Vigil held for victim of fatal hit-and-run

Penny Coles
The Local

On a narrow stretch of gravel at the side of the road where a 33-year-old Mexican farm worker was the victim of a fatal hit-and-run, farm workers and locals were called to gather in her memory.

A single mother of two daughters, she was taken to the Hamilton General Hospital after being struck Saturday, Aug. 17, and died from her injuries two days later. Her friends said she was walking home after a church picnic.

She was in NOTL for the second year, packing peaches at Tregunno Farms.

A Pelham man has since turned himself in. He was arrested by the Niagara Regional Police and charged with dangerous driving causing death and failing to stop at the scene of an accident resulting in death.

Sonia Aviles of the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change organized the Sunday evening event on Concession 7, which drew about 50 people, some holding candles and praying for the victim and her family, others listening in respect.

Another group of farm workers had been bused to a church service held in Vinceland to remember her.

Although her first name was published last week with permission, the media has since been requested to not use it.

During the vigil, a small memorial was set up near where the collision occurred.

Aviles and others who spoke also called on all levels of government to improve the safety, transportation, housing and other issues for migrant workers in Niagara and across the country.

Locally, she said, workers should be able to walk safely at night, calling on the municipality to help with lighting, infrastructure to slow traffic and better transportation.

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Ford announces funding for recreational facilities

Penny Coles  The Local

While Premier Doug Ford is taking away funding for municipalities anddownload- ing services for 2020, he is also handing out money for recreational facilities.

At last week’s Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference, he spoke of funding cuts for public health and child care, telling municipal representatives he put off the cuts, necessary because of the provincial deficit, until 2020 because he was listening to their concerns. Then last night, at next year’s budget delibera- tions “very tough,” said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

The good news, she said, was the announcement of his commitment to fund projects that fall within the community, culture and recreation descritpion, in which he has promised to invest up to $1 billion for 2020, he said –plus projects that are already in place, she added.

Last year, the Province gave municipalities funding to increase efficiency by moderating systems, and improving communications, without the Town having to go to the property taxpayer, Disero said.

“I’m grateful for that, but we’re still going to be looking at savings through cuts or by raising taxes. We have to look at what we can afford, what we can’t and what we must do.”

She has a “wish list” that she keeps in the boardroom, so that when someone says “wouldn’t it be great if…” she can add it to the list.

“Are we already up to $4.5 million.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was pleased to hear the Province will have a grant for recreational facilities. (Penny Coles)

Crowd encouraged to donate to victim’s family

Continued from page 1

They’re not treated the same.

They were the responsibility of upper levels of government, except for passing on the mes- sages he was hearing, but prom-ised he would be discussing the issue of safety that workers walking in the dark. In many cases workers have ob- tained lights for their bikes, but the lights sometimes send them home to their families.

Aviles also spoke of a fire at a Pioneer Flower Farm in St. Cath- arines, that destroyed not only the housing of about 20 farm work- ers, but all of their possessions. Aviles and other workers called on the government to compensate them, as well as the families of migrant workers who have been injured or killed while in Canada.

Before asking for a mo- ment of silence, Aviles read the names of about 30 mi-grant workers who have died in Canada, asking for each of them to respond with “presente,” to in- dicate their presence in spirit.

He also held a traditional Mexican cheer, to “lift the spir- its of those not here today.”

It ended with a rousing “rah rah rah,” following the victim’s name.

Jermaine Campbell, a Ja- maican farm worker, wanted to speak about workers’ compen- sation, what they pay into. He also urged the government to compensate families who have lost their loved ones.

“What happened to this lady could have happened to any of us. We’re all workers,” he said. “Please look out for us.”

An emotional Mexican worker who began coming to Niagara after losing her hus- band, who was in Canada with the offi ce workers’ program, spoke from her heart to the crowd. She was left to raise five children herself, she said, speaking Spanish which was translated by Aviles.

“I’ve been through tough times with my children, not having enough food for myself or for them,” she said.

She asked for help, but nobody helped me. This was many, many years ago and I’m still upset by what happened.”

She said she thinks a lot about the single mom who died, and her children, and that brings back memories of what we went through.

“I think it’s important to ask the government for help for her children,” she said.

A can was passed around for donations, and people were encouraged to donate a GoFundMe page, which has already raised about $50,000. It can be found at wwww.go- fundme.com/the- niagaraon-thelahic-migrant-worker.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero attended the vigil, but did not speak. She said Monday morn- ing there would be a discussion about what would be done to improve road safety.

She stressed the need for education, and possibly safety vests for pedestrians and cy- clists. Reducing speed limits on rural roads from 80 kilometres an hour to 60 km/hour, but then there is the added enforcement of what it would do for enforcement to be it effec- tive, she said.

More bike paths on rural roads would also help, but “I don’t know if we can afford them. We may have to look at whether it’s financially doable.”

She also talked of making the shoulder wider to provide a safe area for pedestrians and cyclists. At her request, the Town flag was lowered to half-staff Monday.

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“Are we already up to $4.5 million.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was pleased to hear the Province will have a grant for recreational facilities. (Penny Coles)
Local boys have experience of a lifetime

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau autographs a photo of Morgan and Spencer Mitchell on the front page of The Local.

Two young local boys have had an experience most of us don't have in a lifetime — they met the prime minister of Canada, had a brief conversation with him, got his autograph and have a record of it to keep forever.

Morgan and Spencer Mitchell are 11 and six, but they are both well aware of the importance of the country’s leader, and their good fortune in meeting him.

“We were there, and we've never met a prime minister,” said Morgan.

When asked if they know what the prime minister does, Spencer chimed in, “he’s the person who runs the country.”

Justin Trudeau was in Niagara-on-the-Lake last week for a funding announcement. After having breakfast in Silk’s Country Kitchen, where he chatted and shook hands with locals, he headed to the Anderson Lane community centre, where he made his announcement from the community garden behind the building, and took questions from reporters.

That accomplished, he spent some time greeting locals, talking with them and posing for photos.

The boys were at the library to participate in one of the kids’ summer programs, said their dad Michael Mitchell, and heard the prime minister was going to be there.

The week before that, the boys had been featured on the front page of The Local.

They were captured by photographer Fred Mercnik, who was on Queen Street taking Peach Celebration photos. Morgan and Spencer had set up a lemonade stand to raise money for Red Roof Retreat, and Mercnik took their photograph.

Most lemonade stands might make a few dollars, but in the six years they have been doing this, Morgan and Spencer have topped $10,000 for the organization that helps kids with disabilities. Six years ago, they had a baby-sitter who was a volunteer at Red Roof, and she took Morgan there regularly during that summer, explaining the purpose of the organization and why it was needed, said Michael.

When they got to talk to Trudeau, Morgan said, “he asked us about the lemonade stand and how much money we raised. We told him about Red Roof, and that it helps kids with special needs. He thought that was really cool, that we were raising money for children.”

He signed their photo in The Local, “Great stuff, Morgan and Spencer.”

Morgan said he’s been learning about government at Wheatley School in St. Catharines, and he is pretty excited to be able to say he’d met the prime minister over the summer.

He has the newspaper on his bedroom wall, and his parents will have posters made of it for both boys.

Michael says he’s been telling Morgan about the page program for students, thinking after his summer adventure, he might be interested in it when he’s old enough.

“The whole experience was just serendipity, that the boys wanted to go to the community centre to pick up papers, and that they stuck around for the library program, and heard the prime minister would be there,” said Michael.

“I joked with him that the boys had eclipsed the other article on the front page, which was the successful nomination of Andrea Kaiser to the Liberal Party running in Niagara, who is also a personal friend.”

The headline below the photo of the boys and their lemonade stand, unnoticed by the Liberal prime minister, said, “Kaiser hopes to paint Niagara Falls riding red.”

Penny Coles
The Local
Federal funding announced for Niagara

Penny Coles
The Local

The federal government is investing in tourism in Niagara, with support for the Shaw Festival, the grape and wine industry, and local craft beer industry.

Minister of Tourism Melanie Joly was in Niagara last Monday and Tuesday for the announcements.

The Grape Growers of Ontario will receive $250,000 for an International Cool Climate Wine Symposium to be held next July at Brock University, from the Canadian Experiences Fund, which supports tourism products, facilities and experiences in communities across Canada, she said, at an event held at Oast Brewery.

GoSip Niagara will receive $50,000, which promotes local craft beer, and $34,000 will help The Exchange Brewery to enhance its second Sourpalooza festival this September, which showcases sour beers.

The Shaw Festival will be upgrading audio equipment in the Festival Theatre, thanks to a $330,000 grant from the federal government.

The money is in addition to $2.77 million also from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, to theatre upgrades for the Shaw made since 2016, Joly said at the announcement held on the Shaw Festival grounds last Tuesday.

“Tourism is a rapidly-growing sector that showcases Canada’s diversity, natural beauty, unique experiences and culture to the world,” said Joly. “These investments will ensure that the Shaw Festival will continue to be an important cultural attraction for both residents and international visitors to the region for many years to come.”

Shaw CEO Tim Jennings thanked the federal government for its funding, and for its support of the arts in Canada.

“Already one of the country’s strongest arts and culture economic generators, the Shaw Festival delivers more than $200 million each year in economic impact to the Niagara economy,” said Jennings.

“As a recipient of Canada Cultural Spaces funding, the Shaw will be able to better deliver on our artistic programs, support the needs of our audience, and encourage tourists and visitors to the Niagara region during both our summer and, with the introduction of our holiday stage offerings, winter seasons.”

The federal government also announced funding for grape and fruit growers in Niagara last week.

The Ontario Tender Fruit Growers and Fresh Grape Growers will receive up to $476,908 for research to improve fruit quality and availability of tender fruit and fresh grape varieties for consumers.

“This collaboration is a long-term commitment from growers and researchers at the University of Guelph and the Vineland research centre to bring new varieties of locally grown fruit to consumers across Canada, said Phil Tregunno, chair of the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers.

“These partnerships have resulted in new growth opportunities that not only provide benefit for family farms, but also all of our partners, including marketers, retailers and nurseries,” he said.
Residents concerned about decorating hydro boxes

An effort to brighten up the Old Town has led to some concern from Dock Area residents.

In a pilot project of the Town’s Communities in Bloom Committee, Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro and the Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre, three electrical transformers have been selected to be fancied up by way of an art competition. Artists are invited to submit a design, and those selected will have their artwork transferred onto a vinyl wrap to beautify the boxes. Those chosen for the project by NOTL Hydro are located at King and Ricardo Streets, Memorial Park off King Street, and on Front Street near Victoria Street.

But Ron and Irene Simkus, along with Tony Poulton and a few others who have responded through email, are concerned the project could prove dangerous. Simkus, a retired mining engineer who has been keeping Dock Area residents up to date on waterfront issues and the lake level, said he discovered the plan to beautify electrical boxes on social media, and felt compelled to notify town council and NOTL Hydro, which he did through email.

“My wife is a retired primary school teacher, and background is in engineering, and Tony comes from the insurance underwriting industry,” he explained.

“Teachers have for years taught the basics of safety with electricity to children. It’s important to see that the message for children about pad-mounted electrical transformers is simple. They can even be dangerous for adults.”

The message the Town should be sending is to stay away from “the big green box,” he said. “These boxes should not be attention-grabbers, or perceived as playground features. Just walking through Old Town, we saw many examples of transformers with service access obstructed by plantings and landscaping. The guidelines for 10 feet of access to the front and four feet around just isn’t being followed.”

In some cases the warning stickers were obviously scrubbed off the box to make the big green box more invisible, he said. “These transformers are, of course, safe, otherwise they wouldn’t be installed all over the community. But they need to be treated with respect. They are critical components of our residential infrastructure, not garden accessories for taking selfies, or tables to place your lunch on and abandon coffee cups on.”

“If the Town wants to beautify the transformers, Simkus suggested asking artists to come up with more eclectic ways of applying the universal safety message to stay away from the boxes and avoid injury. ‘Very few people have had to attend the scene of a high-voltage electrical fatality or interview a survivor. I’ve done both, and that’s why I take this topic so very seriously,’ said Simkus.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said if there was any danger from the project, NOTL Hydro would not have agreed to it. Municipalities across Canada, including “right in the heart of downtown Toronto,” have decorated electrical boxes, she said. She was recently in St. John’s, NL, and “I loved the hydro boxes there,” she said.

“We’ll move ahead cautiously, we’ll take it slow. This is a pilot project, and we’ll see how it goes.” Disero said they could talk about putting the danger symbol in one corner, warning people not to get too close. But as far as it being a danger to wrap the boxes in artwork, she said, “I think we have to agree to disagree.”

The competition is open to artists who live or work in the Niagara Region. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 18. Three winners will be notified by Sept. 25. Three selected artists must submit high resolution JPGs by Sept 28. Each will receive a $500 honorarium. There is a cost of $20 to enter, and entry forms are available at tiny.cc/hhafbz.

Penny Coles
The Local

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Safety first when school starts

The dog days of summer are coming to an end, nights are cooler, backpacks and new shoes purchased, bus drivers are planning their routes and parents are trying to get their kids to bed early.

On Tuesday morning, Niagara-on-the-Lake roads will look very different, with school buses stopping for kids, crossing guards in place, and students cycling or walking to school. It’s a day when police are often out near schools to watch for speeders, but whether or not there is a police presence, it’s time to obey those school zone speed limits.

Please take your time on the road, as we all get used to the buses and kids once again on their way to school.

And don’t forget, distracted driving is illegal for a reason. It’s dangerous, especially around kids and bicycles and trains, and school buses pulling out of traffic and back into it.

Let’s all pay extra attention on the roads and make sure our children get to school and home again safely.

Penny Coles

Is amalgamation a done deal?

It seemed, with municipal politicians and staff all gathered in one place with a goal of talking to provincial politicians and staff, amalgamation might have been a hot topic.

Premier Doug Ford was at the Association of Municipalities Conference last week to talk about funding cuts and funding increases. He didn’t speak about amalgamation.

The next day, Stephen Clark, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, did mention the dreaded word, but he re-leased no new information about what the Province is planning.

Does he know what Ken Seiling and Michael Fenn, the two provincial representatives who spoke to municipal leaders, think about amalgamation?

She is thinking, hoping, this has a plan. She has a chart.

Her chart lays out how the Province would absorb the Town of NOTL as a region. Does Ford know? Are decisions made? Maps drawn?

All we know is the Conservatives are waiting until after the federal election to share their news on the subject. That sounds suspiciously as if voters aren’t expected to like what will be said and the provincial PCs don’t want to harm the federal party’s chances in Ontario.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero has a plan. She has a chart. She is thinking, hoping, this isn’t about amalgamating cities, that it’s about cutting politicians and creating efficiencies.

Her chart lays out how to disentangle services, how to avoid duplication, leaving local decisions, such as planning issues, to local politicians and staff, while providing services such as garbage and sewers as a region.

But is anyone else on the same page? What do other municipal leaders think? What do regional representatives think?

Unfortunately, each municipality has its own agenda, and some are coveting drawing Niagara-on-the-Lake, a town with little debt and room to grow, into their folds.

Let’s hope our lord mayor is right, and this exercise isn’t about amalgamation.

It’s unsettling to say the least to think NOTL could be absorbed as a result of these recommendations, and even worse, that the decision has already been made, and we just don’t know it yet.

Penny Coles

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

The trusted voice of our community

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The trusted voice of our community

Garden of the week

This week’s Garden of the Week winner is 1481 Gate Street, owned by Judy and Sonny D’Mello. The judges admired the lovely symmetrical gardens with hostas, plate hibiscus, cedars and a maple tree. “The window boxes on the balcony add a nice ambiance. Overall, a very colourful garden that has been well maintained.”

There is one week left to submit nominations of phenomenal front gardens. Residents are encouraged to submit nominations, with forms available on Join the Conversation on the Town’s website. (Photo supplied)

LOCAL FINDS

W.H. SMITH died Nov. 29 1840
Aged 30y, 9mo. 15d.

Cornelia died 24 Aug 1836
Aged 9 mo. 19 d

Rosannah an infant died Nov 5, 1836
Aged 9 mo. 9 days

Henry an infant died Nov. 7, 1837

Julia died June 22 1840
Aged 11 mo. 9 days

Elias Wm. died April 19 1841
Aged 8 mo. 8 d.

Children of W.H. and Rosannah Smith

A tragic tale of a family wiped out over a nine-year period. If there were surviving children, it is unknown.

Tragedy of a family

Donald Combe Special to The Local

Garden of the week

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Kudos to all involved in mental health initiative

Peach Pickers Picnic a great success

On Aug. 11, the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake came together to recognize and celebrate our farmers and our farm workers who come from the Caribbean and Mexico, leaving their wives and children behind to bring us our tender fruits and tend our vineyards. Without them, we would not have our Peach Festival, Cherry Festival, Strawberry Festival and our incredible wineries here in Niagara.

The event brought together local volunteers from the Rotary Club of NOTL, Gateway Church, community members and town councilors, who served meals to the workers who had dedicated the greater part of their day to harvesting our fruit. Five hundred meals had been planned, but close to 800 meals were served with home delivery coming off the barbecue at 10:30 p.m. for 20 workers who could not attend.

Music and dancing and celebration happened at the Garrison Village picnic site. This worthwhile event needs to be recognized in our local news. Each year the event gets bigger and better with additional local support recognizing our local agricultural community.

Thank you to everyone who donated money and time, and contributed in picking up and driving, preparing, serving and supporting this worthwhile event.

Thank you to our farmers and local heroes who work long hours on the local farms so that we can celebrate and enjoy the bounty of their labour.

Visit this Cogeco link to see the action: https://youtu.be/197696c-niagra-rakbcid-1waR1y1XY.GFrA11EeQ5G5QVAUc-5JBlhL5QmWvTD6cEy.CKK2.Wg6ETvY3M4

Best Shred-it so far

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service would like to extend a huge thank you to the awesome group of people who contributed to a very successful Community Shred-it event Saturday, Aug. 17.

Thanks for the support of the Meridian Credit Union, the dedicated efforts from Vineridge Academy, Shred-it employees, and our own NOTL PCPS volunteers. The group’s spirits could not be dampened despite working in heavy downpours at times. And a very special thanks to the generosity of the local residents, who helped us raise over $4,700.

The proceeds will help us continue providing services and equipment to the seriously ill and their caregivers in our community.

Margaret Walker, Event Coordinator Bonnie Baguley, Program Manager

Feature your business in our Local Business Spotlight

The full page is made up of a Half Page Ad and Half Page Article

Article word count: 450-500
Ad size: 10.25”w x 7”h
Publication Date Subject to Availability

NOLT Businesses contact
Karen at 905-641-3353
at karen@notllocal.com

Businesses outside NOTL contact
Julia at 905-934-1040
at julia@notllocal.com

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
The trusted voice of our community
Rotary Rocks project is now complete

Local Staff

After a series of unavoidable delays, the Rotary Rocks stone, planned as part of a project to celebrate the NOTL club’s 25th anniversary, has been engraved.

Paul Lalonde, chair of the NOTL Rotary Club’s community service committee, says the reaction from people on Queen’s Royal Beach, “has been overwhelming.”

The limestone seating arrangement at the beach was the club’s gift to the town, with members helping to raise money and also doing some of the work toward installation.

The project was completed last October, except for the engraving on the centrepiece stone. The goal of Rotary, Have you made someone’s life BETTER today?, and the Rotary symbol, are now etched in stone for all to see.

“It was finished this last Saturday afternoon, and within minutes, people were taking selfies,” said Lalonde. “The next day, when I visited, so many people were reflecting on the message. It was so gratifying to watch people talking with their kids about the message and what it meant and how they felt about it.”

The words were meant to call people to action, to reflect and to start conversations, said Lalonde.

“In a world where we hear so much negative, the club wanted to encourage people to do better, to make a difference. In such a beautiful park that is tranquil, peaceful, what better place to have a focus on what to think about.”

The message is a simple, pay-it-forward mantra, a call to action and reflection, he said.

“The back side has The Rotary Four-Way test on its simple principles that we should all try to consider when dealing with people in life or in business. It’s part of the Rotary DNA and we are proud to share our philosophy with the town and the world.”

Rotary is dedicated to making this community better whenever it can, he said.

“The town and its residents have been so supportive of our fundraising endeavours, and we are all about giving back. We hope residents and tourists love the new addition.”

This park is a special place, he added, “and we wanted to enhance its beauty and usage. We feel we’ve achieved it and we couldn’t be happier.”

Due to record water levels, the bottom section of the stone and sand were partly destroyed in a storm, but will be repaired in the fall as water levels continue to recede, said Lalonde.

“In the meantime, we hope this positive message and story will impact many lives and change the world, even if it’s in a small way.”

Local Staff

Fort George and the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Museum commemorated more than 200 years of Niagara’s military history this weekend, with interpreters, animators, and veterans displaying uniforms and weaponry. Phil Ward, a member of the 35th Simcoe Regiment, shows off his wares. (Fred Mercnik)
Volunteers needed to be fixers

Local Staff

Do you have a talent for fixing things? The library needs your help.

On Oct. 26, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library is hosting a Repair Café, and is looking for fixers to help with repairs.

Fixers are scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to allow time for setup and takedown. A fixer is a volunteer who is skilled at repairing household items — everything from appliances to electronics to clothing, says Sarah Bowers, organizer of the event. Everyone is needed and welcome.

Visitors are asked to bring their items to the Repair Café, where they will get help fixing it from volunteers. Most importantly, community members will learn from the fixers how to do the repairs themselves.

At the Repair Café, fix anything from lamps to toasters to computers — you name it. It’s free and all are welcome.

The goal of the library event is to reduce the waste that’s sent to landfill and to change society’s throw-away mindset, says Bowers. To join the team of fixers, please phone Bowers at 905-468-2023, ext. 202.

Those who have an item needing repairs can drop in between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and register the item in person at the intake table. The event runs until 1 p.m., says Bowers, but registration of items will stop at 12:30 p.m.

The RiverBrink Art Museum gala is Friday evening, and the summer art sale continues Saturday and Sunday, with about 200 pieces of art for sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Showing some of the works of art for sale are Keith Bulen, Mary Webster and Nancy Bongard. On the left is Rural Bridge, a reproduction by Frederick Haines, and on the right, The First Mrs. Teddington, by E. Wiese. (Penny Coles)
In Debi Goodwin’s backyard garden, garlic, tomatoes, kale and beans find space next to roses, hydrangea, sedum, rhododendron and lilies. There are many trees pro-
viding just enough shade, including three beautiful seven-son flower trees, which bloom in late summer.

It is a beautiful backyard oasis in Niagara-on-the-Lake, that played host to her August, 2016 wedding to her long-time partner, Peter Kavanagh.

Goodwin has document-
ated the creation of that garden, and her life with Kavanagh, in a new memoir, A Victory Garden for Trying Times, pub-
lished by Dundurn Press.

Goodwin will be reading from her memoir this Oct. 9 at Southbrook Vineyards to kick off the NOTL Public Library’s annual Wine and Words series.

During the First and Second World Wars, the govern-
ment of Canada encouraged residents to use their back-
yard spaces to plant vegeta-
bles for personal use and to support the war effort. Orig-
inally referred to as “war gar-
yards,” they became known as “victory gardens,” promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture as a “patrician form of whole-
some leisure,” according to the Canadian Encyclopedia.

It became a way for those back-
homes to help fight against the “unknown” enemy.

In November, 2015, Ka-
vannah was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Goodwin, of course, was shattered by this diagnosis. Alongside him through his cancer treatments, she realized she needed a proj-
ecct to cope with her own fears. She came across the concept of the victory garden.

Inspired by this phenom-
enon, Goodwin threw her efforts into creating her own version of a victory garden. She began to plan out her garden during the winter Kavanagh would start undergoing treat-
ments. It was her hope the cre-
ation of the garden would mark her husband’s victory against the unknown enemy, cancer.

Weakened by the cancer, however, Kavanagh suffered a fatal heart attack in early Sep-
tember, 2016, just a month after their wedding.

Goodwin’s victory garden still stands today, stunningly beautiful and providing sus-
tenance, as a tribute to the life of the man she loved for more than 30 years. Debi Goodwin and Peter Kavanagh met while both were working at CBC’s The Journal, with Barbara Frum. Goodwin had just gone through a break-
up of a previous marriage, and immediately bonded with Kavanagh, who, having been diagnosed with paralytic polio-
myelitis at a young age, had been living with pain his entire life. It didn’t take long, before this bond led to a relationship, and, as the two moved into different spheres with the na-
tional broadcaster, the bond grew even stronger.

Kavanagh became Peter Goodwin’s book editor for his popular Morningpods radio program. Among his many accomplishments as a pro-
ducer was the creation of the Canada Reads competition in 2002. In addition, he pub-
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Three Times, about his strugg-
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Goodwin, meanwhile, moved on to CBC Newsworld and then became a documen-
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Five years later, the two re-
tired and bought their home in NOTL.

Debi Goodwin grew up in Grimsby, as part of a fourth-generation Niagara family. Her early years were spent on a fruit farm in west Niagara, so she was famil-

iar with the area. Moving to NOTL seemed almost natu-
r, and the home they found had a huge backyard, with two garden sheds and more than enough room for her to scratch her gardening itch.

Living in Toronto for 22 years, she always had a garden of some sort. They lived on what she calls a reverse raven-
 lo, where she slowly got rid of all of the grass in the front yard and replaced it with a rock garden. In addition, in-
fluenced by her father, who grew vegetables for the family, she always found some time and space to grow vegetables.

In contrast, Kavanagh was not a gardener, though he ful-
supported Goodwin’s love of cultivating and beautifying their space.

Those first few years in NOTL were idyllic. That changed, though, when the couple received Kavanagh’s cancer diagnosis.

Throughout his struggle with the disease, he encour-
aged her to continue with her victory garden. Goodwin says even when they discovered his diagnosis was terminal, he told her not to stop with her project.

“He knew how much the garden would help me even after he was gone,” she says.

“He knew my connection to the cycles of the seasons, he knew all those things about me, like a true partner does.”

A Victory Garden for Try-
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But when Peter’s cancer returned like a killing frost, the garden was a reminder that every-
thing must come to an end.

The memoir is very raw, and bares her soul, but Good-
win is glad she wrote it when she did. She says if she had waited 10 years to write it, the memoir would have ended up much more polished.

Having grown up in a small town, she remembers always wanting to get out of that town. “My father was the high school principal,” she says. “Everyone knew everything about me, and here I am having written a

Continued on page 11

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Continued on page 11
Chamber president's background prepares him for NOTL

Mike Balsom

For Eduardo Lafforgue, a life spent living and travelling across the world has prepared him to take on the role of President of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce.

In succeeding Janice Thomson, who held the position for the past 18 years, Lafforgue is clear that his focus will be on the community and the assets that are the essence of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Lafforgue was born in Argentina, but his family moved to Mexico, where he was educated in French at the Lycee Franco-Mexicain. Lafforgue’s high school education was completed at a school in England. He then studied architecture at university in Mexico, before earning a Master’s Degree in Spain.

For Eduardo Lafforgue, History, of course, is a big “C”. The Shaw Festival is a master writing class, where she learned to write it, she says, “it was more than a simple memoir, as personal as it may be, will resonate with anyone going through grief. She says she wrote the book to connect to these people and share them with others, in hope and a poignant reminder to cultivate our victory forward to connecting to these people.

In the meantime, she continues to cultivate her victory garden, a beautiful symbol of hope and a poignant reminder of life’s cycles. And she continues to harvest the vegetables and share them with others, in a fitting tribute to the man she loved, and continues to love, for more than 30 years. A Victory Garden for Try Times will be published by Dundurn Press on Sept. 7. Tickets for Debi Goodwin’s Wine and Words session at Southbook Vineyard can be purchased at notlpubliclibrary.org.

Eduardo Lafforgue (Photo supplied)

Personal memoir also a tribute to Kavanagh

Continued from page 10

asked if it will be difficult for her to read from this personal memoir to a crowd most likely filled with some familiar faces, she admits she may have a bit of trepidation. Goodwin believes the memoir, as personal as it may be, will resonate with anyone who has gone through or is going through grief. She says she wrote the book to connect to other people as well as to tell her story. And she is looking forward to connecting to these people.

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Eduardo Lafforgue (Photo supplied)
The Glass Menagerie is the first of American playwright Tennessee Williams' successes, and the Festival presents a faithful adaptation at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre.

Intimate pre-show interactions from Andre Sills and clever set design quietly draw the audience into the explosive lives of the Wingfield family. Tom Wingfield (Sills) is the family’s breadwinner, whiling his days away at a local factory for a pitance. Toni’s mother, Amanda (Allegra Fulton), pines for her youth, her servants and her father’s rich plantation in Louisiana. Toni’s sister, Laura (Julia Course), is affected by Louisiana. Tom’s sister, Laura finally realizes how inter- nal her fragility is. She breaks down and sees the world into the very cycle that led to this dreadful situation in the first place. Like his father, he contemplates simply abandon- ing the family. Williams, like other Amer- ican writers in the post-depres- sion and post-war tradition, chooses to focus on the meek and despairing citizenry. By sheer numbers it is their world more than it is the world of presidents, kings, and corporate owners. It is fitting that the Shaw has chosen to examine The Glass Menagerie today, when many millennials are forced back home with their parents, whose own incomes have stilted due to decisions beyond them. The family unit is often not what’s been sold to them by those ivory-towered American dreamers. The Glass Menagerie re- minds anyone who yearns for the past that it was fraught with the same class lines that exist today, just with a different flavour, and Williams leaves out any comment about racial or gendered lines of the 40s. Often criticized for being too autobiographical (and I apolog- ize to fans of Williams, as he won’t escape that here), Williams’ own privilege is on full display. Amanda, who the play notes attend DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) meetings, longs for her family’s former glories. Yes, Amanda family is now poor, but when her grown son is the sole bread- winner, her daughter is consid- ered so fragile from her ailments as to excuse her from contribut- ing, and she sits in magazine sub- scriptions infrequently. . . well, it’s a fast-talking paragon of the technology at night school, after ever so slightly, or her laugh will squeak, hoping to use southern hospitality at all costs. As Tom continually challenges her, she breaks down and sees the world is not at all what she remembers. In reality Amanda’s failure, Fulton presents her cracking facade. Her voice will crack over so slightly, or her laugh will squeak, hoping to use southern hospitality to mask her true self.

While Williams filled The Glass Menagerie with excitable progressivism, the sight of excitable progressivism. The Glass Menagerie is still strikingly in- dulgently beautiful. Its tragic course is a lesson in fragile, fractured heroes of an America emerging out of the Second World War that is all too willing to sacrifice those who aren’t willing to catch up, and the unseen human costs of excitable progressivism.
Auchterlonie begins astrology podcast in retirement

Penny Coles
The Local

With a radio voice perfectly suited to a podcast, and a lifetime of studying his favourite subject, Auchterlonie on Astrology was almost inevitable.

Now retired after several careers, most recently as the owner of a Victoria Street gallery of Fine and Six Nations art, Bill Auchterlonie devotes his spare time researching "what's going on in the skies," an interest that developed when he realized astrology is not only about looking forward, but also looking back.

In his recently-released inaugural podcast, he says he had an interest in "esoteric cultural expression" from an early age.

As a youngster he collected about books on ancient sites in Betan, Mexico and North America, books about "ancient kind of stuff I regarded as lost knowledge," he said.

While working in the curatorial department of The Art Gallery of Ontario, he went to Britain and Europe visiting art galleries, and had an opportunity to visit Stonehenge, which is widely regarded as an "astrological edifice," set up so that at a particular point during the winter solstice, the sun sets up precisely between two stones.

It's one of the first dedicated man-made pieces designed to "keep track of the skies above," says Auchterlonie, and that opened his eyes to astrology.

His career in radio began when he was working behind the scenes at CFRB when he was at York University, studying film, art and film production. After university, and his job with the museum, he went back to radio, this time while hosting a morning radio show in Hamilton. There, while he had as a regular guest well-known astrologer Alex Spraggrett, who in reading Auchterlonie's signs, mentioned a near-drowning experience when he was four years old. Spraggrett related that to the near-fatal car accident that had left the radio host with a year of healing and physical therapy when he was in his early 30s.

Auchterlonie knew nothing about a drowning incident, he told the astrologer, who suggested he should ask his mother. He learned he had nearly drowned at the age of four, although his mother didn't go into details, but gradually, over a period of 11 years, the memory came back. His family was visiting Henry Harbort, and he had slipped off some rocks, and had grabbed a tree branch as he fell. He was in the water, clinging to the branch for dear life, for almost two hours before someone found him.

"I'm a Taurus. We're stubborn," he jokes. "I guess sometimes that can be a good thing."

When he realized Spraggrett could read the past through astrology as well as the future, Auchterlonie says, "from then on, I was hooked." He put the two near-tragic events together, and wanting to avoid a third situation, he began tracking his astrological chart to ensure he would know when it was time to take extra precautions and avoid any activity that would put him in danger.

"It took about a year to figure things out," he says, "talking of charts, houses, planets and signs." Then he began to read more about how everything fits together.

Astrology isn't his only interest. Time spent on politics behind the scenes, working on campaigns for candidates of all levels of government, led him to run for council in 2014, believing it was time for a new wave of councillors. He was a little ahead of his time, with the majority of councilors re-elected that term. He was also chair of the Town's parking committee, and was an outspoken critic of the expensive pay-and-display system purchased, with meters that often did not work properly and frustrated downtown merchants and visitors.

He still follows town politics, but is no longer involved. He and Heather, whom he met when he moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake about 30 years ago, live on a farmstead on the lake. He loves walking their dog Brooke, a German Shepherd they got from the Welland Humane Society, and he also likes working out astrological charts for people — he wouldn't mind doing that as a couple of days a week.

He's also recovering from some serious health issues. He had a year of radiation and chemotherapy to fight an "insidious" kind of lung cancer while still running the store. Fortunately the tumour was small and found early, he said, but he was left exhausted by the treatment. Then in January he caught a deadly flu virus during a doctor's visit. He ended up being transported to the hospital by ambulance, where he spent 10 days on life support.

"I'm finally starting to feel healthy for the first time in a couple of years," he says.

And while his health issues could be considered a run of bad luck, "I'd say I've had good luck. I've come out of a couple."

But to an astrologer, luck is not necessarily the reason he's still here.

He's studied what happened in the last 200 to 300 years, and sees the results of a cycle that began again in 2008.

"It's a repeat of the turbulent times that created the U.S., democracy in France and other places. It's turbulent again today, the way it was then. It isn't exactly the same, but it's the same planet configuration as at that time.

His research leads him to question coincidence. "Astrology gives you the feeling there is some great mind behind all this. It's not exactly predetermined, but I think there is a lot more to coincidence than we know."

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Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local

Welcome to Auchterlonie on Astrology. Every week I'll present an overview of what's happening in the solar system and what it may portend for us here on Earth.

This is the week of the New Moon in Virgo which happened on Friday, Aug. 30 at 6:37 a.m. EST. It's a time of new beginnings. For Virgo, new beginnings in your innermost self. For Scorpio, new beginnings in formal relationships and partnerships.

The Moon began the week on Sunday, Aug. 25, in Leo and entered Cancer on Saturday at 5:06 p.m. The Moon is the ruling planet of Cancer so it will be most powerful and sensitive for a few days. Mars and Chiron make a connection on Sunday night. It portends a time of stress, urging growth and healing.

Monday Venus in Virgo hooked up with Uranus in Taurus, bringing a sweet surprise. Tuesday would have been mostly stressful until 7:53 p.m., when the Moon moved into Leo.

Wednesday saw Mars in Virgo make the same sweet hook-up as Venus made on Monday. This has energetic and sexual overtones. For Scorpio does some friendly connections with eight different objects in the sky:

So it's been a week of surprises. Friday is the New Moon. A time for new beginnings.

And the week ends with Saturday's strong connection between the Moon and Pluto. It's a time when practical willpower can move mountains.

Next week sees the start of a new month. Sunday is the first day of September. Monday is a holiday — Labour Day — full of energy and seriousness with the First Quarter Moon in Sagittarius on Thursday.

Tuesday Sept. 3 promps us to be busy and full of clever ideas as Mercury hooks up with both the Sun and Mars and the Moon in Virgo.

The Moon moves into Sagittarius Wednesday night and Venus opposes Neptune in the early morning hours. She's the loopy one — but likely also sweetly so.

And I'll be back next week with a special edition of Auchterlonie on Astrology, right here in The Local.

For a career in radio, Bill Auchterlonie says dealing with the technology of a computer podcast has been a challenge. (Photo supplied)
Red Roof Retreat gives kids a reason to smile

Terry Davis
Special To The Local

The first thing you notice when you walk into The Ranch location of Red Roof Retreat are the smiles. Big, wide, happy smiles on the faces of the children walking, rolling around the grounds in wheelchairs or sitting under the shade of a tree, and the smiles are just as broad on the faces of the staff there to help the kids through their day.

Perhaps that’s not surprising. Red Roof Retreat was established in 2006 to be a place where children, teenagers and young adults with special needs, along with their families, would enjoy access to quality recreational and respite services. It offers a place for relationships to develop and lasting bonds to be nurtured through understanding and respect for each individual’s special needs.

But it isn’t Red Roof’s mandate that makes it so special. It’s the people who bring that mandate to life and make it real, starting with the organization’s executive director, Steffanie Bjorgan, and her dedicated staff. Together they’ve created a range of sensory-based programs and activities for children, geared toward their specific needs and recognizing their unique differences. Children can touch, feel, taste and hear different things, from putting something in their mouth, reaching through the fence surrounding the animal enclosure to pet a pony, goat or rabbit, or picking and eating a tomato.

Each client to The Ranch is different, Bjorgan explains. She and her team develop a profile on each one, noting their physical, emotional and cognitive needs. That’s important. Some children are driven crazy by background noise, others receive nourishment through a tube connected to their stomach, some enjoy repeatedly touching an object (such as a string of beads), while others like being read to or splashing their feet in a pool of water. Knowing the wants and needs of each client, and tailoring an experience geared directly to them, is key.

Understanding how to communicate with each client is equally important. Some clients to The Ranch communicate verbally as well as through facial expressions and hand movements. Others are less verbal. Tools such as pictograms, iPads and touch screens are used by Bjorgan and her team to communicate with the kids, and help them to respond.

A key feature of The Ranch is its size. The 11-acre property on Concession 6 in Niagara-on-the-Lake provides opportunities for special needs clients to walk on natural trails, interact with and ride horses, find a quiet place in the shade of a tree or to enjoy a range of other recreational features, including a playground and inflatable splash pool. In most cases, their days can be as active or as peaceful as they’d like them to be.

Not all clients to The Ranch are independently mobile. Some have special needs that make it difficult or impossible for them to participate in activities and programs without assistance, so staff make a point of bringing the activities and programs to them. Yet another reason then is the happy place, so full of smiles.

“My goal here was to connect kids with special needs to nature and animals,” says Bjorgan.

The Ranch is landscaped, surrounded by farms, providing a safe and inviting environment for clients to explore and enjoy. But it just may be that the joy radiating through The Ranch each and every day is Bjorgan’s doing. It might have its genesis in the decisions that she and her family made when her second son was born with Cerebral Palsy in 1993. It could stem from the knowledge and commitment she brings to her work — in addition to earning a degree in child studies and education, Bjorgan taught at the elementary school level for 16 years, and participated in several pilot projects and services focussed on early interventions, screening and assessment, and teaching the non-verbal child.

Staff at Red Roof Retreat are also important factors in its success and the smiles it brings to the faces of clients. They’re dedicated, caring and willing to go the extra mile for the young people who come to Red Roof, up to and including visiting them in their homes.

Whatever the reason for the contentment of clients to The Ranch, it is clear that Garrett, Bjorgan’s second son, was the catalyst that sparked the creation of Red Roof Retreat.

“After we had Garrett, we had two choices,” she says. “Y ou’re allowed to go through the grieving, then you make a choice. We chose to look at all the blessings.”

Today, Bjorgan says Red Roof Retreat was somewhat born out of necessity — she had needed something to focus on at that time. Following Garrett’s birth, she and her husband Moe were a bit housebound at first. The family made some difficult choices together, including moving from their home in Queenston, which was on a hill and not well-suited to the needs of a child in a wheelchair, to a flatter property in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Then they decided to turn their new property into a small hobby farm. Shortly afterward, when she saw how much pleasure the farm gave Garrett, Bjorgan, a self-admitted type-A personality, began inviting a few families with special needs children to visit.

Back then, people didn’t really have a sense of what respite was, she says. Families needed a break from the day-to-day challenges and responsibilities of caring for a child with special needs, and kids needed a break from their day-to-day routines. She saw that need firsthand in the families who brought their children to the hobby farm, and with Moe’s support, decided to do something about it.

“It was a family decision,” she says. “We opened up their property to clients, and a few years later establishing Red Roof Retreat.

The timing of those decisions was fortuitous. The Ranch, a house and property ideally suited for Red Roof, was up for sale.

Equally important, Michael Katz had recently opened a McDonald’s restaurant in Niagara-on-the-Lake, one of several McDonald’s franchises that the Katz family owns and manages in the Niagara region. When Steffanie went out looking for financial backing, both the Katz family and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club stepped forward to help.

Both have contributed to Red Roof Retreat from day one, making a huge difference in the life of the not-for-profit organization and in the lives of the children, teens and young adults who visit its three facilities, as well as the lives of their families.

Continued on page 15
Red Roof offers three facilities and many programs

Terry Davis
Special to The Local

The Ranch – NOTL
The Ranch house is used for Red Roof Retreat’s adult day program on weekdays, allowing young adults with special needs who visited Red Roof Retreat as a child to continue their relationship with the program, as well as offering respite to new adult special needs children for pizza and a swim.

Butterfly Conservatory in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Red Roof Retreat Community Centre – St. Catharines
The centre offers visitors the use of a therapeutic swimming pool, five-pin bowling alley and activity rooms. Programs include an adult day program, teen night, Saturday camp and Dad’s swim.

Teen night may include a pizza dinner with special guests, swimming, dances, bowling and movies.

Dad’s swim brings together fathers and their special needs children for pizza and a swim.

The Saturday Camp program includes outdoor play, music, special guests, crafts, swimming and bowling.

Kevan’s House – NOTL
Red Roof Retreat offers an adult respite program at the house on weekends, and emergency residential care throughout the week. Typically five adults (over 19 years of age) enjoy the weekend respite program at Kevan’s House on weekends.

For more information on the full range of programs offered by Red Roof Retreat, visit www.redroofretreat.com.

Donors, volunteers welcome

Continued from page 14

in the lives of their families. The Katz family donated the seed money needed to launch Red Roof Retreat, with no strings attached. Some of those funds went toward bricks and mortar allowing Bjorgan to purchase materials to launch Red Roof Retreat, ed the seed money needed in the lives of their families.

Special needs visitors to The Ranch, of any age, may enjoy horseback riding, as well as learn about feeding, grooming and tacking horses. Horseback riding can improve balance, posture, core strength, mobility and function, and help people with special needs in the areas of physical, cognitive, communications, emotional and social wellbeing.

Summer Camp is a key program at The Ranch. Red Roof Retreat’s summer day camps run for six weeks, beginning in July, for children from five to 16 years of age, providing a range of enjoyable, safe activities for special needs kids at The Ranch and the Niagara Children’s Centre.

Red Roof Retreat Community Centre – St. Catharines
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Back to school with ROCS

There is a nervous buzz in the air for students across the Niagara region as school officially starts for the 2019/2020 school year in just one week’s time. For ROCS students, back to school is also filled with excitement, the thrill of re-uniting with teachers and friends and all the anticipation of wonderful learning in the year ahead.

ROCS students, Ruby Elltoft, Colby Martens and Wes Ridesic share some feelings below about the year ahead!

Ruby (Grade 5): “I am excited for a new classroom, seeing all my friends and having new challenges to accomplish this year!”

Wes (Grade 3): “I’m super excited to get back to school to see my friends. I can’t wait for tech time and coding games. I’m also really looking forward to going to camp with the school and playing gaggle ball there!”

Colby (Grade 1): “Seeing my new classroom and doing math problems. Just the easy ones though.”

ROCS clubs 2.0

Royal Oak would also like to announce to the community that our after school clubs this year are open to the entire Niagara region!

If you have a child in Grade 3 or up who would like to join our ROCS kids in their after school programming, please contact the school at royaloakcommunityschool@gmail.com and sign up!

The cost for our 12 week after school camps is $100. Our fall lineup of clubs includes:

**Monday**
3:45-4:45
Walking Club - Walk our beautiful community with Ms. McIsaac and explore nature and stay active!

**Tuesday**
3:45-4:45
Soccer Club - Join Ms. Koyle and Mr. M., our resident soccer pros for a fun club of learning skills and refining our soccer prowess.

**Thursday**
3:45-4:45
Knitting Club - Join Ms. Koyle for knitting club, where students will knit milk bags to donate for sleeping mats for communities in Canada in need. Focus on learning initial knitting skills and creating beautiful and useful mats for others.

A call for milk bag donations! Please collect and donate milk bag covers for Royal Oak’s school milk bag mat project. As of Sept. 19, ROCS will have a donation box at the NOTL community centre for you to drop off collected bags. See the video link below to learn more about this important initiative of turning waste into useful items for families in need: https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=631949.

**Earn extra cash by selling your unwanted items in our CLASSIFIEDS.**

**Contact:** anna@notllocal.com

**Deadline:** Mondays at 3 p.m.
Two new members inducted in town’s Sports Wall of Fame

Jennifer Chornley
The Local

The Meridian Credit Union Arena corridor containing the town’s Sports Wall of Fame served as the backdrop to honour two notable Niagara-on-the-Lake residents for their contribution to community sports.

About 60 friends and family members gathered Friday for their induction into the town’s Sports Wall of Fame at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

Accompanied by his son Richard, Dave Wall shares some memories at his induction into the Sports Wall of Fame.

Doug Garrett shares some memories at his induction into the Sports Wall of Fame.

Garrett was inducted as this year’s athlete recipient, while Wall was recognized for his behind-the-scenes efforts as a builder.

Sports Wall of Fame chair Ward Simpson emceed the ceremony and engaged the audience with humour and reminiscing.

Local Mayor Betty Dileo and Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates attended on behalf of the Town and Province, presenting plaques of recognition.

“Tired of a sports nut and the one event I enjoy coming to yearly is this one,” Gates said. “It is amazing to me how you honour your athletes, and more importantly how you build your community.”

“The Sports Wall of Fame is a wonderful way to recognize talent, dedication and leadership and community,” said Dileo in her introductory speech.

“Congratulations for all your successes, all of your accomplishments, both on and off, the greens are outstanding,” she said to Garrett.

Regarding Wall’s contribution, Dileo said, “our community is a better place because of your leadership in the arena and on the diamond. Your dedication to the community is incomparable. And, I’m certain the Wall-bangers will continue to play for many, many decades.”

When people put so much of their life into giving back to the community, “they are truly community builders. Community builders play a large part in helping our town be what it is,” Dileo said.

“Because of you that we have arenas, baseball diamonds and the spirit of Niagara-on-the-Lake that we have,” Introducing Garrett to unveil his photo, Simpson said, “is every golfer’s dream to shoot his age on the golf course, however (Garrett) can’t because he is 92 and can never shoot over 90. I’d like to shoot my age, but the way it’s going, I’ll have to live to be 120.”

“It is a great honour to be here,” Garrett said. “Thank you to the board for its kind remarks and to the members of the community as I stand here before the Wall of Fame.”

Garrett said in his golf career he had only one hole-in-one, Aug. 8, 1971 on the second hole at the old golf course. “In those days,” he joked, “there were a lot of holes-in-one that never were, but mine did happen because we had a boy on the hill witnessing it.”

Other memories Garrett shared included caddying for 35 cents for nine holes, and 75 cents for 18, and sneaking beer in wrapped-up towels to a group of golfers after they finished their fifth round. “What I am trying to explain is that there is nothing new to having a beer cart on the golf course,” Garrett’s golf idol was Ben Mond’s and the spirit of Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

Doug Garrett, with emcee and committee chair Ward Simpson beside him, recalls his golfing days during the Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony Friday. (Photos by Jennifer Chornley)

Accompanied by his son Richard, Dave Wall shares some memories at his induction into the Sports Wall of Fame at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.
Across:
1. Wander
2. White or Blue Ariver river
9. Ahura, --, Zarathustian Supreme Being
14. "Marking -- war ..." (Sabine Baring-Gould)
15. Downright dastardly
16. Sherlock sees them
17. Superstitiously
18. Inmeasurably long periods
19. Heavenly supporter
20. Causes house moves in California
23. "... Verus sets --- Mercury can rise" (Pope)
24. Some
25. For each
26. Peace on earth?
28. Timber management
33. Lay
34. Wedding attendant
35. Weeding implement
36. Knocked off, this encrypted some FBI database entries
40. GNOME, to GNOME
41. Quantity ancient
42. Tag
43. Ready?
44. "In your dreams!"
47. It never gets off the ground
48. Home to Jaguars but not in Australia
49. A decade
50. Sub rosa
51. Found in rings and tubs
52. "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author
55. Pennsylvania resident famous in February
58. Fatty acid, for example
59. And the rest
60. Kansas movie barker
61. Corporate bigwigs
62. Century notes
63. Double click, perhaps Down:

Down:
1. Elevate
2. Half of "The Odd Couple"
3. Pet Antonio fusses about something
4. Nat King Cole's "...-- Lisa"
5. "Will You ...? (The Young Monks)
6. Trade in the elephant variety is illegal
7. Short note
8. "Lohengrin" heroine
9. Big name in antivirus software
10. Tables with frontals
11. Bantu language
12. Distribute cards
13. Helper for short
15. Model --- Campbell
20. Bonafide
21. "Solders" author Stanislaw ...
22. Golfer who won three British Opens and three Masters
23. Giant people-eater
24. Place to find a bargain
25. Staffs
26. Piece on earth?
27. Superior herring?
28. They're made in reparation
29. "...- Miami" (CBS hit)
30. Still in dreamland
31. Superior hearing?
32. "...- feet"
33. Valiant
34. They're made in reparation
35. For away from home
36. Up in arms
37. Cream of the crop
38. It can run while you walk
39. Flat-fish
40. Multi-user computer operating system
41. About to go off?
42. "... Call Me MISTER Tibbs!"
43. Lot
44. "...- no good!"

Sudoku Puzzle

PUZZLE ANSWERS

18 29 30 41 52 63 74 85 90
27 37 47 57 67 77 81 91 00
12 22 31 40 50 60 70 80 90
01 10 21 31 41 51 61 71 81
02 12 32 42 52 62 72 82 92
03 13 33 43 53 63 73 83 93
04 14 34 44 54 64 74 84 94
05 15 35 45 55 65 75 85 95
06 16 36 46 56 66 76 86 96
07 17 37 47 57 67 77 87 97

Wall instrumental in fundraising for arena

Continued from page 17

Hogan, who said, “The most important shot in golf is the next one.” And, that is true.

Another prominent golfer Garrett worked alongside was George Knudson, who taught Garrett the finer points of the game and how to control his temper.

“I was golfing with him one day and made a terrible shot. I was so mad I threw my golf club. He made me go get it, looked at me and said, you are still a good golfer. ‘”

“Boy, I cried. I certainly learned my lesson, never threw another club.”

Knudson admired a tiny camera and took photos of Garrett’s swing in each of the stages. When Knudson laid out the photos and pointed out what Garrett needed for his swing and where the equipment was to be placed, showing the pro as “ahead of his time” in teaching the sport, Garrett said.

Garrett’s Wall of Fame description says, “A Veteran, Legionnaire, Mason and even a former horse-drawn wagon milkman, Doug Garrett still made his largest impression on our community on the golf course. His personality, competitiveness and athleticism led him to 21 NOTL Club Championships at all levels plus one Senior Champion of Champions for the entire Niagara District.

Among many other accomplishments, he was one of the initiators of the Wallbangers Hockey Team in 1984, which continues to thrive to this day. He was also a director, coach and manager of the slo-pitch league and sponsored innumerable sports teams for decades in all of NOTL’s youth leagues. His enduring legacy will long remain something to strive for all the thankful residents of NOTL.”

As an avid sports fan, Wall was energetic, enjoyed playing sports and worked to achieve the highest level he could. He played hockey, baseball, decades of golf and in his retirement years took up tennis, horseshoes and billiards.

Simpson introduced Wall as a “successful businessman, as there was always a sale at Wall Furniture,” drawing some laughs from the crowd.

He said that Wall’s contributions to the building of two Virgil arenas, establishing the NOTL Wallbangers, and helping to build the ball diamonds were important, successful connections to the community.

Upon receiving the honour, Wall said, “It’s nice to be in a community where people love their community more than they love themselves.”

Wall’s son Richard described his father’s achievements as “visionary.”

He recalled that when his father joined the Virgil Business Association (VBA) in the early 1960s, the organization had mandated it wanted to do something that benefitted the community.

“ ’In the 1950s and 60s, there wasn’t a lot of infrastructure for sports as far as arenas, but there were some outdoor skating rinks, base- ball and soccer fields’” Richard said.

When Wall was elected to the second president of the Virgil Business Association, town council and the association decided to build Virgil’s first closed-in arena.

With that, Wall took the position of chair of the fundraising campaign.

The goal was $12,000, which, Richard said, “was a stretch. That was a lot of money in those days and a lot of people wanted it, but they were unsure and couldn’t believe it could be done. It was too much for a small community.” Nonetheless, the fund-raising was completed and in 1967 the Centennial Arena opened.

Wall and the VBA’s fundraising efforts were recognized at then provincial level in a letter written by the then Premier John Roberts, citing it as the most successful fundraising campaign in celebration of Canada’s centennial anniversary.

The same year, the Town of NOTL recognized the community milestone by naming Wall Citizen of the Year. Richard described the recognition as “pivotal” moments for his father.

The visionary term Richard explained as “coming from his understanding that sports is an important part of the community, is a creative social fabric, and he realized that it was something that would be a benefit to the community to help the community grow.”

“Somebody had to take a leadership role, which I believe he did,” Richard added.

Richard followed in his father’s footsteps in the early 2000s when the town decided to add a second arena and he was asked to sit on the fund-raising committee.

Again, similar to the Centennial Arena fundraising campaign, it was “still a lot of dollars to raise,” however, the committee was energetic and great thus again, achieving the goal ahead of schedule and on budget and opened in September 2003.

Wall’s love for hockey led to the establishment of the Wallbangers in 1984, which evolved into a travelling team. The team originally began as a multi-generational father-son unit that played pick-up hockey at 6:30 a.m. Sunday mornings as that was the only ice time available.

With that in mind, Richard recalled the Sunday after the second arena official grand opening, the Wallbangers played the first ice time of 6:30 a.m.

“Not only did the Wallbangers get the recognition of the first ice time, but also we got together as three generations, myself, my father and my son and were the first to step out onto the ice,” he said.

In addition, Richard considers having a sports complex like the Centennial Arena a victory, especially in the 1960s and today, the best of the foundation for the community of the size in the province.

“Not only can we be proud as a family, but as a community,” Richard said. “We achieved great success with a lot of people in making it happen.”

The NOTL Sports Wall of Fame was established to recognize those who have made considerable contributions to sports in the community either as an athlete or community builder.
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