Their licence expires, a debikes from local roads after banned the 10-passenger a motion that would have ra-on-the-Lake roads. They operate on Niaga-an opportunity to contin-ning Monday night, the local the Pedal Pub their bless-fer fellow councillors to give eron was unable to convince the The company has adjust-its tour routes accord-ing to council's request last year, and to respect regional regulations, and no longer tours on residential streets, she said. They have been collabo-rating with many small busi-nesses in the area, including Butler's Bar & Grill, Fournos, The Exchange Brewery, The Budapest Bakeshop, and have been beneficial to the local economy, and contrib-uted more than $33,000 of revenue to its partners from its two-and-a-half hour tours last year, even during the pandemic. That does not include what guests spend before and after their ride, while visiting NOTL, Sa-ganski said. “Pedal Pub NOTL clos-ing will have a ripple effect that will impact the NOTL economy,” she said. The company has ad-dressed all the concerns mentioned to them by the town, she said, offering to continue working on any other issues that might come up. Continued on page 2

Not illegal to have fun in NOTL, says councillor

Penny Coles
The Local

While Coun. Clare Cam-eron was unable to convince fellow councillors to give the Pedal Pub their bless-ing Monday night, the local business has been handed an opportunity to contin-ue operating on Niaga-ra-on-the-Lake roads. Council had before them a motion that would have banned the 10-passenger bikes from local roads after their licence expires, a de-cision made at a planning meeting two weeks ago, along with a bylaw to en-force that regulation. The Pedal Pub's regional licence to operate expires at the end of this month, and they would have a month's grace period after that. The councillors who had wanted them gone were concerned about safety and noise issues, while others felt those problems have been addressed and the business should be given a clear road ahead. Councillors actually thought they had put an end to the operation last fall, and were surprised to see it back on local streets this sum-mer. They learned from the region that to ban the opera-tion, the town should have passed a bylaw outlawing it from NOTL streets. That's what brought them to the new bylaw under consider-ation Monday.

But a presentation last week from general man-ager Marlo Saganiski had enough information in it to convince some councillors that it should be allowed to continue. Saganiski told councillors the Pedal Pub operation had had no road safety issues or incidents since it has been in operation. Pedal Pub operates in strict adherence to the Highway Traffic Act, she said, and all applicable rules of the road, as well as completing in-house and on-road training. The company has adjust-ed its tour routes accord-ing to council's request last year, and to respect regional regulations, and no longer tours on residential streets, she said. They have been collabo-rating with many small busi-nesses in the area, including Butler's Bar & Grill, Fournos, The Exchange Brewery, The Budapest Bakeshop, and have been beneficial to the local economy, and contrib-uted more than $33,000 of revenue to its partners from its two-and-a-half hour Tours last year, even during the pandemic. That does not include what guests spend before and after their ride, while visiting NOTL, Saganiski said. “Pedal Pub NOTL clos-ing will have a ripple effect that will impact the NOTL economy,” she said. The company has ad-dressed all the concerns mentioned to them by the town, she said, offering to continue working on any other issues that might come up. Continued on page 2

St. Davids businesses ask for parking spaces instead of bike lanes

Penny Coles
The Local

Although there has been considerable discussion about a roundabout proposed for what is locally known as the four cor-ners intersection in St. Davids, the loss of parking as part of the project is also an issue that is concern to village businesses. Paul Labonde, the co-own-er of Twin Power Financial on Four Mile Creek Road near the intersection, is especially worried about the impact a pro-posed bike lane on Creek Road will have on his business, and others nearby, and the fact that the region doesn’t have a good option for those who will lose their parking spaces due to the bike lanes. He believes the region is "making light" of the predica-ment of village businesses, in-cluding his.

There is absolutely no room on the Twin Power Financial lot for parking, he says. He tried nine years ago to get a variance for parking behind the lot, but was not successful. He says his office completely relies on on-street parking for its four employees, two tenants above the office — six spaces required daily — and more for any clients who might visit.

In the time since they moved into the St. Davids loca-tion, they have invested in a lot of inside renovations, he says. The company is currently plan-ning an extensive renovation to the outside of the 120-year-old building, with the intention of "bringing it back to its glory as a historic building here."

Instead, they are waiting to see what happens during the months of construction and the removal of parking spaces on the street, and whether the impact of both will drive them to look for another location. The bike lanes, he says, could kill his business and de-

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 2
Pedal Pub will be asked to work on new routes

The Pedal Pub will be allowed to continue in town, with staff to work out better routes for it. (File photo)

**Continued from page 1**

Anne Sachar, a resident and business owner on Creek Road, is also pleased with the region to leave the on-street parking. She and her husband operate the Iron Garden, offering iron and bronze garden decor, beside their house. Although they have two lots, and more than enough parking, "we're all in this together." The proposed widened sidewalk and bike lane will be "a losing proposition to every resident and business in St. Davids," she says.

The project, she adds in her letter to the region, is "an attempt to squeeze in a costly roundabout and having to rethink and retrofit the whole central downtown area to accommodate one."

The region’s response, from Magdal Elmadnioon, a transportation engineer, is that "improvements are needed to the intersection to accommodate future growth and to make the intersection accessible for all road users. Improvements will also enhance urban design and make the intersections a beautiful gateway to the St. Davids community," he says. The proposed roundabout "will create slow and uniform traffic speeds with no congestion, well into the long future horizon. The raised centre medians and splitter islands should also help manage access near the intersection."

Wider sidewalks, he says, will attract more pedestrians to St. Davids, and make those who do walk there now feel safer. While it’s understood businesses along Four Mile Creek Road may be impacted by the loss of parking, "a number of the businesses have their own off-street parking lots, plus there are on-street parking opportunities available in the area outside of the operational and safety concerns with the intersection."

Norm Miller, a communications consultant with the region, outlined the project for The Local as necessary to deal with increased traffic in the area and provide better pedestrian and cyclist connections.

The project team, including regional staff and consultants, is still working with stakeholders and the town to select the most appropriate cycling facility design, including business and property owners in the area who may be impacted, he says.

Road safety is a top priority for the region, especially with St. Davids School and the Community Safety Zone, and the region removes on-street parking within the right-of-way when there are operational and safety concerns for road users, he says.

There have been two Public Information Centres to date, the last on June 23, and next steps include finalising technical studies, meeting with local property owners and stake-holders, and finalising the design of the project. A presentation to Niagara-on-the-Lake town council about the project will likely be made in the fourth quarter of 2021, says Miller.

Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyard has been actively involved in discussions about the project from its earliest days. He references an article in the former Niagara Advance, from March 2004, when the region said, once the sewer project in the village was completed, there would be a need to upgrade the intersection, and would be considering traffic lights or a roundabout. The project manager at the time favoured a roundabout.

It was at that time, says Harber, when work should have begun, at least to look at ways to redirect traffic and make the area safe for pedestrians. He has suggested the first step should be to look at improving Line 9 as a way in and out of the village, taking traffic around the intersection, with sidewalks and a crosswalk for safety.

He’s also very concerned about where traffic will go during the construction phase.

I don’t see it as being any less safe than other businesses, including the caleche,” the Pedal Pub is also a way to attract younger visi-tors, one of the town’s goals, he added.

Lord Mayor Betty Dero-sa said she supported the operation, but referred to its original goal of offering winery tours, which, with recent changes in routes, has changed. It now focuses on Queen Street businesses instead, she said, suggesting town staff work out an agree-ment with Pedal Pub that will get them off the busy streets and away from the original goal, visiting wineries.

When travelling on Mississauga Street, Disero said, the pedal pubs create a line-up of cars trying to go around them. "That’s an issue," she added, as the U-turns it does on Queen Street.

Instead of passing the bylaw, she offered a motion to refer the whole matter to staff to look at a winery route, away from congested areas.

"That’s what they really wanted to do when they came here two years ago," she said. "Let’s help them to do what they wanted to do originally." Coun. Clare Cameron was hoping to do something even more positive for the Pedal Pub tours at Monday’s town council meeting, a more certain future in town.

It does not seem fair to me that legislation re-gards to one business that has shown flexibility," she said, noting the contrast be-tween a "near-silent" vehicle powered by humans and the hundreds of motorized vehi-cles "buzzing around town."

She said she would agree with a bill that would allow for parking, which she feels uncomfortable with being punitive towards this particular company.

"It’s not illegal to have mercy, and heaven forbid someone enjoys himself in this community," she added. "We pride ourselves on arts and culture, but only when it doesn’t inconvenience other businesses.

Coun. Cameron suggested councillors "put our big boy and big girl pants on, and give this business a final an-swer tonight."

Coun. Gary Burroughs continued his support of the ban, "regardless of the blasts from social media" he said.

"I don’t think we’re back to thousands of people coming to town that it’s go-ing to be an appropriate op-eration," he said.

The motion by Disero to allow staff to work out an agreement with Pedal Pub on the operation over new routes met with approval by the major-ity of councillors, allowing them to continue to op-erate in the meantime.
The Scented Market
Grand Opening

Saturday, July 31st at 10:00AM
9 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake.
905-468-9078

Complimentary Swag Bags to the first 25 people in line.

Exclusive Wine Country Soy Candle to the first 50 people in line!

@thescentedmarket
thescentedmarket.ca
Royal Oak hopes for permanent location at hospital

But for now the expanding school will be happy with more space

Long-term solution for Balls Beach parking elusive

Town trying to avoid appearance of selling insurance

Penny Coles
The Local

This term of council is being a little more cautious about stirring up a contro- versey from 2017, when some Niagara-on-the-Lake proper- ty owners were outraged over letters they received from the town, seemingly endorsing an insurance program for sewer and water lines. It was signed by then Lord Mayor Pat Darie, and had the town logo on the envelope and letterhead. Shortly after the first look at the, it was followed by a reminder no- tice, saying “please disregard if you have already enrolled.”

The Local story at the time was new to the job, Darie said, “if you have already enrolled.”

“or the first letter was sent it was

It was endorsed by the council in 2017, when Darie said, “实物 the town logo on it. “It was endorsed by the town, and there is a benefit to the town,” he says, adding the warranty provides an option for residents, and one that is purely voluntary.

The school pays rent for the town-owned building, and Murray was asking council for more space, to accommo- date growth, and so that stu- dents can be spread out safely as the pandemic continues.

They would like nothing better than to put down per- manent roots, Muris said, and “eagerly await” submitting a plan that would be a “wonderful fit for both the town and the families who depend on us,” she added.

“Our board has an excellent expression of interest process), RFEI (the town’s request for submiting a proposal for the board “will absolutely be

The school pays rent for the town-owned building, and Murray was asking council for more space, to accommo- date growth, and so that stu- dents can be spread out safely as the pandemic continues.

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“Our board has an excellent

When asked about a long- term plan by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and where Royal Oak sees itself in the future, includ- ing the possibility of looking at being classified an alternative school with the public school board, Murray said they are a “step away” from a dream’s ful- filled, with 75 students the 10- year target.

“Our hope is to put down roots long-term in NOTL and to continue offering this inde- pendent school and high qual- ity education experience for all families,” she said.

“that our board “will absolutely be submitting a proposal for the RFEI (the town’s request for expressions of interest process), and it will be based on a full building plan and repurpose as an arts and education hub. We have a Location Committee compromised of many skilled experts who have been working on this for the last year, and though we have a number of very excited about this one. “

It would give the building back to the community for use, she added, and maintain an important site for communi- ty development and engage- ment.

There are donors who will continue to support us with a permanent location at the school and the families or a new build, she said.

“The biggest we could ever become”

But while the town is ac- cepting and working through the process of requesting propos- als for possible future uses of the building, she said, it’s un- derstood their request for extra space can only be granted in the short-term, and they hope “to go about utilizing it in the least disruptive or expensive way possible, and of course will incur all costs to do so.”

When the school opens in September, it will have students from four new families who shared that they chose NOTL as their home because Royal Oak was such a good fit for their philosophies and needs.

Councillors agreed that Royal Oak could use the ex- panded space it needs, with an increase in rent to reflect the extra square footage.
Heritage Trail Phase 1 Completion

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Heritage Trail Committee is excited to announce the completion of Phase 1 of the Heritage Trail Rehabilitation. The public is invited to enjoy this beautiful multi-use trail and to see the outstanding rehabilitation work that has been completed from John Street to East West Line.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town Niagara-on-the-Lake has amended By-Law 4308-09 to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Queen Street and Mississauga Street.

Currently, only Mississauga Street traffic is required to stop. Based on the amended By-Law, now drivers on Queen Street are required to stop as well.

Drivers are urged to use extra caution at this intersection as traffic on Queen Street adjusts to the new stop signs.

New stop signs will be erected on the week of August 3rd, 2021, weather permitting, and the intersection will be closed for the day during installation, with detour routes in place. Enforcement of the all-way stop will commence immediately upon installation.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact Mike Komjenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by emailing mike.komjenovic@notl.com or calling (905) 468-3266.

Temporary Speed Reduction Regional Road 55 (Niagara Stone Road)

(600m South of Line 4 Rd. to 70m South of Line 3 Rd.)

The Regional Municipality of Niagara, in collaboration with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, will be reducing the posted speed limit on Regional Road 55 (Niagara Stone Road) between 600m South of Line 4 Road to 70m South of Line 3 Road.

The speed reduction is necessary to facilitate the installation of the watermain on Niagara Stone Road. See the map to the right for location details.

The new posted speed limit of 50 km/h will take effect July 26, 2021. The speed reduction will remain in place for the duration of the project.

Emergency Services will have access to the road at all times.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Rob Andrea, Engineering Technologist for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, at 905-468-3266.

Your co-operation is appreciated.
Racing to help children

Freddie Carleton visited Niagara Motors in Virgil last week to help support this year’s Tim Hortons Camp Days campaign. A NOTL native, Carleton is enjoying his 40th season in London, so it is a walk down memory lane. Ann Bancroft, who has graciously agreed to resume going to theatres, loves to go to movies. Until he is not out of the woods yet, he has graciously agreed to keep each other safe, and also for the uptake in vaccinations — because while earlier lockdowns were an important component of controlling COVID, vaccinations are helping us get there as well.

Across the region, we have 69.3 per cent of the eligible population with first doses, and 57.5 fully vaccinated.

Many Niagara clinics, as well as some pharmacies, are offering walk-in options. Of course, it’s the older demographic that has really stepped up to be vaccinated, for obvious reasons — they believe it could save their lives. Younger people, in the 20 to 39 age group, are lagging, as are those 12 to 19. It’s a difficult decision for some parents to make for their children, and that’s understand-able, but as we’re hearing in the news, this is when that age group needs to get the first dose, to be fully vaccinated by the start of school.

And although the number of new cases may be low, we’re not out of the woods yet. We’re still being warned of the increasing number of Delta variant cases, which could be responsible for as much as 95 per cent of new cases and also a reproduction rate of greater than one, which is not good news. A few weeks ago, Dr. Monty Farah, acting chief medical officer of health, said Public Health would have to start looking at ways to en- tice younger people to be vaccinated. The solution so far is to offer walk-in clinics to make it more convenient, but that is not attracting that age group as much as hoped.

People wanting to travel and attend certain events may be required to be fully vaccinated, and in the future, that may also be the solution to having those who are hesi-tant step up.

It’s great to see more busi-nesses open, and residents are loving being able to eat out, go to fitness centres, and most of all, see more of their families. We’re all feeling more optimistic about the future. But vaccinations will remain key, and we’re not there yet.

There is another vaccina-tion clinic at the NOTL com-munity centre July 30. For more information, or to book, visit http://www. niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/vaccination/clini-cal-schedule.aspx.

Penny Coles
The Local

How about a rainbow garden?

We are writing to express our thoughts around what we read in the local paper some months ago about a Rainbow crosswalk in Old Town.

We understand that this is a contentious issue. As Niagra- ra-on-the-Lake residents, we want to present a fresh idea to possibly replace the rainbow crosswalk that is currently be-ing considered.

Our proposal is a Rain- bow Garden (of some kind) that would help celebrate diversity, equity and inclu-sion. Including a rainbow of colours, in the garden where people can appreciate and admire the beauty of colours which would represent the LBGTQ+ community as a whole. Perhaps a small plaque with an explana-tion of the garden and what it represents.

To keep low costs (for the town and our taxpayer dol-lars), the garden could be corporated into an existing or future public garden.

We feel this idea is one that would unite people as opposed to divide them. Anyone can appreciate the beauty and harmony of a gar-den, this garden will help to better represent the diversity of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community.

Thank you for your con-sideration;

Karen Brown & Shirley Edwards

LocalVOICES:

Conservancy president weighs in on Mississauga/Queen project

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy is considering a four-week discussion over the summer on a town website that is not easy to navigate.

In the case of national heritage status, the public, in the past, with no outside help or cost to the town, achieved public recognition of Niagra-ra-on-the-Lake’s historical im-portance to Canadians.

Therefore, we urge the council to adopt the Municipal Heritage Committee’s most important recommendations: elimination of physical struc-tures like a wall and obelisk, and a more natural set of features be used, or not doing a structure or wall or the addition of trees unless they are deciduous trees, be-cause of the negative impact to the cultural heritage; retention of the current celebration sign within the plantings to retain for other heritage purposes; and that plantings related to the fruit trees in the rural areas, be considered.

The Local invites submis-sions to our Local Voices, which we hope to offer as a regular column. Submissions can be on any topic that would be of inter-est to NOTL readers, and can be up to 1,000 words. Please email ideas or submissions to penny@notllocal.com.

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The suggestion was put to a member of NOTL Chamber of commerce, Edwards Laf- forger, who stated he personal- ly would welcome an inclusive Pride Festival, as did Amanda Hansen, manager of Queen 124. NOTL appeal speaks for itself, as evidenced by the thousands of tourists, of all di- versities, who visit each year and who are all crucial in con- tributing to our post pandemic recovery. That $12 billion is spent on travel and hospitality, by over a 100,000 of the LGBTIQ community, each year, works out to something approaching $120,000 per person, per year, which I find very difficult to accept. The LGBTIQ community has never been deterred from visiting or residing in our his- tory town due to a lack of the attributes that are being pro- posed. People choose NOTL sim- ply because it is welcoming and has unique characteristics, which to the majority of the res- idents and visitors alike, is its overriding appeal. Some months ago, it was stated that the installation of a rainbow crosswalk at Queen and King Streets, would be a first step in demonstrating our diversity and inclusiveness. Until our elected members of council give their communi- ties an opportunity to speak freely on this matter, to establish whether they would be in favour of current sugges- tions, no further commitments should be given to any group, if it impacts on the residents, who have cherished this town for what it is, a welcoming and diverse community.

Jean O’Malley
NOTL

Seniors fitness in Virgil
The seniors in my class and I would like to give a very big thank you to Coun. Erin Wiens and parks and recreation manager Kevin Tincoote who worked so hard to make this happen. (Part of the Har- vard Medical School) and Consumer Reports referred to an analysis of 10 studies involving 2,600 patients published in the Jour- nal of the American Geriatrics Society in 2017. It “found that older adults who participated in one to three hour long tai chí sessions each week for up to 26 weeks lowered their fall risk by 43 per cent and cut in half their likelihood of injuring them- selves as a result of a fall.”
Most surprising: the analy- sis also suggested that tai chí worked better to prevent falls than other approaches such as physical therapy, balance training, resistance exercis- es, stretching, or yoga. For more information visit https://www.health.harvard.edu/womens-health/protect-your-bones-sothi-tai-chi or https://www.consumerreports.org/exercise-fitness/to-prevent-falls-tai-chi/. Although we were allowed to practise taiji outdoors in the park this summer, many seniors in my group have balance issues and problems with heat. Speak- ing for the seniors in my group, I presented our situation to the town. At our ages, we do not have the luxury of time to keep waiting. We were thrilled when we were offered the air-conditioned Mary Snider Room in the Virgil arena to practise our Taiji-Flow routines.

Yimeli Molly Yap, Instructor Autumn Leaf Taiji

Re: Time for Canada to do what is right (The Local, July 21).
This speaks at length on the need for diversity and in- clusivity and this is certainly not a matter for argument. It merits several times in passing to unidentified minority groups (even once to indigenous peo- ple). However, regardless of the how, it is clearly an exclusive article that focuses largely on the LGBTIQ community and its supposed agenda, and while there is nothing wrong with this, it shows little regard for the rights or opinion of any others, including those who are part of the majority group.
I calls for a number of LGBTIQ-related activities, seemingly with entitlement, to take place without indicating the amount of support from the communi- ty itself or any basis of authority beyond a personal agenda.

Jean O’Malley
NOTL

Misquoting stats leads to vaccine hesitancy
I was most surprised to see a letter to the editor (More deaths than lives saved from lockdonw) (The Local, July 21) in which the writer cited as well as asking a physician to read it.
It is a voluminous report published on July 12 by Statistics Canada called, Provisional Death Counts and Excess Mor- tality, January 2020 to April 2020, released by StatsCan (More deaths than lives saved from lockdowns). This exclusive article is not beyond a personal agenda, who Jordon Williams is repre- senting for the town next year? (The Local, July 21).

Jean O’Malley
NOTL

Reader disturbed by ‘erroneous headline’
I am most surprised to see a letter to the editor (More deaths than lives saved from lockdonw) (July 21), so I looked up the website where the writer cited as well as asking a physician to read it.
It is a voluminous report published on July 12 by Statistics Canada called, Provisional Death Counts and Excess Mortality, January 2020 to April 2020. The word “lockdown” does appear once, but the entire report and its conclusion is that there were nine per cent more deaths than would have been normally expected in the time period and these deaths were mainly due to drug over- doses and alcohol consump- tion.
I fear that other readers of The Local may not have veri- fied the information given in the letter and actually believe the erroneous headline that there were more deaths than lives saved during recent pro- vincial lockdowns. The editor of The Local owes her readers an apology for having published the letter.

Elizabeth Masson
NOTL

Letters: We want letters!
If you have a letter to the editor you’d like to see published, please send it to pennyp@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won’t publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday noon.
It’s time to put an end to conservation hesitancy

The past year and a half has revealed to me why our species struggles to actively engage with the conservation of nature.

All of the clues and observations I am about to list have previously existed in our time. There are signs all around us which represent the barriers of humans needing to properly care about the environment.

Protecting the environment has always seemed to be a supplementary conversation in politics and decision-making. I am not taking aim at any specific tier of government or demographic, but rather, I am proposing that this is a deplorable global problem.

We are too distracted by things unique to our species. When you go to the vast world of YouTube, you are presented with scores of videos about nature documentaries, education, and insignificant details about people we will never meet! I watch athletes and rock stars on YouTube, too. However, what I’m getting at here is that it would be nice to see Canadian Geographic, planting guides, or a magazine about living eco-friendly at the checkout line. Behold, a subtle and undeniably preset barrier to prevent more minds from thinking about nature and our connection to it.

Humans jump and rally for inter-human causes because it is part of the very condition that makes us just human. Inherently, I believe our species always desires to help its neighbour, grow and prosper for one another. We are capable of creating extraordinary acts of decency in quick time when it comes to helping others, which in turn, helps ourselves. Like a forest, different trees cooperate and compete together to ensure the entire system remains healthy. Can we do that for the natural world when it counts, too?

Right now, I go out on a limb to say our species is not healthy. We are undeniably and nonchalantly more focused on the he-said-she-said of the world versus the world beneath our feet.

You can only dance on rotten floorboards for so long before they give in.

When the next election season rolls around, perhaps we should look at options where the environment isn’t just a secondary conversation. I think the giant swath of society is hyper-focused on health and economy, as I am too, but let’s not forget that you don’t have either without a healthy, respected environment.

I wonder if when people hear the term Green Party, for example, they automatically compartmentalize the whole party into a group of people who are only capable of focusing on the environment. We must acknowledge edge by human condition, and our interpretation of language, that mindsets exist where the term “green” automatically implies that the economy won’t matter as much. I politely challenge any political party to address the environment as a focal point, without detracting from our working lives. It’s almost like it could benefit from a sweeping name change, such as The Sustainability Party, because really, who can argue with wanting to sustain our environment and the very livelihoods it protects?

So be it in a current state of affairs, but it appears that political will and the media are vectors of information and opportunity alike. The overarching message is simply not environmentally heavy enough. Protecting the environment should not be reserved as a soft and secondary conversation.

Because nature doesn’t visually or obviously make us money, it can often get painted as a burden, an obstacle, or something unworthy of serious conversation.

One thing we always notice about history is how it took someone, or a group, that was bold and ahead of their time. What seems absurd in the present will be celebrated later in the future. When the state of our environment comes back to bite us in a big way one day, we will look back over the decades and say, “Wow, that group at least tried!”

Or, were we just staying inside and watching YouTube’s newest and hottest video?

To that I say, it’s time to cut it out with conservation hesitancy.
Heritage Trail opens with high praise for volunteers

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The first phase of rehabilitation and improvements to the Upper Canada Heritage Trail has been completed. A group of volunteers, town staff and council members gathered at the Charlotte Street entrance Tuesday to celebrate the reopening of the stretch from Charlotte to East West Line.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero kicked off the proceedings, recognizing the efforts of the volunteer committee as well as town staff for what she termed the “extraordinary work” on the trail completed to date.

Disero acknowledged that there was some concern about the removal of trees along the trail, but a motion brought forth that no healthy trees would be cut down by Counc. Allan Bisbach, the town’s representative on the committee, was a gesture of good will to the concerned public.

“This particular area was a very sensitive one,” she said, “and I want to thank the committee for taking the extra time to listen to the concerns of the residents, and hearing them on a number of occasions. I’d like to thank them and the staff for ensuring that the trees that were a concern to those residents were maintained and left in good order.”

Future plans include planting new trees to replace the ash trees and others that were removed, funded by Canopy Growth and the Tree Fund, administered by the town.

The Lord Mayor remains impressed by the great work of the committee in terms of fundraising, and spearheading the initiative to make the trail more accessible.

“Look at the whole committee,” Disero told The Local. “Look at Cheryl Morris and the work she does with the Ambassador program, and the Shaw Guild. There’s Fran Boot with Rotary and the Farm Workers. Fred Sensen with the fruit growers’ association. Everyone on the committee has always gone above and beyond to assist in whatever they can through volunteering.”

Headed by Rick Meloen and Tony Chisholm, the Heritage Trail Committee formed out of the Canada 150, or Sesquicentennial, Committee, of which both were members. Improvements to the Heritage Trail to make it a proper, multi-use recreational trail from the northern part of the town to the southern part in St. Davids, were chosen as a legacy project of the town’s Canada 150 celebrations.

The next item on the agenda is to install a plaque at the John Street entrance to the trail to recognize those who contributed via the successful Trail Blazers fund-raising initiative that helped fund the improvements.

“The Trans Canada Trail sold a metre at a time about 20 years ago,” Meloen said. “We thought we could do the same thing, so we encouraged people to give $100. That would enable one metre of the trail to be constructed. We estimated that the entire 10 kilometres would cost about a million dollars, and that’s how we came up with the $100 figure.”

Keeping the momentum going, she said, “and the families that have contributed. Some put a few sores from a wipeout on the exact same trail, spoke highly of the contributors to the Trail Blazer program, as well as the corporate sponsors who stepped up.

“I have to thank, particularly, the people who live in the neighbourhood,” Chisholm said, “and the families that have contributed. Some put

Continued on page 17
Residents of St Davids - HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Region of Niagara has been conducting a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for intersection improvements at York Road and Four Mile Creek Road in St Davids.

To date two on-line Public Information Center (PIC) sessions have been held. The Region of Niagara has been conducting a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for intersection improvements at York Road and Four Mile Creek Road in St Davids.

This session focused on justifying the selection of the roundabout option. A new criteria was added about accommodating large trucks. To date we have not discussed today with large trucks getting stuck in the intersection. Do we encourage to want to encourage large trucks to go through St Davids?

To date two on-line Public Information Center (PIC) sessions have been held. The Region of Niagara has been conducting a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for intersection improvements at York Road and Four Mile Creek Road in St Davids. To date we have not discussed today with large trucks getting stuck in the intersection. Do we encourage to want to encourage large trucks to go through St Davids?

What about the Line 9 Connection option?

Current Line 9 is not open to traffic between Four Mile Creek Road and Sandark Road. Opening of this road and paving (close to both Four Mile Creek and Sandark Road) could provide the basis for the intersection and most of the urbanized area of St Davids for some traffic. This paired earth minor improvements to the existing four way stop and proper crosswalks and cycling facilities would serve St Davids well for many years to come.

The following is a version of the study evaluation of design concepts to include the Line 9 options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Alt 0: Nothing (All Way Stop Control)</th>
<th>Alt 1: Signalized Intersection</th>
<th>Alt 2: Roundabout</th>
<th>Alt 3: Line 9 Improvement &amp; Merged Approaches to All Way Stop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>• No dedicated facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, or small vehicles</td>
<td>• No dedicated facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, or small vehicles</td>
<td>• No dedicated facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, or small vehicles</td>
<td>• No dedicated facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, or small vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Environment</td>
<td>• No on-street parking to support pedestrian safety</td>
<td>• No on-street parking to support pedestrian safety</td>
<td>• No on-street parking to support pedestrian safety</td>
<td>• No on-street parking to support pedestrian safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-Economic Environment</td>
<td>• No opportunity to accommodate or maintain a viable businesses and homes</td>
<td>• No opportunity to accommodate or maintain a viable businesses and homes</td>
<td>• No opportunity to accommodate or maintain a viable businesses and homes</td>
<td>• No opportunity to accommodate or maintain a viable businesses and homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological and Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>• No impact</td>
<td>• No impact</td>
<td>• No impact</td>
<td>• No impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering/Constructability</td>
<td>• Does not require heavy construction and maintenance</td>
<td>• Does not require heavy construction and maintenance</td>
<td>• Does not require heavy construction and maintenance</td>
<td>• Does not require heavy construction and maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL (Revised)</td>
<td>• Minimal overall impacts • No significant traffic delays compared to current</td>
<td>• Minimal overall impacts • No significant traffic delays compared to current</td>
<td>• Minimal overall impacts • No significant traffic delays compared to current</td>
<td>• Minimal overall impacts • No significant traffic delays compared to current</td>
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</tbody>
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Wayne Gates, MPP
Special to The Local

Tuesday marks six weeks until the first day of school for most children and youth in Ontario. Simply, it is unacceptable that parents still do not have a plan that ensures their kids will have an uninterrupted and in-person school year.

Parents have gone for months at their kids’ end of term try outs. We are not going to wa- vide an education for their kids during often challenging virtual learning. Last week, the Science Ta ble – Ontario’s COVID-19 advisory panel – could not have been clearer when they said the lack of ac cess to in-person learning and extracurriculars was taking a severe toll on our kids’ mental and emotion al well-being. We know it’s not only our kids mental health and our academics and outcomes to be out of school, and we know it’s named a pro- blem — then why on earth won’t Doug Ford’s Minister of Education give us a proper plan to get kids safely back in school in September?

Some erroneously call this up to education advocates being stand-offish, but their frustration is merited, as this isn’t the first time they’ve seen opportunities squandered leading to disaster. In November and December of 2020, before the decision of the second wave, education advocates and parents were begging Stephen Lecce, the Minister of Education, to take action and make schools safe while they were home for the holiday break. The Ford Government’s response? They shut down parliament for the holidays and left the issue.

Classes were not made smaller, ventilation systems were not installed, extra corridors were not hired and schools went on to be a major factor in the community spread that ravaged our province during the second wave.

We can’t go back in time and fix those mistakes, but this Government can learn from them. An opportuni ty to avoid this was squandered before kids were able to return to school and the opportunity presents itself again.

We have six weeks before kids go back to school and the province is unprepared. Less than 40 per cent of kids aged 12 to 17 are fully vaccinated, and our Premier and his Minister of Education are simply hoping more kids will get the shot on their own. That’s their strategy.

So, what does a proper plan for education look like? How do we tell par ents we have a plan that we can confidently say will get kids in schools and keep them there? First, we begin with preventative measures that shouldn’t have been in place eight months ago. Classroom sizes must be capped to allow for distancing and reduce trans mission. At the same time, students need access to one-on-one mental health and academic support. Minimum ventilation standards must be drafted and then met. Those stand ards exist in other provincial buildings and they must exist in spaces where teachers work and kids learn. Paid sick days must be allowed for parents to be able to keep their kids at home if they have sympto ms. Lastly, the province needs to reconvene the experts and ask them to draft a specific vaccination strategy for students with full input from parents and educators.

Simply hoping our families will fix this them selves is not leadership, and it’s not proactive.

Fixing this problem can be done without hav ing to raise new capital. As Ontario’s Financial Ac countability Office (FAO) released last week, the Ford government failed to spend $10.3 billion dol lars that they had allocated during the pandemic, in cluding almost $1 billion that was earmarked for long-term care and public health measures during the height of the second and thirds waves. Ford prom ised to spare no expense to tackle COVID-19, and yet in reality he was cutting every corner he could. The province has the money to make schools safe and then some. This money could be allocated to ensuring that our school year is not can cel led as schools begin to cell with children unable to get the vaccine but still able to spread the virus in our communities. As the Science Table and just about every parent I’ve spoken to has clearly said, this last year has left kids struggling with their mental and emotional health. Students have struggled with credit accumulation, especially those with unique learning needs. Some kids, especially those without proper internet access, are on the cusp of losing some of the most valuable year of their education. Our children’s future depends on getting this right, and ensuring they don’t fall behind. These are children, and their futures are in our hands. Negligence by our Minister of Education meant that an opportunity was missed once to stop out outbreaks in schools and keep communities safe – I am not sure what you call it if that opportunity is missed a second time. Let’s hope we don’t have to find out.

Wayne Gates, MPP
Niagara on the Lake
905-357-0641
wayne.gates@ndp.on.ca

Wayne Gates
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Museum kids camp coming up

Shawna Butts Special to The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum will be hosting their Kid Curator summer camp from August 9 to 13 for kids ages six to 12, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Museum will be following both local guidelines and public health protocols. “This action-packed and historically engaging camp is something your child does not want to miss out on”, says Emma Facca the museum’s education summer student.

This year’s theme is Summer Extravagana, and will feature a different theme each day.

Spots are filling up quickly and pre-registration is required. To register your child for Kid Curators, please email efacca@nhm.ca. For more information on the museum and its special events and exhibitions, please visit www.notlmuseum.ca or call 905-468-3912.

Photographic prints of sailing ships in a misty harbour will be available to purchase.

Museum assistant curator Shawna Butts displays a classic tea set that is part of Monday’s treasure sale.

Louie the dog loves finding a treasure. (Photos by Barbara Worthy)

Learn about women of Niagara

Shawna Butts Special to The Local

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Digweed came to Niagara on-the-Lake as a British Home child, and was indentured as a domestic on a local farm.

Lizzie decided to put roots down in Queenston, where she dedicated herself to her family and to her community. She was involved with the Queenston Women’s Institute, the Queenston United Church Women and volunteered at the Laura Secord Memorial School. During the Second World War, her service and kindness towards the military men training at Camp Niagara earned her a well-known British Honour.

To learn more about Lizzie and the other amazing women from Niagara on-the-Lake’s history, consider picking up a copy of the Niagara Historical Society’s book, Making Her Mark: The Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Copies can be purchased at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum or on their online giftshop (https://notlmuseumshop.square.site/shop).

"I’m sure during COVID a lot of people have been looking through what they have at home, cleaning out their attics and boxes, and trying to get rid of it," Butts explains. "It’s almost like an extended spring cleaning, giving them an opportunity to donate to us and help us raise money!"

The response has been phenomenal. Butts says in the five years that she has worked at the museum she has never seen this many donations.

Among the treasures gathered for Monday are a slew of books, as well as lamps, jewellery, and a lobby horse. Butts adds that vintage shoe forms, a weighing scale, and nesting tables will be for sale, as well as plates, teacups, Limoges china and a print of the Battle of Cut Scul Creek. There will be an adorable and photography as well. All proceeds, of course, will support the NOTL Museum.

Amy Klassen, the museum’s director of finance and marketing, says the treasure sale has been increasingly popular since it debuted with the Heritage Festival eight years ago. Over that time she estimates it has brought in an average of $1,500 per year, with the exception of 2020, when it was cancelled.

Klassen told The Local that the funds raised go toward the day to day operations of the museum. Like Butts, she is expecting even bigger success for 2021, as other similar sales in town at local churches did not run this year.

Monday also provides the museum with an opportunity to unveil its new Tiny Museum.

Put together with a grant from the Trillium Foundation, the mobile facility is especially exciting for Butts.

“It was an idea that was conceived by Faith Bell, who at the time was the president of the Niagara Historical Society,” Butts says. “She wanted a way for us to expand our reach beyond the museum’s walls. It was at that time when the whole tiny homes craze was at its peak.”

Raffling off the tiny homes idea, they applied for and received a $125,000 grant, and topped that up with private donations. The structure is built, mounted to a trailer, and ready to hit the road outfitted with museum artifacts.

Designed to cleverly present exhibits in enclosed but clearly viewable cases, the Tiny Museum will be able to transport some of its unique collection away from the museum grounds. It’s a great example of modern, ‘out of the box’ thinking that takes history to the people.

“It’s a way for us to bring the museum to the community,” she says, “to community festivals as well as to schools in the area.”

Butts explains that further Trillium funding through the provincial organizations Seed Program has gone toward developing school programs and exhibits. The Niagara Community Foundation has also contributed funds toward exhibits.

Butts and other museum staff will be busy through to Monday outfitting the pint-sized museum with its first travelling collection.

“It’s an exhibit that we’re doing for our kids program,” Butts explains. “It will be a brief history of Niagara-on-the-Lake and its people. We’ll be talking about the Loyalists, Indigenous peoples, recent settlers, like the Polish soldiers and the Mennonites. And we’ll showcase our artifacts to go along with that as well.”

The Tiny Museum is truly tiny. Butts warns that following current protocols only one or possibly two people at a time will be allowed inside.

The Treasure Sale and Pig Roast will be on this Monday, Aug. 2, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the museum at 43 Cataract Street. For information, visit NOTLMuseum.ca.

Butts and other museum staff will be busy through to Monday outfitting the pint-sized museum with its first travelling collection.
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All-Star Big Band concert in memory of fan
Recorded at Chateau des Charmes, available on Music Niagara website and on YouTube Thursday

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Musicians from the Toronto All-Star Big Band return for the next installment of the Music Niagara Festival At Home Concert Series this Thursday, July 29.

Jesse Whiteley, pianist and band director, relished the opportunity to return to Niagara following a December, 2020 show for Music Niagara recorded at Willowbank School of Restoration.

Like that appearance, this week’s concert features a pared-down version of the 17-piece combo, running through a number of both instrumental and vocal classics. Their set features songs made famous by Dean Martin, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald and other greats of the big band era.

A list of those are based on arrangements that we would have done with the big band,” Whiteley explained. “In this kind of setting, in a small group, it’s fun. It’s kind of a challenge to create the illusion of a big band with a smaller band, with only one horn, a rhythm section and vocals.”

Whiteley says the full big band has not played together in all its glory since the pandemic began in March, 2020.

In fact, Whiteley admitted that these days, it feels even a little odd, to have a chance to get out and play live.

“The process of going to a gig, again, it feels weird to put equipment in the car again,” he laughed. “To put the nice clothes on again, too, the basics of going to a gig again, it feels weird, but a little odd, to have a chance to get out and play live.”

Though the recording took place just before the province moved into Step 3 of its reopening plan, a small crowd of about 35 was able to take in the performance under the marquee at Chateau des Charmes Winery.

Of that 35, about 20 happened to have lucked into the live performance, as visitors to the winery were moved off the patio and under the tent due to some inclement weather.

The other 15 concertgoers comprised the family and friends of David Waller, a volunteer and supporter of Music Niagara who lost his battle with cancer last June.

Barbara Waller, David’s wife of 50 years, said music was always a part of her husband’s life.

“He loved music, he always had music playing in the house,” she told The Local. “If I was in the kitchen cooking on my own, with no music, he would come and turn some on.”

David sang with the Evergreen Singers, a community choir based out of Grace United Church on Victoria Street. He also sang in the Grace United choir.

Waller was also a member of the Niagara Men’s Book Club for more than 10 years. The book club sponsored this Thursday’s performance in memory of David.

“When a member passes,” Barbara said, “they usually give money to a library. He would read the books, but he really, really loved music, and he loved Music Niagara a lot. So they agreed to sponsor the concert instead.”

Book club member Tony Gambarotto referred to David as the historian and administrator of the club. He kept the records of what they read, and would send out the schedule of the meetings, which were held about nine times a year before COVID-19.

“David had a great, terrific wit,” Gambarotto said. “Smart, knowledgeable about everyday events, strong opinions, quiet, but when he said something we all listened. He was very respected in the group.”

Gambarotto and the other members of the book club, including Music Niagara board chair Richard Baker, all got together last spring to visit David just before he passed, joining together on a chorus of For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.

“He was a marvellously civilized, polite, wonderful man,” Baker said. “I’m glad we’ve been able to use this event to celebrate his life.”

Members of the book club sat and tapped their toes to the music of the Toronto All-Star Big Band, alongside Barbara and David’s children and grandchildren.

Music Niagara will continue offering its At Home Concert Series as planned this summer, but has begun selling tickets to future live performances as well. Tickets are currently available for the Aug. 5 performance of Being Lost at Pondview, at Bella Terra Vineyards, featuring Tom Allen, Jeff Reilley, Patricia O’Callaghan, and Peter and Lori Gemmell.

“We’d love to get back to live performances in real venues, with more people,” Baker said, “and use the online stuff as supplementary, as extra. We’ve got to get back to people and places and sitting side by side.”

But Baker admitted that at this point, moving full steam ahead into pre-pandemic business as usual is not in the cards yet.

“We don’t know what the future brings,” Baker explained. “We’ve seen some places that had success fighting the virus being thrown back into where they were a year ago. We just can’t do that yet. So we will carry on until happier days.”

The Toronto All-Star Big Band performance in honour of David Waller premieres on the “Watch Live” page at musicniagara.org, and on the Music Niagara YouTube channel, Thursday June 29 at 4 p.m.

In memory of David Waller, shown with his ukulele, the big band concert was sponsored by members of the book club he belonged to. He was a huge Music Niagara fan. (Photo supplied)

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A smaller version of the All-Star Big Band recorded songs made famous by Dean Martin, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald and others. (Mike Balsom)
Cyclist still riding and loving it at 80

Penny Coles
The Local

With his 80th birthday in his rear view mirror, local cyclist Don Smith decided recently he wanted to do at least one more ride to Fort Erie and back.

A cycling enthusiast for most of his adult life, he continues to ride regularly through town and further, going out at least three times a week, with many of those trips about 25 miles. Other days he does short trips through Niagara-on-the-Lake, the town where he grew up, and that has given him many good memories.

On July 16, a cloudy day with no humidity, he decided it was the right time for a long bike ride, and set out along the Niagara River Parkway toward Fort Erie. “I just woke up and felt good enough to do it,” he says.

When he returned, he had completed the 124-kilometre trip in five hours and 43 minutes at a Niagara Parks Commission rest stop for a short break, and to refill his water bottles.

He had cleared up by noon, except a sore right shoulder — he’s able, and at the moment, he’s going for another 100 miles. “I just woke up and felt good enough to do it,” he says.

Don Smith decided to celebrate his 80th birthday by riding to Fort Erie and back, and picked a perfect day to make the trip. (Photo supplied)

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Don Smith decided to celebrate his 80th birthday by riding to Fort Erie and back, and picked a perfect day to make the trip. (Photo supplied)

When C&C Yachts closed, he needed to find a way to support his growing family, and built a workshop for himself behind his Lakeshore Road home. He did a bit of home renovation work, and then, with five kids all needing bicycles, and his own interest in cycling, he decided his next career would be The Bike Shop, which he operated for 35 years, finally deciding to close up shop and retire in 2015. His wife Joan helped him, taking phone calls, and looking after customers when he wasn’t home.

When he wasn’t at the shop, he was likely spending time with his kids, and then grandkids.

In addition to supporting his family, his bike shop, along with his riding, has allowed him to meet many interesting people, says Smith.

Over the years, he’s only used three different bikes, the most recent, purchased in 2017, a carbon fibre bike with 22 gears, weighing only 17 pounds, equipped with strobe lights front and back. “There’s only a few of us still living in NOTL from those days. We go over the names of people we remember, most of them not here anymore, and we sit around solving all the town problems. It blows my mind how much the town has changed. The subdivisions, the influxing, it’s overwhelming. I guess I’m old-fashioned. I was brought up in a small town, so different from today. I loved that town. Jim would say, ‘you could shoot a cannon down main street and not hit anybody’,” says Smith.

Smith will ride as long as he’s able, and at the moment, he’s in good enough health that he hopes that’s a long time. “I woke up this morning, and felt terrific. Cycling is a wonderful sport. I wouldn’t be in the health I am if I didn’t ride,” he says.

“In the winter I ride on a turbo trainer, all computerized. You can ride with a group of cyclists if you want to. The technology today is amazing.”

But any day he can get out on his bike is a good day. “I always have fun. It’s a blessing to me. The best thing I ever did was start that bike shop, and this is where it led me. I’ve met so many people along the way, so many wonderful people.”

Legion supports native centre

Volunteers Emily and Dylan, with Royal Canadian Legion members Stan Harrington, Chris Toye, Paul Dolby, Rhys Bar, Barb Cole and Elizabeth Richards prepared and delivered fish and chips curbside on Canada Day, with a portion of sales from each dinner donated to the Niagara Regional Native Centre. (Penny Coles)

Legion members Rhys Beak, president, Victor Packard and Stan Harrington hand a cheque from their fish and chips dinner sales on Canada Day to Karl Dockstader of the Niagara Regional Native Centre. (Photo supplied)

Mo Pam and Lori Beak, volunteering for the Legion’s Canada Day fish and chips dinner sales, coordinated their outfits to recognize Canada Day and Indigenous peoples. (Penny Coles)
The Yellow Door Theatre Project is filming Red Letter Day around Niagara this week and next. (Graphic supplied)
Great blue heron almost looks prehistoric
Approach carefully and you will find them in our neighbourhood

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

One of the more interesting bird species spotted in the wetland areas of the town has to be the great blue heron (Ardea herodias).

These birds, with an ungainly, almost prehistoric look, have a distinct presence as they are seen standing quietly or wading in the shallow water along the edges of waterways. The great blue heron is the largest heron in North America and is widespread. It stands almost a metre or more high, and an adult can weigh in at 2.5 kilograms. Its population appears to be in good shape, with the only threat being gradual loss of suitable habitat.

I recently spotted one in the Four Mile Pond area of the Niagara Shores Park and had the opportunity to take a few photos. I had seen one earlier, far across the pond and was able to get some wobbly video footage of it as it walked in the water, almost giving the appearance that it was ice skating. Although I could see it had a fish in its mouth, it was too far for a good still photo. Last week, though, as I walked along the woodland path at the edge of the pond area, I spotted a large one standing in the now shallow waters. I approached it quietly to take a few photos. As it was quite early in the morning it was in the shaded area of the pond and the photos were, therefore, quite muted. Not wanting to disturb it, I continued to the beach area to walk along the shore. As I returned to the pond area, I noticed that the heron had changed its location to a sunnier spot. I therefore began to creep closer along the path, once again hoping not to disturb it, and was successful at a few shots. It seemed aware of my presence, however, and did eventually lead to land further away. A look at the photos reveals more about its appearance. The head, mostly white with a black stripe, is quite long and narrow, ending with an almost spearhead like beak. It has yellow beady eyes. The neck is quite long and often held in an S shape. This S shape is also seen when the heron flies. Its feathers appear mostly greyish and the ones at the front of the neck are quite long. Its body is the same greyish colour, with a touch of brown at the front of the wings. Two long legs allow it to stand above the water, and sometimes they can be seen resting on one leg.

Approach carefully and you will be able to get a good look at these interesting birds in our neighbourhood.

Continued from page 9

Completion could take five years

in $500, others put in $1,000. That’s what made this trail possible. “We owe a lot to them,” Chisholm continues. “And unlike Chisholm, this reporter did not end up falling off his bicycle.”

Chisholm recognized Canopy Growth, CN Rail, Zoon Bicycles, NOTL Realty, Bosley Realty, Grape Escapes and Upper Canada Mechanical as a few of the local companies that went out of their way to help out.

Following the ceremony, this NOTL Local reporter had a chance to ride his bicycle from Charlotte Street to East West Line.

Having often trekked through the unfinished version of that stretch, the expansive trail width and smooth pebble surface made the journey much more pleasant than in the past. As well, there was very little loss, if any, of the forest feel of riding on the trail.

And unlike Chisholm, this reporter did not end up falling off his bicycle.

Chisholm stresses how important it is to connect the Old Town with the villages of Queenston and St. Davids. He also sees an improved Heritage Trail as a much safer cycling route for wine tours alongside Concession 1, on which drivers often exceed the speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour.

In the future, the committee would like to see a second trail connecting along Line 4 to the Niagara River Parkway Recreational Trail, forming a circle route. As well, Chisholm looks forward to that day when the Heritage Trail will connect with the Bruce Trail through an area that is elevated, opening up that final phase from Line 9 through York Road.

“We know it’s going to take years,” Chisholm said. “If we can get it all done in another five years that would be an amazing accomplishment.”

With eight more kilometres of trail left to work on, Meloen wrapped up his comments with a warning.

“We have a ways to go,” Meloen said.

“Are you listening, Wayne and Tony? We’ll be knocking on the doors in Toronto and Ottawa. Well, we have been, and we’ll continue to. I am confident in the success of this endeavour.”

The view of the completed trail from East and West Line, which Mike Balsom says makes for a good cycle. (Mike Balsom)
Predators looking for local name, logo

Mike Balsom  Special to The Local

When the Greater Metro Junior Hockey League’s (GMHL) Toronto Predators announced their move to Niagara-on-the-Lake back in May, general manager Johan Eriksson expressed a commitment that the team would become part of the community.

To that end, they have begun taking suggestions for a new team name in an effort to reflect the local fabric.

“This is almost a completely new organization,” Eriksson explains. “We have no returning players, we have the new location, so for us it makes sense to change the team name and colours.

For this fresh new start, Eriksson and his board are opening it up as a competition, hoping to take as many submissions as possible up to Aug. 8. After collecting the suggestions, he will meet with owner Robert Turnbull and head coach Andrew Whalen to make the final choice.

The winner will get a season pass to the new team’s home games at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil and will also receive the very first jersey with the new name and logo.

Eriksson is quick to explain that entrants in the competition do not need to design a new logo. That will be left to the organization’s graphic design team, who will also consult with the board on the optimal colours to go with the name.

It all has to be chosen, designed and printed before October, which is when the GMHL plans to kick off its season.

“We know we’re playing, we’ve got the go-ahead for Oct. 1,” Eriksson tells The Local. “And it’s not confirmed yet, but I’m pretty sure we’re going to follow the OHL (Ontario Hockey League) when it comes to COVID protocols, which would mean all our players, staff and even our billets will need to be double-vaccinated.”

In early September, Eriksson says the team will hold a prospect camp for local players born between 2000 and 2006. The team is willing to consider oversage players (born in 2000 or 2001) as well as midget-age players (born in 2006) to build a development relationship with them for the future. He says he is anticipating being impressed by some young NOHL talent.

Eriksson, who also works as a European liaison, player advisor, ambassador and consultant for Pursuit Hockey Development, is hoping that as many as 20 or more hopeful Junior A players will be playing a 42-game regular season and the playoffs.

Whatever the team ends up being called, they will be playing a 42-game regular season, with half of the games taking place in Virgil. The other 21 games are to be played on the road, mostly visiting their Southern Division opponents in towns such as Kingsville, Tottenham, Colborne, Oshawa and Durham.

For information and to discuss billeting a player, Eriksson invites interested families to contact him by phone at 365-323-5789 or via email at jerkison1984@gmail.com.

The NOTL Local has agreed to assist the team with the search for a new name. The competition is open to all residents of the region. All entrants must agree to appear on the team’s website and social media if their entry is chosen as the winner.

If multiple people send in the same name suggestion and that name is chosen by the board, the entrant who sent the first email with that team name will receive the prize.

Please send an email with your name, team suggested colours and phone number to balsom @ notllocal.com. Submissions will be accepted up to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 8.
Across:
1. Lacey
6. Stud
10. Claw
14. Awoke
15. Wi-fi
16. Outa
17. Names
18. Apostolic
20. Dim
21. CBS
22. Call to
23. Stigma
26. Soil
27. Taut
28. Tennyson
32. No time
34. Rant
35. CPU
36. Axel
37. Reuse
39. Wren
40. Zee
41. Opal
42. Cleans
44. Insanity
46. Control
47. Measure of sound intensity
48. Swellings
49. Music for voices
50. It means "control"
51. Globally calamitous happening
52. Home to Everest
53. Release
54. First lady's partner
55. Wander about
56. Understand
57. Butterfly larvae
58. Perform in a pantomime
59. Large bodies of salt water partially enclosed by land
60. Unwanted items
61. Draft cattle
62. Used to be
63. Great arithmetic
64. Exposed
65. Rations
66. Terminates

Down:
1. Lands
2. Await
3. Committees
4. Eke
5. Yes
6. Swab
7. Tips
8. UFO
9. Disconnected
10. Coolly
11. Lull
12. At it
13. Waco
19. Taint
21. Caterpillars
24. Gail
25. Mum
26. Seas
28. Truly
29. Scrap metal
30. Open
31. Nuns
32. Nazi
33. Oxen
38. Eats
39. Were
41. O'Neal
43. Lad
45. Abrams
49. A-list
50. Seeps
51. Chad
52. Hide
53. Oman
54. Ma'am
55. Isms
58. You
59. Ugh
60. NRA


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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from
July 21, 2021

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER
The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL
The trusted voice of our community.
Sailing club racing resumes with COVID restrictions

Local Staff

“COVID kind of reminds me of a bad tooth ache, as in once it’s gone you hardly ever remember that you had it,” says John Vanderperk, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club fleet vice-commodore.

He compares that to the club racing. “Seeing the enthusiasm and excitement on the course, it’s hard to remember that just a few weeks ago, Canadian Lake Ontario competitive sports, including sailboat racing, was not permitted.”

On Wednesday June 30, with COVID restrictions eased, the NOLSC racing season started with the commencing of the Clan MacLeod series, and because the NOTL Sailing Club committee boat, the Empress, may not yet set an anchor in U.S. waters, the decision was made for only the Shark class to race in Canadian waters off of Ryerson Park, says Vanderperk, while the rest of the NOLSC Fleet joined Youngstown Yacht Club friends on the Olympic Circle off of Fort Niagara.

“So far this series has seen near perfect racing conditions, with not any one particular boat dominating the fleet,” he says.