Andrea Kaiser is hoping to win the nomination to represent the Liberal Party in the upcoming federal election, with a decision to be made Aug. 12.

The Liberals are the only party in the Niagara Falls riding that have not yet chosen a candidate.

While waiting for a nomination meeting for the riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, Kaiser has been going door-to-door through NOTL, signing up local Liberals, hoping they will support her at the “Team Trudeau 2019” nomination meeting, which will be held Monday, Aug. 12. Joyce Morrocco, one of two Niagara Falls incumbents who lost their municipal seat in last fall’s election, is also vying to win the nomination.

Speeches from the two women will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the vote at 6 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 479, 5603 Spring St. in Niagara Falls. Also vying to become the next Niagara Falls riding MP is Tony Baldinelli, the senior manager of communications with the Niagara Parks Commission. He is hoping to take Conservative Rob Nicholson’s place.

Nicholson told The Local in April he planned to retire from federal politics at the end of this term, but will continue to serve his community as a volunteer rather than a politician. He has publicly endorsed Baldinelli, who moved to Ottawa to work for Nicholson in his first term as MP. After

Members of At War for Animals Niagara were out in force, on the street corner and circling in vehicles, which was frustrating, said Sentineal.

This is the second summer the group has protested speciesism, targeting the use of horses to pull carriages, and Saturday was no exception.

Sentineal said she had asked for police presence during the show of local support, and was told it wouldn’t be necessary.

She did call the police at one point, believing the actions of protesters’ vehicles circling around the carriages were dangerous to the horses, but no charges were laid, she said.

Although it was a day of support for the business, it became an opportunity for those who took carriage rides to see first-hand the actions of

On International Horse and Carriage Day in the Old Town, Obie shows his affection for carriage driver Nancy Van Den Berg, with Sean Sentineal. (Fred Mercnik)
The revised application for the Two Sisters Resort hotel complex shows the roof a little lower on the two sides. Height is one of the issues some residents are opposing, along with density and parking.

Randwood appeal withdrawn, hearing cancelled

Penny Coles
The Local

A hearing to move forward on an application to permit the development of a hotel and conference centre on John Street was cancelled, with no word of future plans from the developer.

The application for a zoning change to allow a six-storey hotel and resort on 144 and 176 John St. was submitted to the Town late in 2017, and revised last summer.

When the Town failed to make a decision on the application before the allowed 150 day-deadline, developer Benny Marotta of Two Sisters Resorts appealed the delay to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A case management conference meeting in May determined the Niagara Parks Commission and members of SORE (Save our Randwood Estate) could have status in the hearing, which was then put off until July 29.

Last week, lawyers representing Marotta withdrew the appeal, and the meeting was cancelled.

Asking for an explanation for the last-minute change-of-heart, The Local was directed to Gabrielle Totesau, an account director with the public relations firm Community Agency.

She said she has no updates on any future plans, or why the appeal was pulled. Two Sisters, she said, “is working with SORE and the Town to come to an agreement or compromise on the property.”

She said there have been “ongoing negotiations,” but wasn’t aware if they are currently continuing.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said there have been no discussions about the application — it was the length of time without a decision that led to the appeal — and town staff have not made a recommendation, she said.

There were several issues both the Town and SORE members had problems with, including the underground parking, number of rooms and the height of the hotel.

“Council will continue to do what it feels is in the best interest of the town, taking into account the advice from our staff, legal counsel and consultants,” said Disero.

“We continue to believe that the conservation of the heritage attributes is essential no matter what forum we are in front of.”

The Town has initiated heritage designation on four properties, three on John Street and one on Charlotte Street, owned by Two Sisters, the site of the proposed hotel and potentially a subdivision.

The property owner is opposing designation and has appealed it to the provincial Conservation Review Board.

I would like to reach out to you and ask for your support by attending a rock concert on Wednesday, September 4th at Jackson-Triggs featuring Club 27. This group features singers and musicians celebrating the works of legends Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, and Kurt Cobain, all who passed away at age 27. Tickets are $45.00 and all proceeds from ticket sales are being generously donated to Special Olympics Niagara-on-the-Lake. Tickets can be purchased on-line at:

www.greatesstatesniagara.com

Thank you in advance for your support!

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

We continue to believe that the conservation of the heritage attributes is essential no matter what forum we are in front of.

Penny Coles
The Local

Sunday, July 28 was Terry Fox’s birthday — had he would have been 61. To commemorate the date, run organizer Joan King and supporter Mary Plati sold T-shirts at the Outlet Mall, raising almost $300. King will be on Queen Street selling the T-shirts on Aug. 10, the day of the Peach Celebration. (Photo supplied)
Hydro improves service, keeps rates lowest in region

$3.3 million for new transformer should handle outages

Penny Coles
The Local

The Town’s local utility is once again the bearer of good news. Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro still has the lowest rates in the region, it continues to add to the bottom line of the Town’s revenue, and is now taking another step forward in improving its service.

Tim Curtis, president of NOTL Hydro, has announced a $3.3 million investment in a new transformer which will almost double the amount of power that can be delivered to NOTL.

As well as supplying more capacity to allow for development, the new transformer will improve reliability — each individual station will be able to support the entire town, so if power to one station is lost for some reason, the other can cover the full town, says Curtis.

The new 83 MV A (megawatt ampere) transformer is being built in Vaughan, and when completed will be installed at the Bob Cheriton York Road station.

Once installed, the two large transformers, one with 83 MV A and the other with 72 MV A, each will be able to cover peak periods in town if the other can’t.

“Right now we have three transformers across two stations. When this is done we will still have three, but bigger.” Closer to homes and businesses, the power is converted to the household and business voltages by the smaller transformers — the ones we see in the green boxes on the poles.

The cost of this project is already included in NOTL Hydro’s existing rates, which remain the lowest in Niagara Region and some of the lowest in Ontario.

The York station was named after Cheriton last summer to “recognize the leadership, ethics and common sense that Bob has contributed” during his 17 years as a NOTL Hydro board member.

When the Province offered municipalities the ability to sell their local utilities in 2002, there was some division among town councillors. Some believed it was best to sell and use the money to pay for infrastructure, but those who felt it was in the best interest of the town to keep it represented the majority vote — one that has proven to be a wise decision, says Curtis. Since then, the board has developed and implemented long-term plans to invest in the local grid and to look at revenue generating opportunities for the Town, NOTL Hydro’s sole shareholder.

Improvements included the purchase of the two transformer stations, one in 2003 and one in 2005, says Curtis, and a new transformer in 2015.

How can the utility spend money on costly improvements and still have the lowest rates in the region, and among the lowest in the province? “One of the keys is not doing everything all at once,” says Curtis.

“We’ve been slowly improving the utility over the last 17 years. When towns were given the right to sell the utilities, NOTL looked closely at doing that. The decision was made not to sell, and I’d say there have been no regrets.”

He says rates are kept low through good management of staff and operating costs, consistently spending on upgrades within a board-approved budget, and keeping equipment well-maintained so there are no surprises.

“There is also a lot of growth in NOTL,” he says, “both business and residential. That helps.” The board runs the utility “very conservatively,” he added.

The philosophy of the board has been to keep a low debt ratio, and the result of that is when the utility needs money for improvements, “we have no problem borrowing from the bank.”

The utility is allowed to operate at up to 60 per cent debt, but NOTL Hydro keeps it to about 25 per cent, he says, also the lowest in the region.

The best thing about NOTL Hydro is that the board is trying to do what is right for Hydro, and for the rate-payers of NOTL. It’s a board that has its feet very firmly on the ground.”

Representing Canada

Sean, Lisa and Ward Simpson went dressed for the occasion of the 2019 Open Championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland recently. The trip was a 75th birthday gift to Ward from his family. Watching the greatest golfers play on a course he loves and has played often was a thrill, but doing it with his two kids beside him made it a wonderful trip, he said. He had the T-shirts made so they would be representing Canada, and maybe have a shot of being on TV. They weren’t, but they had lots of friendly comments from the crowds. The downside, Ward said, was having to make sure they walked around in the right order. (Photo supplied)
Candidates preparing campaigns for Oct. 21

Continued from page 1

five years in Ottawa, Baldinelli took a job at Queens Park working for the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture, and Recreation as a Policy Assistant for the Minister’s legislative agenda, where he stayed for two years. He has been with the parks commission for the past 18 years, and says he wants to continue in Nicholson’s footsteps — he considers him his mentor.

Baldinelli and his wife Carole have a 13-year-old son, and he says he wants to make Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, and Niagara-on-the-Lake “the best they can be” for families like his “to live, work, and enjoy the place they call home.”

His policies include a sound economy with lower taxes, a balanced budget, and creating opportunities for business.

In May, the New Democrat Party nominated teacher and volunteer Brian Barker to represent the orange party. His party’s platform was released mid-June.

“People are looking for ideas, ideas that people want to hear and that are good for Niagara, that would get me kicked out of caucus in one of the other parties,” says Barker.

As examples, he says, he would like to advocate for environmental changes that benefit Niagara but would go against Conservative policies, and “responsible change” to immigration policies that would go against the Liberals.

He has raised money to help children with cancer, and wants to see positive changes to health care that would help children and seniors.

He wants to see an end to hallway medicine, and one way to do that, he says, is to cut down on allowing immigration without medical screening, a policy that is clogging the health care system.

He has helped Conservatives such as Bart Maves and George Lepp on elections in the past, and considers himself “fiscally conservative, but socially liberal.”

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Sandra O’Connor will represent the Green Party, which she too sees as a timely alternative to mainstream party politics. She says her career, which included working for conservation authorities and other environmental agencies, has provided a strong background in environmental issues. Since retiring from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, she has advocated as a volunteer on protection of agricultural lands and the Greenbelt, and as a member of the NOTL Conservancy, for the urban tree bylaw. Her belief that a strong economy can go hand-in-hand with environmental protection aligns with the Green Party, she says. She supports its democratic style of governance and has great respect for Green Party head Elizabeth May as “the most ethical and smartest of all the leaders.”

“I think they have the most common-sense approach to address growing our economy, while turning it into a green economy,” says O’Connor.

In addition to the environment and the economy, “the party looks at social issues, democracy and governing issues. They have positions on all major issues,” she says.

Brian Barker, NDP candidate (Photo supplied)

Sandra O’Connor, Green Party candidate (Photo supplied)

Mike Strange, Independent (Photo supplied)

Tony Baldinelli, Conservative candidate (Photo supplied)
Local supporters enjoy free carriage rides

Continued from page 1

As frustrating as it is to have to deal with the protesters, the Sentineals are not about to let them spoil a great life and business, she said. “We’re doing something we love, and we’re making people happy. We get to be a part of people’s lives and celebrations, during their good times. Those were our goals — not to get rich. We’ve met so many amazing people who have enriched our lives. We have three great children and 20 amazing horses. The protesters are aggravating, but we have a great life, a very happy life. That’s what counts,” said Sentineal. “It’s lovely that people came out for this. So many people have been so wonderful and so supportive. That far outweighs any negatives of dealing with the protesters. We feel so very fortunate.”

Laura Sentineal

Town residents Tony and Joanie Powell enjoy a carriage ride around the town with Meagan and Eddie. The tour was courtesy of Sentineal Carriages to celebrate International Carriage Day and thank locals for their support. (Fred Mercnik)
Turns out keeping NOTL Hydro was a very wise decision

When given the opportunity in 2002 to make some quick money by selling off its local hydro utility, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors had divided opinions.

At that time, municipalities across the province were being given the choice to keep or sell. Some NOTL councillors supported selling as a cash grab to pay for infrastructure without raising taxes. Others felt there were advantages to keeping control of the utility, such as being able to make decisions about what was needed here in town for residents and businesses. They also saw it as a long-term source of significant revenue.

In the region, NOTL was in the minority when, after lengthy debate, and opinions expressed by local residents and businesses, the decision, by a close vote, was to hang on to it. In hindsight, it was the right choice.

In the years following, the utility turned over $500,000 a year to town coffers. By 2010, the amount was up to $1 million, and it has averaged that since, with a high of $1.3 million. That money allows the Town to carry out capital projects, funded in part by our local utility.

Wouldn’t you like to know who on that council voted in favour of keeping NOTL Hydro? Likely there are local businessmen or former councillors who remember.

Those who have lived in town a long time will recall the frequency of outages before 2000, usually in the winter, sometimes going on for a long time. In NOTL, there was a time when power outages were routine.

No more. NOTL Hydro has consistently upgraded and improved the local system. The recent announcement of another $3.3 million transformer means the rare outages we experience now will likely occur even less often.

And yet NOTL Hydro has the lowest rates in the region and among the lowest rates in the province.

We all should be thanking the upper management of NOTL Hydro, all staff in fact, and especially the board members who have guided the direction of the utility over the past 17 years. The board members and councillors who supported keeping the utility in municipal control, if we find out who they are, also deserve our thanks.

Penny Coles
The Local
Two areas of local nature inspired childhood wonder

Earlier this month we gathered at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery for an evening in support of my charity, Pink Pearl, an organization that supports young women with cancer in Niagara. I have lived in Niagara all my life and our family recently moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. I always knew there was a warm sense of community here, but seeing it on full display that evening was so special. I wanted to personally thank Maria Marvidas of Anchor Niagara, Paul Harker of Ravine, and their families for putting up a wonderful event. Michelle and Stefan (Reynolds Regier Homes) and Natasha Wielink (photographer and owner of Bloom & Co.), among many others, were supportive as always.

We are so lucky to call Niagara-on-the-Lake home, and grateful for the community of friends we have here. Elise Gassabrin Founder & Executive Director, Pink Pearl

Pink Pearl says thanks for great event

As many of you already know, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen sign was run over by an unidentified vehicle back on June 19. That cost struck a chord with me, and after talking with club president Bob Forbes, I went to Facebook. A special thanks goes out to the Facebook group NOTL 4 ALL, who quickly caught on and shared the information. I shared the photos and though we were not able to find out who hit the sign, a donation drive happened, and with the blessings of the Kinsmen, I also put a donation jar in my shop in Virgil.

In very short order, our community has raised more than $3,200.

For those interested, a list of those donations made can be found on Facebook, NOTL 4 ALL. A big shout-out to the Virgil Business Association, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery and the Virgil Fire Department for donating $500 each, and the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 124 for raising $233 for the cause. All extra money will be used to enhance the sign with better safety, lighting and landscaping improvements.

Donations are still welcomed by me, or directly to the Kinsmen Club at PO Box 222, Virgil, Ontario L0S 1T0 (cheques or money order — please do not send cash in the mail). Kinsmen club president Bob Forbes can be reached at 905-360-0455.

Another great way of showing support, while basking in a fabulous time doing so, would be coming out to their annual Classic Car Show and Shine. This will be the 21st year and held on Sunday, Aug. 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a $3 admission for spectators, with kids under 12 free. First 200 cars will receive a plaque.

The Kinsmen were hoping the sign would be installed prior to the car show for everyone to see, but it looks like that might be too tight a timeline for the manufacturer/installers.

I would like to thank the Kinsmen Club of NOTL for everything they do and have done for the last 49 years here in NOTL. I would end this letter by sending a huge thank you to all those people that have supported our cause of helping with the Kinsmen sign replacement.

Martin Mazza Virgil

Thanks to community for supporting Kinsmen

Two Mile Creek was one of the places that provided the rush of exploring new territory for Owen Bjorgan when he was a kid. There is a safe and relaxing hiking trail that follows the creek in Two Mile Creek Conservation Area, accessible from Garrison Village and Butler Street. (Owen Bjorgan)

Comment

The places where I played are the places that made me. I suppose that could be said about many people in their respective professions — they are products of their environment. There is definitely a correlation between what you’re exposed to during your youth, and where you may end up later in life.

I have vivid memories of specific places in Niagara-on-the-Lake that really got me hooked on the great outdoors.

The world is so fascinating at less than four feet tall because you can move so easily through the forest floor. There is no shortage of interesting things to investigate when you’re moving around at that same height as most of the shrubs, stumps, and boulders.

Plus, childhood curiosity slows you down and really makes you take your surroundings in.

Across the road from my house used to be the ‘swamp,’ several acres of seasonally flooded forest, rich with wildlife — just about every day after school in. On every bus ride home, no matter what the weather, I was itching to put the rubber boots back on and get into that place. I had turtles, snakes, and whoops — waps to feed.

I would have my face pressed to the bus window on the ride home from St. Davids, judging the weather and water levels of the creeks. I was assessing what footwear I would need, and what kind of jars or bags I wanted to collect critters.

I drew and colour-shaded maps of the place, mapping factors such as snake population density, water depths, where my favorite wildlife hotspots were. I even had my own trail system out there, which was basically a combination of deer trails and my tree memory.

Tree memory? This is what I refer to when you can easily remember a certain tree in an area, and you choose to take note of it for interest or for navigation purposes. I wish I could remember math and important dates like that.

Earlier this spring, tree memory came to serve me well when I was out hiking in a similar environment called Willoughby Marsh in Niagara Falls. We had keys hanging off a red lanyard out of my pocket, every day. I was pick-pocketed by a branch, and I know this when I patted my empty pocket upon arriving back at the van. I was able to walk back into a place I had never hiked before, off-trail, and pick out familiar trees among hundreds of them to retrace my steps. The better you understand what you see, the more you will retain what you see.

That sense of excitement was derived from being in a new location, and knowing I had limited opportunities to explore it. That exact same feeling and drive now happens on a larger scale when you are moving around at four feet tall.

The better we understand something, the more likely we are to be sympathetic, or even passionate about it. It is human nature to both promote and guard what we appreciate in life, and what we appreciate is often understood.

This is why places like the swamp and other locations in NOTL were so influential to me, and I would be curious to know if anyone else in town has similar natural spots of childhood importance.

Growing up on York Road near Queenston, next to “the swamp,” gave Owen Bjorgan the space and time to explore and become shaped by the area. He started young, and was delighted to find an eastern garter snake. (Photo supplied)

Two Mile Creek is one of the places that provided the rush of exploring new territory for Owen Bjorgan when he was a kid. There is a safe and relaxing hiking trail that follows the creek in Two Mile Creek Conservation Area, accessible from Garrison Village and Butler Street. (Owen Bjorgan)

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Laura Grant  
Special to The Local

Many years ago, I had a collection of All America Rose Selections, winners of an award given by the American rose industry to outstanding new rose varieties. All America Rose Selections is an award that was given by the American rose industry to an outstanding new rose variety. For decades, the selection was considered the most prestigious rose prize in the U.S.

Keeping the roses alive and healthy took a lot of my time. They had to be sprayed for black spot, mildew and insects. In the fall, they had to be hilled for winter protection and in the spring uncovered again. Many had to be replaced as they did not survive our cold winters.

Having a much larger garden now and being so much older, I was not prepared to put this much work into growing roses again. It was by chance that I came by a company that produced winter-hardy and disease-resistant roses. This was exciting news and while in Europe in the spring of 2014, I decided to check out this company. Founded in 1887, by Wilhelm Kordes I, Kordes Roses are located near Hamburg, Germany.

Upon my arrival, at the Kordes Rose farm, I was met by Thomas Proll, company hybridizer. He spoke very good English and gave me a tour of the library, explained the history of the company, breeding objectives, the process of selecting the best, and then we toured the display gardens. He cultivates hundreds of thousands of crosses every year, creating new varieties, and grows them on for evaluation. Out of those, they select only five to 10 for naming and trading. Proll explained the breeding strategy: the rose should have resistance to diseases (number one criterion); sufficient cold hardiness; bushy growth; foliage should stay on the plant until winter; its blooms should unfold above foliage; the stems should be strong and stiff to carry the bloom upright; and finally, it should flower deep into autumn. These are impressive criteria and they apply to both their cut flower and garden roses.

Laura Grant now has a long wall of climbing Kordes roses. (Laura Grant)

Continued on page 9
New climbing roses beautiful and less work

I was mainly interested in their garden roses:

- The Rigo-Rosen – these are the healthiest and would have been awarded the prestigious award ADR (the German designation for the best roses).
- Fairy Tale Roses – these are mostly bedding and shrub roses. They have a nostalgic flower shape and are a German answer to English roses.
- Climbing roses – healthy, vigorous, winter hardy and large flowering.
- Liliputs – miniatures, many with ADR certificates and very healthy.

Eleganza – hybrid tea class of healthy, high-pointed flower shape. This is a newer class of roses.

Parfuma - this group is the latest creation by Kordes and reached the market in autumn 2011. They have a combination of superior scent and healthy foliage.

Armed with all this knowledge, I was excited about the prospect of growing roses again, without the heavy maintenance of the past.

We are so fortunate in Niagara to have Rene and Eva Schmitz of Palatine Fruit & Roses Nursery, who grow and sell beautifully-grown Kordes climbing roses. Their comprehensive annual catalogue is organized by type of roses and each is rated for hardiness and fragrance. Thanks to them, I now have a 175-foot long wall of Kordes climbing roses giving me far less work than the old roses of the past.

A side note: my wall of roses is open in that a wire mesh supports the vines; this enables birds to fly into it from either side. They must like this, as a variety of species rest and nest in it: catbirds, cardinals and swamp sparrows. The thorns probably deter animal predators.
Campaign launched to restore heritage trail

Penny Coles
The Local

Under a hot summer sun Monday, a crowd of donors gathered to celebrate the official launch of a fundraising campaign to restore the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.

Just two weeks into the campaign, and with a basket full of cheques collected yesterday, the total was already nearing the $15,000 mark, with a goal of $150,000.

The work began in 2017, when the NOTL Canada Sesquicentennial Committee identified improvements and enhancements to the trail as a priority, and a meaningful legacy for the residents and future generations of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The committee decided it was a multi-year project, and in 2019, the Heritage Trail Committee was formed to preserve and enhance the trail that stands as a witness to our town’s history.

The railway men and women also had a dream, they said, that the railroad would bring prosperity to this community. It’s been a “bit of a bumpy ride,” he said, “but today, no one can deny the prosperity of this town.”

There are a few minor issues of encroachment by private property owners on the trail, but they are being dealt with, he said.

“Some concern that we have is that’s a legitimate concern. We have to put up proper signage indicating it’s private property, no trespassing, and don’t pick the fruit.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero told the crowd how important the trail is as people move toward a healthier lifestyle, “and as a permanent part of our lives.”

She encouraged donations to restore the trail, which belongs to the Town, not only to the Town, but to the residents, a trail that can be of benefit to the health of Niagara’s countryside and a trail that can enable us to enjoy the beauty of Niagara’s countryside and heritage, and into keeping it, preserving it, into declaring it heritage, and into keeping it for all of us.

The 20-metre wide trail requires a more permanent and durable surface, sections have become inaccessible, and some culverts need replacing. The portion between Line 9 and York Road needs substantial work.

Signs have been made up for the entrance at King and John Streets and at East and West Line to indicate the progress of the fundraising campaign.

Donations can be dropped off at the town hall, and cheques can be made out to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, with Heritage Trail indicated on the memo portion of cheques, and mailed to Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, PO Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0.

Donations over $25 will receive a charitable donation tax receipt from the Town. Contributions over $1,000 will be recognized publicly.

Donors to the restoration of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail were at the fundraising kick-off Monday. (Cheryl Morris)

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Walk, cycle, drive to Psychotherapy in the Old Town. Free Parking.
Serving the Niagara Region since 2005

Donors to the restoration of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail were at the fundraising kick-off Monday. (Cheryl Morris)
St. Andrew's Society hosting summer Ceilidh

Past is Present at annual museum heritage festival

Local Staff

This Monday is the museum's annual heritage festival, with the public invited to enjoy historical demonstrations, live music, a treasures sale and more outside, as well as the current exhibition inside.

There will be lots of entertainment throughout the day featuring live music by the Niagara Old Time Fiddlers Association from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with free admission.

At 2 p.m., there will be a special theatrical presentation. Through funding from the Niagara Region, Niagara Culture Investment in Culture program, the museum is developing a short performance celebrating 225 years of St. Andrew's Church.

St. Andrew's was first built in 1792 by Scottish settlers for the growing township of Newark. It was burned to the ground during the War of 1812, and then was designed and re-built by James Cooper. It was home to the first Black community school in Niagara, as well as the first Sunday School in NOTL.

Rich characters pattern the history of St. Andrew's—from Janet Carnegie (who founded the Niagara Historical Society & Museum), to the Cooper family, the Credes, and the feisty women of the Ladies Auxiliary who organized endless wartime fundraising, letter-writing, and aid campaigns.

If you enjoyed the local presentation, you will love this one too, says Worthy. And you will recognize the talented cast as well.

Historic demonstrations throughout the day include a blacksmith, an antique firearms display, wool spinning, traditional rug hooking and the Niagara Woodcarvers Association.

If you want to take home a little history, local author Peter Mulcaster will be there with his new book, Off to Paradise Grove: A Railway History of Niagara-on-the-Lake 1854-1959, and artist Kathy Thomas will have her beautiful heritage maps of NOTL and Queenston.

If you're hungry, there's a bake sale, or enjoy lunch while taking in some music and history.

The Niagara Historical Society & Museum will be raising funds through their treasures sale and annual raffle tickets.

We are raffling off our popular wine hampers again this year, says Amy Klassen, society administrator.

This year the prize includes dinner for four at Ravine and second prize includes dinner for two at the winery.

Proceeds from the sale and raffle support the ongoing care and preservation of the Museum's collection.

The Museum gift shop is also open as usual with lots of great heritage gifts and historical books, and visitors can take in the current exhibition From Head to Toe, which explores original fashions from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The heritage festival is Monday, Aug. 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Niagara Historical Society & Museum is located at 43 Castlereagh Street. For more information on museum programs and events, visit www.niagarahistoricalmuseum.org or contact the Museum at 905-468-3912.
Young couple wins grand prize at carnival

Penny Coles
The Local

When Alistair Smith spent $10 on raffle tickets for the St. Davids Carnival, he was happy to be supporting a good cause.

Instead, as Lion Bill Brouwer says, his purchase “has a storybook ending for the young couple.”

Smith and his wife Stephanie have an 18-month old son, Callum. They both have family members who camp, as do many of their friends.

Alistair says they began looking at campers to purchase this summer, hoping to join their family and friends on some of their outings, but soon discovered they couldn’t afford anything suitable.

“We’ve just had a baby. We really didn’t have the money,” he says. “We decided this just wasn’t the right time for us.”

A plumber for the district school board, he went to a Canadian Tire for supplies recently, and a man selling tickets “looked at me as if he knew me. I don’t know what it was about him. I just felt I wanted to talk to him.”

As Alistair left the store, Lion Rick Wills asked him if he wanted to buy a ticket to win a trailer, and he agreed.

“Really thought I was just supporting the club. I never expected to win.”

He and his wife were thrilled to get the call saying they had won the beautiful, new, 19-foot Starcraft trailer, an Autumn Ridge Outfitter, donated by Niagara Trailers. It sleeps four, with a slide-out for extra room — perfect for his family, says Alistair.

It also included two bicycles from Canadian Tire on Welland Avenue in St. Catharines.

The second place prize, a Niagara Falls vacation package which included a two-night stay at a Travel Lodge, a Jet Boat adventure and a helicopter ride, was won by Kim Killeen of Virgil, who donated the prize back to the Lions club to be used for more fundraising.

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Dawn Truong, Tasha Riddick, Leah Schouten, Bella Recine and Ayla Jamal, members of the St. Davids Leos Club, were serving lemonade at the carnival and accepting donations. They have raised enough money to fund one autism assist dog guide, and are fundraising for a second dog. (Penny Coles)

Marianne McRae, Nancy Lang and Bonnie Boyda show off pies made by the St. Davids-Queenston United Church. (Fred Mercnik)

Youngsters enjoy the slide at the St. Davids Lions Carnival last week. (Penny Coles)

Paying it forward
After winning this John Deere electric gator for kids at Joe Pillitteri’s Comedy Night, Coun. Norm Arsenault decided to pay it forward and donate it to KidSport Niagara. It is being raffled off, with the draw on Sept. 2. Tickets will also be available at the Peach Celebration Aug. 10. “It was pretty great that Norm thought of us,” says Shari Hartwick of KidSport Niagara, “and it comes at a time when KidSport Niagara has been out of money since the spring.” Nancy Wardle, Hartwick and Arsenault were at the carnival selling tickets. (Photo supplied)
The cast of Bernard Shaw’s Getting Married, on stage at the Royal George Theatre. (Emily Cooper)

Getting Married age-old and entertaining debate

Penny Coles
The Local

The morning of a family wedding might not be the most appropriate time to discuss the assets and liabilities of the institution of marriage, financial or social.

It is, however, a dialogue as inevitable as the institution itself. And as in Getting Married, one of two Bernard Shaw plays on offer this season, it has likely taken place during family gatherings, around kitchen tables, and leading up to nuptials that have about equal odds of leading to lifelong happiness or short-lived disaster.

In the case of the discussion that takes place on the Shaw Festival Theatre stage, the characters are far more colourful than most family members discussing on the same subject, but the scenario is familiar.

It takes place on the morning of Cecil (Cameron Grant) and Edith (Katherine Gauthier) wedding, although we don’t meet them until later in the play.

William Collins (Damien Atkins), the grocer, has arrived to help with the food for the impending nuptials and so begins the discussion with Edith’s mother, Alice Bridgenorth (Chick Reid). One of his family members and friends are introduced, revealing both the bride and groom have developed cold feet, each for different reasons.

Sides are taken, lines drawn, and eventually it’s decided a contract is required to deal with their concerns and the many issues that plague such unions. However, with such a diversity of opinions of what the contract should include, there isn’t much help for the couple, who must decide if they can overcome their fears.

Complicating the conversation but also lightening the subject matter are General Bridgenorth (Martin Hepper) who wants nothing more than to be married, and has proposed numerous times to Laura Grantham (Claire Julien). The answer is always the same — she wants nothing less than a snubbed, demanding man who will destroy her freedom. She wouldn’t mind children, but has no interest in being a wife.

Then there’s Leo Bridgenorth (Monice Peter), who likes her husband Reginald (Steven Sutcliffe) well enough, but wants to divorce him for another, St. John Hotchkiss (Ben Sanders). Shall keep them both if she could, but since she can’t, Reginald is going along with her accusations of abuse to help her end their marriage, not an easy task under British law.

Alfred Bridgenorth (Graeme Somerville) is the Bishop, as well as the bride’s father, and wants the wedding to proceed. It’s his idea to have a contract written up to calm the waters, but all does not go according to plan.

The second act introduces Mrs. George Collins (Marla McLean), who further muddies the debate, as characters pair up to continue the search for a solution for the young couple.

Reverend Oliver Cromwell Soames (Andrew Lawrie), has some of the funniest lines as the person charged with crafting the impossible contract.

Trying to follow the two-hour debate, without much in the way of distraction other than a wedding cake in the hands of a clumsy grocer, colourful 1950s-era costumes and an abundance of clever one-liners, might not be everyone’s cup of tea.

But Shaw has created 12 interesting characters to offer up the lively discourse, and director Tanja Jacobs moves it along at a pace that keeps it spirited and entertaining.

Round and round the discussion goes, and where it stops nobody knows, because the conclusion is always the same — are the alternatives much better?

Getting Married is onstage at the Royal George Theatre until Oct. 13. For more information visit shawfest.com.
Latino jazz great Hilario Duran promises a musical journey

Nancy Smith
Special to The Local

Hilario Duran is recognized internationally as a great musician, pianist, composer and arranger of Latin jazz.

He has received many accolades in Canada and the U.S., including a Juno Award, multiple Grammy nominations, the prestigious Chico O’Farrill Lifetime Achievement Award in Miami, the Louis Applebaum Composers Award, Musician of the Year, and many more.

He has been called one of the top 10 most influential Hispanic Canadians in Canada, and one of the contemporary Cuban pianists that moved jazz into the 21st century.

I asked Duran what shaped his early fascination with music:

“Music always touched me, since I was a little kid. In Cuba my grandfather had a huge collection of old recordings, vinyl, all kinds of music, from classical to jazz. Music was played in my home, we always loved music, was influenced by that. As a child I spent hours playing piano and making melody…didn’t want to play baseball like other kids. My mom had to lock the piano and hide the key…after that they put me with teachers to teach me to learn properly.”

Tell me about Afro-Cuban music:

“We call it Cuban music that has its roots in music from Africa because Cuban music is of Spain and also influenced by Africa. It is also influenced by classical music from France. A lot of people from French islands came to Cuba at the end of the 18th century. They brought a style of music from Europe. The music of Spain was already on the island. African music came from slaves working in the fields. Three styles of music developed Cuban music in the 20th century: Spanish, French and African, which is why they call it Afro-Cuban music. It is more jazzy.”

Who is joining you on the stage?

“I finished touring Europe a month and a half ago (with a quartet) and we’re going to play with a great Cuban singer based in Toronto…we’re going to mix up traditional Cuban music and Latin American music.”

Don’t miss the chance to take a musical trip through Cuban history Sunday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m. at St. Mark’s Church, led by one of the greatest Latino musicians in the world. Mojitos and appetizers will be available for purchase.

Saturday, Aug. 3, at St. Mark’s at 7 p.m., top selling artist/violinist Pavel Sporcl will perform unaccompanied in a concert entitled Gypsy Fire, to allow the beauty of his unique violin — the way he plays it — to fill the room. Sporcl is the only Czech violinist profiled in a book by world-renowned music critic and historian, Henry Roth entitled Violin Virtuosos. From Paganini to the 21st Century. The day before his concert, Friday, Aug. 2, Sporcl will share his passion for Czech music in an entertaining multimedia presentation in the NOTL Public Library, beginning at 11 a.m.

Pavel Sporcl will be at the NOTL Public Library Friday, and performing at St. Mark’s Saturday. (Photo supplied)

Hilario Duran will perform at St. Mark’s Sunday. (Photo supplied)

Church picnic

St. Mark’s Anglican Church celebrated Sunday with a family picnic and a little music after the morning service, with Rev. William Roberts conducting the band. (Fred Mercnik)
Jazz in the Park

Niagara resident Jayden Polgrabia bravely holds a parrot in Simcoe Park, with help from trainer Seth Falk at Saturday’s Jazz in the Park event of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival. (Photos by Fred Mercnik)

Alex Pangman wows the crowd with her original music at Jazz in the Park Saturday.

Dancers Shonesee Devereux and Blake Perry from Lindy Hop demonstrate a perfect swing dance move in Simcoe Park Saturday. Devereux teaches swing dance at Lindy Hop.

I should have had this done before but fell and broke my right hip bone and ended up in the hospital and convalescent care in Pleasant Manor for two and a half months without access to a computer. So now I’m back in action and trying to catch up on my late happenings.

Well, the birthday was a success! Not only was it an honor to make 90 but to have all my family present. My two brothers and their wives came from Saskatchewan, Don, Donna from Tisdale, Dave and Geraldine from Nipawin. My sisters Dorothy from Aylsham, SK. Marti from Calgary, AB, and Marge from Winnipeg, MB. Brother Frank and wife Mina from Elliott Lake, ON and their two sons and daughter and their families.

There were 65 people for a sit down dinner from 12 – 2 with cake and coffee from 2 – 4 p.m. for well wishers. The meal consisted of pork roast, potatoes in a sauce, bean, carrot, macaroni dishes, string beans, salad & buns. Wine for Toasting and carrot cake and ice cream to top it all off. All prepared by my son-in-law Paul and his daughter Theresa. An excellent meal, people are still commenting how good it was two months later. My daughter Deborah and her daughters decorated. My son John Patrick was Go-For for me and Host. My son William was the Master of Ceremonies with Live Mike and soft music. Also with us in Spirit would be my wife Evelyn and daughter Mary.

Table Settings:

#1 Deborah, Patrick, Celia, Theresa, Paul. Father Ron the Assistant Parish Priest who said Grace.

#2 William, Lynn, Tim his wife Pauline and Daughters, Dale his wife Nadene and daughters, Beth from Elliott Lake.

#3 Myself, Frank, Mina, Don, Donna, Dave, Geraldine and Dorothy.

#4 Grand-Kids, Marie with husband Travis and great-grandson Jamieson, Michelle and Brad, Chelsea and Christopher, Melinda and Ben.

#5 Eliyya and Darren with great-grandson Noah, Madison from Whistler BC, Emily and John, Ryan, Thomas Christopher.

#6, 7 & 8 Neighbours, friends from the Knights, Legion, Lions, Church and Euchre Clubs, many people in their 80’s and 90’s at this table.

I thank everyone had a good time, it was an enjoyable day for me, and it is not every day you make 90. It was worth that long time waiting and with all the family it was extra special. Some special moments in life were getting married, first child born, kids getting married, grand-kids arriving and now great-grand kids. I learned to swim at 87 and fly a small airplane by myself at 88. Oh yes, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter with family, but this was a special day and I thank you all for coming with God’s Blessings. The family went to the hotel and celebrated. I now have a small apartment in Pleasant Manor Retirement Home and enjoying the best of everything.

John Dobson

Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary

Liz & Jake Richkop

Friends & Family are invited to an Open House
Sat. August 10, 2019
from 2 – 6 p.m. at the Queenston Firehall
5 Dumfries St., Queenston, Ont.

Best Wishes Only Please!

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**Youth learn to sail at local club**

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Despite the high water levels this summer, it's pretty much business as usual for the CANSail program at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club. Almost 30 youth, aged nine to 16, are currently taking part in the six different levels of the program, administered by Sail Canada, the country's national sailing authority.

With water still covering the floor on the main level of the club building, the in-class sessions are being held upstairs. It's made for a bit of a challenge, with all 30 students in three different groupings in one big room, but the five instructors are adapting.

Emily Warren and Josh Kairo lead the CANSail 1/2 group in a lesson about clouds. Their young charges are at the earliest stages of their progression as sailors. CANSail 1 teaches them the fundamental skills, including basic sheeting, steering, and boat handling. They then move on to CANSail 2, where they learn to adjust their bodies and boats for changes in direction and wind speed, and to perform boat-handling manoeuvres in a controlled setting.

Donna Genge, who oversees the CANSail program, is always amazed at how quickly the kids catch on. "This summer," she says, "by the second day they were sailing down the channel between other boats that were docked, and doing it with confidence."

CANSail 3 is the intermediate course. This level exposes sailors to a greater variety of conditions, while teaching them to integrate boat handling, steering, and balance with basic tactics. In CANSail 4, advanced sailing, sailors learn advanced boat handling manoeuvres in a variety of conditions, with a focus on tactics and strategies for regular sailing. These two levels are being taught by Andy Berti and Al-exandre Brillouin this summer.

Like these four instructors, Levi Harper has also progressed through the program right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Harper, who teaches the CANSail 5/6 group, says he started sailing when he was six years old. Now 23, the Parliament Oak grad, who is finishing up his last course at Brock in the Recreation and Leisure program, is the elder statesman among the group.

The higher level classes focus on integrating the skills and manoeuvres learned in the earlier sessions into a racing setting. The nine students in Harper's class this summer learn more about the fine points of sailing, including rig tuning and sail trim. In addition, students at these levels are expected to compete in regattas as part of the program.

On the day The Local visited, Harper was leading them through a lesson on sailing in windy and choppy conditions. This admitted landlubber grew a bit glassy-eyed listening to talk about planing, surfing, broad reach angles, beam reaches, bear

Continued on page 19

**Tykes show strength in defeat**

The Niagara Thunderhawks tyke team had a great showing this past weekend in zone playoff action in Burlington. Missing a few key players in the first game Saturday, Niagara was humbled by a strong Pelham Raiders team by a score of 11-1. They bounced back in a must-win game against the Hamilton Bengals with a score of 11-4. The complete team effort earned the Thunderhawks a spot in the C championship final for Zone 9 against Pelham on Sunday.

Pelham got off to a strong start, taking leads of 5-0 and 6-1 before the Thunderhawks battled back to a one-goal deficit at a score of 8-7. They weren't able to complete the comeback, falling by a final score of 10-8. The Thunderhawks will look to build off their strong effort next week as they compete in the Ontario Lacrosse Association Provincial C Championships in Whitby. (Photo supplied)

**LOCAL WORSHIP**

[cornerstone logo]

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Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

**MESSAGE**

**Trevor Seath**

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**JANE AUSTEN TEA PARTY: MANSFIELD PARK**

August 1 @ 7 - 8 p.m.

Join the Friends of Fort George for a social evening, celebrating Jane Austen's novel, Northanger Abbey at Navy Hall. Tea and treats, music, games and more! Space is limited, call 905-468-6621, or email admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca to register. $20/person.

**14TH ANNUAL - ART AT THE PUMPHOUSE & 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

August 3 & 4 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A juried, original art show and sale with 60 professional artists from across Ontario. Paintings, photography, sculpture, jewellery and more. 247 Ricardo Street.

On AUGUST 4th we will also be celebrating our 25th Anniversary from 3 - 5 p.m.

**THE PAST IS PRESENT HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

August 5 @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join the Museum's staff on the front lawn for a "treasure’s" sale, historical demonstrations, heritage activities, food, live music and more! Free admission.

**ART FOR ANIMALS**

August 10 @ 2 - 3 p.m.

Can art make you a kinder and more compassionate person? That is certainly what many working to make the world a better place for animals in the late 19th and early 20th centuries believed! The works of Edwin Landseer, Rosa Bonheur, and Harrison Weir (among others) were frequently used by those working in animal advocacy because it was thought that pictures by these famous artists could help to convey the importance of rethinking dominant ways of coexisting with other animals. In the 21st century we are facing increasingly fraught relationships with the nonhuman world – what kinds of insights and inspiration can we gain from this history of art? Riverbrink Art Museum, $10 members/$15 non-members. To register, please call the museum at 905-262-4510 or contact: sdedalizer@riverbrink.org.
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crossword puzzle

Across:
1. Turnpike exit
2. Reverential
9. Frozen
14. 100% of us live here
15. Of sound judgment
20. Goals
22. Reactor safety overseer:
Central
23. Electrical devices
25. Abbr.
26. Turnpike exit
27. Former CIA director
31. Of sound judgment
32. Frown
34. Fumed
35. How some stocks are
Shell which can be blown
36. Carried
37. Of sound judgment
38. Legs it
39. Egyptian solar deity
40. Throw
41. Corrosive chemicals
42. Since
43. Carrier
44. Surrealist Jean ---
45. Short musical passages
46. Deaths
47. Rider Haggard romance
48. Oil well firefighter Red ---
49. Terrible Russian leader
50. Goss
51. Deep red,
52. Bag supporter
53. Deep red,
54. Crosses
55. A Loving Tribute.
56. A Loving Tribute.
57. A Loving Tribute.
58. A Loving Tribute.
59. A Loving Tribute.
60. A Loving Tribute.
61. A Loving Tribute.
62. A Loving Tribute.

Down:
1. Tumble exit
2. Turnpike exit
5. Reverential
6. Frozen
8. Of sound judgment
10. Carried
11. Former CIA director
13. Central
16. Electrical devices
17. Turnpike exit
18. Former CIA director
19. Central
20. Turnpike exit
21. Turnpike exit
22. Reactor safety overseer:
Central
23. Electrical devices
24. Turnpike exit
25. Turnpike exit
26. Former CIA director
27. Central
28. Turnpike exit
29. Central
30. Turnpike exit
31. Turnpike exit
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59. Turnpike exit
60. Turnpike exit

Sudoku puzzle

Puzzle answers

HELP WANTED

WANTED

Seeger Farms Ltd. is looking to fill full-time positions from Feb-Sept 2020, for our Niagara-on-the-Lake vineyards. Applicants must be willing to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, including weekends if necessary, in all weather conditions at $14/hour. Duties include pruning, tying, hoeing, replanting, suckering and thinning. No education or work experience required, but would be an asset. Own transportation required. Please send resumes to Seeger Farms Ltd., 15570 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0. Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.
High water inconvenient but lessons go ahead

Continued from page 17

away sets, jibe sets and vectors. It was all over my head, but the students in the class answered questions and offered opinions, clearly knowledgeable about all these terms at this stage in their development.

Once the on-land session was over, the nine sailors split up into four pairs, who busily readied their assigned 420s (4.2 metre long dinghies rigged with a spinnaker and a trapeze). Samantha Boulton, meanwhile, volunteered to go solo on a Shark, a boat whose design was created in NOTL by George Hinterhoeller.

Watching them all work together to rig up their boats was impressive. For the most part, they did so independent-ly of Harper, who would step in with a few quick reminders about some simple adjustments. And when necessary, mostly-friendly advice was offered from each other as well.

As they began to navigate out the channel, I was able to tag along with Harper on his coach boat.

The on-water sessions are chances to practise what is learned each day in class. Harper explained some of the students in his group would have been competing last weekend in the Cain Am Challenge, a friendly regatta in Youngstown, NY. As well, they will all be taking part in a regatta this coming weekend in Port Credit. To that end, Monday’s on-water session would also involve practising tactics around the mark, as well as three-minute repeat starts.

As today’s in-class session focused on windy, choppy conditions, it was a bit dis-focussed on windy, choppy conditions today, especially in light of the anticipation of a windier day, may have caused the group to lose a bit of their focus near the end of the session.

The on-water sessions continue until Aug. 23, while the CAN-Sail 5 and 6 sessions wrap up Aug. 9. The Adult Beginner program, running Tuesday and Thursday evenings, is getting set to start on Aug 6. Information about the program and registration can be found at niagaraoonthelakesailingclub.com.

The students in the CAN-Sail 1 to 4 groups will continue until Aug 23, while the CAN-Sail 5 and 6 sessions wrap up Aug 9. The Adult Beginner program, running Tuesday and Thursday evenings, is getting set to start on Aug 6. Information about the program and registration can be found at niagaraoonthelakesailingclub.com.

Benjamin Zalepa, Jerry Dick, Max Hozack, Patrick Boulton, Samantha Boulton, Gioia De Leonardis, Dylan Rouleau, Maddison Maclean, Levi Harper and Max Kramer were part of the group Mike Balsom observed Monday.

The group heads in for lunch, and we see the sailors from the other two groups heading in as well. Harper remarks he hears a lot of talking at this point, and it seems to bring a smile to his face.

The group heads in for lunch, then will begin the afternoon with another in-class session, followed by another chance to practise what they learn on the water.

As George says, the youth program is great, and the numbers this year are strong, despite the challenges the high water levels have posed.

Samantha Boulton sails a Shark, a boat whose design was created in NOTL by George Hinterhoeller. (Photos by Mike Balsom)
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