



Sharks in
the water
page 15



Sports Wall of Fame has two new names on it

Paul French, chosen for a place on the Sports Wall of Fame for his lacrosse success, unveils his plaque with his sons Colin and Zach, and his brother Mike, who is already on the wall for his prowess as a lacrosse player, and who nominated Paul. Monty Slingerland was also inducted at the recent ceremony in the Meridian Credit Union Arena as a lacrosse coach and builder. For the story and photos see page 16. (Mike Balsom)

Amazing Race showcases NOTL locations, businesses

Mike Balsom
The Local

It's been just about a week since he said it on national television, but Joe Pillitteri is already getting used to people shouting "these bins look good" just about everywhere he goes.

"I rushed home from New York State to watch the show with my sisters and my mom and dad," Pillitteri tells The Local. "At one point they got me saying that phrase, and I've been hearing it a lot. I'm thinking of getting T-shirts made."

The local comedian and business owner appeared on *The Amazing Race Canada* last Tuesday, an episode which saw the teams of competitors participating in challenges in St. Catharines, Welland, Pelham and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Pillitteri's Lakeview Vineyard Equipment grape har-

vesters took the spotlight when competitors were given a short driving lesson on the big rigs. They were then tasked by host Jon Montgomery to fill one of the harvesters with water, then carefully maneuver their payload across Chateau des Charmes Winery to fill two troughs to the top.

Pillitteri himself appeared beside Montgomery, ready to hand the next clue to the successful competitors.

"I was really nervous leading up to seeing that episode," Pillitteri says. "The viewership for that show is huge, I think it's in the millions per week. I felt this nervousness that I don't usually feel when I think of being in front of a crowd."

The opportunity to showcase Lakeview Vineyard Equipment, and to outfit the contestants with T-shirts with the business' logo, came about by chance. Location scout

Continued on page 13

NOTL girl ambassador for walk to cure juvenile diabetes

Sharon Burns
The Local

This September, Grade 6 Crossroads student Greta Sobol will be the ambassador for The Sun Life Walk to Cure Diabetes.

Eleven-year-old Greta was diagnosed with type 1 juvenile diabetes when she was just nine years old, and she has been learning to manage it ever since.

"There is no known cause and there's no known

cure," said Greta's mother, Ann Deuerlein. While the cause of type 1 diabetes is not yet entirely understood, scientists believe both genetic factors and environmental triggers are involved.

"Onset has nothing to do with diet or lifestyle. There is nothing you can do to avoid T1D, and — at present— nothing you can do to cure it," said Deuerlein.

"Basically you don't

have a working pancreas, so the body doesn't produce any insulin. Before Banting discovered insulin, it was called the wasting disease," she said.

"You can't process any caloric intake. You can't process any of your food into energy, and type 1 diabetics are insulin dependent. Anytime they eat, they need to take insulin."

A year and a half ago Greta's mother and father, Jonathan Sobol, noticed

that Greta experienced a dramatic weight loss. Blood work analysis led to a T1D diagnosis and Greta was immediately admitted to the hospital for a week because her "blood sugar reading was so very high and off the charts," said Deuerlein.

Greta has the additional challenge that many diabetic children also have, celiac disease.

"It really, really sucks," said Deuerlein. However,

Greta has been managing and dealing with everything that accompanies type one diabetes. "Her life has changed dramatically. She has to constantly manage and count numbers and consider consumption. It's not carefree anymore."

Deuerlein and Sobol have been researching diabetes since they learned of Greta's diagnosis, and they have found solace in the company of other fam-

ilies experiencing the same chronic disease. It was through a T1D Facebook group that Deuerlein heard about Camp Huronda, in Huntsville.

"It's run through Diabetes Canada, and this camp is a game changer," said Deuerlein. The entire staff at Camp Huronda has type 1 diabetes, and their mandate is to help children attain independence

Continued on page 3

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Butlers visiting town prepared for deteriorating burial ground

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

Butler is a common last name across the world, and one with a strong historic connection to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The town hosts the final resting place of Lt. Colonel John Butler, an internationally acclaimed war hero, and founder of Butlersburg, which is now known as Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Later this week, Butlers from all parts of the globe will descend on the town for a special Butler Society Gathering, an event usually held every three years in Ireland.

The last gathering was held in London, England, in 2018. One

planned for 2020 in Niagara-on-the-Lake was cancelled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guests will visit several sites from Aug. 25 to 27, such as the Butler Homestead, Butler's Burial Ground, Butler's Barracks and Fort George.

One of those sites, Butler's Burial Ground, has been a local topic of discussion in recent years as residents Shirley Stark and Bill Hamilton have been trying to bring attention to deterioration at the site since 2017.

In a recent email, Stark said their efforts appear to have been done "in vain," as they remain unsatisfied in 2023 with the condition of the cemetery at the end of Butler Street.

Ruaraidh Butler, president of the newly formed Canadian branch of the Butler Society said

he is aware of the efforts being made by local residents urging for improvements to be made at the burial site.

He said it's possible that 50 to 60 members of the Butler family from all over the world coming to town could reinvigorate the discussion.

"Our hope is that in some ways this historic visit by the Butler Society to Niagara-on-the-Lake will bring some focus to this and we can open up conversations," said Butler, who is a Niagara resident.

"What is the vision? What can be done?" are two questions Butler said need to be addressed, also understanding there is "a lot of demands on different agencies" involved.

The property the burial ground sits on is owned and

managed by Parks Canada.

In 2019, Hamilton and Stark spoke to Niagara-on-the-Lake town council to ask for assistance in preserving the lands, a cemetery that holds about 30 people.

They asked if the local government can help them have the site restored, although the site is Parks Canada property.

They told council almost three years ago that some of the gravestones are already illegible, some are getting more difficult to decipher, and some are disappearing into the ground.

Staff at Parks Canada said, at that time, they were unable to include the burial site as one of their restoration projects, because it's not a designated national historic site.

In a statement provided Tuesday, Parks Canada spokesperson Julia Grcevic said the burial ground is part of the federal agency's maintenance schedule in Niagara-on-the-Lake and has regular grounds maintenance, including grass cutting.

Parks Canada conducts routine inspections of the site and undertakes additional maintenance work when required.

"For example, in 2019, a landscaping company was hired to remove overgrown vegetation and poison ivy to improve the safety of the site," said Grcevic.

In 2002, the vault was covered with shale and gravel to protect it from further deterioration and vandalism, which was occurring at the site. This preservation technique helps prevent vandalism and allows free drainage of water, while providing structural support.

The original gravestones on site have deteriorated due to time and weather, she added.

Many years ago, the decision



Butler's vault has had gravel thrown on it for protection.




Names on the stones have been recorded for history.




Monuments are in ill-repair but are not likely to be restored. (Photos by Kris Dube)

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Nation-wide walk to raise money for a cure

Continued from page 1

in managing their condition, to help them feel empowered to continue the healthy practices they learn at camp, and to know that they are not alone in living with type 1 diabetes.

Greta was not available for an interview with The Local because she is currently halfway through her two-week camp stay. “She won’t have any free time to write letters. She’s having too much fun. That’s what she told me before she headed off” to camp, said Deuerlein.

Greta wears a continuous glucose monitor, a device that is only just recently covered by the Ontario government, thanks to the activism of another Niagara youth with T1D, Maya Webster. Maya was diagnosed at the age of two. Now 11, she successfully lobbied the government for provincial medical coverage. The monitor costs \$4,000.

All of the data from the monitor is constantly being fed through Greta’s phone, and is also sent to Deuerlein and Sobol’s phones so that they can stay informed. Greta also wears an Omnipod Dash to supply insulin. “Instead of having to give injections, she puts her calculations in, like her blood glucose,

and her carb count for each meal into this device and it just automatically injects,” said Deuerlein.

As a high school teacher, she is very aware of the mental health cycles that all children move through, but particularly those with chronic disease. “That’s why getting out to these walks and going to camp are so important,” she said. Greta has a group of friends who call themselves “dia-buddies”.

At a local Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) event recently, Greta “just started talking,” said Deuerlein. “Since day one, she’s put herself out there. She gave talks to classmates and she did a little road show for her school. She came into my classroom and gave it to my group of students too.”

“She’s her own ambassador, and when she shared that with the representatives from JDRF, they asked her if she’d be interested in being this year’s walk ambassador,” Deuerlein said.

Deuerlein and Sobol are co-chairing The Sun Life Walk to Cure Diabetes for JDRF on Sept. 10, at the Centennial Sports Park in Virgil.

The nation-wide walk, in its 30th year, will raise funds to accelerate the



Greta Sobol, 11, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes two years ago, and is learning how to manage it and be independent. A fundraising walk will be held in Virgil Sept. 10.

pace of T1D research. To date the walk has raised almost \$135 million.

“We will be walking with many other families, friends, and supporters in the Niagara area, in support of JDRF and their mission to find a cure for T1D,” said Deuerlein.

They are expecting 200 participants. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and opening ceremonies at 10:30.

“Come out and donate to help us find a cure,” said Deuerlein, who is looking for both sponsors and volunteers. She is thankful for the generosity of local prize donors, such as Shaw Festival and Stratus Winery, but is hopeful that more businesses can support the event.

“A cash voucher, offer of services, or an item that can be raffled off at the

event,” would be appreciated,” she said. “By supporting this fundraiser, you will help fund groundbreaking research that is getting us closer to cures, as well as provide the necessary support to those living with T1D to ensure they live healthier, safer and easier lives.”

Supporters can email Deuerlein at annJDRF-walk@gmail.com.

In the latest JDRF newsletter, Greta was quoted as saying “I was really happy by the sense of community I saw at my first JDRF Walk last year. As a type 1 diabetic, knowing that there are so many people going through what you are and so seeing many people trying to help, meant the world to me. This year, I’m eager and excited to do my best to help find a cure!”



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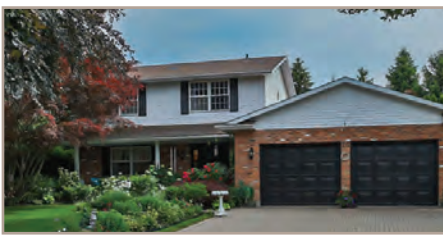
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Region reminds committee members not to speak to press

That's just one rule in new code of conduct

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

A code of conduct for members of the public who sit on regional advisory committees was implemented late last year, but some individuals it applies to are seeing it for the first time.

Put in place last November at the start of the current term of council, the code of conduct for citizens was presented to the region's accessibility advisory committee for the first time last week, as it was the current term's first meeting since the 2018 elec-

tion, explained regional clerk Ann-Marie Norio.

The code is provided as a general standard for all members of the public serving on advisory committees to ensure they are "acting in a manner that is appropriate and establishes a common basis for acceptable conduct," said regional spokesperson Janine Tessmer.

It was formed as a result of council providing direction to staff to consider the implementation of some type of code to ensure that any advisory committee members were aware of the expectations "regarding conduct and the implementation of similar codes at

other municipalities," she said.

Advisory committees are just beginning to meet and are getting formal glimpses of the code of conduct, a separate document from the code that applies to elected regional council members.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the code of conduct covers both elected politicians, as well as citizen members of committees, agencies, boards and commissions, explained town spokesperson Marah Minor.

Members shall conduct themselves "with integrity, courtesy and respectability" at all meetings of the council or any committee, and in accordance with the town's

procedural bylaw or other applicable procedural rules and policies, reads the code.

One of the obligations in the region's code of conduct for citizen members is that they cannot give interviews to the press.

"Members shall not represent themselves publicly or in any form of media as agents of the region," it says.

"If a member is contacted by the media regarding a matter involving their Niagara region advisory committee, the member shall refer the media to regional staff," it continues.

Members can't receive gifts or other personal benefits related to their service on committees, or use regional resources for their own personal purposes.

There are rules related to elections as well.

A member may not identify as a member of a regional advisory committee while working on, fundraising, endorsing or otherwise contributing to the election campaign of another person or third party, reads the code.

Norio said no complaints have been received about alleged violations of the code of conduct.

In a statement provided to The Local, Niagara Region chair Jim Bradley said councilors value the time, effort and input from all members of public advisory committees as they play an important role in the decision-making process, and that having a code of conduct for them is not unique

across the province.

Residents who voluntarily serve on these committees, while not elected, are seen by many as representatives of the region, and as such, it is important that they understand and agree to follow a code that outlines what conduct is acceptable as representatives of the region and potential steps that can be taken for ignoring the code, said Bradley.

The path that council took to develop the code for advisory committees was complex and influenced by a "number of different factors and situations," he said, adding it's important there are "guidelines for those who sit on our advisory committees to help ensure all parties involved can avoid unnecessary conflict and criticism."

Police still looking for driver of Ricardo Street hit and run

Penny Coles
The Local

Residents of Ricardo Street were drawn from their homes Saturday night to the sound of sirens racing to the scene of a collision and a fire just outside their doors.

Both the Niagara Regional Police and the NOTL fire department responded.

The police say they received a call at 10:27 p.m.

about a motor vehicle collision on Ricardo near Wellington Street, and when they arrived discovered a 2021 white Dodge Ram travelling west on Ricardo Street had struck two parked vehicles, a white 2016 Ford Edge and a silver 2007 Toyota Cruiser.

The Dodge Ram continued west after the collisions, and struck a hydro box before coming to a stop.

The driver of the truck fled the scene, the police say, and from the accounts of neighbours, was picked up by someone else following in another truck.

Neighbours also reported that the hydro box the truck hit burst into flames after the driver had left the scene.

Police say the driver was not located by responding officers, and that it is considered a hit and run collision, with police

appealing for witnesses to come forward and for area residents to check any surveillance footage that might have relevant information. Anyone with information is asked to call 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1009034.

NOTL Fire Chief Jay Plato told The Local his department responded to a call about a fire to the truck and the hydro box, but by the time they got there, the fire was out.



Police and the NOTL fire department responded to a collision on Ricardo Street Saturday night — and a fire in an electrical box after the driver had left the scene. (Photos supplied)



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Fund for cenotaph nears goal, but not there yet

Sharon Burns
The Local

More than 100 years old and counting, it's time to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the renovations of the cenotaph.

Last week, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 president Al Howse met with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa to hand over donations they have collected to make repairs to one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's most recognized and beloved historical features.

The cenotaph is dedicated to community members lost in the war, and was unveiled on June 24, 1922, by Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Henry Cockshutt. Located in the centre of Old Town, the cenotaph was initially

used to signal the time to residents during the 1920s and 1930s.

Internally, the cenotaph is showing its age and is in urgent need of restoration. So far, \$60,000 has been raised towards the goal of \$81,000.

"We want to thank all the individuals and businesses in our locality for all the generous donations that they have made," said Howse. "We're very close to our target and the town is ready to start the work."

The Cenotaph Committee, a partnership between the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Branch 124, is appealing to the community to rally and assist in closing the gap and raising the remaining funds needed to complete the restoration work before the winter.

When the town com-

mittee was formed, Wil- lowbank School of Restoration Arts was asked to take a look at the cenotaph, and came up with a 40-page report on what needed to be done and recommendations for how to proceed with its restoration, with work mostly related to water damage. It also stressed the need for regular, ongoing maintenance.

The committee is also working toward establishing a permanent fund for continuing maintenance "so that we don't have to keep scrambling every time we need to do up-keep or maintenance or any kind of restoration," said Howse.

Donating is easy and all donations of \$25 or above will be issued a tax receipt by the Town.

Donations can be made

via cash, cheque or debit at the Town Administration Offices at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, or the

Canadian Legion Branch 124 at 410 King Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. All cheques should be

payable to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and marked 'Cenotaph Restoration'.

Conservation authority work continues on Two Mile Creek

Mike Balsom
The Local

Staff from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Area were busy Monday through Wednesday this week installing a second cross vane in Two Mile Creek at the end of Butler Street in Old Town Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The new installation spans the creek about 100 feet north of the cross vane that was installed by the NPCA in August 2022.

Using natural materials (downed trees and stones), cross vanes focus the creek's energy into existing pools within the creek that have started to fill up with sediment. That helps to reduce soil erosion on the creek banks and scour out sediment deposits within the creek.

"Think of a cross vane like putting your thumb on a hose," said NPCA restoration specialist Stuart McPherson. "It allows the

pools that are already there to stay cooler and provides a better habitat and a perfect refuge for fish and insects."

Last year the crew created a similar installation just north of the Butler Street footbridge. They had planned to install the second one then but it was necessary to push those plans to 2023.

While on set for the new installation, they added more stone to the 2022 cross vane to shore it up.

McPherson told The Local there are no plans right now for a third such installation, but NPCA specialists will continue to monitor the area for gathering sediment in the coming months.

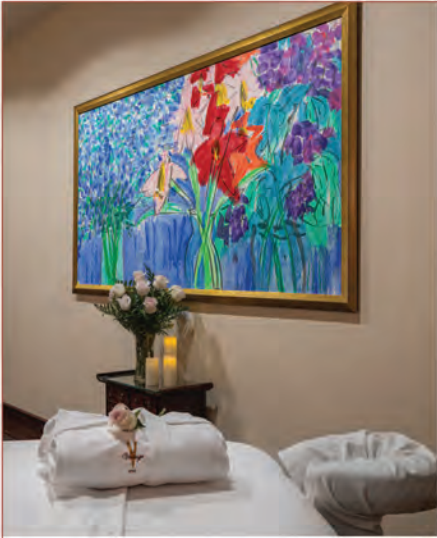


Niagara Peninsula Conservation Area staff Stuart McPherson, Steve Gillis, Rob Diermair and Megan Lilli install a cross vane in Two Mile Creek. (Mike Balsom)



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa accepts funds already raised by the legion for the cenotaph restoration, with Al Howse (president), committee member Coun. Gary Burroughs, Jackie Dickieson, the legion's 2nd vice-president, and committee member Stan Harrington. (Supplied)

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our new reporter, thanks to funding program

Readers who pay attention to details may have noticed a new byline in The Local.

We are very fortunate to have Kris Dube, an experienced reporter who worked for the Fort Erie Times before it closed, along with the former Niagara Advance, and also for the Welland Tribune, as well as a stint at a Niagara Falls online news site in between.

As an independent newspaper that depends entirely on ad revenue to stay in business, The Local was able to offer Kris a job thanks to a Local

Journalism Initiative fund, a federal program partnering with News Media Canada to promote good journalism.

Kris has been tasked with covering civic journalism, which has a fairly broad definition, and includes the impact regional and municipal decisions have on their residents.

Last week he wrote about the Lakeshore Road property and why it is unlikely it will ever be open to public access. We know there is more to the story, and he's on it.

We're sure there are residents who have memories of

frequenting the property now under discussion, apparently with unexploded military devices. One caller to The Local says hogwash to that (maybe not quite so politely) and another says the only ordnance on the property might be a rare bullet shell.

We'd also like to hear more of those stories — feel free to send us an email.

This week Kris wrote about Butler's Burial Ground — it badly needs cleaning up, and more than that, some restorative work. It's not the only cemetery in town in need of

some expensive repairs, nor is it the only one with a long and significant history, and it's been on the town's radar for some time, as well as property owner Parks Canada, with no results.

He also reported on a regional meeting that talked about the code of conduct for citizens appointed to regional committees, such as the one on accessibility. We were disappointed to learn that it includes a ban on talking to the press. Heaven forbid our NOTL member of that committee talks to us about

accessibility. Not sure what kind of harm it could cause, but apparently we have to talk to the regional staff if we want to know what is being done about accessibility in NOTL.

We're grateful to have Kris, and we wanted to let you know that although his name may be new to our readers, he is far from new to this task, and will do it well.

And it doesn't hurt at all that he's a committed Blue Jays fan! Go Kris, and go Blue Jays!

Penny Coles
The Local



Kris Dube will be seen around town, scoping out stories that impact locals. (Supplied)

Why go north when you can go south — it's so much closer



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

By tradition, and living in a post-COVID world, I feel that many residents of southern Ontario have subconsciously forgotten about the natural wonders which lie immediately across the border. I want you to imagine unprecedented wilderness beauty and rare species, less than two hours away — without Toronto traffic.

When you cruise a mere half hour outside of Buffalo, you are in black bear country. I like to use the presence of these large mammals as an indicator of deep woods and healthy ecosystems.

If you travel an hour outside of New York's fourth largest city, you are on backroads of woods and corn without a lick of cellphone reception.

Just shy of two hours on the road, you cross the Pennsylvania border into a state with more forest per capita than most other regions of the U.S. I venture to deduce that much of Canada and the U.S. are unaware of Pennsylvania's woodsy abyss.

Let's consider an invisible environmental and cultural boundary. Everyone around here knows about Ellicottville, New York. This is largely thanks to its beautiful ski hills and quaint, yet vibrant entertainment on the main street, which is surrounded by the foothills of the Appalachian mountains. If your curiosity takes you even just another half hour south, you

will see the foothills grow into gently rolling mountains coated in unadulterated greenery.

My girlfriend Maria and I decided we'd like to try an outdoorsy experience that would be entirely new to both of us. Before we crossed the Pennsylvania border, we visited a spot I've been eyeing for several years on Google Earth called Zoar Valley.

This mind-blowing sheer canyon was created by the hard work of Cattaraugus Creek, and it takes a lot of hard work to find it — thanks to the lack of cell phone reception in the area. Some life chats with local grocery stores cashiers and bumming WiFi off of a local store can make it happen. I personally love these fun travelling challenges. Some of the best things in life involve a little bit of vulnerability and creative processes.

The term Cattaraugus is a Seneca indigenous term referring to "bad smelling banks" within the Zoar Valley. Although Maria and I didn't get a whiff of anything but fresh air and good times, it is noted that the exposed shale rock faces sometimes ooze a smell of natural gas. There is also an interesting history of nudists and bikers who used to congregate in this scenic old-growth forest valley. We saw none of either category. Our eyes only encountered snakes, a baby

snapping turtle, and plenty of fascinating trees species.

Within the valley, The Confluence was a sight to behold. There is no way that such scenery is hiding out in New York, just over the border. A massive triangular protrusion of rock indicated where Cattaraugus Creek and Deer Lick Creek poured into one another, joining forces on a rugged mission fuelled by gravity and time heading toward Lake Erie.

We left one of the cleanest creek systems in western New York to see the even deeper woods of Pennsylvania's section of the Allegheny National Forest for our two nights of tent camping.

This giant blob of green straddles the New York and Pennsylvania borderlands. The majority of the landscape is uninterrupted forest, minus a few sparsely populated villages who live along valley bottoms and the nearest road. Otherwise, you are in forests as profound and as thick as our famed "Up North" Ontario.



The confluence of creeks in the dramatic Zoar Valley, New York. (Owen Bjorgan)

We got the canoe on the water for one afternoon, and the morning after. Cumulatively, these adventures were for perhaps five hours in total. However, it took only the first hour to spot a golden eagle — a "lifer" in terms of being a nature geek and seeing a species for the first time in the wild.

Picture a bird with the mass of a bald eagle, but mottled plain brown. In contrast to the blandness, it makes up for its ordi-

nary appearance when in flight, as the bright yellow legs and vicious-looking talons make a striking appearance of evolutionary history and hunting prestige.

When coming across such an extraordinary sighting, I found myself recollecting a theme of natural magic. There is nothing scientific about this, but there have been countless

Continued on page 7

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View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Darling Companion
(Prime, 2012) is not a great film, or even a good film; how-

ever it does have Kevin Kline, Mia Farrow and a mutt named Freeway. I watched it; I loved it.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to the movies. Until


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



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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Where's Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Several correct answers were received from last week's photo, which was indeed the NOTL Public Library. The first response we received was from Georgia Polymeneia, who added, "This photo has brought me so many happy memories from the time I was living in NOTL, and the library was like my second home."

COMMENT

Local LETTERS

Proposed King Street apartment building

As residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake for 50-plus years, we have seen incredible development changes in our once-perfect community.

When we chose to move here, real estate prices were among the most attainable for young couples wanting to raise their families. We had school choices, a hospital, local services on Queen Street — including a pharmacy, dry cleaner, fire department and garage. We easily parked, for free, on the streets and life was fun! We eventually established a local business, focusing on the restoration of the town's unique architecture and became very involved with opportunities to help preserve and promote the town's history and importance in the scope of Canada's history.

But in these recent years, as developers grasped the potential of profiting from those who chose to preserve and maintain this community, the quaintness and charmed ambience is shattering. Overwhelming development proposals seem to fill the local papers and wind their way to council meetings.

Our elected officials have to curtail the over-development of our town and resist the lure

of creating excessive and expensive housing for the profit of greedy developers.

By now the community should be aware that there is an upcoming public meeting on Sept. 12 regarding the proposed building of a 17-unit, three-storey apartment on King Street — a building which is to be "tucked" into a contrived lot which was assembled through three successful applications to the committee of adjustment.

Each COA application requested "minor" variances to accommodate the building of a single-family residence; but, lo and behold when all the variances had been granted there now seemed to be a space to consider a multi-unit residence and all that is now needed is a zoning change and possibly some more minor accommodations to squeeze it in.

Currently the proposal shows:

- a long narrow access driveway between existing homes, maybe too narrow for emergency vehicle access

- a building which will cast day-long shadows on existing residences on Meritage Lane, and block view plains for homes on King Street, Niagara Street, Sim-

- coe Street, and Meritage Lane
- no space for a playground
- only one parking space per unit

- additional deficiencies which will be addressed at the public meeting.

This proposal rings more alarm bells for overall planning directions and processes of the town. Even though the official plan designates this area as single-family, an individual has felt confident enough to invest large sums of money, time and the skill sets of qualified ex-NOTL town planners to put forward this inappropriate building. Was there not a point in time when the town staff and/or elected officials should have strongly advised the developer that his proposal is unacceptable? Do we now have to invest our tax dollars to use staff time and the public's time to explain the obvious?

The densification in this area of town is quite intense. Within the last few years the apple and pear orchards, the vineyards and green space which once filled the land between King, Anne and Victoria Streets have been developed into a large subdivision. St. Vincent de Paul School is gone and the memo-

ries of neighbourhood children on the creative playground (built by the parents) are but distant recollections.

We have welcomed a plethora of new neighbours. We have lived with construction vehicles, trucks with their back-up beeping, the early morning pounding of construction and all the related inconveniences of new builds. We are intensified to the max.

In our disbelief that such a proposal is being submitted for consideration, we became more aware of the municipal governance process — and in particular, the power of the committee of adjustment and its quasi-judicial powers. Their power supersedes those of our elected officials, to the point that if council disagrees with a decision of the COA, they have to engage in a formal appeals process. Following is a summary of the COA authority from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Terms of Reference, Committee of Adjustment, last updated August 2023:

"The Committee of Adjustment/Property Standards Order Appeals Committee (Committee) is a statutory tribunal which operates independently

from Council. Authority is delegated to the Committee by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council (Council), under the provisions of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13 (Planning Act) and the Building Code Act, 1992, S.O. 1992, c.23 (Building Code Act) to hold public hearings for the purposes of making decisions with respect to applications for: Minor Variances; Legal Non-Conforming Uses (extension/enlargement/similar use); Consents; Fence Variances; Sign Variances; and Property Standard Order Appeals. 4.5 Quorum a) Where a committee is composed of three members, two members constitute a quorum, and where a committee is composed of more than three members, three members constitute a quorum. (Planning Act, Section 44(5))."

So without a council representative on the committee (but the advice of members of town staff), local citizens have the legal power to effect change in neighbourhoods (with the understanding that they will not participate in discussions or vote on matters which could be of personal benefit). Their decision is final unless council

engages the formal appeal process. That could be a lot of influence which binds decisions, which in the case of the King Street apartment proposal now has created the possibility of changing the official plan to accommodate a zoning change in an area that more than fulfills its density and housing needs and/or quota.

As per the quorum regulations, these decisions can potentially be made by three unelected officials, and only two of them have to be in agreement.

In conclusion, we strongly urge all the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake to look to your neighbourhood, backyards and empty lots. A proposal for an apartment could be coming to your street.

For detailed information about the proposal, visit the Town of NOTL site: www.bit.ly/727King; email amecs96@gmail.com for more information.

Register with the clerk's office at clerks@notl.com to attend the public meeting on Sept. 12 and be allowed to speak.

Speak up now.

Jim and Erika Alexander
King Street
NOTL

Interaction between bald eagle and golden eagle a rare treat

Continued from page 6

incidents in my outdoor life when one unequaled species or incident presents itself, and then a series of other outstanding encounters unfolds shortly after. When it rains, it pours.

Or maybe there is a scientific concept about this.

The presence of rare or top predator species indicates ecosystem health at a larger scale. Animals like golden eagles are known to regulate and balance species beneath them. Therefore, biodiversity and species abundance are likely to be higher in the same area, meaning more encounters abound

for the keen adventurer. We kept with this train of thought, and paddled across the massive Allegheny Reservoir to look for more wildlife.

Once pulled up to shore, I flipped over a piece of washed-up wood and found the glorious red eft, which is more orange than red. You might be wondering, "what the 'eft' is that? The eft is a sub-adult phase of the eastern newt, who has a brief terrestrial phase before returning to the water to metamorphose into a dark green swimming adult. Hard to believe when looking at the picture, right?

A moment later, we found the more common eastern red-backed salamander. Nonetheless, including back in Niagara, this species is an indicator of a healthy ecosystem in terms of soil and water quality as they breathe and drink through their skin.

On our second paddling session, we approached an osprey nest. Her squeaks echoed

across Pennsylvania's forested bay as we canoed beneath her perch. We then observed a myriad of bird species in combination I have never seen in Niagara. Half a dozen green herons stabbed at small fish in the water while blue herons and wood ducks waded and waddled about, respectively.

Then, Maria spotted a bald eagle. Moments after, I identified another golden eagle in a tree 100 metres away, nearly directly above our campsite shore where we were destined to pull up. At this point, Maria said, "imagine if he interacts with the golden eagle and flies onto his branch?"

As if on cue for the world's greatest unscripted performance from Mother Nature, the bald eagle jumped off its perch and began to fly directly toward the golden eagle. There was no chance they would interact, fight or share a branch, I thought. The heavy rain started on cue. The bald eagle bombed its way onto the golden eagle's

branch. Without question or hesitation, but perhaps a personified "fine, screw you!" the golden eagle conceded and flew off explosively. The bald eagle was in charge, a beautiful yet uncanny representation of America's prized national bird.

We remarked at the statistical and spiritual significance of this situation. What are the odds that these two uncommon apex predators would be located on the same shoreline,

and then to see an interaction with them of that nature?

As this once-in-a-lifetime moment concluded, the rain morphed into a downpour, which violently washed down our bodies and camp gear in torrential fashion. After packing up our soaked belongings, we proceeded to wash down beer and chicken wings at a classic American-style backwoods pub, before returning home to Canada.



A red eft, a sub-adult phase of the eastern newt, discovered under a plank of washed-up wood. (Owen Bjorgan)



A golden eagle, which later had a brief but contentious moment with a bald eagle. (Owen Bjorgan)

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RoboThink STEM education programs available in Niagara

Sharon Burns
The Local

Liz Tai, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, has brought RoboThink Niagara, a leading robotics and STEM education provider for children and youth ages five to 14 years old, to town. STEM is an acronym

for science, technology, engineering and math, four fields that share an emphasis on innovation, problem-solving and critical thinking. Tai had been fruitlessly looking for local STEM opportunities for her eight-year-old son, and finally said, “OK, I’ll just make

this happen!” She started RoboThink Niagara at the Community Centre this past March, and quickly expanded throughout the Niagara region, holding after-school, weekend and summer programs and workshops for youth in Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and St. Catharines.

In a RoboThink classroom, young people build, code and play with robots: for example, a tail-wagging dog and a self-moving unicorn. Others built swings, bumper cars, roller coasters and ferris wheels. Some even designed their own zoo and built dancing spiders, turtles and baby elephants.

Originally hailing from Taiwan, Tai graduated from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in St. Catharines before completing a degree at the University of Waterloo. After years of working and living in different countries, Tai returned home to the Niagara region with a passion for education. “I believe that learning should be fun,” she said. “STEM not only develops technical knowledge but also other essential skills like problem solving, critical thinking and communications skills in children.” The RoboThink STEM

education program is present in 25 different countries around the world. Niagara residents are invited to the grand opening on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the RoboThink Niagara Education Centre, 210 Martindale Road in St. Catharines. It will feature robotic dis-

plays and a demonstration for families. Parents and children can learn more about the different programs available for the fall and winter seasons. To inquire about RoboThink programming in Niagara-on-the-Lake, reach out to Tai via myrobothink.com/niagara.



Alex LeBlanc, Ryan Deng, Artun Ozocak and Alex Jack learning about STEM and having fun at the community centre. (Photos supplied)



Chloe LeBlanc and Victoria Krentzien at the community centre RoboThink program.

Bake-offs, book clubs and more at the library this fall

Kasia Dupuis
Special to The Local

Engage, explore and enrich: The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library has an exciting range of programs this fall, catering to diverse interests and ages. From literary discussions to culinary exploration, and from genealogy workshops to artistic endeavours, there’s something for everyone to enjoy. Book clubs: Book enthusiasts will be delighted with three distinct book clubs offered by the library. Beer and Books returns this fall, hosted

at The Old Winery Restaurant, where monthly meetings combine great reads with convivial conversations. For daytime discussions, the Thursday Afternoon Book Club offers a warm and inviting atmosphere once a month at the library. This fall’s lineup features captivating titles including *The Sleeping Car Porter*, by Suzette Mayr; *Ducks*, by Kate Beaton; *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, by Waubgeshig Rice; and *On The Ravine*, by Vincent Lam. Read it and Eat: A culinary literary adventure —

step into a unique literary and culinary experience and delve into different cookbook series, authors or chefs each month, discussing and savouring delicious recipes. October’s spotlight is on Nick DiGiovanni’s *Knife Drop* cookbook. The Great NOTLPL Bake-off: Savouring sweet creativity — calling all bakers, from novices to experts. Join the bake-off for a monthly journey of delectable treats. Register to showcase your baking skills and connect with fellow enthusiasts. Themes for each

month include cookies (September), apples (October), tarts (November), and Christmas favourites (December). Share your creations over coffee and tea at the library. Explore Your Heritage: Family history with DNA is back by popular demand. Join genealogy expert David Hemmings for an interactive workshop exploring resources available through the library and online for tracing your family history and understanding DNA testing. Paint Night at the NOTL PL: Unleash your inner artist

and unlock your creativity. Led by artist Kasia Dupuis, this September event guides participants in creating a stunning hydrangea painting. Embrace your artistic side while supporting the library’s programs and initiatives. Scrabble Club: Building bridges with words — embrace the power of words at the new Scrabble Club. Join monthly sessions to challenge friends, expand your vocabulary, and enjoy the timeless appeal of this classic word game. Wine and Words: An

evening of adventure — as Adam Shoalts shares his latest adventure in his book *Where the Falcon Flies*. Join him on Thursday, Oct. 26, at Caroline Cellars for an intimate evening featuring captivating tales, a glass of wine and delightful treats. Mark your calendars — all tickets and registrations open on Friday, Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. on the library website, notlpubliclibrary.org. Stay tuned for updates and additions to our programming lineup by following us on social media @notllibrary.

Library offering enriching kids’ programs this fall

Kasia Dupuis
Special to The Local

A season of enrichment in children’s programs will be presented at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public

Library this fall. From babies and toddlers to school-age kids, there’s something for every child to enjoy and learn. Bond and connect at Tumble Tots, a drop-in inter-

active program every Monday morning that presents the perfect opportunity for caregivers to bond, grow and connect with their children and fellow caregivers in the community. Little ones aged

two to four, accompanied by their caregivers, can enjoy this session filled with songs, stories, rhymes and games. For caregivers and parents with babies aged two and younger, the Giggle and Grow session at 11:15 a.m. offers a quality one-on-one bonding experience. Featuring songs, rhymes, lap bounces, finger plays and short-and-sweet story times, it’s an ideal way to engage with your little one in a nurturing environment.

Mindfulness, creativity, and imagination come alive for kids ages four to six in Mindful Minis every Tuesday at 4 p.m. The library mindfulness sessions integrate movement, stories, and interactive activities, fostering social-emotional development in a fun and nurturing space. Little artists aged four to six can unleash their creativity in Creation Station, a captivating arts and crafts program held every Thursday at 4 p.m. Children can express

themselves artistically with a variety of arts and crafts projects designed for little hands. Fall at the library brings captivating story times to wind down the day. Families are welcome to drop in for Bedtime Stories with Sharon, taking place every other Thursday at 6 p.m. It’s the perfect opportunity to gather and enjoy enchanting tales as a family. Engaging STEAM exploration for kids ages seven to 12 is offered with exciting opportunities to delve into STEAM subjects through engaging programs. The Lego Club, held on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m., offers young builders aged seven to 12 the chance to take on new building challenges, collaborative projects, and open-ended activities with everyone’s favourite little plastic brick. Art Spark, led by Kasia every Wednesday at 4 p.m., immerses young artists in

various visual arts experiences, including painting, sculpture and more. Tech enthusiasts can join TECHNICOOL on bi-weekly Thursdays at 6 p.m. to explore the worlds of technology and Lego, and engage in hands-on activities and problem-solving adventures. PA/PD Days at the library, Oct. 6 and Nov. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the library will be abuzz with drop-in activities including Lego, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, tech toys and more. When school’s out, the library is the place to be for fun and learning. For more information and to check the full program schedule, visit notlpubliclibrary.org. Registration for all programs opens on Friday, Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. on the library website. Stay tuned for updates and additions to the programming lineup by following @notllibrary on social media.

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Wine and tourism stakeholders working toward common goal

Mike Balsom
The Local

Getting Niagara's wine industry to the next level begins with something as simple as writing letters to MPs and MPPs.

That's what Grady Peller, senior manager of corporate strategy and marketing transformation at Andrew Peller Ltd. urged about 35 wine and tourism industry stakeholders gathered at an event at Ravine Vineyard's conference centre last week.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce hosted the event, a chance to take a closer look at the data from the recently released Niagara Uncorked study conducted by Deloitte Canada. The report estimates that the region could see an additional \$8 billion in wine-related economic growth

in the decades to come.

"As we delve into the insights of the study," Chamber and Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake president and CEO Minerva Ward told the crowd, "let's not forget that our wine industry is but one facet of a larger tapestry woven by a rich diversity of experiences."

As Peller and Del Rollo went on to present some of the numbers from the Deloitte study, much of the focus beyond the numbers was about the growers, the wineries, the restaurants, the accommodations and cultural industries and other tourism-related organizations working together toward a common goal.

"Based on Deloitte's analysis," said Peller, "the wine sector has the opportunity to drive economic growth in the region today and tomorrow. Grape growing and winemaking are

not only significant contributors to the regional, provincial and national economies today. Their future ongoing success is essential to the region reaching its full potential."

Both speakers frequently used the term "benchmark" in comparing Niagara to regions such as California's Napa Valley, the Bordeaux region of France and Tuscany, Italy.

"These three regions are so successful," Peller explained, "because they are incredible purveyors of not only wine, but also cultural and hospitality experiences that, combined, people will travel from around the world to spend their money on."

With Niagara Falls nearby, a growing hospitality and food services industry in the region, and both Brock University and Niagara College here, the Deloitte study suggests Niagara is poised to join those regions

in worldwide success if it all comes together.

Niagara, said Peller, grows 90 per cent of the grapes in Ontario, and 80 per cent of the country's. Unfortunately, he added, Ontario is the highest taxed wine region in the world, while British Columbia's Okanagan Valley industry is number two.

"The wine industry continues to outperform the broader economy," Peller stated, "but despite our ability to generate sales growth year after year, we face punitive tax policies that are not experienced anywhere else in the world."

The problem, according to both Peller and Rollo, is the current 6.1 per cent tax which is charged by the province on wines sold at the wineries themselves, making it difficult for smaller producers to stay afloat.

"We subsidize the government with this tax," Rollo added. "We pay over \$850 million in taxes to the government per year. We would just like to have a little bit of that back. And with that we will be able to turn around and bring it back to them to them in spades to the tune of \$8 billion."

Later in his presentation, Rollo urged everyone involved in the Niagara economy to "stop navelgazing and do something big and bold".

"We have to give the consumer everything that they



Del Rollo and Grady Peller talk about how to fulfill the potential of the Niagara wine industry. (Mike Balsom)

want," he urged. "It's all here. We have the casino, the wineries, restaurants, Shaw, the airport. We can only to this together. But this 6.1 per cent tax has to go."

When the floor opened up to questions and comments from those in the audience, Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates lamented the treatment Ontario's VQA wines receive at LCBO stores.

"Our wineries shouldn't have to fight for shelf space in our own stores," Gates said. "On Canada Day, their website was promoting wines from France. On Canada Day! And so many small wineries are in trouble because of that 6.1 per cent tax, too."

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa promised that the counsel-

lors attending the Association of Municipalities of Ontario meetings would all be addressing those issues this week in London, Ontario.

George Lepp, president of Lepp Farms, expressed frustration that jurisdiction for the wine industry falls under the banner of six different government ministries in Ontario, something that is certainly not the case in Napa, Bordeaux and Tuscany.

Rollo pointed out that he had been talking to Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Vic Fideli recently about that exact topic.

"We will keep beating the drum until we win," Rollo said. "But you all need to help. Talk, spread the word about Niagara, and start writing those letters today."

Thursday's Jane's Walk offers great local stories

Sharon Burns
The Local

The third annual Jane's Walk is planned for this Thursday, with speakers sharing everything from birding to ghost stories, with a little bit of gardening and history thrown in.

It starts at the historic Steward House at 507 Butler Street at 6:30 p.m., and commences down Butler Street to Butler's Burial Ground. Kate Sullivan and Jo-Ann Fraser, organizers of this year's Jane's Walk, have taken the walk out of the Chautauqua area and are "showcasing the variety of things that are down by the Two-Mile Creek," said Fraser. "It's really quite a lovely area with a lot of diversity," said Sullivan.

Starting at Steward House, Elizabeth Pilzecki will unearth forgotten stories and connect the home's fun and heroic past with NOTL's first settlers. "There may also be a ghost story, or two," said Fraser.

Next, Mary-lyn Hopper, a master gardener, will take the spotlight to outline the value of native gardening and dispel some common misconceptions.

Moving closer to Two Mile Creek, walkers will hear from Jean Hampson, secretary for Peninsula Field Naturalists, a community of people conducting bird counts and working on projects and campaigns to protect bird species, populations and habitats.

"Birds can be found on every continent and almost every habitat on the planet," says Hampson. "Because many species migrate, birds help connect our world and can be an indicator of the health of our ecosystems."

Participants will learn how both migrating and local bird populations need interconnected green areas for their survival and will take away

some useful resources and ideas on how they can assist our Niagara birds.

Finally, the stage will be set for Rick Meloen, an avid history buff, to transport participants back in time and recount the struggles and triumphs of Colonel John Butler, one of Upper Canada's great leaders.

"Butler helped to create Niagara-on-the-Lake," says Meloen. "He was an exceptional man, who served as deputy superintendent for the Indian Department, Justice of the Peace and, in addition to forming Butler's Rangers, also helped establish St. Mark's Anglican Church and the Masonic Order in Ontario."

The organizers expect the walk and talk to take about an hour and a half. If walking to the meeting spot is unmanageable, Fraser noted that there is ample parking around the area. The walk is accessible to all.

"It's a really good opportunity for us to get to know some people in our community, learn together, and share," said Sullivan.

"It's really a dialogue about where we live, and what's glori-

ous about it," added Fraser.

Jane's Walk is named after activist Jane Jacobs, who started getting involved in urban planning while living in Greenwich. She believed in a community-based approach to city-building even though she had no formal training as a planner.

Her book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, introduced ground-breaking ideas about how cities function, evolve, and fail — ideas that have become conceptual pillars for today's architects, planners, policymakers, activists and other city builders.

Fraser explained that Jane's Walks are "a real grassroots volunteer organization. There's no honorarium. And there's no fundraising or anything. It's just people contributing their expertise or their time because they think it's a valuable endeavour."

There are thousands of Jane's Walks now, and on the first weekend of every May, Jane's Walk festivals take place around the world. This Thursday's walk is a rain date from a plan to hold it in the spring.



Jo-Ann Fraser and Kate Sullivan are offering Jane's Walk, Thursday, Aug. 24, with lots of great stories and interesting information offered along the way. (Sharon Burns)

Local HOME of the WEEK

36 THE PROMENADE

This spectacular fully renovated home is situated on a large corner lot, offering a low-maintenance luxury lifestyle. Welcome guests into a large foyer centred between the well-appointed living area and formal dining room. Main floor maple hardwood has been refinished in soft white. The heart of this home, the kitchen, is designed for your inner chef. The 15 foot white quartz island anchors the space. Custom cabinetry places your suite of Thermador appliances perfectly for both beauty and functionality. This home is perfect for entertaining large groups of friends and family. The main floor has been reconfigured to create access and flow between the indoor and outdoor spaces. The two new energy-efficient Garden doors connect your living room and kitchen seamlessly to a large 680 sq ft. deck. A gardeners paradise, designed for beauty with minimal upkeep and maintenance. Upper floor features two large bedrooms, plus a bonus suite over the garage, creates versatile living space, for work from home, in-law suite or other studio options. Enjoy proximity to the Heritage Walking Trail, Parks Canada - 'Common' and the newly installed Monet Gardens, plus you are an easy walk of Queen St. Heritage district. Location, updates and efficiency make for a luxury lifestyle, ready today.

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Yoga teacher to stars comes to NOTL's 124 on Queen

Sharon Burns
The Local

Alana Hurov, former celebrity producer and current marketing director at 124 on Queen Hotel & Spa, is bringing yoga guru Danny Paradise to town for an immersive three-day retreat this Labour Day weekend.

Hurov, who was born in Calgary, first met Paradise while he was instructing students in a yoga retreat in Toronto. “He brought Sting with him,” said Hurov. She and Paradise became fast friends.

Hurov credits Paradise with popularizing yoga in North America. “He was the first to introduce Sting and Madonna to yoga, then Paul Simon and Pearl Jam. That’s what created the ‘fandemonium’ around yoga. He’s a big reason why yoga is so popular,” said Hurov.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Danny Paradise



Danny Paradise will be in Niagara-on-the-Lake offering yoga sessions Labour Day weekend. (Supplied)

back to Canada,” she said. “We can’t imagine a more uplifting way to welcome the start of September than with one or more exclusive sessions with Danny. This really is the opportunity of a lifetime to be in the presence of a visionary teacher.”

For his first visit home

to Canada in more than five years, Danny and the team at 124 on Queen have created an itinerary designed to promote well-being of the body, mind, and soul built around wellness, fine food, fun and relaxation.

Suitable for beginning to advanced practitioners,

and teachers of all forms of yoga, guests are welcome to book one, two or all three sessions from Sept. 1 to Sept 3.

The classes will be at the Gatehouse (now an event venue) and range from two to three hours. People can take as many breaks as they want. The cost for each session is \$135, “which includes the classes, products from our sponsors, refreshments, and an opportunity to have direct contact with this yoga guru who has amazing stories to tell about his experience,” explained Hurov.

The spa has partnered with local businesses, such as Budapest Bakeshop, Lululemon, Neob Lavender and Konzelmann Estate Winery to provide a truly unique experience.

Space is limited to 20 guests per session. Tickets are available from the front desk at office@124queen.com.

“In everything we do,

there’s always an opportunity for locals to be involved,” said Hurov. “This is a day retreat, so you don’t actually need to stay in the hotel, you can just come for a class.”

“Some people seem a bit intimidated because it’s Danny,” she added, “and we have seen pictures of Danny doing headstands and these crazy arm stand poses, but Danny’s been teaching for 40 years and is very accessible to everyone.”

Hurov should know. She has studied and trained with the best yoga teachers in the world — in Hawaii, Toronto and California, and she has owned or operated yoga studios throughout Ontario, including the Trish Stratus yoga studio at The Ritz, Toronto. She also taught celebrities and professional athletes (NBA, NFL, WWE, MLB players, pro golfers, and CFL players).

Hurov was a celebrity producer, and helped create talk show *George*

Stroumboulopoulos Tonight. Before starting at 124 on Queen last November, Hurov was a producer for The Shopping Channel.

She was working with Entertainment Tonight when she met Paradise, who is originally from North York. She has visited him in his open air home in Hawaii and trained with his gurus. “I thought it was an amazing opportunity to bring someone who is so well-established and so well-known in the yoga community to the Niagara region.”

In June, 124 on Queen hosted a McLaren Street Party with about 20 McLarens, each worth roughly two to three million dollars.

Hurov can’t yet say what other events 124 on Queen is going to offer, “but it’s going to be really exciting. We’re hoping to give people a reason to come see us during the low season, and to boost up tourism in those times.”

Virgil building to serve as canvas for art installation

Local Staff

Almost exactly a year after the idea was introduced, the funding for the much-anticipated street-facing art in Virgil has been secured.

The planned installation of artwork on the Niagara Orchard and Vineyard building officially kicked off with a recent cheque-awarding ceremony held at the site. The projected cost is estimated at \$23,000 and promises to beautify the streetscape, making it a welcome addition to area revitalization efforts, says a news release from the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, the driving force behind the installation.

For 29 years, the Pumphouse has brought art to the community through exhibits, programs and successful projects to promote public art, such as the NOTL hydro box beautification initiative, now in its fifth year.

Board chair Lise Andreana initiated the project to help promote the talents of local artists and help the town achieve its goals for Virgil beautification. Andreana expressed her



Coun. Erwin Wiens, Arnie Lepp, Ron Clavier, Gail Kerr, facilitator of the Pumphouse project which is about to become a reality, and Lise Andreana, who initiated it. (Dave Van de Laar)

enthusiasm, saying “The introduction of this art installation in downtown Virgil enhances the town’s aesthetic appeal, a reminder to locals and visitors alike of the importance of agricul-

ture and the visual arts in our community.”

Key community members have played a vital role in bringing this project to fruition through their fundraising efforts. Coun. Erwin

Wiens as well as local business owner Arnie Lepp of Niagara Orchard and Vineyard, and Spirit in Niagara Small Batch Distillery, have been instrumental in this endeavour.

Their contributions have resulted in financial support from others such as BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Hummel Properties, Lakeview Equipment, Quiet Acres Farms, St. Davids Cold

Storage, Syngenta Canada, and Two Sisters Vineyards.

Wiens expressed his support, saying “This art installation representing the town’s agricultural roots will transform Virgil’s streets and foster community pride.”

As a local business owner,” says Lepp, “I understand the importance of enhancing our surroundings and attracting visitors. The artwork selected showcases the agricultural community of which I am part of and will undoubtedly resonate with both locals and visitors alike.”

Renowned local artist Ron Clavier donated the image, one from his new project, “Thanks for the Meal.” His artwork, titled *Day’s End*, represents the profoundly personal relationship between the agricultural community and the land. Clavier’s painting will be replicated on the side of the Niagara Stone Road building. Clavier shared his excitement, saying “I am honoured to be a part of this celebration of both Virgil’s agricultural roots and NOTL’s vibrant arts and culture community.”

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Local author's book
now available

Chris Bowron held a book signing at the Old Niagara Bookshop Friday afternoon for his new non-fiction release *Waiting for Morning Time*. The book tells the true story of Bill Lipset (centre), his father Lew and their friend Neal who were lost at sea in the Gulf of Mexico for two days in open water. They were joined at the book signing by Bill's wife Anna, whose ordeal back on Florida ground with the rest of the family members of the stranded men is also told in vivid detail. *Waiting for Morning Time* is available for purchase at the bookshop and via amazon.ca.



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FIDA fundraising supports adult literacy, sustainable businesses

Penny Coles
The Local

Betsy Wall and her family have been involved in helping the poorest of the poor for decades, going back to the late 1960s, when her father, Jack Wall, became the founding president of International Child Care with a goal of inoculating all children in Haiti up to the age of 20 against tuberculosis.

However, he came to believe that inoculation and

healthcare programs were not the solution to Haiti's situation, and that the country's economic future depended on empowering people whose hands were in the soil — agriculture would be its saviour.

The board of International Child Care, however, did not agree, and to move forward and act on his beliefs, Wall left that organization and founded FIDA (Foundation for International Development), to "empower the poor to become

masters of their own destiny," Betsy told the Local.

The premise of what Jack hoped to build was, in his words, that "True development must be in the hands of the people. If it is not envisioned by the people, owned by the people, and managed by the people, it will surely fail."

That was in 1980, and his words were put into action in 1984 when he and his wife Anne, at the age of 60, sold everything they had here and

moved to Haiti.

Both have passed away, both in their 90s, Anne in 2020, Jack in 2022.

Betsy, the oldest of four children, says she was "given the mantle to carry this on" in 1999, when her father, at the age of 75, announced to the FIDA board — with no warning to her — that he was retiring, and she would be taking over.

Although she had her own marketing company at the time, she agreed she would do

it for three years — but almost 25 years later, Betsy is still the executive director of the organization, which continues to be true to its vision "to be a leader of the productive agricultural cooperative development model and participatory approach to affect true and lasting transformation in Haiti."

Betsy will be in Niagara-on-the Lake for a FIDA fundraiser Sept. 13 at the Trevor Falk Farm, the third year there has been a dinner and auction held there.

Fundraising started as a golf tournament with a dinner and auction in Niagara years ago, she explains, and continued until COVID hit, when they held a social-distancing golf tournament.

Then they moved to just a dinner-auction event at Trevor Falk's farm — Trevor's father Bill is the chairman of the FIDA Canada board, and the family is a strong supporter of the organization.

This event will be the third at the Falk barn, with local comic Joe Pillitteri as MC and auctioneer, as he was at the golf tournaments, says Betsy. "We're delighted to have him again."

The event is held there because of the support it receives from the community, she says.

"We are a development organization. We are Mennonites, we come from the Russian Mennonite tradition. My parents met and were married in the Niagara United Mennonite church. We get a lot of support from that community."

And on Sunday, Sept. 17, Betsy will be the guest speaker at the Niagara United Mennonite Church — all are welcome to attend.

A special addition to the event at the Falk Farm on Sept. 13 is guest speaker Lawrence Hill, author of *The Book of Negroes*.

His book, she says, "on one front is the journey of a young child who was taken on a slave ship from her family and African colony to North America."

The importance of his presence at the fundraiser is because "it's the same journey as the history of Haiti."

She was given the opportunity to be free because she was literate. And Haiti will forever be enslaved unless its population can be literate."

The approach of FIDA, and its organization, called Productive Cooperatives Haiti, or pCH, is based on a business investment model. As Jack would say, Betsy tells the Local, "there is no such thing as child poverty, it's adult poverty. Children are not poor, it's their parents. So we must invest in their parents so they are able to provide for their children."

Jack believed, "correctly, I would still say today, that the agricultural sector is the one that will be able to pull Haiti out of poverty, and yet it's one of the least invested sectors."

Also he believed in business models, and particularly in the cooperative business model,

according to the international definition of cooperatives — "we don't use that term loosely," says Betsy. He felt it was the most suitable model for Haiti to be able to advance itself.

She explains the work of pCH is based on three pillars, the cooperative business model, the economic drivers, such as agriculture, with an income-generating health insurance, and the third pillar, "investing in the human being, through adult literacy."

A very high percentage of men and women in Haiti, especially in the rural areas, "are completely illiterate. The average illiteracy rate is extremely high."

The investments of pCH equip the adults of Haiti with what they needed to become "responsible, contributing citizens in Haiti, speaking to their needs and everyday lives in Haiti."

The three pillars, she explains, "we believe have to work hand in hand."

After 40 years of being in Haiti, along with many other organizations also investing in other ways — ways that weren't having the expected results — Betsy says, "Haiti is not poor for lack of money. Poverty has become its commodity, and that's what it sells, at its own peril."

In times like these, anyone with means to get out of Haiti is getting out, she says. "Missions are closing down, leaving, becoming immobilized. Haitians with any means are leaving. What happens to us is we become busier than ever."

Most organizations have been focused on helping the children — it's easier to attract a donor to help a child, she says. "But that removes dignity from adults who can't look after them."

It's tough to raise money for adult literacy, she says, "but Haiti will never advance if we don't invest in the ability of a man or woman to be literate. I am forever moved to observe men and women, in their 40s, 50s, up to 80 years of age, and to look into their eyes and see what the gift of literacy has given them, at a time in their lives when they never thought it would be possible. That is what motivates me."

Fundraising dollars, she tells donors, are investment dollars, investing in people's lives and their families, and "it is expected that they will multiply that investment. We don't respond to need, we respond to people who are motivated to become agents of their own development. That's a very different approach to what you might see as the traditional mission approach. We don't go looking for people in need, people come to us, and the primary reason we hear is that they are tired of being poor and they know we help people who want to help themselves."

Tickets to the fundraiser are \$100 per person. Reserve a ticket by calling Betsy Wall at 519-588-7967 or email betsy.wall@fida-pch.org.

NOTL Museum receives major art donation

Local Staff

A major art donation of historically significant artwork has been received by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, courtesy of the TAG Art Gallery, St. Catharines.

The artwork consists of 19 unique pieces with a focus on Niagara history, landscapes, and people, from images of Queenston Heights and Brock's Monument, to Brock himself, and Joseph Brant. The collection is a mix of etchings, aquatints (a variety of etching), pencil drawings and pastels, from artists as familiar as James Pattison Cockburn, Owen Staples, Nicholas Hornyansky and

W.H. Bartlett.

"These works are a part of history," said Sarah Kaufman, the museum's managing director. "For more than 200 years these drawings, etchings and watercolours were in great demand by Europeans for early travel books and journals."

The gift is part of a region-wide generous donation from the Goldspink family, owners of the TAG Gallery, which closed its doors in the fall of 2022. Other recipients are the Niagara Falls Museums, Brock University and the St. Catharines Museum.

Since 2006, the Goldspink brothers, Tom and Frank, have focussed on building a rich, di-

verse collection of art, consisting of historical prints, lithographs, original watercolours and pencil drawings, ranging from the late 1600s to modern day contemporary pieces. The Goldspinks' passion for history is well-founded. Their ancestor, John Coulter, was one of the early contractors of the Welland Canal, and one of the founders of Port Robinson.

"This generous donation will benefit all of us," said Shawna Butts, NOTL Museum's assistant curator. "Researchers, scholars, visitors and art lovers alike. And it makes a superb addition to our collection."

The NOTL Museum is located at 43 Castlereagh Street.

It's open five days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit notlmuseum.ca.



Shawna Butts with Hornyansky's Brock Monument, one of the donations to the NOTL Museum's collection.



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productive cooperatives Haiti (pCH)

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5:30-9:30pm

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African arts and culture celebration coming to RiverBrink

Mike Balsom
The Local

After two years in Niagara Falls, the AWA (African Women Acting) Niagara Festival is coming to the village of Queenston.

The idyllic RiverBrink Museum will be the site for two days of professionally curated arts and crafts exhibitions, interactive African Djembe drumming workshops, dance, music, authentic African and Canadian food, and an assortment of vendors.

AWA, both the organization and the festival, is the brainchild of Nigerian-born Sonia Aimy, a musician, actor, songwriter and filmmaker who moved to Canada from Italy, where she studied music and acting, in 2020.

"AWA is about positive change," Aimy tells The Local. "It's about creating a legacy, working with the younger generation, helping them to navigate their way. We engage them through the arts, through our programs, videography, photography, music, theatre, dance and storytelling."

The non-profit organization opened their Niagara African Cultural Space on Queen Street in Niagara Falls last June. It includes a visual arts gallery and a retail space, showcasing African masks and other art. They are putting their finishing touches on a professional kitchen and will soon begin offering a mix of African, Caribbean and Italian food on weekends.

The cultural space is a way to keep the work of the AWA Festival going year-round. As Aimy explains it's about empowering, promoting and preserving all aspects of African culture in Ontario.

"We have a lot of new immigrants who come in seeking help finding job opportunities," Aimy explains. "But we invite anyone who is curious about Africa to come in and learn with us. Some of our instructors for our drum circle and our arts programs are people who have just dropped in to see what we are all about."

Aimy connected with River-

Brink administrator Janet Zylstra in her previous role as the organizer of the Niagara Falls Farmers Market. When it became clear that this year's AWA Festival needed a new home because of construction surrounding its previous venue, the two discussed the possibility of the museum fitting that bill.

"I discovered RiverBrink a while back while I was touring around Niagara checking out the arts landscape," says Aimy. "The venue is breath-taking. Janet and all the staff there are amazing. We are setting up an outdoor stage, vendor tents, and food and drink. We're expecting between 15 and 20 visual artists and craft makers."

The musical acts lined up for the two days run the gamut from R'n'B, Afrobeat, Afro Jazz, Arabic, Bollywood and alternative styles. Choral folk group Minuscule will play a set Sunday, while Indigenous folk banjo player Esther Jane Willow will perform both days. As well, both Saturday and Sunday will include drum

circles led by Mohammed Diaby and Khadim Mbegue.

Though Aimy is a veteran of numerous world tours with her own music, she herself will not be performing as part of the festival.

"I would love to perform but there's just too much to do," she laughs, "I'm producing and directing the festival, and that's it."

She has also been producing and directing films, a new endeavour for the tireless Aimy. Her documentary *Trace*, a series of interviews with Black role models doing important work in the community as professors, business leaders, historians and visionaries, is winning awards on the film festival circuit.

As well, Aimy has been working on her next album, the followup to 2021's *Reconnect*, which featured songs in English, French and her native Nigerian tongue.

The songs on *Reconnect* are all joyous and positive, pushed along by infectious Afrobeat rhythms. On the title track the multi-lingual Aimy encourages her people to "pay homage



AWA is the brainchild of Nigerian-born Sonia Aimy, a musician, actor, songwriter and filmmaker. (Supplied)

to my motherland", to "dress it" and to "dance it". She shifts seamlessly from French to English on *Felicitations*, singing "wishing best for you, you may rise, rise, rise to your heights".

"The new record will be similar," she says. "We have a few more songs to record, but we hope to release the first single in September, and the album will be out in October."

Once the album is released Aimy will be off on a world tour that will see her in Italy, Nigeria,

Senegal, Brazil, Canada and the United States. Then she plans to work on a sequel to *Trace*.

But first, she has a celebration to host at RiverBrink Museum this weekend.

"It's going to be a memorable event for the entire family, with lots of activities for the kids," Aimy says.

The AWA Niagara Festival goes both Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27, from 2 to 10 p.m. Tickets are available through eventbrite.com.

Contestants also competed in a wine challenge

Continued from page 1

Peter Donato, who operates local company Niagara Cycling Tours, contacted Pillitteri some time in January to ask him about the harvesters potentially being part of an Amazing Race challenge.

Donato explains that one of his guides would stop by Lakeview's Lakeshore Road location with cyclists to point at the harvesters, explaining to them a bit about the process of making wine.

"It became a regular stop for all of our guides," Donato says. "So when our producer Ann (Camilleri) needed some locations in Niagara, we thought those harvesters would make for a great challenge. They are fascinating machines."

As Donato explains, with the episode set to be shot in May, growth on the vines would be quite young at that time. As well, there was no way contestants could be shown drinking wine as that is against broadcast rules in the country. So using the harvesters in such a challenge was a perfect idea.

Pillitteri at first thought Donato's request was some sort of scam.

"He said he was part of an award-winning travel contest show," says Pillitteri. "When I did talk to him on the phone, he seemed genuine. Then, when he came in on his own, he said he wanted to highlight agriculture in Niagara in a bit of a different way. They came back with one of the producers, we put her on a harvester and got her doing some basic maneuvers in about 10 minutes."

The NOTL portion of the episode also featured contestants taking part in a wine

identification challenge on the patio at 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa.

Alana Hurov, the hotel's director of marketing, gives her public relations team credit for attracting the producers to the new facility.

"We don't know for sure, but we heard that Jon Montgomery came to stay at the hotel following a referral from them," says Hurov. "He fell in love with the hotel and got in touch with the show's location manager."

Hurov says they were in negotiations with Insight Productions, who shoot the program, for a couple of months.

"They took over our Gate House with their crew and equipment for about a week," she adds. "It was the hardest secret I've ever had to keep. It was so exciting to see this world-class production crew shooting at our hotel. The buzz was getting around town, but we signed a strict non-disclosure agreement and couldn't say a word."

The challenge there involved contestants sniffing six different glasses of wine and matching each selection with a tray containing samples of scent items, such as raspberries and peaches, that a sommelier would typically be able to suss out. Niagara College's viticulture professors organized and ran that challenge.

Hurov and her team hosted a viewing party last Tuesday in the hotel's new NOTL Bar & Restaurant. More than 75 people gathered around two big-screen televisions to witness the local sites and people on the national television show.

The crowd cheered loudly as the show opened in the city of St. Catharines, specifically at the historic British Meth-

odist Episcopal Church in St. Catharines and the statue of underground railroad legend Harriet Tubman.

Everyone laughed raucously when contestants Tyler and Kayleen got delayed by the Glendale Bridge over the Welland Canal. And the guffaws came hard when Derek and Jaspal repeatedly overturned their rowing shell during another challenge on the Welland Flat Water Centre.

But everyone roared when, midway through the episode, the Queen Street cenotaph appeared. And the VU metre buried itself in the red zone when the front door of the hotel was finally shown.

"It was a phenomenal experience," Hurov says. "To be on national television for about eight minutes was incredible. To see that blue door come up so many times was surreal. It was so exciting to share our beautiful town and the region with the rest of Canada."

Hurov expects that they will be developing some Amazing Race sommelier-type experiences at the hotel soon, hoping that the exposure translates quickly into drawing fans of the show to NOTL.

The episode concluded with contestants racing to Fort Mississauga, which served as the final destination, where Montgomery was accompanied by a representative from Parks Canada. The difficulty the contestants had in locating the fort was quite humorous.

"It's amazing how many locals couldn't even tell them where it was," Donato laughs. "As a bike tour operator, I think I know more about local spots than most locals actually do. In this business you really do see everything."

And Donato, who splits his time between a home in Toronto and one here in town, adds that he doesn't rule out the possibility of a return to the region.

"I wouldn't be surprised," Donato says. "Next year will be season 10. We've been to Toronto four times, Calgary three times, Vancouver a few times, all the big cities. Niag-

ara may not be a top five city based on size, but it's such a great region and there's so much more to show."

For more photos visit notllocal.com.



At 124 on Queen's viewing party last Tuesday in the hotel's new NOTL Bar & Restaurant, an audience watching the episode cheered when they saw contestants arrive at Lakeview Vineyard Equipment, where contestants had a challenge involving harvesters, and were handed their next clue by Joe Pillitteri. (Mike Balsom)



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Music Niagara season finale features host Mike Bullard

Mike Balsom
The Local

Tuesday evening's Music Niagara Festival season finale will be a reunion for comedian Mike Bullard and drummer Vince Maccarone.

Maccarone, the leader of the versatile and eclectic world music band Los Variants, appeared on the wildly popular CTV television program *Open Mike With Mike Bullard* at least twice with a previous band, and he's looking forward to reconnecting.

"I haven't seen him in years," Maccarone tells *The Local* from his Toronto-area home. "And he is so funny. I'm also looking forward to getting there early and listening to the other musicians and singers. I love the dark harmonies of the music from Eastern Europe."

Los Variants, who play a mix of Afrofunk, reggae, jazz, blues, Caribbean, Flamenco and Middle Eastern music, are part of the lineup at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Aug. 29. They will close out a show that begins with performances by Lithuanian musicians Aiste Bruzaite and Egidijus Alisauskas on traditional instruments kankles and birbyne, respectively. Funny man Bullard will tie things together with his



Comic Mike Bullard hosts Music Niagara finale at St. Mark's. (Photos Supplied)

stand-up talents.

Maccarone, who teaches music at both Georgian and Centennial Colleges, says you never get the same set twice from Los Variants, who came together as a revolving collective around 2012.

"For this particular performance," explains Maccarone, "we have musicians from Algeria, Sicily, El Salvador, Peru and Egypt. Everybody gets a chance to shine. Only when we go out with the same group for an extended tour do we have a consistent setlist."

Growing up in Sudbury, Maccarone wasn't exposed to much more than rock and blues. Somehow he developed his love of music from around the world.

"It's probably because I'm a drummer," he says. "I would hear African music, or Latin music, and I would focus on the drums. That became a passion. And then I studied and practised with some of the people in Toronto and became even more interested in the rhythms from around the world."

Maccarone began living the musician's life at 18 years old, touring with various bands while studying music at Humber College. His resume includes stints with blues harmonica legend Paul Reddick as one of his Sidemen, underrated guitarist Colin Linden, and

Denny Doherty of the Mamas and the Papas.

Maccarone left Humber before graduating, but a few years later at a blues and jazz festival he met up with one of the school's professors.

"He started describing his life, teaching until mid-April and then touring in the off-months," he laughs. "A light bulb went off for me. So I went back and completed an undergrad degree in music performance and production through Humber and York University, and followed that up with a master's degree in ethnomusicology."

While living in Toronto Maccarone began collaborating with the likes of singers Suba Sankaran and Dylan Bell as well as guitarist Michael Occhipinti, bass player Jonathan Amador, and percussionist Luisito Orbegoso, all members of Los Variants. From time to time, the band's tour guests may include Luis Simao on accordion, Kevin Turcotte or Andrew McAnsh on trumpet, Fethi Nadjem on violin and Maryem Hassan Tollar on vocals.

It's a diverse and unique collection of sounds from around the world that they will be bringing to the venue Tuesday.

Bullard also remembers Maccarone fondly from his six-year stint on the Gemini Award-winning *Open Mike*, followed by another year hosting *The Mike Bullard Show* on Global television.

"I remember Vince," Bullard says. "I look forward to seeing him. You know, Canadian musicians were often the best guests back then because they were used to being in front of a live audience."

During his phone call with *The Local*, Bullard shares many memories of his seven years of hosting a successful national TV talk show. As a veteran stand-up comedian by that



Drummer Vince Maccarone will finish the season with Los Variants, an eclectic world music band.

time, it is appearances by contemporaries such as Al Franken, Jim Gaffigan and Louis C.K. that remain some of his favourite memories. But an unlikely highlight for Bullard involves Burt Reynolds.

"He called our office, and at first I didn't believe it was him," Bullard laughs. "I thought it was (comedian) Norm Macdonald trying to pull a prank on us. But I got on the phone with the guy and asked him who his first wife was. When he answered it was Judy Carne from *Laugh-In* and she was bat**** crazy, I knew it was really him."

Bullard cleared the scheduled guests for that night's show, giving Reynolds, who was in Toronto to shoot the film *Driven* with Sylvester Stallone, the full hour. Afterwards the pair went out to dinner, and one of Hollywood's biggest heartthrobs ever regaled the host with stories about shooting *Deliverance*, free love in the film industry during the 1970s, and how Sally Field was truly the one that got away.

After his second talk show was cancelled in 2004, Bullard moved on to CFRB Radio, where he hosted a syndicated program for about 10 years.

"I enjoyed radio a lot more than I ever did TV," Bullard says. "It was freeing, because it all depended on me. I had more callers than anybody, and that's what I really, really enjoyed. They made the show. There's nothing I enjoy more than speaking to regular folks."

That was part of his television act, too, during segments such as his *Viewer of the Week* and *Who The Hell Do You Think You Are*. It also continues to be a big part of his stand-up act, which takes him to Yuk Yuk's in Niagara Falls on a regular basis.

For his Music Niagara appearance Tuesday, Bullard promises some of that back-and-forth with the audience. He also is pretty sure he'll touch on some of his recent experience touring a war-torn Ukraine for four months earlier this year.

"I'm in the best shape of my life right now, partly from wearing that 150-pound vest for 5,000 kilometres of walking," says the 65-year-old. "I listened to the stories from my uncles and my grandfather about World War II. They fought in the Battle of the Bulge and D-Day. What's happening there right now is just like those stories."

Bullard was invited over by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to help raise money and awareness. His efforts resulted in about \$100,000 collected to pay for food, medicine and toys for kids.

But he didn't just travel around to make appearances as a celebrity. He got his boots

dirty while there.

Bullard delivered wood stoves and supplies to people in Kherson, held a Christmas party for 200 kids and helped distribute up to 1,000 meals a day in Kharkiv. Along the way he came across destroyed tanks, heard constant air raid sirens and witnessed the bodies of two young children being pulled from debris.

"I'll probably tell at least one story from that experience," Bullard says about his appearance at St. Mark's on Tuesday evening.

Also from Music Niagara is a performance this Saturday, Aug. 26 at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls. Dubbed *A Trip Down the Silk Road*, it features world music led by conductor Ismayil Hajiyev, the artistic director of the Silk Road Chamber Orchestra. Admission to that event is on a pay-what-you-can basis.

The Aug. 29 performance featuring Bullard and Los Variants also includes the world premiere of Lithuanian composer Arunas Navakas' new work for birbyne, violin and kankles called *Cranes*, performed by Bruzaite, Alisauskas and Music Niagara founder and artistic director Atis Bankas. The show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 plus HST in advance and are available at musicniagara.org.

Shred-it event so successful trucks were filled early

Penny Coles
The Local

Did you dispose of sensitive documents at the annual Shred-it event last Saturday? If not, says Bonnie Bagnulo, there is always next year.

The executive director of

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service reports that the Shred-it fundraiser was a huge success.

"We thought with a paperless world developing, there might be less of it year after year," says Bagnulo, adding there was some hesitation

about holding it this summer.

"We are so happy we went ahead again this year. We saw a lot of people that we haven't seen over the years, as well as the townspeople who support us year after year. It's so amazing to see the variation. Some with one bag, coming out just

to support our crucial service, and some with truckloads of documents to be shredded. We actually had to shut down early this year, due to both trucks being full."

The donations for palliative care totalled \$4,485, Bagnulo says.

"This money will be used towards our equipment lending program, and for mileage for the volunteers who deliver it for us."

Thanks to the palliative care community support volunteers, and the Meridian Credit Union, she adds,

because without them, "we couldn't do this fundraiser."

She also thanked Rainer Hummel for disposing of all of the cardboard, and "the loudest thank you" to the people of NOTL for participating. "If you missed us, we'll be back next year."



Two Shred-it trucks were filled, helping to raise more almost \$4,500 for palliative care. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



The group of NOTL Community Palliative Care volunteers helped with another successful fundraising event.



OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4 PM

\$1,579,000 | 57 Stoneridge Cres., NOTL

Welcome to 57 Stoneridge Crescent in the exclusive Tanbark Trails in beautiful St. Davids . This custom built 2 plus 1 bedroom bungalow features custom kitchen with quartz counter tops, separate dining room, spacious living room with gas fireplace. vaulted ceilings throughout, main floor laundry with access to garage, closets and large pantry, Primary bedroom has 3 pc ensuite and walk-in closet. Beautiful hickory and tile floors throughout the main floor. Dining room leads out to a covered patio overlooking the large premium pie shaped lot. Lower level features a large family/rec room, 3rd bedroom and 3pc bathroom. Large double car attached garage, sprinkler system, covered eavestroughs.



\$919,000 | 15 Crimson Drive, NOTL

Located in the Village of St. Davids. Original owners. Many custom upgrades, 6 appliances, California Shutters, custom blinds included, 2 bedrooms on main level, one presently used as den. Custom kitchen with island and bar stools included, formal dining area with a walk out to private 16 x 12 ft deck with custom retractable awning. Deck area features custom plantings and a water fountain. The extra large green space in the rear increases privacy. Back inside there is a gas fireplace in the great room and ceiling fans in bedrooms and great room. Downstairs in the family room is a fireplace, vinyl plank flooring plus a large bedroom with a 10 x 10 walk-in cedar lined closet. Lower lever windows all have vinyl blinds. There is a large storage area plus rough for a future bath. Other features include a 3 stage water filter, central vac, double attached garage with automatic door opener, interlocking stone driveway and corner unit location provides extra windows for natural light with a bonus window over kitchen sink. **MLS #40434955**



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The lake is full of Sharks!



The park at the end of the NOTL Golf Club, under the shade of trees and with a cooling breeze off the lake, was the place to be Tuesday afternoon, says photographer David Gilchrist, who joined visitors and residents watching Sharks coming in off the lake to cross the finish line just off-shore. The first one to cross was Amicus Sail 1836, (on the right in the photo). It was closely followed by Devil in a Blue Dress Sail 176. The others in the race, with their brightly coloured spin-nakers, made for a beautiful scene out on the lake. The Sharks are racing in the World Championship now underway in Niagara-on-the-Lake, returning to the place where the boat was designed and first built by local George Hinterhoeller. The race hasn't been held in Niagara since 2009. There have been some sunny days and not so sunny since about 40 boats began to race at the event, which began Sunday and finishes Friday. Crews are here from as far away as Germany and Austria, and the Sharks make a colourful display on the water, especially when the sun is out. There are plenty of good spots along the shoreline to view the races, says Gilchrist, who has sent a collection of his photos to The Local.



A Shark on the lake Monday, a ship in the distance.



Sunday a whole row of Sharks was captured in this photo.

Sports Wall of Fame welcomes two new members

Mike Balsom
The Local

Canada's first official national sport was in the spotlight as the 28th and 29th members of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Sports Wall of Fame were inducted Friday night.

Lacrosse player Paul French, along with Monty Slingerland, a lacrosse coach and builder who led a Junior team that included French's older brother Mike to three major championships in 1973, saw their names and images enshrined on the wall at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

It was a bit of a family affair



Mike French embraces his brother Paul, who was inducted into the Sports Wall of Fame at the Meridian Credit Union in Virgil. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

for the induction ceremony at the arena. The elder French welcomed his brother to the wall, while Slingerland's cousin Ken, a past president of the NOTL Kinsmen Club, the organization behind the development of the Wall of Fame, did the honours for his cousin Monty.

Paul French was part of the 1981 Founders Cup Canadian Lacrosse champion NOTL Warriors team. He went on to win two Atlantic Coast Conference championships as a scholarship player at the University of Virginia, earning All Conference and All American status and leading the Cavaliers in goals in 1983. He also was a member of the Canadian national field lacrosse team and played professionally with the National Lacrosse League's Philadelphia Wings. With the Wings, Paul was again a champion, helping them to their first league title in 1989.

With his own Wall of Fame portrait looking over his right shoulder, Mike French, whose lacrosse journey was in many ways similar, took to the podium to speak about his brother, whom he nominated for Friday's honour.

"We played together on the Canadian field lacrosse team in 1982 and 1986," said Mike, "and we played together on the Wings. And we're neighbours in

Villanova (Pennsylvania). But Mike is a proud member of this community. He bought a vacation house here in Virgil just a few years ago."

Mike added that when anyone in the U.S. asks either brother where they are from, they both proudly name St. Davids or Niagara-on-the-Lake, often drawing blank stares. When Paul was told a few months ago that he was nominated for the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, he told his brother that he didn't care about that.

"He told me he just wanted to be on this wall," said Mike, while their 95-year-old mother looked on from the audience. "I'm really happy and proud to have my brother inducted here."

"When I look at the wall," Paul began in his speech, "I think of all the great athletes and contributors that are up here, like Stan Ignatczyk, my brother Mike, Willi Plett, the great Wally Dyck, Ted Greves. This is really an honour."

Calling NOTL his "happy place", Paul credited the people of the village of St. Davids for being such a big part of his youth. His lacrosse stick, he said, was always in his hands in those days.

"Some of those memories from back then are more special to me than my pro years," he said. "In 1981, that Canadian Junior B championship team,

it was really special that year, it was a really great group of guys from Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and the Tuscarora reserve in the States."

Mike joined Paul and his two sons at the front for the unveiling of his plaque, before turning the microphone over to Ken Slingerland, representing the NOTL Kinsmen Club.

"We've only nominated one other person, Stan Ignatczyk in 2003," Ken said. "Twenty years later, we nominated Monty for the Wall of Fame."

Ken outlined his cousin's contribution to the early days of NOTL lacrosse, first as a player, then a coach, and starting in 1972, as a coach, manager and co-owner with Ignatczyk of NOTL's new Kinsmen Junior B Warriors team.

Under Monty's leadership the Warriors won gold in 1973 at the Ontario Games and the Canada Games and followed that by winning the Ontario Lacrosse Championship later that year. That "trifecta" accomplishment has yet to be repeated by any team 50 years later.

The NOTL Wall of Fame is just the latest honour for the retired electrician. This past April, Monty was chosen as a "lacrosse legend" by Lacrosse Canada. Their website features an engaging interview with the NOTL resident.

"He checks all the boxes

through his involvement in lacrosse for the Wall of Fame," said Ken. "He grew the sport over the years as a player, a coach, a franchise owner, and he's also supported the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame in St. Catharines. He deserves to be recognized."

In his acceptance speech, a humble Monty regaled the crowd with his story of discovering the game while attending the old Maple Leaf School on Four Mile Creek Road and his journey as a player learning the game on a dirt surface.

"We were able to borrow the sticks for the summer," he recalled. "I would ride from St. Davids to Virgil on Stan's tractor. We scrimmaged on the old outside hockey rink that had plywood sides and a dirt floor. Every once in a while a tractor with a bush hog had to cut the weeds. It was like a Zamboni."

He moved on to describe how he and Ignatczyk took the opportunity to bring a Junior B team to NOTL. With a number of players from that 1973 championship team looking on, he gave game-by-game details of all three of those tournaments that landmark year, cracking jokes and leaving those players and the audience in stitches.

Monty was joined at the front by his grandson Ethan for the unveiling of his plaque, as the audience applauded.

One noticeable difference in this year's Wall of Fame induction ceremony was the presence of retired NOTL facilities supervisor Ken Rive as the master of ceremonies and chair of the committee. Rive took over the role from Ward Simpson, who hosted many of these events over the years.

Nominations for 2024 can be made by the public and sent to the Niagara-on-the-Lake parks and recreation office with supporting evidence by March 31 next year.

To view more photos see this story online at notllocal.com.



Monty Slingerland was inducted into the Sports Wall of Fame for his work as a lacrosse coach and sports builder.

Trifecta lacrosse championship team reunites for 50th

Mike Balsom
The Local

Though Willi Plett may have seemed a bit thinner, the former 1973 Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen Junior B Warriors player still looked like he could have stepped onto the floor to throw his weight around.

The 6'3" right winger who played 834 NHL games, scoring 222 goals for the Atlanta and Calgary Flames, Minnesota North Stars and Boston Bruins between 1975 and 1988, was among 12 former members of the lacrosse team who gathered at the NOTL Kinsmen Club to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their amazing accomplishment.

With coach Monty Slingerland and former professional player Stan Ignatczyk behind the

bench, that 1973 Warriors team won gold medals at both the Ontario and Canada Games, then closed out their Junior B season by winning the Ontario Lacrosse League championship that same year. No other team has matched that feat in the last five decades.

"We were underdogs through it all," Slingerland said earlier that evening during his NOTL Sports Wall of Fame induction speech, his gold medal from those Ontario Games draped over his neck.

To qualify for the Ontario Games, the Warriors, who started the season slowly, needed to beat Brantford by 10 goals. They beat them by 15 and punched their ticket to Oshawa.

"Then we went out there and beat Whitby in overtime," said Slingerland. "The guys just

gave the ball to Willi, went over to the other side and watched him score. And Jodie (Engemann) won all the faceoffs."

Next was Hamilton, who had beaten the Warriors twice during the season. The Warriors won 12-7 and qualified for the Canada Games in British Columbia.

"Right after the game they brought us into a room to measure us up for suits," Slingerland said. "Funny thing about the shoes, they had to be white. So we had to spray our black shoes with white paint."

After playing some scheduled league games, soliciting NOTL businesses for donations and holding a fundraising dance, they headed out to Burnaby, where they defeated Manitoba 25-5, Quebec 21-8, and an all-star team from Nova Scotia,

who they beat in overtime.

"Then we beat Alberta 17-11," Slingerland went on. "But in that game Jodie got hit in the eye with a stick. He had a hemorrhage in the eye and couldn't play the gold medal game."

"I was going to play anyway," Engemann, who was the team's faceoff specialist, said Saturday, "but the doctor told me if I got hit in the head I'd lose sight in that eye."

Slingerland inspired his team to win the game for Jodie. They went out and beat Nova Scotia again, 8-6 this time, to win the Founder's Cup and the gold medal.

A few short weeks later they finished second in league play and faced off against Kitchener in the first playoff round. They dropped them four games to two.

In the second round, they fell behind Oakville three games to two. Slingerland, in an attempt to motivate his players, offered them \$5 per goal.

"Someone asked me if it worked," laughed Slingerland. "It sure did for Willi. We came back and won the series."

They faced a tough Whitby team for the championship and dispensed them quickly four games to one to capture the Junior B title.

Having been through all of that together as young men made for some great memories, and with the help of a display from the Ontario Lacrosse

Hall of Fame and a collection of news clippings from the old Niagara Advance newspaper, the reminiscing came easily.

"Winning those championships as a teenager was awesome," said Plett, who calls Atlanta home these days. "And reminiscing about it tonight is awesome, too. I haven't seen most of these guys for 50 years, so catching up with them is great."

Mike French and Plett spent some time poring over the score sheets from some of those games.

"Plett insisted he had more assists than me," French said. "I always thought that he didn't get too many. He was trying to convince me that he did."

French, whose younger brother Paul was inducted along with Slingerland into the NOTL Wall of Fame Saturday, has kept in touch with Plett, but was seeing a number of his former teammates for the first time in decades.

"Dave Parsons came up to talk to me and I didn't even know who he was," French laughed. "He didn't have any hair. I had to apologize to him, because he had hair all over the place back then."

French was one of two players, the other being the late Gary Hill, whose athletic accomplishments earned them scholarships to Cornell University in 1973. Both had to drive four hours from Ithaca to NOTL and back that fall to help their team win that Junior B title.

When told that Engemann was still playing hockey at 71 years

old and known for throwing hip checks in a non-contact league, French wasn't too surprised.

"He was always all over the place, and he looks like he's still in good shape," said the member of the National Lacrosse League board of directors. "But I know a lot of people who go out there and play lacrosse and end up black and blue with a pulled hamstring."

Slingerland led a solemn moment, asking for silence in the hall while reading the names of team members and contributors no longer with them. Stan Ignatczyk, Garry Hill, Bobby Taylor, Steve Miller, Bruce Morgan, John Skubel and Russ Hodgkinson were all members of that 1973 Warriors squad who have passed away in the ensuing years.

With most members now either in or approaching their 70s, there wasn't much talk about a future repeat of Saturday's gathering. They were just happy to be at the Kinsmen Hall soaking it all in.

"This doesn't happen very often, all of us in the same room together," said French. "I am really enthused by the level of participation."

"It's been years and years since I've seen them or even heard about some of them," Slingerland added. "We all went our separate ways, we all have our own lives I guess. But we have a lot of good memories."

To view more photos, visit this story online at notllocal.com.



Gathering at the Kinsmen Scout Hall to celebrate the anniversary of their big win were former Warriors (front row left) Don Dawson, Dave Parsons, Jodie Engemann, George Moses, Monty Slingerland, Tom Engemann - waterboy, (back row left) Tim Greves, Don Smith, Willi Plett, Mike French, John Floris and John Wiens. (Mike Balsom)

NOTL Tennis Club doubles champions crowned

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club held its doubles championships this past weekend at the courts at Memorial Park, with spectators gathered on the bleachers to catch some exciting men's and women's matches throughout a beautiful day.

LADIES

In the ladies' championship match, Cathy Reid and Margaret Hobbs Mancuso took the title after the match

had to be called due to an injury to Coral MacKenzie. She and partner Nicole Marsh Burke won the first set 6-4, but MacKenzie went down with a knee injury and couldn't continue. Over on the next court, Fran Doran and Deb Robert claimed the consolation title, dropping opponents Shannon Brander and Charlene Juras in two sets, 6-3 and 7-5.

MEN'S 'A' DIVISION

It couldn't get much closer than this one. John Pilling

and Scott Lewis came out strong, winning the first set 6-3 over Rob Lipovsky and Brad Butler. But Lipovsky and Butler responded in set number two, pulling even with a 6-4 win. The four players battled it out back and forth in set number three, and it went to a super tiebreaker, Pilling and Lewis coming out as champions with a 10-8 win. Meanwhile, in the Men's A division consolation final, Jim Reid and Manny Umoquit fought off Gerry McIlhone and Peter Rider 6-3,

6-4 in a close-fought match. It was another close, competitive match between the pairs of Rob Lamond and Doug Campbell and David Rodgers and Flory Massi. Lamond and Campbell won the first set 7-6, forced to win 8-6 in a tiebreaker. They

went on to defeat Rodgers and Massi 6-1 in the second set to claim the title. In the B division consolation final, Mac MacSween and Terry Ratkovsky emerged victorious, winning 6-1, 6-2 over Ted Scott and Glen Barr. John Ramsbottom, a member of the club's board

of directors, tells The Local that the singles tournament is scheduled for the week of Sept. 11, with the finals set to go Saturday, Sept. 16. He's hoping for weather similar to this past Saturday's. Club members are encouraged to sign up on the website at niagaratennis-club.com.



Margaret Hobbs Mancuso returns a serve during the ladies championship game. (Mike Balsom)



Men's A championship finalists Rob Lipovsky and Brad Butler, with champions John Pilling and Scott Lewis. (Tady Saczowski)



Scott Lewis lines up a backhand during the mens A championship match. (Mike Balsom)



Ladies' championship finalists Nicole Marsh Burke and Coral MacKenzie, with champions Cathy Reid and Margaret Hobbs Mancuso. (Tady Saczowski)

NOTL Minor Hockey equipment swap Saturday

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves Minor Hockey Club is holding an equipment swap this Saturday, August 26 from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Volunteer coordinator Carrie Plakett, who doubles as the president of the NOTL Soccer Club, says the event is timed perfectly with the end-of-season

soccer festival, also scheduled at the Virgil Sports Complex the same day. Glen Davis, the club's equipment manager, says there are reams of hockey socks and retired hockey jerseys that need to be cleared out to make space for the new jerseys and other equipment that has been ordered for this year. This Thursday, August 24, residents are invited to drop off any gently

used hockey items to the Wolves office at the Centennial Arena between either noon and 3 p.m. or 6 and 8 p.m. If it doesn't fit anymore, maybe someone else can use it this hockey season. Entrance to Saturday's swap is only \$10. Participants in the swap will be able to claim a free pair of practice hockey socks and perhaps a retired jersey for use in practice.



NOTL Wolves equipment manager Glen Davis with an assortment of socks and retired jerseys minor hockey plans to give away at this Saturday morning's equipment swap. (Mike Balsom)

LocalSPORTS

Close matches for Pro's Cup, men emerge triumphant



The Senior Ryder Cup men's team edged out The Solheim ladies to win the Pro's Cup at the NOTL Golf Club, with teams captained by Martha Cruikshank and Harry Huizer. (Supplied)

**Harry Huizer
Special to The Local**

It was a cool and windy day at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club on Friday as 15 men were challenged by 15 ladies for the Pro's Cup. This is an annual golf event that began in 2013, with pairs of ladies playing against pairs of men for 18 holes of fun and competitive golf. The men were the defending champions but the ladies were eagerly anticipating a victory, and after watching them tee off the men knew it would be

a challenge. However, the men were ready. Martha Cruikshank, the ladies captain, had plotted and planned very carefully as she put her pairs together. Early on it looked like her plans were working as the score after four complete matches was 12-12. Sadly for the ladies, the final three pairings resulted in the men gaining 15 points to the ladies three points. Even the men could feel their disappointment as their hope of victory disappeared. Most of the matches were close and the scores didn't really reflect how close

the ladies came in these last three matches. The first match was special as we had three men versus three ladies in a handicap scramble match. Although the men triumphed 5-1, the match was a successful experiment and it was close despite the score. The other six matches were fourball (better-ball) matches and the men found a way to finish strong on their way to victory again. There was some outstanding golf in the difficult conditions but in the end the cup was again humbly hoisted by this golfer and captain,

Harry Huizer, to the joy of the men's team. The players had a wonderful social time for lunch in the restaurant and everyone was in good spirits, whether they were on a winning or losing team. Special thanks to pro Keith Vant and the clubhouse staff for their help in making this day so successful. I am sure Martha and the ladies will be wondering how they could have lost, but I know they will be back next year with an even better plan to take back the cup. It was a great day for everyone!



A photo of both teams taken before they teed off for the Pro's Cup. (Mike Balsom)

LocalHAPPENINGS

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Every Thursday
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EAT IN OR TAKE OUT
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and coleslaw
taxes included

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905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

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'Freezie guy' making lots of friends at Virgil sports park

**Mike Balsom
The Local**

It started out as these things usually do. It was a hot summer night at the Virgil sports park, where Niagara-on-the-Lake Softball president Pete Flynn was running the program with his 10-year-old son Nathan playing. They brought some

freezies to give everybody to cool off after the game. "We had so many that I ran over to the soccer field and told some of the coaches there that we had extra," says Pete, who assigned his son the task of handing out the frozen treats after their game. "So a bunch of soccer players started coming over every night, too." Word got out inside the

arena, where other kids were playing lacrosse. They started lining up, too. And other children who were enjoying the splash pad and skatepark started gravitating over to Nathan for a free freezie. It got to the point where Pete realized Nathan was getting known all over town by a new nickname. "We were at St. Davids Pool the other day," Pete

says, "and this little boy, maybe about five years old, pointed to Nathan and said 'oh my God, Mom, look, it's the freezie guy.'" As the softball, soccer and lacrosse seasons wind down this weekend, Flynn estimates that Nathan has handed out over 2,000 freezies this summer. And they hope to get right back at it in summer 2024.



The ages 3 to 4 and 5 to 6 Learn to Play kids enjoying freezies after their game. In the back row, coach Pete Flynn, freezie guy Nathan Flynn (in the cap with the 'P') and fellow coach Miranda Juras. (Mike Balsom)

LocalWORSHIP

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Cornerstone Kids Sign In
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Deliverance
(Matthew 8:28-34)

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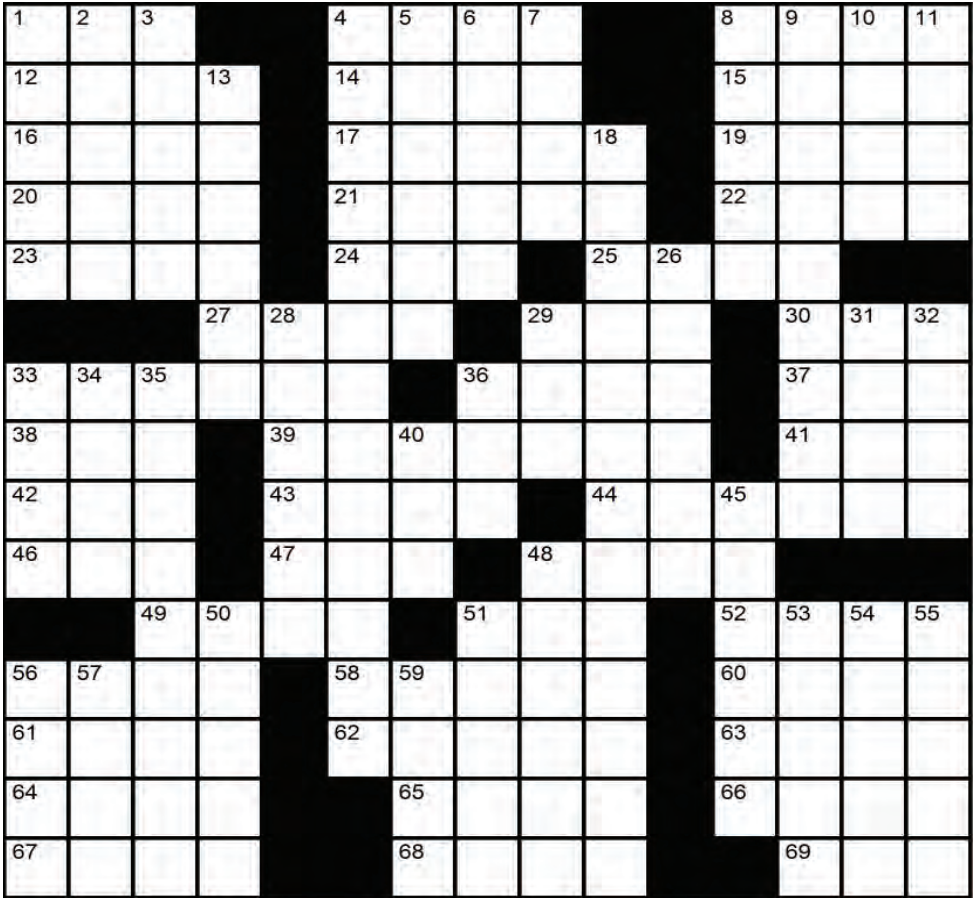
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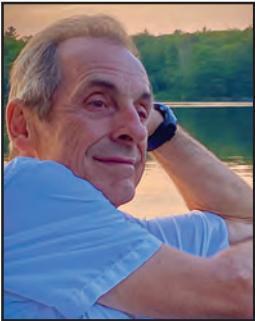


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 - 14 Egg layers
 - 15 Father of a leveret
 - 16 Superstar
 - 17 Wanese
 - 19 Old Peruvian native
 - 20 Aligned
 - 21 Open
 - 22 Enormous
 - 23 Abominable snowman
 - 24 Scrutinize
 - 25 Study
 - 27 Mardi ---
 - 29 Evil
 - 30 E.g. A O L
 - 33 Four pecks
 - 36 Secret Chinese society
 - 37 Bingo!
 - 38 Time in Boston
 - 39 Merchant ship's capacity
 - 41 Immediately
 - 42 Dentists' grp.
 - 43 "Death --- Expert Witness" (P D James)
 - 44 Is adjacent to
 - 46 Homo sapiens
- Down:**

 - 1 One
 - 2 Army chaplain
 - 3 Gush forth
 - 4 Presidential workplace
 - 5 Chucks
 - 6 Outbreak
 - 7 Junkie
- 47 Frequently, poetically
 - 48 Mailed
 - 49 Specialty food store
 - 51 Contemptuous exclamation
 - 52 Mantle
 - 56 State of constant change
 - 58 Lily Munster actress Yvonne De ---
 - 60 Not his
 - 61 Captain Jack Sparrow actor
 - 62 Online missives
 - 63 Senses of self-importance
 - 64 Wild about
 - 65 Look after
 - 66 Seedy joint
 - 67 Talks lovingly
 - 68 Singles
 - 6 9 Could be bobby, red or white
- 8 Destructive Hindu deity
 - 9 Those north of the 49th
 - 10 Curves
 - 11 Police officer's patrol route
 - 13 Snow carriage
 - 18 Wrestling maneuvers
 - 26 Enter stealthily
 - 28 Provide new equipment
 - 29 Long feathery scarf
 - 31 Get lost!
 - 32 Minor chessman
 - 33 Smile
 - 34 Federal farming regulator
 - 35 Confront
 - 36 Channel revived as Heartland
 - 40 --- King Cole
 - 45 Engraved with acid
 - 48 Salty
 - 50 Montreal ---, now the Washington Nationals
 - 51 Gray matter
 - 53 Breastplate of Zeus or Athena
 - 54 Brigham Young University city
 - 55 Antique auto
 - 56 Depositors' protective grp.
 - 57 Longtime "Tonight Show" host Jay
 - 59 Rounds

OBITUARY



SCHMITT, ROLF GEORG—Passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness on August 17, 2023 surrounded by a host of family and friends. He is survived by his wife Karin Jahnke-Haslam, son Max, stepson Kyle Haslam (Melanie) & grandkids Evie and Stella Grace, stepson Kelsey Haslam (Hannah) & grandkids Harrison and Willow and Godfather to Jillian Karner-Wojcik. Also survived by his siblings Fritz (Marlene) nephew Andrew, nieces Alana, Monica; Rainer (Suzanne) nieces Jenna, Sara; Henry (Chris) nephews Corey, Brandon; Karen Scheinbein (Mark) nephew Luke. Rolf was born in Sandhausen, Germany October 5, 1953, and moved to Canada in 1956. He grew up in Sault Ste Marie and eventually settled in Niagara. He and Karin reside happily in Queenston. He was semi-retired and loved his job at Willowbank Estates. Beloved and embraced by the entire Haslam Jahnke family, as well as his own. Rolf was a powerful, joyful force in our lives. He had a zest for life that included sailing the LunaSea, a passion he shared with Karin. He loved hiking, skiing, wind surfing, biking and of course, trips on his motorcycle to the Soo. A mindful life lived with gratitude and enthusiasm. Rolf was always ready to lend a hand, climb a mast, paint a house, scrub a boat, cuddle a grandchild. He had the ability to make you feel seen, heard and appreciated. He loved and doted on his grandchildren and they in turn adored their Opa. He found his true love, Karin, 22 years ago, and they have had an enduring love affair since. He was a passionate and much-loved husband. We will see you in every sunset over the water, feel you in every soft breeze and in the sound of fluttering sails. Wishing you fair winds and following seas, sweet Rolf. Cremation has taken place. A visitation took place on Sunday August 20, 2023 and a Funeral Service was held Monday August 21, 2023 at the PATTERSON FUNERAL HOME, 6062 Main St. Niagara Falls. In memory of Rolf, memorial contributions may be made to the "Rolf G Schmitt" Bursary fund for students entering one of the Trade/Apprenticeship Programs at Niagara College and can be made directly through the funeral home.



NOTICES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

To place an Obituary or In Memoriam in our Classifieds, please contact Julia at: julia@notllocal.com or 905.934.1040
Deadline is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Celebration of Life for Bradley Klassen
son of Mary and Alvin Klassen
Saturday, September 9th
2 to 5pm
NOTL RC Legion
Branch 124 - Clubroom

NOTICES

GENERAL FULL TIME LABOURER WORKERS REQUIRED

General seasonal full-time laborer workers required. Duties include pruning, tying, suckering, canopy management and harvesting. Must be willing to work long hours, including weekends from March to November. Must be fit and enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions. No education required but preference with vineyard experience will be given. Wage \$15.83/hour. Own transportation. Fax resumes 905-468-2365. Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from August 16, 2023

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

Across: 1 Ups, 4 Thou, 8 Scab, 12 Naps, 14 Hens, 15 Hare, 16 Idol, 17 Eases, 19 Inca, 20 True, 21 Over, 22 Vast, 23 Yeti, 24 Vet, 25 Read, 27 Gras, 29 Bad, 30 I S P, 33 Bushel, 36 Tong, 37 Aha, 38 E S T, 39 Tommage, 41 Now, 42 A D A, 43 Of an, 44 Lies on, 46 Man, 47 Off, 48 Sent, 49 Dell, 51 Bah, 52 Cape, 56 Flux, 58 Carlo, 60 Hers, 61 Depd, 62 E-mail, 63 Egos, 64 Into, 65 Mind, 66 Dive, 67 Coos, 68 Ones, 69 Sox.
Down: 1 Unity, 2 Padre, 3 Spout, 4 The Oval Office, 5 Heaves, 6 Onset, 7 User, 8 Shiva, 9 Canadians, 10 Arcs, 11 Beat, 13 Sleigh, 18 Strangleholds, 26 Edge in, 28 Retool, 29 Boa, 31 Shoo, 32 Pawn, 33 Bear, 34 U S D A, 35 Stand up to, 36 T N, 40 Nat, 45 Etched, 48 Saline, 50 Expos, 51 Brain, 53 Aegis, 54 Provo, 55 Essex, 56 F D I C, 57 Leno, 59 Ammo.

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

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