

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



NOTL native
earns EMS
deputy chief
role

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Evgeny Derkach flies like a bird over the Concession 2, Line 2 intersection, a sight often seen by locals. (Stan Wall)

Power gliders love the sport, don't mind attention

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

You've no doubt seen them flying just above the trees, sometimes just above the vineyards, trailing a colourful parachute above and behind them, sitting on what looks to be a lawn chair in the sky. Perhaps you heard them first, the distant engine's soft whirr, bringing to mind a nearby lawn mower trimming the fields.

According to Power Paragliding Ontario instructor Andre Zeman, it's the most "captivating" type of flying. "The fact you don't even see any part of the aircraft as you move through the air, you feel like a bird."

There is equipment, of course, but it's mounted on the pilot's back. It includes a gas motor (a paramotor) on a harness, attached to a 'wing' parachute. Direction is con-

trolled using steering lines attached to the wing. The motor provides enough thrust to take off, usually in still air and on level ground with a short run. The entire rig can weigh anywhere from 45 to 90 pounds, which can take some getting used to at first.

Once up, a paraglider can reach speeds of up to 50 miles per hour at a legal height of about 6,500 feet. Depending on the weather and the amount of fuel in the back-mounted tank, a paraglider can fly for up to three and a half hours.

Forty-year-old Stan Wall remembers as a child having a recurring dream of taking off from the ground with a running start, waving down to his friends below. He figured one day he would learn to fly a "normal" plane, until

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Goal of VBA is to attract all ages to sports park

Penny Coles
The Local

As Richard Wall sits at a table under the pavilion by the Virgil splash pad, he can look around him with pride, and understandably, a sense of accomplishment.

The president of the Virgil Business Association likes to think that what he sees is the best sports park per capita in all of Canada. "I don't think there is a town of 20,000 or under with a better facility. If

there is one out there, show me where it is," he says.

The vision of the VBA has always been to create a multi-generational park, and he feels they are accomplishing what they set out to do. "I'm not sure if I'm supposed to apologize for this," he says, with a nod to the skateboard park now under construction, "but our goal has always been to create more traffic to the park, not less."

In his youth, there was one arena on the property,

which was the result of a federal and provincial centennial grant and a huge community fundraising effort, one that had some naysayers from the beginning.

His father, Dave Wall, was the president of the newly-formed VBA, and of the fundraising committee.

Richard recalls his father saying there were people who thought the arena was too ambitious a project for a small town. "There was push-back from a small

group of people, but the vast majority of the community was behind it, and the VBA was the driving factor."

The fundraising committee raised \$158,000 in 1967, and Dave received certificates from both levels of government for the biggest centennial project per capita in the country.

"I grew up in that era, and I love to reminisce," says Wall.

"The mentality that got that rink done was the same

mentality that has created this whole park."

It's the recent skateboard park controversy that started the trip down memory lane for Wall. He has stayed away from anything political, as has the VBA, which developed a strong partnership with the Town as it expanded the facilities in the Virgil Sports Park. But he wants the story told of how the first skateboard park came to be built.

He thinks it was in the

mid '90s, when a small group of kids were skateboarding in parking lots of Niagara Stone Road businesses, including the former MB Foods (now Phil's valu-mart), the original Niagara Credit Union (where the LCBO is now), and his family's Wall's of Virgil Furniture Store, on the property where the Niagara Image Gallery and other businesses are now located.

The kids weren't causing

Continued on page 4



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Former Virgil School vandalized by teens

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Thanks to a swift response from the Niagara Regional Police, a group of teens have received a warning under the Youth Criminal Justice Act following a break-in and vandalism spree at the old Virgil Public School.

Last Friday morning, local artist Filomena Pisano, who rents a studio space in the building, arrived to find debris scattered on the hallway floor in front of an office space rented by the Great Vision Church. She walked down the hallway to pick up the painting that seemed to have fallen from the wall, when she noticed that a window on the door had been broken.

Pisano and her son made their way further down the hallway, into an area where the Gateway Community Church rents a number of rooms. There, they noticed more windows broken and pamphlets strewn across the floor.

As they turned a corner, the two discovered more damage to doors, drywall smashed, what seemed to be urine on the floor and a trail of blood leading from another smashed window through to an exit door from the building.

Terrified, she and her son returned back to her studio to report the vandalism to the police.

Pisano sat down and wrote out her feelings in a heartfelt letter to the perpetrators. Rather than expressing anger, the letter conveys her confusion, fear and concern for the mental health and desperation that she was sure caused the vandals to violate the community building. “Perhaps you are upset with how life is right now,” wrote Pisano. “I get it’s tough to be in the world today. But that doesn’t give you a green card to vandalize.”

She went on to write, “I truly wish you can find it in yourself to tell someone what you did, and that you can spend some time volunteering with the community that you upset so much.”

She was thankful her son was with her when she arrived, as it helped her get through the initial shock. Pisano had only recently moved her studio into the old classroom, and the break-in left her feeling shocked and scared.

The Niagara Regional Police officer investigating the scene determined that the previous evening a group of six males, aged 14 to 16, entered the building and caused the damage that has been estimated at about \$1,000.

The boys were identified and spoken to by the officer in the presence of their parents. In line with the provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, the youths were cautioned with

extrajudicial measures, which deal outside of court with youth who have broken the law. Their names cannot be released under the act.

Terry Weiner is one of the volunteers who runs Bikes for Farmworkers out of the basement of the old school. He would like to see those responsible held to account for their actions.

It’s disturbing to see that anyone would break into a church and vandalize it randomly, he says. “To see the damage, they took some rods out of a foosball game and used them to break windows, they ripped sinks off the wall, thank goodness the water had been turned off or the damage would have been even worse.

It’s disheartening to see that anyone would maliciously damage someone’s property,” Weiner continues. “It’s disappointing. I wish that their parents would do more than just a slap on the hand. I’d like to see them get back in the building repairing the damage. I don’t know what was going through their minds. It shows a true lack of character.”

Michelle Mercer, lead pastor at Gateway Community Church, opted not to comment on the incident for this article. As well, The Local’s attempts to reach the Great Vision Church were unsuccessful as of press time.

Building owner Lloyd Redekopp is happy that the perpetrators

were caught. “It’s unfortunate, and we have to go up and clean up after their mess. I hope to speak to the parents shortly. The boys have admitted their guilt, and hopefully between them and their parents they can help with the restitution.”

Redkopp says it’s been a number of years since the building has had a break-in. When the former school is more active it tends to deter any vandalism attempts.

“We’ve been renting out classrooms to a variety of people

that meet the needs of the community, and what we’re allowed to do,” he adds. It’s just been an extremely quiet summer, with COVID, though, and these kids were looking for things to do. Unfortunately, they got on the wrong side of things to do.”



Windows were broken and other damage done amounting to about \$1,000 in repairs at the former Virgil Public School building, on Four Mile Creek Road near Niagara Stone Road. (Mike Balsom)

Ryerson Park waterfront shows no sign of deadly bacteria

Penny Coles
The Local

The Ministry of Environment has informed the Town that test results have returned from the waterfront area of Ryerson Park, indicating no presence of blue-green algal bloom, a deadly bacteria that was believed to have possibly caused the death of a beloved family pet.

The testing was done last Wednesday, Aug. 12, following the sudden death of a dog whose veterinarian suspected was the result of exposure to toxic cyanobacteria from the algae.

Town environmental supervisor Brett Ruck says the Town was quick to react last week, posting a sign at Ryerson Park warning people to keep their dogs away from the waterfront. The bacteria is also a danger to humans.

Ruck said Tuesday, after hearing the test results, he doesn’t believe the water now poses a risk to people or their dogs. “I’d go in,” he said.

The bacteria that was being tested for is rare, he added.

However, the Town continues to remind the public that the park is not a designated

beach, and water testing is not regularly conducted at that location, says Ruck.

The signage has changed to one of caution to an advisory, he says, noting that there is always a risk of contaminated water, especially after a big storm, which NOTL has seen recently.



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Large number
of swimmers




Wind and
high waves



Large number
of birds



Recent heavy rainfall



Cloudy water

Niagara Lake
on-the-lake

The caution sign, put up at Ryerson Park while the Town waited for water test results, has been removed. It has been replaced with a permanent advisory sign to say no water sampling is conducted. (Photo supplied)



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Volunteer ambassadors to act as friendly greeters

Penny Coles
The Local

Volunteer ambassadors will be presenting friendly faces and welcoming visitors to town, with a goal of explaining about COVID measures and encouraging compliance.

They are to act as greeters, and have been told not to confront or interact with protesters, councillors heard at Monday's planning meeting.

They're being asked to remain calm and not engage in conversation or make eye contact in a confrontational situation, with protestors or those who may say they're not going to wear a mask, said Coun. Wendy Cheropita, who with Coun. Gary Burroughs, has helped

to organize the volunteer project.

They've also been told not to contact staff if they run into problems, but to call Cheropita or Burroughs, "and we'll go to the appropriate person," she said.

In July, when it became evident there were problems with physical distancing in restaurants and on patios, Burroughs suggested using volunteers, trained by staff, to be good-will ambassadors. They would be asked to welcome people and explain the rules to do with COVID. They would not be enforcement officers, he emphasized.

They could be helpful by "suggesting that we do have rules, not enforcing them," he said at that July



Margot Devlin, Lois Chapman, Kim Mustill, Laurie Harley, Brenda Weafer and Cheryl Morris have been trained as greeters, and received a bottle of Konzelmann wine in appreciation of their offer to help. (Rene Bertschi)

special council meeting.

Interim CAO Sheldon Randall was a little concerned about what the vol-

unteers would be expected to do, but Coun. Wendy Cheropita offered to work with Burroughs on a volunteer ambassador program, seeking "compliance versus conviction," she said, to strengthen the town's image of being friendly and welcoming, and putting the safety of visitors and residents first. Shaw Guild members have been looking for new ways to help out in town, and were happy to help, she said.

The two councillors have been working with the guild volunteers to

act as welcomers to the community. The program is to be launched this Wednesday to Sunday, and then Friday to Sunday thereafter, into the first week of September. They will talk about face masks and shields, physical distancing, and the use of hand sanitizers, which will be available in local businesses.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero opened the meeting saying there had been a spike of 19 new cases, but nothing new recently, however it's important to follow guidelines to keep it that way, she noted.

Laurie Harley, Shaw Guild president, and communications chair Cheryl Morris have been instrumental in getting the program put together quickly, as have town staff, councillors heard.

The ambassadors will be wearing T-shirts identifying themselves as such, and also as Shaw Guild members.

Volunteers, Burroughs said, will thank people who are visiting the town, and also those already wearing masks. The project "is good for the volunteers, and also good for us."



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Catch Me If You Can (2002) is based on the life of Frank Abagnale, a young man who successfully posed as an airline pilot, then as a doctor, and finally as a prosecutor. Using his

charm and extraordinary audacity, he conned people out of millions, and became so skilled that in the end the FBI turned to him for help. The fine performances of Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks, and the direction of Steven Spielberg, make this a film well

worth watching.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. During the pandemic, restricted to Netflix, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions of what he is watching with "short and sweet" exclusive reviews for The Local.



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Location decision was up to the Town, Wall says

Continued from page 1

any trouble — they were good kids just looking for somewhere to skateboard. “But there was concern that either one of the kids or one of the customers would be hurt, he says.

“In true VBA fashion,” some of the members approached the Town to talk about a skateboard park, and it wasn’t long before a site was chosen, and a basic structure, only ever intended to be temporary, was built to keep skateboarders in a safe location, beside the arenas.

“Nobody knew how much it would get used, but it was a facility we thought kids could enjoy, and then, for 10 years or more, there was no more discussion about anything else.”

It was the perfect spot for it, says Wall, on the location of the former T-ball diamond, where there was no chance of bothering anyone.

But some time ago, he thinks about 2005, the VBA was approached by the Town about tearing down the original structure and building a new, relocated skateboard park. It seemed the CAO of the day wanted the site of the old skateboard park to expand the Town’s operations centre, although he doesn’t

remember that was ever officially discussed, says Wall.

The VBA supported the project, but there were no costs discussed at the time. There was talk about putting it beside the tennis courts, where the pickleball courts are now, but before anything was decided, the splash pad idea came up, “and the skateboard park renewal project got pushed aside,” Wall says.

“The splash pad became a big project, with a long-term plan that included the walking trail and fitness equipment. That took us to about 2016, when the skateboard park came up for discussion again.”

At that point, the conversation included potential locations, and the cost of a pump track, with a skate park as the first stage.

As always, the VBA wanted “as good a quality project as possible,” Wall says.

One of the first sites discussed was at the back of the property where the mini-soccer fields are, but nobody wanted to give them up. The other location was “right in residents’ backyards.”

The parks and recreation department then asked if the VBA would be okay giving up what is always referred to as “the corral, which had been part of our stampede



Richard Wall says the VBA didn’t choose the location for the skateboard park, but other options were discussed, and he believes the site chosen seems the best place for it. (Penny Coles)

from the beginning, when we had horses and barrel-racing. At that point, we were using it for the stampede mud run, and then later for the demolition derby. We agreed it made sense for the community to have a facility it could use three seasons a year, rather than us using it for three days a year. We thought maybe we could

look at other opportunities for entertainment, such as amateur events around the skateboard park.”

It seemed the best location, and the least likely to disturb bordering backyards, he says.

He emphasizes it is municipal property, and the decisions of what has occurred, such as the design, cost and location, were always Town decisions, but with support, including financial aid, from the VBA.

When he was a kid, in addition to the arena, he remembers the park had a few ball diamonds that would be used in the early evening by kids playing minor ball, and when they were finished their games, the adults would take over for slo-pitch, as they still do, except for this unusual season when the pandemic shut down organized sports.

In the intervening years, the VBA and the Town partnered on the Meridian Credit Union Arena, the picnic pavilion, the concession stand and equipment; and the splash pad, playground, path and exercise equipment, and now, \$150,000 toward the skateboard park. All were designed and built by the Town, with large chunks of Town money.

Wall says the intention of the VBA was always to contribute to the multi-generational use of the park, which

has grown now to attracting residents of all ages, every day of the week, all times of the day.

It was the purchase of the former Kallaur property, once peach orchards where outfielders would search for hard-hit home runs, that allowed for the expansion. It extends from the fence between the paved path and the ball diamond, to what is now Loretta Drive, and also includes the soccer fields.

When that property was still an orchard, the VBA had the vision of one day adding it to the sports park, and members approached the Kallaurs to ask for right of first refusal when they were ready to sell.

When the time came, the VBA “spearheaded the sale,” approaching the Town to talk about their vision. A significant amount of taxpayers’ money went into the purchase, along with \$50,000 from the VBA.

“At the time, I remember saying to the Town, ‘if you put a subdivision here, it will come back to bite you,’” says Wall.

And yet, while some might complain about the noise, the park has become a place where a young family can come to the park, with one child playing baseball or soccer, others in the splash pad or on playground equipment, and soon, older kids enjoying the skateboard

park, says Wall.

There are washrooms, two pavilions, and people of all ages using the walking path or the pickleball courts, which are now busy all day and into the evening. “The whole concept has that multi-generational feel we were looking for, a family-oriented park that is well-used. That was our mission, and I think we accomplished it.”

It there was a problem with the process that decided the location, he says, he hates to see any animosity toward the VBA.

“We didn’t make the decision. We don’t own the property. The Town was just being courteous to even ask. I know there was a lot of public input, but we had no involvement in that. We were just a supportive funder of the project, because that’s our purpose.”

He was surprised to see the concerns raised now, when the project is more than 50 per cent complete, he says.

“I don’t want the VBA to have a bad reputation for what we’ve done, to be known for having a mandate to bring troublesome teens into the park. That’s the furthest thing from the truth. We just want local teens to have a facility to skate,” says Wall.

“I was a teenager once too. We had skateboards, cheap ones, but all we did was jump curbs on Henry Street and skin our knees. The sport has evolved since then. To me, everyone in the subdivisions, whether they have kids or they’re grandparents, should be proud of what they have in their backyard, a first-class facility. I look back on being a parent, and I could never have dreamed of this when my kids were young.”



Niagara-on-the-Lake Announces Photo Contest Winners

Staff have been blown away by the level of public engagement in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's inaugural Photo Contest! More than 300 beautiful photos were submitted, and more than 1,900 votes were cast for the top 5 images from each category. Congratulations to the following winners:

Amenities & Places Brittany Massey "Christmas Time Downtown NOTL"	Arts, Culture & Events Britiney Turasz "Come Ride Away"	Nature & Parks Frank Hayes "Nature at its Best"
	Innovation & Economy J.Thwaites "Sunset Irrigation"	Recreation & Sports Britiney Turasz "Sunset Kayaking"

The 5 winning photographs will be professionally framed, with credit given to each respective photographer, and displayed in a prominent location in town. The location will be determined at a later date.

Thank you to everyone who participated and voted!
To see the winning photos, visit jointheconversationnotl.org.



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Don Chapman legacy found in historic buildings

Penny Coles
The Local

Architect Donald Chapman left a legacy throughout the region with his designs of many landmark buildings, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, where he served on the town's heritage committee for more than three decades. Chapman died Aug. 8, at the age of 94.

His associate, Wayne Murray of Chapman Murray Associates Architecture, says for more than a half century, Chapman was a leader in the community, focusing on good building design and the preservation of heritage structures.

He also served on the Niagara Falls heritage committee, and was devoted to protecting historically or architecturally important buildings in Niagara. When asked to design additions or alterations to existing heritage structures he was always sensitive to the character, style and period when they were built, says Murray.

His firm was involved in the design of many hotels and restaurants in Niagara Falls, and all of the hotels in NOTL, all regional

long-term care facilities, major additions to the Douglas Memorial Hospital in Fort Erie and Greater Niagara General Hospital, and designed several medical office buildings in Niagara.

He also designed the NOTL Town Hall, and worked on most of the NOTL hotels, including the Pillar and Post, Queen's Landing, the Moffat Inn, the Harbour House and the Show Club Hotel.

He was proud of the work he did in NOTL, says Murray.

He also worked extensively with Calvin Rand on Randwood over a period of many years.

Did the current situation at the John Street estate bother him?

"Nothing ever really bothered him. He was resilient, and he was a realist."

Most of the buildings he designed are still used for the same purpose, Murray added, a sign that Don took his work very seriously, and made the right decision, always choosing classic designs that would fit in over time. That was the philosophy of the firm, he says, that buildings were to be timeless, not avant garde or cutting edge, which might seem right for the time, but not over the long

term. Instead, he liked contemporary functions and material with a nod to heritage, "and that turned out to be a good philosophy to have. It means designing buildings that age well."

It has been about 10 years since Don served on the local heritage committee, says Murray. He always tried to stay apologetic, and focus on buildings and on heritage.

"He was a well-respected man, who made significant impact on heritage issues."

He lived in NOTL, loved the town, and invested in designing a beautiful home on the river side of the Niagara River Parkway, on an estate that had been divided. "He built a wonderful home, one that looks contemporary but has all kinds of historic references. He did a beautiful job capturing the significant historical shapes of the Old Town."

Don knew everybody in NOTL, says Murray, "and everybody knew him."

Murray says Don was so well-liked, his clients looked forward to meeting with him.

"He was very colourful, and had nicknames for people

he would use when talking to them. He was also a colourful dresser, deliberately wearing things that were mismatched, big floppy hats, and he had one pair of pants he wore that looked like a quilt pattern. He liked to make a fashion statement — he was that kind of guy."

He also always had an opinion that he liked to share, although never in a way that offended people, says Murray, or to embarrass or criticize.

"He worked quietly to let his opinions be known," he says.

"He was a good planner, very wise, and as a person, no bad habits — everything was in moderation."

As good as Don was at his job, "I think some of our clients kept coming back to us because they liked him so much," Murray jokes.

"He was a wonderful, colourful guy, but he didn't socialize a lot. He enjoyed his own company."

He also worked on the latest additions to the Regional Niagara government headquarters building in Thorold. In St. Catharines, the firm designed One St. Paul office and retail complex at the corner of Ontario Street, the Canada Trust building at James and King Streets and many commercial and residential buildings throughout the city.

As well, Don designed many churches, schools, university and college buildings, af-

fordable housing for the YWCA and several women's shelters throughout the Region.

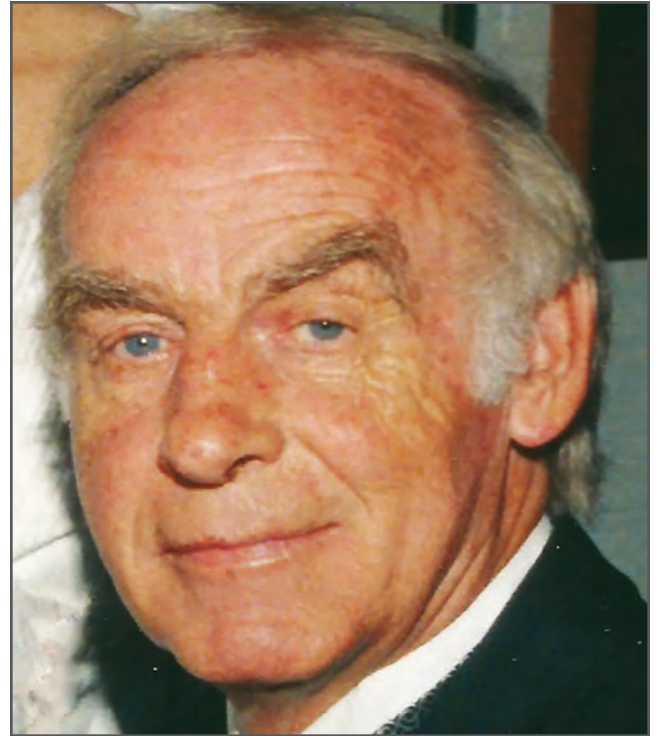
"The people of the region were fortunate to have lured Don Chapman from John B. Parkin's office in Toronto to Niagara where he has made significant contributions to the built environment," says Murray.

"Despite his somewhat irreverent sense of humour, he remained respected professionally by his peers, admired by the hundreds of employees who had worked with him for almost 70 years, and remem-

bered fondly by his many public and private clients who became good friends of this remarkable, colourful and talented man.

"The firm of Chapman Murray Associates is proud to carry his name forward which will act as a tribute to his legacy and as an inspiration to continue creating architecture of the highest quality."

Chapman is survived by his wife, Isobel, children Reid and Susan, Lisa and Patrick, and Gregory and Sarah, and other family members. A private family service is to take place.



Don Chapman was well-respected and well-liked, as a professional and as a person. (Photo submitted)

Skate park to be discussed, but no request to halt it

Penny Coles
The Local

Kevin Turcotte is expecting a discussion about the skateboard park location at Monday's council meeting, but it isn't sounding like it will call for construction to be halted, as originally seemed the case.

The director of operations for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake says typically, when projects such as the skate park are included in the capital budget, he wouldn't expect council to have a discussion or make a decision on the location. The parks and recreation capital projects are usually about renovations, although in this case, the skateboard park had to be relocated as well, he said.

Coun. Clare Cameron told councillors at last week's planning committee meeting she has concerns about the location of the new park under construction, and about the process for deciding the location. She suggested halting the work until two issues could be discussed, one that some residents didn't know of the chosen location, and are worried about noise from the facility, and the other that there could be safety issues that haven't been considered, with its proximity to a ball diamond and the picnic pavilion. She said she felt councillors should have had a full discussion and been part of the decision-making process for the project.

Her motion, finalized Tuesday, instead refers to discussions taking place after the completion of the park.

When the location for the new skate park was considered,

"there were a couple of concerns from residents, and we listened to them," Turcotte told The Local. The other possible locations were much closer to residents, he said.

When the Virgil Business Association was asked and agreed to giving up the corral for their annual Virgil Stamped, Turcotte said, that site was chosen as the one in the landlocked park that was the farthest from neighbouring backyards.

The skateboard park is about 75 per cent completed, with some concrete still to be poured, and could be finished or close to it by next week, he added.

If council wants the process for decision-making on capital projects to change, Turcotte said, that would need to be a direction of council.

Cameron's motion to be dis-

cussed Monday says "contract initiation and vendor selection" were approved by council, but council was not given an opportunity to consider location or public feedback.

Residents have recently been expressing concern about the location and its impact on them, the motion says, and after completion of the park, it calls for staff to meet with residents for feedback and share a summary of comments with council. Cameron's motion asks that the 2021 budget include landscaping and buffering features to the skateboard structure, and that future projects involving Town facilities where location is an issue be brought to council's attention, either with a formal report or highlighted in budget submissions.



Linda Attoe, RP

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McGarr Realty Corp. Brokerage is Proud to Welcome Bill Cochrane!

Bill is a long-time resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake and is currently a resident in the Village of Queenston.

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EDITORIAL

Reasonable solution offered for skate park

For the last week or so, the new skate park has been a topic of pretty heated discussion.

Suddenly, a long-awaited project that would add another element to an already pretty great sports park was near completion, and there was talk of halting it, because it might be in the wrong location. That didn't sit well with those who were having trouble imagining the folly of trying to move great hunks of concrete, at substantial cost to the taxpayer.

Coun. Clare Cameron has taken a lot of flak in social media, and in chatter around town, for suggesting construction should be halted until council debates whether its location in the Virgil Sports Park is the best place for it.

She's concerned about the impact to neighbouring residents, and also about the safety of those using the park.

This week, in completing her notice of motion — the topic of discussion for Monday's meeting — she has removed the word 'halt,' and come up with a reasonable solution.

When she first spoke of halting the progress on the skatepark structure, she managed to garner a lot of attention, all of it negative. It didn't help that it came after a week of craziness over the proposed noise bylaw, which residents were already saying made NOTL a laughingstock, and this seemed

proof-positive that there is absolutely no fun allowed in this town.

But she had a point to make. It is a major, \$450,000 project, one that has implications for a small number of residents nearby, but at least as important, the decision of its location was made without input from council.

It seemed if Coun. Cameron wanted a discussion so late in the game, it should be about correcting the process for future decisions, not stopping something, at great cost, to go back in time, unless of course it could be shown to be dangerous.

She has managed to come up with a solution covering two bases. If indeed the skate park does create problems for nearby residents, she is suggesting there are solutions to mitigate those issues of noise and safety. And if staff need to have a line drawn around which decisions they can make and which have to be decided at the council table, this is the time to make that distinction. Her solutions could be defeated, amended, or approved Monday, but she has given councillors a reasonable launching point for their discussion.

The Local is a member of the Virgil Business Association. The old Advance was as well, so my Local partner, Karen Skeoch and I, have sat in on many meetings over almost three decades. While

it is a group of business people that has grown from the original six to about 50 members, with monthly meetings, we can attest to the fact that it has never been for the purpose of networking or growing businesses. It has always been the mandate for the group to offer financial support for projects that benefit the community. It started with the first arena, and continues to support the expansion of the sports park, with a long list of other projects over the intervening years. It's safe to say that in the last 50-plus years, there has not been a child grow up in town — not just Virgil, but all of NOTL — who has not benefited in some way from a project supported by the VBA. And the facilities, thanks to the Town, are always top-notch.

While the skate park might not be everybody's first choice as a recreational facility, it is intended to appeal to an age group that is entitled to the same support as everyone else, from toddlers to seniors, but one that doesn't receive a lot of positive attention.

Kudos to the Town and the VBA for supporting this project, and if there is a lesson to be learned about the need for a formal process in such decisions, thanks to Coun. Cameron for pointing that out.

Penny Coles
The Local

LETTERS

Message of change: It will happen

Your friends and neighbours, followers of the Baha'i Faith here in Niagara-on-the-Lake and believers in the oneness of humankind, have like most of you, been stirred by the recent wave of peaceful demonstrations, both in the US and here in Canada, calling for social change and particularly for an end to racial prejudice.

The effects have been pernicious, soul-destroying and cruel over many generations. It's heart-warming and encouraging, to say the least, to see individuals of all races participate together in these widespread

demonstrations.

A letter sent from the Universal House of Justice (the governing body of the Baha'i Faith in Haifa, Israel,) to the Baha'is of the U.S., was shared with us here in Canada. It reminds us of the "long and thorny road" it has been on this path toward racial equity in the US, but this is of course equally true of our country.

It reminds us all that "Racism is a profound deviation from the standard of true morality," and that ultimately what will transform society is that love "ignited by the Word of God" which every

faith proclaims as its central belief.

The letter, while reminding us that the change that we need to see will not be easy to achieve, is confident that it will be achieved. It concludes with the assurance "that which is confirmed is the oneness of the world of humanity."

If anyone would like a copy of this encouraging and insightful letter, the local Baha'i community would be more than pleased to send you one. They can be reached at: www.notlbahais.org or at www.bahai.org.

Hugh J. Church, NOTL

LETTERS

Long live the joyful noise of NOTL

My husband and I are newbies to Niagara-on-the-Lake, and in our first year of living here, we had a lot to learn about this wonderful town.

We were awakened by the sound of what we thought were 1) helicopters, circling for hours, looking for someone or something or 2) the filming of a remake of MASH. We laughed when our neighbours told us about the wind machines that reside in the fields, working their magic over the sensitive grapes and fruit trees to keep the frost at bay, and protect the crops from injury. They soon became white sound, restful like the winds through the trees, and the crickets in their nighttime dating scene.

Driving around late one evening, trying to locate the origin of the "music to our ears" (I may have been in my PJ's), and were happily surprised to be

drawn to the outdoor concerts at a nearby winery estate. Wow, bonus, we could listen and enjoy the music, comfortable on our front porch, close to the wine cabinet.

Our street is a busy street, big and little trucks, maintenance vehicles, lawn care, construction crews, bicycles, dog walkers, joggers, kids bouncing basketballs on their way to the park, tennis players carrying their rackets to the same park, kids talking and laughing as they pass by, babies in strollers, some sleeping, some not. All good healthy sounds of life and living.

We visited many times prior to choosing to call NOTL home. We chose to live in a (died and gone to heaven) wine region, farmland ripe with fruits and vegetables, outdoor markets, who doesn't love fresh everything, asparagus, strawberries, peaches and cherries, to

name a few; a town oozing with history, ghosts that walk the halls, streets and parks, and the ubiquitous skunk population who walk wherever they want.

A viable downtown with shops and restaurants, inns and B&Bs, horse-drawn carriages, green spaces and beautiful gardens and proud homes.

A town steeped in culture, social institutions, arts, theatre, music. A town which draws millions of tourists and travellers, the young and the not-so-young any more, farm workers, shopkeepers, entrepreneurs, and all the worker bees that keep the wheels of commerce turning to share the fruits and labours, the sights and the sounds of NOTL.

Truly the joyful noise of a town living large. Long live the noise.

Wendy Lowe, NOTL

Rentals, concerts impact quality of life for some

What appears to have been lost in the current noise bylaw debate is the reason that Niagara-on-the-Lake took on the development of a new noise bylaw in the first place.

During the 2018 municipal election, several residents raised concerns about the noise being generated by guests staying at weekend rental properties. Others noted the increased volume of noise emanating from outdoor entertainment events, including the concerts being held at local wineries. A number of candidates, myself included, voiced support for amendments to the current noise bylaw, including adding a decibel level component to the regulations, and enhancing enforcement.

While the draft noise bylaw developed by town staff is by no means perfect, it could have provided a starting point

for further consultation with stakeholders as well as residents. Instead, council has allowed a group with vested interests in maintaining the status quo with respect to noise in town to usurp that process. When did council stop representing the interests of residents and listening to their concerns? Surely the broader community could have been consulted on a draft noise bylaw and its objectives before council made the decision to nix it.

For all the talk by the naysayers, requiring noise levels to stay at or below an allowable decibel level is not a new concept. Richmond, B.C., where I lived for a number of years before moving to Niagara-on-the-Lake, has done so successfully in its noise bylaw. Other municipalities have done the same thing, without reducing the vibrancy of their communities or their at-

tractiveness to all age groups. It's all about getting the allowable level right, about finding a level that works for both residents and the tourism industry.

As for all the fuss about "hooting, singing and hollering," let's remember why the Town was looking at bringing in a new noise bylaw in the first place: to curb the loud noise — which may well have included hooting and shouting, lasting for several hours — and affecting the quality of life of residents living in proximity to weekend rental properties and outdoor concert venues.

Singing Happy Birthday to a neighbour is one thing, blasting amplified sound into residential neighbourhoods for two and three hours at a time is something else entirely.

Terry Davis, NOTL

Thanks for shredding support

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service wanted to extend our sincere gratitude to Doug Martin of

Meridian Credit Union for once again donating the funds to cover our Shred-it Trucks and their shredding employees.



Volunteers of the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service all worked on the recent Shred-it event, a major fundraiser for the service. (Photo supplied)

The change of this year's venue, to the NOTL Community Center due to COVID restrictions, was an awesome place to hold the event. A special thank you to the Town for being the last-minute answer. It was an amazing, sunny day and we were truly elated to receive just under last year's donations. With the help of all of the NOTL CPCS volunteers' hard work, we raised \$4,300.

Thank you team. Lastly, thank you to the Town and area residents, once again, for providing these funds that will ultimately benefit the many clients we serve. See you next year!

Bonnie Bagnulo,
NOTL Community
Palliative Care Service

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

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The opinions expressed in submitted commentary, and letters to the editor, are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of The NOTL Local.

COMMENT

LETTERS

Thoughts on the pervasiveness of sound

Last Friday night I responded to a telephone poll regarding the temporarily-shelved noise pollution law. I ended up frustrated.

The poll did not allow for nuanced answers. The questions were matter-of-fact and neutrally delivered. It seemed to me there was no constructive way to respond, nor did the questions adequately explore this situation.

In the poll, questions of auditory volume were repeatedly portrayed as, '55 decibels, about as loud as an electric toothbrush.' The situation might have been better explored: 'Imagine turning on an electric toothbrush and leaving it running in your shirt pocket for three hours, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you feel?'

I do not believe the poll was purposely weighted, but the questions reflected only the proposed law, not the problem. Lastly, the poll did not ask for my proximity to wineries, open park spaces previously used for musical events, Airbnbs, cottage rentals, or protesters. As offending sound emitters are intermittently spaced about, the averages of the study will likely favour opinions of unaffected persons. It is my opinion this particular phone survey will under-represent the severity of unwanted sound suffered by pockets of affected citizens.

My wife and I moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1980, and bought a home in Chautauqua, just off the circle. The back corner of our lot was adjacent to a fenced-in yard where in good weather country and western music was played all day. The volume was respectfully set low, most probably about 55 decibels. Glancing over the fence I could not see stereo speakers or a radio outside, but the kitchen window was frequently open. I don't dislike that genre of music. All the same, those almost soft but continuous sounds insidiously ruined many of our backyard experiences. It was not the only reason for our selling that home, but our move was greeted with a sigh of relief until, not so far from our home, a new winery inserted an outdoor stage.

Sound is a capricious thing. During Project Niagara's attempt to situate a bandshell pointed directly at Chautauqua, figures were issued to 'prove' the volume

of sound those residents would experience would be marginal. 'About the level of persons talking on the street' was what Project Niagara promoters promised. The problem was that while the sound decay/distance formula used for that calculation was numerically accurate, the formula was true only for static atmospheres, similar to air contained in a concert hall. In air, waves of vibrating molecules carried on a breeze can express energetic sounds further than that simplistic formula erroneously suggested. From Rye Park, with an easterly wind, I have clearly heard the Fife and Drum Corp practising behind Fort George's substantial walls nearly two kilometers away.

Sounds are part of daily life. Lawns get mowed, trees get pruned, emergency service vehicles have alerts, motorcycles, cars, trucks, helicopters and planes pass by. We accept these interruptions as cooperative necessities. Additionally, we do not want to curtail the singing during the Christmas Candlelight Stroll or the Kinsmen's Show & Shine brazenly announced on those mornings with the arrival of some less-restricted hot rod engines. In all these cases, the sounds incurred are transitional.

At my home, because of a nearby winery's concerts, there have been many summer nights where we cannot sit outside and enjoy the birds singing or the crickets chirping. Even inside our home we have to turn up the TV to drown out some concerts half a kilometre away. It is no wonder as that stage has no backing and the musicians' monitor speakers are pointed backwards (and therefore directly at us). And, it is not just the music, the crowd's cheering and screaming is equally disruptive. Last year, that winery hosted 39 events. There is a significant difference between hearing an electric toothbrush while cleaning your teeth and having the same device buzzing in your pocket all evening. Consider half of your summer evenings at home ruined.

In our town, it is not just winery concerts. Insensitive patrons at Airbnb facilities, cottage rentals, and also protesters with bullhorns contribute to a fracturing of various neighbourhoods' peace. Pass-

ing sounds are an inconvenience. Unrelenting, unsolicited sound is a discrete form of violence.

Holidays are for celebrations. On the weekends of Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday and Labour Day, businesses should be able to host entertainments for a single night. Additionally, non-transient sound emitters should be allowed several permits a year for special gatherings. Opening season fireworks at the Shaw Festival or a party for the introduction of a new vintage wine are certainly worthy of generous consideration.

Beyond those special opportunities, however, perhaps other exterior events should be unrestricted, exclusively during the daytime, respectively shutting down by 7 p.m., as does most construction and roadwork.

Some formula for other non-transient sound created by holiday renters or bullhorn-wielding protesters, needs to be found to protect adjacent homes and businesses. Neighbourly sensitivities should be expected of all the visitors we share our town with. The desire to gather, party or protest is not a right to abuse or inflame.

To initiate a new sensitivity, we need to acknowledge that the persistence of sound, whether from near or far, loud or soft, can damage the quality of life. The insult is not exclusively about volume. When, from where, and for how long we allow sound generated from non-transient sources, must also be part of a multi-layered discussion.

Perhaps the initial proposed noise bylaw was an over-reach. But then, not everyone fully appreciates an electric toothbrush. At least someone was trying to respond to the diverse number of negative auditory issues that have increasingly crept into the lives of residents and businesses fixed in NOTL.

For council, starting to take this on, thank you from the bottom of my ears.

Mr. Hillier can confirm the poll was conducted by Leger, but doesn't believe he was offered information as to who was paying for the poll.

R. Hillier
NOTL

Let's all keep the River of Life healthy



Ted Mouradian
Special to The Local

Back in the 90s, I created the Law of Cooperative Action at Brock University, that basically states that we are all interconnected and interdependent.

Every person and everything relies on something or someone else for survival. Sometimes we humans forget that and believe we are the centre of the universe and that all things revolve around us as individuals. That is so far from what reality really is and the test we are facing now with the COVID-19 virus will see us as winners or losers in the end.

Let me put it this way. We are all living in this fast flowing stream I will call the River of Life. We are not in separate streams, but we are all in the same stream, and what happens in one part of the stream affects the other parts of that same stream. This virus proves that theory is correct.

We cannot control what happens in the stream, all we can do is control how we navigate our part of the stream keeping in mind not to knowingly harm the stream and more importantly not to allow the stream to harm us.

During this global crisis we each, as individuals navigating this stream, have the ability to either harm the stream or contribute to the cleansing of the stream. Remember every time you do something that disregards the health of the

stream you are adversely affecting the rest of the stream which will eventually affect you personally.

When you disregard physical distancing you are harming the stream. If you go to a home party with a large group of people, you are harming the stream. If you think that it is cool not to wear a mask, then you are harming the stream. If you do not wash your hands and sanitize regularly you are harming the steam. You may think, 'so what,' and that would be okay if you were alone on an island, but the fact is your actions, or lack thereof, could actually kill another person, because we are all interconnected.

If you are bashing your government, locally, provincially, and federally, here in Canada, you are definitely harming the stream. Whether you like it or not, they are all doing their best. It may not be perfect, and there may be some glitches to overcome, but they are doing their best. Remember, they are in this stream with us.

This is the time we all need to come together with life jackets, and other floating devices, to help those who are having trouble keeping above the water. We need to look around us to see if others need something, rather than simply focus on our problems. Don't get me wrong — we are all having a rough time coping with the present, and worrying about the future. It is not easy, and I am not suggesting it is.

But if we all start to focus on what we can do for others, instead of only focusing on what others can do for us, we can save the stream. For example, we can reach out to friends and family

with more than a text. Make a phone call. Use a video chat app. We can still check to see if someone needs help getting food and other items, especially those who you know live alone. We may be into a stage of recovery that makes us more comfortable about going out, but not everybody feels that way, and we may be forgetting there are those who need our help as much as they did last March.

If you are not supporting your local restaurants by ordering takeout, maybe it's time to try. I know people who usually eat out two to three times a week. If you feel comfortable resuming that, it's a personal decision, but if you don't, order in. I know your favourite restaurant will really appreciate it.

When you go for a walk or a hike and you are approached by someone coming toward you, we still need to give them space to pass, but more importantly, give them a nice smile along with a friendly greeting. You will make their day.

Finally, by understanding that we are all in this together, and that no one is alone, we can work in harmony with the same goal, that being keeping the River of Life flowing clean and smooth. If this stream gets to the point of being so polluted it is uninhabitable, then where will we be?

Let's all try to swim together in the same direction, and let's remember the importance of saving the stream.

Ted Mouradian is the President of the 2% Factor Inc. and creator of the Law of Cooperative Action. He is an author and professional speaker and can be reached at ted@the2percentfactor.com.

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Niagara EMS names Karen Lutz-Graul, Deputy Chief

Penny Coles
The Local

A Niagara-on-the-Lake native who began her career as a paramedic in town has been appointed deputy chief of the Niagara EMS.

Karen Lutz-Graul was first hired by the NOTL Hospital in 1991, before Niagara municipalities amalgamated their ambulance services to form the regional EMS.

The regional announcement referred to Lutz-Graul as the first female deputy chief, and while she's proud of that, she says, she's progressed up the ladder, and worked hard to be the most qualified for the position. "I don't want the fact that I'm a woman to detract from the fact that I've earned this," she says.

Along the way to her most recent promotion, she was instrumental in transforming the way EMS op-

erates, developing two programs to reduce the volume of calls, increase efficiency, and provide better care to those who called for emergency services.

Lutz-Graul grew up on East and West Line, graduated from Col. John Butler Elementary School and Niagara District Secondary School, and completed the Niagara College ambulance and emergency care program in 1990. She was hired on as a primary paramedic at the NOTL Hospital, later earning her advanced care diploma.

In 2000, the Niagara Region amalgamated six separate EMS services, some of which had been run by the Province, and others privately operated or run by the municipalities, including NOTL.

In 2009, Lutz-Graul had the opportunity to become a training supervisor, and since she had always en-

joyed teaching, took the job.

She says paramedics have to be physically fit, and "your body might not be able to do the work for as long as you'd like it to," so when offered the training position it seemed like a good time to think about how she could continue to serve in a meaningful way, in a profession she loves.

In 2013, Lutz-Graul became the commander of quality assurance, with oversight of training and education of paramedics and dispatch, at which time she learned to do the job of communications, to ensure resources are used strategically to get calls where they need to go, and on time.

In 2018, the Region challenged the EMS, which had seen call volumes "escalate dramatically," to find ways to operate more efficiently. About 25 per cent of the

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Karen Lutz-Graul, deputy chief of the Niagara EMS. (Photo supplied)

Local writer, producer shares NOTL gossip and scandal

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

Everybody loves good gossip and a scandalous story, whether we like to admit it or not. Scientific research into our psychology has suggested that humans love to gossip and gossip has many functions, one of which is to promote cultural learning.

In the 2004 issue (Vol. 8) of the Review of General Psychology, three researchers, Baumeister, Vohs and Zhang, wrote a paper named *Gossip as Cultural Learning*, proposing that, "In our view, gossip is a potentially powerful and efficient means of transmitting information about the rules,

norms, and other guidelines for living in a culture. On the surface, gossip consists of stories and anecdotes about particular other people, perhaps especially ones that reflect negatively on the target. We readily concede that some of the appeal of gossip is simply learning about other people. However, we think that a second, less obvious function of gossip is to convey information about social norms and other guidelines for behaviour."

Barbara Worthy's Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum lecture, Scandal and Gossip, this past Thursday afternoon definitely gave listeners some entertaining stories about other

people. Some of the stories were sad and heart-wrenching. Others were scandalous and intriguing. However, all of them conveyed "information about the social norms and guidelines for behaviour," the difference being that Worthy's gossip was about people no longer around to dispel any rumours.

As Worthy explained, "I think the public always enjoys juicy, somewhat macabre tales ... and when they're historical, it takes the horror out of it. I wouldn't want to retell stories of that nature, if they are too close to our own times. But in general, stories that incorporate something that is not the norm, or illus-

trates some kind of behaviour that would have shocked people in their times — those stories are fun and revealing. Not just about the people involved, but about society at that time."

Last year, when Worthy gathered these stories, she was able to turn them into an event by walking with a group to each location. At the location, she would tell the story of what happened there. This year, things are different, and Worthy had to adapt her presentation to the digital world. "The most challenging aspect was being comfortable using Power Point and operating the slides at the same time as reading my script and keeping them all in sync," she says, "and not getting stressed if something went a little off, But I think everyone is very forgiving in today's Zoom world."

As an experienced writer, director, producer and performer, Worthy showed no stress during the lecture as she presented her gossip in a fun and entertaining way. Worthy was a drama and documentary producer for CBC Radio for two decades, and she enjoyed a 20-year association with the Shaw Festival, including acting, writing, and producing. She teaches at both Brock University and Niagara College, and is a creative producer and content provider for many local arts organizations in the Niagara region. Over the years, she has worked with the museum on specific projects and contracts, but joined the museum staff last fall as the visitor and members services Assistant.

In her new role, she put together this lecture that took viewers on an adventure

filled with mystery, romance, murder and espionage. She drew the audience in as she recounted the mystery of the tunnel beneath Parliament Oak School, and the mystery of who really haunts the Olde Angel Inn. She recounted the tragic romance of Isaac Brock and Sophie at Brockamoor Manor, and the tale of romance gone sour between Peter and Mary Servos at Palatine Farm. She wove tales of betrayal and murder within the Free Masonry and with the murder of Bartholomew London by his wife and her lover. She ended with the story of Niagara's spy, Catherine Poole who supplied the British with information on the American occupiers during the War of 1812.

Even though the lecture was on gossip, that does not mean that the stories are unsubstantiated. "Most of the initial research came from hard digging by museum student interns last summer," Worthy explained. "And other research came from our graveyard tours that we've done here for the past eight years."

She continued, "You have to be a kind of historical detective. What makes sense? What else could be going on? And you have to check multiple sources, of course."

Some sources also include NOTL locals. "Mostly it's digging through the archives. And then talking to the locals, and trying to find material that backs it up ... like checking official documents. And there's going to be a certain amount of literary licence, but around here you can't stretch that too far or we'll hear about it, for sure. The locals are very passionate about their history,

and mostly they want us to get it right."

These tales of gossip may be based in truth with a little pepper thrown in for spice, but they remain a window into the life and culture of the past. They can still serve as cultural lessons on morals and behaviour. As Baumeister, Zhang and Vohs concluded in their study, "Gossip greatly expands the opportunities for cultural learning, because one can benefit from the experiences of others outside of one's field of vision and sometimes even outside one's circle of friends." After experiencing this lecture, we could add, even outside one's period of time.

Worthy's lecture is up on the museum's YouTube channel for viewing, Virtual Scandal & Gossip – Tour of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Worthy added that the museum has been successful in obtaining a couple of grants and she will have the opportunity to write a new musical to complement the upcoming All Along the Waterfront exhibit which is planned for a spring 2021 opening.

"My short 'docu-musical' will be called *Rollin' Down the River*, and will incorporate some of that same fun stuff on the Zoom lecture, some darker tales of stories about the river, as well as how it was the lifeblood of the region."

The next lecture in this series, *The Cayuga and her Consorts: Remembering beloved Niagara-to-Toronto Steamers*, will take place Thurs., Aug. 20 at 4 p.m. and presented by John Henry. Contact Amy Klassen at aklassen@nhsm.ca or call 905-468-3912 to register.



Barbara Worthy, a NOTL Museum staff member, presented last week's lecture on scandal and gossip. (Amy Klassen)

Lutz-Graul instrumental in changes to EMS

Continued from page 8

increase could be attributed to the aging populations demographic, but other than that, she says, “we had no idea why people were becoming so reliant on emergency services.”

Each year the EMS was asking for more funding, she adds. “It costs taxpayers \$1.5 million to operate each ambulance, with all the necessary equipment and staffed around the clock,” and while the Region had given the service significant increases over the years to meet the demand, “they challenged us to fashion a system that would work in a very different way.”

Kevin Smith, the chief of EMS, had the insight to transform the system, to be more evidence-based in its response to calls, in part looking at a system developed in the U.K., she says.

Lutz-Graul was instrumental in developing the

emergency communications nurse system, using nurses who were trained to take over some calls from dispatch, and ask more clinical questions to find out what was needed, which isn’t always a trip to the emergency room, she says. For instance, the patient could be suffering a minor illness that requires a call to a family doctor.

About 30 per cent of people actually do worse if they’re taken to the hospital, versus finding the care they need to help them at home, she says. Nurses can help identify the problems and offer more appropriate treatment to prevent further emergency calls, reducing the strain on both EMS and hospital emergency rooms.

Lutz-Graul was also the lead on the project that developed integrated health teams, another change that involves teaming paramedics with other health professionals, such as mental health nurses who are bet-

ter able to determine what kind of treatment is appropriate in some cases, or falls intervention teams, which include occupational therapists.

The person who called might just need help getting up off the floor, she says, or the fall might be a symptom of something else. The right

showcase to others what can be done.”

When Smith asked her about taking on the job of deputy chief, he questioned whether she would be willing to move on, leaving behind her the work about which she is so passionate.

She said yes, and one of

those system-wide delays, she says.

“My next step is trying to figure out how to help the system, as the population continues to age. We have to develop a system based, similar to a business, on how to meet our customer demand, tailoring the care we provide to what people really need.”

Lutz-Graul has spent most of her 50 years living in NOTL. Once both of her parents, Erna and Henry Delesky, passed away, she and her husband Mark decided to move to Burlington, halfway between his job in Toronto and hers at the old Foster Wheeler building on Glendale Ave., now the Niagara Corporate Business Centre, owned by Niagara College.

But of course, she says, “I was born and raised in NOTL, and it will always be my home. It’s such a diverse community, with so much to offer. It’s always been home and always will be.”

The current struggle is about how to help reduce

“... they challenged us to fashion a system that would work in a very different way.”

Karen Lutz-Graul

care could prevent a more serious, life-altering injury, and help seniors stay in their home.

The programs have been successful “because we work with some great partners,” she says. “All of our stakeholders help fas-

the reasons she is happy to take this next step is her interest in helping other ambulance services make some of the same changes, and perhaps further down the road, changes in legislation “to make this a reality across the province. We need to



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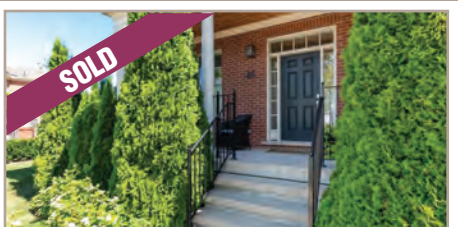
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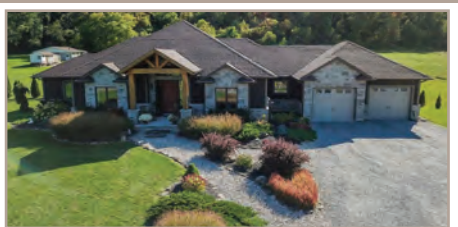
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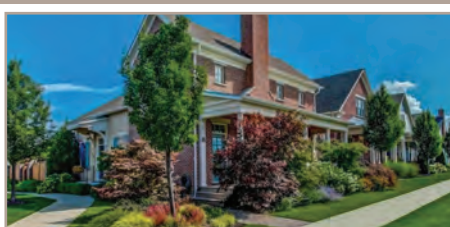
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‘It just doesn’t get old,’ says paraglider

Continued from page 1

one day in 2012, a customer of his business invited him to come out to a field to watch him paragliding. He was immediately hooked.

Wall signed up for lessons with Zeman, and within two weeks he was flying.

Now in his ninth year of powered paragliding, Wall has earned his ultralight aircraft license, which is a must for anyone aiming to pursue the sport as a hobby. He has hundreds, if not thousands of flights under his belt, and often chooses travel destinations based on where he might like to fly. Three years ago, he and his wife Carlee built a new house on a rural plot of land that, not by coincidence, was perfect for take-offs.

Last Wednesday was a perfect night for flying. According to Wall and Zeman, the best

time to head up is early morning, late afternoon or early evening. That’s when wind conditions tend to be ideal.

On this particular evening, Wall’s homemade windsock, more of a wind ribbon, really, is gently waving northeast. Graham Speck, a Welland city councillor and business owner, comes into focus on his own powered paraglider (PPG) just below the escarpment. As he approaches Wall’s backyard, he begins to perform expert acrobatic loops and flips, circles the property a few times, then comes in for a flawless landing on the grass strip.

Speck has made the trip from his Cooks Mills-area home on his PPG. He started flying in 2013, a year later than Wall, and recently took a week-long trip to Quebec, where he was able to fly nearly every day.

“Remnants of that hurri-

cane (Isaias) came through,” explains Speck, “but I got two flights in near Quebec City, and eight flights at a fly-in (in St. Cathbert), which is specifically a flying event. But there were mornings where I’d take one wing out, fly around, do a cross-country, land, then take the other one up, because the weather was still nice.”

He’s been flying with Wall since his early days in the sport, and flying to each other’s homes is a common occurrence. Today, they are joined by a relative newcomer to PPG, Evgeny Derkach.

Wall and Derkach met through their work. It was Stan’s enthusiastic descriptions of his hobby that piqued Evgeny’s curiosity enough to come out and see for himself.

Before going up, the 38-year-old Niagara Falls business owner removes his equipment from his van and takes care of some minor re-

pairs to his gas line. He is the first to head up this evening. Speck and Wall help him with his wing, and pinpoint the exact moment of take-off for Derkach, who makes it up on his second attempt.

Not yet comfortable enough to attempt the riskier maneuvers that Speck displayed, he patiently circles the surrounding area, awaiting his flying companions.

Speck takes off next, followed by the host, Wall, and his high-end PPG rig. The three of them gather together in formation and begin their trek above the vineyards between Concessions 1 and 2, toward the sunset.

“The first picture I took from up there,” enthuses Derkach, “was of the sunset. It was amazing.” Their goal tonight is to snap a photo or two for The Local.

It’s hard to imagine a more enthusiastic booster of pow-

ered paragliding than Stan Wall. He’s used to the pointing, staring and picture-taking from ground level, and he loves the attention. “It’s a show-stopper,” he says, “everybody’s got a camera out. It’s kind of cool, everybody’s looking at you, you wave and acknowledge them.”

“I’m surprised,” Wall continues. “I go up, and it just doesn’t get old. I’m getting old, but this is one of those hobbies, I can’t turn back, this is what I love. And my wife knows, if it’s a good day, and there’s no wind, I’m going up.”

On a beautiful, nearly cloudless August night like tonight, it’s easy to see why he is so enamoured of his hobby.

There are a few others in Niagara who actively participate in PPG, but Zeman estimates it’s only another handful or two. He’s been teaching since 2001, and runs his ground school in an

out-building next to his St. Catharines home.

Zeman says he instructs about 20 students a year, meaning he has probably trained close to 400 PPG enthusiasts. His students have come from across Canada and the U.S. They range in age from 14 to 73 years old, though he pinpoints the ideal age to be between 20 and 50.

“Anybody can get involved,” he says. “If you are an adventurous person, and have done sports like scuba diving, parachuting, mountain biking, you have a much better chance of succeeding and enjoying the sport. There is definitely a physical aspect to this type of flying.”

Training through Zeman costs \$4,500 and involves 35 training hours. He provides the training equipment for his students. Visit poweredparaglidingontario.com for information and training dates.



In these photos taken by Mike Balsom, Stan Wall (clockwise from left) gets set to take off; Graham Speck comes in for a landing in St. Davids; Evgeny Derkach does some repairs on his gas line connection; Speck gathers his wing following his landing, and Speck gliding just above the tree line. In the sunset photo below, Speck is flying, with Stan Wall taking the photo.

Tom Allen and Music Niagara tell the story of *The Missing Pages*

**Mike Balsom
Special to The Local**

The story of a little-known Canadian's connection to arguably the world's most well-known composer is at the centre of Music Niagara's 2020 At Home series presentation this coming Sunday.

Titled *The Missing Pages*, the show is the brainchild of CBC Radio host Tom Allen. It brings together music, song, drama, history and informed speculation in a format he has dubbed a 'chamber musical'. Originally scheduled to come to Music Niagara as a live performance, this Sunday's program was pre-recorded at a church in Toronto over three days in June, following physical distancing protocols.

As Allen explained via telephone from Ottawa, Theodore Frederic Molt, born near Stuttgart, Germany, was the son of a Lutheran organist. In 1813,

Molt had been drafted into Napoleon's army for an eight-year hitch. He survived the Battle of Waterloo only because his battalion arrived late, just in time to witness the gruesome aftermath. Upon his release from the army, Molt journeyed to Lower Canada seeking a career in music. He settled in Quebec City, where he worked for Frederick Glackmeyer, known to be the first professional musician in Canada. He married Glackmeyer's daughter, and established himself in Quebec as a piano and theory teacher.

Three years later, at the age of 30, he returned to Europe.

"He suddenly decided to sell everything, which he did," says Allen, who has researched Molt's life extensively. "You can find evidence of the advertisements he put in the local classified pages, selling off all of his musical instruments and anything of value he had. His wife and two sons moved back

with her dad, and he went back to improve his art, as he put it."

Molt eventually found his way to Vienna, and in December, 1825, he wrote to Beethoven to express his admiration. For reasons still unknown today, Beethoven wrote back, inviting the 30-year-old for a visit.

Though much of Molt's activities during his 18-month European sojourn are wrapped in speculation, there is no doubt that he met with Beethoven on Dec. 13 and 16 of that year. As Allen explains, "at the time, Beethoven was completely deaf, and the only way you could communicate with him was by a series of notebooks. You would go and write what you wanted to say in the notebook, Beethoven would read it, and he would respond verbally."

Known today as the composer's Conversation Books, almost 150 of them were preserved by Beethoven's associate and secretary, Anton Schindler,

who sold them to the Royal Berlin Library. Schindler is a controversial figure in the life of the composer, as it has been said he may have burned a number of the Conversation Books, forged some entries, and even ripped pages out of those that were donated.

And that's where the title, *The Missing Pages*, comes in. There is an entry in these books that shows Molt introducing himself to Beethoven, but the next four pages were ripped from the volume.

"This show uses what history there is and the clues that it leaves behind in an attempt to try to figure out what happened," Allen explains. "It's very much a work of historical fiction, but the historical facts are very strong. We know quite a bit about what was happening in Beethoven's life, and a certain amount about Molt as the Canadian who met Beethoven."

Allen likens the show to an old-time radio play, though he says visually it is much richer. He plays the deeply fraudu-

lent and unreliable Schindler, who narrates the play. Cabaret singer, songwriter and pianist Bryce Kulak plays Molt, while Beethoven is portrayed by Stratford and Shaw veteran actor Derek Boyes. Soprano, songwriter and actor Patricia O'Callaghan takes on the role of Susannah Sotto.

"The one thing we do know about Molt's visit," says Allen, "is that when Molt arrived at Beethoven's studio, there had been a very attractive female singer (Sotto) who had been there paying her respects to the great maestro. Beethoven was so smitten with this singer that he pressed Molt into helping him to write love poems that he thought would help win her heart. They worked very hard to come up with these poems, but according to Molt, they were pretty bad."

Of course any 'chamber musical' about Beethoven needs the maestro's music. In *The Missing Pages*, the music is played by Allen's wife, Lori Gemmell, the principal harpist with the Kitchener-Waterloo

Symphony.

Molt, by the way, returned to his work in Canada in late 1826, teaching students, publishing educational pieces, and trying to create a national culture of song and music in Lower Canada. Allen has no doubt that Molt played up his meeting with the maestro to his favour, though at the time, musicians were not able to make a great living in the country. His wife and children later perished in a theatre fire, and Molt remarried and moved to Vermont, where he passed away in 1856.

Allen promises a very interesting and entertaining program that lasts just over an hour, followed by an interactive discussion to answer questions from the online audience.

"It may not necessarily be of great importance to the overall history of our country," Allen says, "but it's a pretty significant little moment in Canadian musical history."

The Missing Pages will be available on the Music Niagara website at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23.



Moderator Tom Allen with Derek Boyes, Patricia O'Callaghan, Bryce Kulak and Lori Gemmell tell the story of *The Missing Pages*, from Beethoven's Conversation Books.

Brotherly bonding the best deep in the forest



**Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local**

In a valley behind a valley, somewhere in a wilder stretch of Niagara's woods, I sleep. I'm in a hammock strung up between two trees, and I'm not alone. My brother is with me, on his birthday, four feet off the ground and also slung between the black walnut pillars.

How did we get here? The adventure was truly about the sleepover aspect, but it was also the two hour hike heading inwards. Into Canada's richest forest ecosystem we trek, carrying heavy backpacks and thoughts alike. We were in a fantastic but curious mood, gabbing about the state of the world and the rapid changes happening in our hometown.

The sun is setting lower, and then the magic hour arrives. Providing the sun's orange beams

aren't interrupted by clouds, any stretch of the Niagara's lush forests is drop dead gorgeous in the final hour of light. As usual, the forest is already working its best wizardry, by calming the mind and unwinding our muscles properly. It just simply feels fantastic to be out there.

We look for water access, some sturdy trees, and a valley to shield sounds from the outside world. Spots like this in Niagara are hard to come by. No matter where you're setting up camp in the world, you should always aim to leave no trace. That implies that neither a deer or fellow human should be able to tell you were hanging out there. Even if the deer did notice, they shouldn't be bothered.

We used a tiny electrical lamp as our makeshift campfire. We cooked Stagg Chili beans and enjoyed a cold drink, which wasn't so cold at this point. Sitting against the base of the tree, we used our backpacks as a cushion and relaxed on the forest floor. The woods were undeniably stagnant and subtropical. These summer nights in Niaga-

ra make me feel nostalgic, even amidst the sweat and grime.

What we found peculiar is that we felt like we'd had a fire, without having a fire.

There is something primarily instinctive about people sitting around a light, an energy, and more historically, a fire for security and comfort. It's amazing how in a pinch, an electric lamp served the same purpose for our overnight trip.

As we sat and laughed our butts deeper into the ground, the sounds of insects on the night shift ramped up significantly. Katydid, crickets, and buzzing beetles created a sheet of sound that seemed to slowly descend upon our hammocks from the top of the forest. It got lower, closer, and louder. We counted two mosquito bites each before hopping into our hammocks, and listened to hundreds of thousands of other insect kin sing in the night. It was easy to declare it therapeutic.

I didn't get to sleep for the first 20 minutes, despite the healthily exhausting day. All I could do was stare up through

my bug net at the black tree silhouettes, stretching across the opaque, muggy night sky. The insect calls amalgamated into one peaceful unit of sound, which eventually carried me into one of the best sleeps I've had in weeks.

That is, until I heard something squeal out in the night. Unsure as to what exactly it was, we certainly heard a very brief scuffle up on a hill over yonder. Something had been eaten. The sound arrived as quickly as it stopped, just seconds later. And then the forest returned to its uninterrupted hums and whistles of the insect orchestra, as if nothing happened.

This moment could be startling and unsettling, as you hear the sound of an animal being eaten with haste in the night. Especially while you hang like a human pinata in the camping hammock, whose "doorway" is from the bottom. Having said that, and to decrease the drama factor, it pays to know that nothing in Niagara considers you food.

While people eat each oth-

er alive with ideologies, elections, and opinions on the outside world, from in here, things seemed pretty normal and peaceful. Nature was once again reminding us that it simply continues to churn and charm, while life unravels in our

human constructs.

We hiked back to home base in the morning, reflecting on that incredible sleep and the solid laughs that echoed through the valley. It felt incredible to do something so natural and so normal, and with my brother.



Owen Bjorgan and his brother Isaac spend a night in hammocks, talking, laughing and listening to the noises of the forest. (Owen Bjorgan)

Printing, copying business continues at home

Penny Coles
The Local

When Neeti and Vinay Mehrotra, owners of local The UPS Store, decided to close after 16 years, they had no idea what they would do next.

They never expected they'd be back in the same business, printing, copying, packaging and shipping from their home.

Neeti said they ended up with some of the smaller pieces of equipment stored in various locations

in the house, although most of the supplies had been sold to other UPS outlets.

They'd closed about three months into the pandemic, which had created a downturn for the Mehrotras, but it was a significant increase in their rents and common area charges, as well as the need to replace an expensive commercial air conditioner, that sealed their fate.

"This is the kind of business that relies on many small things that add up,"

said Neeti. "There was definitely a drop because of COVID, but at least we were open." However, a good part of the UPS income was from other local businesses, she said, including menu-printing for restaurants, which had closed.

"And then everything was gone all at once, and we just couldn't keep going," she said.

But the Mehrotras were well-liked in town, and their business of copying,



Continued on page 13 Neeti Mehrotra is working from her home. (Photo supplied)

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NOTL and Mehrotra missed each other

Continued from page 12

printing and shipping was well-used. When it closed, Neeti said she missed her regular customers, and they told her they missed her, and the services they provided, for which they were having to travel to Niagara Falls or St. Catharines.

She would receive calls from people she knew from the store, customers who had become friends, who would explain what they needed and ask for advice about where to

go to get the work done. "I realized I could help them. They don't have to go anywhere else. A lot of our customers had depended on us for so long," she says. "They'd say, 'you know what we want, you know how to take care of us.' They don't want to start all over again."

Using her garage, basement and an office in the house, she can do copying and printing, and packaging as well, as long as the product isn't too large.

She can also still ship through UPS, she says.

"We're not crazy busy, but we have enough work to keep us going. It's good enough for now."

The customers who are reaching out to her "are ones who we have had a closer relationship with. They email us — they don't have to come to the door. It's not like a retail location where people are always dropping in."

Neeti says she hasn't missed the store but she has missed contact with people. "People would come to talk more than to do business," she says.

"I've missed that, missed seeing people all the time. When I go out, people keep telling me

they miss me. I tell them I can still help them, and they're so grateful. That's what's best about a small

town, everyone helping each other."

Neeti can be reached at neetinotl@gmail.com.



Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

Again, a teaser for this week, with the full version on Facebook at The NOTL Local and at notllocal.com.

Friday, Aug 21: The

Moon moves from discriminating Virgo into well-balanced Libra early this morning, and sets up a challenging day where if we are able to be open to change, things we have long dreamed about will move several steps closer. While

she is best known for her role as Samantha Jones on the smash TV series, *Sex and the City*, one of her earlier successes was *Crossbar*, with Brent Carver and Peter Krantz, a made-for-TV film that still stands up. Kim Cattrall turns 64 today.



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August 23 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

We will miss seeing you all in person this year, but hope you will join us for a spot of tea, some treats and some Jane Austen-themed trivia on Zoom! We are putting together Regency tea packages that will include tea for two, with tea, scones, Regency-inspired cookies, Jane Austen-inspired items, craft ideas, and more! The cost is \$25 per package. Add on a special teacup and saucer to your package for \$40 per package. Limited quantities are available. Order your package today through our Online Gift Shop. We are offering free delivery within Niagara-on-the-Lake, or pickup from our Gift Shop. For more information, call the Gift Shop at 905-468-6621 or email admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca. Visit www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca.

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August 26 @ 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us for virtual Story Time with a Twist! Kasia will be live-streaming S.T.E.A.M. Storytime – a weekly NOTL Public library favourite from our Facebook page. Can't make it? No problem! We will be uploading the video to our YouTube channel so you can watch at your leisure. Join Kasia each week for a S.T.E.A.M. based storytime. All Are Welcome! Hosted by Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library <https://notlpubliclibrary.org>.

NOTL HISTORICAL MUSEUM ONLINE LECTURE

August 27 @ 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum online lecture with Scott Finlay – Ten Things That Will Save Your Life in the Trenches. All presentations start at 4 p.m. and require registration through Zoom. Email: aklassen@nhsm.ca for the registration link.

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St. Davids football player still aiming for CFL

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

After losing 29-13 to the McMaster University Marauders in the 2019 Yates Cup (Ontario university football championship), Niagara-on-the-Lake's Jake Andrews and his Western University Mustangs teammates were looking forward to a big comeback season for 2020.

On June 8, Andrews' dreams of success this year came crashing down. That day, U Sports, the governing body of Canadian University athletics, cancelled the 2020 national championship, the Vanier Cup, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Ontario University Athletics Conference (OUA) soon followed suit by shutting down the entire football season.

Heading into his fourth year at Western University, Andrews can barely remember the last time he faced a summer or fall without football on the horizon. He took up the sport as a 10-year-old when his parents, Rob and Maura, signed him up for the Niagara Regional Minor Football League program. He moved on to play for the Niagara Generals of the Ontario Minor Football League, and then to the Niagara Spears of the Ontario Varsity Football League (OVFL). He put in time as a defensive back, running back, wide receiver and kick returner, and was named an OVFL All-Star in 2013 and 2015. As well, he holds a number of records in that league's bantam and junior divisions.

The St. Davids Public School graduate enrolled at A.N. Myer

Secondary School, where he also became an integral member of a growing and successful football program. The Myer Marauders marched to a Junior Metro Bowl championship in his first year, and Andrews was named the team's defensive MVP the following season. In his two years playing on the senior team, the Marauders took the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations football championship, and were considered amongst the best high school teams in Canada. Andrews was Myer's male athlete of the year twice, and also played basketball and competed at track and field.

Andrews signed to play defensive back for Western during his senior year at Myer. He was one of the first two players of the 2017 recruiting class announced by head coach Greg Marshall, who was certain that Andrews would compete for a starting role from the outset.

When he arrived for training camp at Western in 2017, however, Andrews had been nursing a high ankle sprain he thought had healed. After two weeks on the field it was clear the injury had begun to hold him back. He missed the first month of the season, and when he was healthy enough to return he was red-shirted, so that it wasn't considered one of his five years of eligibility. He was able to practise with the team, but remained ineligible to play in any games. The Mustangs ended up winning the Vanier Cup that season.

With Andrews in the defensive backfield, the Mustangs lost the 2018 Vanier Cup game



Jake Andrews is pictured with the Yates Cup, which Western University won in 2018, beating Guelph on the way to the Vanier Cup game. With him is his late grandfather, Glenn Timlock, who played for the Hamilton Tiger Cats for three seasons and a Grey Cup championship game. (Photo supplied)

34-20 to Laval. He followed that up with a strong season last year, as Western took an undefeated record into that ill-fated Yates Cup contest against McMaster. His stats over two seasons — 91 tackles, two interceptions, two forced fumbles, 10 deflections, and one blocked punt — are quite impressive.

Today, facing a fall without football, that red-shirt year may actually be working to his advantage. The psychology major (with a minor in business management) has two more years left in his undergraduate studies, and currently sits with three more years of football eligibility. That means when football returns in September, 2021, he will indeed be eligible to play. And he is hoping to return to Western for another year after that to work on a Master's degree.

In a telephone conversation from the house he shares with three other football players in London, Andrews is taking it all in stride.

"I was disappointed," he admits, "but then I started to look at this as a chance to just catch up on school and to get ahead. It's going to be weird, but I have to look at the positives."

He and his teammates have been getting together for some informal runs, and along with his roommates, they have built a fairly well-equipped gym in their garage. Soon they will be able to hit the gym on campus, but at six-feet tall and 185 pounds, he feels he is already in playing shape. He's hoping the team will soon get clearance to hold organized workouts together in the next few weeks.

While he plans to focus on

his school work this year, Andrews keeps his ultimate goal of a spot on a Canadian Football League (CFL) team in sight. He doesn't feel this year off will hurt in that respect. As well, just before this story went to press, the CFL announced the cancellation of its upcoming season.

"Right now there's not going to be a combine or anything, and next year would be my East-West game anyway," he explains, the all-star bowl for Canadian university teams. Andrews hopes he will be invited to that game to showcase his skills next year.

Football runs in Andrews' blood. His maternal grandfather, Glenn Timlock, played for the Hamilton Tiger Cats for three seasons. He was a member of that team's 1957 Grey Cup championship team and a longtime member of their alumni association.

"He played fullback and safety," says Andrews, "pretty much the same as me. We had season tickets to the Ti-Cats as I was growing up."

Andrews had the unique experience of being coached by Timlock during his time with the Spears and A.N. Myer. Timlock lost his battle with bladder and bone cancer this past March.

The 21-year-old cites his grandfather as one of the most influential people in his life. Because of that, he hopes to honour Timlock by being drafted by the Hamilton Ti-Cats when his university playing days come to an end.

"I want to focus on being the best I can be," says Andrews. "It's just what you kind of aim for, to get drafted and go play in the CFL, you know?"



Jake Andrews' 2020 football at Western University has been cancelled, but he is still hoping to play football in 2021 and attract the attention of the CFL. (Photo supplied)

LOCAL WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, August 23rd

Speaker:
Kevin Bayne
 Message:
Psalm 128: Enjoy The Blessing

Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. There will be no in-person church service.

www.ccchurch.ca

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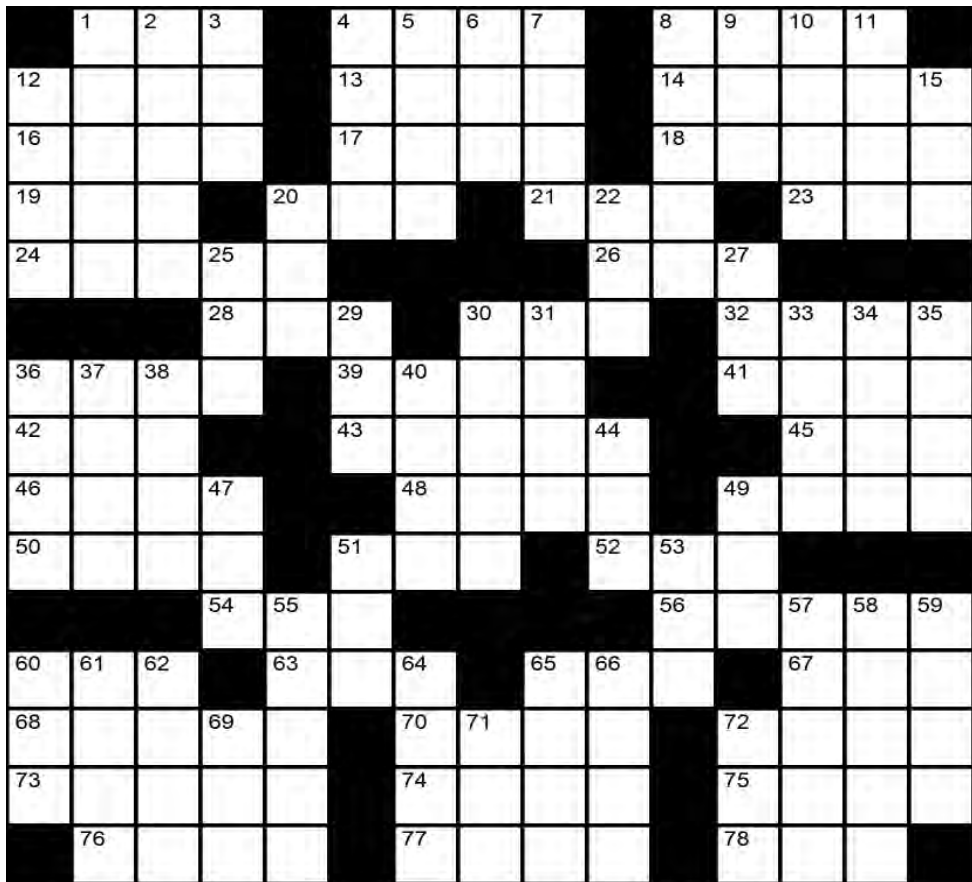
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Across:

- 1 Spanish hero El ---
4 Deep cut
8 Big cheeses
12 Flower jar
13 --- Falco, Nurse Jackie
14 Paragon
16 Formerly Persia
17 Rich, in Spain
18 Soothing ointment
19 Small cell
20 Author
21 Oregon summer clock setting
23 Lone Star State (Abbr.)
24 One over a major
26 Small amount
28 Neighbor of Neb.
30 Noncom
32 Irritate
36 Open pastry dessert
39 Carnival
41 Nothing
42 Lubricate
43 Untamed
45 Chafe
46 Speck
48 Enticement
49 Software menu option
50 Crystal ---
51 Tucson time
52 West Atlantic international grp.
54 Menagerie
56 "A Doll's House" dramatist
60 Atlanta-based health grp.
63 Lettuce variety
65 Building extension at a right angle

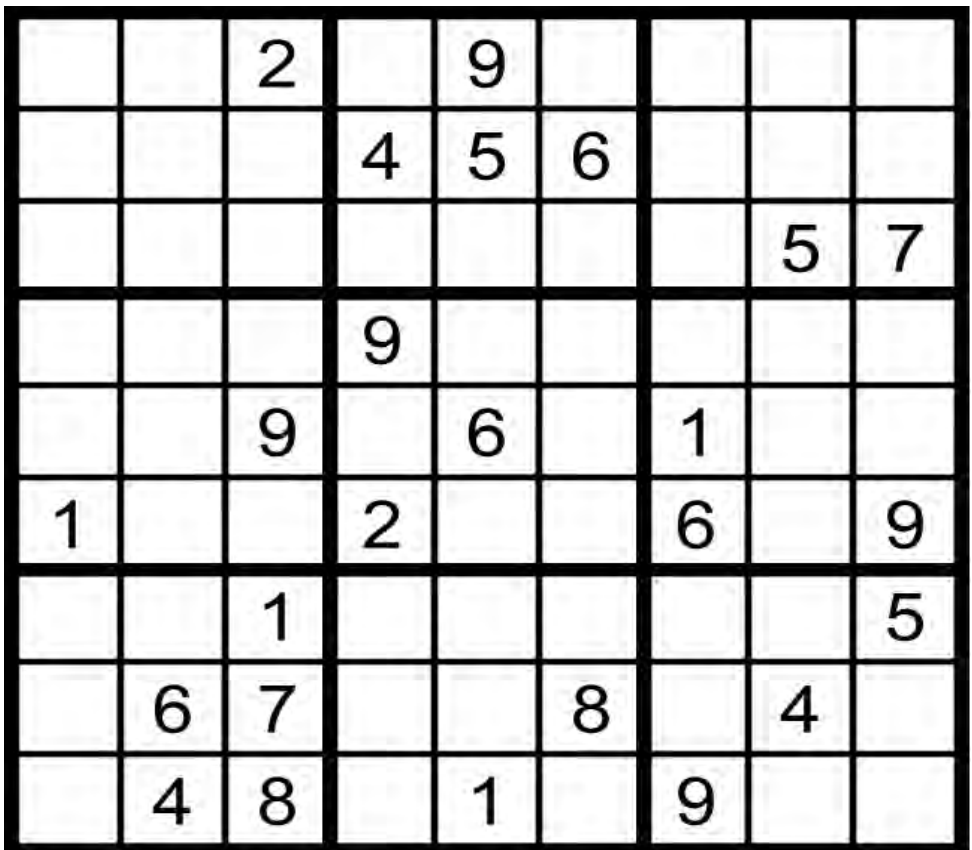
Down:

- 67 Gaza Strip grp.
68 Pray in Latin
70 Minnelli with a zee
72 Weeder's tools
73 Country music's --- Tucker
74 "--- in the Dark" (Streep movie)
75 Appetite
76 "--- there, done that"
77 Podded vegetables
78 "--- Porter" (Johnny Cash song)
- 1 Diamond weight unit
2 Writer --- Asimov
3 Room for relaxing
4 Buddhist actor Richard ---
5 Tennis server's edge
6 Attack command
7 Abundance
8 Grand view
9 Actress/director/producer ---
10 Bombard
11 Preserve
12 Pharmacist's container
15 Latin law
20 Provide
22 Banned insecticide
25 Possess
27 Show --- (entertainment industry)
29 Rancid
30 Support column
31 Apparatus
33 Slender fork-tailed gull
34 Gunk
35 Drifter

- 36 Floating bubbles
37 Low calorie variety
38 Loads
40 Long slippery fish
44 Fifth sign of the zodiac
47 Freq. unit
49 Type of computer connection
51 Low
53 Suffer
55 Huge amount
57 Pollen grain
58 Lament
59 Small winning margin
60 Military bed
61 Dingy
62 Malacca
64 Strike with an open hand
65 Writer --- Pound
66 Sung poems
69 Whiskey variety
71 Diamonds
72 Bewildered response

Sudoku solution from
August 13, 2020

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



OBITUARY



IVAN EATON — Oct 9, 1925 - August 12, 2020

Ivan, a NOTL resident for 22 years, passed peacefully with Evelyn by his side, freed from the bonds of his terrible illness.

He led a rich and satisfying life for 94 years, travelling extensively, playing golf, squash, lawn bowling, bridge and tending to his beloved garden. He raised five children: Ellen, Rand (Kim), Brian (Vivian), Cindy (Malcolm) and Vernon, who then blessed him with nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He will be missed also by his sister-in-law Lauren McIntosh (Gord Bedford).

If riches are counted in friends and family, Ivan was, indeed, a rich man. Evelyn is so appreciative of the many friends from NOTL who have sent their condolences. Ivan was so fortunate to labour at work that he genuinely loved. For 20 years, he worked at the YMCA, finishing at the National Council, and then spent 21 years as Executive Director of the Bank of Montreal's community outreach program, EPOC, where he helped guide young adults to promising futures.

Even in retirement, Ivan continued at the same pace, managing "Deaf Futures" for BMO, serving on the Board for the YMCA Retirees and was the President of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Bowling Club, a position and game that he dearly loved.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, September 25 for immediate family. Those interested in attending the celebration via Zoom at 1:30 EDT should email Ivanscelebration@gmail.com for details. In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome at YMCA Canada, c/o Don Noble, 5273 Driscoll Dr., Manotick, ON. K4M 1E9.

IN MEMORIAM

Gordon 'Gord' Tait

On August 21st it will
be one year since you
had to leave us.

Your gentle smile, your
laugh, your hugs and the
thoughtful little things
you always did are
missed so much.

Forever loved,
forever in our hearts.



WANTED TO RENT

WANTED SHORT TERM FURNISHED

SENIOR COUPLE, QUIET, NS, NO PETS,
SEEKS 2 BED COTTAGE, SUITE, CONDO,
OR HOUSE. COMMENCE DATE SEPT 15
DURATION: 4-6+ MONTHS FLEXIBLE.
CONTACT: EMAIL wattj928@gmail.com
PH 604 379 1004 BC PST

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1 Cold, 4 Gash, 8 V.I.P.s, 12 Vase, 13 Edie, 14 Ideal, 16 Iran, 17 Rice, 18
Salve, 19 AAA, 20 Pen, 21 P.D.T., 23 Tex, 24 Lt Col, 26 Dab, 28 Wyo, 30 Sgt, 32
itch, 36 Iran, 39 Fete, 41 Zero, 42 Oil, 43 Feral, 45 Rub, 46 Atom, 48 Lure, 49
Undo, 50 Meth, 51 M.S.T., 52 O.A.S., 54 Zoo, 56 Ibsen, 60 C.D.C., 63 Cos, 65 Eli,
67 P.L.O., 68 Orare, 70 Liza, 72 Hoos, 73 Tanya, 74 A cry, 75 Urge, 76 Been, 77
Peas, 78 Hey.

Down: 1 Carat, 2 Isaac, 3 Den, 4 Gore, 5 Ad in, 6 Sic, 7 Heap, 8 Vista, 9 Idea, 10
Felt, 11 Save, 12 Vial, 15 Lex, 20 Fly, 22 DDT, 25 Own, 27 Biz, 29 Off, 30 Strut,
31 Car, 32 Term, 34 Crud, 35 Hobo, 36 Foam, 37 Lite, 38 A lot, 40 Eels, 44 Leo,
47 MHz, 49 U.S.B., 51 Moo, 53 All, 55 Ocean, 57 Spore, 58 Elegg, 59 Nose, 60
Cot, 61 Drab, 62 Cane, 64 Slap, 65 Ezra, 66 Lays, 69 Rye, 71 Ice, 72 Huh.

GARAGE/MOVING SALES

FAMILY GARAGE SALE

Bargains on
furnishings, vintage
dishes, clothing, art,
books, accessories.

115 Johnson St., NOTL
Saturday, August 22nd
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Masks required.

MOVING SALE

Friday, August 21
4 p.m. – 8 p.m. &
Saturday, August 22
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

5 LOYALIST COURT
Household items, tools,
books, small garden
shed, furniture, etc.

Please use distancing
as mandated.

Stand-up paddle instructor wins prestigious international award

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

A popular Paddle Niagara kids' instructor has been recognized by one of the leading media bodies in Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP).

Last Thursday, SUPConnect named Welland native Maddi Leblanc their 2020 Woman of the Year. Leblanc edged out women of all ages from around the world to earn the prestigious honour. Just days after finding out, she is still getting used to the accolade.

"I feel like the reality of it hasn't really set in yet," says Leblanc. "The amount of messages and support I'm getting from this is truly incredible. When I first found out Thursday, I was kind of in shock. It wasn't really until I drove home (from NOTL) after work, that's when it hit me, and I had tears in my eyes."

In her profile on the SUPConnect website's awards page, she is described as inspirational, dedicated, selfless, strong and passionate. Their editors say that she embodies all that they look for in a woman of the year.

To have a conversation with Leblanc is to bask in positivity. Her words are regularly punctuated with genuine laughter, and she speaks with an energy and enthusiasm that is infectious. She brings that energy and enthusiasm to her sport, to her teaching of the kids with whom she works, and to her efforts to improve her community.

Leblanc became fascinated with stand-up paddleboarding on a family vacation at the age of 10. She spotted two men gliding on top of the water on Lake Huron. When they came to shore, she inquired about their boards. They offered to let her try one out, and she immediately fell in love with the sport.

She begged her parents for her own equipment, and finally, about a year and a half later, there was a shiny new board under the Christmas tree. When the following spring came around, she could be found on the Welland River honing her skills.

A year later, Leblanc turned her new passion into a tool to improve her community.

"It was an idea that very naturally came to me one of the first times I had taken my board out," says the 23-year-old. "I thought, hey, what if I make a stand-up paddleboard fundraiser, and my parents totally helped me implement my idea, and On Board was born in 2014."

The annual SUP event

was conceived to honour two friends who lost their battle with cancer in 2011. Lynn Lambert, Leblanc's neighbour and a popular DSBN French teacher, passed away in March of that year after fighting skin cancer. Then in December, a classmate of Leblanc's, Julia Turner, succumbed to a brain tumour seven months after diagnosis. Leblanc felt she had to do something to honour their memories.

In July, 2014, Leblanc paddled 10 kilometres down the Welland Canal, from the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC) heading north to the Welland Community Boathouse, then turned around to paddle back to the WIFC. More than 100 participants came out to watch her journey and to donate to her cause, raising just over \$4,000.

Since then, the annual event has raised more than \$40,000 toward brain cancer research in honour of Lynn and Julia, as well as two other young people, McKenna Modler and Dalton Jacques. Maddi no longer paddles alone for the fundraiser — each year she is joined by a growing number of paddlers who give their time and donations to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Paddle Niagara owner Tim Bala took part in On Board for the first time in 2017. He told her he was starting a SUPKids program the next summer and she was stoked about the news. Leblanc came by for a one-day paddle, and the next year she became an instructor in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Her presence working with the kids for three summers has been instrumental in growing the sport in Niagara. "She just has this way of connecting with them," says Bala. "I really admire it. I think it has to do with her passive, carefree, positive attitude. She doesn't really let anything faze her. It's nice to have someone who is able to relate to the kids like Maddi. Kids see her and they just sort of light up."

Like many who participate in board sports, Leblanc has a keen interest in ecological issues. Last year she completed an undergraduate degree in Environmental Resources and Sustainability at the Brock University. Through the co-op program, she worked for the City of Welland's water and wastewater department and at the Woodend Outdoor Centre. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Brock's Faculty of Applied Health

Sciences. Her thesis topic is right up her alley — it's a study of stand-up paddleboarding and children.

On the water, she's been bitten by the competitive SUP bug. Maddi started racing in 2016, and claimed the Ontario SUP Series overall open female category the following year. At the end of that season she signed on as a team rider with Starboard, one of the world's leading SUP companies. In 2018, she won the overall elite female category at the Ontario SUP Series, and also captured the overall title and the yellow jersey at the 2018 and 2019 Mammoth Race in Toronto. All of this got her an invitation to represent Canada at the 2018 International Surf Association (ISA) World Championship in China.

Now that the ISA has finally claimed the right to govern SUP internationally, there is a good chance that SUP may eventually find its way to the Olympics, a prospect that excites both Leblanc and Bala.

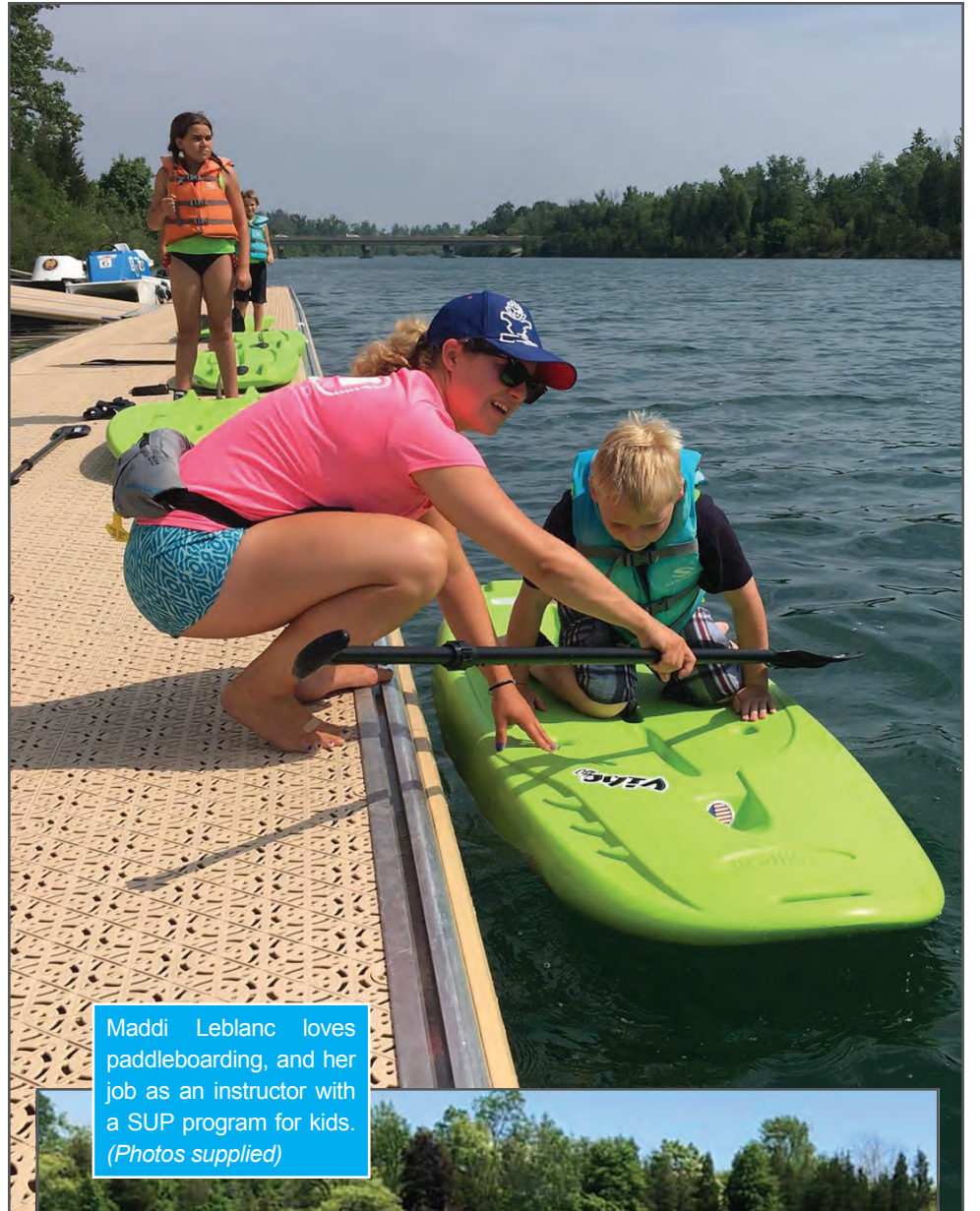
"I would love to see Maddi train and paddle in the Olympics for Canada," says Bala. "She has the technique, the drive, the skill to clearly go far as long as she's given the opportunity. She paddles every day and that's the only way to get better."

"Oh gosh, it's a huge dream," says Leblanc about the potential to compete in the Olympics. "I think I can be happy with the fact that at least once in my lifetime I was able to represent Team Canada on an international stage. But I feel like I'm not done, and if it were to be an Olympic sport, that would just fire me up so much. We'll obviously have to see in terms of life circumstances when that happens, but as of right now, absolutely."

These days the Leblanc family needs space for at least five boards in their garage, one for each of the three kids and her parents, Dan and Jacki. Of course, Maddi's board spends the least amount of time in that garage.

And she may be taking it with her to new waters in the near future. She is in early talks with a major SUP company for a job in their eco-project department. The company's headquarters are in Thailand.

The recognition by the top SUP media organization is still sinking in, yet Leblanc remains as down to earth as ever. At such a young age, she has reached the pinnacle of her favourite activity, but it's clear that she has so much more room to grow as both a paddler and a person.



Maddi Leblanc loves paddleboarding, and her job as an instructor with a SUP program for kids. (Photos supplied)



Tim Bala and Maddi Leblanc teach local kids the safety portion of the SUP program.