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

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

The 33-year-old victim of a hit-and-run at the corner of Concession 7 and Line 6 was a farm worker from Mexico, and a single mother of two daughters, aged 7 and 11. She succumbed to her critical injuries Monday at the Hamilton General Hospital.

She had been on her way back to Tregunno Farms on the Niagara River Parkway, said Phil Tregunno. She was in her second year at the farm, packing peaches. He wasn’t sure whether she would have been returning to Mexico when the packing is finished, or transferring to another farm. “This is terrible,” he said, “so tragic.” The narrow rural roads and concessions present a danger, especially in the dark, he added.

“It all happened so fast. We’re still trying to process it,” he said. The women who spend time together in the packing barn become close through their work. “They’re a very good group, and a religious group. They go to church services Sunday night. They will have the comfort of their strong beliefs — that will be helpful.”

Wilfred Bout, a local mission worker from a Jordan church which holds regular services for the farmworkers, visited the women at the farm Monday evening.

He asked that the name of the victim, who was walking home from a church picnic when she was hit, will not be published. Her girls will be raised by their grandmother, he said. Bout said he knows there will be a desire to help her family, and he would like to collect donations for the girls’ upbringing and education. He has set up a GoFundMe page to collect donations at https://www.gofundme.com/f/niagaraonthe-lake-migrant-worker/.

“As you can imagine, there is a great need for funds to help the family in Mexico,” he said, adding there is also the cost of returning her home to Mexico. “There will also be ongoing costs for the grandparents who are now raising the two young daughters, and long-term education costs, said Bout, who helps farm workers in Niagara under the oversight of Jordan Heritage Reformed Church, Immanuel United Reformed Church of Jordan, and Vineland Free Reformed Church.

The Niagara Regional Police said they were called to the intersection of Concession 7 and Line 6 just before 11 p.m. Saturday. The 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 out-of-region trauma centre, where she died.

The truck is believed to have damage to its front end and could be missing a side mirror.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Niagara Regional Police traffic reconstruction unit at 905-688-4111, ext. 5600.
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-and-a-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 Tuesday.

“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.”

As the marathon meeting wrapped up with a vote, Stuart McCormack was the only councillor who opposed approving the draft, saying he felt it was too rushed. Coun. Erwin Wiens, himself a grape grower, said in this instance, “the Province got it wrong.”

Councillors pointed out the importance of protecting those features which were man-made for irrigation purposes decades ago, and are still 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 follow the lead of the Province,” Disero told The Local. “They may turn around and say we have to follow the 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 Province, allowing NOTL to access funding for needed 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 character 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.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

The night of Thursday, September 12th will be magical in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Join us for a Moonlight Dinner, in typical Niagara-on-the-Lake celebratory fashion.

An extensive wine list featuring some of the region’s best VQA wines from local wineries, local craft beer and cider all paired with terrific live music. All that’s missing is you in your Summer whites. Organise a group or attend on your own. It will be a night to remember.

Set amongst the backdrop of the Niagara River and historic Brock Monument in Queenston Heights, you will be able to bring your favourite picnic, table cloth, tableware and décor for your table (everything must be white). Tables and chairs will be in place and reserved in your name.

Any wine, beer or cider that you pre-order will be chilled and ready for pick up arrival.

$35 a person or $280 for a table of 8.

Reserve your table and pre-order your wine at www.niagaronthelake.com/wine-white.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

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 $1.6 billion of gas tax funding 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 NOTT, 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 podium set up in the Community Centre, where he spent last Wednesday.

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

To that end, he announced that Niagara’s share of the “municipal top-up” as he called it, would amount to close to $14 million, pointing to transit as one of the examples of where that money may be spent.

Also taking to the podium was Jamie McGarvey, mayor of Parry Sound and president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. McGarvey pointed out that the money announced this week is in addition to the $800 million that was already in the federal government’s 2019 budget, and he called the $1.6 billion going to municipalities substantial.

Last week, Trudeau announced $1.6 billion of gas tax funding to support municipal infrastructure projects.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, with his entourage were greeted by a crowd of about 120 by a crowd of about 120 invited guests.

Trudeau happily obliged.

He said he would. He handed to his right-hand man and they hopped into the same vehicle together.

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He said he would. He handed to his right-hand man and they hopped into the same vehicle together.
Jennifer Chornley | Special to The Local

Area farmers were given an opportunity last week to supply the town's irrigation system at once.

The purpose of the Irrigation Systems Strategy to be developed, with help from Associated Engineering, is to improve customer service, support long-term growth and sustainability of the system, maintain the 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 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, including Harrison/Routh, Four Mile Creek and Airport-Bright Lavigne.

Of the permit holders, so far, about 21 participated in the stakeholder consultation survey implemented by Associated Engineering.

Ruck says it's important to have as many permit holders as possible complete the 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.

"It is not a service the Town pays for.

The direction of the irrigation system has been at the whim of maintenance, says Ruck, and the superintendent at the time overseeing the system.

Ruck encourages input from users not only about their system, but also what areas in the future that may need the service or what potential problems they may foresee.

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 future funding.

"Part of our work is to come up with a capital plan, a good year-by-year project-based plan to improve the system," said Matthews.

Ruck also informed participants that this strategic plan was suggested by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and that it was made clear the irrigation system 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 to attend meetings due to conflicting schedules, however he advised attendees to encourage others to take the survey.

"I need as much input as possible, because nothing will be worse than getting an irrigation master plan, spending all the money that 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," he said.

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 simple, colour-coded system.

Also, it was mentioned that it's not to a user's benefit to under-report water usage. Ruck said even though there are bylaws on how much water can be used, the Town needs to accurately map how much water is needed in the system, especially during times of drought.

"We need to know we need the service or what potential problems we may foresee," said Matthews.

Of the permit holders, so far, about 21 participated in the stakeholder consultation survey implemented by Associated Engineering, said it's important to have as many permit holders as possible complete it. All permit holders have until Aug. 27 to complete it. 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.

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

INNOVATION. MOTIVATION. RESULTS.

Welcome to the world’s fastest growing functional training network.

WATCH FOR OUR GRAND OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT!

1517 Niagara Stone Rd | Niagara-on-the-Lake
f45training.ca/niagaraonthelake/ | 905-394-0500
Help keep migrant workers safe

Just when it seemed like the life of farm workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake might actually be improving, tragedy strikes.

We have lost a hard-working young woman who was in NOTL to pack peaches. Two young girls have lost their mothers, and their grandparents have lost a daughter, who came to Niagara to help their 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. Peach-ers 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 problem that brings thousands of seasonal workers to Canada, thousands just to Niagara-on-the-Lake alone, to help the farming industry survive.

This 33-year-old mother 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 grueling work and be separated from months for their loved ones to accomplish that goal.

Just to be clear, the fact that we’re not naming the victim of this heartbreak- ing tragedy is not a sign of disrespect. We’ve been criticized in the media, and as a society, for not learning and using the names of the mi- grant workers who come to work on local farms, for not recognizing them and treat- ing them as the valuable mem- bers of our community they are. And it seems, thanks to local volunteers who keep reminding us, as if we are doing better in that department.

In this particular instance, though, we’ve been asked not to publish the name of this farm worker, this mother, for the sake of the security of her family members back home, who will receive some insur- ance and possibly financial donations.

Having money in poor rural villages can put peo- ple 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 certainly use this heart- breaking loss as a reminder of what we already know — narrow rural roads, especially at night, present danger to cyclists and pedestrians.

On our rural roads at this time of year, that usually means our migrant workers, who have no oth- er form of transportation. They like to socialize with friends when they’re not working, they go to church, they have to shop for gro- ceries, as we all do. But we are more likely to be travel- ing in cars.

It’s our responsibility to be extra cautious when driving at night.

As a member of the Community Policing Com- mittee in NOTL for many years, I remember the focus for many of the meetings work on local farms, for the safety of farm workers. That committee has been renamed, and is members of our community, and its members, with their help, to provide support from the community, continue to work toward keeping the better seasonal workers who ar- rive every year safe.

As a member of the Town’s Road Safety Task force, formed to prevent the large number of serious and fatal collisions on rural roads, I learned there is no such thing as an acci- dent. There are collisions, and drivers are at fault. That’s simple. Collisions can be prevented, if we as drivers do what we are sup- posed to do. Pay attention. Drive the speed limit. Don’t drink and drive.

That task force was dis- banded, but after doing a lot of work to successfully reduce the number of collisions on NOTL roads.

But one is still too many. And we can always do more, each one of us. It’s re- ally up to us, as drivers.

Let’s pledge to continue working at improving the lives of seasonal workers, so important to our community.

Let’s open our wallets to help the children of this woman who was killed on our roads. It’s the least we can do for her and her sur- viving family.

And of utmost import- ant, let’s each of us take the responsibility of driving responsibly, to help ensure our seasonal workers re- turn home to their loved ones.

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 Treaty. 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.

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

DISTRESS CENTRE  For depression, distress and crisis. 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS (Toll Free) 1-866-550-5205

GAMBLER’S ANONYMOUS 905-351-1616

ASSAULTED WOMEN’S HELPLINE Mobile calls to: #SAFE (#7233) 1-866-836-0511 (Toll Free)

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

{interactive embed}
Letters

Reader debunks myths of amalgamation

Open letter to Doug Ford,
So your newly-elected government in Queenen's Park is embarking on another round of municipal amalgamation. Shades of Mike Harris. Funny how it never came up in your election campaign.

There is an old wisd-

om that the more local the service, the more local the government level that supplies the service should be. For example, does it make sense that the federal government should supply dog catchers and the town should have armed forces?

Presidential iterations of Ontario residents enjoyed small and local po-

litical governance, sup-

plied by politicians that were local, knowable, and approachable.

Starting primari-

ly with the Mike Harris government, there was an idea that your neighbours who wanted to serve on council, compensated not much more than a volun-

teer, are no longer appro-

priate to govern. Why? Conservative wisdom said that there are too many councilors.

By the way, I saw Doug Ford in the supermarket the other day and asked him what was the most problem at the proper-

ty just down the street, and last week I cornered Justin Trudeau as he was stopped for gas at Gales and had a good chat about the potholes on my road. Get the idea?

I only wish I could chat with them about things of interest as a citizen but I know I will never talk to either of them as a citizen. I can talk to their govern-

ment’s voice mail, I think it is option 5, then option 4, then option 8; and I get a very nice computer who might even thank me for my views. I especially love getting my rights as a citizen exercised with the lovely sentiment: ‘Please hold, your views are im-

portant to us.’ Important enough to keep me on hold for half an hour.

Do we really need re-

ally big government for all of our lives as citizens? Doug’s man-

tra, like Mike before him, sounds so appealing doesn’t it? Who can’t get behind fewer politicians. Except, is your neigh-

bour, who now serves on council, really an over-

paid politician?

A councillor in NOTL makes annually approxi-

mately $22,000 all in, in-

cluding benefits. The sal-

ary and benefits of NOTL council in total is about $240,000, council salaries being about $0.05 per cent. That in the context of working their buns off for us, out of their home offices, most likely the kitchen table.

A ‘megacity’ of Niaga-

ra would have at least 15 councillors, with salaries in at least the $150,000 range, plus government offices, computers, as-

sistants, and staff, with offices, computers, and salaries around 100K.

Figure on at least $330,000, for a profes-

sional councillor, includ-

ing staff, offices, and equipment, and that’s on the very low side.

Doug is quoted saying 136 politicians is comi-

cal. To think that a City of Niagara council with professional counsellors, their staff and offices is the cheaper route is hi-

larious. Bigger cities also have more levels of high-

er paid managers.

Fewer politicians does not mean less cost or better service or better fiscal responsibility. I ac-

ually like having a level of government that has politicians I might see in my neighbourhood, who get where I live when I talk to them about a local matter.

From a different point of view, let’s look at the entire governance in our country. We have essen-

ially three to four levels of government in Cana-

ada. At the top, the federal level, with foreign affairs, trade, armed forces, na-

tional coordination and some wealth distribution between regions, health care funding and policy, if not delivery. Sounds like a good plan to leave that Fort George won’t likely hold enough troops and jets for today’s de-

fence requirements, so, NOTL army.

At the bottom, we have Niagara-on-the-Lake town council and Niaga-

ra Regional council, which share service delivery on the basis of the creed that it can be effectively de-

livered by the Town, then it should stay there, but if it is more efficient to share the service delivery with other local towns, then move it up to the Region.

Seems to make sense. Police, garbage services, ma-

jor roads, at the Region, the aforementioned dog catcher, water, sewage, sidewalks, parks, recre-

ation, library, planning, fire, building inspection, and really, almost every other government ser-

vice, stays at the Town.

The Province set a curriculum for educa-

tion, but that’s run by school boards that most people have totally lost touch with, and that has a significant portion of funding by the tax-

es raised by the Town. Even services not really related to our properties, like welfare, children’s aid, and public housing, which used to be prov-

incial, has been pushed down.

Okay, then what about the middle government? Yeah, the Province. What do they do? They is-

sure drivers licenses, and those annoying licence plate stickers we have to line up to get every year, oversee the deliver-

y of healthcare, (how’s that working?), and, oh yeah, they tell the towns and regions how to deliver and pay for all the services we need, while they keep most of the tax money generated.

For those of you who can buy a new car once in awhile, the federal/pro-

vincial HST on said car is about as much as an aver-

age home’s annual prop-

erty tax.

That property tax in-

cludes all town, regional, and local authority reve-

ues. A big chunk of your local tax bill, about a third, is handed directly to the Province for educa-

tion.

So, all the local multi-tier services, and a large chunk of education, are supported by the rela-

tively small property tax, including roads, while the Province gets all sales taxes, their portion of your income tax, a chunk of the property tax, hidden
d tax at the pumps, booze and smokes taxes, and on and on. So Doug, take a wider view. Ontario is bigger in economic strength than most Cana-

dian provinces, and many other Ontario cities aren’t far behind that status.

If you are really con-

cerned about saving tax-

payers money, do we rea-

lly need the Province? We will always need a federal government for defence, and trying to make sense out of and deal with Don-
ald Trump and other such

lovely chores.

We will always need towns and cities to deliv-

er all the services, includ-

ing the aforementioned
dog catcher.

If times are evolving so that we need fewer semi-volunteer politi-

cians like Martha or Bill next road over, and must have a City of Niagara with a dozen or so profes-

sional politicians with big salaries and lots and lots of staff, and great big city departments, with lots of layers of managers, and with lots of phone calls spoken by the lovely computer voice, then I’m positive that same evolu-

tionary process can and should eliminate the Provi-

cence level of govern-

ment.

In the study those profes-

sional politicians in the new and improved city states, with their big sal-

aries, and big city depart-

ments, don’t need a prov-

ince to tell them how to deliver their services. I think they have by now figured out that the plow truck should be pointed straight down the road and every once in a while the aforementioned dog catcher will need a new net.

If this is really about making things better and cheaper for Ontarians, then do the honourable thing Doug, and halt this renewed charge into more resources. I in-

stead consider the value output of the Province in the study.

On the other hand, if it’s really about tax grabs from towns and cities who are truly serving and managing con-

siderable 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 Jus-

tin for that matter, once in awhile in the super-

market, but it’s still nice to have the prospect of having a little chat with Lord Mayor Betty while picking over the orang-

es. Enjoy it while you can folks.

Keith McEneny
Niagara-on-the-Lake
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,” writes Laura Bancroft, of Ten Mile Creek Nursery.

There are only two species in this genus Nelumbo: nucifera in Asia and lutea in North and Central America. Nelumbo lutea has yellow flowers and grows as far north as the north shores of Lake Erie in Ontario. To view our native lotus, take a drive to the Canard River, just a few kilometres south of Windsor.

The lotus has large, round leaves held high above the water; its seeds heads are valued by flower arrangers.

The Asian lotus nucifera is grown as an ornamental but also for its edible tubers and seeds. A lot of hybridizing is going on for colour, shape and size, so we have a full range from large to miniature size, single, double, white, red, and yellow.

Lotus can be grown in a large pond but they are particularly well suited for a sunny spot on a patio or a balcony. In my experience, the lotus will flower better and longer when grown in 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.

Lotus flowers: beautiful and easy to grow

Library Garden Party perfect ending to busy summer

Debbie Krause
NOTL Public Library

I am writing this column the day after the library’s Annual Garden Party and Silent Auction.

It would be our fifth Garden Party and, until now, we have always had wonderful weather, and although the weather network kept us guessing until the very last minute, our streak of good luck remains. The Garden Party is the perfect celebratory end to a busy and eventful summer.

August has been filled with daily children’s programs and summer reading check-ins. Attendance remains high in all programs, even as the summer comes to an end.

The building continues to ring with laughter and joy as children and their families come to simply “hang out” or participate in Kasia and Brooke’s many activities. This is the last week of programming, and in a few weeks school will start up again. Our school-aged friends will be busy with homework and extra-curricular activities and the library may seem very quiet. Not to worry, fall programming for both adults and children has been finalized and is expected to go online this week.

A new initiative I’d like to highlight is the library’s Wi-Fi hotspot lending program. Through discussions with other libraries and local organizations we have learned that it is naive to assume that everybody in our community has adequate internet access — either because of their location or due to economic barriers. In response, the library has purchased four portable Wi-Fi hotspots.

Two devices are reserved for our migrant workers. This simple resource allows them to stay in regular contact with their family and friends back home without incurring prohibitive data charges. In fact, both hotspots are already in use, with quite an extensive waiting list. The other two hotspots will be kept at the library as part of the collection. Patrons will be able to borrow a device for the duration of one week using their library card. There will be no renewals, and an overdue charge of $1 per day.

These devices will become available in the next couple weeks, so please call, visit or check notlpubliclibrary.org for updates.

As things wind down for the summer, I anticipate a wonderful fall. You’ll find all your favourite programs, such as Infoshare, Practical Genealogy, Beer and Books, and Wine and Words, in addition to many new programs and workshops.

For example, why not attend Coffee Break — a relaxing time of conversation while enjoying a cup of 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 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 supporters who bought tickets. We sold out more quickly than I could have hoped, a wonderful problem to have.

Lotus flowers: beautiful and easy to grow

Library Garden Party perfect ending to busy summer

Debbie Krause
NOTL Public Library

I am writing this column the day after the library’s Annual Garden Party and Silent Auction.

It would be our fifth Garden Party and, until now, we have always had wonderful weather, and although the weather network kept us guessing until the very last minute, our streak of good luck remains. The Garden Party is the perfect celebratory end to a busy and eventful summer.

August has been filled with daily children’s programs and summer reading check-ins. Attendance remains high in all programs, even as the summer comes to an end.

The building continues to ring with laughter and joy as children and their families come to simply “hang out” or participate in Kasia and Brooke’s many activities. This is the last week of programming, and in a few weeks school will start up again. Our school-aged friends will be busy with homework and extra-curricular activities and the library may seem very quiet. Not to worry, fall programming for both adults and children has been finalized and is expected to go online this week.

A new initiative I’d like to highlight is the library’s Wi-Fi hotspot lending program. Through discussions with other libraries and local organizations we have learned that it is naive to assume that everybody in our community has adequate internet access — either because of their location or due to economic barriers. In response, the library has purchased four portable Wi-Fi hotspots.

Two devices are reserved for our migrant workers. This simple resource allows them to stay in regular contact with their family and friends back home without incurring prohibitive data charges. In fact, both hotspots are already in use, with quite an extensive waiting list. The other two hotspots will be kept at the library as part of the collection. Patrons will be able to borrow a device for the duration of one week using their library card. There will be no renewals, and an overdue charge of $1 per day.

These devices will become available in the next couple weeks, so please call, visit or check notlpubliclibrary.org for updates.

As things wind down for the summer, I anticipate a wonderful fall. You’ll find all your favourite programs, such as Infoshare, Practical Genealogy, Beer and Books, and Wine and Words, in addition to many new programs and workshops.

For example, why not attend Coffee Break — a relaxing time of conversation while enjoying a cup of 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 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 supporters who bought tickets. We sold out more quickly than I could have hoped, a wonderful problem to have.
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, while Lord Mayor Betty Disero twirled on the dance floor with Amado to the reggae classic One Love.

Good things are growing in Niagara and the Peach Pickers Picnic is one of them. “This party just keeps on getting bigger and better. I will be here every year to say thank you. Thank you to all of you for the work that you do here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we are blessed,” said Disero. “We are blessed with rich soil, a great irrigation system and your hard work. Our farmers, our residents are grateful and our businesses are grateful.”

This is a special event that belongs uniquely to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The community has contributed in so many ways over the years, ensuring that these men and women know that they are appreciated and respected. In 2010, the Town provided the first discretionary grant, which helped to build a foundation for future welcome concerts.

Local organizations such as the NOTL Horticultural Society have helped the transition from an annual event to a perennial favorite among farm workers and locals. Countless individuals paid it forward to cover a farm worker’s meal. Members of the Shaw Festival ensemble are discovering life beyond the stage as they delivered tickets 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 discovering the joys of worshipping Caribbean style as their neighbours on the farms share their vibrant music from back home.

Towns in other rural areas of Ontario are contacting us as they seek better farming practices, which also includes creating a welcoming community. There is a growing desire to connect and enrich the lives of everyone’s experience while living and working in Canada.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed in such meaningful ways, whether through donations of goods, food, time or financially. The Peach Pickers Picnic would not be a success without you.

We look forward to 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.

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

Like peaches, picnic is growing in Niagara

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)
Offering a greener option

With one gasoline powered lawn mower being able to produce 100 pounds of greenhouse gases in one season, Orange Property Specialists wants to be part of the solution. Orange Property Specialists is the first landscaping company in the Niagara Region to offer a green option for lawn care services.

"The equipment we use is battery powered, so we're able to provide the same services to our customers as a gas powered company without contribution to air pollution," says owner Peter Albers, who has been in the landscaping and greenhouse industries for over 15 years. "The equipment doesn't require the use of any oils and produces a fraction of the sound. Our customers love it."

With the help of his father-in-law, Dave, they were able to build a charging system inside the trailer to be able to charge batteries throughout their work day. They also installed solar panels on the roof to make the system completely off grid.

Elizabeth & Peter Albers

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 in every way as well. The "Green Casket" that we offer has an unbleached cotton interior, pillow and a natural excelsior mattress. It's fastened with wooden pegs & dowels and is made in Ontario.

The service options for green burial include grave-side service, memorial service/celebration of life and a full traditional funeral service. The major part of the green burial is that the casket is placed directly into the grave without a concrete crypt or vault. Another factor in the consideration of a green burial option is that there's one marker for the section with the names of those buried there instead of each grave being individually marked. Some green cemeteries care for the grass as normal and some are left to nature.

There are two cemeteries, in the Niagara Region, that offer green burial sections. We can assist with this option if you are interested.

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

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

Managing Funeral Director/Owner

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(905) 354-2133 or Visit Us Online at EssentialsNiagara.com
Time running out for VIP Snowbird Viewing

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 museum.

“It’s a great place to see the show, from inside the hangar,” says volunteer Cheryl Morris. There are 400 tickets available for this option.

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 of the Snowbirds team in person following their performance. Tickets are $90 for adults until Aug. 30, and $100 from Aug. 31 to Sept. 6. VIP tickets for children are $35 until Aug. 30, and $45 from Aug. 31 to Sept. 6. VIP tickets must be purchased by Sept. 6.

Tickets can be purchased online for VIP or general admission at notl-snowbirds.ca. General admission tickets are $10 per person. Entry is free for those 12 and under. This area will feature food trucks from PigOut, Johnny Rocco’s, Hometown Ice Cream and Train Coffee. The Niagara Region Water Wagon will be there too.

Morris suggests people bring their own chair or blanket for seating. It’s an optimal viewing point, and there is also an opportunity to meet the Snowbird pilots through the security fence, she says.

Parking is free for all guests.

Gates open at 2 p.m., providing access to an aircraft display with military and vintage planes and to food trucks. The Geronimo skydiving team will begin performing at 3 p.m. For more information about the show visit notl-snowbirds.ca.

Cellidh 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)
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.

As a group, Sawatzky says when they come together, everyone focuses on what they primarily love to do. Some of the members have taken to watercolours, while one of the women, she says, has begun working on quilting as her form of expression.

McKenna’s milieu includes work in acrylic, oil, watercolour and fabric. She has had exhibitions prior to this one, but for the other members, including Sawatzky, this will be the first opportunity for them to publicly display their creations.

Sawatzky is relatively new to the group. Though she says she has an aunt who has an art gallery named after her, Sawatzky never really picked up a brush until about 18 months ago. Some of the artists, meanwhile, have only been painting for around six months. She says you would never guess this 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 see her art.

That confidence makes her look forward to taking this next step by showing her work to complete strangers.

Sawatzky promises a very diverse showing at the church, with watercolours, acrylics, mixed media, fabric, oils, and quilts. She adds visitors will view stunning works created by new and emerging artists that will lead you to imagine and wonder what they will be creating in the future.

Approximately 30 works will be on display by the seven artists involved. According to the rules of the church, none of the members can make a sale during the exhibit, but if a visitor finds something they like, they should feel free to connect with the artists at a later date.

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.

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)
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-focused 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 agency’s invitation with gusto. And presentation of Canada’s partner with the agency in inviting local communities response to the problem, by and community-focussed came up with an innovative longer take advantage of a friend Jim Alexander with friends’ activities at the fort, and Walter Haldorson, fort superintendent at the time, approached Glenney’s good superintendent at the time, Walter Haldorson, fort superintendent at the time, approached Glenney, then chief of visiting the fort's history as well as to demonstrate drills and other military activities dressed in authentic 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 summer 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 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 George from Parks Canada, including the annual Canada Day festivities and the New Year’s Day levee, both traditional events favoured by locals at the time. The main attraction in NOTL on Canada Day was an afternoon barbecue at Simcoe Park. The friends soon added a pancake breakfast 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 Fort George features an evening barbecue, music (including performances by Parks Canada’s fife and drum band), amazing fireworks, fun activities for children, traditional demonstrations and more.

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 ob“tain all necessary permits. Parks Canada also contributes in a major way providing free admission to the fort on Canada Day, presenting on the history of the site, offering demonstrations and activities for children, and staging performances by its fire 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 the year.

“It’s a fantastic relationship,” said Peter Martin, a special events coordinator 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 experience.

One of the best examples of the special relationship between the friends and Parks Canada may be the friends’ 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’s experience, which makes it equally important to stock items that appropriately reflect the military history of the fort and Niagara society in the early 19th century.

Initially, says Amanda Gamble, executive director of the Friends of Fort George, “Parks Canada provided knowledgeable staff to help us determine the appropriateness of an item and of a similar product would have existed at the time – tin lanterns, pottery, dishware 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 gift shop at Brock’s Monument on Queenston Heights.

The friends’ dedication to the preservation, protection and presentation of Canada’s national historic sites is not limited to Fort George and Brock’s Monument, however. It’s also raised funds to help restore the Junior Commissioner 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 404 re-enactors who participated in the Battle of Fort George staged at the fort in July.

“We couldn’t have done it without the friends,” said Martin.

It was the same several years ago, when Parks Canada needed new uniforms for its Fort George animators. The friends took on the challenge 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 discount in the gift shops at Fort George and Brock’s Monument, and a subscription to the friends’ newsletter On Parade, as well as other perks.

For most, however, the biggest membership benefit is likely knowing they are contributing to the mandate of the friends: “To support the preservation, protection and presentation of the site to the public, to future generations,” said Martin.

And for Martin, 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 agency.

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 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 biggest accomplishments was taking a year and a half to research and write a book about Fort George, one of the biggest conflicts in history.

Kids we hired 30 years ago still come back. They all speak with pride about being a part of the fort. Martin said.

Martin said, noting that many animators say their experience working at Fort George, a living museum, helped in their careers and enhanced their communications 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 me,” said Martin.

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 agency.

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Canada’s military past to echo through town this weekend

More than 200 years of Niagara’s military history will be rolling into town this weekend.

Fort George, in partnership with the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Museum, will be the hosting fields for Echoes of Niagara’s Past: A Military Timeline Event, as the town comes alive with interpreters, animators and veterans displaying uniforms, weaponry and vehicles from the War of 1812, the First and Second World Wars, and other historic eras.

About 80 volunteer interpreters from throughout Ontario and parts of the U.S. will be participating with their unique collections of military memorabilia, weaponry, uniforms, tents and furniture.

Parks Canada’s Peter Martin said this year’s main focus of the event will be the Second World War, as 2019 is the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

The two-day event will be packed with activities, including highlighting the firepower of 1812 and tactical demonstrations.

On Saturday, at 11 a.m. there will be a military vehicle parade along Queen Street.

Martin said the event is a yearly success because although Fort George is historic grounds for the War of 1812, the military history of the Second World War is a draw because many people are connected to those who served during the 1939 to 1945 time period.

“THERE’S A PARENT OR GRANDPARENT WHO HAS SERVED AND WHEN THEY ATTEND THE EVENT, ARE ABLE TO RECOLLECT AND CONNECT WITH THE ERA IN WHICH THEY SERVED THEIR COUNTRY,” HE SAID.

“PLUS IT’S NOT SOMETHING WE DO ON A REGULAR BASIS, THUS THE WORLD WAR II ASPECT DRAWS A LARGER TURNOUT. IT’S DIFFERENT,” MARTIN SAID.

“IT’S NOT EVERYDAY YOU NORMALLY SEE LARGE MILITARY VEHICLES DRIVE DOWN THE STREET IN THE MIDDLE OF A SMALL TOWN.”

Martin also emphasized that Fort George was known as Camp Niagara and was used as training grounds for infantry, cavalry and artillery until 1966.

Drew Neufeld, manager of the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Museum since 2012, has been assisting Martin with co-ordinating the event since 2010. He enjoys organizing events such as these because of the increased interest from other community organizations over the years. Understanding how Canadian military history has shaped the country locally and nationally is very important to our heritage, he said, encouraging everyone to attend as there is lots to see and do.

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.
RiverBrink to exhibit, sell important works to support museum

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

With only 30 tickets remaining for the RiverBrink Summer Art Sale Opening Reception, the Aug. 30 event promises to be one of the premier art shows in Niagara-on-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 wine selections from Reif Estate Winery, and 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.

Presenting sponsor and RiverBrink board member Paul Hancock says the weekend is an important fundraiser for the art museum. Proceeds from the sale will 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 and programs.

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 collections.

Other works have been donated directly by the artists themselves, many of them local. These include Pete Malagari, Julie Ponesse, Lenore Walker, Kathy Thomas and Peggy Reel.

Hancock points specifically to former local artist Lillian Asquith’s painting Early Summer, with its striking use of colour and contrast, as one of the premiere items for sale that he expects to sell at a reasonable price.

As well, historical items for sale will include works by Campbell Scott, Mary Prittie, Nicholas Hornyansky, and James Pattison Cockburn.

The main living room currently displays the exhibit The Power of Niagara, a collection of photographs on loan from Ontario Power Generation. When that exhibit closes this week, Director/Curator Debra Antoncic will get to work hanging the many pieces that will be part of the coming event.

The living room comes by its name honestly. RiverBrink was the vacation home of London, Ont. lawyer Samuel E. Weir.

He began his art collection in the 1920s, and continued acquiring important pieces throughout his life. RiverBrink itself was built in 1970, with Weir’s goal always being to leave it behind as a museum, art gallery and library. He incorporated the Weir Foundation in 1962, and, following his 1981 death, his collection and estate was bequeathed to that organization.

As Antoncic leads the way through RiverBrink, it is strikingly clear that all three of Weir’s goals were met by his foundation. The building itself stands as a museum, with its elaborate wood-paneled walls, gabled windows and mansard roof. Those walls hold many important paintings, with a specific focus on Canadiana.

The bottom floor, with its high ceilings, contains a number of bronze sculptures by the 20th century artist Marc-Aurele de Foy Suzor-Cote, along with a library of more 4,000 reference books on art, history and Canadiana.

It’s an impressive building, an impressive collection, and all in immaculate condition.

RiverBrink opened as an art museum in 1983. Though it receives some small grants from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and other government programs, it continues to be funded primarily by the Weir Foundation.

Antoncic says about 3,000 people each year visit RiverBrink, tourists and locals alike.

She is really excited about the sale, and about the variety of work that will be on offer, both historical and contemporary. She promises something for all, with each piece being priced to sell. And she promises that the opening reception, especially, will be a night to remember.

For ticket information, visit riverbrink.org.

Early Summer, by Lillian Asquith, is one of the pieces of art work that will be on sale at a RiverBrink event. (Photo supplied)
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 Lisa 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 came 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 now is 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 between Ron’s work and that of the soldiers.”

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

Boaks’ intriguing sculptures are made from pieces of metal and other materials 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.

His work includes welded steel chariots, human-like figures and objects that combine metal and wood.

“It was equally clear that recycling and repurposing are not new ideas. Local artist Ronald Boaks speaks about his sculptures in an exhibit at the Niagara Pumphouse. (Jennifer Chornley)”

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

Ronald Boaks

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 provides 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 in fusion with joy. With that in mind, I hope when people view and purchase my work they feel that joy also. It gives me great pleasure to 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 similarities between my methods and trench art,” said Boaks, noting his creative process starts with seeing the relationship between objects. “The biggest difference is that the soldiers were under extreme duress that could 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 offering opportunities and art experiences for all ages and interests, through the support of Niagara Region’s Niagara Investment in Culture Program.

Exhibits chair Mark Skeffington described the exhibition as juxtaposition 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 said.

“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 of 10 people on Aug. 29 to tour his studios and collaborate on producing a layout for a sculpture to further their appreciation for the process of sculpture.

The exhibition runs at the Niagara Pumphouse until Sunday, Sept. 29.
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

HELP WANTED

PROBST, Martha —
On Sunday, August 18, 2019 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, at the age of 85. 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 Onna to Ermina, Eric and Ethan. Dear sister of Erchut 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

IN MEMORIAM

May the peace that comes from the memories of a love shared, comfort you.

Remember them with a Loving Tribute.

Contact: anna@notllocal.com or call 905-932-2518

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Is your attic overful? Do you need to make space in your basement or garage? Advertise your GARAGE/YARD SALE here! OR if you have a larger item to sell that won’t fit in a garage sale, call or email for classified advertising details.
905-932-2518 or anna@notllocal.com
Deadline: Mondays 3 p.m.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

1. Habitual practice
2. Custom
3. Mature
4. Be mad
5. Studio
6. Trio
7. Concerts
8. Does puzzles like this one
9. Consultants
10. Snaped
11. Drum
12. “The Last Ship” channel
13. Across:
   1. Habitual practice
   7. National park in Tennessee
   13. Punctual
   15. Self-destruction
   16. In the place
   18. University of California campus site
   19. In broad daylight
   21. Does puzzles like this one
   22. Consults
   23. Snaped
   24. Drum
   25. “The Last Ship” channel
   26. Across:
   1. Habitual practice
   7. National park in Tennessee
   13. Punctual
   15. Self-destruction
   16. In the place
   18. University of California campus site
   19. In broad daylight
   21. Does puzzles like this one
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   23. Snaped
   24. Drum
   25. “The Last Ship” channel

4. Burritos
5. Wise to urban ways
6. Bump
7. Slope
8. Riddler
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Seeger Farms Ltd. is looking to fill full-time positions from Feb-Sept 2020, for our Niagara-on-the-Lake vineyards. Applicants must be willing to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, including weekends if necessary, in all weather conditions at $14/hour. Duties include pruning, tying, hoewing, replanting, suckering and thining. No education or work experience required, but would be an asset. Own transportation required. Please send resume to Seeger Farms Ltd., 15570 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0. Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

905-932-2518 or anna@notllocal.com

Deadline: Mondays 3 p.m.
Sports Wall of Fame inductees to be recognized Friday

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 Garrett - 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
In his youth, Wall was 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 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 was also a director, coach and manager of the Slo-Pitch League and sponsored innumerable sports teams for decades in all of NOTL's youth 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 held Friday, Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. to unveil the photos in the lobby of the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

Dave Wall, pictured in his younger years, will be recognized for his efforts in the building 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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