



Master Gardeners help community

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## Recognizing Ukrainian independence

The Ukrainian flag was raised at the town hall Wednesday, six months after Russia invaded the country. At the flag-raising are Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Shirley Madsen, founder of Sunflowers For Ukraine, her granddaughter Savannah Nedeljkovi and husband Finn Madsen, to commemorate Ukrainian Independence Day and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress's continuous support of the Ukrainian community. For more information see page 7. (Photos supplied)

## St. Davids is growing, needs more attention

Penny Coles  
The Local

Adriana Cater (Vizzari) is a St. Davids resident hoping to win a seat on council to look after the needs of St. Davids residents.

"We need a voice to deal with issues as they arise, and also to be proactive on specific issues," she says.

St. Davids has grown very rapidly, and doesn't get the attention it deserves, she says. As an example, she points to all the new development in and around the village, and says "what's the traffic management plan? Everything feels so reactive here."

That includes attention to the pool, parks and schools.

Without proper representation, St. David's residents end up feeling "slighted and

under-prioritized," she says. "That may have been fine a decade ago but our population and demographic has changed so drastically."

The community has legitimate needs that deserve attention, "and someone who is willing to bring issues forward, advocate and put in the work."

Since sewers were installed in 2003, the community has grown from about 230 homes to more than 1,600 homes. What worked in St. Davids 20 years ago isn't working now, she says.

Although Cater-Vizzari has never served as a politician, she feels she has a good understanding of what it means to be a municipal politician.

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## Three inductees in town's Sports Hall of Fame

Trevor Falk, Yvonne Haines, Launcelot Cressy Servos honoured

Mike Balsom  
The Local

A fastball and hockey star and coach, a long-time figure skating volunteer and a golfer with ties to the history of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club are the three newest members of the town's Sports Wall of Fame.

At the first in-person ceremony since 2019 at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena,

plaques honouring Trevor Falk, Yvonne Haines and Launcelot Cressy Servos were unveiled to a crowd of just under 100 family members, friends, government officials and teammates.

Servos, who was born in 1879 in Buffalo, New York and moved with his parents to NOTL, was the first of the new inductees celebrated Friday night. He was nominated by the NOTL Museum.

Launcelot's second cousin,

Daniel Servos, explained that the honoree started his fascination with and long career in golf as a young caddy at the NOTL Golf Club. Soon, Launcelot was entering long drive competitions in the U.S., such as the one in 1897 where he placed second with a drive of 186 yards, less than half of what would win a similar modern day competition.

Servos won a major international tournament in Niagara

before turning pro and becoming one of the founding members of the U.S. Professional Golfers Association (PGA). He played in the 1900 U.S. Open, designed the state of Florida's first golf course, had his name on a set of McGregor brand irons and wrote some of the first popular golf instruction books.

"He travelled throughout North America and visited many golf courses," Daniel told the crowd, "but Niagara-on-the-Lake was always home, and he maintained a residence here on Gate Street. Though it doesn't appear he was a member of the Niag-

ara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, he continued to be associated with it, and he donated the Servos Trophy, which is still played for today in the men's tournament."

Daniel also connected Launcelot directly to another member of the NOTL Sports Wall of Fame, perennial men's club champion Al Derbyshire, who died in 2018.

"He used to watch Launcelot and carried his clubs on the Niagara-on-the-Lake golf course," Daniel said. "It's nice to see that tie-in."

Launcelot died in Toronto in 1969 and is buried at the St. Mark's Anglican Church cemetery.

Next up came Yvonne Haines, named to the Wall of Fame in the builder category for her three decades of volunteer support of the NOTL Figure Skating Club. Current director of skating programs and ice chair Judi Boyle-Krzczkowski introduced Haines as a "true role model" who continues to contribute to the club with "passion, commitment and enthusiasm."

"She is continuously picking up new ideas," Boyle-Krzczkowski said of the club's current co-president and treasurer, "with her invaluable resources

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# Clean-up of Cole Drain spill could top \$1 million

## No word yet on whether insurance will cover it

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

An update from Kevin Turcotte to council Monday night was vague about the contents of a large spill that occurred Aug. 17, and that the town continues to clean up.

The acting operations director had some new information on the situation to share, but couldn't answer all councillors' questions.

The continuing removal of the contents in the Cole Drain will likely climb to more than \$1 million, with the cost described by Coun. Erwin Wiens as likely the most expensive project the town will undertake this year.

As of Aug. 22, just five days into the spill, the cost of the consultant who is advising the town, and vacuuming some of the 480,000 litres of what was determined to be organic material, work that was going 24 hours a day, had already reached more than \$650,000.

While Turcotte wouldn't "hazard a guess" at how much more money will be spent before the clean-up and remediation is complete, Wiens had no problem extrapolating further costs to reach more than \$1 million. "If we have to cover this, where are we going to get the money?"

Treasurer Kyle Freeborn told councillors if insurance doesn't cover it and costs can't be recovered from the source of the spill, the town will have to turn to its reserves.

Wiens' frustration at the lack of answers was evident, as he tried to ascertain why it was taking the town so long to identify the contents and source of the spill.

Although "there was some delay" in getting the lab results because of the type of testing required, Turcotte assured councillors the organic material in the drain is not hazardous, but couldn't specify exactly what it is, other than organic ma-

terial, which he described as good news.

Although initially councillors understood him to mean a more detailed analysis would be forthcoming, when questioned about the timeline, he clarified the town has the lab results but won't release more detailed information, because it wouldn't be understood.

CAO Marnie Cluckie likened the situation to someone receiving blood work results, but not understanding what they mean — only a doctor would be able to interpret them.

She went on to say it is important for the town "to be open and transparent," and will bring back results "in a way we can interpret clearly." She said the public will also be advised when the source of the spill is discovered.

Tuesday morning, residents living in the area of the spill received a letter inviting them to a virtual information session Thursday, Sept 1 at 5 p.m., saying questions can be asked in advance by email or during the virtual meeting.

One neighbour to the drain told The Local Tuesday morning that although liquid is being pumped regularly from the drain, there is no visible improvement, and if anything the water is getting darker. It is also beginning to smell.

Turcotte assured councillors the town's insurance company had sent a representative to the site of the spill, where a total of four berms have now been built to stop the flow of material through the drain.

Turcotte told councillors the town has the ministry documentation — not an order for clean-up, but "written direction" that will fulfill the insurance company's requirements to cover the cost of the spill.

He explained the insurance company has not committed to covering the cost, and will wait to determine the cause, since whomever



A neighbour of the Cole drain took these photos Tuesday, Aug. 30. The spill council discussed Monday was discovered last Wednesday, Aug. 17, and residents are concerned they still don't know the cause, or what it is — the town is only saying it's organic material. The drain should be dry, but the neighbour who took these photos says if anything the black water is getting darker and has started to smell. The town has the area pumped "a few times a day, but no improvement," the neighbour says. There is concern amongst nearby residents now that it is becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes and a danger for West Nile virus.

is responsible for it should be liable for costs.

Turcotte said although a source has not been identified, a leachate leak from the Line 5 landfill site has been eliminated.

"We have our test results, and we have our action plan to clean up the spill," he said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked that the possibility of a leachate leak continue to be considered, and also questioned who is looking at the content and source of the contaminant.

"I have a problem with hundreds of thousands of litres in ditches and we don't know what it is."

Turcotte explained the consultant hired to oversee the clean-up operation is also looking for the source.

Six large fluid containment tanks that hold 80,000 litres each were lined up along Concession 5 between Line 6 and Line 7 early in the clean-up, and once filled, were emptied into tanker trucks to be taken offsite.

By Friday, four more tanks were set up to hold the material until it could be pumped into trucks and removed to a location ap-

proved by the ministry of the environment, though Turcotte didn't say where.

Although there were kudos from councillors and the CAO for the quick action of staff when they learned of the spill, there was some question about the lack of communication to residents, who were calling the town, councillors and the press, witnessing the massive clean-up operation that by Monday had been going on for 13 days, and desperate for answers about the substance in the drain near or on their properties.

Communication could be improved in the future, Cluckie agreed, by having a letter template available to fill in the blanks and explain the situation to concerned residents. But in the meantime town staff were answering questions as best they could.

"People are scared, and worried about it," she said, "and it's important to alleviate those concerns."

But it's also important to give out correction information, Cluckie added, and being sure staff have "definitive answers."

Nellie Keeler may know more about the Cole Drain and its history than anyone in town — she has lived on the same property for 47 years, and remembers when it became an agricultural drain named after the farmer who requested it. Like some of her neighbours, Keeler has been making phone calls to the town, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and to The Local, trying to get some answers.

Keeler, the first woman to sit on town council — she served six terms as what was then called an alderman — explains that agricultural drains began in Niagara-on-the-Lake when a farmer wanted one on his land to drain surface water. If the town agreed to the drain, it was named after the farmer who initiated the project.

Keeler lives at Line 6 and Concession 6, and the drain, which should be dry, crosses her property.

Like others, Keeler said she couldn't fathom what might have caused the black water running through the drain, and was frustrated that the town

couldn't find the source. The size of the spill alone should have made it easy to find where it entered the drain — she didn't believe anything of that magnitude would come up through the ground or travel underground.

"I know this drain inside and out," she told The Local, and as hard as she tries to picture a scenario of what has happened to it, she can't.

She questioned whether anyone of those tasked with working on the spill had walked the length of the drain from where it starts on York Road north to Four Mile Creek, but Cluckie said yes, they had.

Keeler is also concerned about a large pond further north along the drain from the first berm that was installed, at the edge of her property, and whether it is connected to the spill.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero visited Keeler and saw the pond, but was assured by Turcotte Monday it has been there for some time, and is not created by or related to the spill.

He suggested a fallen tree could have blocked water flow and created the pond.



# Town to ask region to put roundabout on hold - again

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

A St. Davids resident was at council Monday to ask that the region be convinced to put the recommended roundabout on hold.

John Gartner told councillors Monday that after a meeting of St. Davids Ratepayers Association members with regional staff — a meeting residents had been trying to arrange for two years — it quickly became evident the region was only interested in talking about design details of a roundabout for the intersection of Four Mile Creek Road and York Road, and not looking at alternatives.

Gartner, with a background of senior planning positions for regions and municipalities, told council-

lors two factors should have been considered: moving traffic through the intersection; and the impact on the community and its values.

In St. Davids, he says, he hasn't heard from one resident who supports a roundabout at that intersection.

"I have no issue with roundabouts, I actually love roundabouts," he said, having travelled in many different parts of the world where they are well-used, "but in locations that are appropriate."

A roundabout in St. Davids, he added, "is not appropriate."

He suggested the region is basing its choice on data from 20 years ago. The community has grown and changed since then, as have its traffic needs.

He told councillors he would like to see the region consider a traffic bypass, instead of a roundabout, and that in the meantime he would like the region to do nothing — his ask of council was to find a way to convince the region "to put it on the back burner."

"I think we'd rather have nothing there than the wrong something," he said, asking for more time to come up with what is right for the intersection, and not at the expense of pedestrians, who would have to use

the roundabout to cross the intersection.

Gartner has recently lost his sight, and couldn't cross at a roundabout, he says — he would hate for someone like himself, or a child, to be hit by a vehicle while trying to cross the busy street.

He told councillors statistics show roundabouts are safer for vehicles, "but not for pedestrians."

The location of St. Davids School was not taken into account during the environmental study of the area, although children use that

intersection to get to school, he said.

Any slow-down in traffic at the intersection now is a matter of seconds, he said, "a minor inconvenience, not a major problem."

Coun. Erwin Wiens agreed there is no need for a roundabout, and said he doesn't even see the seconds drivers have to wait at the intersection as an inconvenience. He travels through it regularly, "and the most I've had to wait is 35 seconds. If you're complaining about waiting 35 seconds you need

to leave."

Councillors agreed to ask the region, for the second time, to put the roundabout on hold while other options to divert traffic are considered.

The roundabout would have to be included in the regional budget for it to go forward, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero, telling councillors she thinks there would be support from other regional councillors and mayors to putting a stop to the roundabout through the budget process.

## No solutions for pickleball players or courts

Staff will continue to investigate for next year

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Council had a brief discussion Monday evening on the future use of the Virgil outdoor pickleball courts, until the two-year court order that has shut them down due to a noise bylaw infraction is satisfied.

Acting operations director Kevin Turcotte spoke of a staff report that looked at alternative uses for the courts, and recommended ball hockey, street soccer and lacrosse as the best options.

The report also recommends "further investigation be coupled with a public consultation to solicit feedback and understand the desires and concerns of the community."

If the outdoor court is to

be used for any sport, due diligence will be required, said CAO Marnie Cluckie, to ensure there will be no noise bylaw infractions, and that any option chosen would be a "compatible use."

Sound attenuation measures, such as a sound barrier, would be expensive and not necessarily effective, and enclosing the courts would be even more expensive, said Turcotte.

With the Centennial Arena, which was converted to pickleball courts during the summer, now back to being used for ice activities, the club is being offered more time at the community centre, but Turcotte said he hasn't found another location to replace the Virgil Sports Park pickleball courts when outdoor play resumes next year.

### Looking ahead to Poppy Project



The NOTL Museum is going to expand last year's poppy project, which created a curtain of poppies at the museum's front door, with a plan to cascade poppies along both sides of the Courthouse entrance. There will also be poppies on lampposts along King Street and wreaths on selected Queen Street store fronts. The poppies will go up Nov. 1, and on museum grounds, a poppy garden will include veterans' names. Sarah Kaufman was at council Monday to describe the project, telling councillors Barbara Worthy has planned it, and along with 40 volunteers will see it completed. (Rendering supplied)

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# Public input sought to help improve healthcare

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

A series of public engagement sessions to be held over the next month will ask for ideas and information on how changes to delivery of healthcare in Niagara may address some of the current challenges, and improve the services that are provided.

The Niagara Ontario Health Team - Team-Équipe Santé Ontario, formed about two years ago, “is made up of a planning table of about 45 organizations, of which the Niagara North Family Health is one,” says Mary Keith, executive director of the health team that includes several Niagara-on-the-Lake physicians and many patients. “We are an integral part of the

OHT,” she adds. “Our goals are to provide more seamless and integrated care for patients across the region.”

As well as family health teams, the Ontario Health Team includes social service agencies, educational institutions and a wide range of caregivers.

The public engagement sessions have been planned to help these agencies and organizations fulfill their commitment to working as a team to provide better, inclusive services, support and care to patients, clients, families and caregivers, better access and better overall experiences and health outcomes for Niagara residents.

The first public engagement session was held at the Fort Erie Native Friendship

Centre last week, and went well, says Carol Stewart-Kirkby, executive director of the Portage Family Health Team in Niagara Falls, who helped lead the workshop.

With a turnout of about 30 people, she says, “we had some good feedback, good discussions, and good engagement.”

The meetings in the coming weeks, from Sept. 13 to 22, will be offered in two sessions in Welland, in French and English; in St. Catharines, Lincoln, Beamsville and Niagara Falls, and two virtually, one in French and one in English.

“We’re paying close attention to the Indigenous and Francophone communities,” she says, in an effort to better understand their very specific needs and

how to serve them better.

With 45 organizations around the table, and a conscious decision that each one, from the largest to the smallest, will carry the same weight in the decision-making process, the outcome will be determined by consensus, she says.

“There will be no moving forward until everyone is confident with the decisions made. We’re all working together for better healthcare, and it’s important that everyone at the table has had their say.”

Input is also very important, she says, from patients, family members, and caregivers. Everyone in Niagara is impacted by healthcare, and getting it right for the future “is a monumental task.”

When Ontario Health

Teams were formed two years ago, she says, “I think there was an elevated expectation that was not necessarily realistic. It was not as concrete as we would have expected it to be.”

So while the process isn’t going to be completed quickly, it will be thorough.

It will take time, and small steps to move forward, she explains. “We can’t move any faster. We understand everyone has to be involved in the decision-making process, including the public. We recognize the system hasn’t been perfect, and there is a lot of work to do,” she says, stressing the best way to get it right is for “everyone to get involved, to contribute to making it better.”

Although the process isn’t set in stone, she envisions eventually having

focus groups with “pools of people” who want to be involved in certain areas, such as family members or caregivers of people with dementia offering their experiences and their ideas of how to improve care for those who suffer from dementia.

“Their information would feed into the changes we would hope to make to improve the system.”

What those focus groups would be, she says, “we’re waiting to be told. We want the patients, their families and caregivers, directing us. They have stories to tell, and often those stories point us in certain directions.”

For more information about times and locations visit <https://noht-eson.ca/events/>

## Hospital decision delayed to ‘get it right’

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

When the former term of town councillors agreed the town should purchase the 2.4-hectare Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital property on Wellington Street for \$3.5 million, its use was left up in the air, to be determined in the future.

The current council has been trying for the last couple of years to find the right use for that property, and has now agreed to leave it for the next term of council to decide.

Because of the importance of the site and the need for the process to be handled without interference, a fairness adviser was hired to oversee it.

A developer could easily begin lobbying for the property, says Coun. Gary Burroughs, who was on the hospital board at one time,

chair of the hospital committee, and committed to ensuring a fair process.

Nine proposals were received in response to the town’s request for ideas about how to use the site, but in meetings behind closed doors, council decided to cancel the process.

It’s not that the ideas weren’t good ones, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero — they were.

When councillors reviewed the results of the process, and discussed the “very broad range of possibilities, it got us thinking that we need to determine more clearly what we want for the site, and how we accomplish that before we move forward.”

She spoke of looking at the bigger picture of what is needed in town and where it is best located. The hospital is just one site, one of the few remaining with insti-

tutional zoning, so council wants to be sure it’s put to the best use for the community.

The proposals were more general rather than detailed, and council also didn’t want to put applicants to the time, trouble and expense of providing more details until councillors have a better idea of their vision for the property, Disero said.

The decision to postpone it was to give more time to consult with the public, likely in a workshop in the new year, to discuss how others also see the property being used.

“Whatever is on the site will benefit the community, and we want to be sure what we do is what the public wants.”

The proposals included an arts, culture and education hub, tourism accommodation, seniors housing, residential housing and



The future of the former NOTL Hospital building is still uncertain — council wants to be sure it gets it right. (File photo)

parking, among other ideas.

Disero said her personal concern is that “these were really great ideas, but we only have one piece of property. How can we best accommodate them? We have to look at the bigger picture. We don’t want to make a wrong decision, because whatever we decide

will be with us for a long, long time.”

Burroughs agreed postponing the decision was the right decision.

While he has been hoping since the hospital closed that there could be much-needed palliative care and transitional care beds, at this stage, it would

have to be a private company providing those beds, he said.

With the shortage of institutional zoning in town, his choice would be to see that zoning for the property retained, rather than “jumping to residential use” as happened with the Parliament Oak property.



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# St. Davids woman hoping for seat at council table

Continued from page 1

When she was growing up in Thorold, her father, Tony Vizzari, served two terms on municipal council. “I grew up understanding the commitment the job requires,” she says. “Maybe I’m new to municipal politics but I grew up with it being talked about all the time at home. We had landlines in those days, and my father got a lot of calls at home. He spent a

lot of time on community advocacy. And I remember him coming to my Grade 9 class to talk about what it was like being a municipal politician. My takeaway from all of that was very positive.” She also saw the need for balancing family dynamics with municipal politics. “I saw how it worked, and I also see the need to represent St. Davids.” Her parents now live in St. Davids as well, where she and her husband are raising

four children, aged five, seven, eight and 10, all of them at St. Davids Public School. Rather than looking behind, she says she is looking to be a voice for the future. As chair of the St. Davids pool committee, she hopes to help the town attract federal and provincial grants to fund a new pool. She also wants to ensure the town’s plan for parks and recreation covers all of Niagara-on-the-Lake, including what is needed in St. Davids.

“I want to advocate for the pool, but also for other sports and recreation opportunities. We don’t have a soccer field or a full basketball court, but we have a growing number of families with children,” she says. She remembers sitting at a meeting for the Tanbark park, behind the St. Davids Fire Station. “There wasn’t the growth in the village then, but that changed. I want to move forward with representation on council for the future. And people have to vote to make that happen.”

While she agrees with residents who don’t want to see a roundabout in the village centre, a regional project, she would also like to see a Transportation Master Plan that deals with St. Davids as well as the rest of the municipality, “to look at the big picture, but also to look at St. Davids. She’d also like to be part of a conversation asking the school board about a high school in town. “Things are changing, and I want to be part of that change. My goals are for the future of the area.” Cater-Vizzari says she is all over town with her kids. “We spend time at the arena, on the soccer field, we know



Adriana Cater-Vizzari

every park in town, the sailing club, we’re everywhere.” The St. Davids pool just had its summer’s end party, “and it was so much fun. It was awesome. It’s a testament to how much people care about this community.” While Cater-Vizzari is aware of the talk about a ward system in town, and there are distinct communities in NOTL, she says the first step is to get people out to vote. “My job right now is to get elected to represent St. Davids, and work to a brighter future.”

## Vacation Bible Camp



Last week St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church had about 50 kids participating in their week-long Vacation Bible School at the church hall on Davy Street, and on the church grounds. The theme was the Rocky Railway, with train-themed activities, songs and even snacks. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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# EDITORIAL

## Taking care with hospital future a wise move

Councillors made a wise decision when they decided not to proceed with the process to determine the future of the former hospital building on Wellington Street.

It may not be in great condition — although it seems not that long ago a lot of money, raised from donations made by residents to the hospital foundation, was put into repairs and updates — but it's an important property, too important to get wrong.

The building dates back to 1951, and was closed in 2018. But years before that, around 1994, there were efforts by the provincial government of the day to close it. A group of residents stepped up, joined an organization called SOS - Save our Sick, led by the late Gerry Wooll, and rallied to keep it open.

Departments had already been shut down, the maternity ward long gone, the emer-

gency department gone, until it was a shell of a building with 22 beds for patients who required continuing care. Some were there to get well enough to go home, some were receiving palliative care, and those who had loved ones in the hospital were grateful to have them close by. Many will have stories to tell — a hospital holds memories of both happy times and not-so-happy, as family members were born and died in the local community hospital.

All of this of course has nothing to do with the uncertain future the building and property are facing now. But its history does explain that in addition to its significant location in the heart of the Old Town, on a site steeped with history, it has meaning to many long-time residents as more than just a place of doctors' offices. It is where their children were born, tak-

en when they had a broken arm, where aging parents were cared for and where they died, surrounded by family, and felt to be in good care. There are residents in town who still have deep connections to that building.

What happens to its future matters to different people for different reasons. It seems clear it should remain an institutional use. Of the nine proposals for its future received during a recent request for ideas from the public, one, suggesting a community hub for arts, culture and education, similar to what was once discussed for Parliament Oak, would allow it to remain institutional, and for a purpose that would benefit many segments of society.

Similarly, anything to do with healthcare, possibly some level of assisted living for seniors, even palliative

care, would also be serving the community, and would retain its institutional zoning.

Accommodations for visitors, either in a hotel or motel, or parking, might be important to the tourism industry and benefit residents as well by getting parking off downtown streets, but it would seem a shame to use such a prestigious property

that way, when there are other possibilities for preserving it for community use.

The previous council did well to have the foresight to purchase it, and at \$3.5 million, it seems in today's prices a bargain.

They did it not knowing what the future would hold for the site, but wanting to retain control over it. That

didn't happen with Parliament Oak, and look where that has taken us.

Holding off to be sure whatever decision made is the right decision, however long that takes, is showing respect for the town, for residents and for the building itself.

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

## Coreopsis remains robust into fall

**Marla Percy**  
Special to The Local

Many plants at this time of the summer are beginning to droop a little, but this coreopsis grandiflora heliot (tickseed) is still robust, and will continue into the fall.

It likes sandy soils, but will grow anywhere with good drainage. It grows in tidy clumps in a perennial bed but can also be mass planted for a showier effect.

It needs to be in full sun (though some of mine are in part shade, even one near a black walnut). There are now many varieties of this plant, some taller than others, with shades of yellow, pink, red and white, and many of the yellows have the bi-coloured yellow and orange or red petals.

It's great for bees and butterflies, and if let go to seed, it's a finch's smorgasbord. Slugs and earwigs can be a

problem sometimes, but the only drawback for a casual gardener is that to keep the plant blooming all summer you need to deadhead. If you don't like garden chores you can sheer the plant after its first bloom and it will come back. You can also sheer in mid-August. If you

enjoy deadheading, this is the plant for you, as it will look good all summer.

In spring, cut the plant down to two to four inches, and in the fall take stalks down five to six inches. Divide every three to five years. The coreopsis plant is a little soldier.



## View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

*Made in Italy* (Netflix, 2020) is a film about finding one's way by being honest with oneself and others. These personal struggles

unfold in the glorious setting of Tuscany. Liam Neeson has the principal role and is a fine actor. This is not a great film, but I think it is one worth watching.

*Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who*

*loves to go to 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.*

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**Local**  
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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## Garden of the Week



Nancy Jackson, on Weatherstone Court, is the Garden of the Week winner for week #8. Given the challenge of an odd-sized frontage, this gardener took up the challenge and has perennial and annual plantings throughout. Even with a large shade tree, there is an abundance and variety of textures. The delightful sound of a water feature takes you up to the front door. (Photo supplied)



# COMMENT

## Local VOICES

## Local LETTERS

### Help still needed for Ukrainian community

**Shirley Madsen**  
**Sunflowers for Ukraine**

The Ontario Provincial Council of the Congress of Ukrainians of Canada held a campaign recently to raise the Ukrainian flag throughout the province of Ontario to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

On Aug. 24 cities such as Hamilton, Sudbury, Kingston, Barrie, Oshawa, Durham Region, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor and the Niagara Region held a flag-raising ceremony to show support for Ukrainian Independence Day.

Toronto's CN Tower was lit up in yellow and blue on the Aug. 23, and Niagara Falls was illuminated in blue and yellow. Other cities such as London encouraged their communities to buy and hang Ukrainian flags near their homes and on their cars. Other towns held events and picnics in celebration.

There have been many individuals and groups that have and will be doing their own fundraising. Irene McEvoy organized a wonderful fundraiser for Music Niagara in May, Freedom and Peace for Ukraine. Joseph's Estate Winery held a fundraiser in March. The Virgil Business Association presented me with a cheque from the Virgil Stampede that was passed on to the Niagara UCC to assist in the settlement of Ukrainians arriving in Niagara. Adrienne Briggs from the Niagara History Museum organized a Fundraiser for Ukraine on Aug. 18 in partnership with the Niagara UCC and the Holodomor National Awareness Tour.

I'd like to personally thank Ironwood Cider House, Regal Florist, NEOB Lavender, Forrest Lane Design, BBQ & Fireplace Centre and Wine-maker Katherine Reid who were some that donated to this fundraiser.

To date I have handed out more than 2,500 sunflower seed packets and bulk seeds to our local community to hold their own fundraisers or plant individually. Sunflowers-forUkraine.ca would like to thank Stokes, Gaia Organic, West Coast Seeds, William Dam Seeds and McKenzie for their generous seed donations. Several individuals and businesses like NEOB Lavender, Lakeshore Cemetery and the NOTL Community Garden all planted sunflowers to show support for Ukraine.

I wrote a letter to the editor thanking NOTL Horticultural Society members who toured my garden and dropped off donations for the Help Boutique located in St. Catharines. I also put out a call to the community asking for donations for Ukrainians who have and will be settling in the Niagara region. I was taken aback by the support from the NOTL community. Not only were items dropped off that were on the wish list but also, Harry Penner from Penner Home Hardware dropped off a cheque for \$2,000.

After dropping off a car load of items to the Help Boutique on Saturday I stayed for a few hours to help organize. What a humbling experience! I couldn't hold back the tears driving home. I offered a lady a ride home after she picked up some items. She declined, saying "it's okay I have my bicycle, and my son will help."

I saw children's eyes light up with the simplest toy they picked up, and a teenage boy trying on some used pants and walking out with two bags of clothes thanked me.

On Sunday, Aug. 21 at Lipa Park in Pelham the Niagara UCC held a Meet and Greet picnic not only for the newly arrived Ukrainians but also for the entire community. The cheque was handed over for the

resettlement program for the newly arrived Ukrainians to the Niagara Region. MacSween Farms donated a large container of fresh fruit which was handed out to some of the families who attended.

The Meet and Greet was a happy time, as well as an emotional one, seeing families who have come to a new country, some not knowing the English language but eager to learn, and all with smiles on their faces. Many are looking for work, young, eager to learn the language and start school. All had their own stories, whether single mothers with children or older women in their 70s or 80s. You could tell some of the older folks have obviously not had an easy life.

Irene Newton, president of the Niagara UCC, has worked tirelessly night and day to help these Ukrainian families, as have many others, like Christine Tymczyszyn at the St. John's Ukrainian church in St. Catharines. The Niagara United Mennonite Church on Niagara Stone Road has also raised a large amount of money which was passed on to the Mennonite Central Committee with funds donated for Ukraine. There are many in the NOTL community who have been and will be there to help... thank you.

The Niagara UCC has opened a Help Boutique for these families at 1 Currie St. in St. Catharines. This property is owned by Saint Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church.

To drop off at Currie Street please call to arrange a drop-off time with Niagara UCC, 905-684-8643, or in NOTL call Shirley Madsen, 905-468-2325. Their wish list includes monetary donations; new toys for kids; diapers; dry goods (oatmeal, canned meat, tuna, instant coffee); staples and canned goods; personal hygiene products; gently-used winter clothes

and boots for adults, teens and children; cleaning supplies; and new linens and towels.

I've learned that some of these folks have degrees in many different fields. For now, they are willing to take a job doing anything, anywhere. The only problem may be transportation. Someone mentioned to me one man had a law degree and also a certificate in meat processing and butchery. The lady I spoke with said she talked to her local meat store and he was hired immediately.

There are many businesses in the Niagara region that are short staffed. "Looking for help" signs are everywhere! Approximately 300-plus families have arrived in the Niagara Region.

One young man was disappointed he was too late in registering to Niagara College. Currently he and his mother are working in a hotel. The majority of these families are in Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland, however, other towns like Vineland, Beamsville and NOTL also are home to some. Anyone looking to hire? Maybe someone can arrange transportation and pick up locations... just throwing this out.

Many of these people are mothers and children with their husbands or brothers still fighting in Ukraine, so they have come here with very little. Some have found family or friends here that will take them in, which is great. Those who don't, don't really have anybody. Unfortunately, some have ended up in homeless shelters.

Irene Newton is reaching out to property managers who would be willing to work with them and arrange low-rent housing for six months or so, until they can get on their feet.

Ukraine continues to struggle for democratic values and independence.

### Just want tax dollars spent wisely

With all due respect to Mr. Goettler, a municipal government is NOT a business (The Local, Aug. 24).

It is a publicly-funded service to serve and protect its community and foster social cohesion through well articulated official plans and good fiscal management of our tax dollars. We have seen the results of public services run like businesses; most recently in the private long-term care homes which had the highest level of COVID infection and death while shareholders

received generous returns by the extra infusion of our tax dollars and support of the military. And let's not forget the people of Walkerton who died because of cuts to water treatment. Yes, I want my tax dollars to be spent wisely to ensure we have a sustainable and healthy future in Niagara-on-the-Lake. I absolutely do not want my taxes enriching private businesses and shareholders.

**Irene Bader**  
**Shaw's Lane**  
**Niagara on the Lake**

### Palliative care says thank you

Thank you to everyone who came out to Shred-it to lend their hands, legs, muscles, voices, and smiles.... We are so grateful to you ALL. Penny Digweed and Trish Anthony you made it look so easy.

We have our grand total for the Shred-it fundraiser. We raised an incredible \$4,060.

The day was beautiful for a change, with no humidity, a nice breeze, and not too hot. I believe we as a team had a lot of fun.

A special thanks to Trish and her husband who kindly let us break all of the boxes up and dispose of them in their dumpster.

Thank you to Meridian Credit Union who sponsored our event again this year, there wouldn't be an event without their support.

Lastly, our Shred-it team, Chris, Steve, and Shred-it themselves for the discounted rate we receive year after year.

The biggest thanks to the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake people who save their confidential papers for us year after year. You help us to help others.

**Bonnie Bagnulo**  
**Executive Director**  
**Niagara-on-the-Lake**  
**Community Palliative**  
**Care Service**



Bonnie Bagnulo says thanks for all the boxes of documents to be shredded, and all the help received for the annual event. (Photo supplied)



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# Pillitteri preparing for upcoming comedy show

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

In the lead-up to the annual Terry Fox Run, Joe Pillitteri, best-known for his comedy routines, is again donating his time for something he is very serious about — raising money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

Joan King, local organizer of the Niagara-on-the-Lake run, is always looking for ways to add to the total collected from a small municipality, and she knows she can count on Pillitteri to help.

Since he first became active in the annual event, and continuing however he could during the pandemic, he and his Team Pillsy have raised more than \$500,000.

“I’m always amazed, but not surprised, by how supportive this community has always

been, and continues to be. Everyone has been touched by cancer, and this is such a generous community.”

On Sept. 16, the local businessman, owner of Lakeview Vineyard Equipment, will once again put his talent to work fundraising for the Terry Fox Foundation, this time at the community centre.

This year, as he talks about his reasons for being so passionate about the cause, he is speaking to The Local from Pennsylvania, where he travels often on business, on the road to sell grape harvesters.

Terry Fox has been an inspiration to Pillitteri for many years, the story of the young man’s determination and courage having helped the local comic and businessman through some difficult times. He talked openly about his

struggles, when he thought he was losing what was then a new business, and he happened to pick up a book about the Marathon of Hope, and read what Fox had accomplished at a young age, before having to stop his fundraising run across the country when his cancer returned. He died not too long after that, at the age of 22.

It was about 15 years ago that Pillitteri discovered that Terry Fox really spoke to him, and still does, “on so many levels,” giving him a new outlook on life then that continues to motivate him today.

Last September, Pillitteri was in the U.S. doing a demonstration of a grape harvester, as he is typically busy doing at this time of year, on rows of grapes planted on a hill.

The harvester lost its footing, rolling over three times before it came to a stop at the bottom of the embankment. For just a few seconds, he says, “I thought I was dead. I thought about all the many things I love about my life, that I thought I’d lost, including the Terry Fox Run. Terry Fox always gives me perspective. In the face of something much harder than I’ve every faced, he pushed on. He was a brave man.”

Pillitteri was wearing a seatbelt that day the harvester rolled over, and was fine, but the experience reinforced his commitment to the Terry Fox



This was the grape harvester after rolling down an embankment last September, with Joe Pillitteri inside it — fortunately wearing a seat belt and uninjured, but left thinking about life in a different way. (Photo supplied)

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Foundation. The annual comedy night, he says, is his opportunity not only to raise money but to continue spreading the message of Terry Fox, to his kids and others, that whatever they are facing, somebody is struggling with something much more difficult.

That’s also his motivation to contribute as much as he can to the foundation, and if his message inspires others to do the same, his efforts have accomplished something very satisfying.

Although in the past two years Pillitteri has held his annual fundraising comedy night at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, following pandemic restrictions, he’s moving to the community centre this year to take advantage of the large space and round tables, a setting that allows a big enough crowd that he can do one high-energy performance along with host emcee Clifford Meyers, rather than the past

years where he’s squeezed two shows in on the same night.

Ravine is sponsoring the wine, Garrison House the food, he says, and with sponsorship also from Seaway Farms and Lakeview, “every dollar raised will go to the cause.”

As Pillitteri travels through Canada and the U.S. on business, he keeps a little notepad with him, writing down anything he thinks might find its way into his comedy routine.

His sister Eileen Pillitteri-Smith and her friend Carol O’Gorman look after the logistics of the show for him, and he runs his jokes by “little sister” Caroline Martinelli, to see if they pass the first test. He has also got into the custom of holding a warm-up show at his friends’ home, Dave and Rita Mines, with about 50 to 70 people. It’s at their event that he tries out his new material and decides by the reaction of the crowd what makes the final cut and what doesn’t.

His show promises lots of great new material, a charcuterie board at every table, wine, beer from local breweries, and a raffle, with all proceeds going to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Although there are some tickets left, a Joe Pillitteri comedy night in NOTL is always a sell-out, so don’t delay in visiting [seawayfarms.ca](http://seawayfarms.ca) for tickets, \$80 per person, \$600 for a table of eight. Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m.

Pillitteri often shares a Terry Fox quote, one that seems to have special meaning for him at different times in his life.

This year’s quote, he says, is “I want to try the impossible to show that it can be done.”

This speaks to him, he says, because “as a community, as a country and as a planet, there’s been so much for everyone to process over the past three years. But good things can still happen if we focus on making good things happen.”

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# Grape Growers party celebrates 75th anniversary

**Mike Balsom**  
**The Local**

More than 300 Niagara grape farmers, their families and supporters, and a few local politicians gathered at Fruithaven Farms in St. Davids last Thursday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Grape Growers of Ontario.

The Line 8 property just happens to be owned by the current and longest-serving Grape King ever, John Fedorkow, and his family. Named to the ceremonial position in 2019, Fedorkow has continued to hold on to the title with the cancellation of the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival the past two years.

With the celebration situated next to a pond in the middle of his vineyards set to start in less than an hour, Fedorkow could be seen driving a tractor, delivering shade umbrellas to vendors set up along the path. No resting on his cushy throne for this hard-working king.

“They kept asking me to hold onto the position,” Fe-



Growers, family members and supporters gathered at John Fedorkow’s Fruithaven Farms in St. Davids last week to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Grape Growers of Ontario. (Dennis Cahill)

dorkow told The Local. “We had the Ice Wine Gala, and then every other event got cancelled. This year, because it’s the 75th anniversary, they asked me if I wanted to host the party at my place. I’m still the Grape King, so I said okay.”

At the Sept. 24 Grape and Wine Festival Parade, Fedorkow will finally get to ride on the Grape King’s float with his successor. He may be joined, as well, by some of the other former Grape Kings who attended last week’s party.

Fedorkow was happy to hold the role and to make an effort to advocate on his peers’ behalf.

“The responsibilities include pushing the industry, making sure it does well in promoting Ontario and Ni-

agara wines,” Fedorkow explained. “As a king, I represent all the growers in the province of Ontario. This is a great industry. It’s my job to remind people that we grow some great grapes and make some fantastic wine.”

Though he says the industry in the province still has a long way to grow, especially when compared to its European counterparts which have survived hundreds of

**Continued on page 14**



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# Master gardeners help community in many ways

## Members preparing for annual plant sale

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Master gardeners — certified horticultural experts — volunteer at many events in Niagara, sharing their knowledge and imparting advice on sustainable gardening, and when they do, be assured they know what they are talking about.

Sitting in Betty Knight's beautiful, sustainable back garden on York Road, with Carol Tuck-Riggs, both members of Master Gardeners of Niagara, they explain the rigorous requirements that must be completed before earning that title. In addition to an educational component — the University of Guelph and Dalhousie University have certification programs — a master gardener is considered to be in training for two years while working and fulfilling a number of volunteers hours.

Even after completing those requirements and receiving certification as a master gardener, Knight explains, continuing education to keep updated on gardening issues is necessary, as is volunteering 30 hours a year in your com-

munity.

There are many opportunities to complete those conditions, says Tuck-Riggs, including working at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture greenhouses; volunteering for the Shaw Garden Tour to answer gardening questions of those who attend; helping out at the Start-Me-Up Niagara Community Garden; providing horticultural therapy sessions at Hospice Niagara and looking after the hospice gardens; leading advice clinics at the St. Catharines Public Library and at some of the garden centres in the region, including Country Basket in Niagara Falls and Rice Road Greenhouses in Welland; and even offering a help oversee a phone line and email address for people who have gardening questions.

Answering the questions can be a lot of fun, says Tuck-Riggs, as the master gardeners take turns handling the requests for advice.

"We love doing this. It's our passion. Sometimes I have to do research to answer the questions, and I learn so much doing it."

For those who could

use some help, the Master Gardener hotline number is 905-646-2818, or email [niagara@mgoi.ca](mailto:niagara@mgoi.ca) with questions.

Their Seedy Sunday is another event they look forward to.

This is a seed exchange event where varieties of seeds are swapped and shared between participants. There are also speakers, several vendors geared toward spring sales, and activities for children.

Stokes Seeds will have products on hand, and Liz Klose, honorary master gardener, will also have bags of seeds.

It's scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 26, to be held at St. Georges Church, 83 Church St. in St. Catharines.

"They are all non-genetically-modified seeds," says Tuck-Riggs, who is also hoping for more native varieties.

That's a main goal of the master gardeners, says Knight. "We're in an environmental crisis," with each member trying to do in their own little corner what they can do reintroduce native plants.

Knight speaks of keystone species such as oak, cherry, willow, maple and pine — species native to a Niagara Carolinian forest, which are not the same as Carolinian forests in other areas.

She also encourages "redefining what beautiful means," such as her grass-free lawn, and thinking in terms of planting native species that will attract native insects and support native ecology, such as monarch butterflies, which are now an endangered.

As an example, she says, "how many people look at milkweed and pull it out? If the word 'weed' is in the name of a plant, it's probably a native species. We need to learn to look at things differently."

She promotes three initiatives as a master gardener: supporting shoreline ecology, replanting and reintroducing native plants, and redefining what it is beautiful.

Tuck-Riggs talks of the importance of trees as part of the cycle of filtering and absorbing water, putting moisture in the soil, and acting as windbreakers, "and yet we're cutting down trees, not just here but around the world. And wind is a world-wide system. When we cut down trees we change the wind paths."

They speak of invasive species we're still planting,



Carol Tuck-Riggs and Betty Knight in Knight's front garden, with Luna. (Penny Coles)



Betty Knight shows off some of her plants she is saving for the Master Gardeners September plant sale.

such as lily of the valley, periwinkle, and English ivy, not native species, and ones that crowd out other plants. "They are not offering anything for our native pollinators to eat," says Knight. "English ivy is growing on the escarpment, creating monocultures, where nothing else can grow."

There is so much to learn about the way we garden, and another one of the many ways local master gardeners are sharing their knowledge is with the NOTL Communities in Bloom committee. They are celebrating The Year of the Garden by creating weekly short videos with videographer Rene Bertschi, writing

the scripts, and in some cases providing the voice-overs to go with his filming — visit the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Facebook page to view them. Learn about the town's beautiful hanging baskets, the Chelsea chop, fertilizing plants, jump worms, and more.

Coming up soon is their annual plant sale, a major fundraiser put on hold for two years during the pandemic. It will be held at Vineland Research Centre, 4890 Victoria North, Lincoln, Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Master Gardener of Niagara members are asked to pot up plants from their garden, a minimum of 10 each, says

Knight, although she, like many of the master gardeners, will have more than that — she looks at it as doing a favour to her garden while also contributing to the fundraiser.

Members will also be on-hand to answer questions of the public, and plants, priced reasonably, are checked to make sure they are healthy.

Funds generated through the plant sale and speaking engagements support two scholarships for students attending the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture; horticultural therapy sessions; and requests from organizations for funding relating to horticultural projects.

## Community garden growing



Tim Moxam shows off veggies from the garden of Julian Trachsel. They have garden plots next to each other in Newark Park's community garden on Niven Road, helping each other out and watering when one is away. Trachsel, organizer of the community garden, says it is expanding next year, and he is taking names of anyone who might be interested. For more information or to reserve a spot email him at [mtrachsel@cogeco.ca](mailto:mtrachsel@cogeco.ca) (Julian Trachsel)

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# Violinist Rosemary Siemens to play in NOTL

## Concert to raise money for school in Honduras

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

The Niagara United Mennonite Church welcomes four-time Gospel Music Award-winning violinist and vocalist Rosemary Siemens from Manitoba for a free concert Thursday, Sept. 8.

Rafael Duerksen, executive director of Winnipeg-based Christian charitable organization Generation Rising, is partnering with the 'Redbrick Church' for the concert, a fundraiser to support the White Dove Mennonite School in Honduras.

Duerksen, who grew up in Paraguay, is no stranger to the Niagara area. His children were born at the St. Catharines hospital while he and his wife were living in Wainfleet and he was serving as a youth pastor in that town.

Generation Rising, he says, has previously had fundraising concerts in the region, having brought well-known Canadian Christian singer Steve Bell to St. Catharines in the past. They have also hosted the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, composed of children from Asunción, Paraguay who play musical instruments made from scrap materials collected from their local landfill, for shows at churches in the region.

"We are always trying to find churches that want to connect with us," he says on the phone from his Winnipeg home. "We knew of this church because some of our donors go there. And we were told people in Niagara-on-the-Lake love concerts."

Since 2008 Generation Rising has been connecting with local people in countries where education is not always a guaranteed fact of life. Usually, those connections are with existing schools looking to grow by building new classrooms. They work on a co-investment model through which parents who want their children to attend school also put something in.

"We want the parents to think of education as important," he explains. "It's always means-tested, though. The parents put in a very small amount, and we subsidize the rest through sponsorships. Families here will sponsor a child to go to school for about \$600 a year."

The cost covers materials, some meals, and medical check-ups that are important in those countries.

The organization is currently working with four schools in Paraguay, three in Nicaragua and three in Honduras.

In that last country, two hurricanes (Eta and Iota) ripped through in the span of only two weeks in 2020. The White Dove Mennonite School is situated in Chamelecon, a poor neighbourhood in San Pedro Sula which has often been called the most dangerous place to live in America, with gang wars affecting almost every family.

Generation Rising had helped erect an additional building, and the school was doing well before the hurricanes came. White Dove flooded with two metres of water twice. The organization came in to help with the clean-up, and also assisted with the restoration of the town.

With the help of Duerksen's organization, the school has been rebuilt and is thriving, but they now need more room to continue their high school program, where they hope to offer vocational training.

As for Siemens' involvement, she has played concerts for Generation Rising in the past. Free concerts, with the option for free-will offerings from attendees, is a major source of fundraising for the organization.

"We always look for art-

ists who match the kind of music that we, and people that connect with us, enjoy," says Duerksen. "Niagara United Mennonite has given us the use of the church for free, but we pay for the artists. The free-will donations help us raise funds for our programs."

Siemens is a fascinating artist who grew up on a century-old family farm in Plum Coulee, Manitoba and currently lives in Vancouver. Much of her repertoire might be mistakenly referred to as fiddle music, but she plays it all on a 300-year-old violin that was once played in King Louis XIV's orchestra.

She calls her violin Sparkle, which fits in with one of Siemens' obsessions — bling. She loves to wear sparkly, rhinestone-studded dresses and even had a hit with a tune called Barefoot 'n' Bling from her 2016 album called *Plum Coulee, My Home*, with her band, The Sweet Sound Revival.

That's Rosemary's other obsession — gospel music. On that same album is another song entitled *Bring Back the Hymns*, and that's exactly what she has been doing with her weekly live Sunday Hymn Serenades via YouTube.

The series has had more than 100 million views across social media as Siemens features a new Christian hymn every Sunday. She recently



Students at White Dove Mennonite School, in a poor neighbourhood in Honduras, have seen their school flooded twice from recent hurricanes. Generation Rising is hoping to build a high school in the area now. (Photos supplied)

received a thank you letter from Queen Elizabeth II for her sax and violin version of God Save The Queen, alongside her husband, Eli Bennett, and was recently awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for her contributions to the arts in Canada.

"She's a very good musician. It's amazing to watch her play the violin," Duerksen says. "She has deep faith, too. She is really, really passionate to recapture all the hymns she can. I think it comes from her small-town Manitoba roots."

"It's very interesting to see

someone who is classically trained play this music," continues Duerksen, "She moves from gospel country to classical to hymns. It's a mix of everything. She'll be very engaging, and I think she'll bring her (pre-school) son up to sing a few songs."

The Rosemary Siemens concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8. It is a free show and no pre-registration is needed to attend. The Niagara United Mennonite Church is located at 1775 Niagara Stone Road in NOTL.



Rosemary Siemens will be playing a wide range of music at the Red Brick Church, in a concert to raise money for Generation Rising.




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# Shaw showcases aspiring young actors

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Travis Seetoo, actor and acting instructor, feels fortunate to have had a chance to work with five young aspiring actors who participated in a recent two-week program for teens.

Those who took part in the Shaw Festival Niagara Region High School Monologue Derby ranged in age from 13- to 17-year-olds, all with a keen interest in theatre, Seetoo says. “They’ve been so wonderfully enthusiastic, and prepared and hard-working.”

Shaw first offered the monologue derby in August, 2021 as a chance for high school students whose opportunities to participate in theatre were curtailed due to the pandemic to learn and perform. Though many schools have been able to mount live performances since

last summer, Seetoo and senior manager of education Suzanne Merriam saw great value in the program’s continuation.

“We view ourselves as part of this community and we want to support young people in theatre,” says the 33-year-old Seetoo. “They got to meet lots of company members, tour the building, have lunch with actors in the green room. I know from my own experience that it can’t be oversold how getting to meet experienced actors is such a thrill.”

Students participated in workshops by Shaw actors Kiera Sangster (movement), Julie Lumsden (voice and accents) and Kristopher Bowman (improvisation). As well, actor and associate artistic director Kimberly Rampersad led a session that encompassed auditioning, how to get into theatre school and what Shaw is looking for in young actors.

“You would pay a lot of money for a session like that anywhere but here,” Seetoo says. “It was extremely beneficial for them. We can’t thank Kimberly enough for being so giving of her time.”

They also had a chance to attend five different Shaw plays in a way that most theatre-goers don’t get to experience. Seetoo led pre-and post-show talks, often with some of the performers from those plays, where the participants were able to dig more deeply into the meaning of the texts.

“We were pretty amazed at how these plays, which are usually for older audiences, really resonated with this younger group,” Seetoo marvelled. “All of these students are over-achievers. We had some of the best conversations about these plays that I’ve ever had, with insightful things I never would have thought of.”

At Friday afternoon’s culminating derby performances, the five participants all said their favourite of the Shaw plays they saw was *Everybody*. That, coincidentally, is the one play of the five that is currently starring Seetoo himself.

After some entertaining warm-up improv exercises performed in front of mostly family members at the Court House Theatre, the first performer Friday was Teodora Vekovic of Niagara Falls, delivering a monologue from Thornton Wilder’s *The Matchmaker*.

The Grade 12 student at St. Michael Catholic High School, who is planning on studying acting at university next September, took the stage with the presence and poise of a professional. Her movements, her facial expressions and her voice combined to nail the wonder and fascination expressed by the play’s character, Cornelius.

“I chose it because Cornelius talks about recently discovering his love for women,” Vekovic told The Local. “I find that, emotionally, it’s very much the same way I feel about theatre. Until recently, I hadn’t realized how much I love theatre. Through this program I’ve come to love it more, and feel enthralled about it, the same way my character feels about women.”

Vekovic was followed by Hannah Evans, who is start-

ing Grade 10 at Laura Secord Secondary School next week. The St. Catharines student was part of the school’s production of *Mamma Mia* last spring and has also been involved with Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Yellow Door Theatre Project.

“I love that the Shaw is putting out these opportunities for young people like myself,” Evans said about the monologue

Continued on page 11



Carly Greavette delivers her monologue from Shaw’s *The Devil’s Disciple*. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Teodora Vekovic delivering a monologue from Thornton Wilder’s *The Matchmaker*.



Hannah Evans, starting Grade 10 at Laura Secord Secondary School next week, hopes to one day act with the Shaw Festival.

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# Monologue Derby will be back next season

Continued from page 12

program. "I want to work at the Shaw one day when I'm older. I love that I can get all of these experiences. It's truly fantastic."

Evans bravely chose to tackle a monologue from Swedish playwright August Strindberg's *The Stronger*, a one-act play in which Madame X speaks to a silent Mademoiselle Y.

"We all got these pamphlets with all types of monologues to choose from," Evans, who delivered Strindberg's challenging lines with great confidence, said. "This one just really stuck

out to me. It's a really emotional piece, the longest of them all. Something about it just resonated with me."

Grade 12 Eden High School student Tayler Denbak took on the persona of Joan of Arc from George Bernard Shaw's *St. Joan* for her performance. This was Denbak's second year in the monologue derby and her self-assured delivery spoke to her experience with the program.

"I'll be able to use the skills here, like puppetry and improv," Denbak said backstage. "I'll be able to pull those skills from my toolbox. It gives me

confidence to have more conversations with people, too."

Carly Greavette and Jaya Holland were the two youngest participants this summer, both just recently having graduated from Wheatley School in St. Catharines. The pair have been close since Grade 6 and were excited to be spending two weeks at Shaw together before moving on to high school.

"We as a group have gotten very close," Holland said. "There's only five of us. I feel like this has really brought us all together."

Greavette added, "what's stuck out the most for me has

been how close we've all gotten with our instructors and our classmates. We're not wanting to say goodbye."

The sheer joy on Greavette's face while delivering her monologue from Shaw's *The Devil's Disciple* was clearly evident. She told The Local that the passage stood out for her as a different and unique piece from what she would usually do, especially with the final line, "long live the Devil."

"That's so fun to do on stage," Greavette said. "We worked on it every day and I just fell in love with it."

Holland also presented a monologue from Shaw's oeuvre, this one from the playwright's 1933 comedy *Village Wooing*, about a man and woman meeting on a cruise.

Following the final monologue, the five young participants gathered on stage to surprise Seetoo with a song and dance to thank him for his hard work over the past two weeks.

"We are continuing this, we'll be doing it again next year," Seetoo said. "It's extremely valuable for young people to come and work on some of these difficult texts, Shaw, Wilde, Thornton Wilder. Our expertise at the Shaw is those kinds of plays with beautiful and complex language. We want to impart that to young actors."



Jaya Holland chose Shaw's *Village Wooing* for her monologue.



The five Monologue Derby participants, Tayler Denbak, Teodora Vekovic, Hannah Evans, Carly Greavette, and Jaya Holland surprise acting instructor Travis Seetoo with a song and dance to thank him for his hard work. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Grade 12 Eden High School student Tayler Denbak plays Joan of Arc in the Shaw's Monologue Derby.

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# Fedorkow to hand over crown at celebrity luncheon



John Fedorkow is the longest-reigning Grape King, crowned in 2019 and holding on to the title throughout the pandemic. He gives it up in September. (Mike Balsom)

Continued from page 9

years, Fedorkow is clearly proud of how far Ontario has come, especially over the last 15 years. And he stands up for the farmers.

"A good bottle of wine starts with good grapes," he said. "It depends on the year, of course. We're given what we're given by Mother Nature and we work around it and do the best we can."

Like other local growers, he's

concerned with this year's crop. "It started last fall," lamented Fedorkow. "Industry-wide we're guessing we're looking at almost a half-crop. Some farmers are really hurting more than others. They can be down to 25 per cent of a crop or less. There's still time, though. All we need is sunshine and not a lot of rain in September and October."

The conversation turns to farmers as stewards of the land, and then to the very

important VQA designation available for 100 per cent Ontario wines.

"That's what you have to look for in the store," he insisted. "If you buy VQA, you're helping us 100 per cent. There's blending at some wineries, of course, but that's not 'all Ontario.' All this 'buy local' that people have been pushing for the last few years. It's simple. Buy VQA. I don't care which kind. Wine is a personal choice. But as long

as it's VQA I'm happy."

It's not just the Grape King who pushes that VQA designation. Grape Growers of Ontario CEO Debbie Zimmerman usually finds a way to slip that abbreviation (it stands for Vintners Quality Alliance) into most conversations. She is a strong advocate for Ontario growers and wineries in her role with the organization.

"It was formed in 1947," says Zimmerman. "The growers had been concerned that they couldn't get the prices up for selling grapes. They went to the Minister of Agriculture at the time, and he told them to get organized."

Formed that year as the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board, its mandate was to serve the needs and represent the interests of grape growers in their dealings with processors. For the first time, growers had the ability to set a unified, minimum price for grapes. They also gained a voice in the grape and wine processing industry.

At that time, the grapes being grown were labrusca varieties, native to this region of North America. They were ideal for juice, preserves, and dessert and low-alcohol wines. Their lower sugar levels and higher acids, though,

were not suited for the lighter, dry, table wines that most wine lovers seek today.

The big turning point for the industry came between 1989 and 1991, when growers removed most of those vines and replaced them with Vitis vinifera vines, the traditional European varieties.

Those efforts were supported by the federal and provincial Grape Adjustment Program, designed to remove grape varieties deemed surplus to industry needs, and to help farmers replace them with varieties suited for the higher quality table wines that consumers were demanding. Concurrent to that program, labrusca grapes were banned from all table wines made in Ontario.

The organization's name was changed to the Grape Growers of Ontario in 2002 to better reflect its membership.

It took a few years but eventually vinifera sales began to outpace the sales of hybrid grapes. In 2012, there were about 66,000 metric tonnes of grapes sold for processing, including more than 64,000 of wine grapes. Vinifera varieties, virtually unheard of in this area 65 years ago, now account for 67 per cent of the total amount of grapes sold to wineries during regular harvest.

As well, according to their website, there are 17,000 acres of vineyards in Ontario today, almost the same as 65 years ago. But the kind of grapes grown is dramatically different than it was, and the industry has evolved and achieved its status as an internationally acclaimed grape and wine region. And in the past 65 years, the farm gate value of grape sales has risen from \$2.5 million to more than \$88.6 million.

Meanwhile, the host of last week's party continues to be grateful to his fellow growers for nominating him for Grape King back in 2019, guessing that they must have been impressed with his vineyard practices and his innovation.

But alas, all good things must come to an end. Fedorkow will finally turn over his ceremonial chain when the 2022 Grape King is announced at the Grape Growers of Ontario's Celebrity Luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 14 at Club Roma in St. Catharines. Ticket are available at [grapegrowersofontario.com](http://grapegrowersofontario.com) or by calling 905-688-0990. Former Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury is this year's celebrity guest.

"Yeah, I'll miss it," Fedorkow said of giving up his crown. "But it's time to pass the torch on to somebody else."

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# Bravo season begins with Milos at Performing Arts Centre

**Mike Balsom**  
**The Local**

The first half of Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts upcoming 2022-2023 season features the return of three familiar faces, and a holiday season kickoff that's been three years in the making.

The not-for-profit organization founded and run out of Niagara-on-the-Lake by artistic director Christine Mori and her daughter, executive director Alexis Spieldenner, announced their upcoming fall series of four concerts this week.

The series begins on Oct. 23 with the return of classical guitarist Milos Karadaglic, known simply by his first name. It's a fitting start to the first full season since the beginning of the pandemic, as Milos played the last Bravo Niagara! concert on March 15, just before COVID-19 shut down the entire world.

After much thought and consideration, Mori and Spieldenner decided to go on with that 2020 show at St. Mark's Anglican Church. The capacity at the church met the government's limit at the time on indoor events, but Bravo Niagara! capped the admission at 200. Refunds were offered, and Mori estimates about half that total showed up.

Milos will make his triumphant return to Niagara on an October Sunday afternoon with a program he calls *Reflections and Reinvention*. Named one of the six greatest classical guitarists of the last century by BBC Music Magazine, the 39-year-old, born in Montenegro, is known for his ability to work in both traditional classical and pop classical realms. His 2016 album, *Blackbird*, was a collection of his versions of songs by the Beatles.

His solo recital will take place at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre's (PAC) Recital Hall.

Another familiar Bravo Niagara! Festival face, soprano Measha Brueggemann-Lee, visits the same venue in St. Catharines on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Her latest album, 2020's

*Measha Jazz*, combines what she's known for — classical and jazz — with her takes on blues, gospel, funk, francophone folk and 70s-era easy listening. The record includes versions of a number of Nina Simone classics, including *Take Me to the Water* and *Sinnerman*, the Billie Holiday chestnut *Strange Fruit*, and the freedom song *Woke Up this Morning (With my Mind Stayed on Freedom)*.

"We loved having her last time, when she performed with the Niagara Children's Choir," Mori tells The Local. "We're really excited to have her back and we look forward to the wide range of her repertoire for this show."

South African born bassist Bikithi Kamalo brings his *Graceland Experience* program to a new Bravo Niagara! venue, Ridley College's Mandeville Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 19.

"He's doing a tribute to Paul Simon," Mori says of the man who worked with the American singer/songwriter on his landmark 1986 album. That's Kamalo's famous bassline on the hit song *You Can Call Me Al*.

"He tells the story of Paul Simon discovering him," Mori continued, "as well as his experience recording the album, and then his career touring with Paul. It's a really amazing tribute."

Kumalo last performed live for Bravo Niagara!'s Voices of Freedom Festival in 2019, and followed that up in 2020 with his participation in an online presentation of a new version of the song *We Are the World*, which also featured Brueggemann-Lee.

Now living in the U.S., Kumalo has won five Grammy Awards and has played with the likes of Herbie Hancock, the Susan Tedeschi Band, Josh Groban and Gloria Estefan, among others.

The year 2022 ends with a chance for Bravo Niagara! to finally welcome the legendary Count Basie Orchestra to Partridge Hall at the PAC. The Christmas-themed show was originally planned for December, 2020. It will finally happen

two years later, on Dec. 18.

"A *Very Swingin'* Basie Christmas is probably my favourite Christmas album," says Mori. "We start playing that in November to get into the spirit. It's probably the first time the Basie Orchestra has played in this area, at least in the last three decades."

Thirty years after the passing of Count Basie, his orchestra is still performing sold-out concerts all over the world. Directed today by Scotty Barnhart, the 18-member ensemble has won every respected jazz poll in the world along with 18 Grammy Awards.

Some of the greatest soloists, composers, arrangers and vocalists in jazz history have worked with the group, including Lester Young, Billie Holiday, Thad Jones, Sonny Payne and Joe Williams. Current members include musicians hired by the late bandleader himself.

Donors and past Flex Pack purchasers are offered exclusive presale access to tickets for the four shows until Wednesday, Sept. 5. They go on sale to the general public Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 11 a.m., with special early-bird pricing until Sept. 13.

Details on the second half of the 2022-2023 season will be revealed some time in November.

Also last week, Bravo Niagara! announced a major, transformational donation from the Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation to support *Kimiko's Pearl*, a new multidisciplinary production that will honour the resilience of the Japanese Canadian community, and shed light on a dark chapter in Canadian history.

The idea came to the mother-daughter team in 2020, but the project began in earnest in 2021, shortly after Chicago Tribune music critic Howard Reich announced his retirement from the newspaper.

"His parents were Holocaust survivors," Mori tells The Local. "The story resonated with him right away. I emailed him to congratulate him on his retirement, and I pitched the project to him. He immediately agreed to work

on it."

The Emmy Award-winning Reich began piecing together the family history of Mori and Spieldenner. It's a story that focuses on Spieldenner's maternal great-grandparents, Shizuo and Natsue Ayukawa, who left Japan to start a new life in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century. They settled in Mission, B.C., where they built a strawberry farm before they were removed from their property during the war.

Spanning four generations, the story is set against the turbulent backdrop of the Second World War, reflecting the tragedies and triumphs of Japanese Canadian families before, during and after the period of internment. Their harsh experiences attest to heroism and hope in the face of racism. It's told through the eyes of Kimiko, a 15-year-old Toronto girl who discovers an old family trunk containing a forgotten diary.

Mori and Spieldenner serve as co-creators and producers of the original ballet, alongside producer Jeff Herd. *Kimiko's Pearl* features original music by Kevin Lau and choreography by Yosuke Mino. The production features dancers from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and three generations of Japanese Canadian visual artists and musicians.

In February, Bravo Niagara held a video premiere of the opening movement on their website and YouTube channel. The creative team flew to Niagara this past May for a five-day workshop on scene three of the ballet.

"They worked from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day at the Robertson Theatre," Mori remembers. "We rented a house for them so they could all stay together. Yosuke told us that at 5 o'clock, they didn't stop. They were working on choreography in the kitchen, all of them."

There's still much work to be done on *Kimiko's Pearl*, including gathering musicians to record Lau's original music to ready it for a CD release next year. Bravo Niagara! is hoping to hold the premiere of the original



Carol Appel (back, lead commissioning partner), Jeff Herd (co-producer), Aaron Tsang (sound designer), Alexis Spieldenner (co-creator/producer), Kevin Lau (composer), Chris Mori (co-creator/producer), Yue Shi (dancer, Royal Winnipeg Ballet), Howard Reich (writer), Corwin Ferguson (projection designer) Kyra Soo (bottom, dancer, Royal Winnipeg Ballet), Liam Caines (dancer, Royal Winnipeg Ballet), Yosuke Mino (choreographer), and Chenxin Liu (dancer, Royal Winnipeg Ballet) have been working in NOTL on *Kimiko's Pearl*.



Milos will open the Bravo season Oct. 23. (Photos supplied)



The legendary Count Basie Orchestra will play Partridge Hall Dec. 18.

work in Niagara in spring, 2024, before taking it on tour.

Spieldenner says the gift will allow them to complete the ballet at the scale they had envisioned, including the incorporation of original artwork to complement the choreography and music.

"We're honoured to be the recipient of this transformative gift, which will help make our vision for *Kimiko's Pearl* a reality," she says. "As a fourth-generation

Japanese Canadian, the history of internment is deeply personal to me and my family. I'm grateful that *Kimiko's Pearl* will play a role in sharing this important part of our collective history with all Canadians."

More details on the premiere and future touring will be announced at a later date.

For more information, please visit [www.kimikospearl.com](http://www.kimikospearl.com) and follow @kimikos\_pearl.

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# LocalSPORTS

## Soccer season wraps up with hopes for next year

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Club president Carrie Plaskett's favourite part of last weekend's year-end festival was a chance to watch the youngest soccer players, the Timbits division, play the game.

"When they received their medals, they were so happy to get them," she laughs. "It was so much fun to watch. We had 100 in that age group. That shows that there are a lot of young families in the area and they are coming out. It was probably the first time many of them got to enjoy organized sports."

The soccer season wound

down Saturday at the Virgil Sports Park with friendly competition in that age group all the way up to the Under-9/10 division. It marked the return of the festival for the first time since 2019.

In 2020, pandemic rules forbade the club to offer a program. Last year, kids were back on the field in most age groups but limits to the size of gatherings meant that games were an impossibility. Instead, the club focused on smaller groups in practice situations, working primarily on soccer skills.

"This year we were able to do much more," Plaskett says. "We were actually able to allow more interaction amongst kids playing in teams. We

were even able to get back to having the older kids playing against other centres. This year definitely started to look like what the club used to do before the pandemic."

More than 350 children were registered to play soccer in NOTL, mostly in house league competition. The club also ran three Niagara Soccer League travel teams - U8 and U10 Boys and U8 Girls.

Unfortunately, the opportunities this year ended at 12 years old. When registration began last winter, a division was offered combining boys and girls aged 13 to 15, but response was tepid at best. NOTL wasn't alone in that dilemma, however.

"We were on the cusp,"

remembers Plaskett. "We just didn't have the numbers, and neither did other clubs. They were in the exact same situation. If our registrations had been high enough to run a team, we would have had trouble finding another club for them to play against."

There were enough boys and girls to field a team at the U11/12 age group, but only one other club was able to join them in an informal interlock league setting.

Every week the NOTL team, coached by Rob VanEgmond, Tommy Visca and Phill Lambert, alternated home games with a team from Thorold. NOTL completed the season undefeated, capping it off with a 4-0 victory

in their last game.

Sharon Velsink, whose son Dean played on the team, tells The Local in an email, "there were some games we tied, the rest of them we won and, in the end, a group of kids who didn't know each other at the beginning of the season came together. The support they showed each other was so great to see."

Plaskett says coaches like VanEgmond, Visca and Lambert are the backbone of the organization.

"The volunteer coaches are really the key to success of our program," Plaskett states. "We had a lot of volunteers. You could really see the kids improve on the field over the season. Our head coach (Joe

Pagnotta) provided suggested practice plans. They had a lot of fun activities to build up the kids' skills."

"We had lots of support from the business community, too" adds Plaskett. "We had over 40 sponsors this year. We can't thank them enough for their support."

This month, the club will hold early tryouts for the travel teams they plan to offer next year. Currently, that includes U8 and U9 Girls and U8, U9 and U11 Boys teams. Plaskett says the club is also open to proposals from prospective coaches who are interested in helping to field a team at other age groups. Dates for those tryouts will be posted via notlsoccer.ca.



The U13/14 soccer team played all their games against Thorold, undefeated for the season. Playing on the NOTL team were (bottom left) Nathan Lambert Zeren Ozdemir, Spencer Collins, Dean Velsink, Austin Moolman, Jacob Froese, Julia Rezza, Danielle Smith; (top left) coach Rob VanEgmond, Ron Slootsky, Joshua Sasso, Lucas Visca, Adam VanEgmond, Mark Abboud, Ben Raso, Gracie Cherney, Avery Webster and coach Tommy Visca. Missing from the photo are coach Phill Lambert, assistant coach Eton Moolman, Roc Mastromatteo, Ashton Visca, Sienna Lalonde and Halo Lunn-Ure. (Photo supplied)



Kids had fun wrapping up their soccer season Saturday with games and medals, and hopes for next year. (Mike Balsom)



# LocalSPORTS

## Erie Otters, Ice Dogs will be a battle on ice

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Next Friday night's pre-season game in Virgil between the Erie Otters and the Niagara Ice Dogs is a battle between two teams looking for a turnaround after a disappointing 2021-2022 season.

Erie completed that campaign with a record of 27-37-2-2, good for ninth place in the Ontario Hockey League's Western Conference, only a single point from challenging the Sarnia Sting for the eighth and final playoff spot.

Over in the East, the Ice Dogs finished the season in the basement of the conference, at 22-42-3-1.

More importantly, the year ended in turmoil after a controversial series of misogynist texts between Ice Dogs minority owner Joey Burke and head coach and minority owner Billy Burke were made public. Both were suspended indefinitely by the OHL and

the team was fined \$150,000. In May, majority owners Bill and Denise Burke announced the sale of the team to Brantford businessperson Darren DeDobbelael.

The Ice Dogs are looking for a clean start under DeDobbelael, who will fill the general manager's role with the team. He'll be assisted by Wes Consorti, who has held various management and coaching positions with the Brantford 99ers of the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL), an organization also owned by DeDobbelael. Head coach Dan Fitzgerald will step behind the bench, with his assistants Brandon Shaw, Andrew Fritsch and Damon Racicot.

Last week the Dogs named Landon Cato their captain this year. Defenceman Dakota Betts wore the 'C' in 2021-2022 but at 21 years old he is ineligible to return for another year in the OHL.

For the Otters, 20-year-old defenceman Cameron Mor-

ton will once again be an assistant captain. He's looking forward to the upcoming game at the Meridian Credit Union Arena, where the Otters will actually be the home team.

"I'm excited," he tells The Local from his family home in Kingston, Ontario. "We did something like this with London my first year on the team (2019-2020). It's nice to go to a smaller community and give them a taste of OHL hockey."

Looking back on last year at this time, Morton remembers a locker room filled with relief and excitement to finally get back on the ice after losing an entire OHL season to the pandemic. The Otters had a large number of new players joining the team, and the returnees hadn't played together for over a year. It made for an unusual and unsure start.

Morton missed only three of the Otters 68 games last year, amassing 3 goals, 18

Continued on page 20



The Otters are looking forward to the preseason game in Virgil, after a heart-breaking loss to end last season. (Photos by Jeep DiCioccio)



The Otters' Noah Sedore (in pink) attacks the Flint Firebirds' goalie Luke Cavallin.

### Softball wrap-up



Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Softball teams wrapped up a great season on the Virgil diamonds over two days, last Wednesday and Thursday. Coaches, volunteers and most of all the players all did a great job and had fun, and are looking forward to next season. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

## LocalWORSHIP

**CORNERSTONE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, September 4th

9:45 a.m.  
Kids Ministry Sign In  
(Nursery - Kindergarten)  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship Gathering  
Online & In-Person  
Message:  
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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21				22					
23					24				25					
			26	27				28				29	30	31
32	33						34					35		
36						37					38			
39					40						41			
42				43						44				
				45					46			47	48	49
50	51	52						53			54			
55								56				57		
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

- Across:
- 1 1/2 fl. oz.

5 Accumulate

10 Comic Chappelle

14 Dash

15 --- Hicks, who co-founded an eponymous online "List"

16 --- Jannings, first Oscar winner

17 "But, --- was ambitious, I slew him" (Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar")

18 Doubtful attitude

20 Pops the question

22 Fight sites

23 Brazilian saint

24 "--- cool!"

25 Chinese gooseberry

26 Coal Miner's Daughter Loretta ---

28 Castigatory

32 Plaudits

34 "Peace on earth, good will ---"

35 "Air America" lead --- Gibson

36 "Death --- Expert Witness" (P D James)

37 "... my --- days, when I was green in judgment ..." (Shakespeare, "Antony and Cleopatra")

38 Australian national gemstone

39 "Holy cow!"

40 Of high grade

41 Former first lady of France --- Bruni

42 Attars

44 Democratic right

45 Sawbones, briefly

46 Salon goo

47 Sucker

50 Three miles

53 Disturb oilman, or sabotage form of transportation

55 Unlettered

57 "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer

58 "--- the torpedoes!" (David Farragut)

59 "Divine Comedy" writer --- Alighieri

60 Decree

61 Dead tree

62 Dirty political tactic

63 Dorothy's doggy

11 Former Ugandan dictator

12 Passport endorsement

13 Boston's Liberty Tree, and others

19 Eighth moonwalker

21 Possesses

25 Stoner paired with Harold

27 "... from --- far country blows" (Housman)

28 Gondoliers' propellers

29 Such as Flo Ziegfeld

30 Schnitzel meat

31 She, in Sonora

32 Japanese beef considered a delicacy

33 Mysteries on high

34 Watergate evidence

37 Turns out well

38 Bran source

40 End of a glacier

41 Centennial St.

43 Selvage

44 Pretense

46 We --- Get Out of This Place

48 Target

49 Pupil of Socrates and teacher of Aristotle

50 Eyeshades, maybe

51 Flair

52 Michigan college, and where it is

53 Leo's locks

54 Fissure

56 --- + dam = lamb
- Down:
- 1 Golf hazards

2 Port on the Shatt al-Arab river

3 Choosy lads play havoc with study periods

4 Quick look

5 Long-time Moroccan king

6 Properly pitched

7 Matures

8 Final wish?

9 Kept in custody

10 Chicanery

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from August 24, 2022

1 2 8 3 5 9 4 7 6

4 7 5 6 8 1 9 2 3

6 3 9 2 7 4 5 8 1

9 5 2 7 4 3 1 6 8

7 4 1 8 9 6 3 5 2

3 8 6 5 1 2 7 4 9

2 9 4 1 6 5 8 3 7

8 1 3 4 2 7 6 9 5

5 6 7 9 3 8 2 1 4

Across:

1 Tbsp, 5 Hoard, 10 Dave, 14 Race, 15 Angie, 16 Emil, 17 As he, 18 Skepticism, 20 Proposes, 22 Arenas, 23 Sao, 24 Way, 25 Kiwi, 26 Lynn, 28 Punitive, 32 Kudos, 34 To men, 35 Mel, 36 Of an, 37 Salad, 38 Opal, 39 Boy, 40 Super, 41 Carla, 42 Essences, 44 Vote, 45 Docs, 46 Gel, 47 Sap, 50 League, 53 Monorail, 55 Illiterate, 57 Irma, 58 Damm, 59 Dante, 60 Flat, 61 Snag, 62 Smeat, 63 Toto.

Down:

1 Traps, 2 Basta, 3 School days, 4 Peep, 5 Hassan, 6 On-key, 7 Ages, 8 R I P, 9 Detained, 10 Decet, 11 Amin, 12 Visa, 13 Elms, 19 Invin, 21 Owns, 25 Kumar, 27 Vor, 28 Poles, 29 Impresario, 30 Vial, 31 Ella, 32 Kobe, 33 U F Os, 34 Tapes, 37 Succeeded, 38 Cat, 40 Snout, 41 Colo, 43 Edging, 44 Veneer, 46 Gotta, 48 Aim at, 49 Plato, 50 Lids, 51 Eian, 52 Alma, 53 Mane, 54 Rift, 56 Ram.

OBITUARY



MOLSON, GERDA ANNE

DECEMBER 27, 1939 – AUGUST 26, 2022

With courage and determination through her journey with cancer, Gerda died peacefully at the Greater Niagara General Hospital on August 26, 2022.

Devoted wife of the late Hugh (2007). Cherished mother of Elizabeth and the late Harold (2010). Loving grandmother of her very special granddaughter Lindsay.

Gerda served as the Chief Librarian of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Library for 35 years and as a President of the Ontario Library Association. It was during her tenure as Chief Librarian that she and her Library Board made the courageous and controversial decision to locate the library from the Court House in the old town to its current home. This is Gerda's legacy to the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Gerda was respected and loved by many. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends who will remember her for her generosity and kindness of spirit.

Thank you to all her friends for their love and kindness during her illness. A special thanks to Allison Kane for her unwavering support and encouragement.

Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home. Cremation has taken place and a private celebration of life will be held by the family at a later date.

Flowers gratefully declined. If you wish, please consider a memorial donation to the Walker Family Cancer Centre, St. Catharines. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)



OBITUARY



ULRIKE "ULI" RESCHKE (NÉE KONZELMANN) —

Born September 8th, 1966 in Stuttgart, Germany. It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of our Uli, a beloved mother, wife, sister, and daughter, on August 25th, 2022.

After a courageous battle with cancer, Uli is now with her Heavenly Father and reunited with her niece (Carolina), brother (Matthias), and father (Herbert).

Uli was a loving, gentle, kind-spirited soul who will be deeply missed by her devoted, loving husband James and her incredible children Mikaela, Lauren (Bowen), and Ty (Julia) of whom she was so proud.

She was a dedicated daughter to Herbert (predeceased) and Gudrun Konzelmann and a caring sister to Claudia Konzelmann (Dietmar) and Matthias Konzelmann (predeceased). She was a wonderful daughter-in-law, aunt, and loyal friend to so many. She took great pride in her work as a dental hygienist; she loved her valued colleagues and patients (Dr. Brian Kim).

Uli will always be remembered for her gentle, peaceful nature, quick-witted remarks, and above all else, her faith. Uli had so many favourite verses that encouraged her and gave her strength. Romans 8:6 says:

"For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

The family would like to extend their appreciation to the Palliative Care Outreach Team - PCOT (Ari, Paul, Pam, and Helen) who provided exceptional care to Uli.

In keeping with Uli's wishes, cremation has already taken place. There will be a visitation at the Tallman Funeral Home in Vineland on Tuesday, August 30th from 4 pm to 8 pm. The family would ask that in lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to, would donate in Uli's name to Hospice Niagara.

A private celebration of Uli's life will take place at a later date. Online condolences at [tallmanfuneralhomes.ca](http://tallmanfuneralhomes.ca).



# LocalSPORTS

## 'Bring your families to read about our heroes'

Continued from page 1

and knowledge from regional meetings, Western Ontario AGMs and the many Skate Canada annual conventions she has attended across Canada."

Boyle-Krzczkowski went on to laud Haines for her hard work during the pandemic to ensure the club was following provincial mandates while continuing to offer fun skating programs for local kids.

The soft-spoken Haines began her speech by congratulating the other two inductees. Haines then said she learned to skate from her father, a Queenston Volunteer Firefighter who helped create an outdoor rink at the old Laura Secord Memorial School, which she attended. Her passions for both figure skating and volunteering were developed in those early days.

When her daughter Emma began figure skating in the early 1990s, Haines noticed a poster calling for volunteers to help with a carnival. She signed up and, as often happens with first-time volunteers who show enthusiasm, Haines was asked to consider taking a position on the club's board. She was named club secretary at her first meeting.

Soon, Haines was leading the charge to move the club forward.

"We negotiated and secured double our ice hours," remembered Haines. "We offered our Can-Skate, our Pre-Can program, and for the older skaters we offered three different levels. We went from three days of ice, to five and a few years later to

seven days for both recreational and competitive skaters. And our reputation began to grow."

"I am grateful that I can still give my time," Haines continued, "and that I can pass on my passion to anyone that will listen. It brings me joy to see former skaters bring their children back to their home club to learn to skate. And I'm especially thrilled to see my own granddaughters skate at the junior and pre-junior levels, and my grandson, who will enter the Pre-Can class."

Chair of the Sports Wall of Fame committee, Ward Simpson, said Trevor Falk's nomination form was seven pages long, encompassing his accomplishments in hockey, fastball and track and field as well as his continued contributions to NOTL sports organizations as a coach and volunteer.

Simpson, MP Tony Baldwinelli, MPP Wayne Gates, and NOTL councillor Erwin Weins, all hockey goaltenders, expressed relief that none of them had ever had to face Falk on the ice. Then Rich Andres delivered the speech to enshrine his long-time friend.

"Looking at Trevor you will see not only a highly successful athlete in multiple sports, but someone who has always competed in a manner that earns the respect of his teammates," said Andres. "Former teammates and coaches describe him as a contributor, winner, sportsman, ambassador, and humble. These are all characteristics that every coach looks for in an athlete."

Falk was a frequent winner of many track and field events during his high school days in town. He played with the St. Catharines Junior B Falcons of the Golden Horseshoe Hockey League, scoring 52 goals in one season, and followed that up with three stellar seasons with the Brock University Badgers. He has also been a fastball standout with the Niagara Snappers, winning MVP awards and helping them capture numerous championships. Falk coaches with the NOTL Wolves Hockey Club and also serves as its director of hockey development.

"His God-given ability is paralleled with a strong character, work ethic and sportsmanship," Andres said. "What greater compliment can you give a player than that coaches and players all want him on their team and dread playing against him."

Falk, who was joined by his father Bill to unveil his plaque, explained to much laughter from the gathering that he joined sports because he was trying to get away from the chores on the farm.

"You never run out of work on the farm," he said. "Who wouldn't want to play sports? It grew on me more and more, playing sports. The older I got and the higher the level of competition, the more I wanted to give back."

He choked up when talking of his teammates, former coaches and friends who nominated him for the honour, and thanked his parents, sisters and his wife Stephanie for their support through the years.

"I never thought I would be joining the people on this wall," Falk added, genuinely surprised at his selection. "I've always looked at them as local heroes as I walked past them to go coach the kids."

Falk, Haines and Servos bring the total members on the Wall of Fame to 27. Lord Mayor Betty Disero outlined the town's 2003 decision to create the wall following the death that year of Stan Ignatczyk, a former lord mayor and successful lacrosse player, coach and manager. Ignatczyk's family donated money for the cause, and since then the committee continues to take responsibility for the selection of members and raising funds for the plaques.

Disero urged NOTL residents to ensure their children recognize the important role these athletic role models play in town.

"This wall is even as important as our museum," Disero said, "in telling the story and culture of our community. I ask you to bring your families here to read about our heroes in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The evening began by recognizing the success of the undefeated NOTL Thunder-

hawks Under-22 lacrosse team, who won the Ontario Lacrosse Festival provincial championship the first week of August.

Assistant coach and trainer Dan Willms lamented the effect the pandemic has had on the town's lacrosse program, forcing the club to cancel its Junior B team.

But the club bounced back, he said, when head coach Andy Boldt gathered the group of young men who would form this year's U22 squad. The staff set four goals, with the final one to capture the provincial trophy. They exceeded all expectations, winning every game they played this year save for a tie to the Gloucester Griffins in the provincials.

Assistant captain Trent Hunter spoke on behalf of his teammates, who ranged from 16 to 21 years of age. Hunter credited the coaching staff and team captain Joe Fragnito for helping the crew to gel as a team.

"This group of boys rated so high and cared so much about the game," Hunter, who has played lacrosse in NOTL since 2008, said, "that they may be remembered as one of the best teams in Niagara-on-the-Lake lacrosse history. This put a cap on a Thunderhawks career for many of us, but the last ride couldn't have gone any better."



Dan Willms and Trent Hunter spoke of the undefeated U-22 Thunderhawks season, coached by Andy Boldt.



Daniel Servos speaks of his cousin and honouree Lancelot Cressy Servos, and unveils the plaque with the NOTL Museum's Sarah Kaufman.



Bill Falk joins his son Trevor Falk to help unveil his plaque for the Sports Wall of Fame. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Lord Mayor Betty Disero congratulates Yvonne Haines, inducted to the Wall of Fame for her decades of volunteer work with the NOTL Skating Club.

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# Erie Otters raising money for minor hockey

Continued from page 17

assists and 99 penalty minutes. “Last year was a big stepping stone, not only in my work ethic but also in my skills and my game as well,” he says. “My coaches and I worked on that kind of stuff. Coming into this year I feel really confident in my game.” Finishing just a point out of the playoff picture has left a sour taste in Morton’s mouth.

“We came together really good as a group at the end,” he says. “This year, coming into camp, we’re very close. I think a big part of our game last year was how hard we worked. This year we’re going to have that skill and those extra details, put together with some hard work, I think we’re going to have a really good season.” As one of the older players, he relished the opportunity to provide some leadership to the team, and says he’s already been sharing that responsibility with other experienced Otters during training camp.

Fellow 20-year-old Noah Sedore was marked as a player to watch last year as the Otters season began. The 5’9” left winger from Bobcaygeon played all 68 games for Erie, netting 17 goals and 29 assists on the season. The former Lakefield College School student was selected by the Ot-

ters in the eighth round as the 144th overall pick, in the 2018 entry draft. He’ll join Morton as one of the leaders on this year’s team. One of the brightest lights for the Otters in 2021-2022 was the play of rookie goaltender Nolan Lalonde. The 49th pick in the 2020 OHL priority selection draft was anticipated to be a backup, but he quickly moved into their every-day starter role. Lalonde, also from Kings-

ton, was the top rookie goalie in the league and was named to the All-Rookie First Team. He backstopped 58 games for the Otters, amassing a record of 24-25-2-1. His 24 wins led all rookies and was the seventh highest amongst all goaltenders in the OHL. He’ll be back between the pipes for the Otter this season. The 18-year-old also earned Midwest Division Academic Player of the

Month honours from the OHL in November, and was named one of the goaltenders for Canada’s National Men’s Under-18 Team at the 2022 IIHF U18 World Championship. Tickets for the Friday, Sept. 9 game are only \$10 and are available in advance from Phil’s Independent Grocer on Niagara Stone Road. Proceeds from the game will benefit the NOTL Wolves Minor Hockey Club.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Notice Of Passing Of Regional-Wide Development Charges By-Law

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara passed municipal-wide development charges By-law No. 2022-71 on August 25, 2022, under section 2 (1) of the *Development Charges Act, 1997, S.O., 1997 c. 27*, as amended;

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal under section 14 of the Act, in

respect of the development charges by-law, by filing with the Regional Clerk on or before **October 4, 2022**, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The schedule of development charges imposed by the by-law, which comes into effect on **September 1, 2022**, is as follows:

SCHEDULE C  
By-law No. 2022-71

Service/Class of Service	Single and Semi-Detached Dwelling	Other Multiples	2+ Bedroom Apartments	1 Bedroom Apartments	Special Care/ Special Dwelling Units and Rooms	Commercial (per sq.ft.)	Industrial (per sq.ft.)	Institutional (per sq.ft.)	Wind Turbines
Services Related to a Highway	9,883	7,062	6,718	4,096	3,712	6.78	2.23	5.08	9,883
Public Works (Facilities and Fleet)	286	204	194	119	107	0.26	0.09	0.21	286
Policing Services	297	212	202	123	112	0.28	0.09	0.21	297
Growth Studies	84	60	57	35	32	0.06	0.02	0.04	84
Long-term Care Services	1,241	887	844	514	466	0.60	0.20	0.38	0
Provincial Offences Act	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Public Health Services	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Ambulance Services	266	190	181	110	100	0.14	0.04	0.08	266
Housing Services	2,039	1,457	1,386	845	766	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Waste Diversion	176	126	120	73	66	0.04	0.01	0.03	0
Sub-total Region-wide Services/ Class of Services	14,272	10,198	9,702	5,915	5,361	8.16	2.68	6.03	10,816
Wastewater Services	7,486	5,349	5,089	3,103	2,811	5.24	2.21	3.87	0
Water Services	4,027	2,878	2,737	1,669	1,512	2.95	1.24	2.17	0
Sub-total Urban Services	11,513	8,227	7,826	4,772	4,323	8.19	3.45	6.04	0
Total Rural Area	14,272	10,198	9,702	5,915	5,361	8.16	2.68	6.03	10,816
Total Urban Area	25,785	18,425	17,528	10,687	9,684	16.35	6.13	12.07	10,816

No key map has been provided as By-law No. 2022-71 applies to all lands located within Niagara Region.

A copy of the complete by-law may be viewed at [niagararegion.ca/news/notices/notice.aspx](https://niagararegion.ca/news/notices/notice.aspx) or examined at Regional Headquarters, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7 during regular business hours (weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) excluding statutory holidays.

DATED at Niagara Region offices in Thorold, Ontario, this August 26, 2022.

**Ann-Marie Norio**  
Regional Clerk