

# The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Virgil skate  
park looking  
good

page 9

The trusted voice of our community.

notllocal.com

SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Volume 2 · Issue 36



The two Sentineal families are using Byron Street, outside St. Mark's Rectory, to park their carriages on weekends. (Mike Balsom)

## Tucker, Hall of Famer, dies at peace in his sleep

Penny Coles  
The Local

Tucker, the dog proclaimed a hero by the Purina Animal Hall of Fame for saving the family he loved, has died.

Rachel Spiewak, who came close to losing that family in a 2018 fire, says he died at peace, just one week after finally leaving that chapter of their lives behind.

When their Annmarie Drive home was destroyed, she and then-partner Jason Chafe were home with their young son, Keegan, and

his son from a previous marriage. Rachel's two older boys, Ayden and Kallan, were with their dad. Tucker, she says, "saved my life and three others that night."

Tucker, after awakening the adults and seeing the four of them out of the house, ran back in to the burning basement before they could stop him. Rachel ran after Tucker, dragging him out again. She believes he was trying to save Ayden, whose bedroom was downstairs.

She and Chafe set about

Continued on page 11

## Carriages moved to Byron Street

Mike Balsom  
Special to The Local

Tears well up in the corners of Fred Sentineal's eyes when he considers the outpouring of support his business, Sentineal Carriages, has received online, via telephone and on the street in recent weeks. It happens during a discussion on Saturday, the first day at the new weekend location for his horses and carriages on Byron Street, at the corner of King, just in front of the St. Mark's Church Rectory.

Sentineal says he was not presented with any options other than the move, which Lord Mayor Betty Disero says is only for the weekends. "We had a call Wednesday," explains Sen-

tineal. "We were told council had made the decision to move the carriage stands, and it was confirmed yesterday (Friday) morning that we were starting here today."

The move is in response to the chaos of the previous Sunday. That's when animal rights protesters marched from Simcoe Park to meet with about 100 carriage supporters, stopping traffic at the corner of King and Queen Streets and disrupting local businesses for hours. It was the biggest clash between the two sides in a stand-off that has been ongoing for over three years.

"What I saw on the 23rd was such an escalation of anger between the protesters and the counter-protest-

ers," says Disero. "Council spent two evenings (Monday and Tuesday) discussing this with legal counsel and came up with a plan to deescalate what was going on, to try to assist the store owners with what's been happening, and to try and deal with any and all legalities or harshness that was coming from anywhere."

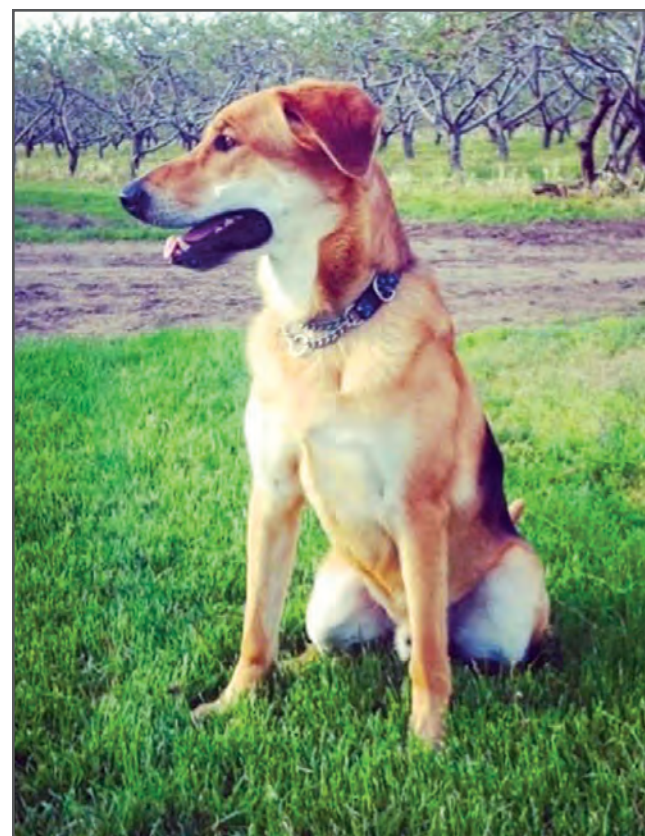
Disero confirms that council supported the direction to move the carriages just on Saturdays and Sundays, until the situation between the two sides deescalates. The discussion was held in-camera, with legal counsel present, and she assures that at no time did she or any member of council consult with the protesters on the decision. Disero

adds that there are further steps to the plan as it moves forward, though details are not being made public at this time.

"There is a plan in place," she informs The Local. "I talked to Laura and Fred Sentineal yesterday, and the other Sentineal company (owned by Fred's brother Jeff, Queens Royal Carriages also operates out of the same location). They're all in agreement with the plan. We're trying to work with them (Laura and Fred) to at least understand why the move was made."

Disero says neither company pays a fee to the Town to operate on their usual corner, nor will they be re-

Continued on page 8



Tucker was inducted into the Purina Animal Hall of Fame for saving his family. (Rachel Spiewak)



## Peninsula Flooring Ltd.

13 Henegan Road  
Virgil Business Park

(905)-468-2135  
www.peninsulaflooring.ca





# Shaw preparing for next week's musical revues

## Penny Coles

### The Local

Last week was a good news-bad news time for the Shaw Festival, but as always, CEO Tim Jennings is moving forward on a positive note.

With news of a \$400,000 grant from the federal government for outdoor performances announced last Tuesday, the festival has kicked into high gear to make that a reality, with live musical revues expected to begin next week.

They could run into November, Jennings said, and be staged in the beautiful gardens of the festival theatre, with tables and umbrellas to "make it a pleasing experience" for patrons, or at wineries and other outdoor venues around town.

The Shaw has a portable staging system, he says, and could also make use of a portable tent, especially moving

into the fall. "We've been running to try to figure out what this could look like."

With the lack of tourists this summer, offering activities during the “cusp season,” this fall and next spring, becomes especially important for the theatre and the town. It’s easier to do in NOTL, with its milder climate, Jennings says, and the outdoor performances will hopefully attract out-of-towners who may also enjoy other activities, such as visiting wineries, taking bike tours, eating at local restaurants and staying overnight. “It will make a great staycation,” he adds.

Since the reason for the federal grant and the goal of the Shaw at this point is to bring visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake, the performances will be kept close to home. "This is primarily intended to drive economic recovery to the town, since it

is so clearly impacted by the reduction of tourism locally," says Jennings.

Although the Shaw had been working out possible scenarios for outdoor performances for months, they received very little notice of the funding, learning about it the night before last week's public announcement, which wasn't what they expected to hear.

Jennings says he's still hopeful there will be more funding opportunities. Although the grant was welcome news, they were hoping for more — it isn't enough to finance the performances.

"We'll spend more than we're getting," he says, but glad to do it as an engine of economic recovery for the town, and also "to make some good art. We're very excited about that, and we're hoping to become a model for other places, especially in rural communities, that can

follow,” with government or community funding support.

Rehearsals started Monday. "We're jumping in on both feet, moving as fast as we can" to get performances underway, although there may be changes as they go along.

They intend to start small, with audiences of 50 people, and expect tickets to be snapped up quickly. "Tell people to watch social media" for ticket announcements, he says, adding he hopes to expand performances for crowds of 100 people as they move forward, as permitted by the Province.

"If the school openings are successful, we may be able to expand to that number. Then the real question is, how will we do it."

They've managed to keep some people employed all summer, including actors, stage managers and others, with government support,

but that is expected to change in September, says Jennings. The outdoor performances will likely only involve about 12 to 14 people, although if they can offer larger special events, those could require more help.

The bad news that came the day after the announcement of federal funding was that the Shaw has cancelled its 2020 season. The exception is *A Christmas Carol*, which remains on the calendar to be performed at the Royal George Theatre beginning Nov. 8 and running until Dec. 23, with activities for audience members such as Backstage Secrets and Create your own Victorian Christmas Card also scheduled.

Jennings says they had applied for funding to underwrite indoor performances for small audiences, which wouldn't be financially viable without some help from

upper levels of government. That didn't happen, and they couldn't afford to proceed with the season under the current Provincial guidelines.

He is anticipating using the 2020 Shaw season, as it was intended to be staged, to be the “building blocks” of the 2021 season.

They will make use of what they have already designed and built for 2020, to cut costs, but the smaller season is expected to mean fewer jobs.

"We can't afford to do it in its entirety," he says, "and we don't know what the physical restrictions will be. They could be limited to 30 per cent capacity."

Anything less than 60 per cent will cost them money and require outside funding, making government grants and community donations especially important as they move toward next season.

# Shaw Guild team supports local businesses

## Penny Coles

### The Local

At a time when it's so important to support businesses suffering from a devastating decline in tourism, Shaw Guild members have been shopping locally.

Volunteers who are anxious to give back to their community, and have been unable to help the festival, are finding other ways to contribute. In addition to being welcoming ambassadors for the town, they initiated a project called LOT O' NOTL, ordering items from

local businesses to fill boxes of curated delicacies and home products, as part of the Shaw Guild's program to support Queen Street merchants, says guild communications chair Cheryl Morris.

The 52 boxes, at \$50 each, were assembled and delivered by a team of guild volunteers, led by Emily Lukasik, a Shaw Company actor. “Emily had the idea, and both Tims (artistic director Tim Carroll, and Tim Jennings, CEO for the Shaw Festival) were totally on board. They suggested she get in touch with Laurie Harley (Shaw Guild president) and that’s how it started. And we were available to help,”

Lukasik had heard of a similar program being done in a Toronto neighbourhood earlier this year, and thought it would be great for the Shaw and the Guild to run the program in support of Queen Street merchants.

The team of Harley, Brenda Weafer, Gail Kendall, Morris and Lukasik spent several hours one day scouting out and shopping for items for the boxes.

Team members found it



Shaw Guild members Laurie Harley, Brenda Weafer and Gail Kendall, with actor Emily Lukasik, deliver boxes of merchandise from local businesses. *(Photos by Cheryl Morris)*



Each \$50 box had a selection of items from local retailers.

was difficult to make the final choices with so many great shops to choose from, said Morris.

They will gather soon to discuss the possibility of putting together a holiday-themed package later in the year, and

perhaps extend the offer to local residents who are not Guild members, she added.

Guild members are also hoping to get back to volunteering for the Shaw. With funding for outdoor performances announced last week,

there could be a role for volunteers, or the Shaw may want to use their employees. "We don't know what they have planned. We'd like to get back to the Shaw, but it will depend on so many other factors. Everything is up in the air."





# Ambassador pilot program underway in Old Town

**Mike Balsom**  
Special to The Local

Standing out from the crowd, decked in their new bright blue T-shirts, Shaw Guild members mingled with visitors along the streets of the Old Town this past weekend in their new role as volunteer ambassadors.

Saturday marked the first day of the pilot program, which tasks volunteers with greeting tourists and others. The ambassadors are to welcome people, reinforce the guidelines about physical distancing and wearing masks, and answer any questions that might arise.

Shaw Guild communications chair Cheryl Morris says there are currently 29 members who have offered their time to the cause. With the coronavirus pandemic putting an end to summer performances at the Shaw Festival, the dedicated volunteers were elated to finally get back into the community to contribute in this new way.

Council representatives Gary Burroughs and Wendy Cheropita were happy to don their own blue shirts as they met with the first group Saturday before heading to the streets.

"The Town has been great," says Morris. "They provided the T-shirts. It was actually the idea of Gary and Wendy, so they (the Town) also supplied the masks, the tote bags, gift cards for value-mart, parking passes for the volunteers and use of the Market Room (at the Courthouse)."

Speaking to The Local Sunday night, Cheropita, who spent a few hours participating Saturday, said the

first weekend was a chance to learn exactly how the program would work. "They (the ambassadors) found that most people had a mask on, or had it in their pockets. They were pleasantly surprised, and everyone was open to having a discussion. Some people chatted for a while, and asked where the washrooms were. We got the frequently asked questions (FAQs) down pat."

Cheropita herself approached a few people Saturday. "Wearing a mask, it's important that they see in your eyes that you're smiling. I found it easy to approach the groups. I think it's important to put yourself in the situation of the ambassadors so you know what it's like being in their shoes."

Volunteers Lois Chapman and Kim Mustill were the first to hit the street at noon. They made sure to stay off Queen Street for the most part, because as Morris says, it's difficult to hold a physically distanced conversation on such a busy thoroughfare.

With beaming smiles that rivaled their new T-shirts for brightness, the two women approached a group gathered around a picnic table on Regent Street. They introduced themselves as volunteer ambassadors, welcomed the visitors to town, and asked if they had any questions. The tourists seemed happy to have a short conversation with Mustill and Chapman, who in a friendly manner shared some of their favourite local businesses.

Across the street was a group of three near their car. Mustill and Chapman walked up and began an informal conversation with the visi-

tors from the Toronto area. In NOTL for the weekend, they were beaming with radiant smiles of their own as they raved about the local restaurants with which they were already thoroughly impressed. The volunteers spent almost five minutes with the tourists, chatting as if they were old friends.

Cheropita had a chance to meet with a number of the volunteers when it was time for a shift change mid-afternoon. Having just come back from a visit to Sentineal Carriages on Byron Street, it was suggested the ambassadors could direct curious visitors to the new weekend location of the carriages as an answer to one of those FAQs.

On that topic, though there was no disruption this weekend from the protesters, there is a protocol in place for the ambassadors if any conflict arises.

"If they encounter anyone who is confrontational," Cheropita explains, "we ask them to say 'I hope you have a nice day,' and walk away. With the protesters, we say don't make eye contact, don't engage in conversation, and if you feel uncomfortable, we ask that they text Laurie (Harley, Shaw Guild president) and Cheryl, as they're in the Market Room. If anything serious is to happen, they would call the police, and not our by-law officers."

Morris explains that this weekend marked the beginning of a two-week pilot program that will be assessed after it wraps up Sept. 13. "We're going to evaluate," she says. "We're going to send all the volunteers a survey, to get their opinions on what they liked, what they didn't like, any sug-



Ambassadors Lois Chapman, Kim Mustill, Barbara Webber, Marlene Walther, Wendy Cheropita, and Gary Burroughs prepare to welcome visitors Saturday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

gestions for improvement, and then the Town will evaluate what they want to do next."

After consulting with Morris and Harley, Cheropita was pleased that the ambassadors were a big success on their first weekend. But there

is always room for adaptation in a pilot program.

"One thing we did learn," she says, "is that our T-shirts had our Shaw Guild logo on the front and the Ambassador Program printed on the back. As you're approaching them

(visitors), they don't know who you are. Shaw Guild makes no sense to them."

So when the ambassadors next hit the Old Town streets, don't be surprised if they are wearing their bright blue T-shirts backwards.



Kim Mustill and Lois Chapman chat with visitors Saturday.



## Shop LOCAL ♥ Support LOCAL



What pairs best with local Niagara wines... Our hostess gifts! starting at

**\$7.99**

Not just a Christmas store!

**34 Queen St., 905.468.4500**

**justchristmas.ca**



## Creek Road Paints

**20% off**

Arborcoat Exterior Stain



**1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil**

**905-329-2077**

**creekroadpaints.ca**

To place your product or special in our new section, contact:

**Karen**

**905•641•5335**

**karen@notllocal.com**

Issue Dates:  
**Every Thursday**

Deadline:  
**Mondays at noon**







# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: IMPERIAL HARDWOOD FLOORING

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## Committed to keeping you safe

### ABOUT US

We are a family owned and operated business established in 1994. Unlike the big box stores, we offer personalized service in all of our sales and installations, with our own dedicated installation crew providing you with guaranteed quality workmanship. The owner of the company, Jurgen Heinrichs, is directly involved in all aspects of the day-to-day operations, personally overseeing all installations and ensuring total customer satisfaction.

### COVID SAFE PRACTICES:

We are committed to keeping you safe during these unprecedented times. Our installers are not sub-contractors, they are our own dedicated employees who share our same concern for the health and safety of our customers. Our employees are screened each day and our small family-run business means minimal risk to your family.

### WE ARE YOUR HARDWOOD AND LAMINATE SPECIALISTS

Come into our show-

room at 580 Read Rd. to see our large selection of quality brand name Premium Hardwoods and Laminates.

We are authorized hardwood dealers for: Lauzon Hardwood Flooring, Superior Flooring, and Laurentian, just to name a few. From the traditional Oaks to the contemporary colours of Maple or Birch, we have something to suit every style and budget.

### LUXURY VINYL TILE

The newest trend is Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT). This product is completely waterproof and is ideal for all areas of your home. From the mudroom, to front entryway to kitchen or living room, LVT is so versatile. LVT comes in wood looks as well as tile patterns.

### HEAVY OR LARGE FURNITURE?

No worries! We will move them out of the way and put them back when we are done. Free of charge!

### OTHER SERVICES WE OFFER:

• Refinishing and/or

repairing older hardwood floors. Whether you need the old fashioned style 3/8" x 1 1/2" or 1 3/4", in oak or maple, or the more traditional 3/4" thick x 3", 4" or 5" wide boards, we can help you with your renovation needs. Most sizes are available in both unfinished and prefinished boards.

• On-site finishing of your new hardwood floors. Sometimes it's best to install the floor unfinished and then sand and varnish it once it's been laid. Some of the advantages to this option is to have a floor with a completely smooth finish, without the bevels found on the prefinished styles; and some of the wider plank-look floors (5-7" wide) are not available prefinished.

• Replacing your worn-out stair treads. Our trained staff can make your stairs look brand new again. All of our stair treads are custom

manufactured in our shop to your specifications, size and colour.

• We can also manufacture custom mouldings and trim to match any décor.

• Free in-home estimates, absolutely no obligation.



Add value to your home and ease to your lifestyle.

# IHF

Sales & Installations

## Imperial Hardwood Flooring

580 Read Rd., St. Catharines

or call 905-937-2189 today!

email: [ihf@vaxxine.com](mailto:ihf@vaxxine.com)

## Need New Floors?

### Let us help you brighten up your home this year!

From hardwood, laminate or Luxury Vinyl Tile, you'll be sure to find something to suit your style and budget. We will provide you with the best quality customer service from start to finish.

What about those large and heavy pieces of furniture? No worries! We will move them out of the way and put them back when we are done... **FREE** of charge!

AQUAFLOOR VINYL

starting @ \$2.99/sq.ft

CANADIAN HARDWOOD

from \$4.99/sq.ft

Family-Run Business

Free estimates with no obligation

Showroom Hours:

Mon-Fri 9:30 to 5

Saturday 9:30 to 1



# EDITORIAL

## We have power to help de-escalate division in town

This small community we love, the town that has been named the prettiest, the friendliest, the town with the beautiful heritage district, the most historic firsts, the Shaw Festival and all the great wineries, restaurants, and everything else that makes us so proud, has been dealing with some weighty issues recently.

We're not alone in having to face up to the very serious problem of systemic racism, or learning how to live through a pandemic. We share those with the rest of the world and can only do what we can do in our little corner of the world.

In our little corner of the world, however, we also have our own problems. We've been making the nightly news for hooting and hollering (or not), and more recently, for the ongoing battle between the protesters, who don't like lovely and beloved horses pulling carriages, and the locals who don't like the protesters.

Because, let's be honest, if it were just protesters, it wouldn't make the news. It takes two

sides to fight. One side walks away, as we teach our kids to, and there is no fight. The protesters aren't going anywhere.

It's a fight that can't be won. It will drive visitors away, from town, from the horse-drawn carriage rides, and from the other downtown businesses who are already suffering more than enough. The loss will be ours.

And just when you might think the Town has made a decision that could actually work, that might take the fight down a few notches and away from the main intersection in town, you see the battle escalating on social media. Everyone has an opinion about what should or shouldn't happen.

The topic in town this week seems to be not so much what is happening to the carriages, but what is happening on social media as a result of what is happening to the carriages.

The fight there has ratcheted up a few notches. Each comment adds extra anger, more ugliness. And it's pervasive. Those who refuse to become part of it

are nevertheless affected by it.

One person said to me this week, "social media is destroying this town."

He's right, I thought. And then I repeated it to my colleague, Karen Skeoch. It's not social media, she said. We talk about social media as if it's another Hal (remember Hal, from 2001: A Space Odyssey? Hal was a computer with artificial intelligence, before that was a thing. It was 1968, and Hal had control over his humans. The difference is he was trying to save them.)

Social media isn't Hal. It isn't something that controls us, and it sure isn't saving us. It's us. We use it to vent our ever-escalating anger. Those who saw Fred Senteinal in the video that has been going around, screaming at the protesters to go home, can understand what happened. He was angry, frustrated, and caught up in the moment. Who among us wouldn't be? He was there, so he fought back.

People who comment on social media are getting caught up in the same way. It's not healthy

for them, and it's embarrassing and really, really disturbing to see our own locals, good people by and large, dividing our community, flinging insults at their friends and neighbours, bullying, showing hate for those who have a different opinion. The destruction is not from social media, it's from inside this community. It's not just the protesters, it's every issue, every decision of council. A great project like the skate park is a good example. That was a small problem with what turned out to be an easy solution, but you'd never know it from the hateful online comments.

And those who are trying to be part of the solutions, those who have to make sometimes difficult decisions which they know are not going to please everyone, are on the receiving end of the worst of it.

An interesting conversation with two different people associated with the police provided a different way to look at their role in the protest. The police are constantly called out, with total disrespect, for not doing more.

But if they did, what would happen? They stress their job is to keep the peace, not to take sides. If they charge people, they would have to charge people on both sides of this protest. And if they push back on the street, if they become more aggressive, more heavy-handed, as some would like them to be, where will it end? In riots? In people being hurt? And then we will blame the police for that.

We only have to look around, to watch the news on TV, to realize what is happening here is nothing compared to what is happening in other corners of the world, and to what could happen here. If we want to keep it that way, we have to respect the police for keeping the peace, which thankfully, they have managed to do so far.

This is a community of people who can show so much good, so much love and kindness and generosity. Look around and you will see the great stories of people trying to help each other. We hear them and share them and rejoice

in the good. When times are tough, we support each other — look at the Shaw Guild and their members, out on the street welcoming tourists with a smile, making a project out of buying from local retailers, doing what they can now until they can get back to helping the Shaw.

What is dividing our town is us, but we can put an end to a large part of what is driving the division. We can allow people to share their views, we can be polite in response, or here's a novel idea, don't respond. We can survive without the instant gratification our angry comments afford us. Or if we have to wade in, we can try for civil discourse, polite debate. We can listen to others and maybe even show a little more tolerance.

After all, we share one common and very important trait.

We love this community. We want it to be the best it can be. And we have the ability to make it so.

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

## LETTERS

### Best sports park

I agree we have the best sports park for the size of our community.

It is used for hockey, lacrosse, baseball, soccer, pickleball, splash pad, playground equipment, facilities for events and tournaments, pavilion for shelter, walking paths for all ages, and soon, skateboarding. Also a place to come with friends (under some trees) keeping your distance. Certainly a

multi-use park.

The new skateboard facility is a welcome addition. It will give the younger people a place to burn off energy. It is being located close to the centre of the park, making this location the best option.

The Virgil Business Association helped to make most of the facilities possible, but only because of all the volunteers helping each

year at the Virgil Stampede.

It is great to see people using the facilities having fun and getting excited, with sounds of joy above 55 decibels.

Let's keep the park active by supplying facilities that are wanted, and maintaining them, as is being done by the town.

**Wally Bogusat, NOTL**



## Auchterlonie on Astrology

**Bill Auchterlonie**  
**Special to The Local**

*The full week Sept. 3 to 9 of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website <https://www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca/>.*

Thursday, Sept 3: Recovering from the full Moon is easier, thanks to positive con-

nections between the Moon and Pluto, and between Mercury and Saturn during the midnight hours. But an idea connected to this full Moon demands resolution today. It was on Sept. 3, 1752, that Britain and the British Empire, including Canada and America, adopted the Gregorian Calendar, losing 11 days in the switch. Riots ensued

as people believed the governments had stolen 11 days from their lives.

Wednesday, Sept. 9: Today Mars turns retrograde and stays retrograde until Nov. 15. It's a period of a little over two months, where everything seems upside down. Hopefully some good will come from it. And today British Actor Hugh Grant turns 60.



## View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
**Special to The Local**

In *Legally Blonde*, Elle, president of her sorority and naturally blonde, Miss June in her campus calendar, dates the cutest boy on campus. When

Harvard-bound boyfriend dumps her, Elle rallies and gets into Harvard Law School too, determined to win the boy back and onward and upward from there. Supremely silly, it is nonetheless engaging and comforting.

*Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. His Facebook reviews have become popular with his friends and followers, and he has graciously agreed to share his opinions through "short and sweet" exclusives for The Local.*



### 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](mailto: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.

## The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0

**Editor:**  
**Penny Coles**  
[penny@notllocal.com](mailto:penny@notllocal.com)  
905-246-5878

**Publisher:**  
**The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local**

**Graphic Designer:**  
**Rosie Gowsell**  
[composing@notllocal.com](mailto:composing@notllocal.com)

**Advertising Sales:**  
**Karen Skeoch**  
[karen@notllocal.com](mailto:karen@notllocal.com) • 905-641-5335

**Julia Coles**  
[julia@notllocal.com](mailto:julia@notllocal.com) • 905-934-1040

**Helen Arsenaault**  
**Local Business Directory,**  
**Local Happenings, Classified Sales**  
[classified@notllocal.com](mailto:classified@notllocal.com)

[notllocal.com](http://notllocal.com) [facebook.com/notllocal](https://facebook.com/notllocal) [instagram.com/thenotllocal](https://instagram.com/thenotllocal) [@thenotllocal](https://twitter.com/thenotllocal)

## NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>DISTRESS CENTRE</b><br>For depression, distress and crisis.<br>24 hour help line:<br><b>905-688-3711</b> | <b>KIDS HELP PHONE</b><br>Service for youth<br><b>416-586-5437</b><br><b>1-800-668-6868</b><br>(Crisis Line)<br><a href="http://kidshelpphone.ca">kidshelpphone.ca</a>       | <b>ASSAULTED WOMEN'S HELPLINE</b><br>Mobile calls to:<br><b>#SAFE (#7233)</b><br><b>1-866-863-0511</b><br>(Toll Free)  |
| <b>MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS</b><br>(Toll Free)<br><b>1-866-550-5205</b>                          | <b>ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS</b><br>Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.<br>St. Mark's Parish Hall<br>41 Byron St., NOTL<br>or find a meeting<br><b>905-682-2140</b> | <b>CRIME STOPPERS</b><br><b>1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)</b><br><a href="http://niagaratips.com">niagaratips.com</a><br>Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip |
| <b>GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS</b><br><b>905-351-1616</b>   |  |  |



# New boardwalk to make shoreline more accessible

**Mike Balsom**  
Special to The Local

For the past year, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and visitors alike have been enjoying a beautiful new shoreline walk along Lake Ontario, just north of the NOTL Golf Club links.

This summer the serenity of the path has been disrupted somewhat with the presence of construction crews working on the final phase of the Parks Canada project.

Crews from Cameron Building Group out of St. Catharines are busy installing a new boardwalk along the northwest side of Fort Mississauga. The boardwalk will soon link the new waterfront walkway with the path through the golf club to the fort.

When completed this fall, locals and tourists will be able to stroll safely from town, through the golf course pathway, around Fort Mississauga, then along the shoreline of Lake Ontario. They will emerge just behind the fourth green of the golf course, near the cairn monument to the Battle of Fort George, where Queen Street winds its way around an S-curve onto Niagara Boulevard.

A representative from project management company Canada Building Group of Mississauga says the raised walkway alongside the fort was necessary to ensure the

pathway will be fully accessible to all.

Parks Canada's main objective is to focus on the declining condition of cultural resources of national significance at Fort Mississauga, including the historic grounds which are now home to the NOTL Golf Club, while also providing a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors who want to access the fort and its viewing platform.

The extension of the trail should result in an increased number of visitors to the fort, meaning more people will be walking the golf course path, which currently requires them to cross in front of the second tee.

Golf club owner and operator John Wiens says he has been kept informed and been part of the decision-making throughout the entire process.

"We work well together," confirms Wiens. "We had a lot of communication, especially in the timing. We had to close the back tee on #8 a couple of times. There was some noise and dust last year during the walkway construction, but our members were great, and it wasn't a big deal."

The latest work is part of the final phase of construction designed to protect Fort Mississauga National Historic Site. The shoreline walkway itself, with 600 metres of breakwall, is part of that protection, as it has been

installed to combat erosion and to stabilize the shore.

On Monday, trees and brush along the earthworks to the fort were being cleared. Still to come as part of the project is the planting of more than 400 Carolinian trees and shrubs along the trail. The design for this re-vegetation plan was prepared in consultation with Wiens and the NOTL Golf Club, who leases its land from Parks Canada.

According to a Parks Canada press release, the earthworks and breakwall surrounding the fort itself are overgrown with mostly non-native and invasive tree and shrub species. These can damage the breakwall and earthworks archeology with their root systems. Parks Canada will remove about 100 trees and shrubs, and replace them with locally sourced, native Ontario grasses, selected for their minimal maintenance and water requirements. They have assured that no species at risk trees will be removed, and tree removal will continue in September, well outside of the active bird nesting season.

The project has at its roots a 2012 strategic assessment of Parks Canada's asset portfolio. Sarah Simpson, public relations officer for the Southwestern Ontario field unit, says that assessment considered visitor safety, ensuring high-quality visitor

experiences, preserving the ecological integrity of parks and marine conservation areas, and maintenance and conservation of historic sites.

Wiens says the walkway and the clear view of the lake now enhance the walkabout experience for golfers. He

doesn't anticipate needing to make changes to the #2 tee, despite the prospect of increased visitors. "We might have to put up a low chain to stop people from wandering off the path, and maybe a couple more stop signs, if anything. But I think it's re-

ally going to be a beautiful thing for the community and our citizens."

The total budget for the project, including the 2019 repairs and restoration to the fort building itself, is \$4.9 million, through federal infrastructure funding.



A boardwalk along the northwest side of Fort Mississauga will link the new waterfront walkway with the path through the golf club to the fort. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



## Back to School

Eva Miele, 5, is looking forward to returning to Senior Kindergarten at St. Michael. Her mother Joy says sending her to school was not a difficult decision at all, that she feels the COVID numbers are low in Niagara and don't present much of a risk. She is more concerned about Eva falling behind if she doesn't go to school. "I have a positive optimism" about the safety of schools, and if there is an outbreak, or if numbers in the region rise, "I'll cross that bridge when I come to it. I assume everything will be copacetic, and will re-evaluate if necessary." Eva is excited about returning to school to take on her role of helping Junior Kindergarten students, says Joy, as Eva enjoys some play time at the Virgil Sports Park playground. (Penny Coles)

## Feature your business in our LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The full page is made up of a **HALF PAGE AD** and **HALF PAGE ARTICLE**

Article word count: 450-500

Ad size: 10.25" w x 7" h

Publication Date Subject to Availability

NOTL Businesses contact

**Karen** at **905•641•5335**  
at **karen@notllocal.com**

Businesses outside NOTL contact

**Julia** at **905•934•1040**  
at **julia@notllocal.com**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake  
**LOCAL**  
The trusted voice of our community.







## Niagara-on-the-Lake Reduces Speed on Concession 6 Road Between Niagara Stone Road and Line 2

At the August 24, 2020, Council Meeting, Council approved a speed limit reduction, from 80 km/hr to 70 km/hr on Concession 6 Road, between Niagara Stone Road and Line 2 Road.

A speed limit reduction ultimately helps to improve traffic safety and address resident concerns within the surrounding areas.

This change will come into effect this week, pending replacement of the speed limit signs, advising drivers of the reduced speed. The Niagara Regional Police will also be notified of this change to support future enforcement activities.

For more information, please call 905-468-3266 or visit [www.notl.com](http://www.notl.com).



## Fire Master Plan Survey

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is embarking on a review of the Town's Fire and Emergency Services, to determine areas of improvement and to help forecast the Department's immediate and long-term delivery needs and goals. This review will assist in ensuring the Town's citizens are receiving the most modern and efficient service delivery possible.

The Master Plan for the Town's Fire and Emergency Services will address current and anticipated community fire risks and needs over the next five, ten and twenty years. The objective of the Master Plan will be to examine, review and research all areas of the Department including operations, prevention and education efforts, apparatus and equipment, and human resources.

### We need your help!

Members of the public are invited to complete the Fire Master Plan Survey on the Town's Join the Conversation Platform. Survey deadline is September 30, 2020.

[www.jointheconversationnotl.org/firemasterplan](http://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/firemasterplan)

# Sentineals have issues with Byron St. location

Continued from page 1

quired to do so for the new weekend location. Licences to operate their businesses are granted by the Region of Niagara, not the Town.

"All of my colleagues at the Region are getting letters from different people, to pull the licence," says the lord mayor. "I just wanted to get the whole thing out of the limelight."

Horses-and-carriages owned by the Sentineal family have been a mainstay on the corner of King and Queen Streets for more than 30 years. Fred says their presence has always been welcomed by the Prince of Wales Hotel, dating back to when current town councillor John Wiens was the owner.

Councillors Gary Burroughs and Wendy Cheropita dropped by to provide their moral support, while Coun. Erwin Wiens and his wife Dorothy actually booked a carriage ride for the afternoon.

The uncertainty of how the move will affect business, though, is causing Sentineal much anxiety.

"The corner (near the Prince of Wales) gives us visibility," he stresses. "Putting us on a side street takes away from that. I don't know what that will bring,

but in the winter months there will be no business here to be had, if it becomes a permanent thing. I guess that's what we're afraid of."

To Sentineal, it feels like the protesters, At War for Animals Niagara (AWFAN) have scored a victory. "There's no doubt they've made gains," he says, "especially in the media. Last weekend was really the first time there was a counter protest in three years. I was down there, I'm personally not proud of yelling and stuff, and I plan never to do that again."

"But the next morning, I woke up with a sense of relief of the frustration over the things they've done to us over the past three years. And here we are, still being villainized for trying to exercise the same rights that these guys have taken advantage of."

Sentineal says he will look into working with the Prince of Wales and the Town to place signs at his usual location to direct people over to Byron Street on weekends. Disero confirms that there is nothing stopping the carriage companies from doing that. She also points out that the new Shaw Guild ambassadors, who began walking the streets Saturday to welcome tourists, will be able to direct people to the new carriage stands.

A small group of about 10 AWFAN protesters were back in town Sunday, and easily found the horses at their new location. It was a much quieter affair than the one a week earlier, and out of sight from the bulk of the tourists roaming Queen Street.

The carriages were back in their more visible location Monday, but the weekend relocation continues to leave Sentineal frustrated with both the Town and the Niagara Regional Police.

"We were down about 40 per cent in sales, and people couldn't find us," says Laura Sentineal Monday, evaluating the weekend. "It caused a lot of problems with our reservations, and once the sun set, our staff did not want to be down there. It's very dark, very secluded, there's very little foot traffic, and nothing around. I think I understand the 'why,' but I'm just sort of waiting to see how it all comes around."

"It's unfortunate that the protesters can set up a situation and extort the Town to meet their demands, and that's what's happened here," Fred laments. "Niagara Regional Police have set a stage that you can come protest in Niagara-on-the-Lake whenever you want, and you will not be charged. And that's where we are today."

# Restaurant development needs trees, green space

Penny Coles  
The Local

As the proposal for a Swiss Chalet and Harvey's restaurant in Virgil moves through the site plan process, councillors are wrestling with how best to make development on Niagara Stone Road look more like a village than a series of strip malls.

One of the answers involves trees and greenspace.

A lengthy discussion at Tuesday's continuation of last week's council meeting focused on a 2015 report that provided guidelines for Virgil development — guidelines Lord Mayor Betty Disero wants enforced for the restaurants, which are proposed on the property by the Grape Escape wine tour company.

Councillors agreed, and spoke about the best way to make that happen.

Disero mentioned several retailers along Niagara Stone Road who have used trees and greenspace to

soften their look, but also expressed some disappointment of others that did not.

The development on the property of the former Walls furniture store, she said, was originally intended to have a boulevard with trees and greenspace, but they were tied to a site plan that included a second-storey residential component. When the plan to include apartments was dropped, so was the requirement for trees and landscaping.

She said she was upset the developers didn't follow through on the landscaping, notwithstanding they didn't need to.

"We're trying so hard to make Virgil more walkable and more pedestrian-friendly," she said.

"I'm just very frustrated we're trying so hard, and some property owners just don't care."

"Everything the lord mayor said and then some," added Coun. Norm Arsenault. "This is the first thing people see when they come

into Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Coun. Wendy Cheropita suggested "harsher language" should call for a required landscape design plan, including boulevards and mature trees, and that it be approved by council.

Coun. Clare Cameron, a member of the Town's urban design committee, told councillors she supports the idea of greenspace and trees, and reminded them the proponents of the development have been very cooperative thus far. There has already been "open and positive dialogue" with the urban design committee, including regarding landscaping, she said, and she wouldn't want to risk that relationship by the Town being heavy-handed.

Cameron suggested waiting to see what the "next version" of the proposal might involve, and it was agreed to allow Disero's motion regarding landscaping for the project be referred to the urban design committee.



# Skate park almost ready to be kid-tested

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Construction of the Virgil skate park continues, with some residents' concerns to be addressed after completion, if necessary.

A motion from Coun. Clare Cameron was discussed at last Tuesday's continuation of the August council meeting that residents would be consulted following competition, and if necessary, additional landscaping and buffering could be added.

Cameron said she felt she had "dropped the ball" and missed some critical pieces of information about the facility, such as how much it would cost and where it would be located. Part of her motion was to include more information in the process of council making decisions about capital investments.

Kevin Turcotte, acting director of operations, told councillors there is a "small budget" for landscaping when the build is completed, and if more buffering is required, it could be included in the 2021 budget.

Cameron's motion regarding the process of decision-making became a discussion of council's role of governance versus managing decisions that should be left to staff.

Coun. Erwin Wiens reminded councillors that the Town has built arenas, the community centre and other facilities with a formal process for community input. "Kevin Turcotte is a rock star" for organizing recreational projects, and finding the funds for getting them done, he said, suggesting changing the process would mean "getting away from governance and getting into running the town."

Council agreed with communicating with residents once the project is finished, adding landscaping and buffering features if needed, to the skate park if needed, and having staff bring more location details to council on future projects.

Richard Wall, president of the Virgil Business Association, says he's been watching the construction of the skate park, and says "it's more impressive than I thought it would be."

The VBA contributed

\$150,000 to the \$450,000 project.

He says he was recently watching live video of kids skateboarding in new Welland skate park, and was interested to see all age groups using it, including younger kids with scooters.

He liked the idea of cameras on the facility, he says, for safety and security reasons, although cameras are not part of the Virgil project.

"I was encouraged to see kids of all ages using it, and I look forward to seeing the Virgil project finished and kids using it. We're all looking forward to the official opening."

The skate park is about two weeks away from being ready for use, with the landscaping still to be completed and a sealant to be applied to the finished concrete pad for protection.

There is no date set for the opening.

Wall says the VBA is still expecting a pump track, which provides rollers and banked turns for bikes, as a second phase of the facility.

Turcotte agreed it is still being considered, "but will be a few years in the future."



Hans Pauls, of the town's parks and recreation department, stops by to check on the work of the skate park. The cement sidewalk was being installed Monday, grass needs to be laid around the sides of the structure, and a sealant added before it's ready for local kids. It might be a couple of weeks to completion, he says. (Penny Coles)

**Niagara on-the-Lake Realty**  
1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

**LUXURYREAL ESTATE.COM™**  
WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p><b>177 KING STREET</b><br/><b>\$3,998,000</b><br/>MLS 40011910 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft</p> | <p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p><b>169 KING STREET</b><br/><b>\$998,000</b><br/>MLS 40011927 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft</p> | <p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p><b>790 CHARLOTTE STREET</b><br/><b>\$1,395,000</b><br/>MLS 40012266 • Thomas Elltoft and Viviane Elltoft</p> | <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>10 LUTHER AVENUE</b><br/><b>\$1,049,000</b><br/>MLS 30816417 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft</p> |
| <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>267 GAGE STREET</b><br/><b>\$849,000</b><br/>MLS 30820651 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft</p>          | <p><b>LEASED</b></p> <p><b>18 CASTLEREAGH STREET</b><br/><b>\$2,700</b><br/>MLS 40011344 • Patricia Atherton</p>               | <p><b>NEW PRICE</b></p> <p><b>14 LUCIA COURT</b><br/><b>\$944,000</b><br/>MLS 30814496 • Victoria Bolduc and Sarah Gleddie</p>            | <p><b>5 HAMPTON COURT</b><br/><b>\$1,695,000</b><br/>MLS 30819667 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk</p>           |
| <p><b>144 RIVERBEACH DRIVE</b><br/><b>\$1,399,000</b><br/>MLS 30827401 • Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft</p>                  | <p><b>LOT 4 KENMIR AVE</b><br/><b>\$1,439,000</b><br/>MLS 30788700 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk</p>              | <p><b>165 PRIDEAUX STREET</b><br/><b>\$2,995,000</b><br/>MLS 30815004 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk</p>                      | <p><b>114 TANBARK ROAD</b><br/><b>\$499,000</b><br/>MLS 30788317 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk</p>            |

Christopher Bowron\*\*\* 905-468-2269

Kim Elltoft\*\* 905-380-8011

Marilyn Francis\*\* 905-932-1266

Randall Armstrong\*\* 905-651-2977

Victoria Bolduc\* 905-941-3726

Philip Bowron\* 905-348-7626

Bonnie Grimm\* 905-468-1256

Nicole Vanderperk\* 905-941-4585

Viviane Elltoft\* 905-468-2142

Thomas Elltoft\* 905-380-8012

Cheryl Carmichael\* 905-941-0276

Sarah Gleddie\* 905-685-2458

Christine Bruce\* 905-328-9703

Linda Williams\* 905-401-4240

Caroline Polgrabia\* 905-933-4983

Patricia Atherton\* 905-933-4983

\*\*\*Broker of Record \*\* Broker \*Sales Representative

**109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. Davids Office 905-262-6996**



# Community donations are funding trail rehabilitation

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The rehabilitation of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail is set to continue, aided by a donation from the Palatine Hills Estate Winery.

The funding is in place to continue, and the work is ready to proceed, as soon as town staff has time.

Part of the first phase, between John and Charlotte Streets, is done, with residents making the most of it. The project is being funded completely through donations collected by

a Town committee formed to see the trail preserved and rehabilitated from John Street to York Road, following the historic Erie and Ontario Railroad.

The rehabilitated portion of the trail has been widened to the Town's three-metre standard, allowing for vehicle access for maintenance, says Tony Chisholm. That has been necessary once already, when a large tree fell across it. The widening will continue, with a fine crushed stone surface to make it more accessible.

The work on the trail is a legacy project going back to local 150th celebrations, and

since then, Chisholm has heard a few complaints about the lack of nature trails remaining in town, some concern that the new surface may attract more traffic from visitors, and that the recently-completed work makes it look like "a highway."

However, he says he has heard from many more residents who are grateful for its increased accessibility.

One of those is Coun. Allan Bisback, who walks the trail from John to Paffard several times a week, and also cycles it regularly to East and West Line, where he says it becomes

"unusable and rough for leisure biking."

Bisback lives on Park Court near the start of the trail at John Street, and volunteered to be part of the Heritage Trail Committee when he became a councillor, wanting to contribute to its rehabilitation.

Before the rehabilitation began, "it was difficult to bike on this section, let alone walk on it without being careful of the uneven surface. After a rain it was unusable and muddy. The Town has cleaned up the dead trees, and installed a great all-purpose surface. The area has lots of birds, deer, the odd coyote, and many skunks, and natural growth is returning."

Viewing the trail from his back deck, the councillor estimates about a 40 per cent increase in use in the past few months, mostly people walking and biking are enjoying the new surface, but also because "folks want to exercise outside during the current environment," he suggests.

"And to think all this work was completed through volunteers on a committee, and generous donations. I donated to this phase myself, will do so for future phases, and encourage residents to do the same."

He's looking forward to the rehabilitation of the other sections that are in poor condition, he adds.

He's not alone in his praise. Jane Catcher, also a regular user of the trail, says she used to cycle it occasionally before the recent work was completed, but enjoys the new and improved version more. "I love the trail and find it very comfortable to ride," she says. The foundation is nice and firm and makes for a good ride without even needing to change gears, Catcher adds. "On my weekly ride to the Brock Monu-

ment, I love to come into NOTL and take the Heritage Trail as my reward after a long ride. I feel like I am taking in some history, while enjoying a pleasant ride underneath the canopy of the trees and enjoying the various backyard gardens I can see from the trail — my little bit of heaven," says Catcher. "From time to time, I meet other people, both cyclers and walkers, and feel the upgraded size and width is perfect, because I never feel crowded as I pass by, saying good morning as I go. I look forward to the continuation of the renovations and will continue to be a trail-blazer who uses this little piece of heaven right in our own backyard, reminding us of the history that once was such an important part of the town."

Resident David Bell is one who enjoys the trail as a pedestrian, experiencing it with his granddaughter and walking the family dog, picking raspberries in the summer and taking long fall walks with the family. "It is a wonderful trail, and the improvements between Paffard and John are very welcome. I look forward to a better path to East-West in the near future, and ultimately to York Road," he says.

Ron and Jan Ashenhurst also live on Park Court, backing onto the trail, so "have front-row seats to observe the traffic on the trail since it has been upgraded."

They say the use of the trail has probably doubled, with "loads of pedestrians, dog-walkers and cyclists. We have seen someone using a walker, and someone in a wheelchair, which would have been inaccessible previously. We also see people on horseback, a couple of ATVs (not good), and even some deer using the trail. It is a huge improvement over the rutted, weed-infested trail that was

there before."

The Ashenhursts say they look forward to what lies ahead, and would like to see tree-planting, ornamental shrubs, and even some wild flowers.

There will be plantings added to the otherwise-finished portion, says Chisholm.

Charles Neufeld and Palatine teamed up months ago with the heritage trail committee on a fundraiser that dedicated 25 per cent of all wine purchased for trail rehabilitation. Despite lower sales during the pandemic, Palatine is donating \$550 to the project, says Neufeld, who likes to bike and walk the trail himself.

"I love the trail, and I'd love for the rest of it to be fixed up," he says.

One of Palatine's philosophies is "take it outside," says Neufeld, explaining that wine can be enjoyed in the backyard, or on a picnic — it doesn't have to be limited to accompanying dinner around the dining room table.

"That makes this project a good fit for us, where outdoor activity is encouraged."

The work that has been completed so far has cost about \$38,000, and with \$120,000 collected in donations, there is enough to finish the first of four phases, but the committee will be looking for donations to finish the trail to York Road.

Donations can be sent to The Heritage Trail Committee, c/o of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, PO Box 100, Virgil, ON, L0S 1T0.

Donations of \$25 and more will receive a charitable tax receipt.

For more information visit heritagetrail.ca. For information about Palatine Hill Estate Winery, visit palatinehillsestatewinery.com.



John Neufeld Sr., and Charles Neufeld hand a cheque to trail committee chair Rick Meloen, committee member Cheryl Morris and vice-chair Tony Chisholm. (Penny Coles)

**Advertise your business in our**

# FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT SECTION

**Publication Dates:**  
**September 17, 24 & October 1**

**Booking Deadline: Friday prior to publication date at noon**

**\*SPECIAL BONUS FOR MINIMUM 1/4 PAGE AD**  
We will match your minimum quarter page ad size with equal space for your submitted story about your product or service.

**The Niagara-on-the-Lake**

# LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community.

NOTL businesses contact  
**Karen** at **905-641-5335**  
or **karen@notllocal.com**

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



## 40th anniversary Terry Fox run

Joan King will be selling Terry Fox T-shirts at Phil's valu-mart on Friday, Sept. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. This will be the 40th annual Terry Fox run, and it will be a virtual event. One Day, Your Way will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20. Participants can walk, run, bike from a place of their choice. Participants are encouraged to post a picture of their running shoes at a NOTL landmark with the hashtag #FoxFootsteps #TerryFox #40years of hope #TFRNOTL #ontario #canada. King, organizer of the Terry Fox run for more than a decade, has taken a photo of her shoes at the NOTL Clock Tower. "Terry's shoes symbolize his determination and courage. Together we can honour Terry's spirit from coast to coast," says King. Register for this year's run at <http://www.terryfox.ca/terryfoxrun/NOTL> to start fundraising. You can sponsor yourself, another team or collect pledges. In NOTL, we have raised \$937,436 since 1991, and we're hoping to reach the \$1,000,000 goal this year, says King.



# Memory of Tucker will live on, as a hero

Continued from page 1

rebuilding the house, and when it was done, moved back into a beautiful new home, and continued to live there with their family. But Rachel says she was never comfortable there, and was eventually diagnosed with post traumatic stress syndrome, for which she has been receiving counselling.

She and Chafe separated, and her older boys, Ayden, now 17, and Kalan, 14, have been fine, able to put the loss of all their material possessions behind them, concentrate on family and move forward with their lives. Little Keegan is also okay, but she has been ridden with anxiety, never feeling settled.

"From the time we moved back in, it never seemed like my house," she says, and Tucker, had been the same, following her around, worrying about her and seeming to feel the same anxiety. "It seemed like he fed off it."

Until the day about three weeks ago when she, the three boys and Tucker moved out of that house and back to the fami-

ly farm, into the house that had been her grandparents, having sold the Annmarie Drive house.

Rachel grew up right across the street from the farm, and spent a good bit of her childhood there with her grandparents. After moving back, she says she immediately felt like a different person.

"I feel like I've come home."

And for the first time since the fire, she says, "Tucker was wagging his tail. He was a different dog. He was happy, and we had a fabulous week. He was flying around outside, loving it."

And then, just 10 days after moving in, when they were doing some work outside and Tucker was with them, he seemed a little slower than usual, Rachel says, and went to his bed to lie down. She saw him there a while later, sleeping peacefully with his paws crossed and looking so sweet, she went to take a photo, and then realized he was too still.

Although she's heart-broken he's gone, she says, "he's at peace in heaven."

She's sure he felt he

had done his job, getting the family away from the house and to a safe place. "He was telling us he knew we're okay. He knew we were settled."

Tucker, a shepherd-rottweiler mix, was six years old when he woke Rachel up the night of the fire with uncharacteristic barking and whining, pawing at her bed and making her realize something was wrong.

He was just eight when he died, and had shown no signs of any problems with his health, she says.

With the Annmarie Drive house now a good home for the next family who lives there, and Rachel feeling "amazing" now she's back on the farm, she says, "I feel in some ways this was meant to be. The fire changed me, taught me lessons I'd never have learned. This community picked me up and carried me through it. I'll never leave Niagara-on-the-Lake. This is my home."

The techniques she has learned are helping her deal with PTSD, but being back on the farm is also a tonic. "I feel like a changed person. I haven't felt this kind of peace in a

long time. I wasn't myself at the house.

Long before the fire she taught her kids that all that matters is family, and that was a reinforcement that "you don't need a lot in life." Things don't matter, memories do, and those they have taken with them, she says.

"You just have to live

every day your best life, for the moment and with gratitude."

And the memory of Tucker will live on, as a hero, recognized with induction into the Purina Animal Hall of Fame. An American researcher into pet behaviour, working with Purina, said Tucker did everything he could do

the night of the fire to use his "great communication skills" until he was successful in alerting his family to danger. "It shows the strong bond to his family," she said, adding that dogs such as Tucker "put the lives of their families before their own self-preservation, out of loyalty and love for their family members."



Tucker loved life on the farm, but didn't have a lot of time to enjoy it. (Rachel Spiewak)

## Lions burger night continues to Thanksgiving But with one less picnic table

Penny Coles  
The Local

The St. Davids Lions have found their August burger nights successful both for fundraising and community engagement, and will carry on with them into October.

They will do so with one less picnic table, however. Lion Harold Thiessen says the event has been a great success, with people picking up dinner and staying to enjoy it on the grounds, and they have "cobbled together" enough picnic tables to accommodate those who stay to eat. Last week, volunteers cleaned up and stacked the tables as usual, and discovered the next day one was missing. Thiessen has asked The Local to pass the message along for residents to see if one has shown up somewhere unexpectedly.

Ed Pittman, the committee head for the Friday Lions burger night, says the response from the community has been wonderful.

"Every week has been

a great turnout, and the funds being raised will benefit the community. We have done five barbecues so far and plan on continuing until Thanksgiving in October, providing the weather holds out for us. That too has been truly fantastic so far."

The burger night has replaced the Lions fish fries, however they have also always been a great event, and Pittman says the Lions are looking forward to the day when they can put those back on their agenda.

In the meantime, they have had great volunteer support, says Pittman, including the Leos, and have instituted as many safe

protocols as possible. "It appears to be working," he says. "Anyone who has stopped by to watch us can see we are all wearing masks, and the hand wash station has helped to keep us all safer."

The first burger night, with long line-ups, was "part of our learning curve," says Pittman, and since then the waits have been minimal.

About the missing picnic table, he says, "I can only hope that maybe that person who took it will develop a conscience and see the good we have created here, and perhaps return what doesn't belong to them."



**ANDREWS LAW  
PROFESSIONAL  
CORPORATION**  
Barristers & Solicitors

**905.468.0081**  
**info@rjwandrews.ca**

**REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS**

**A**

**Linda Attioe, RP**  
Counselling · Psychotherapy · Psychoanalysis

By Phone or Videoconference

[www.lindaattioe.com](http://www.lindaattioe.com) | 905-468-0046  
Serving the Niagara Region since 2005

**TONY  
BALDINELLI, MP**  
NIAGARA FALLS

**TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA**  
**WWW.TONYBALDINELLIMP.CA**

Niagara Falls / NOTL : 905-353-9590  
Fort Erie : 905-871-9991

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE  
DENTAL**

**Dr. Kevin Clark and  
Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark**  
Dentists  
and their registered  
Dental Hygiene Team

369 MARY STREET  
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE  
[www.niagaradental.ca](http://www.niagaradental.ca)

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME  
EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE  
**905-468-3009**



# The Material and Mystical to appear at Pumphouse

**Kim Wade**  
**Special to The Local**

Artist Marilyn Cochrane has been moving in the realm of The Material and the Mystical as she prepares for her solo gallery showing at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

"It is almost a two-year process for me to complete my complex artwork for a solo exhibition, and this will mark the second solo show that I have had at the Pumphouse since moving to NOTL five years ago from Toronto."

The opening reception for her exhibit will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 5. There will be a naming presentation for The Joyner Gallery at 1:45 p.m., with Lorraine and Geoff Joyner present and recognized for their \$25,000 contribution to the Pumphouse. The newly renovated gallery space, which features monthly exhibitions, is being named after the couple for their steadfast support of arts, history and culture in the community. A plaque in their honour is now on display at the Pumphouse.

That will be followed by a short presentation by Cochrane at 2 p.m. and again at 3 p.m. In an effort to adhere to physical distancing restrictions and public gathering guidelines, the Pumphouse will also have a second reception on Sunday, Sept. 6 that will follow the same schedule as Saturday, to ensure visitors can attend without overcrowding.

"I am excited to present my new paintings and sculptures in my solo art show at the Pumphouse Arts Centre opening this weekend," says Cochrane.

"I will be there to greet everyone from 1 to 4 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, to answer any questions about the artwork, and to invite everyone to enjoy a glass of wine!"

Educated at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto, McGill University in Montreal and the American College of Fine Art in Paris, France, Cochrane has had an extensive career as an artist that has included many solo and group exhibitions, mainly in and around Toronto, but as far away as Halifax, Montreal, Winni-

peg and Banff. She has also been the recipient of many awards for her work. Most recently, she received the Carl Schaeffer Award of Excellence at the 2017 CSPWC International Watercolour Show in Toronto.

"The title that I have chosen for this show is 'The Material and The Mystical', which represents the two realities that I feel envelop us at all times," says Cochrane. "We are most aware of the material world, using our physical senses easily every day to interpret it, yet there is also another more

subtle realm of unseen energies that we can intuit by using our inner senses. I aim to depict in my paintings the play between these two worlds, and to evoke the beauty that I see and feel in both."

Cochrane describes nature as her muse, and her muse lives in the Niagara Region. "Nature is my starting point to represent 'The Material', and I focus on the power of soaring trees, ripening grapes and exquisite blooms to bring it to life on

Continued on page 13

## NOW OPEN

## TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

## NOW OPEN

### CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

Wine Boutique and Tasting Bar  
Now Open for Tastings  
Reservations Only  
Curbside and Local Delivery  
still available!

The Farmhouse Café  
Patio Open for Lunch  
7 days a Week  
Reservations Only

Call 905-468-8814  
to make your reservation.  
Check our website for full details  
and service hours.

1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 [www.CarolineCellars.com](http://www.CarolineCellars.com)

### Endless Summer Sale

Up To 30% Off Store-Wide

Open Daily, 10-4  
1709 Niagara Stone Rd.

**Mori Gardens**  
Design & Garden Centre

(905)468-7863  
Niagara-on-the-Lake



**PILLITTERI**  
ESTATES  
Winery

WINE, DINE & SUNSHINE  
@ PILLITTERI'S NEW  
PIZZA PATIO  
NOW OPEN

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
11:30AM TO 9PM

SUNDAY 11:30AM TO 6PM

VISIT [PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELHEAD](http://PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELHEAD) FOR MORE



Serving Niagara Since 1977

## SIMPSON'S

Get 20% off online orders (minimum \$25 before tax)  
with discount code **LOCAL**

Shop from the comfort of home at our new online store:  
[www.simpsonsparmacy.store](http://www.simpsonsparmacy.store)



FREE HOME DELIVERY

We are now  
open in store,  
but will continue curbside  
and online orders for those  
that wish to continue  
shopping this way.



CURBSIDE PICKUP

We will do everything we can to support you.

**Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400**

Follow our Facebook Page for Updates | [www.simpsonsparmacy.ca](http://www.simpsonsparmacy.ca)




We are now **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**,  
but ask you kindly to adhere to the  
rules posted to keep everyone safe and  
allow for daily design to continue.

We are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. -  
Monday to Friday, and closed on  
weekends until further notice.

We are still offering **Curbside Pickup** and  
**Free Delivery** for those who would prefer that  
service. Call orders to **905-329-2077**  
or text **905-329-2077**.

## Creek Road Paints

1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil



# Nature, Cochrane's muse, 'lives in the Niagara Region'

Continued from page 12

the canvas. I interpret these from photos that I take in my wanderings around our gorgeous Niagara countryside."

Each photograph is "painted in a meditative way with layer upon layer of glowing transparent colour,

creating highly realistic images. The next step is then working around and into this realism with energetic, highly textural, abstract and free brushwork. This represents to me "The Mystical, the mysterious and the unseen energies around us. I turn to the power of colour to draw the onlooker into

the image, and into a dream of another reality where the marvels of our imagination coexist with the world in which we live."

In this exhibition, Cochrane has also added sculpture to compliment the paintings. "My new sculptures are titled Echo Cairns, and they are a con-

tinuation of my Echoes Series that I have been exploring for many years. This is a new interpretation where I am stacking millions of years old minerals along with sculpted elements into a fascinating composite of sparkling crystals. Into each of these little sculptures I then place a miniature painted landscape that echoes the colours and feeling of its sculpted form. I aim to beckon the viewer into a condensed world of beauty expressed by the glittering crystals and dream-like landscapes."

With nature as her muse and taking inspiration from the Niagara Region, Cochrane has a goal for this exhibition. "I hope with my artwork to create a richness to enthrall the viewer, and to allow a space of beauty and contemplation."

The exhibit will run from Sept. 1 to Sept. 30. Contact the Niagara Pump-house Arts Centre for more information at niagarapumphouse.ca or 905-468-5455.

For more information on Marilyn Cochrane, consult the Niagara Pump-house Arts Centre website or the artist's website at [www.marilyncochrane.com](http://www.marilyncochrane.com).



Lorraine and Geoff Joyner will be recognized at the Pumphouse Saturday with the exhibition room to be named The Joyner Gallery, for their support of the arts. (Photos supplied)



Harvest Celebration (below) and Echo Cairn #2 Sea Strata are two Marilyn Cochrane works that will be part of the September exhibit at the Pumphouse.



## Now OPEN

## NOW OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

## Now OPEN

### RAVINE VINEYARD

ESTATE WINERY

Join our Wine Club!

CLUBRAVINE offers you 6 bottles of Sand & Gravel & Ravine Estate Wines delivered quarterly to your door.

Plus! Club Members receive exclusive perks, discounts, event invites & more.

See all perks online:

[ravinevineyard.com/wine-club](http://ravinevineyard.com/wine-club)

**COMPLIMENTARY**  
Wine Tastings & Tours  
(for you and up to 5 of your friends)

### THE EXCHANGE BREWERY

JOIN US FOR LABOUR DAY WEEKEND!

**OUR PATIO & BEER GARDEN ARE OPEN ALL WEEKEND LONG:**  
FRI. 12PM-10PM • SAT. & SUN. 11AM-10PM • MON. 11AM-9PM

**8 BEERS ON TAP • BEER COCKTAILS • CANS & BOTTLES TO GO  
NEW FOOD MENU • SUSHI ON FRIDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY!**

LET YOUR  
CUSTOMERS KNOW  
YOU ARE NOW OPEN  
TO SERVE THEM  
SAFELY!

# Now OPEN

RUNNING  
EVERY WEEK  
UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE!

**To place your ad, call or email Karen at:**  
☎ 905•641•5335
✉ [karen@notllocal.com](mailto:karen@notllocal.com)

We are so pleased when our guests wish to celebrate and deepen their relationship with our winery. It is our hope that our clubs encourage you to feel like you are a part of this incredible winery and farm - embracing the lifestyle.

Hand pick your quarterly selection or receive the winemakers assortment. Volume value of 6 bottles per shipment so you're always ready to enjoy or host!

**Contact us today:**  
[wineclub@ravinevineyard.com](mailto:wineclub@ravinevineyard.com)  
**RAVINEVINEYARD.COM**  
**(905) 262-8463**



## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

**THE LION BURGER RETURNS**  
**Friday, September 4th**  
 We will sell Lion Burger Combos  
 (burger, fries & bottle of water)  
 for \$10  
 Time is 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.  
 St. Davids Lions Park Pavilion  
 DRIVE THRU • CONTACTLESS • CREDIT AND DEBIT PREFERRED FOR PAYMENT

### TINKER THINKER

September 3 @ 9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. Join Kasia for Tinker Thinker Thursdays! For more details please go to: <https://notlpubliclibrary.org> No experience necessary!

### FAMILY FUN FRIDAYS – VIRTUALLY!

September 4 @ 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Go to <https://notlpubliclibrary.org> for items you will need and more details. All Are Welcome! Hosted by Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

### MINECRAFT CLUB MINI GAMES

September 4 @ 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Here's how to join our new REALM! 1. Send your Minecraft Username to [notllibrary@gmail.com](mailto:notllibrary@gmail.com) & we will invite you to join our realm. 2. To accept the invite, choose Minecraft Realms at the title screen. 3. Click the flashing envelope at the top next to the Minecraft Realms title. 4. Click Accept! We will be leaving the realm open as a creative world 24/7! Please note: there will NOT be a Library Moderator present online at all times. Mini Games will take place twice a week.

### TD NIAGARA JAZZ FESTIVAL

September 12 @ 5 - 10 p.m.  
 Hungry For Hammond Series  
 featuring Organomics  
 The Matt Weidinger Band

September 20 @ 2 - 3 p.m.  
 Love. World. Series #7 with Badie

October 3 @ 5 - 10 p.m.  
 Hungry For Hammond Series  
 featuring JV's Boogaloo Squad  
 The Joint Chiefs of Soul ft. Lance Anderson

Events livestreamed at  
[niagarajazzfestival.com](http://niagarajazzfestival.com)

### A SIX-WEEK ZOOM LECTURE SERIES WITH DR. BILL BROWN

September 16 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Presented with the NOTL Public Library, Dr. Bill Brown will be focusing on the period in Physics between 1900 and 1930, otherwise known as the Camelot Years in Physics. #DrBrown #NOTLPL #Physics #Science #physicslovers #universe

### PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE

With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Include your Logo!  
 Prices starting at \$20.  
 Deadline: Monday 3 p.m.  
 Call Karen 905-641-5335  
 or email: [classified@notllocal.com](mailto:classified@notllocal.com)



The Solheim ladies team crushed the men 35-13 in 18 holes of golf. (Photos supplied)

## Senior ladies win annual Solheim/Ryder Cup match

### Harry Huizer Special to The Local

Harry Huizer, the captain of the team, has written an account of this annual match, much of it good-natured and tongue-in-cheek as he acknowledges his team's loss to the women.

Friday, Aug. 28 was an almost perfect day, in the eyes of the men, for the annual Solheim/Ryder Cup match at the NOTL Golf Club won this year by the ladies.

The match had 16 senior ladies competing against 16 senior men for the coveted Pro's Cup.

There were eight matches of two ladies against two men, with a total of 48 points up for grabs. The men were the defending champions.

Both captains Martha Cruikshank and Harry Huizer had their teams ready to play in their colourful outfits.

The formats were front nine-alternate shot and back nine-best ball. Handicaps were used, but the men's captain was supremely confident of a lop-sided victory despite having to give strokes to the ladies. Losing seemed like an impossibility, considering the men's talent that was assembled.

Yes, it was an almost perfect day, in the eyes of the men, with no rain and a nice breeze off the lake. Then something happened that is still difficult to understand.

The ladies started dominating each match with outstanding golf shots leaving the men in total shock.

After nine holes the score was 11-5, and after 18 holes the final score was 35-13 all in favour of the Solheim Ladies team.

It was a crushing loss by the

men who were bewildered by what was happening. Seven of the matches had the men shaking their heads as they came in to the scoring area. They were in disbelief of what had happened.

Fortunately, a crucial final match was won 5-1 by the pair of Alan Robb and Don Cruikshank, which gave the men double digit points and brought a cheer from the men's team, and especially the captain.

Yes, it was almost a perfect day except for the score, in the eyes of the men.

The better team had won and it wasn't the Senior Ryder Cup men's team.

It was a humbling time for the men's team but they handled defeat with remarkable class.

We celebrated with the ladies, and you could see the joy in everyone's faces during the lunch and trophy presentation.

It in fact, was a perfect day, despite the resounding win by the ladies.

A lot of thanks has to go to Billy Simkin and his staff for their help in making the event run so smoothly.

Lunch was served for the first time ever on the first tee. What a treat that was.

Thanks especially to Jill Wiens and the clubhouse staff

for setting up and providing a wonderful lunch.

This event is really characterized by golf talent, sportsmanship, friendship and good fun. Each team was encouraging the other team throughout the matches even though it was a competition.

Each side wanted to win, but in the end, we were all winners by just playing in this event. OK, there was one big winner.

So that is the story of a huge victory by the ladies, but next year plans are already in the making for a comeback win by the men, or so this year's captain hopes.

Yes, it was a perfect day!



Captains of the annual tournament were Harry Huizer of the men's team, and Martha Cruikshank representing the winning team.

## LOCAL WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, September 6th

Speaker:  
Kevin Bayne

Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. There will be no in-person church service.

[www.ccchurch.ca](http://www.ccchurch.ca)

To advertise your  
**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
 in this section, please contact:

[karen@notllocal.com](mailto:karen@notllocal.com)



# LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

classified@notllocal.com

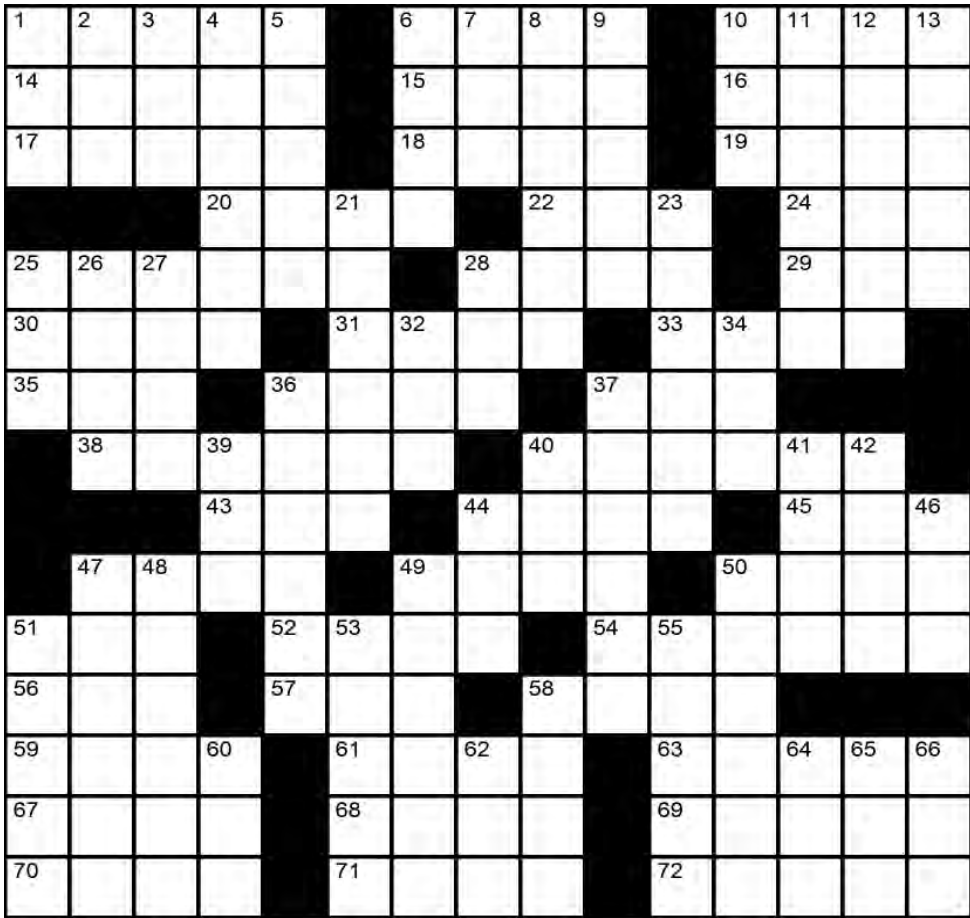
Helping home owners for more than 20 years.  
office: 905-468-4214 cell: 905-321-8126  
www.cudmorehomes.com

ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE COMPANY

CANADA'S REAL ESTATE COMPANY

CARRIAGE TRADE

## CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



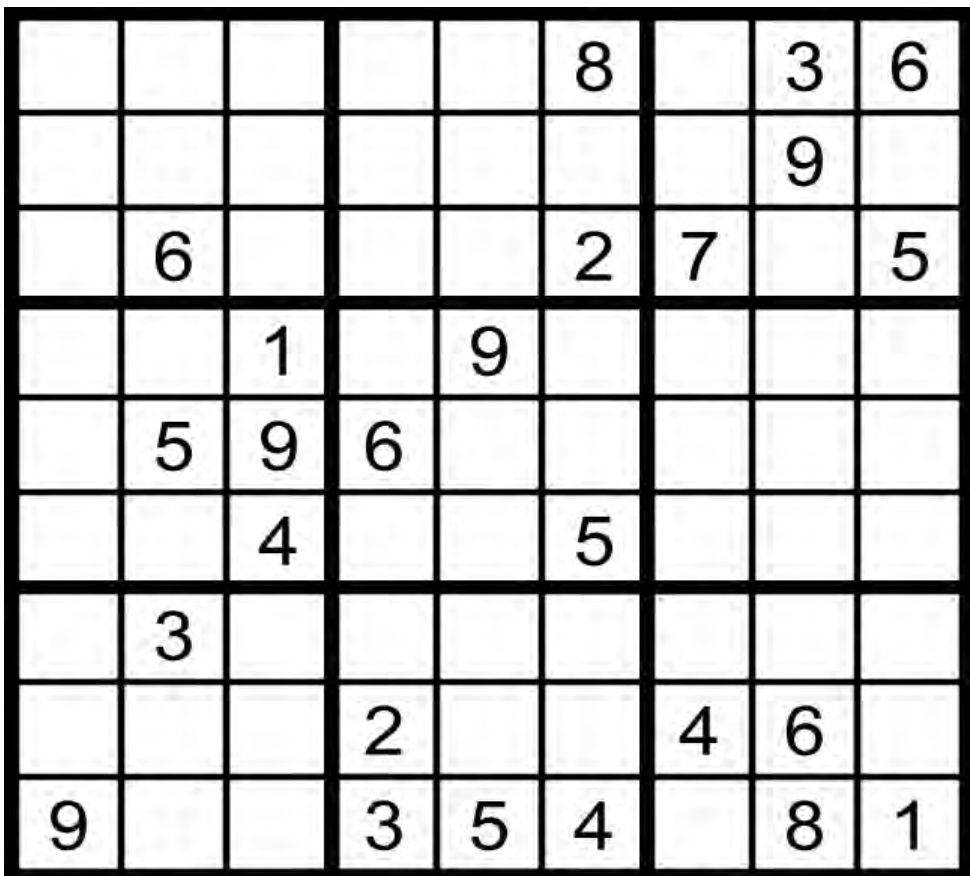
### Across:

- 1 Grouches
- 6 Female supporters
- 10 Flat-topped hill
- 14 Misbehave
- 15 Arizona city on the Colorado
- 16 In addition
- 17 Latin American dance
- 18 Side
- 19 --- Christian Andersen
- 20 Sharp flavor
- 22 Note hastily
- 24 34th President
- 25 Moonshot program
- 28 Sound of a lion
- 29 Louse egg
- 30 Washed out
- 31 Watch --- step!
- 33 Not odd
- 35 Free
- 36 Settlement
- 37 Nudge repeatedly
- 38 Aloof
- 40 Conductive elements
- 43 Hoppy brew
- 44 Conforms
- 45 Blockhead
- 47 Pirate's plunder
- 49 Mischievous
- 50 Solitary
- 51 "L" operator

### Down:

- 52 Unpleasant to look at
- 54 Conjured up
- 56 Attila, e.g.
- 57 Aught
- 58 Political top dog (Abbr.)
- 59 Brief swim
- 61 It's worth ---!
- 63 Start playing tennis
- 67 Skin
- 68 Film genre
- 69 Flowing and ebbing
- 70 Roman wear
- 71 Large and scholarly book
- 72 Heap

- 23 Choice morsels
- 25 Interest charge
- 26 Two identical things
- 27 Shoppe adjective
- 28 Manage
- 32 Be in debt
- 34 Old kind of computer monitor
- 36 Fighter ace
- 37 Lower
- 39 "Rosemary's Baby" actress --- Farrow
- 40 Provides input for an amp.
- 41 Observe
- 42 Levelheaded
- 44 Cook in hot oil
- 46 Central bank
- 47 Artist's workshop
- 48 Diminishing
- 49 Extremely
- 50 Snap
- 51 Map
- 53 Enormous
- 55 Kevlar garments
- 58 Funeral woodpile
- 60 Electronic helper just for you
- 62 Border
- 64 Old food label letters
- 65 Carpet cleaner (Abbr.)
- 66 Moose



## GUIDE DOGS BELONG EVERYWHERE. IT'S THE LAW.



Become a guide dog champion at [guidedogchampions.ca](http://guidedogchampions.ca).



## YARD SALES

### YARD SALE

September 12 & 13  
89 William Street,  
NOTL  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Books, household  
and garden items  
and furniture.

Cash payment only.  
Please wear a mask.

### YARD SALE

Saturday,  
September 5  
9 a.m. - ?

1072 Concession 2,  
NOTL

Variety of Items,  
Lots of parking

(Rain date to be announced, if necessary)



Sell your unwanted items or  
advertise your garage sale in our  
**CLASSIFIEDS**

Contact:  
[classifieds@notllocal.com](mailto:classifieds@notllocal.com)

Deadline:  
Mondays at 3 p.m.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### Sudoku solution from August 27, 2020

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

**Across:** 1 Crabs, 6 Bras, 10 Mesa, 14 Act up, 15 Yuma, 16 Plus, 17 Mamba, 18 Team, 19 Hans, 20 Bite, 22 Jot, 24 Ike, 25 Apollo, 28 Roar, 29 Nit, 30 Pale, 31 Your, 33 Even, 35 Rid, 36 Town, 37 Nag, 38 Remote, 40 Metals, 43 I P A, 44 Fits, 45 Oaf, 47 Swag, 49 Arch, 50 Lone, 51 C T A, 52 Ugly, 54 Evoked, 56 Hun, 57 Nil, 58 Pres, 59 A dip, 61 A try, 63 Serve, 67 Rind, 68 Noir, 69 Tidal, 70 Toga, 71 Tome, 72 Stack.

**Down:** 1 Cam, 2 R C A, 3 A T M, 4 Bubble, 5 Spoil, 6 Bye, 7 Rue, 8 A major, 9 Samoa, 10 M P n, 11 Elaine, 12 Sunk in, 13 Asset, 21 Toyota, 23 Treats, 25 A P R, 26 Pair, 27 Older, 28 Run, 32 Owe, 34 V G A, 36 Top gun, 37 Nether, 39 Mia, 40 Mic, 41 Look, 42 Sane, 44 Fry, 46 Fed, 47 Studio, 48 Waning, 49 All too, 50 Lose it, 51 Chart, 53 Giant, 55 Vests, 58 Pyre, 60 P D A, 62 Rim, 64 R D A, 65 Vac, 66 Elk.





# Kiri Quartet performs for At Home Series Monday

Mike Balsom  
Special to The Local

It's back to school time for the four members of the Kiri Quartet. Before they resume their studies at Juilliard and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, though, Emma Meinrenken, Matthew Christakos, Jasmine Mengija Lin and Lynn Sue-A-Quan will make their debut as an ensemble for Music Niagara's At Home Series on Monday.

For Meinrenken, it's been a busy summer with Music Niagara. The 21-year-old violinist, who has been affiliated with the non-profit organization for more than a decade, kicked off the At Home Series back in July with a selection of some of her favourite solo violin pieces recorded at her Toronto home.

Last month she taped a concert with members of the Toronto Symphony at Pond-

view Estates Winery, to debut on the Music Niagara website Sept. 13. And for the last two weeks of August, she was a key instructor in the Music Niagara Virtual Performance Academy.

In fact, all four members of the quartet, who were brought together by Meinrenken for this concert, recently wrapped up their stint on the other side of the teacher-student relationship. Quan for one knows her future will involve teaching music, as well as performing, so having a chance to mentor others this summer was important to the violinist.

"I believe in the idea of teaching the next generation," she says, "and studying how music impacts a community. I think some of the most important work is seeing how music impacts the younger generation. I want to do some more work there."

Cellist Christakos, at 20

the youngest of the Kiri Quartet, says his first crack at teaching has been enlightening. "It was interesting to try and put musical ideas that I implement myself in my head, and how I feel about music, into words so others can understand them."

Christakos had two students from Mexico he was teaching remotely. "To watch them listen to what I said, and actually change what they do in accordance to not just the words I said, but to how I feel and think about music, was really inspiring."

Of course, the members of the quartet have had ample experience themselves learning remotely since the pandemic, and border issues have forced the students home from their studies in university. When Ontario finally moved into stage three of its reopening plan, it was a relief to Meinrenken to have the opportunity to once again collaborate in person with other musicians.

"As soon as it was announced that the schools would be cancelled for the rest of the semester," the Toronto resident laments, "and that there was going to be nothing for the summer, I personally got very scared. For music, and me as a musician, performing in chamber music is an integral part of keeping my passion for music alive, and I was really going to miss being

able to share that with other people. It gets really lonely just playing and practising by yourself."

When the Music Niagara opportunity arose, she immediately reached out to Christakos, with whom she attends the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. They then contacted the two Juilliard students, Quan and Lin, a violinist. All four had participated in the same pre-college program at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music.

Christakos adds, "at first we had planned to put something together digitally, to create a virtual performance, because we thought there wouldn't be a chance of us meeting together in person. But when things became conducive to us actually meeting and sort of forming our own social bubble, we've been able to play real music, which has been incredible."

Quan adds, "we've all grown up together, so just knowing how much we've grown as musicians and as individuals, it's really important to see that through the works of chamber music. And I've never actually worked with them in this context, so it's been a very rewarding and privileged experience to have."

The sheer joy of performing is evident on the faces of each accomplished young



Emma Meinrenken, Lynn Sue-A-Quan, Jasmine Mengija Lin and Matthew Christakos at Chateau des Charmes Winery.



The four students of the Kiri Quartet will perform in Monday's virtual At Home Series for Music Niagara. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

musician, as the Kiri Quartet takes on Mozart's String Quartet No. 9 in C Major - Dissonance, as well as Brahms' String Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, Op. 51. The concert was recorded by the Niagara College broadcasting department under the marquee at Chateau des Charmes Winery before a small group of sponsors, who were also visibly pleased to be able to experience live music.

One of those sponsors, Marlene Masales, says the beautiful setting for the event was a bonus. "I just look forward to the music itself. This year there is such a need to keep these things (Music Niagara performances) thriving, successful and growing, to be there when we all can resume coming together to enjoy it more in person more often."

After this weekend, the young virtuosos will be studying music under their mentors, who are in Philadelphia and New York City. Only Quan will be physically returning to school, to study under Hsin-Yun Huang, who is actually a faculty member at both Juilliard and Curtis.

"The rest of us have to stay here," says Meinrenken. "So it is a little sad, but I have to think about health and family, and through this (pandemic) experience I have realized that I can find very valuable musical experiences at home, and I don't need to travel to another country."

Visit [musicniagara.org](http://musicniagara.org) Monday, Sept. 7 at 4 p.m. to see the Kiri Quartet perform compositions from Mozart and Brahms.

SAFE

TREE

Put Your Mind at Ease, We're on Top of Your Trees

Passion. Precision. Preservation.

@SAFETREELTD



CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE  
289-650-1775  
OR VISIT [WWW.SAFETREE.CA](http://WWW.SAFETREE.CA)

SAFE

TREE

PROFESSIONAL TREE CARE