



Keeping cool

Coral Welk, 15 months old, was at the Virgil splash pad Saturday, having fun playing in the water and cooling off.
(Mike Balsom)

River Beach Drive proposed as site for paddle board launch

Penny Coles
The Local

Tim Balasiuk, better-known locally as Tim Bala, presented an idea to council Monday that would open up a portion of the south end of River Beach Drive for launching paddle sports activities.

He has operated his paddle board operation, Paddle Niagara, first from Balls Beach, beginning in 2012, and there from 2015 until the present at Queen's Royal Park, offering stand-up paddle board lessons to locals and visitors, and camps for local kids.

Moving to River Beach Drive would be a great opportunity for the town to use more of its waterfront, in a spot that can be nice and calm even on windy days.

There are rocks, rubble, and pieces of steel sticking out from the river at the

site that would need to be cleaned up, but it wouldn't take a lot to create a safe launch, he says.

He told councillors he would like to create a public/private partnership, that would allow Paddle Niagara to work with the parks and recreation department, offering day camps and lessons for kids. He also envisions some sort of membership for adults that would allow them access to launch equipment that would be provided to them at the beach.

A number of families with kids are moving into the area, and are not aware of the waterways in NOTL, the currents in the lake and river, said Bala, and this would be an opportunity to teach safety, and create a safe place for paddle sports.

He told councillors that

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Family business celebrates 75 years in Virgil

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Niagara Motors celebrated 75 years of sales and service in Niagara-on-the-Lake with a \$4,700 donation to Red Roof Retreat.

Saturday's car show and barbecue raised \$2,260 in donations to the charitable organization that provides respite and recreational programs to children, youth and young adults with special needs. Dave Dick and his family

topped the total up with another \$2,440.

Dick, the dealer principal, said he usually prefers the company's contributions to local causes to fly under the radar, but the special occasion called for different optics.

"They're a fantastic organization," he told The Local. "What they have to deal with, what they've done, the car business is easy by comparison when you look at some of the things they have challenges with. There's so many

good things in town. Just look at the volunteers."

Niagara Motors opened its doors in 1946 at the same location where it stands today. William Lyon McKenzie King was Prime Minister back then, and Newfoundland and Labrador had yet to become a Canadian province.

Virgil, like most of Niagara-on-the-Lake, was largely rural, and the dealership got its start selling and servicing Case tractors. They branched out into Studebaker cars and

trucks and also sold Meyer sprayers and farm implements.

"Some of the neighbours that lived in town back then told me this was the first place in town that had any asphalt," Dick said. "The streets were still dirt. The kids would come around with their roller skates and just have a blast."

In 1953, Niagara Motors shifted to General Motors products.

Dave's father, also named Dave, began as a salesman for

original owner Frank Willms. He sold fruit during the summer, and Willms convinced him to take a job selling cars during the winter.

In 1961, Willms moved to Niagara Falls and Dave Sr. bought Niagara Motors.

"I grew up here and on the fruit farms, and did everything at the dealership," Dick reminisces. "Changing oil and tires, and working in accounting. Body shop, detailing and helping to sell cars."

Dick took a moment to

survey the array of classic cars on the lot Saturday, at least one of which, a 1963 Pontiac Acadian driven in by Ellen Enns, was originally sold by Niagara Motors. The majority of the collectors were showing off GM products, and he reflected on the dealership's connection with the manufacturer.

"We've always had a great relationship with them," Dick said. "We've been with General

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Town takes next step toward accommodation tax

Penny Coles
The Local

An effort to move to adopt a municipal accommodation tax in Niagara-on-the-Lake met with some resistance Monday, from the business community and from some councillors.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero wanted to open the discussion of the tax, seeing it as a way to pay for infrastructure projects for which the town has no budget and no money, she said.

She was suggesting a two per cent tax to begin with, increasing to three and then four per cent.

The strongest opposition for the tax was over the timing — local businesses are struggling to survive a pandemic, and a new tax will not help the tourism industry at this time.

Tim Jennings, CEO of the Shaw Festival, warned council they don't have the information they need to understand the impact of the tax, and spoke of tourism strategy that was necessary to allow gathering and analysis of information, and input from the industry.

He spoke of the significant contribution of the Shaw to the local economy, which could be harmed if visitors

decide to reduce their over-night stays due to the tax.

"We are solidly against implementation of a MAT without benefit of a tourism strategy, and wide consultation, as it could be very detrimental to the speed of recovery efforts of the town's business sector.

He said it could seriously impact the Shaw "in detrimental ways, since we work on very small margins as a charity between surplus and deficit."

Eduardo Lafforgue, president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and NOTL Tourism, also spoke to the timing of suggesting a

new tax now, and supported waiting until a tourism strategy could be developed.

"There seems to be an ongoing misunderstanding about what the local tourism industry brings to the town and its contribution to the community, its development and the creation of value for its residents," said Lafforgue. "Indeed, so many of us settled in Niagara-on-the-Lake to partake of the amenities, services and experiences provided by NOTL's tourism providers."

The tourism industry and, in particular, accommodations, he said, "are among the hardest-hit businesses in

any sector, and all are struggling to recover from the worst crisis most of us remember. There could not be a worse time to reignite the discussion about MAT."

"Nothing has more potential to create division and disagreements within our struggling community," he added, and several councillors agreed it would cause division and harm relationships in town.

Vintage Hotels also opposes the tax, councillors were told, because of its negative impact on tourism and the division and disagreement it would create in the struggling hospitality

industry.

Although several councillors agreed this was a bad time to initiate a new tax, the majority voted to support the introduction of the tax, scaled from two per cent to four per cent over three years, and funds generated be put in a reserve fund tourism-related infrastructure projects, with recommendations from the audit committee in the 2022 budget. They also agreed it be included in the scope of the tourism strategy. Couns. Gary Burroughs, Clare Cameron and Wendy Cheropita voted against the motion.

Council meetings to remain virtual

Penny Coles
The Local

After hearing options for the possible resumption of in-person meetings, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors decided to continue holding virtual council meetings for a while longer.

Parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte outlined three options at Monday's council meeting: to

continue meeting virtually, to meet in-person, although there would be some limits to capacity; or to adopt a hybrid model.

But presented with issues such as the cost of adapting the council chamber to allow physical distancing, and the fact that none of the options could include the presence of the public, the status quo seemed the obvious choice, with all councillors agreeing.

Coun. Norm Arsenault summed up what the others were saying.

"As much as I'd like to see you guys," he said, "I don't see the benefits of this (in-person meeting model). This is working reasonably well, and I don't see a lot of advantages to other options, with little opportunity for the public to come in here."

The town hall is open to the public by appointment only.

Hoping for town partnership

Continued from page 1

with his rescue boat, he has performed 20 rescues this season — none of them Paddle Niagara customers or students.

"It would also be a great way to show the town is becoming more inclusive with our access to water," he said, adding that the launch could be designed for those with disabilities.

Although there was some concern about making Paddle Niagara the only business with access to the launch, council agreed to refer the request to staff for a report on a paddle sports launch.



If Tim Bala has his way and the town decides to go forward with a paddle sports launch on River Beach Drive, he can keep his boat close at hand for rescues. (Mike Balsom)


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Dealership enjoys great relationship with GM, customers

Continued from page 1

Motors for a long time. They're a great company and they've been really good to us."

"We've got such a good client base," he added. "Our customers are great, and the staff we have here are beyond great. They come to work every day and do a great job. What more could you ask for?"

New car sales manager Troy Milinkovich has been with Niagara Motors for 20 years, having moved over from his previous position

with John Bear Pontiac in St. Catharines.

"He's the benchmark," Milinkovich said of Dick. "He's a very proactive dealer but he's also very reasonable to all his staff. He treats his staff like gold. This by far is the most user-friendly dealership for customers and staff alike."

The bulk of the business comes from word of mouth, Milinkovich told The Local. Repeat customers are Niagara Motors' bread and butter.

"Unfortunately there are a lot of corporate stores now,"

Milinkovich added. "They're kind of sterile. When you walk into Niagara Motors, the first thing we hear from people we haven't dealt with before is that it's such a warm place, a nice place to do business."

Through five or six expansions, the dealership bought up more properties to create the footprint they currently have on Niagara Stone Road. They've also weathered some changes in the industry through the years.

"The internet and technology have made things

change," Dick admitted. "People are more savvy. They know what they want and they can find it. You have to be on top of things, call people back right away, answer emails. It's different, and more complicated for sure."

Dick feels the future looks bright for the dealership as well.

"Virgil is growing," said Dick. "Niagara-on-the-Lake is growing so much. When we came here Virgil had 1,000 people, and there were about 5,000 people in the whole town. In 10 years, we'll have

30,000 people. People like to move down here."

Dick's own family continues to grow. He and his wife Terri have four kids and eleven grandchildren. With one of those kids working full time at Niagara Motors, and three of the grandchildren

putting in time there when school allows, chances are the family business continues right where it has been since 1946.

"I'd like to see it in the family for at least another 75 years," he said. "For that matter, why not forever?"



Dave Dick hopes Niagara Motors will continue as a family business for the next 75 years — or longer. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Saturday's anniversary celebration collected \$2,260 for Red Roof Retreat Saturday, which was boosted to \$4,700 by Niagara Motors. David Dick presented the cheque to Steffanie Bjorgan and Claire Ellsworth from Red Roof Retreat, with event planners/lead volunteers Jill Saxton (left) and Sara Epp. (Photo supplied)



A classic car show on the lot Saturday was part of the 75th anniversary celebration.



A 1963 Pontiac Acadian driven in by Ellen Enns, originally sold by Niagara Motors, was included in Saturday's classic car show.

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Preventing "cabinet confidence" from shielding government insiders from criminal investigation.



More vaccinations best solution to prevent another lockdown

Penny Coles
The Local

If the number of people infected with the Delta variant continues to rise, Ontario residents may be looking at some form of lockdown.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Niagara's acting chief medical officer of health, says an increase in the number of people vaccinated across the province could prevent that, and save the hospital system from being overwhelmed again. The alternative, he says, would likely be another lockdown to prevent social interaction and infection spread, although Ontario isn't at that stage yet.

However, he says he can see allowing non-essential businesses to stay open, and applying a lockdown to only those who are not vaccinated, restricting them from places such as restaurants and malls, and having sort of vaccination credentials for those who are fully vaccinated.

Just that possibility might help motivate the unvaccinated to change their minds, he says.

Other countries, and other provinces in Canada, have seen an uptake in vaccinations once a vaccination

passport was instituted, and unvaccinated people realized how their lives were going to be impacted, said Hirji.

Those who fall into that category might unfortunately be people such as a single mom struggling to work and raise her children, too busy to find the time to be vaccinated, he added.

However, "on the flip side, another lockdown would mean lots of business owners losing their income, and their employees finding themselves out of work," he said. "Marginalized people who depend on those businesses for work will be the ones suffering most from that."

The province was expected to announce Tuesday that a proof of vaccination system would be implemented, but

the announcement was cancelled, reportedly so that discussions on details could be ironed out.

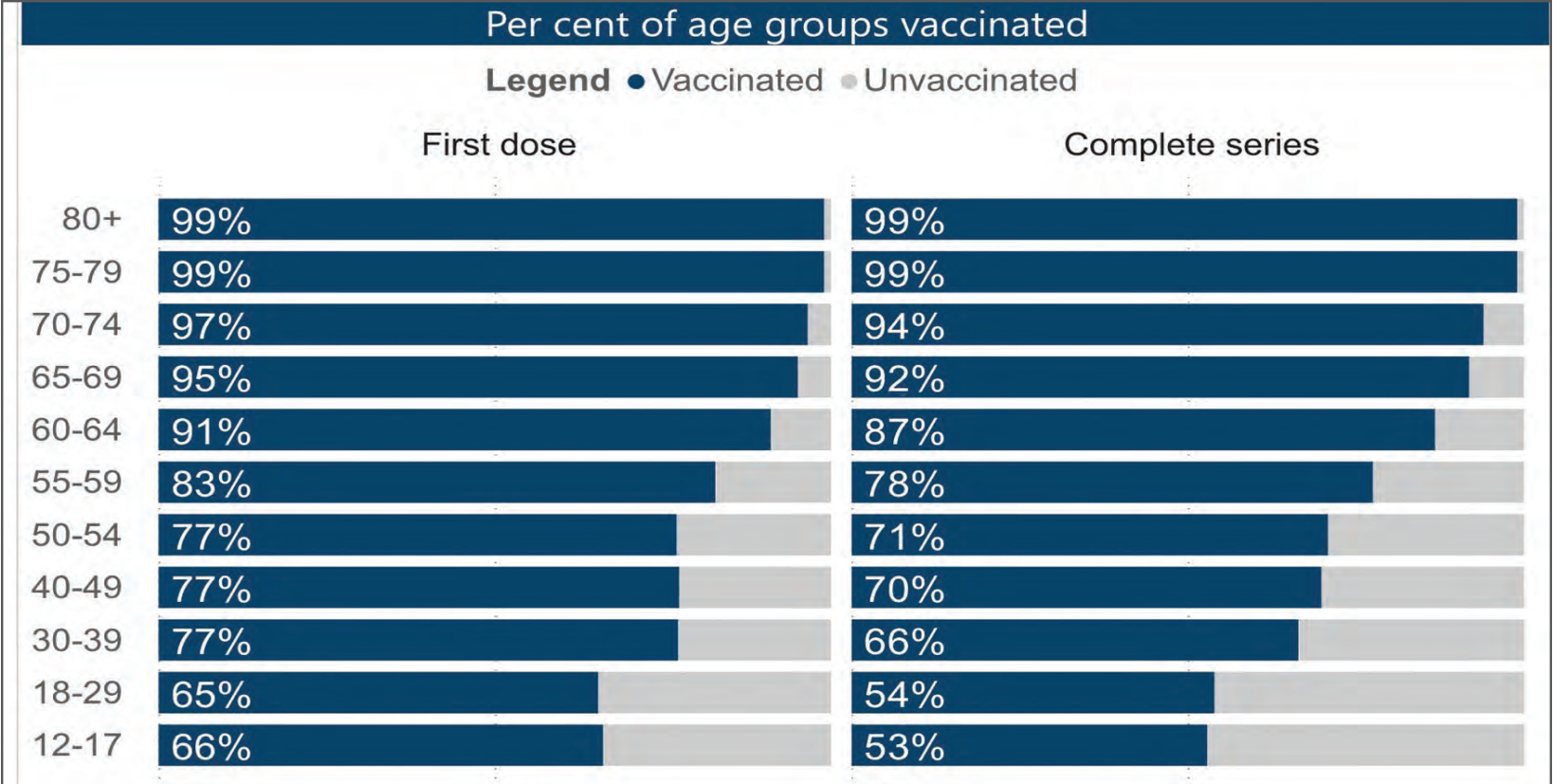
With the majority of people testing positive for COVID unvaccinated, he says, "the best-case scenario is more people choose to get vaccinated, and we don't have to go down that road again."

He blames the province's impatience for moving from Step 2 of the recovery too soon, resulting in more mobility, more social interaction, more shopping and other forms of recreation, leading to the increase.

Although cases in Niagara aren't rising as quickly as some areas of Ontario, Hamilton "has become the epicentre of COVID in the province," says Hirji, and that will likely have an impact locally.

Niagara reported 27 new COVID cases Tuesday, with 136 people in the region currently infected.

Among the new cases in the past two weeks, Hirji says, 69 per cent were unvaccinated people, 18 per cent were vaccinated twice and 13 per cent once.



Those in the younger age groups are still the least vaccinated, although numbers are slowly increasing. (Screen shot)

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Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years

For 75 years, Niagara Motors has been a driving force serving transportation needs for the Niagara Region. Established in 1946 by Frank Willms, the dealership originally sold Case tractors, Myer's farm sprayers, and Studebaker automobiles.

Selling over 200 vehicles per year, General Motors (GM) quickly took notice and by 1953, Niagara Motors was a GM branded store.

Owned by the Dick family for the past 60 years, Niagara Motors has sustained recessions, restructuring

and rebranding. The success of Niagara Motors is due to family patriarch David G. Dick, known to most as Dave Sr., who led the dealership for over five decades. In 1957, Dave Sr. was hard at work on his 50-acre farm, planting and harvesting a variety of tender fruits and vegetables. Instead of taking the winter off, preparing for the next growing season, he searched for a job to provide additional income for his growing family. With no automotive sales experience, Dave Sr. was not an ideal candidate, but Frank appreciated his tenacity and gave him a chance.

Within four years of working at Niagara Motors, Dave Sr. purchased the dealership and began expanding the business with major renovations in 1964, 1977, 2003 and 2014. Niagara Motors has grown from a small car lot, with 15 vehicles, to a retail establishment on three separate sites in Virgil. Today, the dealership is still a branded GM store, offering new and used vehicle sales, a service department, parts store and body shop.

Throughout its history,



2004 Grand Re Opening. David Dick Sr. cutting the ribbon.

Niagara Motors has always maintained its small-town, family-oriented approach. This is evident in the three generations of the Dick family who have worked at the dealership, and Dave Sr.'s daily presence at the store until his passing in 2015. As he got older, many will remember Dave Sr. sitting in his office by the front door eager to talk with customers and employees as they walked into the showroom, signalling them with a wave. He often had crates of fresh peaches from his farm stacked in his office,

and eagerly shared them with anyone stopping in. While Dave Sr. is no longer with us, his family-oriented approach and the crates of peaches remain a dealership staple.

In honour of 75 years in business, Niagara Motors hosted a celebration event on Saturday, Aug. 28. The celebration included a car show with classic GM vehicles, car wash, barbecue and raffle draw, with prizes donated by local businesses. The celebration served a joint purpose, being utilized as a fundraiser for Red Roof Retreat.

We were so humbled by the incredible support of our community, and were able to raise \$2,260. Niagara Motors pledged to match all funds raised and rounded the donation up to a total of \$4,700 for Red Roof Retreat.

Niagara Motors is open Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will continue to be Virgil's automotive sales and service leaders and look forward to serving the community for the next 75 years.



Lord Mayor Betty Disero congratulates Dave Dick Jr. as Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years in business.

Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!



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EDITORIAL

Choice is ours, but it impacts all those around us

Mandated vaccinations, and vaccinations passports, were not long ago just speculation, possibilities, hotly debated. It hardly seemed that in our society, in our day and age, they would become a reality.

But most of us have been vaccinated before, and have the scars to prove it.

Most of our kids have been vaccinated, and have their passports, those little yellow cardboard books, to prove it.

Every day brings evidence that we may have to go through this again, another wave.

And every day brings more anger, stronger opposition, a bigger divide in society.

Those who are actually vehemently, violently opposed to vaccinations, and all the other pandemic safeguards, are the minority, but boy are they mad, and loud.

The rest of us are either resigned, seeing the inevitable, or grateful for a way out.

The District School Board of Niagara has finally posted a policy on its website, following the Ministry of Education's mandate that requires school boards to disclose the vaccination status of all DSBN staff, who will have to provide documentation to confirm they are fully vaccinated,

All staff who are not

vaccinated will be required to take regular rapid antigen testing to make sure they test negative for COVID-19. In addition to regular testing, staff who have religious or personal reasons for not getting fully vaccinated will also have to participate in a Ministry of Education training session.

That's educators looked after.

And that's huge, because it's the youngest in our society now who are not vaccinated.

At press time, the Catholic board's website had not been updated, but the board's statement said it will continue to comply with the Ministry of Education's guidelines with regard to vaccinations for all employees.

The Niagara Region has decided its employees will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, or regularly tested, with some exceptions, and council approved a motion saying staff who cannot provide proof of full vaccination will be required to be regularly tested. Regional councillors also voted to apply the policy to council members who wish to attend in-person meetings, conduct business at regional facilities, or attend official events as a councillor. And a motion also passed calling on the provincial and federal govern-

ments to create a universal proof-of-vaccination certificate program.

Now that the region has a policy to implement, Niagara municipalities, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, won't be far behind.

More and more institutions and employers are likely to come onboard, and some already are.

Vaccination passports, or something to indicate vaccination status, aren't far behind. Be ready.

The last 18 months have been hard, even awful, for some people. We've dealt with loss of loved ones, loss of jobs and incomes, loss of freedoms. What is bringing us back to normal is the discovery of safe vaccinations, and our choice to do what feels right for us.

It seems like we're at a crossroads. We can beat this as a society by being vaccinated, or we can see another round of infections, this next one more virulent than the others. Most of us have made our choice, and we can't force that choice on others. How frustrating that there seems such a logical solution for reducing hospital admissions, and for preventing more lockdowns, but we have to sit back and hope that others do what is right. Because in our society, we respect choice. Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting chief

medical officer of health, suggested this week that if push comes to shove and another lockdown of businesses is called for, those unvaccinated should be

locked out and businesses allowed to stay open. Let the vaccinated enjoy their freedom, they've earned it. It sounds harsh, but it's a choice. And with some

luck and few more vaccinations, hopefully unnecessary.

Penny Coles
The Local

Local VOICES:

Joan King passionate about keeping Terry Fox Run going

Joan King
Special to The Local

What keeps me inspired to organize the Terry Fox run?

It all started during my teaching career, when every September I would tell my students the story of this courageous young man who believed 'anything is possible if you try.'

After seeing the suffering of young children in the hospital, he decided he would raise awareness that cancer research was needed.

Terry Fox set out running a marathon a day for 143 days on one leg. He turned his misfortune into a dream as big as our country.

There is something magical about the Terry Fox Run, and it doesn't matter how young or old you are. Every September people all over Canada gather to work toward making one young man's dream come true... a world without cancer.

Terry passed the torch to us, and when I found out an organizer was needed in 2007 in our Niagara-on-the-Lake community,

I knew that this event was worth keeping alive. A few of my very close friends and family members have suffered and lost their lives to this dreaded disease. The Terry Fox Run is a way to raise money for cancer research. It is also about hope, determination and inspira-

tion. It's about remembering those we lost, supporting those who still fight and honouring those who won the fight.

The outpouring of support in the NOTL community is another reason I continue to be inspired. We are a small community with a big heart, which is evident when the many businesses here are willing to donate anything they can to make this event a success. Service groups are always on board in their special way to raise funds for cancer research. The NOTL-Lewiston Rotary Club, the NOTL Kinsmen and the NOTL Royal Canadian Legion have donated to this worthwhile cause.

I truly see the spirit and generosity in the many volunteers, the kindness of the town, and the meaningful articles in the local papers.

Meeting Fred Fox, Terry's brother, and Shawn Ashmore, the actor who played Terry Fox in the movie *Terry* and came to NOTL to participate in the run, was truly a memorable time.

The NOTL community has so many admirable people I have met, and it makes it a pleasure to keep the Marathon of Hope alive. Our hometown comedian, Joe Pillitteri, who continues to show his passion and desire to believe in the cause and raise much needed funds, is encouragement enough to

keep me inspired.

Terry Fox is the voice of courage in all of us. He is our Canadian hero who is embraced by the whole world. I can't help but think of Terry in 1980... he had 0 posts, 0 shares, 0 likes, but millions of followers. You can be one of the millions of Canadians today who participate in the Terry Fox Run on September 19, 2021.

The power of one man to make a difference is undeniable. How could I not be inspired when I see all the efforts of this community, and the impact research has had on our cancer survivors. In the words of Terry Fox, "It has to keep going without me."

Terry's example teaches us how to survive and overcome obstacles while remaining positive. Forty-one years later, his Marathon of Hope is alive and strong and still gaining momentum. He taught us that together we can outrun cancer. He makes us proud to be Canadian and me committed to volunteering for the Terry Fox foundation.

Thank you Terry Fox for being an example to me. Your humbleness, self-sacrifice and courage benefit all human beings. You inspire me with your actions and words: "The answer is to help others."

I hope to continue to keep Terry's dream alive in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

John Finlay (*Dr. Finlay*, Prime 1993-6, 27 episodes) returns from war service and joins a small, run-down medical practice in rural Scotland. His new life

paves the way for a new National Health Service, and the modernization of the medical practice at Arden House. If you followed *All Creatures Great and Small* with enjoyment, you will love *Dr. Finlay*.

Donald Combe is a re-

tired 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.

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

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COMMENT

Social media is having an influence on nature



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Interestingly, nature itself doesn't know about, let alone understand social media. Unlike humans, it has done just fine without its presence over the past 3.6 billion years, since life has existed on planet earth.

As our species evolved to current day, nature became not only a resource to survive on, but a recreational outlet. In that context, it is now easier than ever to discover an outdoors area than it ever has been.

That is largely thanks to social media, and that piece of technology attached to so many at the hip. What was once performed by keen internet searches, library books and word of mouth is now put on display right at your fingertips. You don't necessarily have to go to a website about local hiking trails, or perhaps a Canadian Geographic magazine highlighting the country's top hikes.

All of this information used to be available exclusively on some sort of nature or environmental platform. Now, the introduction to a new waterfall, a beautiful forest, or a pond to see wildlife with your kids is on full display with Instagram, Facebook and the like. This means that spots are discovered earlier, easier, and more frequently.

This phenomenon comes packaged with circumstances for you, the frogs, and the birds though.

An Instagram image shows only just that, an image. This can instill an immediate sense of wonder, but can be misleading. Sounds like how some people use social media, too!

What the image doesn't show you is what the trail conditions are like, the maps, or what protected species and ecosystems may reside there. For the sake of safety, and respecting biodiversity, it is always best to do your own research on the area in advance.

Take Decew Falls, for example. I often joke and say it's

the Instagram capital of Niagara Region. People want their photo taken in what is arguably the most beautiful waterfall on the peninsula. Jousting for first place with the Niagara Gorge for rescue operations, though, not all is as idyllic and easy as it seems.

You can't simply pull up and walk to the base of this waterfall. It is a dangerous and slippery hike, which at times has you literally clinging to the roots, rocks, and occasional rope along the steep walls. With more people using social media, compounded with the change of behaviour during the lockdown era, Decew Falls has seen more visitors than any time before.

In the past two years, we've seen a breathtaking display of people, particularly from southern Ontario, discovering conservation areas and parks for their first time. This comes with both positive and negative repercussions. You've got more people engaging in healthy activities and fostering a further connection with nature, but it is coupled with more garbage, rescue stories, and the trampling of sensitive environments.

Another case in point is a local trail system up on the Niagara Escarpment here in NOTL. Independent from the Bruce Trail, there is a veiny network of thin trails that are sometimes barely distinguishable. They have been taking lo-

cal walkers and mountain bikers into deeper, quieter parts of the woods for some time now. A theme I've seen unfold is these trails widening over the past couple of years. The soil is more compact, and there is evidence of somebody maintaining the trail by means of tools and cutbacks.

Some quiet places in NOTL's natural spots now have a Google Review, which is a bizarre but fascinating development unto itself. Some of these places won't receive mention in this article, as I don't want to over-promote these hideouts for the sake of the species that live there. It's not a matter of if, but when these places will gain tourism appeal and become busier as a result.

It's like pouring water onto a patio and watching it infiltrate all the cracks and spread about. We are the water, and we are starting to inundate some of the last nature nooks around. I believe social media is an exponential driver of this concept.

As I write this and wrap it up, a notification pops up on my phone from Facebook. It's someone I don't even know. They are posting in a fishing group I follow, politely asking, "Hey, does anyone know a good fishing spot for salmon, 1 - 2 hours drive from Toronto? Thanks."

That is how it begins, and how it continues.



Decew Falls, among many other environmentally sensitive locations, has seen an increase in visitors due to social media usage. (Owen Bjorgan)

Local LETTERS

Former developer concerned by Parliament Oak development

As a retired developer, I find myself concerned by the proposed development of the former school site on King Street.

While a consulting report previously prepared by Megan Hobson states "the property meets one criteria for designation," and while the proponent appears to have agreed to keep the two bas-relief limestone panels by John B. Shaw, that falls far short from any adaptive reuse of this important asset.

What if the buildings formerly comprising the earlier public school (40 Platoff Street) were previously demolished?

Suppose the NOTL Museum on Castlereigh had previously been demolished — wouldn't the town now be poorer?

When my wife and I moved to NOTL in 2014, we were impressed by the foresight of previous town officials who ensured that such buildings were retained and subsequently repurposed for the important uses which occupy them today.

Has anyone acting for the proponent been encouraged

to consider repurposing the likely soon-to-be-demolished yellow brick school? Having worked with design firms like ERA, I value their skills and insight with respect to heritage preservations, but I also know that even the best consultants are frequently subject to ACCI, Appraisal as Per Client Instruction.

I still enjoy an occasional look (with pride) at buildings which I had the opportunity to help restore and which will, I hope, have enduring presence on their streetscapes. The buildings which come to mind are the Canada Life head office on University Avenue, and the Rex Hotel on Queen Street in Toronto.

If we don't keep important and loved buildings, our claim to being the Prettiest Town is lame.

I would like to strongly encourage council and Lord Mayor Betty Disero to seriously consider two thoughts: Why can't the listing school building be repurposed as a residential project, having more appropriate density, and why do we

need to approve such precedent-setting, massive density for this well-loved site? Do we actually want to establish that precedent?

And with the proponent establishing the monthly rental rate, although it will add housing to the town, it will potentially be less affordable than local younger folks might anticipate.

In closing, I distinctly recall participating on a cold winter day in the SOS (Save our School) human chain, which surrounded the Parliament Oak school site.

Remember, "if you don't know your past, you can't know your future."

I suspect that over time most of the Niagara-on-the-Lake residents will ultimately feel poorer, if we allow the proposed, precedent-setting, dense development scheme to proceed.

I hope to hear in September that council does the right thing.

David House
NOTL

Council should proceed cautiously with 135 Queen

Re: Solmar proposal for 135 Queen St.

In September of 2014, I prepared final drawings for a site plan agreement for this property which incorporated an existing heritage building.

A year later, Benny Marotta tore down the heritage building and left hoarding in its place for almost six years.

I understand that council would like to have something other than the hoarding around

this property, but the proposal should be carefully scrutinized by the town to ensure that we're not getting something worse.

Wayne Murray
NOTL

Letters! We want letters!



If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.



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Monologue Derby gives students onstage experience

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

After each performing their emotional, gut-wrenching or humorous monologues for an audience of approximately 50 strong, eight high school-aged students gathered in a backroom at the Court House Theatre to surprise instructor Travis Seetoo with birthday cupcakes.

The poised, mature deliveries by all of his students were probably the icing on the cupcakes for the Shaw ensemble member's 32nd birthday Sunday.

Billed as the Shaw Festival Niagara Region High School Monologue Derby, the afternoon performances were the culmination of a two-week opportunity for the students to work with Seetoo and other theatre professionals in both group and one-on-one sessions.

The idea for the program came out of a discussion with a local high school teacher, who informed Seetoo of the heart-break experienced by students whose drama and musical theatre productions had been shut down by the pandemic. He sympathized, and used his role as an embedded artist with Shaw to give them a chance to do what they love.

In that role, Seetoo has been hired by the festival as a full-time employee, removing some of the uncertainty that usually accompanies a career as a performer.

"Actors at theatres all across the country are contract workers," he explains, "hired for the season and then they're done. This gives us full-time work on three to five-year contracts. It gives us security, and we're not having to spend our time auditioning. It's ideal for actors who also have interest in other parts of the building."

Seetoo's interests beyond the stage have always revolved around education. He pitched his idea to work with students to education department members Suzanne Merriam, Megan Gilchrist and Warren Bain. They loved the idea and reached

out to others at Shaw, including actors Kiera Sangster and Kris-topher Bowman, and head of wardrobe Jason Bendig.

They put the call out via social media and connections with local high school drama teachers. Then they set about collecting audition submissions from interested students ranging from Grades 9 to 11. Those chosen were given a truly immersive experience, completely free of charge.

"We did all of our sessions in person, at the amazing facilities at the Shaw," Seetoo explains. "We were in the Festival Theatre, the Studio Theatre, we've been in all the rehearsal halls. I was able to give them backstage tours, they met a bunch of actors. We had really good COVID protocols."

Both weeks were bookended by four-hour group sessions, during which the aspiring actors learned about preparation techniques, the use of voice, projection, and interpreting theatrical text.

"These are really, really important things for students to know," Seetoo stresses. "A lot of these students are going to be auditioning for universities or community theatre productions. I'm trying to give them all the tools that they will need to successfully work on a monologue and have a good audition."

In addition to the group sessions, each student received two individual coaching sessions with either Seetoo or another member of the Shaw ensemble. These sessions focused on honing their monologue deliveries in preparation for the Aug. 29 performance date.

Another highlight for the students was getting to see a performance of *Flush* at the Royal George Theatre.

Of the seven girls and one boy who participated, Seetoo says two had no prior on-stage experience.

"I've just been so impressed with how much they've grown," Seetoo says. "Their voices are bigger, they've got really, really



Backstage are all eight participants, Hope Mercer, Breanna Lyszak, Azka Siddiq, Emily Fulton, Hannah Baechler, Sebastian Mocchio, Hannah Dim, and Tayler DenBak. (Mike Balsom)

good command of their text. They've told me they don't want it to end."

Hope Mercer is heading back to Eden High School next week for Grade 11. She chose to deliver a monologue in Juliet's voice from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

"I tried to relate the character to me and go from there," she said Sunday, following her performance. "Once I broke down the monologue and connected the words to what I would say in real life, that helped a lot."

Mercer hopes to use what she learned the past two weeks in her drama classes at Eden this fall.

The lone boy in the program, 16-year-old Sebastian Mocchio, also attends Eden and, like Mercer, has performed with Niagara-on-the-Lake's Yellow Door Theatre Company. His father Eric, a teacher at the same school, is happy his son had a chance to get back onstage.

"He really enjoyed the group activities," Eric said. "That was a great way to break the ice, not having to do individual things in front of each other right away. And the individual acting workshops with Travis were an amazing experience for him. He was able to capture more of his character that he was supposed to play."

"Coming out of the pandemic, without having this kind of outlet," Eric continued,

"this has been a game-changer for him. His demeanour went from pandemic blahs to being this kid full of energy and passion again, because he got to be performing."

Sebastian's monologue was from Canadian playwright Anne Chislett's *Quiet in the Land*, about a young Amish man who enlists during the First World War. On his return to Canada, having killed a German in the war, he deals with his father and his girlfriend who are devastated by what he has done.

Mocchio delivered the lines with the urgency of a young man desperate to win back the respect of his community.

"The pride of seeing my boy get into a character where, I don't think he's ever felt that emotion before," his father said. "It was really cool to see him be able to portray something I've never seen him be able to do. It had me feeling the feels because of it."

Seventeen-year old Hannah Baechler chose *Amnesia*, a monologue written by a 16-year-old Calgary high school student. For Baechler, who will be attending St. Joseph's College School in Toronto, isolating just one part of a play was something she had never done before.

"It was very different focusing on monologues by themselves," she said. "They really focus on the details. It's not

something I'm used to, which was really challenging. With just the monologue, you only have so many minutes to let the audience know what the story is all about."

The enthusiasm of the participants was matched by Seetoo, who at 32 could have easily passed himself off as one of the students. For the former National Ballet School student, the three-week program was important for building bridges, "not just for the kids, but for the Shaw as well," he says, "to connect to the talented people in our own area. We really need to focus on the people in our

own backyard. It's important for us to show them what this is all about. They might want to work here one day, as actors or in other areas. It's a huge cultural centre."

"I take it very seriously," Seetoo continues, "that I should take the initiative to do projects that are beneficial to the Shaw and our community. And the fact that they are performing at the Court House, where it all started for Shaw, it brings the past and the future together in one place."

Seetoo hopes the Monologue Derby becomes an annual event at Shaw Festival.



The group prepares for their Sunday performance at the Court House. (Photo supplied)





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Hannah Baechler poses with Shaw actor Travis Seetoo. (Photo supplied)

Eye Doc expecting job action to go forward

Penny Coles
The Local

Dr. Marianne Hopkins will be at her Eye Doc clinic on Mary Street Wednesday, as she has been throughout the pandemic, even when her services were deemed non-essential and she had to close her doors.

The optometrist won't have to close her doors, but she won't be seeing patients whose eye care is covered by OHIP.

"We're going forward with the job action," she said Tuesday morning, unless something happens before the end of the day to make it unnecessary for optometrists across Ontario to withdraw their services until the province agrees to fund OHIP-insured eye care services, at least to the cost of delivering those services.

Optometrists have for years been subsidizing about 50 per cent of the cost of eye tests for children and seniors. Those appointments are covered by OHIP, but are drastically underfunded, says Hopkins.

The Ontario Association of Optometrists has been trying for decades to change that, and recently has been looking for

third party mediation with the Ministry of Health, but at least up to the last minute, that hasn't happened.

The OAO said in a press release it "remains committed to the principle that any agreement must ensure that, at a minimum, the compensation that an optometrist receives for providing insured services covers the overhead and operating costs of those services. Until the government commits to this principle, the Sept. 1 deadline for service withdrawal remains in place."

In recent months, a campaign by the OAO saw about 100,000 patients send letters to the ministry, asking the government to fund OHIP-insured eye care to the cost of delivery, which includes annual eye tests for children, seniors and some people who suffer from diseases, such as diabetes, that affect their vision, says Hopkins.

The Ministry of Health agreed to meet with the OAO on Aug. 5, said the press release, and the OAO proposed a formal negotiation process, including a commitment that optometrists no longer be forced to subsidize the delivery of eye care to OHIP

patients.

"This principle of cost recovery was immediately rejected by the Ministry. After one meeting, the Ministry declared an impasse," the statement said.

Dr. Richard Saari of the OAO said Tuesday there had been no talks for about a week, when the Ministry of Health went public with the discussions that were occurring at the bargaining table.

He didn't expect anything further that might call off the job action, he said, "given the government hasn't agreed to solve the problem."

While optometrists can continue to see patients, they won't be able to see those who are under 20, over 65, or who have illnesses that affect their eyes, in which case their eye care is covered by OHIP.

There are only about 2,400 optometrists in Ontario, and they don't get the same attention from the government as other health providers, says Hopkins. "We're just a small group, but we're in this together now."

In 2020, Hopkins bought the Mary Street practice of Dr. Kim Robertson Woods, who is still a part of the clinic, which has five

doctors, and supports 13 families, including those of staff.

There has been little increase in OHIP payments for eye care in the last 30 years, Hopkins says, and 85 per cent of the patients they see at her office are funded through OHIP.

"It's affecting my business in a huge way. This is a battle for down the road, to have sustainable eye care for the most vulnerable. That's important to us," says Hopkins.

"We shouldn't have to run at a loss for providing a service."

But the province, and not just the current government, but going back almost three decades, "ignores that. Other medical professionals have the ability to negotiate. We don't have the ability to table our concerns."

Early in the pandemic, optometrists were not considered essential, and Hopkins says she sat in her office, making herself available to see patients in emergency situations, although the Mary Street doors were closed. "I can tell you, we are essential. I saw emergency patients I wouldn't want to see go to the hospital and be misdiagnosed"



Dr. Marianne Hopkins

The amount OHIP pays for eye tests wasn't sustainable before the pandemic, "and it's definitely not during the pandemic," she says. "And it's not done yet, not back to normal yet."

In addition to overhead and staffing, the equipment an optometrist relies on now is expensive. "We've become a very medical practice. Our patients know what kind of care they're getting, because we do things very thoroughly."

Hopkins says she has had "overwhelming support" from people who have been amazing, and very loyal to the office. For their sake, she hopes this will be settled soon.

"I don't have any idea when this job action will be over. I'm certainly hopeful it will be sooner rather than later. In the meantime, I'll be talking to people on the phone, and seeing emergencies when needed. Other than that, we'll be taking it day by day."



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Don't Call ONLY Me When Selling Your Home!

Submitted by
ReMax Greg Sykes

When preparing to sell your home it's very important to consider getting more than one realtor to assess your home. I recommend getting 2 or 3 experienced

realtors in to assess your home, ask them to share with you their marketing plan and discuss their tactical strategies and options to pricing and presenting your home on the market!

It is important to find a

LOCAL realtor who you have chemistry with, who you feel understands your goals and objectives and who will be pleasant to work with.

The realtor you choose to work for you will be somebody you have to speak with likely each day or sometimes multiple times a day for what could be several weeks, so choosing a realtor you feel you can get along with is of the utmost importance. It's also a great idea to make sure that the realtor you choose is going to use professional photos, professional video, local, regional and international marketing strategies, professional staging (I use The Luxury Stager – Lisa McIntee – to stage my listings) etc.

There are many factors to consider who to choose when selling, but the MAIN point here is to get a second and even third opinion as to what the value of your home truly is!

Most realtors are willing to do a market evaluation/assessment of your home

absolutely FREE of charge.

Over the years I've worked with hundreds of different real estate agents all throughout the region and the GTA. Here are four other local standout realtors who I have loved working with and who know our beautiful town of Niagara-on-the-Lake very, very well.

- 1. Doug Rempel, of Bosley Real Estate
- 2. Tom Elltoft, NOTL

- 3. Debi Chewerda, of ReMax Niagara Realty
- 4. Andrew Perrie of Revel Realty

Consider two or three of us when you need an opinion of value of your home. Once you have met with a couple of great realtors, obtained their opinion of value and evaluated who you feel is the best fit to work with, you can then move forward with total confidence

and peace of mind knowing that you have done your due diligence in selecting the best realtor for you!

Thanks for reading and if you have any real estate related questions, call or text me anytime directly at 905-329-3484 and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have!

Greg Sykes
TheSykesTeam.com
905.329.3484



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41 Melville St.



This luxury freehold end unit home has THREE balconies with spectacular water views, overlooking the Niagara River and the NOTL sailing club, boasts three finished levels, MAIN FLOOR has a beautiful den with a murphy bed included which makes for a perfect THIRD bedroom if needed, FOUR bathrooms with floor to ceiling Italian marble, double shower heads in main bath, a high end kitchen with upscale appliances and a view of the Toronto skyline and balcony number 3 off the kitchen has a gas bbq line. Top quality hardwood floors, TWO floor to ceiling stone gas fireplaces, updated gas furnace and central air in 2020, natural stone and Cedar exterior, an attached single car garage PLUS a dedicated parking spot directly behind the home, street parking out front and a public parking lot behind lot line. This executive luxury townhome has an elevator rough in, is located within walking distance to the finest hotels, shops, restaurants, theatres, wineries, nature trails, the Niagara River Parkway, a short drive to the US/CANADA Border, Niagara and Buffalo Airports and just 20KM to the world famous Niagara Falls. This is a RARE opportunity to BUY, to LIVE, to VACATION, and to ANCHOR in the RIVER BEACH area of the best small town in the country. Come and fall in love! Yearly common element fee of just \$1,100 covers all your snow removal expenses and gardening!

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GREG SYKES real estate TEAM

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CELEBRATION OF NATIONS

Niagara's 5th annual Indigenous arts gathering celebrates creativity, diversity and resilience

**Submitted by
First Ontario
Performing Arts Centre**

Celebration of Nations, the Niagara region's highly regarded gathering of Indigenous Arts, Culture and Tradition has announced the full schedule for its hybrid edition of in-person programming at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre as well as virtual offerings from 10 – 12 September 2021.

"Since COVID-19 emerged, it has become even more clear how important community and the arts are to maintaining healthy minds and hearts," said Artistic Director Michele-Elise Burnett. "Artists are often at the forefront of speaking truth to power while also providing purpose for humans to gather to fulfill our ancient and ingrained need for connection. I am thrilled that we are able to provide this hybrid edition to once again bring community together to learn, share and reflect on the deep wisdom of Indigenous cultures."

Tickets are on sale now for

two in-person concert experiences in Partridge Hall, a first for the FirstOntario PAC since last fall. Kicking it off is Friday's concert event *TREATY: A Reconciliation Revelry*, a new creation by Celebration of Nations Artistic Producer Tim Johnson that features an ensemble of renowned and award-winning Indigenous and allied musicians coupled with filmed reflections on reconciliation and the Indigenous experience.

"The program's stories and messages, conveyed through video, narrative and music are situated in the realm of contemporary issues and events, but that provide audiences with historical context for understanding Indigenous experiences and Indigenous realities today," said Artistic Producer Tim Johnson. "Brief film segments featuring Indigenous and Canadian leaders in civil society, education, culture and the arts speak to the themes, thereby building a story that seeks to pave the way forward for Truth and Reconciliation."

Saturday's concert experience features an evening with prominent Indigenous singer/songwriters Amanda Rheame and Logan Staats with an opening from Strong Water Women. Limited tickets are available for both in-person concert experiences.

The 2021 workshop series offers hands-on opportunities to learn from skilled, Indigenous artists and Knowledge Keepers. In partnership with 101 Deweguns Living Hearts Legacy, four sanding workshops will take place over the weekend. Please visit celebrationofnations.ca to view and register for creative workshops ranging from FREE to \$15 per participant.

The festival will conclude Sunday with *Drums Across Canada*, a call-and-answer with four other Canadian communities starting at 4 p.m. on St. Paul Street.

Throughout the weekend, safe and free activities have been planned in the backyard of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, where our Sacred Fire will also burn,

officiated by Indigenous Elders with Sunrise Ceremonies each day, and cared for by faithful Firekeepers Fred Bowering and Brian Kon.

Highlights include a very special, FREE, not-to-be-missed presentation of Cris Derksen's Orchestral Powwow featuring Chippewa Travellers and members of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra on Saturday 11 September at 4pm. And among still many other programs, Victoria Poet Laureate Janet Marie Rogers returns to curate and perform the Empathic Poetry Café live in the backyard with a group of creative and expressive Indigenous writers at 6pm that evening. Saturday's program will be hosted by One Dish, One Mic, the popular radio show that explores Indigenous issues from CKTB 610 AM.

Celebration of Nations is an opportunity for local, national, and international visitors to actively participate in an inclusive and engaging community gathering that fosters a greater sense of belonging, support of mean-

ingful reconciliation, and that engenders a lasting legacy of goodwill. The 2020 virtual edition attracted more than 36,000 viewers from across the globe.



Cris Derksen's Orchestral Powwow free performance on Saturday, September 11 at 4 pm. (Photo by Tanja Tiziana)

**For info and tickets visit
www.celebrationofnations.ca**

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Jazz pianist featured in backyard concert

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Adrean Farrugia is striking while the ivories are hot.

The jazz pianist appears with drummer Ernesto Cervini and bassist Jon Maharaj this Friday, Sept. 3 for the TD Niagara Jazz Festival's In Your Own Backyard Dinner and a Show. The gig at Shady Acres follows a week spent tutoring youth at the Interprovincial Music Camp in McKellar, Ontario.

One day back from the camp and on his way to the Stratford Summer Music Festival to play with trumpeter Jens Lindemann, a member of the Order of Canada and professor at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music, Farrugia calls while on the road.

"It's great to be back playing live," he says. "I think we all have that mentality, performers, club owners, festival organizers, we're trying to squeeze in as many things as we can because things feel a little tenuous right now."

Though he says he's not booking too far ahead, his September includes gigs at the Rex Hotel and the Jazz Bistro in Toronto, as well as a date in California, his first time playing in the U.S. since the pandemic began. He'll be scheduling those in between his responsibilities with the music faculties at the University of Toronto

and both Humber and Mohawk Colleges.

As well, he'll be hitting the recording studio with bassist Roberto Occhipinti and drummer Larnell Lewis. On top of all of that, he's also packing up his Hamilton home in preparation for a September move back to Toronto.

Busy times for sure. But Farrugia loves it. Especially the live gigs in front of audiences happy to be out enjoying jazz once again.

"It's a big reminder about how meaningful all of this is," he says. "There's a special kind of energy when performer and listener are in the same place. It creates this feedback loop that is so important."

Like many musicians, during the pandemic Farrugia shifted to online concerts, including one in May, 2020 for the TD Niagara Jazz Festival's Live, Love, Jazz series.

"It's great that we are in a place where technology allowed us to offer these online shows," he tells The Local, "but there's nothing that can replace the experience of playing in front of a live audience."

Farrugia is about as versatile a jazz pianist as is possible. He's performed or recorded with the likes of Ernie Watts, Larry Carlton, Tom Scott, Bob Brookmeyer, Randy Brecker, Molly Johnson, Jane Bunnett, Kenny Wheeler and

Pat Labarbera.

As band leader he has released four albums, the most recent 2018's *Blue Dharma*, a duo recording with American saxophonist Joel Frahm. Featuring five original compositions and two covers, it's a collection that shows off the melodic interplay between sax and piano, with the two long-time collaborators both inspiring and challenging each other on each track.

Farrugia and Frahm are both core members of drummer Cervini's band Turboprop, a sextet that won the 2020 Juno Award for Jazz Album of the Year (Group) for their 2019 release *Abundance*. They're known to be an energetic, electrifying and innovative combo in the vein of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers.

"They are two of my oldest friends," Farrugia says of Cervini and Maharaj, who make up his trio this weekend. "And they're two of the very best in the country. We'll be featuring some of my own music for this show, and probably some other well-known compositions."

Farrugia has become a mainstay of sorts with the TD Niagara Jazz Festival, having appeared in the region on many occasions and in a variety of configurations. He's thankful to be invited back to Niagara.

"Juliet (Dunn) and Peter



Adrean Farrugia will be appear in Friday's TD Niagara Jazz Festival dinner and show. (Photo supplied)

(Shea) have done a lot of stuff for the music scene," he enthuses. "They're amazing. They have single-handedly generated a music scene in the area, and have provided musicians with some great opportunities to play."

Asked when he might record the follow-up to *Blue Dharma*, Farrugia expects that this month's burst of activity

might provide the catalyst.

"I'm hoping that the momentum builds," he says, "and it will inspire me to write some new music so I can eventually record some new material."

This Friday's concert takes place literally in the backyard, at Shady Acres, located on Arthur Street in St. Catharines. Tickets for the VIP-exclusive dinner and show are \$99 +

HST, and are available in limited quantities.

As well, groups of up to six can reserve an entire tent for either \$529 or \$559. A three-course dinner is being provided by Giganti Events and Catering. The performance will proceed rain or shine.

For tickets and information, visit niagarajazzfestival.com.

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- Repeal vaccine mandates and regular testing for federal civil servants and workers in federally regulated industries.
- Repeal vaccine passports for travellers.
- Oppose vaccine mandates, vaccine passports, and other authoritarian measures imposed by provincial governments, and support individuals and groups that challenge such measures in court.
- Support emergency provincial measures to protect the most vulnerable, but stop bailing out provinces that impose economically destructive lockdowns.
- Support medical research and development of therapies to treat Covid-19 and other viral diseases.

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Royal Oak prepares for safe reopening

Penny Coles
The Local

When Royal Oak Community School opens next week for the new school year,



The Grade 6 students will have a brand new classroom when school starts next week. (Photos supplied)

it is prepared to do so safely.

Head of school Julia Murray says there has been independent thought and discussions about “how to protect our children, who can’t

protect themselves.”

All staff and any volunteers who come into the school will be fully vaccinated, she says. “It’s one thing we can control to protect our children.”

They’ve also done upgrades, adding Hepa filters to every classroom, and a UV filter system for the whole building to protect against the spread of infection.

Classes will still be kept to cohorts, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 and Grades 5 to 8, she says, each cohort under 40 students.

There is still room for students in Grades 1 and 2, so the school is offering a 50 per cent

discount for new students in those grades, says Murray.

The school will continue to offer synchronous learning, as it did last year, with 50-inch TVs allowing teachers and students in the classroom to engage with students who are learning from home.

If any of their students has to quarantine at home, says Murray, it will be an easy transition for them.

The school has more space this year, and in addition to plexiglass between desks and students, they are better able to spread out.

If there is a fourth wave from the Delta variant, she

says, “I feel really confident the protections we have in about our small school, and place.”



Royal Oak teachers engage in professional development around curriculum planning.

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Flag raised on childhood cancer awareness

Penny Coles
The Local

Patti and John Bauer don't miss an opportunity to raise awareness and funding to help find a cure for childhood cancer.

They know only too well the pain of watching a much-loved child battle cancer, only to lose that child to cancer.

Their goal is to help save children and their families from the heartbreak they have experienced, by helping to fund better treatment protocols, and ultimately find a cure for childhood cancer.

It's been a decade since their beautiful daughter Miranda, just 16, was diagnosed with stage 4 alveolar rhabdomyosarcomas, an aggressive form of cancer. The protocol used to treat Miranda was the first breakthrough in 30 years, her mother Patti told a small crowd gathered at the town hall in Virgil Monday.

For the first time, at the request of Patti, who recently became a staff member at the town, a flag was raised at the town hall to recognize September as the month for awareness of childhood cancer.

"We are doing these flag-raising in five communities to raise awareness for children who are diagnosed with cancer, who are fighting cancer, or who cancer has stolen from this world," said Patti. "Our Miranda is one who was stolen."

She was an amazing

daughter, says Patti, "a dotting big sister, granddaughter, and best friend. Her favourite things in the world were her brother, her dog, and butterflies."

Just as Patti started to speak, a monarch butterfly flitted around the crowd, a reminder, she says, of Miranda, and the message of all that is important to her family now that she's gone.

And as she finishes speaking, she explains the beautiful, intricate tattoo on her arm, of Miranda, a butterfly, and the tears that have been shed since her death.

While Miranda was being treated at Sick Kids in Toronto, she learned that just four per cent of research funds raised goes to children's cancer research, and she decided to do something about it.

She hosted a fundraiser in June 2012, and raised more than \$10,000, which was donated to research to cure children's cancer.

As a patient ambassador, she was in a 'You got it' media campaign, and appeared in TV commercials and photos in the downtown subway stations.

Miranda, says her mom, designed T-shirts to use for that year's Rally for Kids with Cancer in Toronto, "and we still sell them today, along with other fundraising swag," with all the funds raised from selling these items going to a designated and monitored, named research fund at Sick Kids, called Remember Miranda T8294.

In 2013, Miranda re-

ceived the Spirit Award for her efforts, and her plaque hangs in Donor Hall at Sick Kids.

"But all of this wasn't enough for her to beat cancer. We lost our girl . . . the world lost our girl March 27, 2013. She was 17 years, six months and five days old."

"We will not let her efforts die with her," says Patti. "We still raise funds for research in her memory, and now we also raise flags to raise awareness for the month of September. We are trying to make a world where childhood cancer doesn't destroy families, where children are not given harsh, toxic, dangerous treatments, where childhood cancer will be obliterated."

There has been almost \$145,000 deposited to Miranda's fund to date, Patti says, despite the fact that an annual fundraiser has not been held during COVID. Patti and John have continued what Miranda started, raising funds exclusively for research, and having to be creative during the pandemic. A recent raffle, extensively promoted on social media, raised about \$10,000, and the family anticipates being able to hold their annual event at John Michael in Thorold by next April, if all goes well with the lifting of pandemic capacity restrictions. Past events have attracted between 250 and 400 people, says Patti.

She encourages people to visit the mirandasmiraclesfun.com website, and to become monthly donors to the



Miranda Bauer was about six weeks away from a cancer diagnosis when this picture was taken, and her family had no idea what was ahead of them.

Hospital for Sick Children.

Also at the Virgil flag raising, wearing one of the T-shirts designed by Miranda, was Christine van Rijn-Davis, and her nine-year-old son Miller.

The Davis family of NOTL lost their little Claire Bear, Claire Marguerite Davis, in September, 2010. She was just two months old, the youngest patient her McMaster Hospital doctor had seen lose her life in childhood, says Christine, as Miller, nine, clung to a little wooden box with Claire's photo on it — his mother likes to keep the box close by, so Claire can be with her family.

Christine, a teacher, taught Miranda in elementary school, then met Patti after she had lost her daughter.

Christine says although September is childhood cancer awareness month, and also the month of the Terry Fox Run, "it's not something that's talked about in schools, or when we talk about Terry Fox," she says. He died of osteosarcoma at 18. Osteosarcoma is a childhood cancer, adds Christine, and he was really just a child, running as he did to stop the suffering of the children he had met at the hospital when he was undergoing treatment for his own cancer.

Christine and Patti both expressed appreciation to

the town of NOTL for the flag-raising, to remind people of the need to fund research to cure childhood cancer, and said they hoped it would become an annual event.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero assured them it would.

"This month, and throughout the year, it is important to take time to honour the children currently battling cancer, the families who love them, the

survivors of childhood cancer, and those who lost their lives to childhood cancer," she said.

"It's also important to remember the clinicians and caregivers treating children, and the researchers working to conquer childhood cancer," said Disero.

"Our community supports you, and all those who are working so hard to find cures to childhood cancer."



The Childhood Cancer Awareness flag was raised at the town hall Monday, with Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Curtis Collard, Patti and John Bauer, and Miller Davis, 9, whose sister died of cancer at just two months old. (Penny Coles)



Throughout the ceremony at the town hall, Miller Davis clutched Claire's box that stays close to the family, where she belongs, says their mom Christine.



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First Little Library coming to St. Davids park

Penny Coles
The Local

St. Davids is about to join more than 100,000 communities around the world with its first Free Little Library, designed to help promote a love of reading.

At a recent event for members, the Friends of St. Davids unveiled the first such library for the village, to be installed soon in Sparky's Park, on the corner of Tanbark Road and Warner Road, in the shade shelter.

Lili Revas-Kvederys, a member of the FOSD, came up with the idea, and will be the steward of the library for the first year.

Leslie Mann, another member of the group, came on board with the idea and built the first library to look like a historic home in St. Davids.

Revas-Kvederys says she has seen them around the world, and been "mesmerized" by the concept of how they work and what they bring to a community.

A lover of books herself, living in a village with a growing population of young families, she says she thought it would be a great idea to provide the first Free Little Library, and see



Greg Walker, Leslie Mann, Lili Revas-Kvederys, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and Brad Lounsbury of Woodbourne Inn, show off the first Free Little Library to be installed on municipal property in St. Davids. (Photos by David Gilchrist)

if there is an interest in using it.

As steward, Revas-Kvederys will be tasked with keeping the two shelves of the little library stocked

with appropriate books, to be borrowed by passersby.

The goal is to promote literacy and the love of reading, while building a sense of community, with a "take

a book, return a book" policy, that offers an opportunity for neighbours to share their favourites. Revas-Kvederys will keep her eye on what is most popular, with a mix of selections for all adults and children.

There will be no shortage of books to stock its little shelves, she says. Her daughter, a teacher, has already donated about 100 books, and others have also given her books. She will watch the selection, checking it about once a week to make sure it's kept filled.

Equipped with solar lighting, and close to the St. Davids Firehall, the library is in a safe place, she says, as well as one that will be seen by passersby, and by families using the park.

"It's a location that will be seen by people when they're out for a walk, and by children when they're playing."

There are more than 42

million books in little libraries around the world, in more than 100 countries, says Revas-Kvederys.

This Free Little Library is registered and official, part of a movement which began in 2009 by a man in Wisconsin, who built a model of a one-room schoolhouse, filled it with books and put it out in his front yard. He did it as a tribute to his mother, a former school teacher who loved reading. When he discovered how popular it was, he kept building them and giving them away, to be stocked with free books.

He eventually formed a not-for profit company that offers library kits with several different designs, a sign, a registration process so the library can be included on a Google map that locates them world-wide, and all the information anyone could need to successfully operate it.

The Friends of St. Da-

vids, says Revas-Kvederys, is a social group, but one that wants to give back to the community.

Because this particular little library will be on town-owned property, she says, she needed permission from the town, and it will be there as a year-long pilot project.

If it's something the community seems to want and use, "we'll look at whether we should go forward with more, and we encourage residents, if they feel there's a need, to put one out at their homes."

She envisions, now that it seems safe to meet, having reading events and maybe another book club, in partnership with the library, but this is a start, a "baby step" for St. Davids, she says.

"We're excited about all we can do through the Friends of St. Davids. It's a way for us to give back to the community."



Fran Berry, Gail Skene, Susan Pearson, Dorothy Walker, Julie Kane and (back) Allan Cobham and Greg Walker, Friends of St. Davids gardening group, celebrate their ability to gather again.



Musician David Rusch entertains at the FOSD celebration.



Food for the Friends of St. Davids celebration was provided by Kent Farms.

Local COVERAGE: Federal Election 2021

Candidates answer questions about top issues

Penny Coles The Local

Niagara Falls riding candidates were asked four questions, regarding specific plans for pandemic recovery, especially for tourism and hospitality industries; federal vaccination passports; priorities for improving health care; and climate change action. These are their answers:

Tony Baldinelli, Conservative party

On pandemic recovery: To get our residents back to work, we need to focus on hardest hit sectors, such as tourism and hospitality. Once the Canada Emergency Wage subsidy (CEWS) ends in October, Canada's Conservatives will introduce the Canada Job Surge Plan to get people back to work. A Conservative government will pay at least 25 per cent of the salary of net new hires for six months after CEWS expires. To help those who have been unemployed long-term, our plan will cover up to 50 per cent of the salary for those who have been unemployed for 6 months or more. The salary maximum will be the same as CEWS.

Sectors such as our grape and wine industry need clarity and certainty, which has been missing since the government's loss of the excise exemption on 100 per cent Canadian made-wine. Promises of two years of funding have been made, yet I am hearing the first year's commitment is inadequate to meet the needs of the sector. We also need a trade compliant replacement support program to the excise exemption.

On vaccination passports: Our position with respect to vaccines is a balanced one. Ultimately, Canadians have the right to make their own health choices. Vaccines are a safe and effective tool to stop the spread of COVID-19 and we encourage everyone who is able to, to get one. For those not vaccinated, rapid testing is needed to help protect our most vulnerable.

A Conservative government will require federal public servants who aren't vaccinated to pass a daily rapid test. Within our federally regulated sectors, we will require unvaccinated Canadian passengers to present a recent negative test result or pass a rapid test before getting on a train, plane, or ship.

Our party supports a streamlined system that helps Canadians verify their vaccine status when travelling abroad. It is up to foreign governments to establish their own vaccination rules for travellers. In terms of provincial rules, we will respect the right of provincial

governments to implement and manage their own public health guidelines.

Health care priorities: My wife and I personally know the importance of our healthcare system, as my son was born prematurely, and spent 138 days in hospital, following his birth at only 25 weeks. I can assure you Canada's Conservatives are 100 per cent committed to the principle of universal healthcare access. That's why Canada's Recovery Plan includes increases to provincial healthcare funding. In fact, under our plan, we will inject \$60 billion into our healthcare system over the next ten years. That is a six per cent increase per year, while the Liberals are only increasing them by three per cent. Also, the 2021 federal Liberal budget contained more than \$100 billion in new spending, but there was no increase in health transfers, at all.

A central pillar of our five-point recovery plan also focuses on securing mental health, through the creation of a Canadian Mental Health Action Plan. We will address the mental health crisis by recognizing that mental health is health and making historic investments to help those in need.

On the high cost of housing: Housing affordability must be restored! Our younger generation must be able to have a fair opportunity to realize the dream of home ownership. We are not building enough homes to keep up with Canada's growing population. This is a big part of why homes are getting harder and harder for Canadians to afford. To increase supply, our plan calls for 1 million homes to be built in the next three years. To do so we will release 15 per cent of the 37,000 buildings/real estate owned by the federal government for new homes to be built. We will leverage future infrastructure investments to build more homes near publicly funded transit. We will provide more Canadians with a path to homeownership by making it easier for families to get a mortgage. We will work to ban foreign investors from buying homes if they are not planning to move to Canada. We will also address the soaring cost of renting a home by partnering with municipalities and the private sector to bring new rental units into the market.

On climate change: Canada's Conservatives have a serious plan to combat climate change that allows us to meet our targets and reduce our emissions by 2030. In fact, Michael Bernstein, executive director of Clean Prosperity, called the plan "a credible path to meeting Canada's

2030 Paris target."

Within our proposed climate change plan, a Conservative government would scrap the federal carbon tax and work with the provinces to implement an innovative personal low Carbon Savings Account. This would maintain a consumer price on carbon but, without one penny going to the government. Our plan commits to requiring that 15 per cent of the natural gas we use to fuel transit fleets, generate electricity, power industry, and heat homes and businesses be renewable by 2030.

The plan also seeks to work with the U.S., to set minimum North American standards for key industrial sectors. We will study border carbon tariffs to prevent leakage of emissions - and jobs - to countries with lower environmental and emissions standards. We will get more zero-emission vehicles on the road, develop markets for Canadian nuclear technology and natural gas, and rapidly accelerate the deployment of Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage, to ensure we meet our goals.

Brian Barker, NDP

On economic recovery: As we build back from the COVID crisis, our economic recovery cannot depend on creating gig jobs or low wage jobs. The platform we released details our plans to create more than a million good jobs in the first mandate by building back through a green recovery that takes on the climate crisis. This includes a job-creation plan that is paired with access to training and education for work in the low-carbon field and supports for those who need it in a changing economy. The NDP was clear that budget 2021 did not provide enough support for the tourism industry, which specifically requires support to make visitors feel safe and encourage them to come back to Niagara. Our plan calls for direct support to kick-start that sector of the economy and have them back on their feet, fully staffed and as safe as possible in our first months.

On vaccination passports: We support vaccination passport and certification systems as a way to finally put an end to this pandemic. The contagious nature of the Delta variant means we must take extra care to implement systems that respect the sacrifice Canadians have gone through to end this pandemic and to protect the most vulnerable; a vaccine certificate meets those criteria. The system proposed by Justin

Trudeau will create various passport systems across the country with little cohesion, especially for those travelling between provinces. That system will be needlessly frustrating and confusing. We believe the federal government should propose a nationally unified passport system that covers the provinces and is as simple and easy as possible. The federal government must take the lead here and work with provinces to create as few barriers as possible to those who took the responsible step of getting vaccinated.

On health care: It's time to end the decades-long cuts to our public system. Our healthcare system saves money when people get care early - which is why we're going to expand coverage to include dental care, prescription drugs and mental healthcare. Too many critical services now fall outside of the universal coverage system and people are struggling to access the services that are covered. We're going to ensure your health card gets you coverage, not your credit card. We're also investing in attracting more nurses and doctors. We'll partner with the provinces to tackle wait times and improve primary care access across the country. Seniors who need care in our system will see reduced wait-times and care that focuses on their health, not on profits that can be made on them, especially when it comes to healthcare in long-term care settings. It's time to remove the stresses that are compounding on our universal system and rebuild it as a public system we're all confident in.

On the high cost of housing: In February, the average home price in the town was \$967,000, up from \$470,141 in 2015. In Niagara Falls, the average rent for a one-bedroom was \$1,500 this summer. At these prices our kids will never be able to grow up in the same communities that we raised them in, and it's causing them to leave. Simply put, this system is not sustainable for those raising families here in Niagara. Too often this is being driven by big developers who don't care about what happens to the communities they're building in, destroying what we love about our communities. Our plan is comprehensive, but it begins by putting people to work building 500,000 affordable homes, lifting GST off home builds that meet affordability standards, creating a rental support fund in the immediate future and funding supports to help non-profits buy properties to keep communities affordable. This crisis has gotten worse year after year, if we want different

results we need to make different choices.

On climate change: Climate change is an issue parties and candidates list as a priority to them, and yet many voters are concerned that it won't translate into action. What action would you take first to address climate change?

What we're facing now is a climate emergency. Temperatures across Canada are smashing records, wildfires are raging uncontrolled and, in some cases, burning down entire cities. Smoke from those fires is literally blotting out the sun in cities hundreds of kilometres away. Unaddressed, the crisis will change the growing conditions rapidly here in Niagara-on-the-Lake affecting farmers and growers. Our plan reduces emissions to 50% of 2005 levels by 2030 and is net-zero by 2050. We will hold the biggest polluters accountable and create a Climate Accountability Office to engage the public on achieving our goals and reviewing government policy with climate targets in mind. We will move to electrify public transit and shift subsidies from big oil to those in the clean and renewable energy sector. Above all, we will act on those goals with the emergency speed that is necessary to try and stop the damage that is being done every day.

Melanie Holm, Green Party

On economic recovery: The Green Party is committed to a just and green recovery, meaning no one is left behind, and the environment doesn't suffer further degradation due to our recovery efforts. When the tourism sector suffers, that impacts the whole community. Many citizens in the region depend on this industry for their livelihood, so supporting a Guaranteed Livable Income would actually support the seasonality of these industries. If they can't employ people year around, a GLI would support people during the offseason or shoulder seasons. I would also like to see further investment in ecotourism; I think we are positioned to be leaders in this area too with our organic wineries and agriculture, hiking, biking, fishing, etc.

On vaccination passports: We already have immunization records for our children, so I'm not sure where the outrage on vaccination passports comes from, or how this really differs. There are some people who are not vaccinated for valid reasons, so I feel we do need to stress that vaccination passports are a temporary measure in this situation that would be in place to protect both the unvaccinated and the wider

community. I don't know if a federal program is really the answer, but I do see how it would simplify things and enable continued travel between regions and provinces.

On health care: I will advocate for Pharmacare to be included as part of our public health care. The Green Party would like to see the formation of a crown corporation to bulk purchase and dispense prescription drugs and provide much needed coverage for the Canadians forced to pay out of pocket. We will treat drug addiction as a health issue, not a criminal issue, and support community-based programs for prevention and rehabilitation. Also, I believe mental health is a huge contributor to many problems we are facing as a society and I will work to provide more accessible support for mental health care.

On affordable housing: The Green Party is advocating for free tuition so when students finish school they are not faced with a huge debt, making it easier for them to save for a home. Housing is a right; everyone has a right to live with security, peace, and dignity. We need to create a National Housing Strategy that includes input from all levels of government and Indigenous communities. We need to invest in co-op and non-profit housing. We will create a task force to address the impact of the financialization of housing.

On climate change: The first thing I will do is take immediate action locally. I will work to protect our local wetlands. I will work with all levels of government to ensure that our remaining wetlands and a buffer around them are protected and I will ensure that they can not be developed. Our wetlands act as carbon sinks and when we fill them in, we release the trapped carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. In the Niagara Region it's estimated that less than 10% of our wetlands are remaining. This is a very simple, yet extremely impactful action that we can take locally to slow climate change, not to mention to protect the biodiversity that exists in these areas. Once these existing lands are protected, I will work to begin restoring our wetlands that have been destroyed.

Andrea Kaiser, Liberal

On economic recovery: Our comprehensive economic recovery plan will create one million middle-class jobs by making strategic investments in sectors of comparative advantage.

Continued on page 17

Local COVERAGE: Federal Election 2021

Economy, climate change top issues

Continued from page 16

tage. We have attracted global electric vehicle manufacturing mandates from General Motors and Ford which will help build a domestic supply chain for electric vehicles in Canada. Similarly, we have made investments to position Canada as a global leader in life sciences and bio-manufacturing, with Moderna and Sanofi both announcing substantial investments to support made in Canada solutions. Our Liberal plan includes specific programming for the tourism and hospitality sectors. We will extend the wage and rent subsidies until March 2022, and introduce the Tourism Relief Fund to support local tourism businesses in enhancing their products offerings to facilitate future growth. We will also invest \$400 million to support cultural events like the Shaw Festival. Lastly, we will invest \$100 million into Destination Canada to incentivize Canadians to explore our beautiful country.

On vaccination passports: They are the best tool we have at our disposal to end the pandemic and avoid further lockdowns. The Liberal Party supports the implementation of vaccination passports at both the federal and provincial levels. The federal government is responsible for international and interprovincial travel, as well as federal employees and federally regulated sectors. We will be implementing a comprehensive federal vaccine passport in these areas. The regulation of non-essential businesses, healthcare institutions, and schools is provincial, and a re-elected Liberal Government will provide up to \$1 billion of funding to the provinces to implement vaccination passports. Quebec and B.C. have already implemented one and thanks to pressure and funding from our federal Liberal government, we expect Doug Ford to follow suit shortly. Unfortunately, Erin O'Toole and Tony Baldinelli oppose vaccine passports, which will bring about more lockdowns and put our community at risk.

On health care: The Liberal Party introduced universal publicly-funded healthcare under Prime Minister Pearson and has been a strong supporter of the system since. As a Liberal, I believe access to quality healthcare in Canada ought to be a right for all. A re-elected Liberal government will make significant investments in our public system to rapidly hire 7,500 more doctors and nurses, eliminate waitlists for surgeries, and overhaul our long-term care system. Overall, we will invest more than \$10 billion to improve healthcare de-

livery. My priority is to ensure these investments come to Niagara-on-the-Lake so that we can enhance the quality of healthcare delivery right here in our community.

Erin O'Toole recently admitted that he supports privatizing elements of our healthcare to create a two-tier system. Under his system, you could pay \$900 for each MRI and the ultra-rich will be able to pay to jump the line for essential surgeries.

On affordable housing: As a mother of two kids in their mid-20s, I know the anxiety young people are feeling about home ownership. No one should have to move far away from your job or your family just to afford a home. A re-elected Liberal government will immediately address the housing supply crisis by building 1.4 million new units in a sustainable and thoughtful manner, which is 40 per cent more than the Conservative plan. We will also ban blind bidding and ban foreign ownership to ensure Canadians have more access to affordable homes. Perhaps most significantly, we will introduce a \$40,000 tax-free savings account that will help young families afford their down payment faster. These are a few of the many measures we will take to address the housing crisis across Canada. Heather Scofield, economics columnist from the Toronto Star, recently wrote, "the Liberals are offering a much bolder plan than those of their rivals."

On climate change: Unlike the Conservative Party, who recently voted to deny the existence of climate change, I am committed to fighting climate change and protecting our environment. A Liberal government will move forward with our strengthened climate plan that includes a bold and effective price on pollution, ban on single-use plastics, and mandate to ensure all vehicles sold in Canada by 2035 are electric. Our plan exceeds our Paris Climate Accord commitments and our goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

If elected, I will immediately take the following actions:

- Implement a Freshwater Action Plan to protect our Great Lakes and Niagara River from pollution associated with climate change.
- Draft regulations that require large oil and gas companies to reduce methane emissions by at least 75 per cent by 2030.
- Make zero emission vehicles more affordable extending consumer rebates of up to \$5,000 and building 50,000 more charging stations across the country

Peter Taras, People's Party of Canada

On economic recovery: End the lockdowns, immediately. Let individuals choose for themselves the risks they are willing to take. Open the borders, immediately, end mask mandates, allow freedom of choice for vaccinations and end mass testing which is only contributing to the mass hysteria. These steps will allow all businesses, including tourism and hospitality to flourish. The worldwide death rate in 2020 was 7.61 and in 2021 the worldwide death rate is 7.65 / 1000 people, according to the UN. The death rate is higher now that we have the vaccine, than when we only had the disease.

According to the freedom of information request, made by Adam Skelly for his constitutional challenge, he found that the number of ICU days in Ontario in 2020 was 8 per cent less than each of the previous five years, despite 2020 having a higher population than the previous five years.

Knowing what we know now, there should never have been any government intrusion into the lives of Canadians during the COVID crisis.

On vaccination passports: The PPC strongly opposes vaccination passports. Each individual has unique circumstances and each person should choose for themselves what is best for them. Orwell, in his dystopian novel 1984, referred to "group think" as the phenomenon, in which, ones thoughts and ideas affect the "group." Free will and individual freedoms are subjugated to the common good. In the history of the world, these neo-communist ideas have never worked for the people, and they are not going to work now. Even if the vaccine is the best thing for a person they should be free to reject it. Alternatively, if the vaccine has risks, people should be free to take it.

A partial list of the reasons for my personal vaccine hesitancy are:

1. The corporations that developed these vaccines have complete indemnity from any lawsuits.
2. There is no informed consent.
3. Individuals are being coerced into taking these injections.
4. There are no long term human studies on the effects of these various injections.

Vaccinations are a matter between a physician and patient. The PPC also strongly advocates for freedom of conscience for health care professionals.

On health care: Health care is a provincial jurisdiction. The federal government provides transfer payments to the provinces to help pay

for healthcare. These transfer payments, for healthcare, have ballooned to over \$43 billion from \$20 billion in 2006. Despite the enormous increase in the amount of money going to the provinces, our healthcare system has not improved. Why? One of the criteria for the provinces to receive more cash from the feds is longer wait times for patients. This is a terrible methodology to reward poorly-performing provincial health care systems. This rewards victimhood and perpetuates a dependency on the federal money, and it does nothing to improve health care for citizens.

The PPC would phase out the transfer payments to the provinces while empowering them to collect the GST portion of the HST.

On affordable housing: Our unsustainable immigration is a major contributor to a lack of affordable housing, but also for seeing runaway housing prices. The PPC wants to put Canada First when it comes to immigration. We would advocate for the best immigrants rather than the most immigrants. Sustainable immigration grows our economy and brings in people that Canada needs.

A PPC government would advocate for first taking care of our citizens and recent immigrants rather than bringing in immigrants who arrive in order to become a burden on our welfare system, and simultaneously occupy housing that would normally be available to Canadians. The PPC wants to provide new immigrants with opportunities and not handouts.

On climate change: When Justin Trudeau signed the UN 'Paris Accord' for climate change, he flew a delegation of hundreds of bureaucrats with him to Paris. The hypocrisy of this is staggering. He flew to Paris with hundreds of people, paid by taxpayers, to tell people not to fly around the world! If Trudeau wants to reduce carbon emissions he should lead by example.

A PPC government would respect the choices of Canadians. If an individual believes in cutting carbon emissions then, they should make personal choices to reduce their carbon emissions, by flying less, driving an electric car or living in a smaller home. A PPC government would withdraw from the UN Paris Accord. We would stop sending billions of dollars to help foreign countries reduce their emissions. A PPC government would prioritize practical solutions to make Canada's air, water and soil cleaner.

Tony Baldinelli,
Conservative Party



Brian Barker,
NDP



Melanie Holm,
Green Party



Andrea Kaiser,
Liberal Party



Peter Taras,
People's Party of Canada



Community offers generous support for helping woman in need

Penny Coles
The Local

There is nothing like social media when you want to reach a lot of people in a hurry, especially in Niagara-on-the-Lake, when you want to help someone in need.

Krista London-Verticchio, a relative newcomer to town, discovered just how generous this community can be when she turned to Facebook to find help for a friend.

Crystal, the woman in need, has been cleaning her house since Krista and her family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake two years ago. With two young autistic children, and Krista and her husband working from home, "I really needed some help," Krista says.

In addition to being the hardest-working person she has ever known, Crystal, who arrived to help her out, became her friend, and now Krista wants to help her in return.

"She didn't ask me for help," Krista stresses. Crystal just made a small comment about being in some difficulty, and Krista took her aside and told her she could talk to her, "no judgement."

Crystal had grown up in foster care after her mom had her at the age of 14, says Krista. She managed to finish

high school and put herself through college, and now is a single mom with two children of her own, and no support system, says Krista.

"I was a single mom for a time, so I know how hard it is. This woman just works her butt off. She's a dream, honestly an angel, and when I realized the extent of her situation, my heart broke for her."

Crystal hasn't been able to make ends meet for the last couple of months, despite working seven days a week, at two jobs, says Krista, who, with her husband, did what they could to help. But Krista decided to take to social media to see what else she could do, understanding that this woman needed more than just a short-term donation of food and clothing.

"I've been overwhelmed by what people have done, and continue to do a week later. I have no words to express the amount of support we've had. I've lived in several different cities, and I don't think this would have happened anywhere else. The number of people who have called with offers of help, who have stopped by my house to drop things off, I didn't expect this at all. She is very grateful, but this is hard for her. She's never had family support, just went from foster home to foster home."

Krista says when she and her husband moved to town, "we immediately fell in love with the community. I must say, this community is truly one of a kind. It brings tears to my eyes, witnessing first hand the level of support this community will provide for one another. Niagara-on-the-Lake is the prime example of community."

One of the items Krista was hoping to find was school uniforms for Crystal's two boys, who attend a Catholic school in St. Catharines. Someone donated new uniforms, says Krista. She's received lots of food, household items, and has also created an Amazon wish list, with any items bought through this link shipped directly to Krista's. The Amazon boxes are piling up.

The help received so far "is over the top," says Krista, but she is looking down the road for a long-term solution.

"We have an amazing amount of pantry items. At this point, I would love to see us helping her with winter gear, hygiene and cleaning supplies. My husband and I are dedicated to helping her long-term. Any amount of support this community can provide, will help us support her."

Krista's hope to first get "this amazing single Mama"

what she will need to see her and her boys through the winter, and then to get her out of debt, and even better, find her a place to live in a better location.

In addition to paying \$1,600 rent in an undesirable neighbourhood in St. Catharines, as well as utilities, her friend received funding from the Ontario Student Assistance Program, which she is now struggling to pay back.

"Nobody should have to work seven days a week," says Krista. "And she just works so hard. This is someone who has done everything right, but nothing is going her way. Nobody should be in her position, and she certainly doesn't deserve it. Her boys are two of the sweetest kids I've ever met."

What would help more than anything is cash donations, says Krista. "Just donation of a dollar or two would add up, and help her get her head above water. The focus is getting her donations now so she never gets back into this situation, and get her to a place where she can work five days a week and spend weekends with her boys."

For those who may wish to help by ordering from the Amazon list Krista has created, visit https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/3SJ7YBT56G246?ref_=wl_share

"Any items purchased off of Amazon comes directly to

our house so we can sort it and get it to this amazing single Mama."

For anyone who would like to drop off or mail a donation, whether it be a gift card, cash donation or phys-

ical item, it can be mailed to or dropped off directly to her home in Virgil says Krista, at 676 Penner St., PO Box 859, Virgil, Ont. L0S 1T0.

Contact Krista at krista.london@hotmail.com



Michael Verticchio and Krista London-Verticchio have a pile of boxes waiting for Crystal, who has been on the receiving end of an outpouring of support. (Photo supplied)

Cogeco, chambers host riding candidates debate

Local Staff

Four out of five Niagara Falls riding candidates for the upcoming federal election will participate in a live debate hosted by Cogeco's YourTV.

Debates will be held for all four Niagara ridings, with the Niagara Falls candidates invited to the studio Sept. 9. Mike Balsom, who also reports for The Local, will be Cogeco's moderator.

Candidates from the

Conservative, Liberal, NDP, and Green parties will be included in the debate.

The questions will come from several different sources, says Balsom. "We are reaching out to some of our local non-profit and business organizations, including the chambers of commerce, to collect questions. We will also throw it open to local media outlets. Some questions may be used in all or multiple ridings, while others may be specific to one riding only."

The general public will also be able to provide questions.

Cogeco has several pandemic protocols in place for a safe debate, but will stop short of requiring candidates to be vaccinated.

"All staff and volunteers working the production are fully vaccinated," says Balsom. "At this point we are not requiring the candidates to be vaccinated," although candidates could be asked a question about their vaccinated status.

"We have temporarily installed plexiglass, which will provide a barrier between candidates. As the host and moderator, I will be facing the candidates from across the floor. We will ask candidates to maintain a safe physical distance at all times, and escort them into the studio separately."

Masks will be worn on-site, and will only be removed once candidates are in place on the set and microphoned.

The Niagara Falls riding has five candidates, but only four, the Conservative, Liberal, NDP and Green Party representatives are being included in the debate.

YourTV follows the guidelines set by the Leaders' Debates Commission, which sets criteria for inclusion in these debates, and the People's Party of Canada does not meet that criteria.

Peter Taras, the PPC representative for the Niagara Falls Riding, has been offered the opportunity to send a video to be included in the broadcast.

"We always truly hope that all candidates who are not from the four main parties take advantage of this opportunity to submit their two-minute video," says Balsom. "In the past, most have made use of this offer."



Moderator Mike Balsom (File photo)

The Taras team has said they will be sending in a video, however Cogeco had not received it by Tuesday.

The debates will be broadcast live from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 9. All debates will be posted on yourtv.tv, the day after the live airing. They will also be available to watch directly on Cogeco's YouTube channel, at YourTV Niagara.

Repeats are Sunday, Sept. 12 at 3:30 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 13 at 9 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday Sept. 18 at 9 p.m.

The Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake Chambers of Commerce are also presenting Candidates Engagement

Event for the Niagara Falls riding.

They are focusing on important business-related questions, which NOTL Chamber president calls more like case studies. The five candidates will have the questions beforehand, with time to prepare answers.

The questions will be related to the border opening, the tourism industry, and how COVID-19 has impacted our business community.

It will be a Zoom meeting, from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Sept. 8. The Zoom link will be provided closer to the date. To register visit <https://southniagaracc.com/event/niagara-falls-candidates-event/?c=sncc>.

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Bravo Niagara! excited to be back with live concerts

Penny Coles
The Local

Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts has announced a return to live venues for their 2021-2022 season, and co-founders Christine Mori and Alexis Spieldenner couldn't be more elated.

"There is nothing like the feeling and energy of a live music experience," Mori tells The Local. "We could not be more excited to return to the stage with five live in-person concerts this fall and holiday season. Canada is home to incredible talent, and we are thrilled to showcase these Canadian treasures."

Indeed, the fall lineup is all-Canadian, with Vancouver-born Juno Award winner Laila Biali kicking things off on Oct. 16 at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in downtown St. Catharines.

Biali is looking forward to her return to Niagara, one of her favourite places, she says

over the phone from her temporary Toronto home. She and her husband, drummer Ben Wittman, along with their 11-year-old son Josh, are currently renting while awaiting renovations on their newly acquired home in the Eglinton Avenue area.

"It's awesome," she says about getting back on stage in front of audiences. "I know there's a lot of trepidation on the part of the public, the presenters and the artists, and rightfully so. But everyone wants to keep safety front and centre, and it's been good to see so far that presenters have been doing just that."

She calls live performance the lifeblood of what she and other artists do.

"It's wonderful to be able to create the work in an enclosed space, but even that is driven and motivated by the fact that one day we're going to be sharing this music with the public in living colour, in a way that is

going to give those songs life."

Many of the songs the jazz pianist and singer and her band will be playing in October first came to life back in 2020, when her latest album, *Out of Dust*, was released just as the pandemic took root.

"I finished writing the songs at the Banff Centre, which is my happy writing place, in January, 2019," she explains. "Then we went into the studio for five months to record the album. Our release date was supposed to be March 27, but of course, everything got cancelled. So it ended up as an online release."

Like many other musicians, Biali spent much of the past year and a half performing online, which she said at times could be exhausting, but also came with a certain kind of sweetness due to its imperfections and flaws. She recalls always being nervous that her Wi-Fi would fail at the most inopportune moments.

Out of Dust, Biali explains,

"encapsulates a season in my life that was a movement from darkness into the light. A lot of the songs represent that transition. In that sense it felt like a really appropriate album to release in the middle of a pandemic."

Co-produced by Wittman, the collection sees Biali taking a journey toward pop styles while maintaining the sophistication of her jazz background. Her voice is clearer and stronger than ever on the 11 tracks, all but one of them original compositions. She calls it an album about hope, and it does indeed have a hopeful sound.

And she raves about *Take the Day Off*, a song inspired by and co-written with the couple's son.

"There's a possibility Josh may actually come and make a little cameo on stage," she says. "One morning he picked up a mallet and started playing one of Ben's African tongue drums. That became the seed for a new song. He's performed it with us virtually a few times and he's just gathering his confidence to do it live."

She promises a mix of songs from *Out of Dust* as well as her eponymous 2019 Juno Award winning album. She'll take a dive into the Canadian songbook, and play the Request-A-Matic game, which has become a staple of her live shows since 2013.

"We've had requests for everything from Beyonce to Prince, and a song from the musical *Rent*," she laughs. "We come up with personalized arrangements, and put our own jazz spin on it. These always go really well in live performance. It's something fresh but familiar."

The Bravo Niagara! season continues Nov. 13 with the Sultans of String in their first ever performance for the festival. It's a special event, a double CD release show for their upcoming albums *Refuge* and *Sanctuary*.

"It's their seventh and eighth albums," explains Spieldenner. "They're pretty remarkable albums. And there will be some special guests, some performing live and some virtually."

Six days later the Robi Botos Trio, featuring Mike



Pavlo will bring his Mediterranean mix of Greek, Latin and Spanish music to Niagara for *Home for the Holidays*. (Photo supplied)

Downes and Larnell Lewis, plays the PAC. Though he's appeared with Bravo Niagara! many times, Nov. 19 will be the first headline spot for Botos and his trio.

That concert also features vocalist and composer Joanna Majoko. She recently won the 2021 Emerging Jazz Artist Award presented by the Toronto Arts Foundation, and she has recently released her debut EP, *No Bounds*.

December will see two holiday-themed concerts for Bravo Niagara!. Pavlo brings his Mediterranean mix of Greek, Latin and Spanish music to Niagara for *Home for the Holidays* on Dec. 16.

And Molly Johnson, a member of the Order of Canada and one of the country's most treasured artists, continues the holiday theme on Dec. 20.

"Molly is one of our favourites," Mori says. "She was just working on this Christmas album (*This Holiday Season*) last Christmas. We recorded and filmed her in Partridge Hall, but without an audience. So

we're going to bring her back to play that album."

As the organization finally gets back to in-person shows, Spieldenner is thankful for the support they received during some challenging times.

"These past 18 months have demonstrated the power of the arts to unify and uplift," Spieldenner says. "We are grateful for our incredible sponsors, partners, and patrons who have stood by our side and enabled us to continue supporting artists, commissioning new works, and producing exclusive digital content through our new Bravo Niagara! Amplified series."

All five concerts will take place at the PAC's Partridge Hall. Current plans limit the tickets to 50 per cent capacity. There will be no intermission for any of the shows, and all venue COVID protocols will be in effect.

Tickets are \$50 for each show, though flex packs for multiple concerts offer discounts to purchasers. Information is available at bravoniagara.org.

Sip, Savour & Stroll



The annual Shaw Guild elegant garden party was held Saturday, with happy guests enjoying the beauty of the gardens, and sipping local wines. The Shaw Guild garden tour is coming up on Sept. 11, with eight fabulous, private gardens, and master gardeners on site to answer questions and offer tips. For more information visit <https://www.shawguild.ca/garden-tour>



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Social club being revitalized following COVID

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Social Club, which has been dormant for a while, is being revitalized.

There are about 250 members, says Penny Milligan, who is working on its resurrection.

It seems a good time, she explains, when members can meet safely, and there may be people who have moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake during the pandemic, and have not had an opportunity to get out and meet people.

The club welcomes anyone over 18, she says, “men, women, singles, couples, green, blue, young or old. We’re open to everybody with a connection to Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

It was originally organized in 2012, but went through a bit of a slump, even before COVID. “We want people to know we’re up and running again,” says Milligan.

While there are events organized for socializing, and the primary focus “is for bringing people together in a safe social environment to have fun,” the club is intended to offer more than that, she says.

In the past, they’ve held an annual Christmas party, and organized trips to hockey or baseball games and other events. They’ve had a regular Finger Food Friday, where members bring their own appetizers and drinks, and will continue those at people’s homes — hosts supply a location, party napkins and wine glasses, for two hours of visiting.

Twice a month there are morning Coffee and Conversation meetings at the community centre’s Sweets & Swirls, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., says Milligan, and new people are always welcome.

“We are a social club whose main aim is to get together and have fun. We want to create and maintain an environment where everyone feels safe doing this.”

The club, she says, “is a great way to meet all kinds of people. I golf, I play bridge and do other things, but this is a way to come across people I might not meet otherwise.”

In addition to events, the club also offered interest groups, and “lessons and learning,” says Milligan.

Some upcoming events being proposed include a “mystery” bus tour, a Queenston Heights picnic,

car races at Merrittville Speedway, art gallery visits, and a ghost tour at the recently-opened Niagara Parks Power Station.

Interest groups could include the Finger Food Friday, a lunch bunch club, a

travel experience club, music appreciation, a choral group, and a new one, a “magazine salon,” with members sharing magazine articles with others who share similar interests. Lessons and learning, she says, may include

a session on improving knowledge of your iPhone, canasta and gardening.

A survey is going out to members to put these ideas forward, and see who is interested, says Milligan.

Although some of the

events come at a cost, many are free, says Milligan.

The cost to join is \$25 per person with a \$10 renewal fee annually.

For more information, email notlsocialclub@gmail.com



Social club members enjoy the annual Harvest Barbecue at Queenston Heights in September, 2019. Members are anxious to return to some of their former club activities, as well as some new ones. (Photos supplied)



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Grace United market to offer Mystery Table

Chris McQuestion
Special to The Local

After a COVID-19 pause in 2020, The Festival Market is returning to Grace United Church this Labour Day weekend.

A new feature this year will be the Mystery Table,

featuring loads of new and nearly new items that will be of interest to shoppers of all ages. Items are all reasonably priced, assured organizers.

If you enjoy finding a bargain, this is the place for you to be. The event is Saturday, Sept. 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Curious about the Mystery Table? Come out and search for your perfect treasure.

The Festival Market will also have your old favourites — fruits and vegetables, jams and jellies, the popular bake table and a large used book section.



Check out the Mystery Table at Grace United's annual market event. (David Gilchrist)

LocalSPORTS

Youth soccer wraps up its season

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Youth soccer players aged four to 14 gathered at Virgil Sports Park this weekend for the NOTL Soccer Club's Year-End Festival.

Though it wasn't "business as usual," club president Ted VanderKaay was pleased with how the season developed. "We had over 340 players," said VanderKaay, "which isn't too far off our usual number. We started

a bit later than usual, but I think we had a longer and more meaningful soccer season than a lot of other clubs around the region and elsewhere." Though medals were distributed to all the Timbits (age 4-5) players, Saturday was primarily a day to celebrate getting back onto the field successfully after a 2020 without soccer. Coaches reported that many kids and their parents thanked them this weekend for providing them a chance to get back

to having fun on the pitch this summer. VanderKaay was quick to add that none of this would have happened without the support of all of the sponsors who stayed with the club during some uncertain times, and the

many parents and community members who stepped up to coach the kids. He says the club is hoping that 2022 will see a return to a full season of soccer, starting as it usually does just after the May long weekend.



More than 340 youth soccer players, aged four to 14, enjoyed a season wrap-up, handled a little differently from other years due to COVID. (Mike Balsom)



LocalSPORTS



Playing for the men's team were Doug McCulloch, Warren Tutton, Drew Porter, Jim McMacken, Stephen Warboys, John Reynolds, Harry Huizer, Darryl Fry, Jim Panetta, Mike Eagen, Ted Carmichael, Don Allen, and missing from the photo, Brodie Townley and Kevin MacLean. (Photos supplied)

Senior Ryder Cup returns to men's team

Harry Huizer Special to The Local

The Senior Ryder Cup men's team hung on to win back the Pro's Cup in a 'colourful' way.

For the ninth year in a row the Senior Ryder Cup men's team have faced the Solheim ladies team in a friendly but competitive golf match.

It was a beautiful day for golf, except for strong winds off the lake which often played havoc with the golfers.

Fourteen ladies played the 14 men in seven matches, with 42 points up for grabs, as there were six points available in each match.

This year the men came up with a tactic which likely made

the difference in their slim victory. The tactic was wearing colourful and wild outfits instead of their Ryder Cup team blue shirts.

The ladies seemed mesmerized as I and others appeared by the first tee. Their eyes couldn't believe the clashing of colours that many of us wore. They laughed, but little did they realize the effect it would have on their game. Yes they were mesmerized!

The final result wasn't decided until the final group came in, and the men won the day by the smallest of margins, 22-20.

Lunch was served on the first tee after the matches, and then came the presenting of the cup to the winning captain. The ladies' captain, Mar-

tha Cruikshank, was gracious in her defeat as she presented the coveted trophy to the men's captain, Harry Huizer. Tears of joy, clapping and laughter were seen at each table.

Everybody had a great time, as could be seen by the fun and friendly atmosphere at the luncheon and also during the competition.

Many thanks to Jill Wiens and her staff for providing the lunch, and a special thanks also to Ricky Watson, Billy Simkin and their staff for their help.

I can't wait to see what the ladies will plan next year as they try to regain the cup.

You might say the day was a joyous and colourful victory for the senior men over a talented ladies team.



The ladies' team included Marie Ellison, Yolanda Henry, Margot Richardson, Michele Darling, Maria Townley, Lisa Allen, (back) Robin Foster, Louise Robitaille, Sue Gagne, Janice White, Barbara Ahluwalia, Judy Mantle, May Chang, Ginny Green, and missing from the photo, Martha Cruikshank. (Photos supplied)

Harry Huizer, captain of the men's team, proudly lifts the Senior Ryders Cup, with women's captain Martha Cruikshank and pro Billy Simkin looking on.

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PUZZLES

Across:

- 1 #
- 5 Conversation
- 9 P C to web link company
- 12 Persian Gulf port
- 13 Gypsy people
- 14 Immediately, in hospital
- 16 Edgar --- Poe
- 17 Upon
- 18 Insect destructive of clothes
- 19 Negative
- 20 One coming out
- 22 Big beer can
- 24 --- Grande
- 25 Solar system center
- 26 Casing
- 28 Electrical connector
- 31 Passed away (Abbr.)
- 34 Old card game
- 35 "Would it be ---?" (Presley; "Can't help falling in love")
- 36 Father's sibling
- 38 Physicians
- 42 So far
- 43 Sour-smelling
- 44 Sticky stuff
- 45 Junction
- 47 Not us
- 48 Killer whale
- 49 Rotational speed measure
- 51 Bashful
- 53 Top
- 54 Harsh treatment
- 57 Applicable
- 59 Entertainment
- 60 Bench with a back
- 63 Letters on Royal Navy ships
- 64 E.g. a street kiss
- 67 Horse controller
- 69 Spanish fashion designer --- Rabbane
- 71 Long
- 73 Aware of
- 74 Overnight stops
- 75 Law
- 76 Fight against underwater threats
- 77 Penny
- 78 U R L starter

Down:

- 1 Kind of hoop
- 2 Competently
- 3 Cape Town carrier
- 4 One of the Indian majority
- 5 Quarrelsome grouch
- 6 Very fashionable
- 7 Hog-wild
- 8 Recording medium
- 9 Belief system
- 10 Bad weather
- 11 Paved outdoor area
- 12 Karate degree
- 15 Hammer god
- 21 Aim
- 23 Federal fiscal watchdog
- 25 One of a hundred in D C
- 27 Eye cell
- 28 Methods
- 29 Statement of understanding
- 30 The Beatles' lovely meter maid
- 32 Apiece
- 33 Antidotes
- 34 Classic Ford model
- 37 Type of rechargeable cell
- 39 Man-eating giant
- 40 Stimulating South American shrub
- 41 Sit in a tub
- 43 Bank machine
- 46 E.g. Robinson, Doubtfire
- 48 Plump
- 50 Vigor
- 52 Thanksgiving dish
- 54 Spherical hairdo
- 55 --- Vista, Disney brand
- 56 Military groups
- 58 Outguess
- 61 Heroic
- 62 Diminish slowly
- 63 Vast multitude
- 64 Gasp
- 65 Bead
- 66 Newswoman --- Curry
- 68 The present time
- 70 Cable/satellite network
- 72 Dine

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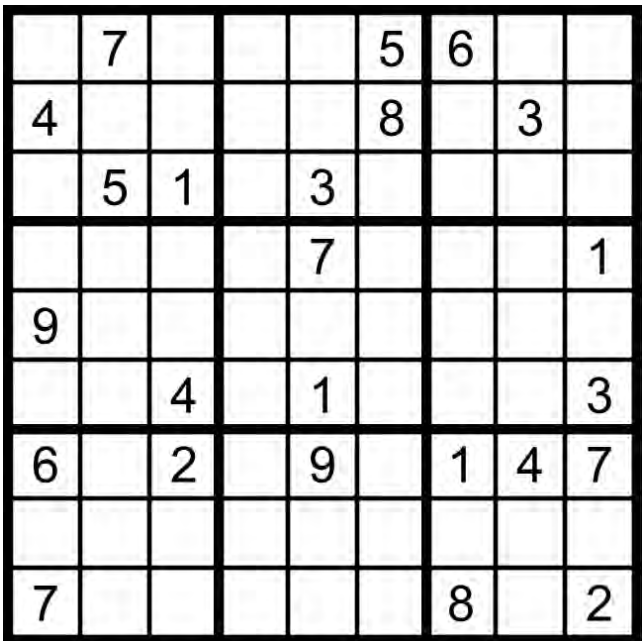
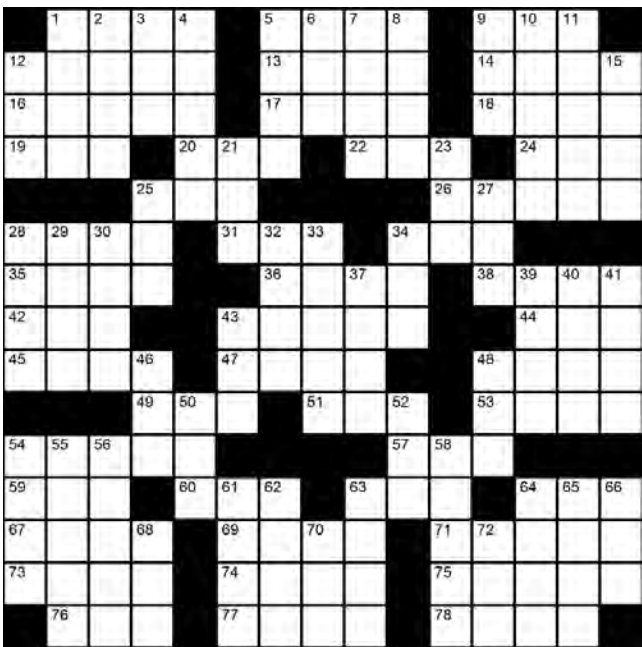
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OBITUARY



JOHNSON, JACQUELINE SNYDER—August 23, 1928-August 29, 2021

The last chapter of the full and adventurous life of our amazing mother, grandmother and great-grandmother has been written. It is with great sadness that she left us on August 29, 2021 at Greater Niagara General Hospital while living in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She was born in Long Branch, New Jersey, daughter of the late Kathleen Watt and the late Earle Snyder of Locust, New Jersey. She was the loving and loved mother of William (Kathryn) of Sault Ste. Marie, Jeffrey of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Jill of Limehouse, and Lisa Burton (Steve) of St. Catharines. Devoted and loved grandmother of Michael (Jeanine), Craig (Alicia), Kristen O'Dell (Sean), Drew, Christopher, Leanne Becker (Dan), Robyn Fennell, Stefan and Jordan. Also survived by her sister, Yvonne Elliman, of New York City and Westhampton, New York, and her seven precious great-grandchildren, Freya Becker, MacKenzie O'Dell, Levi Johnson, Shea Johnson, Elizabeth O'Dell, Vance Johnson and Emma Johnson. Jackie spent her childhood in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey and during World War II she spent her high school years in Massachusetts. After graduating from Northfield School for Girls in East Northfield, Massachusetts, and college in Briarcliff Manor, New York, Jackie spent time in San Francisco working in the medical field. On returning to New York City in 1948, she worked in the editorial department of The New Yorker magazine until her marriage to William S. (Bill) Johnson in 1950. Their two sons, Bill and Jeff, were born in New York City before the family moved to Toronto in 1953, and Jill and Lisa were born in Toronto while the family was living in Don Mills. After moving to Rosedale in 1962, the family was involved in many activities. After her divorce in 1969, Jackie worked as a realtor for Johnston and Daniels, and then for Royal LePage with great success which enabled her to raise her four young ones as a single Mom. Many happy hours were spent at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club between selling real estate and raising her family. Upon retirement in 1995, Jackie moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake and never looked back. Golf and volunteer work filled her days when not being with her family, friends or travelling, her volunteer times were spent with the Cancer Society, Music Niagara, the Museum and Historical Society plus enjoyment of her association with St. Mark's Anglican Church. She led a full and happy life. Her adventurous spirit took her to many places in the world, by bicycle in her younger years through Europe, New Zealand, the Natchez Trail in the USA, the Gulf Islands in B.C., Jasper to Banff, the Cabot Trail in Nova Scotia, backpacking from Bali to Bangkok, and in her later years taking her RV, her "Winter Estate", cross country to Alaska, Florida in the winter, and lobstering through the Maritimes. Over the Millennium she took a four-and-a-half-month cruise around the world from Athens to Athens, visiting six continents and 22 countries, plus many shorter cruises around the Pacific Rim, on the Amazon River, in the fjords of Norway, river cruises and more. Her bucket list was small at the end. Jackie marched to her own drummer and realized that one is not old until regrets replace one's dreams and she was an inspiration to all who knew her. She was a legend in her own time and we shall miss her very much. We hope she saves a seat on her bus for us.

A celebration of life for family and invited friends will be held at a later as yet undetermined date. Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from August 25, 2021

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

Across: 1 Hash, 5 Chat, 9 I S P, 12 Dubai, 13 Roma, 14 Stat, 16 Allan, 17 Ann, 68 Now, 70 C N N, 72 Eat.
Buena, 56 Units, 58 Psych, 61 Epic, 62 Wane, 63 Host, 64 Pant, 65 Drop, 66 40 Coca, 41 Soak, 43 A T M, 46 Mrs, 48 Opt, 50 Pep, 52 Yam, 54 Afro, 55 28 Ways, 29 I see, 30 Rite, 32 Each, 33 Cures, 34 LTD, 37 NI-M H, 39 Ogre, 10 Storm, 11 Patio, 12 Thor, 21 End, 23 G A O, 25 Sen, 27 Rod, Down: 1 Hula, 2 Ably, 3 S A A, 4 Hindu, 5 Crab, 6 Hot, 7 Amok, 8 Tape, 9 Ism, lms, 75 Canon, 76 A-S-W, 77 Cent, 78 H t t p, Fun, 60 Pew, 63 H M S, 64 P D A, 67 Rein, 69 Paco, 71 Yearn, 73 Onto, 74 Searn, 47 Them, 48 Orca, 49 R p m, 51 Shy, 53 Peak, 54 Abuse, 57 Apt, 59 31 Dec, 34 Loc, 35 A sin, 36 Aunt, 38 Docs, 42 Yet, 43 Achd, 44 Goo, 45 Atop, 18 Molt, 19 Nay, 20 Deb, 22 Keg, 24 Rio, 25 Sun, 26 Armor, 28 Wire, 91 S P, 12 Dubai, 13 Roma, 14 Stat, 16 Allan, 17

LocalSPORTS

Men's NOTL Tennis Club doubles champions decided

Local Staff

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club held its recent annual men's double tournament over four days, and after missing a year of tournament play due to COVID-19 restrictions, everyone enjoyed the competitive action on the courts, players and spectators. The competition results for the men's doubles are as follows:

A division champions:
Scott Lewis and John Pilling

A division finalists:
Paul Plourde and Mark Waler

B division champions:
Jim O'Gorman and Bill Devolin

B division finalists:
Rob Lamond and Doug Campbell

A consolation champions:
Jayden Jeong and Felix Jeong

A consolation finalists:
Terry Francis and George Dell

B consolation champions:
Les McFarlane and Terry Ratkovsky

B consolation finalists:
Cosmo Condino and Alec Papadimitriou

In last week's edition of The Local, we incorrectly attributed some of the women's photos. The group shots were taken by Marilyn Francis, the action shots by Cosmo Condino. The Local apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.



John Pilling and Scott Lewis, the A division champions (Photos by Deb Robert)



Les McFarlane and Terry Ratkovsky



Bill Devolin, Jim O'Gorman, Doug Campbell and Rob Lamond



Mark Waler and Paul Plourde



Ross Robinson



Scott McGregor



Cosmo Condino



Ken McGillivray



Richard Berti, 80-plus years young