportation plan, expected to come to council in August, she spoke of the need to ensure all are aligned with each other, including the official plan, secondary plans, and the transportation and recreational facilities master plans.

She would also like to see the consideration of green infrastructure in the Glendale area, and a look at increasing the heritage district.

O'Connor has recently been lobbying the region to return a nurse practitioner to town, one not tied to the family health team and their patients, to offer health care locally to those who don't have family physicians.

"I'm really excited about continuing to work on healthcare with Niagara Health," she says, and as NOTL's population grows, to lobby the region and the local MPP "to assist in voicing our healthcare needs."

In the province and across the country healthcare is suffering, she says, and her goal is to do what she can in NOTL, to help locals. "Every little bit helps. My perspective is anything we can do to help our area, any additional help we can get, will be worth it."

Sustainable tourism, one of the main economic drivers for the town, O'Connor says, has to be balanced in socio-cultural,

economic and environmental aspects, and will be aided by the municipal accommodations tax.

The tourism strategy document should be completed next term, and the needs of residents and visitors addressed, with the municipal accommodations tax helping to contribute to this balance by paying for tourism infrastructure.

She would also like to see bylaw enforcement strengthened, short-term rental densities controlled where necessary, and expanded paid parking areas.

O'Connor says she stands on the record of her accomplishments in the two years she's been on council.

"I've tried to be transparent and accountable, and solve problems when people bring issues to me. I do my research, present data, and make the best decisions possible."



Sandra O'Connor accepting a town volunteer award for her environmental efforts, before she was appointed to council.

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Transportation master plan a tough slog

Penny Coles
The Local

It took Frances Stocker some time to plow through the town's draft transportation master plan, making notes as she read it. But it was time well spent.

As a resident of Charlotte Street, she is especially concerned about the impact on her neighbourhood if the town moves ahead with the plan's proposal to turn Charlotte into a collector road, to become a direct route to the Heritage District.

The plan states that would "help with traffic flow and safety, while serving to minimize the total number of vehicle kilometres travelled through the neighbourhood," such as on Rye, Paffard, Flynn, Cottage, and Green Streets.

But the lane-widening on Charlotte to accommodate extra traffic would add about 400 vehicles an hour to the street, without actually getting them to the Heritage District, she says.

Stocker is not an engineer — her career was dealing in information, as a library manager and policy planner, which included looking looking at possibilities for the future.

She doesn't see this draft plan boding well for the future. Its proposed upgrades focus on shifting congestion from approach roads into the centre of Virgil and Old Town, which is where congestion already exists.

Although the plan states a goal of establishing a transportation system that promotes walking, cycling, and transit, it assumes the use of personal

vehicles will continue to be the prioritized form of transportation through 2031 and beyond, without envisioning "a proactive and achievable shift away from personal vehicles," she says.

The recommendations come with a price tag of \$64 million, yet the plan doesn't solve the parking problem once vehicles arrive in town. And it does nothing to address the environment and climate change that is creating the recent extreme temperatures and wildfires we're experiencing this summer, she says.

"This seems like a good time to start thinking about where we're going with climate change, and the vehicles that are the driving force behind it. We can and must do something to address carbon emissions, and do it so we can still enjoy our cars, and yet can also leave them behind in a way that makes visiting and getting around town less stressful and more peaceful."

In 10 to 20 years, she says, there could be solutions so that fewer cars come into town, with parking made available by the QEW, and using the hospital site as a transition hub to travel around the Old Town, as well as visiting areas in the periphery, such as the Niagara Pump-house Arts Centre or the many wineries.

Adjacent roads to the main street, such as Simcoe and Victoria Streets, can't deal with the traffic they have now, and won't get better for the future. Instead, "let's not bring those cars into town," she suggests.

For all its faults, the plan does recommend transit hubs

near the QEW, "an immense challenge, but one worth pursuing," says Stocker.

In addition, she proposes a hop-on/hop-off (HOHO) system, that could one day put everyone in the urban area within five minutes of transportation. It's used in tourism spots all over the world — she points out the ease of visiting places like New York City, or a smaller city such as Savannah, Georgia — where people can see everything they want to without needing a car.

"Creating a peaceful, non-stressful environment will attract people. If we can't do that, NOTL will no longer be the restorative, unique experience" that promises something different than the larger urban centres such as Niagara Falls, she says.

The HOHO, with parking at a central location near the QEW — the master plan mentions the outlet mall — could be a good solution for NOTL, with connections to Niagara Falls for visitors, and for residents to travel to Toronto without taking their cars.

It took her a couple of days to work through the transportation master plan, which has language "so jargon-laid, it's really off-putting."

That makes it difficult for residents who have been encouraged to offer their comments on the draft plan, to be taken into consideration by town staff before it's presented to council mid-August.

Stocker says the plan should be put aside altogether. "The best use for it is to say 'this is what we might have planned in 1980, but now what do we want

the town to look like in the future.'"

She is proposing the town consider creating a transportation infrastructure that can be an attractive option for residents and visitors, that looks to the future, and that allows travelling within the town and beyond without a personal vehicle, enabling businesses to thrive sustainably, and incentivizing the lowest achievable carbon emissions from commercial vehicles.

NOTL could be a leader by coming up with a traffic plan that preserves heritage in a way that businesses, visitors and residents could all appreciate the final configuration, she says.

"There will likely be resistance, which is inevitable, and there will be valid points, but they could be a starting point for discussion," she adds, and she would like to see that discussion begin with an end to implementing tactics that prioritize everyone coming to town by car.

"Instead of looking at how to make more space for cars, let's look at getting more space for a solution that considers where cars are going."

"Let's look at how we can enjoy our town, and continue to make it attractive to live in, by managing the amount of traffic in an acceptable way. People love to live here, they're coming here in droves, but as new homes are built, cars are still necessary to live in them."

And when visitors have to drive around looking for parking, as they do on some of the busiest summer days, "your temperature goes up and your patience goes down and you

say 'it's a nice town, but it was a nightmare and I'm not going back.'"

A HOHO system could get people "right where the action is, whether it's the Cherry Festival, the Peach Festival or the Candlelight Stroll," she says. "It's important to recognize people love their cars, they love travelling in their cars, so let's not disrespect that, but make it a really nice option to travel without them."

Money has been invested in the plan, she says, and the hardest thing for people who commissioned it is to say 'let's leave it behind,' but instead of putting \$64 million into its recommendations, "let's put our resources into something we'll like when we get there."

That includes making sure the town has staff familiar with implementing innovation, which, she adds, "doesn't have to be out of the blue sky - it just has to be new to the context you're doing it in. Look at what others have done and how to make it work. Implement transportation that makes NOTL a really nice place to be."

The report is available for review to Aug 1. The public is invited to review it and provide feedback via Join the Conversation at <https://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/TransportationMasterPlan>.

You can email feedback directly to ttmp@notl.com or mail it to Town Hall 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON, L0S 1T0.



Frances Stocker at the corner of Niagara and Charlotte Streets. The town's transportation master plan suggests Charlotte Street be widened and traffic redirected to use it to access the heritage district. Residents can comment on the plan until Aug. 1. (Photo supplied)

Veteran politician still excited and nervous about running

Continued from page 2

keting through the Chamber of Commerce, bringing more people to town, as well as fund tourism projects, "but we don't need to bring more people to town. My vision of Queen Street is to keep it the same, do more with what we have, but not to expand it like other commercial tourism towns in the province. We don't need more people, we need people who will spend more money."

He's also concerned about traffic and parking.

"We have one commercial

street in the Old Town and other streets, residential streets like Johnson and Prideaux, where visitors already park. If we change the flow of traffic the way the transportation master plan recommends, we'll make it worse for residents. I've been against that plan from day one, because of what it would do to the dock area, and I still am, but now I see what they want to do with Charlotte Street, which is residential, not a main thoroughfare — that's even worse."

The transportation master plan sounds like it wants a four-way highway, he adds, "but it's

just a wish list from people who aren't transportation people. We've spent \$160,000 on it, with good intentions, but I'm not sure we understood what we were looking for."

Burroughs says he is also concerned about growth, and where it occurs. The region has set growth at 15 per cent, but also advised the town it can limit growth in certain areas, such as the Old Town and Queenston, and say yes to it in areas such as Glendale, where it's more appropriate.

"Every time a developer builds another 500 houses, that

increases our traffic. Increased development will be a challenge. But it's never acceptable to just say shut the door and don't let anyone else in, we have to figure out how to deal with them. We have to manage change."

The lack of conceptual zoning to preserve streetscapes, he says, is also an issue, with house after house being approved with minor zoning variances. "Why are we allowing that?"

Burroughs believes staff should be able to deal with those issues, "if we don't wear them out first," under the guidance of a good CAO.

Despite the challenges, and the number of times Burroughs has entered an election race, he is still excited about the stretch leading up to the voting.

His daughter Alex, a journalist from Calgary, will be in town for the month of August to help out, along with his grandchildren, and between her and his wife Sarah, there will always be a crowd of people around, which will be fun, he says.

He admits to feeling a little anxiety — that never changes — but he is looking forward to hitting the streets, talking to friends and meeting new peo-

ple, and listening to their questions and concerns.

"I like to meet newcomers to town — I've met a lot of them in the last year. I like to show them how proud I am of our town, that I love our town."

He especially enjoys talking to people "who may be retired, but their brains aren't retired. They have great ideas."

They may not be interested in sitting on committees, he says, but he'd love to harness their experience and knowledge and use it for the benefit of the community. "There are a lot of fabulous people in this town."

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Girl on bike in Virgil collision seriously injured

Penny Coles
The Local

An 11-year-old girl riding her bike was struck by a car in Virgil Monday afternoon, and taken to an out-of-region hospital with what the police are calling serious but believed to be not life-threatening injuries. She was hit by a Buick Enclave driven by a 70-year-old Niagara-the-Lake woman as she was leaving Phil's Independent parking lot on to Niagara Stone Road, the Niagara Regional Police report says.

Police, EMS paramedics and the fire department were called about 4:20 p.m. Monday. The girl was treated at the scene before being taken to a local hospital first and then to an out-of-region hospital.

A section of Niagara Stone Road was closed until about 9:15 p.m. while police completed their on-scene investigation.

Phil Leboudec of Phil's Independent said the town and region

"should be doing a better job at identifying these areas that have difficult sightlines for drivers. Between poorly placed trees and low-hanging baskets, and all the cy-

clists using sidewalks and not roads, it is just going to get worse." The same problem exists at the other entrance to the parking lot, he says, with the flower

pots and hanging baskets creating too much interest by the road — there should be a larger setback from driveways and sidewalks. No charges have been

laid in relation to the incident. Anyone who witnessed it is asked to contact officers by calling 905-688-4111, extension 1022200.

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



An 11-year-old girl was taken to an out-of-region hospital with what the police are calling serious but not life-threatening injuries after a collision in Virgil Monday afternoon. (Mike Balsom)

Town to wait for region to join e-scooter project

Penny Coles
The Local

It looks like a long road ahead to legalizing e-scooters in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Town staff, asked to investigate joining a provincial pilot project that reg-

ulates e-scooters, reported to councillors Monday night that it isn't feasible at this time. Approving their use in the municipality would only apply to municipal roads, the report said, suggesting instead the town

work in partnership with the region as it looks at legislating e-scooters, also referred to as kick scooters, on regional roads, and with the Niagara Parks Commission for them to be operated on the Niagara River Parkway Recreational Trail. Town staff will continue to work with the region and Niagara Parks, and to monitor the experiences of municipalities allowing e-scooters, giving the town time to evaluate the pros and cons "once partner road authorities have taken


a final position on this issue," the report said. The issue of opting to join a provincial pilot project surfaced when Richard Mell of Grape Escape Wine Tours asked council to consider joining the provincial program that would allow him to use e-scooters for winery tours. Provincial legislation, he says, only permits e-scooters where municipalities have opted in to the provincial pilot project. The province says municipalities wanting to allow e-scooters to operate

on their roads "must pass bylaws to permit their use and set out specific requirements based on what is best for their communities." "It would be impossible for a local tour operator to offer their envisioned tour routes without using the NPC Recreation Trail and regional roads in Niagara-on-the-Lake," town staff said in the report. The Niagara regional transportation department has a safety team currently evaluating the merits of opting in to the provincial


pilot, and "has expressed a willingness to work with the town on this issue in the future," the report says. The region has not yet opted into the e-scooter pilot, and is not permitting their use on any regional road allowance, including multi-use trails and designated bike paths. Niagara Parks Commission is also considering the program but is unlikely to opt in to the pilot at this time, the town report said, and currently e-scooters

Continued on page 9

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Her parents were both very creative, she adds, so her talent came naturally.

"My mother could design a room on a dime, and that's how I started as well, on a dime, although I don't do it that way any more," she jokes.

She got her start selling furniture, and quickly discovered her customers trusted her design advice, asking her to come to their homes to help with colour and fabric selection. Starting her own interior design business became the next obvious step, which she did, in the Durham Region in 1992, offering consultations on interior decorating, and specializing in furniture, blinds, custom draperies and accessories.



In 2005, with her husband John's help and skills, they expanded the business together to include full renovations, doing the most amazing kitchen and bathroom makeovers — check out Help Me Rhonda's online photo gallery to see how amazing — and relying of the best contractors and suppliers available to

make sure they delivered great service and top-quality results.

Rhonda says she often had clients call on her for help when contractors had gone over budget, or in some cases, hadn't even completed the job they had promised. Clients were finding themselves without the resources to finish the work.

By offering renovation and decorating services, HMR can ensure the job gets done properly, within budget, and with the results clients are expecting.

A decision to move house and business to Niagara-on-the-Lake was both "scary and exciting," she says, but she and her husband John have adult children in the

region, and an expanding number of grandchildren they wanted to be closer to.

"We really didn't want to miss out on spending more time with them," she says, "and we love it here. People are very warm and welcoming, and we feel very much at home."

They bought a fixer-upper on Concession 6,

and they are both immersed in making it into their dream home, but they are hard-working and motivated, and interested in taking on the dreams of others.

While Rhonda brings a keen design sense, taste and style to help fulfill her clients' wishes, she also understands the fundamentals, and considers herself to be open and direct, saying what she thinks. If she believes a client is headed down the right path with her design ideas, Rhonda says so, but she's not afraid to tell a client if she disagrees. What matters to her most, she says, is that her clients are happy with the results — and they are.

"We're every customer-oriented," she says. "We do a great job, and we make sure we have happy clients. Renovations are hard to live through, but I make sure they turn out beautiful in the end. The client gets something they love with the budget they have, everyone is happy, and it's all been worth it! The end result is all that matters."



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– Rhonda and John

helpmerhondas.ca | 905.391.2499 | info@helpmerhondas.ca

EDITORIAL

Transportation plan forces a look to the future

With the town taking 50 per cent of the revenue of the municipal accommodation tax, however much that is and whatever it is spent on, it should afford some financial relief to residents, although that is not its purpose.

It is money that won't have to come out of residents' pockets for tourism-related capital projects financed by that revenue, similar to the way parking revenue has helped offset the costs of tourism for years. Only it seems the accommodation tax revenue will be more closely directed and with greater caution at specific projects, with a mixed group of business representatives and residents to advise on what those projects might be. And as councillors and the Chamber of Commerce have pointed out, there needs to be a tourism strategy to help determine how that money should be spent.

Some residents might say, especially if they ventured out

to visit Simcoe Park on Canada Day or the recent Cherry Festival, that some of the revenue from the accommodation tax might be used to find that very elusive solution to traffic and parking solutions in the Old Town, so they could enjoy the festivals and special events that draw so many visitors.

But, you might well think, there is that \$160,000 transportation master plan and its \$64 million in recommendations to solve those problems.

Many who will be expected to pay for those recommendations are shaking their heads in confusion. This is not the first time it's been said, but that plan seems to address how to redirect traffic flow into town, not so much what to do with it when it gets there. Those who aren't engineers, and some who are, wonder at that goal.

Thirty years ago, Neil Rumble, then general manager of the Chamber of Commerce, used to talk about being careful

not to kill the goose that laid the golden egg. It hasn't happened yet. After two years of a pandemic, visitors thankfully are flocking to town. But where is the tipping point? When does the time come that NOTL will no longer attract visitors who decide they would like to stay, many of whom then become the new residents who live here?

How long before all the accolades stop for what is still considered the most beautiful, the friendliest town? Will it become the place to visit once and vow never to return?

A good, smart group of people sit around the council table regularly trying to sort out a huge variety of issues in this town that's part rural and agricultural, part historically significant, part modern subdivisions and part an attractive sought-out tourism destination. It's a safe place to bring up a family — but then there's the problem of schools, and a great

place to enjoy retirement — oh yes, only with a car. As election candidates start declaring their intentions to try to claim one of those seats at the table, the long list of very important issues facing them is formidable.

It's possible the transportation master plan, as flawed as many see it to be, has done the town a favour. It may be the document that helps to crystallize priorities, that demands a focused look on the long-term,

very big picture of what Niagara-on-the-Lake wants to be. And what it could be in the future, for its residents, businesses and visitors.

Penny Coles
The Local

Fire Light hydrangeas grow up to 10 feet tall

Marla Percy
Special to The Local

Ingrid Cook's inviting corner garden, with its various blooming hydrangeas, reminds us how well these flowers work in our climate.

From now until fall we will be enjoying them all over town. This lovely example of a Hydrangea Paniculata makes a superb backdrop for the hakone grass and small red monarda.

This one is Fire Light, whose flowers blossom in white but gradually turn a luscious deep pink (some varieties are red).

Fire Light is very hardy, with thick reddish stalks which can withstand our lake winds. They can grow from six to 10 feet tall and five to six feet wide.

Hydrangeas of any sort grow well in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the simple reason

that they will grow in clay, loam or sandy soil and will handle soil ph from acidic, alkaline to neutral. They love moisture, but your soil should be well-drained. They can be pruned in early spring but no more than a third of the stem's length.

They can handle full sun (afternoon shade is welcome in our hot summers) and part

shade, but the ones in part shade in my experience do not create the same show.

After planting, add fertilizer and mulch well. Top up the fertilizer mid-summer. The flowers, as for most hydrangeas, make great fresh or dried flower arrangements. No wonder you see these stalwarts in many gardens.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Jane Austin understood the human spirit, and knew how to write stories. In *Persuasion* (Britbox, 2007 and Netflix, 2022), her characters are full and interesting, con-

strained by the rules of society, but filled with passion. The heroine of this piece bravely flaunts the norms of family and society and find true love. For me the 2007 version is truer to Austin's spirit and intent. Both films are visually beautiful and emotionally charged.

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

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

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Garden of the week



Ingrid Cook, at 56 MacDonnell Rd., is this week's winner, with an expansive front garden. It may be shallow, but showcases many shrubs, trees, perennials and beautiful pots and planters on the front porch. The garden displays a disciplined colour palette, while showcasing textures, unity and harmony, the judges say. To nominate a garden of the week, visit jointheconversationnotl.org/garden-of-the-week (Photo supplied)

COMMENT

Local LETTERS: Transportation master plan ignores heritage

Dear members of council,
As a taxpaying resident of the Old Town and following the invitation to contribute feedback, I would like to make the following comments in response to the Transportation Master Plan report.

As this report indicates, public consultation is a key component of the process. However, given the massive scope of the report, I think it unlikely that many ordinary residents would have either the time or patience to read or digest its content, and I would

expect that those who do join the conversation will be few in number.

This of course would simply be consistent with the online survey showing a response rate of only 64, and as with other recent and local online surveys that have been carried out, it lacks the accuracy that can be reasonably expected in a proper random survey, and is statistically insignificant. It is for this reason that my main focus is in reference to Charlotte Street.

a) Charlotte Street is recommended in the report to become a collector road so as to carry traffic relatively continuously (whatever that means), and article 5.5.1 indicates that the town should emphasize that a collector street does not equate to high traffic volume even though it is to relieve traffic on Niagara Stone Road. This seems to me to be a rather naive conclusion.

Charlotte Street is currently a residential street, acknowledged in the report as such as are several other streets, with private residences and driveways on both sides and continuous along its entire length, together with many residential side street entrances. In addition, the Heritage Trail crossover is used by pedestrians and cyclists and would create an impediment either way. This recommendation would likely result in the eventual destruction of the existing neighbourhood and its present character as well as seriously compromising safety that seems to be a key issue in the report, and I am strongly

opposed to this recommendation as being thoughtless and lacking in common sense
b) Article 2.2.2 indicates that heavy truck traffic is to be discouraged on collector roads while Table 2.4 indicates that large motor vehicles are to be prohibited. This apparent disparity is confusing as to meaning and is likely to be unenforceable anyway.
c) The Old Town is a distinctive location with many heritage and historical assets, as well as live theatre, that results in a large number of visiting tourists. However, while it seems to be recognized that this is a seasonal occurrence only, and does not exist throughout the entire year, there is no indication in the report that this uniqueness has been considered as relevant or otherwise in its analysis. The adoption by council of any traffic recommendation must take into account the historical uniqueness of NOTL Old Town.

Derek Collins
NOTL

Summer camping adventures continue

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

One of the national parks that was on our list to visit on our return trip from B.C. to Ontario was Waterton Lakes National Park, in southern Alberta.

Efforts to begin the process of declaring this area a park first started in 1895. Continued development of the park over the next century helped to create what it is today. Noticeable as you approach the park on Alberta Highway 6 is the change from prairie-like grasslands with mountain ranges as magnificent backdrop. Waterton Lakes National Park straddles the Alberta-Montana border and is twinned with Glacier National Park in the U.S. Together they are named the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Parks Canada has a wonderful interpretive centre located in the Waterton Park town centre and their town campsite is close to the lake. Wonderful views of the mountain scenery surround the area and with the changes in weather over the days we stayed there, the views of these mountains always seemed to offer something new. The combination of mountains and lake scenery, was also quite spectacular.

It was quite windy and cold the days we were there and we were glad for the insulation in the trailer, a propane furnace

and our cozy sleeping blankets. We also were pleased to have brought a small electric heater when electricity was available. We felt quite sorry for the younger folk in tents by the lake that were flapping furiously, especially the one morning when there was driving snow. We later discovered that Waterton Lakes area is the second windiest area in Canada.

One of the highlights of our stay there was sighting the bighorn sheep and deer that commonly walk through the town and campsite area. Several seemed to check out our trailer but were only attracted to the grass growing around it.

The opportunity for some hiking was also a highlight. There are numerous hikes all categorized by level of difficulty. The first was quite short, taking us through the campground, along the bank of the Waterton River to view Cameron Falls. A walkway and stairs allowed one to continue up to the top on both sides to view the falls from there. We chose one side. While there, deer also came down and crossed behind where I was standing taking photos of the falls.

We had to drive the Red Rock Parkway to do one of the longer hikes. It was here that we could observe the effects of a major wildfire called the Kenow Wildfire that tore through the area in the early fall of 2017. The fire, which

started in B.C., unfortunately affected 38 per cent of the park, and much more of the surrounding areas. You really can't appreciate the extent of such a wildfire until you stand among the blackened skeletons of an entire forest.

Some evidence of regrowth could be seen in the five years since this occurred, but it will be generations before it recovers to its natural state. At the end of this hike was another amazing waterfall sight, Blakiston Falls, with viewing

platforms recently replaced after the fire.

Another interesting feature of the Waterton Lakes Park is the Prince of Wales Hotel. Built in 1927, the hotel was designated a National Historic Site in 1992. At its location, on a hill overlooking Upper Waterton Lake to the front and mountain peaks to the rear, it is definitely a site to see in the area. A path along the outside of the hotel has markers indicating the names of the mountains in the distance.



Cameron Falls is easily reached after a short hike from Waterton's campsite.



Bighorn sheep are common visitors to the campsite and surrounding areas and roads.



On the trail to Blakiston Falls, the aftermath of the 2017 Kenow Wildfire is very noticeable.



Mule deer are daily visitors to the town camping site. (Photos by David Gilchrist)

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Outbreak at Upper Canada Lodge over

Penny Coles
The Local

The outbreak of COVID at Upper Canada Lodge is over.

On July 13, residents and staff at Upper Canada Lodge, Niagara-on-the-Lake's long-term care home run by Niagara Region, became victims of COVID-19's seventh wave.

On Monday, the home was able to announce an end to the outbreak.

This was the first outbreak at UCL since the pandemic began more than two years ago.

Upper Canada Lodge has had proactive measures in place to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission since the beginning of the pandemic, says Denise Mur-

phy, director of resident care. "The protocols put in place effectively worked to prevent a COVID outbreak in our home through the first six waves of the pandemic," she says, but despite their best efforts to keep COVID-19 out of the home, they experienced first-hand the challenge of this virus.

The five people in the home impacted by COVID,

a mix of staff and residents, have recovered, says Murphy. "Each person impacted experienced mild symptoms," and none had to be hospitalized.

The home took immediate steps to respond when the first COVID case was identified, including daily screening and testing of everyone coming into the building, following

proper personal protective equipment (PPE) practices, ensuring enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, and cohorting of staff in the home. General visiting was suspended as per Ministry and Public Health direction; however, essential caregivers were permitted to continue to come into the home, says Murphy.

Once the outbreak was

declared over by the region's public health department Monday, the lodge was again open to visitors.

"When the outbreak was confirmed, staffing was enhanced immediately to ensure sufficient resources to implement enhanced infection prevention and control measures and to continue to provide excellent care and services for the residents," says Murphy.

All staff at the home are vaccinated. "We offer vaccinations to residents in-house and all residents who are eligible and have consented have had their fourth dose booster vaccination."

"Increased community spread increases the risk for outbreaks in long-term care," she says, with long-term care homes seeing the impact of the number of cases in the community.

"We would like to thank all of the families and friends of Upper Canada Lodge for their support and heartwarming correspondence. The efforts of our wonderful staff do not go unnoticed."



Upper Canada Lodge can again welcome visitors.

Staff shortages put hospitals under pressure

Local Staff

Patients at Niagara hospital sites will continue to experience longer wait times and delays in service due to severe staffing shortages.

A news release reports

an increasing demand for hospital services, with the ongoing COVID pandemic adding stress to staff and programs across all hospital sites.

"We are having difficulties with staffing levels. Currently we are aggressively recruiting to fill 608

job vacancies across Niagara Health. However, there is a limited availability of trained healthcare workers across Ontario and Canada. These shortages are exacerbated by growing numbers of staff and physicians in self-isolation or sick due to COVID," the news release says.

"We also have more than 100 patients staying in our hospital waiting for care in the community, including home and community care, and long-term care. This creates challenges with the timely transfer of patients from our emergency departments to other areas of the hospital and for discharging patients. Like hospitals, community agencies are also facing serious health human resource pressures, which create additional delays across the system."

The most immediate pressures are in emergency departments, with staff and physicians caring for more people with more complex care needs than ever before.

"We recognize that waiting can be difficult and stressful for patients and families, and we are asking for understanding and patience."

Staff and physicians are doing absolutely everything they can, the report says. "We are grateful

and recognize that they are dealing with stress and burnout after working at an exhausting pace for nearly two and a half years throughout the pandemic. Our team needs support to continue to provide safe, quality care. The demands on

them continue to be high and they need time to recover."

Options include using the emergency department for emergencies only. For all other health concerns:

- Contact your family doctor or call Health Con-

nect Ontario, to chat with a registered nurse 24/7 via phone or web chat.

- Make a virtual appointment for urgent care to speak with a Niagara Health clinician Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by visiting UrgentCareOntario.ca

Region announces first case of monkeypox

Local Staff

Niagara's public health department reported its first confirmed case of monkeypox in a Niagara resident Monday.

A media release said public health staff are conducting case and contact management to identify at-risk contacts, and to help prevent spread of the virus. Eligible close contacts will be offered Imvumune vaccine, it said.

Monkeypox can spread from person to person through direct contact with an infected individual's bodily fluids, sores, or materials contaminated with the virus, such as bedding, clothing, or toothbrush, the news release said.

Anyone with close contact with a confirmed case

of monkeypox could be at risk for the virus. Individuals with multiple or anonymous sexual partners are at a higher risk of contracting the infection, said the regional report.

"During this current outbreak, infections have been primarily reported among gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men through their close personal and sexual networks."

Symptoms can include fever, chills, muscle aches and pain, swollen lymph nodes (in the neck and groin), and a blistering rash that typically appears between one and three days after other symptoms, such as a fever, develop.

If you have been exposed to a suspected or confirmed case of monkeypox, monitor for

symptoms for 21 days. If you develop symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your health care provider or public health.

Most individuals who become infected with monkeypox will recover in two to four weeks without treatment, however, some people can experience severe illness.

Public health will be operating several monkeypox vaccine clinics for at-risk individuals from Aug. 2 to 4.

"As this is an evolving situation, we continue to remind everyone of the importance of using credible sources to stay informed."

For more information on monkeypox, visit niagararegion.ca/health/monkeypox.aspx.

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Pride crosswalk to be installed on Anderson Lane

Penny Coles
The Local

On Monday night Niagara-on-the-Lake town council approved locations for the installation of a rainbow crosswalk and five rainbow benches, directing staff to move forward with the implementation of the project in support of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Council briefly discussed the results of a public survey held in June to determine locations for the crosswalk, and agreed

with 41 per cent of 224 responses that it will cross Anderson Lane at Niagara Stone Road.

The town has budgeted \$15,000 for the crosswalk, and received a grant that will cover one of the five benches.

Coun. Allan Bisback made the motion that was approved unanimously to proceed with the installation, and that Lord Mayor Betty Disero begin fundraising with the town's diversity, equity, and inclusion committee to offset the cost of the project.

The survey also asked if anyone would like to contribute financially, and 22 people said they would like to donate or contribute in some way, the town report said.

Disero announced the region has added a crosswalk on Niagara Stone Road at Anderson Lane, as requested by local residents, to its budget, to be installed when expected road work is carried out.

Although there was a wide variety of suggestions of other locations made in the survey, including 29

comments in opposition to the crosswalk installation anywhere, there wasn't enough of an "emerging theme" to consider the alternatives, the report said.

The benches will be placed where suggested in the survey, with 62.5 per cent of the respondents agreeing with the choices presented: Mary at King

Street in the Old Town, Centennial Park in Virgil, the Queenston Firehall, Sparky's Park in St. Davids, and the Niagara on the Green Park in Glendale.



A rainbow crosswalk has been approved to traverse Anderson Lane at Niagara Stone Road. This regional crosswalk by its buildings in Thorold is the same design as what is expected in NOTL. (File photo)

E-scooters not legal in NOTL

Continued from page 4

are not permitted on the Niagara River Parkway Recreational Trail.

The provincial pilot program began in 2020 and runs until 2024. E-scooters remain illegal in municipalities that choose not to opt in to the pilot program.

Given the cost and how accessible e-scooters are, Mell told councillors in June, "they would be a good mode of transportation for younger people to get to work." He noted he has already seen people using them on the path

through Virgil to the Old Town.

He also ensured councillors that if he were able to use them for winery tours, liability insurance would be covered, and there would be staff accompanying each tour.

The provincial pilot sets out requirements for such issues as helmets, minimum age for riders, and speed restrictions. E-scooters must also follow all rules of the road, and municipalities joining the provincial program can decide where e-scooters can be used.

In response to ques-

tions from councillors, CAO Marnie Cluckie said "staff are not saying they never want to do it. They can't do if the other partners aren't in."

It would be very difficult for e-scooters to move around town if limited to municipal roads, she said.

"We can express our interest to the region and Niagara Parks Commission, and let them know when they're ready to proceed we're all in."

She agreed that staff would let the region know of the municipality's interest in proceeding with participation in a pilot project.



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Credit Union employee to take turn with torch

Mike Balsom
The Local

St. Catharines resident Peter Fenwick is thrilled to be representing Meridian Credit Union as one of the torchbearers this Saturday as the Roly McLenahan Canada Games torch makes its way from Queenston into Virgil. “I didn’t even know it was on until I found out someone

had nominated me,” says the operations representative for the credit union’s Motusbank online service. “I am pretty outgoing around the company, so I thought it would be a great thing to do, to represent the company. And I also love running, too.” Fenwick confesses that he is a bit of a fairweather runner, not one to head out for his typical five kilometre

stretch when it gets messy outside. But he enjoys the solitude that running brings. “I run purely for fun,” Fenwick says. “I keep it casual, I’m not too intense. I just enjoy getting outside. At this point in my life I’m not in it for the competition.” Most likely he scratches his competition itch through his other athletic involvement. Since his move to St. Catharines from his native Toronto just before the beginning of the pandemic, he has become involved in recreational volleyball and softball. He hopes to continue with volleyball this winter and maybe add dodgeball to his weekly agenda. Fenwick has been working for Meridian since shortly after finishing school in Toronto. He began his career as a teller and worked his way up to his current position. When an opportunity to transfer to the St. Catharines head office on Corporate Park Drive came up just as he was looking to move out of his parent’s home, he jumped at it. “The rent is so much

more affordable down here,” says the downtown resident. “I had some friends who lived out this way. I would come down from time to time and it just seemed like a great place to live. I don’t miss the traffic at all, and St. Catharines downtown is about as much downtown as I need right now.” In his first few months here he followed the lead of some of those friends and took a part-time job working at Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Pillitteri Estates Winery. There, he was able to discover how tight-knit the community can be, one of the aspects of Niagara living that he says he didn’t get in his much larger hometown. For Fenwick, the fact that Meridian gives back to the community through sponsorship of events such as the summer games is an important factor for his workplace satisfaction. “It’s a big part of the company,” he says. “They did the same thing when I was up in Toronto, sponsoring a lot of local events and concerts. There’s a lot of behind-the-

scenes contributions they make too that a lot of people don’t know about.” Fenwick recognizes that in banking, there are myriad options for his career, but he insists it would take a massive raise to draw him away from a company with the community values like those of his current employer. “It’s always been one of the things that I have valued the most,” Fenwick explains. “Even in my day-to-day work I can see the community spirit and the priority they place on it. It’s nice to be a part of giving back.” As of press time, Fenwick is scheduled to run the third part of the NOTL leg of the relay, picking the torch up from the corner of York Road and Sheppard Crescent. He plans to run his kilometre-long journey, then jump in his car to meet fellow Meridian employee Wade Stayzer on Four Mile Creek Road just beyond Line 3 to accompany him on the last stretch to the Meridian Credit Union Arena. “I think a lot of Meridian people are going to walk

with him for that last leg,” says Fenwick. “Some will watch my leg of the run, but I haven’t heard yet that any of them will be running with me.” Fenwick will hand the torch to another Meridian employee, Jane Martin, who is responsible for her own leg of the relay. Martin is an Athletics Ontario official in track and field, has been involved in gymnastics and basketball and has volunteered with Special Olympics Ontario and the Invictus Games. The musical theatre fan, who volunteers with her local community theatre groups, hopes to one day volunteer at the Olympic Games. Martin passes the torch to Ken Seibel, another Meridian torchbearer. The certified financial planner has been with the credit union for just under four years. He will be running alongside his daughter Emily, a student council member at Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls. For Fenwick’s part, he

Continued on page 11



Peter Fenwick, an employee of the Meridian Credit Union which sponsors the event, loves that his employer gives so much back to the community. (Photo supplied)

ParaSport athlete nominated by hockey coach

Penny Coles
The Local

Julian Caverley is very excited to be included in the Canada Summer Games Torch Relay, as it makes its way through Niagara-on-the-Lake this Saturday. The graduate of Holy Cross Secondary School in St. Catharines, an enthusiastic member of a ParaSport sledge hockey team, said he didn’t know he’d been nominated to carry the torch until he was notified he’d been chosen to partic-

ipate in the NOTL portion of the relay. He will take the torch from Ken and Emily Seibel by the St Davids Veterinary Clinic on Four Mile Creek Road, and carry it in his power wheelchair to the intersection of Creek Road and Line 9, where he will hand it off to Carter Simpson. He expects to be accompanied by his parents, possibly some friends, and one of his high school teachers who plans to join him. Caverley says he loves being active in many sports,

including wheelchair basketball, bocce ball, and volleyball, which is played sitting the ground. This winter he discovered his passion for hockey, joining the new Niagara Sledge Hockey League. He explains he plays on a sled, steering it right or left as he pushes it forward to stay balanced, otherwise it tips over. He learned recently it was his hockey coach, Keven Waters, a program and event coordinator with ParaSport Ontario, who nominated him for the

torch relay. The 20-year-old is looking forward to starting in Niagara College’s CICE (Community Integration through Cooperative Education) in September. The Niagara College program is designed to provide individuals with disabilities and other significant learning challenges the opportunity to experience college life and enhance their employability, academic and social skills. Caverley says he loves taking photos, and would like to get into photography

when he’s finished Niagara College. He’s also really looking forward to rejoining his teammates in St. Catharines for his second season with the Niagara Sledge Hockey League, now that he has the hang of playing on ice. “It’s good to get as many points as you can, or just

have fun,” says Caverley about the sport. “In my case, I just want to have fun.” The torch relay will begin this Saturday, July 30, at Queenston Heights Park with a rally at 9 a.m. The relay starts at 10 a.m. and finishes at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.



Julian Caverley, active in several sports, will roll along his section of the relay in his power wheelchair. (Photo submitted)

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Games great for young athletes, says torchbearer

Penny Coles
The Local

John Easton was very surprised he'd been chosen to join the torch relay in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He had applied when he heard about the opportunity to participate in the event and was hopeful he'd be given a chance to carry the torch somewhere close to home, as the nomination form said. "They sure got that wrong," he joked. He lives in Brockville, and thought he might be carrying the torch somewhere in the Ottawa area.

Instead, it will be handed to him by Linda Chang outside KB Canvas on Four Mile Creek Road, where he will carry it to Wade Stayzer a little further along the road. Stayzer takes the torch the last leg of the journey, to the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Easton says he's quite happy to travel to NOTL to have the opportunity to be part of the relay Saturday. It worked out well, he explains. Easton is 65 years old, and an active competitive rower who recently retired from a career as a professional hydrogeologist. He continues to give back to amateur sport

through officiating at rowing regattas in St Catharines, and elsewhere, as a Rowing Canada licensed umpire. He had planned to be in St. Catharines to ump at a regatta Sunday anyway, so the relay is actually perfect timing, he says. "I've been involved in many different sports my whole life. In my youth I rowed at the Brockville Rowing Club to provincial and national championships. I also played football, water polo, and raced bicycles," he says. "I'm still an active rower and am currently training to row in the Canadian Rowing Marathon in Ottawa at the

end of August." He has also volunteered to teach high school and university sports. He's pretty fit "for an old guy," still cycling as well as rowing. "I've pretty much done every sport known to man," he says, with the exception of maybe baseball. He is especially excited to be part of the torch relay for these games in particular, because they are so important to young athletes. They are a starting point for many younger athletes who will graduate up through the ranks, he says. "These games help bring them along. They get young athletes interested, who will keep up that interest. That is really why I wanted to be involved. I was tickled when I saw I'd been selected and I definitely feel honoured by the privilege to carry this torch."

He's been to NOTL many times, he says, and is looking forward to the weekend. "I remember how good the fresh peaches there are." When he was rowing he was always dieting and had to stay away from them. He won't this weekend. He's sure to be on the lookout for fresh peaches. Being from out of town, Easton won't have an entou-

rage to run with him, so for those planning to be spectators, watch for him in the second-to-last leg as he comes up Four Mile Creek Road and cheer him on.



John Easton, a rower and a rowing official, will be travelling from his Brockville home to participate in the NOTL torch relay. (Bill Donegan)

Scale ups excitement level

Continued from page 10

can't wait to get out to the route Saturday to meet new people and to soak up the spirit of the Canada Summer Games. "Prior to this, I didn't know much about the Canada Games," he tells The Local. "I'm starting to recognize the scale of the whole thing now. I'm pretty excited to get out to watch some of the sports as well." **Why the Roly McLaren Canada Games Torch?** Roland McLaren

was a professional hockey player who spent much of his career in the American Hockey League. His NHL career consisted of 60 games with the Detroit Red Wings during the 1945-1946 season. He went on to a successful coaching career with the Rochester Americans, winning the Calder Cup in 1958, before transitioning to scouting. McLaren later served as New Brunswick's first director of sports, working to promote and expand opportunities for youth in sport in

that province from 1961 to 1981. McLaren was also an original member of the first Canada Games Council in the country's centennial year, 1967. He was instrumental in the early years of the Canada Games and continued to be involved up to his death from lung cancer in 1984 at the age of 62. The following year, the Canada Games Torch was renamed the Roly McLaren Torch in his honour, and he was inducted into the Canada Games Hall of Honour as a builder in 2009.

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Wilde 'trivial comedy' has audience laughing out loud

Mike Balsom
The Local

In 60 years of the Shaw Festival, Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, arguably his most famous play, has only been presented twice.

Wilde's 'trivial comedy for serious people,' now appearing at the Festival Theatre, has only once before been part of Shaw's playbill. That was in 2004 when former artistic director Christopher Newton returned to helm the production.

With this season dedicated to the memory of Newton, who died in December at 85 years old, perhaps it is fitting that current artistic director Tim Carroll takes a run at the play Newton directed, a play Wilde wrote before scandal derailed both his life and his career.

Some of the reviews of Newton's version of the play were less than rosy 18 years ago, pointing in particular to the lack of humour in a play intend-

ed to be funny.

It's uncertain whether Carroll read the reviews of his predecessor's work. If he did, he certainly took heed, as the audience was roaring with laughter at last Friday night's performance.

The Importance of Being Earnest is a story of deception, hidden lives and double identities. In some ways it mirrors Wilde's own deceitful efforts, as he hid his affair with the much younger British poet and aristocrat Lord Alfred Douglas. Just weeks after his play's triumphant London premiere in 1895, his secret life was scandalously exposed by Douglas' father, the Marquess of Queensberry.

In today's terms, Wilde was almost immediately 'cancelled' from Victorian society. Five years after a very public court proceeding, he died in exile almost penniless.

Like much of Wilde's work, *Earnest* at times stands as a scathing in-

dictment of society, presenting characters, such as John 'Jack' Worthing and Algernon Moncrief, who can be as unlikeable as they are hilarious. He takes shots at romance, marriage, education, modern culture and 'German Skepticism' in this script.

The three-act play begins in Algernon's flat in London, where Jack, pretending to be his fictional younger brother Ernest back visiting his second home in the country, calls prior to his mission to propose to Moncrief's cousin Gwendolen Fairfax. Moncrief confronts his friend, having found a cigarette case with an inscription to 'Uncle Jack' from 'little Cecily.'

Exposed, Jack confesses his true identity, explaining to his friend that he uses his 'brother' as an excuse to leave his staid life in Hertfordshire. Moncrief, in turn, reveals his own ruse, a fictional invalid friend named Bunbury whom



Jacqueline Thair as Miss Prism, with (left to right) André Morin as Footman, Graeme Somerville as Merriman and Patty Jamieson as Maid in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. (David Cooper)



Peter Fernandes as Algernon Moncrieff and Gabriella Sundar Singh as Cecily Cardew, on stage at the Festival Theatre. (Emily Cooper)

he 'visits' whenever he wants to avoid attending a boring societal gathering. Algernon, in fact, calls this form of deceit 'bunburying.'

As Algernon, Peter Fernandes chews up the scenery almost as ravenously as he consumes the cucumber sandwiches which are meant for Moncrief's aunt, Lady Bracknell and her daughter Gwendolen. Fernandes plays the idle young gentleman with much joie de vivre, expertly delivering some of Wilde's most well-known lines taking aim at the institution of marriage.

Martin Harper plays Jack/Ernest with a suitable stuffiness. Jack sticks to his plan to win the hand of Gwendolen, considering revealing his true identity, until she tells him she had always dreamed of marrying a man named Ernest. Harper, a 17-year Shaw veteran, brings an honest sense of confusion and urgency to the role as he extends his ruse further.

Act II shifts the scene to the gardens outside Jack's country house in Hertfordshire. Here, the audience is introduced to the diminutive Cecily,

played by the wonderful Gabriella Sundar Singh. Cecily is visited by Algernon, who poses as the ne'er-do-well Ernest. Cecily falls for him, excited by the many stories told about Ernest by his 'older brother.'

In walks Jack being Jack, announcing that his younger brother has sadly passed, only to discover his aristocratic friend now masquerading as Ernest. Harper and Fernandes bring to mind perhaps Jack Tripper and Larry Dallas desperately and hilariously trying to avoid the whole plot blowing up on them in the 1970s sitcom *Three's Company*.

As a matter of fact, it's the other way around, as surely *The Importance of Being Earnest* and other comedic plays of the time have certainly left their mark on modern day theatre, film and TV for more than a century. Wilde, and indeed Shaw as well, wrote the blueprint for today's comedies of misunderstanding.

Act III sees the characters in the study inside the country house, where the plot unravels around Jack's origin story, having been abandoned as a baby in a handbag at a

train station. The quips come hard and fast here, leading to the climax at the end, which received uproarious laughter and a standing ovation from the Festival Theatre crowd.

It must be mentioned the trio of Patty Jamieson as the maid, Neil Barclay as the butler Lane, and Adam Sergison (filling in Friday for André Morin) as the footman, brought some lighthearted comic moments. As well, Kate Hennig's portrayal of Lady Bracknell was perfectly regal and pompous.

Carroll has assembled a cast and crew that bring to rollicking life Wilde's 'trivial comedy,' a work George Bernard Shaw himself did not greatly care for. Perhaps he needed to see this production to truly appreciate it.

The Importance of Being Earnest continues at the Festival Theatre until Oct. 9. The play is two hours and 40 minutes of perfect Victorian farce. At that length, you may be excused if you have to do a little bit of 'bunburying' of your own to get out and see it.

For more information or tickets visit shawfest.com or call 905-468-2172.

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Kristi Frank and Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane in *The Duke and Two Ireces* (Shaw Festival, 2021). Photo by Jason Lupish (Lauren Garbutt Photography).

St. Davids Lions Carnival an ‘exceptional’ event

Glenn Miller, president of the St. Davids Lions Club and carnival chair, says this year’s four-day event was what they expected — bigger and better than ever. Although the totals aren’t in, the overall impression was that with the exception of Wednesday, the crowd was bigger than previous years, stayed later than is typical, and ate more than ever. Some of the items, including fries and hot dogs, were sold out, and Townsend Rides was more than happy with the ride numbers and will return next year. The music was great, including the high school kids that performed Saturday afternoon. “We were expecting the event to be above average, above what would be a normal carnival, because of the enthusiasm we heard leading up to it, and that’s exactly what we saw,” says Miller.



Emma Trott (left), Valerie Yaremchak, Lions Ron Strichark and Kyle Skinner, Taylor Renaud and Colsen Flemington flip and serve great burgers at the St. Davids Lions Carnival, while Chloe Trout (right) serves a hot dogs to Julia Arnold and Bailey Kullerkupp. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Leos Braiden Flemington, Charlee Rowland, Eadie Anderson, Megan McDowell and Emily Ngo looked after the surprise bag booth for kids.



Lion Martin Forster gives the popular Lions Grocery Wheel a spin. All the baskets were won before the carnival was over Saturday evening, with help from Leo Grace Anderson who was selling tickets, including to Frank Bauer.



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Trees coming down

The Niagara Parks Commission began taking down about 30 dead oak trees in the Paradise Grove area on the North Niagara River Parkway Monday, stopping traffic when necessary. Miller Waste Systems has donated \$10,000 to cover the cost of planting 150 new trees, with a variety of native species to be planted in the fall. (David Gilchrist)



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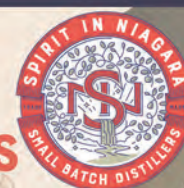
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Town to look at Glendale 12-hour parking limit

Penny Coles
The Local

A staff report on the 12-hour parking bylaw as it applies to Glendale got lost in the shuffle of staff turnover, council heard Monday night, and will be resurrected.

Daniel St-Jean, a Keith Crescent resident, first came to council in January 2021 to object to Niagara-on-the-Green residents being ticketed for parking on the street.

He was at council to re-

peat his concern Monday, since nothing has been done to change the situation in the interim and “many, many residents” are still being ticketed.

The bylaw that restricts parking to a maximum of 12 hours “has nothing to do with protecting citizens,” he told councillors, and has no teeth — cars don’t get towed as they would if they were parked in front of a hydrant.

He told councillors a member of town staff suggested if residents move their cars just

a few feet one way or another every 11.5 hours, so that when bylaw enforcement officers take photos they will show the tire valves have moved, residents won’t be ticketed. “You could leave your car there for a month and move it a couple of feet,” he said.

The bylaw doesn’t do anything to keep vehicles off the street, “and it annoys the heck out of the taxpayers and citizens of this town.”

His preferred solution is to remove the bylaw. “That would

make me and all my neighbours very happy,” he said.

If there is a need for the bylaw in other areas, leave it in place, he added, “but instruct bylaw officers not to bother us in Niagara-on-the-Green.”

A third solution would be to offer residents who live in the neighbourhood a permit that says “leave my vehicle alone,” he suggested.

When Coun. Sandra O’Connor asked staff what had happened to a council motion made in May, 2021 to inves-

tigate providing permits for parking in NOTG, director of operations Kyle Freeborn said there were motions in May and August 2021, which got lost in staff’s “outstanding items list” and changes in “staff and structure.”

When Coun. Wendy Cheropita asked why there is 12-hour maximum parking in town, CAO Marnie Cluckie said it was originally to deal with “boondockers” in the dock area — people with campers who park for exten-

sive periods of time.

Cheropita suggested issuing permits at a price for residents to park in front of their homes can seem as a cash grab, and that staff could also look at removing the parking maximum.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero told St-Jean staff will look at permits and removing the 12-hour parking limit, and he would be notified when the staff report is complete, which Freeborn said could be within a month.

Sustainable budget councillor’s goal for future

Continued from page 2

ant role he has played was first as vice-chair for a year, and then chair of the town’s audit and finance committee — the committee in charge of the town’s budget. It has become a very different process over the last term from previous years, and one that was streamlined, easier for the public to understand when presented to council, easier for council to understand before approving it, but sufficiently detailed to be transparent.

“The financial system and budgeting process was broken,” says Bisback, and he, Coun. Norm Arsenault and treasurer Kyle Freeborn

worked together to improve the process, introducing a new computer program that was extremely helpful in simplifying it.

He also introduced the business case scenario, where each department had to present a case for any new spending and defend it to the audit committee.

Bisback says if elected, he would like to continue on the audit committee, and chair it if asked. His goal, as he has spoken of in the past, is a sustainable budget with pandemic costs behind them. If he is successful in the upcoming election, and could leave a legacy from his second term, it would be to support a sus-

tainable budget, “not that is sustainable for the next year, but the next five to 10 years.”

He was one of many candidates who ran on a platform that included finalizing the town’s official plan, and that is now before the region, with regional approval expected this summer.

Developed in 2019, there are updates already being worked on, with changes that could include more control over building and housing development. He would like to see a return to looking at conceptual zoning, taking streetscape into consideration, rather than allowing houses maximum heights and setbacks that are permit-

ted under zoning bylaws but don’t fit in with the neighbourhood.

There is also more to do in preserving heritage, expanding the heritage district, and enhancing heritage designation across the municipality, he says.

It’s been talked about since the beginning of the term, “but we didn’t do a lot about it.” He’d like an opportunity to see that through, including in areas of Virgil and St. Davids, and to ensure heritage properties aren’t lost through neglect, by “slipping through the cracks. As a community we need to do more to protect them.”

Balancing life for resi-


dents with tourism will likely be a hot topic as we get closer to the election, Bisback said, pointing to the need to complete the tourism strategy next term in a way that’s collaborative, to balance community infrastructure “through traffic control and calming measures, bus parking and idling controls in tourist areas, improved tourist assets funded by the municipal accommodation tax,” and a master recreation plan that deals with parks, pools, and playgrounds, among other facilities.

He also speaks of increasing communication from council regarding town activity, which was discussed at

a recent planning committee meeting.

He would like to see the council chamber open, and last week was the first time a presentation from a member of the public was made in person. He includes leveraging the town’s new website, and the livestreaming of meetings, as ways to improving communication.

“I’ve enjoyed these last three and a half years, and I feel I’ve contributed. I feel I’ve made a difference,” he says. But to him, council decisions aren’t about the issues of today, they’re about what happens in the next decade. “We have to do a better job of looking into the future.”



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TRANSPORTATION

MASTER PLAN

A draft Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Report for Niagara-on-the-Lake, which outlines the TMP study outcome, has been prepared and is open for public review and consultation. In accordance with the requirements of the EA process, a 30-calendar-day review period is being provided for the TMP, between June 30 and August 1, 2022.

Do you want to provide feedback about the report? Here is a list of ways you can participate:

-  **Complete the feedback form on Join the Conversation**
www.jointheconversationnotl.org/TransportationMasterPlan
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Feedback can be provided until **August 1, 2022.**

To read the report, and for more information, please visit www.jointheconversationnotl.org/TransportationMasterPlan.



Two Music Niagara performances this holiday weekend

Mike Balsom
The Local

Music Niagara Festival goes from Beethoven to big bands over the August long weekend.

Renowned Portuguese Beethoven scholar Artur Pereira makes his first-ever visit to Niagara for a program entitled *A Fresh Look at Beethoven*. His performance of some of the German composer's piano sonatas, along with compositions by the late Luiz Costa, also from Portugal, comprise the Sunday, July 31 program at St. Mark's Anglican Church.

Pereira is well-known in classical music circles for his 2020 book *Beethoven's Dedications: Stories Behind the Tributes*. Over 414 pages, Pereira digs deep into the people to whom the composer dedicated some of his most important works, revealing the motivations behind Beethoven's creative process.

"It started with my PhD studies at the University of Manchester," says Pereira, who is now a member of that university's music faculty. "I've been interested in his dedications for a while. I chose Manchester because one of the world's most renowned Beethoven scholars, Barry Cooper, was there."

Many of Beethoven's works were commissioned by aristocrats of his time, predisposing the composer to dedicate the finished pieces to his sponsors. But that was not always the case.

"His *Moonlight Sonata* is a good example," Pereira explains. "He was in love with a countess for many years, but she decided to marry someone else. Her

mother gave Beethoven a present, which is believed to be money. That was a subtle way of telling him he was a commoner, not good enough for her daughter. He was very angry, and a couple of months later this dedication came about I believe as revenge, not love."

As he deepened his knowledge of Beethoven's biography, Pereira began to also learn more about exactly how the composer himself actually performed his own works.

"I came across so many texts from his contemporaries that spoke of how he used trills, ornaments and the pedal in his performances," says Pereira. "That was a revelation for me. Very often piano sonatas by Beethoven are not played in the style that he used to play them. That motivated me to undertake a project to record the entire Beethoven sonatas adopting this performance style believed to be Beethoven's."

Thus far Pereira has recorded eight of a total of 35 Beethoven sonatas, including three that the composer wrote when he was only 12 years old. Pereira's 2016 album consisted of three of Beethoven's sonatas, while his 2020 release combined Beethoven with works from Costa. Pereira's next album, out this fall, will include three more of Beethoven's sonatas, including one of his earliest compositions.

Pereira added Costa's work to his latest in an attempt to bring one of his favourite Portuguese composers to greater recognition.

"There is absolutely beautiful music by Por-

tuguese composers that is not widely known," he laments. "I consider it almost my duty as I gain more international attention to give some of this music more exposure. And I have a direct connection to Costa, as I was fortunate to have many lessons with his daughter Helena de Sá e Costa."

Pereira will present some of Costa's music during his Music Niagara performance, as well as three of Beethoven's sonatas, including his *Spring Sonata*, on which he will be joined by Atis Bankas on violin.

The 4 p.m. Sunday performance is dedicated to the memory of another renowned Beethoven scholar, Charles Edward 'Ted' Walden. The author of *Beethoven's Immortal Beloved: Solving the Mystery*, who lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake, passed away in July, 2020 after a battle with prostate cancer.

On Monday, Aug. 1, the Toronto All-Star Big Band (TABB) takes centre stage at Club Italia for a special Dinner and a Show fundraiser.

Five saxophones, four trombones, four trumpets, piano, bass, drums, and guitar, with five singers rotating through, make up a true big band and a sound that promises to fill the hall.

"In the past we had theatrical-style seating, so we would do some typical dance stuff," TABB artistic director Zygmunt Jedrzejek tells The Local. "Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, some Nelson Riddle arrangements of Sinatra songs. And we'd add some novelty stuff, like *Me and*



The Toronto All-Star Big Band takes centre stage at Club Italia Monday, Aug. 1 for a special Dinner and a Show fundraiser.

My Shadow.

But for the Club Italia show, he's expecting to see people dancing to the music. If that's the case, the setlist may focus more on the numbers that will get people up doing the jive and the Lindy Hop.

Jedrzejek is excited to be bringing such a large number of musicians to Music Niagara after a couple of years being limited to smaller combos.

"Music Niagara was kind enough to invite us to do some Christmas videos the past two years," says a gracious Jedrzejek. "This is going to be our first foray with a big band for Music Niagara since the outbreak of COVID. I'm looking forward to it. People are always responsive and very kind to us."

TABB is a collective of some of the best and brightest musicians in the Greater Toronto Area. Most of the members range in age from between 18 and 22 years old, and typically stay with the group for two to three years as they work on their musical development, often through workshops with some of the finest purveyors of the big band sound.

Most are graduates or current students in post-secondary music programs who audition to

earn their spot in the lineup. Each year new members find their way into the big band to replace those who leave to pursue other musical avenues.

"That's where the rehearsals come in," Jedrzejek says. "People may not always remember our individual musicians, but they do remember the Toronto All-Star Big Band. So there is a consistency that has to remain pretty high as that's what people expect."

It's been a busy summer for the first time since 2019 for Jedrzejek and the band. They recently played three nights in a row at Toronto's Beaches Jazz Festival and were in the region last Sunday for an event at Crystal

Beach. This week will see them in Wasaga Beach, Toronto's Cabbagetown, Bowmanville and Parry Sound all before their Monday Music Niagara performance.

That should put them in fine form to play a truly swinging set Monday night. Tickets for that show are \$115 and include a family-style Italian dinner. They are on sale until late evening Wednesday, July 27 as final numbers for the dinner must be submitted to Club Italia the following morning.

Tickets for Pereira's Sunday performance are \$40. Visit musicniagara.org for information on both events.



Portuguese Beethoven scholar and pianist Artur Pereira will play at St. Mark's Church Sunday. (Photos supplied)

Grand prize winner



Lori Moerschfelder, with her husband Ken, was the big winner of the St. Davids Lions Carnival raffle. Handing her the keys to the camper trailer is Lions president Glenn Miller. The second prize winner of \$1,000 was Jo-Anne Brytwak of NOTL. (Bill Brouwer)

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3Nolans making a difference for today's youth

Continued from page 1

36 goals and 53 assists in 2002-2003. He divided his time between the American Hockey League, the East Coast Hockey League (a U.S. professional league a step below the AHL) and Sweden before playing six games with the Carolina Hurricanes in 2007-2008.

Younger brother Jordan, 33, played eight seasons in the NHL with the Los Angeles Kings, Buffalo Sabres and St. Louis Blues, amassing 24 goals and 28 assists in 375 games. Jordan won the Stanley Cup twice with the Kings and was also a member of the Blues' 2019 cup-winning team.

Ted had his own cup of coffee in the NHL. He was drafted by Detroit in 1978 and played 41 games for the Wings in 1981-1982, and another 19 in 1983-1984. His NHL playing career came to an end with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1985-1986.

He then turned to coaching, starting as a mid-season 1988 replacement with the Ontario Hockey League team he played for, the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. He coached there until the end of the 1994 season, leading the Greyhounds to three consecutive Memorial Cup tournament berths and win-

ning the championship in 1993.

The NHL took notice. The Buffalo Sabres came calling, and Ted guided them for two years in the late 1990s. He took over a struggling team in 1995 and led them to the playoffs in 1997, where they were defeated in the second round by the Philadelphia Flyers. He was awarded the Jack Adams trophy as NHL Coach of the Year that season.

When new general manager Darcy Regier was hired, it was clear he had no plan to keep Nolan behind the bench. He offered Nolan an insulting \$500,000 one-year contract extension, which Nolan refused. Ted was replaced by former Sabre Lindy Ruff before the start of the 1997-1998 season.

To this day, Nolan claims that racism kept him out of coaching in the NHL until the New York Islanders hired him in 2006.

"Rumours were flying at the time," Ted says today. "They started saying that I demanded too much, then I was accused of being drunk at practice. That one hurt the most, because of the way alcohol is linked to our people. And my mom was killed by a drunk driver in our community by a non-Indigenous person."

He was certainly no stranger to racism by then. His first real taste of it came when at 17 years old, Nolan left Garden River to play for the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Kenora Thistles.

"I was bullied for a whole year, I had to fight my own teammates for the first two weeks," Nolan says. "I had just lost my father the year before. It was traumatic. I don't even remember the whole year. I left school. I was just trying to survive. It still affects me to this day."

While he was seemingly blackballed by the NHL, he formed the Ted Nolan Foundation, raising almost \$2.5 million for Native initiatives. Then, in 2006, the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Moncton Wildcats—the league includes teams in the Atlantic provinces—hired him, and he guided them to the league championship.

That's when the Islanders came calling. He lasted there for two years, then caught on with Rochester of the AHL. Then he turned to international hockey, where he made waves in 2014 when he nearly led Latvia to a major upset of a Canadian team made up of NHL players in the Olympic Games.

Again, Buffalo took notice of his international success, and brought him in as an interim head coach in 2013. He finished out that season and lasted one more before being fired by general manager Tim Murray.

Ted hung up his coaching clipboard in 2018 after a couple of years with Poland's national team. Since then he's dedicated his time to expanding 3Nolans with his sons.

Brandon, who now has three kids of his own, loves working with his father.

"He's definitely just one of the boys," Brandon says on the line from his Whitby home. "Sometimes I suggest he only do one a month, but he says 'let's do as many as we can.' He really loves the work we do in the community."

The 3Nolans camps aren't free, but Brandon works with each community to charge a fee they can afford. They roll into town with a supply of sticks, instructors and some NHL jerseys to give out. A number of NHL teams, including the Kings, generously support the camps with merchandise.



Jordan Nolan teaches young hockey players to dream big, showing them his Stanley Cup rings. (Photos supplied)



Brandon, Ted and Jordan Nolan, the 3Nolans, are dedicated to teaching hockey skills, and a love for the sport, to Indigenous children.

Recently, they've been taking the 3Nolans concept into some of the poorest and most remote First Nations communities.

"We went to one in Saskatchewan where it was 30 below outside, but it had to be 40 below inside the arena," laughs Ted. "We make it work in a lot of these older rinks that don't have heat inside."

"Some locations are super challenging," Brandon adds. "A lot of them, once you get there, they are absolutely stunningly beautiful. We go to these fly-in communities where we are just surrounded by water and nature. For Wemindji Cree Nation, we drove from Toronto to Montreal to make an early flight. Then there was a five-stop layover before we got to James Bay."

The 3Nolans were conducting a hockey school near the

Quebec border on Indigenous Day last month.

"We were on Wolf Lake, near Temiskaming," says Ted. "We celebrated Indigenous Day there. They don't have a hockey rink, so we did an outdoor skills development camp with ball hockey. We had a pow wow, and went on the lake for a boat cruise."

"Some people would see the travel and say there's no way I'm doing that," says Brandon. "But if you want to inspire a young person's life, that's what you have to do to get there. We've been committed to it since day one, no matter what it takes to get to these communities."

The kids who participate range in age from about four to 17 years old. Typically a 3Nolans summer camp lasts a week, with two sessions a day and around 100 to 120 kids.

They work with the parents as well, holding round table discussions with them. The week concludes with a banquet.

Beside the hockey schools, Ted also works as a political advisor for the Chiefs of Ontario, which supports 133 First Nations in Ontario to assert their sovereignty, jurisdiction, and their chosen expression of nationhood.

Through all of his hockey trials and tribulations, he knows how much representation matters to the kids in these communities.

"My own grandson has come to our hockey schools," Ted says. "I ask him why he plays differently in our hockey schools versus his regular hockey team, and he says he feels more free in the schools because everyone there looks like him."

Reminiscing about his early days in the sport, Ted is clearly still haunted by his memories.

"I was lost for a long time," says the 64-year-old. "I developed a hard shell. It was almost like a medal of honour for me and for other Indigenous hockey players to be tough."

He's adamant that it doesn't have to be that way for today's Indigenous hockey players. He is compelled to make a difference, and is having a blast doing so.

"I began playing because I loved to play," he says. "And I loved coaching, too. But I probably enjoy what I'm doing now even more."

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- Across:**

1 Butter units

5 Au naturel

9 Sea state 5

14 Brusque

15 "... --- slayeth the silly one" (Book of Job)

16 Crackshot Oakley

17 Speech of violent denunciation

19 Bequeath

20 Least happy

21 Linked

23 Egyptian sacred bird

24 Jaunty rhythm

25 What's coming down the pike

28 Conniption

30 Winter time in Halifax

33 Turned Samoa upside down to find a terrorist

34 Not very enthusiastic

35 Cost-of-living indicator

36 Hindrances

37 Al ---, baseball's "Hebrew Hammer"

38 Zachary Taylor was one

39 Cowpoke's sweetheart

40 Not so many

41 Chessman

42 Shout to a matador

43 Foam at the mouth
- Down:**

1 Mount for electronic components

2 Experienced by migraine sufferers

3 Stepped

4 Play grounds

5 Scottish legend

6 Single things

7 Movie medium

8 Onlooker

9 Came from behind

10 "Paper Moon" Oscar winner

11 Loose

12 "Out with it!"
- 44 Cowcatcher

45 Cool, sartorially

47 Scrabble piece

48 Signs up

51 Under close scrutiny

55 Idiots

56 State with a pelican flag

58 Be relaxed

59 Fine, black or liberal, maybe

60 Federal anti-discrimination agency

61 Deathly pale

62 Synchronize

63 Compos mentis
- 13 Observe

18 "Black Widow" lead --- Winger

22 The --- Marbles, from the Parthenon

25 Do without

26 Customary

27 Crumb catcher

28 Put back to zero, for example

29 Impressionist

31 Extra interest

32 Possessor of "fearful symmetry" (Blake)

34 Hall, crier, car or house, perhaps

37 Give feedback

38 Erie wins scramble for beverage producers

40 Shiver of excitement

41 Raw hides

44 Polish off, or polish?

46 Depend

47 Talks up

48 Scat queen

49 Those opposed

50 Taking all the tricks

52 UN body promoting peaceful nuclear power

53 In a little while

54 Spike

57 Such as cinnabar

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OBITUARY



ARNO MANFRED LETKEMANN
OCTOBER 25, 1937 - JULY 25, 2022

With heavy hearts, the family of Arno Letkemann (84) announces the passing of a gentle, caring soul who loved the outdoors, the laughter of children, the beauty of nature, and the company of friends and family. Arno was born into a household of 4 boys, 10 to 16 years older than himself in Leader Saskatchewan. His family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1939. He went to Parliament Oak school, attended Stamford Collegiate, and played the trumpet in the Port Dalhousie Guardsmen Marching Band. On July 21, 1962, he married the love of his life, Charlotte Neufeld.

He leaves his loving children, Timothy David and Ingrid Marie and three beautiful grandchildren, Alex, Sydney and Ryder. He is survived by his brother Ernst (Ernie) and sisters-in-law, Lettie and Elizabeth (Betty), many nephews and nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces, a great-great niece and a great-great nephew. He was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Mary Letkemann, and his brothers, George, Erich and Harry.

Arno worked as a technician for Bell Canada for 36 happy years and even managed after his retirement to work overseas for the telephone companies in Spain and Britain. In the 1970s and early 1980s Arno also developed his skills as an accomplished professional photographer and built his own studio in their first home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He enjoyed portraiture and emphasized the importance of family portraits. His renovations in their homes showed his love of architecture and skills as a designer and builder.

He and Charlotte enjoyed travelling and began cycling in their 50s and 60s. They took many trips on their bicycles to the Rockies, the Oregon Coast, the Maritimes - including the Cabot Trail, and many areas closer to home. In recent years, they continued travelling by car and in the last years walked almost daily near their home in Virgil or the downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake visiting neighborhoods where they spent their childhoods, their teen years, and most of their married life.

The celebration of his life will take place on Friday, July 29. Visitation will be Thursday evening from 6 pm to 9 pm at Morgan Funeral Home in Niagara-on-the-Lake and from 1 pm to 2 pm. prior to the service at Morgans which will begin at 2 pm. Friends and family are invited to attend the celebration of a life well-lived after the service. Location will be announced. Feel free to share your favourite stories about Arno with us all.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from
July 20, 2022

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Across: 1 Pats, 5 Nude, 9 Rough, 14 Curt, 15 Envy, 16 Annie, 17 Broadside, 19 Leave, 20 Saddest, 21 Related, 23 Ibis, 24 Lit, 28 Future, 28 Rosen, 38 Whig, 39 Gal, 40 Fewer, 35 C P, 36 Rubs, 37 Rosen, 38 Whig, 39 Gal, 40 Fewer, 41 Piece, 42 Ole, 43 Rant, 44 Fender, 45 Chic, 47 Tile, 48 Enlists, 51 On trial, 55 Loons, 56 Louisiana, 58 Let go, 59 Arts, 60 E E O C, 61 Ashen, 62 Mesh, 63 Sane.

Down: 1 P C Bs, 2 Aura, 3 Trod, 4 Stadiums, 5 Nessie, 6 Units, 7 D V D, 8 Eyer, 9 Rallied, 10 O'Neal, 11 Unattached, 12 Give, 13 Heed, 18 Debra, 22 Elgin, 25 Forgo, 26 Usual, 27 Tablecloth, 28 Reset, 29 Ape, 31 Spice, 32 Tiger, 34 Town, 37 React, 38 Wineries, 40 Frisson, 41 Peltis, 44 Finish, 46 Hinge, 47 Tour, 48 Ella, 49 Noes, 50 Siam, 52 I A E A, 53 Anon, 54 Lace, 57 Ore.



Virgil man part of the Team Ontario Mission staff

Mike Balsom
The Local

Virgil resident Joe Pagnotta won't see much of his family from Aug. 5 until Aug. 21.

That's the duration of the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games. During that time, Pagnotta, as part of the Team Ontario Mission staff for both the men's and women's soccer teams, will be living out of a hotel in St. Catharines.

"The Chef de Mission is the lead, and he has two assistant chefs," Pagnotta tells The Local. "There are 23 mission staff below that. I fall under the sports tech area. The athletes will stay at the athletes village at Brock. We're down the road at the Holiday Inn."

Brock University graduate Steve Sevor is the Chef de Mission. He reached out to Pagnotta to enlist him for the summer games to work with the men's soccer team. In the interim, the social sciences teacher was given the added responsibility to oversee the women's team as well, and has also signed up to volunteer for both men's and women's hockey at the Canada Winter Games to be held in February, 2023 in PEI.

For the father of three

boys (Nello, 10, Dean, eight, Landon, six) who has been heavily involved in both coaching and administration for the NOTL soccer and hockey clubs, it's a chance to make some connections and learn a bit more about the higher amateur levels of both sports.

"It's pretty cool," Pagnotta enthuses. "It's a national tournament, and multi-sport as well. It's basically like an Olympics but downscaled, and only on a national level. But it's the best athletes from all the provinces at that level."

He's been busy in the lead-up to the Aug. 6 official opening of the games at St. Catharines' Meridian Centre. Pagnotta describes his role thus far as one of passing along information.

"These last few days have been deadline after deadline," the Niagara Catholic District School Board teacher says. "There are 2,500 athletes coming for each week. I've been told the day when week one's athletes move out and week two's arrive, it will be the second busiest travel day in all of Canada."

Team Ontario is bringing its best Under-18 players to the tournament. The men's team will arrive Friday, Aug. 5, and hit the

practice field the following day. The soccer games are scheduled at Young's Sportsplex in Welland for Sunday, Aug. 7 through Tuesday, Aug. 9, with the final two rounds going that Thursday and Friday. Then the women's team arrives for their games which wrap up on the final day of the tournament.

He'll be the go-to Mission official for travel during the games. He says the Mission staff are basically the "guardians of the games." Pagnotta will be at every event for Team Ontario soccer, making sure every detail is taken care of.

"Coaches coach, managers manage, players play," he says. "I'm basically a helper for the managers. If anything is needed, they come to me. I'm pretty much a middleman. Their requests come to me, then go up to our management team."

He'll travel with both teams to and from the practices and games, and ensure schedules are adhered to. If there are any medical issues, Pagnotta is the first stop. When it comes to special requests for food, they go to Pagnotta.

The Niagara District Secondary School graduate says he has always been

a very organized person. That trait led to him offering to create a spreadsheet system for the Mission team to help with their pre-games planning.

As a girls soccer coach at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School, he plans to leverage some of his learning and connections in the upcoming school year.

"We're hosting OFSAA girl's soccer next year, and I'm organizing a sports conference day for Niagara Catholic students next spring," he explains. "I've been able to pick (Brock professor) Julie Stevens' brain, and I'll bring back some of the games stuff at that event next year."

Outside of his extra-curriculars at work, like many parents, he began coaching in the community when his own children started playing sports. This summer he is coaching all three boys in soccer, and will most likely do the same this winter in hockey.

He's doing it all, including his work with Team Ontario, on a volunteer basis.

"Obviously," says the former Club Italia soccer player, "I love doing what I do. It's all about giving back to the community."



Joe Pagnotta

Correction: In the headline of the printed version of the July 20 edition of The Local, the Ice Dogs team was incorrectly identified as raising funds for minor hockey. It is Virgil resident Dave Brown of the Erie Otters who organized the fundraiser. The Local apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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