



Town crier
and his
electric car
attention-
getters

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Alexandra Montagnese and Mike Peterson fulfill a vision of Shaw artistic director Tim Carroll, with *A Short History of Niagara*. (Lauren Garbutt)

Future of historic King Street home remains uncertain

Penny Coles
The Local

The historic value of the house at 630 King Street, known as Miss Young's School, is widely acknowledged, but despite its significance, the future of the heritage-designated building remains a question mark.

It is now owned by Gary Chahinian, a real estate broker from Toronto, who was selling the property in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It was one of four historic homes Robert and Dorothy Ure had owned in the Old Town. Robert passed away in the spring of 2014, and Dorothy about six months later.

Robert was a surveyor who was known for making good deals on houses before they were officially put on the market. Although their Centre Street house at Mississauga Street was the best-known of their properties, they lived in the house at 630 King Street, which is thought to have been

built around 1816, but possibly even earlier.

They had undertaken several renovations of the King Street home over the years, says Chahinian, but never completed the task.

Under the white clapboard siding, he says, is an original log dwelling, built by a military carpenter — the same one who built Fort George.

The Ures were known to frequent antique and garage sales, buying pieces Dorothy felt to be suitable for heritage homes, but rather than being restored, the houses they owned became storage properties for their purchases, he says.

All have been sold — the King Street house, between Paffard and Cottage Streets, was the last to go.

The one on Centre Street, known as the Breakenridge Ure House, is now in the process of an extensive restoration by the current owner.

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Shaw puppet show a 30-minute history of Niagara

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

On right now at the Shaw Festival Theatre is a 30-minute play that should be required viewing for everyone in Niagara-on-the-Lake, tourists and locals alike.

A Short History of Niagara takes the audience along on a whirlwind ride spanning centuries, from the Haudenosaunee legend of the Maid of the Mist to our current pandemic. It's an emotional, engaging and

thoroughly entertaining lesson, all conveyed wordlessly via more than 70 different puppets, versatile stage props and an atmospheric soundtrack.

It's the vision of Shaw artistic director Tim Carroll, in collaboration with renowned puppeteers Alexandra Montagnese and Mike Peterson.

Like all of Shaw's performances so far this summer, the show is taking place outdoors under the tent on the grounds of the Festival Theatre. Unlike many of the other events there,

though, this is not so much a pivot in planning.

"We've been working on this since 2019," says Montagnese. "Originally this was supposed to happen at Fort George in a tent, outside, well before COVID. Of course, due to COVID, we weren't able to be on that site, so Shaw is hosting us."

The genesis of the idea for a 30-minute puppet show about Niagara's history came about through discussions between Carroll and Parks Canada representatives.

"They got in touch with us," Montagnese explains, "with the idea being, tourists who come to town, who don't necessarily know that there's a theatre company here, could see a puppet show in 30 minutes, while they are having their ice cream, or discovering Fort George. They could learn a bit about Niagara's history, and maybe come back and see some plays after that"

The three-year preparation process included research trips to Niagara for Montagnese

and Peterson. Here they met with members of the Niagara Historical Society, who freely shared their knowledge and resources.

Montagnese points to an especially informative and fascinating Uber ride to the Laura Secord Homestead, during which their driver explained how locals often find historical artifacts and relics on their properties.

The research has resulted in accurate depictions of Secord's historic walk, the burning of

the town and then the White House in retaliation, and the daredevilry synonymous with nearby Niagara Falls.

Through it all, audiences are reminded of the importance of the region's Indigenous roots as well. In fact, the land acknowledgment is displayed upon entering the tent, just a few feet from a signpost pointing in the direction of where some of the historical events took place.

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Owner says house will not be torn down

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The Local recently received a call from Oakville resident Anita Grewel, who is interested in the future of the King Street house. She and her husband, frequent visitors to NOTL, a town they have come to love, put in an offer for the property in 2015. It was not accepted, and as she recalls, no counter-offer was made.

But she had a hard time letting it go, and is still disappointed in the outcome, with questions about what had occurred and what will happen to the house.

Every time they visit the town, they make a point in driving by, she says, to see if anything has changed, or if it's being restored.

Several years ago, she complained to the town about the condition of the house, its wooden siding and the roof, and the property, which she felt was not being maintained.

In recent visits, she says, she noticed the clapboard has been painted, and the grass cut, but she considers it "the bare minimum" for such a significant property.

"It's a special place," she says. "I would love to have restored it, and I'm still disappointed that we weren't able to purchase it."

Over the years, she has had various conversations and exchanged emails with the town's

heritage planners, first Leah Wallace, then Denise Horne, and with planner Jessie Auspitz.

When Grewel was considering putting in an offer, she knew there was a possibility it would be designated by the town under the Ontario Heritage Act, and was asking about regulations regarding the renovation of a heritage home.

It wasn't that the designation would have influenced the decision to purchase it, she said. She was planning to restore, not tear it down, and was seeking guidance in what was involved in restoring a designated heritage home.

When she learned Chahinian, the selling real estate agent, had purchased it himself, she was concerned about a few issues, and remains so.

She's not sure why there was never a counter offer, and there were no conditions on hers, although it was below asking price.

She is hoping the house won't be torn down, and feels very passionately that it should be restored.

She'd heard the owner had plans to give the building to the town or someone who might move it off the property, and she's afraid if that is unsuccessful, it might be torn down.

Chahinian, who was then a ReMax broker but is now independent, says there was nothing untoward about his offer to

purchase the property.

There were other offers, but they all had conditions, he says, which were turned down by the executor, who was representing relatives who live overseas — he thought nieces and nephews of the Ures, who had no children.

He fully disclosed he was buying it, he says, and although there were local agents who might have questioned the sale, thinking he was planning to flip it, "that was six years ago."

He still owns it, and has no intention of selling, he adds.

His decision still to be made is what to do with it.

He says he discussed the possibility of moving the building with the Municipal Heritage Committee. He offered to donate the house to the town, if a piece of property could be found for it, "but there was no interest."

Craig Larmour, the town's planning director, says the property was designated in December, 2015, by the town.

He's not aware of any conversation involving the donation of the dwelling, nor any intention of the owner to demolish it, he says.

Coun. Clare Cameron, in her second term as a MHC committee member, remembers there was some discussion with the owner, but she's not sure whether an application had been made.

The MHC has looked at the



The significant historic home at 630 King Street may predate the War of 1812, although the exact date of its construction is uncertain. (Donald Combe)

house in previous terms, she says, and any alterations to designated attributes of the property, or demolition, would require a permit and review by the MHC.

For example, she added, there is a beautiful carved fireplace inside which dates from the 1790s.

In addition to its cultural significance, exterior and interior portions of the building were considered of heritage value and included in the heritage designation.

The house was originally known as Miss Young's School, and is connected to the early settlers in Niagara. George Young, the carpenter, was a private in the Lincoln Militia in the War of 1812, and in addition to the construction of Fort George, also supervised the construction of Fort Erie and Fort York. He had also been a founding member of St. Andrew's Church.

Beginning in 1825, Miss Young operated a private school in the building.

"The one-and-a-half-storey dwelling represents a high degree of craftsmanship, with its squared log construction and dove-tailed corners," the designation description says.

Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it could have been before the War, and survived the burning of the town by American forces, the designation document states.

Janet Carnochan's History of Niagara suggests it was built around 1816, with salvaged materials from older buildings

lost during the War.

The original log structure and the wood clapboard siding are mentioned as heritage attributes, along with the brick chimney stack, and other exterior features.

Inside, the original post and beam structure, the fireplace hearths and mantels, pine floors and rafter system are noteworthy "and embody the heritage value of the home."

Chahinian says he was surprised by the designation, as was the executor of the estate.

"Inside it's just a mish-mash of stuff. When the previous owners did some restoration, they took away most of the historic materials," although he recognizes the significance of the log structure underneath the siding.

He says he bought the property on the urging of his mother and his wife.

They have been visiting the town for years, and although he hasn't made any decisions about what he will do with the house, "it will probably be a summer home for us."

He said he was "50/50" on the idea of buying it, "but they were 100 per cent. They had to convince me."

At the time they were discussing it, Chahinian says, their youngest son was doing a project for his Etobicoke school on early schools in Ontario, including the one run by Miss Young. He'd heard his parents talking about it at home, and told his teacher he knew about the school from his dad, who was thinking of buying it.

"That seemed a special sign to me that I should buy it," says Chahinian.

He says he has had the outside clapboard painted to freshen it up, and has someone going every two weeks to maintain the property.

Until he knows what he's going to do with it, that's the best he can do.

He is still hoping to donate the building to someone who will move it, "but I haven't had any offers."

Otherwise, he will restore it. He won't let the property go, he says.

"I reached out to the heritage committee, and had no interest from the town."

It hasn't been a good financial investment for him, he explains — although he paid just over \$300,000, that money invested in a Toronto property that didn't require the same amount of work would have brought him a much larger return.

Six years later, Grewel is still not over the disappointment of losing the house, which she would have loved to restore. "I love old houses and history," she says. "I wanted to do something good with the house, and not let it down."

She can't go back in time, but she believes the future of this house, and its preservation, is important, and hopes to come to town one day to see that happening.

"We take a lot of road trips to the U.S., and we like to visit historic places. They do a way better job of preserving their history than we do."

Short Term Rental Compliance Program

Did you know?

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake launched a new compliance program on July 12, 2021, to streamline the enforcement of local rules and regulations for Short Term Rentals.

Granicus Host Compliance, a third-party service that specializes in helping local governments manage Short Term Rental compliance and enforcement, provides a 24/7 hotline and online system whereby members of the public can easily report Short Term Rentals that may not be compliant with the Town's Short Term Rental By-law.

How to lodge a complaint:

Visit secure.hostcompliance.com/tips/type to fill out an online complaint form or call 435-STR-HELP (435-787-4357) (toll-free) or 289-210-7226 to speak directly to a Granicus operator.

Visit notl.com/content/short-term-rentals for more information about Niagara-on-the-Lake's new Short Term Rental Compliance Program.

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rmell@sothebysrealty.ca

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Booming voice, electric car attract attention for town crier

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

For town crier Tom Pekar, it all started at a wedding at Queenston Heights 30 years ago.

It was what he calls a period costume wedding. They brought in the town crier from Binbrook to act as master of ceremonies for the reception.

"He did a fabulous job," Pekar says, "and I decided that if I ever had the chance to be a town crier, that's what I wanted to do."

A little over 10 years ago the opportunity arose for the Virgil resident, when the city of Port Colborne was accepting applications for the position. Pekar applied and was offered the opportunity to be the city's official town crier.

When the plans began for the celebration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812, Pekar joined the committee and offered his services. He became the "Sheriff" of Niagara, who did everything the town crier would do, minus ringing the bell. Since that time, he has been fulfilling that role in an unofficial capacity in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Pekar is a natural as a town crier.

"I've always been loud, always been boisterous," he tells The Local. "I've always been kind of a stand-up comic ham type of guy. As a teenager, I was a folk singer, and was in several different groups, all loose collections of people who never really took themselves seriously."

"I've always had no fear of speaking in public," continues Pekar. "That's the number one attribute you have to have. Secondly, you have to love people, you gotta love your community, and those are things that I just naturally fell into."

Pekar says the people he meets are what makes the town crier role worth the effort.

"The best thing about the job is that I get to meet some of the most seemingly ordinary but amazing people who are the lifeblood of the community," he says. "The volunteers, the unsung heroes. And I get to brag on them, these people who are not looking for any recognition whatsoever."

His love of people was evident, as was his wily sense of humour, at the recent grand opening of The Scented Market on Queen Street.

In front of a queue of over 60 people waiting to enter the store, Pekar stepped onto a bench, opened his scroll, and began by welcoming "my Lordships, my worships, my parsnips and my fish 'n' chips, on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Betty 'Boop' Disero" for the festive occasion." His booming voice drew curious onlookers to the gathering of shoppers. And the Lord Mayor expressed no dissatisfaction with Pekar adding the "Boop."

As much attention as his booming voice attracts, Pekar's mode of transportation to most of his appearances draws just as many stares and waves.

The self-confessed wrencher

has restored and modernized an 1891 Morrison Electric car, the first automobile to run on battery power. Along with the Ferris Wheel, Quaker Oats, Shredded Wheat and the phosphorescent light bulb, the Morrison made its first big public splash at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

The car's name comes from its inventor, American chemist William Morrison. He set out on a mission to improve the storage capacity of batteries. To demonstrate his improved power cells he installed 24 of them on a horse-drawn carriage and attached an electric motor to the rear axle.

"It's built from original parts," Pekar explains about his restoration. "It's been on the road for 10 years now. Originally it had 12 batteries that weighed 830 pounds. I drove it for a year-and-a-half, with 500 pounds of golf cart batteries, and then my wife warned me I was going to cause an accident. I had no insurance, no licence."

So Pekar set out on another year-and-a-half journey to modify the Morrison so it could be insured. And to do that, he had to apply for a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). No VIN, no safety, no insurance, said the Ministry of Transportation.

He rebuilt the frame, replacing the existing wood with welded metal. He added a second set of brakes and replaced the coal oil lamp with a full set of working LED lights and flashers. Seat belts were added to the bench seats and it was outfitted with both a speedometer and odometer.

He finally received that sought-after VIN, added the Morrison to his insurance policy, and hit the road with added confidence.

Over the years, he also replaced the original wooden wheels with pneumatic tires on custom-made steel wheels. And the Morrison is now powered by 4 lithium-ion-cobalt batteries, weighing a much lighter total of 140 pounds, giving the car a top speed of around 25 km/h and a range just above 60 kilometres.

That range is enough for two round trips to St. Catharines and back. The batteries in the car can be easily swapped out and replaced with fresh ones. Pekar connects the batteries to a charger he installed on the car. All he has to do is plug the charger into a regular household electrical outlet.

Pekar made every effort to keep as many of the original parts as he could. That includes some of the decaying wood slats that adorn his "dashboard." It's the same size as the classic EV (Electric Vehicle) and as close to the original as possible with the added advantage of its insurability.

As such, he can drive the Morrison anywhere a car might be allowed, other than the 400 series highways. His insurance allows him to have passengers, but Pekar is quick to assert that

it is not a car for hire, as he has been unsuccessful at finding a company that will allow him to add a commercial insurance coverage rider to his policy.

Beyond taking the vintage car on his town crier gigs, Pekar, a dentist for the past 39 years, drives the Morrison each day from his Virgil home to his practice on Merritt Street in St. Catharines.

"The only time I don't drive it is if there's a thunderstorm coming, or if it's less than 2 degrees," Pekar says. "I stay to the right side of the road as a courtesy. I have my lights flashing all the time so I can be seen and recognized. Most people wave and say hello."

He describes the experience of driving the open air EV as primitive.

"There's the wind in your face, the sound of the tires, and nothing else. The best way I can explain this is when you made the transition from your tricycle to your first bicycle, and you were going so fast you thought you could go to Jupiter, that's what driving this is like."

By the time he arrives home each night to his wife Judith, Pekar says he is unwound from the full-body driving experience.

As for the historical nature of his Morrison, Pekar points to the year 1900, when New York City had 15,000 EVs on the road, including a fleet of 300 electric taxi cabs with interchangeable batteries. It begs the question about why it took another 100-plus years for electric cars to make a comeback.

"Two things happened that were the death of the electric car," Pekar explains. One was the discovery of oil in Texas in 1896. The other was the First World War. Ford and Edison had teamed up to build electric cars, but when the reality of the war came along, and they had millions of vehicles to make for the war effort, the whole electrical thing disappeared."

Pekar credits the develop-



Tom Pekar was on-hand in his role as town crier to help celebrate the opening of The Scented Market on Queen Street Saturday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Tom Pekar's electric car, which was introduced at the Chicago World's Fair, draws as much interest as he does in his role of town crier.

ment of a distribution network and the proliferation of today's charging stations, pushed by companies such as Tesla, for the resurgence of the modern electric vehicle.

Though it's certain that any town crier working 200 years ago wasn't driving a Morrison

or anything other than a horse-drawn carriage, the 1891 vintage vehicle adds to the experience for his appearances in costume.

As town crier for both Port Colborne and NOTL, Pekar estimates that he is booked for between 40 and 50 events annually, most of which he does free of

charge, as what he calls a gesture of good will to the community.

And the wrencher is currently tinkering with two Model 'T' Fords in his Virgil garage, one of which he is aiming to convert into another electric car. Soon, he may be arriving at town crier gigs in one of those.

The Scented Market opening draws interested crowd



About 65 people lined up for the grand opening of The Scented Market on Queen Street Saturday. It's the second location for the business, which began in Guelph. They sell a variety of scented products for the home, including candles, room sprays, diffusers, and hand sanitizers. They also sell bath bombs, gifts, apparel and home products. Town crier Tom Pekar, owners Steve and Kristy Miller, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, store accounts manager Allison Lang, and MPP Wayne Gates attended the ribbon-cutting. The store gave away a custom eight-oz soy wax candle called Wine Country, which smells like Chardonnay, to the first 50 people in line. Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. more than 400 people visited the new store. Kristy said it was amazing, with everyone supportive and patient as they dealt with COVID protocols. (Mike Balsom)

Research ensured accurate depictions of history

Continued from page 1

Montagnese lauded Shaw board member Tim Johnson, director of the LON 360° Indigenous Education Initiative, and executive producer of the film *RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked The World*, for gifting his knowledge in crafting that side of the show.

On stage, the props are ingeniously created, and many of them can be flipped and knocked over to use multiple surfaces to depict different eras and events in the story.

Peterson and Montagnese, both dressed head to toe in white, dance around each other, communicating with their movements, their eyes and their hands as they gracefully lead and accompany their original puppets over the simple yet deceptively complex table-top set. Peterson refers to it as micro-choreography.

All the while, the bold, litting soundtrack, featuring music by Ryan Cowl, and sound effects that in the outdoor setting can be mistaken for real-time sounds of nature, punctuate the story.

Peterson is somewhat of a legend in puppetry circles, having worked with Jim Henson's crew on the immensely popular multinational *Fraggle Rock* television series 40 years ago, as well as on the film *Labyrinth*. He's also no stranger to Shaw,

having most recently been part of 2017's production of the interactive one-act lunchtime play *Wilde Tales*.

Montagnese, who also often works as an actor on stage sans puppets, is the curator for Concrete Cabaret, Toronto's seasonal puppet cabaret, and is the puppeteer behind *Mosi & Moo*, a popular YouTube series that aims to teach children how to dance.

The pair began working together about seven years ago, and recently collaborated on a show called *Old Man and the River*, which they have performed online for Toronto's Theatre Direct.

Montagnese describes herself as a late 80s baby, who grew up watching *Sesame Street* and *Fraggle Rock*. When she first met Peterson and began working with him in Toronto, she admits she was a bit starstruck by the veteran puppeteer.

Peterson, for his part, doesn't remember her overly enthusiastic fangirling back then.

"She's a great collaborator, and a great friend," he says. "We speak a similar language. We know what it is we want to accomplish, and we have similar visions. She didn't seem awestruck to me. Maybe she was trying hard to maintain her composure."

"I had seen her perform puppetry already," adds Peterson, "and she obviously had

chops. She struck me immediately as incredibly intelligent."

A *Short History of Niagara* is the first project they've created, designed and performed together from start to finish. Peterson built most of the puppets and cut out the set pieces in his Toronto workshop. Montagnese would then paint and detail those, and also create the costumes for the puppets.

They work so well together that in speaking with them separately, they often end up saying what amounts to the very same thing. Check out the following statements by the collaborators:

Peterson: "With puppetry, I find that it goes that extra step. Not only will the audience willingly suspend their disbelief, but they do so with utter glee. They lean forward and invest in the soul of the puppet. They want to believe in it."

Montagnese: "Puppets are asking the audience to have even more empathy, and with even more suspension of disbelief. Because I'm holding this little object, and putting breath and focus and belief into it, you will too. It's another step toward that empathy."

The play is a delight to behold for any age. Peterson says they tried to make things as visually colourful and as clear as they could, so that any age from four to 94 could understand what they were doing.

The non-verbal element also drops the barrier for non-English speakers.

Last Saturday, the first of two shows included a number of youngsters in the audience, and Montagnese was struck by their reaction to the performance.

"It's so fabulous when they're there," she enthuses. "There's a moment when they

go 'Oh, this is for me and I can participate,' and they shout out. It's so rewarding. The kids lead the audience in a way. A kid will shout out, and laugh, and not have the social cues that a more mature adult audience will have, so they go for it, they follow their impulses."

Both Peterson and Montagnese mention that there

were some scenes left on the puppet room floor, so to speak, leaving things open for a sequel some time in the future.

A *Short History of Niagara* is on now, with multiple performances each day, Tuesdays through Sundays, until August 15. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Visit shawfest.com for information.

Early morning drama



A dramatic early morning view captured at the Niagara Shores Park shows a kingfisher flying on the horizon. (David Gilchrist)

Niagara Lake -on-the-Lake EST. 1781

FORM 2 Expropriations Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.26 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for approval to expropriate all right, title and interest (fee simple) for municipal purposes and to permit the construction, maintenance and use of a sanitary sewer with all necessary appurtenances including equipment, pipes and related infrastructure.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for the approval to expropriate all right, title and interest (fee simple) for municipal purposes and to permit the construction, maintenance and use of a sanitary sewer with all necessary appurtenances including equipment, pipes and related infrastructure, in the lands described as:

Part of the Common Elements of Niagara North Vacant Land
Condominium Plan No. 302
Being Part of PINs 46502-0001 (LT) to 46502 - 0038 (LT) inclusive
Parts 1 and 2 Reference Plan 30R- 15739
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires an inquiry into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing,

(a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail, within thirty (30) days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within (30) days after the first publication of the notice;

(b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:

**The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0**

The expropriating authority is:

**The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0**

Phone: **905-468-3266**

Fax: **905-468-2959**

Email: Acting Town Clerk Colleen Hutt colleen.hutt@notl.com

This notice first published on the 4th day of August, 2021.

Wednesday evening music at St. Andrew's



Mike Makreel, the Piano Doctor, tunes a Heintzman piano, one of the last made in Canada. It was recently donated to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church by parishioners Mike and Ruth Belfie, while new organist James van den Brink sits at the organ. They were preparing for the first of the church's August Gatherings for Gateau & Grace Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 7 p.m. Following cake and fellowship on the lawn, van den Brink will become the first organist in Canada to play *Elegy*, a brand new composition by young German composer Paul Fey. Fey's piece is inspired by the pandemic, and is the first of four such compositions by musicians around the world that will be part of the weekly Wednesday repertoire this month. Cynthia Vermeer of the Burlington Symphony Orchestra will accompany van den Brink on flute for additional music this Wednesday. (Mike Balsom)

Airport emergency landing handled with no injuries

Penny Coles
The Local

When an emergency was declared at Niagara District Airport Saturday evening, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department and Emergency Services rushed to the scene to wait for the aircraft's arrival.

Airport crews also prepared for an emergency landing.

Fortunately, says airport CEO Dan Pilon, the pilot was able to land safely, with some damage to the plane, but no injuries.

Firefighters responded to the request to stand by, but were not needed. The plane landed "without incident," says Fire Chief Nick Ruller.

The aircraft was a six-passenger amphibious plane heading home from Port Huron, Michigan.

The pilot identified mid-air that one of its front wheels was not available for landing, and as it had broken off, says Pilon, and is set into the front float, it would have caused some damage to that portion of the plane.

Landing on the ground was likely a safer alternative than a

landing on water, he says.

"The pilot did a masterful job of landing safely" with three out of four wheels intact.

"There were no significant issues, no reason for anyone to be engaged," he says.

While landing in that situation isn't the best way to test emergency preparedness, it was a good exercise to ensure the emergency response at the airport, he says.

"It was the best case scenario for all concerned."

The aircraft, a single prop De Havilland DHC-2 Beaver, is the type of aircraft that might

be used for a trip to a cottage or a small group on a fishing trip, and is based at the Niagara District Airport, says Pilon.

In 2019, the airport saw 45,000 movements, and although that number dipped as a result of the pandemic, it's been "slowly creeping up again." With that many take-offs and landings, "you know situations like that can occur. It's good to know all emergency plans came together."

And good to know that the pilot was able land safely and avert significant issues, he added.



This De Havilland Beaver is similar to the amphibious aircraft that landed safely without one of its wheels at the Niagara District Airport. (Shutterstock)

Honk Mobile offers parking options

Penny Coles
The Local

There are new options to pay for parking in town, for residents and visitors, that are expected to phase out the current pay and display machines over time.

Coun. Norm Arsenault is excited about the new Honk Mobile, which he says offers great and simple options for those who are visiting Niagara-on-the-Lake, for a few hours, a day, or longer. At the

moment, Honk offers choices for those parking in the Old Town, as an easy alternative to pay and display meters, he says.

But he envisions using the available technology to serve residents better as well, through a permit system that can be accessed and paid for through Honk. For those living in The Village, Niagara-on-the-Green or any neighbourhood where the town's 12-hour parking bylaw causes issues for residents, such a

permit could be an attractive option, as long as the price is reasonable, he says.

Honk Mobile offers parking in towns and cities across North America, including Toronto and Hamilton. In the region, it's available in Niagara Falls, and at Niagara College.

There are options for those who want to use it as a "one-off," says Arsenault, when it's a simple matter of scanning a code at a parking meter. Or motorists can download the Honk app, for free, at www.honkmobile.com or via the App Store or Google Play if they think they will use it more than once, including in locations other than NOTL. Bylaw officers can determine whether parking has been paid for through Honk through the licence plate number on a car, he explains.

Parking rates remain the same, but there is a "convenience fee" of 25 cents.

Once drivers have paid for parking, they can choose to receive a text alert update when their time is about to expire, and add more time without going back to their vehicle.

"If you're sitting in a restaurant and you receive an alert that your time is running out, you can add time without leaving the restaurant," says Arsenault.

The HonkAPP also offers a contactless payment option for drivers who wish to pay for parking and manage a session directly from their phone.

In its rollout of Honk parking, the town assures residents and visitors pay and display parking machines will continue to be available during the 2021 season, giving visitors and residents the option of using the meters on the street.

Arsenault says while they may be available for longer, they are outdated, and expensive to maintain or to change pricing.

At a recent council meet-

ing, he asked for staff to investigate using the technology to include a permit system. Honk has the ability to offer visitors and residents, using their phone, the opportunity to sign up for hourly, daily, weekly and monthly parking passes.

Although one councillor referred to that as a "tax grab," Arsenault stresses it would not be mandatory. It is just an option that might help out residents who have issues with too many cars for their driveway, and are ticketed for exceeding



A quick scan of a code attached to current pay and display meters in the Old Town is one easy way to use Honk Mobile for parking. (Mike Balsom)

Skyway twinning construction date set

Penny Coles
The Local

The date of a construction start on the twinning of the QEW Skyway has been announced, and the acquisition of property has begun.

It was 2017 when a representative of the Ministry of Transportation spoke to the town council about what had been chosen as the preferred option for an eight-lane skyway to cross the canal.

He explained a second bridge would be constructed north of the existing skyway, for Toronto-bound traffic, and that the current structure would remain for vehicles

going toward Niagara. Twinning, he explained, would allow the existing skyway to be used without interruption while the new one is being built.

Natasha Tremblay, spokesperson for Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney, said the design work is being completed, and the ministry is working toward obtaining the necessary approvals for the project.

"The current target construction start date is 2024. Once construction gets underway, it is anticipated it will take approximately four years to complete the twinning."

Some realignment of municipal roads was expected, with about 70 locations where "properties will be required" to allow the work to proceed, the ministry representative said, with the hope the sales would be settled "amicably," and expropriation only as a last resort.

At least one property in the area of Queenston Road and Niagara Stone Road has been sold to the province for the project, but there are more to come.

The project is expected to cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, with a more exact price tag available once design details are finalized.

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Although one councillor referred to that as a "tax grab," Arsenault stresses it would not be mandatory. It is just an option that might help out residents who have issues with too many cars for their driveway, and are ticketed for exceeding

the 12-hour parking bylaw. In recent years several residents have asked for a parking solution, and this could be it, he says.

It would be helpful for residents who have visitors, and not enough parking, and for those who come to stay in town for a day, weekend or longer, and want to move around, he adds.

Honk options "bring NOTL into the 21st century. The technology exists, and we should be taking advantage of it."

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EDITORIAL

The message hasn't changed: vaccinations are the answer

Old Town streets were busy this holiday weekend — possibly as busy as they were pre-pandemic.

With restaurants and coffee shops finally available for indoor dining, and most businesses open, although with pandemic protocols, many of us see a sign of normalcy returning. We can do much of what we did before COVID, including small, safe family gatherings, and a huge part of that is feeling confident in our vaccination status and that of those around us. We're not so much about weighing every decision we make regarding how safe it is to go out, or whether every time we leave the house, questioning whether it's necessary.

Learning about Shaw Festival openings on outdoor stages was welcome news, and this week, beginning Saturday, there will be indoor performances. For those who loved the last Sherlock Holmes play, *Sherlock Holmes*

and *the Raven's Curse* launches the Shaw's long-awaited return to indoor theatre. The return of art shows, outdoor events, sporting activities, fundraisers for important causes are all signs of more good things to come, although protocols must still be followed.

We would not be where we are without vaccinations, but acting chief medical officer of health Dr. Mustafa Hirji shared his message this week that there is more to be done.

It may seem like a broken record to some, but it's the answer for all of us. Vaccinations must increase for more positive change. If we all want to stop wearing masks or worrying about physical distancing, if we want to be sure our hospitals and intensive care units won't be overwhelmed from cases of the Delta variant, if we really want to put this pandemic behind us, we need to raise our vaccination rates.

His take on how to accom-

plish this is interesting.

Only about eight per cent of those still unvaccinated are the strident activists strongly against vaccinations and spreading misinformation on social media, he says. They make more noise than their numbers would suggest, and it will be difficult to change their minds.

Then in the middle of those who aren't vaccinated is a group who are hesitant, but can be persuaded, and that effort has been stepped up. Those who provide primary health care, and others in the health care system, are encouraging people to be vaccinated, and by sharing the facts, that is working.

But the largest number, Hirji says, is those he describes as "complacent." They aren't necessarily against vaccinations, they just haven't found it convenient, haven't bothered to make an appointment or take time out of their lives to be vaccinated. They

plan to take that step eventually, but haven't got around to it yet.

Across the province, and the country, it's this group that has been the focus of public health units, which are moving to pop-up and walk-in clinics, to make it easy for those who are merely "complacent" about vaccinations. And since that group makes up the largest number of those who have avoided getting it done so far, that's where efforts will have the biggest payoff.

Watch for pop-up clinics in more community centres, possibly in shopping malls, and even in schools, where a large number of young people eligible for vaccinations may be reached. Niagara Public Health is in the process of scheduling pop-up clinics in social housing, and in busy community places, to increase the percentage of Niagara residents

who are vaccinated.

It's still people in that young group, from 12 up to 29, and a little less with the 30 to 39-year-olds, where more people need to be vaccinated, and the hope is that making it more convenient for them will see that happen.

Vaccinations are already showing what they can accomplish, with the declining number of cases, and the decrease in hospitalizations.

With the increase of the Delta variant, experts are telling us we'll need much more than 75 or 80 percent of the population vaccinated to stop the spread. It will be more like 100 per cent for herd immunity to Delta, Hirji says, and that's not achievable, at least not in the next few years. We could get there eventually — we have with diseases such as polio — but it could take a decade or more.

In the meantime, vaccinations will greatly reduce the likelihood of contracting COVID, and will eliminate by almost 100 per cent the risk of becoming seriously ill or dying.

One interesting conversation occurring among many gatherings of friends and families, is how those who are fully vaccinated can handle social events that include those who aren't.

The advice from Hirji is pretty much the same as it's always been. Those who are fully vaccinated are at low risk, but can make it even lower by gathering outside, wearing masks, and physical distancing. The call for those measures to continue won't likely change any time soon, so for now, that's the best we can do.

Penny Coles
The Local

Different ways to look at current discussions



Ted Mouradian
Special to The Local

As I write this column I am sitting in my daughter's home in Regina Beach, Saskatchewan. They have beach-front property in Black Mountain Lake.

Our conversations of the last few weeks revolved around Ontario versus Saskatchewan politics, lockdowns and vaccinations. Of course we are always respectful of each other's choices and reasons for those choices. For example, here I see few masks and nothing is locked down. It took me a bit to not overreact. Yes, I am keeping my distance, and I am making sure I do keep safe. But I am getting some stares as I wear my mask indoors.

There are many people here who are not vaccinated, and many more who are — that is their choice. So, I want to talk about an old conundrum that society deals with on a continuous basis.

Where do our personal rights give way to the rights of society?

Let's take mask-wearing and vaccinations as our example, but keep in mind I am not making any judgements, nor am I finger-pointing. I simply want to have you think about the choices you are making in these trying

times, and how they may be affecting society as a whole.

My personal freedom to do anything I want as long as I am not adversely affecting society is the yardstick I will use. For example, I can be prohibited from yelling fire in a crowded theatre if there is no fire, as I would be adversely affecting others.

Let's examine our current situation. I understand if I am double-vaccinated I am protected from dying if I get COVID. I can still get it, but the effects will not be as bad, but I can still pass it on. By passing it on, I can still harm others, especially those who are not vaccinated. My conclusion and my choice is that I am double-vaccinated not to protect others, but to protect me from death.

As for wearing a mask, I choose to do that for two reasons. The first is I will minimize my chances of getting COVID, and secondly I am doing it for my family and friends in case I am still infected with no symptoms. Again, I am not saying you should do what I'm doing, I am simply stating my choices and the reasons I'm making these choices.

Moving forward, we must acknowledge that COVID is here, it is mutating, and it will continue to do so as long as there are people who COVID can infect. Remember when we had small pox, tuberculosis and polio, to name a few, when everyone got vaccinated (and I am sure there were those who didn't want to),

those diseases have been virtually eliminated.

There are times in every society when we have to go deep to examine our choices, and our reasons for doing or not doing something that we are told we must do. I remember I was one of the last people who refused to wear a seat belt. My rational was that it's my life and if I want to ram my head through my windshield, who are you (the government) to tell me I can't. I now know that my reasons were flawed, and today I feel uncomfortable without a seatbelt.

As we move forward to what I hope will be a new and improved way of life, it is my wish that we stop the politics and the conspiracy theories and look to what is going to be best for us as individuals, and for society as a whole. If you want to wear a mask or not, and if you want to get the vaccine or not, those are choices that only you can make, but it is important to respect the choices of others, unless those choices put you in danger. My job is not to get my friends to stop smoking, but I can tell them to stop blowing smoke in my face.

The future may or may not include vaccine passports, but like the seatbelt, I can choose not to drive a car if I don't want to wear the seatbelt, and with vaccine passports, I can choose not to go where they are required.

My choice to get vaccinated is for me, so I won't die, and I can travel again. My choice to wear a mask is partly for me, but mainly to mitigate my effect on my friends, my family and society as a whole.

Oh, one last thing. Choices have consequences, so think about how your choices are affecting you personally, and how they are affecting those you love.

Ted Mouradian is a professional speaker and author of four books. He is president and co-founder of the 2% Factor Inc. and the creator of the Law of Cooperative Action. He can be reached at ted@the2percentfactor.com

Park Hop a family adventure



The town is trying to encourage children to explore local parks with a new family-friendly activity, the Park Hop, which continues until Aug. 23. Just locate a different animal hiding on a sticker somewhere on or near the playground equipment at each park, as have Jordyn, Graeme and Vivian, and write it down on a tracker sheet which can be printed out, picked up at the NOTL Public Library, or completed online. Email completed sheets to parkhop@notl.com or drop them off at the town hall's front door drop box. The sheets with the most correct answers will be entered into a draw to win a prize. (Screenshot)



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Good story lines, good actors and a perfect location for this classic tale of love in *Letter to Juliet* (Netflix, 2010). There

are two stories, one of young love, and one of mature love. Fortunately the film manages to avoid being syrupy and the happy ever after ending is totally believable and satisfying.

Donald Combe is a retired

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
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P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0

Editor:
Penny Coles
penny@notllocal.com
905-246-5878

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

Advertising Sales:
Karen Skeoch
karen@notllocal.com • 905-641-5335

Julia Coles
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

Helen Arsenault
Local Business Directory,
Local Happenings, Classified Sales
classified@notllocal.com

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COMMENT

Local LETTERS

Local LETTERS

Excess deaths were greater, reader says

Thank you for publishing a view with which your paper might not agree, specifically that excess deaths attributable to lockdowns actually exceeded the number of COVID-attributed deaths in Canada from January 2020 to April 2021 - this according to StatsCan, itself.

Where this was most distinct was in the age 0-64 demographic: "...from the end of March 2020 to the beginning of April 2021, an estimated 62,203 deaths were reported among Canadians aged 0 to 64. This represents 5,535 more deaths than expected were there no pandemic, after accounting for changes in the population such as aging. Over the same period, 1,380 COVID-19 deaths have been attributed to the same age group (those younger than 65), suggesting that the excess mortality is, in large part, related to other factors such as increases in the number of deaths attributed to causes associated with substance use and misuse, including unintentional (accidental) poisonings and diseases and conditions related to alcohol consumption."

So, in an age range not seen to be comparatively susceptible to death via COVID (1,380 out of some 31 million under-65s, a mere 0.0045% of the cohort), 5,335 more people than expected died due to factors intensified by the lockdowns.

That 5,335 is greater than 1,380 should not be a matter of disagreement, either for your paper or for some of your reacting readers. That lockdown measures can, themselves, be deadly (as these statistics demonstrate) has been widely ignored by politicians, officials and the media. Small wonder, then that this inconvenient truth would meet with some disapproval.

As for the 83 times higher number of COVID-attributed deaths in the 65-plus cohort (or 0.3686% thereof) a good portion of those were not "unexpected," given that the median age was 85 years, which happens to correspond with our society's average life expectancy.

Furthermore, since the great majority of those in that cohort who died had two or more co-morbidities and would not

have been expected to live far longer than they did, COVID or no COVID, unlike their 0-64 year-old counterparts, their departures were far more expected than unexpected. (I only go there because it appears that some respondents want to borrow numbers from an inapplicable cohort in their rebuttals.)

Therefore, it is neither irresponsible nor misleading for your paper to present such uncomfortable, but factual, revelations to your readers; indeed, it is very much to your credit that you have allowed them to see them for themselves.

And, given the evidence that lockdowns are becoming a go-to public health measure — a measure whose return we are already being cued soon to expect, albeit in an intensified form — the timeliness of alerting your readers to that measure's greater-than-COVID's deadly implications could not be better.

Therefore, thank you all the more for your courage in allowing this critical issue to be addressed.

Bruce Dickson
NOTL

It is legal to have fun in NOTL

At a recent town council debate on pedal pubs the statement was made it is not illegal to have fun in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

That is a good point, given the number of bylaws in place or being discussed around noise, cannabis shops, pedal pubs, drinking in parks, short term rentals and other issues. The point is that yes it is legal to have fun in NOTL. NOTL is a stunningly beautiful living historical community that provides an oasis of fun for residents and visitors alike. It is not Niagara Falls or Toronto. It has a charm of its own, and people are drawn to the charm and wonderful amenities.

So why is there a need for bylaws? It is very simple. Our town is a living community. People live here. The residents, taxpayers and voters of NOTL would like to be able to enjoy their own community, while providing a warm and inclusive environment for visitors.

A good example of the collective wisdom of council is the park bylaw, which banned tents, drinking (on top of provincial law) and barbecues in our town parks. Council wisely made some modifications to the park bylaw to accommodate some residents' needs, but the bylaw does remain in effect for most parks.

During this year's Canada Day celebrations the new bylaws worked well. As you can see in the photo below there were many families able to enjoy our beautiful parks. Some would argue that more families enjoyed Canada Day this year than in the past. Due to the barbecue ban in specific parks,

many families set up barbecues along the Niagara Parkway, and fewer groups saved tables in the early morning, allowing more families to picnic. Families felt safe, without the fear of excessive alcohol consumption. Regular park users noticed on the morning after that there were no holes dug in the parks, unlike last year when slop buckets were placed in tents. This year there were also fewer broken bottles, chicken bones and burning coal marks in the grass, making the parks a safer place for all during the week.

It may be with the success of the park bylaw that council looked at the multi-user bike issue, e.g. beer bikes, pedal pubs, group cannabis rides etc.

That is why the issue has been referred to staff, who will undoubtedly study what happened when fun-loving Amsterdam successfully banned beer bikes. The court case made clear it is important to be

fair to operators and give them lots of notice. Staff will also discover if they search "pedal pub accidents" on Google that in just one city alone there was three injury-producing incidents, a car collision on a narrow stretch of road, a public brawl with pedal pub patrons, and the flipping over of a pedal pub while turning. It is also useful to consult Facebook sites dedicated to the topic, to get insight into bar wait-staff views.

Good, thoughtful bylaws help residents and visitors alike have more fun in this great town. We owe thanks to council for helping make NOTL a great place to live and visit. Putting liveability ahead of mass tourism will make NOTL a great place to live and visit in the years ahead.

Bruce Gitelman
Residents for Sustainable Tourism



More people may be enjoying public parks this year than last, without tents and barbecues. (Bruce Gittleman)

Ode to Heritage Trail

Dear Old Trail
You have been given a new life.

In spring, we love visiting all the muddy puddles. Coming home soaked in dirt.

In summer we love taking our shoes off and grounding ourselves with nature.

In fall we enjoy the leaves crunching and counting all the mushrooms.

In winter we enjoy walking on the frozen ditches, making tracks ourselves.

Some of these activities will be gone with the change of the new path.

But we hope that the adventures will still be countless.

Thank You,

the Verwegen, Versteegens
NOTL



Amika Versteegen—Verwegen's children enjoyed the Heritage Trail before it was restored. They called it the Jungle Path. This photo was taken in 2020, from Charlotte Street, toward East and West Line. (Photo submitted)

Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@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 at noon.



What's next? Mobile marijuana?

It is extremely disappointing that town council is allowing the Pedal Pub to continue operations on our very busy roads in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Coun. Clare Cameron asks about the legality of having fun, listening to music in this community, and suggesting that council "put on our big boy and big girl pants." I am sorry, but those comments do not even deserve a response.

Another comment was about

attracting younger visitors to NOTL. Wow! So the answer is to bribe them with alcohol and they will come. Heaven help us.

The comment about the closing of the Pedal Pub having a "ripple effect" that will impact the NOTL economy, is truly laughable. If the NOTL economy is dependant on this we are all in serious trouble. Mark my words, it will only be a matter of time when council will be debating a request for a mobile marijuana

pedal operation.

Thank goodness for Coun. Gary Burroughs who continues his support of the ban, "regardless of the blasts from social media."

The time has come for council to decide that our public roads are for vehicles only - to get from point A to point B, not a party venue. When is the next municipal election?

Buddy Andres
NOTL

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Newark Neighbours celebrating 50 years of helping community



The summer of 2021 has been a busy one so far for Newark Neighbours. Given the easing of COVID-related restrictions, we were thrilled to open our Thrift Shop the week of June 14. It has been wonderful to welcome back all our regular shoppers and friends and to meet so many new ones that have now discovered us.

Our volunteer team took the opportunity during the extended closure of the Thrift Shop to make some minor renovations, and generally make our space more appealing and welcoming. The feedback we've received has been very positive. Until October 2021, our hours of operations for the Thrift Shop are Sunday to Friday

from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (closed Saturday only); the Food Bank is open for our registered clients on Tuesday and Thursday only, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As always, we welcome all donations of your gently used clothing and household items. The following items are in particular need this summer: men's jeans or pants, men's work shoes or boots, men's long sleeve shirts, men's or ladies' hoodies and sweatshirts, men's or ladies' sneakers, blenders, toasters, kettles, sheets (any size), towels and pots and pans. Thank you in advance for your generous donation of any of these items.

We are pleased to report that our Food Bank has been in continuous operation throughout the pandemic period. We are so thankful and grateful for the support of many local groups and organizations that have supported us over the last year. We particularly wish to thank the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 for their incredibly generous donation of a refrigerator in late June, and the many individuals who regularly donate food and

other supplies. Due to the addition of the refrigerator, we are now able to receive and store a wide variety of fresh produce and herbs from the Community Garden, grown and maintained by the town Communities in Bloom Committee.

Beginning this week, we are so very fortunate to be the recipient of a large donation of fresh vegetables and produce from the Farmers' Market at the Village. Huge thanks to Rose and Ken Bartel of Bartel Organics, Olsen Family Farms and Bee Inspired Farms for their very generous donation of a wide variety of produce. Our clients are so pleased to have such a wide variety of fresh vegetables.

For a list of other items that are currently required in our Food Bank, please visit our website <https://www.newarkneighbours.ca/>

As you can see from our redesigned logo, 2021 is the 50th anniversary of Newark Neighbours. Our board of directors, volunteers and members are humbled to know we are carrying on the legacy begun by Peggy Anderson and others back in 1971. Stay tuned for more infor-

mation about a celebration planned for September to mark this important milestone honouring the past, and celebrating the future.

Please visit our website <https://www.newarkneighbours.ca/> on a regular basis for the latest news on happenings at Newark

Neighbours. We'd love to see you soon at 310 John Street (off the Riverbend Inn and Vineyard driveway).

Courtesy would resolve off-leash dog issue

Having read several letters to the editor regarding off-leash dogs on the Commons, I am dismayed by the lack of honesty.

The issue in question has little to do with people who walk their dog on-leash until they reach the gravel path that Parks Canada has allowed to be an off-leash area, and almost everything to do with the ones who don't.

All too often, when walking, running or biking on the paved trails traversing the Commons, I have encountered off-leash dogs crisscrossing the trail, or standing in the middle of it, obstructing the way of other trail users. In many cases, their owners appear to be oblivious to what their dogs are doing, whether it's because they are looking at their phone or talking to someone.

It's also a normal occurrence to see people park their car by Kinsman Hall or in the lot at the end of Charlotte Street, open the back door or hatch, and let their dog out to go on a mad run through the Commons or down one of the trails, unsupervised and out of control.

For other users of the Commons, the sight of a large dog bounding toward them can be disconcerting, and in some cases terrifying. There's also the question of the dog waste left behind in the grass of the Commons by people who fail to supervise or watch their dog.

The issue is not the dogs, per se, but the people walking them. I had an unpleasant reminder of this recently when my wife and I were walking our small dog (on-leash) down the treeline beside the soccer fields in Memorial Park. As we got close to the end of the treeline, a man and off-leash dog came off the paved trail leading to Fort George and strolled into the parking lot. When his dog turned and started making a beeline toward ours, I asked him: "Could you call your dog, please." He called once, the dog did not respond, and the man ignored the situation. When the dog went up to my wife and began licking her, she asked the man to call his dog and put it on a leash, reminding him at the same time that where we were is an on-leash area.

What transpired next still astounds me. The upshot is that the man declared, loudly, that we were "insane." His rationale, he explained, was that as we were dog owners, we should have no problem with his dog approaching us or our dog and that it was insane for us to be upset that it had. He saw that we were dog owners, he shouted, so we had to like dogs and he hadn't seen a need to call his. You're "insane," he repeated, several times, aggressively.

How insane was that?

Our small dog has been attacked by a large dog.


He's almost 14, and being approached by a large dog is scary for him. We're both seniors. If a large dog jumped up on my wife, chances are it would knock her over. And while we don't mind our own dog expressing affection toward us with an occasional lick, neither of us care to be licked by someone else's.

All that said, I support the gravel path running down the middle of the Commons continuing to be an off-leash area. It provides a good, safe place for dog walkers to let their dogs run and play. But I'd also like for people to be more courteous about keeping their dogs on-leash when walking on the multi-use paved trail system that runs through the Commons, and in the grassed areas.

It's as simple as dog walkers supervising their dogs and keeping them under control when they're in the Commons, putting them on leash when they see another dog or person approaching, and picking up after them. In other words, as simple as being courteous.

If people would only do that, I might not find myself cringing the next time someone assures me that "he's very friendly" as their dog rushes toward me and my dog. And not having to hear, yet again, "Oh, he's never done that before."

Terry Davis
NOTL



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NOTICE OF PROCUREMENT

This Notice of Procurement is to advise potential Respondents that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is conducting a procurement process as described below.

Procurement name:	Request for Expressions of Interest for the use of the former Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital site 176 Wellington Street
Procurement number:	16
Bidding documents:	Bidding documents are available online at https://notl.bidsandtenders.ca
Description of procurement:	<p>The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is seeking expressions of interest from qualified Respondents who are interested in developing the former Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital site located at 176 Wellington Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake.</p> <p>This 3.1-acre property offers a unique opportunity for development located in the core of the Town's historic Old Town. The site is located in close proximity to the Town's main commercial district and Shaw Festival theatre. Parks Canada, which is valued for its history and park-like features is also directly adjacent to the property. The historic setting of the property along the Niagara River is steps away from tourist attractions, shops, and iconic landmarks such as the Old Court House, Cenotaph, Simcoe Park, and Queen's Royal Park Gazebo and are some of the most easily recognizable structures in southwestern Ontario.</p> <p>This opportunity presents a unique chance for Respondents to develop a significantly sized lot in a highly desirable area of Old Town.</p>
Language(s) permitted for Supplier responses:	English
Contact for more information:	<p>Questions related to this bid are to be submitted to the RFP contact (Victoria Steele, Executive Assistant & Communications Officer to the CAO & Lord Mayor) through the Bidding System only, by clicking "Submit a Question" button for this specific bid opportunity at https://notl.bidsandtenders.ca.</p> <p>Questions and requests for clarification from the Respondents are to be received by the Town by 2 p.m. on August 31, 2021.</p>

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White-tailed deer often seen on the Commons

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

A lovely wild animal being spotted with increased regularity in the Old Town and elsewhere is the white-tailed deer.

On social media, residents frequently post sightings

of the animals as they wander through town, sometimes feeding on plants in residents' gardens. My favourite sighting last year was when several emerged from a ditch, crossed the road in front of me as I was driving, and disappeared on the other side to continue on their

way following one of the creek beds that go through the Old Town. I was able to drive around the block and photograph them as they emerged from the creek bed, crossed another road to once again disappear into the undergrowth on their trip through town.

Deer can be commonly spotted on the Commons, and there appears to be a sizeable herd in that area, as well as along Lakeshore Road in the former national Department of Defence properties and into the Niagara Shores Park. On one early morning walk at Niagara Shores, I encountered one on the trail in front of me. It, however, spotted me first and disappeared quickly into the surrounding forest.

The other morning, I spotted these two feeding quietly in the area of Fort George. I understand their presence on the Commons,

and in the forest near the Commons, may be one of the concerns that Parks Canada has with the off-leash dog area currently under review. But I've never heard of dogs chasing the deer. Coyotes do, if the opportunity presents itself. But that is nature.



Photos of these two white-tailed deer were captured near Fort George. (David Gilchrist)



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<div><p>SOLD</p><p>14555 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY \$1,065,000 MLS 40080386 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk</p></div>	<div><p>235 DORCHESTER STREET \$1,995,000 MLS 40142033 • Viviane Elltoft and Jane Elltoft</p></div>	<div><p>17 SHAWS LANE \$1,139,000 MLS 40148923 • Viviane Elltoft and Jane Elltoft</p></div>	<div><p>94 PRIDEAUX STREET \$2,795,000 MLS 40080197 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft</p></div>
<div><p>736 RYE STREET \$3,295,000 MLS 40108729 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft</p></div>	<div><p>513 GATE STREET LOT \$1,100,000 MLS 40140611 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft</p></div>	<div><p>474 SIMCOE STREET \$1,300,000 MLS 40142719 • Thomas Elltoft and Viviane Elltoft</p></div>	<div><p>28 ABERDEEN LANE S \$1,349,000 MLS 40143321 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller</p></div>

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Kim Elltoft** 905-380-8011

Randall Armstrong** 905-651-2977

Victoria Bolduc* 905-941-3726

Philip Bowron* 905-348-7626

Bonnie Grimm* 905-468-1256

Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585

Viviane Elltoft* 905-468-2142

Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012

Jane Elltoft* 905-988-8776

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Renowned artist's exhibit opening at Pumphouse

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

We all have heard the proverb that necessity is the mother of invention. This quote has often been associated with what Plato wrote in The Republic. What Plato really wrote was something closer to “our need will be the real creator.” This phrase more accurately reflects a life-changing time in Lynn Dooly Marek’s life when, as a starving art student in a foreign land, she had to get creative in more ways than one.

Born in Montreal, raised in England and spending summers in Athens, Greece with her ambassador grandfather, Dooly Marek adopted a cosmopolitan spirit at a young age. She began her art education at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont. Yet, it seems it was when she spent, to borrow the title of Peter Mayle’s book, *A Year in Provence*, that made the most lasting impression on her. “To paint in Provence is to change an artist forever,” she says.

Dooly Marek recalls the “need” that was the creator of her series of paintings now gracing the walls of the Joyner Gallery of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre for her upcoming exhibition, opening on Wednesday, Aug. 4th. This “need” was not bound up in an existential awakening. It was not fueled by the desire to create a series of paintings to express an underlying need to evoke a reaction in the viewers or to celebrate the beauty in nature or life. No, at the time, Dooly Marek was motivated by a need that was much more simplistic. She needed to eat.

She had recently moved to Aix-en-Provence to study fine art at the École des Beaux-Arts, and lived in a small apartment with a shared bathroom above a bakery. “Every morning, with the bakery heat rising, you get the smell coming up, and it was absolutely wonderful,” she recalls wistfully.

As a young person making her way in the world, Dooly

Marek found herself short of funds. She had a bank account and cheques from her parents, but made the mistake of misjudging her financial worth, regrettably on a Friday afternoon, with “pas d’argent,” no money and no ability to receive funds until Monday morning. Dooly Marek had to get creative, figuratively and literally.

“So I went to one of the top cafes in Aix-en-Provence. It’s called Les Deux Garçons, and I said if I do a painting of your cafe will you pay me 20 francs? I mean it was pittance but I was a student. They said ‘oui,’ so I did it right there on the Saturday. They gave me my money and that’s where it all began,” she explained.

Finding she had time on her hands in between her classes, Dooly Marek began drawing and painting around Aix-en-Provence more regularly. At first, she was hesitant to sketch out in the open. “I went to the flower marche nearby and I sat behind a pot with flowers so nobody would see me do a drawing. I sat there with all my stuff and I did this very simple sketch. I didn’t even know how to paint properly.” Eventually she returned to Canada and submitted some of her drawings to the Reader’s Digest in Montreal. She recalls the art director took one look at this simple drawing she made from behind a flower pot and exclaimed, “where have you been all my life!” This drawing was displayed on the back of the cover of October, 1986 edition. Since then, she has continued to illustrate and paint cafes, bistros and markets across Europe and Canada.

Her works are on display in the Salon des Beaux Arts at the Carrousel du Louvre, in Paris, France, as well as in private and public collections around the world, including in the office of the mayor of Toronto. She has received the order of la Société Académique Arts-Sciences-Lettres, an old academic/arts society in France dedicated to the education and encouragement of the arts and sciences, and currently teaches



Lynn Dooly Marek’s exhibit, *Bistros & Marchés of the World...where it all began!* opens at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Thursday, Aug. 4. (Kim Wade)

figure/life drawing to the animation students at Durham College.

“At a time when everyone yearns to connect, images of cafes and markets will transport the viewer back to a simpler way of life. The subjects of Lynn Dooly Marek’s mixed media artworks - be it a figure, street scene or landscape - express a feeling of relaxation and health, and a slow pace of life that keep the observer grounded,” says the Pumphouse website about the upcoming exhibit.

Dooly Marek is pleased to be able to display her work at the Pumphouse, after being approached by staff to see if she was interested in staging an exhibit after they saw her work at an art show in Toronto. She is enthusiastic about the Pumphouse and its work, and adds, “Niagara-on-the-Lake is a gem!”

As is Lynn Dooly Marek!

To learn more about this international award-winning artist and her work visit: www.lynndoolymarek.com. Her ex-

hibition, *Bistros & Marchés of the World...where it all began!* will run from Aug. 4 to 29. The opening reception will be held

Aug. 8. For more information please visit <https://niagara.pumphouse.ca/> or call 905-468-5455.



One of Lynn Dooly Marek’s paintings graced the cover of a Reader’s Digest magazine when she was exhibiting her work in Montreal. (Photo supplied)

A

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Jam sale

David Greaves, Esther Giesbrecht, and Frank Giesbrecht were on the lawn of Grace United Church this weekend selling the jam the church is famous for — and having David Greaves of Greaves Jam helping to make the jam doesn’t hurt. They will be back at it on Labour Day Weekend with their annual Jam, Bake and Book Sale and their Mystery Table, Saturday, Sept. 4. (Mike Balsom)

SUMMER SIZZLER

The #2 ranked Realtor of 1,700 agents in Niagara moves into Old Town and he's 'Syked' to serve you

Submitted by
ReMax Greg Sykes

Greg Sykes is ranked in the top three realtors out of nearly 1,700 agents in the Niagara Real Estate Board, and has been selling and investing in real estate for nearly 15 years in Niagara. Once a professional musician and contemporary Christian music songwriter, Greg is now a full-time realtor who leads a team of six agents, called The Sykes Team, at Re/Max Niagara. They are a powerhouse bunch, who have already sold more than 100 homes in Niagara in 2021 alone. But the most exciting part of this story is that Greg and his family now reside in Old Town, Niagara-on-the Lake. Just a couple of blocks from the water, Greg's new home caught his attention last January, while he was looking at the morning's latest



listings, just moments after the house was listed for sale. He raced to the home in his pyjamas and made an offer from the kitchen, he says. Greg's brother, Jeff Sykes, and his family also live in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Jeff owns and leads one of Niagara's premier landscape design and con-

struction companies, Sykes Landscaping. Greg and his forever love are now completely renovating their new home near Gage and Butler Streets, and design plans are underway for a major overhaul of the already beautiful treed backyard, which will of course be handled by none other than Sykes

Landscaping. Greg and Jeff were born and raised in Windsor, Ont., and moved to Niagara almost 20 years ago to set up shop for themselves in the beautiful Niagara Region. He was living in Virgil when his two children were born, and they spent their early years in Virgil.

After a time living in St. Catharines, he's happy to be back in town. "Life can be so fast-paced, but in Niagara-on-the-Lake, there is just the most beautiful tone of serenity and appreciation for life. Getting out for walks, chatting with the neighbours and enjoying the most beautiful town

in Canada is a privilege that I will never take for granted, and I'm grateful to be able to call Niagara-on-the-Lake home." Sykes says he's excited to announce that plans are also in the works for a real estate office in town, with those details to be rolled out in the coming months. He's also still having fun with his music, and has even found a way to use his creativity and love of music in his real estate business, writing songs to accompany his listings on social media to help his clients market their properties to a broader audience. Life seems to have come full circle, says Sykes, who is overwhelmed at his good fortune, able to live and work at a job he loves, close to his brother and family, in a town anyone would feel proud to call home. "It feels so good to be back."



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Murder, mayhem, mystery and a summer fair

Local Staff

The Community Courtyard at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has become a welcome place for post-pandemic community gatherings.

It was part of the pig roast and treasure sale Monday, and

on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon, the museum hosts the launch of *Albatross Hall*, a new novel from local author Jean Baker, a seasoned journalist with a passion for historical research.

Albatross Hall is an imposing Elizabethan mansion, and the home of an ancient aris-

tocratic family, providing the backdrop for a drama filled with treachery, highway robbery, betrayal, and witchcraft, interwoven with the likes of Napoleon, Wellington, Burgoyne, and other military adventurers.

Copies of the book will be available for \$27, and the author

herself will happily sign your copy.

The following weekend, on Saturday, Aug. 14, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sorella Niagara Collective will be hosting a Summer Art and Crafts Market in the courtyard and on the museum lawns. Sorella means 'sister' in Italian, and the two founders of the collective, Bianca Sorrenti and Stephanie Panucci, sisters in spirit, formed their collective to support businesses owned and operated by women.

The multi-vendor market will be an example of promoting a variety of women-led artisan businesses, and offers a variety of products: handmade jewellery both Bohemian and elegant; antique and vintage clothing; mixed media artworks, art décor, pottery and more.

There will be musical entertainment all day, rain or shine.

For more information, visit www.NOTLMuseum.ca, or call 905-468-3912.



Local author Jean Baker will be autographing and selling her new historical novel at the NOTL Museum Saturday. (Barbara Worthy)



PigOut's roast was a hit at the NOTL Museum's treasure sale. (Glenn Connell)



The museum treasure sale drew an impressive crowd Monday, with the fundraiser contribution to day-to-day operations. (Mike Balsom)



The Tiny Museum is mounted to a trailer, and ready to hit the road, outfitted with museum artifacts to take history out into the community. (Mike Balsom)



2021 Terry Fox T-shirts available



This year's Terry Fox T-shirt is a result of the Fox family partnering with the Metis Nation BC to create the 2021 design, celebrating Terry's heritage, with a lineage that can be traced to his maternal grandmother, Mary Ann Gladue. Traditional Metis floral beading represents the flowers from the land on which Terry's ancestors lived. Volunteers Sarah Pillitteri (right) and Joan King (left) will be selling the shirts at Phil's valu-mart this Sunday, Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. On Aug. 9, don't miss CBC's presentation of The Power of One, at 8 p.m. This event in support of cancer research features diverse stories of hope, courage and resilience, told by iconic Canadians, inspired by the legacy of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. This year's run is Sept. 19. It will once again be a virtual event, One Day Your Way. Since NOTL started the run in 1991, this community has raised over \$1,000,000 for cancer research. To continue to support the Terry Fox Foundation go to TerryFox.org to register. #Try Like Terry.



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Shades of Summer returns, with a twist

Local Staff

Shades of Summer, an annual dinner event hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, will be held this year, but like everything else, with a twist.

Instead of one large event on Queen Street, held as part of the annual Peach Celebration, there will be three small-

er events, held at local cultural institutions, including the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre on Thursday, Aug. 19, the NOTL Museum, Thursday, Aug. 26, and the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, Thursday, Sept. 9.

This year's Peach Celebration and traditional Shades of Summer dinner events on Queen Street that were sched-

uled for this month have been cancelled, and are planned to return Saturday, Aug. 13 and Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022.

"The Peach Festival and subsequent dinner on Queen Street have been Niagara-on-the-Lake's favourite events for years. We are very excited to keep the Shades of Summer Dinner going by hosting several smaller

events in collaboration with some of our outstanding cultural institutions," says Eduardo Lafforgue, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL. "These partnerships will allow us to keep the tradition alive and highlight the extraordinary contribution of these institutions to the Niagara-on-the-Lake experience."

Each of these events will be for 80 people only, and will be held outdoors at each location. They will be very similar to the Shades of Summer Dinner on Queen Street, with guests purchasing a table for eight people and bringing all of their own décor, table settings and food for the evening. As in other years, local musicians will contribute to the ambiance, and the pleasure of seeing people enjoying themselves under the stars at one of the annual favourite events.

All COVID-19 protocols and restrictions will be strictly adhered to during the events. More information can be found at www.niagaraonthelake.com/shadesofsummer or by calling 905-468-1950.

Rotary organizing fundraising golf tournament

**Penny Coles
The Local**

The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake has a fun fundraiser coming up to benefit two important causes.

The club's first annual golf tournament, to be held later this month, will support the Niagara Nursery School expansion project, and an international organization which provides 3D prosthetic limbs for children.

Rotarians Penny Milligan and Howard Kudlats are putting together a first-class event, with a long list of prizes, including a BMW for the first player to make a hole in one on one of the par-3 holes.

While the local Rotary Club is noted for annual events such as the Simcoe Park pancake breakfast and barbecue on Canada Day, an Icewine Martini Party, and the Holiday House Tour, this year, unable to hold their traditional events due to pandemic protocols, club members have had to come up with some new projects.

"This idea came together," said Kudlats, "out of a need to bolster our fundraising activities in a way

that is healthy and user-friendly. We were unable to hold our Holiday House Tour last year, and our Icewine Martini Party has been canceled for this September. Our tournament is out in the fresh air, promotes a congenial atmosphere, and helps to raise money for our causes which have been hard hit by the pandemic over the last year-and-a-half."

The event will be held at Beechwood Golf and Social House on Aug. 24. Players are still welcome and encouraged, either as foursomes or individually. There is still room for 10 more teams. The cost is \$175 per person, with a tax receipt for \$40, says Milligan, and includes a box lunch, and a prime rib dinner.

"We will have a putting contest for beautiful wines supplied by Strewn and Pondview wineries, a totally interesting and unique long drive contest, and a hole-in-one super prize to our first hole-in-one player, a gorgeous BMW supplied by Performance Auto Group," says Kudlats.

There will also be a Taste of Niagara gift bag for each and every participant.

Milligan says both projects to benefit from the tournament are for children.

"Our mandate is to give back to the community, both the local community and the international community," says Milligan.

The Niagara Nursery School is hoping to raise \$100,000 toward its expansion. The Rotary Club has already been generous, but is hoping to help the facility reach its goal.

"We see the nursery school as a vibrant aspect of our community," she adds, "and a way to help young people in the community, bringing youth and new ideas to the area. Children are so important to the vibrancy of our community."

The international cause is Nia Technologies, a Canadian non-profit organization based in Toronto, with partners around the world, including Rotary clubs. It operates in resource-poor countries, especially Sri Lanka,

says Milligan, to help young people who have lost a limb by providing them with custom 3D prosthetics and orthotics for children, some of them victims of landmines.

"They may be just three or four years old when they lose a limb," she says, "and prosthetics are expensive. One might have to last them a number of years."

This new technology, and the funding to make it possible, provides new prosthetics for children as their body changes and grows, making movement easier and giving them the ability to participate more in activities at school and in their community.

The fund-raising proceeds from the tournament will be split 50/50 "between these two wonderful organizations."

Players can register online at www.Niagaraonthelakerotaryclub.ca or call Kudlats at 905-708-8579 or Milligan at 506-640-3002 for more information.

Legion moves forward with outreach program

**Penny Coles
The Local**

The Royal Canadian Legion is moving forward with its outreach program designed to help those suffering from social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a goal of filling some of the specific needs in the community, especially for veterans and seniors.

The branch received a government grant of \$23,200 from the New Horizons Seniors Program to fund the outreach, and has taken some time to determine what services are most needed in the community.

Home visits and wellness checks, digital connectivity and healthy food were expected to top the list, and in reaching out to ask seniors and their families, those services were indeed identified as priorities, says legion past president Al Howse.

The legion recently purchased a refrigerator for

Newark Neighbours, so they could store more fresh food for those in need, he says.

"They're very, very happy with the fridge we provided, and it's helping with one of our goals. When we reached out to seniors, access to healthy food was one of the concerns we heard."

Family members also told legion volunteers they were concerned about their senior relatives needing more social contact, especially during the pandemic, says Howse.

The program was created by and is co-ordinated by legion committee chair Elizabeth Richards, and two legion members who are members of the committee and make home visits. Jackie Dickieson, a long-time member, and Amy Casey, new to the legion, have a list of seniors, and lawn chairs in their cars, and will stop by as often as they can to chat.

That's an important task, and one that could use more volunteers, which would al-

low for more frequent and longer visits, and an expansion of their list of seniors and veterans, says Howse.

He stresses looking after veterans has been a mandate for the legion since its inception. This particular program is the result of the grant they were able to obtain, and has allowed them "to take it in a slight direction," with more community involvement.

Working with other community organizations such as Newark Neighbours and the library is part of the goal of the program.

The legion is partnering with the library by providing hotspots for seniors who don't have internet access, he says, and has also purchased tablets to distribute to seniors, so they can visit virtually with family members, do research on topics that interest them, or for entertainment — watching movies, or even visiting museums that are online. Offering some training goes

hand-in-hand with access to the internet, he adds, and is part of the outreach services legion volunteers are offering.

"We're also looking at arranging cheaper ways for seniors to access the internet, seeing what's available that can help them."

If there are needs the legion has missed through this process, says Howse, "reach out to us and we will try to help. At the moment we have a small group of seniors we're working with, but as the program becomes better known, we hope to expand."

The legion now has a dedicated phone line, email address and website for the outreach program, and volunteers are hoping to hear from more family members about what they can do for their senior loved ones.

To access the outreach program, call 905-246-4739, email legion124outreach@gmail.com, or visit www.legion124outreach.ca.

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All meals come with bottled water. Add a soft drink for \$1

Lions Burger & Fries \$10

Lions CDN Burger & Fries \$12 (topped with peameal bacon)

Lions Peameal Bacon & Fries \$10

Leo's Hot Dog & Fries \$6

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT

COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE

With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Include your Logo! Prices starting at \$20.

Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-641-5335 or email: classified@notllocal.com

LocalWORSHIP



Sunday, August 8th

10:00 a.m.

Worship Gathering - In-Person & Online

Message: Kevin Bayne - Teachability

Our services are also streamed online Sunday's at 10 AM. Visit our website for more information!

www.ccchurch.ca

To advertise your

Worship Services

in this section, please contact:

karen@notllocal.com

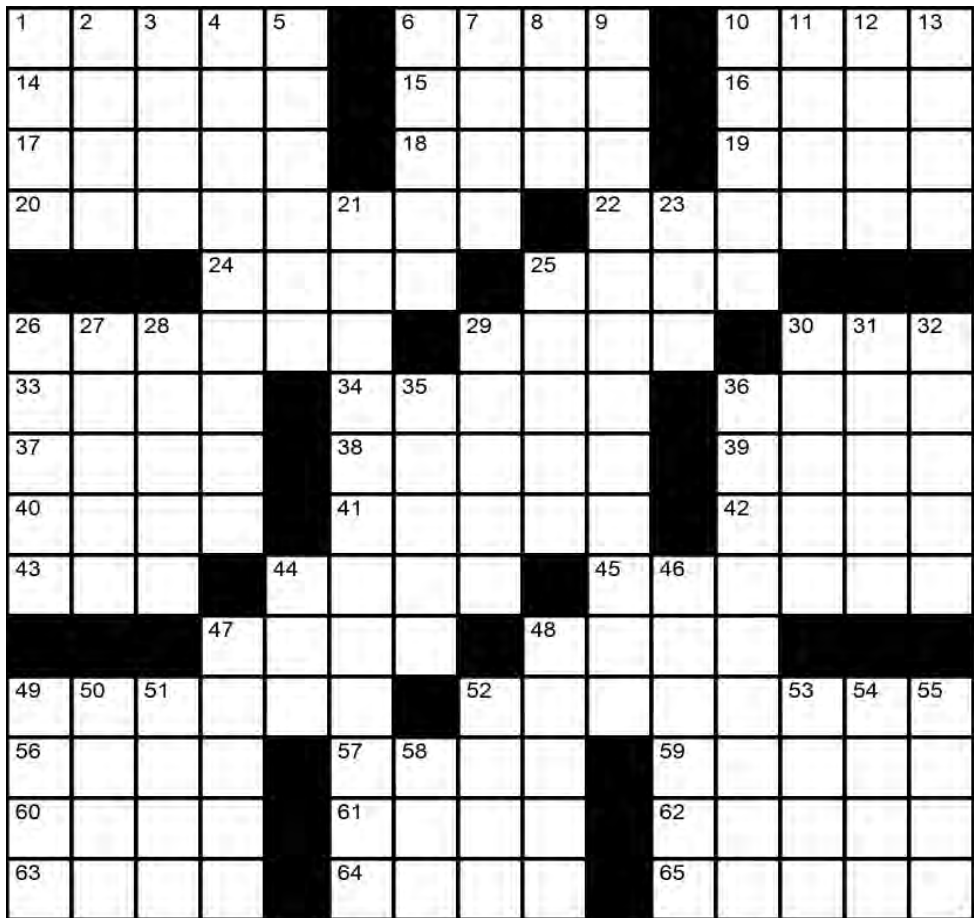
Local CLASSIFIEDS

classified@notllocal.com

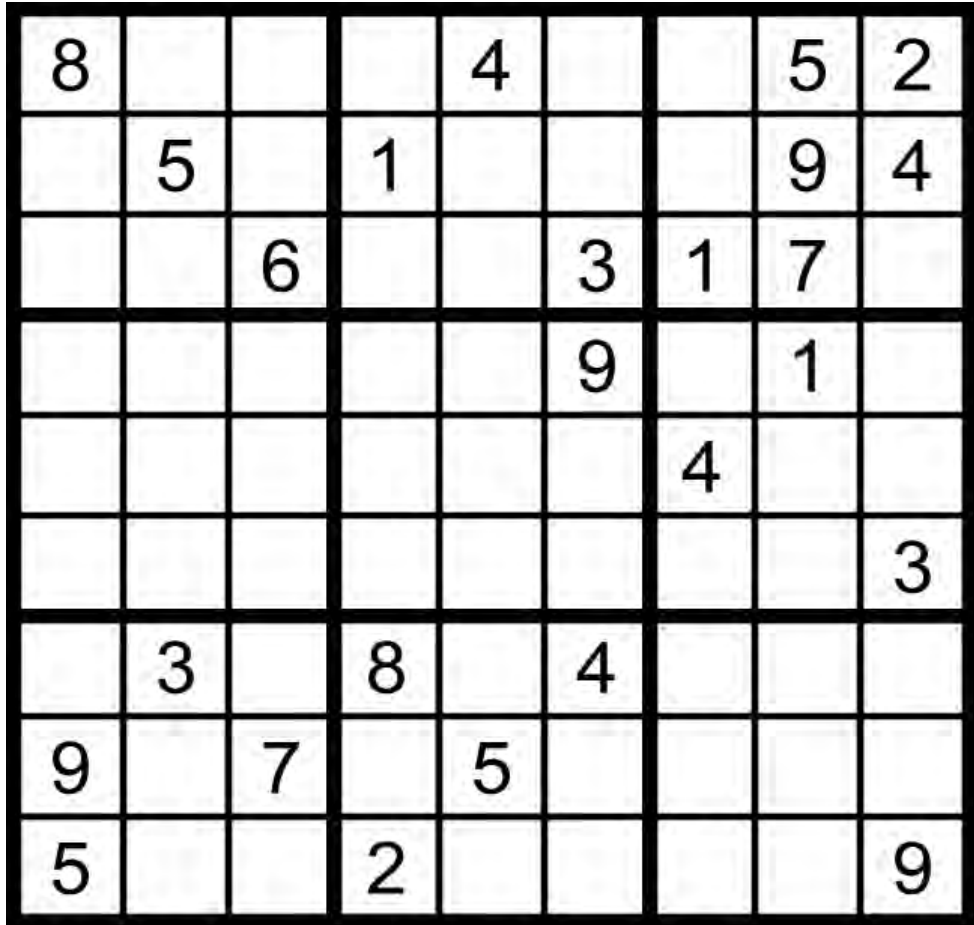


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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



- Across:**
- 1 Portion
 - 6 Totals
 - 10 Champion
 - 14 Hot chocolate
 - 15 Deck division
 - 16 Styptic pencil ingredient
 - 17 Countertenors
 - 18 Heroic tale
 - 19 Unconventional early 20th century art movement
 - 20 Occult
 - 22 Two fins
 - 24 Very fine-grained soil
 - 25 Suffix for a focused event
 - 26 For ever
 - 29 Puff
 - 30 Huckleberry Finn's pal
 - 33 Boyfriend
 - 34 Split fifty-fifty
 - 36 Prefix: very small
 - 37 Admits
 - 38 Faint
 - 39 Book ID
 - 40 Small amount
 - 41 Roman Earth
 - 42 Lecher
 - 43 Technical degrees
 - 44 Quarry
 - 45 Fashionable
 - 47 Adverse criticism
 - 48 Little Joe
 - 49 Hit hard
 - 52 Editions
 - 56 Global auction website
 - 57 Bong
 - 59 --- Hawkins Day
 - 60 Stain
 - 61 Wicked
 - 62 How golfers want to finish every hole
 - 63 Spanish kiss
 - 64 Funnyman --- Carvey
 - 65 --- as a lobster
 - 13 --- Bradley, five-star general
 - 21 Broke
 - 23 Sibyl's power
 - 25 Act of kindness
 - 26 Big banger
 - 27 Jerry Lee ---
 - 28 Collector's list
 - 29 State of high honor
 - 30 Skipper of the Argo
 - 31 Out of favor
 - 32 British W W II general
 - 35 Had eight days according to the Beatles
 - 36 Residents of Abuja, for example
 - 44 Gaza Strip grp.
 - 46 World's largest land
 - 47 Reach by air
 - 48 Chap
 - 49 "Dragnet" creator Jack ---
 - 50 Competent
 - 51 Its capital is Vientiane
 - 52 Conceited
 - 53 Scent
 - 54 Diamond team
 - 55 New plant in the making
 - 58 Walking in space
- Down:**
- 1 Bunco
 - 2 Sacred
 - 3 Deeds
 - 4 Underlying reason
 - 5 Without difficulty
 - 6 Analyze
 - 7 Two-fold
 - 8 Excavate
 - 9 One of a hundred in D C
 - 10 In case you --- noticed ...
 - 11 Panache
 - 12 Bad-mannered



OBITUARY



PROBST, JEANETTE LOIS—Peacefully, with family by her side, on July 29, 2021 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital at the age of 72. Beloved wife of Heinz for 52 years. Loving mother of Eric (Karen) and Jennifer Merritt (Jeff). Proud grandmother of Emma and Eric Merritt and Ethan Probst. Sister of Richard Whittard and sister-in-law of Christine Probst. She will be missed by Kathy O'Flaherty (Denis). Special friend of Joan Lane. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents Ben and Lois. Jeanette will be missed by her feline friends Boris and Natasha.

Cremation has taken place. Visitation and funeral service were held at Morse & Son Funeral Home, Niagara Falls on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Private family interment will take place at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery at a later date. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to Grace United Church or to the Lincoln County Humane Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



IN MEMORIAM

NOV 17, 1951 - AUG 4, 2020



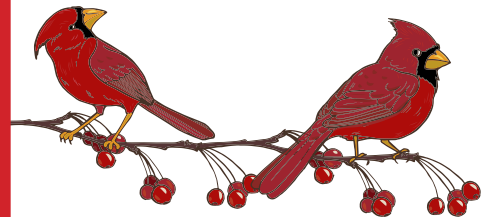
In loving memory of Brent Christopher Carver. One year has already passed without you, rivers of tears of sorrow and joy have been shed and, above all, memories of wonderful times together are shared and treasured every day.

Love always, family and friends.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The family of *Flora Bjorgan* would like to invite you to a *celebration of her life.*

Sunday, August 15, 2021 at
Red Roof Retreat at 2:30 p.m.
1594 Concession 6, Niagara-on-the-Lake



Bring a lawn chair and umbrella if needed.
Refreshments provided.

NOTICE

EARN EXTRA CASH

Sell your unwanted items or advertise your garage sale in our **CLASSIFIEDS**

To place your classified ad, contact Karen: karen@notllocal.com

Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.

GARAGE SALE

STREET GARAGE SALE

Saturday, August 7th
8 am - 1 pm

Furniture, small appliances, tools, and so much more!

Summerhayes Drive in Virgil (behind Crossroads school)

Rain Date: Sunday, August 8th, 8 am - 1 pm

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from July 28, 2021

7	8	2	5	6	3	9	1	4
9	3	4	2	1	8	6	5	7
1	6	5	9	4	7	3	2	8
2	4	7	1	5	9	8	3	6
5	1	8	4	3	6	2	7	9
6	9	3	7	8	2	5	4	1
8	7	1	6	2	5	4	9	3
4	2	6	3	9	1	7	8	5
3	5	9	8	7	4	1	6	2

Across: 1 Share, 6 Adds, 10 Hero, 14 Cocoa, 15 Suit, 16 Alum, 17 Altos, 18 Saga, 19 Dada, 20 Mystical, 22 Tenner, 24 Clay, 25 Fest, 26 Always, 29 Gasp, 30 Jim, 33 Beau, 34 Halve, 36 Nano, 37 Ows, 38 Swoon, 39 I S B N, 40 Mite, 41 Terra, 42 Goat, 43 B Ss, 44 Prey, 45 Trendy, 47 Flak, 48 Four, 49 Wallop, 52 Versions, 56 EBay, 57 Peal, 59 Dig, 9 State senator, 10 Hadn't, 11 Eian, 12 Rude, 13 Omar, 21 8 Digs, 3 Acts, 4 Root cause, 5 Easily, 6 Assay, 7 Dual, Sadie, 60 Blot, 61 Evil, 62 In one, 63 Beso, 64 Dana, 65 As red.

Down: 1 Scam, 2 Holy, 3 Acts, 4 Root cause, 5 Easily, 6 Assay, 7 Dual, 8 Dig, 9 State senator, 10 Hadn't, 11 Eian, 12 Rude, 13 Omar, 21 8 Digs, 3 Acts, 4 Root cause, 5 Easily, 6 Assay, 7 Dual, Sadie, 60 Blot, 61 Evil, 62 In one, 63 Beso, 64 Dana, 65 As red.

Vain, 53 Odor, 54 Nine, 55 Seed, 58 E V A, P L O, 46 Russia, 47 Fly to, 48 Fella, 49 Webb, 50 Able, 51 Laos, 52 29 Glory, 30 Jason, 31 In bad, 32 Monty, 35 A week, 36 Nigerians, 44 Cash-strapped, 23 E S P, 25 Favor, 26 A-bomb, 27 Lewis, 28 Wants, 8 Digs, 9 State senator, 10 Hadn't, 11 Eian, 12 Rude, 13 Omar, 21 8 Digs, 3 Acts, 4 Root cause, 5 Easily, 6 Assay, 7 Dual, Sadie, 60 Blot, 61 Evil, 62 In one, 63 Beso, 64 Dana, 65 As red.

Volunteers create pollinator garden in St. Davids

**Susan Pearson
Special to The Local**

After being housebound for so long, a group of like-minded gardeners wanted to reach out and beautify our community, creating a venue for social interaction and active participation in the outdoors.

The Friends of St. Davids (FOSD) is a community group of 136 members which was started in 2019 by Greg (president) and Dorothy (treasurer) Walker. “The aim is to bring life into the village by energizing and unifying residents.

There are several special interest groups: golf, mahjong, euchre, bacchus, pub-night and brunch to name a few,” says Dorothy.

Now, there is an avid gardening group of nine volunteers ready to get started. The FOSD Garden Group joined the NOTL Adopt-a-Park program, and we adhere to all the safety rules.

Several years ago, the St. Davids subcommittee of Communities in Bloom wanted to enhance the centre of our village and make it more pedestrian-friendly. It was decided to create two gardens at the in-

tersection of Four Mile Creek Road and York Road. One is a lovely lavender garden in front of the Avondale convenience store, and beautiful lavender plants were added this year.

Across the street, there is another garden with a large Communities In Bloom, International Championship sign. This is a native pollinator garden. Pollinator plants lure pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, to their garden, by offering rewards, including pollen, nectar and oil.

The most important thing that bees do is pollinate. Pollination is needed for plants to reproduce, and many plants depend on bees and other insects as pollinators.

Honey bees are the world’s most important pollinators of food crops. Farmers would be unable to manage without bees. One-third of the food we consume each day relies on pollination, mainly by bees. Bees are important for the food production of all the other animals and birds, and are vital for the preservation of ecological balance and biodiversity in nature.

FOSD volunteers chose sections of the gardens to weed, adding additional native pollinators and mulch. This process provides ownership, pride and satisfaction. Teamwork is evident as gardeners interact, discuss and help one another. We discovered weeds are flowers too when you get to know them.

The gardens were created in 2016. Thanks for funding goes to the St. Davids Communities in Bloom subcommittee, the Niagara Restoration Council, the St. Davids Ratepayers Association, the St. Davids Lions Club, Lewiston Niagara-on-the-Lake-Rotary Club, and the town. When working together, great things happen.

A special thank you to the Niagara Restoration Council for their generous contribution of native, perennial pollinator plants, assistance with planting, the attractive information signs and performing maintenance.

Garden group members created a map of the garden which includes 31 amazing types of native pollinator plants.

Bees and butterflies abound. Native pollinator identification signs have been created by the garden group, adding an educational component. Niagara Restoration Council provides age-appropriate checklists for school groups visiting pollinator gardens. First-hand experiences are lasting ones. Learning about native pollinator gardens to help our planet is a crucial part of learning across the curriculum.

The FOSD Garden Group wants to share knowledge and provide a beautiful space to explore, learn and appreciate our ecosystem. There are two benches which beckon neighbours, and provide a place to appreciate nature.

Existing armour stones sourced from Queenston Quarry have been repositioned and carefully arranged in a semi-circle, which provides additional seating.

Two feature round mill stones are from the Queenston Quarry property, which operated from 1884 to 1905. Thank you to Richard Woodruff for donating the stones.

FOSD is having an afternoon celebration picnic at the Lions Club Park on Aug. 26. The garden group will have an information table, and handouts of Niagara Restoration Council’s pollinator checklist.

We invite you to visit our nurturing native pollinator gardens. It is a short walk from the Lions Club Park.

For further information about the FOSD Garden Group, please contact Susan Pearson. sfleur27@hotmail.com



St. Davids Garden Group member Allan Cobham digs into the pollinator garden. (Mike Balsom)



Susan Pearson and Taylor Pearson work in the garden. (Fran Berry)

Garden Group volunteers Fran Berry, Greg Walker, Susan Pearson, Julia Kane, Gail Skene, Dorothy Walker and Allan Cobham work on a pollinator garden in St. Davids.

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