# The Niagara-on-the-Lake



Trudeau visits NOTL for funding announcement

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**AUGUST 22, 2019** Volume 1 · Issue 32 notllocal.com



# Local boys wash cars for **Terry Fox** Run

Johnny Pillitteri, Vinny Pillitteri-Smith, James Martinelli, Landon Dyck, Joseph Martinelli and Billy Pillitteri-Smith get a workout at a car wash on Niagara Stone Road Sunday, organized by Joe Pillitteri to raise money for Team Pillsy's donation to the Terry Fox Run. (Fred Mercnik)

## Tragic end: victim of hit-and-run succumbs to injuries

**Penny Coles** The Local

A woman critically injured after being hit by a truck in Niagaraon-the-Lake Saturday has died.

mother of two daughters, aged 7 and 11. She succumbed to her critical injuries Monday at the Hamilton General Hospital.

the Niagara River Parkway, said Phil Tregunno. She the farm, packing peaches. The 33-year-old victim is finished, or transferring of a hit-and-run at the cor- to another farm. "This is sion worker from a Jordan ner of Concession 7 and terrible," he said, "so tragic." church which holds regular gofundme.com/f/niagara- Church, Immanuel United have damage to its front end Line 6 was a farm worker The narrow rural roads and services for the farmwork- onthelake-migrant-work- Reformed Church of Jor- and could be missing a side from Mexico, and a single concessions present a dan- ers, visited the women at the er/. ger, especially in the dark, farm Monday evening. he added.

She had been on her way spend time together in hit, will not be published. turning her home to Mex- fore 11 p.m. Saturday. The back to Tregunno Farms on the packing barn become Her girls will be raised by ico. close through their work. "They're a very good group, was in her second year at and a religious group. They go to church services Sun-He wasn't sure whether she day night. They will have the would have been returning comfort of their strong beto Mexico when the packing liefs — that will be helpful."

Wilfred Bout, a local mis-

"It all happened so fast. name of the victim, who funds to help the family in Police said they were called Niagara Regional Police We're still trying to process it." was walking home from a Mexico," he said, adding to the intersection of Con-He said the women who church picnic when she was there is also the cost of recession 7 and Line 6 just be-

their grandmother, he said.

there will be a desire to help her family, and he would like to collect donations for the girls' upbringing and donations at https://www. dan Heritage Reformed

"As you can imagine, formed Church. He asked that the there is a great need for

There will also be ongo-Bout said he knows ing costs for the grandparents who are now raising the two young daughters, and long-term education costs, said Bout, who helps GoFundMe page to collect under the oversight of Jordan, and Vineland Free Re- mirror.

victim was on foot at the side of the southbound lane of Concession 7 when she was hit. She was taken by paramedics to the Greater Niagara General Hospital, and transferred to the outeducation. He has set up a farm workers in Niagara of-region trauma centre, where she died.

The truck is believed to

Anyone with informa-The Niagara Regional tion is asked to contact the traffic reconstruction unit at 905-688-4111, ext. 5600.



OUR BRAND NEW PATIO IS NOW OPEN THURSDAY - SUNDAY FROM NOON TO 5:00PM

> konzelmann estate winery



# Revised Official Plan approved by council

**Penny Coles The Local** 

After more than 15 years of attempts to revise the Town's out-of-date Official Plan, and another five-anda-half hours of discussion last Thursday, Lord Mayor Betty Disero's determination to approve a new plan was successful, with only one dissenting vote.

"I'm so proud this council got it done," said Disero before beginning her second day at an Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference Tues-

"There comes a point when you have to make a decision. You can't keep editing and editing, you have to say 'this is it.' And I'm glad we made that decision."

After questions early in the special council meeting last Thursday about how any suggested changes might be made and presented to councillors before the OP goes to the Region for approval, Disero made it clear by the time the meeting was finished, there would be no more opportunities for change.

A warning of the vote outcome came when Coun. Stuart McCormack indicated he wanted to see any

lowing the meeting.

up another special council meeting to deal with yet another draft."

As the marathon meeting wrapped up with a vote, McCormack was the only councillor who opposed approving the draft, saying he felt it was too rushed.

Councillors had only 24 hours to see the final draft before the meeting, but any recent changes were redlined so they could easily see the differences following the presentation to council Aug. 1 by consultants Rick Hunter and Margaret Walton of it completes some anticipat-Planscape. They were at the ed policy changes. community centre Thursday to again point out and explain Plan addresses such issues the changes, and answer any as agriculture, housing, the questions of council.

on a review since 2002, with and transportation. Planscape since 2015, and stressed the need for the Province.

required by the Province ince. "We are going to be that implements the comadopting this today," Disero munity's vision for growth and development, but must "We're not going to set agree with provincial policies. The Province has recently asked municipalities' deliberations on planning

Councillors warned by the consultants say we have to follow the several times there might be problems finalizing the plan, with ongoing changes at both the Provincial and Regional levels of planning

We had to finalize something, and I believe this is a document that was ready for approval.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

documents such as official plans, be put on hold, until

natural environment, heri-The last Official Plan tage preservation, employwas approved in 1994, with ment needs, commercial 78 amendments since then. services, tourism, parkland The Town has been working and recreation, servicing

At Thursday's meeting, Disero has several times several of those issues were part of the discussion, with updated guide to local town the most time spent on agplanning to be approved, riculture, specifically, drainespecially with the threat age, swales, ditches and of amalgamation from the irrigation ponds, which in some cases are considered The Official Plan is a natural heritage features

policies that conflict, especially on the issue of natural heritage features.

A municipal Official councillors pointed out the access funding for needed importance of protecting those features which were man-made for irrigation purposes decades ago, and are so vital to farmers.

Coun. Erwin Wiens, himself a grape-grower, said in this instance, "the Province got it wrong."

He spoke of the importance of correcting the information, and if nothing else, beginning a discussion with the Province that could lead to it changing its mapping of natural heritage features.

"We're obligated to fol-

VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU

NIAGARA - ON - THE - LAKE

ince," Disero told The Local. "They may turn around and provincial mapping. But if they do, it will give us an opportunity to get some changes to their mapping. We put forward what we see is important for our town."

At Monday's AMO meeting, Disero and the NOTL delegation, including Sheldon Randall, Brett Ruk, Craig Larmour and Coun. Erwin Wiens, had an opportunity to talk to Laurie Scott, the provincial Minister of Infrastructure. Disero said they talked about ditches and drains as an essential part of infrastructure for NOTL, and should be considered as such by the But Disero and several Province, allowing NOTL to improvements to the aging irrigation system.

'It's an important asset that will remain in our town" for the use of farmers, they explained to Scott, who seemed receptive to the idea, said Disero. That discussion may be the beginning of the Province understanding the important distinction between an irrigation system and natural heritage features, she said.

Also as a result of the OP approval, said Disero, which included heritage and char-

changes that were made fol- land use policy document and protected by the Prov- low the lead of the Prov- acter areas, the Town can begin to look at further designations for areas and buildings of heritage significance, to protect them.

Until the revised OP is also approved by the Region and the Province, the 1994 plan and its amendments are still the Town's official legal planning documents, said Disero, but the new OP can be referenced when talking to developers, as guidelines for the future.

"The town staff can say "this is what we'd like you to do," referring to the revised OP, including the adopted community planning process, which also sets out the types of housing for future development.

Disero said on behalf of council, she wanted to thank town staff and the consultants from Planscape for working so hard to complete the document, and the public for "consistently being engaged in this process and providing your valuable feedback."

She accepts there may be more revisions coming, "but that's what OP amendments are all about," she said.

"We had to finalize something, and I believe this is a document that was ready for approval. Everybody's concerns have been addressed. The time is right — right now."

NIAGARA ON THE LAKE





# Trudeau announces gas tax funding during visit

Mike Balsom The Local

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spent last Wednesday in Niagara-on-the-Lake, capping off his day with the announcement of an additional \$819 million of gas tax funds to support municipal infrastructure projects.

His day began with breakfast at Silks Country Kitchen in Virgil, where Trudeau circulated from table to table with the Liberal candidate for the Niagara Falls riding, Andrea Kaiser. Kaiser, of NOTL, had just defeated former Niagara Falls city councillor Joyce Morocco for the nomination two days prior.

Later that afternoon, Trudeau walked up to a podium set up in the Community Garden behind the NOTL Public Library, after a short introduction from Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

Taking an only-slightly-veiled stab at Doug Ford's provincial government, Trudeau began his speech talking about how cuts to services hurt families, students and seniors, and pointed to what he called

the withholding of funds stantial. from the provincial govregion's Canada 2021 Sum- Federation of Canadian (Lisa MacLeod, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, announced \$29 Million for the games two days Rowing Club.)

In contrast, Trudeau, investing in Canadians and their future is the ished speaking, the floor best way to make life better for the middle class.

To that end, he announced that Niagara's back seat to Trudeau's hanshare of the "municipal topup," as he called it, would affair. amount to close to \$14 million, pointing to transit as one of the examples of where that money may be nounced that the prime

Also taking to the podium was Jamie McGarvey, Mayor of Parry Sound and of Municipalities of Ontarthat the money announced the \$800 million that was neering firm. already in the federal govhe called the \$1.6 billion the ethics report. Trudeau

Last to speak was Bill ernment that has put the Karsten, president of the mer Games in jeopardy. Municipalities, who praised the gas tax funding for transforming communities, and claimed that local governments do the best later at the St. Catharines job of finding local needs and building solutions that

> When Karsten was finwas opened to questions, and the funding announcement immediately took a

Earlier that morning, Canada's Ethics Commissioner, Mario Dion, anminister had contravened section 9 of Canada's Conflict of Interest Act by trying to influence then-justice president of the Association minister, Jody Wilson-Raybould, to overrule a deciio. McGarvey pointed out sion to not grant a deferred prosecution agreement to this week is in addition to the Quebec-based engi-

Questions from the meernment's 2019 budget, and dia focused almost solely on going to municipalities sub- said he accepted respon-

sibility for everything that prime minister. happened. He did, however, clusions.

Specifically, Trudeau took issue with Dion's rul- Trudeau if he could say a ing that the prime minister few words about Pakistan should not have had any Independence Day, which contact with the attorney happened to be that same ing possible deportation general over the SNC-La- day. valin issue.

ister is to stand up for Ca- Trudeau happily obliged. nadians and defends their interests," he said.

dling of the SNC-Lavalin defends our institutions, and upholds prosecutorial independence, but we need across the country, of decisions being made."

> Following the invite-only 30-minute announce- the sitting MP for Papineau ment session, Trudeau in Quebec, and Liberal Parshook hands and posed for photographs with local mayors, politicians and other invited guests.

motorcade, Trudeau and Nigerian refugees with her the same vehicle together." his entourage were greeted by a crowd of about 120 120 people waiting to get their Ogunkova are in Cana-

Many were there just fear for their safety. disagree with the commis- hoping to snap a selfie with sioner on some of his con- the PM. Some were there their father has threatened for other purposes.

One gentleman asked

"My job as a prime min-camera recording video,

Tess and Lucas Roberts Ramos just wanted a 'Yes, it is essential that photo with the Trudeau. we do that in a way that Five years ago, their older brother Max, who works at the library, had a chance to pose with Trudeau at Parto be able to talk about the liament Hill. He was there from his meeting to head impacts on Canadians right on a St. Michael Catholic School trip to Ottawa, and Trudeau, of course, was not yet prime minister, but was ty leader at the time.

Three others had a more pointed reason for being there. Sonya Wierenga of On his way back to his Welland brought two young to the Community Centre.

brother, after having fled in

According to Wierenga, violence toward the girls as part of his commitment to a religious group to which he belongs.

With the girls facback to Nigeria, Wierenga With his cellphone brought them to see the prime minister to pass him a letter begging for his intervention.

> Wierenga said that she took along a package of information about the family's case, just in case she was able to meet Trudeau.

> "Just before he came to his car, I started writing a plea letter to go with package," said Wierenga.

> After having their photo taken with the Prime Minister, Wierenga asked him whether he would take the information and read it.

> "He said he would. He handed to his right-hand man and they hopped into

Wierenga said Hephzibah and Rejoice felt "pretty assured" that Trudeau would take the chance to interact with the da with their mother and time to read her request.







MPs Vance Badawey (left) and Clark Bittle flank Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as he announces gas tax funding. (Mike Balsom)

Lucas and Tess Roberts Ramos (above) went to the community centre hoping for a photo with Justin Trudeau, to match the one their older brother got with him in Ottawa five years

Jolanta Janny Kudlats (left), former Liberal MP Gary Pillitteri and his daughter Connie Slingerland chat with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the community centre. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



### Public input to help flow irrigation system strategy plan

#### **Jennifer Chornley Special to The Local**

an opportunity last week to talk about the 25-year system they depend on for irrigation.

A company has been retained holders as possible complete to compile the information and report to the town.

The purpose of the Irrigation Systems Strategy to be developed, with help from Associated Engineering, is to improve customer service, support long-term pays for." growth and sustainability of the system, maintain the rigation system has been at survey. aging system and ensure it remains sustainable through times of drought.

Brett Ruck, the Town's irrigation and drainage superintendent, says there are 126 permit holders drawing water, with 7,000 acres of land that can use the irrigation system at once.

There are five intakes foresee. supplying water to the irrigation system with the three water bodies, the Welland Canal, the Niagara River and the Ontario Power Generation Canal and Reservoir.

The three primary delivery areas amount to 8,300 acres and are delineated by the town from east to west, come up with a capital plan, to under-report water usage.

Four Mile Creek and Air- ect-based plan to improve port-Bright Lavigne.

Of the permit holders, so the stakeholder consultation survey implemented by Associated Engineering.

Ruck says it's importthe survey and provide feedback to help him get funding from the Province.

He added this could help offset costs that are absorbed by those who use the system. to attend meetings due to "It is not a service the Town conflicting schedules, how-

the whim of maintenance, says Ruck, and the superintendent at the time overseeing the system.

their system, but also what areas in the future that may need the service or what potential problems they may he said.

Stan Matthews, an engineer with Associated Engineering, said the input will give them the opportunity to understand the needs and establish a defendable document that can be used for ple, colour-coded system. future funding.

including Harrison/Routh, a good year-by-year proj- Ruck said even though there

the system," said Matthews.

Ruck also informed par-Area farmers were given far, about 21 participated in ticipants that this strategic plan was suggested by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and that it was made clear the irrigation system local engineering ant to have as many permit doesn't fall under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Drainage Act, which deals with storm water management.

> Ruck recognized that not all permit holders are able ever he advised attendees to The direction of the ir- encourage others to take the

"I need as much input as possible, because nothing will be worse than getting an irrigation master plan, Ruck encourages input spending all the money that from users not only about we are on this, and say in the report, we had only 22 people comment. It's your system and it is to your benefit,"

> In addition, meeting participants were shown how to use the town's new irrigation mobile app. Ruck said this app will be further developed to include water quality notifications using a sim-

Also, it was mentioned "Part of our work is to that it's not to a user's benefit



Grapegrowers Gary Wiens and Stan Lament, fruit farmer Bill Falk, and Michael Cairns, civil designer with Associated Engineering, look over the drainage map. (Jennifer Chornley)

are bylaws on how much projects. water can be used, the Town needs to accurately map how much water is needed in the system, especially during times of drought.

currently in the process of systems. being updated, and could also be changed to reflect policy makers and those rewhat users need, not what viewing grants need to realthe average use.

instead of the entire town. said. With what he calls "oneoffs," it makes it more diffi- of the NOTL Irrigation cult to get money because he Committee, said it's importis competing against larger ant for the farmers to fill out

Ruck said that the provincial ministries such as agriculture and the environment need to start recognizing irrigation systems Ruck said the bylaw is as legitimate infrastructure

The provincial senior ize it's property owners that In the past, Ruck said the pay for the system, espestudies have been completed cially if repairs and replacetargeting smaller sections ments need to be made, he

Austin Kirkby, past chair stormwater management the survey and provide input on how it can be improved.

One serious situation that Kirkby said the Province needs to address is the invasive phragmites weed species that blocks irrigation ditches.

Kirkby said because the Town has to clear these areas, the permit holders are charged, not the Province.

Grapegrower and current irrigation committee chair Kevin Buis echoed Kirkby's encouragement of permit holders' input.

"We need to know we can't operate in the dark."

When tender fruit farmers and grape growers overlap, it causes stress to the system, which has happened in past years, Buis said.

"In the hot, dry years, the system really is stressed, so we need to build a system that can accommodate the overlapping."

Buis said that almost happened earlier this month, however it was averted when the area received five inches of rain along the lakeshore.

Permit holders can find the survey at notl.org and have until Aug. 27 to complete it. All permit holders who fill out the survey are eligible to win one of two \$100 gift cards, one for Penner Building Centre and another for the LCBO.

### **NEW TO MARKET: 450 NASSAU STREET, UNIT 9**







Located in an exclusive enclave of just 14 Units and a short walk to the Niagara-onthe-Lake Golf Club, Lake Ontario, the Community Centre. The sheltered, covered front porch opens to the Main floor which affords a generously-sized Great Room with 17-foot ceilings, a gas fireplace and open-plan Kitchen. The second floor loft accommodates the master bedroom, ensuite and a quiet area for reflection. The southwest facing terrace presents the opportunity to enjoy the summertime to the absolute.



Nancy Bailey, Private Office Advisor, Broker Engel & Völkers Niagara-on-the-Lake, Brokerage 376 Mary St., Niagara-on-the-Lake nancy.bailey@evrealestate.com | 905-371-4234 nancybailey.evrealestate.com

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE** SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUNDRAISER **SEPTEMBER 4, 2019** 



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

www.greatestatesniagara.com

Thank you in advance for your support!



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notllocal.com — THE NOTL LOCAL August 22, 2019

## **LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: F45 TRAINING**

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Neesha Jayalathge and Jack Addams Williams are owners of the F45 studio in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They met five years ago in Melbourne, Australia (the birthplace of F45), where Neesha completed her Doctor of Physiotherapy degree and they discovered that their passion for fitness and community is something they both shared. Now, they are taking that passion and bringing F45 to the NOTL community. We chatted with them to find out more about this exciting new local business.

#### What is F45?

F45 is team-based, functional training that combines interval, cardiovascular and strength training exercises that mimic everyday movements. Classes are 45 minutes long, and there is a new program every day of the week, making every workout a unique experience for clients. The studio is a place where everyone is welcome no matter what their fitness level is. We have amazing trainers who demonstrate each exercise at the beginning of the classes and are there to guide and help clients through their workouts.

### What attracted you to the F45 brand?

We fell in love with F45 not only for how amazing the workouts are but also because it was unlike any other gym out there. Going to F45 became a big part of our daily routine, not only for the unique workouts but also for the empowering community atmosphere it provided. When we decided to open our F45 studio, we wanted to be able to share that same feeling of community and empowerment with our NOTL family and have the opportunity to be a positive part of someone's day.

### Why Niagara-on-the-Lake?

We chose to introduce F45 to NOTL because of the people who live here. Residents are family-oriented and all about the community, which is one of the main goals for the studio. There is nothing like F45 offered here and we think that this style of workout will be intriguing; it is something the Niagara area hasn't had access to until now.

### What sets F45 apart from traditional fitness studios?

F45 members have a choice between several different classes a week to suit their personal goals and will never do the same workout twice. Unlike traditional gyms, there are no treadmills or ellipticals and this paired with the most cutting edge technology, makes F45 the leader in fitness studios. Classes are designed to keep clients engaged from start to finish, challenge them to work hard and be motivated by the energy trainers and other studio members bring to each session. F45 is not just a class, but also a community we are so excited to create here in Niagara.

Visit https://f45training.ca/niagaraonthelake/ for details to sign up for a 14-day free trial and take advantage of our limited Lifetime Discounts.



F45 Training owners Neesha Jayalathge and Jack Addams Williams

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# EDITORIAL

### Help keep migrant workers safe

the life of farm workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake might actually be improving, tragedy strikes.

have lost a hard-working young woman who was in NOTL to pack peaches. Two young girls have lost their mother, and their grandparents have lost a daughter, who family financially.

Farmers know peach-packing is not a pleasant task. Kids of farmers, and local teens who try to make a bit of money working for neighbouring farms, aren't likely to try it a second summer. Peaches are sticky. Try handling them all day long — it's not an easy task.

The victim who died after being hit by a truck Saturday, by a driver who did not stop, was in NOTL doing work locals do not want to do. That's the reason behind the program that brings thousands of seasonal workers to Canada, thousands just to Niagara-on-the-Lake alone, to help the farming industry survive.

of two came willing to work hard, to fulfill a dream as do all seasonal workers. They want a better life for their family back home, and are willing to take on gruelling work and be separated for months from their loved ones to accomplish that goal.

Iust to be clear, the fact ling in cars. that we're not naming the victim of this heartbreaking tragedy is not a sign of disrespect. We've been critsociety, for not learning and

recognizing them and treatdepartment.

In this particular instance, rive every year safe. came to Niagara to help her though, we've been asked not farm worker, this mother, for the sake of the security of her family members back home, who will receive some insurdonations.

> rural villages can put people at risk. Enough said.

When tragedy strikes, it's human nature to try to make sense out of it, to want to ensure it doesn't happen again. That's not always possible, but we can banded, after doing a lot of certainly use this heartbreaking loss as a reminder of what we already know - narrow rural roads, especially at night, present many. danger to cyclists and pedestrians.

And on our rural roads ally up to us, as drivers. This 33-year-old mother at this time of year, that workers, who have no other form of transportation. They like to socialize with friends when they're not to help the children of this working, they go to church, they have to shop for groceries, as we all do. But we can do for her and her surare more likely to be travel-

> to be extra cautious when the responsibility of driving driving at night.

icized in the media, and as a Community Policing Com- turn home to their loved mittee in NOTL for many ones.

Just when it seemed like using the names of the mi- years, I remember the focus grant workers who come to for many of the meetings work on local farms, for not being on the safety of farm workers. That committee ing them as the valuable has been renamed, and is members of our commu- now a Town committee, nity they are. And it seems, and its members, with trethanks to local volunteers mendous support from the who keep reminding us, as community, continue to if we are doing better in that work toward keeping the seasonal workers who ar-

As a member of the to publish the name of this Town's Road Safety Task force, formed to prevent the large number of serious and fatal collisions on rural roads, I learned there ance and possibly financial is no such thing as an accident. There are collisions, Having money in poor and drivers are at fault. It's that simple. Collisions can be prevented, if we all as drivers do what we are supposed to do. Pay attention. Drive the speed limit. Don't drink and drive.

That task force was diswork to successfully reduce the number of collisions on NOTL roads.

But one is still one too

And we can always do more, each one of us. It's re-

Let's pledge to continue usually means our migrant working at improving the lives of seasonal workers, so important to our community.

> Let's open our wallets woman who was killed on our roads. It's the least we viving family.

And of utmost impor-It's our responsibility tance, let's each of us take responsibly, to help ensure As a member of the our seasonal workers re-

The NOTL Local acknowledges the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous peoples.

# The Niagara-on-the-Lake

### The trusted voice of our community

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### **LOCAL FINDS**



### **Gardening expert became aide to Simcoe Donald Combe**

### **Special to The Local**

David Cowan a Scottish farmer, and became a gardening expert to George Washington. When Cowan was requested to join the American rebel forces, he declined. Washington generously issued him a safe passage to Quebec, where he could live under the British flag. Cowan soon signed on with the Royal Navy, and became aide to Governor Simcoe. His remains rest near the west door of St. Mark's.

### **Garden of the Week**



This week's Garden of the Week winner is 125 Centre Street, owned by Edward and Demi Nasello. The judges commented on a trio of trees, birch, Japanese maple, and dogwood, setting off a very attractive front garden. "The curving perennial border leads the eye from the street to the veranda and to the side garden which overflows with pretty pink roses," the judges said. "The pleasant combination of perennials, shrubs and trees provides a balance of textures and shades of green." The Town, the Communities in Bloom Committee and the NOTL Horticulture Society are running the Garden of the Week program over the summer months. Residents are encouraged to submit nominations of phenomenal front gardens and winners will receive a lawn sign recognizing the home owners. Nomination forms are available on Join the Conversation.

### **NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL**

For depression, distress and crisis. 24 hour help line:

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**MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS** (Toll Free)

1-866-550-5205

**GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS** 905-351-1616

### DISTRESS CENTRE KIDS HELP PHONE Service for youth

416-586-5437 1-800-668-6868

(Crisis Line) kidshelpphone.ca

#### **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark's Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting

905-682-2140

**ASSAULTED WOMEN'S HELPLINE** Mobile calls to:

**#SAFE (#7233)** 1-866-863-0511 (Toll Free)

**CRIME STOPPERS** 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)

niagaratips.com Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip

# COMMENT

## Reader debunks myths of amalgamation

Open letter to Doug

Park is embarking on anelection campaign.

There is an old wisthe service, the more loshould be. For example, should supply dog catchers and the town should have armed forces?

of Ontario residents enjoyed small and close political governance, supwere local, knowable, and approachable.

Starting primarigovernment, there was an idea that your neighbours much more than a volunteer, are no longer appropriate to govern. Why? Conservative wisdom that there are too many councillors?

By the way, I saw Doug Ford in the supermarket him about the noise table. problem at the properstopped for gas at Gales range, plus government no NOTL army. and had a good chat offices, computers, asabout the potholes on my road. Get the idea?

I only wish I could chat salaries around 100K. with them about things of So your newly-elected interest as a citizen but I \$300,000 for a profesgovernment in Queen's know I will never talk to sional councillor, includ- if it can be effectively deamalgamations. Shades of ment's voice mail, I think the very low side. Mike Harris. Funny how it is option 5, then option it never came up in your 4, then option 8; and I 136 politicians is comiget a very nice computer cal. To think that a City then move it up to the erty tax. who might even thank me of Niagara council with Region. dom that the more local for my views. I especially professional councillors, cal the government level citizen exercised with the the cheaper route is hi- jor roads, at the Region, nues. that supplies the service lovely sentiment; 'Please larious. Bigger cities also the aforementioned dog does it make sense that portant to us.' Important er paid managers. the federal government enough to keep me on hold for half an hour.

Except, is your neigh- matter. bour, who now serves on paid politician?

cluding benefits. The sal- da. ary and benefits of NOTL

Doug is quoted saying

Previous generations all aspects of our lives tually like having a level vice, stays at the Town. as citizens? Doug's man- of government that has tra, like Mike before him, politicians I might see in curriculum for educa- tively small property tax, new and improved city sounds so appealing, my neighbourhood, who tion, but that's run by including roads; while states, with their big salplied by politicians that doesn't it? Who can't get get where I live when I school boards that most the Province gets all sales aries, and big city departbehind fewer politicians. talk to them about a local people have totally lost taxes, their portion of ments, don't need a prov-

council in total is about level, with foreign affairs, vincial, has been pushed other Ontario cities aren't net. \$240,000, council salaries trade, armed forces, nabeing about.005 per cent. tional coordination and

offices, computers, and town council and Niaga- liver and pay for all the ing the aforementioned

ra Regional council, who services we need, while dog catcher. Figure on at least share service delivery on they keep most of the tax the basis of the creed that money generated.

not mean less cost or fire, building inspection, cation. Do we really need re- better service or better and really, almost every ally big government for fiscal responsibility. I ac- other government ser- multi-tier services, and a ment.

From a different point has a significant portion of the property tax, hid-deliver their services? I ly with the Mike Harris council, really an over- of view, let's look at the of funding by the tax- den gas tax at the pumps, think they have by now entire governance in our es raised by the Town. booze and smokes taxes, figured out that the plow A councillor in NOTL country. We have essen- Even services not really and on and on. So Doug, truck should be pointed who wanted to serve on make annually approxi- tially three to four levels related to our properties, take a wider view. Toron- straight down the road council, compensated not mately \$22,000 all in, in- of government in Cana- like welfare, children's to is bigger in economic and every once in a while At the top, the federal which used to be pro- dian provinces, and many catcher will need a new

Okay, then what about That's nine citizens work- some wealth distribution the middle government? cerned about saving tax- cheaper for Ontarians, ing their buns off for us, between regions, health Yeah, the Province. What payers money, do we real-then do the honourable out of their home offices, care funding and policy, do they do? They is- ly need the Province? We thing Doug, and halt the other day and asked most likely the kitchen if not delivery. Sounds sue drivers licences, and will always need a federal this renewed charge into like a good place to leave those annoying licence government for defence, more 'megacities' and in-A 'megacity' of Niaga- that; Fort George won't plate stickers we have and trying to make sense stead consider the value ty just down the street, ra would have at least 15 likely hold enough troops to line up to get every out of and deal with Don- output of the Province in and last week I cornered councillors, with salaries and jets for today's de- year, oversee the deliv- ald Trump and other such the study. Justin Trudeau as he was in at least the \$150,000 fence requirements, so, ery of healthcare, (how's lovely chores. that working?), and, oh At the bottom, we have yeah, they tell the towns and cities to deliv- from towns and cities who sistants, and staff, with Niagara-on-the-Lake and regions how to de- er all the services, includ-

For those of you who semi-volunteer

large chunk of education, The Province set a are supported by the rela-sional politicians in the touch with, and even that your income tax, a chunk ince to tell them how to aid, and public housing, strength than most Cana- the aforementioned dog far behind that status.

If times are evolving such that we need fewer either of them as a citizen. ing staff, offices, and livered by the Town, then can buy a new car once in cians like Martha or Bill other round of municipal I can talk to their govern- equipment, and that's on it should stay there, but awhile, the federal/pro- next road over, and must if it is more efficient to vincial HST on said car is have a City of Niagara share the service delivery about as much as an aver- with a dozen or so profeswith other local towns, age home's annual prop- sional politicians with big salaries and lots and lots That property tax in- of staff, and great big city Seems to make sense. cludes all town, regional, departments, with lots of love getting my rights as a their staff and offices is Police, garbage sites, ma- and local authority reve- layers of managers, and with lots of phone menus A big chunk of your spoken by the lovely hold, your views are im- have more levels of high- catcher, water, sewage, local tax bill, about a computer voice, then I'm sidewalks, parks, recre- third, is handed directly positive that same evolu-Fewer politicians does ation, library, planning, to the Province for edu-tionary process can and should eliminate the Pro-So, all the local vincial level of govern-

Surely those profes-

If this is really about If you are really con- making things better and

On the other hand, if We will always need it's really about tax grabs have managed to put considerable reserves aside for rainy days and future infrastructure needs, and more downloading, then I presume you'll just stay the course.

> I guess I won't get to talk to you Doug, or Justin for that matter, once in awhile at the supermarket, but it's still nice to have the prospect of having a little chat with Lord Mayor Betty while picking over the oranges. Enjoy it while you can folks.

> > **Keith McNenly** Niagara-on-The-Lake

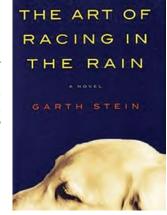
## A Man Goes to the Movies

**Donald Combe Special to The Local** 

dogs, romance, babies, who loves to go to movies. and great feel-good end- His Facebook reviews have ings, ignore the critics, become popular with his who are just cynics, and friends and followers, and go quickly to see this ex- he has graciously agreed to traordinary film. I am share his opinions through still drifting on a cloud of "short and sweet" exclujoy with added devotion sives for The Local.

and respect for Maggie, my dog.

Donald Combe is a Anyone who loves retired English teacher



### **Letters!** We want letters!

We know you have opinions and we would love to share them. If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. The deadline is Monday at noon.

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August 22, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL notllocal.com

# **Lotus flowers: beautiful and easy to grow**

**Laura Grant Special to The Local** 

"A symbol of purity, wisdom and spiritual growth, the lotus is a treasured plant, steeped in ancient history,"

Ten Mile Creek Nursery.

ca. Nelumbo lutea has yel- of Windsor.

north as the north shores but also for its edible tubers There are only two spe- of Lake Erie in Ontario. To cies in this genus Nelumbo: view our native lotus, take nucifera in Asia and lutea in a drive to the Canard River, North and Central Ameri- just a few kilometres south a full range from large to

> The lotus has large, round leaves held high heads are valued by flower

writes Laura Bancroft, of low flowers and grows as far is grown as an ornamental and seeds. A lot of hybridizing is going on for colour, shape and size, so we have miniature size, single, double, white, red, and yellow.

> Lotus can be grown in above the water; its seeds a large pond but they are particularly well suited for a sunny spot on a patio or a The Asian lotus nucifera balcony. In my experience,

the lotus will flower better and longer when grown in tus culture, I recommend containers in a sunny area. Scarified seed placed in warm water will sprout in a few days and a flowering plant can be grown in a matter of four to six months.

If you give it some fertilizer every couple of weeks, it will reward you with beautiful, fragrant flowers all summer long.

To learn more about loan excellent publication by Kelly Billing and Paula Biles: The Lotus - Know It and Grow It.

Whether grown in a flower bed or in a container, lotus plants flower quickly. (Photos by Laura Grant)





The NOTL Local is pleased to welcome

## Hendriks and Phil's valu-mart

with their weekly flyer. Look for it every week in the Local.



valu-mart

# **Library Garden Party perfect** ending to busy summer



**Debbie Krause NOTL Public Library** 

the day after the library's Annual Garden Party and gram. Through discussions Silent Auction.

celebratory end to a busy Wi-Fi hotspots. and eventful summer.

with daily children's procheck-ins. Attendance remains high in all programs, to an end.

with homework and extra- These devices will become library may seem very quiet. Not to worry, fall programming for both adults and for updates. children has been finalized this week.

A new initiative I'd like I am writing this column to highlight is the library's Wi-Fi hotspot lending prowith other libraries and lo-This would be our fifth cal organizations we have new programs and work-Garden Party and, until learned that it is naive to asnow, we have always had sume that everybody in our kept us guessing until the cause of their location or of good luck remains. The In response, the library has Garden Party is the perfect purchased four portable

Two devices are reserved August has been filled for our migrant workers. This simple resource allows grams and summer reading them to stay in regular contact with their family and friends back home witheven as the summer comes out incurring prohibitive The building continues hotspots are already in use, to ring with laughter and with quite an extensive joy as children and their waiting list. The other two families come to simply hotspots will be kept at the "hang out" or participate in library as part of the collec-Kasia and Brooke's many tion. Patrons will be able activities. This is the last to borrow a device for the in a few weeks school will their library card. There will start up again. Our school- be no renewals, and an overaged friends will be busy due charge of \$1 per day. wonderful problem to have.

curricular activities and the available in the next couple weeks, so please call, visit or check notlpubliclibrary.org

As things wind down and is expected to go online for the summer, I anticipate a wonderful fall. You'll find all your favourite programs, such as InfoHealth, Practical Genealogy, Beer and Books, and Wine and Words, in addition to many shops.

For example, why not wonderful weather, and al- community has adequate attend Coffee Break - a rethough the weather network internet access - either be- laxing time of conversation while enjoying a cup of very last minute, our streak due to economic barriers. coffee and goodies, the Repair Café, or our Beginner's Guide to Zero Waste workshops. These are just a few of this fall's events. Please watch for the latest brochures or visit us online at notlpubliclibrary.org. There is something for everyone. I hope to see you soon.

I would like to take this data charges. In fact, both opportunity to thank all those who have made the Garden Party and Silent Auction fundraiser a success, to all those who generously donated prizes to the auction, and finally, thank you to all our library supweek of programming, and duration of one week using porters who bought tickets. We sold out more quickly than I could have hoped, a

# Like peaches, picnic is growing in Niagara

#### Jane Andres **Special to The Local**

Almost 800 meals were served, as music and laughter spilled out of the tent and into the picnic grounds.

Friends reunited and friendships kindled, surrounded by the tantalizing aroma of jerk chicken, reggae classic One Love.

Good things are grow-

to all of you for the work cover a farm worker's meal. that you do here in Niagarayour hard work. Our farmers, our residents are grateful and our businesses are grateful."

Kim Elltoft\*\*......905-380-8011

Randall Armstrong\*\*.......905-651-2977

Audrey Wright\*......289-241-0212

This is a special event community has contributyears, ensuring that these music from back home. men and women know that respected.

while Lord Mayor Betty vided the first discretion-Disero twirled on the dance ary grant, which helped to community. There is a growfloor with Amado to the build a foundation for fu- ing desire to connect and ture welcome concerts.

ing in Niagara and the as the NOTL Horticultur-Peach Pickers Picnic is one al Society have helped the "This party just keeps on event to a perennial favougetting bigger and better. I rite among farm workers will be here every year to and locals. Countless indisay thank you. Thank you viduals paid it forward to nancially. The Peach Pick-

Members of the Shaw on-the-Lake, we are bless- Festival ensemble are disblessed with rich soil, a stage as they delivered tickgreat irrigation system and ets to the farms and are drawn into the real life experiences of the people who put food on our tables and fine wine into the glass.

Local churches are disthat belongs uniquely to covering the joys of wor-Niagara-on-the-Lake. The shipping Caribbean style as their neighbours on the ed in so many ways over the farms share their vibrant

Towns in other rural arthey are appreciated and eas of Ontario are contacting us as they seek better farm-In 2010, the Town pro- ing practices, which also includes creating a welcoming enrich the lives of everyone's Local organizations such experience while living and working in Canada.

Thank you so much to transition from an annual everyone who contributed in such meaningful ways, whether through donations of goods, food, time or fiers Picnic would not be a success without you.

We look forward to ed," said Disero. "We are covering life beyond the some exciting new partnerships in the coming year.

Loving your neighbours, expressing gratitude and showing up for the party. Now that's what makes a town truly beautiful.



Lord Mayor Betty Disero has passed an Official Plan and attended an Association of Municipalities Ontario conference since, but the day of the Peach Pickers Picnic, she was at the community event for migrant workers. She danced up a storm with Amado, a seasonal worker for Arterra Wines Canada, which owns Jackson Triggs, Inniskillin and other wineries. (Photo supplied)

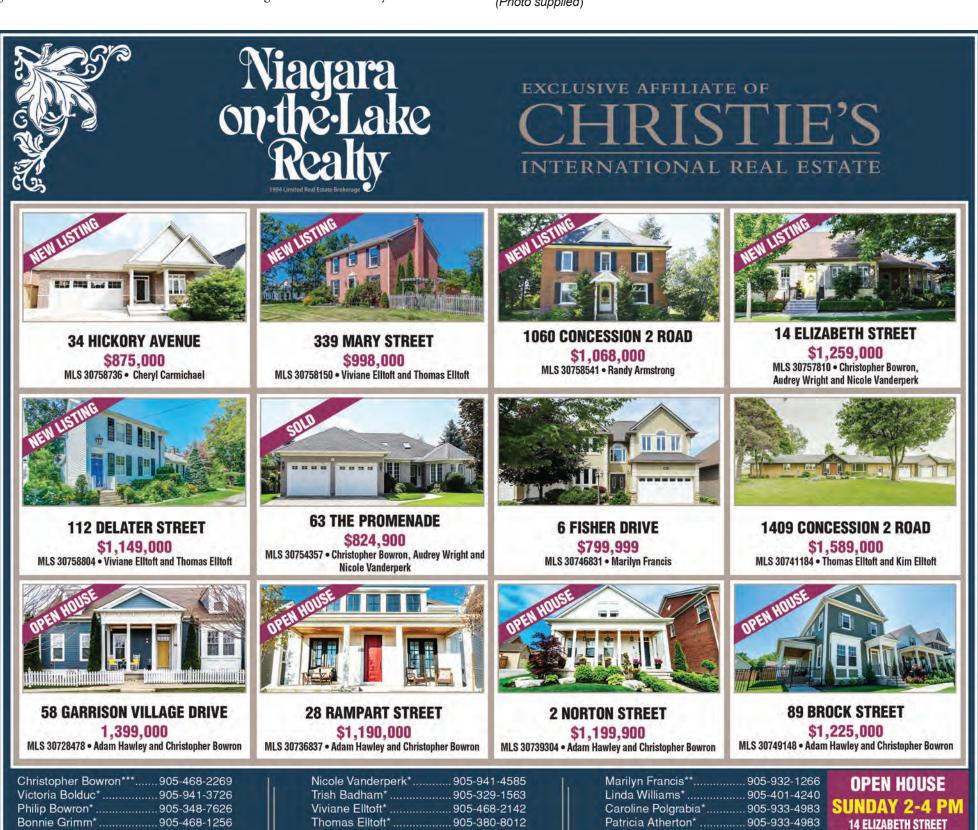
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August 22, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL notllocal.com

# Offering a greener option

Orange Property Special- customers love it." ists is the first landscaping for lawn care services.

powered company without system completely off grid. contribution to air pollution,"

With one gasoline pow- says owner Peter Albers, who ered lawn mower being able has been in the landscaping to produce 106 pounds of and greenhouse industries greenhouse gases in one sea- for over 15 years. "The equipson, Orange Property Spe- ment doesn't require the use cialists wants to be part of the of any oils and produces a fraction of the sound. Our

With the help of his facompany in the Niagara Re- ther-in-law, Dave, they were gion to offer a green option able to build a charging system inside the trailer to "The equipment we use is be able to charge batteries battery powered, so we're able throughout their work day. to provide the same services They also installed solar panto our customers as a gas els on the roof to make the

**Elizabeth & Peter Albers** 







### **Property Specialists**

We are a licensed and insured landscaping company based in the Niagara Region. Operating since 2015, we are committed to providing high quality and professional service.





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Services offered can be one-time only or short-term.



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Peter Albers: Owner/Landscaper 905-359-1751 orangeps@outlook.com | www.orangepropertyspecialists.com

# **Green Burial Option**

Many people are becoming environmentally conscious in all aspects of life including plans regarding their final arrangements by minimizing their carbon footprint.

Green funeral options have a few primary guidelines. Only the body is placed into the casket, no foreign items such as jewellery or synthetic fabrics are permitted. A casket that qualifies as "green" must be free of metal, glue and the interior must be natural

fer has an unbleached cotpegs & dowels and is made in Ontario.

side service, memorial service/celebration of life and service. The major part of that offer green burial seccasket is placed directly into this option if you are interthe grave without a concrete ested.

in every way as well. The crypt or vault. Another fac-"Green Casket" that we of- tor in the consideration of a green burial option is that ton interior, pillow and a there's one marker for the natural excelsior mattress. section with the names of It's fastened with wooden those buried there instead of each grave being individually marked. Some green The service options for cemeteries care for the grass green burial include: grave- as normal and some are left to nature.

There are two cemetera full traditional funeral ies, in the Niagara Region, the green burial is that the tions. We can assist with





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THE NOTL LOCAL notllocal.com **August 22, 2019** 

# 

**Going Green in Death** 



about the fate of our planet, to be buried (not cremated) and many make a conscious back into the earth as nateffort to make a difference urally as possible; using a in how they impact it. After simple biodegradable casket all, we want our future gen- or a shroud, no embalming erations to inherit a healthy (i.e. formaldehyde chemiplanet. This is usually done cals), no vault or concrete by recycling, separating or- liner, no grave monuments. ganics, driving eco-friend- Instead you are placed in ly cars, etc.. But have you a meadow of wildflowers ever considered the option that restores and preserves of potentially minimizing a peaceful natural habitat. your carbon footprint in If a green burial seems to death? Green burials and be something you would be environmentally sensitive interested in, I invite you to funeral options have be- call us at Essentials Cremacome funeral trends. What tion and Burial Services for is a natural burial? This more information.

Most people do care concept allows for someone



# **Essentials Cremation and** Burial Services Inc.

Affordable Green Burials, Biodegradable Urns, Green Certified Caskets, Nature Themed Services, Locations and more...

"Going green is not only a choice and a way of living, it's a beautiful legacy and a way we can care for our planet after our death." -Krystal Riddell



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# Time running out for **VIP Snowbird Viewing**



The Snowbirds will be performing in NOTL from the Niagara District Airport Sept. 11. Tickets are available online. (Photo supplied)

#### **Local Staff** The Local

The Niagara Historical Society and Museum is bringing the Snowbirds to town, and time is running out for VIP tickets.

The Sept. 11 event is a fundraiser, with a goal of raising \$20,000 for renovating and expanding the mu-

"It's a great place to see the show, from inside the hangar," says volunteer Chervl Morris. There are 400 tickets available for this

VIP tickets for adults and children include gourmet food, a prime viewing spot in one of the airplane hangers, and the opportunity to meet members ny Rocco's, Hometown Ice formance. Tickets are \$90 Wagon will be there too. for adults until Aug. 30, and

chase by Sept. 6.

Tickets can be pur- she says. chased online for VIP or general admission at notlsnowbirds.ca.

the Snowbirds in NOTL craft display with military drew 3,000 people, says and vintage planes and to Morris.

are \$10 per person. Entry is performing at 3 p.m. free for those 12 and under. This area will feature food about the show visit notltrucks from PigOut, John- snowbirds.ca.

of the Snowbirds team in Cream and Train Coffee. person following their per- The Niagara Region Water

Morris suggests people \$100 from Aug. 31 to Sept. bring their own chair or 6. VIP tickets for children blanket for seating. It's an are \$35 until Aug. 30, and optimal viewing point, and \$45 from Aug. 31 to Sept. 6. there is also an opportunity VIP tickets must be pur- to meet the Snowbird pilots through the security fence,

Parking is free for all

Gates open at 2 p.m., The last appearance of providing access to an airfood trucks. The Geronimo General access tickets skydiving team will begin

For more information

### Pies, pies and more pies



Juliet Pillitteri, Anna Pillitteri-Smith and Serafina Martinelli help sell 250 peach pies made by the women of Cornerstone Church for the car wash held on Niagara Stone Road Sunday. The event raised \$6,500 for the Terry Fox Run, says Joe Pillitteri of Team Pillsy, thanks to the amazing pies that had people coming back for more. Drivers were stopping to hand kids donations even though they didn't have time for a car wash, he says. "It was a great community event." (Fred Mercnik)



### Ceilidh shows off dancers

Alex White of the Audrey Watkins Highland Dance Academy dances up a storm at the Ceilidh (party) held at McFarland Park Sunday. The event attracted more than 100 people. many non-members, which was the goal of the event, and with instructions from young dance students, everyone gave it a twirl. (Fred Mercnik)



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> Niagara on-the-Lake

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THE NOTL LOCAL

# St. Davids artists to display their work at church

#### **MIke Balsom Special to The Local**

For Lynn Sawatzky, the prospect of publicly displaying her art for the first time is very exciting.

Sawatzky's acrylic paintings, mostly focused on Mediterranean architecture, will be part of a three-week long exhibit at the United Mennonite Church (known as the Red Brick Church) at 1775 Niagara Stone Road.

The exhibit brings together the works of a group of St. Davids neighbours, known simply as the St. Davids Art Group. Sawatzky says there are currently eight members, with all but one of them to have art on display at the church.

The group was started about six years ago by artist Heather McKenna, when she invited three neighbours to get together to work on art. The group has grown, and has expanded geographically to include a member who lives in St. Catharines. It remains an informal group, though, and the members get together Wednesday afternoons to paint while enjoying a glass of wine.

As an established artist, McKenna has become the de facto leader of the group. Her knowledge, experience and encouragement have been valuable to those who are newcomers to the art world.



Above: Karen Jantz, Donna Hatton, Lynn Sawatzky, Carol Rosenfeld Allan, and Heather McKenna are five of the artists who will have their work displayed at the church exhibit. Right: One of Lynn Sawatzky's paintings that will be part of the exhibit. (*Photos supplied*)

what they primarily love to display their creations. do. Some of the members

says when they come to- this will be the first opporgether, everyone focuses on tunity for them to publicly

Sawatzky is relatively have taken to watercolours, new to the group. Though while one of the women, she says she has an aunt who says, has begun working on has an art gallery named afquilting as her form of ex- ter her, Sawatzky never really picked up a brush until McKenna's milieu in- about 18 months ago. Some cludes work in acrylic, oil, of the artists, meanwhile, watercolour and fabric. She have only been painting for has had exhibits prior to this around six months. She says one, but for the other mem- you would never guess this

As a group, Sawatzky bers, including Sawatzky, once you see the quality of their work.

> When Sawatzky first joined, her goal was to paint something nice enough that she could put up on the wall in her St. Davids home. Within a couple of months, she had achieved that goal, and now loves to

invite guests to her home to creating in the future. see her art.

her look forward to taking this next step by showstrangers.

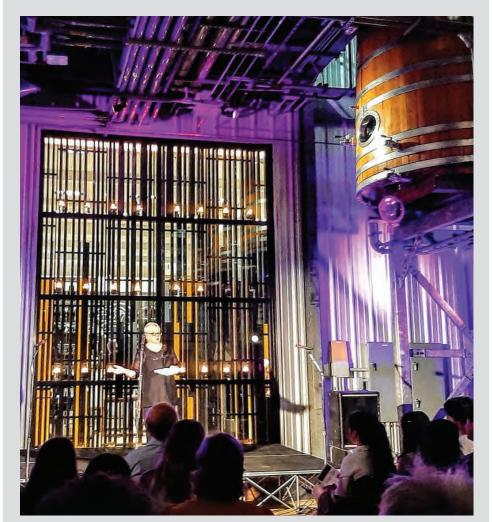
Sawatzky promises a acrylics, mixed media, fabric, oils, and quilts. She adds er date. visitors will view stunning works created by new and emerging artists that will lead you to imagine and wonder what they will be

Approximately 30 works That confidence makes will be on display by the seven artists involved. According to the rules of the ing her work to complete church, none of the members can make a sale during the exhibit, but if a visitor very diverse showing at the finds something they like, church, with watercolours, they should feel free to connect with the artists at a lat-

> Works by the St. Davids Art Group will be on display in the church's lower gallery from Monday, Aug. 26 through Friday, Sept. 13.



### Gala in support of the **Yellow Door Theatre Project**



Andorlie Hillstrom held a gala at Stratus Winery in support of the Yellow Door Theatre Project Monday evening, a beautiful night for a guided tour of the vineyard and wine tastings in the winery. Yellow Door will be starting its fall season soon, so watch for news of programs. (Donavin Delaney)



August 22, 2019 THE NOTL LOCAL

# Making a Difference: The Friends of Fort George



Amanda Gamble, Peter Martin, Erika Alexander, Tony Chisolm, and Jim Alexander are surrounded by animators hired through the Fort George summer student program and Parks Canada's Fife and Drum band. Photo by Terry Davis

#### **Terry Davis** Special to The Local

When visitors flock to Fort George each year to partake in the Canada Day festivities at the national historic site, in addition to enjoying military demonstrations, great food and fireworks, they see the positive difference that a dedicated group of hard-working volunteers can make in a community.

That group – the Friends of Fort George – was formed 33 years ago, when Dan Glenney, then chief of visitors' activities at the fort, and Walter Haldorson, fort superintendent at the time, approached Glenney's good friend Jim Alexander with an invitation. Parks Canada had been advised it could no longer take advantage of a federal student employment program to staff animator and interpreter positions at its national historic sites. It came up with an innovative and community-focussed response to the problem, by inviting local communities across the country to form friends' organizations and partner with the agency in the protection, preservation and presentation of Canada's national historic sites.

Jim and his wife Erika Alexander responded to Glenney's invitation with gusto. The first step was to get the

Club involved. For two years, including the annual Canthanks to Jim's determinaauthentic uniforms.

Jim, Erika and a group of like-minded individuals used those two years to gain not-for-profit status for a new organization – the Friends of Fort George - and to work out the terms of a memorandum of understanding with Parks Canada. Under that agreement, the friends took over the hiring and recruitment process for the fort's Fort George features an evesummer student program. Since then, more than 330 young men and women have been employed and trained as animators through the efforts of the friends, including nine hired to work at more. Fort George in 2019, three at Brock's Monument and two in the Friends of Fort George gift shop.

"That's the most important thing we did – employing those kids," said Jim.

But the Friends of Fort George went the extra mile.

The friends took on the funding and organization of several key events in Niagara-on-the-Lake and at Fort Queenston-Lewiston Rotary George from Parks Canada,

ada Day festivities and the tion, the club provided the New Year's Day levee, both funding needed to keep Fort traditional events favoured George's summer student by locals At the time, the program going, 454533with main attraction in NOTL seasonal animators and in- on Canada Day was an afterpreters hired to tell the ternoon barbecue at Simfort's history as well as to coe Park. The friends soon demonstrate drills and other added a pancake breakfast military activities dressed in in the park to the Canada Day roster of activities. As the popularity of both events grew, they asked the NOTL Rotary Club to partner with them. A few years ago, the club took on the responsibility for running the breakfast and barbecue, allowing the friends to concentrate on the Canada Day events on offer at Fort George.

Today, Canada Day at ning barbecue, music (including performances by Parks Canada's fife and drum band), amazing fireworks, fun activities for children, military demonstrations and

The friends pay for and organize the majority of events held at the fort on Canada Day, drawing on revenues generated through the Friends of Fort George gift shop, the afternoon barbeque and municipal funding grants that they apply for each year. They also apply for federal funding, if it's available, and seek corporate as well as private donations. In addition, the friends obtain

insurance coverage and obtain all necessary permits.

Parks Canada also contributes in a major way, providing free admission to the fort on Canada Day, presenting the history of the site, offering demonstrations and activities for children, and staging performances by its fife and drum band throughout the afternoon and evening.

The partnership between the friends and Parks Canada is a close one, not only on Canada Day but throughout

'It's a fantastic relationship," said Peter Martin, a special events coordinator it without the friends," said with Parks Canada.

The students hired by the friends bring Fort George to life, he said, offering the people who come to the fort a much better visitor experi-

One of the best examples of the special relationship between the friends and Parks Canada may be the friend's gift shop. It's an important revenue generator for the friends, helping them to pay for the summer students they hire, as well as for the special events they hold at the fort and Navy Hall. Stocking items that visitors will buy is critical to the shop's success. But the shop is also a focal point of the visitor experience, which makes it equally important to stock items that appropriately reflect the mil-19th century.

Initially, says Amanda Parade, as well as other perks. Gamble, executive director of the Friends of Fort biggest membership bene-George, "Parks Canada provided knowledgeable staff to help us determine the appropriateness of an item and if a similar product would have existed at the time – tin lanterns, pottery, chinaware and toys, for example."

Today, the gift shop offers a wide range of books related to the War of 1812, in addition to a good selection of unique gift items that include children's toys, cookbooks, clothing, hats and much, much more. The friends also operate a small

ment on Queenston Heights.

The friends' dedication to the preservation, protection and presentation of Canada's historic sites is not limited to Fort George and Brock's Monument, however. It's also raised funds to help restore the Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters at Butler's Barracks National Historic Site of Canada as well as Fort Mississauga. Notably, this year the friends prepared breakfast for the 400 re-enactors who participated in the Battle of Fort George staged at the fort in July.

"We couldn't have done Martin

It was the same several years ago, when Parks Canada needed new uniforms for its Fort George animators. The friends took on the chalfor me," said Martin. lenge and got them made.

Currently, the Friends of Fort George has more than 200 members. Several volunteer their time and cooking skills to the Canada Day barbecue at the fort. Others have initiated a period cooking program in the officers' kitchen to help enhance the heritage experience of visitors to the fort, baking cookies and pies as well as making ice cream.

In addition to the opportunity to volunteer, members also receive free admission to the fort, a 15 per cent disitary history of the fort and George and Brock's Monu-Niagara society in the early ment, and a subscription to the friends' newsletter On

> For most, however, the fit is likely knowing they are contributing to the mandate of the friends: "To support Parks Canada for the protection, preservation, development and interpretation of the historical resources and stories of national significance of Niagara national historic sites which include Fort George, Brock's Monument, Butler's Barracks, Fort Mississauga, Lakeshore properties and the Military Reserve, known as The Commons."

For Erika, however, it's gift shop at Brock's Monu- also seeing what the experi-

ence of working as a summer student at Fort George has meant to the young people hired as animators.

"Kids we hired 30 years ago still come back. They all speak with pride about being here," she said.

Martin seconded that, noting that many animators say their experience working at Fort George has helped them in their careers and enhanced their communication skills. But for him, the best part of working at the fort may be seeing the reaction of the visitors who walk through its gates.

After the last battle staged during the recent re-enactment at the fort, he overheard a child saying: "That was so cool."

"That made the weekend

For Tony Chisholm, the president of the Friends of Fort George, one of the biggest benefits is being able to communicate with Parks Canada and the local community. He's proud that the friends are trusted and respected as partners by the

For Gamble, it's "knowing you're part of presenting the history of wonderful historic places."

Jim, now an ad hoc director on the friends' board of directors, goes one step further, noting that the count in the gift shops at Fort Friends of Fort George has been a source of volunteers over the years for many other key events in Niagara-on-the-Lake, such as the bicentennial celebrations, and the re-enactment of the battle of Queenston Heights. He particularly notes that one of the organization's members, a physicist, undertook a seven-year constructed wetland in cold climate project with Parks Canada.

> For him, volunteering has been about meeting people, gathering together, determining a purpose, and going out and doing it. People are drawn to the friends out of a desire to protect, preserve and present the fort, he said. And Jim should know. He's been doing it for more than 30 years.



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## Canada's military past to echo through town this weekend

#### **Jennifer Chornley Special The Local**

More than 200 years of Niagara's military history weekend.

Fort George, in partnership with the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Museum, will be the hosting fields for Echoes of comes alive with interpreters, animators and veterans displaying uniforms, weaponry and vehicles from the

War of 1812, the First and be packed with activities, other historic eras.

terpreters from throughout with their unique collections of military memoratents and furniture.

Niagara's Past: A Military Martin said this year's main 1812, the military history of Timeline Event, as the town focus of the event will be the the Second World War is a is the 75th Anniversary of are connected to those who in the middle of a small community organizations

The two-day event will 1945 time period.

firepower of 1812 and tacti-About 80 volunteer in- cal demonstrations.

will be rolling into town this Ontario and parts of the there will be a military ve-U.S. will be participating hicle parade along Queen country," he said.

> bilia, weaponry, uniforms, a yearly success because although Fort George is his-Parks Canada's Peter toric grounds for the War of Second World War, as 2019 draw because many people hicles drive down the street creased interest from other served during the 1939 to town."

Second World Wars, and including highlighting the grandparent who has served known as Camp Niagara country locally and nationand when they attend the and was used as training event, are able to recollect grounds for infantry, caval-On Saturday, at 11 a.m. and connect with the era ry and artillery during the ing everyone to attend as in which they served their summer months until 1966. there is lots to see and do.

Drew Neufeld, manager "Plus it's not something of the Lincoln and Welland Martin said the event is we do on a regular basis, Regimental Museum since thus the World War II as- 2012, has been assisting pect draws a larger turnout. Martin with co-ordinating It's different," Martin said. the event since 2010. He en-"It's not everyday you nor- joys organizing events such mally see large military ve- as these because of the inover the years. Understand-Martin also empha- ing how Canadian mili-

"There's a parent or sized that Fort George was tary history has shaped the ally is very important to our heritage, he said, encourag-

Neufeld has been serving in the Canadian military with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment since 2003 and currently ranks as a sergeant.

The event is Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24 and 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more details visit pc.gc.ca/ en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/ activ/calendrier-calendar

## Weekend muster at Fort George





Fort George and Parks Canada hosted the Fife and Drum Muster and Soldiers' Field Day this weekend, with fife and drum corps and infantry units from historic sites across Canada and the U.S. The annual tradition at Fort George, packed with firepower demonstrations, music and entertainment, included the Canadian Fencibles from New York (left) and the Village Volunteers Fife and Drum Corp from Delmar, New York. (Fred Mercnik)



## RiverBrink to exhibit, sell important works to support museum

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

With only 30 tickets remaining for the River-Brink Summer Art Sale Opening Reception, the Aug. 30 event promises to be one of the premiere art shows in Niagaraon-the-Lake this year.

Visitors to the RiverBrink Art Museum that evening will get the first chance to purchase original artwork, while enjoying appetizers by Treadwell Farm to Table Cuisine, paired with sell at a reasonable price. contains a number of wine selections from Reif Estate Winery. Musical entertainment will be provided by local jazz musician Peter Shea.

The art sale fundraiser continues Saturday and Sunday that weekend, with the doors of the museum open to the public. There will be about 200 pieces of art available for purchase over the three days.

sponsor Presenting and RiverBrink board member Paul Hancock says the weekend is an important fundraiser for the art museum. Proceeds from the sale will comes by its name hon- Weir Foundation. primarily be used to fund future exhibits, as well as to bring in guest speakers for special presentations and programs.

Hancock says many temporary exhibits can cost RiverBrink from \$5,000 to \$10,000, so this money helps to secure some interesting presentations.

The works of art for sale are all donated by supporters of the museum. Many come from art collectors, who are generously donating pieces

from their own personal was bequeathed to that collections.

Other works have

painting Early Summer, important colour and contrast, as Canadiana. one of the premiere items for sale that he expects to with its high ceilings,

items for sale will include the 20th century artist works by Campbell Scott, Marc-Aurele de Foy Su-Mary Prittie, Nicholas zor-Cote, along with a Hornyansky, and James library of more 4,000 ref-Pattison Cockburn.

The main living room tory and Canadiana. currently displays the photographs on loan maculate condition. from Ontario Power Generation. When that as an art museum in exhibit closes this week, 1983. Though it re-Director/Curator Debra ceives some small grants Antoncic will get to work from the Town of Nihanging the many pieces agara-on-the-Lake and that will be part of the other government procoming event.

estly. RiverBrink was the vacation home of Lon- 3,000 people each year don, Ont. lawyer Samuel visit RiverBrink, tourists

He began his art colcontinued acquiring imout his life.

built in 1970, with Weir's thing for all, with each goal always being to leave piece being priced to sell. it behind as a museum, And she promises that art gallery and library. the opening reception, He incorporated the Weir especially, will be a night Foundation in 1962, and, to remember. following his 1981 death, his collection and estate tion, visit riverbrink.org.

organization.

As Antoncic leads the been donated direct- way through RiverBrink, ly by the artists them- it is strikingly clear that selves, many of them lo- all three of Weir's goals cal. These include Pete were met by his founda-Malaguti, Julie Ponesse, tion. The building itself Lenore Walker, Kathy stands as a museum, with Thomas and Peggy Reel. its elaborate wood-pan-Hancock points spe- elled walls, gabled wincifically to former local dows and mansard roof. artist Lillian Asquith's Those walls hold many paintings, with its striking use of with a specific focus on

The bottom floor, As well, historical bronze sculptures by erence books on art, his-

It's an impressive exhibit The Power of building, an impressive Niagara, a collection of collection, and all in im-

RiverBrink grams, it continues to be The living room funded primarily by the

> Antoncic says about and locals alike.

She is really excited lection in the 1920s, and about the sale, and about the variety of work that portant pieces through- will be on offer, both historical and contempo-RiverBrink itself was rary. She promises some-

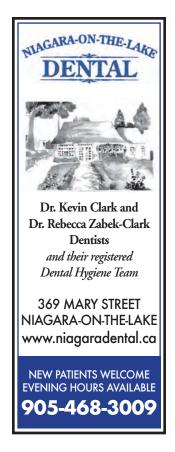
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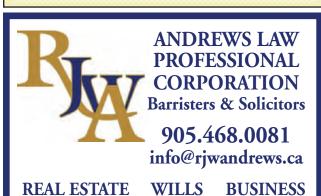
Early Summer, by Lillian Asquith, is one of the pieces of art work that will be on sale at a RiverBrink event. (Photo supplied)



A selection of work that will be available at the upcoming RiverBrink show and sale. (Mike Balsom)









# Forging forward with trench art

## Latest exhibit part of Niagara Pumphouse's celebration of its 25th anniversary milestone

#### **Jennifer Chornley Special to The Local**

It began over a cup of coffee.

Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre exhibit chair Lise Andreana was chatting with Parks Canada National Historic Sites Manager Lisa Curtis, who mentioned she would love to see a trench art-themed exhibition.

A few years later, and because of their combined love of history and art, their discussion about the potential project has come alive.

In collaboration with Niagara-on-the-Lake artist Ronald Boaks, Parks Canada and the Niagara Military Museum, the Niagara Pumphouse's newest exhibition Looking Back — Forging Forward: Trench Art & Ronald Boaks is now on display.

Andreana said at the exhibit's grand opening last Thursday that Boaks came under the "very strong recommendation" of a friend. Once she visited his gallery, she realized "there was a very strong connection beof the soldiers."

There are almost 40 pieces in the exhibit, 28 made from a variety of materials, including print recruitment posters, brass artillery shells, machined aluminum, shell casings, cartridge heads.

Boaks' intriguing sculptures are made from pieces It gives me great pleasure to of metal and other material salvaged from junkyards and elsewhere.

The sculptures are displayed alongside as what are described as both utilitarian and artistic objects, crafted by soldiers in the trenches during the First World War.

work includes welded steel chariots, human-like figures and ob- ities between my methods jects that combine metal and trench art," said Boaks,

that recycling and repurtionship between objects. posing are not new ideas.



Local artist Ronald Boaks speaks about his sculptures in an exhibit at the Niagara Pumphouse. (Jennifer Chornley)

It has been going on since the dawn of time," Andreana said. "Ron's sculptures reflect the timelessness of recycling and the creation of meaningful beauty from discarded items."

Boaks said nature protween Ron's work and that vides a myriad of resources and what is discarded has creative artistic potential.

> "When I create pieces, they bring out beauty, balance, desire and humour," he said. "They also are infused with joy. With that in mind, I hope when people view and purchase my work they feel that joy also. do it."

The trench art exhibition is the Pumphouse's fifth in a series of collaborative projects between Parks Canada and the Niagara Military Museum, and is part of the organization's 25th anniversary theme, Looking Back — Forging Forward.

"There are some similarnoting his creative process "It was equally clear starts with seeing the relature Program.

### When I create pieces, they bring out beauty, balance, desire and humour.

Ronald Boaks

that the soldiers were under exhibition as juxtaposition be escalated at any time. Thanks to them, I do it in peace, definitely a luxury."

The difficulty is in creating something with character that makes the viewer see the result as such, rather than "just a bunch of stuff stuck together," Boaks said. "Like a good illustration or painting, the sculpture takes you elsewhere."

Inspired by Niagara's history, the exhibition is part of a series of educational, pop-up art installations of 10 people on Aug. 29 to offering opportunities and art experiences for all ages orate in producing a layout and interests, through the for a sculpture to further support of Niagara Region's their appreciation for the Niagara Investment in Cul-

"The biggest difference is Skeffington described the until Sunday, Sept. 29.

extreme duress that could of modern and 100-year-old art, and a great example of community collaboration.

"War is a long, boring experience," Parks Canada corporate programming co-ordinator Scott Finlay

"For many soldiers, they still had a creative soul that was not going to go away even though they were in battle. On the contrary, it kept them busy in the down time," said Finlay.

Boaks will host a group tour his studio and collabprocess of sculpture.

The exhibition runs at Exhibits chair Mark the Niagara Pumphouse

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### **ECHOES OF NIAGARA'S PAST:** A MILITARY TIMELINE EVENT

August 24 & 25 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Join Fort George and the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Museum as they commemorate over 200 years of Niagara's military history. The Fort will come alive as interpreters, animators and veterans display uniforms, weaponry and vehicles from the War of 1812, World War I, World War II and other historic time periods. Demonstrations will be happening throughout the day inside Fort George. A special event rate applies. For more information, call Parks Canada at 905-468-6614.

### **FAMILY FRIENDLY ART** STUDIO AT THE PUMPHOUSE

August 25 @ 1 - 3 p.m.

Drop in with your family at the Pumphouse, 247 Ricardo Street, to make your own artwork. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to explore art and get creative! Families are encouraged to see the exhibition in our gallery and then get their hands messy working on their own artwork in our studio. \$2 suggested donation. https://niagarapumphouse.ca/

# LOCAL WORSHIP



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#### **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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#### Across:

- Habitual practice
- National park in Tennessee
- 13 Punctual
- 14 Self-destruction
- 15 In this place
- **16** University of California campus site 17 In broad daylight
- **18** Does puzzles like this one
- 19 Consults
- 20 Shaped
- **21** Dram
- 24 "The Last Ship" channel
- **25** Reimburse 26 King Cole's fiddlers, for
- example
- 27 Kind of couch **29** Fine-grained rock
- **30** Steam
- **32** Admiration
- 34 Buffalo Bill and Iron Eyes
- **35** President who wrote "Liberty, once lost, is lost forever'
- 36 Seasoned
- 38 Father
- 39 For the nonce
- 41 Vase
- 44 Social group

- 45 Experimental kind of pig, maybe
- **46** Your largest joint
- 47 "Hogan's Heroes" actor ---Niemperer
- 48 Sudden attacks
- **49** Notorious White House intern
- 52 Ventilate
- 53 Pistil parts
- **54** What Hepburn called Tracy
- **55** Agree
- **56** Became taut

#### Down:

- Share the emceeing
- 3 Wise to urban ways
- Bleachers' features Leave out
- Chess pieces, informally
- Questionnaire
- 8 Raised drastically 9 Finishes off a cake
- **10** Small, in Dogpatch
- 11 "--- to a Nightingale" (Keats)
- 12 "I object!"
- 14 1965 civil rights march site
- **16** Get an advance
- Blondie song) 52 Bermuda time, initially

18 Bulgarian capital

21 ET radios nun about

groups of workers 22 Smooth-talking

23 Lear's Pobble lost them

25 They don't go off

28 Domesticated

29 Surface gunk

**30** Deepest part

**Puckers** 

42 Lower

**26** Norse thunder god

33 Consumer, in a diner

(Zeffirelli movie)

get cold feet?

45 Aladdin's factotum 46 Member of a Myanmar

ethnic group

47 Lean and muscular

**49** Official go-betweens

51 "One --- or Another" (hit

48 Ready for harvest

50 "Little" '60s singer

"--- With Mussolini"

**40** Where many participants

43 Wrote code within code

20 Gangster's foe

#### **OBITUARY**

#### PROBST, Martha -

On Sunday, August 18, 2019 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, at the age of 95. Beloved wife of the late Emil Probst. Best mother ever to Christine Probst and Heinz Probst (Jeanette). Adored Grandma to Eric Probst (Karen) and Jennifer Merritt (Jeff). Treasured Oma to Emma, Eric and Ethan. Dear sister of Erich Euteneier. Predeceased by her brother Emil and sisters Olga and Rosa. The family will receive friends at MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Thursday from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. A service to commemorate the life of Martha, will be held at the funeral home on Friday, August 23, 2019 at 11 a.m., with

the burial to follow in Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Lincoln County Humane Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at:

#### www.morganfuneral.com



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#### **PUZZLE ANSWERS**

Deadline: Mondays 3 p.m.

48 Ribe, 49 L Os, 50 Eva, 51 Way, 52 A S T.

Scum, 30 Bass, 31 Edie, 32 Eater, 37 Tea, 39 Purses, 40 Rinks, 42 Reduce, 43 Nested, 45 Genie, 46 Karen, 47 Winy, Hey, 14 Selma, 16 Borrow money, 18 Sofia, 20 Fed, 21 Trade unions, 22 Oily, 23 Toes, 25 Duds, 26 Thor, 28 Tame, 29 Down: 1 Co-host, 2 Uneven, 3 Street-smart, 4 Tiers, 5 Omit, 6 Men, 7 Survey, 8 Hiked, 9 Ices, 10 Li', 11 Ode, 12

Spence, 55 Say yes, 56 Tensed.

Sire, 39 Pro tem, 41 Urn, 44 Set, 45 Guinea, 46 Knee, 47 Werner, 48 Raids, 49 Lewinsky, 52 Air out, 53 Ovaries, 54 21 Tot, 24 TUT, 25 Defray, 26 Trio, 27 Studio, 29 Shale, 30 Be mad, 32 Awe, 34 Codys, 35 Adams, 36 Mature, 38 Across: 1 Custom, 7 Shiloh, 13 On time, 14 Suicide, 15 Herein, 16 Berkeley, 17 Overt, 18 Solves, 19 Sees, 20 Formed,

## Sports Wall of Fame inductees to be recognized Friday

#### **Local Staff** The Local

Doug Garrett and Dave Wall will be this year's inductees into the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sports Wall of Fame.

The ceremony will be held Friday.

Friends, family and all interested residents are invited to attend the ceremony, held to recognize those who have made considerable contributions to sports in our community.

### **Doug Garrettt - Athlete**

A veteran, Legionnaire,

Mason and even a former horse-drawn wagon milkman, Garrett made his largest impression on the community on the golf course.

His personality, competitiveness and athleticism led him to 21 NOTL Golf Club Championships at all levels.

He also earned one Senior Champion of Champions title for the Niagara District.

His indomitable spirit and joyous personality coupled with innumerable course records still evoke joy and awe for all of those who know him.

#### Dave Wall - Builder

a well-rounded athlete in a myriad of sports, but it is primarily his behind-the-scenes efforts he is now being honoured. Dave was instrumental in the organization and held Friday, Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. fundraising for both of Niagara's Arenas. Among many other accomplishments, he was one of the initiators of the Wallbangers Hockey team in 1984, which continues to thrive to this day. He Dave Wall, pictured in his was also a director, coach younger years, will be recogand manager of the Slo-Pitch nized for his efforts in the build-League and sponsored innumerable sports teams for de-

cades in all of NOTL's youth In his youth, Wall was leagues. His enduring legacy will long remain something to strive for all of the thankful residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The ceremony will be to unveil the photos in the lobby of the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

ing category.

(Photo supplied)



### **Seniors celebrate Woodstock**





Creekside Senior Estates on Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids, including Bryan and Brenda Sharp (left), Fran and Bill Burkett, and Ernie Thomas, celebrated Woodstock@50 Saturday. Residents dressed up in 60s attire, played music from the famous festival, enjoyed a Trivia contest, and re-lived the event. Yes, says resident Brenda Sharp, some of the Creekside residents attended the original Woodstock in 1969. (Photos supplied)

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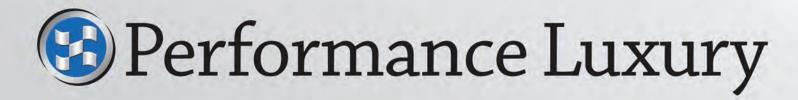
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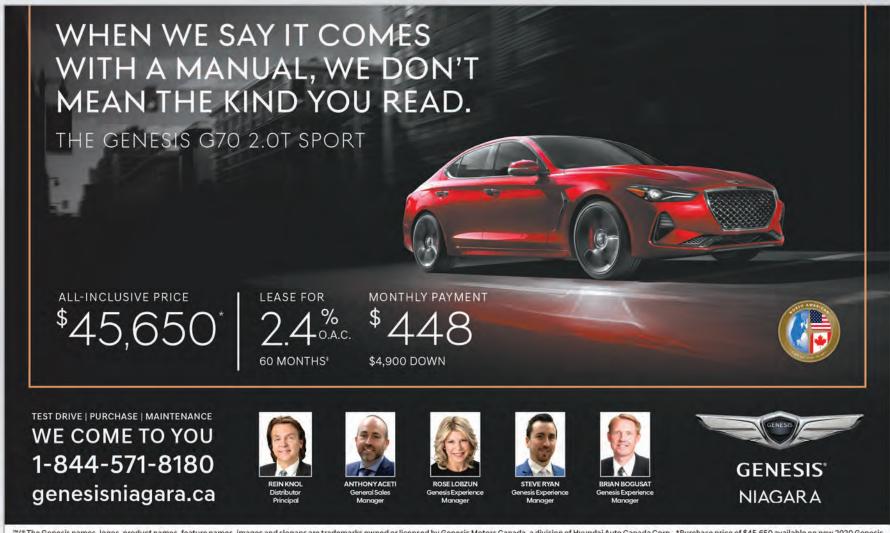
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