

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Serluca family supports McMaster Children's Hospital
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notllocal.com SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 Volume 2 · Issue 37



Beautification of John Street

The Pillar and Post's beautiful gardens can finally be viewed through their John Street gate, almost ready as a venue for special events and photographs. The gardens are intended to be open to the public when not booked for events. (Penny Coles)



CAO search moves toward interview process

Penny Coles
The Local

It's been more than a year that the town has been without a CAO, but the position is getting closer to being filled.

While the selection committee of four members of council have had the first discussion of possible candidates, and were expected to continue that discussion Wednesday, Lord Mayor Betty Disero could only say the hiring "will probably be before the end of the year."

And yes, she said, that seems like a long way away, but in addition to holding interviews, council will need time to make a decision, and then the successful candidate will have to give their employer notice. That process will likely take until the end of the year to complete, says Disero.

Former CAO Holly Dowd retired last August, and since then Sheldon Randall has taken on the interim position. He

said early in council discussions he would not be seeking the job permanently.

COVID-19 has held up progress on the hiring, Disero said.

"The pandemic has definitely slowed down the process. The only thing we were doing this spring was time-sensitive issues. We're behind four to six months on everything."

Last week's meeting of the four members of the CAO selection committee, including Disero and Couns. Gary Burroughs, Clare Cameron and Erwin Wiens, was held virtually, and livestreamed.

Some discussion of the process was public, with consultant Kartik Kumar, of the Toronto office of Legacy Executive Search Partners, explaining what has been accomplished to date, before the committee began a closed-session discussion of his list of potential candidates.

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Tree removal on heritage trail comes under fire

Penny Coles
The Local

Peter Wilkie is a resident of East and West Line who walks the section of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail that will be the next phase of rehabilitation.

Last week, he was taken by surprise when he saw several stumps of mature trees that had been recently taken down between Charlotte Street and East and West Line.

He and other trail-users assumed it was in preparation for the trail to be widened and resurfaced, he says.

Instead, they discovered it was all about one large, dead tree that could cause some damage to private property and needs to come down, and a pathway that was being cleared to make way for a large crane deemed necessary to get rid of that dead tree.

"The emails started flying, and then I was told that the crane can only move one way, and the only way out would be to Charlotte Street. That could mean taking out another 50 trees. I was gobsmacked to hear that."

At the heart of the issue, he says, is whether the second phase of rehabilitation has to be as extensive as the section between John and Charlotte Streets, which has a gravel surface and has been widened to three metres.

"A number of people in the community are concerned about the wide roadway being extended behind the Rand Estate," he says.

That section, from Charlotte Street to East and West Line, is much more tranquil, with overhanging trees and wild flowers planted along the sides of a narrow path, says Wilkie.

Some of the residents who live in the vicinity, and are regular users of the trail, would be happy to see some wood chips spread across it, he says, leaving it in its natural state.

Although there is some discussion about how many mature trees have already come down — he counted 34, the majority of them large — and how many more will be cut, he says the number isn't the issue as much as whether it's necessary for a large crane to be used.

"Has anybody looked at alternatives, or did somebody

just decide it was a good idea to go in and take down all those trees? Did anyone tell anyone they were going to do this? Maybe a crane is needed, but did anyone explore other options?"

And if the trail is to be widened, he asks why. "We don't need a roadway. It's a nature trail."

Tony Chisholm, vice-chair of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, confirms there are two separate issues.

One is the need for the dead tree to come down, which has been determined by the Town's operations department. It's their responsibility to figure out how best to safely remove it, but he's been told no arborist would take down a large dead tree without a crane — it would be dangerous to do so.

The other issue is the design for the second phase of trail rehabilitation, and that has yet to be decided.

"As a committee, we've asked the Town to come up with a design for the second phase."

That too will come from the Town, under the direction of the Town's operations department.

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Join in One Day, Your Way run

Penny Coles
The Local

Forty years after Terry Fox set off to run across the country on a marathon to raise money for cancer research, Joan King remains inspired to keep his dream alive.

As the long-time organizer of the annual event in town, King is hoping that even during a pandemic, locals will support the fundraiser and make it a success.

Fox, she says, “turned misfortune into a journey that inspired a whole nation,” setting a positive example for a great cause.

“He inspired people to be the best they could be,” she says.

“It’s not the most amazing thing that he ran a marathon a day for 143 days, or that he inspired over \$800 million for cancer research,” she adds. “The most amazing thing is that he tried.”

She’s hoping that this year, we will all try like Terry and partic-

ipate in the One Day, Your Way run, to be held Sunday, Sept. 20.

“We’re just going to try, like Terry,” she says, “and see what we can do to keep the Marathon of Hope alive and raising more money for cancer research.”

King is encouraging a different kind of participation and fundraising, as everyone is able to run, walk or bike on their own time, around their neighbourhood or wherever they choose.

Participants are asked to register at www.TerryFox.org to sponsor a runner or make donations themselves, and also to promote their participation on social media, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This small community has raised \$937,436 since the first run in 1991, she says.

“If we could raise \$62,564 this year, we will reach the million dollar mark. In the words of Terry Fox, ‘anything is possible if you try.’”

A website for the NOTL One Day, Your Way run will be available next week, and will offer a safe and secure way to raise money.

King says she also plans on being in Simcoe Park Sept. 20, for those who like to fill out pledge sheets and want to hand in their donations.

King still has some Terry Fox T-shirts available. She can be reached at joankemp10@yahoo.ca or 905-262-5898.

This year King encourages participants to post a picture of themselves or just their running shoes at a NOTL landmark with the hashtags #Foxfootsteps #fortyyearsofhope #TFRNOTL #Ontario #Canada.

“Terry’s shoes symbolized his determination and courage, inspired by his ambition,” says King.

She also encourages people to form a group and sign on for the Saturday, Sept. 19 music

trivia night fundraiser, Niagara’s Name That Tune, Live with Lee, at 7 p.m.

“It’s a multiple choice answer, since we can’t be there. Join the event with some friends — it will be fun to do,” says King.

You need Zoom and the Cahoot app. For details on how to play, go to <https://www.facebook.com/NiagarasNameThatTune/>.



Joan King was given an opportunity to talk about One Day, Your Way on Cogeco’s YourTV last week at the Joe Pillitteri Comedy Night Fundraiser at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery. (Screenshot)

Salary negotiable, says committee

Continued from page 1

In the public portion of the meeting, Cameron spoke of her concern over the issue of compensation, and whether the range that is being offered could be sufficiently negotiable to attract the best possible person for the job.

Kumar explained his long-listed seven candidates include people who are “comfortable with the range to a certain degree.” He also has a “reserve list” of two more candidates who expressed interest in the role, but have expectations above the salary range. All of those candidates could be included in the committee’s discussion, he said.

Sarah Stevens, the Town’s human resources coordinator, explained the current range is on the Town’s salary grid, but typically would be a stand-alone position with compensation similar to those in other municipalities. She

suggested, and committee members agreed, that the CAO salary should be removed from the grid, and the Town should do some market research to look at comparable salaries to attract the right person, and that the salary should be linked to the 2021 budget.

Some of the work in that direction has already been done, said Kumar, who has looked at salaries for comparable positions, and all the candidates on his list know there is some flexibility for compensation.

He suggested committee members should choose four or five candidates from his list, and also look over a list of eight to nine questions he has drawn up, to see if they want to add anything. The questions cover a range of themes, he said, such as conflict management, budgets, and communication. Candidates will be given about five minutes for each question, and 15 minutes for follow-up, in interviews

which should last about an hour.

Committee members will be provided information on scoring each candidate during the first interview, and then will be expected to choose two candidates for a second round, Kumar explained.

Committee members were given options as to how the interviews would be held, and decided they could take place with notice of the meetings to be made public, and a move into closed session for the interviews themselves, allowing for a private discussion about the candidates after the interviews.

Following last week’s closed session, committee members asked Kumar for more information, and agreed they would meet this Wednesday, Sept. 9, to continue their discussion.

Disero said she expected they will narrow down the list of candidates, and will likely set a schedule to move forward with interviews.

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Niagara-on-the-Lake Reopens Community Centre and Arenas

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, under the guidance of its Emergency Control Group, is cautiously preparing to reopen the Community Centre for public use. The Community Centre, along with the Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arenas, were closed on March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Community Centre, including Customer Service Desk, track and fitness area, and Sweets and Swirls Café, is set to reopen on September 14, 2020, following the reopening of Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre on September 8, 2020. Community Centre programming and room bookings will be available beginning October 5, 2020. Hours of operation will be Monday to Friday, 6 AM – 9 PM and Saturday and Sunday, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM. More information regarding reopening procedures will be made available on the Town’s website (www.notl.com) closer to the reopening date.

The Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arenas reopened on September 8, 2020. New user groups who are interested in renting ice this season are asked to complete an online survey identifying the dates and times of desired ice rentals. Please visit the Town’s website for additional information regarding reopening procedures, arena schedule and public skating times.

Although some Town facilities remain closed to the public, Staff remain dedicated to providing friendly, accommodating, and efficient service online and over the phone. Additional curbside drop-off (via drop box) and pick up accommodations are being made, as required. To make arrangements for these accommodations, please contact the Town Administration Office at 905-468-3266.

Support horse-drawn carriages through Bill 156

Penny Coles
The Local

Laura Sentineal is hoping a provincial bill now open for public comment could help protect her horses, and horse-drawn carriages, and she’s asking for support.

Bill 156, the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, is an Ontario bill intended to protect farm animals, the food supply, farmers, and others from risks that are created when trespassers enter places where farm animals are kept; or when people engage in unsafe, unauthorized interactions with farm animals and transport vehicles.

Although Sentineal says it

may not seem to be applicable to her business, she has been told by MPPs that it is, and has been encouraged to comment on the bill.

The Sentineals are registered as a farm, she says, “and our end product is horse and carriage tours.”

She is hoping people in town who are fed up with the animal rights protesters will take a few minutes each day to add their comments to the bill, recommending it protect horse-drawn carriages. The protesters will also likely be commenting daily, she says, so local supporters can help balance that out.

She encourages locals to take that route, rather than

going downtown to confront protesters, which only leads to supporters being filmed.

“Let’s put the energy where it can do some good. Hopefully it will be effective,” she says.

“It wouldn’t just protect us,” adds Sentineal, “it will protect all horses in public.”

More information about the bill can be found at <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-156>.

Comments can be emailed to SecurityFromTrespass.OMAFRA@ontario.ca, or they can be posted online at <https://www.ontario.ca/registry/mail.do?action=displayComment>.

Protest against child abuse takes to King St.

Penny Coles
The Local

There was a protest at King and Queen Streets Saturday, but this time it wasn’t animal rights activists.

A group that appears to move around was protesting and raising awareness against child abuse.

Laura Sentineal of Sentineal Carriages says they were asked to refrain from using their bullhorn when horses went by, and they gladly agreed to cooperate. The carriages were again parked on Byron Street, with the animal rights groups seeming to take a break from Niagara-on-the-Lake this weekend.

Although there have been

reports on social media that some of those on King Street Saturday may also be animal rights protesters that have frequented the Old Town, Sentineal says she hasn’t seen any evidence of that.

Of the Saturday group, she says, “they’re out there, that’s their right, and who cannot agree with protesting and raising awareness of child abuse.”

Joe Pillitteri raises \$22,500 at Ravine

Penny Coles
The Local

Joe Pillitteri did it again. He put on two great performances at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Tuesday, fundraising, as he does every year, for the Terry Fox Run, and raising \$22,500, with physical distancing allowing for only 200 people attending over the course of the two shows.

For several years, he's held his event at the Jackson-Triggs amphitheatre, but with that not available during the pandemic, Pillitteri said, Paul Harber offered him the Ravine patio for the evening.

This year, of course, the

Terry Fox Run is also very different, with everyone planning their own Sept. 20 run or event — One Day, Your Way, it's called — and fundraising and donations to the run are more important than ever.

Joan King, long-time organizer of the annual Terry Fox event in NOTL, couldn't say enough about the setting at Ravine, and the willingness of Harber to help out, as well as the volunteers who organized the event.

Pillitteri said he was worried about being on stage for the first time in six months, but there was no need for him to be concerned — he had the audience in stitches.

But as always, he finished on a serious note, with a quote from Terry Fox that seemed especially poignant given the circumstances:

"I guess that one of the most important things I've learned is that nothing is ever completely bad. Even cancer. It has made me a better person. It has given me the courage and a sense of purpose I never had before. But you don't have to do like I did . . . wait until you lose a leg or get some awful disease before you take the time to find out what kind of stuff you're really made of. You can start now. Anybody can."

— Terry Fox



It was a happy crowd at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery last Tuesday night, with Joe Pillitteri in top form as he entertained at his annual Terry Fox Run fundraiser. (Penny Coles)



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The region is forecasted to grow to a minimum of 674,000 people and 272,000 jobs by the year 2051. To guide this growth, Niagara Region is creating a new Official Plan.

The Niagara Official Plan will set out objectives and policies to shape Niagara's physical development, while protecting what's valuable. It will cover topics like: Niagara's natural environment, land needs, growth allocations, housing, transportation, urban design, employment lands, agriculture and more.

YOU'RE INVITED

Attend a series of virtual public information centres to learn more about key directives and core policy information that will inform the Niagara Official Plan. Get informed, ask questions to staff, and provide your input on how Niagara should grow.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, contact the Niagara Region's Accessibility Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

If you are not able to attend, you can provide input or ask questions by emailing makingourmark@niagararegion.ca, or contact **David Heyworth**, Official Plan Policy Consultant at 905-980-6000 ext. 3476

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES

Register for each of the following sessions at niagararegion.ca/official-plan. Video recordings will also be available online following the sessions.

Wednesday, Sept 23
6:00 p.m.

Topic: Natural Environment -
Natural Heritage System

Thursday, Oct. 8
6:00 p.m.

Topic: District & Secondary
Plans, Urban Design, and
Employment Lands

Thursday, Sept. 24
6:00 p.m.

Topic: Natural Environment -
Water Resource System

Tuesday, Oct. 20
6:00 p.m.

Topic: Rural & Agriculture,
Mineral Aggregate
Resources, Archaeology &
Culture

Wednesday, Oct. 7
6:00 p.m.

Topic: Growth Management
- Growth Allocations,
Settlement Area Boundary
Review, Regional Structure,
Land Needs, Housing

Wednesday, Oct. 21
6:00 p.m.

Topic: Infrastructure, Water
and Wastewater, Stormwater,
Transportation

niagararegion.ca/official-plan
makingourmark@niagararegion.ca

Niagara Region

Arenas are open and ready for skaters

Penny Coles
The Local

Hans Pauls, supervisor of the two Virgil arenas, is happy to see life returning to normal — sort of.

The arenas are open, and the ice is in and looking great, ready for the hockey players and skaters whose season came to an abrupt end last March. There will, of course, be many procedures in place to follow provincial and municipal guidelines, says Pauls, but at least there will be skaters of all ages on the ice, in both arenas, and spectators in the stands.

It's a tradition for the ice to go in before the Labour Day long weekend, and for hockey to start on Tuesday after the weekend. There was some discussion of delaying the opening, but the decision was made to go ahead with guidelines to try to keep people safe during the pandemic, says Pauls.

"It is really good to see things going back to somewhat of a norm," he adds, "obviously with some precautions."

The NOTL Skating Club, minor hockey and adult leagues will all resume, he says, as he watches the last step of the ice preparation. The painting has just finished, and staff are putting the important sealing coats of water on it. "This to me is the most thrilling time, putting the ice in. We've been closed since last March and there has been nothing in this facility since then. There is so much on the go, with tennis, pickleball and other sports resuming. This is great to see the arenas ready to go," says Pauls. "I look forward to seeing the community using the facility. I've watched some of these kids grow up. I've sharpened their skates, and have the scars to prove it. And now they're playing in the old-timer leagues."

But before anyone steps on to the ice, in skates, there is a complicated process that is followed every year, one Pauls describes as an art that is passed down by generations.

He says he learned from the best — Clive Buist, the

town's former director of parks and recreations, and facilities supervisor Ken Rive, both retired.

After 35 years on the job, Pauls is now supervisor, and passing his expertise on to younger men, some of whom remember him from his skate-sharpening days.

Pauls learned the art more than 30 years ago, and after years of the gruelling, back-breaking, labour intensive work, he is happy to supervise the next generation.

"The staff have been trained to do it, and they do a great job," he says. "We're one of the few who do it ourselves. Most arenas contract it out."

Staff are certified in ice-making and painting technologies through the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, says Pauls, but also learn through experience.

They begin with a thin ice surface on concrete, which is then painted white and the coloured lines and circles added.

The painting is done by hand, with wood patterns on the ice to use as guides. Some of it is done with a brush on the end of a broom stick, and some of it, brush in hand with a pail of paint, kneeling down or bending over to ensure perfect, brightly-coloured markings on the ice. "The paint freezes instantly," says Pauls. "If you make a mistake, you have to scrape it off."

Jeremy Warner is one of the staff members Pauls can remember coming to the arena as a youngster, to play hockey. Pauls used to sharpen Warner's skates, and now he's playing with the old timers. "I used to flood the rink when I was his age. Now he floods it."

"It's a tough job," says Warner of the painting. "It's hard on your back and legs."

Warner has been working for the Town for 14 years in the operations department, on parks maintenance in the summer, and arena maintenance in the winter, which includes driving the Olympus ice cleaner.

As painstaking as it is to get the ice in and painted, the staff



Jeremy Warner demonstrates how the lines are painted once the ice is in. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Hans Pauls says the compressors, which maintain ice temperature, have been painted and look like new.

started early Friday and were finished both arenas by about noon Friday, Pauls says. Once the painting was finished, more water was sprayed to seal the ice, using hot water — 160 degrees F — which contains less dissolved oxygen, or air bubbles, which makes the ice harder, smoother and more clear, also protecting the paint. They spray until the ice is one and a half inches thick.

After that, it's shaved regu-

larly, using a laser to make sure it's flat and even, to prevent ice from building up, which dulls the colour, and is also not as efficient to keep frozen, he says. The ice is maintained at about 21 degrees F, with a variable of about 2 degrees.

Maybe half way through the season, or before a tournament, it will be repainted, to brighten it, "but we don't know yet what's happening as far as tournaments."

This year, he's particularly proud of the white, bright ice, which looks better than ever with new LED lighting that has replaced the traditional arena metal halide lights. The new lighting not only looks better

and brighter, says Pauls, but is also more energy-efficient.

Plans were still underway to allow for physical distancing, Pauls says.

Tables, chairs and benches inside the arena were being moved, and the stands divided into three sections. Spectators will be directed to one section, and when they leave, the next group will be seated in a different area, giving staff time to clean in between.

Outside doors will be kept locked, open only for arriving skaters and spectators 15 minutes before and after arrival times, with separate doors for entering and exiting.

Masks must be worn in the


building, although skaters can remove them when they're on the ice. Dressing rooms will be open, with frequent cleaning.

New user groups interested in renting ice this season are asked to complete an online survey identifying the dates and times of desired ice rentals. Visit the Town's website for additional information regarding reopening procedures, arena schedule and public skating times.

There will be changes, Pauls says, but at least the doors will be open, and, according to tradition, the arenas are ready to welcome those who are anxious to tie up their skates and step on the ice.




Alfred Griese sprays a sealing coat on the ice.



We would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the overwhelming support we've received since Liz's tragic death.

The love, prayers, well wishes, and thoughtfulness that has come our way from family, friends, colleagues, and the community has been profoundly comforting for us. It certainly speaks to the person Liz was, and the impact she had during her life, but it is also a testament to the caring community that surrounds us. Thank you, Niagara-on-the-Lake, for honouring Liz and supporting us through this difficult time.

Sincerely, John, Adam, Brianne, Ransom, Whitney, Jay, and Samantha Hawley (and all six grandkids!)



Trail design will be open to public input



A large, dead tree that is in danger of damaging private property will be taken down. Other trees in the area have already been cut to provide access for a crane needed to remove the tree. (Tony Chisholm)

Continued from page 1

tion of Kevin Turcotte, acting director of operations, not the trail committee, but Chisholm says there will be plenty of opportunity for residents to see the design and comment on it before a decision is made, through Join the Conversation on the Town's website.

"We're hearing from some people already, that it's a nice nature trail, and they don't

want to see it widened. The Town says there are standards for maintenance," he says. "We'll discuss it at our next meeting."

It's a discussion that will take place over time, taking public comments into consideration, Chisholm says, including looking at whether it can be narrower and less intrusive than the first phase.

He stresses no decision has been made at this point. "That's at least a couple of

months away."

Coun. Gary Burroughs is also onside with leaving the second phase of the trail in a more natural state. "It's not a highway, it's an historic railway track," he says. "I think they're making it a much wider path than it needs to be. I think we're going crazy on this trail. I'm hoping it won't be a race track."

He too questions whether alternatives have been considered for removing the

dead tree. With a new tree bylaw in place, he says, "we tell people all the time not to cut down trees. And then we go and cut down trees. It's so hypocritical for us to have a bylaw and then take down our own trees. It doesn't make sense."

Tracey O'Brien-Dim lives on East and West Line at Concession 1, and is also not in favour of having the trail rehabilitated. It's very different from the section

between John and Charlotte Streets, and should remain as it is, a natural trail that runs through farmland, she says.

Her husband has taken on the job of cutting grass on it, as her father did, and Two Sisters Winery also has the grass cut around the vineyards.

"A lot of locals on the trail help maintain it, cutting branches down and trimming trees," she says. "I walk my dog on it two or three times a day, and my kids enjoy the woods."

She hopes this portion of the trail, which has its own beauty, can be left alone, its natural aesthetics and tree canopies untouched, the wildlife and birds undisturbed.

She suggests the money that would be spent on rehabilitation could be put to better use opening the final portion, which is inaccessible, so at least the entire length of the trail could be open to the public.

Despite hearing that no decision has been made about the section from Charlotte Street to East and West Line, O'Brien-Dim also questions whether the tree-cutting the Town has undertaken is to access one dead tree, or whether it was considered a good time to do it, in preparation of widening the trail.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero walked the trail from Charlotte Street Tuesday, with

Turcotte, other town staff, and trail committee chair Rick Meloen.

She too has been assured the only way to remove the dead tree is with a crane, and that some trees were cut to make room for the equipment.

"I'm pretty sure an arborist can't climb a dead tree. That's what I was told."

But just to be sure, she's asked Turcotte to make one more phone call to another arborist to see if there are other options for removal.

Disero says some trail users walked with them Tuesday, and thought a decision on the widening and resurfacing "was a fait accompli."

She assured them the decision hasn't been made, and they will have an opportunity to express their opinions before the design is finalized.

She will also ask about the design, and whether the path needs to be as wide as the first phase, she says.

Randall, also along for the walk, said whatever the decision is, there will still need to be access for ongoing maintenance, which will be the Town's responsibility.

If residents have ideas about what they would like behind their homes, she says she's happy to facilitate that conversation.

"Maybe there is some sort of compromise to make the trail passable, without making it into a highway."

Community centre, cafe will open Monday

Penny Coles The Local

The Town is beginning to open more of its facilities for public use, including the community centre, which was closed in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community centre is set to open Sept. 14.

The customer service desk, track and fitness area, and Sweets and Swirls Cafe are all scheduled to open that day.

Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre opened

Tuesday.

James Cadeau and Erinn Lockard are anxious to see their cafe open and regular customers returning, although they see some of them at the market and with their weekly food delivery and pickup business, says Cadeau.

At first they thought they would be able to open this week, with the nursery school. Now they're preparing for Monday, and hoping it doesn't change again.

"We're hoping nothing goes

awry. Things can change very quickly."

While it seemed "tentative" at first, he and Lockard now have had a chance to sit down with town staff and go over what is expected of them, he says.

"There are going to be a few hurdles to jump over, but it's not going to be difficult. We are allowed up to 50 people in our area, and that's probably about the maximum we'd have anyway. The best news is that we're up and running."

Without a lot of programming going on in the building, they will open at first from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and "see how it goes," expecting to expand as programming begins.

The same goes for Lockard's menu. It may be limited to start, until they get a better handle on how many people use the community centre.

"We know there will be people in the building, but we don't know what that will look like. We're just taking it one day at a time," says Cadeau. "The Town is in charge of the space, and we'll follow their rules."

The tables and chairs are being set up to allow for physical distancing, he says, and they will try to keep them that way, but traditionally groups come in for coffee and move them to suit

their numbers. That will be permitted, as long as the furniture is put back in place when they're done, he says.

Masks will have to be worn until customers get their orders and sit down.

At the moment, they are planning to continue the meal delivery and pickup — their customers want it to continue, he says, and he isn't sure how busy they'll be when they open. They expect to be able to do both. "It's been an interesting

experience. It was an opportunity that came along, and it turned out to be something that helped other people. We plan to keep that going as long as we can," says Cadeau. "Businesses have to adapt to what people need and want, and we're glad it worked. We were able to help, and it kept us alive. As we go along, we'll adjust again."

Community centre programming and room bookings are expected to be available beginning Oct. 5.

Hours of operation for the community centre will be Monday to Friday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Although some Town facilities remain closed to the public, staff will continue to provide service online and over the phone. Additional curbside dropoff (via drop box) and pickup accommodations are available, as required. To make arrangements, call 905-468-3266.



James Cadeau and Erinn Lockard of Sweets and Swirls Cafe are happy to be able to open and welcome back regulars. (File photo)

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EDITORIAL

Wishing for kids of all ages to stay safe

As some parents send their kids off to school this week, and others prepare for online studies, our hearts and thoughts are with you all.

As great as it is to see yellow buses pulling into our schools and kids outside, after six months of empty buildings, we understand it can't be easy for anyone, parents, students or teachers.

We wish for all to remain safe, and to get through the weeks ahead with happy,

healthy kids and school staff.

We know there are concerns with some of the decisions made by the Province, including class size. We've heard the attendance at local schools is more than 80 per cent, with the remaining students learning online, but that may have changed with the actual start of school. Whatever the number, physical distancing and masks will not make the days easy, especially for the little ones. What a stressful

time for all, not knowing what to expect, how your kids will handle the protocols, whether they will come home excited to be back at school or anxious because of all the changes. We know parents are doing their best to make the right decisions for the education, mental health and social well-being of their kids.

We may have concerns about policies, procedures and class sizes, but we have faith in our great teachers, that

they will go beyond what is expected of them to care for their young charges. Fingers crossed for good reports from local schools!

For high school and university students, this year will not be what any of them had

expected or wished for, but we hope they will make the best of it, and do whatever is necessary to keep safe.

We've heard other provinces that opened their schools earlier have been dealing with COVID, and in NOTL,

the numbers have very slowly crept up, to 42 cases total. Please, let's all focus on staying healthy, looking after ourselves and being kind to others.

Penny Coles
The Local

Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

The full week Sept. 10 to 16 of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website <https://www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca/>.

In Auchterlonie on Astrology for The Local, we look at the third quarter Moon on Thursday, Sept 10 through Wednesday, Sept 16.

In Part II of my Podcast, thanks to AstroButterfly, we get the entire month of September.

Remember, the whole week is on The Local's Facebook page and on the website www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca.

Thursday, Sept. 10: Today is the day of the third quarter

Moon in Gemini, a day where quick and clever emotions may have difficulty listening to the finer details concerning truth. Mercury in Libra makes trouble by trying too hard to keep the peace. A delicate hand, and dedication to honesty help resolve troubles before they get out of hand. Arnold Palmer was born in the town of Latrobe, PA, and is likely even more famous than Rolling Rock beer. He won 62 professional golf tours and was one of the original inductees to the PGA Hall of Fame. Arnold Palmer died four years ago but would be 91 today.

Monday, Sept 14: It's a busy start to the week with the Moon in Leo making seven connections. Also, the Sun and Pluto are in perfect har-

mony. And Mercury and the north node of the Moon try a bit of a dust-up in the evening. The best opportunity is to get all your energy focused with your willpower to make something better for you. It was Sept. 14, 1901 that Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as the youngest U.S. president after William McKinley died, shot by an anarchist in Buffalo.

Wednesday, Sept. 16: The finicky Moon in Virgo works with generous Jupiter, and futuristic Aquarius today to make clear sense of things and to bring dreams closer to home. On this day in 1989, at the 14th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Michael Moore's film *Roger and Me* won the People's Choice Award.



View from the couch

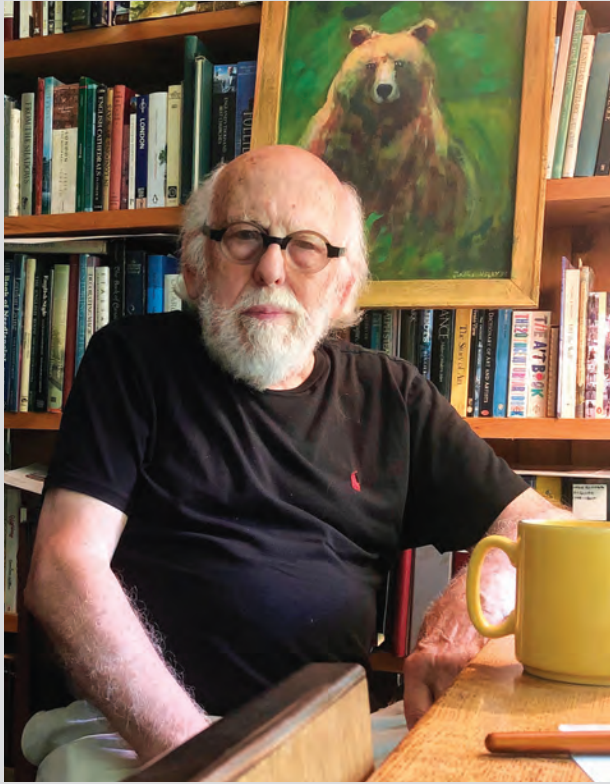
Donald Combe
Special to The Local

I have read and watched numerous renderings of the Arthur legend on and off for 80 years. For me, *First Night*, 1995, is the finest as it strips

away the mythology and magic and deals with the realistic conflicts of a love triangle. Arthur, Lancelot and Guinevere are all highly and correctly motivated, and the ending is, for once, satisfactory.

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.



Belated happy birthday

We just learned Donald Combe, a regular contributor to The Local, turned 89 in August. Looking good, Donald. Happy birthday, and thanks for all you do for The Local!



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

We're still on Four Mile Creek Road, across from the town hall in Virgil. Yes, the building is for sale, but we have a lease and we're not planning on going anywhere.

We're not in the office regular hours though. If you need us, call us!

Penny Coles: 905-246-5878 • Karen Skeoch: 905-641-5335



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.

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

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The opinions expressed in submitted commentary, and letters to the editor, are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of The NOTL Local.

COMMENT

A summer to remember, for so many reasons



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Although not officially on the calendar, it certainly feels like summer begins its graceful walk-out once school comes around. Having said that, even as an employee for the school board, I barely feel like school is coming back around this time.

It's been the oddest of odd summers! In equal parts odd, it has also been hot. I am curious as to what kind of seasonable statistics we'll read about regarding 2020's multiple heat waves.

By professional and leisure time, I experience what these seasons cook up insect-wise, as I take on mosquitoes and other winged menaces. Oh, and let's not forget everyone's favourite little arachnid, the tick.

A few weeks ago, while working at my desk, a peculiar presence made itself known on my back. I itched and flicked away at it, only to find it was a tick who had secured itself to my shoulder blade. An awkward reach, I went to the bathroom mirror and turned into a contortionist with tweezers. I got the little thing off pretty easily, and then chucked it into a mason jar to identify the biter. As usual, 99 per cent of the time, it was a harmless dog tick, versus the infamous deer tick which can potentially carry Lyme disease.

With relief, I remarked at how it has been a quiet year for ticks. Now, this can be read as a strong observation versus a scientific fact. The quiet theme was most definitely observed, but there are a few variables at play here.

That was one of two biters removed this year, which is a proud statistic for me because typically it's many more. I simply didn't see as many crawling around on me, on the roof of my van, or in my bed as I have in other years. I was also out in the bush just as

much, if not more, than previous seasons in southern Ontario.

The tick encounters seem to have been down for both myself and many other outdoor enthusiasts and colleagues. Although ticks aren't likely affected by our intense heat waves, such a climatic phenomenon has ripple effects for other animals in the forest. Populations of animals respond to our extreme Niagara seasons every year. An unusual excess of heat, cold, or moisture will knock some populations down while picking others up. Welcome to the world of predator-prey cycles. It's a see-saw with species on either end, always trying to find equilibrium for the whole system.

Unlike seasons, which have a guaranteed annual cycle, populations of our local creatures can bob up and down in two-year, five-year, or 10-year cycles.

Let's suppose it's a challenging, dangerous winter for rabbits. This might mean that coyotes could find themselves short of

food, resulting in a tougher year for their population as well. The following year, the rabbits could bounce back because there were fewer coyotes snacking on them in our vineyards, making the following season a pronounced successful one for rabbits. As for the year after, all those rabbits will feed a growing population of coyotes. That's how the see-saw works.

Maybe birds and amphibians benefited from the quiet COVID spring, allowing these animals to clean up annoying insects and ticks really effectively this year. I sensed all around Niagara that it was a less aggressive mosquito year. The sleepy mosquito theme persisted in many of my trips up north, too. I'm definitely not complaining.

Like ticks, our mosquito friends are affected by heat and hunger. Long hot spells cause stagnant water to evaporate quicker, literally desiccating popular egg-laying spots. This could have resulted in a shortening of their breeding sea-

son. As the hot summer dries the land, sometimes mosquitoes will congregate to the deeper remaining woods and ponds as a refuge. It's often in that stage of summer where, ironically, we don't venture into the woods as much because we're thinking about ticks and poison ivy.

With summer sizzling out, and mosquitoes and ticks slowly disappearing in the rearview mirror, what are some other observations you can make as we enter autumn?

Watch for wasps and hornets bouncing off your cold drink and acting a little agitated. As days and nights become cooler, these insects chew on fermented fruit from our forests and orchards. The temperature and alcohol content combo makes these flying insects a little less predictable but remember, they are just confused, and unless they are the queen of the colony, they will die this winter.

Wasps and hornets are not out hunting you. They're actually far more

interested in that sweet fruit, or perhaps other delicious insects and spiders. If you're not a fan of wasps, know they are experts at keeping spider populations in check. If you're not a fan of spiders, just remember how they're one of the few who can catch and eat these aggressive stinging insects.

Ironically, the human world isn't always in the same corner as wasps and spiders, but the wasps and spiders are always in our corner, responsibly cleaning each other up.

When you see the classic black and orange woolly bear caterpillars marching across the sidewalks over the next few weeks, you know fall is approaching.

When you hear each night get a little quieter from here to Halloween, you're noticing the nighttime insect orchestra losing a few members. Eventually, it will be down to just one lone tree cricket in late October, telling itself that there is just one more warm night at the end of a long hot summer.

Cyber-Seniors: Tech mentors helping older adults



Larry Chambers
Hanna Levy
Special to The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake older adults, many experiencing isolation and loneliness, may also find it difficult to access information readily available online.

Some may have received devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones but they do not know how to use them.

Cyber-Seniors is a local program free to users. It trains students to become technology mentors for older adults. This program is endorsed by the

NOTL Community Wellness Committee and has a documentary film featuring Cyber-Seniors' accomplishments. Nancy Siciliana manages Cyber-Seniors, which matches tech-savvy students with older adults looking for help. The students gain practical experience while earning volunteer hours and developing job skills that enhance opportunities for future employment, as the seniors gain valuable skills to help keep them connected to the community.

Some of the tools Cyber-Seniors tech mentors can teach are:

- Ordering groceries online
- Video calling with family and friends (e.g. FaceTime and Zoom)
- Booking transportation

- Online banking
- Virtual doctor appointments

The two main methods of promoting the program are flyers sent by email to older adults in the NOTL community, and flyers given to retirement and long-term care homes. As well, an article was published on July 16, 2020 in The Local to raise awareness.

The NOTL Community Wellness Committee endorses Cyber-Seniors. Cindy Grant, chair of the committee, reports that her committee wishes to determine the coverage of Cyber-Seniors in NOTL. Please call her at 905-468-7498 to share your thoughts and comments on the questions in the following survey to help determine

ways to improve access to Cyber-Seniors and find out its impact. The responses will be forwarded to Nancy Siciliana.

Questions:

1. Have you learned about use of the internet from a Cyber-Seniors tech mentor?
 - a. YES
 - b. NO
2. Would you recommend Cyber-Seniors to friends and relatives?
 - a. YES
 - b. NO
3. How did you find out about Cyber-Seniors? (check all that apply)
 - o July 16 NOTL Local article
 - o A friend or relative
 - o Notification in a

- retirement home or long-term care home
- o Other (please specify)

4. Where do you live?

- a. Niagara-on-the-Lake
- b. St. Davids
- c. Virgil
- d. Other (please specify)

5. What else should be done to help people learn how to use the Internet?

- a. Learning sessions held at the library
- b. Learning sessions held at the museum
- c. Additional advertisements in the local newspapers about Cyber-Seniors
- d. Other (please specify)

Seniors interested in

receiving help from a tech mentor or students interested in becoming a mentor can call 1-844-217-3057.

To apply online to be a tech mentor, visit www.cyberseniors.org.

There is no fee for the program. It is funded by grants and donations.

Larry W. Chambers has authored 175 articles and books on disease prevention (e.g. dementia), quality improvement in long-term care homes, and innovative approaches for continuing professional development. He is research director of the Niagara Regional Campus, School of Medicine, McMaster University. Hanna Levy is a medical student at the Niagara Regional Campus of the McMaster University School of Medicine.

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Celebration of Nations offers Indigenous arts and culture

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

“As someone who used to oversee Indigenous exhibitions and programs at the Smithsonian Institution, I can state with a high degree of confidence that what we’ve created here in the Niagara region is unparalleled,” says Tim Johnson, artistic producer of this weekend’s upcoming fourth annual Celebration of Nations.

This celebration is presented by FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre and Kakekalanicks, an Indigenous consulting company, in partnership with the City of St. Catharines. It’s part of the year-round programming that culminates in a three-day celebration of Indigenous arts, culture and tradition. From Friday, Sept. 11 to Sunday, Sept. 13, the program features crafts, artistry and entertainment. The jam-packed schedule includes story-telling, poetry, dance, singing, short films, traditional crafts workshops and a cooking class.

It is part of a long-term vision to build on the Two Row Wampum that “promotes all Nations walking together, in parallel, with respect, compassion and understanding to cultivate an inclusive community for our shared future.” This reference is to the Two Row Wampum which is a 400-year-old treaty between the Onkwehonweh people of Turtle Island, and the European immigrants, says Tom Keefer of Briarpatch Magazine. “The Two Row is a foundational philosophical principle, a universal relationship of non-domination, balance, and harmony between different forces. The Two Row principles of peace, respect, and friendship can exist within any relationship between autonomous beings working in concert. These include nation-to-nation relationships, dynamics between lovers and partners, and the relationship between human beings and our environments.”

This year’s theme connects

participants and partners to our environment and region. As Johnson explains, “this year our theme is Mighty Niagara and the Great Lakes Watershed. Once we have a theme, we reach out and engage our network of artists and partners to conceptualize and produce both performing arts and intellectual programs.”

The celebration this year is a virtual environment rather than a total immersive experience. “As with most performing arts institutions and programs, we’ve had to produce this year’s Celebration of Nations online. I’m also a board member of the Shaw Festival and I can’t tell you how disappointed I was that the Shaw season had to be cancelled. One of the things we realized in the process is just how much we, as human beings, need shared social experiences. I think it’s become part of our DNA,” says Johnson. “So, we knew early on and made the decision very early that Celebration of Nations would have to be produced, almost entirely, online. Making that early decision helped immensely, even though it didn’t reduce the workload. In fact, the opposite happened. The workload has doubled or even tripled, because now we’re essentially having to produce a three-day variety television special and pre-producing a ton of video content. The work going on behind the scenes is incredible. We will all be working 12-hour days leading right

up to showtime.”

The hard work is worth it, he adds. “The benefits are that we are creating a safe environment for our artists, intellectuals and visitors, and, we hope, being able to draw a larger audience, even an international audience for our outstanding Indigenous programming.”

Johnson is a champion of Indigenous programming. Among his many accomplishments, he is an award-winning director, and served as the co-chair of Landscape of Nations: The Six Nations & Native Allies Commemorative Memorial in Queenston. He also served as an associate director for museum programs at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian.

In his current role as the artistic producer of the event, Johnson gets hands-on with many of the programs in all varieties of artistic expression. “I also get heavily involved in producing programs such as educationally-inspired concerts like RUMBLE THE CONCERT, which was based upon my award-winning film, *RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World*. I also develop special educational programs such as the Indigenous Cultural Map and web platform found at thegreatniagaraescarpment.ca. This year, in association with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, Plenty Canada and the Indigenous Cultural Map, we’re producing an online tour of Indigenous history and culture destinations in the Niagara Region. Called the Indigenous Niagara Living Museum Tour, it will transport visitors, virtually, to locations such as The Indian Council House site in The Commons, the Landscape of Nations Memorial, Willowbank and its Indigenous Community Love Garden, the majestic Niagara Falls of course, and several other fascinating sites that help bring Indigenous history alive through specially produced video tour productions. And so much more.”

As with the theme of the event, Johnson reminds us of our history and roots in the region. “People may not realize this, but Celebration of Nations actually has roots in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They are imbedded in the Town’s history and subsequent related work done to create, install, and unveil the Landscape of Nations Commemorative Memorial that opened to the public in Queenston Heights Park in October, 2016. When we were working on that project, we realized that the memorial’s physical development was only the first part of the process. We understood that we also needed a program that would follow up to provide education about Indigenous peoples’ histories and cultures to deepen the messages contained in the memorial. My creative partner in this second phase of the work, Michele-Elise Burnett, forged an alliance with the FirstOntario



Last year’s celebration included a parade through the streets of St. Catharines. (Mark Zelinski)



Singer Tom Wilson kicks off the celebration Friday. (Photo supplied)



Juno award-winner Celeigh Cardinal performs virtually Friday evening. (Megan Kemshead)



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Performing Arts Centre to establish Celebration of Nations, and she asked me to join the effort as a collaborative partner.”

He shares many of his duties on this project with artistic director Burnett, who also has an impressive resume. She currently serves as president of Kakekalanicks, an Indigenous arts and consultancy company which works to support the art of Indigenous peoples by promoting and celebrating the unique culture and achievements of the artists. She also serves as vice-president of Ignite the Spirit of Education Foundation, which raises funds to help improve the literacy levels of Indigenous children and to “support the awareness, appreciation and use of First Nations, Metis and Inuit books in public libraries, on-reserve libraries and Friendship Centres.”

Along with Burnett, Johnson proudly states that, “the work we’ve accomplished with our tag-team partners, Sara Palmieri and Annie Wilson, and advisory board of Jennifer Dockstader, Gary Parker, Brian Kon, and Phil Davis, has been extraordinary.”

The caliber of talent is clearly evident from the program. The home page of the website celebrationofnations.ca opens on a video of young singer Semiah Smith singing *Jigonsaseh’s Song*. Her beautiful voice along with the harmonies of Santee Smith is a gorgeous way to introduce the celebration.

The only event that does not happen virtually is the Sunrise Ceremony and Sacred Fire that begins Friday at 6:30 a.m. in the backyard of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. This fire will be lit during the ceremony and burn until the close of the event on Sunday. That evening the virtual program will begin with a performance by

Olivia Mater, a visual story-teller and artist, whose performance piece, *Starborn*, will be accompanied by composer and bassist Garth Stevenson, after which Johnson and Burnett will open the celebration and host the 2020 Celebration of Nations Outstanding Achievement Awards. Other performances include 2020 Juno Award winners, Celeigh Cardinal and Lee Harvey Osmond.

Saturday and Sunday offer full programs that include stories, poetry, dance and workshops. Highlights from Saturday’s lineup include stories about the Haudenosaunee people, an opportunity to learn Indigenous dance at the Pow Wow Boot Camp with Santee Smith, and the Virtual Smoke dance competition. These events are interspersed with environmental presentations on the importance of our native pollinators, and the history of the Niagara watershed and impact on Indigenous people of the area.

Sunday morning’s program begins with Drumming Circle hosted by Jackie Labonte and Oliver Nobosin, followed by workshops on making your own bundle bag, and making a Medicine Wheel bracelet. The Smoke Dance winners will be announced followed by an Indigenous-focused cooking class hosted by chef Laura Lenon. Sunday evening’s program will end with the much-anticipated Landscape of Nations 360 – Indigenous Niagara Living Museum Tour, hosted by Burnett and Johnson, followed by the official closing of the Celebration of Nations.

For all the programming information, consult the celebrationofnations.ca website, their Facebook page or FirstOntario Performing Art Centre website at firstontariopac.ca.

Museum staff say thanks to volunteers



The NOTL Museum staff said thank you to about 55 volunteers Friday, with prepared lunches they handed out as the volunteers stopped at the curb. The meal was provided by Executive Catering Niagara. A thank you event is typically held in April but was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Museum staff Barbara Worthy, Shawna Butts and Amanda Balyk, Dmitri Zakharchenko from the catering company, Amy Klassen, Sarah Kaufman, and volunteer Marlene Masales hand out meals. Volunteers Bud and Leslie Mouslen receive their lunch from Butts and Kaufman. (Penny Coles)



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Serluca kids raise money for McMaster Children’s Hospital

\$2,315 was raised for hospital with help from family and friends

Penny Coles
The Local

When Ava Serluca asked if she could raise some money to help McMaster Children’s Hospital, her parents, Jayne and Dan, were both proud and pleased to help organize a fundraising event.

Their son Matteo also kicked into high gear, planning his contribution to what became a fresh fruit and bake sale at their Concession 2 home, which is also the Serluca family farm.

Last week, with help from friends and family, they raised \$2,315 for the hospital, to be divided between two units.

Both Matteo and Ava have received wonderful care at the hospital. Their parents are grateful and also feel very fortunate their kids have received top quality, expert health care, delivered with kindness by doctors, nurses and staff who go out of their way to provide the best for their patients, says Jayne, herself a nurse working for the Niagara Health system.

Matteo was just a baby when he became seriously ill, she relates, and had to be rushed from the hospital in Niagara Falls, where he had spent a night under observation, before being transported to McMaster by ambulance the next morning.

Matteo knows the story well — that the doctor who saved his life told his parents if he had arrived at the hospital just a couple of hours later, he would not have survived.

“I know, I was two hours away from death,” the 11-year-old laughs when his mother reminds him, but for his parents, it was a terrifying time they will never forget. He was suffering from intussusception, a rare and life-threatening condition of the bowels, when one part telescopes into another, that was not correctly diagnosed until it was almost too late to

save him.

He was just eight months old when he suddenly let loose with “a piercing scream,” Jayne says. She took him to the Niagara Falls hospital, and by the next morning, he seemed much worse. He was listless, says Jayne, and exhibiting other worrisome symptoms. “I’m not a pediatric nurse, but I knew the red flags,” she says. She insisted on a scan, and next thing she knew their baby was in an ambulance, being transported with lights and sirens, to McMaster’s gastroenterology department.

“They saved his life,” says Jayne, becoming emotional at the memory of how close they were to losing him.

“Everyone at the hospital, from the specialists to the nurses to the cleaning staff, was unbelievable,” she says, of the care both her kids received.

Because that’s only part of the Serlucas’ story.

Ava, nine, had just returned home from her own stay at the children’s hospital when she suggested the fundraiser.

With 86 per cent hearing loss in Ava’s left ear, an ear, nose and throat specialist had performed a complicated surgery that will hopefully improve Ava’s hearing.

It involved a graft of her ear drum, which was severely scarred from frequent ear infections when she was younger, that would occur as often as several times a month, says Jayne. Ava had tubes inserted in her ears, but they fell out soon after and were not replaced, allowing the infections to continue. She also had a bone protruding, pressing on her ear drum, causing friction.

“Hopefully, with this surgery, her hearing will be restored,” says Jayne.

“Without the operation, I would lose all my hearing in that ear,” adds Ava, who says “when someone is scream-

ing, it sounds to me like they’re whispering in my ear. I couldn’t really hear people, and I always had pain in my ear.”

When Ava entered Junior Kindergarten at St. Davids Public School, her teacher, Miss P (Lindsay Parravicino), “was really nice, and she helped me a lot. She’s a good teacher. I think she really likes kids.”

Jayne points out the “unbelievable support” Ava received from her surgeon. Before surgery, the operation was explained to Ava so that she felt she understood what was going to happen. And after surgery, “the doctor didn’t leave her bedside until she woke up,” she says.

They also allowed Jayne to be in the operating room and hold the mask to Ava’s face, until she was asleep, and Ava was permitted to take a stuffed bear, given to her the night before by her cousin to comfort her, with her, so it would be beside her when she woke up.

“It meant so much for her to have me there, and as a mom, I was so glad to be there with her,” says Jayne. “They were so compassionate, so kind and caring to all of us.”

It was just two days post-surgery when Ava said she’d like to do something for her doctor and the hospital, and Jayne agreed.

They decided they would have a baked goods and fresh fruit sale, with peaches and plums and grapes donated by the family farm and other local farmers.

Jayne also called on a group of her close friends from Niagara District Secondary School to help with baking and on the day of the sale, including Jessica Friesen and Leanne Visser. Family members and friends held up signs, flagged down drivers, and helped at the fruit stand.

People were very gener-



Matteo, Dan, Jayne and Ava put their hearts into a sale to help out the hospital which has been so good to their family. (Photos supplied)

ous, says Jayne, some donating money without buying anything. Many shared stories about their positive experiences with the McMaster

Health system, she added.

Ava has an appointment for a check-up at the hospital coming up soon, and the Serluca family will present

the funds they raised, to be divided between the gastroenterology and the ear, nose and throat departments, says Jayne.



Friends and family helped fill a bake table with home-made treats.



Family and friends waved down cars on Concession 2 to help raise money for McMaster Children’s Hospital.



Ava, cousin Olivia, grandmother Rocchina and Dan Serluca took their turn looking after the fruit stand the day of the fundraiser.

Filmmaker visits home town, thinks about future

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Over the years, Vancouver-based filmmaker Michael Pohorly has accumulated credits as producer, director, assistant director and production manager in films and television shows such as *The A-Team*, *Prison Break*, *The Grey*, and *Jiminy Glick in Lalaland* (he has a great story about Martin Short, Kurt Russell and Janeane Garofalo on that one).

Last spring, at the behest of Canucks owner Francesco Aquilini, he took on the task of writing, producing and directing the hockey team's opening film, and became the in-house producer and director of their in-game entertainment.

For Pohorly, though, Niagara-on-the-Lake will always be home. Back at the family farm for a visit last week, he took time to reflect on his roots here, and his hometown's place in his past, present and future.

"This is where it all started," he says, showing a recent post on his Instagram account (@mikepoho). It's grainy Super 8 film footage of a five-year-old Pohorly driving a tractor as he and his father Frank, and younger brother Steven, are tending to a strawberry patch.

"My dad had the camera, and in the summers in the backyard he would put up the screen and have his buddies over. He would take movies of when they would have snowmobiling trips or going to the cottage with them. I was five years old, sitting in this home theatre with this screen. Everyone's laughing and having fun, that's when I knew this is what I wanted to do."

At Niagara District Secondary School, he made every effort to turn assignments into something he could complete using his VHS camcorder. "My historical essay in history class," he explains, "became a 30-minute documentary about the Battle of Queenston Heights, retracing Brock's last steps, and visiting all the historic points of that battle."

Following high school, Pohorly earned a degree in communications and film at Concordia University, while playing on the varsity hockey team. The 1995 graduate credits the late professor Marc Gervais for developing his



Michael Pohorly visits the gazebo, and notes how much his home town has changed. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

passion of film production while there.

From Concordia, he set his sights on Hollywood, taking a job with a high tech company in California. He moved on to a role as an office production assistant on the James Cameron TV series *Dark Angel*, starring Jessica Alba. Then Pohorly worked his way up the Director's Guild Assistant Director program, establishing himself in a busy Canadian film industry.

Surprisingly, Pohorly credits his farm background as an excellent training ground for working in film and television. "We had our guys coming from Jamaica and the West Indies. Getting to work with and manage teams of workers, starting when I was young, it was pretty natural for me to go work as an assistant director. We had our peach-picking operation, our packing operation, you're seeing how all the people work together. It's just like a film set."

His first real opportunity to tie it all together and take full control of his own set came in, of all places, Bali, Indonesia.

"My friends opened up some bars there," he explains. "I went to visit, then I met a production manager who was doing a Samsung commercial, and he hired me as an assistant director. So I would go back and forth between rainy Vancouver and Bali, living on a beach on this tropical island. It's not a bad deal."

That commercial led to many more, then to a 2014 short film called *Made in Bali*, which he wrote and directed. It's the story of a young man

searching for the biological father he has never met, shot amongst some of the most stunning landscapes on the island. Pohorly won a 2015 Directors Guild of Canada award for the movie. He also took the helm for a number of episodes of the Indonesian television show *Brata*.

While sitting on a Queen Street patio Saturday, Pohorly talks about how valuable those experiences will be when he's finally handed the reins for a feature film. His train of thought is interrupted, though, by two groups of revellers passing by on the local pedal pubs. He's so enthralled by them, in fact, that later, while walking to Queen's Royal Park, he approaches the driver-host with a number of questions about the unique vehicle. During the walk he also raves about the chicken wings at Butler's Sports Bar, which he would be sampling later that evening.

The suspension of the hockey season back in March has meant that Pohorly has had a bit more free time than he had expected. Prior to the trip home, he revisited his old haunts in Montreal, and has also spent some time connecting with friends in Toronto. But he sees the busy NOTL streets and diversions like the pedal pubs as reasons to begin thinking of spending more time here in the future.

"I've never seen anything like it (the pedal pubs) in my life," he exclaims. That's incredible. The fact that this is here just gave me more of a feeling to want to be here.

"I'd like to have more of a presence," he adds. "This is where I grew up. My sweat



Michael Pohorly films the pedal pub, impressed by how much fun it looks.



Michael Pohorly was given the task of filming for the Canucks hockey team, but has had some time off this season. (Photo supplied)

and blood from a young age is still in this dirt. When you're a farm boy, that never goes away. I'd like to have some businesses associated with the farm, and wine. The only other way is I'll have to make a movie about it."

In recent years he's been mulling over the idea of helping his uncle, Niagara wine pioneer Joseph Pohorly, with his grapeseed oil business. He has also considered beginning a small boutique winery somewhere on the property his family still owns on Niagara Stone Road, but that's some time in the future.

He promises to be back with the Canucks for the 2020-2021 season, and is already planning a new theme for next year's opening film. It might be hard to top the zombie hoards the Canucks had

to battle in this year's production, though.

In the meantime, he is in early talks to produce a Christmas movie for Hallmark back in BC. Also in development is a psychological thriller that is slated to be shot in the Pacific northwest. His vision for this one, though, might make for a made-in-Niagara option. "One of the key scenes takes place on a cliff, in a forested area, and I thought this could be set right here on the escarpment. The whole thing could be around the gorge and the escarpment."

If he can make that happen, it might be the first step into a more permanent place for Michael Pohorly in his home town. Keep your eyes and ears open. The casting call for that one might be right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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Palatine opens Ramblers Patio for tastings, snacks

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

Palatine Hills Estate Winery planned to open a patio this year, but didn't expect it would be under guidelines due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The patio has been open since June 20, the day after the Niagara Region moved into Stage 2 of the Reopening of Ontario. Winery management had planned to open as soon as the weather was warm enough. Instead, it opened as soon as the Province allowed.

Thomas Reid, winery operations manager, says the response from guests has been very positive. "Our guests have enjoyed the laid-back nature of a seated tasting flight, overlooking our vineyard. They've also, on average, stayed longer to enjoy a glass of wine or our locally curated snacks menu on Ramblers Patio."

Since tastings are now seated, Palatine Hills cannot conduct several small-group tastings at the bar where guests were once "shoulder to shoulder."

"Guests have been very receptive to this new way of tasting, and have been very understanding of the added stress put on the winery staff to accommodate them under these new circumstances," says Reid.

Seated tastings to maintain physical distancing is one way the staff at Palatine Hills Estate Winery is working to ensure the safety of the staff and the public. Reid assures that they are also diligently cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces

and tableware.

"We take our capacity limits very seriously also, resisting any urge to pack more people on the patio than we are comfortable with. We have made the decision, even through Stage 3, to limit the number of people inside the winery well below what we are obliged to according to the government guidelines," he says. "Despite Stage 3 allowing us the freedom to conduct tastings inside, we have remained focused primarily on seated, patio tastings, wine and sangria by-the-glass and patio snacks on Ramblers Patio."

Palatine Hills is steeped in the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake. According to NOTL museum's Barbara Worthy, Palatines Hills received its name from Mary Servos, wife of Peter Servos. His family was part of the German Palatines that immigrated to North America around 1726. After the Revolutionary War, the Servos family eventually joined the Loyalist migration north and established themselves in Niagara, benefiting from the patronage of the British government and establishing mills and the farm.

Mary Servos (Ball) eventually separated from Peter and took over the farm and the mills when she discovered that he was involved in a relationship with a woman working for him. Mary continued to raise their four children on the homestead and run the mills, the blacksmith's shop and the farm. When Peter died in 1887 and Mary refused to let him be buried



The Palatine Hills patio opened as soon as permitted by the Province.

on the family burial plot, he was buried in St. Mark's Cemetery. In 1899, Mary renamed the farm Palatine Hills. In 1905, she died and is buried with the Servos family in the family plot on the farm.

The last Servos to own Palatine Hills Homestead and mills was Mary Elizabeth Olivia Josephine Servos, Mary and Peter's Servos' daughter. According to Shawna Butts, from the NOTL Museum, when the matriarch Mary died, she divided the property between her two daughters. Mary Elizabeth was left with 182 acres, the homestead and the mills.

Unfortunately, financial troubles during the Great Depression forced Mary Elizabeth to subdivide and

sell off the property that had been in her family for five generations. She lived on the homestead until her death on June 13, 1942, and is also buried in the Servos family plot.

But the Palatine Hills legacy lives on. More than four decades ago, the Neufeld family began to cultivate part of the old Palatine farm for growing grapes. Eventually, the Neufelds began making wine. According to Reid, "As our 1812 series of wines might suggest, we feel very connected to this area, and the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Growing grapes for wine production on this land since 1972, we are also a part of the history of commercial wine-making in Niagara. Over

the years we have recovered many artifacts from the 1800s scattered across our 100-acre property, and proudly display these items for our guests to enjoy."

Despite these challenging times, Palatine remains committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all guests. "We are fully aware of the impact COVID-19 and the subsequent shutdown and re-opening restrictions have had on so many small businesses throughout our province and country," says Reid. "While we too have been impacted in a significant way, we consider ourselves lucky to have remained operational, and in the enviable position to hire back all of our casual staff and more

this summer. This was not how anyone would have envisaged this season, but it has not shifted our focus away from making the very best wine we can and offering a casual customer focused experience here at the winery."

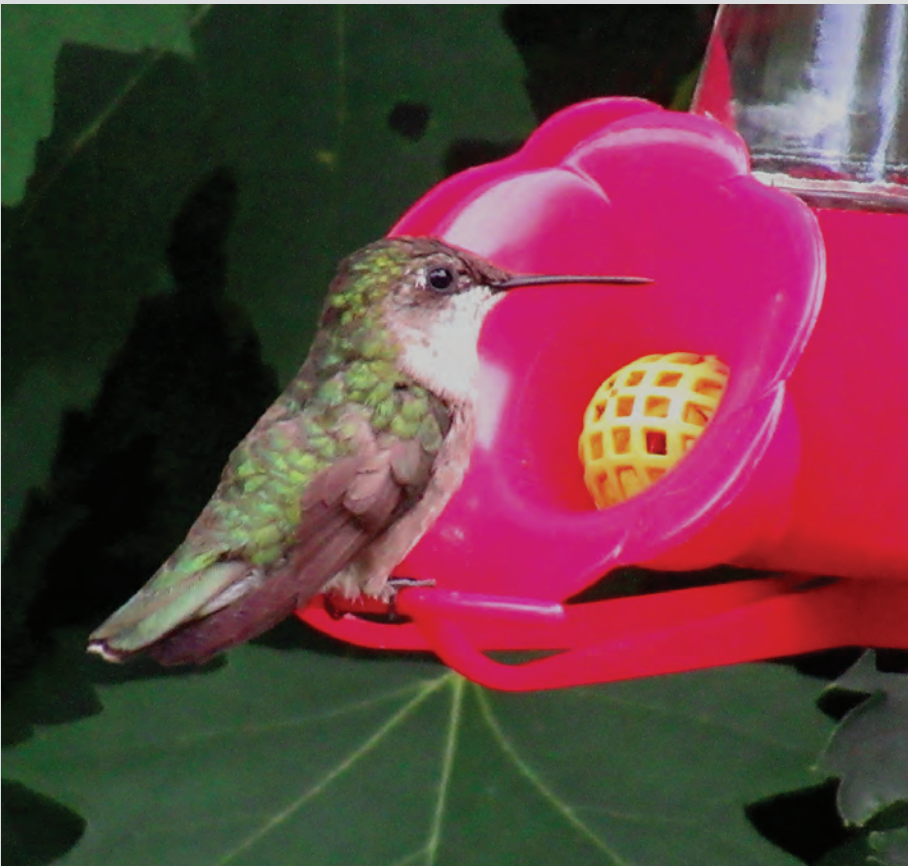
With Palatine Hills family-owned and operated, Mary and Mary Elizabeth would be happy to know the Neufelds are working the land and taking pride in the results.

Ramblers Patio is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday to Sunday. Their next event is Yoga @ Palatine Hills on Sunday, Sept. 5, at 10 a.m. Contact the winery at info@palatinewinery.com for more information.



Kelsey Moon pours wine to serve on the patio. (Photos by Kim Wade)

A moment of stillness



Erika Buchkowsky sent this photograph she took of a hummingbird at her feeder the other day, using a zoom lens. She has two females fighting over the feeder, she says. "I was lucky to get this wonderful shot as these birds are very fast and don't stay still for long."

Music Niagara virtual performance Sunday

Karen Lade Special to The Local

COVID-19 put Music Niagara in a situation that organizations and audiences like ours have never faced before. Like many other arts programs, we have had to be inventive and rise to the occasion.

With the support of our board of directors, our amazing artistic director Atis Bankas, our musicians and sponsors, other community organizations — and most of all, you — we moved fast. We're also grateful for support from all levels of government.

We moved quickly by part-

nering with Niagara College's broadcasting team to film performances; it was different playing with no audiences. We have made these available online so people can keep enjoying great Music Niagara performances in comfort and safety with our At Home Series, partnering with new local venues in Niagara-on-the-Lake that offer outdoor or indoor locations to film each performance.

Importantly, we have been able to keep artists working during a time when many are out of work.

There's no denying it — we have taken a hit like everybody else. So far this year we haven't

been able to hold special events or fundraisers, and that hurts. Again though, we are grateful and appreciative of the support we get, especially from you. We know how many would love to be at our shows and we hope you are enjoying watching in this most unusual year.

Here's what has not changed: our responsibilities. Music Niagara aims to keep great music thriving through these difficult times, to connect with you, our audience, in new ways and to support musicians and students in their inspiring and challenging work.

Like everyone else, we at Music Niagara have no idea

whether this pandemic will leave us any time soon. We do know that we have learned a lot. And we're still learning from this situation.

As a community institution, we have been learning how to be more targeted and focused in our fundraising efforts — the public is being asked a lot these days, and we need to be even more respectful and appreciative now that these are such unusual times.

We have also learned how incredibly dedicated our musicians and supporters are. We knew that already, but it really hits home how everyone comes through when it counts.

Finally, we have learned to be patient — no one really knows where we are going with this pandemic or how long it will take to get there. We just know that we must go on, working to serve you, our amazing community, and to keep great music thriving.

In that vein, do not miss violinist Emma Meinrenken's special performance with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 4 p.m., filmed at PondView Estate Winery by Niagara College's broadcasting team. Watch live on Music Niagara's YouTube Channel or Music Niagara's Watch Live

page of our Website.

Emma, a Music Niagara favourite, performance academy alumna and student at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, will perform two *Romances by Beethoven* and Schubert's Rondo on a rare 1689 Baumgartner Stradivarius on loan from the Canada Council.

A highlight of the concert will be an ensemble of members of the Toronto Symphony playing seven string and wind instruments featuring the rarely heard Beethoven's *Septet Op. 20*.

Karen Lade is General Manager of Music Niagara.

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Hungry 4 Hammond a tribute to famous organ

Two Jazz Festival concerts presented in duo's backyard and online

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

In the backyard of the north end St. Catharines home of TD Niagara Jazz Festival co-creators Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea sits a miniature COVID-safe version of what one might remember from Simcoe Park a few short years ago. Tents dot the landscape, providing enough room for “pods” of physically distanced groups of six to 10 people to keep their eyes and ears on the main marquee, which houses the stage which will hold the bands this Saturday for Hungry 4 Ham-

mond. It's the first in the festival's two-part tribute to the Hammond organ, featuring Organomics and the Matt Weidinger Band. There is also room for a group of VIPs on their deck, with seating surrounding their above-ground pool, and a brand new bar/serving area from where food and drinks will be delivered to the pods. And, of course, a port-a-potty in the driveway for when nature calls. The layout is the result of festival volunteers pulling together in Help and Hang sessions since late March, chipping away at transforming the backyard into a festival space that

can welcome about 30 visitors safely. And this weekend's show, which can also be enjoyed online, will be the first Niagara Jazz Festival event of such a size since the pandemic began. Dunn and Shea have had to be creative throughout the peak festival season. In March, the not-for-profit organization began to present both local and international jazz artists through an online platform, renaming their popular Live-Love-Jazz series to Livestream-Love-Jazz. Those were referred to as Backyard Sessions, as Dunn and Shea produced them from their studio, housed in a shed that is

also located behind their home. The second annual Summer Mardi Gras celebration was also held online, with some unique methods used to hold the traditional New Orleans-style parade. From the outset with the Hammond series, Dunn wasn't sure when the Ontario government would allow larger outdoor gatherings. Accordingly, using that creativity she and Shea have always shown, they decided to dub this their TENTative Concert Series. Finally, the timing is right to make the TENTative a reality. Why the Hammond organ? Says Shea, “it's been a passion of mine my whole life. It's a dying art form, and somebody's got to pick up the torch right now. We're doing this to keep

this alive. It's like a grand piano, you can't replace the real instrument.” Invented in 1935, the Hammond organ became a staple in the jazz world in the 1950s, largely through the efforts of bandleader Jimmy Smith. In 1962, Smith crossed over into the pop world with a top-30 hit called *Walk on the Wild Side*. That same year Booker T. Jones and the MGs rode his Hammond B3 to number three on the Billboard Hot 100 chart with *Green Onions*. Through the 60s, pop and rock bands such as the *Small Faces* and *Deep Purple* featured the Hammond organ, while Keith Emerson of Emerson Lake and Palmer and Gregg Allman of the Allman Brothers continued leaning heavily on the instru-

ment through the 70s. Procol Harum's *Whiter Shade of Pale* may be one of the most recognizable hit songs to be based on a Hammond riff. The distinctive keyboard has also been heard on many funk and reggae songs through the years, and it found its way into hip hop through the Beastie Boys. Shea looks to Jimmy Smith for inspiration, but also makes special mention of Joey DeFrancesco and the late Canadian jazz legend Doug Riley, who was the man behind the late-60s band Dr. Music. “I do a special shout-out to Doug,” Shea says. “Of all the B3 players in Canada, God rest his soul, he was just an incredible B3 and piano player, and

Continued on page 16

LOCAL HAPPENINGS



THE LION BURGER RETURNS

Friday, September 11th

We will sell Lion Burger Combos (burger, fries & bottle of water) for \$10

Time is 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

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September 12 @ 5 - 10 p.m.
Hungry 4 Hammond Series
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The Matt Weidinger Band

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

October 3 @ 5 - 10 p.m.
Hungry 4 Hammond Series
featuring JV's Boogaloo Squad
The Joint Chiefs of Soul ft. Lance Anderson

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Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea have had their backyard turned into a small concert venue. (Mike Balsom)

LOCAL WORSHIP



Sunday, September 13th

Speaker:
Kevin Bayne

10:00 a.m. Worship Gathering
Message:
Intercessory Prayer

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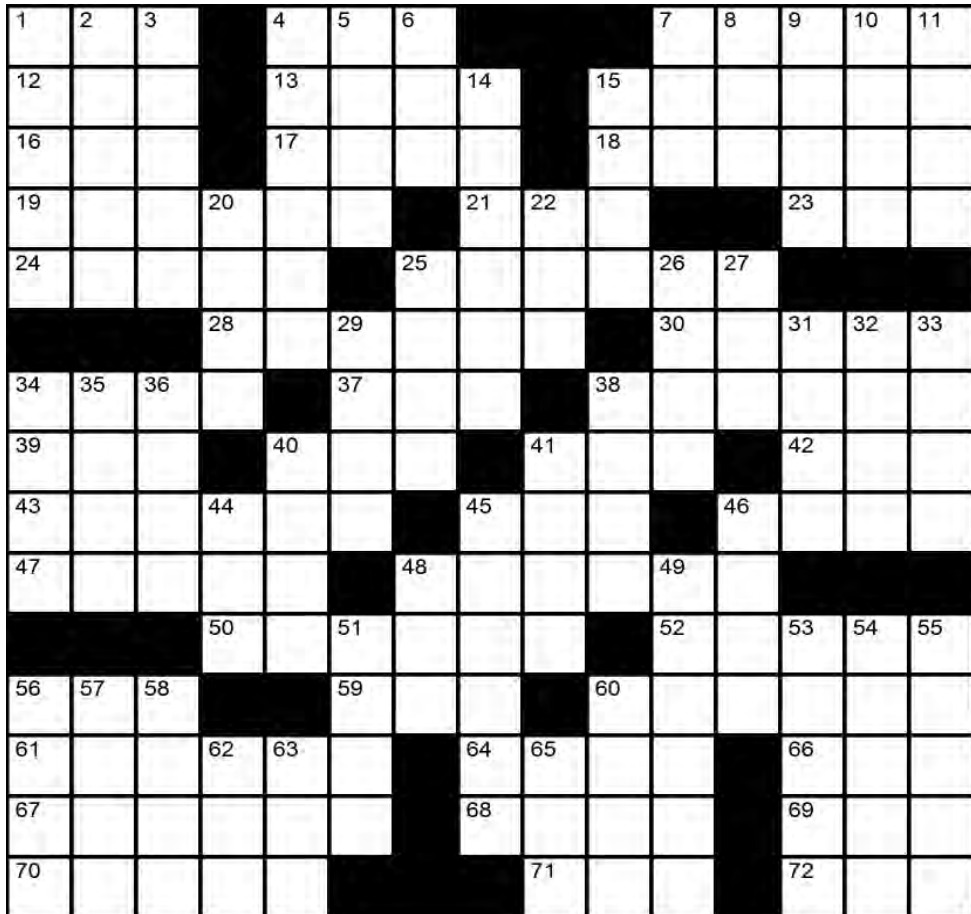
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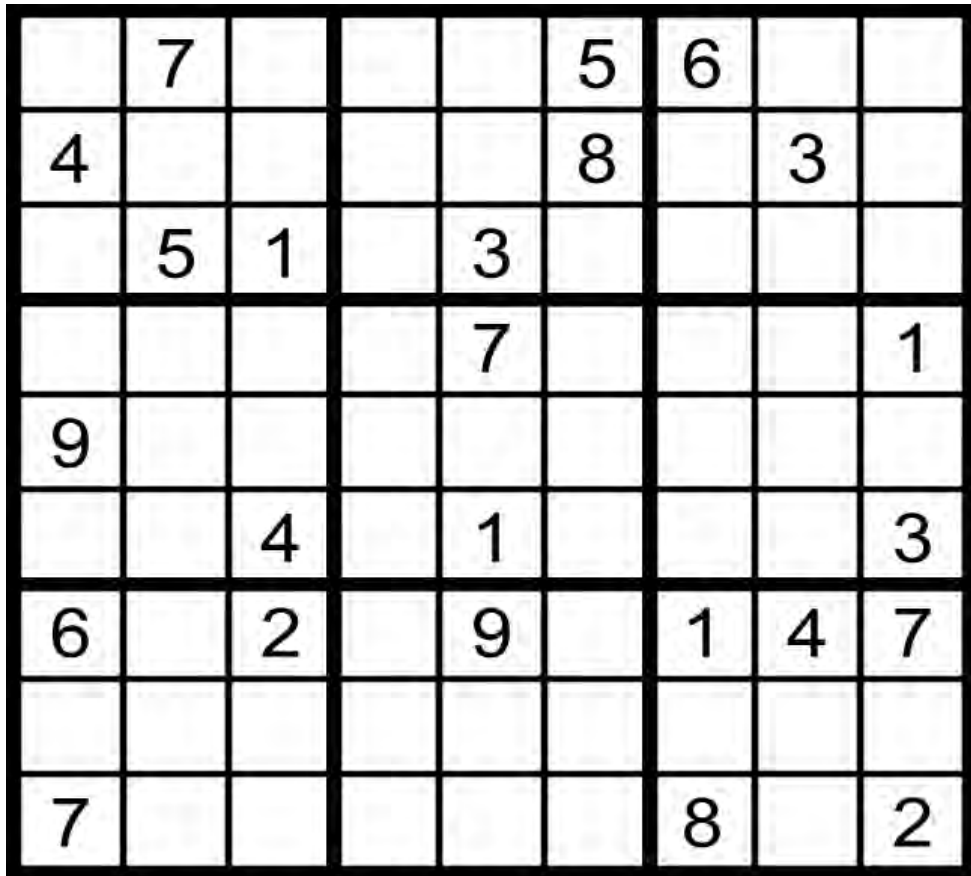
- 1 Cited as cause of 2003 Iraq war
- 4 Lawyers' grp.
- 7 Chef's seasonings
- 12 Weeding implement
- 13 Molten rock
- 15 Deceive
- 16 Letters after business names
- 17 Colorist
- 18 Merkel or Lansbury
- 19 Inaction
- 21 S N L network
- 23 Stage
- 24 Enter
- 25 Boil
- 28 Indicate
- 30 Happening
- 34 Jekyll's alter ego
- 37 Cereal grain
- 38 Outcry
- 39 The Emirates
- 40 Ft. divisions
- 41 Hit
- 42 NASDAQ debut
- 43 Vino selection
- 45 Heated argument
- 46 Ran off
- 47 Detect
- 48 Ship
- 50 Some music storage media
- 52 Tars

- 56 Retains a reservoir
- 59 Admiration
- 60 Canadian capital
- 61 In the slightest
- 64 Levee
- 66 "Before Abraham was, ---" (Jesus)
- 67 Farm fertilizer
- 68 Yesteryear
- 69 Chest bone
- 70 Ooze
- 71 Theater for some vets, briefly
- 72 Double helix molecule (Abbr.)

Down:

- 1 Egg beater
- 2 Spanish card game
- 3 Rot
- 4 Type of Venetian type
- 5 Howls at the moon
- 6 Hail
- 7 --- Solo (Harrison Ford character)
- 8 Heart test
- 9 Career
- 10 Vitriol
- 11 Catch
- 14 "Arrested Development" star Will ---
- 15 Sensitivity
- 20 Team

- 22 Social gathering
- 25 In order
- 26 Aid
- 27 "The Locomotion" singer Little ---
- 29 Forbidden activity
- 31 Track legend --- Zatopek
- 32 Informal negative
- 33 Stepped
- 34 Centers
- 35 Connecticut university
- 36 College head
- 38 Intimidates
- 40 Chilled
- 41 Top banana
- 44 White House defense advisory grp.
- 45 Medicament
- 46 Tire problem
- 48 Promise
- 49 Regard
- 51 Speed
- 53 Scottish land proprietor
- 54 Clemens' pen name
- 55 Rio de Janeiro dance
- 56 Hemispherical roof
- 57 Lizzie Borden took ---, ...
- 58 Restaurant card
- 60 Southern soup ingredient
- 62 Chum
- 63 Wrath
- 65 Distant but within sight



OBITUARY



TRAUTTMANSDORFF-WEINSBERG, FRIEDRICH (FRITZ)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Fritz on September 1st at St. Catharines General Hospital, at the age of 94.

Beloved husband of Brenda (nee Northey) for 36 years.

Devoted father of Marie-Therese Jones (Stephen), Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg (Christine), Andreas Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg (Barbara-Lynn). Also remembered by Pauline Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg (nee von Galen), mother of his children.

Adored grandfather of Stephanie Bender (Brad), Michael Jones (Emily), Victoria Jones and Christoph Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg (Michelle) and Paulina Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg. Great-grandfather of Theodore and Claire Bender, Matthias and Remington Jones.

Predeceased by his parents Carl and Johanna, and his brothers Ferdinand, Rudolf, Johannes, Carl-Matthias, Michael Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg.

Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A service to commemorate the life of Fritz, will be held privately. Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

(Under current conditions, laws have been set in place that regulate the number of visitors allowed in the funeral home or church at a given time. All visitors must wear a face mask and practice physical distancing. Visit thebao.ca or call Morgan Funeral Home for further information.)

Those who wish may make a memorial donation to the charity of their choice. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



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STRONGER Together

BUT 6 FEET APART!

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from September 3, 2020

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
9	7	6	3	5	4	2	8	1

Across: 1 W M D, 4 A B A, 7 Herbs, 12 Hoe, 13 Lava, 15 Take in, 16 Inc, 17 Dyer, 18 Angela, 19 Stasis, 21 N B C, 23 Leg, 24 Key in, 25 Seethe, 28 Denote, 30 Event, 34 Hyde, 37 Cat, 38 Clamor, 39 U A E, 40 Ins, 41 Bop, 42 I P O, 43 Blanco, 45 Row, 46 Fled, 47 Sense, 48 Vessel, 50 C D R-O Ms, 52 Sals, 56 Dam, 59 Awe, 60 Ottawa, 61 One bit, 64 Dyke, 66 I am, 67 Manure, 68 Yore, 69 Rib, 70 Exude, 71 Nam, 72 DNA.

Down: 1 Whisk, 2 Monte, 3 Decay, 4 Aldine, 5 Bays, 6 Ave, 7 Han, 8 E K G, 9 Reel, 10 Bile, 11 Snag, 14 Armet, 15 Tact, 20 Side, 22 Bee, 25 So as, 26 Help, 27 Eva, 29 No-no, 31 Emil, 32 Nope, 33 Trod, 34 Hubs, 35 Yale, 36 Dean, 38 Cows, 40 Iced, 41 Boss, 44 N S C, 45 Remedy, 46 Flat, 48 Vow, 49 Esteem, 51 Rate, 53 Laird, 54 Twain, 55 Samba, 56 Dome, 57 An ax, 58 Menu, 60 Okra, 62 Bud, 63 Ire, 65 Yon.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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

The trusted voice of our community.

Reopening schools safely matters to everyone

That's why the government of Ontario has worked with health officials, school boards and educators to develop a comprehensive plan to keep kids and staff safe.

- **Physical distancing** measures will be implemented such as desk separation, signs, floor markings and one-way hallways.
- **Face coverings** will be required for staff and students in Grades 4-12.
- **Hand hygiene** will be enabled with hand sanitizer and hand washing.
- **More nurses** will be in schools.
- **School cleaning** will be enhanced.



'Incredible lineup of B3 guys'

Continued from page 14

in some way we should pay homage to him at some point.”

The first band, Organomics, features Randy Stirtzinger on the organ, Nova Scotia native Roy Patterson on guitar, and Niagara-on-the-Lake resident and former Santana and Gino Vanelli group drummer Graham Lear. Kitchener's Matt Weidinger, who released his new album of roots, rock and neo-soul called *Break-*

age in May, headlines the show.

The Oct. 3 instalment of Hungry 4 Hammond features Toronto acts JV's Boogaloo Squad, and the bluesy sounds of the Joint Chiefs of Soul, featuring Lance Anderson and drummer Shamaka Ali.

“We have an incredible lineup of B3 guys,” says Shea.

Seating is limited for both events, and there are also Airbnb packages available, as their home, known as Shady Acres, has a beautiful two-room suite attached to it. Dinner provided by The Heat is On Catering is part of the package. Information, tickets, and a map of the site are all available at www.niagarajazzfestival.com/2020-hungry-for-hammond/. You can also watch the show online via the jazz festival website, and they are offering a special Hungry 4 Hammond At Home menu via the Grantham House in St. Catharines.

But don't even try asking for a Hamm-ond cheese with either option.



Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea have created a bar space, and seating around their backyard pool. (Mike Balsom)

Simple wreath-laying at Cenotaph Friday

Penny Coles
The Local

The events of Sept. 11, 2001 will continue to be remembered in Niagara-on-the-Lake, but with a simple wreath-laying this year.

Eduardo Lafforgue, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, has continued a tradition started by former president Janice

Thomson with the annual commemoration, but this Friday, he and Lord Mayor Betty Disero will simply lay a wreath at 8:45 a.m. at the cenotaph, with the American flag flying.

The memorial service has always been attended by representatives of the Niagara Regional Police, the local fire department and Niagara EMS, and the service was held in part to honour the efforts of the first responders who were called out that day to face a situation no one could ever imagine. But physical distancing would make that difficult, says Lafforgue, so the decision was made to hold the simple wreath-laying ceremony at the Queen Street cenotaph, with the memorial service to continue next year, recognizing the 20th anniversary of the traumatic events of Sept. 11.

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