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 brainchild, 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 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)

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)
Bisbach has files he wants to close

Penny Coles
The Local

Expect more, says coun-
cillor Allan Bisbach's website.

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

In 2018, Bisbach 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 was ready for a change, and Bisbach was seen as one of the candidates who could deliver.

He completed another term as lord mayor from 2000 to 2010, when he then ran to represent Niagara-on-the-Lake at region council, with which he had a long history.

If elected to a second term, he would also like to see an expansion of the greenbelt, which our economy is based on. He also wants to see more focus on the environment, such as where we will put the transportation infrastructure, which does not address increasing the height and setbacks, and make sure all our plans are complementary.

In recent discussions at council about the draft transportation plan, expected to come to town in August, Albert Bisbach and others have been calling for more environmental policy based on evidence. He believes it is important to have a look at the environmental policy before discussing the entire plan, such as where we will put the transportation infrastructure, which does not address increasing the height and setbacks, and make sure all our plans are complementary.

Bisbach has been a long-time advocate for the Niagara-on-the-Lake bench, which he says is a key part of the community. He has also been a vocal advocate for more accountability and transparency in council meetings, and has been an active member of the community, volunteering for local organizations and serving on various boards and committees.

In his current term, Bisbach has been a strong advocate for the protection of the greenbelt and the environment, and has been vocal in his support for more accountability and transparency in council proceedings.

In his re-election campaign, Bisbach has promised to continue his long service to the community, and to work towards a more accountable and transparent council. He has also highlighted the importance of the greenbelt as a key part of the community's character and economy.

If re-elected, Bisbach says he will continue to work towards these goals, and to ensure that council proceedings are transparent and accountable. He has also expressed a commitment to working with the community to ensure that council decisions are made in the best interests of all residents.

Bisbach has a long history of service to the community, and has been a vocal advocate for more accountability and transparency in council proceedings. He has also highlighted the importance of the greenbelt as a key part of the community's character and economy.

The race is wide open, and it is clear that Bisbach will face a strong challenge. However, his long history of service to the community, and his commitment to accountability and transparency, make him a strong candidate for re-election.
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 neighborhood,” she said. “This plan 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 kilometer travelled through the neighborhood,” such as on Rye, Pfaff, 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 in education, as a library manager and policy planner, which included looking at possibilities for the future.

She says Stocker’s draft plan sounds well for the future. Its proposed focuses on shifting congestion from approach roads into the center of town, along with 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 dominant form of transportation through 2041 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, and 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 current 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 driving force behind it,” she said. “And we can and must do everything we can to address the emissions, and do so in a way that we can still enjoy our cars, and yet can also be left 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 transit hub to travel around the Old Town, as well as areas in the peripheral, such as the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre or the many wineries.

“Some 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, Stocker says.

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 like 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 transit outlet — could be a good solution for NOTL, with connections to Niagara Falls and Lewiston areas, and the ability 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 difficult to make more space for cars,” she says.

“Instead of looking at how we can create a transition hub to travel to town,” she says.

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 do we want the town to look like in the future?’

She is proposing the town 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 something 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,” she says.

“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 in here, but the 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,” she says.

A HOHO system could get people “right where the action is, whether it’s the Cherry Festival, the Peach Festival or the Candlelight Stroll,” Stocker 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 reality to keep people traveling around town,” she says.

Money has been invested in the plan, she says, and the hard-core people for who commissioned it is to say “I’ll 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 effort is available for review to Aug. 1. The public is invited to review it and provide feedback via join the Conversations at https://www.jointheconversationnotl.ca/Transporta tionMasterPlan.

You can email feedback directly to trp@notl.com or mail it to Town Hall 199 Four Mile Creek Rd., P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0.

Veteran politician still excited and nervous about running

Continued from page 2

leaving 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 said.

He also concerns about traffic and parking.

“We have one commercial street in the Old Town and streets, residential streets like Joanice and Prince, 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 will be 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 says yes to it in areas such as Glenlade, where it’s more appropriate.

Every time a developer builds another 500 houses, that increases our traffic. Increased development will be a challenge.

“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 reality to keep people traveling around town,” he says.

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 grand- children, and between her and her wife Sarah, there will always be a crowd of people around, which he will be fan, he says.

He admits to feeling a little anxious — that never changes — but is looking forward to hitting the streets, talking to friends and meeting new people, 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 enjoying talking to people “who may be retired, but their brains aren’t retired. They have great ideas.”

They may not be interest- ed in setting on committees, he says, but he loves 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 not life-threatening injuries.

The girl was hit by a Buick Enclave driven by a 70-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake woman as she was leaving Phil’s Independent Store, 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 cyclists 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.

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 regulates 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 kick scooters, on regional roads, and with the Niagara Parks Commission for them to be operated on the Niagara River Parkway Recreation 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 of permitting 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
Help Me Rhonda’s creates showroom spaces in your home

All you have to do is call Help Me Rhonda, and she will. It’s her passion, and has been for as long as she can remember. Rhonda Holloway of HMR — Help Me Rhonda’s Interiors — has been interested in design since she was a child, rearranging friends’ bedrooms before a sleepover began.

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.

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.”

Help Me Rhonda’s Interiors HRM has been involved in beautifying homes since 1992 in the Durham region and has recently moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. We specialize in complete home decorating and design services. From kitchen and bathroom renovations, draperies, blinds, upholstery, furniture accessories, color consultation, furniture — basically anything you need inside your home is what we do! We look forward to living in this beautiful area and servicing all your decorating needs!

– Rhonda and John
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 divisible than any other and the Chamber of Commerce might be. And as councillors advise on what those projects are, wonder at that goal.

And as councillors are, wonder at that goal. Aren’t engineers, and some 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 flock 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 plans for the future begin to come to fruition? Will the friendliest town? Will it be the town that’s part rural and part modern subdivisions and part an attractive tourism destination. It’s a safe place to bring up a family — but there are problems and a great desire 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

Fire Light hydrangeas grow up to 10 feet tall

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 hydrangea bonsai 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.

Donald Combe

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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 showing textures, unity and harmony, the judges say. To nominate a garden of the week, visit jointheconversationnotl.org/garden-of-the-week (Photo supplied).

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Donald Combe
Dear members of council,

As a taxiing resident of the ORC Town and follower of 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 6%, 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 emplace 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 residencies 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, which 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

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**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. Continuing the 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 in 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.

One of the highlights of our stay was sightseeing the bighorn sheep and deer that commonly walk throughout 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 18 per cent of the park, and much more of the surrounding areas. You realize 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 returns 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.

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**Summer camping adventures continue**

David Gilchrist Special to The Local

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Outbreak at Upper Canada Lodge over

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 Murphy, 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, we had to immediately 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 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 heart-warming correspondence. The efforts of our wonderful staff do not go unnoticed.”

Upper Canada Lodge can again welcome visitors.

Outbreak at Upper Canada Lodge over

Local Staff

Patients at Niagara hospital sites will continue to experience longer wait times for care due to severe staffing shortages.

An increasing demand for hospital services, with the ongoing COVID pandemic adding stress to staff and programs across all hospital sites, has been compounded by growing numbers of staff 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 immediate shortage is in emergency departments, with staff and physicians caring for more people with more serious 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 recharge.”

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

- Contact your family doctor or call Health Connections for advice.
- Access urgent care on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by visiting UrgentCareOntario.ca
- Call 811 for health advice. For more information, visit niagararegion.ca/health.

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.

The region will be operating several monkeypox vaccine clinics for high-risk individuals. For more information, visit monkeypox.aspx.

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

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 Invacyn vaccine, it said.

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The region will be operating several monkeypox vaccine clinics for high-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 monkeypox.aspx.

Outbreak at Upper Canada Lodge 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.

Staff shortages put hospitals under pressure

Regional operations: to streamline operations and increase services across all hospital sites, Niagara Health will continue to progressively recruit 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 in self-isolation or sick due to COVID, the news release says.

“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 recharge.”

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

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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 he would not allow them 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 questions from councillors, CAO Marnie Cluckie said staff are not saying they never want to do it. “They can’t do it if the other parts 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.
Credit Union employee to take turn with torch

Mike Balsam
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 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 Milton branch 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.”

Fenwick likely becribes his competitionitch 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 Drive came up just as he was looking to move out of his parents’ 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 those friends and took a part-time job working at Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Pilitteri Estates Winery. There, he was able to discover how tight-knit the community can be, one of the aspects of Niagara living that he also 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. “There’s more chance 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 NOL part 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 hand it over to his co-worker and fellow Meridian torchbearer, 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 hand it over to his co-worker and fellow Meridian torchbearer. The 20-year-old is looking forward to starting in Niagara College’s CIBC (Community Integra tion through Cooperative Education) in September. The Niagara College program is designed to provide students 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.

ParaSport athlete nominated by hockey coach

Penny Colas
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 sled hockey team, said he didn’t know he’d been nominated to carry the torch until he was notified he’d been chosen to participate 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 on 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 he 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 CIBC (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.

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Games great for young athletes, says torchbearer

Penny Coles
The Local

John Easton was very surprised to be 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.

“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 events.”

Why the Roly McLenahan Canada Games Torch?

Roland McLenahan 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 the Calder Cup in 1984 at the age of 62. The following year, the Canada Games Torch was named the Roly McLenahan Torch in his honour, and he was inducted into the Canada Games Hall of Honour as a builder in 2009.

McLenahan 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.

“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 events.”

“Why the Roly McLenahan Canada Games Torch?”

Roland McLenahan

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

Penny Coles
The Local

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.

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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 been part of Shaw’s playbook. 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, Tim Carroll takes a run at Wilde’s 1895 play dated to the 19th century. It 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.

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 indictment of society, presenting characters, such as John ‘Jack’ Worthing and Algernon Moncrief, who can be as unlikeable as they are hilarious. It 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 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 near-dead 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 Barcknell as the butler Lane, and Adam Sergison (filling in for Friday and Monday) 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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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 Colten 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)
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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DAILY SPECIALS
OUTDOOR PIZZA PATIO
Town to look at Glenhade 12-hour parking limit

Penny Coles
The Local

A staff report on the 12-hour parking bylaw as it applies to Glenhade 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 repeat his concerns Monday, since nothing has been done to change the situation in the interim and “many, many residents” are still being ticketed.

The bylaw requires 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 residents move their cars just a few feet one way or another 11.5 hours, so that bylaw enforcement officers take photos they will show the tire valves have moved, residency 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, “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 investigate providing permits for parking in NOTL, 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 Cherupita asked why there is 12-hour maximum parking in town, CAO Marnie Chickie said it was originally to deal with “boondockers” in the dock area — people who drive with campers who park for extensive periods of time.

Lord Mayor Betty Dese- ro said St-Jean will 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

tant 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

The financial system and budgeting process was broken,” 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 sustainable budget, “not that is sustainable for the next year, but the next five to 10 years.”

He was one of many can-
didates 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 neighbour-

bhood. There is also more to do in preserving heritage, expand-
ing the heritage district, and enhancing heritage designa-
tion 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. Da-
vids, and to ensure heritage properties aren’t lost through neglect, by “slipping through the cracks.” 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 presenta-
tion 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 communi-
cation. “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 de-
cisions 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.”

The Local 16 July 22, 2022

2022 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE
FINAL FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022

Payment may be made by mail or by drop off at the Town Municipal Offices at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road (PO Box 100, Virgil ON L0S 1T0). A 24-hour mail slot is located at the front (accessible drop box) and side entrances of the Town office for your convenience. Post-dated cheques are accepted. Payment can also be made electronically from your bank account using the 19-digit roll number.

If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, your account will be credited only after the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow ten (10) working days for payment processing.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date. Penalties may not be waived.

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. If you have not received your tax notice, please contact the Finance division at 905-468-3266 to ensure that your correct mailing address, including PO Box, is on file.

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For information on payment options or to sign up for eSend, visit the Town’s website at www.notl.com or contact our Finance division directly at 905-468-3266 ext. 230.

The NOTL Local

http://www.notl.com
http://www.notl.com
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 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, predispersing the composer to dedicate the finished pieces to his sponsors. But that was not always the case.

“He 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 contemporary composers 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 Portuguese composers that is not widely known,” he lamented. “I consider it almost my duty as I gain more international attention to dedicate the finished 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 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 roating 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. “Ben Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, some Nelson Riddle arrangements of Sinatra songs. And we’d add some novelty stuff, like Me and My Shadow.”

But for the Club Italia crowd, 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 from 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.

My Shadow: 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 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.

The Toronto All-Star Big Band Dinner and a Show fundraiser.

The Local July 27, 2022

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 her camper trailer is Lions president Glenn Miller. The second prize winner of $1,000 was Jo-Anne Brytwak of NOTL. (Bill Brouwer)
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 173 games. Jordan won the Stanley Cup twice with the Kings and was also a member of the Blues’ 2019 cup-winning team.


He then turned to coaching, starting as a mid-season 1986 replacement with the Ontario Hockey League team he played for, the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. He coached there until the end of the 1994-95 season, leading the Greyhounds to three consecutive Memorial Cup tournament berths and winning the championship in 1993.

The NHL took notice. The Buffalo Sabres called, 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 Sabres Lindy Ruff before the start of the 1997-1998 season.

To this day, Nolan claims that racists kept him out of the NHL until the New York Islanders hired him in 2000.

“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 being drunk and being drunk as a hockey player. 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 charitable causes. In 2006, the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League’s Montreal Wildcatters—led by the Nolan triplets including Ted—made up of NHL players in the Olympic Games.

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

Ted hung up his coaching cupboard in 2018 after a couple seasons with Poland’s national team. Since then he’s dedicated his time to expanding 3Nolans to his sons.

Brandon, who now has three kids of his own, loves playing 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 a game or two a month, but he says ‘let’s do as many as we can.’ He really loves the work we do in the community.”

The 3Nolan camps aren’t free, but Brandon works with that season-long trial at a school they can afford. They roll into town with a supply of sticks, instructors and some NHL prizes to give out. A number of NHL teams, including the Kings, generously support the camps with merchandise.

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 so wet, low 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 faraway communities where we are just surrounded by water and nature. For Wimimndy Ce Nea, for example, we drove from Toronto to Montreal to make an early flight. Then there was a five-hour 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 development camp with half rink. 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 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 represents 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 54-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 it.

“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.”
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, Ench 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

Across:
1. Butter units
5. As natural
9. Sea state 5
14. Bruxique
15. “... — slayeth the silly one” (Book of Job)
16. Crackshot Oakley
17. Speech of violent denunciation
19. Bequest
20. Least happy
21. Linked
22. Egyptian sacred bird
24. Jaunty rhythm
25. What’s coming down the pike
28. Corruption
30. Winter time in Halifax
33. Turned Samos upside down to find a terrorist
34. Not very enthusiastic
36. Least happy
38. Jaunty rhythm
41. Linked
42. Bequest
44. As natural
47. As natural
48. butter units
50. Least happy
51. As natural
52. Not so many
53. As natural
54. Jaunty rhythm
55. Least happy
56. Not so many
57. As natural
58. Least happy
60. Least happy
61. Least happy
62. Least happy
63. Least happy

Down:
1. Mount for electronic components
2. Experienced by migraine sufferers
3. Stamped
4. Playgrounds
5. Scottish legend
6. Single things
7. Move medium
8. Onlooker
9. Came from behind
10. “Paper Moon” Oscar winner
11. Loose
12. Out with it!
13. Observe
14. Black Widow lead — Winger
22. The — Marbles, from the Parthenon
25. Do without
26. Customary
27. Grumb catcher
28. Put back to zero, for example
29. Impressionist
31. Extra interest
32. Possessor of “fearful symmetry” — Blake
33. Hall, crier 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. Takes up
48. Scat queen
49. Those opposed
50. Taking all the tricks
52. Unlibrary prom-oting peaceful nuclear power
53. In a little while
54. Spike
55. Pre-serve
56. Louisiana
58. Let go
59. Conniption
60. Conniption

ANSWERS:
1. Observe
2. Black Widow lead — Winger
3. Dr. Pesto
4. Polish off, or polish?
5. Depend
6. Depend
7. Scat queen
8. Erie wins scramble for beverage producers
9. Erie wins scramble for beverage producers
10. Erie wins scramble for beverage producers
11. Scat queen
12. Scat queen
13. Observe
14. Black Widow lead — Winger
15. Dr. Pesto
16. Polish off, or polish?
17. Depend
18. Depend
19. Scat queen
20. Erie wins scramble for beverage producers
21. Scat queen
22. Scat queen
23. Scat queen
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PUZZLE ANSWERS:
Sudoku solution from July 20, 2022

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER
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 graduating student 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 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 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.

“Hey, it’s 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 up to our management team.”

Hell 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 girls 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.”

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.